

Two Ashwood Court
Summit, New Jersey 07901
March 26, 2004

TO: Officers, Member Vereine and Judges

Dear Friends:

Enclosed is a revised agenda for the upcoming Delegates' Meeting and a meeting schedule. The change in the agenda was to add the EinzelplattIn Committee Report as item 7.04.

I had forgotten to include a by-laws change that I received by the deadline from John Blank. Please add this as item 1.6 to the Administrative Meeting Agenda as follows:

1.6 Proposal by John Blank

Article III – Membership

A. Verein Membership
Paragraph 8.

Reads ... The deadline for paying dues shall be June 1 of each year. ...

Proposed change: ... The deadline for paying dues shall be **April 30** of each year. ...

Rational: The new deadline date would now correspond with the Gauverband fiscal year end of April 30, as outlined in the BYLAWS, Article VII – Operation & Conduct, paragraph A. Would also allow for better/ timelier accounting and reporting of Verein membership status.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Mit Trachten Gruss,



Walter H. Kraft
Schriftführer

Two Ashwood Court
Summit, New Jersey 07901
March 20, 2004

TO: Officers, Member Vereine and Judges

Dear Friends:

Enclosed are the agendas and supporting materials for the General, Administrative and Vorplattler sessions of our meeting on May 1 & 2, 2004. Please bring these materials to the meeting.

I have not received a reply to the Gaufest Questionnaire from all Vereine. Please send me yours if you have not already sent it. Thanks.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Mit Trachten Gruss,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter H. Kraft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Walter H. Kraft
Schriftführer

**Schedule
Delegates' Meeting
Lancaster, Pennsylvania – May 1 & 2, 2004**

	Saturday, May 1 st	Sunday, May 2 nd
9:00 am	General Session	General Session
11:00 am	Round Table Discussion	
12 Noon	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 pm	General Session	
2:00 pm	Vorplattler's Meeting	Safe Travel Home
	Administrative Meeting	
4:00 pm	Meetings Workshop	
5:00 pm	Volkstanz Workshop	
6:00 pm	History of Schuhplattln	
7:00 pm	Music Workshop	
8:00 pm	Dinner	
	Schafskopf Workshop	Einzelplattln Workshop

Agenda - Delegates' Meeting Lancaster, Pennsylvania, May 1 – 2, 2004

9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 1, 2004

- 1.0 Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- 2.0 Report of the Credential's Committee
- 3.0 Adoption of Agenda
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes of May 4 – 5, 2002 Meeting
- 5.0 Introduction of Gauverband Officers – John Schaefer
- 6.0 Officer Reports
- 7.0 Committee Reports
 - 7.01. Executive Committee Meeting on April 30, 2004 – W. Kraft
 - 7.02. Gaufest Steering – W Kraft
 - 7.03. By-Laws – T. Vogt
 - 7.04. Einzelplattln – E. Morrison
 - 7.05. Flag – M. Wolz
 - 7.06. Web Site – E. Morrison
- 8.0 Special Orders
 - 8.01. Appointment of Nominations Committee – J. Schaefer
 - 8.02. 2006 Delegates' Meeting Bid Presentation
 - 8.02.01. S.T.V. Bavaria – Cleveland, Ohio
 - 8.03. 2007 Gaufest Bid Presentation
 - 8.03.01. G.T.V. Edelweiss – Reading, Pennsylvania
 - 8.03.02. Holzacker Buam – Toledo, Ohio
 - 8.04. Action on Vereine Delinquent in Dues
 - 8.05. Gaufest Reports
 - 8.05.01. 2003 Gaufest – J. Hubert
 - 8.05.02. Gaufest Survey – W. Kraft
 - 8.05.03. 2005 Gaufest – H. Mahoney
- 9.0 Old Business
 - 9.01.01. Tapes available for Gruppenpreisplattln – Rick Michels (Item 2.0 – Preisplattln Meeting, May 4, 2002)

9:00 a.m., Sunday, May 2, 2004

- 9.02. of Budget for 2004 and 2005
- 9.03. Session Reports
 - 9.03.01. Administration
 - 9.03.02. Vorplattlers
 - 9.03.03. Workshops
- 9.04. Miscellaneous
 - 9.04.01. Gaufest Steering Committee Appointment – 1. Vorstand
- 9.05. Acknowledgment Credentials Committee Roll Call
- 9.06. Application for New Members
- 9.07. Election of Officers
- 9.08. New Business
 - 9.08.01. Selection of Site for 2006 Delegates' Meeting
 - .1. S.T.V. Bavaria – Cleveland, Ohio
 - 9.08.02. Selection of Site for 2007 Gaufest
 - .1. G.T.V. Edelweiss – Reading, Pennsylvania
 - .2. Holzacker Buam – Toledo, Ohio
 - 9.08.03. Order of Judges on Panel – 1. Vorplattler
 - 9.08.04. Adoption to Host Verein – 1. Vorstand
- 9.09. Announcements
- 9.010. Adjournment

Delegates' Meeting Agenda – May 1 – 2, 2004

9.09. Announcements

9.10. Adjournment

Administrative Meeting Agenda

1.1 Proposal by Thomas Schumann S.T.V. Maiglockchen, Daytona Beach:

Proposal to change Article IV – Gaufest Operating Rules: A; A Gaufest shall only be.....a long weekend between.... and Labor Day. *Remove the word “long”.*

At least children would be out of school for the summer making family traveling possible. The way it is presently allows for only 3 holidays, 2 of which school is in session. I'm sure when the By-Laws were first drawn up this was sufficient, however, today there are many groups traveling from all over with emphasis on children activities.

1.2 Proposal by Thomas Schumann S.T.V. Maiglockchen, Daytona Beach:

Proposal to change Article VII – Meistpreis Operating Rules: B; The awarding of the.....with the greatest number of adult fest tickets sold. *Add the words “and child” fest tickets sold.*

With our desire to create cultural interest among our children they should feel like they belong. What better way to make them feel like they count than to **count them**?

1.3 Housekeeping

Proposal to *change the word competition to competitions* in the By-Laws and Operating Rules if the Einzelpreisplattln Competition is adopted in the Vorplattler's and General Delegates' Meetings.

1.4 Expenses for Training of Einzelpreisplattln Judges

The Einzelplattln Committee recommends that a new Einzelpreisplattln Committee budget for 3 judges for training, at an average of \$300/judge, and for \$100 in miscellaneous costs, for a total of \$1000 in 2005.

Changes need to be made to the By-Laws and Operating Rules to *define a procedure to pay the expenses for training of Einzelpreisplattln Judges* if the Einzelpreisplattln Competition is adopted in the Vorplattler's and General Delegates' Meeting. There is a defined procedure for to pay for the expenses for Gruppenpreisplattln Judges.

1.5 Proposal by Paul Ulrich

Remove/Delete the following paragraph from the Bylaws

Bylaws of the Gauverband Nordamerika, Article VI “Elections”, Paragraph F, “No more than two members of any Verein may sit on the Gauauschuß at any given time”.

Rationale:

The original statement in the Bylaws was inserted during the formative years of the Gauverband under the pretext of trying to ensure a broader distribution of executive board positions across the Vereine in the Gauverband; in reality it was first introduced to help

resolve some internal disputes within the representation of a few of the original member Vereine. It was a companion statement to the original requirement that only Delegates could be elected to the Executive Board with the limit based upon the maximum number of Delegates allowed from any Verein which was two (2). Since that time the Delegate restriction has been changed to allow Delegates and Alternate Delegates for a period of time and currently “any member in good standing of a member Verein in good standing” in the Gauverband, i.e., anyone may run for office. The proposed change is intended to remove the remaining restriction in the Bylaws.

The existing restriction has in the past eliminated several well qualified individuals from serving on the executive board. This form of “discrimination” due to club affiliation in fact can work against the future success of the Gauverband by arbitrarily eliminating from consideration for office many potential candidates for office that not only are qualified individuals but may also have the time and the desire to serve the Gauverband in some capacity. It should be noted that eliminating the restriction does not necessarily mean that more than two people from any one club would necessarily be elected to office. The election process today virtually requires that the individual running for office not only be qualified but also be fairly well known and established in the Gauverband. It also requires that the individual receive a majority of the votes from the member Vereine at the Gau Delegate’s meeting; this is the normal “democratic” process. It is impossible for a single club to provide more representation on the executive board without the majority support of the remaining Gau member Vereine.

Finally, there is a fallacy in the thought process that says that by not imposing this restriction a single club can unduly influence or effect change in its favor in the Gauverband. Each member of the Gau executive board acts as an individual in his/her capacity on the board. Each board member has individual responsibilities which generally require reports and proposals back to the entire board who in turn will make recommendations to the member Vereine delegates for approval and implementation. The executive board has limited authority to act on its own and has a mandate to carry out and execute programs and tasks which represent the will of the membership. It’s my firm belief that a member of the executive board draws upon experience from his/her own Verein to become qualified to serve on the board but leaves that affiliation “at the door” when acting on behalf of and in the best interests of the Gauverband. The process will “police” itself in the short and long term; meanwhile the Gauverband will potentially enjoy an expanded base of qualified candidates for office helping to ensure a future for the Gauverband Nordamerika.

1.6 Proposal by John Blank

Article III – Membership

A. Verein Membership

Paragraph 8.

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Vorplattlers Meeting Agenda

1.1 Proposal by Tom Vogt:

I suggest "Post-Normalization" scores be added to the *Scoresheet*, where the judges will subjectively rate the competing groups on *Difficulty of Plattler* and *Overall Presentation* of the dance. These categories will be worth between 1.0 and 2.0 points, in 1/10 point increments. This total of 2 to 4 points will then be added to the current 0 to 10 points to give each group a possible score of 14 from each judge. Dropping the HI and LO would remain the same, and the remaining 5 judges would now allow a possible score out of 70 (instead of the current 50).

Rationale:

While in Bavaria last year to attend the Preisplattler for the "Bayerischen Löwen", I had the opportunity to speak to other Gauvorplattlers and in particular Erhard Hauptenbuchner, the 1.Gauvorplattler of the Isargau, who is the founder of this competition. While he complemented us in North America on the manner in which we have preserved the dance here, dancing it as precisely (and even more so) than in Bavaria, he did also have some concern that we seem to have sacrificed some of the beauty of the dance for precision. While reviewing their scoresheet, I observed that each judge has 30 points for the dance precision, 10 points for Tracht and Miscellaneous, and from 2 to 6 points for Overall Impression. The proposed scoring system approximately mirrors these values.

I feel this proposed system still focuses primarily on "uniformity" and dancing with precision, yet still has enough reward for the Verein that presents the more difficult Plattler or presents a more relaxed, natural and eye-pleasing dance. While not allowing one of the bottom tier groups to jump to the top, it does allow some jockeying around between two similarly precise groups. Although a completely subjective score, the judges could be given some fairly extensive guidelines to help them score these new categories.

1.2 Proposal by Tom Vogt

I suggest rewriting *Preisplattln Rules, Article I, Paragraph E*, from:

A warm-up group shall perform at the start of the competition and after each break before the actual judging begins. The host Verein and the 1.Gauvorplattler have the responsibility of designating the warm-up group.

to:

The 1.Gauvorplattler has the responsibility of preparing the judges on the day of the competition. The manner of this preparation shall be at his discretion (i.e. "warm-up" group, videotape, etc.)

Rationale:

I believe this system will offer more flexibility to the 1.Gauvorplattler and be less trouble to him and the Host Verein. At the two previous competitions, no warm-up group was available and a videotape of a prior Judge Training Weekend was shown in the morning of the competition and this proved to be sufficient "warm-up" for the judges. In the event a warm-up group is available in the future, then they could still be utilized.

1.3 Proposal by Einzelplattln Committee

The Einzelplattln Committee recommends that *Einzelpreisplattln* be implemented as a permanent *Preisplattln* at *Gaufeste*.

1.4 Proposal by B.G.T.E.V. D'Werdenfelser Schuhplattlers

The proposal is that the host Verein of a *Gaufest* contributes towards the transportation expenses of the judges selected to judge at the *Gaufest* if they must travel a long distance to attend, such as 300 miles or more.

Rationale:

Judges are a key ingredient to the competition, and since they spend most of the weekend working for the competition. Since the host club makes all the money at the *Gaufest*, it seems proper that they should bear the expense for those doing the work so that they can reap the benefits

1.5 Proposal by Heidi von Recklinghausen

With the success of two consecutive Jugend Einzelplattln at the 18. *Gaufest* and the 19. *Gaufest*, I propose, the Jugend Einzelplattln, become a permanent event at future *Gaufeste* with its current critique status. Currently it is classified as a "workshop" which can be overlooked in the planning stages of a *Gaufest* or worse yet, removed from a *Gaufest*. The Jugend of the Gauverband should have their own event that has permanent status at a *Gaufest*. I firmly believe if the youth have an event of their own at a *Gaufest*, it will encourage them to attend and be an active participant not only in the Jugend Einzelplattln but the whole *Gaufest* experience of music, song, dance, Tracht, Gruppenpreisplattln, Adult Einzelplattln, and making new and lasting friendships.

1.6 Proposal by Mark LaCourse

I would like to recommend that we shorten the sequence of the Schuhplattler as it is done in the Gruppen Preisplattler to end the dance after the second trio and to include a minimum of two Hochsprünge per Eingangs/Ausgangs Plattler. The dance would be as follows: Eingangs Plattler w/two Hochsprünge, Trio, Durch Plattler, Ausgangs Plattler w/two Hochspünge, Trio, Schlußfigur.

Rationale:

During our participation in the "Bayrischer Löwen" in October 2003 in Bavaria, this is how the dance is performed. The Vereine from Gauverband Nordamerika had to change the way they had practiced and perfected the Preisplattler for our competition to what was required to participate in Bayern. Also, with this shortened version, the Preisplattler would be reduced in the amount of time required by approximately two minutes per Verein. Based upon the last Preisplattler in 2003, where 16 Vereine participated, that would have allowed the competition to be 30 minutes shorter.

This also keeps us on a par with those Gaue in Bavaria that participated` for the Bayrischer Löwen.