



## Brooklyn Schuetzen Corps

1132 Hempstead Turnpike  
Franklin Square, NY 11010

July 2020

To one and all of our Schuetzen family,

First off, I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good health amidst these challenging times. It is because of these challenging times that this letter from me, finds its way to you.

Since March, our entire world – including our Schuetzen world, has been turned upside-down and we are all struggling to adjust to what many refer to as “the new normal.” One of these new “normal’s” is not being able to plan for things long-term as well as having to constantly change our short-term plans.

With this mindset, on Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Board of the Brooklyn Schuetzen Corps met in emergency session to discuss the single most important event on our calendar – Schuetzenfest. The sole purpose of this meeting was to discuss the feasibility of holding Schuetzenfest this year, in light of the current situation.

To digress just a bit, for the benefit of the newer and younger members of the BSC, the BSC Executive Board is charged to act not only when the membership is not in session, but also in those very rare moments when the membership can NOT meet, as is the current case. We are charged with not only a moral mandate but also with the legal mandate from the membership to look out for not only the general welfare and well-being of the BSC as a whole but also to the specific benefit and well-being of our individual members.

Now, back to our meeting... Several scenarios for Schuetzenfest were put forward and discussed, along with the various aspects of Schuetzenfest involving, feasibility, practicality, safety, logistics, attendance, and so on. However, in the end, we always kept coming back to the same reality and same unfortunate conclusion. So it is with a very deep sense of regret that I must inform you all that Schuetzenfest 2020 has been cancelled.

It has been more than three quarters of a century, at the commencement of World War II, since the last time the Brooklyn Schuetzen Corps was forced to cancel / postpone Schuetzenfest. Schuetzenfest is special to all of us, including me (clearly evidenced at last year’s Gala Dinner 😊). It’s an event packed with so much fun, memories and good times – and we even manage to do some shooting to 😊. Schuetzenfest is as regular as the rising of the sun in the grand and glorious East. Schuetzenfest isn’t something we do... Schuetzenfest is a part of us, and for us to just cast it aside is a very bitter pill to swallow.

I fully well realize that some may be of the mind that Schuetzenfest could be possible under certain circumstances with all safety measures in place. However, as we have all seen on the nightly news; the potential for what could happen when people congregate in groups is just too high. Also a sizeable

amount of our Schuetzen family are in a high risk category – certainly not the least of which, is me. Also with restrictions being put back in to place in other states, there is a possibility that could also occur here in New York, as well. In addition, our facility located in Plattdeutsche Park is not a facility unto itself. Being that it is within the park, we of the Schuetzen must adhere to all rules, regulations, directives and restrictions from the various local and state governmental authorities as well as from the management of Plattdeutsche Park.

In order for Plattdeutsche Park to operate as a business it must (re)apply for; maintain and retain a plethora of licenses and permits which are subject to regular evaluation and renewal. The loss of one or any of those licenses or permits would mean an end to Plattdeutsche Park and the subsequent and abrupt end of our facility. The Schuetzen cannot engage in any activity that would put those licenses and permits in jeopardy. That aside however, the last thing I think any of us would want to do, is to do something that would put the health and safety of any of our schuetzen family at risk.

One final mention from our meeting. If we're going to do something, then it has to be done right – or not done at all. Our Schuetzenfest is great because not only is it run right (asides from the occasional 'hiccup' here and there 😊), each and every year we do it, but also because all of the necessary elements for a successful and fun Schuetzenfest are always present – the most important of which, is all of you. If anything was missing or something was just not quite up to par with what it should be, then it takes away from the event... and that is NOT 'schuetzen.'

Now to other things... Due to the cancellation of this year's Schuetzenfest, the reign of our Schuetzen Koenig and Schuetzen Koenigin will carry over and through to September 2021. Rifle and pistol practice shooting are currently suspended. Our Schuetzenmeister will inform us when it can resume and under what circumstances. Ompahfest in the Park in September is also cancelled. During the course of our Executive Board meeting, one of our general BSC members who is with the Steuben Parade Committee came to the meeting and informed us that although at this moment no official word has been given, an official statement, announcing the cancelation of the 2020 Steuben Parade is all but assured. Also to our Pistol Division members, Pistol Schuetzenfest for this year is cancelled as well. Pistol Division Outing at Wolff's Maple Breeze in October is still pending. The Pistol Division President will advise further at a later date.

I would like to end this letter to all of you on a some-what positive note. By the grace of GOD, one and all of our schuetzen family are safe and healthy in the midst of these times. Let us all pray that it continues to remain as such. Also, I think it can be said that Schuetzenfest 2021 is going to be the best Schuetzenfest ever, if for absolutely no other reason than the raw accumulated anticipation that will be building up between now and then. My motto for our next Schuetzenfest, is going to be "**Having fun in twenty-one!**"

To conclude, to all of you, I wish for you continued health and safety, and may you and your family have a wonderful Summer. Until we see each other again...

*Mit Schützengruß!*

*Larry*

**Larry Dittmer**

Secretary

"Der Scribblemeister"