

THE SWISS AMERICAN

Official Publication of the NORTH AMERICAN SWISS ALLIANCE

Volume 138

June, 2018

Markowski elected 24th President and new Board of Directors voted in as part of 2018 Convention

Delegates of the 2018 Convention elected Jan Markowski as President and NASA's Board of Directors for the term July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022, taking into the consideration State of Ohio Examiners' recommendation that the Alliance's Board be comprised of persons with appropriate back- grounds and experiences. Prior to the election, all candidates were required to submit individual qualifications along with how they felt the Alliance could benefit from their involvement.

Board of Directors

David Stucki, Canton
Donald Robison, Canton (Incumbent)
Darlene Kilchenmann, Canton (Incumbent)
Jan Markowski, Cleveland (Incumbent)
John Jencson, Cleveland
Kevin Ruedy, Toledo (Incumbent)
Lynn Kosin, Cleveland
Thomas Vassallo, Cleveland

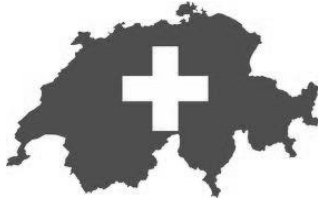
Elected to the Executive Board were Jan Markowski, President; Donald Robison, Vice President; Lynn Kosin, Secretary/Treasurer; Kevin Ruedy, Advisory Officer



(L to R: Jan Markowski, Lynn Kosin, Alois Amstutz, Kevin Ruedy, Don Robison)

Alois Amstutz who served as President since July 1, 2006 accepted the title of President Emeritus and will serve in an advisory position. He was elected as the 23rd President of the Alliance at the 2006 Convention in Canton, Ohio. Born in Hildisrieden, Kt Luzern, Switzerland, he immigrated to the United States in 1964, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1970. He was elected as a Director in 1994. During his term in office as President, Alois was instrumental in leading the Alliance to an upward trend of operational gains and growth in solvency. A quiet man, Al's smile and sincere nature makes making friends easy and he always has time to listen.

Continued on Page Two



EDITORIAL & NATIONAL OFFICE

North American Swiss Alliance
26777 Lorain Road, Suite 321
North Olmsted OH 44070
440-777-7114
naswiss@sbcglobal.net

OFFICE MANAGER
Lynn M. Kosin

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT
Jan Markowski
963 N. Skyline Drive
Seven Hills OH 44131

VICE PRESIDENT
Donald Robison
365 Sheffield Street NE
N. Canton OH 44720

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Lynn M. Kosin
27686 Edgepark Blvd.
N Olmsted OH 44070

ADVISORY OFFICER
Kevin M. Ruedy
5341 Brown Road
Oregon OH 43616

- DIRECTORS -
John J. Jencson
9610 Tilby Road
N Royalton OH 44133

Darlene Kilchenmann
109A 10th Street NW
Strasburg OH 44680

David E. Stucki
609 N Wabash
Brewster OH 44613

Thomas M. Vassallo
1115 Sparrow Run
Streetsboro OH 44241

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Alois W. Amstutz

Markowski elected 24th President of Alliance

Grandson of Swiss immigrants, and son of the late Edmond (prior Director and Vice President) and Marie Markowski, Jan was immersed in Swiss traditions at an early age. Following his service in the U.S. Air Force, Jan was a successful business owner for 26 years, and has served as president of the United Swiss Society of Cleveland since 2001.

After being elected to the Board of Directors in 2014, and appointed Secretary/Treasurer in November, 2016, Jan has been an active and strong contributor. His leadership is evident as he piloted the Executive Board in their discernment to a new investment custodian and attended training in Columbus on the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Act. One of Jan's many strengths is organizational accountability. He is committed to do whatever is required to ensure decisions are in the best interest of the North American Swiss Alliance. Congratulations, Jan!

You're invited to celebrate . . .

Swiss National Day

Soon, on August 1st, Switzerland is celebrating its National Day. To the Swiss, August 1st is what July 4th is to the Americans. Of course, you don't have to be Swiss to participate. 2018 marks 727 years from the event it commemorates.

August 1, 1291 was the date the three men from the cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden met on the Rütli field, high above Lake Lucerne, to swear eternal allegiance to one another, promising mutual help and assistance if their freedom were threatened. It was in 1891 that the Swiss government declared August 1 Switzerland's national day, but not until 1993 that the hardworking Swiss agreed that they could all day the day off.

Whether your celebration is in remembrance of this historical event, or just a gathering of Swiss and their friends, enjoy the fellowship the day provides and create lasting memories. Feast on traditional Swiss dishes like Rösti, Fondue, Zopf, Aelpermagronen, and Birchermüesli, or enjoy a simple barbecue. Come dressed in the red and white colors of the Swiss flag. Celebrate!



For those in the Cleveland, Ohio area . . .

The United Swiss Society of Cleveland will hold its annual celebration on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at the Metro Parks Keystone Picnic area at West Creek Reservation in Parma, Ohio. Festivities begin at 4 pm with food served at 6 pm. The menu includes bratwurst, Italian sausage and hot dogs grilled to perfection, side dishes, strudel, and beverages. Cost is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors (62 & over), \$8 for children (12 and under). There is a special children's meal for \$3.

No gathering of this Swiss would be complete without a few games of Jass and Swiss music! The USSOC will also provide a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and a children's craft table. For more information on this year's event, contact Patty Vicek at 440-582-3728. **Reservation deadline is July 16th.** Checks should be made payable to USSOC and mailed to Patty Vicek at 17651 West 130th Street, North Royalton, Ohio 44133.

**NORTH AMERICAN SWISS ALLIANCE
EXCERPTS OF NATIONAL CONVENTION MINUTES – MAY 11, 2018**

President Alois Amstutz called the tele-conference meeting to order at 11:05 am. President Amstutz stated Lynn Kosin would serve as Recording Secretary.

Vice President Donald Robison offered an opening prayer for guidance and meaningful discussion. He asked for blessings on all directors/delegates and for the wisdom and strength to do what is best for the future of the North American Swiss Alliance. VP Robison asked all to remember those directors who have passed since the last convention:

Ernie Bollinger (October, 2014) – Elected as NASA Director in 1958 and Vice President in 2006. Retired 2010.

Ferd Reichlin (September, 2017) – Elected as NASA Director/Advisory Officer in 1991. Retired in 2010.

Kurt Ottiger (February, 2018) – Elected as NASA Director in 1970, Vice President in 1978, and President in 1990. Retired in 2006.

CREDENTIALS - President Amstutz announced the Executive Board reviewed credentials of all Delegates and all was in order.

ROLL CALL - Marilyn Kozma resigned as a Director effective April 26, 2018. Director Richard Hardt was unavailable during tele-conference. The following were participants on the call: EXECUTIVE BOARD: President Alois Amstutz, Vice President Donald Robison, Secretary/Treasurer Jan Markowski, Advisory Officer Kevin Ruedy; DIRECTORS: Darlene Kilchenmann, Carl Kunzler, William Preslock.

DELEGATES

Canton Men's Swiss Benefit Society – Donald Robison (Executive Board)

Canton Swiss Ladies Aid Society – Darlene Kilchenmann (Director)

Cleveland Swiss Society – Jan Markowski (Executive Board) & Budd Huff

Toledo Swiss Society – Ron Gerkenmeyer & Thomas Hodges

Central Branch – Lynn Kosin

MINUTES OF LAST CONVENTION - All Directors and Delegates received a copy of the minutes from the last convention held May 16, 2014 via tele-conference. Minutes were also published in The Swiss American. Donald Robison made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Jan Markowski. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATION AND PETITIONS - There were no petitions presented before the convention.

PRESIDENT ALOIS AMSTUTZ'S REMARKS

Beginning with the calendar year ending 12/31/10, the Ohio Department of Insurance began requiring annual Cash Flow Testing for all insurance companies licensed in more than one state. The cost to the Alliance is approximately \$14,000 per year. Our actuary, Grant Hemphill, has worked closely with Peter Weber, Ohio Department of Insurance to reduce the frequency of this testing which was updated in 2017. Previous full cash flow testing was completed in 2014. Also, the State of Ohio has granted our request for outside audit for the years ending 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Since we last convened, three former members of the Executive Board have passed. Ernie Bollinger in 2014, Ferd Reichlin in 2017, and Kurt Ottiger in 2018. The contributions from each of these gentlemen have guided the Executive Board over the years.

As reported at the 2014 Convention, Ohio House Bill 341 requires fraternal organizations like the North American Swiss Alliance who write policies with up to \$10,000 in death benefits to maintain surplus of \$500,000 as of January 1, 2016. The Alliance continues to exceed this requirement.

As part of the State's review of the Alliance (January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2014), we received a directive not to be overly dependent on non-Board members for decision-making. Separately, in 2016, the State of Ohio presented the CGAD (Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure) Model Act, which documented the need to ensure the Alliance's officers and key persons in control functions have the background, experience, and integrity to fulfill their respective roles. The critical areas include risk management processes, actuarial function, investment decision making processes, business strategy/finance decision-making processes, compliance function, financial reporting/internal auditing, market conduct decision-making processes. Number of Board members and their duties, as well as succession plan need to be documented. Initial submission is due June 1, 2018.

In compliance with the State's non-compliant findings at the conclusion of their review, effective January 1, 2017, the Alliance engaged Hudak & Vrana to prepare quarterly and annual statements in accordance with NAIC and the State of Ohio. John Vrana is proactive in his approach and provides excellent services.

In compliance with the State's non-compliant findings at the conclusion of their review, in September 2017, we transferred the custody of our portfolio from a Pittsburgh-based investment advisor to Phil Hrvatin of Wells Fargo, located in Cleveland in order to provide the State with the required custody agreement which the Pennsylvania firm was unable to provide. Phil is experienced with the need for monthly income required by fraternal organizations and has provided valuable insight to the Alliance.

Kevin Ruedy was appointed to the Executive Board in June, 2017 to fill vacancy following resignation of Richard Rowland. Kevin is positive and upbeat and has been a solid contributor since his appointment.

The Akron Swiss Society closed. This society made a generous donation to North American Swiss Alliance. Policy members were transferred to the Central Branch and are maintained out of the National Office.

Transition to a new 2017 CSO Table is mandatory for new policies as of January 1, 2020. The executive board will work closely with our actuary, Grant Hemphill to ensure compliance. Rates are likely to change. The last change was effective with the 2001 CSO Table on January 1, 2009.

As part of the 2018 Convention, Delegates are charged with the responsibility of electing nine Directors to serve from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022. I am tendering my resignation as President of the Alliance at the conclusion of my term (June 20, 2018). I have enjoyed serving as President since 2006. It is imperative that those serving on the Board of Directors have the appropriate background, experience, and integrity to fulfill their respective roles, totally support the effort of the Alliance and continue to sell new policies.

SECRETARY-TREASURER JAN MARKOWSKI'S REPORT

Over the past four years, total policies in force have dropped in number from 2,164 in 2014 to 2,127 as of 12/31/17.

We are pleased to report our Annual Statements have shown an operating gain for five consecutive years. The gain range has been \$8,699-\$84,022 with an average of \$45,037. Ken Kabealo, State of Ohio, Department of Risk Assessment, is pleased with our financial situation.

Actuarial expenses have remained consistent over the past four years. With the engagement of Hudak & Vrana in 2017, we anticipate a slight reduction in reporting costs.

We continue to maintain our controllable expenses with a freeze on salaries and prudence in general expense spending. In addition, we have seen a significant increase in investment income over the past few years, a direct result of changes made in investment advisors.

The State of Ohio requires the Alliance to maintain a surplus minimum of \$500,000. Our

surplus as of December 31, 2014 was \$637,240. Our discretion in financial management has brought this figure to \$751,522 as of December 31, 2017.

The aging of our policy holders is reflected the death claims which are offset by new policies written. Regulations only allow the Alliance to accept new policy applications presented in California and Ohio (two states where licenses are held).

We continue to participate in quarterly conference calls with our Financial Analyst from the Ohio Department of Insurance and regular communication with our actuary and accountant. Via roll call, Recording Secretary Lynn Kosin asked each participant if there were any questions on the written reports they had received. No questions were asked.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - Director Carl Kunzler stated there have been no grievances. Grievance Committee will be appointed by new Executive Board in July, 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD - Delegates received a copy in the mail for review prior to the tele-conference. Via roll call, Recording Secretary Lynn Kosin asked each participant if there were any items which required discussion. No questions were asked. Donald Robison made a motion to accept the recommendations as written (below), seconded by Jan Markowski. Motion passed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Executive Board recommends no change, but that in compliance with the required Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure, Directors should have the appropriate background, experience, and integrity to fulfill their respective roles. The critical areas include risk management processes, actuarial function, investment decision making processes, compliance function, business strategy/financial decision-making process, market conduct decision-making processes. Succession plan includes appointment of persons with new, fresh ideas.

PER DIEM - A per diem is set to cover expenses incurred by the Directors/Delegates, other than transportation. The amount has varied due to location and cost of food and lodging, as well as the number of days and nights in attendance. In 2014, Board of Directors recommended eliminating per diem due to no overnight or meal expenses. Executive Board recommends no change.

DIRECTORS' MEETING FEE - The Directors' meeting fee set at the 2008 Directors' Meeting was \$160.00 per day. In 2014, Board of Directors recommended reducing to \$100 due to absence of travel. Executive Board recommends no change.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT - Mileage is paid to the driver at current IRS rate (\$.545 per mile). Toll fees and parking are paid to the driver. Executive Board recommends no change.

RECORDING SECRETARY'S FEE - At the 2008 Directors' Meeting, the fee for the recording secretary was increased to \$200 per day. Recording Secretary is paid normal salary if meeting is held during normal workday. Executive Board recommends no change.

EXECUTIVE BOARD COMPENSATION

Executive Board recommends changes to the following four compensation categories as listed below. Reallocation deemed appropriate based on division of duties.

President's Salary - Currently \$925 per month; Vice President Compensation - Currently \$100 per month in addition to executive board meeting fee; Secretary Treasurer Compensation - Currently \$100 per month in addition to executive board meeting fee; Executive Board Meeting Fee - \$160 per meeting plus IRS mileage for each member who drives to the meeting.

RECOMMENDED COMPENSATION

President - \$600 per month plus IRS mileage; Vice President - \$400 per month plus IRS mileage; Secretary/Treasurer - \$500 per month plus IRS mileage; Financial Advisor - \$180 per month plus IRS mileage

THE SWISS AMERICAN - The Swiss American has been produced out of the office since June 2008. Executive Board recommends the publication schedule continue to be based on articles submitted and necessity of official notices.

BENEVOLENT MEMBERSHIP - Benevolent membership was established for people not eligible for life insurance so they could be affiliated with the North American Swiss Alliance and receive The Swiss American. Each branch society sets its own fee for local membership. Currently, we have approximately 202 benevolent members with \$10/year membership fee. Executive Board recommends no change.

DIVIDEND PAYMENTS - At 2010 Directors' Meeting the Executive Board was given authority to determine the rate of dividends paid based on the financial situation at the end of each calendar year. Executive Board recommends no change.

CONSTITUTION CHANGES - Executive Board recommends no changes.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS - List of current nominees, with their qualifications, was sent to all Directors/Delegates prior to the meeting.

Recording Secretary Lynn Kosin read list of nominees. Directors/Delegates were advised if there were no nominations from the floor, the new Board of Directors could be elected by acclamation vote and there would be a vacancy on the Board until such time as a qualified person was identified. Via roll call, Recording Secretary Lynn Kosin asked for nominations from the floor for the Board term July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2022. There were no nominations. William Preslock made a motion to elect the current nominees by acclamation vote, seconded by Suzanne Sarasin. Motion passed.

New Board of Directors consists of David Stucki, Canton; Donald Robison, Canton (incumbent); Darlene Kilchenmann, Canton (incumbent); Jan Markowski, Cleveland (incumbent); John Jencson, Cleveland; Kevin Ruedy, Toledo (incumbent); Lynn Kosin, Cleveland; Thomas Vassallo, Cleveland.

Directors shall take office on July 1st following their election and term of office shall be four years per Article 6, Section 4 of the Constitution. Any vacancy in office on the Board of Directors or Executive Board may be filled by appointment by the Executive Board, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, until the following regular convention per Article 6, Section 7 of the Constitution.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD - Nominating Committee recommended Jan Markowski as President; Donald Robison as Vice President; Lynn Kosin as Secretary/Treasurer; Kevin Ruedy as Financial Advisor. Via roll call Recording Secretary Lynn Kosin for additional nominations from the floor. There were none. William Preslock made a motion, seconded by Carl Kunzler, to elect by acclamation vote. Motion passed.

CLOSING REMARKS - President Alois Amstutz thanked everyone for participating and encouraged everyone to sell new policies, especially to younger people. Our policies are affordable and new policies help keep the Alliance in good financial standing. Vice President Donald Robison thanked Al Amstutz for his leadership. William Preslock stated the newly elected Board is well qualified and wished them success. Director Carl Kunzler asked how decisions were made regarding donations. Per the Constitution Article 14, the Relief Fund is maintained by the Executive Board.

Kevin Ruedy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carl Kunzler. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Kosin, Recording Secretary

GERMAN-AMERICAN FESTIVAL

*Friday-Sunday, August 24-26, 2018
Oak Shade Grove, Oregon, Ohio*

So much to see. So much to do. So many ways to celebrate. **Dust off the lederhosen and bring your appetite for fun. The German-American Festival offers a variety of fun-filled activities to celebrate the German inside us all!**

Steinstossen - Steinstossen (stone throwing) is a typical Swiss Alpine sport that is a leading attraction at festivals in Switzerland, but is seldom seen at festivals in the United States. Practiced among the alpine population since prehistoric times, it is recorded to have taken place in Basel in the 13th century. During the 15th century, it is frequently recorded to have been practiced alongside the Schützenfeste (shooting festivals) of the Old Swiss Confederacy. It is also central to the Unspunnenfest near Interlaken, first held in 1805.

Masskrugstemmen – The goal is simple: Lift and hold a 1 liter stein, filled with beer, straight out with your arm level to the ground. And hold it there as long as you can! The current U.S. record is 14 minutes, 2 seconds!

Chow Down. Bottoms Up - From sauerkraut to schnitzel to strudel, the German-American Festival offers a savory selection of authentic German food to match any appetite. And you'll want to pair that delicious food with one of over 50 German beers.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Gramm-Leach Bliley Act was instituted in 1999 and became effective November, 2000 to protect the confidentiality and the security of consumer information. The act requires initial and annual privacy notices. These notices can be of a general nature such as this one posted in this newspaper. The notice will also be available in the office of the North American Swiss Alliance in North Olmsted, Ohio and to all our members who request one by mail.

THE NORTH AMERICAN SWISS ALLIANCE RESPECTS ALL OF OUR MEMBERS' PRIVACY AND WE WILL NOT GIVE ANY PUBLIC OR NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION TO ANYONE NOT AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION.

PUBLIC INFORMATION means information that is lawfully available to the general public from Federal, State, or Local government records, widely distributed media, or disclosures to the general public, that are required to be made by Federal, State, or Local law. **NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION** means identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description, or other grouping of individuals and publicly available information pertaining to them.

We are a fraternal benefit society that has always been committed to protecting the privacy of its members. There are no affiliated financial institutions or third party non-affiliates which have access to your non-public personal information, except pursuant to your authorization. We **never** sell lists of names and addresses of our members to any vendor of goods or services.

Our policy of protecting the privacy of public and non-public information extends to our former insured that no longer have any coverage with us.

BERGKÖNIG:

August 26, 2018 - Vintage steel in the brilliant Swiss Alps

BERGKÖNIG means "king of the mountain". BERGKÖNIG Gstaad is the original Swiss vintage cycling festival. It is also among the most challenging vintage cycling events in the world that celebrates the glory days of cycling. While challenging, it's not a race. It combines passion for the finest classic bicycles with breathtaking views and authentic local food. The BERGKÖNIG takes you onto virtually unknown tiny, characterful mountain roads up to 1,800 meters. You can select from two different

routes. One is for the real heroes who dare to do more climbing with their vintage bike, all on tiny roads like in the old days, full of holes, cowpats and gravel passages. The other route is more relaxed, on beautiful roads around Gstaad, never too far from base, yet still feasting on amazing views and feed stations stocked specifically with foods from this region of Switzerland. Whichever route you choose, you'll be a true king of the mountain!

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our deceased members. May they rest in peace.

2/18/17	WILLIAM E. KREUZ	Age 91	Canton Men's Society
6/6/17	C. EUGENE CONGER	Age 89	Toledo Swiss Society
6/7/17	RAYMOPNOD V. WALENDZAK	Age 75	Toledo Swiss Society
6/19/17	REX BLUNTSCHI	Age 86	East Bernstadt
7/2/17	EDWARD OCHSNER	Age 75	Denver Swiss Society
7/30/17	RAYMOND HEER	Age 80	Central Branch
8/6/17	JOHN D. WEAVER	Age 74	Canton Men's Society
9/2/17	BARBARA A. BARKER	Age 66	Cleveland Swiss Society
9/2/17	FERDINAND REICHLIN	Age 90	Canton Men's Society
9/5/17	DONALD BESSON	Age 84	Central Branch
9/26/17	MARCELLA M. BECHARD	Age 91	Central Branch
10/12/17	DON W. SCHOTT	Age 67	East Bernstadt
10/14/17	GERALDINE MARTIN	Age 91	Toledo Swiss Ladies
11/18/17	NORMA JONES	Age 94	Columbus HBS
12/27/17	CASPER ROHLAND	Age 85	Taylor Beneficial Society
1/10/18	CARLTON J. BEAN	Age 86	Scranton Gruetle Verein
1/14/18	FRANK MATYAS	Age 93	Toledo Swiss Society
1/21/18	WALTER W. STOTZER	Age 91	Canton Men's Society
1/22/18	THOMASIA SCHLUEP	Age 88	San Francisco Helvetia Society
1/26/18	MARY THEWES	Age 91	Cleveland Swiss Society
1/31/18	MARILYN BAKER	Age 83	Toledo Swiss Ladies
2/12/18	KURT OTTIGER	Age 93	Akron Swiss Society
3/18/18	DAVID E. NIKLES	Age 63	Central Branch
4/1/18	WILLIAM FISCHHABER	Age 93	Toledo Swiss Society
4/20/18	MARGARET KILCHENMANN	Age 65	Canton Ladies' Society
4/30/18	JOYCE HREHOCIK	Age 84	Cleveland Swiss Society
5/10/18	NAOMI R. CONGER	Age 86	Toledo Swiss Ladies
5/17/18	STEVEN L. STARKEY	Age 60	Canton Men's Society
5/25/18	ANTHONY C. NUETZI	Age 81	Central Branch
6/17/18	WALTER J. GIROD	Age 96	Canton Men's Society



Kurt W. Ottiger, 93, passed away on Monday, February 12, 2018 at The Homestead at Gentlebrook in Hartville, Ohio, with his family by his side. Kurt was born in Lucerne, Switzerland in 1924 to Theodore and Elizabeth Ottiger. Kurt served in the Swiss Air Force during World War II. He graduated from the University of Geneva, Switzerland and later The University of Akron with a degree in International Finance. He came to the U.S. in 1948 to attend the University of Akron and lived at the YMCA while working as a dishwasher at Portage Country Club. He never intended on staying until he met Thelma Anderson at a dance at the Y. They married in 1951. He became a U.S. citizen in 1954. He later worked for a CPA firm, a trucking company, and became a banker. He retired from National City Bank as Vice President of International Banking with 30 years of service. Kurt was President of the North American Swiss Alliance (1990-2006), as well as the Akron Swiss Society.

Preceded in death by his parents and two brothers and in 2007, by his wife, Thelma, he is survived by two daughters, Judy (Terry) Allison and Ruth Ottiger; grandsons, Nick (Melissa) Allison and Jared Allison; sister-in-law, Eileen Robinson, and many nieces and nephews in the U.S. and Switzerland.

Auf Wiedersehen, Kurt. Rest in peace.



NORTH AMERICAN SWISS ALLIANCE
26777 Lorain Road, Suite 321
North Olmsted Ohio 44070



Saengerfest 2018

The spirit and sounds of Switzerland were heard in Toledo on Saturday, June 30, as the Toledo Swiss Singers hosted the 42nd North American Swiss Singing Alliance 2018 Saengerfest. Groups compete internationally every three years. Fourteen choirs from the Midwest and Canada joined together for four days of sharing traditions and customs of Swiss folk music and folklore. The groups competed in a prize singing competition on Saturday afternoon and the day culminated with the groups performing a Grand Concert together on Saturday evening on the historic stage of the renovated Valentine Theatre in Downtown Toledo.

Congratulations to Schweizer Jodlerfreunde Ontario - - from the Kitchener area who was awarded the only Gold award. Their director is Arnold Egli, a first generation Swiss who and has been directing this choir since 2016.

As the host group, the Toledo Swiss Singers did not compete but they did perform a song to show off their talents. They "sang" 'Buglers' Holiday' an instrumental song written for horns, but when sung it becomes "toots, and bops, da-da's and other sounds. They say it was fun to sing it, but truly more fun to listen to!

Make your plans now...the next Saengerfest will be in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, three years from now.