

# German American Klub

## October 2010 Newsletter

*"To promote the German and American culture, heritage, and tradition, to provide functions for the members and their families."* [GAK By Laws]

**German-American Klub of Indianapolis, Inc.**

8602 South Meridian Street • Indianapolis, IN 46217 • 317/888-6940 • Vol. XXX No.9



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is over for another year. Oktoberfest has come and gone, and now it is down to the business of making it to the next one. There is little hard information to share with the membership at this time. After surviving the festival and then putting in 3 days on writing the checks, I decided to use the last 3 days of my vacation time to sleep, watch TV, and eat junk food. But, what I can tell you is this: the economy definitely had an impact. After a quick total of the deposits and a look at the numbers for the gates, it was fairly obvious that per person spending was not where it had been in past years. That said, the event was profitable and the final tally should show some of the progress that was made.

As the planning began for this year's festival, we knew we would be hampered by a lack of cash on hand. We weren't going to be able to do everything that we wanted to do or do them in quite the manner that we hoped, but we had just enough to make the event happen. Every step that I could think of was taken to cut the expenses of the

event without watering down the product, some things were noticeable, and some weren't but I'll let you know some of the differences and then you can decide for yourself whether the changes that were made worked or not.

The first change came right at the front gates, as admission was dropped from \$6 in '08 to just \$5 this year. The reason for this change was so that it would not be necessary to have so much cash to start the event. By eliminating the need to "buy" \$1 bills, cash was freed up to use in other areas. Another change from the '08 Oktoberfest was in going from food and drink tickets being 50 cents each to \$1 each. By going to dollar tickets, we eliminated the need to "buy" even more change and cut the expense of tickets in half. As you walked around the grounds, you likely noticed that there were only 2 stages with live entertainment this year. Cutting the entertainment expense by going to 2 stages was the money saving measure that was going to have the most immediate impact, and if it did rain, then having less musical acts to pay was going

to make survival possible. The placement of a stage at the bottom of the slope off the biergarten turned out exactly as I envisioned it and made it possible for even more people to enjoy the bands that we did have. Another thing that was missing from previous years was the carnival rides in the front parking lot. There was considerable debate about this move, but in the end I believe that this too was a positive move in that we needed the parking spaces for the extra cars we had to accommodate. After seeing that lot fill up on Friday and Saturday night, the savings on electricity was just icing on the cake. By having more parking in the front lot, that meant more business at the "walk gate" and then more business at the beer station just inside it. The crew from Monarch Beverage couldn't believe how much more business that station did compared to past years. They had always used that trailer as their "beer piggy bank" but this year they had to keep restocking it. Also, by using more of the front lot, there was less potential for damage to the athletic fields, and so another dollar was

saved. The tents along vendor row were narrower, which cut the tent cost and also left more room for the crowd to move.

Not everything was positive however. Coca-Cola didn't see fit to deliver both of the trailers we had asked for, and the one we did get arrived 2 and a half hours after the start of the festival, and had very little product with it. My dissatisfaction was great enough to move me to the decision to sell only Pepsi products out of that one trailer for the rest of the festival. Coke probably will not be happy to hear about that. I did not have the time to make arrangements for an additional oven to keep the Pretzel Booth stocked, but luckily Eva Cummings, Blake Schroeder, and Chef Ron managed to make it work. I promise to have the equipment in place next year.

The greatest sin however was my own. As you might imagine, riding herd over an event this size is a rather stressful way to spend one's time. I snapped at several people along the way, and for that I do not apologize. I dare anyone to withstand the barrage of asinine questions that I did without snarling in reply. In only one instance was my anger, rage and perturbation not vented at the deserving party. In this instance, my target was completely undeserving and unfortunately fell victim to my greatest tirade. And for that I do apologize.

Chuck Kemp  
317-435-1131



Check out  
[www.indianapolisgak.com](http://www.indianapolisgak.com)  
[www.edelweissgak.com](http://www.edelweissgak.com)

## FROM THE MANAGER:

September is a busy month for everyone at the Edelweiss Restaurant. Oktoberfest is the obvious but we also have three very large weddings this month — lots of good memories are being created.

Our Wednesday buffet is growing every week as is our FaceBook fan list. If you are on FaceBook lookup the *Edelweiss Restaurant* and become a fan. I will post our Wednesday buffet items in advance, this will allow you to know when we are having Rouladen, Sauerbraten etc.

“Oktoberfest belongs in German Park” this seemed to be the phrase of the week. We had the band Peace Train down in the park playing up towards the bier garden, this allowed a large space for people to gather on the hillside and have a good time. Peace Train would frequently ask the audience “where does Oktoberfest belong” to which the audience stands up and yells “German Park,” I believe it's here to stay.

The holiday season is coming up soon, if you have ideas of parties or functions you would like to see happen give me a call and I will be happy to accommodate.

Remember we have Karaoke Gold on the second Wednesday of every month. The song selection goes from German songs to Sinatra to oldies but goodies come out and give it a try. Who knows — there might be a Superstar in you waiting to come out.

Thanks  
Chef Ron



**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday**

**GAK Auxiliary  
Meeting @ 7 pm  
GAK Membership  
Meeting @ 8 pm**



**Wednesday Night  
Buffet**



**Karaoke 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday**



**Tanzgruppe Practice  
Wednesday**  
(except 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.)



## RAINY DAY FUND

Joan Mills, Quinton & Jean Heintzelman, Gerhard Weber, Ed & Sandy Roehling, Larry Borst, Martin Dannemiller, Gloria Webster, Gary & Eva Cummings, John & Darleen Himmelheber, Frank Scholl, Bill Voltmer, Gerhard & Evelin Klemm, German-American Jaeger Club, Lorra Schroeder, Richard & Ruth Allseit, Cliff & Yvonne Lipsius, Elise Marshall, Joe Mankus, Charles Kemp, Walter & Elizabeth Dieckamp,

## Park Closing Saturday November 6th

beginning at 9 a.m.  
Rain date is Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Any and all volunteers  
welcome.

### **Remember....**

Delegates VOTED TO  
KEEP this a "VOLUNTEER  
CLOSING" and not a  
Paid Workers Closing.

## News from the Ladies Auxiliary.

Wow - hard to believe that Oktoberfest has come and gone. I want to thank all of those who donated desserts for the pastry tent. They ran out of desserts on Saturday night! A special thanks to those who pitched in at the last minute and brought desserts for Sunday.

October will be our rest up month as we gear up for the holidays. The "hanging of the greens" will most likely take place on the Saturday after Thanksgiving – November 27. Any and all help is appreciated.

Following will be the Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, December 12 at 1:00. Mark your calendars now to join us for a wonderful afternoon of food, storytelling and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. We will also be collecting food donations.

See you at the Klub.  
Patty Johns, President



## Tanzgruppe News

By Lou Mueller

Die Fledermäuschen Tanzgruppe has been very busy in September with our performances. We danced all four nights at Oktoberfest in German Park, and danced in the afternoon on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Altenheim's Oktoberfest. Most of our members also worked at the GAK Oktoberfest, as well as helping with set up and tear down.

We performed at Anderson on September 23 for the Fine Arts Center Oktoberfest and on September 25<sup>th</sup> did two performances for the Greensburg Arts and Cultural Society at Stapp's Circle S Ranch.

October will bring Performances at Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, on the 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Augustine Home, at Primo's Plainfield on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Parkside Court in Columbus on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

And while resting will be working the food booth at the Athenaeum Germanfest.




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 8602 S. Meridian Street  
 Indianapolis, IN 46217

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*If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?*

| Sonn                      | Mon       | Diens                 | Mitt              | Donn             | Frei  | Sams  | Sonn      | Mon        | Diens                 | Mitt              | Donn                 | Frei                         | Sams      |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|---|-----------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
|                           |           | <b>October</b>        |                   |                  |   | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>NOV</b> | <b>1</b>              | <b>2</b>          | <b>3</b>             | <b>4</b>                     | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>              |
|                           |           |                       |                   |                  |   |   |           |            | <b>Board Meeting</b>  | Tanz Group Buffet |                      |                              |           | Park Closing Clean up |
| <b>3</b>                  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>              | <b>6</b>          | <b>7</b>         | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>              | <b>10</b>         | <b>11</b>            | <b>12</b>                    | <b>13</b> |                       |
| <b>Okfst Worker Party</b> |           | <b>Board Meeting</b>  | Tanz Group Buffet |                  |   |   |           |            |                       | Tanz Group Buffet |                      |                              |           |                       |
| <b>10</b>                 | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b>             | <b>13</b>         | <b>14</b>        | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>   | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>             | <b>17</b>         | <b>18</b>            | <b>19</b>                    | <b>20</b> |                       |
|                           |           |                       | Tanz Group Buffet |                  |   |   |           |            | <b>Member Meeting</b> | Tanz Group Buffet |                      |                              |           |                       |
| <b>17</b>                 | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>             | <b>20</b>         | <b>21</b>        | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>   | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>             | <b>24</b>         | <b>25</b>            | <b>26</b>                    | <b>27</b> |                       |
|                           |           | <b>Member Meeting</b> | Tanz Group Buffet |                  |  |  |           |            |                       | Tanz Group Buffet | <b>Thanks giving</b> | <b>HANGING OF THE GREENS</b> |           |                       |
| <b>24</b>                 | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>             | <b>27</b>         | <b>28</b>        | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>             |                   |                      |                              |           |                       |
|                           |           |                       | Tanz Group Buffet | <b>Brew Club</b> |   |   |           |            |                       |                   |                      |                              |           |                       |
| <b>31</b>                 |           |                       |                   |                  |   |   |           |            |                       |                   |                      |                              |           |                       |