

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY NEWS

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SUMMER IS HERE !!!!

Next Stein Club Meeting

Our next meeting will be our Summer Meeting and will be on Saturday, June 15th. This meeting will be a "show-n-tell" meeting so please bring a stein or two to share with all of those in attendance. Every stein is interesting and every stein has a story to tell so let's hear about yours !!!

Lunch will be an all-you-can-eat sandwich buffet. The price of the buffet will be \$10 for stein club members and \$15.00 for non-members of the stein club. Friends and guests are always welcomed.



Happy Birthday Wishes



Happy Birthday To:

Rich Hoffman June 1
Jim Laffey June 2
Colleen Frayer June 5
Bart Stack June 11
Michelle Knoll June 12
Forest Wassum June 18
Marcia Evens-Frank June 19
David Korczyk June 25

***May your special day be filled with
happiness and good health !!!***

Featured Article of the Month

It's always a great pleasure and a real joy when one of our own PSS members submits an article for publication in our monthly newsletters. This month we are very happy to have a fantastic article telling us about the Villeroy & Boch, Mettlach B.P.O.E. Elk stein. Jim Laffey gives us an excellent and informative narrative of the founding of the organization commonly referred to as "The Elks" and the stein commissioned to represent this benevolent organization. Nice going Jim and thanks for this wonderful article. Keep them coming !!

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Society

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PresidentTom Levenson
Vice President Bill Boss
Treasurer Joyce Hoffman
Secretary Mark Paden
Guest Speaker Coordinator.. Tom Weber
Newsletter Editor Tom Levenson

Lunch Cost Increase

Over the past several years, it has been our goal to provide a delicious and diverse lunch buffet at each of our stein club meetings. Over these same several years the cost charged to us by the Teutonia Männerchor for the buffet lunches has steadily increased however, we (your PSS officers) elected not to raise the price of the lunch buffet that is charged to you, our PSS members. Unfortunately, we have reached the point where our balance sheet can no longer absorb the higher cost charged to us versus the price charged to you, our members, for the Buffet lunches. Therefore, starting with our June 15th meeting, the price for the all-you-can-eat, cold buffet lunch, will be \$10 for PSS members and \$15 for non-PSS members. This is an increase of \$3 for PSS members and \$5 for non-members. The price for hot buffet lunches will be determined prior to our September meeting. The PSS will continue to subsidize the cost of the lunch charged to us by Teutonia. With the prices of almost everything in the food industry going up, we will continue to negotiate with the management of the Teutonia to try to keep our subsidized amount to a number that

will not drain our bank account and to a number that will allow us to continue to offer to you our members and our guests top quality food at an always very reasonable price.

Members Directory Updates

Every January and June of each year we update the information contained in the Members Directory. If you have had changes to your address, phone number, email address, or any other changes, please send those changes to this Editor at thomaslevenson@yahoo.com prior to June 15th so that all changes can be made to the Directory. Inserts or new directories will be sent out to all current members by the end of June 2024. If you choose to have only your name and your spouse/partner's name in the directory and not your contact information, please let me know that and I will make the necessary adjustments. If no changes are sent to me, we will use the information that is currently shown in the Members Directory 2023-2024.

Did You Know

Did you know that the windows in the crown of the Statue of Liberty were manufactured by the Pittsburgh firm PPG Industries and that they were installed by the Pittsburgh firm TRACO. Pittsburgh made glass is all around us and we will explore this subject in upcoming newsletters. I think you will be surprised to learn where Pittsburgh made glass can be found today.

Polo Shirts for Sale

Now that summer is fast approaching, along with its warmer weather, this is the time to purchase an "original" PSS logoed polo shirt. Our original sale of these fantastic looking shirts was so successful that we have just a limited number of shirts and sizes still available. The remaining number of shirts and sizes are available as shown below:

Men Sizes: 4 large; 3 extra-large (XL); 1 double extra-large (2XL).

Lady's Sizes: 1 large.

With such a limited number of shirts available, you may want to place an order as soon as possible. Attached to this newsletter is an order form that can be completed and returned to this Editor. All proceeds from the sale of these polo shirts go to the PSS. Orders will be filled on a "first come" basis. Any shirt that has not been purchased will be available at our June 15th meeting. Shipping of shirts purchased before June 15th will be free of charge to the buyer. If you haven't as yet purchased one of these beautiful logoed shirts, this is your opportunity to do so now. Thanks for your support of the PSS.

Name Badges

PSS name badges are still available. Just fill out the attached form and send it, along with a check, to our Treasurer, Joyce Hoffman, to the address shown on the form. A PSS name badge worn over a PSS polo shirt is as good as it can be !!! Thanks for your support of the PSS.

Pittsburgh Made Glass

Did you know that the Heinz History Center and Sports Museum was recently voted the #1 History Museum in America by USA Today as part of its Reader's Choice Awards? Did you know that the Heinz History Center and Sports Museum houses one of the largest exhibits of Pittsburgh made glass ever assembled in one collection? The glass exhibition showcases the beauty, science, utility, and technology of Western Pennsylvania glass over the past 200 years.

The Senator John Heinz History Center is Pennsylvania's largest history museum and a proud affiliate of the **Smithsonian Institution**.

The History Center and Sports Museum are opened daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. It is located at 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA.

Reference: *The Heinz History Center and Sports Museum on-line website.*



In Loving Memory



William James "Bill" Dimmock
September 23, 1927—March 9, 2024



Villeroy & Boch Mettlach B.P.O.E. Stein

The Elks

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is a fraternal order founded in 1868 in New York City by actors and entertainers. Originally known as the Jolly Corks, their name was changed to form a more lasting and enduring organization. They wanted their name to put forward a more dignified purpose, so they decided to choose the elk as their symbol because of the noble qualities associated with this majestic creature.

The elk embodies several qualities that resonate with Elkdom's principles: "Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity." The elk is a peaceful animal but will rise in defense of its own when threatened. This duality reflects the BPOE's commitment to both fellowship and service. The majestic elk is fleet of foot and keen of perception. These attributes symbolize the organization's agility and awareness in addressing community needs. The founders also sought to choose an indigenous American creature, and the elk fit the bill perfectly.

After more than 150 years the BPOE thrives today with a network of nearly 2000 lodges across the country. The Order is a non-political, non-sectarian, and strictly an American fraternity. Proposal for membership is only by invitation of a member in good standing. To be accepted as a member, one must be an American citizen, believe in God, be of good moral character and be at least 21 years old.

The Order spends more than \$80,000,000 every year for benevolent, educational, and patriotic community-minded programs in such fields as benefitting special needs children, sponsoring Elks National Foundation educational scholarships, scouting, athletic teams, veterans' works, a national "Hoop Shoot" free-throw contest involving more than 3 million children, physical and occupational therapy programs, and patriotic programs. The Elks Drug Awareness Education Program warns primary grade students and their parents of the dangers in drug use. Additionally, every lodge observes June 14th as Flag Day, a tradition which the Elks began in 1907 and was later adopted by the Congress as an official observance. This shows that Elks Care and Elks Share!

The Stein

The early growth of the Elks coincided with the "golden age" of German beer stein production. It was in this period that the BPOE commissioned Villeroy & Boch to make beautiful beer steins for their membership. Because the Mettlach factory was

the most well-known and highly regarded manufacturer of beer steins, it was the obvious choice for the Elks.

The BPOE stein is made of pottery and features an etched design. It is adorned with a detailed Elks Club engraving, making it a unique and collectible item. The design reflects the rich history and symbolism associated with the Elks. The 11th hour clock, below the elk head, in the center of the image, is a traditional B.P.O.E. symbol for remembrance of departed members. The banner scroll below the symbol states the Order's name. Below that scroll are the words "CERVUS ALCES" which is Latin referring to the genus and species for the American Elk. The stein is approximately 7.5" tall, 9.25" to top of thumb lift, 3" wide at the top opening' 4.25" across the base and weighs 3 lbs. The pewter ring inlaid lid is adorned with Elk horns. The pewter thumb lift has the Elks emblem embossed on the front and a depiction of a hop plant on the back.

This ceramic stein showcases the quality and artistry for which Mettlach is renowned. The markings embossed on the bottom of the stein further authenticates the origin. Some of these marks are of little importance today as they were intended for factory identification and quality control purposes. The important marks are described here.

- The trademarks:
 - Old Tower Abbey - incised
 - The Mercury trademark - stamped in green or blue.
- The stein form number 2936 (sometimes called mold or stock number)
- The date code is a two-digit number such as "04" which is for the year 1904.
- The capacity code is the Roman Numeral II which means 0.5 liter.
- The words "GEGEN NACHBILDUNG GESCHÜTZT" which means "protected against copying."



THE PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY

POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM

Be one of the first to order an original Pittsburgh Stein Society, Port Authority® C-Free™, Cotton Blend Pique polo shirt. These shirts are short sleeved, 5.3 oz., 60% recycled cotton / 40% recycled polyester, honeycomb pique with tag-free label, flat knit collar, 3 button placket, and a drop tail hem.

Sizes and quantities available are: Men's(4) Large; (3) Extra Large; and (1) Double Extra Large.

Lady's (1) Large.

All polos are black in color with a multi-colored, embroidered PSS logo on the left side of the chest.

Order your polo shirt(s) by filling out the order form below and sending the completed form to Tom Levenson at thomaslevenson@yahoo.com. or by calling Tom at 412-596-6360.

Checks should be made payable to the Pittsburgh Stein Society and sent to Tom Levenson, 295 Alamo Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa 15241 along with your completed order form.

The price of each shirt is \$30.00. Shipping costs are free of charge within the continental U.S.A. Add \$2.00 to listed price for each 2XL size. All sales are final and are based on information shown below. All proceeds go to the "Pittsburgh Stein Society."

Thank you for your support of the "*Pittsburgh Stein Society*."

FIRST NAME _____

LAST NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

TOTAL QUANTITY ORDERED _____

MEN'S SIZE EACH _____

LADY'S SIZE EACH _____

BUYER'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PITTSBURGH STEIN SOCIETY

"NAME BADGE ORDER FORM"

Please order _____ (indicate the number of badges you are ordering) *Pittsburgh Stein Society* name badge(s) complete with the following name(s):

Badge No.1: _____

Badge No.2: _____

I understand that each badge will cost \$3.00 and I agree to send a check, made payable to the *Pittsburgh Stein Society*, for the total amount of the number of badges purchased to Mrs. Joyce Hoffman, Treasurer, Pittsburgh Stein Society, 254 Victory Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056.

Thank You for your help in filling this order.

Signature: _____

Date: _____