

## HC July 2019 Newsletter – Final

Dear Friends of Austria!

Summer! What a fun time to enjoy the sun, water, mountains, and cool evenings with family + friends!

**On Vacation - Auf Urlaub!**

**The Honorary Consulate of Austria in Seattle will be closed from August 7 – September 22, 2019. Please contact the Consulate General of Austria in Los Angeles for assistance: [www.austria-la.org](http://www.austria-la.org).**

## News From Austria:



### **Parliamentary Election in Austria: Nationalratswahlen: Sunday, September 29, 2019:**

After the No-confidence vote in the parliament in June, triggered by major corruption scandals, the government coalition ÖVP/FPÖ under then Chancellor Kurz had to resign and new elections are to be held. For the interims time, President VanderBellen nominated the former head of Austria's Constitutional Court, Dr. Brigitte Bierlein, as Chancellor who then nominated 12 highly qualified persons (6 women and 6 men) as heads of the different departments. The work of this interim government, led by experts in their fields, is praised and welcomed by the Austrian public.

**Every Austrian citizen older than 16 years is eligible to vote!!** Austrians living abroad can vote using an absentee ballot. You need to be registered with the election office of the community where you had the strongest ties. The registration can be done ANYTIME, also online. Please refer to this link: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/wahlen/> for more information, the application form, and a guideline how to determine “your” election community. At the registration form you can opt for the 10-years ABO option, that means for the next 10 years you will get the absentee ballots automatically sent to you without any further steps necessary.

After you receive the absentee ballot, please return the completed ballot **immediately** to your respective election office using the provided pre-paid return envelope - to make sure the ballots arrive in time.

**IMPORTANT:** To be eligible to vote for the upcoming election, you need to be registered (Eintragung in die Wählerevidenz) **LATEST by August 8, 2019.** <http://botschaft.austria.org/wahlen> . **So, only a few days left!** Please also see attached letter from Consul General of Austria in Los Angeles, Andreas Launer, for further information.

**Every vote counts – Jede Stimme zählt!**

## News from the Austrian Community in WA:

Good news! In recent years more and more Austrians are moving to the Pacific Northwest, mostly younger, highly talented professionals, recruited by one of the Tech giants in town.

To connect Austrians living here and to serve their needs according to their interest and age, new forms of community platforms have emerged. This is exciting, and it is important to support these efforts so that every Austrian living in the Pacific Northwest feels connected and included. These different groups help provide attractive and effective choices of social and professional connections, geared to different interests. Please see attached flyer of a summary of the diverse Austrian Groups and organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

Please support each one of them as they all strive to fill the needs of Austrian expats in their various phases of life:

### **A-BIT Community Seattle** – Austrian Business, Innovation & Tech Community Seattle:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10471812/>

*Networking, sharing expertise, experiences, and exchange of ideas*

**Contact:** Florian Förster ([florianfoerster@fb.com](mailto:florianfoerster@fb.com)), Ronald Tschech ([ronald.tschech@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.tschech@gmail.com)).

This newly formed community emerged from the need and interest of Austrian professionals in the Seattle Region to form a platform to network, exchange interests, ideas, information emerging from the Tech and Business world. A LinkedIn Group was established, and you are invited to join to stay informed about each other's work and latest developments in the Biz and Tech world. The first broader meeting of the A-BIT Community Seattle will be held **later in August**. For more information check out and join the LinkedIn group. Details TBA.

### **Meet-up: Austrian - Österreicher Gruppe:**

<https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events/members/>

*Willst du andere Österreicher-innen in Seattle treffen? Vermißt Du, im Dialekt zu reden? Suchst Du Spaß und gute Laune? Wir freuen uns auf Dich beim nächsten Stammtisch!*

**Contact:** Jürgen Schatzer: [juergenschatzer@gmail.com](mailto:juergenschatzer@gmail.com)

Meets every 3rd Friday in different locations around the greater Seattle area, to make it possible for you to join no matter if you live on the East or West side of Lake Washington. Also, this platform encourages to initiate other get-togethers, like singing group or book clubs or whatever idea you have.

### **FACEBOOOK: Austrians in Seattle:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AustriansInSeattle/>

*Easy way to stay connected, get help, share and exchange items, meet and get together with fellow Austrians in the region*

**Contact:** Alex Stoklas: [alex.stoklas@gmail.com](mailto:alex.stoklas@gmail.com)

The group was recently launched to provide an easy communication tool for Austrians and Friends of Austrians living in the Greater Seattle Area to learn about relevant news and events and be able to provide help to each other. Become a member today and join the conversation.

### **AUSTRIA CLUB of WASHINGTON:**

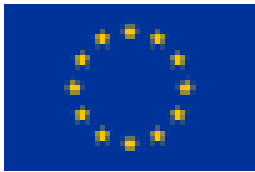
[www.austriacubwa.com](http://www.austriacubwa.com) .

*A social organization founded in 1976, consisting of members of all walks of life, ages, and nationalities. The Club organizes various social events, manages special projects. Come and join, meet new friends, make a difference, enjoy the camaraderie of a group of people with similar interests.*

**Contact** Club President: Rosie Mulholland: [mulho@comcast.net](mailto:mulho@comcast.net)

This club organizes larger social events, like the upcoming Oktoberfest (see attached flyer!), Weihnachtsfest, the annual Viennese Ball, Maifest, among others. Come join this active group and enjoy these traditional and fun events! Volunteers are welcomed and needed; you will be rewarded while forming new friendships.

## OTHER NEWS:



New appointments of the most important positions in the European Parliament following the European Elections in May: 2 prominent women in top positions:



**Ursula von der Leyen**, 60, trained physician, current minister of defense of Germany, previous minister of several other resorts, mother of 7, got nominated for the highest job within the EU: EU Commissioner (succeeding Jean-Claude Juncker). On July 16, Ursula VonDerLeyen was confirmed as the first woman in this highest position within the EU.



**Christine Lagarde**, 63, currently head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) since 2011, nominated for the European Central Bank (succeeding Mario Draghi)



**July: Heat Wave in Europe:** Hardest hit were Spain and France. In Paris, temperature soared to 42 degrees Celsius (107 Fahrenheit), a new temperature record. In Austria, highs reached “only” 101.5F (38.6C). One heat record chased another one.



**July 25:** An over 100 years old Egon Schiele drawing was discovered in a New York Habitat for Humanity thrift store, and it could be worth more than \$100,000. The finder plans to donate part of the sales revenue to Habitat for Humanity.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**August 2019: First meeting of “A BIT Community Seattle”**

Information exchange of Austrian professionals in business and Tech world. Time and location to be announced – check LinkedIn group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10471812/>



**Saturday, September 28, 6 – 11pm, at the German House, 613 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle.**

This fun annual event featuring the Enzian Schuhplattler, music by the Bonnie Birch Trio, festival dinner, dancing and much more is organized by the Austria Club of WA. Don't miss this authentic and festive Alpine experience. Trachten and traditional folk costumes are encouraged for all but, of course, casual wear is just fine. Dance, sing, eat, and enjoy good company. See attached flyer for more info.

Tickets purchase through: <https://oktoberfest2019.brownpapertickets.com>

### ***Looking ahead:***



**Sunday, October 27: Austrian National Holiday Celebration: 2-5pm at the German House in downtown Seattle.**

Wishing you all a wonderful summertime, enjoy your travels - maybe some of you can visit Austria! I am looking forward to meeting you at one of our events and being of assistance upon my return from Austria.  
Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel

Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle  
[www.austrianconsulateseattle.org](http://www.austrianconsulateseattle.org)

### Attachments:

Letter Consul General Launer -Wahlen;  
Election information  
Overview Austrian groups and organizations  
Oktoberfest