

# *Presidents–Baltimore Kickers*



**George Maex 1953 - 1954**

**George Maex** was born on November 11, 1902, immigrating to the United States from Hochstadt/Aisch, Germany in 1924. He lived with relatives in Baltimore and, having learned the trade, had no difficulty finding employment as a baker.

He joined the Wingfoot Soccer team and played for four years. He then became a member of the German Sports Club and started to referee unlimited leagues from 1928 to 1932.

George Maex was one of the founders of the Baltimore Kickers and served as president in 1953 and 1954.

George Maex passed away on September 9, 1957, but his memory was preserved by his later induction into the Maryland Soccer Hall of Fame.



**Joe Hanle 1955**

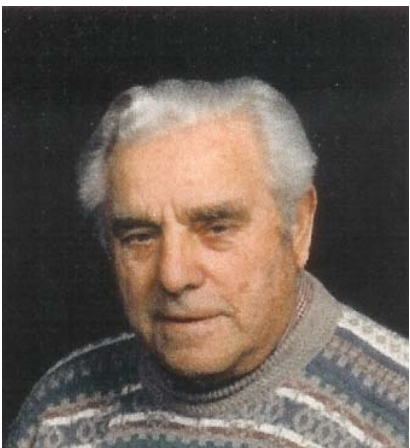
**Joe Hanle** was born on March 20, 1909. He learned his trade as an electrician at the age of thirteen in Schwaebisch Gmünd, Württemberg, Germany.

He immigrated to the United States at the age of 21 and worked in New York for approximately half a year before moving to Baltimore where he worked for Keystone Electric Co. until 1941. After his work with Keystone, Joe started his own business.

Joe met his wife, Julia, at the Arion Park on Wilkens Avenue and they got married in 1933. They have four sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He was president of the Baltimore Kickers in 1955. This was the only club he belonged to and was very proud of it. Under his leadership, the incorporation of the Baltimore Kickers was completed including its by-laws.

His wife passed away on February 8, 2001 and Joe passed away on February 28, 2003. Joe was posthumously honored at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on May 3, 2003.



**Gustav Horn 1956**

**Gustav Horn** was born on April 10, 1917 in Weingarten/Baden, Germany. He served in the German Armed Forces from 1936 to 1945. He worked at the Employment Department of Westerland/Sylt from 1945 to 1950 then he moved to Baltimore. For 2 years, Gustav worked at the Gunther Brewery, followed by over 30 years in the construction industry.

His sports interests included soccer, swimming and tennis.

He was one of the founders of the Baltimore Kickers in 1953 holding various positions over the years as manager, recording secretary and president in 1956.

Gustav belonged to several German clubs and held the office of Past Master of Germania Lodge No. 160 A.F. and A.M. He was also a member of the Boumi Temple Baltimore, Knights of Mecca.

Gustav Horn passed away on July 28, 1998.





**Adam Kimmel 1957-1958**

**Adam Kimmel** was born on June 28, 1900 in Gross-Welzheim am Main. He came to the United States in 1922 with his wife, nee Margaret Kuhn, whom he married the year before. They have two sons, one daughter and six grandchildren.

Adam was vice president of the Baltimore Kickers and president for two years, 1957 and 1958. He initiated the incorporation of the Baltimore Kickers and helped with the by-laws. In 1975, he became Honorary President of the Baltimore Kickers. He also served as president of the Eichenkranz.

A letter of honor was presented to him by the Nordoestlicher Saengerbund von Amerika for his more than 50 years of dedicated service to German song and art.

Adam Kimmel passed away in November 1975.



**Eddie Thau 1953-1963 & 1967-1974**

**Eddie Thau** was born on April 14, 1910 in Nuremberg, Germany. He came to the United States on May 18, 1925 aboard the "Columbus". He played soccer with the Black and Decker team for 2 seasons.

On September 1, 1934, he married Erna Buchholz at the Zion Lutheran Church. In 1936, he joined the family business, The Thau Mfg. Co., on Belair Road.

He was an active soccer player with the Erster Deutscher Sport Club until the club was liquidated.

He was the president of the Baltimore Kickers for 13 years and became Honorary President in 1975. He was the Baltimore Kickers' representative to and vice president of the Maryland Oktoberfest until his death on December 8, 1976. He also held memberships in the German Lodge, Deutsche Geselligkeit, Parkville Pleasure Club, Moose Lodge and Red Men Lodge. His wife, Erna, died on December 6, 1971. He was survived by his two sons, Richard Franz and Robert Lorenz, and five grandchildren.



**Werner Juergensen 1964-1965**

**Werner Juergensen** was born on April 16, 1928 in Westerland on the Island of Sylt. He played in the amateur league with Schleswig-Holstein. He came to the United States in 1952. He met a Ukranian who introduced him to the soccer team with whom he played his first season. During that year, he met many different Germans, among them Eddie Thau. After a discussion about soccer with Eddie in 1953, the Baltimore Kickers Club was created. In the beginning, he served as financial secretary until becoming president from 1964 to 1965.

The highlights of his term in office were instituting the well known Alcazar Dances, taking part in bringing back the Max Blob team, and securing a clubroom for the Kickers at the Deutsches Haus. Still active in the club, he also held the title of First Vice-President.

Along with wife Irene, he is again assisting with our popular Schlachtfest, held twice a year. Long-time participants in the Oktoberfest, he and Irene continue to chair a bratwurst stand at our annual German Festival.



**Alfred Zeller** was born on May 21, 1924 in Stuttgart, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1951. During that year, he married the former Marlene Haupt. They have one son, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He played professionally with the Baltimore Rockets and later with the Baltimore Kickers from 1954 to 1965, becoming its president in 1966. He initiated many new ideas for the betterment of the Club. His wife and son were both very active for many years.

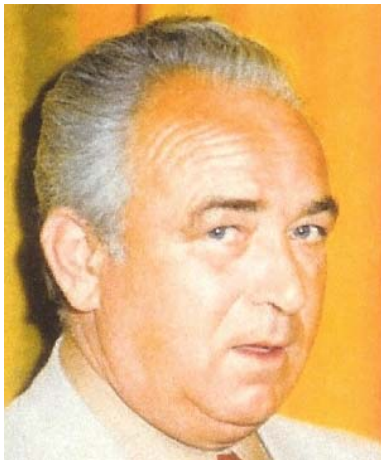


**Alfred Zeller 1966**

Alfred enjoyed playing the accordion on our various bus trips and could be found with instrument in hand and ready for a tune after soccer practices. He started a band in 1962 called “The Happy Wanderers”. He and the Happy Wanderers were very much in demand and always played to a full house until they disbanded in December 1979. He continues to play at the Schlachtfests, delighting those gathered. In 1998, Alfred was honored with his induction into the Maryland Soccer Association Hall of Fame. The Baltimore Kickers also honored Alfred with a proclamation declaring the clubhouse Game Room as the “Zeller Keller.”

Alfred’s wife, Marlene, passed away on July 1, 2002.

**Alfred Baumann** was born on March 17, 1928 in Augsburg, Germany. He was married to the former Irmhild Mocolaczak in 1949 and came to the United States in 1954. He worked for 10 years at the National Brewing Company and 27 years for the Bundesdeutsche Marine Verbindungs-Stab in Alexandria, VA, retiring in March 1993. His many accomplishments included 10 years as vice president, president from 1975 to 1979 and 1987 to 1988 of the Baltimore Kickers. He also held the position of Second Vice-President of the V.D.A.K. in Philadelphia, PA.



**Alfred Baumann  
1975-1979 & 1987-1988**

He was instrumental in the purchase of the Baltimore Kickers Clubhouse at 26 S. Broadway and, through the combined efforts of the members and his leadership, they were able to redecorate and furnish the clubhouse. While he was in office, the Baltimore Kickers grew into a recognizable organization and reached a goal dreamed by many presidents and members before him.

Irmhild passed away on May 29, 2001 and Alfred passed away on September 13, 2002.

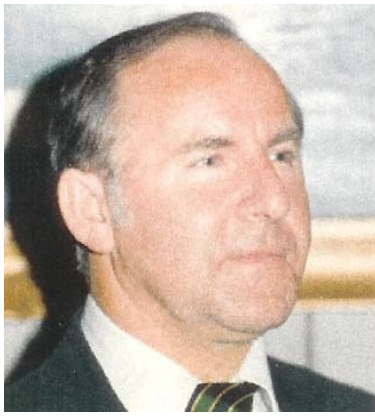
**John E. Roh**, the son of German immigrants in Baltimore was born on February 6, 1926. He married the former Pat Patterson in 1948 at the Zion Lutheran Church. They have three sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren. He was active in the Dundalk Kiwanis Club for 12 years and became its president in 1963. He also participated in A.F.S. and the Dundalk Chamber of Commerce. In 1953, John started his own dry cleaning business. He has since sold his business and is currently enjoying retirement.



**John Roh 1980 - 1982**

John joined the Baltimore Kickers in 1969, during which time he served as House Chairman, vice present and three years as president. Under his administration, soccer grew to include three teams, the library expanded, and considerable remodeling of the Clubhouse was completed. While serving as an officer of the Baltimore Kickers, he assisted in running the German Festival and chaired the festival in 1979 and 1980.





**Hans Steffen 1983-1986**

**Hans Steffen** was born on April 6, 1939 in Karow, Pommern, currently part of Poland. In 1957, he immigrated to the United States. He has been married to the former Maria Rute Dias from Brazil since 1968. He and his wife have two lovely daughters, Sonia and Sandra and one grandchild. Hans is retired from the German Armed Forces Command USA/CA in Reston, VA.

Hans started playing for the Kickers in 1958 at which time he became a member. He lists many contributions to the club, namely a player with the First Team, the Old-Timers Team, and a referee. During his membership, Hans has held the offices of financial secretary for four years, treasurer for 11 years and president from 1983 to 1986. He is currently on the Board of Directors as a delegate in charge of cultural affairs.

On October 11, 1986, he was presented with the "Federal Republic of Germany Friendship Award" by Gunther van Well, Ambassador of Germany.



**John Exter 1989-1996**

**John Exter** was born on May 23, 1935 in Dundalk, MD to parents of German ancestry. He has been married to the former Doris L. Schweiger since 1957. They have two sons and one daughter, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Corp. for 43 years, retiring in 1996 as a Senior Metallurgical Assistant assigned to the Sales Marketing Division.

During his years at the Club, he has served 11 years as Vice-President, 10 years as House Manager and as Club President from March 3, 1989 through March 1, 1997. On September 30, 1989, John was awarded the Federal Republic of Germany "Friendship Award."



**Mark Duerr 1997-1998**

**Mark Duerr** served as Kickers President from March 1997 through February 1998. Upon joining the Kickers in November 1986, Mark immediately became active in club functions. He has held several positions on the Board of Directors, including Public Relations Chairman, Second Vice-President and First Vice-President. He has also been a member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Together with his wife Irene, he has chaired numerous Clubhouse events as well as German Festival and Oktoberfest stands, Workers Picnics and Faschings.

Mark was born in Baltimore on May 9, 1954. His great-great grandfather, Franz Dürr, immigrated to the U.S. from Germany in mid-1840s and settled around the Lexington Market area where he established several small businesses, including tobacconist.

Mark is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and the Johns Hopkins University. He has been employed by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company since 1976. He and Irene reside in the Springlake community in Timonium, Maryland. They enjoy travel to Germany, where Irene has several relatives.





**Bob Gibson 1998-2003**

**Robert (Bob) Gibson, Sr.** served as Kickers President from 1998 through 2004. He was born on September 24, 1939 in Baltimore and is of German-Scottish heritage.

Bob attended the University of Maryland. He has been married to the former Dorothy Whay since 1961. They have two children, a son and daughter, and two grandchildren. Bob retired from Nabisco after 34 years in sales.

During Bob's tenure at the club, he has served as Second Vice-President, barkeep, and President. He has also served as the Kickers' representative to the Buegerverein and as German Festival entertainment chairman. Bob edits a quarterly newsletter on stamp collecting and is a national stamp exhibitor, winning several awards. He has been a national librarian of the German Philatelic Society.



**John League 2004-2006**

**John League**, born in Chase, Maryland in 1937, is the 4th generation of German descent to settle in the area. Married in 1959 to Cecilia Weiskopf, they have seven children and 16 grandchildren – several of which are also Baltimore Kickers members.

In 1958, he enlisted in the Maryland National Guard and after graduation in 1961 from Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill, OK, he served as S2 and then as 29<sup>th</sup> Division Public Affairs Detachment Commander – Maryland National Guard, retiring as a Major in 1981. He earned his BS in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland in 1964 and retired from Bethlehem Steel Co. as Plate Mill Division General Foreman in 1990 after 30 years of service. Being an instrument and commercial rated private pilot and owning and restoring an Aeronca Champ brought great pleasure for many years.

An active member since 1988, he served as First Vice-President for two terms and as President 2004-2006. During his years in office, the Investment Committee, Greeters, and Kinder Keepers were established and many of the operations of the club were documented. In 2008, he was appointed and is currently serving the Kickers board as a Member-at-Large. He and his family enjoy traveling, new adventures and LIFE!



**Margo Senula 2006-2008**

**Margot Senula** has the distinction of being the first woman President of the Kickers, serving from March 2006 through February 2008. As part of her many contributions to the Kickers, she has served as First Vice-President, chaired numerous clubhouse events as well as German Festival and Oktoberfest stands. While raising her sons, Karl and Mark, she became involved in their education, serving as PTA President for four years, PTA Treasurer for two years, and assisting with the introduction of a Foreign Language curriculum in Baltimore County elementary schools.

Margot was born on September 30, 1937 in Recklinghausen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. She has been married to Heinrich Senula since 1960. In 1961, both immigrated to the United States and made Baltimore their home. They have three wonderful grandchildren, Elisabeth, August and Anna. She and her husband enjoy traveling with friends and visiting family in Europe and parts of the United States.





**Betty Niemann 2008**

Betty Niemann was born and raised in Baltimore. Her parents emigrated separately from Meissen and Leipzig in Saxony to the United States. Betty is a graduate of Eastern High School and the Baltimore Business College. Her working years were spent as a medical secretary first at Johns Hopkins Hospital and ending many years later on her retirement from Mercy Medical Center.

She is married to Bruno "Dutch" Niemann. They are the parents of one daughter, Leslie Trageser who is a Kickers member, two sons, Mark and David, and the grandparents of six.

Betty and Dutch have been active in the German community since their early years, beginning at Zion Church and later with a variety of German organizations. Betty is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the German Society of Maryland and the Zion Church Council, serving as Chairwoman of the Zion Property Committee. In the past, she has held titles of Secretary and President of the Edelweiss Club for many years.

