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♪ Cliff's Notes

I am so glad that, for several years in a row I have been able to begin my letter by saying we had a good year last year. Our financial health remains good, we continue to improve our property, and attendance at our events remains pretty steady. Having said all of that, there is always room for improvement. The number of households paying membership dues seems to have dropped in the past year. Perhaps that is because you forgot to pay your dues. If that's the case, we want you to know that we still want and need you as members. In these times it is difficult for organizations like ours to maintain membership, much less grow it. However, if we are to continue to celebrate and acknowledge the German heritage in our culture, we need support (financial or otherwise). If you forgot to pay your dues last year, please consider renewing your membership this year. Also, I am always looking for people to get more involved in the running of the club. Even if you are not in one of our music groups, there are opportunities to be active in our operations. If you are interested, please contact me. You can fill out a contact form on our website, www.indyliederkrantz.org or call me at 317-782-9216.

In 2018 we continued to venture out of our building to make contact with people who do not know about us. We participated in the Carmel Christkindlmarkt again. We sang for a group known as the Indiana Council on World Affairs for their German night. The Bell Choir played for two new groups of people. A highlight for us was participating in the opening weekend of the Year of German-American Friendship, including being in a parade downtown. It was the first time many of us had ever been in a parade, and we had a lot of fun.

Something new this year is that we will be hosting two out of five beer brewing competitions for Classic German Beer Styles. The first one we will host will be the day of our Bock Bier Fest on March 2nd and the second one will be at our Summer Fest on August 3rd. More information is on Facebook.

There is a schedule elsewhere in this newsletter, and I urge you to check our website and Facebook page. You never know when we will add or change an event.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 19th at 10:00AM, and we resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 23rd. You are always welcome to stop by on Wednesday evening, have a beer and listen to our choirs rehearse. I wish you all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2019, and I look forward to seeing you at several of our events this year.

Cliff Chandler, President

Damenchor Notes

Our Damenchor had a very busy 2018! In preparation for our District Songfest, our Damenchor purchased Dirndls (German dresses). We look so authentic! I want to thank the people that made donations, since they are not cheap. We organized and hosted the 64th Bezirkssaengerfest (District Singing Fest) in Indianapolis on April 13-15. On Friday, the "Welcoming" was held at the Liederkrantz with a dinner and dance. Our Hauptkonzert (main concert) was held on Saturday at the Grand Hall at Union Station. We had over 200 singers from Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana. On the following day, the Fruehschoppen for all the singers was held at the Illinois Ballroom at Union Station. Every choir sang separately after the luncheon. After that, we said goodbye to friends we see every year at the different Saengerfests. We received many compliments on our first District Songfest!

Our yearly Maifest and Bunter Abend events went really well, with a dinner, concert and dance. I think our audience enjoys our singing and our food! At the beginning of September, we helped in the cake booth at the Octoberfest at German Park. We had a lot of rain that weekend. In October, the German Consulate in Chicago decided to start "The Year of German/American Friendship" with the theme "Wunderbar Together" in Indianapolis the weekend of October 6. Our choir (along with our men's choir) sang at a German service at Zion Evangelical Church. After the service, we participated in the German Parade from Monument Circle to the Anthaneum. In December, Sacred Heart invited us to sing at their St. Nickolaus Fest. In addition, this was the second year that we were asked to sing at the "Christkindlmarkt" in Carmel, and we sang on two different weekends. Together with the men and our Bell Choir, we held our favorite event – our Weihnachtskonzert (Christmas Concert). I think we sound awesome together!

Last but not least, I want to invite all ladies that like to sing to join our choir. We love having new singers join our choir! If you don't know German, then we will help you to pronounce the words. We practice on Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. I hope to see many of you for practice, and you'll get to wear a Dirndl at our concerts.

The Indianapolis Liederkrantz Damenchor and I want to wish you: "Ein glueckliches, gesundes Neues Jahr 2019".
Margit Ball, Damenchor President



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 (317) 755-6402 (NEW PHONE NUMBER)
 www.indyliederkranz.org

2019 Schedule

March 2.....Bock Beer Fest
 March 24.....Das Bell Concert
 March 30.....Frank & Allie Show
 April 13.....Men's Concert & Dance
 May 4.....Damenchor Maifest
 May 17-19.....National Saengerfest in Peoria, IL
 Aug. 3.....Summerfest at German Park
 Sept. 5-7.....Oktoberfest at German Park
 Sept. 28.....Oktoberfest at Liederkrantz
 Nov. 2.....Ft. Wayne 150th Anniversary
 Nov. 9.....Men's Concert & Dance
 Nov. 16.....Damenchor Bunter Abend
 Dec. 1.....Children's Christmas Party
 Dec. 15.....Weihnachtskonzert

63rd National Saengerfest — May 17-19, 2019 (Peoria, IL)

The registration fee of \$95.00 covers entrance to the two concerts (Friday and Saturday nights), rehearsal (Friday and Saturday), and the dinner/dance after Saturday's concert, ribbons, pins, and program book. Payment must arrive in Peoria by 2/28/2019. The following is a tentative schedule.

Friday, May 17, 2019 (All events will take place at the Civic Center)

4:00 pm – District rehearsals

4:30-6:30 pm – Make arrangements for dinner prior to the Empfangskonzert.

6:30 pm – Ballroom opens for concert seating

7:00 pm – Empfangskonzert (concert where each district sings)

Saturday, May 18, 2019 (All events will take place at the Civic Center)

10:00 am – Rehearsal for Hauptkonzert

12:00 pm – Rehearsal for Parade of Flags

4:00 pm – Group Photo

5:00 pm – Hauptkonzert

7:00 pm – Dinner/dance

Sunday, May 19, 2019 (Hickory Grove Park — our picnic grounds):

10:00 am – Frühschoppen followed by lunch (cost of \$11/person)

Brats/Heidelburgers, Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, and Bread. Receive two drink tickets for Mimosas, Bloody Mary, beer, wine, & soda.

CHOIRS, BELLS, und OOMPAH! By Loesje Chandler, Director

As most everyone knows---in April of 1872, the Liederkrantz Men's Choir was formed. No doubt that many other music organizations also had their beginnings here in Indianapolis. Sadly, but not surprising, not all of them have survived. Somehow - we are still here! What makes a group have longevity -I have often wondered. Since I'm Director #22---I am always careful to assess our musical efforts here---not ever wanting to become the LAST director! (That would break my heart.)

Things have gone well in the Liederkrantz, and we actually have FOUR performing groups here now! What are we doing right? What could we do better? One thing that I try to do is to talk about the Liederkrantz as I meet the people in my own life. I've always believed that MANY people would love to participate in our groups...if they only knew about them. So.....when I meet someone new---I try to tell them about the Liederkrantz's music groups.

In preparation for this article, I made a (partial) list of such people who are now participating in one of our groups:

FAMILY: Albert Verdouw, Ted and Maggie Hartman, David Hartman

CHURCH: Cliff Chandler, Kim Burgess, Tom White, Tim Escue, Miriam Scott,
Brian Quick

FORMER IPS STUDENTS: Sandy Wester, Katie Ishmael, Sarah Ricks

NEIGHBORS: Maryanne Ellison

PERSONAL ACQUANTICES: Pat Grant, Bob Graves

TALKING IN THE CLUB: Jamie Poynter, Ronald and Vivian Baumann,
Barry Tolson, Rich Schubert

TALKING AT GERMAN PARK: Ray and Connie Burbrink

This is just a partial list, and I know lots of you also brought in many people. It's good to take stock of these things from time to time. Presently, the Men need more Tenors, and the Damenchor is short on Altos. Singing (and Ringing) is a joyous experience, rich in culture. I've actually read it makes you live longer! Who can YOU tell about our wonderful music groups? Let's make 2019 a year of growth for the Liederkrantz---invite someone to our first rehearsal on Jan. 23rd. Perhaps you'll add something wonderful to someone else's life!

Membership Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Just a friendly reminder...it's time to renew your membership in the Liederkrantz. All members of the Damenchor and the Men's Choir should bring their annual dues to our first practice on January 23, 2019. Damenchor ladies: we value you as part of the Liederkrantz! The dues are still \$25 for a single membership and \$50 for a family membership. It is payable the first of each year and can be mailed to the attention of the Membership Chairperson in care of the Indianapolis Liederkrantz or hand delivered when we resume rehearsals. If you are just renewing a membership, you do not need to fill out a membership application. If you want to give a free one year membership to someone who wasn't a member in the last three years, just pay your dues by the end of February and include a note with that person's name, address, phone number and email address. Thanks by supporting our club with your annual membership dues!

Ted Hartman, Membership Chairman

Indianapolis Liederkrantz
1417 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46201

2019 Memberships Due