

Impressions from the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Interior Swiss Club written by Al Klopfenstein, Past President

When Barb and I got to the Hotel just after 6 pm, the room was 2/3 full already and it was an early good turnout. The food was an impressive buffet and very tasty with lots of variety and very ample amounts. The desserts were amazing and the big anniversary cake complete with a Swiss Flag was truly a work of art.

Souvenir programs were placed on each table. The program was designed and created by Hansjoerg Mueller. Thank you Hansjoerg for creating the program.

I (Al) opened the celebration by playing the alphorn. Our Master of Ceremony Elisabeth Reymond welcomed everybody and introduced our Consul General Walter Deplazes as well as the Enzian Swiss Ladies Choir visiting from Tacoma, Wa.

The consul's address had a flair of humor and had a good touch of Switzerland with his accent, nice to have such an easy going consul general

The Enzian Swiss Ladies Choir made a great performance; they sure have a lot of yodeling talents in that group. They entertained well with songs and skits that had lots of fun mixed in and the audience was asked to sing along with them; it got everyone involved. It was nice to see many of the long time members of the club present.

The Swiss Alpiners Band also from Tacoma, Wa. performed very truly in the old Swiss style of Laendlermusik and was appreciated by all. One usually doesn't see such spontaneous response with the dance floor immediately filling up. Even those age 90+ (Fred Affolter) were swinging a dance leg (schwingen das Tanzbein)! Nice to have a dance with music at a level that one could still have a conversation with your dance partner or whoever one talked to. At today's dances it's pretty well impossible to converse while a band plays! Dancers initiated a Polonaise; the Kamloops table broke into songs during the break; it was a good fun event!

During a break from dancing, Annelies from Tacoma and I decided on an impromptu Alphorn playing performance.

The 50/50 draw was very popular and piles of tickets were sold and draw prizes were handed out to cheery recipients; thanks to the sponsors (Voets Coffee, The Village Green Hotel and prizes donated by members).

Walter Deplazes gave away 2 complimentary tickets to the Grand Concert at the 27<sup>th</sup> Saengerfest to be held in Vancouver , B.C. in June 2011.

Elisabeth Reymond did a wonderful job as MC as always, she is very capable and charming.

All in all, the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has been a huge success.