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President's report for the Swiss Society AGM 2018

Dear friends

We are already halfway through our 4 year term and I do believe the team has done a great job in running the Society Affairs on all fronts. Thank you for everyone's input.

There has been a lot of activities with the OSA during this year and whilst we may not have achieved what we set out to do, we have made excellent progress in raising awareness in Switzerland over our pension anomalies.

There were reports in Swiss newspapers over our concerns and a radio interview was set up too to discuss these topics. This is certainly something we have never seen before.

Peter Ehrler attended the ASO Annual Conference in Basel and as a direct result of his input and David Vogelsanger's efforts, we encouraged a political delegation from Switzerland, led by Ständerat Lombardie, President of Foreign Affairs Committee, to visit New Zealand and meet with our local politician to table our concerns. I was invited to attend a welcoming barbecue in Wellington for the five members of the Swiss Council of States. The meeting was held at the Ambassador's residence early April. We had a very lively discussion with plenty of questions coming towards us about AHV and other issues affecting us Swiss citizens living in New Zealand. We know that this was the most powerful political committee, ever, to come down under and that in itself is a win for us simply because it is evident that our issues have been discussed at the highest level in the Swiss parliament.

I think this is a great achievement and we will see what NZ First and Labour will do now they are in government. At the time of writing this report we had no feedback on the outcome of the meeting but I expect to hear something from the Embassy or through Peter Ehrler.

Your committee has also spent a lot of time trying to bring our Society constitution in line with current regulations. A special thank you has to go to Anna Blaettler for her input in this area. It is now up to you to read this and vote at the AGM on the proposed changes. This is a very important issue and I urge you to read this on our website. If you have any problems at all call or email me and I will get a copy to you.

We also overhauled the sports rules to better reflect what actually happens at club level. The most important parts here are the membership eligibility rules. This will clear up any issues regarding who can and cannot participate in club medal competitions and interclub sports events.

We also looked at the costs of the sports medals and I believe we can now make a considerable saving in this area and still maintain the quality we enjoyed.

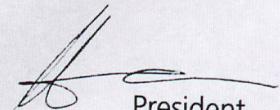
In the December/January issue you saw that we supported a Swiss Family in need with a financial donation. This is something that has not been done for decades and

I hope we can set some guidelines for this at the AGM too. Your committee made an assessment of this and decided to support this very worthy cause however, we were very mindful of the fact that we manage your money and it is our view that the members will have to approve a range we are authorised to work within.

Well, this is pretty much all the extra issues on our agenda and I would like to highlight that while work was done on the issues mentioned during the year, the everyday tasks had to be attended to as well. I hope you enjoyed the mix of stories in the Helvetia. Heidi has this down to a fine art now and we seem to drum up stories all the time but please send us anything you may think could be of interest. It's very important that we try and bring you an interesting magazine.

In closing I would like to thank my committee for all the work done behind the scene and I hope to see you ALL at the AGM in Taranaki early June.

Until then



President

Editors report for AGM June 2018

We are now half way through our term as producers of the Helvetia.

Everything is moving along nicely and the Team continues to produce a Helvetia with a variety of articles that aim to inform, amuse and challenge the reader.

There are about 600 addresses in the mailing list, 63 receive electronic copies but most recipients of electronic copies also receive a hard copy. We have 26 recipients in the South Island. Membership has remained about the same.

Some new advertisers have come on board and we thank them for their business.

The readers seem to enjoy the Lifestories and we aim to bring as many as we can during our tenure but we are running out of volunteers to share their stories. So please don't be shy.

I would like to thank the Team for their continuous support sometimes with very short notice they perform their tasks without complaint. Peter Deutschle continues to be the magician who makes it happen. I look forward to working with the Team again in the next 2 years.

Feel free to contact me or a member of the Team if you have any questions or contributions you wish to make towards the magazine.

