

June 2025

Volume X, Number 6

Note from the Editor

All hands on deck for what we hope is the best Schützenfest ever!! We still need volunteers, especially on Sunday, so please contact Rita Musbach at: mysonmatt1@gmail.com or 513-240-1276. Other information about Schützenfest is on pp. 6-9.

Don't forget – the Anniversary Mass is on June 1st, our Groovin' in the Grove events are taking place on the 4th Wednesday of each month in the summer, the Volunteer Appreciation Party is on July 6th (p. 2), and our new proposed bylaws and meeting schedule are on pp. 10-20.

Important Phone Numbers

President — John Mueller, 513-376-3672
Vice President — Tom Beiting, 513-325-7342
Praeses — Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM, 513-374-0623
Society Bookkeeper — Jim Schnieder, 513-310-1256
House & Grounds — Walt Gerbus, 513-543-9877
Membership (New Members) — Wendy Moeller, 513-543-8651
Membership (Current) — Karen Wienkamp, 513-503-4638
Sick Committee — Open

Sub Group Presidents:

Bourbon Club — Neil Geoppinger, 513-638-0339
Genealogy Group — Tom Montgomery, 513-969-5383
Sängerchor — Janet Curley, 513-522-7544
Schützen Club — Marc Schnetzer, 513-236-6205
Seniors — Tom Musbach, 513-793-1148
Soccer Club — Walter Dewar, 513-312-8551
The Journeymen Group — Lydia Sinclair, 859-221-8839

Kolping Center Kolping Haus/Klubhaus Rentals
Nick Caserta, 513-713-7318

June Events

June 1, 11:00 A.M.	Anniversary Mass
June 6, 7:30 P.M.	General Meeting
June 11, 11:30 A.M.	Seniors Meeting
June 13, 14, 15	Schützenfest
June 25, 5:30 P.M.	Groovin' in the Grove
June 27, 7:00 P.M.	Bourbon Club

July Events

July 6, 4:00 P.M.	Appreciation Party
July 9, 11:30 P.M.	Seniors Meeting
July 11, 7:30 P.M.	Special General Mtg.
July 18, 7:00 P.M.	Captain's Meeting, Schützen Club
July 23, 5:30 P.M.	Groovin' in the Grove
July 25, 7:00 P.M.	Bourbon Club
July 27, 2:00 P.M.	Genealogy Meeting

Join Us in September for our Next Initiation Meeting

The Kolping Cincinnati Membership Committee will be hosting another initiation meeting on Monday, September 15 at 6:30 P.M. in the Kolping Klubhaus.

It isn't too late to invite friends and family to become a member of Kolping Cincinnati. If you know someone who might be interested in membership, please have them contact us at membership@kolpingcincinnati.com.



Congratulations to all our members celebrating birthdays in the month of June!



First Name	Last Name	Birthday
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Rick	Stille	Jun 1
Richard	Strecker	Jun 1
Sonja	Wilson	Jun 1
Virginia	Clayton	Jun 4
Carolyn	Althoff	Jun 5
Virginia	Hughes	Jun 6
Bud	Miyahara	Jun 6
Celeste	Hermes	Jun 7
Janet	Curley	Jun 8
William	Hungler	Jun 8
Andrew	Nuckols	Jun 8
Guenther	Stark	Jun 8
Theodore	Hoerstmann	Jun 10
Holly	Scholz	Jun 10
Rachel	Hoffman	Jun 11
Charles	Lippert	Jun 11
Darrell	Bingham	Jun 12
Ray	Freudiger	Jun 12
Joseph	Meister	Jun 12
John	Wegener	Jun 12
Bob	Brown	Jun 13
Katrina	Brunsmann	Jun 13
John	Stevie	Jun 13
David	Tasset	Jun 13
John	Beiting	Jun 15

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
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Kelly	Geoppinger	Jun 15
David	Lahrman	Jun 15
Kelly	Rudisell	Jun 15
Laura	Adelmann	Jun 17
Eric	Schank	Jun 19
Mary	Gerbus	Jun 20
M.M.	Jamison	Jun 21
Rita	Kunk	Jun 21
Dagmar	Wilhelmy	Jun 21
Franz	Wilke	Jun 21
Ruth	Schindler	Jun 22
James	Schraivogel	Jun 22
Ron	Von Den Benken	Jun 23
Albert	Welage	Jun 24
Michael C.	Callahan	Jun 25
Brandon	Mayer	Jun 25
Thomas A.	Montgomery	Jun 25
Diane	Glover	Jun 26
Monica	Rice	Jun 26
Jack	Hoeting	Jun 27
Anne	Pohlman	Jun 28
Mark	Schroer	Jun 28
Nancy	Ellensohn	Jun 30
Bernard	Naegele	Jun 30

Appreciation Party Sunday, July 6th 4:00 – 8:00 P.M. Dinner at 5:00 P.M. Kolping Haus Pavilion

We appreciate YOU, our volunteers who do so much for the Society at Schützenfest and throughout the entire year, so we are celebrating all of you at the annual Appreciation Party. Please make reservations by contacting Tom Beiting preferably by email at: tom.beiting@gmail.com (Ph: 513-325-7342) **by June 30, 2025.**

You All Are the Best! Thank You!!

Letter from the President

Dear Kolping Members,

As we head into a busy and exciting summer, I want to take a moment to share some important updates with you.

Bylaws Review & Upcoming Member Vote

Thank you to everyone who attended the May 2nd General Meeting. Although the proposed Bylaws revision was not brought to a vote at that time, your thoughtful feedback led to several meaningful improvements.

Following a motion made and approved by the membership at that meeting, the Board has developed a clear and transparent review process to ensure every member has the opportunity to be informed, involved, and heard. A full outline of this process, along with the Board-approved proposed Bylaws, can be found later in this Bulletin.

While we do not typically hold a General Meeting in July due to the Independence Day holiday, the current Bylaws (Article VI, Section 2, second paragraph) authorize the President to call special meetings. I have exercised that authority to ensure we remain aligned with the member-approved process.

As part of that effort, we will hold a Special General Meeting on Friday, July 11th at 7:30 PM, dedicated exclusively to reviewing the proposed Bylaws and answering member questions. No vote on the proposed Bylaws will be taken at this meeting, as it is intended to support full transparency and open discussion.

The vote on the proposed Bylaws will take place during the General Meeting on August 1st. A two-thirds majority of those present at a quorum meeting is required for adoption. Your participation is vital as our Society's future depends on your voice and your vote.

Welcome Rick Loesing – Our New Business Mgr.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Rick Loesing as the new Business Manager of the Cincinnati Kolping Society. This important role marks a key step forward in strengthening our professional and sustainable operational structure.

Rick's responsibilities include:

1. Overseeing day-to-day Society and facility operations

Letter from the President (cont'd.)

2. Managing contracts, vendors, and financial reporting
3. Supporting strategic planning in collaboration with Society leadership
4. Enhancing the customer and member experience for rentals and events

Rick brings strong business expertise and a deep appreciation for the Kolping mission. Please join me in welcoming him to the team.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. The progress we've made is possible because of your passion and participation. I look forward to seeing many of you at the August meeting and out on the grounds this summer.

With appreciation for all you do,
John Mueller, President
Cincinnati Kolping Society

Message from our Praeses, Fr. Dan

The Kolping Anniversary Mass is on Sunday, June 1, with Mass at 11:00 a.m. This is a celebration of the wedding anniversaries of our members. Personally, I am hoping to hear that a good number have registered for this Mass and the luncheon that follows.

Remember that our namesake and founder, Fr. Adolph Kolping, was always eager to promote marriage and family values. During his time, Marxist socialism was on the rise, but Fr. Kolping saw the organization he founded as a Christian alternative to the violent revolution advocated by the Marxists. In fact, for Fr. Kolping, the family was an essential building block of human society.

Today there is a growing indifference to Christian family values and to all forms of religion. That is why our Catholic faith is so vital in the life of our Kolping Society. When I see the generous dedication spirit of the Tuesday workers and the dedication of our officers, managers, board members and volunteers, I am inspired to continue working and praying that the Kolping spirit will spread all through this country and around the world. My prayer is that all our members will continue to bear witness to Christ by the attitudes and values that we live in our Kolping Society.

Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Kolping Cincinnati held an initiation for new members on April 4th, prior to the General Meeting. We are pleased to welcome Kolping Cincinnati's **5 NEWEST MEMBERS**. Below is a brief introduction of each of the new members, whom we look forward to seeing at our future events!

- **Brandon Mayer** is a Data and Information Systems Manager for Jake Sweeney Automotive. He is married to Rose Mayer, who also became a new member, with whom he shares two teenage children. He joined Kolping because he is involved with the Soccer Club (coaching for four years!) and wanted to join the larger Society. In his spare time, he enjoys soccer and fireworks. He previously attended Hamilton High School.
- **Rose Mayer** is a Data Consultant with Elevance Health. She is married to Brandon Mayer, who also became a new member, with whom she shares two teenage children. She also joined Kolping because of the family's involvement in soccer and a desire to be a part of the Society. She spends her free time driving their kids to sports. Rose previously attended Queen of Peace, Badin High School, and Cincinnati State.
- **Stephanie Preston** works for Procter & Gamble. She is married to Ryan Preston, who is rejoining the Society, with whom she shares two teenage children. She is joining Kolping because many of their friends are members, and they have participated in Kolping events with the Mustard Club. Stephanie previously attended Our Lady of Lourdes, Mother of Mercy, Xavier University, and the University of Cincinnati.
- **Ryan Preston** also works for Procter & Gamble. He is married to Stephanie Preston, who also became a new member, with whom he shares two teenage children. He is rejoining Kolping after many years because many of their friends are also members. He enjoys being part of the Mustard Club, where he currently serves as president. Ryan formerly attended LaSalle High School and Mount Saint Joseph University.
- **Gary Burket** is self-employed. He is married to Pam Burket. He is joining Kolping because of Gemütlichkeit!

Fr. David Hiller Fund Report

Dear Kolping Members,

The Father David Hiller Fund received the following donations.

In memory of Christa Olding

Helene Schrand

In memory of Cathy Thiemann

Helene Schrand, Janet Talkers Kuhl

In celebration of Doris and Werner Wilke's 60th Wedding Anniversary

Clara Ostendorf

We are grateful for the many donations that have been sent from our subgroups, in celebration of members' events and in memory of our Kolping members and will use them to continue the work of Blessed Fr. Kolping. We also received donations from the bar tips from events at the Klubhaus and Pavilion.

Sincerely,
Paul A. Ahrnsen
FDHF Chairman

We will be putting some of the current FDHF Scholarship winners' pictures and a few words that they wrote in the *Bulletin*. Here is a note from one of our 2025 FDHF Scholars.



My name is Andrew Sunderman and I currently attend St. Ignatius Grade School. I will be attending St. Xavier High School in the fall as the class of 2029. I am looking forward to studying German, running cross country, and taking advantage of the community service opportunities in my first year. I am honored to receive the FDHF scholarship and I want to thank the committee and entire Kolping community.

Thank you,
Andrew Sunderman



Deaths

Otto H. Hermes, husband of Celeste (nee Peetz) Hermes and Kolping member for 72 years, passed away on May 16, 2025 at the age of 97. He was a member of Young Kolping and the Kolping Soccer Team in the 1950s, was a Kolping Sports Club manager, a member of the Schützen Club, Tuesday Workers, and the Kolping Seniors. Otto's carpentry skills were used on many Kolping projects throughout the years. We extend our sympathies to Celeste and her daughter Theresa Stille, along with the entire Hermes family.

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Kolping Seniors

The Seniors will meet on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 11:30 am in the Klubhaus. It will be Schützenfest week, so lots of setup work will be taking place. Be sure to get there early to claim your favorite seat.

See you then!

Tom Musbach, President

Sick & Shut-Ins

Richard Ellensohn	Celeste Hermes
Linda Knizner	Harry Voet

Please take time out of your busy schedule for these folks, and send a card or give them a call.

If you want to be taken off the Sick List or want to add someone on, please contact Nancy Pelzel at: 513-385-3120 or nancypelzel@aol.com.



Soccer Club News

With a bit of luck, we successfully completed the spring season of 2025. However, we seem to have had a stronger connection to a certain 4-letter word this season – RAIN!!! As we gear up for Schützenfest, let's hope we won't have to hear that word too often!

Walt Dewar, President, 513-312-8551

Kolping Genealogy

We are not meeting in June because the third Sunday is the Kolping Schützenfest and our Klubhaus will be full of festival guests.

Sunday, July 27, Project Immigrant: We will meet next on July 27 (moving from the traditional third week to the fourth, as I will be attending a family reunion on July 19-20). Time still at 2:00 pm and this will be a live session in the Klubhaus, not a Zoom session.

One of my pet projects has been to research and record Kolping members' immigration stories. *Project Immigrant's* goal is to invite our immigrant members to share their stories with us, their families and friends. Many of us are descendants many generations ago, but we still have first and second generation Kolping members who have much to share about adapting to life in America as citizens. More details to follow in our July *Bulletin*. Our task is to interview and document their stories.

Always check the Kolping website for any updates/schedule changes:

<http://www.kolpingcincinnati.com/Genealogy/Genealogy.html>

Dr. Tom Montgomery, montgota@gmail.com,
montgota@miamioh.edu, 513-969-5383.



Exceptional Beer Lineup

König Ludwig Hell	Hacker-Pschorr München Gold
König Ludwig Hefeweizen	Paulaner Weissbier
Kaltenberg Schloss-Keller Naturtrüb	Paulaner Salvator
Warsteiner Pills	Erdinger Weissbier
Warsteiner Oktoberfest	Gaffel Kölsch
Hofbräu Original	Krombacher Pils
Hofbräu Dunkel	Weihenstephaner Hefe Weissbier
Hofbräu Helles Lager	Weihenstephaner Original Premium

Outstanding Entertainment


<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Überland Band	Vereins Musikanten	Überland Band
Bergstrasse Boys	Alpen Echos	Alpen Echos
The Remains	Penthouse Dogs	Alberto Daglio
	Bergstrasse Boys	Vereins Musikanten
	Cassette Junkies	Acoustic Blue

Delicious Food Selection

Wassler Meats Brats	Goetta Cheese Fries
Wassler Meats Metts	Hot Dog
Wassler Meats Schützenwurst	Homemade Potato Pancakes
Glier's Goetta Burgers	Homemade Sauerkraut Balls
Schnitzel Sandwich	French Fries
Deep Fried Chicken & Schnitzel Dinners (Sat & Sun only)	Servatii's German Pretzels
Pastries, Strudel, Bienenstich	

- **Critical Volunteer Openings** – particularly for a Grand Raffle Booth Captain on Sunday!
 - Contact Rita Musbach – mysonmatt1@gmail.com – Call or text 513-240-1276

- **Basket Raffle Donations Are Still Needed** – contact Cathy Jung (cathy@gerbus.com or 513-403-1083) or Eileen Breyley (ebreyley@cinci.rr.com or 513-305-2532)



**2025
159th
Anniversary**

**Father's Day
Weekend**

Fri, June 13 | 6 - 11
Sat, June 14 | 3 - 11
Sun, June 15 | 1 - 9

PROST!

Kolping Society



Schützenfest

**HEIMLICHKEIT
GEMÜTLICHKEIT**

Since 1866

America's Oldest German Fest!

schutzenfestcincy.com

Kolping Cincinnati
10235 Mill Road

The poster is a vibrant, cartoonish illustration of a beer mug. The mug's body is dark grey, and its handle is white. The top of the mug is filled with a golden beer head. The background of the mug is black, and it is decorated with various colorful icons: a trumpet, musical notes, a pretzel, a beer glass, a target with crossed rifles, a beer mug, a star, a peace symbol, a square with a triangle, and a wheel. The text '2025 159th Anniversary' is in the top left, 'Father's Day Weekend' is in the top center, and the dates are in the top right. The word 'PROST!' is written vertically on the right side of the mug. The word 'Schützenfest' is written in a large, stylized font across the middle. Below it, 'HEIMLICHKEIT' and 'GEMÜTLICHKEIT' are written in a circular arrangement. At the bottom of the mug, it says 'America's Oldest German Fest!'. Below the mug, the website 'schutzenfestcincy.com' and social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are shown. At the very bottom, the address 'Kolping Cincinnati 10235 Mill Road' is listed.



Sign Up Here:



All about
Schützenfest:



Schützenfest

is just around the corner, and we need a few more Donations!

- **Alcohol** for the *Wheelbarrow of Cheer*
(Please tape the receipt to the bottle – and make sure it's purchased in Ohio due to regulations.)
- **Gift Cards**
- **Lotto Tickets**
- **Money** (We'll do the shopping for you!)

Please include your name so we can properly thank you!

We need donations ASAP – the earlier, the better!

Can't make it up to Kolping? No problem!

Just give us a call, and we'll be happy to arrange a pickup ☺

Thank you so much for your continued support. With your help, we're sure to have another *wunderbar* year!

Cathy Jung

1738 Wemblywood Ct.

Cincinnati, OH 45240

cathy@gerbus.com

513-403-1083

Eileen Breyley

1725 Wemblywood Ct.

Cincinnati, OH 45240

ebreyley@cinci.rr.com

513-305-2532

Cincinnati Kolping Society Bylaws Revision – Why, What, and When

The Cincinnati Kolping Society Board of Directors, by resolution, has proposed and unanimously approved the proposed revised Bylaws which are included beginning on the next page. The revised document has undergone a thorough legal review by longtime member and attorney Ed Geiser. Ed, a 40+ year member of our Society and contributor to past Bylaws revisions, has confirmed that the updated proposed Bylaws comply with legal standards and reflect best practices.

Why do we need to revise the Bylaws?

This revision is the result of extensive efforts to address the concerns identified in the Kirsch CPA Group's Financial Assessment Report, as well as to correct long-standing issues and inoperable provisions within our current Bylaws. The proposed updates are designed to establish a clearer and more functional governance framework that supports the Society's present needs and provides the flexibility to adapt in the future without requiring frequent or complex Bylaws amendments.

What are the key changes?

- **Board Terms:** Board terms will extend from two to three years, with one-third of the Board of Directors elected each year. The size of the Board of Directors will be reduced from 10 to 9 members, enabling more effective continuity and allowing Board members to apply their knowledge over a longer term.
- **Term Limits:** The roles of Directors, National Delegate, President, and Vice President may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms, for a total of six consecutive years of Board service. Under current Bylaws, these roles, except for the National Delegate, are limited to one two-year term and must wait a full term before being eligible to run again.
- **Subgroup Finance & Accountability:** Current Bylaws require subgroup funds in excess of target levels to be transferred to the Society and held on behalf of the subgroup. This has proven inoperable, especially given the Society's rising fixed costs such as property taxes, utilities, and insurance. The revised proposed Bylaws clarify the role of subgroups within the Society, supporting a unified financial structure while addressing the specific needs of our members.
- **Policies & Procedures:** Routine policies and procedural elements have been removed from the Bylaws. Instead, the Board will be required to publish and make the policy and procedure documents publicly available, improving transparency and allowing the Society to update operational practices without amending the Bylaws.

When is the proposed Bylaws review and vote scheduled?

2. Friday, June 6, 2025 – 7:30 PM

Introductory overview presented at the General Meeting

3. Friday, July 11, 2025 – 7:30 PM

Special General Meeting (called by authority of the Cincinnati Kolping Society President), with detailed Q&A and discussion of the proposed Bylaws

4. Friday, August 1, 2025 – 7:30 PM

Membership vote on the revised Bylaws during the General Meeting

We, your Board, encourage all members to attend these important sessions to fully understand the proposed changes and take an active role in shaping the future of our Society.



Bylaws of the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati

Revised [Insert Date]

Article 1: Organization and Incorporation

◦ **Section A. Name**

The name of this organization is the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “Kolping Society.”

◦ **Section B. Incorporation**

The Kolping Society is incorporated as a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Ohio.

◦ **Section C. Affiliation**

The Kolping Society is a local branch of the Catholic Kolping Society of America (National Society) and the International Kolping Society (International Society), via a charter and hereby accepts the provisions of their governing documents.

Article 2: Patron, Purpose, and Motto

◦ **Section A. Patron**

The patron of the Kolping Society is St. Joseph, the model of workers and of the Christian family.

◦ **Section B. Purpose**

The purpose of the Kolping Society is to promote the ideals of Blessed Adolph Kolping by encouraging its members to be:

- Well-informed, faithful Christians
- Loyal citizens
- Good parents
- Proficient in their vocations and occupations

The Kolping Society fosters religious, educational, charitable, cultural, and social activities in support of its members and the broader community. The Kolping Society, in fostering its religion activities, shall sponsor and offer the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, on occasion, to support the spiritual life of its members and/or honor significant events.

◦ **Section C. Motto**

“God bless our honorable trade and profession.” (“Gott segne das ehrbare Handwerk.”)

Article 3: Terminology

The following terms shall have the established definitions for use in these Bylaws:

“Board” shall refer to the duly elected Board of Directors of the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati.

A quorum for Board meetings shall be defined as at least 60% of the voting Board members. No votes may be taken

unless a quorum is present.

A “quorum” for any voting action by the general membership—such as voting on bylaw amendments, dues, or other issues at general meetings—shall consist of either 25 Regular and/or Life members of the Kolping Society or 10% of the total membership, whichever is less. No vote may be conducted unless this quorum of Regular and/or Life members is present at the meeting.

“General Membership” shall refer to the full membership of the Catholic Kolping Society of Cincinnati.

A “voting member” of the Kolping Society include all Regular and Life members who are at least 18 years of age and in good standing. A member is considered in good standing if they are current on all dues and financial obligations to the Kolping Society and are not under any disciplinary action that would restrict their rights as a member.

Wherever appropriate in these bylaws, words used in the singular shall include the plural and words used in the masculine shall include the feminine.

ARTICLE 4: Governance and Board of Directors

◦ Section A. Authority

- The Kolping Society shall be governed by a Board, which administers all Kolping Society affairs in accordance with these Bylaws and all applicable state and federal laws.
- The Board may establish written policies and procedures to support the effective governance and day-to-day operations of the Kolping Society. The approved policies and procedures may address, but are not limited to, matters such as facility access, member initiation and code of conduct, rental fees, and other operational concerns and organizational structure. The policies and procedures shall not conflict with these Bylaws or alter the financial, voting, or property rights of the Kolping Society established in these Bylaws.

◦ Section B. Composition

The Board shall consist of:

- Praeses (Spiritual Advisor)
- President
- Vice President
- National Delegate
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer
- Nine At-Large Directors

◦ Section C. Voting Rights

- The Vice President and Nine At-Large Directors shall have voting rights
- The Recording Secretary, Treasurer and National Delegate shall have no voting rights unless they are also elected Directors.
- The President shall not vote under any circumstances.
- The Praeses votes only in the case of a tie.

◦ Section D. Meetings

The Board shall meet monthly to oversee Kolping Society affairs. However, the Board may vote to cancel a scheduled meeting if it is anticipated that a quorum will not be met or if there are no substantive agenda topics requiring discussion. If a Director is a) absent for more than two consecutive unexcused meetings or b) absent four meetings in a 12-month period, the Board may appoint an alternate to replace them.

◦ Section E. Conflict of Interest

Directors must recuse themselves from votes or discussions where they have a financial, employment, or family conflict of interest.

◦ ***Section F. Governance***

The Board shall be responsible for developing, updating, and maintaining Policies and Procedures directing the operating practices and procedures for the Kolping Society. All Policies and Procedures must be documented, with revision history noted, and made available electronically via internet web-based platform(s) accessible to the membership and public at any time.

ARTICLE 5: Elections and Terms

◦ ***Section A. Election Process***

- Elections are held annually in November at the General Meeting.
- Only Regular or Life members in good standing may vote or run for office.
- Candidates for Board President and Vice President must be a member of the Catholic faith and a Regular and/or Life members for at least four years.
- Board terms are three years, with one-third of the Board elected each year.
- The positions of Directors, National Delegate, President and Vice President may be elected to serve a consecutive three year term but may not exceed 6 years of consecutive Board service.
- Alternates completing a term may run in the next corresponding term election but may not exceed a 6-year consecutive term limit.
- A previous Director, President, Vice President, and National Delegate may run for re-election following a 1-year gap in their Board service.

◦ ***Section B. Absentee Ballots for Board Members***

The election for board members shall take place in-person, but the Kolping Society allows for voting by absentee ballots in accordance with the following:

- Members requesting an absentee ballot shall submit an application to the Nominating and Election Committee no later than 20 days prior to the election. Absentee ballots shall be mailed to the address of the absentee voter as indicated on the application with an inner envelope and a pre-addressed return envelope.
- The absentee voter shall complete the ballot, seal the ballot, insert the inner envelope in the pre-addressed return envelope, and mail the pre-addressed envelope directly to the Kolping Society. All returned absentee ballots must be properly postmarked prior to and received by the Nominating and Election Committee within four days of the scheduled election to be considered valid. All returned unopened absentee ballots shall be opened, verified and counted by the Nominating and Election Committee after the votes from the general membership have been counted.

◦ ***Section C. Vacancies***

If a Director is unable to complete their term, the next available alternate who is willing to serve and fill the position shall fill the vacancy. If no alternate is available, the President shall nominate a replacement Director, subject to Board approval, to serve the remainder of the term.

◦ ***Section D. Transition to New Board Terms***

To implement the new Board and Officer term structure, the following transition plan will be enacted during the November 2025 election cycle to establish board terms for 2026 and beyond:

President, Vice President and National Delegate Transition:

The current President and Vice President will remain in their positions until and through year end 2026.

In the November 2026 election, a new President and Vice President will be elected by the membership to begin their service in 2027.

The individuals serving as President and Vice President in 2025 will not be eligible to run for a second consecutive term.

The National Delegate will remain in their position through year end 2025 with an election being held November 2025 for the three-year term starting January 2026.

The individual serving as National Delegate in 2025 will be eligible to run for a consecutive term of 3 years only. Beyond that consecutive term, the individual will not be eligible to re-run for an additional consecutive term as their collective terms will have exceeded the 6-year term limitation.

Director Term Adjustments:

Among the five board members elected in the November 2024 election, three will be selected by the Board to extend their terms through the end of 2027. These selected members will be eligible to run for a second three-year term in the November 2027 election.

Among the five board members elected in the November 2023 election, three will be selected by the Board to extend their terms through the end of 2026. These selected members will be eligible to run for a second three-year term in the November 2026 election. New Board Member Elections (November 2025):

In the November 2025 election, three new board members will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning in January 2026.

To be eligible for these positions, candidates must have been off the Board for at least one year before the January 2026 term begins.

Automatic Removal of Transitional Provision:

“Section D. Transition to New Board Terms” of ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS AND TERMS shall be automatically removed in its entirety from these Bylaws effective January 1, 2029, without the need for any further action, vote, or approval by the Board or the Kolping Society. As of that date, this section shall be deemed null and void and no longer applicable. The Bylaws shall be updated and republished accordingly to reflect the removal of this section.

ARTICLE 6: Removal of Board Members

◦ Section A. Removal Process

A Board member may be removed by a majority vote of the Regular and Life membership at a duly called meeting including special meetings or general meetings.

- Notice shall be provided to members at least 45 days prior to the scheduled meeting whereupon the “vote to remove” shall be held.
- The Board member subject to removal shall be given an opportunity to be present and heard at the same meeting prior to the scheduled vote.

◦ Section B. Initiating Removal

A removal vote may be initiated by either:

A motion at a general meeting, approved by over 50% of those voting members in attendance where there is a quorum; or

A petition signed by at least 10% of all Regular or Life members.

ARTICLE 7: Officers

◦ Section A. Praeses (Spiritual Advisor)

- Must be a Roman Catholic priest, deacon, or Catholic religious minister
- Provides spiritual guidance to members and serves as a liaison with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- May serve as an advisor to all Committees and Subgroups

- ***Section B. President***
 - Elected for a three-year term and may serve an additional elected consecutive term
 - Presides over meetings, administers Kolping Society affairs, and creates and appoints committee members
 - May call general and/or special meetings
- ***Section C. Vice President***
 - Elected for a three-year term in conjunction with the President and may serve one additional consecutive elected term
 - Assists the President and assumes duties in their absence
 - Serves as the Chairperson of the Kolping Society events
- ***Section D. Recording Secretary***
 - Appointed by the Board for a three-year term and may be reappointed thereafter
 - Maintains meeting minutes and official Kolping Society records
- ***Section E. Treasurer***
 - Appointed by the Board for a three-year term and may be reappointed thereafter
 - Oversees Kolping Society funds, prepares financial reports, and ensures compliance with financial policies
- ***Section F. National Delegate***
 - Elected for a three-year term, in the year following election of the President
 - May be re-elected for an additional term with a term limit of 6 years
 - Represents the Kolping Society at National Society meetings

ARTICLE 8: Membership

- ***Section A. Membership Categories***
 - Regular Members (Voting Member) – 18 years or older and willing to support the Kolping Society’s mission.
 - Life Members (Voting Member) – Regular members who have been a member for at least 20 years and who reach the age of 70 or older.
 - Associate Members (Non-voting Member) – Members of subgroups, 18 years or older, who do not hold Regular or Life membership.
- ***Section B. Membership Duties***

Members are encouraged to:

- Strive for the ideals of the Kolping Society
- Participate in Kolping Society events and meetings.
- Support Kolping Society charitable and community efforts.

- ***Section C. Resignation, Forfeiture, and Reinstatement***
 - At any time, any member may resign from being a member of the Kolping Society with written notice to the President, the Board, a Board of Director, or other leadership of the Kolping Society.
 - Members may forfeit their membership due to non-payment of dues.
 - A former member may be reinstated within 5 years after their membership has been forfeited with the ability to maintain membership continuity provided the following occurs:
 1. The former member pays all back dues for the time they were not a member because of the resignation or forfeiture; and

2. The former member requests and receives approval of their reinstatement by the Board.

◦ ***Section D. Expulsion of Members***

Authority to Expel

A member may be expelled from the Kolping Society by the exclusive decision of the President, in consultation with the Praeses and with the approval of the Board of Directors, for any of the following reasons:

- Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude;
- Causing public scandal;
- Seriously disgracing the Kolping Society;
- Theft, misappropriation or misuse of Kolping funds or property;
- Inability or refusal to abide by the Kolping Society's Code of Conduct.

Effect of Expulsion

A member expelled from the Kolping Society of Cincinnati shall simultaneously be considered expelled from both the National Kolping Society and the International Kolping Society.

Right of Appeal

- The expelled member may submit a written appeal to the Board of Directors within 60 days of the date of expulsion.
- If the appeal to the Board is denied, the member may submit a further appeal to the National Kolping Society in accordance with its governing procedures.
- If necessary, a final appeal may be submitted to the International Kolping Society in accordance with its governing procedures.

ARTICLE 9: Meetings

◦ ***Section A. Meetings***

- General membership meetings shall be held at least quarterly (four times per year).
- Only Regular or Life members in good standing may vote.
- General Membership may attend the Board meetings which are to be announced through the Kolping Society official communications.
- The President may call special Board meetings or establish Executive Board sessions where the general membership may not be invited to attend.

◦ ***Section B. Special Meetings***

A special meeting may be called by:

The President, or

A written petition signed by at least 10% of Regular or Life members.

◦ **ARTICLE 10: Dues and Finances**

◦ ***Section A. Kolping Society Membership Dues***

- Yearly Membership dues are set by the Board and approved by the general membership.
- Dues are payable annually in January.
- Members in arrears after April 1st may be removed from the Kolping Society.

◦ ***Section B. Financial Oversight***

- Approval by the Board shall be required to authorize any major capital expenditures. Determination of which capital expenditures shall be approved by the Board will be set forth within the approved Policy and Procedure.
- The Board shall not buy, sell, or encumber real estate without prior approval of quorum of the Regular and Life membership in a vote noticed and reviewed in the same manner as amending these Bylaws, as established in Article 14.
- The Board may establish an audit committee for the purposes of reviewing the financial records of any subgroup, Business unit or committee at any time. All financial data of any subgroup, committee, business unit or Kolping Society held function is owned by and for the exclusive use of the Kolping Society.
- The Kolping Society is not organized and its activities shall not be conducted for pecuniary profit or financial gain, and no part of the assets, income or profit of the Kolping Society shall be distributable to, or inure to the benefit of, its directors, officers, members, or employees, except reasonable compensation for personal services actually rendered in effecting one or more of its purposes and approved by the Board.
- All revenues that are generated by any and all sources or endeavors in the name of the Kolping Society shall be deposited with the Treasurer. The distribution of all Kolping Society funds shall be at the sole discretion of the Board, unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE 11 – Subgroups

◦ ***Section A. Formation & Approval***

Subgroups may be established to serve members' interests and needs, but the Subgroup must be approved by the Kolping Society Board.

◦ ***Section B. Use of Kolping Society Property***

Only Board-approved subgroups may use Kolping Society facilities for their activities. All other individuals or groups, regardless of membership status, must rent the facilities.

◦ ***Section C. Financial Responsibility***

Subgroups must be financially self-sustaining and contribute to the Kolping Society's operational costs. Unless authorized by the Board, all financial transactions must be managed by the Kolping Society's Treasurer or Bookkeeper.

◦ ***Section D. Leadership Requirements***

Subgroups elect their own officers, but these officers must be approved by the Board prior to their accepting the positions. The Subgroup President must have been a Kolping Society Regular or Life member for at least two years, and all other officers must have been Regular or Life members for at least one year.

◦ ***Section E. Financial Reporting***

Each subgroup must submit an annual financial statement and a projected budget for Board approval, including a designated financial contribution to the Kolping Society by January 20th of each year. The Board may request reviews and additional financial reports with 30 days' notice.

◦ ***Section F. Excess Funds***

Any subgroup funds exceeding the Board approved year-end target balance will be transferred to the Kolping Society's general operating fund. The Treasurer and/or Bookkeeper must be the signatory on all subgroup accounts and will transfer funds as needed, based on the approved budget.

◦ ***Section G. Membership Status***

Subgroup participants must uphold the ideals of Blessed Adolph Kolping and are encouraged to become Regular Members of the Kolping Society. However, subgroup members do not need to be Regular or Life Members and will

instead, if not already a Kolping Society Regular or Life Member, be designated as Associate Members.

◦ ***Section H. Membership Rosters***

Each Subgroup President must maintain a membership roster and submit it to the Kolping Society's Membership Committee by April 1st of each year. The roster must include member names and contact details as defined by Kolping Society policies.

ARTICLE 12: Committees

◦ ***Section A. Establishment of Committees***

The Board of Directors shall establish committees as needed to support the mission and operations of the Kolping Society.

◦ ***Section B. Standing Committees***

The following committees shall be permanently established for the operations of the Kolping Society. The President shall appoint a chairperson and members of each committee pursuant to adopted Kolping Society Policies and Procedures unless specifically stated below.

House and Grounds Committee

The House and Grounds Committee shall make such recommendations, as it deems advisable, for the maintenance and upkeep of the Kolping Center buildings and grounds. The committee shall make recommendations to the Board regarding equipment purchases, capital and ground improvements to be made, and any other items as directed by the Board. All recommended expenditures must be approved by the Board pursuant to these Bylaws.

Nominating and Election Committee

- This Nominating and Election Committee shall be responsible for collecting nominations and running the election for Board members who are voted into position by the general membership. The Nominating and Election Committee is in charge of printing, distributing and counting the ballots.
- A member of the Nominating and Election Committee cannot be a candidate for office unless they resign from the committee before the election.
- Nominations shall be closed at the last general meeting before the election.
- At the election meeting, members may be asked to show proof of current membership to obtain a ballot.
- The election shall be held by secret ballot with a simple majority determining the winners. These votes shall include any absentee ballots received in accordance with Article 5, Section B.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and processing all membership applications, including providing initiation meetings to instruct the applicants in the ideals of Blessed Adolph Kolping and his works. The committee shall also be responsible for maintaining a record of all current members and their contact information.

◦ ***Section C. Appointment and Terms for Other Committees***

- The purpose, responsibilities, and structure of each committee shall be defined by the Board when such committee is established.
- For all other committees that the Board may establish, the President shall appoint committee members and chairpersons, unless otherwise specified in the Policies and Procedures. The terms of committee members shall align with the appointing President's term unless otherwise stated in the vote to appoint a committee. The purpose and scope of responsibility for each committee shall be defined by the Board at the time of its creation.

◦ ***Section D. Committee Oversight***

Committees shall operate in accordance with the Policies and Procedures established by the Board. They shall provide updates to the Board as required. Any recommendations or financial decisions made by committees require Board approval.

◦ ***Section E. Conflicts of Interest***

Any member of a committee who is an employee of the Kolping Society shall refrain from voting on issues pertaining to the activities and recommendations of the committee they serve. Any committee member who is an employee of a subcontractor or contractor engaged by the Kolping Society should refrain from voting on issues pertaining to that contractor, and should also not be part of any discussion related to that contractor.

ARTICLE 13: Dissolution of the Kolping Society

◦ ***Section A: Board Recommendation***

The recommendation to dissolve the Kolping Society shall only be initiated upon the formal 2/3rd majority vote of the Board of Directors.

◦ ***Section B: Procedure for Dissolution***

The following procedure must be followed for the dissolution of the Kolping Society:

- A notification of the Board's recommendation to dissolve the Kolping Society must be communicated via Kolping Society Board approved methods to all Regular and Life members at least 30 days prior to the first membership meeting at which the proposal will be introduced.
- The proposal for dissolution shall be presented, read, and discussed at three consecutive General Membership meetings. These meetings must be held at least eight days apart but no more than 31 days apart. The third meeting must coincide with a regularly scheduled General Membership meeting.
- At the third meeting, the proposal for dissolution shall be approved only upon receiving a four fifths majority vote of the members present, provided that a quorum is met.

◦ ***Section C: Compliance with State Law***

All procedures and actions taken to dissolve the Kolping Society must comply with applicable laws governing the dissolution of nonprofit corporations in the State of Ohio.

◦ ***Section D: Distribution of Remaining Assets***

Upon dissolution and after all debts and liabilities have been satisfied, any remaining assets of the Kolping Society shall be distributed as follows:

- First, to the non-profit Catholic Kolping Society of America (National Society), to be used exclusively for charitable purposes.
- If the National Society no longer exists or is not recognized as a non-profit organization, the assets shall be transferred to the Kolping International Association e.V., a non-profit organization based in Cologne, Germany, to be used exclusively for charitable purposes.
- If the Kolping International Association e.V. is no longer in existence or no longer a non-profit entity, the assets shall be transferred to the Kolping International Foundation, also based in Cologne, Germany, to be used exclusively for charitable purposes.

ARTICLE 14: Amendments to Bylaws

◦ ***Section A. Proposal of Amendments***

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by:

The Board of Directors; or

A written petition signed by at least 15 percent of the Kolping Society's voting members.

◦ ***Section B. Initial Board Approval***

All proposed amendments must receive the approval of two-thirds of the Board of Directors prior to being presented to the membership for discussion.

◦ ***Section C. Notice and Distribution***

The proposed amendments shall be distributed to the general membership no fewer than 21 days prior to the next regularly scheduled general meeting, which shall serve as the Bylaws Discussion Meeting.

◦ ***Section D. Bylaws Discussion Meeting***

The purpose of the Bylaws Discussion Meeting shall be to allow Regular and Life members to provide oral and written comments regarding the proposed amendments. All such comments shall be considered by the Board of Directors during the Discussion Meeting.

◦ ***Section E. Board Consideration of Revisions***

Following the Bylaws Discussion Meeting, the Board of Directors may revise the proposed amendments based on member input. Any revisions must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors in order to proceed to a vote of the general membership. All revised amendments shall be distributed to the general membership no fewer than 14 days prior to the Bylaws Voting Meeting.

◦ ***Section F. Bylaws Voting Meeting***

The Bylaws Voting Meeting shall be held at the first general meeting following the Bylaws Discussion Meeting. If additional time is required to meet the notice requirements in Section E, the Bylaws Voting Meeting may be held at the second general meeting following the Bylaws Discussion Meeting.

◦ ***Section G. Approval and Enactment***

Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted upon approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Regular and Life members present at the Bylaws Voting Meeting. Adopted amendments shall take effect immediately upon approval, unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

◦ ***Section H. Notice Requirements***

All notices of meetings and distributions of proposed or revised amendments required under this Article shall be provided to the membership using communication methods approved by the Kolping Society Board.

◦ ***Section I. Conflict with National or International Societies***

Any section of these Bylaws that contradicts a ruling of the National or International Kolping Societies or a resolution of a convention of the National or International Societies shall be invalid. However, such action shall not invalidate other sections of these Bylaws.

Adoption of these Bylaws

These bylaws were amended and readopted by the Kolping Society on _____.
Certified by:

Jennifer Ruwe, Secretary

Date: _____

2025 Calendar of Events

JANUARY	NO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY	JUNE	6 General Meeting 13-15 Schützenfest 25 Groovin' in the Grove 30 Board Meeting (July)
FEBRUARY	3 Board Meeting 7 General Meeting 8 Valentine's Dance 22 Stube Nacht	JULY	6 Appreciation Party 11 Special General Meeting 18 Captains' Meeting Schützen Club 23 Groovin' in the Grove 28 Board Meeting (August)
MARCH	3 Board Meeting 7 Fish Fry 7 General Meeting 12 Schützenfest Planning Meeting 14 Fish Fry 21 Fish Fry 22 Schützen Royal Ball 28 Fish Fry 28-30 Kolping Memorial Tournament 31 Board Meeting (April)	AUGUST	1 General Meeting 15 First Schützen Nacht 27 Groovin' in the Grove
APRIL	4 Fish Fry 4 General Meeting 6 St. Joseph's Day Mass/Awards Bqt. 11 Fish Fry 23 Schützenfest Planning Meeting 28 Board Meeting (May)	SEPTEMBER	2 Board Meeting NO GENERAL MEETING IN SEPT. 24 Groovin' in the Grove 26-28 1931 Invitational Tournament 29 Board Meeting (October)
MAY	2 General Meeting 4 Sängerchor Spring Konzert 16 Schützen End Party 28 Groovin' in the Grove 28 Schützenfest Planning Meeting	OCTOBER	3 General Meeting 26 Memorial Mass/Goettafest
JUNE	1 Anniversary Mass 2 Board Meeting	NOVEMBER	3 Board Meeting 7 General Meeting/Elections 30 Sängerchor Weihnachts Konzert
DECEMBER			1 Board Meeting 7 Christmas Mass and Party 14 Children's Christmas Party 29 Board Meeting (January)
MEETINGS: Board of Directors Monday prior to the first Friday of the month – 7:00 pm Women's Klub First Thursday – 6:30 pm General Membership First Friday – 7:30 pm Senior Citizens Second Wednesday – 11:30 am Bier Choir 2 nd & 4 th Thursday – 7:00 pm Schützen Club Third Friday – 7:30 pm Genealogy Group Third Sunday – 2:00 pm Sängerchor Every Tuesday – 7:30 pm Soccer Club Fourth Wednesday – 8:00 pm Bourbon Club Fourth Friday – 7:00 pm		KOLPING MISSION STATEMENT We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society of America, led by the vision of our founder, Blessed Adolph Kolping, promote the development of the individual and the family by fostering a sense of belonging and friendship through our holistic programs of spiritual, educational, charitable, and social activities.	