



Dear Pittsburgh Chapter Members,

As you may know, the Pittsburgh Chapter has undergone a variety of organizational changes with Chapter Leadership either moving out of area or resigning their organizational positions due to personal issues. The Chapter continues to have a very viable membership number; in excess of 125 paid members. I share this information because the Chapter needs to move on and get members to step up to the plate and take on leadership to achieve the mission and goals of the organization. The Chapter has been in existence over 35 years and has been an active member in the Germanic community in the Pittsburgh area. It was a founding member of the Alliance of Germanic Societies, started the first public Germanic festivals in the area with the Bavarian Oktoberfest at Station Square as well as many other activities from Language classes to our annual Weihnachtsfeier.

Currently the Board has the following positions filled and the following positions vacant:

President – vacant

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Eric Trainer

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- vacant

Treasurer – John Kugler

Secretary – vacant with a temporary volunteer in Holly Opperman

Board at large – Carol Steiner, Diane and John Smith; Pat and Jim Schmitt; and Erik Wittmann, President Emeritus

In order to deal with the current challenges as President Emeritus and past President I am calling for a general membership meeting to be held to both hold new elections and for the membership to address the issues facing this Chapter. I **urge you** to attend this meeting if possible if you care at all about maintaining this Chapter, which is part of the only national organization representing Americans of Germanic heritage. As an incentive a meeting has been scheduled for Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> – from 9:00 am to 10:30AM, which will provide those members in attendance coffee or tea and Danish/bagels- so you can skip breakfast and have it at the meeting. **The meeting site is Panera's Restaurant in Mount Lebanon at the Galleria Mall- 1500 Washington Road, Mount Lebanon PA**

**WE NEED ALL MEMBERS IF POSSIBLE TO ATTEND- POSSIBLY VOLUNTEER FOR A BOARD MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS CONSIDER RUNNING/VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THE VACANT BOARD POSITIONS. THE SURVIVAL OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS DEPENDENT ON YOU.**

Most sincerely,

R. Erik Wittmann

President Emeritus, DANK Pittsburgh