

Brennpunkt

The Official Publication of the German American Police Association 4740 N. Western Ave, Chicago 60625 • gapachicago.org Summer 2026



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Brennpunkt Editor
Julie Meindl

We are now more than half way through 2026, having held several events and are looking forward to holding many more.

To recap, in April our President John Huinker, GAPA-Milwaukee President Peter Graber and I flew to Philadelphia to celebrate with the German American Police Association-Philadelphia on their 50th Anniversary. Thank you President Jim Schwartz and your members for being great hosts and we look forward to many more joint cooperative events. GAPA also took part in the annual 24-hour Vigil at the Gold Star Memorial Wall, with a wreath presentation attended by Treasurer John Meindl. The Chicago Police Marine Corps League does an outstanding job in coordinating this memorial service.

In May, several GAPA volunteers assisted in the Maifest celebration in Lincoln Square. Whether they helped in the food or beverage area, set up or take down, they represented GAPA's participation in the Chicago German American Community, and had a great time doing it.

Our annual Golf Outing was held in June at Renwood Golf Course in Round Lake Beach, followed by dinner and raffle at the American Aid Society of German Descendants in Lake Villa. Thank you to all our golfers for attending, our hole sponsors, and our raffle donators for making this a memorable event (sun and rain). Directors Joe Kirchens and Jeff Schuck have announced that we will be continuing this tradition on June 7, 2027 with

President's Message

additional details to come as this date nears. June ended with our annual cross border competition for the Norbert Holzinger Pickelhaube Trophy, when the Chicago Cubs played the Milwaukee Brewers. GAPA-Milwaukee, as always, welcomed us with a great tailgating experience. With an extra innings game the Trophy returned to Chicago after a Chicago Cubs win.

July marked the America's 250th Anniversary as well as our Family Picnic at Bunker Hill Forest Preserve. The weather was perfect, food was tasty, beer was cold, and the kids enjoyed the activities. A special thank you to those members who donated funds to help offset the costs of the activities -- you helped make family memories with our youth. Congratulations to those winners drawn at our raffle as well. Several of our members also went up to Germanfest in Milwaukee, marching with GAPA-Milwaukee in the Germanfest Parade. The lakefront views, weather and camaraderie with GAPA-Milwaukee and other Chicago based German Associations was fantastic.

Looking forward, September and October will be full of events.

Our general membership meeting returns on Tuesday, September 8, when we will host our annual ethnic meeting with several of our law enforcement partner associations. This special meeting will be held on the 5th floor of the DANK Haus.



John Huinker receives the Pickelhaube trophy from Milwaukee's Pete Gruber following the Cubs' win.

Chicago's German American Fest will be held September 11-13, returning to Lincoln/Leland Square. On Saturday September 12, we will take part in the parade, gathering first at Laschet's Inn, 2119 W Irving Park, for a complimentary brunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. After some tasty food and cold beverages we will proceed to the staging area. Don't worry if you are unable to walk the parade route -- we will have a float so you can ride like a home coming king or queen. If you would also like to volunteer, a signup link (similar to Maifest) will be sent via email.

Finally, we will hold our annual Oktoberfest Dinner Dance on Friday, October 2 (details of the event are enclosed in this newsletter). We will draw our 2026 Scholarship Awards this night, and I encourage all eligible parties to enter. The scholarship application form is on page 5, and is available for download on our website, as well.

(See Message Page 6)



Norbert Holzinger †
Founder

John Huinker
President

Ed Heardt
Vice President

John Meindl
Treasurer

Cora Hudik
Secretary

Tom Hartwig
Sergeant at Arms

David Smart
Sergeant at Arms

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Joe Schriener
Jeff Schuck
John Schuld
Gerhard Stadler
John Svoboda
Sharon Terry
James Witt
Karla Witt

GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

DANK Haus - German American Cultural Center
4740 N Western Avenue
Chicago IL 60625

GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION

Oktoberfest Dinner Dance

October 2nd, 2026

PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING CONTRACT

_____ FULL PAGE (5.5"W x 8.5"H) \$100.00

_____ HALF PAGE (5.5"W x 4.25"H) \$75.00

ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE IN PDF FORMAT

Please return this form with your payment to:

German American Police Association
c/o Paul Kurtzner
1201 Meadowcrest Road
LaGrange Park IL 60526

Questions and artwork can be sent to:
gapaadbook@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____



Friday, October 2

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Elmcrest Banquets

7370 W. Grand Ave

Elmwood Park, IL 60707

\$120 includes Cocktails, Dinner & Beer, Music by Paloma & Parking

Tickets are \$120 per person, and can be ordered by returning this form with payment to GAPA, 4740 N. Western Ave, Chicago, IL. 60625.

For reservations or information, contact John Meindl at 773-710-6246 or Roger Haas at 312-810-9107 or gapatix@gmail.com.

Deadline to purchase tickets is September 23, 2026.

Name:		
Address:		
Phone number:	Number of tickets:	Amount Enclosed:
I would like to sit with:		

New members welcome! GAPA meets the second Tuesday of the month at the DANK Haus, 4740 N. Western Ave. Visit gapachicago.org for information.



GERMAN AMERICAN POLICE ASSOCIATION



Ethnic Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

IN PATERNERSHIP WITH

Emerald Society of Illinois

Polish American Police Association

Romanian American Police Association

Shomrim Society of Illinois

Doors open at 6:30 P.M.

The Dank Haus 4740 N. Western Ave Chicago, IL 60625

MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE 5TH FLOOR MARUNDE BALLROOM



\$20.00 Meeting Cost

Serving Bratwursts, Chicken Schnitzel, Sides, Deserts and HofBrau.

Association Regalia for Sale and Raffle Prizes



Free parking at 5/3rd Bank parking lots located at Lawrence and Artesian and Western and Gunnison

Check out our website: www.gapachicago.org

German American Police Association 2026 Scholarship Application 2026

Please Print Applicant Name:			
Address:			
Home Phone:			
GAPA Member Name:			
Type of Membership:	☐ Active / Department name:		☐ Associate
Relationship to Applicant:	☐ Parent	☐ Step Parent	☐ Legal Guardian
School Attending:			
School Type:	☐ College / University / Trade School		
DEADLINE:	The Last day to submit scholarship applications is Friday, September 18, 2026 . Applications received / post marked after this date <u>will not</u> be accepted.		

We are pleased to announce **\$5,000.00** in Scholarships for the coming year. A drawing will be held at our Oktoberfest Dinner Dance to determine the winners. The **deadline to submit scholarship applications will be Friday, September 18th, 2026**. Applications received / post marked after this date will not be accepted.

\$1,000.00 "Casper Lauer Scholarship": Casper Lauer was the first Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty on 19 September 1854. This scholarship is donated by GAPA in his honor. (College / trade)

\$1,000.00 "Larry Vincent Scholarship": Larry Vincent was a Chicago Police Officer and GAPA member killed in the line of duty on 14 January 1983. This scholarship is donated by GAPA in his honor. (College / trade School)

\$1,000.00 "Paul Bauer Scholarship": Paul Bauer was a Chicago Police Officer and GAPA member killed in the line of duty on 13 February 2018. This scholarship is donated by GAPA in his honor.

\$1,000.00 "Schaefer Presidential Scholarship": Donated by the Schaefer Family. (College / Trade School)

\$500.00 "Glunz Family Scholarship": Donated by the Glunz Family. (College / Trade School)

\$500.00 "HofBrau Scholarship": Donated by the HofBrau Beer Corporation. (College / Trade School)

Eligibility

The scholarship application process is open to all **immediate family members** of current (dues paid) members attending any accredited college, university or trade school. Immediate family is defined as: sons, daughters, step sons, step daughters and those who are members of a family by court decree (legal guardianship). Only one application per eligible student will be accepted. **Previous scholarship awardees are not eligible.** All scholarship awards will be presented at GAPA'S **January** general membership meeting. Proof of enrollment / attendance is required for all awardees. Proof of attendance will be verified by the scholarship committee prior to the presentation of the scholarship awards.

GAPA Scholarship committee

Mail completed Applications to:

GAPA Scholarship

1201 Meadowcrest Road LaGrange Park IL 60526

Cubs/Milwaukee 2026



The Holzinger Pickelhaube.

Germanfest/Milwaukee 2026



Message

(Continued from page 1)

The Officers and Directors are working on a change in membership dates and dues structure. We will update members in our next newsletter, website and via email. If you are not receiving email from us there may be several issues. First, make sure that you are currently a DUES PAID member. Second, your personal email is current and has not changed since joining. Lastly, department or government used emails may be rejecting our messages due to security protocols. If you are in doubt on your status or need to have you email updated please contact Director Jeff Shuck at jeffschuck5585@gmail.com.

See you soon!

Paul Kurtzner, Chairman
Board of Directors

And now a word from our sponsors...

CHICAGO PATROLMEN'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Chicago, IL 60607
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Mobile: (773) 706-4484
Toll Free: (800) 326-8814
jgordon@cpdfcu.com

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Fort Myers Beach, Florida
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Phone: 239-463-0688 or 773-895-5818



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Bill Dowell

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Email: Bill@emb1925.com

Website: emb1925.com



...Thank you!

GAPA Golf Outing 2026



GAPA
4740 N. Western Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

Kameradschaft, Freundschaft und Gemuetlichkeit!

