

THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503
Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

October 24, 2025

Issue 22

BRANCH 27, NEW CASTLE

By Dolores Both

Judy Both thanked the members and volunteers who baked, donated a basket, or staffed a table for their help in making the Oktoberfest the success that it was! She also recognized the three young volunteers who efficiently staffed the baked goods table, rotating the goodies and encouraging sales. There were a delightful selection of baked items and fifteen raffle baskets. Food was delicious and, of course, the beer was tops! Gemütlichkeit reigned supreme.

Now we need to get back to business. Our president, Judy Both, distributed her October letter to members in attendance. Letters will be mailed to all members this month. The letter contains a proposed roster of officers. Please vote your choice and mail it in with your Christmas dinner reservations by November 30. Don't forget, the beautiful Wendell August ornament, pictured on the reverse of the letter, makes a wonderful gift.

The representative of Club Hope, which is in Ellwood City, was unavailable to attend our meeting. Katy Hudak gave a brief report on the mission of Club Hope and the services they provide to cancer patients. Club Hope has expanded to numerous counties and chapters have been established in area schools. Club Hope was recently awarded the Jack and Nancy Flannery Award from the New Castle YMCA. One hundred articles were donated by members for Club Hope, our October outreach. For each article donated, the member received a raffle ticket for the door prize. The lucky winner was Doreen Hietsch who won a cordless hand vacuum donated by Judy. Congratulations Doreen!

We have asked Branch 25 to include our cake, candy, and cookie bake-off for 2026

in their calendar of events. Both bakers and tasters will be very welcome.

The Branch 27 Christmas party is Sunday, December 7, at 2:00 p.m. at Hunters Woods Club House. The Hill House Restaurant will cater the lunch. Bring your Christmas centerpieces to be used as table decorations. Take them home or donate them as prizes. We will get together on Saturday, December 6 at the club house at 1:00 pm to decorate for the party. Reservations are due by November 30. Cost is \$15 for members and guests.

Decorating the club for the Children's Christmas party is November 19 at 5:00 p.m. The Children's Christmas party is December 6 at 5:30 p.m. The final plans will be discussed at the November meeting.

We discussed ideas for fund raisers in 2026. Suggestions were a purse bingo in the dance hall, or an indoor "garage" sale in the club room for members only. We will be exploring ideas going into the new year.

Katy Hudak suggested that our November outreach could be the Spartan Sip & Shoppe at Laurel High School. The shop is run by the Special Education Department. Students staff the area, and it provides an inclusive space where people of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities can come together, share stories, and enjoy great coffee. The members agreed to make Sip & Shoppe our November outreach. Items needed: Folgers Coffee-classic roast, Hershey Syrup, Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate - canister, Torani Syrups - any flavor, 2-liter bottles of blackberry Canada Dry ginger

Continued on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



As the year starts to wind down, the ATS Board of Directors and Committees keep active. The Youth Activities Committee met recently to review the 2025 activities, plan 2026 activities and plan new events that may interest our younger members. On the Fraternal Calendar for 2026 regarding Youth Activities is: Bowl Where You Are in February and March, Saxon Summer Camp during the week of June 14th, the International Youth Rally (Jugendlager) in late June through early July hosted by the Transylvanian Saxons in Germany, and Family Day at Waldameer on July 25th. A new event we're planning for the upcoming year will be a Track and Field Day for our younger members. We're still in the early stages, but the event will probably take place in a couple of locations on the same day. One of the goals of the Youth Activities Committee is for our young members to meet fellow Saxons from other cities at a fun event. Parents, we will need your help in making this a successful event, as we'll need you to bring those kids to the location for the day!

Our ATS Sales Deputies met for a meeting on Saturday, October 11th. Various topics were discussed to help them in signing up new members and selling the ATS Life Insurance and Annuity products. Please help out your local Sales Deputy and your local Branch by referring potential members to your Sales Deputy and introducing them. Every Branch out there can use new members!

The ATS Constitution Committee will be meeting in early November to review the current ATS Constitution and propose any changes that possibly need to be made. This is in preparation for the 2026 ATS Convention that will be held on May 2 and 3rd, 2026, and hosted by Cleveland West Branches 1 and 4 at the Sachsenheim. Any changes that the Committee proposes will be printed in the Volksblatt after the beginning of the year.

Speaking of the ATS Convention, it's time to start working on your Handicraft Exhibit and Contest items. With the weather getting cooler and winter on its way, start working on those craft items either for display or to be entered in the contest. Any type of craft is accepted: needlework, quilting, painting, ceramics, photography, and woodworking. There is also an "open class" for anything that doesn't fall into its own category. You have plenty of time to finish the craft before May, but usually the hardest part is getting started on it!

Did you know that the first "Unknown Soldier" was selected on October 24, 1921? In the French town of Chalons-sur-Marne, an American sergeant selected

Continued on Page 3

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5323 Pearl Road Cleveland OH 44129-1503



TSBA BOWLING

Next Session
Sunday,
November 16, 2025

Host: Cleveland East
North Woods Lanes
10435 Valley View Rd
Macedonia, Ohio

Practice 11:30 a.m.
Bowling Battles
start 11:45 a.m.

NO MEAL

Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donations to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

Please make your check payable to the ATS.

DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zipcode _____

Amount Donated \$ _____

Please indicate if donation is in memory
or honor of someone

BRANCHES 14 AND 17,
CANTON
By Cheryl Schnebelen

I hope everyone has had a good summer and enjoying the fall. The Canton ladies lodge has had requests for financial assistance for direct descendants attending post-secondary education and needed services. Please contact us if you know of a descendant who could benefit from these services. We will be meeting again on Sunday November 2, at 1:00 p.m., for our regular meeting, and again on Sunday December 14, for our Christmas luncheon. Please feel free to join us.

To request financial assistance for a direct descendant, simply email or send a letter to the Canton ladies lodge. We need the name(s) and address(es) of those needing assistance, along with the amount needed, and the reason for the request. You can contact me by email at sherlee5@aol.com, text me at 330-312-5112, or send a letter to me at PO Box 640, Carrollton, Ohio 44615, and I will forward your request on to others in the branch. As always, we look forward to hearing from you and please join us at Meyers Landing on Sunday, November 2, at 1:00 p.m.

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
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ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND



We petition our Saxon fraternal community - members, branches, affiliate organizations, and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Program.

The need is still great and we ask our members and friends to continue to support our Saxon Relief Fund program with generous contributions.

Please send your contributions to our ATS office, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Write checks payable to the “ATS SAXON RELIEF FUND”. Thank you for your help!

☆☆ ☆☆

NOTE: Gift packages can be ordered for delivery to a specific relative or friend in Transylvania for a minimal cost of **\$50.00**. Send your check payable to the “ATS Saxon Relief Fund” and the **exact name and address** of the recipient to our ATS Office. Please print or type for clarity. The package contents include non-perishable items such as: Coffee, Milk, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, Flour, Margarine, Soup, Chocolate, Cheese, Sausage, Yeast, etc.

Experts say that
“Ozempic
blindness” fears
may be overblown

GLP-1 drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy may slightly increase the risk of certain eye conditions and vision loss, but experts say that there’s no reason to panic. According to two new studies published in the journal JAMA, patients with type 2 diabetes who take GLP-1s may face a modestly increased risk of diabetic retinopathy, but are still at decreased overall risk of life-threatening complications. The study authors recommended regular screening and monitoring to detect potential vision complications early.



SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either
E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com
POSTAL MAIL:
Saxon News Volksblatt
29076 Fall River Dr
Westlake, OH 44145

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation, please give us a call.

DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:

DEADLINE	ISSUE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2025	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2025	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline?
Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon?
Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

the body of the first Unknown Soldier to be honored among the approximately 77,000 US Servicemen killed on the Western Front during World War I. According to History.com and the official records of the Army Graves Registration Service at the US National Archives in Washington, four bodies were transported to Chalons from the cemeteries of Aisne-Marne, Somme, Meuse-Argonne and Saint-Mihiel. All were great battlegrounds. As the service records stated, the identity of the bodies was completely unknown: “The original records showing the internment of these bodies were searched and the four bodies selected represented the remains of soldiers of which there was absolutely no indication as to name, rank, organization or date of death.” Those four bodies arrived in Chalons-sur-Marne on October 23, 1921. At 10:00 the next morning, French and American officials entered a hall where the four caskets were displayed, each draped with an American flag. Sergeant Edward Younger, the man given the task of making the selection, carried a spray of white roses with which to mark the chosen casket. According to the official account, Younger “entered the chamber in which the bodies of the four Unknown Soldiers lay, circled the caskets three times, then silently placed the flowers on the third casket from the left. He faced the body, stood at attention and saluted.”

Bearing the inscription “An Unknown American who gave his life in the World War”, the chosen casket traveled to Paris and then to Le Havre, France, where it would board the USS Olympia for the voyage across the Atlantic. Exactly three years after the end of World War I, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated during an Armistice Day (now known as Veterans Day) Ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding. That first soldier had ar-

rived at the nation’s capital two days before. As the soldier was lowered to his final resting place, a two-inch layer of soil brought from France was placed below his coffin so that he might rest forever atop the earth on which he died.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is considered the most hallowed grave at Arlington Cemetery, which is the most sacred military cemetery. The tombstone itself was not completed until 1932 when it was unveiled bearing the description “Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known but to God.” The World War I unknown was later joined by the unidentified remains of soldiers from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. One of the four unidentified soldiers was removed from the Tomb in 1998, after resting there for 14 years. DNA testing revealed his identity as Air Force First Lieutenant Michael Blassie from the Vietnam War. He was returned to his hometown of St. Louis and buried with military honors there.

In March 1926, soldiers from nearby Fort Myer were first assigned to guard the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The guards, present only during daylight hours,

discouraged visitors from climbing or stepping on the Tomb. According to the Arlington Cemetery military website, starting in 1937, the Guards began standing watch at all times, meaning 24 hours a day. Soldiers who volunteer to become Tomb Guards must undergo a strict selection process and intensive training. Each element of the Tomb Guard’s routine has meaning. The Guard marches 21 steps down the black mat behind the Tomb, turns and faces east for 21 seconds, turns and faces north for 21 seconds, and then takes 21 steps down the mat. Next, the Guard executes a sharp “shoulder-arms” movement to place his/her weapon on the shoulder closest to the visitors, signifying that he or she stands between the Tomb and any possible threat. The number 21 symbolizes the highest military honor that can be bestowed: the 21-gun salute. The Guard repeats the routine until that soldier is relieved of duty at the Changing of the Guard. This Changing of the Guard takes place every half hour from April through September and hourly from October through March.

Over one hundred years after the World War I Unknown’s burial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier continues to be a powerful symbol of service and sacrifice, mourning and memory.

Until next time...



YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB
710 S. Meridian Rd

PORK & KRAUT DINNER
OCTOBER 26, 2025

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
\$12.00

TAKE OUT AND EAT-IN
PUBLIC WELCOME

EVENT SCHEDULE

2025

9

NOVEMBER

CRAFT FAIR

LOCAL CRAFTING VENDORS SALE 12PM-4:30PM

15

NOVEMBER

ITALIAN NIGHT AT SACHSENHEIM

5-9PM CHEF INSPIRED ITALAIN DISHES

26

NOVEMBER

3RD ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING & DECORATION DRIVE

THANKSGIVING INSPIRED DISHES, TREE TRIMMING, AND DONATION DRIVE

Sachsenheim Hall
7001 Denison Ave Cleveland OH

SALEM SAXON RETIREES
By Helen Aeling

BRANCH 27
Cont’d from Page 1

Our last meeting was held on Wednesday, October 1st. Lois Whitacre opened the meeting and prayer by Tony Rothbrust followed. Of course, we always do our American duty by standing at attention and saying our beautiful “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Luncheon by our caterer, Chris Phillis, was sooooo good --- consisting of homemade sausage smothered in onions and green peppers and potatoes au-gratin. Dessert was a very moist chocolate cake.

We welcomed two new members, Saxon members Beverly Hippely and Marla K. Phillis. Also, visitor Marge was with us.

We sang “Happy Birthday” to 93-year young Nina. We also sang “Happy Anniversary” to Richard Vogt and his wife for 49 years of marriage on October 16th.

The 50-50 was won by Mary Lou Weingart. Bingo was won by Bunny, Katie, Helen, Bob and twice by Christine.

Our next meeting will be held on November 5. Our year is going fast!

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

ale, and Ziploc baggies. For every item donated the member will receive a ticket for a door prize drawing. Judy will donate the door prize which is sure to be something special.

Katy Hudak shared that an organization she is part of, “Pittsburgh Hearts of Steel” was interviewed by the New Castle News. We may see her picture in the paper soon. The group supports breast cancer survivors. Katy gave every member a pink ribbon pin to wear in recognition of October Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Thanks Katy.

We all took our turn guessing how many glass beads were in the jar Judy brought to the meeting. The winner was Katy Hudak. She won a fall-themed collection of cooking utensils and kitchen towels. Good job Katy!

Linda Stoops baked a delicious pineapple upside down cake for our dessert to top off the evening. It looked so good, we all had to take several sample tastings before our dinners were served. Thanks Linda. Yum!

A special thank you to our president, Judy Both, for working hard for the successful Oktoberfest. You did a great job putting plans and us together to make a difficult task smooth and enjoyable.

The next meeting is November 6, at Soni’s at 5:30 p.m. (because it gets dark so early). Don’t put off scheduling your mammogram. It’s a life saver!

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

- November 16, 2025
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Cleveland East
- December 14, 2025
TSBA Bowling Session Host: New Castle
- January 11, 2026
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Lorain
- February - March, 2026
Bowl Where You Are Contest
- February 15, 2026
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Salem
- March 15, 2026
TSBA Bowling Session Host: Youngstown
- April 18 - 19, 2026
TSBA Season-end Tournament - New Castle
- May 2-3, 2026
ATS National Convention
Hosts: Cleveland West Branches 1 and 4
- June 14 - 20, 2026
Saxon Summer Camp
- July 10 - 12, 2026
North American Transylvanian Saxon Heimattag
Aylmer, Ontario Canada
- July 25, 2026
ATS Family Day at Waldameer , Erie, PA

LOCAL EVENTS

- October 26, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork/Kraut Dinner
- November 1, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Trachtenball
New Castle Br. 25 Fall Sauerkraut Dinner Noon - 3 p.m.
- November 9, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Craft Fair
- November 15, 2025
New Castle Br. 25 Chili Cook-Off
Cleveland Sachsenheim Italian Night
- November 16, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Pork/Kraut Dinner
- November 26, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Tree Trimming
- December 5, 2025
New Castle Männerchor Christmas Concert
- December 5-6, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim Sausage Making / Sale
- December 6, 2025
New Castle Children’s Christmas Party 5:30 p.m.
- December 9, 2025
New Castle Männerchor Christmas Party
- December 13, 2025
Cleveland Sachsenheim
Children’s Christmas Party
Krampus Fest
- December 14, 2025
Chicago Br. 9 Christmas Party
- December 20, 2025
New Castle Tom and Jerry Party 3 p.m. - close

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS
By Donald Blum

****IMPORTANT****
NEW MONTHLY
MEETING
LOCATION
RUSTY BUCKET
RESTAURANT & TAVERN
73 N. HAMILTON ROAD
GAHANNA, OHIO 43230
(614) 475-4435
OCTOBER 20, 2025
12 Noon

Our meetings are the Third (3rd) Monday of the month.
Remember to bring a
canned good item, house-
hold product or other food
item.

“The generous will
themselves be blessed, for
they share their food with
the poor.”

SAXON LIFE OF
MICHAEL FARR
(his story is paraphrased
from excerpts of his story)
Last time we left Michael
he was on the ship Patricia,
from Hamburg to New York.
This was November 1906.
We will pick up here, on Mi-
chael’s journey to America,
and how that works out.

Michael is now in Co-
lumbus at the train station.
Things got a little confusing
for a while. Michael was
kind of expecting someone
to meet him at the train sta-
tion. He had a letter in hand
that said the address of 1930
Parsons Avenue. He saw a
policeman and showed him
the letter from John. The
policeman said he didn’t
know ‘John’. Michael began
to walk. He walked west for
a while. He found another
policeman and was told the
same he did not know John.
He got to Pennsylvania Av-
enue and spotted a streetcar.
He got on the streetcar and
paid the driver \$1.00 and he
got \$.95 back. He thought
it can’t be that far if it only
cost me \$.05. They drove
and drove and Michael was
sure something was wrong;
surely, he couldn’t have
driven so long for only \$.05.
Finally, the streetcar turned
the corner and he saw the
street ‘Parsons.’ He got off
right at 1930 Parsons. A fel-
low came out of the building
and in German, asked, “Are
you Mrs. Frim’s brother?” He
took me into to the building
at 1930 Parsons. It was a
combination store and sa-
loon. Mr. and Mrs. Trautman
came in and brought Michael
a beer and big cigar. Michael
took the beer but told them he
didn’t smoke. Mrs. Trautman
brought him a big banana.

Michael had never seen a
banana before. She had to
peel it for him. Another big
fellow, ‘Big John Krautner’,
and he said where have you
been your sister is at the
depot waiting for you. They
went to the depot and got
everything all straight.

Michael’s life in America
was not one where the
streets were paved in gold.
Michael lived in a boarding
house and lived in boarding
house owned by Big John
Krautner. He lived there with
his sister and brother-in-law,
Tschop Frim and about 6
other boarders.

His brother-in-law and Ste-
fan Gramelt told Michael to
come with them and he could
get a job at Schonthal Scrap
Iron Company. Michael ran
into some difficulty on this
job. He came in and had to
pay the boss a half dollar to
get the job. He worked for
\$16 an hour or \$1.60 a day.
The boss would come in ev-
ery day and ask Michael for a
quarter; so, now he was only
making \$1.35 a day. This
went on for a while and finally
when the boss came around
and asked for the quarter Mi-
chael told him no! His boss
ended up putting Michael on
night shift because he would
pay the quarter. His boss told
Michael to come in and work
Sunday evening because he
wouldn’t give him a quarter.
Michael never came in on
Sunday and showed up a
work on Monday. He and his
boss got into it and Michael
ended up quitting.

The next day, Michael
went to Buckeye Steel Cast-
ing Company. He got a job
working for a boss named Ed
Waringer at \$.15 an hour.
This was in January of 1907.
Michael was doing a job
working with chains. One day
a chain fell on his foot and he
was injured pretty bad. His
foot was swollen and bloody.
Michael couldn’t do the job
like this so he started doing
other jobs that he could do.
Mike would do other jobs and
finally got a job as a finisher
(coresetter) making \$4.00
a day. Mike would change
bosses and ended up work-
ing night shift for the next
two years.

Mike met and fell in love
with his future wife, Rosie.
She worked at a glass factory
and would work mornings un-
til the evening. They hardly
had any chance to see each
other. One Sunday there was
a picnic at Heimendale Park.
Rosie said to Mike why don’t

you take off tonight and go
to the picnic with me. They
went and danced and had
a great time. The next day
Mike was in trouble with his
boss. His boss was mad
and told him he was going to
penalize him and reassigned
him to another job. Mike and
his boss got into and Mike
said he had worked 2 years
at the job and only took off
one night. Mike said you can
take this job and shove it up
your ____!

Michael would get another
job working outside for \$2.00
a day. It rained that night
and he went home because
he couldn’t work in the rain.
The next day he went back
to Buckeye Steel and ran into
his old boss Ed. Mike would
get his old job back.

Michael and Rosie got re-
ally serious and decided to
get married. On September
4, 1910, they went to the
courthouse and got their
marriage license. They had
their wedding at a dance hall
on South High Street. They
had a really fun wedding.
They had about 70 people at
the wedding. George Both
played the accordion and
everyone danced.

Michael and Rosie make a
huge decision. They talked
about it and decided that
originally, Michael would
make some money, and they
would go back home, buy
some land and live. Rosie
was extremely homesick
and so was Michael. They
sold everything they had
and bought tickets to go
back and in March 1911 they
sailed back on the George
Washington ship. In six days
they would be in Bremen,
Germany.

This a good place to stop
and find out soon what hap-
pens to Michael and Rosie.

HUMOR

A man tells the secret of
a successful marriage of 75
years.

He says when there is a
disagreement on the first day,
she is right.

He says when there is a
disagreement on the second
day, she is right.

It goes on like this and then
he says, when there is a dis-
agreement on the tenth day
and after that, I am wrong.

His wife looks at him and
says that’s right honey.

How do you think he re-
plied, she is right.

CONGRATULATIONS

Please join me in wishing
Susi Mueller (October 5) and
Marsue Birtler (October 16)
very Happy Birthdays, and
we wish them many more.
Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

INVITE

your relatives and friends to
join the crowd at ATS.



CHURCHES



St. Peter's German and Saxon Lutheran Church

11423 Chicago Rd.
Warren, Michigan 48093
(586) 979-3850
stpeters_church@sbcglobal.net
www.stpeterswarren.org

10:00 Service

Nursery

Coffee following service

Senior Circle

Et kit mer feng,
en Sox zā Seng.



BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST

By Arline Krestel-Suts

Branch 33 Cleveland East held its most recent meeting on Wednesday, October 8th. We had a Halloween pizza party. Costume contest winners were Flower Child Margie Ziegler, the Transylvanian Conehead Henry Hum, and Oktoberfest Revelers Donna and John Foisel.

I am sad to report that our member Don C. Weber passed away; husband of our dear late Lillian Weber, and longtime companion of

Joanne Janisko, father of Mark and Laura, grandfather of three. Don was a Korean War veteran, retired from the U.S. Postal Service, avid outdoorsman and gardener. We will miss his smile and humor. Our sincerest sympathies to Joanne and his family.

Branch 33 is busy planning our Saxon Sausage Sale to be held on Saturday, December 6th. Keep on the lookout for more details in upcoming Volksblatt editions.



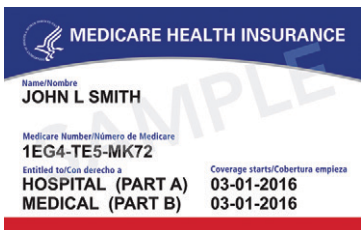
Halloween Costume winners: L-R: Margie Ziegler, Henry Hum, Donna and John Foisel.

What to know about Medicare Open Enrollment

As the Medicare Open Enrollment Period approaches (Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, 2025), it's time to review your health and prescription drug plans to ensure they meet your needs for 2026. This year brings significant changes that could save you money and improve your care.

1. Save on prescription drugs with a \$2,100 cap

Thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare Part D plans (prescription drug coverage) capped your out-of-pocket costs at \$2,000 per year starting January 1, 2025. However, for 2026, this cap is adjusted for inflation and increases to \$2,100 per year. Once a Medicare Part D enrollee reaches this \$2,100 out-of-pocket limit in 2026, they will pay \$0 for covered Part D prescriptions for the remainder of the year. This cap applies to deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance for covered drugs under Part D plans, but it does not apply to drugs covered under Medicare Part B or



non-covered medications.

Once you hit this limit, you'll pay nothing for covered Part D medications for the rest of the year -- no co-pays or coinsurance. The 'donut hole' coverage gap is also gone, meaning no surprise costs for expensive drugs. Plus, a new Medicare Prescription Payment Plan lets you spread your drug costs into monthly payments, making budgeting easier. Contact your Part D plan to opt in if this helps you manage costs.

Check your plan's drug list (formulary) during open enrollment, as fewer Part D plans are available in 2026, and some may cover different medications or have higher premiums.

2. More flexibility for low-income seniors

If you're enrolled in both Medicare and full Medic-

aid or qualify for the Part D Extra Help program, you'll have new options in 2026. Starting January 1, you can change your Medicare Advantage or Part D plan monthly, not just quarterly, to better match your health needs or coordinate benefits.

Call 1-800-MEDICARE to see if you qualify for Extra Help, which can lower drug costs to \$4.90 for generics and \$12.15 for brand-name drugs.

3. Fewer Medicare Advantage plans

In 2026, there will be fewer Medicare Advantage plans to choose from, and some may change their provider networks or benefits. Review your Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) letter, sent by September 30, 2025, to confirm your doctors and services are still covered.

Use Medicare's Plan Finder tool at Medicare.gov/plan-compare to compare plans by your ZIP code, medications, and preferred pharmacies.



Don C. Weber

Also, we will be hosting the ATS Bowling session on November 16th at North Woods Lanes in Macedonia OH. Our next business meeting will be Wednesday November 12th; an important meeting as we will be electing Branch officers for 2026.

BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND By Robert Hanek

The leaves are finally changing and soon the little ghosts and goblins will come knocking at our doors. Everyone is now getting back into their routines after summer.

Branch 1's monthly meetings are every 3rd Monday of the month again after the break during summer. I encourage all Branch 1 members to attend our monthly meetings. Volunteers are also needed at our Sachsenheim for maintenance and upkeep. If you are able, please contact any Branch officer or our Manager, Amy Osbourne to ask what needs to be done.

Upcoming events include:

Children's Halloween Party October 24th.

Tree trimming and Christmas Decorating November 24th.

Sausage making and sale December 5-6. We are always in need of help for this fundraising event.

Children's Christmas party followed by Krampus Fest.

Branch 1 will also be hosting the ATS Convention in 2026.

Our congratulations go out to Branch 1 member, Dr. John K. Hermann, on his recent marriage on September 22 to Kelly Klass. John is the son of Branch 1 and 4 members, Hanz and Barbara Hermann. Our best wishes!

If any of our Branch 1 members would like to add to Branch 1's article in the Volksblatt, please contact me, Robert Hanek, at Rhanek8@yahoo.com or phone (440) 356-5582. Have a happy and safe Halloween!



We remember our Sisters and Brothers who have departed this life in recent days. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the bereaved families.

Gregory D. Wright

Age: 50

Died: February 1, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Anneliese A. Menrath

Age: 88

Died: May 5, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

William J. Miller

Age: 92

Died: May 16, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Ronald A. Bodine

Age: 81

Died: June 21, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Donna J. Alexander

Age: 81

Died: July 18, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Maria Schertzer

Age: 91

Died: September 23, 2025
Home Branch

Velta Gubesch

Age: 90

Died: October 6, 2025
Branch 17, Canton, OH

Donald Weber

Age: 76

Died: October 8, 2025
Home Branch

James Mauch

Age: 90

Died: October 8, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Kay F. Epps

Age: 78

Died: October 7, 2025
Branch 8, Alliance, OH

Mildred Redifer

Age: 96

Died: October 11, 2025
Branch 18, Salem, OH



Safety instructions your trick-or-treaters should hear



- 1. Be sure your costume or mask allows you to see in all directions. Look both ways before crossing a street.
- 2. Bring pets into the house before leaving, in order to keep them safe.
- 3. Never go into a stranger’s house unless your parents are with you.
- 4. Don’t eat the contents of your bag before your parents check it out.

- 5. Don’t take shortcuts through backyards, alleys or parks.
- 6. If you are an older kid going out with friends, make sure your parents know where you are going and whom you are going.
- 7. If you take younger siblings with you, be sure to keep them safe.
- 8. If you can drive and are taking friends to a party, always pay attention to your driving. Be certain that you have enough gas.
- 9. If your parents give you a curfew, be sure you get back on time.
- 10. Vandalism is never cool. You’ll get in big trouble if you soap windows or throw eggs at cars or houses.



Americans, Haitians can claim the zombie

Halloween is coming and that means zombies, the strange creations of both Haitian and American culture, are coming, too.

In today’s popular culture, zombies are clumsy reanimated corpses that crave human brains, but the idea didn’t start exactly that way.

The idea of a reanimated human comes from Haiti where such creatures were thought to be under the control of a sorcerer (bokor). Voodoo practitioners thought a bokor could combine herbs, poisons and ritual to resurrect the dead and enslave them. In fact, the Haitian zombie has often been portrayed as a metaphor for slavery, since the resurrected one had no free will and was forced into servitude. The very idea was terrifying.

The Haitian zombie probably traveled from its ghostly origins in Africa, finally landing in America through accounts of voodoo zombies in a 1929 book about Haitian voodoo cults.

But, the zombie’s current incarnation is largely the creation of a 1968 film, George A Romero’s Night of the Living Dead, partly inspired by a 1954 novel.

Since the 1990s, however, the zombie character has changed. In film and television, they have often been portrayed as runners, instead of the lumbering dead. They also enjoyed some depictions in romantic settings and, in video games, even as dogs. In music, Michael Jackson’s Thriller made them cool, but their profile has declined in the 2000s.

A large black and white line drawing of a smiling character wearing a pointed hat, holding a heart-shaped lollipop, and carrying a bag of candy. The character is surrounded by various candies and a large "BOO!" text at the bottom.

Name: _____ Age. _____ Branch No. _____ Cert. No. _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Juvenile Members are encouraged to color and mail to the ATS Home Office for a special treat.

Please mail to the ATS Home Office; 5323 Pearl Road; Cleveland, OH 44129

Before November 07, 2025



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH!

It's time again for the Columbus Saxons Club Branch 10
Annual Christmas Party!

You don't want to miss the Christmas Party/Celebration.
It's Sunday, December 7th at the Berwick Party House.
The celebration will be from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Should you feel the urge you can wear your
Dirndl or Lederhosen or Saxon Tracht
or Christmas Ugly Sweater.



Sankt Nikolaus is checking his list and his calendar,
and he wants you to come join Sankt Nikolaus!
In order to make this a fun and nice experience, we need to
make sure we know how many people will be attending.
We want to invite Club members, ATS members, guests, and
especially children, who will receive a Christmas surprise.
In order to get an idea of the number of attendees,
we need to have you RSVP.
Also, we would like to have an idea of children attending.

Respond by November 15, 2025 to by text
or call Don Blum

Email donaldblum@prodigy.net
Call Cell Phone or text to 614-580-8616

When you respond make sure you
let the Don know your name,
phone number, the names of all the people
& especially children(age) and names
that you will be bringing to the Saxon Christmas Party.
We need a head count for the Berwick Party House
by November 15, 2025.

The cost to come to Saxon Club's Celebration is:
Adults \$ 35.00 Children 11 – 16 \$ 20.00
Children Under 10 and under Years FREE

Pay for the Christmas Party by sending your check
(Payable to the ATS COLUMBUS SAXONS CLUB
BRANCH 10 Saxons Branch 10) to Don Blum
no later than Saturday, November 15, 2025!

Again, we need the names of all the people in your party
and children's ages and names under 13.
Please use the attachment in sending your payment.
If we do not receive your payment by
Friday, November 22, 2025,
we will assume you are not able to attend
and we will miss you.

C/O Don Blum, Treasurer

6436 Lakeview Circle Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
We encourage you to bring your special
and delicious Christmas Dessert to share.

Mail Check Payable to the
ATS COLUMBUS SAXONS CLUB BRANCH 10

C/O DON BLUM, TREASURER
6436 LAKEVIEW CIRCLE
CANAL WINCHESTER, OHIO 43110\

PRINT NAMES OF PEOPLE ATTENDING

PRINT CHILDREN'S NAMES AGE

BRANCH 30
YOUNGSTOWN
By Rosemarie Kascher

Upcoming Events:
Mondays: Trunk and Treasure Flea Market – closed to next season
Wednesdays: Dinner and Drawings.
Thursdays: Bar Bingo.
Fridays: Fish Dinner, open to the public
Sundays: Breakfast till 2 p.m., meetings on second Sundays.
October 26: Pork/Kraut Dinner Take Out and Dining Room
November 1: Trachtenball \$20 per person
November 3: Officers Meeting 6 p.m.
November 9: Branch Meeting 6 p.m.
November 16: Pork/Kraut Dinner (none in December)
December 14: Annual Christmas Party, requesting donations of prizes and cookies for cookie table.

The new painting of the dining area, etc. is thanks to Gene Thomas's leadership. We continue our updating and repairs that are still needed and comes from your donations. They are so appreciated and needed, so please continue your donations for your Saxon Club.

There is a change in the Scholarship Program. It now will be open to any college or university, private or state, in the state of Ohio. To qualify, the applicant must have been a member of Branch 30 thru the age of sixteen and a member of the ATS. A 3.0 average in grades is a requirement. More information will follow later. Julaine Gilmartin is in charge (330) 799-5171, 4173 Timberlaine Trail, Canfield, Ohio 44406.

We should like to send special honors and deepest thanks to Helga and Wolfgang Wengler for hosting the German Hour on radio, every week for so many years. It has been a wonderful contribution to the total community as well as to those of us of Germanic origin. Thanks to two talented and wonderful friends who share good music with us. Good health and much happiness.

Please pay your next year's dues. It is only \$40 per year, honorary members \$20. Make your checks out to the Youngstown Saxon Club c/o Val Thomas, 5747 Tippecanoe Rd., Youngstown, OH 44406 or to the office.

May you enjoy the beautiful weather we are having this Fall.



Youngstown
Saxon Culture Group
celebrates



54th Annual Trachtenball

Please join us for this unique, cultural experience featuring an authentic homemade Schnitzel Dinner with performances by the following:
Cleveland Deutscher Musik Verein
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group
Pittsburgh Alpenschuhplattler Dance Group
Youngstown Saxon Brass Band

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m

Saturday, November 1st, 2025
Youngstown Saxon Club Ballroom
710 South Meridian Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44512

For Reservations, please call or text:
Robert Bachinger (330) 980-0911
or Mike Bachinger (330) 540-5168
If we don't answer, please leave a message!

~~~~~  
\$20 Adult - \$12 Children (12 to 6) Under 6 Free  
Tickets will be held at the door. Cash or check only.

NO CREDIT CARDS PLEASE

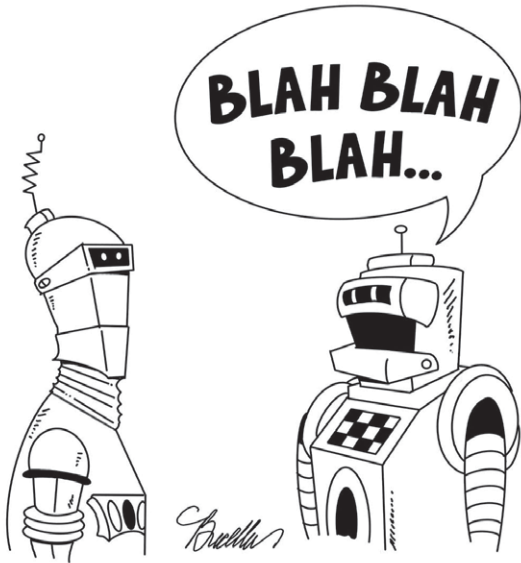
HOLIDAY  
CRAFT FAIR

November 9, 2025  
Noon - 4:30PM

Sachsenheim  
7001 Denison Ave.,  
Cleveland, OH

Come get your Holiday  
shopping started early!  
Homemade Crafts of all kind

For info call Amy:  
216-651-0888



Chitchat Bot



# What happens to my ATS Annuity when I die?



The answer to this question depends on what you have done with the annuity account while you were living. You have various options available to you during your retirement years. You can opt to “annuitize” the account or leave it as is. When you annuitize your account, you will select a distribution option. Once you make that selection, it cannot be changed. The alternative to annuitizing is to leave the account alone, allowing you to continue adding to or withdrawing funds from the account.

If you annuitized your account and are receiving a distribution, it is possible that your beneficiary could continue to receive your payments. This depends on what option you chose and how long ago you chose it.

If you have not annuitized your account, then your beneficiary will choose a distribution option that suits them. **Beneficiary options** include: Lump Sum, Straight Life, Joint and Survivor Life, Specified Period or Dollar Amount, or Life with a Specified Period. If your beneficiary is your spouse, they have the option to put the account into their name and everything stays as is. Unlike your beneficiary, your spouse is not required to liquidate your account.

Depending on the dollar amount of your account and the taxable portion of the balance, your beneficiary may choose the **Lump Sum** option. In this case, your beneficiary would receive the entire account balance in one lump sum.

All other options available to your beneficiary are “payout” options. The account is paid out over time. The account continues to earn interest even as the account balance decreases. The **Life Annuity** option offers a payment for your beneficiary’s entire lifetime. No matter how long they live, they will receive a payment. A Life Annuity can be Straight Life (beneficiary’s life) or a Joint and Survivor Life. The beneficiary’s spouse is the most common person, but not required, for the Joint and Survivor Life. A different option for your beneficiary is a payment for a **Specified Period or Dollar Amount**. With this option, a payment is made for whatever specified period your beneficiary sets up (ex: 5, 10, 20 years, etc.) or a set dollar amount. If your beneficiary passes away prior to the specified time frame, their beneficiary would receive the remaining payments. Another option combines both the Life Annuity and Specified Period options. A **Life Annuity with Period Certain** guarantees that your beneficiary will receive a payment for life. Unlike the Straight Life option above, this option guarantees that the payments will continue to their beneficiary if he or she passes away prior to the end of the set time frame (ex: 5, 10, 20 years).

When the time comes, the ATS will explain these various options to your beneficiary using figures based on your account balance and their age and the type of account that you have. The ATS is here for you now, and in the future!



Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons  
5323 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, OH 44129  
(440) 842-8442

[www.ATSaxons.com](http://www.ATSaxons.com) [Office@ATSaxons.com](mailto:Office@ATSaxons.com)

