

# Teutonia Männerchor

## New Member Guide

## 2019

### Teutonia Clubs and Activities

#### Men's and Women's Choirs

"Wo man singt, da lass dich ruhig nieder; böse Menschen haben keine Lieder." Where one sings, there you may calmly settle; wicked people have no song.

The singing group Teutonia Männerchor was founded in 1854 by a group of proud immigrants from German-speaking lands. The membership soon needed a larger place to meet and sing, and in 1888 the present-day home of the chorus was completed on Phineas Street. The Teutonia Singers remain a direct connection to the roots of our club, and are proud to continue the legacy of our predecessors. Our group has been formally recognized by the German government with the prestigious Zelter Plakatte, which is on display in our beautiful hall. Our two main annual performances are spring and fall concerts at the club, which are free for members and their guests. Every three years we participate in a national Sängerkonvent, which was held most recently right here in Pittsburgh. The group has also undertaken several European tours, strengthening our ties to a cultural heritage.

We rehearse for most of the year on Wednesday evenings in the Sängerkonvent. The ladies begin at 7 p.m., joined at 8 p.m. by the men for a mixed rehearsal, after which there is a men's rehearsal beginning at about 9 p.m. We perform primarily German-language pieces, but there is no language requirement for joining the group. All are welcome, and everyone is quite helpful and friendly!

#### Genealogy Group

If you have an interest in learning how to start or continue your family research, please join us in the Ratskeller. We welcome all levels of family historians from beginner to expert. Bring your laptop, your family trees, have a beer, and join us for an evening of camaraderie. There is no charge. If you have any questions about the group, get in touch with Carole Ashbridge [mrsashbridge@gmail.com](mailto:mrsashbridge@gmail.com) or Diane Clawson [clawsondl@msn.com](mailto:clawsondl@msn.com).

#### Schützenkameraden

The Schützenfest is a traditional target shooting event practiced in German speaking countries. They are held in cities and small villages alike, often accompanied with a festival. Shooting competitions are culturally important in Germanic Europe and date back hundreds of years. Nearly every village or area has a shooting Verein or club. The primary definition of the German word Schützen is 'to guard or protect'. In feudal Germany the 10th Century the Gesetz zur Wehrverfassung der Städte mandate required each city to maintain an

organized militia. This training for armed service gradually evolved into competitive shooting and the festivals attached to them.



The Schützenfest features a paper target competition, as well as the traditional Scheibenschießen (wooden plate shoot) and the Holzvogel schießen (wooden bird shoot). Participants use .22 rimfire rifles with iron sights. In the fall an awards dinner is held where marksmanship and camaraderie is recognized and prizes are distributed to the winners. If interested contact Keith Knecht at [kek33@verizon.net](mailto:kek33@verizon.net) for additional information.

#### German Folk Dancing Group

Bill and Jackie Dorfner started teaching polkas and waltzes at least 30 years ago at the club. The group has evolved into the present German Folk Dancing Group. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month (except for June, July, August and December) at 7:30 p.m., in the Sängerkonvent. We usually have a guest instructor who teaches a new dance and then we review other dances. We charge \$5.00/person with proceeds going to the Teutonia Building Fund. For more information contact us at [dorfner24@comcast.net](mailto:dorfner24@comcast.net) or 412-257-7574.

#### Alpen Schuhplattler und Trachten Verien D' Pittsburgher

The Alpen Schuhplattler perform the traditional dances of Bavaria, Austria, and the Alpine region (plus a few from other parts of Germany). We've been around since 1964 and make our home at the Teutonia Männerchor. Our adult and children's dance groups perform at the Teutonia's Oktoberfests and other events, plus Oktoberfests and festivals around Western Pennsylvania. Everyone is welcome to join!

Dancers range in age from preschool to 70+ and families are especially welcome. No dance experience? No problem! We provide dance instruction and costumes. Practices are on Tuesday nights at the club, starting at 7 p.m. For more information contact Marina Ruggiero at 412-491-0577 or [marina@ruggiero.net](mailto:marina@ruggiero.net), or visit [alpenschuhsplattler.org](http://alpenschuhsplattler.org).

#### Pool League

The Pool League meets every Tuesday night and competes on a 100 year old Brunswick regulation pool table. They play regulation 8 Ball in a rotating doubles format. Competition is tough, but friendly. The formal competition begins the 1st Tuesday in January and runs for 15 weeks. At the conclusion, league players continue to stop down Tuesday evenings for friendly games. If you are interested, please stop down on a Tuesday evening and meet the shooters.

## Kinderchor/Jugendchor

Our mission is to teach children a proper singing technique and introduce them to German song repertoire. The repertoire includes traditional German songs as well as some contemporary compositions. It is also a great opportunity to connect with the parents of the children of whom many are German speakers.

We rehearse every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Teutonia, from September to May. We have two singing groups: the Kinderchor ages 4-10 instructed by Janet Arland and Brigitte F. Schmidt and a Jugendchor 14-20 instructed by David Ruschak. For further information, please contact Brigitte F. Schmidt at 412-983-5679.

## Pittsburgh Stein Society

The Pittsburgh Stein Society (PSS) is a local chapter of Stein Collectors International and is an official club activity within the Teutonia Männerchor club. The Pittsburgh Stein Society is made up of men and women who share in the joy and excitement of collecting beer steins and related items. The purpose of the Pittsburgh Stein Society is to have its members acquire, increase and exchange knowledge of beer steins and other drinking vessels as well as items related to this enjoyable hobby.

The Pittsburgh Stein Society holds meetings three times a year (spring, summer and fall). All meetings take place in the Ratskeller of the Teutonia Männerchor, and are held on Saturdays starting at noon. Memberships are available at three different price levels; \$15/1 year; \$30/ 2 years; \$40/3 years. For more information about the Pittsburgh Stein Society, please contact Rich Hahn at hahn933@comcast.net or Tom Levenson at thomaslevenson@yahoo.com.

## Teutonia Merchandise

Periodically through the year, personalized Teutonia merchandise, such as shirts, hats, etc., is available for members to purchase. Supply is limited, but can be purchased by asking any bartender in the Ratskeller.

## German Language Classes

Sprechen wir Deutsch! Looking to learn German, or to just brush up on old skills long out of use? Beginners and more seasoned learners are welcome to join this course! We meet on scheduled Saturdays in the Ratskeller, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Since our classroom time is limited, we will be using the free online language program, Duolingo, to supplement the lessons. Duolingo is a language-learning app that can be downloaded to your phone, or you can simply create an account online with a valid email address. We will focus on a more traditional vocabulary and grammar instruction in the Saturday classroom sessions. For more information, please contact Leigh Buches by email or text: Lbuches6@gmail.com or 724-972-5106.

Please note: Classes are cancelled based on winter weather or if the majority of the students cannot attend for personal reasons. It is best to contact the instructor prior to each Saturday course if you are a newcomer to know whether class is scheduled. Also note that we are on the intermediate level, so beginner instruction is not available at this time. Please contact Leigh to determine whether your current German level is compatible with the current pace of the course. If you are a true beginner, do not fear- classes for beginner level will resume again within the next few months.

# Seasonal Events/Celebrations

**Fasching/Fastnacht/Karneval** – A celebration before Ash Wednesday – a last party before Lent. In the United States, we know the celebration as Mardi Gras. (Weekend before Ash Wednesday)

**St. Patrick's Day** – A day when everyone can be a little Irish. This is a ticketed event and includes traditional foods such as corned beef and cabbage, Jägerschnitzel or Guinness stew. (March)

**Father Daughter Dinner and Dance** – This event honors the relationship between fathers and daughters, and allows you to celebrate it in the Historic surroundings of Teutonia. (April)

**Maifest** – The celebration of nature's reawakening after winter's darkness. It is traditional to erect a Maibaum (May Pole), to light bonfires to chase the darkness, and to dance. As with every German celebration, there are special foods and drinks like Maibock. (May)

**Heimatabend** – An "evening of the Homeland" that usually includes ensemble performances, skits and singing. (Varies)

**Bierkameraden** – Some of our members who are experienced "home brewers" bring their "pride and joy" to the club to share along with a tasting of tap beers at our extensive Teutonia bar. (Varies)

**Radish Night** – Sponsored by the Franz family who serve delicious Bavarian radishes with rye bread, and butter, according to old Bavarian custom. (June)

**Club Picnic** – The annual club picnic is traditionally held at the Schützenpark (Croatian Center) in Millvale. Come enjoy the picnic with your family! (June)

**Summerfest** – This is a time to enjoy the warmer weather with good food, beer and music outside. (July)

**Radler Bike Ride** – Several groups of riders enjoy the trails around the city and make a stop at the Hofbräuhaus. (August)

**Oktoberfest** – Originating in Bavaria, it is a 16 to 18-day festival running from mid or late September to the first weekend in October. Oktoberfest is known as the largest Volksfest (people's fair) in the World. Teutonia hosts a public, outdoor Oktoberfest event, as well as indoor events for members and guests. (September and October)

**Schlachtfest** – In Germany, a Schlachtfest is the ceremonial butchering of a pig, which is celebrated with a feast. At Teutonia, we celebrate with an extensive buffet including a variety of pork dishes. (November for members and guests)

**Weinachten/Christmas** – December provides a full month of events at Teutonia including: a members' only adult Christmas party; several Christmas grand luncheon buffets in the Sängerkeller for members and guests; a children's Christmas party; and a special Sunday Christmas Brunch for members and guests.

**Bundesliga Gatherings** – European football fans get together to enjoy a match, and some good German food and beer. (Varies)

## Join the Teutonia Garden Club!

In spring, summer and fall, Teutonia needs members to join our Garden Club. We have great outdoor spaces such as the biergarten, and the community flower garden in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Tasks include planting, mowing, trimming, weeding, watering, and perhaps some relaxing in the biergarten!

Garden Club members can get together in small or large groups, and set their own schedules to accommodate availability. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Becky Brandt, volunteer coordinator, at 412-486-5925 or [becky@nichollbrandt.com](mailto:becky@nichollbrandt.com).



## Volunteering

Your club needs help with the following:

- Repairs/maintenance:** Our historic clubhouse is in constant need. Jobs include plumbing, electrical, painting, cleaning, organizing, woodwork, yard work, garden maintenance, biergarten construction, etc. Please inform Hausmeister Kevin Varrato, [teutoniahausmeister@gmail.com](mailto:teutoniahausmeister@gmail.com), if you are willing to give some time. **Männerchor Mondays** (watch newsletter for dates/times) are held periodically to tackle projects throughout the year, and larger projects are completed during the summer club shutdown in July. Any time you can give is appreciated and saves the club money!
- Special events:** Our public events (and some private events) like Maifest, Sommerfest, and Oktoberfest, require extra hands. We need people who can give a few hours to help with setting up, serving food, pouring beer, taking entrance fees, restocking food and paper supplies, cleaning up, etc. We provide volunteer perks such as a free t-shirt, and a meal (with a beer)! Contact Becky Brandt at [becky@nichollbrandt.com](mailto:becky@nichollbrandt.com) or 412-486-5925 if you can help in this area.

## Teutonia's Selection of German Draft Biers *(subject to change)*

### Hacker Pschorr

- **Munich Gold** – Intensive golden yellow in color with a full-bodied and mild taste. It closely resembles a Münchner Hell in terms of taste.
- **Maibock** – A strong pale lager. Sweet with a malty aroma and a subtle hopped finish.
- **Weissbier** – A soft sparkling beer with an aromatic and mild character. Refreshing fruity and citrus notes accompany a hint of acidity. A light sweetness of bananas and honey mingle with subtle and slightly bitter notes of nutmeg.

**Früh Kölsch** – A clear, unpasteurized and refreshing ale, with pale color like a pilsner. It has a malt aroma and delicate flavors of vanilla and flowery hops.

**Spaten Lager** – A light golden brew with an understated, sweet grain aroma. This beer is light, effervescent, and crisp into the finish.

### Kloster Andechs

- **Vollbier** – Presents a bright straw yellow and clear gleaming look. Its aroma is pure and fresh from the cellar, with soft malty accents imbued with floral hoppiness. The combination of tangy with mild sweetness marries well with the velvety bitterness of the hops.
- **Dunkles Weissbier** – This is a dark Weissbier made with Hallertau aroma hops and highest quality Bavarian wheat and dark barley malts. It features an interplay of fruity odors, above all ripe bananas and pineapple, with undertones of caramel and cocoa.
- **Doppelbock** – This beer is dark colored in hues of copper and fiery red, yet it is clear. It has roasted accents and a nuance of dried fruit carrying a vein of caramel that is strong and yet pleasantly malty. It has an aftertaste of quality plain chocolate.

**Warsteiner Pilsner** – A refreshing, pale golden pilsner with a clean taste perfectly balanced with hints of barley malt, subtle bottom fermenting yeast tones and mild hoppy bitterness.



## Now Offering Beer Flights – Ask Bartenders for Info!

**Köstritzer Schwartzbier** – A black lager beer that tastes lean and refreshing with spicy aromas, including sage, roasted chestnuts, dark honey, bitter chocolate and fresh, farm-baked bread. It features sparkling carbonation, delicate bitter tones and malty sweetness.

**Furstenberg Pilsner** – Naturally bright golden in color and smells pleasantly hoppy and fresh. Effervescent with distinctive hop notes, and a smooth bitter finish.

**IC Light, Iron City** – Iron City beers boasts scents of sweet corn and wheat, smooth crisp pale malt flavor, and a dry finish with very little bitterness. We also have a variety of German and domestic bottled beers on hand.

Our bar is also well stocked with spirits and liquors, including a nice selection of Schnapps.

# How to Use Your Club

We encourage all members to **attend a Club event/lunch/dinner at least once per month** to help ensure a healthy fiscal position for Teutonia Männerchor.

- **Regular Hours:**

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 4–11 p.m.

Wednesday: 4–11 p.m.

Thursday: 11 a.m.–11 p.m. (Lunch buffet: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Friday: 11 a.m.–1 a.m. (Lunch buffet: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Saturday: 11 a.m.–1 a.m.

Sunday: Open for special occasions

- **Happy Hour:**

From 4–7 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, the club bar features all draft beer at 33% off!

- **Reservations:**

Due to the popularity of our events, we ask that you make reservations by calling 412-231-9141. This includes lunches. In addition, we would ask that if a reservation is made and cannot be kept, please inform the club as soon as possible.

- **Ticketed Events:**

Some events require the purchase of tickets in advance. Tickets are available at the bar. If you want to attend a ticketed event, but can't get to the Club to purchase tickets, you may call the Club and ask to purchase tickets with a credit card over the phone.

- **Private Parties and Weddings:**

Members may book the club (Sängerhalle and/or Ratskeller) for private parties and weddings. 75-200 guests may be accommodated. Contact the club manager for details.

- **Dress Code for Members and Guests:**

- ✓ For the Ratskeller: Casual attire is permitted. However, we respectfully request that members and guests refrain from wearing dirty work clothing/jeans, etc.

- ✓ For the Sängerhalle: Business attire is required for evening dinners, concerts, member meetings, and other formal events. This includes collared shirts, suits, sport jackets and ties, slacks, sweaters, dresses, skirts, etc. (No jeans) For casual events such as Schlachtfest, Wings and Beer, brunches and any event where the club communications indicate "casual dress" this means no dirty or ripped jeans/sweatpants, t-shirts, tennis shoes or clothing with advertisements.

- ✓ Traditional German clothing (or Trachten) is appropriate for any event.



**To make reservations, call: 412-231-9141 and leave a message with a callback number.**

## New! Teutonia Männerchor App



**MEMBER**

Download the free **Wild Apricot for Members** app from the Play Store (Android) or Apple Store for iOS (Apple). Your app user ID and password are same as for the Teutonia web site – email [Membership@pghmannerchor.com](mailto:Membership@pghmannerchor.com) if you need to have it reset.

With the new app, you can:

- Update your address or email
- Check your membership status (Regular, Life, etc.)
- Check your dues payments
- Opt in/out for the paper newsletter
- Update birthday (for eventual birth month discount)
- Check upcoming events schedule
- See events details with a click
- Add events to your calendar

## Connect with Teutonia Männerchor on Social Media



[facebook.com/TeutoniaMannerchor](https://facebook.com/TeutoniaMannerchor)



[@TMannerchor](https://twitter.com/TMannerchor)  
[twitter.com/tmannerchor](https://twitter.com/tmannerchor)



[instagram.com/teutonia\\_mannerchor](https://instagram.com/teutonia_mannerchor)



<http://pghmannerchor.com>