

PRESIDENTIAL NOTES



It's been a busy five months since you, the membership, gave me the honor of serving as your President. This year was extra special because we celebrated two special Anniversaries; The Frauengruppe's 40th and the Rentnergruppe's 30th. Both events were spectacular and I wanted to take a brief moment to thank everyone that was responsible for not just putting on the event but supporting both Untergruppen over the years. Without your dedication and support, our Club wouldn't be here today. Thank you for all your efforts.



Verband Meeting

One of the biggest honors that I had this spring was representing our entire membership and the Board of Directors at the annual Verband Der Donauschwaben meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Verband Der Donauschwaben is the national organization for all the Donauschwaben Clubs throughout the United States. For the past several years Carpathia has only attended this meeting as a token appearance and I wanted to change that. I'm a firm believer that all the Clubs and organizations have to support our national organization in order to shape their direction to our Club's needs.

To back up my philosophy, I lead a contingent of 22 people to the meeting. We left the Club on a Friday at noon and headed down to Cincinnati. On Friday evening we all went together to the Hauf Brau Haus in Covington, Kentucky which is located just south of the City. After a great dinner, we took over the atmosphere of the place when we broke out into some traditional German songs. The place was

hopping and people from all over the restaurant wanted to investigate what the heck was going on with these two tables of people from Detroit. We sang song after song for at least an hour. From there we went out to the Garden Patio to check it out and take a group photo. The group wanted to stay all night, which was ok with me, but since I was driving I wouldn't share in the same type of cool beverage. They all decided that they would pass on the fun for some unterhalten (camaraderie) at the hotel.

At the hotel we broke out the wurst, cheese, and of course, a few beverages. We all hung out together until the late hours of the evening solving not only all the Club's problems, but the world's as well. For me, there is nothing like a group of people getting together to share a common bond; our Culture and heritage. I wish everyone can attend these events but in the end that is not practical.

On Saturday we all had breakfast together, got dressed in our Levels for the men and Dirndles for the ladies and headed over to the Cincinnati Club at noon. The great part was when we entered the place together and all the other Clubs noticed. Something has changed in Detroit. After a good lunch and conversation with our fellow Donauschwaben brother's and sister's we settled down for the meeting. After the normal meeting proceedings the President of each Club gave their reports. My report was about the state of our Club. The highlights were as follows:

- Carpathia is in a state of transition from my parent's generation to my generation.
- I shared with them my expectations of my Board of Directors. I shared them with you in the last newsletter; Leadership, Accountability, Trust, Working Together, and the Youth.
- I gave them an update on our Untergruppen. What is working and what isn't. On this topic I asked for their assistance with our German School, which I have classified as a disaster. We have to get this fixed at Carpathia.

About two thirds through the meeting the group breaks up into smaller break out sessions. I attended the President's meeting along with Adam Medel, the Ehrenpräsident President from the Verband and Art Beneker our 1st Vice President. That meeting started off with talking about restitution for lost lands, etc. from Serbia. After some dialog, it became very clear that none of the Clubs were interested in seeking restitution. The dialog moved on to a discussion on the challenges for our Clubs (i.e., declining membership, the membership is getting older, it's harder for them to carry the load, and why isn't the youth getting more involved). There was good dialog on all the topics but, most importantly, the Youth. I'm not sure we solved any problems but we did share some ideas.

After the breakout sessions we had a fantastic dinner. That was followed by a recap of the breakout session and