

Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský katolícky sokol

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MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPREME PRESIDENT

LARRY M. GLUGOSH



I hope our members are all doing well and managing the difficult weather we have all been experiencing over the past few months, especially the extreme cold and heavy snow for those in the mid-west and northeastern parts of the US and Canada. We are also praying for the all the families and communities that have experienced the tragic fires in California. We are so thankful to the volunteers, first responders and health care workers for their tireless relief efforts to bring comfort and care to those in need.

Since we are a fraternal benefit society that gives back to our members and communities, we must continue to generate the financial means to pay for these benefits. As we look back on our 2024 financial results, we see that our society did fairly well but there is always an opportunity for improvement. As a result, the Board of Directors have taken the necessary steps at our last meeting to reduce more discretionary spending to help reduce our overall cost to the organization. As well, we will be evaluating our financial advisors and auditing their performance in relation to the market. This process will include gaining proposals from other financial advisors to ensure we are getting the best possible return for our society and members, as a whole. We will have more to share in the coming months.

We hope our Canadian members enjoyed their national holiday on February 17th called "Family Day". It occurs on the third weekend in February and is a national event to honor and celebrate our families. The idea originated in 2009 by the Canadian government and coincides with President's Day in the United States, since our countries are often linked with national holidays. The holiday is a wonderful opportunity to embrace some quality time and experiences with our families. Many individuals will take advantage of the holiday weekend to plan for their future by investing in their children's educa-

tion fund or buying a 401K fund for their retirement. Hopefully some of our members also took advantage and added more life insurance and/or an annuity to help protect their family members in the future.

Along with our northern members, I sincerely hope our Slovak Catholic Sokol members south of the 49th parallel took the time with their families to enjoy the President's Day long weekend. It is important to always remember and honor our past, since it will offer us guidance and direction for our future. Many great leaders have left their legacy in our communities and hopefully we can learn from their contributions to build our future.

Later this month, we will also have an opportunity to help develop our future through our annual scholarship program. As a former recipient, I know how the contribution from the Slovak Catholic Sokol can help achieve your academic goals and objectives. The financial assistance certainly helped my family and I hope our eligible members will take the time to complete an application before the deadline on March 31st. It is a worthwhile program and important investment in our youth and our future.

With the arrival of the Lenten season this month, we sincerely hope you take some quality time to reflect upon your many blessings and embrace God's goodness and love for us. Recently our family lost the patriarch of our family namely our mother, Helen Glugosh. She lived a long and wonderful life and loved our society, Slovak heritage, Catholic faith and fraternal spirit. We are all grieving her passing, however we take comfort in knowing she is no longer suffering and now with her Savior in heaven and surrounded by her family and friends, that have left our world to rejoice and live eternal peace with God. During the next few weeks, our family will reflect on her life and remember the wonderful life lessons and values she provided to us.

On behalf of my entire family, I hope all of you will experience a wonderful, safe and enjoyable Lenten season. May you continue to be protected in God's love and count your many blessings. Zdar Boh!

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FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY SCOTT T. POGORELEC, F.I.C.

GET HERE QUICK, SPRING!



Greetings from the Home Office! We hope everyone is staying warm during this cold winter. At least in New Jersey, the big snow has not followed the cold temperatures, but March always seems to bring some surprises. Hopefully, with our seasonal change to Daylight Savings Time on March 9th, combined with some warmer temperatures, we will have more hours to enjoy our outdoor activities.



Our Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, and I had the pleasure of joining our Supreme Physical Fitness Board at their annual meeting on January 25th. The minutes of the meeting are published in this edition of the Falcon. We were updated on the fraternal schedule for the year and learned of various changes to some events. I commend the SPFB on all their hard work and their willingness to make changes when necessary. They will be updating our membership throughout the year, and we all look forward to a wonderful fraternal schedule.

This March and April are not only busy for the Slovak Catholic Sokol, but also for all Catholic organizations.

Ash Wednesday falls on March 5th, which is the beginning of Lent. Lent is a special time for prayer, penance, and sacrifice as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. The forty days of Lent commemorate the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert where he encountered temptation from the Devil. Lent allows us the time to ponder and strengthen our relationship with the Lord. I urge all our members to use this valuable time to reflect and to remember to be thankful for all that you have.

We kick off the Spring Sokol calendar with the first Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, which will be held in

Wilkes-Barre, PA on March 29th. We will get a chance to hear from our hired professionals who will report on the 2024 results and 2025 projections. In this issue and the coming issues, you will get a chance to read the reports from our Supreme Officers. I recommend that you take the time to read each report to acknowledge the time and effort put in by each Officer. The first Quarterly Meeting will also coincide with our Fraternalist of the Year celebration for our 2024 recipient, Martin Degnan. We look forward to celebrating the life and service of Brother Marty.

I again would like to thank all of you who continually promote our organization. As you gather to celebrate the Easter holiday, I ask you to look within your own family and circle of friends to find new members to share the Sokol experience with. Enrolling a new baby is an inexpensive way to give that child a financial head-start in life. And if you think about all we offer with benefits, scholarships, etc., that policy will be paid for in no time. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Home Office at 800-886-7656 or email me at scott@slovakcatholicsokol.org, and I would be glad to assist you.

I would like to extend my condolences to the Glugosh Family on the passing of Sister Helen Glugosh. Sister Helen meant so much to not only Group 19, but the entire organization. Her Family was her life, and we were fortunate that it extended to her "Sokol Family." Rest in peace Sister Helen.

Finally, on behalf of my beautiful wife, Maggie, our sons, Reid and Cole, and my entire Family, I offer you prayers and fraternal well wishes for a joyous Easter holiday. Have a great March and April, and good health to all!

Stay safe, stay strong,
and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

SOKOL CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2025

GROUP 2 ANNUAL MEETING at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center following the 10:00 a.m. mass. All members to meet in the back of the church to march in as one body. Luncheon and dessert will be provided. All members are welcome to attend and assist in planning upcoming events and activities. Please RSVP to Secretary Darlene Knapik-Musial 1-203-209-1536.

MONDAY, MARCH 24 2025

GROUP 14 MEETING will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Kollar Club, 3226 Jane St., Pittsburgh, PA. Pizza will be provided.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025

GROUP 6, ANDREW HLINKA SEMI ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Hoss's Steak in Rostraver PA beginning at 1:00 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling either Terri Gardner at 724-929-8675 or Anna Mae Warnick at 724-736-4032 no later than March 26, 2025.

– *Terri Gardner, Secretary*

SATURDAY, April 26, 2025

ASSEMBLY 36 ANNUAL MEETING will be held on April 26, 2025 at 3 p.m. at Saint Cyril and Methodius Church in the Heritage room. The meeting will be followed by 5:30 p.m. Mass with intentions for Slovak Catholic Sokol. Coffee, donuts and pastry will be provided and an information table will be displayed outside of the meeting room. All members are welcome to attend. Applications for insurance, annuity's and IRA's will be available. – **John M Papcun, President Group 16**

SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025

GROUP 3 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING at the Sokol Hall, Rt 16, Douglas, MA at 10:00 a.m. Coffee and danish will be available. All members are welcome to attend and assist in planning events for our upcoming activities. We are hoping to increase participation in our events. – **Christine Manyak, Group 3 Secretary**

MAY 16-17, 2025

BOWLING TOURNAMENT at Meadows Casino and Racetrack in Washington, PA.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Friday and Saturday – Oaktree (West Middlesex, PA). Sunday – Yankee Run (Brookfield, OH).

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
 Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear friends in Christ, on Easter Sunday we proclaim the greatest truth of our faith: Christ is risen! Alleluia! The empty tomb stands as the ultimate sign of hope, victory, and new life. The resurrection of Jesus is not just an event of the past but a reality that transforms our lives today.



On Good Friday, the world saw Jesus suffer and die on the cross. His disciples mourned, believing that all was lost. But on the third day, the stone was rolled away, and Christ rose in glory! Death could not hold Him; sin could not defeat Him. His resurrection is proof that God's love is more powerful than the grave.

St. Paul tells us, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). But because He is risen, we are no longer slaves to sin. We have been redeemed, forgiven, and given the promise of eternal life.

Easter is a call to renewal. Just as Christ rose from the dead, we too are invited to rise from the darkness

of sin, despair, and fear. His resurrection is our invitation to live in the light of His grace, to embrace His mercy, and to walk in the newness of life.

When Mary Magdalene and the disciples saw the empty tomb, their sorrow turned to joy. When we truly encounter the Risen Christ in our lives, our fears turn to faith, and our doubts turn to confidence in God's promises. The resurrection is not just a story to be remembered, it is a truth to be lived. The first disciples, once afraid and scattered, became bold witnesses of the Gospel. They spread the good news that Christ is alive, and their testimony changed the world.

As followers of Christ, we too are called to be witnesses of the resurrection. In a world filled with darkness and despair, we must shine the light of Easter joy. We do this through our love, our service, and our unwavering faith.

Dear friends, on Easter Sunday we rejoice, for our Savior lives! Let us not keep this joy to ourselves but share it with all those around us. May our hearts be filled with the peace and hope that only the Risen Christ can give. And may we always proclaim with faith and conviction:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Introducing our newest member



Laney Rose White, born September 23, 2024, is the daughter of Derek and Sarah White of Star Junction, PA. She was enrolled as a member of Assembly 25 in Perryopolis, PA.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the **SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON** will be that of **MAY 1, 2025**. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **APRIL 22, 2025**. The next **SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL NEWSLETTER** will be posted on our website on **APRIL 15, 2025**.

WREATH 39 SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE

In keeping with our Sokol Fraternal spirit and our slogan "A sound mind in a sound body" and to support our youngsters in their quest for higher education or Wreath will once again offer a scholarship grant to a deserving member. The scholarship honors the memory of all our dedicated members who have labored on behalf of our Wreath 39 since its founding in 1912 under the guidance of the late Father Matthew Jankola.

Our beloved member Ann D. Knapik instituted this Scholarship to have Wreath 39 that she was eternally dedicated to, forge forward and continue to encourage our youth to

further their love of learning through higher education, enhance their spiritual growth, instill active fraternal participation, and promote the importance of helping others in their community. Hopefully our receipt will continue to labor on behalf of the high ideals of Sokol Fraternalism and will learn the importance of making a difference in our local community.

Wreath 39 Scholarship grant is available to a deserving young member of our Wreath. Members need to have a minimum of a \$3,000 insurance policy and must be a senior in high school or be enrolled and/or accepted as a full-time student at

an accredited college, university or professional school. Applications are available by contacting our Scholarship liaison Larry Wells at his email of: lawman1156@gmail.com Deadline for completed application is May 31st. In July the Wreath 39 scholarship selection committee will meet to make their decision. The check will be made out directly to the college and presented to the recipient in September.

Best of luck to all our Sokol applicants!

Zdar Boh!
Bob Sheehy, President
Larry Wellsm, Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

Saturday, December 7, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2024, and greeted all the members.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, was called upon for the **Opening Prayer**.

Supreme Physical Directress, Katie M. Swift, led the Board Members in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., was asked to take the Roll Call and the following members responded:

Supreme ChaplainRev. Andrew S. Hvozdic
Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh
Supreme Vice-President.....Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme TreasurerMichael J. Horvath
General CounselJohn D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.
Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors.....James C. Matlon
Supreme Director of Sports

and Athletics Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift
Supreme Physical Director Dusan Dorich
The record will show that all ten members of the Board of Directors are in attendance. Acknowledged

President Glugosh informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on September 26, 2024, and published in the November 1, 2024, issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, Michael J. Horvath, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich. Approved

The Supreme President asked our Supreme Secretary if there were any **Communications**.

Brother Secretary informed the Board that there was one communication from Group 7 President, Amy Blasco, wishing the Board well on their deliberations. Acknowledged

President Glugosh then asked our Supreme Secretary to give a brief overview of the **Sales Report**.

Brother Secretary gave the Board a brief overview of our life and annuity business to date, agency update, and the current agent sales campaigns. He also informed the Board of the various advertising efforts that are currently in place and will be expanded upon in the new year.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and President Glugosh thanked Brother Secretary for presenting the report. President Glugosh then asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

Brother President called on the Supreme Director of

Sports and Athletics, Kathleen S. Watkins, for the **Physical Fitness Board Report**.

Sister Watkins gave a summation of 2024 activities and accomplishments of the Physical Fitness Board.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 24-26, 2025, in Pittsburgh, PA.

Sites that are confirmed for our 2025 Sports Program:

- May 16-17, 2025 Bowling Meadows Casino, Pittsburgh, PA
- June or July International Slet TBD
- August 8-10, 2025 Golf Oak Tree and Yankee Run, West Middlesex, PA and Brookfield, OH

The Board also discussed the future and direction of the International Slet. After a lengthy discussion, Brother President entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Andrea M. Tadlock.

Approved

President Glugosh then called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. for the **Legal Department Report**.

Brother Counsel updated the Board on the successful closing of the sale of the Print Shop and the adoption of a new memorial scholarship to be offered in 2025.

After a brief discussion, President Glugosh entertained a motion to approve the report, so moved by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen S. Watkins, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Andrea M. Tadlock. Approved

Approved

Brother President called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano, PNC Institutional Asset Management, for the **Investment Report**.

Mr. Calimano discussed the portfolio's current asset allocation, reviewed the historic and the year-to-date cash flows, discussed future potential portfolio repositioning and PNC's outlook for the financial markets and economy.

Brother Calimano addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook.

Brother President began discussion about the **declaration of a dividend** for the year 2024 to be distributed during 2025. The 2023 dividend declaration issued in 2024 was up to \$50,000.00.

After a brief discussion, General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., moved that a dividend be declared for the year 2024 for up to \$50,000.00 payable in 2025 for all qualifying certificates, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich. Approved

Approved

Brother President questioned the Board on the Annuity Interest Rates for January 1, 2025. After a lengthy discus-

(Continued on page 10)

\$63,000 IN S.C.S. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AVAILABLE IN 2025

“John J. Yanosick Memorial Scholarship”

We are pleased to share exciting news regarding our scholarship program. A new scholarship has been established in memory of John J. Yanosick, affectionately known as “Uncle Jack.” He was a dedicated member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol from Group 14 and Assembly 16, and he enjoyed working with the Sokol youth. This new scholarship, the “John J. Yanosick Memorial Scholarship,” aims to support our members in achieving their academic aspirations. We extend our gratitude to his wife, Joan Yanosick, and the South Side Sokol Club for establishing the new scholarship.

“Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship” Change

We have made a change to the “Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship.” The eligibility criteria have expanded to include applicants majoring in computer science, information technology, or related fields. We are grateful to the Glugosh family’s commitment to fostering academic pursuits in technology among our members.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol is delighted to announce that \$63,000 will be available in scholarship grants for eligible members in 2025. Previous recipients may reapply for a grant in 2025; however, please note per a Convention mandate, that each student can receive a maximum of two Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants and only one grant in each of the other categories.

A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors’ Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, one Yencha Scholarship for \$1,000, one John J. Yanosick Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000, and at least three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000.

The collegiate application process is ONLY ONLINE on the Slovak Catholic Sokol website. Please take the time to review the application process and the required documentation to meet eligibility. You can find instructions, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and the application at https://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/family_scholarships.asp.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2025

Applicants may submit one application to be considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible. We strongly encourage applying for multiple scholarships, but please be aware that only one grant will be awarded per applicant.

College scholarship eligibility requirements: SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL (a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

- Must have a minimum of \$3,000 permanent Life Insurance Coverage.
- Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years.
- Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL-TIME student at an accredited college, university, or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.
- Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better.
- One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member.
- Essay- “How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?”

KRISTA L. GLUGOSH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
- AND
- Majoring in a curriculum focusing on computer science, information technology, or related subfields.

THEODORE AND MARY JANE RICH (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
- AND
- One parent must be of Slovak ancestry.
 - Must be majoring in a medical curriculum.

EMIL SLAVIK (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
- AND
- Both parents must be members of the Slovak

Catholic Sokol.

- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical, or business curriculum.

THE DOCTORS' LESKO MEDICAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- AND
- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
 - Majoring in a nursing or medical curriculum.
 - One parent must be of Slovak ancestry.

YENCHA SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- AND
- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
 - Majoring in a liberal arts curriculum.

THE JOHN J. YANOSICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- AND
- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
 - Group 14 scholarship candidates will be given preference.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (3 grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

- AND
- The same requirements as the SCS scholarship
 - Essay- "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why."

Catholic High School and Catholic Grade School Grants

In addition to our college grant program, we make available 18 Catholic High School Grants in the amount of \$500 each and 36 Catholic Grade School Grants in the amount of \$250 each. You can find the applications online at https://www.slovakcatholicssokol.org/family_scholarships.asp or in each of the next few issues of the Falcon.

If you have questions in regards to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program, please contact:

Andrea M. Tadlock

Supreme Vice-President

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I'm excited to share great news about the Slovak Catholic Sokol College Scholarship! We've improved our online application process, making it more user-friendly and informative. You can start applying online at https://www.slovakcatholicssokol.org/family_scholarships.asp from **December 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.**

To help you put your best foot forward, here are a few friendly tips for a successful application:

1. **Take some time to explore the application process online and check the eligibility requirements for each scholarship.** This will help you identify which scholarships you can apply for.
2. **Prepare your essay(s) beforehand** so you can easily upload them when applying online.
3. **Have a wallet-size (2x3) headshot photograph ready in jpeg format** to submit with your application.
4. When you fill out the online application, **please answer ALL questions.** If something doesn't apply to you, simply put N/A. For example, if you're fully independent from your parents and they can't claim you on their tax returns, enter N/A in the parent income field.
5. **Don't forget to request your official transcripts** from your university or college after your fall term wraps up. Make sure the transcripts are sent to the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee by email or mail:
Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President
VP@slovakcatholicssokol.org
100 Fletcher Farm Rd
Vermontville, NY 12989

I encourage you to apply for all the scholarships you qualify for to enhance your chances of receiving one! Just so you know, applicants can only receive one scholarship each year.

Make sure all your required documents are submitted by the DEADLINE of March 31, 2025. It's a good idea to submit everything early to ensure your application, essay(s), photograph, and transcripts are all received on time. If you're mailing documents, remember they must be postmarked by the deadline.

Although not every applicant will receive a scholarship this year, we encourage you to apply again next year if it doesn't work out this time! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org.

Wishing you the best of luck, and Zdar Boh!

Andrea M. Tadlock

Supreme Vice-President

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GRANT

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 18 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic High School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

APPLICATION

ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION you must submit a typed or written essay **DOUBLE SPACED** in 100 to 200 words on the following topic:

"WHAT DOES THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEAN TO ME?" This essay must be submitted along with the application.

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2025** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

https://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/family_scholarships.asp

DISQUALIFICATION

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

RETURN OF GRANT

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ High School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, please indicate Grade School or High School. What year? _____

High School verification (to be completed by High School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that _____
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2025-2026 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2025. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 0705**

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANTS

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants each per Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).

ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic Grade School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2025** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @ https://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/family_scholarships.asp

DISQUALIFICATION

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

RETURN OF GRANT

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that _____
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2025-2026 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2025. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 5)

sion, the Board mutually agreed to keep the rates at their current level.

President Glugosh questioned if there was any **Unfinished Business** to address.

The Board held a lengthy discussion regarding the Fraternalist of the Year. After discussion and voting, Martin Degan was posthumously awarded the 2024 Fraternalist of the Year and a celebration will take place in 2025.

Acknowledged

Brother President asked the Board if there was any **New Business** to present.

After a discussion, the Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich, made a motion that the Falcon be changed to a bimonthly periodical, seconded by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic. Approved

Brother Secretary updated the Board on potential Convention locations for 2027. The thought would be to have the Convention in an area that would be convenient and efficient to travel to, where we have an established membership base. The Board will be updated accordingly.

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, entertained a **motion to adjourn**, so moved by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Michael J. Horvath. Approved

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, led the Board in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. A beautiful mass given by our Supreme Chaplain followed the meeting.

Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

2025-2026

GROUP 12 SCHOLARSHIP

Group 12 is thrilled to announce the creation of the Group 12 Scholarship, designed to empower our members pursuing higher education at accredited colleges, universities, or professional schools for the 2025-2026 academic year. We are dedicated to supporting Group 12 members in achieving their dreams and aspirations. **The application process is now open and will remain available until April 30, 2025.** The Group 12 Scholarship Committee will select the deserving recipient in May, who will be honored with the award in July. This recipient will also be invited to celebrate their academic achievements with us at the Group 12 meeting in the Fall, whether in person or virtually.

High school seniors and current college undergraduate, graduate, or professional school members are encouraged to visit <https://form.jotform.com/243497381045158> to review the scholarship qualifications and apply for the 2025-2026 Scholarship.

For any inquiries regarding the Group 12 Scholarship, reach out to Andrea Tadlock at atadlock1969@gmail.com. Good Luck to all the applicants and Zdar Boh!

The Group 12 Scholarship Committee



Group 3 of Douglas, MA participated in the town Toy for Kids toy drive collecting a variety of toys for all ages. Toys were donated to the Sokol Hall then delivered to the Douglas Police Station for distribution to families in need. Pictured is Assembly 28 President Randy Manyak.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM DONATIONS JANUARY - JUNE 2024

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations which were received during the period July through December 2024 for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum located at our Home Office in Passaic, NJ.

The monies received from donors fund our annual \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships which assist our young members in their educational endeavors. The number of scholarships the Museum Board awards depends upon the amount of donations received.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of	Donated by	Amount
Living and Deceased Members, Assembly 78 Bethlehem, PA	Assembly 78	\$200
Slovak Catholic Sokol Living and Deceased Board of Directors	Slovak Catholic Sokol 2024 Board of Director's Board of Directors	\$200
God's Blessings For James Knis, 70 th Birthday	Michele Knis	\$70
Corporate Donations PNC Financial Services		\$5,000
Total Donations January – June		\$5,470

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors Thank You for your donations and support of the Museum Scholarships. – **Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Treasurer**

MINUTES OF THE 2024 SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 24-25 2025 – PITTSBURGH, PA

Supreme President, Larry Glugosh
Supreme Secretary, Scott Pogorelec
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen Watkins
Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Rob Palcahnis, III
Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich
Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift
Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, Nancy Kropolinsky
Supreme Physical Fitness Board Members: Chris Antosy, Zack Mnayak, Kristen Popik, Janice Matlon

Friday, January 24th

The meeting was called to order by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletic, Kathleen Watkins.

- Opening prayer and special prayer for the repose of the souls of Marty Degnan and Danny Tanzone – Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift

- Roll call – Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Robert Palchanis, III, All members were present.

- Opening remarks / meeting goals and objectives - Supreme Director of Sports and Athletic, Kathleen Watkins

- Sister Kathy stressed that the importance of this weekend is to plan activities and determine suggestions to present to the Board of Directors.

- Sister Katie read over correspondence submitted by Group 4 and Group 7. Both groups wished the SPFB luck for a successful meeting. Suggestions from Group 4 will be discussed under new business.

- Sister Katie reviewed the results of the Slet survey that was sent out to all potential participants whose names were submitted by the group leaders. Sixty-Four responses were received. An extensive discussion took place, thoroughly considering all aspects of the event. Multiple locations were proposed and evaluated.

Enhancing our communication with our members was discussed. Current communication methods include the Sokol App, Sokol Website, Sokol Facebook, E-Falcon, Instagram, Email, and Zoom meetings. A review of virtual events was conducted, noting that while several members participated, overall engagement was lower than expected. It was agreed to continue hosting the virtual events that attracted the most participation. Additionally, a yearly calendar will be created, and a monthly activity update will be distributed across all communication platforms.

Sister Kathleen reviewed plans for the 2025 Bowling Tournament and Golf Tournament. She reiterated that all level bowlers are welcome with or without handicaps.

2025 International Events

Bowling	May 16-17	Meadows Casino and Racetrack	Washington, PA
		SPFB Assignment: Chris Antosy	

Heritage Slet	June 26-29	Peek'n Peak Resort	Clymer, NY
		SPFB Assignment: ALL	

Golf	August 8-10	Oaktree Yankee Run	West Middlesex, PA Brookfield, OH
		SPFB Assignment: Zach Mnayak	

- Recommendations for the 2025 Sports Program were discussed and agreed upon. All will be presented for approval by

the Board of Directors in March.

Saturday, January 25th

The meeting was called to order and welcoming remarks were given by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletic, Kathleen Watkins.

- Opening prayer - Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member - Kristen Popik

- The Pledge of Allegiance – Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, Nancy Kropolinsky

- Roll call – Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Rob Palchanis, III.

All members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board were present with the exception of Zach Manyak who was excused.

- Welcoming Remarks by
 Supreme President, Larry Glugosh
 Supreme Secretary, Scott Pogorelec
 Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich
 Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift

- All welcoming remarks included heartfelt condolences to the Degnan family, acknowledging that Marty remains with us in spirit. Additionally, Brother Larry and Scott expressed their gratitude for the SPFB's dedication to generating new ideas and making things happen. They emphasized the importance of member participation in preserving our events and traditions. It was also noted that the dynamics and participation levels within each age group are evolving, highlighting the need to adapt and create events that align with these changes and better engage the target age groups.

- Another key point from the welcoming remarks is the importance of supporting new ideas and initiatives, even if they are not our personal preferences. We should give them a fair chance, assess member responses, promote events within our local communities, and ultimately prioritize what best serves the Sokol community.

- Sister Watkins asked that everyone review the minutes from 2024 that were sent out after the previous meeting.. Brother Dusan made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2024 meeting, seconded by Brother Antosy. Approved.

2024 Activites- Old Business

- Sister Katie discussed the following:
 * the success of the online clinic
 * the success of some of the online activities hosted throughout the year. Although not all were as successful as hoped, Bible Study and science were the most popular.

- Brother Larry suggested improving attendance for online events by incorporating events based on people's interest Sister Kathy noted that the previous year's online events were already developed based on survey responses.

- Sister Kathy thanked Brother Rob for all his help with the 2024 events.

- * 44 bowlers were in attendance for the bowling tournament. The hope is to improve that number this year with the event being held at the Meadows Casino and Racetrack in Washington, PA.

- * 104 golfers were in attendance at Treasure Lake. Many board members stepped up to help with this event and it was greatly appreciated. A survey was conducted after the golf tournament, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, including the daily communication via email. We are pleased to see a resurgence in attendance as the event has once again become

(Continued on page 12)

MINUTES OF THE 2024 SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD MEETING

(Continued from page 11)

more family-oriented.

- Brother Dusan reviewed Falcon article submissions and reported that all were submitted in a timely manner.

Activity report

- Sister Katie reported on the yearly activity reported for each group. The responses were a bit disappointing as only Groups 1, 4, 7, 14, 17 & 19 responded. On an international level golf and bowling were both well attended. Overall, the SPFB was a bit disappointed with the overall participation in events like Day of Giving in November and Join Hands in May, as we are a fraternal organization and should be giving back to our community.

- Sister Nancy discussed the walking program. 77 walkers registered but only 50 reports were submitted. Monthly challenges and prizes were offered, but the participants did not respond to these challenges. There was discussion about possible incentives to groups if they go on a walk and post it.

- Sister Katie shared the correspondence from Group 4, who wished the board success with the meeting and expressed their hope for keeping the Slet alive. They also suggested exploring the possibility of joining the American Sokol. Sister Katie researched this possibility and found that it would not be something we wish to do at this point in time. Additionally, Group 7's activity report included well wishes for the meeting and gratitude to the board for attending Marty's funeral and for the memorial bar stool that was dedicated to him.

New business

Falcon Article Assignments for 2025

(Falcon will now be bimonthly)

March - Rob and Katie

May - Nancy and Kristen

July - Chris

September - Zack

November - Janice

- 2025 International Events reviewed by Sister Kathy. (See notes from Friday's meeting)

- The Sokol app that was piloted last year was a great idea, but it is not very user-friendly and took too many steps to sign up, etc. Brother Chris is in the process of setting up an app that will be our own Slovak Catholic Sokol App (not a third party app), so it will be much easier to navigate.

2025 Virtual events

- Virtual Rosary via Facebook Live– Supreme Chaplin Father Andrew Hvozdovic

First Friday of every month (starting in March) at 5:00PM (EST)

- Bible Study via Zoom (during Lent) hosted by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift

Every Monday at 8:00 PM

- STEM via Facebook Live hosted by Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Kristen Popik.

Once a month on Monday Nights at 7PM (February, March, April, May).

Possibility of uploading a video to access anytime.

- Easter Egg Decorating Contest (April) - Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Chris Antosy

- Join Hands Day - each group will host an event in their prospective area and post pictures on social media.

- Sokol Sports Day in (July 12th) - any member who wants to join will post pictures on social media of a sport or activity that they are engaging in.

- Pumpkin Carving Contest (October), Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Zack Manyak

- Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest (December)– Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Janice Matlon

- November – Day of Giving –each group will host an event in their prospective area and post pictures on social media.

2025 Regional Events

We have had many recommendations for regional events. Brother Scott mentioned that some other fraternal host these regional events and they have been successful. We do understand that with the distance of some groups, a regional event may be difficult to coordinate. Details for all of these events will be shared once they are organized.

After a lively discussion, the following events are in the planning stages:

- Groups 7, 10, 12 – Brother Chris and Brother Rob are planning an event at the Pioneer Tunnel in Ashland, PA .

- Groups 5, 6, 9, 14, 17- Sister Nancy and Sister Katie are looking into a play or a tea house

- Group 1 -- Brother Scott and Brother John are looking into organizing a baseball game.

- Group 11 - Sister Janice is looking into organizing a baseball game.

- Group 2, 3 - Brother Zach is looking into organizing a trivia night.

Discussion on the International Slet

Discussion led by Sister Katie and Brother Dusan.

- List of participants in the 18-30 age group is the largest based on the registration received from the group leaders.

- Sister Katie researched the American Sokol Slet (as suggested by Group 4) . This is not feasible. Travel, lodging, and every event, including people who are just spectators to the event, involves a separate fee.

- Sister Katie discussed the survey results that she received regarding events for this family Slet, the various locations that were researched, and specifics she received regarding the American Sokol Slet.

- After much discussion, it was agreed to hold the Heritage Slet event at Peek'n-Peak in Clymer, NY from June 26-29, 2025. This updated family-friendly event will include activities for all ages from our very young to our senior citizens. A tentative schedule will be emailed out and posted on social media.

- Sister Katie discussed the survey results that she received regarding events for this family Slet, the various locations that were researched, and specifics she received regarding the American Sokol Slet.

- The event's finances were reviewed, and it was suggested to contact all groups, wreaths, and assemblies to seek sponsorship for specific aspects of the event to help with the overall cost. This letter will be mailed and emailed.

- There will be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, Feb 4th with the group presidents, group director/directress, and sports director to discuss the update to the Slet.

Recommendations to the BOD:

1. An allotment of \$60 per bowler the International Bowling Tournament for bowling fee, prize allotment, luncheon, and souvenir. No increase.

2. An allotment not to exceed \$2,000 for the Walking Program for all related mailings, certificates and prizes. No increase.

3. An allotment of \$60.00 per golfer for the International Golf Tournament for banquet, prize money, and souvenir. No increase.

“SOKOL FORWARD SPOTLIGHT”

♥ Group 17 ♥

- Group 17
- Western Reserve High School “Reserve Heroes” Annual Christmas Drive.

Supporting our communities is at the heart of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and Group 17 exemplifies this spirit of service. This past December, Group 17 proudly backed the Western Reserve High School “Reserve Heroes” Annual Christmas Drive. These dedicated students strive to uplift those in need within the Western Reserve community. Through their “Mitten Tree,” they offer a chance for students to anonymously assist local families facing financial challenges during the holiday season, fostering a culture of compassion and support. This December, Group 17 contributed to this noble cause by donating gift cards to a dozen families for the Christmas Drive—an act of kindness showcasing their support for these inspiring students who are dedicated to making the world a brighter place.

In addition to their Christmas efforts, the “Reserve Heroes” host a weekly Curbside Pantry, ensuring families have access to essential food and household items. This initiative has positively impacted hundreds of students and their families for over a decade. As we enter the Lenten Season, let us all find inspiration in their work and continue to uplift our community.

Group 17, thank you for supporting your youth and community. Your Sokol Spirit shines bright through love



Group 17 officers and members



Group 17 President, Nancy Kropolinsky (right) with Danielle Matos, Reserve Heroes Coordinator

and generosity. May God continue to bless you in your good works!

If you'd like to submit an entry to be the monthly **Sokol Forward Spotlight**, please send me an email by the **15th of each month** to vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org and include the following information:

- Group, Assembly, or Wreath Number with city and state
- The name of the charity or volunteer activity
- A description of the volunteer or charitable activity
- The date(s) of the activity
- The frequency of the activity
- How long the members have supported charity or participated in the activities
- Pictures of the event

Thank you for all that you do, and keep Sokol Forward!

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President

SLOVAK STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND LENTEN SLOVAK HYMN SING

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania held their monthly meeting on February 11, 2025. At the meeting, plans were finalized for the Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Slovak Hymn Sing.

The traditional Slovak Stations of the Cross and Lenten Slovak Hymn Sing sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania will be held on Sunday, March 30, 2025 at St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 339 North Maple Avenue, Kingston, PA. The service will begin at 2:00 p.m. The Stations of the Cross led by members of the Society will follow. The service will conclude with Benediction.

After the service, refreshments will be served, followed by fellowship. The public is invited to participate free of charge. A free will offering will be accepted. For further information, call Anna Hudock at 570 510-1655.

4. An allotment not to exceed \$300 for prizes for any virtual events. \$700 decrease.
5. An allotment TBD per person to cover hospitality, dinner, and other expenses for the 2025 Heritage Slet at Peek-n-Peak.
6. An allotment of \$150 to cover the cost of McAfee computer protection for 2 years for Director of Sports and Athletics' computer.
7. One additional worker to work at the golf tournament.
8. An allotment of \$1000 to cover the cost of miscellaneous supplies/ prizes needed for any additional events organized by the SPFB . No increase.
9. An allotment TBD for each new regional event.

Brother Larry thanked everyone for their hard work with all of the yearly activities and for being cognizant of our financial responsibility to the organization.

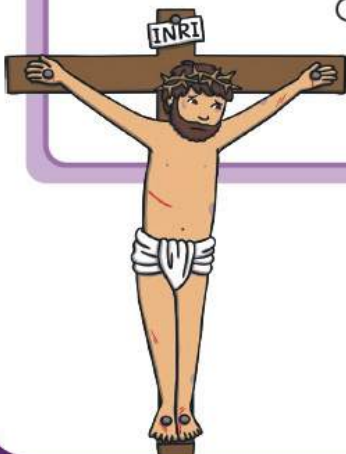
Respectfully Submitted,
The Supreme Physical Fitness Board



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" March 2025

Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ, our Savior, as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your will by becoming man
and giving His life on the cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
by following His example of suffering.
Make us worthy to share in His resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, Your Son.



Amen.

Shrove Tuesday March 4th

Shrove Tuesday comes from an old English word meaning "to confess," since it was customary to go to confession before the beginning of Lent. It was also customary to use up meats, fats, and dairy products before entering the Lenten period of fasting; this led to the day's nicknames: Mardi Gras (French for *Fat Tuesday*) or Pancake Tuesday.

March 5th

Since Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, it starts off the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. From Ash Wednesday, people often give up something until Easter Day, such as sweets, cookies, or chocolate. This is because these types of foods are seen as temptations, and it reminds people of how Jesus fought temptation in the desert. This is called fasting. Often, people see it as a time to do good things, like volunteer at a charity or help others in need. This is almsgiving. Finally, people try to pray more often to meet the third pillar of Lent.



MINUTES OF GROUP 7 ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, December 6, 2024 – North End Slovak Citizens Club, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Group 7 “Rev. Joseph Murgas” held its 2024 annual meeting on Friday, December 6, 2024, at North End Slovak Citizens Club, Wilkes-Barre, PA. A Mass to celebrate the Liturgy and remember the living and deceased members of Group 7 will be celebrated by Fr. Richard Cirba on Sunday December 8th at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 11:00 a.m.

Amy Degnan Blasco called the meeting to order at 7PM. Amy welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending.

Father Richard Cirba opened the meeting with a prayer.

Amy Degnan Blasco asked all to join in for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Frank Lipski, Recording Secretary. There were 11 officers present (Amy Degnan Blasco, Father Cirba, Gary Blasco, Tony Rasimas, Heather Horvath, Pam Lipski, Dawn Palchanis, Kelly Palchanis, Frank Lipski, Matthew Malenovitch and Jennifer Kuren); 2 excused (Joe Hvozdovic Jr & August Palchanis) for a total of 13 officers. There were also 4 delegates (Sue Horvath, Rob Palchanis, Robert Palchanis & Terri Palchanis).

Amy Degnan Blasco described the events of 2023-2024 year-to-date which included the Annual Meeting and Mass held in November 2023 at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Wilkes Barre, PA., the Annual 88th Sokol Day held in Plains in September 2024, Assembly 59 Butch Hvozdovic Memorial Golf Tournament, Joining Hands cleaning & planting flowers at Sister Kate’s & St. Mary’s Church and at Sacred Heart Cemetery at Father Murgas Grave. Members attended the Penguin’s Hockey Game in March 2024. Held annual flower fundraisers for Christmas 2023 and Easter 2024. Lush with a Brush mat painting in April. November Supreme Physical Fitness Board dedicated a chair in memory of Marty Degnan at Chacko’s Bowling Center and Toys for Tots (Marty’s favorite) is on going through December. December also had a Psanky class at the Slovak Club. Upcoming events include the 2024 Christmas Flower Sale and sponsoring 2 families in need during the holiday seasons.

Minutes of 2023: The minutes of 2023 prepared by Frank Lipski were read. A motion to accept the minutes as prepared and read by all was made by Tony Rasimas and seconded by Matthew Malenovitch. All in favor.

Correspondence: NONE

The Officer’s Reports: All reports were submitted and read by all present and since they were in good order a motion was made by Pam Lipski and seconded by Jennifer Kuren to accept the entire Officer’s Reports as submitted. All in favor.

15 minute break:

The Auditors’ Report: The auditors report was given by Gary Blasco and Tony Rasimas. Books are in order. Motion made by Terri Palchanis and seconded by Kell Palchanis to accept the report as presented. All in favor

The Treasurer’s Report: Frank Lipski gave the treasurer’s report which was supported with an outline of income and expenses for the year. Balance in the checking account as of December 6, 2024 was \$8283.42 and \$17,539.49 in the Sokol Secure Fund as of 9/30/2024, for a total of \$25822.91. A motion was made to accept the report by Gary Blasco and seconded by Dawn Palchanis All in favor

The Verifications Report was presented by Amy Degnan Blasco. It was verified that there were 11 officers present; 2 excused (Joe Hvozdovic Jr. & August Palchanis), for a total of 13. There were also 4 delegates for a total of 17 in attendance. A motion to accept the report was made by Dawn Palchanis and seconded by

Jennifer Kuren. All in favor.

The Bonds and Salary Committee: Amy Degnan Blasco and Frank Lipski. The Bonds and Salary Report was presented by Amy Degnan Blasco. The committee reported that they saw no need to increase salaries at this time. A motion to accept the report was made by Jennifer Kuren and seconded by Matthew Malenovitch All in favor

The Resolution Committee:, Father Cirba, Frank Lipski, Pam Lipski and Jennifer Kuren. The Resolutions Report was presented by Pam Lipski.

RESOLVE: To remember in prayer: Pope Francis, that God Bless him in all his endeavors as Vicar of Christ as the Synod on Synodality continues into 2025.

RESOLVE: To Pray for Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, and the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton as we continue to build up the kingdom of God. We especially support through our prayers the ongoing Parish Pastoral Planning in our Diocese as we vision forward in 2025 and prepare for the challenges we will face in the future as presented by Bishop Bambera.

RESOLVE: To Pray for our Clergy and Religious, that God grants them the strength and guidance they need in their Ministry. We especially, pray for an increase in Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life and for those struggling in a Vocation and Prayers for healing.

RESOLVE: To work together for the growth of membership in our Group 7 Slovak Catholic Sokol.

RESOLVE: To pray for the opening of the holy year in 2025.

RESOLVE: To acknowledge anyone observing a special occasion this year.

RESOLVE: To thank and appreciate all who helped with the preparation and participation in all the events of this year.

RESOLVE: To support the National March for Life. To pray for the Respect of Human Life and Religious Freedom in our Country.

RESOLVE: To encourage support and participation in all or any of the activities of Group 7’s Parent’s Club.

RESOLVE: To continue to work within Group 7 and our organization with the current officers, contributing our time and effort to the best of our ability and keep them in our Prayers.

RESOLVE: To pray for Peace in our Country and World especially in Ukraine and Middle East during these violent and hostile times.

RESOLVE: To pray for all sick members of Group 7 who are sick and suffering at home and/or in a health care facility.

RESOLVE: To pray for all the deceased members of Group 7.

RESOLVE: To pray for all those elected to public office to serve the common good.

A motion to accept the report was made by Jennifer Kuren and Seconded by Heather Horvath. All in favor.

The New Motions Committee: Amy Blasco, Robert Palchanis & Terri Palchanis

1. Recommend that all Group 7 officers will hold a four-year term coinciding with the Convention rules.

2. Recommend that a donation be given to the parish of the annual meeting Mass. Amount of \$150.00.

3. Recommend the minutes of the meeting be submitted within 90 days of the meeting (per the bylaws) to be published in the Sokol paper.

4. Recommend to hold Sokol Day with all assemblies and wreaths supporting the event.

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MINUTES OF GROUP 7 ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 15)

5. Recommend an annual donation of \$250.00 to the North End Slovak Citizen's Club for the use of the club for monthly meetings.

6. Recommend that the Group 7 logo be worn for all group activities.

7. Recommend that the Group Physical Director and Directress make a report at the annual meeting and include the number of participants in each program throughout the year an event is held.

8. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 be sent to the SCS Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of all deceased members of Group 7.

9. Recommend that a donation of \$150.00 be sent to the Slovak Catholic Federation at the time of the Annual Appeal.

10. Recommend that the Group President send a letter quarterly to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors wishing them a successful meeting on behalf of Group 7.

11. Recommend that we participate in Join Hands Day.

12. Recommend to support new events on all levels of the Slovak Catholic Sokols.

13. Recommend to explore new fundraising events for Group 7.

14. Recommend the group auditors conduct semi-annual audit to help with fiscal year compliance.

15. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 be sent to the Sisters of Ss. Cyril & Methodius.

16. Recommend that a donation of an amount to be determined, as needed to the St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen in honor of living and deceased members of Group 7.

17. Recommend to continue to adopt a "Families in Need" for Christmas when funds are available.

18. Recommend that a donation of \$100.00 to the celebrant of the Annual Meeting Mass.

19. Recommend annually clean and plant at the Fr. Murgas Memorial Gravesite in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

20. Recommend moving funds from general checking account to Sokol Secure Fund when funds are available.

A motion to accept the report was made by Kelly Palchanis and Seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

The Technical Board Report: (Heather Horvath, Dawn Palchanis, Kelly Palchanis and Rob Palchanis) Kelly Palchanis read the recommendations for the upcoming year.

- To prepare and send letters to all Assemblies and Wreaths to survey the groups to determine eligible participants for the Slet.
- To send qualified participants for the upcoming Slet.
- To use available facilities for practices and social events, e.g., North End Slovak Club or other facilities available.
- To pay entrance fees for tournaments; continue to charge for t-shirts.
- To apply to headquarters for allotments for gymnastic/track coaches.
- To continue activities within the Group such as bowling, golf tournament and to award prizes.
- To continue to encourage the Parent's Club with fundraisers for the upcoming year.
- To have all background checks updated when necessary and for all new coaches.
- For the Group to purchase props for drilling for the upcoming year, this would also include sporting equipment and first aid supplies when needed. Motion to accept the report was made by Tony Rasimas and seconded by Gary Blasco. All in favor.

The Nominations Report was presented by Fr Richard Cirba.

Current officers will retain their positions for another four-year term.

Nomination for Vice President.- Terri Palchanis A motion to accept the nomination was made by Jennifer Kuren seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor. Terri Palchanis accepted the nomination. All in favor.

Chaplain – Fr. Richard Cirba

President – Amy Degnan Blasco

Vice President – Terri Palchanis

Financial Secretary/Treasurer –Frank Lipski

Recording Secretary – Frank Lipski

Reporter – Pam Lipski

Auditors (3) – Gary Blasco, Joe Hvozdovic Jr., Tony Rasimas

Sports Director – Dawn Palchanis

Assistant Sports Direct – Heather Horvath

Physical Director – Matthew Malenovitch

Assistant Physical Director – Position Open

Physical Directress – Kelly Palchanis

Assistant Physical Directress – August Palchanis

Historian – Jennifer Kuren

Old Business: Amy Degnan Blasco – no old business at this time. Motion made by Matt Malenovitch, seconded by Terri Palchanis to close Old Business.

New Business: Amy Degnan Blasco

There are a few items:

1. Hockey Night – Tentative date April 12, 2025 Penguins Hockey Game (set up by Home Office)

2. Families in Need for the Holidays – Donations will be made to Fr. Richard Cirba & Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic's parish families in need.

3. Parent's Club – Dawn Palchanis - Treasurer's report as of December 2024, Balance in account is \$3,970.43. Sold Superbowl tickets

4. Psanky Class -2 classes will be on April 6, 2025 at 12pm & 3PM

5. Donations- Motion made by Frank Lipski & Seconded by Dawn Palchanis to make a contribution of \$2000 to the Sokol Scholarship Fund in memory of Marty Degnan. All in favor.

6. Christmas Flower Sale – orders to be picked up December 18th at 4:45PM.

7. 2025 Annual Meeting - Date and time TBD.

8. 2025 Sokol Day August 30, 2025

9. Flowers to Past Officers – will send Christmas flowers to past officers to brighten their day. Also to donated \$100 each to Mrs. Jagodzinski & Mr. Rentko for supporting our Sokol Day for many years. Motion made by Gary Blasco ,seconded by Pam Lip-



REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2024

REPORT OF THE SUPREME CHAPLAIN

Pochválen bud' Pán Ježíš Kristus!
S pozdravom predstavenstvo;

In Compliance with Section 4.0 article (h) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my report of activities for the calendar year 2024. The duties, obligations and responsibilities of the Office of the Supreme Chaplain are clearly spelled out in the Bylaws. I tried to the best of my ability to fulfill them.

Following is a listing and brief explanation of my activities:

I attended/ participated in all quarterly Board of Director meetings opening and closing each session with prayer, along with saying Mass for the meetings held in person to fulfill the Sunday obligation, which were called by our Supreme President.

I provided Mass for the participants and guests who attended the National Golf Tournament in Dubois, PA.

As National President for the Slovak Catholic Federation I conducted the order of business for both the Spring and Fall Board meetings as well as represented our organization as per one of my duties in the bylaws.

As per the Duties of the Supreme Chaplain, Section 4.0 (d) I followed through, to the best my ability, inviting our Group Chaplains to submit articles for publication in the Slovak Catholic Falcon, as they wish, concerning matters of our Catholic Faith, or any other topic they choose to share with our membership for publication.

I submitted twelve articles for publication in The Falcon, which I trust all found to be informative.

I sincerely wish to thank my mom for her love and support over this past year. To the parishioners of Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA and Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, PA, I am appreciative for their patience and understanding during my absence from the parish for me to fulfill my duties as Supreme Chaplain.

I am most appreciative to our Supreme President, Mr. Larry Glugosh for his encouragement and support, along with our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC for his time, energy, and dedication to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and his support shown to me.

I pray that we commit ourselves to do our part to live our

ski. All in favor

10. Technical Board – to look into local area activities/fundraisers to give back to the community and give the Group a presence.

11. Kelly Palchanis-Gave a Sports Activity Report for 2024. International Bowling Tournament had 10 participants. International Golf Tournament had 13 participants.

A motion to accept new business was made by Sue Horvath and seconded by Kelly Palchanis. All in favor.

Good of the Order: Amy Degnan Blasco thanked everyone for helping throughout the year. Sue Horvath added special thanks to Amy for her leadership, time and patience.

Jennifer Kuren made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Dawn Palchanis. All in favor.

Fr. Richard Cirba closed the meeting with a prayer.

Zdar Boh!
Frank Lipski
Group 7 Recording Secretary

organization's slogan, "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body", and we defend our organization's motto, "For God and Nation".

As we begin our 120th year we can be very proud of our impressive past, may we commit ourselves to assure a promising future.

ZDAR BOH!

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic
Supreme Chaplain

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PRESIDENT

In compliance with our Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual written activity report as the Supreme President for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The last year has been a tremendous experience and it has been my privilege and honor to serve the Slovak Catholic Sokol and represent the membership. I would like to sincerely thank the Supreme Assembly, especially the Board of Directors for their guidance, dedication and support. Our new leadership demonstrated a great deal of insight, youthful enthusiasm and knowledgeable experience throughout the year, which certainly helped contribute to and enable our success. It has been a real pleasure to work with our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C. Brother Scott supported my efforts from day one, provided me the insight necessary for the job and helped enable my transition to the President's role. Thank you, Brother Scott, for your friendship, direction and professionalism.

In addition, I would sincerely like to thank the Home Office staff, our local and Group officers and our editorial staff for their continued support, cooperation and contribution to our society. My duties, obligations and responsibilities are clearly outlined in the Bylaws and I have performed these duties to the best of my ability, keeping in mind the best interests of our membership and the organization. My primary responsibility is to provide leadership, executive business knowledge and change management experience to help enable the Supreme Assembly and general membership to achieve our financial, fraternal and spiritual goals as a society. In general, the feedback from our membership has been positive regarding our efforts to continuously improve our business operations, fraternal programs and spiritual guidance. We have always listened to suggestions from our members for the betterment of our organization. As leaders we must always remember to keep an open mind, work as a team and remain personally accountable for our actions and commitments to the organization. The following outlines my activities for the past year of service.

Meetings and Activities

During my first year in office, I chaired each quarterly Board of Director meeting regardless of the location. During each meeting we would review the financial aspects of the society, our sales and marketing initiatives, our fraternal activities and the overall operations for the organization. Throughout the year we established many improvements and changes for the betterment of our membership including our decision to transition future face to face meetings to video calls and to reduce the number of monthly publications to 6 verses 12 per year. Both efforts are cost reduction initiatives but we will ensure we have effective meetings and maintain our communication to the membership. As well, we completed the sale of the print shop, which has been pending

(Continued on page 20)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2024

(Continued from page 17)

for several years. This sale added to our bottom line and did not change our ability to produce a quality publication. As part of our deliberations, we have constantly made decisions in light of the changing trends in our society. These changes to our financial portfolio helped improve our stability and eased the pressure on our financial obligations, that have impacted our society for several years. After all, who can forget the negative impacts from the COVID years with the global economic fallout, political uncertainty, plummeting stock/investment markets and high inflation and unemployment. Despite these challenges, I believe our society and administration weathered this turbulence with professionalism, efficiency, focus and a great deal of hard work.

Fraternal Programs

As a member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, I attended the annual meeting and supported our athletic program to the best of my ability. It was always my pleasure to address our members at the various events throughout each year, especially at our international bowling and golf tournaments. I would like to thank all of the participants and athletes for their remarkable display of talent, enthusiasm and Sokol fraternalism. My congratulations to the various tournament winners and our Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sportsmanship award recipients, namely Robert Macko for bowling and Steven M. Pogorelec for golf. Both are well deserving of this prestigious award for their lifetime contribution and achievements to our program. In addition, I would like to congratulate our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen S. Watkins and the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and the volunteers from the Supreme Assembly for their tireless effort, dedication and commitment to this wonderful program. Our commitment to our youth extends beyond athletics, as we provide spiritual guidance and direction to our membership through the consistent support and leadership from our Supreme Chaplain Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic. Thank you for your devotion and dedication to our organization and for providing our membership with spiritual nourishment. As part of my responsibility, I participated at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship meeting which was chaired by our Supreme Vice President Andrea Tadlock. There were many worthy College, High School and Grade School applicants. We reviewed their individual submissions, financial need and fraternal activities in order to select our annual recipients. We should be very proud of our youth and I can tell you their creative submissions were very impressive. My sincerest congratulations to all of our 2024 scholarship winners. I would also like to commend our Board of Directors for their decision to maintain this annual meeting as a conference call, in order to reduce cost, while still maintaining our efficiency. The Fraternalist of the Year is indeed one of our best recognized programs in our organization. Every year our Board of Directors reviews the nominations from our members and selects an individual to represent our society as the Fraternalist of the Year. The award provides the local group an opportunity to host a celebration in the recipient's honor. It has been my pleasure to represent our society last summer in Canton, OH and participate in our 2024 award ceremony. My sincere congratulations to Agnes Evanko and thank you for your lifetime of dedication and commitment to our society.

In Conclusion

In addition to the above list of activities and events, I continue

to enroll new members, increase my own family's insurance and contribute monthly articles to our newspaper. I will continue to work hard on your behalf to achieve the key objectives of our organization, namely growth in our Catholic membership, a continued love and understanding of our Slovak heritage, a stimulation of fraternal activity for our members and the continued solvency in our organization. With this in mind, I believe the administration worked productivity and efficiently on behalf of the membership. As part of the process we shared perspectives, maintained a positive outlook and gained insight from each other's experiences. During the past year, we have lost many wonderful, dedicated fraternal brothers and sisters who have gone to their heavenly rest. All of them will be sadly missed but their impact and legacy will remain in our hearts and minds. On behalf of the Supreme Assembly, I would like to offer our deepest and heartfelt appreciation to their families of our deceased members for their contribution over the years.

Finally, my parents enriched my life when they enrolled me as a member of this tremendous organization and I continue to foster and carry forward their values and history with my own family. In addition, we all need support to do our best work and accomplished our goals. My supporter is my wife Susanna and my family, who provide me guidance, understanding and love. It has been *an interesting, busy and rewarding first year in office and I wish to thank the membership for your support and confidence in my ability to represent our organization. God Bless all of our members and I wish you continued good health, prosperity and happiness.*

Respectfully and Fraternally Submitted,
Larry M. Glugosh
Supreme President

REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

Slavna Rocna Schodza!

In compliance with Section 4.3, Article (n) page 24 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my written Annual Report for the year 2024 to the Supreme Board of Directors.

My duties, obligations, and responsibilities as the Supreme Secretary are clearly listed in our Bylaws and I have performed these duties for the past year to the best of my ability. I wish to report that all decisions made by the Board of Directors and any City, State or Federal mandates have been executed as required.

This past year our organization celebrated its 119th Anniversary as a fraternal benefit society. I would like to thank our Board of Directors, especially our Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, for his dedication, support, and friendship over this year and many years before.

After reviewing all the financial reports, I am certain that you will concur with me that our organization, like others, has experienced and endured another year filled with challenges and uncertainties. Even with these challenges, the organization produced a profitable year and an increase in Surplus. The Society continues to remain financially strong even after providing numerous fraternal benefits and services to our members.

HOME OFFICE EFFICIENCY

As in previous years, the Home Office continues to make every effort possible to provide courteous and efficient service as

needed. The employees are constantly updating and requesting information on behalf of our members. Along with our software provider, the Home Office staff have gone through extensive training in getting information to our members and agents in a quick and efficient manner.

With all the technological advances in our world today, our staff has implemented changes to make items more accessible and the changes have proven to be successful. The extensive training that our Staff has gone through this year and previous years has increased our efficiency.

During the past year, we have consistently updated the hardware and software used in our Editorial Department and have made upgrades to our Sokol Website. We have also made significant inroads in the ever-changing world of social media as we look to engage all members of our Society. I would like to thank Livia Karak and Louie Smeriglio for all their hard work and dedication in publishing the Sokol Falcon.

STATISTICS

The amount of Premium Income received during the year was \$6,900,000 of which \$1,700,000 was for life insurance premiums and \$5,200,000 was annuity premiums. The face amount of insurance written totaled \$2,300,000 and the total amount of insurance in force was \$233,478,000. The Society has 25,616 members with 27,780 certificates in force and 67 Assemblies/Wreaths. Assets as of 12/31/2024 were \$89,422,000, and the Adjusted Unassigned Funds total \$7,045,000, an increase from last year. The Solvency ratio is a financially strong, 107%.

COMMENTS

The Society held many successful activities at all levels of our organization. I would like to commend our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen S. Watkins, and the entire Supreme Physical Fitness Board for their efforts throughout the year. Our fraternal programs are a two-way street, and we absolutely need the support and participation of all members.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere fraternal thanks and gratitude to our Directors, Honorary Supreme Officers, and all members of the Supreme Assembly for their support and cooperation throughout the year, especially once again our Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh. Your passion and love for the Slovak Catholic Sokol is very much appreciated. To all our Group, Assembly, and Wreath Officers, again I say "thank you" for all the work and dedication you bring to our Society. And finally, I would like to thank all our loyal members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

CONCLUSION

As the Slovak Catholic Sokol begins its 120th year as a Fraternal Benefit Society, the administrators of our organization will face numerous challenges concerning the life insurance industry. I have the utmost confidence in our Supreme Board of Directors and our professionals that the membership of our fine organization will always come first.

In closing it is especially important to me to thank my Wife, Maggie, my sons, Reid Thomas and Cole William, and my entire Family. Thank you for all the love, patience, and support you have given me and for always being there to provide inspiration.

God Bless our Board of Directors, all our Members and the Slovak Catholic Sokol! Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C
Supreme Secretary

(Continued on page 20)

CELEBRATE EASTER ... SLOVAK STYLE BY LAWRENCE G. KOZLOWSKI MICHAEL J. KOPANIC, JR., PH.D.

If you are interested in carrying on Slovak Easter traditions, I highly recommend the 33-page booklet by Larry Kozlowski. The author covers the period from pre-Lenten Fašiangy celebrations, Lent (pôst), St. Joseph's Day, Palm Sunday (Kvetná neďela), Holy Week (Veľký týždeň), and Easter Sunday (Veľká noc). There are even directions on how to weave palms and make a plaited whip for Easter Monday. The booklet concludes with a blank family tree and a place to write down your own Easter recipes.



"Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" is a unique collection of Slovak customs, traditions (Easter Basket Blessing Symbolism), folklore, recipes (Rezanky, Čeregi, Palacinky, Pirohy, Halubky, Halušky, Pagač, Syrek, Paska, Chren, Klobasi, Kolačky, Rožky, Babovka, Pečene & more), and folk arts (Easter Whips, Palm Weaving & Egg Decorating). Keep your precious Slovak heritage alive and celebrate the priceless treasures of Slovak Easters past and is an inspiration for Slovak Easters of the future.

1 - Book \$14.00 -OR- 3 Books \$30.00.

Enjoy a \$12.00 Easter Discount with an order of 3 books or more and FREE Shipping!

"Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" \$14.00 --- Free Shipping
Slovak Heritage Special --- 3 Books for \$30.00

To order directly, mail check or money-order payable to:
L. G. Kozlowski
---Free Shipping---
Larry G. Kozlowski
525 Beatty Road
Monroeville, Pa. 15146
e-mail: Lgk505@aol.com

Lawrence Kozlowski, is a past recipient of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, for his lifelong service to the Slovak American community and his lasting contributions to promote Slovak language, culture, folk arts and heritage in Western Pennsylvania.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY AS OF 12/31/24

ASSETS	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,624,336	\$ 510,093
Investments - Bonds & Bills	79,792,873	82,626,271
Investments - Stocks	5,457,538	5,285,700
First Mortgage Loans	522,354	544,282
Loans on Certificates	381,981	362,431
Accrued Interest Receivable	691,523	788,444
Sokol Building/Land	344,060	320,487
Accounts Receivable	39,423	39,910
Electronic equipment and Software	9,789	-
Aggregate Write-In	557,231	
Prepaid Items	-	6,362
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>89,421,108</u>	<u>90,483,980</u>
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Life Reserves	\$ 74,029,657	\$ 74,016,202
Asset Valuation Reserve	1,446,976	1,335,889
Interest Maintenance Reserve	-	53,228
Reserve for Supplemental Contracts	2,136,563	2,644,286
Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan	4,248,325	5,015,835
Reserve for Convention	80,000	20,000
Claims Payable	288,438	205,012
Conversion - Canadian Currency	3,119	4,483
Accounts Payable	25,000	25,000
Sokol Secure Fund	1,215,432	1,351,573
Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund	85,000	85,000
Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund	100,000	100,000
Dr's Lesko Medical Scholarship Fund	20,000	20,000
Yencha Memorial Scholarship	27,950	26,800
Krista L Glugosh Memorial Scholarship Fund	24,000	24,000
Jack Yanosick Scholarship Fund	25,000	-
Dividend Payable	30,000	50,000
Advance Premiums	18,134	32,650
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ <u>83,803,594</u>	\$ <u>85,009,958</u>
Adjusted Unassigned Funds	\$ <u>7,044,491</u>	\$ <u>6,809,911</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS	\$ <u>89,421,108</u>	\$ <u>90,483,980</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME	2024	2023
Investment Income	\$ 3,082,479	\$ 3,330,758
Amortization of IMR	4,816	42,644
Dividends on Stocks	194,361	225,443
Interest on Mortgages	25,074	25,032
Interest on Certificate Loans	27,636	25,357
Sale of Cookbooks	588	283
Rent Received - Sokol Building	112,957	113,700
Life Premium Income	1,694,991	1,890,000
Annuity Income	5,173,802	3,260,000
Suppl. Contract	12,330	125,145
Miscellaneous Income	229,388	42,354
Sale of Securities/Amortization	479,349	299,258
TOTAL INCOME	\$ <u>11,037,771</u>	\$ <u>9,379,974</u>
EXPENSES	2024	2023
Death Benefit Claims Paid	\$ 1,620,754	\$ 1,508,976
Interest Expense	58,771	90,656
Fraternal Expenses	587,327	643,751
General Expenses	1,012,673	1,113,285
Employee Retirement Expenses	393,000	408,608
Commissions	222,028	242,455
Annuity Benefits	7,325,188	13,253,331
Taxes & Fees	79,604	75,201
Reserve Increase	(754,054)	(8,057,000)
Cash Surrenders	282,861	302,359
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ <u>10,828,152</u>	\$ <u>9,581,622</u>
TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	\$ <u>209,619</u>	\$ <u>(201,648)</u>

ZDAR BOH!

Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC

Supreme Secretary

Slovak Catholic Sokol

OBITUARIES

Helen Glugosh

February 9, 1937 - February 7, 2025

Helen Glugosh passed away peacefully on February 7th, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was 87 years young. She leaves her former husband Ronald, her son Stephen and his wife Malinda, her daughter Diane and her husband Andrew and her son Larry and his wife Susanna. She also leaves her ten (10) grandchildren Ryan, Amanda, Jennifer, Jessica, Rachel, Ryan, Julianne, Elisa, Anthony and Joanna. Helen also leaves her sister-in-law Margaret and many nephews and nieces.



Helen was born in Sudbury Ontario. Her parents, Mary and George Gombita, emigrated to Canada from their home town in Košice, Slovakia. Helen was the 4th child born in her family and the last of her siblings to enter the gates of Heaven. She is pre-deceased by her parents and her siblings Marie, Michael, George, and John, as well as her late daughter in law, Krista.

She was highly respected in her Catholic Slovak community and held several positions in the local Group 19 Toronto, Canada Assembly 227 for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. She loved attending local and International tournaments in bowling, golf and at numerous track/field/gymnastic/calisthenic meets. She was Group 19's first Physical Directress, a position she held proudly and accomplished so much for our Canadian fraternal community. She was a highly successful bowler and won the all around top female bowler title in 1977 in Pittsburgh, PA. She later bowled semi professionally with Wally Gay and was awarded the Frank Petruff memorial sports award for bowling in 2000. It was a life time achievement award that she cherished and proudly displayed in her home.

She was extremely proud of her Slovak heritage, and greatly loved her extended family. She talked often about her upbringing; in particular, the love, traditions and spirit that filled their family home. It was these grounded, Slovak traditions learned from her parents, that she carried forward and shared with the next generations. Now her family (children, grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces) are passing them along to our own families.

Her family asks that you keep Helen Glugosh close in your prayers and thoughts. She was a special soul and a deeply devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many in her Alderwood community, Slovak church, Walmart colleagues and fraternal society of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERA-

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 47th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of February 13, the 2025 Appeal has received \$6,800.00 from 93 donors. Among the 26 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Assembly 11, Assembly 23, Assembly 24, Assembly 34, Assembly 48, Assembly 162, and Group 7 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol have donated a combined total of \$710.00. Donations to date have also been received from 15 clergy and religious, and 50 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2024 Appeal are asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2025 will be credited toward the 2026 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penn del, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



47TH ANNUAL SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

*Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to: Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation, Our Lady of Grace Church, 225 Bellevue Avenue, Penn del, PA 19047-4052*



DECEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

Assembly 9	Judith Salamon of Bridgeport, CT	84	January 18, 2025
Assembly 10	Marian M. Waleff of Greenville, PA	96	November 5, 2024
Assembly 11	Fred Kogler of Chicago, IL	90	September 15, 2024
Assembly 11	Royal Hernandez of Crest Hill, IL	93	October 14, 2024
Assembly 11	Norman L. Chandler of Canton, IL	97	December 25, 2024
Assembly 11	Sandra J. Augustyn of Villa Park, IL	81	December 29, 2024
Assembly 11	Irene Panek of Oak Forest, IL	94	January 14, 2025
Assembly 25	David M. Rabatin, Sr. of Perryopolis, PA	80	December 7, 2024
Assembly 28	James Bugbee of Dudley, MA	87	November 27, 2024
Assembly 28	Alice S. Leduc of Webster, MA	96	December 27, 2024
Assembly 36	Blia Xiong of Pontiac, MI	79	December 15, 2024
Assembly 59	William P. Barber of Forty-Fort, PA	66	December 12, 2024
Assembly 59	Joseph A. Hvozdic, Sr. of Wilkes-Barre	90	January 2, 2025
Assembly 72	Kathryn Kubinsky of Catasauqua, PA	81	December 19, 2024
Assembly 79	Mary A. Slebodnik of Lilly, PA	72	November 17, 2024
Assembly 86	Douglas Stolarcik of Wilkes Barre, PA	60	December 5, 2024
Assembly 104	Michael Lako of Pittsburgh, PA	77	November 3, 2024
Assembly 108	Eugene Yavorcik of Boardman, OH	83	November 5, 2024
Assembly 108	John Leskovyansky of Canfield, OH	75	December 17, 2024
Assembly 162	Anna Krzysik of Clifton, NJ	85	November 27, 2024
Assembly 162	Barbara K. Cosantino of Hamilton, NJ	72	December 2, 2024
Assembly 167	Joseph L. Genet of Barberton, OH	96	December 26, 2024
Assembly 180	Stephen Woofter of Canton, OH	42	December 14, 2024
Assembly 219	Agnes Hvisc of Yorktown Hgts., NY	102	November 24, 2024
Assembly 235	Faith Ann Nygren of Sweet Valley, PA	68	November 22, 2024
Assembly 235	Bonnie Lou Lavelle of Exeter, PA	77	January 15, 2025
Assembly 261	Michael Kostival of Reading, PA	89	December 16, 2024
Assembly 312	Martin Blendulf of Warren, NJ	47	June 10, 2024
Wreath 1	Mary Golias of Stratford, CT	82	November 23, 2024
Wreath 34	Elizabeth M. Sanders of Parma OH	99	January 22, 2025
Wreath 39	James Jordhamo of Trumbull, CT	61	November 18, 2024
Wreath 39	Dorothy Rita Peterson of Port Orange, FL	94	December 29, 2024
Wreath 54	Joyce H. Motosko Johnson of Canfield, OH	61	November 7, 2024
Wreath 93	Christine E. Zovnic of Myrtle Beach, SC	74	June 16, 2024
Wreath 85	Peter P. Hric, Jr. of Pittsburgh, PA	60	November 20, 2024
Wreath 85	Mary Ann Kuga of Columbus, OH	94	October 19, 2024
Wreath 86	Theresa Formaggioni of New Hartford, CT	82	November 28, 2024
Wreath 86	Theresa M. Dupont of Windsor, CT	92	December 7, 2024
Wreath 86	Marilyn Joan Reznick of Torrington, CT	89	December 12, 2024
Wreath 93	Ann Benoit of Kenosha, WI	101	May 21, 2023
Wreath 93	Robert J. Schulze of Green Bay, WI	85	December 9, 2024
Wreath 93	Roger L. Wangen of Stevens Pt., WI	82	November 12, 2024
Wreath 153	Anna M. Pachuta of Chandler, AZ		
Wreath 155	Barbara A. Bershok of Level Green, PA	80	November 20, 2024
Wreath 155	Martha Karahuta of Reading, PA	97	January 12, 2025

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSEMBLY 163

The annual meeting of Assembly 163, Donora, PA was held on December 15, 2024 at Dorothy's Place. Treasurer report was read and discussion made regarding ideas to try to increase our membership. Election of officers was taken with the same officers being voted in.

The children's party was held in conjunction with the annual meeting Refreshments of pizza and pop were supplied by the officers for adults and children in attendance. The next meeting will be in May 2025 date to be announced. – **Terri Gardner**



The Supreme Physical Fitness Board is very excited to share information on the upcoming 2025 Heritage Slet. This is one of our favorite time-honored events which brings us all together. This event allows us to reconnect with old friends while making new friends. The SPFB is working hard to keep our beloved traditions alive while growing our events. We have organized activities and competitions for all ages. Please keep an eye out for more information to come in the following days.



Each Group Directress, Director, Sports Director and President will be receiving emails to spread to each group. Please make sure you are on their contact list. This is an event you won't want to miss!

If you have any questions please reach out to the Supreme Director, Dusan Dorich.

Zdar Boh!

Katie Swift

Supreme Directress

2025 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

****Bowling -- May 16-17** – Meadows Casino and Race-track --Washington, PA

**** The Heritage Slet -- June 26-29** – Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY

****Golf -- August 8-10** – Oaktree -- West Middlesex, PA, Yankee Run -- Brookfield, OH

Online Activities (via Facebook Live and Zoom)

- **Virtual Rosary via Facebook Live** – Supreme Chaplin Father Andrew Hvozdovic. First Friday of every month (starting in March) at 5:00PM (EST)
- **Bible Study via Zoom (during Lent)** – Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift
Every Monday at 8:00 PM
- **STEM via Facebook Live** – Supreme Physical Fit-

ness Board Member, Kristen Popik. Once a month on Monday Nights at 7PM (February, March, April, May).

- **Easter Egg Decorating Contest (April)** – Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Chris Antosy
- **Join Hands Day**– Each group will host an event in their prospective area and post pictures on social media.
- **Sokol Sports Day in (July 12th)** – Any member who wants to join will post pictures on social media of a sport or activity that they are engaging in.
- **Pumpkin Carving Contest (October)** – Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Zack Manyak
- **Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest (December)** – Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Janice Matlon
- **November Day of Giving** – Each group will host an event in their prospective area and post pictures on social media.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL – 2025 BOWLING TOURNAMENT

HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT THE MEADOWS, 210 RACETRACK ROAD, WASHINGTON, PA 15301

The 79th Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, 2025 at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows in Washington, PA. The GCU and the NSS will be joining us again this year. All bowling information can also be found on the website. The submission deadline is April 15, 2025.

A post-bowling survey indicated that the majority of bowlers do not wish to attend a formal banquet. In lieu of the banquet, we will be providing lunch on Saturday at the bowling alley. This will allow for everyone to enjoy the evening events at the casino.

- ***You do not have to be in a league or have a sanctioned handicap to compete in the bowling tournament.***
- ***If you are not a bowler, you can still join us for a weekend of fraternalism and fun at the casino! There is also a Tanger Outlet right across the street if you like to shop.***

For lodging, you have a choice of two hotels: **You must book by April 15th to get the group rate.**

1. Hyatt Place Hollywood Casino and Racetrack Pittsburgh South – \$179 + tax per night (this hotel is attached to the Meadows Complex)

Phone: 1-888-257-9658 (Group code: G-FSBT)

** Since this is attached to the casino and the room rates are typically \$270 a night, they will only hold a small block of rooms at the group rate. If you call and all are booked, you can try booking online on your own (you can sometimes get a good rate that way).

2. Doubletree By Hilton– Meadowlands – \$119 + tax per night

(this hotel is not part of the Meadows Complex – it is on the main road in the front of the casino complex. It is less than a two minute drive up the hill.

** a complimentary shuttle is offered all day and evening (last run is at 1:00AM)

Phone: (724) 222-6200 (Group Code: Fraternal Bowling Tournament)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, May 17th

5:00PM - 9:00M - hospitality (pizza, wings, salad, and non-alcoholic beverages) at the bowling alley

** alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.

5:00PM and 8:00PM - team events begin

Starting at 9:00PM – Live music at the casino (we have a reserved area of tables in the H Lounge)

Saturday, May 18th

9:00AM and 1:00PM - doubles and singles events

Buffet lunch will be available at the bowling alley.

Starting at 9:00PM –Live music at the casino (we have a reserved area of tables in H Lounge)

Cost:

\$30.00 per event (singles, doubles, team)

\$ 5 for all events

The total for each bowler participating in team, doubles, singles, and all-events is \$95.00. Friday evening hospitality and Saturday buffet luncheon are included.

The total for each bowler participating in team, doubles, singles, and all-events is \$95.00.

Mass information:

Immaculate Conception Church – St. James Parish 119 West Chestnut Street, Washington, PA 15301

- *Saturday: 4 PM, 5:30 PM*
- *Sunday: 8 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:15 PM*

As part of our outreach program organized by our Supreme Vice President Andrea Tadlock, we will be raffling off a gift basket to support Crabtree-Kovacicek Veterans House – City Mission of Washington, PA. We will also be accepting monetary donations. Details to follow in the Falcon, on the website, and on social media.

If you have any questions, please send me an email at kathyw323@gmail.com or text or call me at 412-225-8233.

I will see you all in Washington, PA!

Kathleen S. Watkins

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

GCU, NSS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

All fees must accompany this application.

**“USBC MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED”
HOLLYWOOD CASINO AT THE MEADOWS
Washington, PA
May 16 -17, 2025**

No applications will be accepted after April 15, 2025

League bowlers must submit a copy of their league average sheet with their application.

Please check one Men’s Events Women’s Events

BOWLER INFORMATION (<u>LIST CAPTAIN FIRST</u>)	SCS TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-2024 _____ USBC No. _____ Please Check Tournament Events Below: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events Please indicate your shirt size: _____
Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-2024 _____ USBC No. _____ Please Check Tournament Events Below: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events Please indicate your shirt size: _____
Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-2024 _____ USBC No. _____ Please Check Tournament Events Below: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events Please indicate your shirt size: _____
Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2023-2024 _____ USBC No. _____ Please Check Tournament Events Below: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events Please indicate your shirt size: _____

<p>TEAM EVENT — FRIDAY, MAY 16</p> <p>Choose your preferred start time:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5:00PM <input type="checkbox"/> 8:00PM <input type="checkbox"/> No preference</p> <p>Team Name: _____</p> <p><i>(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)</i></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p>	<p>DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENTS — SATURDAY, MAY 17th</p> <p>Choose your preferred start time:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9:00PM <input type="checkbox"/> 1:00PM <input type="checkbox"/> No preference</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p>
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Entry fees for this tournament:
 Prize Fee-\$10.⁰⁰ + Bowling Fee-\$15 + Tournament Fee-\$5.⁰⁰ = \$30
 All Events fee - \$5.⁰⁰

\$95.00 total per person

_____ Singles Event@ \$30 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Doubles Event@ \$30 ea. = \$ _____
_____ Team Event@ \$30ea. = \$ _____
_____ All Events@ \$5 ea. = \$ _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Check #: _____

Friday night hospitality included – 5:00 -8:00PM (pizza, wings, and salad)

Saturday Buffet Lunch included – after morning session.

_____ # of non-participants for Friday night hospitality _____ @15 each = _____

_____ # of non-participants for Saturday buffet _____ @ 15 each = _____

Make Entry Fee payable to:
 Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account
 Mail to: Kathy Watkins
 7019 Highland Creek Drive
 Bridgeville, PA 15017.

- ALL FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.
- FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION (INCLUDING EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER) .
- INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED



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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

NUMBER OF BOOKS _____

(Effective January 1, 2015)

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here's how it works: Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at



<http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm>

or simply send your donation to: Michael J. Horvath, SCS Museum Treasurer, 185 Lawrence St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum. Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST
FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON**

P.O. BOX 899 • 205 MADISON STREET
PASSAIC, N.J. 07055

NEW CHANGE CANCELLATION

Certificate No. _____

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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