

The ATS Youth Activities Committee would like to thank all the junior members who participated in the

*2026 Valentine's Day Coloring Page*

Jackson Camden	Landon Loyd
Angelo Castelucci	Madelyn Loyd
Alexandria Fisher Litschel	Finnley McKinney
Mariah Klinck	Zella Morgan
Bodhi Krahe	Guiliana Mshar
Niko Krahe	Sophia Smith
Ben Lockwood	Judah Stelle
Clarke Lockwood	Henry Weiss
	Amelia Werner

## 2026 Election of ATS National Officers

At the upcoming ATS Convention that is being hosted by Branches 1 and 4 – Cleveland on May 2 – 3, 2026, we will hold the Election of Officers for the following offices:

- First Vice President
- Third Vice President
- Secretary (2-year unexpired term)
- Treasurer
- 3 Trustees

Nomination forms for individuals wishing to run for office had to be submitted to the ATS Board of Directors and received by February 28, 2026. The following ATS members have submitted their nomination forms for the following offices:

- Monica M. Weber** – First Vice President
- Michael Bachinger** – Third Vice President
- Christine D. Oehlman** – Secretary
- Michael Teutsch, Jr.** - Treasurer
- Debbie Ferguson** – Trustee
- John W. Foisel** - Trustee
- Ingrid E. Weihs-Ferguson** – Trustee
- Margarete I. Ziegler** – Trustee

Delegates will vote for the Three Trustee positions only, as the other positions are all unopposed.

A brief background of each nominee follows.

**ATS First Vice President**  
**Monica M. Weber**  
**Member of Branch 4**  
**Cleveland (West), OH**  
**(Incumbent)**

Monica Weber (known as Moni to most people) has served on the ATS Board of Directors since 1985. She has held the position of Trustee, Secretary, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and currently holds the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position. Moni is the Chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee and the past Chair of the Cultural Promotion Committee for years. In addition, she has served on almost all the ATS Committees over the past 40 years. Moni is a Sales Deputy for Cleveland West and is the President of Branch 4, a position she's held since 2000. Other local branch positions held include Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Community service activities include volunteering at the Akron-Canton Foodbank and Velosano – Bike for the Cure. Monica has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Vanderbilt University and a Master's Degree in Nursing from the

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY**  
**MAILED TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford  
ATS Nat'l President



Last call for those teenagers looking to attend the Jugendlager in Germany this summer. Each of those eligible members received an application in the mail at home a while ago. Get those applications in the mail to the ATS Home Office ASAP if you're interested.

This issue of the Volksblatt has the nominees for the ATS Board of Directors. Most of them are running for their existing office. However, we have a new person interested in running for Trustee. This means that we will have an actual election at the upcoming ATS Convention in May. It's been a few years since we've needed one, so it's nice to know we have people interested in keeping our wonderful organization going! We have four people running for three Trustee positions. Good Luck to all candidates!

This issue also has information for the 2026 USA-Canada Heimattag being held in Aylmer, Ontario this July. The ATS is taking a bus for the weekend. It will leave Friday morning from the Youngstown Saxon Club. It will then stop in Cleveland at the Home Office. See the ads for the bus, the hotel information, as well as the meal reservations. The Home Office is only taking reservations for the bus. You will need to make your own hotel and meal reservations directly. Check now to make sure that your U.S. Passport is up to date. If not, you still have time to get it renewed or apply for one. This is such a great event that spotlights our cultural groups as well as making new friends and reuniting with old friends. Please plan on attending!

And speaking of Heimattag, videos from the 2025 Heimattag held in Youngstown are on the ATS website. You will see our Cleveland Saxon Dance Group, the New Castle Männerchor and Kinderchor, the Youngstown Brass Band playing the Auf Marsch and National Anthems, and the Kitchener, Canada Dance Group. Visit [www.ATSaxons.com](http://www.ATSaxons.com) and click on Videos. Spend some time checking them out!

Did you know that on March 13, 1942, the Quartermaster Corps (QMC) of the United States Army began training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps"? Although well over a million dogs served on both sides during World War I, carrying messages along the complex network of trenches and providing a little bit of psychological comfort to the soldiers as well, the official start began in 1942. According to History.com, the most famous dog to emerge from WWI was Rin Tin Tin, an abandoned puppy of German war dogs found in France in 1918 and taken to the United States. The dog made his film debut in the 1922 silent film *The Man from Hell's River*. As the first bona fide animal movie star, Rin Tin Tin made the little-known German Shepard breed famous across the country.

When the USA entered into World War II in December 1941, the American Kennel Association and a group called Dogs for Defense began a movement to mobilize

Continued on Page 4

## 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

## 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.



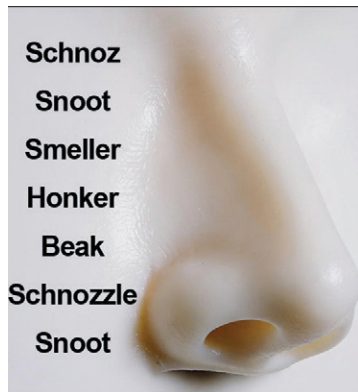
## Top 10 most popular dog names

Out of all the estimated 68 million pet dogs in the U.S., some names reign among dog owners.

The top name of all is Luna, according to U.S. News & World Report. That name is big along the west coast, in the urban areas on the east coast, Florida, and some western states.

The other top names are, in order, starting with number 2: Bella, Charlie, Max, Daisy, Lucy, Coco, Milo, and Cooper.

According to Reader's Digest, some states highly favor certain names. Daisy is the favorite name in Wisconsin. Max is the favorite in Nebraska. Teddy ranks highest in South Carolina. Arkansas favors Chloe. Utah likes Moose. Alaska favors Winter.



Schnoz  
Snoot  
Smeller  
Honker  
Beak  
Schnozzle  
Snoot

## Why you don't see your nose?

Your schnoz is right there between your eyes all the time, so why don't you notice it?

It's a brain thing. The brain treats the nose as irrelevant. It is there, always, and there is no need to notice it. (You can see it if you try). The nose blocks out some information coming into each eye, but the brain builds a complete image by using pictures from both eyes to fill the gap.



**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

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

#### Honorary Past Presidents -

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3909 Schaper Ave Apt 203, Erie PA 16508  
**Joan Miller-Malue** Br. 4 (216) 233-8631  
17105 Hilliard Rd, Lakewood OH 44107

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#### 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

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**Michael Teutsch, Jr.** Br. 30 (330) 509-9670  
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**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

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## 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, MARCH 18, 2026 FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026 FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 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

University of Pennsylvania. She has worked for the Cleveland Clinic for 38 years in progressive leadership positions. She is currently the Director of Professional Nursing Practice. She holds an Ohio insurance license and has been a life-long member of the ATS. Moni states, "I look forward to continuing to contribute to the success of the ATS".

**ATS Third Vice President  
Michael Bachinger  
Member of Branch 30  
Youngstown, OH  
(Incumbent)**

Michael Bachinger has served on the ATS Board of Directors since 2020, first as a Trustee, then moving to 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. He chairs the Information Technology Committee and serves on the Cultural Promotion, Insurance Sales and Investment, Orphan, and Strategic Planning Committees. Mike has served his local branch for over 40 years. He currently is his Branch Treasurer and has held the offices of Vice President, Secretary, Trustee and ATS Sales Deputy in the past. He has also served on various local committees including the property upkeep and pavilion remodeling committees and assists in the business office. He is a member of the Youngstown Saxon Culture Group and Brass Band. Mike has been active in his community with the Mahoning Valley Historical Society and the Youngstown Housing Task Force. He also plays with the Deutscher Musik Verein. Mike retired from the US Postal Service after 40 years, having held positions as letter carrier, Manager, Customer Service, Labor Relations and Human Resources. He attended Youngstown State University. Mike previously held an Ohio insurance license. He has been a member of the ATS for 58 years. Mike states, "being a long-time member and a current national officer, and having attended the Heimattag in the USA, Canada, Germany and Transylvania, I am immensely committed to the preservation of our heritage, our local club environment, and our national society".

**ATS Secretary  
Christine D. Oehlman  
Member of Branch 10  
Columbus, OH  
(Incumbent)**

Christine Oehlman was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors as the ATS Secretary in 2024. She serves on the Constitution, Fraternal Events/Scholarship, Strategic Planning, and Youth Activities Committees. Christine is the current President of Branch 10 in Columbus and has chaired or support-

ed the Columbus Branch's picnics and Christmas parties. For community service, she has supported animal shelters and food pantries and chaired the school supply drive at work. Christine works as an Administrative Assistant and Business Analyst at Daifuku Automotive America. She has a BA in Business from Columbus Technical Institute (now Columbus State). Christine is a life-long member of the ATS. Christine says, "My parents would bring my brother and I to club events. As an adult, I took my parents to the meetings until their passing and now carry on in their honor. My work skills help to enable me to be the ATS Board Secretary, which I enjoy".

**ATS Treasurer  
Michael Teutsch, Jr.  
Member of Branch 30  
Youngstown, OH  
(Incumbent)**

Mike Teutsch has served as the ATS Treasurer since 2020 and previously held the position of Trustee. He chairs the Insurance and Investment Committee and serves on the Cultural Promotion and Strategic Planning Committees. Mike has 32 years of service to his local branch. He has held the office of Vice President, Trustee and Head Trustee and has served on many committees. Mike has an Ohio insurance license and serves as his Branch's Sales Deputy. Mike's community service includes Habitat for Humanity in the past and now works with nursing homes and assisted living facilities, helping families through the transition from independent living and downsizing to assisted living. Mike is employed by Progressive Insurance as a litigation/claims representative. He is also a real estate agent. Mike has an Associate Degree in Business Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He is a lifetime member of the ATS. Mike says, "with 37 years in the insurance business holding various roles in sales and claims, helping people understand insurance and investment products is rewarding. The Fraternal Benefits the ATS provides are an added bonus for our members that I like to help with".

**ATS Trustee  
Debbie K. Ferguson  
Member of Branch 37  
Detroit, MI  
(Incumbent)**

Debbie Ferguson was elected as an ATS Trustee in 2024. She serves on the Audit, Constitution, Strategic Planning, and Youth Activities Committees. She has 27 years of service to her local branch, serving

as Trustee and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Branch Committee work includes Heimattag Committees (1999 and 2000), Bowl Where You Are (various years), Detroit's hosting the Transylvania Dancers (2018) and hosting the Traun Group from Austria. Community service includes blood drives, March of Dimes, donating art supplies to Latchkey and Day Care organizations, and helping her senior neighbors by driving them to appointments and getting groceries. Debbie is retired from various retail companies, serving as manager, trainer, inventory specialist, and opening new locations. She was also a school bus driver for 6 years. Debbie states, "It is so good to be in a group that has so much knowledge and is willing to share it. I thank the ATS for giving me the chance to work with it and will continue to do my best".

**ATS Trustee  
John W. Foisel  
Member of Branch 33  
Cleveland (East), OH  
(New Nominee)**

John Foisel has been a member of the ATS for his entire life and wants to take it to the next level. He has an Associate Degree in Engineering Technology, a Bachelor's Degree in Technology, and a Master's in Business Administration. He works as a regional sales manager for Hyson Metal Forming Solutions. Community service includes coaching various sports when his kids were young and being an Elder at Bethel Lutheran Church in Willowick for close to 20 years. Local Branch activities include working on the Convention Committee. John says, "I am proud of our Saxon heritage. My parents were born near Bistritz in Transylvania and immigrated to the USA. I have visited Transylvania. I attend local meetings and enjoy attending events at different Branches as well as national events like the Convention and Heimattag in both Canada and the USA".

**ATS Trustee  
Ingrid E. Weihs-Ferguson  
Member of Branch 37  
Detroit, MI  
(Incumbent)**

Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson has been an ATS Trustee since 2018. Prior to being elected to the Board, she was an Appointee to the ATS Youth Activities Committee since 1998. She is the Constitution Committee chairperson and serves on the Audit, Insurance and Investment, Strategic Planning, and Youth Activities Committees. Ingrid has 30 years of service to her local branch. She has held the offices of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

President, Financial Secretary, and Trustee. Local Branch committees include the audit committee, constitution committee, and youth programs. Ingrid's community service includes Grace Outreach, Relay for Life and the 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk. Past memberships include various business organizations and the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. Ingrid retired recently after 24 years as a Manager at CORT Furniture Rental. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business - Management and Marketing. Ingrid has been a member of the ATS for 46 years. Ingrid says, "I feel qualified to continue serving as a Trustee because I currently hold the position and understand its responsibilities. I am committed to protecting the Society's assets, ensuring sound governance and acting in the best interests of our members. I bring reliability, good judgement, and a strong dedication to the continued strength and stability of the organization".

**ATS Trustee  
Margarete I. Ziegler  
Member of Branch 33  
Cleveland (East), OH  
(Incumbent)**

Margarete Ziegler (known as Margie) has served as an ATS Trustee since 2018. She is the Chairperson of the Cultural Promotion Committee and the Youth Activities Committee. Margie also serves on the Audit, Information Technology, Insurance & Investment, and Internal Audit Committees. Margie has 14 years of service to her local Branch, currently serving as the President and also serves as President of the newly formed Saxon Singers choir. Previous positions include Trustee and the membership committee. She has an Ohio insurance license and serves as an ATS Sales Deputy. Margie's community service includes 20 years with the Girl Scouts. This includes being a Troop Leader, a Trainer and Mentor. She's also a member of the NE Ohio Metal Clay Guild. Margie has a Bachelor's Degree in Managerial Economics and German, and an MBA in Finance. She is a lifetime member of the ATS. Margie retired from KeyBank as a Senior Vice President, with a career of over 25 years in the Finance and Marketing Departments. She is currently a Jeweler and Reflexologist. Margie says, "these past eight years I made a deep commitment to preserve our Transylvanian Saxon cultural heritage, and I would like to continue. My career in financial services provides the knowledge to help guide the financial decisions we make on the Board of Directors".

# FRATERNAL CALENDAR

## NATIONAL EVENTS

- March, 2026  
**Bowl Where You Are Contest**  
 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

- March 14, 2026  
**Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Chili Cookoff**  
 March 15, 2026  
**Youngstown Saxon Club Pork and Kraut Dinner**  
 March 17, 2026  
**Cleveland Sachsenheim/GCM**  
**St. Paddy's Polka Party**  
 March 22, 2026  
**Chicago Br. 9 Bowling Party**  
 March 27, 2026  
**Cleveland Saxon 250 Club Banquet and Drawing**  
 March 28, 2026  
**Youngstown Saxon Club**  
**Presidents' Goulasch Dinner**  
**Cleveland Lunch with the Easter Bunny**  
**12 Noon, Sachsenheim**  
 May 2, 2026  
**Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Trachtenball**

## BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND By Arnold Rinas

We've had a busy month despite the cold and snow, and we're thankful for it!

Members and friends banded together on a Saturday morning, blessed with warm and sunny weather to move tables, chairs, freezers, a heavy convection oven and more to the Sachsenheim Hall from a church undergoing renovations. We thank the Pearl Road United Methodist Church for all the very, very benevolent donations to our hall! Members and friends who flexed their muscles and gave some time and effort to help make this a reality were; Tom Hospodar, Hanz Hermann, Gus Botsch, Arnold Rinas, Geoff Wittine, Carl Vavpot, Jake Botsch, Horst Botsch, Casey Divoky, Sam Hintz, Henry Botsch, Rob Scheel and Scott Echorate. Forgive me if I missed your name and know that your help is still remembered and appreciated beyond words!

The following weekend we prepared for Branch 4's Chinese Auction by making sausage. Tom Hospodar, Carl Vavpot, Gus Botsch, Hanz Hermann, Sam Hintz, Rob Hanek and Gene King made 500 pounds of delicious Sachsen sausage! The raffle event enjoyed great attendance and was a huge success!

Coming up: the Sachsen-

heim Hall is hosting a St. Paddy's Day Polka Party on Tuesday March 17th! The Gemütlichkeit Cleveländer Musikanten will be playing tunes live in the bar, and the menu will feature corned beef as well as the bar's famous "taco Tuesday" options!

Our March Branch 1 meeting is Thursday March 19th at 7 p.m., at the Sachsenheim Hall. We encourage you to join us, there's a lot that gets discussed and we appreciate new ideas.

Just a friendly reminder that it is time to pay your annual dues. It has been decided to increase annual dues to \$25 per year. If you are unable to attend the next meeting, you can mail your dues to ATS Br 1 c/o Hanz Hermann, 29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake OH 44145. As always, new members are always welcome!

The Spring Sausage Sale will be held on March 21. Garlic and non-garlic will be available for \$5.25/lb, in 3 lb or 5 lb packages. More info will be coming out on this as we strive to streamline the ordering process, but if you want to get your order in early you can stop at the Sachsenheim Hall and fill out an order form in the bar, or email [clesachen@gmail.com](mailto:clesachen@gmail.com)

bis zum nächsten Mal,

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cont'd from Page 1

dog owners to donate healthy and capable animals to the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army. Training began in March 1942, and during the fall of the same year, the QMC was given the task of training dogs for the US Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard as well.

The K-9 Corps initially accepted over 30 breeds of dogs but later narrowed that list down to seven: German shepherds, Belgian sheep dogs, Doberman pinschers, Collies, Siberian huskies, Malamutes, and Eskimo dogs. These dogs were trained for a total of 8 to 12 weeks. Following basic obedience training, they were sent through one of four specialized programs to prepare them for work. Those programs were: sentry dogs, scout or patrol dogs, messenger dogs, and mine-detection dogs. In active combat duty, scout dogs proved especially essential by alerting patrols to the approach of the enemy and preventing surprise attacks.

The top canine hero of World War II was a German shepherd named Chips. Chips served with the Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. Trained as a sentry dog, Chips broke away from his handlers and attacked an enemy machine gun nest in Italy, forcing the entire crew to surrender. The wounded Chips was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. All of these awards were later revoked because an Army policy prevents official commendations awarded to animals, saying it is insulting to the men who receive medals.

So, why are dogs called K-9s? The use of "K-9" as a shorthand for "canine" can be traced back to this military use. All "equipment" was assigned letters. The letter K for dogs is likely due to its phonetic similarity to the word canine. The letter G stood for Ground and the letter M stood for Motor Vehicle. Now K-9 is a universally accepted term for not just military dogs, but also Police Dogs, Search and Rescue Dogs, Guide Dogs, and sometimes Therapy Dogs.

Until next time...



INVEST YOUR SAVINGS IN AN ATS ANNUITY PLAN

**Gemütlichkeit!**  
**Cleveländer Musikanten**  
**St. Paddy's Polka Party**  
**at the Sachsenheim!**



**March 17th, 2026 at 7:00 PM**  
**Sachsenheim Hall**  
**7001 Denison Avenue**  
**Cleveland, Ohio 44102**



**CLEVELAND**  
**SACHSENHEIM**  
**ATS BRANCH 1**  
**SAUSAGE SALE**  
**Saturday**  
**March 21, 2026**

**\$5.25 per pound**  
**Garlic or no garlic**  
**Sold in 3 and 5 pound packages**

**Orders taken until March 16.**

**Call: Sachsenheim (216) 651-0888**  
**Rob Hanek (440) 356-5582**  
**CleSachen@gmail.com**

**PICKUP AFTER 2 PM**

## 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**

## BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND By Joan Miller-Malue

We had another very successful Chinese Auction/Sausage Dinner and want to thank everyone who had helped with the set-up, during the event and clean-up. We are grateful to those who attended, for our members and friends who donated items or made monetary contributions to make this a fantastic fundraiser. We are grateful to Branch 1 for setting up all the tables and especially for making the delicious sausage. Three hundred people had an enjoyable afternoon of Gemütlichkeit and having fun winning the various items and side boards. Thank you, Thank you for your support. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful members and friends.

Invitations have been sent to Junior Members to attend Lunch with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Lunch will be served at Noon followed by entertainer Brad Thomson with his balloon workshop. And of course, the Bunny will direct the egg hunts. Children will have the opportunity to make craft. Reservations must be made by March 20<sup>th</sup> by texting or calling me at (216) 233-8631 or email me at [miller-malue@cox.net](mailto:miller-malue@cox.net). Junior Members are free, Adults \$5 and non-

## BRANCH 4 CLEVELAND 2026 CHINESE AUCTION

We extend our thanks to you for supporting our Chinese Auction and hope you enjoyed this afternoon in the spirit of good fun and fellowship.

Our thanks and appreciation also to the individuals and organizations listed below whose monetary and item donations made this afternoon possible.

We want to give special recognition to the Novak Family for their donation of a flat-screen TV in loving memory of husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather: Joseph Novak.

ATS Branch 4 Sausage Dinner/ Chinese Auction Committee

### ITEM DONATIONS

ATS Branch 1  
Cleveland Saxon Dance  
Group  
Donnellan & Seiler Families  
Heidi Epps  
Annmarie & Chris Falzarano  
Brian Gilles  
Monica Gilles  
Katie Hanek  
Rob Hanek  
Barb & Hanz Hermann  
Donna Jankow

Tim Jankow  
Gene King  
Jenny King  
Jay Machado  
Marc Meyer  
Joan Miller-Malue  
Stephanie Miller  
Michelle Novak  
Novak Family  
Tim Pavlov  
Ingrid & Bob Pejisa  
Fran & Jim Radca  
Warren Rogers  
Marjorie Rush-Muncey  
Sachsenheim, Amy  
Osborne, Manager  
Moni Weber  
Janet Wilson  
Bill Worley  
Rosie Zimmer

### MONETARY DONATIONS

Marie & Adolf Fischer  
Anneliese & Heinrich  
Greger  
Johanna Greger  
Katharina & Andreas  
Greger  
Christa Herbert  
Tom Hospodar  
Ema & Dolf Litschel  
Christine Mizerik  
Trudy Schaeff  
Dieter Schneider  
Martin Schuller  
Inge Schuster  
Tim & Sylvia Wolff



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.

### Justine Schuller

Age: 90  
Died: January 9, 2026  
Branch 9, Chicago, IL

### Dawn Bradley

Age: 85  
Died: January 29, 2026  
Branch 19, Salem, OH

### Deborah Kovacs

Age: 67  
Died: February 9, 2026  
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

### Beverly A. Myers

Age: 91  
Died: February 27, 2026  
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

## ATS BRANCH 1 SAXON 250 CLUB 2026-2027 CLUB YEAR

Please consider joining the Cleveland Saxon 250 Club. This is an excellent opportunity to support the Sachsenheim and help us to defray expenses associated with the operation and maintenance of our/your Clubhouse.

### Prize List and Rules

1st Prize	\$1000.00	7th Prize	\$100.00
2nd Prize	\$800.00	8th Prize	\$100.00
3rd Prize	\$500.00	9th Prize	\$50.00
4th Prize	\$400.00	10th Prize	\$50.00
5th Prize	\$300.00	**49 Weekly Prizes	\$25.00
6th Prize	\$200.00	***One Special Prize	100.00

\*\*Prizes will be awarded for 50 consecutive weeks beginning in April. The drawings will be held at our Branch meetings.

\*\*\*Regular weekly winners will receive \$25.00. A special drawing for \$100.00 will be held at the end of the 25th week.

1. The donation to join the club is \$50.00. Members will be assigned one number for each \$50.00 contribution.
2. Payment must be made at least one week in advance of a drawing to be eligible for the weekly prize.
3. Membership is open to all adults ages 18 and over - you do not need to be a Branch 1 or 4 Member.
4. A maximum of 250 numbers will be available. A member may purchase more than one number. Membership will be open on a first come first served basis.
5. At the completion of the 50 weeks, a dinner (free to paid members) will be held where additional cash prizes will be awarded. The member need not be present to win.
6. In the event of a dispute regarding the rules, regulations and ticket sales, the decision of the Rules Committee shall be final.

To reserve your number, send a check for \$50.00 made payable to the Saxon 250 Club to:

Stephanie Miller  
23500 Wingedfoot Or  
Westlake, OH 44145  
[saxon250club@gmail.com](mailto:saxon250club@gmail.com)

INVITE

your relatives and friends  
to join the crowd at ATS.

Heimattag  
2026



Travel with the ATS to the  
NORTH AMERICAN TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON  
HEIMATTAG  
in Aylmer, Canada  
July 10—12, 2026



Accommodations are at the  
Holiday Inn & Comfort Inn in St. Thomas  
(see separate ads for Hotel info  
and Meal reservations)

Bus leaves Friday morning July 10 from the  
Youngstown Saxon Club with a stop at the  
ATS Home Office in Cleveland.  
We will be returning on Sunday, July 12.

Cost for round trip on bus is \$75

Reservation deadline for Bus is  
June 1, 2026.

Seats are limited—sign up today!

RESERVATION FORM FOR BUS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Passengers \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75 Total for Bus Remitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List Travelers \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

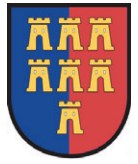
Make Check payable to ATS and send to ATS Home Office, 5323 Pearl Rd, Cleveland, OH 44129



HEIMATTAG 2026

der Siebenbürger Sachsen

WIR SIND HEIMAT | WE ARE HEIMAT



OFFICIAL PROGRAM

\$25 CAD - FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

included in Weekend Pass

5:00pm Doors open at the Saxonia Hall

Join us in our Bavarian Biergarten! Dirndls & Lederhose

or your FIFA team's football jersey encouraged!

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2026

\$20 CAD - not included in Weekend Pass

\$60 CAD - included in Weekend Pass

1:00 pm Paulaner & Hacker-Pschorr German

Beer Tasting - Saxonia Hall Lounge

Taste six beers paired with small bites of

food, featuring expert explanation by a

Paulaner representative. Learn their history

and how their beers are crafted.

Biergarten open 1:00pm -4:00pm at no charge

5:00pm Doors open at the Saxonia Hall

6:00pm Dinner followed by cultural

performances

Dance to follow

\$45 CAD - SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

included in Weekend Pass ; ticket for lunch only (service & rally no fee)

10:30am Worship Service at St. John's Lutheran Church

11:00am Trachtenumzug Parade to Saxonia Hall

11:30am Kundgebung | Cultural Rally

12:30pm Lunch

WEEKEND PASS ONLY \$125 CAD

Tickets online at [www.saxoniahall.com/heimattag](http://www.saxoniahall.com/heimattag)

All prices include sales tax (HST)

German-Canadian Club of Aylmer, ON | Saxonia Hall | 522 Talbot St. W. | Aylmer, ON | N5H 2T8

## Youngstown Saxon Club 48th Annual President's Goulash Dinner



2 sisters recipes

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

Social 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Complimentary Beer & Soft Drinks

Family style dinner 6:30

Entertainment by The Saxon Brass Band

Adults \$25.00 per person

Children 12 and under \$10.00

Children 6 and under free

Reservations are required by

**Monday, March 20th.**

No door sales will be accepted.

All reservations need to be paid in advance.

For tickets, call/text

Kiki Eberth (330) 509-8443,

Walter Benesch (330) 398-5449,

see Ernie Roth on Wednesdays or Thursdays

at the club, or see your bartender.

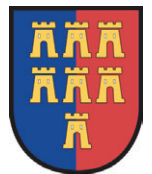
The public is invited.



HEIMATTAG 2026

der Siebenbürger Sachsen

WIR SIND HEIMAT | WE ARE HEIMAT



ACCOMODATIONS INFORMATION

Information also available on the Heimattag website: [www.saxoniahall.com/heimattag](http://www.saxoniahall.com/heimattag)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - ST. THOMAS

2 Queen Beds | Breakfast included

13 minutes from the Saxonia Hall

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/st-thomas/yqsst/hoteldetail>

COMFORT INN - ST. THOMAS

2 Queen Beds | Breakfast included

11 minutes from the Saxonia Hall

<https://www.choicehotels.com/en-ca/ontario/st-thomas/comfort-inn-hotels/cn005>

BEST WESTERN - TALBOTVILLE

2 Queen Beds | Breakfast included

25 minutes from the Saxonia Hall

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotels-in-london/best-western-plus-stoneridge-inn-conference-centre/propertyCode.66085.html](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-london/best-western-plus-stoneridge-inn-conference-centre/propertyCode.66085.html)

German-Canadian Club of Aylmer, ON | Saxonia Hall | 522 Talbot St. W. | Aylmer, ON | N5H 2T8

**YOUNGSTOWN SAXON CLUB**

**710 S. Meridian Rd**

**PORK & KRAUT DINNER**

**MARCH 15, 2026**

**11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**\$12.00**

**TAKE OUT AND EAT-IN**

**LUNCH WITH  
THE EASTER BUNNY**  
**SATURDAY, March 28, 2026**  
**12 NOON**  
**WESTSIDE SACHSENHEIM**  
**7001 Denison Avenue**



All ATS Junior Members of Branches 1, 4, 5 and 33 are invited to attend "Lunch with the Easter Bunny" at no charge.

Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm. Following lunch Brad Thompson, The Balloon Vibe, will entertain us with his Balloon Workshop.

After the entertainment is over you will be invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. All Children will have the opportunity to make a craft.

Make your reservations early by texting or calling:  
Joan Miller-Malue at (216) 233-8631

If you reach the answering machine, please leave your name and telephone number - Joan will call you back - she will need to know the name and age of each child  
OR:

You can e-mail Joan at: miller-malue@cox.net  
If e-mailing Joan be sure to list the name and age of each child

**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: March 20th**

ATS Junior Members:	FREE
Adults:	\$5.00
Non-Member Children:	\$10.00

**How St. Patrick's Day evolved into a party**

St. Patrick introduced Christianity to Ireland in the fifth century A.D., but it took until the 1960s for Ireland to start celebrating it like Americans. But how did this holiday arrive on American shores, and why did it turn into a wild party over here while the Irish observed it as a religious occasion? For that, we can blame the British -- which is an Irish custom all by itself.

According to the Smithsonian, Irish soldiers, many of them indentured servants, introduced the holiday to the original 13 colonies as early as 1762 -- the same year that the first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held in New York City. The parade tradition continued past independence and through the decades, growing in scope and size and party opportunities as Irish immigrants poured into the U.S. and established the



largest Irish diaspora outside of Ireland.

But while Irish-Americans partied in green get-ups and waved shamrocks around, the situation in Ireland was comparatively bleak. British authorities banned green clothing because of its association with Irish revolutionaries, and American-style public gatherings to celebrate Irish pride were simply not on the menu. Thus, the St. Patrick's Day that Americans recognize and love is largely a product of immigrant imaginations, mixed with healthy doses of American capitalism and our national apprecia-

tion for excellent parties.

St. Patrick's Day still remains a solemn religious occasion for many observant Catholics in Ireland, but blowout parties have gained in popularity in recent decades -- partly to attract tourists, and partly because they're tons of fun.

Whether you're Irish or not, when you attend a St. Patrick's Day celebration, let yourself enjoy every piece of it, no matter how corny or weird or outlandish it is. Because centuries ago, Irish people -- perhaps even your ancestors -- fought to preserve that piece of their homeland and pass it down with pride.



**TSBA  
BOWLING  
TOURNAMENT HOTELS**



1. Holiday Inn Express Salem  
5 miles to Salem Saxon Club - 10 Min,  
2 miles to Hunt Club Lanes-5 min.  
240 North Cunningham Road  
Salem, Ohio 44460  
(330) 408-9119; Fax (330) 337-8875  
e-mail-hiexpress.salem@gmail.com  
King @ Rate \$129.00-10 Rooms blocked;  
Doubles @ \$139.00 - 15 Rooms blocked.  
Reserve by 18 March 2026 for April 18, 2026.  
Use Group Code ATS

2. The Stables Inn & Suites  
at Timberlanes Complex  
4 miles to Salem Saxon Club - 10 Min;  
1 mile to Hunt Club Lanes -5 Min.  
544 East Pershing Street  
Salem, Ohio 44460  
(234)567-4761; fax (234) 567-4689  
website-http://www.timberlanescomplex.com  
King @ \$127.00- 3 Rooms blocked;  
Queen @ \$93.00- 12 rooms blocked;  
2 full beds @ \$110.00-6 rooms blocked.  
Reserve by 3 April 2026  
for Friday/Saturday April 17/18 2026  
Use Group Promo Code- ATS417

ASK YOUR DEPUTY HOW A CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATS CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE!



**SAXON FISH FRY**

**FRIDAYS**

**February 20 - March 27**

**4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**(or till sold out)**

**\$16 Adults / \$10 Kids**

**Choice of:**

Fried fish, Baked fish or Pork chop,  
w/scalloped potatoes, green beans, cole slaw,  
or applesauce, roll, cake, and coffee or tea.  
**Dine-in or Take Out - Bar will be open!**

**Salem Saxon Club**  
**1980 Newgarden Rd (SR9)**  
**Salem, Ohio**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Volunteers are needed to  
work the fish fries and donate cakes.  
Please contact Chris Phillis at (330) 853-8834.

## From the Archives

By Eric Litschel  
ATS Home Office

This week we look back 100 years to a noteworthy event in the history of our organization. On March 7, 1926 the Eastside Cleveland Branch 33 proudly opened the doors to its new home, the Ostseite Sachsenheim. Located at 1400 E. 55th St. in Cleveland, OH, the building was originally owned by Martin Ulmann, first grand president of the Central Verband der Siebenbürger Sachsen. Known as "Ulmann Halle", the building served as the primary informal gathering place for Saxons on Cleveland's east side. (The building is pictured here in 1916 with members of the Transylvanian Saxon Shooting Club and the Johann Schörwerth Transylvanian Brass Band posing for a midsummer group photo).

Acquiring a home for Cleveland's numerous eastside Saxon immigrants had been a goal of Branch 33 leadership ever since the group's founding in 1910. The endeavor faced many challenges in those early years including at its worst a foreclosure on an initial property and bankruptcy. Throughout the 1910s, as financial troubles weighed and branch activities moved to a series of different locations, the branch lost a significant number of its initially eager and committed members. By late 1920 however times had changed and significant progress was made toward righting the ship. With more and more new arrivals from Transylvania and a growing tendency among them to want to remain in the United States and purchase homes for their growing families, the desire again arose in Branch 33 members to have a place that they could call home.

A vote was held in the summer of 1925. And though opinion was sharply divided, Branch 33 members ultimately chose to purchase the former "Ulmann Halle" at the price of \$48,000. (The picture captures the hall as it looked in 1925 with all signage removed and windows boarded). Having only \$34,000 in its coffers, the branch had to take out two loans to make up the difference and to pay for much-needed renovations. One

of these they took out from the Union Trust Co. The other loan was graciously made by Branch 34. Additionally, a generous gift of \$1,600 was given by Katharina Ulmann, Central Verband trustee. With the purchase done and months of renovation work completed, the branch was ready for the grand opening of its new home. An invitation was printed in the Volksblatt.

*Invitation to the Grand Opening and Dedication of the Eastside Transylvanian Sachsenheim:*

*Dear Sisters and Brothers, esteemed fellow citizens, and our German friends! On Sunday, March 7, the Eastside Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit Society, Branch 33 of the Central Alliance, celebrates the Grand Opening and Dedication of its recently reacquired, newly renovated and splendidly furnished home at 1400 E. 55th St.*

*We most cordially invite the entire membership of all Transylvanian Saxon Sick Benefit, Singing, Theater, Bank, and Church organizations throughout Cleveland and the surrounding areas to take part in this, our joyous celebration.*

The festivities for the big day were to begin with opening music played by Maurer's Orchestra followed by a welcoming greeting from Branch 33 president and Volksblatt editor George Schneider. After these were to follow a series of speeches, including one by Cleveland mayor John D. Marshall. Next, several choral performances. Included among those were a performance by the Gesangverein Eintracht Men's Choir of Lorain, OH and a short piece entitled "Schlafliedchen" (Little Bedtime Song) sung by the youth of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Anxious to ensure an undisrupted good time for their guests, a special note was added to the end of the invitation. It reads: "Parents are kindly requested to keep their children away from the stage and to ensure that they remain quiet, as this is the only way they will be able to enjoy the speeches and singing."

I hope you enjoyed this brief look back! Please reach out to me at [Eric@ATSaxons.com](mailto:Eric@ATSaxons.com) with any questions or thoughts. Also, if you have any historical information or materials to share with the ATS, please contact me by email or by calling the ATS home office. Thank you.

## BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Monday March 16, 2026, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave. Lorain, Ohio. 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, please submit your dues by mail soon to avoid falling into arrears which would be the end of this month. If you have any questions regarding your dues TEXT me at (440) 225-8441 and I will call you back. If you are not in my contacts, I will not get your call. Make your check payable to: **ATS Branch 5, Lorain, OH** and mail your check to: **Michael W. Johnson, 2151 Lakeland Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107.**

Remember, if you are currently ill and under a doctor's care or soon to be, you need to contact sister Jane Mowery at (440) 246-3004 to begin the process and learn the requirements needed to receive the sick benefits available through your membership in Branch 5.

Our recording secretary brother Brian Gilles would have completed the American Lung Association sponsored "Fight for Air Climb" at the Key Tower in Cleveland on March 1st along with his team from the Avon Lake Fire Department. Branch 5 Lorain unanimously voted to support Brian with a \$100 donation to this fund raiser and wished him well for a successful climb.

Happy Birthday to our only member with a birthday this month of March; Junior member Rhys Berlin. We hope your day will be a special one!

Until next time, continue to stay warm and safe as we continue to pull out of winter.



Ostseite Sachsenheim 1400 Ost 55. St.



"Your test results have come back. Apparently it is the heat and not the humidity."



# Proposed changes to the ATS Constitution

The following changes to the Constitution of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons are presented by the ATS Board of Directors for Convention consideration and approval. The change is being presented to cover any openings on the Board resulting from unfilled nominations or vacancies that occur, which are not already covered in the existing Constitution.

## ARTICLE VIII – Election of Officers

### Proposed Addition:

**(New) SECTION 6. If all Offices are not filled in compliance with SECTION 5, or a vacancy occurs, the President has the right to appoint an ATS Member to that vacant position.**

Old SECTION 6 becomes SECTION 7

Old SECTION 7 becomes SECTION 8

Old SECTION 8 becomes SECTION 9

Old SECTION 9 becomes SECTION 10

If the proposed change is approved by the Convention Delegates, the entire ARTICLE VIII will read as follows:

## ARTICLE VIII

### Election of Officers

SECTION 1. An election of Officers shall be held at the Convention.

The term of office for the President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall be for four years. These offices are to be filled in alternate Conventions in order to maintain a continuity of experienced personnel in office.

Trustees shall be elected at each Convention for a four-year term: three Trustees will be elected at one Convention and two Trustees will be elected at the next Convention.

The number of members elected to the Board of Directors from any one city, all Branches therein included, may not exceed four officers.

SECTION 2. All Officers shall serve until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

SECTION 3. The election of Officers shall be by secret ballot. The candidate having a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. If there be but one nominee, the

Secretary or other Officer may be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the candidate to office.

If voting needs to be repeated to attain a majority vote and more nominees are on the ballot than needed to fill the office, the member receiving the lowest number of votes will be dropped from the previous voted ballot. In the event of a tie on a voted ballot, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

SECTION 4. The election shall be conducted by the President who shall appoint an election committee to assist in collecting and tallying the ballots.

SECTION 5. A Branch must make nominations in writing to the Alliance Board of Directors 60 days prior to the date of the Convention. The nomination must include a short description of the candidate's background and qualifications, and written permission from the candidate to let his or her name stand for election. The candidate must be elected as a delegate and must attend the Convention. When the nomination date has passed, the Board of Directors will provide the Alliance Branches with the list of nominees and their qualifications. Incumbent Officers of the Alliance are eligible for re-election and, if not present at the Convention, must send in writing a "consent to be nominated."

A nominee for election to Office must meet the following:

- a. Be a member of the Alliance in good standing for the past three years
- b. Be an American citizen
- c. Not be an immediate family member of current officer or nominee (Immediate family member shall be defined as spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent or stepchild)
- d. Possess general knowledge of the fraternal benefit system and the fraternal workings of the Alliance
- e. Have served as a Delegate to at least one previous Convention
- f. Be willing to complete continuing education as designated by the Board of Directors of the Alliance
- g. Have the willingness and commitment to devote the necessary time to fulfill the duties of office

- h. Not be a current Officer in another fraternal benefit society

**SECTION 6. If all Offices are not filled in compliance with SECTION 5, or a vacancy occurs, the President has the right to appoint an ATS Member to that vacant position.**

SECTION 6 7. To be eligible for election to the office of President, a member must be in good standing and have served as an Officer of the Alliance for at least five years.

To be eligible for the office of First Vice President, the candidate must be a member in good standing and have served as an Officer of the Alliance for at least four years.

SECTION 7 8. Elected Officers shall assume their duties the first day of July, following the Convention.

Before assuming office, each Officer shall furnish bond, at the expense of the Alliance, in such amount as shall be designated by the Board of Directors or as may be required by statute.

SECTION 8 9. Upon the election of a new President, Secretary, or Treasurer, the retiring Officer holding that position shall be retained in an advisory capacity to his successor until the first day of August, following the Convention.

SECTION 9 10. In the event that the Convention is unable to elect a President, the Board of Directors, at the next official meeting of the Board, shall appoint a President who shall serve until the next Convention.

3/3



**BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS**  
By Donald Blum

**MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION**  
**RUSTY BUCKET RESTAURANT & TAVERN**  
**73 N. HAMILTON ROAD**  
**GAHANNA, OHIO 43230**  
**(614) 475-4435**  
**March 16, 2026**  
**12 Noon**

**(Look for possible alternate meeting dates, times and locations in upcoming months)**

**LENT**  
Lent (Latin: *Quadragesima*, 'Fortieth') is the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year in preparation for Easter. It echoes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry (Wikipedia).

The people of Germany have their share of Lenten traditions that were passed down through the generations.

The holy season of Lent is commemorated in different ways all around the world according to local traditions. These various expressions have helped Christians incorporate Lent into their culture and embrace its spiritual character.

The people of Germany have their share of traditions passed down through the generations, many of which are widely celebrated throughout the world.

Here are four such traditions that stem from a

rich German heritage.  
**Stronger beer and pretzels for the fast**  
While it may seem strange, monks in Bavaria were known for brewing stronger beer during Lent and only consuming it throughout the season as part of a strict liquid fast. According to some sources, they would name the beer names such as, "Delicator," "Triumphator," and "Animator." Also, while not originally developed in Germany, during Lent special bread was baked with water, flour and salt. It was made in the shape of a monk with folded arms in prayer and, according to Fr. William Saunders, "because these breads were shaped into the form of crossed arms, they were called *bracellae*, the Latin word for 'little arms.' From this word, the Germans derived the word *bretzel* which has since mutated to the familiar word pretzel." It was a way to be faithful to the strict fast of Lent, while being reminded of the importance of prayer.

**Passion plays**  
The most famous Passion play in the world is from Oberammergau, and is a way many German cities remembered Jesus' suffering and death each Lenten season. It is a powerful visual representation of Jesus' Passion and helps the Christian faithful enter more fully into the events of Good Friday.

**Stations of the Cross**  
Germany is another country where the stations of the cross grew in popularity over the centuries. It is where one of the first books was produced that had illustrations of the various stations in the Holy Land. It is a devotion that is often practiced every Friday during Lent.

**A silent and solemn Good Friday**  
Good Friday in Germany is known as "Karfreitag," which is derived from a German word *kara* meaning "to grieve." It is a mournful day and Germans traditionally remain silent on this fateful day, spending it in prayer and fasting. Things such as dancing are prohibited on such a solemn day. It is also called *Stiller Freitag* in some areas, again emphasizing the silent nature of the day when Christ was crucified. A single meal of fish is eaten with family on this day.

We begin the celebration on the first service of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

It marks the beginning of the 40-day Lenten season (excluding Sundays) of fasting, prayer, and repentance, where worshippers receive ashes on their foreheads in the shape of a cross. In 2026, Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Key details about the service:  
**Significance:** It symbolizes mortality and repentance, often using the phrase "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

**CELEBRATIONS**  
Happy Birthday to Mike Roth (March 21) and Rob Betts (March 27). Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!  
Happy Anniversary to Marlene and Rob Betts (March 22). Herzlichen Glueckwunsch zum Jahrestag.

**MAILING/CONTACT LIST**  
So that we may keep you updated on the Saxon Club and ATS activities please email me and/or text me your contact information: donaldblum@prodigy.net or (614) 580-8616 or private message me on Facebook, @ Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10.

We don't want you to be left out of events like Heimattag, Picnics, Christmas Party and numerous ATS events. We are getting ready to send out a mailing of events in 2026.

**FACEBOOK PAGE**  
Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10. (Facebook Group).

We are happy to announce that the group has grown to 253 members. Please invite people to join our Facebook Group, that is open to all people interested in sharing or reading about our Saxon Heritage. We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. While we welcome you to join the Columbus Branch 10, you do not need to be a member to join the Facebook Group. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

We are happy to say, we continue to add Saxon/German heritage individuals to the Facebook Group. Some of the new members include people from Europe and Canada. We encourage you to spread the word about our group.

**Our Facebook Group is an excellent place to share pictures that anyone would have of the Transylvanian Trip. It's a good reason to join and become a part of sharing Heritage information**

**HUMOR** (Compliments of Sara Alzner-Brown)  
A blond was having a hard time trying to sell her car. The car was old and had 340,000 miles. She was having a lot of problems trying to find a buyer. She went to a bar and was talking to a brunette bar tender about the problem. The brunette bar tender told her no problem I have a solution for you. I have a friend that is a mechanic. It's not legal but I think he can help you out. The blonde says that's okay I don't care and just want to sell the car. You can take the car to him, and he will turn back the miles on the car. She goes to the mechanic, and sure enough he turns back the miles to read 40,000.

A couple of weeks later the brunette bar tender runs into the blonde.

She asks, "Did you sell your car?"  
The blonde says, "Heck no, why would I sell my car, it only has 40,000 miles on it." (GO FIGURE)

**Have a Lucky Day!**

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 March 31, 2026

**BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST**  
By Arline Krestel-Suts

Cleveland East Branch 33 had a Bowl Where You Are Party on Saturday, February 28. Adult and Junior members were welcomed to bowl; we had pizza and cookies and snacks as well. Thank you, Cindy Schneider and Maria Phillips for arranging the event, and to everyone who attended. Everyone had a wonderful time!

Reminder, Br 33 March 14th meeting will be virtual on ZOOM. The Zoom invitation will come from Maria Phillips via email.



**The importance of helmets**

Since at least 2000, helmet use in cycling has increased thanks to better education, laws, and stylish options, but many cyclists — especially adults — still ride without one.

In fact, some sources say about half of adults do not wear a helmet.

It's a bad choice.

In fact, the numbers are all against riding without a helmet.

Proportion of non-fatal bicycle injuries treated in emergency rooms involving head injuries: About one-third. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) notes that a majority of the roughly 80,000 annual cycling-related head injuries seen in ERs are brain injuries, and head trauma accounts for around one-third of non-fatal bicyclist injuries overall.

Proportion of fatal bicycle crashes involving head injuries: About three-quarters (around 75 percent). Head injury remains the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes, with recent analyses (including NHTSA and advocacy reports) confirming that about 75 percent of bicyclist fatalities are due to head trauma. In 2022, there were 1,105 pedal cyclist fatalities in the U.S., many preventable.

Percentage of head injuries that could be prevented by helmets: 60-85 percent. Modern meta-analyses and studies show bicycle helmets reduce the risk of head injury by about 60 percent and serious brain injuries by similar amounts. Recent Norwegian and U.S. trauma data support 62 percent odds reduction for any head injury and lower severity when helmets are worn.

Helmets are proven to save lives and reduce injury severity, particularly for brain trauma. Always choose a properly fitted, CPSC-certified helmet, replace it after any crash, and encourage everyone in the family to wear one every ride. Safe cycling starts with simple protection.

*Become concerned and involved about the future of your Branch. Do something about it and it will flourish!*





## Invest in your future by planning today!

More than ever before, the quality of your life during retirement will depend on what plans you make now and what action you take today. The old saying “People don’t plan to fail, they simply fail to plan” certainly applies to retirement.

### **Have you planned for the day you will no longer be working?**

Planning is the first and often the most important investment you will make for your retirement. Your planning should include four steps:

- Step One—Determine where you are right now
- Step Two—Determine where you want to be upon reaching retirement
- Step Three—Calculate the difference between Step One and Step Two
- Step Four—Put a plan in place that will help you shrink that difference before reaching retirement age

An ATS Annuity should be an integral part of your retirement planning. It is an excellent way to accumulate or hold money for and during your retirement. The interest is compounded daily, meaning your interest even earns interest. It is also tax-deferred, meaning you don’t pay any taxes on the earnings until you withdraw funds, generally after you retire. The result is greater financial growth.

An ATS Annuity provides you with flexibility when you retire. You can choose if and when to begin withdrawals as well as the choice of how you withdraw funds:

- As a lump sum
- As an income for a specific number of years
- As an income for as long as you live
- As an income for as long as you or your spouse lives

People are living a lot longer now. You need to plan early to ensure a secure financial retirement. Contact your local ATS Sales Deputy or the ATS Home Office for further information on the ATS Annuity program.

**Purchase an ATS Annuity today and start saving for your  
retirement at the current 4.0% rate!**