



DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHER HERRENCLUB MÜNCHEN E.V.

Club-Nachrichten

Mission accomplished

Lutz Cleemann

Auf Einladung von Generalkonsul Dr. James N. Miller hatten am 9. September unser Präsident Walter Held, Eberhard Standl und der Autor dieses Berichtes Gelegenheit, unseren Deutsch-Amerikanischen Herrenclub München vorzustellen.

Dr. Miller ist seit September 2024 Generalkonsul der USA in München als Nachfolger von Timothy Liston, zu dem der DAHC persönliche Beziehungen aufgebaut hatte.

Das Gespräch, um das Walter Held gebeten hatte, fand im Amerikanischen Generalkonsulat hier in München statt. Neben dem Generalkonsul hat auf amerikanischer Seite Dr. Nina Schaller-Gartz, Public Diplomacy, teilgenommen.

Unser Ziel des Gespräches war es, den „neuen“ Generalkonsul mit unserem Deutsch-Amerikanischen Herrenclub bekanntzumachen, mit unseren Wurzeln, unseren Zielen als gemeinnütziger Verein in Bezug auf die freundschaftlichen Beziehungen unserer beiden Länder, unseren Jugend- und Studentenprogrammen und unseren vielfältigen Clubaktivitäten.

Darüber hinaus war ein besonderes Ziel unseres Gespräches, Dr. Miller einzuladen, Ehrenpräsident des Deutsch-Amerikanischen Herrenclubs zu werden. Das ist nach §3, Absatz 4 unserer Satzung so vorgesehen.

Unser Gespräch wurde in englischer Sprache geführt.

Walter Held hat unseren Club, seine Gründungsgeschichte, seine Ziele und seine gesellschaftliche Positionierung im Zusammenspiel mit dem VDAC im Detail vorgestellt (Redemanuskript im Anhang).

Sichtlich beeindruckt hat Dr. Miller das gesellschaftliche Ansehen der Deutsch-Amerikanischen Herren- und Damenclubs, die sich zu dem Verband VDAC zusammengeschlossen haben, das sich besonders in den Trägern der Lucius D. Clay Medaille deutlich macht.

Auf besonderes Interesse von Dr. Miller ist insbesondere der aktuelle Studentenaustausch mit den USA und die Förderung von Jugendreisen in die USA gestoßen, die Eberhard Standl erläutert hat, mit seinen Spezifika seitens des Verbandes und den Besonderheiten des DAHC.



Der Autor erläutert die vielfältigen wiederkehrenden Aktivitäten der Mitglieder des DAHC, die wöchentlichen Zusammenkünfte, die monatlichen Exkursionen zusammen mit Partnern und Freunden, die Dinner zu Thanksgiving und Neujahr und die „Special Events“ wie das Gedenken an den Einmarsch der amerikanischen Truppen in München am 30. April 1945.

Auf die Frage, ob es seitens des Generalkonsuls besondere Wünsche an den DAHC gibt, die ihn in seiner Mission unterstützen, verweist Dr. Miller auf das 250-jährige Jubiläum am 4. Juli 2026, den Tag an dem sich die Unterzeichnung der

Unabhängigkeitserklärung von 1776 zum 250. Mal jährt.

Mit der Einladung an Dr. Miller für eine Ehrenpräsidentschaft im Deutsch-Amerikanischen Herrenclub München während seiner Amtszeit schließt das Gespräch.

Dr. Miller nimmt die Einladung an.

(Foto: Nina Schaller-Gartz)

Anhang

Redemanuskript Walter Held, es gilt das gesprochene Wort

History of German American Men 's Club

It all started with the end of the Second World War.

Munich was in ruins. The old city was 90 % destroyed, and the reconstruction began.

At the same time, the American military government attached importance to rebuilding a friendly relationship between the occupying power and the defeated enemy as quickly as possible.

The policy of non-fraternisation was soon over.

This led to the founding of the German American Men's Club in 1947 as the first of its kind in the American occupation zone.

A very successful model.

This was done on behalf of the legendary General Lucius D. Clay, who was known to be the military governor of the American occupation in Germany.

His name is closely linked to securing West Berlin through the courageous implementation of the Berlin airlift (Luftbrücke).

His conviction was that democracy must grow in freedom from within or from below always keeping in mind the human dignity.

We will also talk about Lucius D. Clay later.

Then as well as today the purpose of the DAHC is promote mutual respect, understanding and friendship between the German and American people.

One of the first activities of the club was the establishment of the "Pfennigparade", the German counterpart to the American "March auf Dimes", to finance the fight against the then still rampant Polio.

In the beginning, the club had about 250 members, today there are still almost 100 members. About 10% of them are American Citizens.

So much for history.

Constitution and aims

And now a few sentences about our statutes.

The central issue of our club is the promotion of dialogue and friendship between the people of Germany and the United States of America.

We are politically and religiously neutral and selflessly active and thus pursue no self-economic interests.

Our club statutes stand for the financial support for social and non-profit purposes.

As well as the promotion of programs for student exchange and youth work between Germany and America.

Especially the young people are ambassadors of our two countries and thus contribute to international understanding.

The funding is generated by the current annual membership fee of 70 € and by donations from members and (hopefully) third parties.

Cooperation with the Federation of the German-American Clubs (VDAC)

Already one year after the foundation of the DAHC the Association of German American Clubs (VADC) was founded in 1948.

The VDAC today consists of 22 member clubs.

Each year on a weekend in early October, the Federation celebrates the German-American Day.

Proclaimed by US President Ronald Reagan in 1983 (as an anniversary) and in 1987 (as a regular holiday), this occasion commemorates the arrival of the first German immigrants in the United States on October 6, 1683.

The Federation invites leading German and American politicians as well as political scientists, officers in the military, and business people to celebrate the broad spectrum of German-American relations in a suitable way. The city is determined by the club hosting the event.

The highlight of the event is the presentation of the Lucius D. Clay Medal to a German or American individual for distinguished contribution to German-American relations and friendship.

The medal is made of pure silver. The avers of the round medal shows the portrait and the name "General Lucius D.

Clay" and the dates of his birth and death. The reverse bears the inscription "For outstanding contributions to German-American friendship" in the center.

Some more words to General Lucius D. Clay.

As military governor of the US occupation zone in Germany from 1947 to 1949, General (1897-1978) played a major part in organizing the Berlin Airlift and founding the DAHC / VDAC.

Impressed by his experience and his commitment to the young Federal Republic of Germany, President John F. Kennedy appointed him to be his personal advisor in 1961 and 1962 on matters relating to Berlin. In 1973, Clay received the Konrad Adenauer Prize of the Deutschland-Stiftung. The general donated to the Federation the DM 32,000 that came with the award. Since 1980, the VDAC has used these funds to present an award in his name.

German American Day 2023 in Munich / Lucius D. Clay Medal

In 2023 DAHC hosted this German American Day and celebrated the awarding of the Lucius D. Clay Medal to the former ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger who also was the long-term head of the Munich Security Conference.

This ceremony was held just on the eve of the Hamas terror attack against Israeli citizens on October 7th, 2023.

In 2024 the Award recipient was U.S. Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges.

Former awardees were among others distinguished persons:

Friedrich Merz, German Chancellor, Philip Murphy, U.S. ambassador to Germany, Angela Merkel, German Chancellor, Gen. John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Hans Dietrich Genscher, German Foreign Minister, Vernon A.

Walters, U.S. ambassador to Germany, John J. McCloy, U.S. High Commissioner for Germany.