

# Brennpunkt

The Official Publication of the German American Police Association

4740 N. Western Ave, Chicago 60625 • gapachicago.org

Spring 2026



John Huinker  
President  
Ed Heerd  
Vice President  
John Meindl  
Treasurer  
Cora Hudik  
Secretary  
Tom Hartwig  
Dave Smart  
Sergeants at Arms  
Paul Kurtzner  
Chairman



Fanfaren Corp performed at GAPA's 50th Anniversary Oktoberfest

## Board of Directors:

Chad Grogman  
Ken Hauser  
Roman Hrynewycz  
Gary Hudik  
Eric Hunger  
Joe Kirchens  
Fred Lowe  
Tom Moritz  
Art Oswald  
Tim Schoolmaster  
Jeff Schuck  
John Schuld  
Joe Shreiner  
John Svoboda  
Gerhard Stadler  
Sharon Terry  
Jim Witt  
Karla Witt  
Tim Schaefer  
(Past President)

## Legal Advisors:

Kevin Dillon  
Gerard Haderlein

## Chaplain:

Fr. Dan Brandt  
dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org

Brennpunkt Editor  
Julie Meindl

# President's Message

Time quickly passes, and planning ahead is always the best option. The German American Police Association had a busy fall beginning with the Chicago German Fest activities in which we had several Milwaukee members also participating in our annual gathering at Laschet's, marching in the parade and volunteering at the various activities. President Roger Haas and I, represented GAPA at the Chicago German Counsel Generals celebration of the 35th Anniversary of German Reunification on October 2nd. This event also featured the role the German government continues to have in promoting heritage, business and partnerships in the Midwest.

This provided a great kick off to our 50th Anniversary Oktoberfest Celebration which occurred the following day on October 3rd at Elmcrest Banquets in Elmwood Park and the Commemoration Ceremonies at St Benedict's Church on October 5th.

Our 50th Anniversary was a homecoming and a celebration. We welcomed to the event several of our founding members and past presidents and/or their spouses who traveled from across the country to attend, as well as our German Police Association partners from Milwaukee and Philadelphia. We began with the presentation of colors by the Illinois State Police Honor Guard and as the evening pro-

gressed we enjoyed the music of Paloma as well as the return of the Fanfaren Corps. One of the highlights of our Oktoberfest is our scholarship drawing and I wish to congratulate the following recipients: Casper Lauer Scholarship- Kiera Figueroa at the University of Iowa, Larry Vincent Scholarship-Alexander Koopman at Joliet Jr. College, Paul Bauer Scholarship-Anne Figueroa at Michigan State University, Timothy Schaefer Presidential Scholarship-Aiden James Lauber at Oakton Community College, Glunz Family Scholarship-Benjamin Bates at the University of Iowa, HofBrau Scholarship-Ava Marlo at Loyola University (See Message Page 4)



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

BRANDON JOHNSON  
MAYOR

October 3, 2025

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the German American Police Association as you celebrate your 50th Anniversary.

For five decades, the German American Police Association has stood as a symbol of unity, camaraderie, and service, bringing together dedicated law enforcement professionals while honoring the deep cultural heritage of the German American community. Your commitment to fostering mutual respect, cultural pride, and public service has strengthened both the law enforcement family and the broader community.

As you mark this golden milestone, may you take pride in your history, celebrate your achievements, and look forward with optimism to the years ahead. Chicago is grateful for your steadfast dedication, and I join with many others in celebrating this special occasion.

I hope you have an enjoyable event. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BJ Johnson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor



**Maria Pappas**  
**Cook County Treasurer**

October 3, 2025

Paul Kurtzner  
Chairman  
Board of Directors  
German American Police Association  
DANK Haus -- German American Cultural Center  
4740 N. Western Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60625

Dear Chairman Kurtzner:

Please accept my congratulations as the German American Police Association celebrates its 50th anniversary of existence and my thanks for what your officers do daily to make our City, County and State safer for all of us.

Since 1975, your association of officers of German heritage has dealt with a changing landscape and seemingly intractable crime with a dedication that has heartened a population that simply wants to live without fear.

Some look with equanimity on crime. I do not.

The sacrifices of Caspar Lauer, Larry Vincent and Paul Bauer must not become fading memories. They gave all that they could on the mission of fighting crime so others may be safe. The scholarships that the Association gives in their names are fitting, and ensure that they and what they stood for will always be remembered and respected.

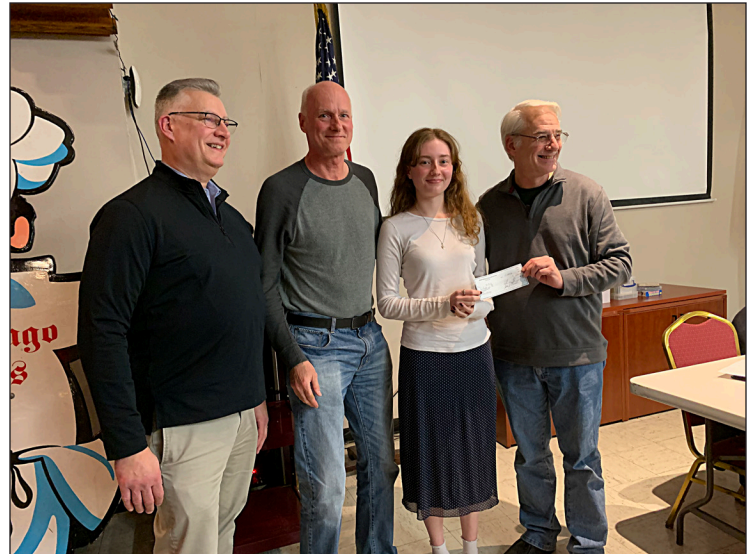
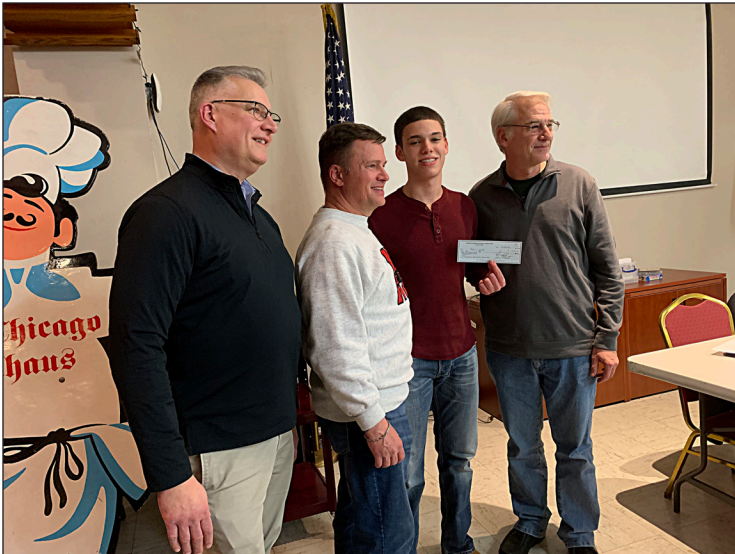
My best goes to all associated with the German American Police Association, and my deepest appreciation for what its members do so that we can walk the streets, drive our roads and simply enjoy life.

Sincerely,

Maria Pappas  
Cook County Treasurer



# Scholarship winners



Scholarship winners were Kiera Figueroa, Alexander Koopman, Anne Figueroa, Aiden James Lauber, Benjamin Bates, and Ava Marlo.

## Message

(Continued from page 1)  
ty Chicago. I wish to thank EVERYONE who attended including our members, family, friends, Germanic clubs and ethnic police associations, our supporting businesses, judges, politicians, as well as those that could not make the event however participated in our celebration booklet.

We look forward to the coming months of 2026 and as such we held our nominations for Association Officers for the 2026-2027 terms. Our new and returning of-

ficers are: President John Huinker, Vice President Ed Heerdt, Secretary Cora Hudik, Treasurer John Meindl and Sgt at Arm's Tom Hartwig and David Smart. Congratulations to each of them, and I am sure they lead us proudly. Upcoming meetings will be held April 14, May 12, and June 9.

Lastly I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Roger Haas who again stepped in to serve as President after the untimely passing of Tim Schaefer.

Please mark your schedules for the following currently planned 2026 Events: Manifest May 29-31, Golf Outing June 8, Picnic July 10, Ger-

manfest September 11-13 with Von Steuben Brunch and Parade September 12; Oktoberfest October 2.

Here's looking forward to a new, blessed and prosperous year.

Respectfully,  
Paul Kurtzner-Chairman  
Board of Directors

2026 Events:  
Maifest: May 29-31  
Golf Outing: June 8  
Picnic: July 10  
Germanfest: Sept 11-13  
Von Steuben Parade: Sept 12  
Oktoberfest: October 2



# The German American Police Association's

# Annual Picnic!

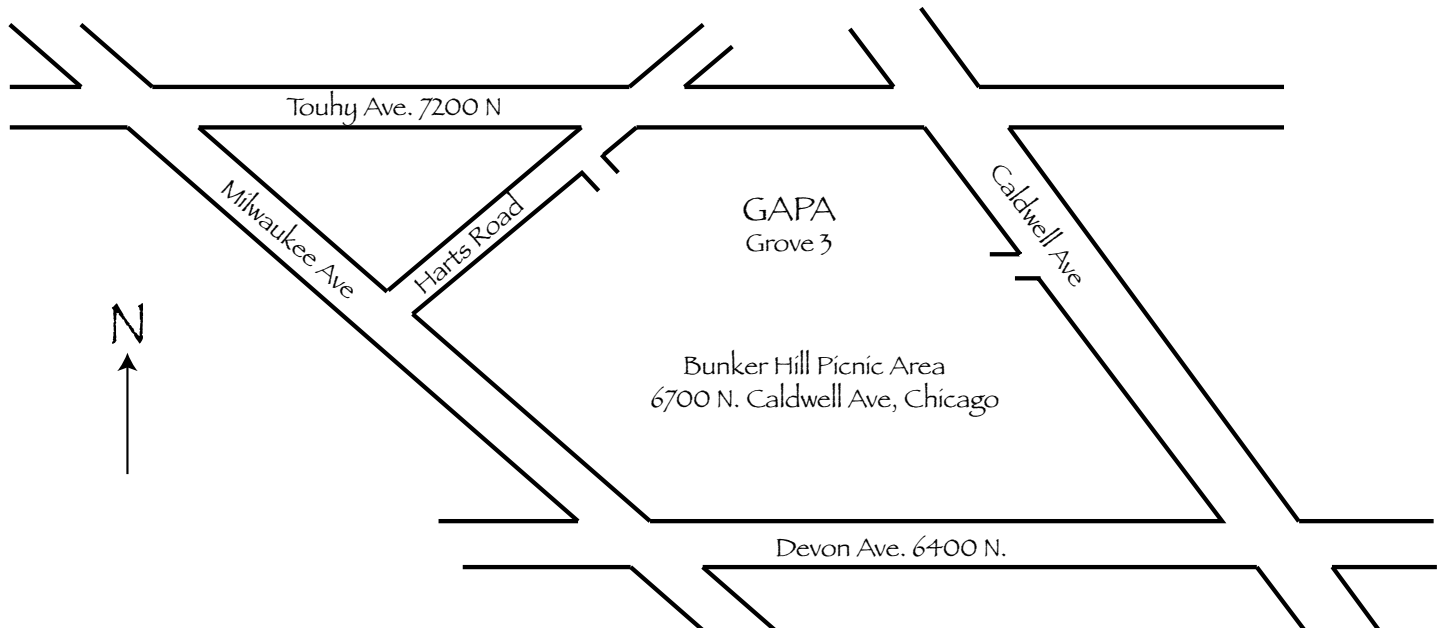
*Pony Rides  
Noon-4 p.m.!*

**Friday, July 10, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

*Inflatables  
Noon-6 p.m.!*

**Hofbrau, Pabst and Rootbeer on tap;  
Burgers, Brats and Hotdogs on the grill;  
Pretzels • Pop**

**Pony Rides • Bouncy House • 22-ft Inflatable Slide!**



# GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GOLF OUTING



RENWOOD GOLF COURSE  
701 EAST SHOREWOOD  
ROUND LAKE BEACH IL 60073

MONDAY JUNE 8TH, 2026

THE GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY JUNE 8TH, 2026. THE OUTING BEGINS WITH AN 8:30 AM SHOTGUN START AT RENWOOD GOLF COURSE. THE COST THIS YEAR IS \$125.00 PER GOLFER WHICH INCLUDES 18 HOLES OF GOLF WITH A CART, TWO HOT DOGS AND TWO DRINKS WHILE ON THE COURSE, PLUS GERMAN HOME COOKING AFTERWARDS AT THE AMERICAN AID SOCIETY OF GERMAN DESCENDANTS-LAKE VILLA, LOCATED A SHORT DRIVE AWAY AT 259 W GRAND AVE, LAKE VILLA IL 60046 TO BE SERVED AT APPROXIMATELY 3:00 PM.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO 144 GOLFERS AND TICKETS ARE SOLD ON A "FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED" BASIS. NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE MADE WITHOUT PAYMENT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT JOE KIRCHENS AT 815-756-3291

-----  
**GOLF REGISTRATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE \$125.00;

\_\_\_\_\_ DOUBLE \$250.00;

\_\_\_\_\_ TRIPLE \$375.00;

\_\_\_\_\_ FORE SOME \$500.00

NAME OF PERSONS IN YOUR GROUP: 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART IN DINNER ONLY, THE COST IS \$40.00 PER PERSON

NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOR DINNER ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL DINNER COST: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO THE GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION (GAPA)  
TO: JOE KIRCHENS 328 N. CARDINAL ST, COURTLAND IL 60112



# GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION 2026 ANNUAL GOLF OUTING SPONSORSHIP



Dear Friends:

It's that time of year again for the German American Police Association annual golf outing on Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. So please come out and have a good time playing a round of golf with your fellow kamerads and friends at the Renwood Golf Course in Round Lake Beach, Illinois. As always, the purpose of this outing, aside from the spirit of "gemuetlichkeit", is also to raise money for our organization's favorite charities through your financial support as a Hole Sponsor. Listed below are several options of sponsorship, which is a fun and great way to promote your family name, business, or both and will be prominently displayed at one of the 18 golf tee-off sites.

Among the charities GAPA contributes to are: The Gold Star Families (families of those Chicago Police Officers killed in the line of duty), DANK Schule North (the North Side German language school of the German American National Congress), Police Chaplin's Ministries, Chicago Police Memorial Fund, and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. We also award scholarships to sons and daughters of our membership in memory of the first Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty in 1854, Casper Lauer (a German immigrant), Larry Vincent (our member killed in the line of duty in 1982), and Commander Paul Bauer (our member killed in the line of duty in 2018). GAPA also contributes to other worthy causes from time to time, not only in support of the German American Community of which we are a part of, but also those communities we are sworn to serve and protect.

The German American Police Association was incorporated in the State of Illinois in January 1975 and is a non-for-profit organization comprised of over 300 Chicago, Suburban, County, State, out of state and International Police officers. In addition, we have over 65 associate and honorary members consisting business owners, firemen, Judges and citizens whom are all dedicated to the principles of the association and are proud to be called our own.

### GAPA Sponsorship Registration Form

Please place a check mark in the appropriate box indicating the type of Sponsorship you are requesting.

\$100.00 = Sign (Located at the tee box with your name, company name, and / or Logo)

\$150.00 = Golf Flag (Located on the pin on one of the greens. You will receive the flag after the outing)

Sponsor Name / Business you'd like to see:

---

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ GAPA Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form and a check payable to: GAPA Golf Outing and mail to:  
GAPA Golf Outing c/o Jeff Schuck 246 Anderson Terrace, Des Plaines, IL. 60016.


**\*\* Please return forms no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to provide ample time for ordering your selection \*\*.**

For additional information please contact Jeff Schuck at 847-257-5888 or via email at [gapamembership@gmail.com](mailto:gapamembership@gmail.com)



# GAPA Oktoberfest 2025 50th Anniversary celebration



 *The Elmerest*  
Banquets & Catering

*Full Grandview*

↔

50th Anniversary  
German American  
Police Association

Friday, October 3rd, 2025



# And now a word from our sponsors...

## CHICAGO PATROLMEN'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1407 W. Washington Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60607  
Ph: (312) 252-9433  
Fax: (312) 252-9433  
Mobile: (773) 706-4484  
Toll Free: (800) 326-8814  
jgordon@cpdfcu.com

**John E. Gordon**  
Director of Sales



## Edelweiss German American Cuisine

Mary Mielke  
708-452-6040  
Fax: 708-452-4701  
edelweissdining.com

7650 W. Irving Park Road • Norridge, Illinois 60706



## CHICAGO + ILLINOIS Himmel's

2251 West Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625  
himmelschicago.com • (773) 784-8777

## VISIT MY BEACH HAUS CONDO!

Island Winds Condominium  
6610 Estero Boulevard,  
Fort Myers Beach, Florida  
Unit 6610-0123  
islandwindsfortmyersbeach.com



Gerhard Stadler  
Phone: 239-463-0688 or 773-895-5818



**MICHAEL L. LODERMEIER, P.C.**  
FAMILY LAW AND DIVORCE ATTORNEY

Michael@MLLFamilyLaw.com

Chicago  
110 West Grand Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60654  
(312) 219-2030

Oak Brook  
700 Commerce Drive, Suite 500  
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523  
(630) 518-9100

## Midwest Foot & Ankle Clinics/ Diabetic Foot Institute

**Jennifer Kirchens, DPM**  
Associate, American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons

7447 W. Talcott Ave. Ste 221, Chicago, IL 60631

(847) 398-8637

Fax (847) 398-4349

midwestfootandankle@gmail.com



**Hartmann**  
Electric Co., Inc.

(847) 734-1260  
FAX: (847) 734-1477  
ebacher@hartmanelectric.com  
750 Lee Street  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

**Bill Dowell**

Cell: 312-342-1912

Office: 773-247-5200

Email: Bill@emb1925.com

Website: emb1925.com



...Thank you!



GAPA Chicago, Milwaukee and Philadelphia members.

GAPA  
4740 N. Western Ave  
Chicago, IL 60625

Kameradschaft, Freundschaft und Gemuetlichkeit!

