

# Die Leibstandarte

Prospektiv Anwärter:

Greetings and thank you for your inquiry regarding membership in the LAH. You have certainly contacted the right people if you are interested in joining the largest and most authentic German WWII re-enactment unit in existence!

We currently have over 200 members on our rolls and are working to increase our numbers by the end of the year. Not only do we offer quantity, we also offer quality by enforcing the highest standards of authenticity in all facets of our hobby. Our attention to detail in our uniforms, barracks, campsites, authentic vehicles, weapons, drill formations, extensive awards programs, identity documents and countless other aspects leave us unparalleled in the re-enactment community and imitated by many other units, both Allied and Axis.

We take our unit and our hobby very seriously so there are some things you will need to consider prior to requesting and submitting an application. If you can answer yes to the following questions, our unit may be for you:

- 1) Are you at least 18 years of age? (A copy of a valid photo ID will be required)
- 2) Can you attend events (battles) in the Continental US at least twice a year?
- 3) Are you free from felony convictions?
- 4) Are you aware of our unit's "No Tolerance Policy" toward any radical, political or racist ideologies?
- 5) Can you afford to equip yourself and endure travel costs to and from events?
- 6) Do you understand that during your three-event probationary period as an Anwärter (candidate) your membership may be revoked, without recourse, for breaches of discipline, demonstration of radical tendencies, or for misleading or falsifying information on your application?
- 7) Are you aware that, upon completion of your probationary period as an Anwärter, you will be awarded the coveted LAH cuff title and membership into the most exclusive unit in the hobby and that you will have more fun and meet more friends with a common interest than you could've possibly ever imagined?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, read on! Here are some answers to frequently asked questions:

- **Do I have to speak German to participate?** No, however, all marching commands, facing movements, drills, etc., are conducted in German for authenticity so a minimal amount of German will have to be learned and recognized. Our extensive LAH Handbook covers all of the required German commands and military protocol.
- **How much does it cost?** Like most hobbies, re-enacting will require an initial investment into uniforms, field gear and weapons to get you started. Although many members buy a complete kit outright, most new members buy items piecemeal to avoid a large initial cash outlay. An entire uniform, complete with insignia and field gear (everything but a rifle) runs around \$1200-1400.

Original WWII German Kar98k rifles cost around \$400-\$650. Obviously, a significantly greater investment will be required should you decide to purchase an MP-40 or another automatic weapon.

- **Where do I buy uniforms and field gear?** There are dozens of vendors supplying original and reproduction uniform and field gear items. Additionally, many unit members may have extra equipment or uniforms for sale at greatly reduced prices. The LAH Handbook outlines all authorized uniforms and field gear utilized by our unit. It is highly recommended that new unit members consult the Handbook or other LAH members for information concerning reputable vendors, authorized items and market prices prior to wasting money by purchasing items that may not be correct or allowed.
- **Can I join as an officer or NCO?** Sorry, all members start their re-enactment career with the LAH as an Anwärter. This allows the unit to observe you during a “probationary” period and ensure that your membership in the LAH will be mutually beneficial. In time, applicants with NCO or officer aspirations may move up through the ranks as high as their capabilities and available positions will permit. Many members have decided to remain enlisted men their entire careers without the pains of organization, administration and behind-the-scenes activities required by leadership positions.
- **Where are re-enactments held?** The bulk of the LAH is located primarily in the Midwest. Thus, most battles heavily attended by the LAH are in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Illinois. We also have many East Coast and Southern US members. There are several large events conducted each year with a multitude of smaller events conducted throughout the country. The LAH newsletter, website and other re-enactment publications list battle sites and dates. Most event (battle) organizers charge some sort of entry fee (anywhere from \$5 to \$50 depending on what is offered, i.e., chow, barracks, water, entertainment, etc.).
- **How much are dues?** The first year’s dues are \$45. This pays for your LAH Handbook, Soldbuch (German pay and records book), the LAH cuff title, liability insurance and the LAH newsletter. Subsequent dues are \$35 which pays for sustaining membership, insurance, the newsletter, special projects and upkeep of the LAH website.
- **How do I join?** Request an application from [lssahwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:lssahwebmaster@gmail.com) and complete it in accordance with the instructions. You will also be required to fill out a disclaimer and a Soldbuch Data Sheet. Return all of the paperwork with a \$45 check or money order to the address indicated. You will be contacted by a unit member in your geographical region. Please keep in mind; we reserve the right to refuse membership to any applicant for any reason.

Once again, thanks for your interest in the LAH, we hope to hear from you again in the very near future.

Bis Später!



J. Griffith, SS-Sturmbannführer und LAH Kommandeur