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News from the German Consulate in Kansas City

by Doris Ganser

Since March 2011, the Kansas City area has had a new German honorary consul, Mr. Rolf D. Snyder, whose consular district comprises Kansas and the Counties of Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte in Missouri. The German consulate provides assistance to Germans living in the area of his jurisdiction and serves as public policy arm of the German Government. He offers consular assistance in various matters, including legal, travel, and diplomacy.

Mr. Snyder is an internationally well-versed attorney who holds a JD from the University of Kansas School of Law as well as an MBA in Finance and International Business from the KU Graduate School of Business. From there he went on to earn a certificate in Public & Private International Law at the Hague Academy of International Law and an MIM in Marketing/Project Management from the École Supérieure de Commerce de Clermont Ferrand. In addition to being president of Global Perspectives Advisory Group (GPAG), he is Marketing and Media Director at the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, and closer to home, continues to be involved in activities of the Kansas City National World War One Museum, where he formerly served as IT director.



Honorary Consul Rolf D. Snyder (© Germany.info)

There have been some recent changes in the contact information for the local consulate. For security reasons, consulates have been instructed to discontinue accepting direct emails; hence the previous wbs11@mindspring.com email address for the German consulate no longer works. For emergency purposes, Mr. Snyder's personal e-mail is GermanConsulKC@gmail.com. You can reach busy Mr. Snyder under telephone number 913-642-5134 and fax number 913-642-5348 but you will most likely have to leave a message. It is much more practical to use the following instructions:

If you want to apply for a German passport (extensions are no longer possible), go to germany.info where you will find most information (incl. fees) and forms you may need, without having to call a consulate. Please note that the instructions will advise you to submit an original and a copy of the documents needed. Contrary to this instruction, except for an existing expiring or expired passport and your photos, in all cases, you should not relinquish your original document but obtain a *notarized copy of the original* to submit (the other submitted copy need not be notarized.) Carefully guard and keep in your possession every original you have. The site also contains visa and other information. Some local notaries will balk about notarizing a copy in a foreign language — just tell them they are not notarizing the content of the document, but just that it is a copy. Most banks have a notary.

Once you have *all* your information assembled, you can make an appointment with Consul Snyder. Whether you are in Mr. Snyder's district or not, as long as you are in the area of jurisdiction of the Chicago Consulate General (e.g. St. Louis) and you happen to come to KC or KC is more convenient for you than Chicago, the Kansas City office will be happy to assist you. This is because there are not many consulates which are fortunate enough to have the proper equipment and so, in the



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interests of customer service, Mr. Snyder's office will help so that you do not have to pay for an expensive flight to Chicago. He is equipped with a fingerprinting machine for obtaining the biometric data (fingerprints) needed from you. This is a great convenience because it saves you a trip to Chicago to get fingerprinted at the German Consulate General and perhaps having to stay there over night.

Even though you can call Mr. Snyder, the *easiest* and most efficient way to get an appointment at this time is on the Internet, using germanconsulkc.clickbook.net (carefully spell and follow the punctuation, or the URL will not work.) When you click on the URL, you will find a map directing you to 8014 State Line Road, Leawood KS 66208, where the German consulate is located, and a calendar, on which you can see the times Mr. Snyder is available; select the one that's convenient for you by clicking it and you are on your way to your new passport, which will take 6 weeks or more to obtain. I believe Mr. Snyder will appreciate your thanks for getting the fingerprinting machine; I forgot to thank him but hope he'll accept my thanks here.

[Byline:] Doris Ganser is a degreed commercial, legal, technical and scientific translator and interpreter, who translates to German and English from several languages and founder and president of Transimpex Translators-Interpreters-Editors-Consultants, Inc. in Kansas City.