

July 2025
Volume X, Number 7



**Congratulations to our new
König und Königin,
Neil and Kelly Geoppinger!**
**We also congratulate our new
Jr. King, Andy Scholz,
and our new Jr. Queen,
Kaidence Neumann!**

Pictured on the left,
L to R: Annamarie, Kelly, Neil,
and Bob Geoppinger.
Annamarie & Bob, Neil's parents, were King
and Queen in 2000, 25 years ago.

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

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

August Events

August 1, 7:30 P.M.	General Meeting
August 13, 11:30 A.M.	Seniors Meeting
August 15, 7:00 P.M.	Schützen Club
August 17, 2:00 P.M.	Genealogy Meeting
August 22, 7:00 P.M.	Bourbon Club
August 27, 5:30 P.M.	Groovin' in the Grove



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



First Name	Last Name	Birthday
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Linda	Irlbacher	Jul 2
Michael	Meyer	Jul 2
Alfred	Redder	Jul 2
Eric	Von den Benken	Jul 2
Mary Beth	Schamel	Jul 3
Leopold	Schmitt	Jul 3
Therese	Stricker	Jul 4
Joseph	Wolterman	Jul 4
Ralph	Hite	Jul 5
Aaron	Manter	Jul 5
Michelle	Moeller	Jul 5
Tim	Tensing	Jul 5
Raymond	Miller	Jul 6
Mike	Bodkin	Jul 7
Don	Murnan	Jul 7
Angela	Pohlabein	Jul 7
Frank	Albers	Jul 8
Rebecca	Hollis	Jul 8
Ken	Rieder	Jul 9
Wayne	Ramsey	Jul 10
Neil	Geoppinger	Jul 12
Cathy	Jung	Jul 13
Chris	Ruwe	Jul 14
Regina	Wolterman	Jul 14
Linda	Knizner	Jul 16
Ray	Muench	Jul 16
Carl	Wurzelbacher	Jul 16
Dan	Fischer	Jul 17

First Name	Last Name	Birthday
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Michael	Hemme	Jul 17
Eric	Muench	Jul 17
Michael	Schmidt	Jul 17
Sylvia	Nadler	Jul 18
Sharon	Riley	Jul 18
Mason	Seibel	Jul 18
Monica	DeFranco	Jul 19
Ann	Gerbis	Jul 19
Ralph	Ostendorf	Jul 19
Anna	Stukenborg	Jul 19
Heinz	Kalkhoff	Jul 20
Michael	McCarthy	Jul 20
Chuck	Merk	Jul 20
Manfred	Schnetzer	Jul 21
Josef	Seidl	Jul 21
Helen	Mueller	Jul 22
Theresa	Beiter	Jul 23
Martin	Wilhelmy	Jul 23
Dottie	Nissen	Jul 24
Hung	Pham	Jul 24
Mark	Aufderbeck	Jul 25
Chien	Vu	Jul 25
Heddy	Freese	Jul 26
Clem	Sunderman	Jul 26
Christopher	Schrand	Jul 27
Reinhold	Schwegmann	Jul 27
Harry	Schwietering	Jul 27
William	Terwort	Jul 29

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.**

A Message from the President

Throughout my life, my parents often reminded me of a simple but powerful principle: *besser machen*—always strive to make things better. That value has guided me personally, and over the past year and a half, it has guided my work, alongside the Board, to improve and secure the future of the Cincinnati Catholic Kolping Society.

There have certainly been challenges along the way, but I'm proud to share how far we've come:

2. We made a profit in 2024—the first time in many years.
3. We paid off our EIDL loan, making us officially debt-free.
4. We engaged Kirsch CPA Group, a professional accounting firm, to help identify and address gaps and opportunities in our financial systems and processes.
5. We initiated important proposed Bylaws and procedural changes to strengthen our operations and ensure proper documentation.
6. We hired outstanding Kolping Haus staff, who have been instrumental in growing our hall rental business.
7. We launched *Groovin' in the Grove*, now held on the fourth Wednesday of each month through September, helping to build community and attract new faces.
8. The Bourbon Club subgroup, started in January 2024, has quickly become one of the most active and engaged groups at nearly all of our events.
9. We successfully hosted a family-oriented 100-year anniversary celebration, honoring our history while creating lasting memories for the next generation.
10. We've remained committed to our Kolping traditions while actively working to grow our membership through new programs and events.
11. 2025 is on track to be another profitable year, thanks to improved financial discipline and thoughtful planning. That's a real sign of momentum—and of the solid foundation we're building together.

Letter from the President (cont'd.)

Despite this progress, I've heard some rumors—claims that the Board wants to sell our property or eliminate Kolping traditions. Let me be absolutely clear: these rumors are entirely false. The Board has always acted, and will continue to act, in the best interest of our Society's mission—to preserve our traditions, including our Catholic faith, maintain our facilities, and grow our organization for the future.

Some people worry that the Cincinnati Kolping Society won't be here 100 years from now—that we won't have the volunteers or leaders to sustain it. I understand those concerns, but I see something different. I, along with many on the Board, believe deeply in the potential for a strong and vibrant future, and we're hopeful that many of you share that same sense of purpose and possibility. Together, we're not just preserving what we have—we're shaping a future for the next generation. That's what *besser machen* truly means: always working to make things better, now and for those who come after us.

To help us continue moving forward, and as permitted by our current Bylaws, I have called a **Special General Meeting on Friday, September 12, 2025**, for the purpose of voting on the proposed, Board-approved Bylaws. I respectfully ask for your support in voting yes on these important changes.

Please take time to review the full details later in this *Bulletin*. If you believe in what we've been doing to *besser machen* our Society, I hope you'll stand with us and vote in favor of moving the Cincinnati Catholic Kolping Society forward.

With appreciation and service,
John Mueller
President, Cincinnati Kolping Society

Three Life Rules

1. *If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it.*
2. *If you don't ask, the answer will always be no.*
3. *If you don't step forward, you will always be in the same place.*

- Author Unknown

Schützen Club Corner

Captains Meeting Date: July 18, 2025

Place: Kolping Clubhouse / 100 Hall 7:00PM

THE YEARLY SHOOTING RESULTS:

Top 3 Teams

- 1st Place – Team Trautmann – Total 2882 / Average 64.0444
 - Don Trautmann, Paul Anhofer, Ed Geiser, Rich Bova, John O'Neil
- 2nd Place – Team Lunnemann – Total 2880 / Average 64.000
 - Bill Lunnemann Jr., Andrew Hessler, Russ Hessler, Ted Wilke, Butch Sundermann
- 3rd Place – Team Murray – Total 2867 / Average 63.7111
 - Joe Freese, John Murray, Vince Reinhold, Lee Abell, Aaron Manter

Top Shooter for the Year: Nick Krummen – Total 594 / Average 66.00

Top Shooter by Month

- August - Paul Anhofer (69)
- September – Butch Sundermann (68)
- October – Tony Dechering (68)
- November – Tony Freese (69)
- December – Nick Krummen (69)
- January – Jared Laine (68)
- February – Ed Geiser (69)
- March – Daryl Kidwell (68)
- April – Ron Von Den Benken (68)

New Leadership and Thanks

Thank you to Don Trautmann (President), Paul Anhofer (Vice President/Secretary) and Mike Brunsman (Treasurer) for taking over the officer rolls for the 2025-2027 years. Thank you to the outgoing officers for their dedication to the Schutzen Club. Marc Schnetzer (President), Chris Schnetzer (Vice President), and Tom Fehrenbach (Secretary). Thanks to the scorekeepers for the last two years, Greg Fehrenbach, Tom Fehrenbach, and Tim Geoppinger. Thank you to Mike Brunsman for 30 years and counting as Treasurer. A special thanks for all who made the End Party a success: Team Fehrenbach and their wives, Chris Schnetzer, Marc Schnetzer Family, Team Wienkamp for making and donating the whiskey sours.

Respectfully,
Marc Schnetzer, Exiting Club President
mgschnetzer@gmail.com
(513) 236-6205

Message from Our Praeses, Fr. Dan

Thanks to one and all for the success of this year's Schützenfest. Lots of work, planning, cooperation, and sacrifice involved, to say the least.

What is next for our Kolping Society? As *Praeses*, I hope we can sharpen our focus on the very purpose of our organization. Take a look at our Kolping Mission statement:

We, the members of the Catholic Kolping Society, 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.

That purpose is engraved on the bronze plaque near our entrance. It is our mission, our reason for our existence. We are committed to providing a gathering place for our members, offering religious, educational, social and recreational activities for all. We want to promote works of charity and support cultural activities that strengthen our families and communities.

Having worked on our bylaws this year, the members of our Board have grappled with issues and proposals that may help our members renew our Christian Kolping spirit and strengthen our community.

Lots of work ahead. May we all grow together in the spirit of our founder.

Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM

Soccer Club News

I want to thank everyone for their hard work at Schützenfest.

We made it through another year. Tryouts are done and we are now working on finalizing teams. The season will begin on August 1st.

Walt Dewar, President
513-312-8551

Deaths

Gerhard Stroeer, father of Lou Stroeer, Peggy Helton and Kim Stroeer, and Kolping member for 58 years, passed away on June 5, 2025 at the age of 90. We extend our sympathies to Lou, Peggy and Kim, as well as the entire Stroeer family.

Klaus Seidlitz, member of the Kolping Sngerchor for many years, passed away on June 12, 2025 at the age of 92. Our condolences go out to Barbara Geis and Klaus's extended family.

Marietta Becker, sister of Kolping members Gerry Kreutzjans, Bev Meyer, and Nancy Finke, passed away on June 12, 2025 at the age of 88. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gerry, Bev and Nancy, along with their families.

Wade Louis Hinkel, grandson of Kolping members Gus and Gert Schroeder, and nephew of Wayne and Carolyn Ramsey, passed away on June 20, 2025 at the age of 19. We extend our sympathies to Gus and Gert, Wayne and Carolyn, and their extended families.

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

Kolping Seniors

The Kolping Seniors will meet on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 11:30 am in the Klubhaus. We hope to keep it cool. 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.

Kolping Genealogy

Sunday, July 27, we will again host a live only session in the Kolping Clubhouse, NOT a Zoom meeting. Our meeting time is the usual 2:00 pm. Bring a notepad, family members, pictures, documents and stories, and review the ten steps below. You might charge up your cell phone and learn to use the recorder.

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 and their own 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. We need your stories for the benefit of future generations.

We will be following these ten steps (handouts to be provided, so RSVP to Tom [below, email, text or call])

Step 1: Start with Your Immediate Family

Step 2: Gather Stories

Step 3: Do Your US Homework

Step 4: Tackle Specialized Records

Step 5: Study Social History

Step 6: Join an Immigrant or Ethnic Genealogical Group

Step 7: Read Genealogical Guidebooks Specific to the Immigrant or Ethnic Group

Step 8: Tap Foreign Records from the United States

Step 9: Research Records in Your Ancestor's Homeland

Step 10: Share Your Findings

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.

A Note from the 100th King and Queen

Wow! What a *ride*! Thank you all for joining us on this whirlwind adventure - we laughed, we danced, we tried not to trip over our ceremonial sashes. It's been an unforgettable year filled with bratwurst, beer, and plenty of Gemütlichkeit.

This past year has been filled with unforgettable memories - laughter around every table, shared stories over Krüge of beer, and the joy of connecting with so many fellow Kolping members. Meeting such wonderful people from neighboring clubs was a true highlight.

We're especially grateful to our incredible Royal Court - your grace, kindness, and friendship made every event feel like a celebration. And to all the devoted chairpersons, thank you for making everything run smoother than a well-tapped keg.

Being Schützenkönig and -königin was an experience we'll never forget - part tradition, part adventure, and all heart. Now, let's raise a glass and give a hearty *Herzlichen Glückwunsch* to our 101st Schützenkönig and -königin, Neil and Kelly Geoppinger! We know you'll carry it with the same love and dedication that makes this community so special. Wishing you a reign filled with happiness, pride, and moments you'll treasure for a lifetime.

With love and gratitude - thank you for an amazing year. Here's to 101 years of Kolping tradition, and to many more to come.

Treu Kolping,

Holly and Scott Scholz

Thank you!

On June 1st, we celebrated our Kolping members who have/had a significant wedding anniversary in 2024 and 2025. We celebrated 16 couples, which equals 700+ years of dedication to marriage. A special thanks to Fr. Dan Kroger and Annamarie & Bob Geoppinger for planning and executing a beautiful Mass; the Tuesday Workers for Mass and hall set-up; the "Saturday & Sunday Crew" for food prep, hall decorations, tear-down and clean-up, with a special thanks to Ted Wilke and Russ Hessler. Many hands make light work and I can't thank my crew enough for all their help.

Barb Hessler

Bylaws Revision – What's Happening?

Earlier this year, our Board of Directors agreed that it's time to update the Bylaws that guide the operation of the Cincinnati Kolping Society. These updates are not about changing who we are—they're about strengthening our foundation for the future.

What Are the Proposed Changes?

Board Terms and Size: Board members will now serve three-year terms instead of two. The number of Board of Directors will be reduced from 10 to 9. Each year, three Directors will be elected—rather than five—so that two-thirds of the Board remains in place to maintain continuity and experience. Right now, half the Board of Directors turns over every year which creates a loss of knowledge and stability.

Term Limits: All leadership roles will be eligible to serve up to two consecutive terms (six years total) if re-elected. Currently, most officers are limited to just one two-year term.

Subgroup Finances: Financial rules for subgroups will be clarified and simplified. This will help ensure shared responsibilities like taxes and insurance are covered, while still allowing each group to manage their own funds for activities and events.

Policies and Procedures: Everyday operating policies and procedures will be moved to a separate document outside the Bylaws. This allows for easier updates as needed—without requiring a full Bylaws revision.

What's Next?

We want everyone to be part of this process and to know what's going on. Here are the General meetings that are planned:

Next Meeting – Important Information!

Friday, July 11, 2025 – 7:30 PM

Special Meeting – Questions & Answers

This is your opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from the Board. Get the facts and be part of the conversation!

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, August 1, 2025 – 7:30 PM

Review Meeting – One last opportunity to discuss the changes before the vote.

Friday, September 12, 2025 – 7:30 PM

Special Meeting – Official Vote

We will vote on adopting the new Bylaws at this meeting.

Help Us Ensure Our Next 100 Years

Please read the proposed Bylaws included in this Bulletin and come to the meetings. We want your questions answered. Let's work together to keep our Kolping family strong for generations to come!

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.

2025 Schützenfest Grand Raffle Winners

Judy Zinn – Bengals Tickets
Rita Qullette – Reds vs. Del Rays Tickets
Jennifer Foudray – FC Cincinnati Tickets
Vince Hartmann – Bourbon Basket
Bill & Kim Sterwerf – Bourbon Basket
Gina & Joe Wolterman – Bourbon Basket

**Deadline for submitting articles
for the August
Cincinnati Kolping Bulletin
is Wednesday, July 23, 2025
at 5:00 P.M.**

**Please submit to Nancy Pelzel
at: nancypelzel@aol.com**

Kolping Ukraine Zoom Meeting

Below is information for a Zoom call with Kolping Ukraine on July 20, 2025 at 1:00 P.M. Eastern Time to learn about how Kolping International is providing aid to the people of Ukraine with the help of Kolping Ukraine members. The Director of Kolping International, Markus Demele, as well as the Director of Kolping Ukraine, Vasyl Savka, will participate in the call and provide a first-hand account of how Kolping is making a difference. Kolping members are invited to attend this Zoom meeting by using the information below.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109170958?pwd=L_uqbksf0mnRPLCeXubZkPzD21jtzTK.1

Meeting ID: [811 0917 0958](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109170958?pwd=L_uqbksf0mnRPLCeXubZkPzD21jtzTK.1)

[Passcode: 371857](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109170958?pwd=L_uqbksf0mnRPLCeXubZkPzD21jtzTK.1)

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- [+1 301 715 8592](tel:+13017158592) US (Washington DC)
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- [+1 507 473 4847](tel:+15074734847) US
- [+1 564 217 2000](tel:+15642172000) US
- [+1 669 444 9171](tel:+16694449171) US
- [+1 669 900 9128](tel:+16699009128) US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: [811 0917 0958](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109170958?pwd=L_uqbksf0mnRPLCeXubZkPzD21jtzTK.1)

[Passcode: 371857](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109170958?pwd=L_uqbksf0mnRPLCeXubZkPzD21jtzTK.1)

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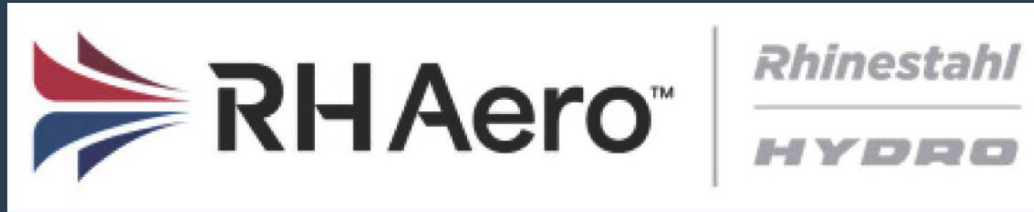
number: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109170958?pwd=L_uqbksf0mnRPLCeXubZkPzD21jtzTK.1



Thank You!

- *We had an exceptional Schützenfest!*
- *Schützenfest was a success because of your support!*
- *We cannot have a successful Schützenfest without extraordinary leaders and volunteers!*
- *OUTSTANDING setup/take down, logistics, financial support, sponsorship, and volunteer coordination!*
(The fest grounds were clean after only two days – a new record!)
- *Please consider becoming part of our remarkable team to help make Schützenfest even better next year!*
- *Thank you again for your continued support of our vital fundraising event!*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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**In Memory of
Gary & Margaret
Gerdes**



**David and Wendy
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Marianne Jansen - In Memory of Herman and Marie Jansen
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Kreutzjans Family - In Memory of George Kreutzjans
Kolping Tuesday Workers
LC Label Co. - Memorial

Neidhard-Young Funeral Home
Outdoor Environments
Pohlabein Family - In Memory of Rudy Pohlabein
Rumpke Waste & Recycling
Jim Schroer - In Memory of Dr. James A. Schroer
Dr. Mark Schroer
Schulhoff Equipment Rental
Servatii Pastry Shop & Deli
Stukenborg Family
Vosseberg Family - In Memory of August, Erna & Rita
Wassler Meats
Joe Wessels - In Memory of Chris Conrad & Anni Wessels-Conrad

Photos from the Anniversary Mass on June 1, 2025



Photo at the top, all of the Anniversary Couples with Fr. Dan Kroger, OFM, after Mass.

Photo on the left, Jerry and Johanna Stegman, celebrating their 70th Anniversary.

Middle photo, Werner and Doris Wilke, celebrating their 60th Anniversary.

Photo on the right, Mike and Manette Callahan, celebrating their 55th Anniversary.

More Photos from the Anniversary Mass



*Tom & Ellen Burke-Montgomery,
celebrating their 50th Anniversary.*



*Top right photo, Bob & Sue Koeninger,
Debbie & Rick Rebholz, celebrating their
45th Anniversaries.*

*Middle photo, John & Mary Pat Mueller,
Doug & Rhonda Stegman,
Mary Pat & Bob Findley,
Mary Ellen & Paul Moeller,
celebrating their 40th Anniversaries.*

*Above left photo,
Chris & Betty Schnetzer,
Amy & Paul Ahrnsen, celebrating their
35th Anniversaries.*



*Above, Ted & Ann Hoerstmann on the left,
Roger & Barb Adams on the right,
celebrating their 30th Anniversaries.*

Photos courtesy of Ted Wilke

Scenes from Schützenfest 2025





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 FEBRUARY 3 Board Meeting 7 General Meeting 8 Valentine's Dance 22 Stube Nacht 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) 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) MAY 2 General Meeting 4 Sängerchor Spring Konzert 16 Schützen End Party 28 Groovin' in the Grove 28 Schützenfest Planning Meeting JUNE 1 Anniversary Mass 2 Board Meeting	JUNE 6 General Meeting 13-15 Schützenfest 25 Groovin' in the Grove 30 Board Meeting (July) JULY 6 Appreciation Party 11 Special General Meeting 18 Captains' Meeting Schützen Club 23 Groovin' in the Grove 28 Board Meeting (August) AUGUST 1 General Meeting 15 First Schützen Nacht 27 Groovin' in the Grove SEPTEMBER 2 Board Meeting 12 Special General Meeting 24 Groovin' in the Grove 26-28 1931 Invitational Tournament 29 Board Meeting (October) OCTOBER 3 General Meeting 26 Memorial Mass/Goettafest 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.