

Membership – Please Read

There are six classes of membership within the Society. There are four classes of non-voting members: Social, Family, Student and Distinguished Associate. There are two classes of voting members: Active and Distinguished. Any two members in good standing may recommend and/or sponsor a new Social, Family or Student member. To become an Active member, a Social member must be recommended by an Active or a Distinguished member after two (2) years of membership and belonging to and participating in one of the Society's sub-organizations or activity groups.

A member's annual dues anniversary date is the month the new member joined the Society.

SUB-ORGANIZATIONS

Bärenbrut

(The Bären, Men's Club)

The Bärenbrut is one of the oldest sub-organizations. While some mystique may surround some of its customs and traditions, there is no mystery about the Bären providing labor and support when and wherever needed. There is a Brut (meeting) held on the fourth Thursday of the month except in November and December.

Brauer Unterstützungs Verein

(Brewer's Klub)

This group, with members ranging from novice to competitive Homebrewers, all share a passion for beer and the fine art of brewing. Their meetings are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month and typically in the Ratskeller.

Schützenverein – Omaha

(Air Rifle Shooting Association)

The Schützenverein has an old German heritage. Using German-crafted air pellet rifles, the Schützenverein holds shooting practices on the second Sunday afternoon of most months. Various competitions are held throughout the year. Shooting awards and honors are presented at the annual June Schützenfest dinner.

Die Singenden Wanderer

(Men's & Women's Singing Group)

The group proves the quest for Deutsche Volkslieder is infectious! "*Wir wandern ohne Sorgen.*" We are a "coed" singing group that sings traditional folk and beer drinking songs. Join us on Monday evenings in the North Hall bar.

Die Rosen

(Women's Club)

This women's sub-organization focuses on fellowship and merriment at their meetings held on the second Monday of the month. In addition to socializing, the group also donates their time and talents to help support the Society.

Heimattfreunde

(Ladies Club)

This sub-organization meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from September thru May. As a service group, they volunteer their time and abilities at Society functions, provide a consignment shop for German articles.

Die Heimat Tänzer

(Homeland Dancers)

The Heimat Tänzer purpose is to promote and display German folk dancing and Tracht (traditional dress). Practice is every Tuesday evening. There is an adult group as well as a children's group. The Heimat Tänzer is a member of the Gauverband Nordamerika. This group keeps alive the tradition of German folk dancing and performs at Society functions and throughout the Midwest. "*Sitt und Tracht der Alten, wollen wir erhalten.*"

Skat Klub

(Skat Card Club)

Germans brought this card game with them to America and it still remains very popular in German-American communities. The Skat Klub plays on the first and third Fridays with the first Thursday for "Preis" (competition) skat and the third for "Open" skat or beginners.

Wurst Klub

(Sausage Club)

The Wurst Klub is a sausage making club that meets on the third Tuesday of the month to make a variety of different styles of sausage. The club is intent in keeping alive the tradition of making homemade sausage.

Sängerchor

(Singing Chorus)

The Sängerchor, a mixed chorus, evolved from a combination of two early singing organizations – the Omaha Musik Verein, an all-male group, and the Concordia Ladies Singing Society. The songs are mainly German and sung in four parts. Rehearsals are usually held every Tuesday. The Sängerchor is a member of the Nord-Amerikanischer Sängerbund and German Sängerbund. In addition to entertaining the Society's membership, the Sängerchor accepts outside engagements.

Weinverein

(Wine Club)

These wine enthusiasts meet on the first Thursday every other month (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) in the Ratskeller and at a private residence on the other months for wine education, tasting, field trips, vinification (wine making) and actively participate in club events.

ACTIVITY GROUPS

Brettspiel Klub

(Board Game Club)

The Brettspiel Klub meets first Thursday of the month in the Ratskeller. A variety of board games are played along with traditional card games. This is a very dedicated group of role-playing members.

Die Narren

(Masked Fools)

This lively group of masked fools brings merriment to the members at Fasching and other events held at the Society. The group typically performs at the club's Fasching event and outside locations as requested.

Das Männerballet

(Men's Ballet)

This group of "talented" men follows the tradition of the Karneval in Germany by doing various themes and take-offs of shows and typically performs at Fasching.

Deutsch Unterricht

(German Language Instruction)

Classes are available for adults and their children from September through May. Children's classes are held on Saturday mornings and adult classes on Monday evenings. Various levels are offered for adults as well as children based on age and knowledge of German. Students are taught vocabulary, basic phrases, songs and games.

Die Schnur Puppen

(Stringed Puppets) (Die Marionetten)

Die Schnur Puppen has a long tradition in Germany and provides entertainment for the children of the Society. Children, with the help of adults, do the actual programs. Performances are typically done at the Society's Easter Egg Hunt, Oktoberfest and Christmas in Germany.

Kinder Turnverein

(Children's Gymnastics Classes)

Gymnastics classes for children of the members are conducted each Thursday evenings beginning in the fall and continuing until spring. A small fee is charged. Classes are divided into various age groups. The gymnastics classes' highlight is its annual gymnastics exhibition at the end of the term, typically in early May.

Studenten Austausch

(Student Exchange)

For 35 years the Society has sponsored a yearly exchange program for area High School students in cooperation with Braunschweig, Germany. The Omaha students live with German families; and likewise, German students are hosted by Omaha families during the Spring for 3 weeks.

Deutsche Koch-Unterricht

(German Cooking Class)

German cooking classes are held on Wednesday evenings throughout the year. Each class is for a 4-week period with a variety of menu items from main dishes to desserts.

Scholarship Program

The Society grants scholarships for the study of the German language and culture to students at three local colleges and universities in the state of Nebraska.

Caps for Cancer

This is a group of ladies that meet weekly on Saturday mornings in our Library throughout the year except June, July and August when they meet on the second Saturday, to knit & crochet caps for cancer centers throughout the Omaha metro area.

MUSEUM

The *German-American Heritage Museum of Omaha, Inc.* has received many cultural items, historical artifacts, and memorabilia from its members, as well as material from past German organizations in the area and across the state. The museum is open for various events or upon request. Contributions to the museum are tax deductible.

HALL RENTAL

The two upper halls (North and South) are available to rent. The Society's Ratskeller is also available to rent on a limited basis to outside groups. Please contact the Event Manager or Office Manager for more information.

PUBLICATIONS

Acts and Facts

(Society's Monthly Publication)

The Society publishes its monthly "*Acts and Facts*" to current members of the Society. The publication comes as an electronic document with a printed version upon request. The various activities of the Society, its sub-organizations and activity groups are provided in this publication. Please direct inquiries to the club's Public Relations Director.

FUNCTIONS

Dinner-Dances

The Society holds occasional dinner-dances for its members and their guests during the year. These nights feature live bands and may have a theme with the event. There is a dress code that excludes the wearing of jeans, shorts, T-shirts and sweatshirts. The club's Anniversary dinner is typically held on the third Saturday in January.

Friday Ratskeller Keller Nights

The Friday Ratskeller Keller Nights get together are held every Friday night throughout the year except on Good Friday, the month of September and from Thanksgiving through December. There is a menu-based meal available and served in a casual atmosphere. Sub-organizations and Activity Groups host the Keller Nights. Keller Nights are open to all ages. Meals are available for purchase. Dress is informal. Casual conversation, card games and dominos are popular activities at this event.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Stiftungsfest (Anniversary)	January
Fasching / Karneval	February
Bockfest *	March
Easter Egg Hunt	Spring
Maifest *	May
Schützenfest	June
German Day / Oktoberfest *	September
National German-American	
Day / Grape Harvest Dance	October
Christmas in Germany *	December

[* Open to the Public]

This brochure contains a listing of the sub-organizations and activity groups of the German-American Society, Inc. Please direct your questions to the Society's office at 402-333-6615 or any member of the Board of Directors.

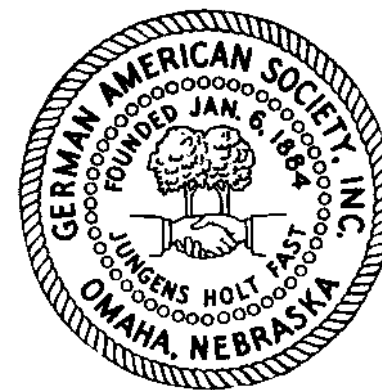
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MISSION STATEMENT

The German-American Society is organized exclusively for educational and social purposes including the promotion of German culture, language, music, dance, choral singing, and gymnastics.