

From the President



Dear Members,
“Thank you” again to all the members who took the time on Sunday, February 22nd to attend our Annual General Meeting. 120 active (and 10 passive) members signed in and had the opportunity to cast a vote on some important issues. Taking such an active part has always been rewarding for the members in attendance. One

vote that counted all around, was the decision not to have a Festival at Freedom Hill this year. The main reason behind the decision to bring this matter to a vote at the annual meeting, was lack of available manpower for set-ups (Fridays), take-downs, clean-up and re-storing the equipment on Club premises (Sunday night and Monday/Tuesday) The reluctance to step forward and assume responsibility for individual operations was also a big factor. Most of our manpower in prior years came from the Seniors. They, however, are too old to continue and the younger members are unable to commit, due to work schedules and family responsibilities. The rental fee at Freedom Hill would have been \$5,200 this year. The Board, weighing the input from the membership, will decide on how best to replace this event.

With this meeting, I am beginning to serve my seventh year as your President and for 2004 we have a number of projects on the agenda:

- As soon as weather permits, the roof of the Hall will be inspected. As you know, the roof is 11 years old and I believe it needs to be replaced.
- Our Parking Lot is also in need of some maintenance. The very cold temperatures this winter have caused sinking around two of the drains. The freeze was also responsible for long/deep cracks in the asphalt, which must be attended to.
- Presently, we are working on obtaining a permit for “clean-up” work around the NE corner of the building. A culvert needs to be extended and some leveling is needed to keep the stagnant wetland waters away from where our children play. Art Beneker and the House Committee are diligently pursuing these matters with the DEQ, City Hall and contractors.
- I have also mentioned and discussed with the

Board that a Pavilion would be a most welcome addition. However, I have also stated that in order to get this project rolling, we need to have “Pavilion funding” and have suggested fund-raisers. The older generation has worked and saved to provide the funds for the Hall and the grounds. The monies presently on deposit were gathered by the older generation. It should, therefore, be considered their “social security” and cover Hall operations in the “non-revenue-producing” years of our seniors – as long as they can come to play cards.

• Any future plans for additions/expansion should be in the hands of “our future” (Honorary Pres. Pelvay’s unforgettable words) - our capable next generation. The younger people are eager to have a Pavilion and I believe all of us are convinced that they have the ability as well as the contacts to find a way to fund this project. Once we have made a start in that direction, we will have plans and proposals drawn up. Carpathia Club will support and stand behind all efforts toward this end, offering “at cost” services if desired.

Our Donauschwaben Dachverband is looking into the cost and efforts to make a video/documentary about the Donauschwaben. A group of Philadelphia people met with a media consultant to get an idea about the cost of such a project. A 1-hr. show would cost around \$249,040. This matter will be discussed at the next Jahreshauptversammlung of the Verband in Chicago, April 24. I will advise you of further developments. We do need to know, however, who is willing to be interviewed and tell of their experience in the concentration camps or their escape? Please let Adam or I know if you are a willing candidate for this enterprise.

In the name of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the members of the Untergruppen for their hard work at the fish fries – all volunteers in the kitchen and bar. Your help and support allows our Club to continue to thrive and serve its members.

With much thanks to you all,

Annemarie Gerhardt 🌸

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• “Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can’t... and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.” ~Robert Frost

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