

Terre Haute German Oberlander Club



March 2024

FROM THE *President*

For the past several months I have been highlighting what social events occur in Germany. March is, perhaps, the least active month for festivals in Germany. With the Lenten season in full swing [March is usually the month with the most days in Lent], there aren't many festivals. Christians are observing Lenten customs such as refraining from meat or other foods and spending time in prayer and assisting others. Yet, there is the *Starkbierfest* in Munich, which is a somewhat unpublicized event. It is rather low key because it is Lent after all. Starkbiers are Bavaria's stronger beers and so, many locals will gather for these special beers at well-known beer halls and breweries, such as Paulaner, Hacker-Pschorr, Hofbräu, Spaten, Augustiner, and others. A smaller brewery named Schneiders has a particularly good offering called Aventinus. Aventinus can be found here in Terre Haute.

Non-beer-centric festivals are the Cologne International Literature Festival which highlights writers, illustrators, and musicians. Events take place throughout the city. Another event is the Leipzig Book Fair. Since it is in the spring it previews upcoming books and media. It lasts four days.

Of course, if Easter [Ostern, Osterfest] falls in March Holy Week takes up seven days. This year Ostern falls on 31 March, so Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on 24 March, known as Palmarum. An interesting event is the Osterfeuer, or Easter fire. These are very large fires. These are said to be linked to the lighting of the Paschal Candle used in Lutheran and Roman Catholic Easter Vigils [Saturday evening]. Fredericksburg, Texas, holds numerous fires on about 20 hills outside the town.

There are some culinary customs as well. Osterbrot [Easter bread] is baked. It is more sweet than regular bread. It may be sold as yeast buns or as a woven wreath. Our traditional Easter breakfast often features a variety of sweet breads. Why sweet? Because of the Lenten fast and the forgoing of sugary treats.

Switching gears from the lovely customs mentioned in past articles, our Klub has come to a crossroads as to whether or not we shall be able to continue with our annual Oktoberfest at the fairgrounds. This is due to one major problem—THE LACK OF SUFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS to carry it off. It's no secret that our membership's median age is past retirement. Without sufficient volunteers who can set up and take down all that is needed it may not be physically possible to continue as we have in the past. At our monthly membership meeting this past Thursday [28 February] we discussed these issues at length. Many ideas were discussed, but there really weren't enough members present to reach consensus. Therefore, we decided to do a quick on-line survey to give all of our members the opportunity to share their thoughts about Oktoberfest. An e-mail with a link to the survey was sent out Thursday evening. If you haven't taken the survey yet,

Mark Your Calendar

March

Thu, 03/07, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting
Sat, 03/09, 6:00 PM: Membership Dinner – German Fare
Thu, 03/21, 6:00 PM: Bowling, Vigo Bowl
Wed, 03/27, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM
Business Meeting 6:00 PM
Fri, 03/28: Good Friday
Sun, 03/31: Easter


April


Thu, 04/04, 6:00 PM: Board of Directors Meeting
Sat, 04/13, 8:00 – 10:00 AM: Breakfast & Vendor Fair
Thu, 04/18, 6:00 PM: Bowling, Vigo Bowl
Wed, 04/24, 6:00 PM: Membership Meeting
Happy Hour begins at 5:15 PM
Business Meeting 6:00 PM



Terre Haute German Oberlander Club

For more information about the Club scan the QR Code or visit us at <http://terrehautegermanclub.org>.

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please do so by midnight on **Monday, 03/04/24**. If you didn't receive the e-mail, you can access the survey by [clicking here](#). We cannot delay a decision much longer because financial obligations must be made. As your president, I sincerely hope that we will find a workable solution! If this cannot go forward then more creative ways of financing our Klub will have to be made. Oktoberfest has always been the fundraiser that enables us to enjoy our beautiful clubhouse and our gatherings. New ideas are welcome! Please contact any Board of Directors member to share them.

This column will be my last column as president. I will be moving to Westminster, Maryland, at the end of March to be near my family. Leaving all my friends in the Klub will be difficult. Before we became members over 20 years ago, we attended Klub dinners and dances as guests of Ralph and Joanna Trautman. We always attended Oktoberfests and Stassenfests. We thoroughly enjoyed our time with all. I want to thank all our Board of Directors for all your help and encouragement. A special shout-out goes to Ron Hinsenkamp for all his work in filing legal matters which I merely had to sign and for keeping us healthy financially.

In English we say "good-bye." I very much prefer the German, **"auf Wiedersehen,"** that is, "until we see each other again."

Philip G. Meyer, President

Möge sie in Frieden ruhen



It was with great sadness that we recently announced the passing of Barbara Wood on Friday, February 16, 2024. Barbara was a dedicated, energetic, and very active member of the Club for over 31-years and will be dearly missed.

Our deepest condolences to her sister Marlene; her children Brenda, Melinda and Kevin; and to all of her family and friends.



Danke!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance on Saturday, 02/10/24. The food,

fellowship, and music by the Streamliners were all great. A special thanks to the committee that hosted this annual event. Committee members were Susan & Ron Hinsenkamp, Kelly & Brian Roberts, Tom & Annelie Nascimbene, Spring Wilson and Phil Meyer.

Thanks also to all our members who paid 100% of their 2024 membership dues by January 31st. Your names were thrown in the hat for the \$50.00 gift card drawing, which took place at the membership meeting on Feb 28th. The winners of the gift card were Kris and Erin Winegar.

New Members Needed

Do you know someone who might have a genuine interest in helping us preserve, promote, and celebrate the Wabash Valley's strong German-American history, culture, and traditions? If so, invite them to a dinner and talk with them about joining the Club. Members are our best recruiters.

March Membership Dinner.



This month's dinner will be held at the Klub on **Saturday, 03/09/24, at 6:00 PM**. This will be a traditional German dinner featuring rouladen, spaetzle and red cabbage. The cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 and under. After dinner we'll play a few games of bingo or

some other game.

Please **RSVP** to **Spring Wilson** (812-201-4568 or Spring1976@msn.com) by **Tuesday, 03/05/2024**. This dinner is open to the public and guests.

Breakfast and Vendor Fair!



Please plan to join us on **Saturday, 04/13/24**, at the clubhouse for a hearty breakfast, fellowship, shopping and fun. You'll be able to explore a diverse array of offerings from 16 local vendors.

More details about this upcoming event will be included in our next newsletter and posted on our Facebook Page and website. This event will take the place of April's membership dinner.

2024 Francis Sanders Memorial Scholarship

The Club is now accepting applications for this scholarship, which was established in 1974 in honor of Francis Sanders who was a founding member of the Club and served as our first president. More information about the scholarship is available on our website <http://terrehautegermanclub.org>. The deadline for submitting applications is 04/05/24.