



Germany Society

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERMANY SOCIETY

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GUTEN TAG:

Your Germany Society Newsletter brings to you the highlights of what happened at the Spring Leadership Conference in Louisville and a number of other interesting possibilities for our Society.

NEW PRESIDENT TAKES THE HELM OF THE GERMANY SOCIETY: Dr. Walter B. Stevenson, Jr. was elected to the Presidency of the Germany Society at the spring meeting of the Society in Louisville, KY.



Here is a message from our new president:

Achtung und Greetings,

I would like to thank the members of the Germany Society for your confidence in

electing me as your President.

During the coming year the Germany Society will continue and build on the progress and accomplishments of the Society under Past President Bruce Buehler. We all owe him our appreciation for the excellent work and accomplishments during his two terms.

I will continue the programs of the Society with emphasis on the recruitment of members, especially in Germany; creation of a chapter of the Society in Germany; support of the National Society programs; and the cataloging, posting on the Society Website and the acquisition of additional documents/books relating to the German (Deux-Ponts/Zweibrucken Regiment) support and participation in the American cause in the Revolution, for the SAR Genealogical Research Library.

Additionally, through the sale of the new Germany Society Lapel Pin, we anticipate the proceeds will support the acquisition of the Deux-Ponts/Zweibrucken Regimental Flag.

Lastly, as many members know, Compatriot Michael Foster, our recent Vice President

and Webmaster, passed away on March 6, 2015. Michael's family is in our thought and prayers as they try to cope with his untimely and sudden passing. Due to his passing, the Society Website will require some time to update and modify, so please bear with us.

I sincerely ask and seek your support and suggestions as we move ahead and hope to see you at the next Germany Society meeting during the 125th National Congress in Louisville. The Germany Society is tentatively scheduled to meet at 4:30 PM on 28 June 2015.

Regards,

Walter Stevenson

President

MINUTES OF THE GERMANY SOCIETY MEETING ON 7 March 15 at Louisville, KY:

Here are the minutes reported by Secretary Larry Guzy. Since we have temporarily lost our webmaster, the complete minutes are printed here for your information:

Meeting gavelled to order at 4:10PM by President Bruce Buehler. An invocation was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge of the SAR

Agenda: President Buehler posted the agenda. He also notified us that our VP and Website Editor, Michael Foster passed away yesterday at the age of 60. A moment of reflection was held to remember Michael and his family.

Minutes from the fall (27 Sept. 2014) meeting held at the Brown Hotel were presented and approved with the change

under final items to "opportunities to raise money" and "opportunities" changed also in the second line.

Secretary Report: Larry Guzy reported that the current year showed **183 total members** with **7 resident members included**. There is a resident in Germany who has submitted his application and two of his sons which, if approved, would bring us to 10 residents. Reconciliation was sent to National in November and finalized in January by the National Registrar.

Dues notices were sent out by President Buehler to include those who were not current for 2014; 24 responded to this request. No motion was needed, however it was agreed that future renewals sent out would only go to those who are current and those who are only one year inactive.

Treasurer Report: Larry Guzy reported that the current balance (as of 3.1.15) is \$4,187.03. The pin sales have resulted in enough revenue to fully pay all expenses related to their purchase and mailing with an additional \$256.38 already available for flag purchase. A dual balance sheet shows \$256.38 for flags and \$3,930.65 for all other.

Constitution and By Law Committee: Lanny Patten had requested that we look at wording to promote and assist with the formation of a viable and functional membership base in Germany in the Germany Society Constitution. To this request, Dr. Stevenson, Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chair, made a motion to add the following to Article II: Objectives: **"To encourage and support the development of membership,**

participation, and establishment of a chapter(s) within Germany;". This was seconded by David Jessel and unanimously approved.

JROTC Committee: David Jessel reported that the Society is supporting high schools in Germany, and if other Societies that currently support some units there do not continue that support, the Germany Society will take them over.

Officers: Due to travels this summer, outgoing President Buehler will not be able to be at our Annual Meeting at Congress. Thus, he recommended that elections be held early to take effect after this meeting. This motion was approved. A slate of officers was put forth and voted upon and unanimously approved as follows:



(Pictured L –R: Larry T. Guzy, Rev., Dr. James C. Taylor, David G. Jessel and Dr. Walter B. Stevenson, Jr.)

President: **Dr. Walter B. Stevenson, Jr.**

Vice President: **David G. Jessel**

Secretary and Treasurer: **Larry T. Guzy**

Genealogist and Registrar: **Edward O. Steinback**

Chancellor and Sergeant-at-Arms: **William D. King**

Chaplain: **Rev., Dr. James C. Taylor**

Other Positions

William O. Stone (Trustee until the Germany Society meeting at the 125th National Congress)

Bruce A. Buehler (To be voted on as National Trustee during the Germany Society meeting at the 125th National Congress)

Dr. Walter B. Stevenson, Jr. (To be voted on as Alternate Trustee during the Germany Society meeting at the 125th National Congress)

Andrew M. Johnson – Editor, Germany Society Newsletter

An installation ceremony was held and the usual peaceful transfer of power was effected.

Newsletter: President Buehler commended our Editor, Col. (Ret) Andy Johnson (VA) for his work and suggested that we consider entering the newsletter into national competition.

President's Report on Old Business/Strategic Planning: Our current activities should continue--Support of the educational center, Library, Youth Programs, and location of member prospects in Germany. Additionally, he stated we should also consider a project in Germany such as a memorial plaque at the Church in Zweibruchen in conjunction with

a possible future trip to Germany with a future President General.

Rev. Taylor, Dave Jessel, and Bruce Buehler all volunteered to investigate integrating members in Germany into a single unit/advertising there for more resident members.

Dave Jessel and Chuck Sweeney both volunteered to act as DAR Liaison.

Final Items and Adjournment:

President Buehler again purchased 2 packs of fine German Beer to act as opportunities to raise money. Rev. Taylor and Mike Radcliff were the appreciative recipients. The cost of the beer came from President Buehler. In a final action, President Buehler was presented with the Silver Roger Sherman Medal and the Past President's Pin. Twenty three members signed in for the meeting. Adjournment took place at 4:55 PM.

DER SECRETARY LARRY SAYS: Our current membership is at 181 dual and 7 primary with 3 primary to be added when their genealogy is approved for a total of 188. There have only been 286 members since our formation.

Our current treasury is \$4,783.03 with \$646.38 of that dedicated to flag purchases from pin sales.

MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT BRUCE:

During the National Society Spring Leadership and Trustee Meeting, in Louisville, KY, the leadership of the Society changed; new officers were elected and

installed. That being said I'm no longer President of the Germany Society.

I'm pleased the Society membership had faith in my leadership and ability to overcome some very rough times over the past 12 months regarding the future existence of the Germany society. We now

Recruiting is everyone's job.



have 7 primary members living in Germany with 3 applications for membership at the National Society waiting approval. We are making significant progress in increasing our primary membership in Germany and laying the groundwork for establishing a chapter in Germany.

The Germany Society has achieved numerous milestones over the past 2 years. Some of those highlights are as follows: The Society Treasury has been moved from the HQ SAR to an independent bank account where we have complete control over the funds. We developed a new membership

medal for the Society and got it approved by the National Awards and Medals Committee. The Membership medal is unique and there are a few membership medals left should you need to purchase one for yourself. Additionally, we recently opened a sales campaign for the sale of our newly approved Germany Society lapel pin. The proceeds from the sale of the pins will go towards the purchase of 2 Royal Deux-Ponts Regimental Flags. One flag will be housed in the National Society Museum and the other will remain with the Society for use in ceremonies and other occasions. The Germany Society accomplished a complete re-write and approval of the Constitution and By-laws governing the Society. The re-write was unanimously approved during the 2014 Society Annual Meeting at Greenville, SC.

Equally important is the support the Germany Society has provided to programs available through the National Society. Over the years the Germany Society has supported the JROTC program through recognition of deserving Cadets in high schools in Germany. Currently, the Society supports 3 high school JROTC programs with a certificate and the JROTC SAR Medal. It is hoped, in the near future, we will have members who live in Germany, present the certificate and medal during the JROTC awards program at the schools. Other programs we have supported include donations to the Friends of the Library, the Center for the Advancement of American Heritage (CAAH) and the USO. Over the past two years, the Society has been recognized with streamers for our flag in support of these programs. One of my personal programs I truly wanted implemented was a Society Newsletter. I felt since members of the Society live from coast-to-coast, as well as in Germany, we needed a vehicle by which we can keep the members

updated on the activities of the Society. Obviously, the Newsletter has become a reality. I was totally blown away when Compatriot Andy Johnson volunteered to be our editor and cannot say enough about his great work as our editor. He has put together a great looking template to provide a place for our reports and updates. This year I have asked Andy to enter our newsletter in the National competition – I think it will go very far in the competition. Within the newsletter, there is a section set aside in each edition to recognize a member in the Germany Society so we can get to know him. This edition will feature Compatriot Dan Phoenix who is one of our members living in Germany. I hope you will all take the time to read about Dan and what he does in support of the US Air Force. Additionally, we encourage the members to send articles about their German heritage or interesting article they have written about the German support of the Revolutionary War.

I have truly enjoyed my 2 years as your President. One of the best things I have gained is the new friendships I have developed through the Germany Society. I know all of the members will give your support to my successor, Dr. Walter B. Stevenson, Jr. and the other elected officers of the Society. They are all great individuals and work hard for the success of the Society. However, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the support and counsel I received from the elected officers and Committee Chairman during my time as the President. Their hard work has been the major reason for the achievements, I just outlined, to become a reality. Gentlemen I personally thank you and I appreciate your hard work and dedication to the Germany Society.

In closing I hope, as a member of the Germany Society, you are as proud of our Society achievements as I am. As you can see through the Societies support of programs and activities we are a viable and valuable Society within the National Society, SAR. I want to wish everyone and the Germany Society well, much success and accomplishment of further achievements in the coming year(s).

Auf Wiedersehen,

Bruce A. Buehler
Immediate Past President

POTENTIAL GERMANY SOCIETY PROJECT IN ZWEIBRUCKEN:

During the BOM meeting, March 2015, President Buehler announced he had received an email from a member living in Germany who proposed a project for the Germany Society to participate.

The project would be to erect a monument or plaque in/on the grounds of the church in Zweibrucken. The monument or plaque will be placed on behalf of the Germany Society to honor the Deux-Ponts Regiment for their sacrifices and support during the American Revolution.

Past President Buehler further stated he felt if the project was approved it would potentially provide two things for the Society. First, it would provide a project for the Society members living in Germany by which they could get involved, get to know one another, and work together. Second, it might be an opportunity for the stateside members to plan a future trip to Germany, in conjunction with a President General's trip, to attend the dedication ceremony.

Additionally, the member had a preliminary discussion with the head of the church. He stated they are willing to work with the Germany Society since it was the church where the Deux-Ponts Regiment formally mustered before coming to America to fight for our independence.

The members attending the BOM were positive regarding this report and were excited that this project potentially might lead to a trip to Zweibrucken. A final vote as to the Societies support will be taken at the Annual Meeting in Louisville during the National Congress.

Updates will be provided on the progress of this project at regularly scheduled meetings and in later editions of the Germany Society Newsletter.

MEMBER PROFILE- Compatriot Dan Phoenix.



Compatriot and Germany Society member Dan Phoenix lives in Germany.

My name is Dan Phoenix, and I am a historian. I live in Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, where I work for the US Air Force on Ramstein Air Base. I studied history, with an emphasis on medieval and renaissance studies at Arizona State University, and earned an M.A. in Military History from Norwich University. My duties for the Air

Force are focused on maintaining a permanent record of operations and key decisions, so I spend most of my time compiling history from the last 18 months. When I have time, I turn my attention to the heritage of the Air Force as well. The Air Force's civilian historians also deploy in support of contingency operations. At this time last year, I was in Afghanistan, recording history at Bagram Airfield. My wife Teah and I enjoy travelling Europe. Since coming to Germany, I have identified a number of potential Revolutionary forebears in Teah's family history, and we are planning her application to the DAR.



GERMANY SOCIETY LAPEL PIN

The Germany Society lapel pin is now available for purchase. The pin, pictured here, is 5/8" in size and sells for only \$15 including shipping. Please see order form on last page. There is a limited supply of only 300 pins so buy one or two now. The profits from the sale of the lapel pins will be used to purchase two Regimental Deux Ponts flags. The Regimental flag is the flag the German Regiment carried when they fought against the British and other forces at Yorktown contributing to the surrender of General Cornwallis. There is no known source for the flags; they will need to be handmade. The estimated cost of the flags is \$3,000.00. One of the flags will permanently hang in the SAR Museum and

the other will be used by the Society for meetings and other events. It is a beautiful pin and will be something the Society members can wear with pride.

Mail Completed Form with Check for full amount to:

Germany Society Lapel Pin
Attn: Compatriot Walter Stevenson
1542 Pampas Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

Price includes shipping & handling

LAPEL PIN Order Form

Name

Street or P.O, Box Address

City

State

ZIP

(_____) _____
Phone

Email:

Germany Society Lapel Pin

_____ X \$15.00 = \$_____ .00

Make check payable to: Germany Society SAR