

Annual Members Meeting and Board Elections

On Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 3:00pm, the German Society will hold its 2019 Annual Meeting and Elections for Directors at 611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Members must be in good standing to be eligible to vote, i.e. current on dues no later than end of business on Friday, May 31, 2019. Members wishing to vote must be present at the meeting; there is no provision for absentee ballots or proxy voting under the Society's By-laws. **Please be reminded that members at the Associate level (\$30/year) are not eligible to vote in our elections;** if you an Associate member and would like to vote, please contact the Society's office to upgrade your membership to a higher level.

If you have any questions about your current membership status, please contact the office. Vision statements of the slate of approved candidates can be found on the following pages.

There are five Officer positions up for election. There are also five openings for Directors on the Board in the class of 2022. There are six candidates competing for these positions.

Candidates for Officers

Tony Michels: President



For those who have known me during the past 11 years, it is certainly no surprise that I have a clear vision for my work here at the German Society of Pennsylvania. In the German Society, I found a home away from home and many people with whom I share common goals for the future of the organization. I was fortunate to be able to spend significant time becoming involved in the day to day business as the Executive Vice President between 2009 and 2015, focusing on the development of the organization including outreach and preparing our building for the years to come by upgrading it to modern standards.

I am honored that you have given me the opportunity to continue this work during the last four years as President of the GSP. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and I am asking for your support in allowing me to continue to serve in this position for the next two years.

I still have many ideas for continued development in the GSP that need to be initiated and nurtured. Improving the visibility of the GSP in Philadelphia and beyond should continue to be one of our top priorities. In addition, I wish to continue to focus on the development of more events that appeal to a wide range of people interested in German culture – building on new relationships that have been established. Much progress has been made in improving our building, but there are still many things that need our attention.

Many thanks to the Board, to the active members and to my wife for their continued support.

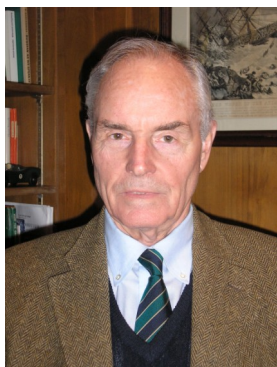
Bill Hardham: VP of Strategic Planning and Assistant Secretary



Although my surname is English, my genealogical research shows that I am 13% German, so part of my interest in things German has a genetic basis. Also, as a newly minted PhD chemist in 1961, I spent a year doing research in a Max Planck Institute in Germany and developed an appreciation for German science and culture (and beer and wine too!). Since joining GSP about 25 years ago, I have volunteered by serving food at Christmas bazaars, painting the interior and exterior of our treasured building, and chaperoning events. As a Board member, I have served on the Nominating and Children's Programs committees, helped to lead efforts to create our endowment and annual strategic plans for each committee, and a 5-year Capital Spending Plan. Most recently, I have carried on the planning

tasks as a VP, and filled in as Board and Executive Committee secretary as needed. Because I believe that for organizations like the GSP to prosper, members must give their work, wealth and wisdom, I accept the invitation to stand for VP of Strategic Planning and Assistant Secretary. In addition to the planning experience mentioned above, I have taken and published minutes for most of the committees I have served; it is something that comes naturally! As a GSP officer, I will do my best to further the understanding of German and German American contributions to the growth of American history and culture.

Hans Mueller: VP of Capital Projects



Four years ago, I accepted the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee of the GSP as VP of Capital Projects hoping that I could help improve our planning and implementation of capital projects. I shared the frustrations of our membership with seemingly endless delays, cost overruns and unmet deadlines. After four years in this capacity and many ups and downs I see light at the end of this tunnel. The HVAC project is close to completion at a total cost to date of approximately 42% of the \$2.4 million “order of magnitude estimate” we received from Bruce E. Brooks & Associates in 2015. There will be set backs and adjustments as we go through a full annual season of operating a new system and new projects will have their challenges, but it is also a time to not look at the glass as only being

half empty. Let’s acknowledge what has been accomplished in the last ten years, take some pride, derive some joy, and tackle new projects cooperatively and with confidence. A historic building like ours always presents challenges to maintain and upgrade, not to mention surprises. High on our current project list are the repair of the water intrusion from the interior downspouts, the reactivation of the old Library ventilation system, the new and enlarged storage room for the German American Collection, the 1st floor kitchen, and Ratskeller/Media Room. We also need to prepare for a restoration of the building façade and cornice. Not all of this can possibly be accomplished in the next two years. I wish to help accomplish as much as possible of this and lay a foundation for what needs to be done beyond.

I do not have a magic formula to solve all the challenges encountered with the implementation of our capital projects. I ask for your support and help to improve our processes to plan, initiate, and implement these projects. I believe that a well maintained and inviting building is essential to accomplish our vision and to attract new members, programs, and visitors.

I grew up in Dresden and came to the USA for Graduate School. I am an engineer by training and spent my whole working career with the DuPont Company in Wilmington, Delaware. My wife Harriett and I have been members of the Society for more than 25 years.

Ernest Weiler: VP of Development



As Vice President of Development, I plan to continue with our efforts to fund meaningful endowments for the Society to help secure our long-term financial stability. We started our first endowment fund in 2012 to support our cultural and educational programs and to establish a capital reserve fund. At this point, our account balance stands at \$1.35MM and our interim remains \$2.00MM. During the 4th quarter of 2016, we started a second endowment fund to support the Horner Memorial Library, with a short-term goal of \$600,000. Thanks to generous donations from members and friends of the Library as well as the Max Kade

Foundation, the Women’s Auxiliary of the German Society and the Arcadia Foundation we should exceed our interim goal early in July of 2019. I will stay in touch with and refresh our requests to five foundations that provided most of the funds to undertake the various building enhancement projects during the past eight to ten years. A pending capital project for the 2020-2023 timeframe is the renova-

tion of the building façade, which will likely cost \$300,000 to \$500,000. It will be necessary to pursue grants from several additional foundations to fund a project of that magnitude. And as a member of our Executive Committee I will support the various initiatives to grow the Society and to help assure that we remain financially strong and stay true to our mission and vision to be recognized as the premier German ethnic Society in the United States.

Mark McGuigan: Secretary



For the last 11 years, my working life has been dedicated to building enduring relationships between Germans and Americans. My personal ties to Germany go back 34 years to my year abroad in Berlin, and my family ties to Philadelphia reach back to the 1850s. Connecting these two things is a great passion of mine. In addition to serving as Executive Director of the German Society in 2005, I launched a network of German-speakers (Netzwerk Philadelphia) and have been for 8 years the US Program Director for a Berlin-based German non-profit organization Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste. In that capacity I oversee the placement and educational program for approximately 25 young German volunteers doing gap-year service with marginalized populations, human rights organizations, survivors of the Holocaust and with Jewish community groups in the US. Known in the United States as Action Reconciliation Service for Peace, my office also organizes events and summer camps centered on building understanding and promoting social justice.

I believe for Philadelphia to be a truly international city, it is necessary for us to support the institutions that build bridges to other nations. One of those is the German Society of Pennsylvania. After many years of working in this field, I believe I bring a unique perspective and useful knowledge to my role on the board. Beginning this year, I hope to have the change to increase my contribution to the Society as Secretary.

Candidates for Directors

Karin Volkwein-Caplan



As a member of the German Society since 1992, I have witnessed major changes and improvements not only with our beautiful building inside and out, but also with the addition of new programs, increased membership, and generally a more dynamic place to visit. “Wunderbar Together” indeed, just like the German-American slogan for this year where we celebrate the relationship between our two countries. With dual citizenship and my academic career as professor of Cultural Studies at West Chester University of Pennsylvania (WCU), I have lived a life in both countries, which provides ample access to the social, political, cultural and educational issues of our times.

My vision for the GSP includes the continuation of making the Society a recognized social and cultural hub, especially in the areas of the arts, lectures, research and scholarships. As a university professor I have led several student trips from Pennsylvania to Germany, and I have realized exchange programs between WCU with German universities, such as the University of Kassel, the German Sport University in Cologne, the Humboldt as well as the Free University in Berlin, as well as the universities in Heidelberg and Freiburg. I have collaborated with colleagues at these German institutions in research and publications, and educating each other’s students. My vision includes fostering more cultural exchange programs between our beloved countries and supporting a better understanding, while preserving our German-American culture and heritage.

Harold Glass



I am currently a board member and would like to stand for re-election. My focus during this term has been on financial issues and I would like to retain this area of concentration if re-elected. I have started and sold two companies to NY stock exchange companies and certainly learned to appreciate the importance of good financial management. I am also Dean's Professor at the University of the Sciences. A recent additional area of concentration of mine at the German Society, and one which I would like to continue if re-elected, is in the area of increasing our contacts with organizations having a science focus. For example we have begun a program to expand contacts with secondary school programs which have an interest in both science and Germany.

Jean Godsall-Myers



I have been a member of the German Society since 1976, when I began my career as a credentialed German educator in the Philadelphia region. I have taught in high school, university, and adult education settings. I continue to participate in oral proficiency assessment for the AATG, MCATFL, and the GSP Scholarship Committee. I attend the local *Stammtisch* in Souderton and do volunteer transcribing and translating of 19th century letters at the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville.

From 2006-2010, I lived and worked with my husband in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, and shortly after moving back to the States, I became a member of the German Society's Board of Directors. I have served as secretary of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and that term (limit) is drawing to a close. I would like to continue serving on the Board, and perhaps continue serving on the Library Committee, Personnel Committee, and Scholarship Committee.

The Society is well positioned to offer diverse cultural programs of interest to German Americans and the broader public, and the financial basis of the Society is on a positive growth path. In my role as secretary, I was aware of some details of this organization's work, and I hope to be able to continue supporting that work, to the benefit of the German Society, its members, and people in the Philadelphia region.

Marnie Old



I am a wine and beer author and Philadelphia's leading expert in my field. I serve as director of Vinlightenment for Boisset Collection, France's largest family-owned wine company. I also write, teach and consult independently on drinks, hospitality, service and marketing, as well as organizing events locally and acting as an expert speaker on wine and beer topics around the country. German Society members know me best as the mind behind our annual Bierfest, one of the largest and most successful events on our calendar. I may not be of German heritage or speak the language, but German wines and beers have long been my personal favorites and causes I champion within the wine and beer trades for decades. I have partnered with the GSP to promote them in a number of ways over the years. With the growing enthusiasm of Americans for cultural exploration

through gastronomy, I see great potential within my field for the German Society to leverage Pennsylvania's uniquely German heritage in order to meet its future goals. I believe that further diversifying programming centered on German brewing, German winemaking and German cuisine can increase our organization's visibility, expand our outreach and hopefully also increase membership, especially among younger audiences.

Marwan Kreidie

I am glad to have served on the board of the German Society. Although my name would indicate otherwise, I am a proud German-American. My mother was born in Neu-Oderberg in what was then Czechoslovakia prior to the Second World War. As a minority ethnic German she experienced discrimination; was a refugee and lived through the dreadful bombing of Dresden during the Second World War. She emigrated to the US, married my father, a Lebanese citizen, and moved to Lebanon in the early 1960s, when I was 4. In 1976 the Lebanese Civil War forced us to flee to Philadelphia. These experiences are the reasons for my life long support of immigrants, ethnic communities and refugees. I am involved in numerous immigrant and ethnic organizations including being a co-founder of the Philadelphia Immigrant and Citizenship Coalition, (PICC) and United Voices of Philadelphia, an organization dedicated to giving a voice in the electoral process to voiceless immigrants. United Voices held a mayoral forum at the German Society during the Spring of 2015. We later have hosted two other forums for new Americans.

I also founded the Arab-American Development Corps, which among other things is very involved with advocating and resettling Iraqi and Syrian Refugees. In the past few years I have organized a few KA events on various subjects including Syrian refugees in Germany, the rise of the populist right in Germany and German American relations in the Trump Era at the German Society. Additionally I have organized and coordinated summer study programs for students at Villanova University and West Chester University with the PfalzAkademie — in Lambrecht and Berlin and am currently organizing a summer study program at the Gustav Stresemann Institute in Bad Bevesen on Xenophobia and Islamophobia in Germany and the United States.

Brigitte Masci

My name is Brigitte Masci. I immigrated 52 years ago to Philadelphia and reside in Delaware County. I am married and have two daughters and two granddaughters.



In my professional life in 1965 graduated in Germany as an Expanded Functions Dental Assistant. After immigrating to the US I have worked in this field exclusively. For the last 16 years I have been managing a dental practice in Newtown Square/Delaware County.

More than 20 years ago I joined the Women's Auxiliary, and for 15 years I served as their 2nd Vice President. At the same time I also was a member of the German Society. I served on the Board two different times as the Women's Auxiliary representative.

My mission I feel is to bring open communication in a transparent, clear manner to both the Women's Auxiliary and the German Society in order to bring about balance and unity and to combine efforts.