

SOKII 2014 District Saengerfest in Louisville ~ June 6-8, 2014

The **61st Southern Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois (SOKII) singing Bezirk** (District) held their 2014 Sangerfest this past weekend, June 6-8, in Louisville, Kentucky. The Bezirk consists of 12 German choirs: Springfield Liedertafel, Eintracht Singing Society-Dayton, Dayton Liederkrantz-Turner, Cincinnati Kolping Sangerchor, German-American Club Gesangverein-Louisville, Fort Wayne Mannerchor/Damenchor, Indianapolis Liederkrantz Mannerchor/Damenchor, Indianapolis Sangerchor, Indianapolis Mannerchor, Germania Mannerchor/Damenchor-Evansville, Dammchor Germania-Peoria, and Harmonie Gesangverein-Peoria, who are all part of the North American Saengerbund. The German-American Club Gesangverein of Louisville hosted the event which began Friday evening with a sausage dinner in their club's Biergarten and entertainment was provided by the music of Gebhard Eler, known for his German music programs on WOBO and WAIF.

After practice at the clubhouse on Saturday morning, the District choirs joined together for a beautiful concert at the Crowne Plaza Hotel ballroom on Saturday evening. The program began with the Colors being posted by the Jr. ROTC from Eastern High School and everyone singing the US National Anthem. This was followed by the German National Hymn and then the Parade of the District Flags. We were greeted by the Festival and District Presidents and then treated to an overture by Stephan Wright. Justin Romney, from the Louisville Gesangverein, was our very professional conductor. Kurt McKinney, TV & movie actor, was the Master of Ceremonies.

It is always an exciting experience to practice new music for several months with your own choir and then have the opportunity to join with almost 200 voices from 12 choirs to make a large, beautiful chorus performing together! This year we had the opportunity to sing not only in German, but also some English and even a little French! And, of course, being in Kentucky just wouldn't seem right without singing "*My Old Kentucky Home*" in 4-part harmony and the arrangement was beautiful!

Following the concert, we enjoyed a lovely dinner and then danced to music played by The Rheingold Band who kept the dance floor well occupied by playing a nice variety of music.

Sunday morning, the delegates had their meeting, and then everyone enjoyed Fruschoppen and a Schnitzel luncheon at the clubhouse. Afterward, each choir was invited up to sing a couple of songs providing a very nice finale to a musical weekend.

The German-American Club Gesangverein did a wonderful job organizing and implementing this delightful event. They truly deserve a very big THANK YOU!

