



DANUBE SWABIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S.A., INC.

Verband der Donauschwaben un den U.S.A., e. U

A Reunion of Friendship & Traditions in Cleveland, Ohio

CLEVELAND, OH – It has been said that our Annual* Landestreffen der Donauschwaben is less of an ethnic dancing festival and more of a national family reunion. Between the dates of September 3, 4, & 5, the Donauschwaben German-American Cultural Center in Olmstead Township, Ohio was host to this reunion.

This 2021 carried with it even more of the feeling of reunion than years past. The recent lockdowns relating disease kept us from holding national, regional, land local events. Conversations over the weekend included most often a note of joy at being all back together since 2019 in Kitchener, Ontario, and in best cases began and ended with embraces of family and friends.

Once again, laughter could be heard from many an attendee, smiles were seen on the faces of dancers, and music filled the great property of the club. Goulash, our famous wurst, as well as schnitzel, potato salad, and sauer kraut were served from the capable kitchens of our hosts. Never to be forgotten, cold beverages were also available and made for an atmosphere of jollity throughout the weekend.

Business was also on the docket for the weekend, with annual meetings (previously cancelled earlier in the year) of the Landesverband as well as the Stiftung took place. Hearty thanks to the hosts, the board members, delegates, and our leadership for keeping things organized year after year.

Highlights of the weekend always include the dancing performances by various dance groups of even more varied age groups. Music moves the heart, smiling faces and top-notch footwork marvel the mind. On Saturday and Sunday, you could find yourself watching a group from any city and feeling a pride in our traditions quite easily.

When we gather together, we bring along all the trappings of a festival we have mentioned thus far. We have music, and dancing. We have food delicacies, and cold beverages. We set a schedule, book travel, and get all our costumes together. There's a lot of planning, and preparations, and organizing. Still, when it comes right down to it maybe the most important things are not all the little details, we work so hard on, but instead all of us being together again.

Michael N. Fricker,
VERBANDSPRESSE

**No gathering was held in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 Lockdowns*