



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

December 19, 2025

Issue 26



BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST By Arline Krestel-Suts

Christmas is coming quick, and then the New Year, 2026! I hope everyone has made a reservation for the Branch 33 Christmas Banquet, Sunday December 21, at Pine Ridge Country Club in Wickliffe. Doors open at noon, dinner served promptly at 1 p.m., and Santa will be joining us at 3 p.m. Maria Phillips is taking reservations at (440) 552-1364.

Congratulations to the Ginther/Kreiling family, Jim and Caroline had a baby girl in November. Bruce Schneider is now an Opa too, to a little boy. It was nice to see all their baby photos!

I am sorry to report member Don Brusk passed

away this month. He was husband of dearly departed Trustee Kathie (Schneider) Brusk. Our sincerest sympathies to Schneider and Brusk families.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday January 14, starting with a Sausage and Sauerkraut supper at 7 p.m. And yes, we are having Saxon sausage we made on December 6. Installation of Branch officers for 2026 and business meeting to follow supper.

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford
ATS Nat'l President



Merry Christmas to everyone! I know this is a busy time of year, but please, remember the real reason for this season! Take some time to relax with family and friends and just enjoy the Christmas season. The new year will be here soon enough to start our hectic schedules back up again.

Thank you to the Columbus Saxons, Branch 10, for inviting me to their Christmas Party and the honor of installing their Branch Officers. It was a wonderful event with good food, good company, good music provided by George Lassel on the trumpet and his daughter Jennifer and her clarinet, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus! They even arranged good weather that day! I have a few more Branches to visit before the end of the year and look forward to meeting local members at each of these stops.

Did you know there was more than one famous composition published on December 19th? According to History.com, Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack* was first published on this date in 1732. The book, filled with proverbs preaching industry and prudence, was published continuously for 25 years and became one of the most popular publications in the 13 original colonies of America, selling an average of 10,000 copies a year. According to Wikipedia, later writers such as Noah Webster were inspired by the Almanack, and it went on to influence other publications of this type such as the *Old Farmer's Almanac*, which has included a picture of Benjamin Franklin on its cover since 1851.

On December 19, 1776, Thomas Paine published the essay *The American Crisis*, which gave a shot in the arm to the Patriots during a particularly rough stretch of the American Revolution. In this paper, Paine wrote: "These are the times that try men's souls; the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph". When these phrases appeared in the pages of the *Pennsylvania Journal* for the first time, General George Washington's troops were camped at McKonkey's Ferry on the Delaware River opposite Trenton, New Jersey. They had suffered defeats, losing New York City to the British troops. 11,000 volunteers had given up the fight and returned home to their families. General Washington knew that he would lose even more when their service contracts expired on December 31. Thomas Paine, again, delivered words that would salvage the revolution. (His *Common Sense* writing was credited with beginning the revolution.) General Washington commanded that the freshly printed pamphlet be read aloud to

Continued on Page 2

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025**

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



**Attend the
monthly
meetings
of your Branch.
Help make
your Branch a
healthy Branch.**

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

his dispirited men; the rousing prose had its intended effect. Reciting Paine’s impassioned words, the beleaguered troops mustered their remaining hopes for victory and crossed the icy Delaware River to defeat hung-over Hessians on Christmas night. Then, on January 2, the British army’s best general, Earl Cornwallis, was defeated at the Battle of Princeton. With these victories in New Jersey, Washington not only won two battles, but also the love and thanks of man and woman.

Charles Dickens’ classic story A Christmas Carol was published on December 19, 1843. Dickens was born in 1812. In 1824, when he was twelve, his father was thrown into debtors’ prison and Dickens was sent to work in a factory. The miserable treatment of children and the institution of debtors’ jail became topics of several of Dickens’ novels. In his late teens, Dickens became a reporter and started publishing humorous short stories. After a collection of stories was printed as a book in 1837, he quickly became the most popular author of the day. His other well-known works include David Copperfield (1850), A Tale of Two Cities (1859) and Great Expectations (1861).

And now, on December 19, 2025, the final issue (issue 26) of the 2025 calendar year’s Saxon News Volksblatt is complete. We’ll start all over with issue #1 next year! Take care throughout the Christmas/ New Year season! Stay warm, and if you’re traveling, do so safely.

Until next time...

Coincidence is when
God chooses to
remain anonymous.



Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Home Office: 5323 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442
E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

National Board of Directors

President -
Denise Aeling Crawford Br. 8 (330) 257-0267
9415 Elsmere Dr, Parma OH 44130

Honorary Past Presidents -
Thomas J. Manning Br. 2 (814) 864-6072
3909 Schaper Ave Apt 203, Erie PA 16508
Joan Miller-Malue Br. 4 (216) 233-8631
17105 Hilliard Rd, Lakewood OH 44107

First Vice President -
Monica M. Weber Br. 4 (440) 356-5936

Second Vice President -
Randall Floyd Br. 26 (219) 798-6908
1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410

Third Vice President -
Michael Bachinger, Br. 30 (330) 540-5168
3134 Neosho Rd, Youngstown OH 44511

Secretary-
Christine Oehlman Br. 10 (614) 419-7485
8333 Shade Maple Dr, Canal Winchester OH 43110

Treasurer -
Michael Teutsch, Jr. Br. 30 (330) 509-9670
140 Neff Ct, Canfield OH 44406

Trustees -
Jacob F. Spor Br. 25 (724) 657-3773
2940 Plank Rd, New Castle PA 16105
Barbara Spack Br 18 (330) 501-1491
1389 Brookview Dr, Salem OH 44460
Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson Br. 37 (586) 264-6136
11711 Lancer Dr, Sterling Hts MI 48313
Margarete Ziegler, Br. 33 (440) 488-6421
38047 Parkway Blvd, Willoughby OH 44094
Debbie K. Ferguson Br. 37 (586) 431-1956
4975 Surrey Dr, Sterling Heights MI 48310

Chief Medical Examiner -
Dr. Andreas W. Schuster, Br. 1 Cleveland

The Saxon News Volksblatt (ISSN 0894-1165), the official publication of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503, is published Bi-weekly.

Annual Subscription rate for non-ATS members
USA - \$15; Canada and Europe - \$50

Managing Editors HB Laser Communications,
29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake, Ohio 44145.
“Periodicals Postage Paid” at Cleveland, Ohio.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Saxon News Volksblatt, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

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.

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, DECEMBER 24, 2025	FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026	FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026	FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

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



Cleveland West Side Sachsenheim Club / Branch 1 member Carl Vavpot has recently endeavored to concentrate on his art career. Of the many avenues he has chosen to showcase his art, one involves working with a 3D printer.

His latest creation is a 3D model of the Saxon Wappe. The PLA-extruded work includes a blue and red shield-shaped wall-hanger, accompanied by seven golden castles (sieben buergen) that fit neatly into seven platforms. The castles are removable, and also feature a loop for hanging one wherever you like.

These models are being sold through emailed order. Consider buying one today to grace your house or to gift to a loved one for the holidays! Please write to carlvavpot@yahoo.com with your request. They sell for \$30 per unit plus shipping. A portion of all sales goes towards the sustainability of the West Side Sachsenheim.

Perhaps YOUR club may want this done with their Wappe? Use the same email, and make a request!



ATS



43rd Annual Bowl Where You Are

CALLING ALL BRANCHES!

Our Annual "Bowl Where You Are" Tournament for ATS members between the ages of 6 and 17 will be held February to March, 2026.

We encourage you to host a Bowling Party to bring your young members and their families together. As bowling alleys are already booking for February and March of 2026, we wanted to reach out early to give you time to plan.

Just a reminder this event is an ATS Scholarship Qualifying Event

**FOR TIPS ON HOW TO MAKE THIS A FAMILY
BRANCH EVENT, CONTACT
MARGIE ZIEGLER,
YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON,
440-488-6421.**



Christmas is ground zero for young picky eaters

The struggle is real with kids and food, but especially at holidays when most of the food may well be different than what they are used to seeing.

You don't want tears at grandma's house. You don't want children announcing that they hate what is being served. To save the day, teach kids to compliment and thank the cook: Thank you Grandma, it looks good. Amazing how that one statement makes the picky eater look like a super star gourmet. Even if they don't eat much, they already said it was good. Everyone is happy. The child looks like a genius.

Teach them never to criticize the food. If they hate it, they need to keep that thought to themselves.

How you cope with the picky eater depends mainly on what works for you, but here are some ideas.

Consider presenting children with a challenge food. That's one bite of some-



thing they hate or never tasted before. Just one small bite, like three peas. If they eat the challenge food then they are finished with dinner. It is especially helpful if kids are competitive with each other. Then the challenge food is a contest. You can increase the amount of the challenge food once they have tried it 10 times or so.

Don't make a separate dinner for picky eaters. Put the family dinner on their plate, with small servings. Experts advise not forcing a

child to eat everything on the plate, but you can enforce some level of cooperation. They must eat a few bites of what you put on their plate, even if it means you sit with them and coach them through the bites. Mouth, chew, swallow, take a drink.

If your picky eater won't eat enough to fill them up, then you might make their favorite (microwaved chicken nuggets!) after dinner. But the key is they have to eat some of the family dinner.

First Day of Winter. Dec. 21, 2025



"It started with shoplifting which led to stealing cars and the next thing you know..."



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

- 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 - Salem
- 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
- October 17 -18, 2026
ATS Open Bowling Tournament
Host: Salem

LOCAL EVENTS

- December 20, 2025
New Castle Tom and Jerry Party 3 p.m. - close



Give the gift of Saxon Heritage
this Christmas with

I am Saxon

A History of the Transylvanian Saxons
By Karl Gagesch

Learn about your
Saxon heritage in this
captivating book that
brings the past to life.

Start your historical
adventure today!"

Get your copy and join
the growing effort to
preserve Saxon
heritage for future
generations.



Available at Amazon,
Barnes & Noble, Kobo
and other online book
retailers.

Avoid holiday
safety hazards

Christmas is a time to celebrate, spend time with family and friends, and to relax. But, it’s also a time when safety should be on your mind because the holiday season brings a unique combination of hazards into the home.

Christmas light safety

- 1. Make sure the holiday lights are meant for outdoor use. Lights made for outdoor use are designed to withstand cold and wet conditions. The tag near the plug will specify whether lights are made for indoor or outdoor use.
- 2. All cords and lights should be intact. Frayed cords and cracked light bulbs are more likely to cause a fire.
- 3. Never leave lights on overnight. Be sure to turn off the lights before retiring for the night.

Christmas tree safety

- 1. If using a real tree, water often. A tree that dries out causes a fire hazard. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that one of every 31 reported home fires in the holidays is caused by a Christmas tree fire and results in death.
- 2. Keep the tree away from heat. Trees, unlike humans and animals, don’t need to be kept warm during the winter months. This only dries the tree out and increases the risk of fire. Keep it away from the fireplace, space heaters, even living room lamps.
- 3. Use lights specifically designed for indoor use.

Candle safety

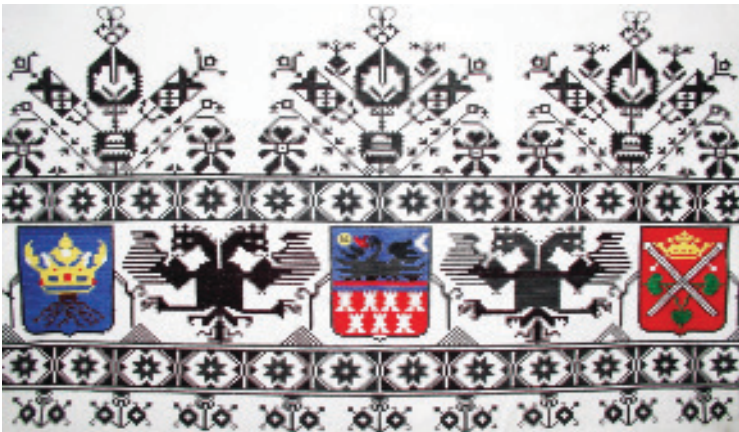
- 1. Use battery operated window or tree candles.
- 2. If traditional candles are a must, be very careful about placement. Place them on sturdy, non-flammable surfaces, away from decorations, curtains, the Christmas tree and anything else that could catch fire.
- 3. Do not burn candles when no one is in the room.



Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
Sales Deputies

Alliance, OH Helen Aeling (330) 862-2563 Denise Crawford (330) 257-0267	Farrell, PA Marj Kreiling (814) 213-0082
Canton, OH Helen Aeling (330) 862-2563	Lorain, OH Monica Gilles (440) 309-7894
Chicago, IL Randall Floyd (219) 798-6908 Jeff Szostek (219) 313-7854	Merrillville, IN Randall Floyd (219) 798-6908 Jeff Szostek (219) 313-7854
Cleveland (East), OH Ema Litschel (440) 358-1184 Margarete Ziegler (440) 488-6421	New Castle, PA Ingrid Both-Hoesl (724) 698-4286 Marj Kreiling (814) 213-0082
Cleveland (West), OH Trudy Schaefer (216) 215-2269 Monica Weber (440) 356-5936	Rochester/Monaca, PA Marj Kreiling (814) 213-0082
Columbus, OH Michael Roth (614) 216-0008	Salem, OH Helen Aeling (330) 862-2563 Barbara Spack (330) 501-1491
Detroit, MI Jeff Szostek (219) 313-7854	Youngstown, OH Michael Teutsch, Jr. (330) 509-9670
Ellwood City, PA Marj Kreiling (814) 213-0082	ATS Home Office (440) 842-8442 Office@ATSaxons.com

11/25



10:00 Service
Nursery
Coffee following service
Senior Circle

67

The top word for 2025 means nothing

If you have middle-schooler children or grandchildren, you may have heard this word: Six Seven (67). And you might have asked what it means.

Whatever answer you got was destined to be unsatisfying because for Gen Alpha and Gen Z it means nothing. It is often used with a hand motion, commonly associated with the idea of weighing options: Hands out, palms up moving up and down.

Not having a meaning didn't stop Dictionary.com from making 67 the word of the year for 2025 mainly because searches for 67 dramatically rose during the summer of 2025. That's probably because adults wondered what their kids were up to.

What they are up to is laughing about your confusion.

Next word up: 41 (pronounced forty-one, and not four one, don't be so 67). 41 also means nothing.

Oh Holy Night

Have you heard about the child born on Christmas day?
He was sent to save us and to Heaven show the way.

Throughout His sojourn here on earth
He lived for the purpose of His birth.

God sent Jesus our souls to save
and keep us from an earthly grave.

**A Christmas gift you cannot buy,
the price for it can be high.**

**How can I get it you may ask,
it does require a certain task.**

**This gift to you God freely does give
if for Jesus you will choose to live.**

**You must believe for your sins Jesus did die
and Satan's temptations you must work to belie.**

**This Christmas gift is yours for the taking
if a commitment you are freely making.**

**Believe in Jesus and help all mankind
salvation and Heaven to likewise find.**

An original poem by Judith E. Both Christmas 2025



Branch 27 ladies and guests met at the Hunter's Woods Club House on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. for our Christmas party. Everyone was dressed in their festive holiday finery ready to enjoy a great meal, a game and socializing. President Judy Both welcomed everyone to the party. Judy brought everyone up to date on the ballots received approving the proposed 2026 officers. The officers are: President Judy Both, Vice President Jane Fishovitz, Secretary Dolores Both, Treasurer Katy Hudak and Trustees Doris Shenker, Rosemarie Montini and Debra Hermann. Treasurer Linda Stoops is retiring, and Katy Hudak will fill her position. Katy McCune is stepping in to fill Katy Hudak's vacant position as Financial Secretary.

December 7 is Doreen Hietsch's birthday and we all wished her a happy birthday and asked her to pick a prize for her special day. Wishes for many more happy and healthy birthdays Doreen!

Judy graciously thanked

the members and guests who helped set up the clubhouse for the party, donated table centerpieces to be given away as prizes, and Katy Hudak and myself for planning the party.

Judy said the prayer before our meal. Jeremy from the Hill House Restaurant catered the delicious meal and received hearty applause from all of us.

After dinner the real fun started when Judy began her "Pick a Stocking" game. There were three categories. Christmas, history, and famous slogans. Contestants chose a stocking and had to answer a question. With a "little help" from the audience, all contestants were able to answer the question and got to choose a prize from under the tree. The winners were: Amanda Hudak, Debbie Hermann, Susan Shenker, Linda Stoops, Doreen Hietich, Susan Cosgrove, Jack McCune, Katie McCune, Ken Harris, Jane Fishovitz, Nancy Harris, Sally Watson-Means, Dolores Both, Rosemarie Montini, Sherry Fenske, Bret McCune, Doris Shen-

ker, and Katy Hudak. Five beautiful table centerpieces were donated by: Judy Both, Sherri Fenske, Katy Hudak, Rosemarie Montini, and Susan Shenker. Four of the centerpieces were won by Jane Fishovitz, Susan Shenker, Doris Shenker and Dolores Both. In all the excitement, the winner of the fifth centerpiece was not noted, but I know she is enjoying her win.

A collection container was available for monetary donations to the Saxon Relief Fund. We had a surprise donation from our caterer. The amount collected will be matched by our treasury. Thank you everyone.

No meetings in January and February. Next meeting will be March 5, 2026, place to be announced.

Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!



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.

James Kaqarise

Age: 75

Died: November 27, 2025
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Katherine Schuller

Age: 86

Died: December 2, 2025
Home Branch

My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?

*Bob Hope,
American film actor
and comedian*

Keep your memories alive
with this
Wendell August
ornament depicting the
unique Eintracht building in
New Castle, PA

\$20



"A Brief History of the
Transylvanian Saxons"
Booklet \$1.50

Pre-paid orders can be mailed in the continental United States for an additional fee. Contact Judy Both at 724-654-0573 or jboth1512@comcast.net

Columbus Saxon Club Christmas Party

*******IMPORTANT**
NO DECEMBER OR JANUARY
MEETING*****
SAXON CLUB ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

What a wonderful gathering for our annual event of Transylvanian Saxons in Central Ohio. Our holiday event grows every year. Nearly 90 people attending this year. It's not too early to mark your calendar for next year, Sunday December 13, 2026. Special thanks to all those that helped prep behind the scenes for the event and to all those that participated in our celebration. We enjoyed the musical accompaniment of George and Jenny Lassel, and for those that answered the call to bring the delicious desserts. Definitely, did not check my blood sugar levels. We want to offer a special thanks to Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons National President, Denise Crawford, for again attending event and her participation that made the event extra special. It was special to recognize Saxon immigrants and 1st generation immigrants. The room was filled with Saxon Spirit (even the two gentlemen that got coal in their stockings) of those that participated and all those Saxons looking down on us from that Saxon Bar in Heaven singing Ein Prost!!!

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas, Frohe Weihnachten and Gott Segne!!!

SAXON LIFE OF MICHAEL FARR (his story is paraphrased from excerpts of his story)

So, when we left Mike in the last episode, Mike got a wonderful surprise of Rosie visiting him in the hospital. Unfortunately, the visit was short and Rosie returned home.

Mike was in Klausenburg for another two weeks. Then Michael and some other Saxons were sent to Nagy Warot Stuhl Weisenburg. He and the other Saxons were there for another two weeks. They enjoyed the comradery and had lots of fun. One night they were fooling around and played a joke on one of the people. Mike had run by the stove and stuck his hand in the ashes. Michael Weis was chasing him and Mike turned around and acted like he was trying to avoid him when he was wiping his black, sooty hands over Weis's face. Everyone started laughing at Weis, and he started chasing Mike again. As Mike was running he caught his foot on the iron bed post. His foot was already swollen and he couldn't get his shoe on, and now he really hurt his foot even worse. The next morning Mike's foot was all black and swollen. They had to walk to catch a train to Wascharhely. The next day they were to report to a doctor to tell them what was wrong with them before reporting back. Mike showed him his foot but didn't tell him he hurt it fooling around. The doctor told Mike to go to the Labodoso (sort like a rehab center). He was told to bathe his foot in hot water twice a day for two weeks and it would get better.

Mike's younger brother, Jakob, was a recruit in the same battalion, 22nd Honwed Regiment. Jakob had already been sent to the front line. After Mike's foot was better, he was put in March Company and sent to the front line. Mike had thought about his brother a lot. They were told they could take as much clothing as they could carry. Mike took extra shirts, pants and a set of boots that he planned to give to Jakob if they got together. Mike went to the front line and they were



supposed to go to the top of this mountain. They couldn't do it during the day because the Russians were close and would be able to see them. When they got to the top of the mountain and they hid in a cave covered with branches. Mike started talking to a corporal that was there. He asked if Mike could give him some cigarettes. Mike said sure and the corporal asked him his name. He said it was Farr. The corporal said there's a Farr, Jakob, in our company. Mike asked if he could see him. He said Jake was in the trenches below and he couldn't get to him right then. The next morning eight of the men with Mike were sent to the front trenches. While it was still dark, Mike walked along the trenches and not too far from him, he saw his brother Jakob and John Fleischer, a Saxon from Botsch, standing there and looking out of the trenches. Mike yelled and said, "Hi, Jakob." When Jakob saw Mike, he started crying. Mike and Jakob talked about where they had been assigned. Jakob was in 5th company and 3rd platoon. Mike had been assigned to the 1st company. That would not sit right with Mike so he went to his sergeant and said he wanted to be in 5th company because his brother was there. The sergeant said you have already been assigned to 1st company. I have learned from reading about



Left to Right – President Christine Oehlman, Treasurer Don Blum, Trustee Marlene Mueller, VP Mike Roth, outgoing President Olga Hesch.



Michael Farr that he doesn't take "No" very well. He told the sergeant that to strike out the 1st and write the 5th company, and if he didn't Mike was going to go to the captain. So, the sergeant gave in and Mike and Jakob were teamed up together in the same company. Jakob's feet were frozen and he was ecstatic when Michael pulled out the extra boots that he had brought. Jakob was so excited and Michael gave him some extra shirts and pants. The four Saxons were together; Mike, Jakob, John Fleischer and another Saxon named Getferd from a neighboring Saxon town. They went forward on the mountain and came close to the Russian front line. The lieutenant, who was full of himself, said Mike dig me a hole. Well, that didn't sit well with Mike. He said dig it yourself, I have to dig one for myself.

A sergeant came and said he needed four men to go on patrol. They walked into the woods, where they hid under branches that hung to the ground. Suddenly, they heard bullets flying over their heads. They laid still until daybreak. When they crawled out, they saw Russians swarming all around, only about a kilometer away. They realized they were behind the Russian line, but the Russians did not see them hidden in the

Continued on Page 7

The Nativity of Jesus Christ



The Nativity or birth of Jesus Christ is found in the biblical gospels of Matthew and Luke. The two accounts agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, modern day Palestine, in Roman-controlled Judea, that his mother, Mary, was engaged to a man named Joseph, who was descended from King David and was not his biological father, and that his birth was caused by divine intervention. The majority of contemporary scholars do not see the two canonical gospel Nativity stories as historically factual since they present clashing accounts and irreconcilable genealogies. The secular history of the time does not synchronize with the narratives of the birth and early childhood of Jesus in the two gospels. Some view the question of historicity as secondary, given that gospels were primarily written as theological documents rather than chronological timelines.

The Nativity is the basis for the Christian holiday of Christmas and plays a major role in the Christian liturgical year. Many Christians traditionally display small manger scenes depicting the Nativity within or outside of their homes, or attend Nativity plays or Christmas pageants focusing on the Nativity cycle in the Bible. Elaborate Nativity displays featuring life-sized statues are a tradition in many continental European countries during the Christmas season.

The artistic depiction of the Nativity has been an important subject for Christian artists since the 4th century. Artistic depictions of the Nativity scene since the 13th century have emphasized the humility of Jesus and promoted a more tender image of him, a major change from the early “Lord and Master” image, mirroring changes in the common approaches taken by Christian pastoral ministry

during the same era.

Gospel accounts

Only the Gospels of Matthew and Luke offer narratives regarding the birth of Jesus. Both agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the reign of King Herod, that his mother was named Mary and that her husband Joseph was descended from King David (although they disagree on details of the line of descent), and both deny Joseph’s biological parenthood while treating the birth, or rather the conception, as divinely effected. Beyond this, they agree on very little. Joseph dominates Matthew’s and Mary dominates Luke’s, although the suggestion that one derives from Joseph and the other from Mary is no more than a pious deduction. Matthew implies that Joseph already has his home in Bethlehem, while Luke states that he lived in Nazareth. In Matthew the angel speaks to Joseph, while Luke has one speaking to Mary. Only Luke has the stories surrounding the birth of John the Baptist, the census of Quirinius, the adoration of the shepherds and the presentation in the Temple on the fortieth day; only Matthew has the wise men, the star of Bethlehem, Herod’s plot, the Massacre of the Innocents, and the flight into Egypt. The two itineraries are quite different. According to Matthew, the Holy Family begins in Bethlehem, moves to Egypt following the birth, and settles in Nazareth, while according to Luke they begin in Nazareth, journey to Bethlehem for the birth, and immediately return to Nazareth. The two accounts cannot be harmonised into a single coherent narrative or traced to the same Q source, leading scholars to classify them as “special Matthew” (or simply the M source) and “special Luke” (the L source).

Per “Wikipedia”

Branch 10 Columbus Cont’d from Page 6

woods. They were scared and crawled back as quickly as they could. It took them a couple of hours to get back to their company. They told them about the closeness of the Russians. The four Saxons; Jakob, Mike, John Fleischer, and John Getferd were sent out on patrol. All at once they came under fire from the Russians. John Getferd hollered, “Fleischer, I’m shot and he was dead.” John, Jakob and Mike laid on their stomach in the snow for about an hour. Finally, it got dark and they jumped up, one by one, and ran down to the trenches; they got away alive. That night they stayed where they were hiding. Every once in a while, the soldiers from the 24th regiment walked away one-by-one, until the last man, the commander said, “You can’t come with us-you belong to the 22nd regiment.” When day broke, they started back and all at once they were cornered by the Russians. Since they didn’t want to be killed, they were captured.

I know you can’t believe I am going to leave you in suspense as to what happens next but this is a good place to pause the story. We will pick up in the next episode and find out what happened to these three Saxons.

HUMOR

God’s Not Deaf

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents’ house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs:

“I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE...” “I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO...”

His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, “Why are you shouting? God isn’t deaf.” to which the little brother replied, “No, but Grandma is!”



Make your artificial tree smell real



There’s nothing quite like the crisp and clean scent of a fresh-cut pine tree at Christmas -- but there’s nothing quite like the mess that a real tree can leave on your floor, either. Even if you don’t have the time, energy, or inclination to vacuum up dropped pine needles every day, you can still enjoy the scent of pine in your house throughout the holiday season.

For a DIY or more organic option, essential oils from pine and fir trees pack a powerful punch and absorb readily into cotton balls, unvarnished wood ornaments, or tea bags. Carefully apply a drop or two to each item and hang it up or hide it deep in the branches. Essential oils can be irritating, so wear gloves when applying it and place the scented objects where kids and pets can’t reach them.

Scented ornaments are a long-lasting ready-made option that just require you to hang them on the tree or wherever else you want that Christmas tree smell. They look like regular ornaments, don’t require refreshing, and you can use more ornaments for a stronger scent. Try scented ornaments from NEXT and make sure to follow the package instructions.

For a temporary punch of fragrance during a family gathering or just for your own enjoyment, scented candles are hard to beat -- just keep them far away from the tree. A large jar or pillar candle like Yankee Candle’s Balsam & Cedar can fill a whole room with fresh pine scent. You can also purchase the Balsam & Cedar scent in smaller sizes or wax melts if you prefer to avoid flames.

Countdown to Christmas dinner at your house

- Five days before: Plan the menu and the place settings, table decorations and center pieces.

Plan the system and decide whether guests will fill their dishes before going to the tables or whether you will have serving bowls on the tables, which is more work.

Ask someone to say the meal prayer.

- Three days before: Check your ingredients against the menu to make sure you have everything.

- One day before: Make some foods in advance so you can just heat them.

Peel potatoes and put them in cold water in the fridge. They will stay fresh if you want to make mashed potatoes.

Make your pies and desserts.

If you don’t have a porta-

ble oven, borrow one for the day so you can bake or heat different foods at the same time.

- The night before: Set the table. Have salt and pepper shakers in place and fill the butter dishes.

Get someone to help with setting up another table if you need one, and bringing in the chairs.

- Christmas day: Be ready to serve guests a beverage when they arrive.

When someone asks how they can help, have them cut cakes and pies into servings. People won’t cut an uncut pie to serve themselves.

- At dinner: Ask guests to hold hands for the prayer, if it is your tradition.

- After dinner: If the women have cooked, the men can clear the table after dinner.

BRANCH 5, LORAIN
By Michael Johnson

The First Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit Society of Lorain Ohio; Branch 5 of The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons for 2025 is just about over. It's hard to believe that this branch which formed 122 years ago in July of 1903 is still together. And though we don't quite resemble the organization that depended so heavily on one another in those early years of the 20th century, we still have been able to hold fast to our identity as Transylvanian Saxons. While reading this article, take a moment to reflect on the people you know or have been inspired by throughout the history of this organization and how it has been a part of your life. Then take a moment to either write an email and send it to me at mikjo79@gmail.com or a letter addressed to Michael Johnson, 2151 Lakeland Ave, Lakewood OH. 44107 so I can share that with the readers of this publication. May we continue to press forward with hope for the future upholding the values and traditions passed down so long ago.

We met on November 17th for our final meeting of 2025 to wrap up business for the year so we could begin again in January with a clean slate. The evening concluded with the election of officers for 2026. There were no nominations for any of the offices from the floor since only those currently serving were the only ones in attendance that evening. Each officer was asked if they would maintain their current positions for another year. All officers agreed to maintain their positions at the current salaries set in the constitution. The officers again are: Monica Gilles - President, Jane Mowery - Vice President, Ginger Romes - Treasurer, Brian Gilles - Recording Secretary, Michael Johnson - Financial and Dues Secretary, Sergeant at Arms - Arlene Gilles, Trustees - Barbara Gilles, Jeanne Petty, and Brian Gilles.

A unanimous vote to again give an annual donation for the holidays to The Mary Lee Tucker Cloth-A-Child, Saxon Relief Fund, the Saxon artifact museum Schloss Horneck; located in Gundelsheim, Germany, as well as donations to the Friendship APL of Elyria and the second harvest food bank were approved.

On the evening of December 6th, members enjoyed a Christmas dinner at Diso's Bistro at All Nations in Lorain. On behalf of those who could attend, I would like to thank Sister Jeanne Petty for her time that went into arranging with the staff, all the reservations for the delicious meal combinations that were served. It was a most pleasant evening which I believe left all of us with that full holiday feeling.

At the time of this writing, Sisters Sharon Powell is being monitored with heart issues and Debbie To-

musko had knee surgery. We hope that each will be better for this coming holiday season. There are no other members receiving sick benefits or reporting any illnesses. Let's start the new year with everyone healthy and in good spirits.

Congratulations to Braiden Gilles, Brother Russ and sister Arlene Gilles, grandson for his 26th place finish out of 1900 participants in the Madison, Wisconsin 26 mile Marathon. It's nice to share the happenings of members and their families near and far.

Our next and first meeting of 2026 will again be held at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave. Lorain, Ohio on the 3rd Monday of the month of January the 19th, 2026 starting at 7:00 p.m. There will also be a pre meeting dinner at The Blue Sky Restaurant, 917 N Leavitt Rd., Amherst, OH 44001 at 5PM. If you are a dues paying member, please come prepared to pay your dues (which would be the same annual amount you paid last year) by either cash or check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH**. If you are not going to be attending, you can submit your dues by mail. Please make your check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH** and mail your check to: *Michael W. Johnson, 2151 Lakeland Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107.*

Happy Birthday to those members celebrating birthdays this month of December; Sisters Arlene Jones, Nancy Kranstuber, Brother Daniel Paghi, and Junior member Kyle Smith. Hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, may everyone have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Branch 5 Christmas Dinner 2025



Cleveland East Sausage Making

Saturday December 6th was a very busy day for Branch 33 Cleveland East: our annual Saxon Sausage Sale.

We had 28 members and friends who showed up to help, fantastic turnout! We cleaned and washed and measured and mixed and cranked and coiled and weighed and packaged... and cooked some for lunch to sample (hmmmm, needs more garlic? ;).

So many helping hands made light work. We want to thank everyone who purchased our sausage, hope you enjoy!



Maria uch Josef (E sachsesh Chrästlied)
Maria und Josef (Ein sächsisches Weihnachtslied)
Worte und Weise: Ernst Helmut Chrestel, 1961



1. Maria uch Josef,
dä wäjjen är Kängd,
end iwwer de Giwwel,
do bleest e käält Wängd.
De Onjelcher fläjjen,
der Hemmel, di klänjt,
kutt säht norr dett Wanjder,
spränjt, frät ich end sänjt.

2. Ir Hirten, ir Hirten,
luuft, luuft, säht, et schnât;
äm ärmlije Kräppchen
det Jesuskängd schrât.
Bronjt Lemmcher uch Feelcher,
datt ät nämmi freist,
äm Stall uch äm Stiwwken
äs allent vereist.

3. Wat selle mir em bronjen
än aser Gemien?
Mer liëjen as Härz
än det Kräppche si klien.
Kutt, Vuëter uch Motter,
kutt allen erbä,
lott frän es uch sänjen:
Der Hielund äs hä!

1. Maria und Josef,
die wiegen ihr Kind,
und über die Giebel,
da bläst kalt der Wind.
Die Engelein fliegen,
der Himmel, der klingt,
kommt, seht dieses Wunder,
springt, freut euch und singt.

2. Ihr Hirten, ihr Hirten,
lauft, lauft, seht, es schneit;
im ärmlichen Kripplein
das Jesuskind schreit.
Bringt Lämmchen und Fellchen,
dass es nicht mehr friert,
im Stall und im Stübchen
ist alles vereist.

3. Was sollen wir ihm bringen
in unsrer Gemein’?
Wir legen unser Herz
in das Kripplein so klein.
Kommt, Vater und Mutter,
kommt alle herfür,
lasst freun uns und singen:
Der Heiland ist hier!

Übertr.: Reich / Chrestels

Aus: "E Liedchen häft ängden – Alte und neue Lieder aus Siebenbürgen", www.angelika-meltzer.de

Günther Schuster:

Chrästōwend

Günther Schuster was born in Mediasch in 1960 and left his hometown at the age of 19, but remained connected to it in many ways. Since the founding of the Heimatgemeinschaft Mediasch e.V., he has held various positions, such as chairman or editor of the Mediascher Infoblatt (since 2001) and the supplement Medwescher Tramiter (since 2005), the only periodical publication in Transylvanian-Saxon dialect, an important platform for dialect cultivation.

Günther Schuster

Chrästōwend

Mer wäintschen allen Fridden
Äm Flackerlächt der Kärzen;
Et wordt geneach gelidden,
Hengd gidd et niche Schmärzen!

Hengd stroat der Wängter Schnii
Af all eas eländ Sorjen
Und än e’m steallen Sii
Versänken mir den Morjen.

Der Ōwend widd es strīcheln
De Weangden af den Siilen.
Seng Züwer widd es schmīcheln,
Gladd wonn mer et net wīlen.

Esi verschwainjdt der Kommer;
Der Bläck widd wīch, verlēßt sich ...
Mer drīmen vun dem Sommer;
Vum Glück, daot blēwt fiur īwich.

De Siënsucht giht af Rīsen
Durch Zegden dä īst wōren;
Der Triust widd alles līsen
Uch än dem Härz bewohren.

SBZ Online 24. Dezember 2024

Hegt wird gesungen! : “E sachsesh Chrästlied”

Ernst Helmut Chrestel was born on 24 December 1916 in Hetzeldorf as the seventh child of Andreas Wilhelm Chrestel and Luise Oczko. Even at a young age, he showed a pronounced musical talent and was able to harmonize songs on the piano even before he started school. He received violin and piano lessons. Singing in the church choir during his high school years in Mediasch made a lasting impression on him. His studies of theology took him via Riga to Tübingen, Leipzig and Halle. During his student years, he joined the singing movement and decided to dedicate a large part of his work in his homeland to church choral singing. Parallel to his theology studies, he took organ lessons and took courses in harmony, counterpoint and choral conducting. In 1941 Chrestel successfully completed his theological studies and then supplemented his musical education at the church music school in Berlin.

At the end of 1942, Chrestel returned home and was ordained as a pastor in Marktschelken. In addition, he worked as a singing pastor in various parishes with the task of founding singing communities. In the spring of 1943 he married Ilse Maria Pauer. In the war year 1944, the couple was given a daughter Ilse Maria – the concert organist Ilse Maria Reich, who later became internationally acclaimed. In the terrible January of 1945, Pastor Chrestel was also deported to a Soviet labor camp in cattle cars on Stalin’s orders, along with 70,000 women and men of German nationality who were able to work. He worked in coal mines (see “Atemschaukel” by Herta Müller) and also exercised his office as a pastor and later also as a choirmaster. In this way, he tried to make camp life easier for his compatriots by singing. After five years of forced labour, he returned to his family.

Ernst Helmut Chrestel was appointed pastor in Baaßen. There the family had another four children (Gretchen in 1950, Ernst in 1953, twins Adelheid and Gudrun in 1955). Daughter Ilse Maria received piano and organ lessons from her father. After the German schools were nationalized in 1948, there was a great shortage of organists in Transylvania. As long as the schools were run by the church, the teachers’ duties also included directing a church choir and serving the organ. In communist Romania, teachers were forbidden to attend church services. Chrestel submitted the concept of a cantor school to Bishop D. Friedrich Müller. On October 7, 1956, the ceremonial opening of the cantor school took place in Baaßen with a festive service, and the first 15 students were committed by handshake in front of the altar by Bishop Vicar Alfred Hermann. Due



to the lack of an organist, Ilse Maria had to take over the organist service in Baaßen as early as 1954 at the age of ten and also played the organ at this solemn service. The cantor school had taken over the rectory and the whole family was involved. For many years, Chrestel was the parish priest, director and teacher of the cantor school at the same time. He was supported by Pastor Egon Heidel from Mediasch, who taught liturgy, choral studies, catechetics and the history of church music.

In 1965 the cantor school moved to Almen and in 1969 to Sibiu. In 1984, when Chrestel retired, the cantor school was dissolved. In the 28 years of its existence, 153 organists have been successfully trained in this institution – a life’s work that Chrestel could look back on proudly. As a pensioner, Chrestel lived in his parents’ house in Hetzeldorf and ran the music center he set up. In 1998 he moved to Landshut, where he died in 2000.

In Transylvania, it was a tradition to perform a nativity play in the church on Christmas Eve. In the village communities, they were usually rehearsed in the respective local dialect. However, a Christmas carol in Saxon dialect was missing. For this reason, Pastor Chrestel wrote and composed “E sachsesh Chrästlied” (Maria uch Josef), which was premiered in December 1961 at the nativity play of the cantor school in Baaßen and was part of the permanent repertoire there in the following years. The many cantor students took this song with them to their respective congregations and thus ensured its rapid and wide distribution. Even today, this song is traditionally heard at the Christmas parties of our compatriots. In the song collection “E Liedchen häłft ängden – alte und neue Lieder aus Siebenbürgen” we have adopted the three-part movement by E. H. Chrestel. If necessary, I can also provide a four-part movement from the author. Listen to the Christmas carol siebenbuerger.de/go/2L165 mit the Zeidner Gesangtrio and a live recording from 2016 from the Stadtkirche in Karlsruhe with the Transylvanian Choir. It would be very interesting to find out whether other Advent or Christmas carols are known in dialect

Angelika Meltzer

SBZ Online 25. December 2024

ATS BRANCH DIRECTORY

Cleveland, OH Br. 1
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim
7001 Denison Ave
Cleveland OH 44102
(216) 651-0888
PRES: Robert M. Hanek
22677Peachtree Ln
Rocky River OH 44116
(216) 385-9932 rhanek8@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Same as President
ATS SEC'Y. Same as President
LOCAL DUES to August Botsch
12606 Arliss Dr Lakewood OH 44107

Alliance, OH Br. 3
Mtg. 3rd. Wed.- 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRESIDENT John H. Aeling
15590 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva, 44657
(330) 862-3706
JDAll852@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. John Esterly
2940 Cedarwood Dr
Alliance Oh 44601
(330) 821-8766
ATS SEC'Y. Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563
SICK NOTICES & LOCAL DUES to
John Aeling
Address shown as President

Cleveland, OH Br. 4
Mtg. 3rd. Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Ave.
(216) 651-0888
PRES. Monica M. Weber
(440) 356-5936
SEC'Y. Joan A. Miller-Malue
17105 Hilliard Rd.
Lakewood OH 44107
(216) 233-8631
miller-malue@cox.net
ATS SEC'Y Donna Jankow
7663 Ragall Pkwy
Middleburg Hts OH 44130
(440) 826-0773
SICK NOTICES to
Joan A. Miller-Malue
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to
Donna Jankow Address as above

Lorain, OH Br. 5
Mtg. 3rd Monday of month 7:00 p.m.
American Slovak Club
2915 Broadway, Lorain
PRES. Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr. #107
Lorain OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillemo76@hotmail.com
SEC'Y. Brian Gilles
244 Ashwood Dr.
Avon Lake OH 44012
(440) 315-5214
bgilles74@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. Ginger Romes
1507 West 39th St
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 989-8424
dgromes@roadrunner.com
SICK NOTICES to Jane Mowery
3600 Jaeger Dr Unit 3101
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 246-3004
janie.e.mowery@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES to
Michael W. Johnson
2151 Lakeland Ave
Lakewood OH 44107
(440) 225-8441 mikjo79@gmail.com

Farrell, PA Br. 7
Mtg. 3rd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Farrell Lions Den
810 Lions Club Lane Farrell PA
(724) 981-7130
PRES. Karen Zaborowski
1715 Shady Dr Farrell PA 16121
(724) 346-0373
SEC'Y.Same as President
ATS SEC'Y. Bonnie Gregorich
55 Oak Tree Ct
West Middlesex PA 16159
(724) 528-0309
SICK NOTICES to Karen Zaborowski
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Schuller
PO Box 834 Andover OH 44003
(440) 293-6973

Alliance, OH Br. 8
Mgt. 3rd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRES. Denise Crawford
9415 Elsmere Dr
Parma OH 44130
(330) 257-0267 dcrawfordcpa@outlook.com
SEC'Y. Lesley Reed
611 N. Market St Minerva OH 44657
(330) 868-3816
ATS SEC'Y. Helen E. Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
LOCAL DUES to: Lesley Reed
Same address as above
SICK NOTICES to: Barb Esterly
2940 Cedarwood Dr Alliance 44601
(330) 821-8766 jackprint@sbcglobal.net

Chicago, IL Br. 9
Mtg. 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Donauschwaben Club
625 E Seegers Rd, Des Plaines IL
PRES. Diethild Thut
923 E Slayton Dr
Palatine IL 60074
(847) 414-2660
dedethut11@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Elfi Sanderson
1425 London Lane
Glenview IL 60025
(847) 998-0939
elfisanderson@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: Claudia Schmidt
8550 Niles Center Rd Skokie IL 60077
(847) 899-8663
Schmidtct274@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES AND SICK NOTICES TO:
Claudia Schmidt
Address as shown above

Columbus, OH Br. 10
Mtg. 3rd Monday at Noon
Hickory House,
550 Officecenter Place Gahanna OH
PRES.Olga Hesch
7260 Refugee Rd
Pickerington OH 43147
H (614) 837-4038 C (614)432-3666
Olga.hesch@gmail.com
SEC'Y. Elizabeth Lassel
300 Glade Run Rd
West Jefferson OH 43162
H (740) 845-0564 C (614) 769-3986
ATS SEC'Y. P. Michael Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 216-0008
LOCAL DUES and SICK NOTICES to
Donald Blum
6436 Lakeview Cir
Canal Winchester OH 43110
H (614) 837-1915 C (614) 580-8616
donalddbllum@prodigy.net

Canton, OH Br. 14
Mtg. 2nd Sunday
Location varies
PRES. Thomas J. Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW, Canton, 44708
(330) 478-9333
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to Thomas Rowinsky
Address as shown above

Canton, OH Br. 17
Mtg. 2nd Sunday Location varies
PRES. Mary Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW
Canton OH 44708
(330) 478-9333
mkrowinsky@neo.rr.com
SEC'Y. Mary Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW
Canton OH 44708
(330) 478-9333
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to Mary Rowinsky
NO LOCAL DUES

USE ONLY THIS FORM
FOR CHANGE OF
ADDRESS AND
CANCELLATIONS

All information in the form
to the right and below must
be correctly typed, or legibly
written.

☐ CHANGE
☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____

Certificate No. _____

SS# _____

Date of Birth _____

Name _____

Old Street Address was _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:
☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT
☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____

Mail to: Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5323 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1503

Salem, OH Br. 18
Mtg. 2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Saxon Club 1980 St. Rt. 9 Salem,
44460 (330) 222-1770
PRES.Chris Phillis
3824 Depot Rd. Salem 44460
affordablebbq@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. / ATS SECRETARY
Barbara Spack
1389 Brookview Dr Salem, 44460
(330) 501-1491 babrayn@sbcglobal.net
SICK NOTICES to Theresa Spack
384 W Pershing
Salem OH 44460 (330) 831-4119
LOCAL DUES TO: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE Minerva
44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com

Salem, OH Br. 19
Mtg. 1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 1980 Newgarden Rd
Salem OH 44460 (330) 222-1770
PRES. Glenn Spack
943 Stewart Rd Salem OH 44460
(234) 320-4132
SEC'Y. Robert P. Vogt, Sr.
973 Sunset Blvd. Salem, 44460
(330) 881-3346 mvcobra27@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y Glenn Spack
Address and phone as above
SICK NOTICES to Glenn T. Spack
address above
LOCAL DUES to Richard Vogt, Sr.
c/o Salem Saxon Club
1980 Newgarden Rd, Salem, 44460
(330) 222-1770

New Castle, PA Br. 25
Mtg. 2nd Thursday 8:00 p.m.
Eintracht Hall 108 Taylor St.,
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 652-7221
PRES. Karl E. Hermann
1650 Union Valley Rd
Wampum PA 16157
(724) 732-3426
karlhermann@comcast.net
SEC'Y. Jacob Holzhauser
764 Rose Point Rd New Castle 16101
(724) 971-1260
newcastleeintracht@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: Danual Forsberg
385 Trihaven Ln
New Wilmington, PA 16142
(724) 971-3448
danualforsberg@gmail.com
Local Dues: Joshua Stelle
10 Ludwig Rd New Castle, PA 16105
(724) 699-3039 Stellejw1@comcast.net

Merrillville, IN Br. 26
Meeting first Sunday at 2 p.m.
Slovak Club - 6920 Broadway
(219) 756-5101
PRES. Randall Floyd
1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410
(219) 798-6908
Rfloyd1066@msn.com
SEC'Y.Brigitte Floyd
1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410
(219) 688-6561
gittifyfloyd@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y. Jeff Szostek
625 Lake Shore Dr
Hobart IN 46342-5017
(219) 313-7854 219szos@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES to Zita Palyok
724 E. 25th Pl, Lake Station IN 46405
(219) 962-7345 randz724@comcast.net
Sick Notices to Brigitte Floyd
Listed above

New Castle, PA Br. 27
Mtg. 1st Thurs. 6:00 p.m.
Soni's Restaurant
3209 Wilmington Rd, New Castle
PRES. Judith Both
1512 Drespling Ln
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 654-0573
jboth1512@comcast.net
SEC'Y. Dolores Both
3512 Hunters Woods Blvd #1
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 658-7407 doloresboth@verizon.net
ATS SEC'Y. Judy Both
1512 Drespling Ln New Castle 16101
(724) 654-0573
LOCAL DUES to Katy Hudak
4097 County Line Rd
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 924-9286 katyb26@hotmail.com
SICK NOTICES to Judith Both

Monaca / Rochester PA Br. 29
Mtg. 2nd Monday 7 p.m.
Saxon Club 112 Simes Ave
Rochester, PA 15074
PRES. Cristy Roberts (724) 601-2047
SEC'Y Tiffiane Smilek (724) 709-1891
ATS SEC'Y Donald Ash (724) 777-9059
All correspondences should be
mailed to Saxon Club address above

Youngstown, OH Br. 30
Mtg. 2nd. Sun. 2:00 p.m.
Saxon Club 710 S. Meridian
Youngstown OH 44509
(330) 792-7973
PRES. Ernie Roth Sr.
6280 Morningside Rd
Hubbard OH 44425
(330) 501-1110 ERoth4960@gmail.com
SEC'Y Fran Hinerman
4535 Mellinger Rd
Canfield OH 44406
(330) 507-1340
ATS SEC'Y Julaine Gilmartin
4173 Timberland Trail
Canfield, OH 44406
(330) 799-5171
LOCAL DUES Val Thomas
5947 Tippecanoe Rd
Canfield OH 44406 (234) 201-3993
SICK NOTICES to
Rosemary Zamary
3202 Starwick Ct
Canfield OH 44406
(330) 792-0388
rzamary@yahoo.com

Ellwood City, PA Br. 32
Mtg. 2nd. Wed. 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 901 Millview St.
(724) 758-3268
PRES. Laura Goehring
113 Mahony Ave Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 971-2040
SEC'Y Johanna Jenkins
909 Old Zelenople Rd.
Ellwood City PA 16117
ATS SEC'Y Lori Berendt
2260 Cherry Hill Rd
Ellwood City 16117(724) 714-1217
SICK NOTICES to: Joan Evans
197 Portersville Rd Apt 3
Ellwood City PA 16117
(724) 752-1109

Cleveland, OH Br. 33
Mtg. 2nd. Weds. 7:00 p.m.
Messiah Lutheran Church
5200 Mayfield Rd, Lyndhurst OH 44124
PRES. Margarete Ziegler
38047 Parkway Blvd.
Willoughby OH 44094
(440) 488-6421
margarez@aol.com
SEC'Y. Arline Suts
413 Downing Dr Chardon OH 44024
(440) 867-6103
asuts@windstream.net
ATS SEC'Y. Karyn Schmidt
4979 Anderson Rd
Lyndhurst OH 44124
(216) 382-7397
SICK NOTICES to Arline Suts
Address and phone as above
LOCAL DUES to Michael Bretz
388 East 317th St.
Willowick OH 44095
(216) 392-6241 meb3172@att.net

Detroit, MI Br. 37
Mtg. 1st. Sun. 12:00 p.m.
St. Peters Lutheran Church
11423 Chicago Rd. Warren, MI
(586) 978-3850
PRES. Susanna Fleischer
11060 Furbush Rd. Holly MI 48442
(810) 694-1860
beetlebugsue7@peoplepc.com
SEC'Y. Trudy Kalvin
2448 Orpington Troy MI 48083
(248) 925-9995
ACTING ATS SEC'Y.
Susanna Fleischer
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson
11711 Lancer Dr Sterling Hts MI 48313
iwferguson@aol.com

Ellwood City, PA Br. 45
Mtg. 3rd Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Saxon Club 901 Millview St.
(724) 758-3268
PRES. John Dengel
305 Stamm Hollow Rd.
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 622-1593
SEC'Y Dawn Dengel
Same as President
(724) 622-0152
ATS SEC'Y Cathie Bender
801 Park Ave.
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 544-7232
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Carsele
318 Golf Ave.
Ellwood City, PA 16117
(724) 758-3002
Sick Notices to
Cathie Bender
Same as ATS Secretary

Ich bin ein
SiebenbuergeR.de

Saxon News VOLKSBLATT December 19, 2025 - 11

Merry Christmas



Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin Mother and Child

Holy infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Alles schläft, einsam wacht

nur das traute hochheilige Paar.

Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,

Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,

Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

Silent night, holy night

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia

Christ, the Saviour is born

Christ, the Saviour is born

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,

Hirten erst kundgemacht,

durch der Engel Halleluja,

tönt es laut von Fern und nah:

Christ, der Retter, ist da,

Christ, der Retter, ist da!

Silent night, holy night

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht

Lieb aus deinem göttlichen Mund,

da uns schlägt die rettende Stund,

Christ, in deiner Geburt,

Christ, in deiner Geburt.

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Xaver Gruber

The ATS Board of Directors and Home Office Staff wish faith, hope, and love for you and your family during this Christmas Season and throughout the upcoming new year.

Denise A Crawford
ATS President