

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL – MEMBERSHIP 30,000 – HOME OFFICE: 205 MADISON STREET, PASSAIC, N.J. 07055 – www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Periodical Postage Paid at original entry of Passaic, N.J., 07055 and additional mailing offices

VOLUME CVII

PASSAIC, N.J., APRIL 18, 2018

NUMBER 5113

Scenes of the First Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors held at Slovak Catholic Sokol Headquarters in Passaic, N.J., March 16–17



Board Members included, seated, l-r, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., and Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller. Standing, l-r, Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation, General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon and Supreme Treasurer Dennis J. Zifcak.



During the meeting a presentation was made by Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. to Editor Daniel F. Tanzone on behalf of the board of directors. Looking on are, l-r, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath and Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC.



The quarterly meeting opened on Friday, March 16 with the celebration of Mass for our living and deceased members by our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC. Father Andrew is shown above flanked by Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath.

Continuing in his long-time spiritual tradition, our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC blessed the home office and inscribed the traditional Epiphany inscription in chalk on the portals. Looking on are members of the Board of Directors.

Message from our Supreme President

by Michael J. Horvath

I have heard from family and friends they are tired of the winter of 2018. As one friend said during the last bout of frozen rain during



Holy Week it is January 90th. It has been a long winter and we are being teased with a couple days of warm weather then

back into the blanket of cold northern air. We just have to ride out the storms and embrace the fact spring will finally arrive and the outdoor fun will begin.

This said the Slovak Catholic Sokol 2018 fraternal activities are just a few weeks away. The first is the 72nd Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament on Monday, May 21st and Tuesday, May 22 at the Orleans Bowling Lanes in Las Vegas, NV. This is the 4th year the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the GCU Fraternal Society are working together to sponsor our annual bowling for the benefit of our members.

The next activity is the 2nd Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion Weekend June 1-3, 2018 at the Rocky Gap Resort in Flintstone, Maryland.

I hope to see the Sokol bowlers at the bowling tournament for another exciting competitive tournament and Sokol members at the Reunion for a more laid back gathering to enjoy the outdoors and play the Sokol games.

I would like to remind all Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths that Saturday, May 5, 2018 is the day known

in the fraternal world as Join Hands Day. Join Hands Day is the day that fraternal members volunteer their time by joining hands to help others with projects. I ask everyone to take up a project no matter how small to show the Slovak Catholic Sokol is a fraternal that cares about others and is willing to help others out with their time and talent. Those that do a project on Join Hands Day are reminded to take photos of theme in action and send a description of the project with the photo to the Home Office for us to showcase our charitable projects of caring. As Albert Einstein said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

It is time for all Group, Assembly or Wreath to submit the name of a person they can nominate for the 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. Each year we honor a Sokol member as the Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. This member is selected as the Fraternalist of the Year for the fraternal work they did for the Society and their dedication of service to the Organization. The Deadline to submit a nomination for is July 6, 2018.

One of the year's most important days will be here in less than a month and that in "Mother's Day" on Sunday May 13, 2018. I want to wish all Sokol Mothers a Happy Mother's Day. May your day be blessed with love, joy and happiness by all those that come to see or call you to wish you a Happy Mother's Day. May we also remember all of our Mothers who have died in our prayers.

With God's Blessings to All!
Zdar Boh!



Carter Reese Payne, born October 22, 2017, is the daughter of Cory and Alexis Macurak Payne of Acworth, Ga. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Maya Grace Arnold, born June 8, 2017 is the daughter of Evan T. and Jennifer Glocka Arnold of Glendale, Wis. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Honoring Eastern European Heritage

In 2016, the Governor of Ohio declared April to be Eastern European Month in Ohio. In celebration, which was spearheaded by Laurel Tombazzi, the president of the Eastern European Congress of Ohio, the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley is holding an event on Sunday, April 22, 2018 with the theme "Honoring Your Eastern European Heritage".

The celebration will begin at 3 p.m. at the Father Snock Center (in the former St. Matthias School) at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH 44502.

Youngstown Mayor Tito Brown and Law Director Jeff Limbian have indicated that they are planning to attend.

Representatives from many of the ethnic groups from Eastern Europe, who now reside in the Mahoning Valley, will be attending and displaying their cultural items. - Loretta Ekoniak, President of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

Spring Cleaning

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic

We all know that now is a great time to do some spring cleaning: re-evaluate what we need and what we're ready to let go of. But what about spring-cleaning our spirits?

With each new season comes the opportunity to look inward and take notice of what's going on inside. Look at what built up over the winter, and what stayed with you? Maybe you had a falling out recently that left some scars, or a crazy holiday break from which you still feel a little bit frazzled.

So let's approach this new season as a great gift, giving us the chance for re-birth! Here are some tips to spring clean your spirit.

1. Start slow.

There may be a laundry list of things you want to throw out the door, but if you try to do it all at once you will feel overwhelmed & lost in the sea. Instead begin with ONE thing. Maybe... 'I want to let go of this scar' or 'I want to create more trust, and let go of doubt' or 'I want to release the anger I feel towards...' AND then...

2. Meditate on it.

Repeat to yourself I am letting go of... or I am cultivating more... Maybe you repeat this to yourself during your run, or your daily meditation, or even when you are folding laundry or cooking dinner. The repetition of what you desire to re-

lease will help it to begin to do so. OR maybe...

3. Write it down and tear it up!

For those of us who are visual learners, it can really help

to see what we want to spring-clean out in the open. So think of what you'd like to toss and write it down. Write it in BIG letters, and then shred it! See that hindrance being destroyed, and envision it also leaving your soul behind! AND remember to...

4. Give yourself grace.

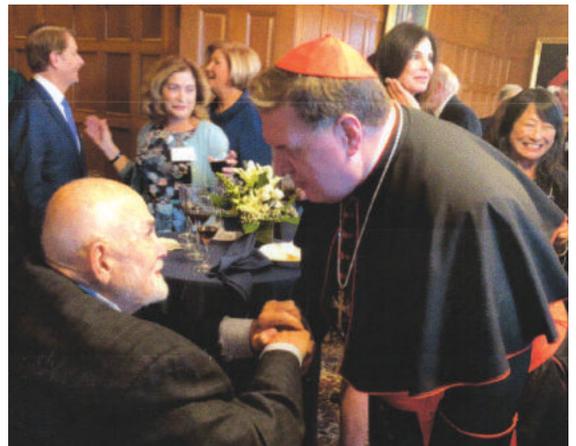
Let's be real here: nothing happens overnight. Our souls don't respond like e-mail. I heard a wonderful quote on the radio the other day "God doesn't use a microwave, He uses a crockpot." Understand that your spirit works the same way, you plant the seed and nurture it so overtime it will grow.

Begin with one thought, one intention to clean something out, and remind yourself or it & breath & try to release. With time your intention will become reality, and your spirit will feel as clean & shiny as your newly spotless garage.

Happy spring-cleaning!



Cardinal Tobin Welcomes Dr. William S. Lesko



His Eminence, Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.S.S.R., Archbishop of Newark, is shown above welcoming Dr. William S. Lesko to his residence for a reception inaugurating a new medical school associated with Seton Hall University on the former campus of Hoffman LaRoche in Clifton, N.J. The new facility, which is expected to open in late summer, will also include a school of nursing and many allied health care educational programs. In 2011, Dr. Lesko inaugurated the Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship Fund in our organization honoring the Lesko Family of Passaic, N.J. which has given generations of individuals who have enjoyed brilliant careers in medicine for nearly a century. Himself a graduate of Seton Hall University, Dr. Lesko was president of his class at the original Seton Hall School of Medicine. Dr. Lesko and his family enjoy membership in Assembly 1, our organization's oldest lodge. The family had its beginnings with the arrival of Stephen and Barbara Lesko who emigrated from eastern Slovakia in the early 1890s and were among the founders of St. Mary's Assumption Slovak Parish in Passaic. For generations, the Lesko family has been active in the area's Slovak community. We offer our fraternal best wishes to Dr. William S. Lesko as well as all the members of the Lesko family who so beautifully mirror the high ideals of Sokol fraternalism and our commitment to service and outreach. Zdar Boh!

Cardinal Dolan Welcomed at New York Parish



Making history - For the first time in its 123-year history, the Slovak parish of St. John Nepomucene in New York City hosted the Archbishop of New York on Holy Saturday, March 31 for the traditional blessing of Easter baskets filled with the foods eaten at Easter in a Slovak home. His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, shown second from the left, conducted the 11 a.m. blessing rite to a filled congregation. Shown with him on the photo are, l-r, the Most Rev. Jozef Halko, Auxiliary Bishop of Bratislava, Slovakia who visited the parish during Holy Week; the Rev. Martin Kertysz, C.O., who assists at the parish and the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

From the desk of the Supreme Secretary

JOIN HANDS AS SOKOLS

by Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10

The month of March proved to be a challenge here on the east coast. It seemed that a new nor'easter was rearing its ugly head on a weekly basis. I hope that everyone made it out of March safely and with no power outages! Thankfully, it looks as though the bad weather is behind us as we transition into the month of April and May. The grass is looking to grow and the temperatures are rising ever so slightly. This time of the year gives us the opportunity to fill our spring and summer schedules, hopefully with some of our fun and exciting Sokol fraternal events! Information on our events will be constantly updated in our monthly newsletter and Falcon publication. If you have any questions regarding an event, please contact our Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, or give me a call at the Home Office and we will be glad to assist you.

I am pleased to report that the First Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, held March 16th-17th at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ was very successful. 2017 proved to be an extremely positive year in many aspects of our organization. In this issue, you can read the activity reports of our Supreme Assembly regarding their duties performed in 2017. In our next issue, the Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting will be printed. I hope you take the time to read these reports as your Directors have put their time and energy in servicing our fine organization.

In two weeks, the fraternal world will be celebrating a very important day that does so much in our communities. Join Hands Day, which will be celebrated on May 5, 2018, is an opportunity for active fraternalists to enhance our image in our local communities. In 2000, America's Fraternal Benefit Societies along with Points of Light Foundation, created the Join Hands Day as a way for the youth and adults to work together as volunteers. It is a day of community service that specifically targets and develops relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Many communities across the world use this day as a building block to start the communication process between the young and old. Since its inception, Join Hands Day has enjoyed the support and participation of many members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. I hope that many of our Groups and Lodges plan to participate in this fine day. It offers the opportunity for the community to learn what a fraternal is all about. Remember, Join Hands Day should not only be celebrated one day a year, but all year. This is what we do and who we are as Sokols.

With the summer season fast approaching and family get-togethers on the horizon, it is always a good idea to think about your life insurance needs. Here are a few questions that should be answered on a regular basis:

- Do you know exactly how much life insurance you have on your life?
- If you own term insurance, do you know when it expires?
- Will the amount you currently have properly fund any outstanding debts in the event of death? (mortgages, loans, etc.)
- Is your life insurance coverage properly structured to benefit your estate?
- Do you know who your current beneficiaries are?

If you are having trouble answering the above questions or have any other questions, please contact our Director of Sales/Marketing, Albert J. Suess Jr., F.I.C. at 855-874-9179 or give me a call at the Home Office and we will be glad to assist you. Remember, you do not buy life insurance to cover YOUR life; you buy it to insure the quality of life for your loved ones. Life insurance is for the living!

Until next time, enjoy the warmer temperatures and God Bless!
Zdar Boh!

Scholarship grants available for members in Lorain, Ohio

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five year members of our local lodges that include; National Slovak Society Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, First Catholic Slovak Union #228, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #114 and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union #77. The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com. Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018. Zdar Boh! – **Michele Mager**, Secretary-United Slovak Societies, Board of Director Member, American Slovak Club, Lorain, OH

2018 Law Day Message from our General Counsel John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

On May 1, 2018, America observes Law Day, a celebration of our nation's great heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under law. Law



Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that Americans share. As we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Law Day's establishment, this year's theme is "Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom." Interestingly, the phrase, "separation of powers" does not appear anywhere in the text of the U.S. Constitution. However, it is likely to be one of the most important concepts in understanding how the United States government is designed to defend the liberties that Americans had fought so hard to achieve. The principle of separation of powers speaks to a system of shared power known as checks and balances. This timely theme exemplifies how the branches represent separate powers that, together, form a dynamic system that works for the common good. In addition, the crux of the theme is central to building an understanding of the rule of law, which has always been a primary purpose of Law Day.

SEPARATION OF POWERS AND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

In the words of Justice Louis Brandeis, "The doctrine of the sepa-

ration of powers was adopted by the Convention of 1787, not to promote efficiency, but to preclude the exercise of arbitrary power." Our founding fathers were concerned that the government they established not have all its power concentrated in the hands of a few officials. Government functions best when its powers are not concentrated in a single authority, but are instead divided among different branches. The founders were also concerned that the powers granted to one branch would be balanced by powers granted to others. Congress's power to legislate, for example, is balanced by the Executives power to veto legislation and by the judiciary's power to declare legislation unconstitutional. This system of checks and balances ensures that each branch is separate from the other, but each would retain distinct powers that the other branch did not have. The philosopher Montesquieu further stated if "the right of making and of enforcing the laws is vested in one and the same man, or the same body of men ... there can be no liberty."

The three (3) branches of government and their respective powers are defined as follows:

1. The Legislative branch is composed of the Congress (made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate.) This branch is responsible for making laws.

2. The Executive branch is made up of the president, vice president, cabinet members, and specific agencies. It is the job of the Executive branch to make sure that laws are carried out.

3. The Judicial branch is composed of the Supreme Court and the lower federal courts.

The Judicial branch interprets laws or explains laws.

The first three (3) Articles of the Constitution define the powers given to the above stated three (3) branches. Article I defines the Congress, Article II defines the Executive Branch, and Article III defines the Judiciary.

SEPARATION OF POWERS AND CONGRESS

The Constitution gives Congress numerous powers including the following:

1. Power over the budget and the authority to raise taxes, borrow money, and spend money;

2. Power to declare war and to raise and support military forces;

3. Power to regulate immigration, the mail, patents and copyrights, and commerce between the states and with foreign countries; and

4. Power to establish federal courts below the United States Supreme Court.

The Constitution divides legislative power in the Congress between the House of Representatives and the Senate. Both Houses must agree on proposed legislation before it becomes law. Congress also has the power to pass any laws that are "necessary and proper" to give effect to its named powers. Checks and balances on the power of our Congress are (a) the Presidential veto power on proposed legislation; however, a two-thirds majority of both the House and Senate is required.

(Continued on page 7)

Assembly 182 hosts St. Joseph's Day Celebration



Assembly 182 in New York City hosted its annual patronal feast day observance honoring St. Joseph on Sunday, March 18 at St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York City. The traditional observance began with the Sokols and Sokolky attending the 10:15 a.m. Slovak Mass celebrated by the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O. Following the liturgy the lodge hosted its annual meeting followed by its St. Joseph's Day luncheon in the parish social hall. This year, Assembly 182 celebrates its 95th anniversary.

A group of young Slovaks gathered at St. John Nepomucene in March 1923 to organize a new lodge of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Assembly 182 has been active at St. John Nepomucene Parish as well as the New York area Slovak community over the years. The annual St. Joseph's Day celebrations began following the Second World War in 1946 and have been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Sokol fraternalism and fellowship at its best.

Father Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John

Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, is shown seated second from the left, flanked by 1-r, W. Nina Holy, national Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak League of America; Assembly 182 vice president Jozef Bodo, Editor Daniel F. Tanzone who was the speaker and Aneta Lisa who spoke on the work of Lux the Slovak Catholic Media Productions located at the New York parish. Assembly 182 President, Dr. Larry Korcek is shown standing, third from the left.



REFLECTOR...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

Nancy Fedor honored as "Person of the Year"



Well-known Group 7 Sokol activist, Nancy Fedor was recently honored as the Person of the Year by the North End Slovak Citizens Club in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Nancy serves as the long-time recording secretary of our Sokol Assembly 59 in Wilkes-Barre, one of our organization's largest lodges and has contributed numerous articles over the years to our official publication, the Slovak Catholic Falcon. She has volunteered her time and talents for more than 25 years at various activities at the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Parish, now a component of the Parish of St. Andre Basette. She has also been active in the work of the North End Slovak Citizens Club, one of the largest ethnic clubs in Northeastern Pennsylvania, assisting at its various social and outreach activities. Nancy's family and friends participated in the justly deserved tribute to our Sokolka at the recent luncheon given in her honor. She is the mother of two children, Denise Balas and Dr. Renee Pizzella as well as two grandchildren, Olivia Pizzella and Daniel Balas. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to our Sister Nancy who beautifully mirrors the high ideals of Sokol fraternalism on this well-deserved tribute. She is a wonderful example of Sokol fraternalism and outreach at its best!

Our Sister Nancy Fedor is shown on the above photo during the presentation flanked by Robert R. Palchanis, Jr., president of the North End Slovak Citizens Club and Al Cibello, chairman of the Person and Student of the Year Committee.

Centennial of the Pittsburgh Agreement set for May 31

All is in readiness for the 100th anniversary of the signing of the historic Pittsburgh Agreement set for May 31. The commemorative program will be held at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 6 p.m. The program will include presentations by various government officials from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. A reception will follow the formal program.

The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important step in the course of events which led to the establishment of an independent Czecho-Slovak state after the First World War. Hosted by the Slovak League of America, the Czech National Alliance and Slovak American fraternal organizations, the group invited Professor Thomas G. Masaryk to Pittsburgh, who later became the first president of Czechoslovakia, to discuss the issue of Slovak autonomy for the new republic.

Admission for this memorable event is \$35.00 per person (no tickets will be printed). Admission can be purchased from Carol Hockman at carolh254@aol.com or from the Honorary Slovak Consul Joseph T. Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or tel. 412 956-6000. Make checks payable to WPSCA and mail to: Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admission will

be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by the deadline of May 15.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. The medal as well as a 11/17-inch poster of the Pittsburgh Agreement at the cost of \$10.00 will also be available at the event or by contacting the contacts above.

Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn, located across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton Inn is \$169 a night plus tax. For reservations at the Hampton Inn call 412 288-4350 or book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 plus tax. Their phone number is 412 232-0200. At either hotel, mention that you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Deadline for reservations is May 2.

In conjunction with the celebration, a symposium is scheduled for the afternoon of May 31 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the University of Pittsburgh in room 4130 of Posvar Hall. All are welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during the years surrounding the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement. Panelists will include Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Slavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

For additional information on the celebration, contact the Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412 956-6000 or the Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412 855-6581.

Pittsburgh fraternalists to honor Robert J. Lawrence

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) is pleased to announce that Robert J. Lawrence has been chosen as its Fraternalist of the Year for 2018.

Brother Bob serves as the National Treasurer/CFO of the Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ) since 1993 and previously worked as a senior accounting professional with AMTRAK. He was previously president and board member of the FSGP and president and board member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, and was a John Jordan Upchurch Award recipient to recognize his distinguished and exemplary service to fraternalism. Through the years, Bob has given of his time and talents to various events to serve those in need such as serving on the Kidz Bowling for Kidz Committee that raised money for the Free Care Fund at Children's Hospital and Bob initiated fundraising efforts for The Bradley Center, a residential treatment facility for children and adolescents with mental health and developmental disabilities.

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh represents 35 fraternal societies including our own with a combined membership of more than 600,000 fraternalists in the Keystone State.

A banquet honoring Bob is scheduled for Saturday, April 21 at the Southpointe Golf Club, located at 360 Southpointe Boulevard in Canonsburg, Pa. The evening begins with a fraternal reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70.00 each. Reservation checks made payable to Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh may be sent to Karen A. Pintar, % Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Brother Bob on this well-deserved tribute. He is credit to the family of Slavic fraternalists, and in particular to those of Slovenian ancestry.

2018 Fraternalist of the Year Program celebrates volunteerism and outreach

Life insurance benefits may be purchased from either a commercial insurance company or a fraternal benefit society. Both provide financial security, however a fraternal benefit organization provides much more than financial protection. Founded after the American Civil War, fraternalists in the United States offered an important extra not found in commercial suppliers - a vision and history of service and outreach to the community. The presence of fraternalists in churches, educational institutions and outreach projects enhance the quality and effectiveness of these groups which help to make a difference in the lives of countless individuals and communities. Often fraternalists are movers and shakers who champion particular and noble causes. They are able witnesses of the high ideals of fraternalism and are pleased to serve the needs of others.

Over the years, our organization has been blessed with individuals who have championed a spirit of caring and sharing among our members and within the communities in which we reside. Since 1985, we have taken the initiative to honor such members with our Fraternalist of the Year designation. Each year we ask the membership to recommend an individual member who in their mind reflects the vibrant

spirit of Sokol fraternalism and outreach. Such individuals often do so quietly and without much acclaim. Well, now is the opportunity for an Assembly, Wreath or individual member to take the time to nominate an individual member who in their estimation serves as a role model and mentor for others and who is worthy of such recognition. There are many such individuals out there and they should be recognized. So at your next lodge or Group meeting, discussion of the Fraternalist of the Year program should be on the meeting agenda and an individual should be nominated.

This year's honoree will be presented with an appropriate plaque along with a gift of \$200 as a small token of our gratitude for his or her efforts in promoting Slovak Catholic Sokol volunteerism and outreach. The presentation of the Fraternalist of the Year plaque will take place at a dinner hosted by our organization for the honoree's family and friends.

A special nomination form is available from the home office. Contact Daniel F. Tanzone who coordinates the program at 800 886-7656. A recent photo of the nominee should be included along with the completed nomination form. Deadline for receipt of the completed nomination form at the home office is Friday, July 6, 2018.

PAST SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

- 1985 - Anne E. Hletko,* Chicago, Ill
- 1986 - Deacon John C. Matlon,* Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1988 - Irene Matuschak,* Uniontown, Pa.
- 1989 - Mary T. Sterbinsky,* Kingston, Pa.
- 1990 - Eleanor E. Macko,* Baden, Pa.
- 1991 - Amalia T. Burican,* Milwaukee, Wis.
- 1992 - Julia M. Misencik,* Bridgeport, Conn.
- 1993 - Stephen C. Burican,* Milwaukee, Wis.
- 1994 - Dr. Stephen J. Hletko,* Chicago, Ill.
- 1995 - Anne Z. Sarosy,* Colorado Springs, Co.
- 1996 - John J. Pavlica,* Clifton, N.J.
- 1997 - Steve J. Hruska,* Youngstown, Oh.
- 1998 - Andrew G. Tomasko,* Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 1999 - Frank M. Manca,* El Cajon, Ca.
- 2000 - Rev. Jerome J. Pavlik, O.F.M.,* Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 2001 - Joseph A. Seliga,* Chicago, Ill.
- 2002 - Margaret A. Seman,* Canton, Oh.
- 2003 - Tibor T. Kovalovsky,* Boardman, Oh.
- 2004 - Frank E. Macey, Reading, Pa.
- 2005 - George W. Hizny, Pittsboro, Pa.
- 2006 - George J. Kostelnik, Bethlehem, Pa.
- 2007 - Joseph V. Gebura, Middleburg Heights, Oh.
- 2008 - Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Beeda, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- 2009 - Eileen Salamon Wilson, Stratford, Conn.
- 2010 - John E. Jasenc,* Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2011 - Andrew J. "Butch" Hvozdic, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- 2012 - Joan J. Yanosick, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 2013 - Fred A. Graham, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
- 2014 - Roger J. Manyak, East Douglas, Mass.
- 2015 - Dolly Hussar, Canton, Oh.
- 2016 - Mary Ann Naple, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 2017 - Daniel F. Tanzone, Yonkers, N.Y.

* deceased

Sokol Calendar

SUN. APRIL 22

■ Celebration "Honoring Your Eastern European Heritage" in conjunction with Eastern European Month in the State of Ohio, hosted by the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley at the Father Snock Center (former St. Matthias School) at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, 2800 Shady Run Rd., Youngstown, Oh. beginning at 3 p.m., exhibits, cultural displays and refreshments; for information call Loretta Ekoniak, tel. 330 549-3760, loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

■ Mass for the living and deceased members of Assembly 86 of Port Griffith at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, William St., Pittston, Pa. at 12:15 p.m.

*Easter concert by area church choirs at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, William St., Pittston, Pa. beginning at 2 p.m.

SAT. APRIL 28

■ Benefit and fundraiser for the Cleveland Slovak Radio Cultural & Social Club at the Parma Tavern, 5680 Broadview Road, Parma, Oh. from 6 - 9 p.m., \$25.00 per person.

SUN. APRIL 29

■ Annual Spaghetti Dinner hosted by Group 1 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 4 p.m. \$8.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors, children, ages 6-12, \$5.00 children under age 6 are welcome free of charge; for reservations call Peter Walentowicz 973 340-9078.

■ Spring Fling benefit hosted by the School Sisters of St. Francis at their Motherhouse, Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 12 to 5 p.m., homemade dinners, plant and cake sales, raffles and more, for additional information call 412 761-0290, www.

schoolistersofsok.org.

APRIL 30-MAY 1

■ Slovak Catholic Federation board meeting at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pa.

MON. MAY 7

■ Wreath 22 meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SAT. MAY 12

■ Open House at the Embassy of Slovakia in the United States beginning at 11 a.m., featuring a variety of exhibits, performances by Slovak folk ensembles, a Fajara performance, sing-along and more; free of charge and open to the public, 3523 International Court, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008, tel. 202 237-1054, www.mzv.sk/washington.

■ Mother's and Father's Day luncheon at The Slovak Garden, a Home for American Slovaks, Inc. 3110 Howell Branch Rd., #100, Winter Park, Fla. beginning at 1 p.m. featuring Slovak culinary specialties, \$20.00 per person, for reservations call tel. 407 677-6894 or email: slovakgarden@centurylink.net.

MON. MAY 14

■ Wreath 111 meeting and social "Let's Celebrate Our Mom" at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

SUN. MAY 20

■ Reunion of the former Most Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Parish hosted by the Holy Trinity Society Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church, now St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Rite Catholic Church, 18 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, N.Y.

breakfast to follow at the Castle Royale, 92 Waverly Street, \$20.00 per person; for reservations call Marilyn Montemurro, at tel. 914 337-5271.

MAY 20-22

■ 72nd International Bowling Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada.

MON. JUNE 11

■ Wreath 111 meeting and indoor picnic "Spend the Day with Dad" at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

JUNE 1-3

■ 2nd Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion Weekend at Rocky Gap Resort, in Flintstone, Maryland.

SAT. JUNE 16

■ 7th annual Simply Slavic Fest, celebrating the heritage, culture and cuisine of the family of Slavic nations in the Mahoning valley of Ohio, Federal Plaza East in downtown Youngstown, Oh. from 12 noon to 11 p.m., live music, folk dance performances, home-made food, beer garden, baking contest, children's learning areas, educational exhibits, Ecumenical Prayer Service and parade of Flags, Kolace Queen/King contest, a Vatra or traditional Slavic bonfire, after dark with live music; admission \$4.00, for information call tel. 330 503-9874, web: www.simplyslavic.org.

JULY 1-6

■ 6th International All-Sokol Slet celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first All-Sokol Slet and the establishment of the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia in Prague, Czech Republic.

WED. JULY 4

■ Independence Day Barbeque at The Slovak Garden, a Home for American Slovaks, Inc., 3110 Howell Branch Rd. #100, Winter Park, Fla., 2-4 p.m., \$20.00 per person at the door, tel. 407 677-6894 or email: slovakgarden@centurylink.net

JULY 13-15

■ 31st International Softball Tournament in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

JULY 26-29

■ Supreme Clinic - Kurz in preparation for our 49th International Slet at SUNY - Brockport, New York.

AUGUST 10-12

■ 63rd International Golf Tournament at Oak Tree Country Club, West Middlesex, Pennsylvania.

MON. SEPT. 10

■ Wreath 111 patronal feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the American Slovak Home 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

MON. OCT. 8

■ Wreath 111 meeting and social "Happy Halloween" at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS MAY 16

In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of Wednesday, May 16. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Monday, May 7.

Summer scholarship available in Slovakia

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is once again offering the Stephanie Husek Memorial Scholarship for American students attending the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia from July 1 to July 20, 2018. The WPSCA will award the \$3,000 grant to cover transportation, tuition, room and board. Applicants must be full time students and be of Slovak heritage.

For an application contact Joseph T. Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or tel. 412 956-6000.

The Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University is the oldest program of its kind and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their Slovak language competency as well as their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture. More information on this program is available at www.cdv.uniba.sk/en/summer-university.

S.C.S Museum Donations for January -- April 2018

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations received during January through April 2018 earmarked for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum located at our home office in Passaic, NJ. The monies received from these donations fund our annual \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships, which assist our young people in their educational endeavors. The number of these scholarships grants is dependent upon the amount of donations received.

DONATION RECEIVED

In Memory of
All Sokol Members

Donated by
Horvath Family

Departed members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors

Total donations: \$241

Thank you for your generosity,
Dennis J Zifcak, Supreme Treasurer

TICKETS AT WORK is pleased to offer entertainment and travel discounts for both regional and nationwide attractions and events to all Slovak Catholic Sokol members. COMPANY CODE: go to www.slovakcatholicssokol.org for code. How to Get Started: 1. Go to <http://www.ticketsatwork.com>; 2. Click on "Become a Member"; 3. You will then be prompted to create an account with your email address & company code. Once enrolled, you will have access to all the discounts nationwide. If you do not have internet access, you can call customer service at the toll free number - 1-800-331-6483, and use the Slovak Catholic Sokol code (contact Kathy for code). See the TicketsAtWork.com website for details and restrictions. If you have any questions, contact Supreme Physical Director Kathy Watkins at kathyw323@gmail.com or 412-225-8233.



Za Boha a Narod For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL

ISSN: 0897-8107

Established April 15, 1911

Official Publication of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

Issued Monthly

Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor

Editorial office: (973) 777-4010

Annual Subscription Rates

United States \$40.00 - All others countries \$45.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Slovak Catholic Falcon,
P.O. Box 899, 205 Madison Street,
Passaic, New Jersey 07055

Member of the Catholic Press
Association and the Slovak Newspapermen's
Association of America

Proprietor and Publisher

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

P.O. Box 899

205 Madison Street, Passaic, N.J. 07055

Home Office: (973) 777-2605-06

WEB SITE - www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

(Editor's note: We have noticed a number of returned copies of our Falcon due to incorrect addresses of our members. We ask that when individuals move, that they complete the form below for a change of address or call the home office. We thank you for your continued cooperation)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

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Minutes from the SKS 2020 Committee Meeting March 7, 2018 – Conference Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 EST by chairperson Julie Ann Dobbs. Sister Dobbs opened with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by committee member Kevin Conway. All committee members were in attendance.

Following a brief welcome from Sister Dobbs the SKS 2020 Committee Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2018 were reviewed and approved.

In preparation for this meeting, Sister Dobbs shared the updated data template and a focused document specific to the Board of Director roles for each comparison organization. The committee began by spending a great deal of time reviewing each organization's make up, and role specific information including:

- Board representation
- Elected/Hired/Appointed
- Full Time/Part Time
- Term length and if there are term limits
- Voting rights

This initial exercise of data review led to additional questions and desire for information. The committee agreed to gather data regarding salary, position qualifications (if any) to be shared prior to our next conference call. Generally speaking, it became clear that the current Slovak Catholic Sokol board structure is not too dissimilar to the comparison organizations with the exception of two outliers that are much larger in size. While there were identified differences in structure or attribute between even the like sized organizations the committee decided to acknowledge those differences and address them later in the process while preparing our final review and recommendation to the convention.

Sister Dobbs referred the members to the convention bylaw committee's proposed board structure changes including rationale statements. These were considered and discussed as follows:

1. Tax Exempt Status of the Fraternal Benefit System- a large number of states are challenging our status on an ongoing basis which would require the payment of taxes.

The tax exempt status and risk of revocation for fraternal organizations has been discussed for many years, both by the American Fraternal Alliance and our own leaders. The committee could not directly correlate this particular concern with need for change in governance.

2. Board Governance- this is a state by state occurrence that will eventually require all insurance companies to comply with the rules established by the NAIC.

The board felt that this statement may have led convention attendees to believe that the Slovak Catholic Sokol was not complying with currently established NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) rules. The following represents the requirements and our response:

• "Upon state adoption of the NAIC models and as early as June 1, 2016, each U.S. insurer or the in-

urance group in which the insurer is a member, must submit, a Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (CGAD) to its lead state or domestic regulator on an annual basis."

An annual report of this nature has been required of the SCS for many years. The State of New Jersey requires this level of disclosure and it is also made available to other states (in which we are licensed) upon request.

• In the CGAD, insurers must document highly confidential information about their corporate governance framework, including the structure and policies of their boards of directors and key committees, the frequency of their meetings, and procedure for the oversight of critical risk areas and appointment practices, among other things. Insurers must also disclose the policies and practices used by their board of directors for directing senior management on critical areas, including a description of codes of business conduct and ethics, and processes for performance evaluation, compensation practices, corrective action, succession planning and suitability standards. This information will be utilized by insurance regulators to understand, review and assess the corporate governance practices of insurers to promote effective oversight on an ongoing basis.

The goal of the NAIC and the State of New Jersey is to ensure that there are qualified members on our Board of Directors and that the organization is in good hands. The State of New Jersey conducts regular scheduled examinations of our organization and has the authority to do so without notice. During these examinations, they review our bylaws and decision making processes. There has never been concern raised during these audits as to the governance structure of our organization. Additionally, we employ our actuary and accountant whose job it is to bring forward concern regarding the direction of our organization.

Question: Are we confident in the qualifications of our board members/positions to make sound financial decision for our organization?

Answer: We will review qualifications and compare them to our state of organizations. To that end, by employing our PNC investment advisors, we have added an additional layer of protection that several of our comparison organizations do not have. Our BOD makes financial decisions based on the sound advice of our advisors who add to our governance model. Lastly, over time we have engaged other financial advisors/organizations to provide their review of our financial investments, which in essence becomes yet another check and balance.

Supreme President Michael Horvath reminded us that one of the groups that we were asked to interface with were the Board of Directors, our auditor, accountant and financial advisor. Brother Michael suggested that this could be accomplished during next weekends' BOD meeting in Passaic, NJ. Sister

Scholarships available for New England members

The New England Fraternal Alliance is pleased to announce that two scholarship grants in the amount of \$1,000 each will be available to any member of a fraternal organization in any of the six New England States, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in any of these states and who is a full-time student in an accredited college/university or graduate school may apply. The scholarship award is paid directly to the recipients. Deadline for the completed application is September 1, 2018. A transcript of grades from the spring 2018 semester must be submitted with the application.

An application is available from Group 2 President Eileen S. Wilson, tel. 203 378-8837. The completed application must be forwarded by September 1, 2018 to: Albert Costa, Chair - Scholarship Committee, 1735 Beacon St. Waban, MA 02468.

Apartments available at The Slovak Garden

Founded in 1952, The Slovak Garden, billed as "A Home for American Slovaks" is located in sunny Florida in Winter Park, just outside Orlando. Apartments are available in the complex for those of Slovak ancestry age, 55 and older.

One bedroom apartments cost \$433.00 per month. Two bedrooms with one bath, pool-side are \$526.00 per month. Two bedroom apartments with one and a half baths cost \$644.00 per month. Water and electricity are not included.

A minimum lease of twelve months is required. For additional information call or log on the Slovak Garden website; tel. 407 677-6894, fax: 407 677-8442, slovak-garden@centurylink.net or www.slovak-garden.com.

Dobbs will be attending to provide a report of current progress.

Sister Dobbs proposed that our next meeting be held via conference call at the beginning of May. In addition, Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec suggested that this committee meet in person in conjunction with the September BOD meeting in order to pull together our final thoughts regarding recommendation. Our timeline includes final proposal to the BOD at their annual meeting in December of 2018. Sister Dobbs thanked everyone for their participation and preparation. Brother Michael offered a closing prayer. The meeting was concluded at 7:00 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie A. Dobbs
Chairperson
SKS 2020 Committee

We invite you to send any questions or concerns to our committee at SKS2020@slovakcatholicsokol.org



During his Holy Week visit to the New York area Slovak community, Bishop Jozef Halko of the Archdiocese of Bratislava in Slovakia, he took the opportunity to visit SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. on Holy Saturday, March 31 for the traditional blessing of Easter food at 2 p.m. Bishop Halko is shown above at the pulpit during the Holy Saturday rite.



The Most Rev. Jozef Halko, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bratislava in Slovakia, spent Holy Week visiting the New York Slovak parish of St. John Nepomucene. Bishop Halko is shown above as principal celebrant of the first liturgy of Easter at the Vigil, March 31. Flanking Bishop Halko are the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O. who assists at the parish and the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion Weekend

Who wants to celebrate friendship and our Sokol family? Let's all get together for a fun filled weekend.

When: June 1-3, 2018

We will start the weekend off with a lake side social on Friday evening at 8:00 .

Saturday can be filled with as much or as little activity as you prefer. The resort offers rentals of kayaks, canoes and such. There is an amazing hiking trail and Katie Swift will be leading a hike. They also have a Spa and a beach area.

A special Golf rate will be offered at the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course.

Come enjoy your time together. It is for sure guaranteed to be a blast!

Double Occupancy Rooms are reserved at a group rate of \$139/night

Call 1800-724-0828

Rates are good until May 15, 2018

Be sure to ask for the Slovak Catholic Sokol rate

When finished reserving your room, please email Katie Swift at Katie70@aol.com

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 10

The annual meeting of Group 10 was held on Sunday, October 8, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the church social hall of St. John Fischer Church in Catasauqua, PA.

The opening prayer was offered by President Stephen A. Roman.

Roll call taken showed the following officers present: President/Acting Sports Director Stephen A. Roman, Financial Secretary Francis Blanar, Recording Secretary Susan Knoblauch, and Auditors Paulette Blanar and Margaret Hogan. Delegates present from Assembly 72 were Robert Hogan, Jr., Thomas Hogan, Barbara Petro, Christopher Roman, and Emery Roman. Delegate present from Assembly 255 was Gerry Fabian.

Recording Secretary Knoblauch relayed to those present the message she received from Assembly 32 that they were not able to attend the meeting.

President Roman gave his report. He assumed the responsibilities of President in March 2017 upon the resignation of President Kostelnik.

Auditor Hogan made a motion to accept the President's report. Seconded by Christopher Roman. All present were in favor of the motion.

Financial Secretary Blanar presented his report and circulated a copy of the financial report.

President Roman appointed Robert Hogan as an auditor to replace Auditor Dempsey, who could not attend the annual meeting.

Auditor Blanar reported that the auditors reviewed the financial records and found everything in order. Delegate Thomas Hogan made a motion to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Seconded by Barbara Petro. All present were in favor of the motion.

President Roman made a motion that Group 10 transfer a determined amount of group funds to the Sokol Secure Fund. Delegate Robert Hogan seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion.

President Roman asked those present for ideas on how Group 10 could honor the many years of service of President Kostelnik. Delegate Thomas Hogan made a motion to give President Kostelnik a gift card. Delegate Fabian seconded the motion. All present

were in favor of the motion. A letter was drafted to thank President Kostelnik for his many years of service and fraternalism, and those present signed it.

Election of Officers: President – Stephen A. Roman, Vice President – Christopher Roman, Financial Secretary – Francis Blanar, Sports Director – Thomas Hogan, Recording Secretary – Susan Knoblauch, Auditors – Paulette Blanar, Margaret Hogan, Robert Hogan, Jr.

Delegate Fabian made a motion to accept the slate of officers. Delegate Robert Hogan seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion.

Delegate Fabian made a motion to make a donation to St. John Fischer Church for hosting the annual meeting. Auditor Blanar seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion.

President Roman asked for ideas on how Group 10 could build fraternalism. The president asked if anyone would be interested in holding a Valia (traditional Slovak Christmas Eve supper). There was enough interest in the idea to merit further discussion. When the officers and delegates reconvene in March of 2018 they will discuss ideas for future activities and make plans for hosting a Valia during Christmas 2018.

With no other business to discuss at this time, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Auditor Blanar. Delegate Petro seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion.

The next annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 12:00 pm. Assembly 72 volunteered to host the meeting. It will be held in the church basement social hall of St. John Fischer Church in Catasauqua, PA. Recording Secretary Knoblauch will contact the assemblies in September 2018 to remind them of the meeting date.

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Financial Secretary Blanar.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Knoblauch
Recording Secretary

(The delegates enjoyed a delicious brunch prior to the meeting prepared by MaryAnn Cavallucci).

Scenes of the Annual Group 1 Co-Ed Bowling Tournament Paul's Bowling Academy + Paterson, N.J. + Sunday, April 8



2018 Law Day Message from our General Counsel

(Continued from page 3)

quired to override a veto; and (b) the Supreme Court's power to review the constitutionality of a law if it is challenged in a case brought before the Court.

SEPARATION OF POWERS AND THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive branch of our government is vested with the power as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces; power to make treaties; nominate judges to the federal judiciaries, and appoint officers of the government subject to the advice and consent of the Senate; power to pardon individuals convicted of crimes; and oversight of federal agencies that implement laws passed by Congress. The President of the United States serves as the Chief Executive and is elected by the people for no more than two (2) terms. The checks and balances on the Executive power are (a) the Senate's power to ratify treaties the President has signed and to consent to the President's nominees for federal judge-ships and other governmental positions; (b) the power of Congress to impeach and convict for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors;" and (c) the federal judiciary's power to declare executive actions unconstitutional if they are challenged in court.

SEPARATION OF POWERS AND THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

The Judiciary's independence from political interference by the Legislature or the Executive branch is protected in the Constitution by life tenure during good behavior and a guaranteed salary. The judiciary's

power to review the constitutionality of Executive actions or laws passed by Congress is called judicial review. The judiciary's power is limited to the "cases and controversies" brought before the Court. There are numerous constraints within the Judiciary on the power of individual judges. Judges are required to explain their decisions in written opinions; they are required to follow the precedents established by the decisions of higher courts; and judges' decisions are subject to review by courts of appeals. The Executive and Legislative branches each have powers that check and balance the Judiciary. For example, the federal courts are staffed by judges nominated by the President. The courts rely upon the Executive branch for enforcement of their decisions. Congress has control over the judiciary's budget and has the power to impeach federal judges who misbehave in office. Congress also has the power of amending the Constitution if it disagrees with the Judiciary's interpretation of the Constitution.

IMPORTANCE OF LAW DAY

Separation of powers is a hallmark of most democratic governments, yet we seldom reflect upon the critical significance of the separation of powers to the rule of law. In fact, recent news concerning executive orders, court rulings, presidential nominations and confirmation hearings have brought questions about the roles of the three (3) branches of government to the center of national discourse. Our system of separation of powers and checks and balances has safeguarded our liberties and helped to ensure that

we remain a government of laws. As we think about the concept, we realize the interaction between the three (3) branches of government. The branches have their separate spheres and separate powers, but, collectively work together for the common good. Other institutions outside government also serve as checks and balances on the powers of the Executive, the Legislature, and the judiciary. These include the free press that can investigate and report on government actions, non-governmental organizations that advocate for different interests, and the power of the people in whom government authority ultimately rests. Consequently, each of us as individuals has a responsibility to act to ensure that our government works properly and protects us. Making the effort to be an informed citizen; contacting your local, state, and national representatives about issues that are important to you; attending town hall meetings; and most importantly, voting all help to ensure that all levels of our government serve the people.

CONCLUSION

The Law Day 2018 theme enables us to reflect on the principles of separation of powers and our role in the government as citizens. Let us take this opportunity to reflect and consider how power is shared in our government and how we can work together to preserve our liberties and advance our rights. On this Law Day, I urge you to embrace the separation of powers as your heritage. Respect it. Protect it. And on Law Day, celebrate it.

SDAR BOH!

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Reports of the Supreme Officers for 2017 Presented at the First Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors Held at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J., March 16-17, 2018

REPORT OF THE SUPREME CHAPLAIN

Pochvalen bud Pan Jezis Kristus!

SLAVNA ROCNA SCHODZA

In Compliance with Section 4.0 article (g) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my report of activities for the calendar year 2017.

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:

Annually I participate with representatives from our brother and sister Slovak Fraternal Societies in the Annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

I attended the Annual Board of Directors Meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol held March 23-26, 2017 held at our Home Office in Passaic, NJ. I provided the spiritual needs for the Annual Meeting; (ie) daily Mass, prayers beginning and ending each session, and a special memorial service remembering all our deceased members since our last First Quarterly Board Meeting.

As National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation it is my responsibility to conduct the Spring meeting of the SCF, National Board of Directors held in Wilkes-Barre, PA on April 3-4, 2017. As Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hold an automatic seat on the Slovak Catholic Federation Board of Directors.

I provided Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation for the participants of the SCS/GCU Bowling Tournament, Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Genetti Hotel and Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

July 22-24, 2017 I participated in the Second Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, in Wilkes-Barre, PA. I opened and each session with a prayer, and participated in the discussions of the meeting.

It was my honor and privilege to have been able to Chaperone and provide the Spiritual needs for the 48th International Slet, July 11-16, 2017 held at Suny Brockport University, Brockport, NY I congratulate the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for conducting another outstanding Slet. I was most impressed with the sportsmanship exemplified by all participants and spectators.

I along with our Supreme President, Mr. Michael J. Horvath represented our organization at the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association July 28-30, 2017 in Cleveland, OH.

I participated in and celebrated Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation for the SCS Group Presidents meeting held in Cleveland, OH on Saturday, Sept. 15-16, 2017.

As National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation it is my responsibility to conduct the 59th National Convention of the SCF, held in Beachwood, OH on September 17-19, 2017. As Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hold an automatic seat on the Slovak Catholic Federation Board of Directors. I was re-elected as National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

On September 23rd, 2017 I participated in the Third Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors as it was a conference call meeting. I opened and closed the meeting with a prayer as well as participated in the discussions of the meeting.

Sunday, November 12, 2017, I attended the Annual Meeting of Group 7, Rev. Joseph Murgas at St. Aloysius Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The Fourth Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors was held Dec. 2-5, 2017 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. I provided the opening and closing prayers for all sessions, as well as offering Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation. Once all business was completed, the Board of Directors was afforded the opportunity to conduct a site inspection for possible consideration for any future Slovak Catholic Sokol events.

As per the Duties of the Supreme Chaplain, Section 4.0 (d) I followed through, to the best of my ability, inviting our Group Chaplains to submit articles to Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor of 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 recommended **ONE** individual for membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol this past year.

I sincerely wish to thank my parents for their love and support over this past year. To the parishioners of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA for their patience and understanding during my absence from the parish in order for me to fulfill my duties as Supreme Chaplain.

I am most appreciative to our Supreme President, Mr. Michael J. Horvath 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 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 113th year we can be very proud of our impressive past, may we commit ourselves to assure a promising future.

ZDAR BOH!

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic, V.F.

Supreme Chaplain

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PRESIDENT

Pochvalen bud Pan Jezis Kristus!

Slavna Rocna Schodza,

In compliance with Section 4.1 Article (q) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my report to the Board of Directors and members for the year 2017. Section 4.1 of the Constitution and Bylaws lists the duties, obligations and responsibilities of the office of the Supreme President.

I want to begin by asking us all to remember and pray for all members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, our family members and friends who have died in 2017. May their souls rest in eternal peace!

In the 112th year of the existence of the Slovak Catholic Sokol here listed for your review and approval is my report that summarizes my activities, meetings and events I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol as your Supreme President in 2017.

For the past 112 years the main mission of the Slovak Catholic Sokol has remained the same; provide financial security to its members via outstanding and competitive insurance and annuity products. While this is the mission our goal is to assure the membership the Society is financially sound and solvent. In 2017 I am proud to report the mission and goal were achieved. This is attributed to the leadership and guidance of our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and the dedicated Home Office staff he manages.

Our Supreme Secretary's ability to work with the Slovak Catholic Sokol professional advisors: PNC Bank, investment and portfolio manager, CPS Actuaries, insurance management manager, and Vision Financial Group CPA's LLP, accounting services has enabled the Society to increase our investments, assure our compliance, reporting and profitability and keeping financial concerns in order has proven to be the key to our success.

The Home Office staff does an outstanding job on a day-to-day basis to manage the Society's operations to assure excellent service to its members, Groups, Assemblies, Wreaths and independent sales force. This is a testament to their professionalism and dedication. I extend a very appreciative "Thank You" to all of you at the Home Office on behalf of the Supreme Assembly and all the members for the work you do behind the scenes for the Society.

2017 was an interesting year; the rhetoric of national and global news seemed to change daily making it sometime difficult to chart a clear direction. However, the stock market charted its own direction and started a course of record growth. The robust rise in the stock market proved to be a positive outcome for our Society. The Slovak Catholic Sokol saw its investment portfolio grow in 2017 from \$78,282,142 to \$85,490,534. However, our membership declined again by 295 in the same period. This membership decline is something the Board of Directors again has to watch in 2018 and look for ways to correct this trend. In 2017, new members continued to purchase higher insurance coverage which produces higher premium income.

As all know, the Slovak Catholic Sokol can only grow when new business is brought in every year. This new business also has to exceed the business that is lost. The new business that was brought in 2017 was through the efforts of our members and network of independent agents. I thank all of you and encourage you to continue the trend in 2018.

Let us remember, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is considered a small fraternal society by the American Fraternal Alliance's standards, but it excels over the large and ultra-large fraternal societies when it comes to membership activities and events. This makes the Society shine and is something all should be very proud of. The Slovak Catholic Sokol has to compete with all of the other fraternal societies for sales. Fraternal sales are not easy and with changing regulatory requirements by the State Insurance Departments make fraternal sales even harder. The equalizer in all of this is; all fraternal societies face the same inherited problems. These are the challenges our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. faces as he works on product development, implementing regulatory statutes, maintaining the independent sale force network and Assembly and Wreath sales campaigns. Thank you Brother Al for all you did in 2017 for the Society.

In 2017 the Society solved one of its problems; it was able to find a renter for the first floor rental unit. In September all details were worked out with a Day Care organization to rent the space on the first floor. This will generate additional income for the Society to help with our Home Office overhead costs. Another update, there were several investors interested in the Ambridge, PA property this year but the property remained unsold. The Society is still working with the real estate agent and our local representatives to find a buyer for the property.

First Quarter - I attended the annual meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, January 20-22, 2017 in Cleveland, OH. At the meeting I extended greeting to the Supreme Physical Fitness Board on behalf of the Board of Directors and participated in their discussions. The SPFB meeting gave me and our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. the opportunity to do hotel site inspections to prepare for our 33rd quadrennial Convention in 2019.

On January 27, 2017 myself and other Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Offices and member participated in the 44th annual March for Life in Washington, DC. The Slovak Catholic Sokol delegation met up with some of the other Slovak fraternal societies also participating in the March.

I chaired the 1st 2017 quarterly meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors held on March 24 -26, 2017 at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board of Directors I attended its 2017 Annual meeting which was held at the beginning of the quarterly Board of Directors meeting.

Second Quarter - I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at the Slovak Catholic Federation's spring meeting held on April 3-4, 2017 in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

I participated in the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship committee conference call organized by our Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller to review the applications received from the members applying for a scholarship. From the applications received the committee selected the members to be awarded a 2017 scholarship.

On May 19 - 20, 2017 I participated in our 71st International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling tournament held in Wilkes-Barre, PA. This was combined with the Greek Catholic Union's 81st bowling tournament. It was my honor to award the 2017 Frank S. Petrucci Memorial Sports Award to Christine M. Sofranko our dedicated Sokolka from Wreath 85 in McKees Rocks, PA.

The first annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion was held June 2-4, 2017 at the Rocky Gap Resort & Casino in Flintstone, MD. It was a pleasure to represent the Supreme Assembly at this inaugural event and welcome the Sokol members that attended this weekend retreat. This event was organized by our Supreme Physical Directress, Kathy S. Watkins, and Supreme Physical Assistant Directress, Katie Swift.

I chaired the 2nd quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, June 23-25, 2017, at the

Courtyard Marriott in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

On Saturday, June 24, 2017 the 1st meeting of the 2020 Committee was held and was chaired by its Chairperson, Honorary Supreme Officer, Sister, Julie Ann Dobbs. The Committee reviewed the directives that were mandated by the delegates at the 32nd Quadrennial Convention held August 2-5, 2015 in Pittsburgh, PA. The Committee then developed a plan to accomplish its work over the next two years.

Third Quarter - The 48th Slovak Catholic Sokol International Slet was held July 12-16, 2017 at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY. It was my privilege to witness our Sokol youth compete in track and field, gymnastics and volleyball and living the Sokol spirit over the four days of competition. Congratulations to Group 3, East Douglas, MA for capturing the Championship Flag, and all who organized and competed in our Society's greatest event.

Our Supreme Chaplain, Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovec and I were invited by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association to take part in their 125th Anniversary Celebration held July 29, 2017 in Cleveland, OH. We appreciate the warm welcome we received from FC-SLA's National President, Cynthia M. Maleski and its Board.

I and our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., and Director Sales and Marketing Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. attended the American Fraternal Alliance's annual meeting September 6-8, 2017 in Chandler, AZ.

On September 15-17, 2017 the quadrennial Group Presidents meeting was held in Cleveland, OH. I welcomed the Group Presidents and chair the meeting. The Group Presidents' involvement in the meeting and their candor helped all realize our mutual strengths, issues and problems that we can work together to highlight and solve.

I attended with our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., as delegates, the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation held September 17-19, 2017 in Youngstown, OH.

I chaired the 3rd quarterly Board of Directors conference call meeting held on September 23, 2017.

I participated in the 2020 Committee's conference call where the committee members were assigned their projects.

Fourth Quarter - It was my honor to be present on November 18, 2017 at St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York, City with our Supreme Chaplain, Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovec, Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, our Society's Honorary Officers Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., John D. Pogorelec, Sr., Esq., and Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik to recognize the 2017 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year, our Editor, Daniel F. Tanzone.

I chaired the 4th quarterly board of Directors meeting held December 3-4, 2017 at the Westin in Fort Lauderdale, FL. This last meeting of 2017 allowed the Board to review what was accomplished in 2017 and set the Society's goals for 2018.

I participated in the 2020 Committee's conference call to review the Committee's finding and decide what other information the Committee still needs to collect to start preparing its report.

I detailed these activities, meetings and events that I did to fulfill my duties as Supreme President in the articles I submit monthly to the Falcon for publication for all members to read. In addition to these activities, meetings and events I was also able to meet with our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. to handle some matters that needed my involvement. Both Brother Pogorelec and I stay in communications with each other on regular basis via e-mails or telephone and as needed as issues surface.

Although, time is limited I am able to still be involved with the activities, meetings and events that Group 7 and Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, PA held in 2017, i.e.; Join Hands Day, Sokol Day, Golf Tournament, etc. In addition to the Group and Assembly activities, I attend as many of the Slovak Catholic Federation, Wilkes-Barre Chapter's, and the Fraternal Societies of Northeastern Pennsylvania meetings as possible.

What success the Slovak Catholic Sokol had in 2017 could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of all the Supreme Officers. The Society's Supreme Officers have recognized issues that have both a positive and negative affect on the Society. They recognize that the Society has to improve its communications with Assemblies, Wreaths and members. The Supreme Officers recognize Assemblies and Wreaths have responsibilities that need to be fulfilled to assure they are serving their membership. On the positive side, the Board recognizes our activities are our strength and members are willing to participate in them.

Please know your Board of Directors are constantly working to look for ways to improve the Slovak Catholic Sokol to make it better, increase membership, generate member interest and keep it financially secure. For this, I thank all of the members of the Supreme Assembly for their support, cooperation, input and faith in me to lead this great Society.

My family and I visit with our Honorary Chaplain, Rev. Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, S.T.L. on a regular basis. During these visits I keep him updated on what the Society is doing and he asks about the officers he had the pleasure of serving with during his term in office and keeps all of us in his prayers.

I want to sincerely thank my family, my wife, Suzanne, daughters; Jennifer, Heather, and Megan, their families and other family members for their support and encouragement this past year. They keep me focused and are the daily reminder as to the benefit and purpose of Slovak Catholic Sokol. I could not get through the day, weeks, months and the year without you. I thank God for this blessing.

With God's Blessings to all,
Zdar Boh!
Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Horvath
Supreme President

REPORT FROM SUPREME VICE-PRESIDENT

The following activity report for 2017 is submitted to the Board of Directors as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 2017

From March 23rd through the 26th I attended the Board of Directors Meeting held at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ.

MAY 2017

On May 6th, I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at the 125th Anniversary of the GCU

in Beaver, PA.

On May 13th as Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, I participated in a conference call to help to select our 2017 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship winners. A total of 54 applications were received for the various College Scholarships with a total of 40 members from 12 groups receiving scholarships totaling \$44,000. 17 applications were received for the Abbot Jerome Koval OSB Memorial Catholic High School Grant with 12 students 5 different groups being granted \$500 each for a total of \$6,000. Finally 32 applications were received for the Catholic Grade School Scholarship with 29 students from 10 different groups being granted \$250 each for a total of \$7,250. A grand total of \$57,250 was granted by the Slovak Catholic Sokol for 2017. A special thank you to PNC Bank for their gracious donation towards our Memorial Scholarship grants.

JUNE 2017

I attended the Board of Directors meeting that was held in Wilkes-Barre, PA from June 22-24 2017.

JULY 2017

In July I attended the 48th International Slet held in Brockport, NY from July 12-16, 2017. I made myself available to help our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James Matlon and the rest of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board in any capacity needed. My duties consisted of entering scores at any of the various events, assisting at the track and errand runs. This was a great opportunity and watching the Supreme Physical Fitness Board work diligently to give the best experiences to our young athletes.

AUGUST 2017

I attended the International Golf Tournament which was held in Dubois August 18-20th, 2017. I had an opportunity to participate in the golf tournament with numerous members of my family. In advance of the tournament, I coordinated an effort to have our golfers donate slightly used golf shirts to be given to the Haven House in the Dubois area. The Haven House is a homeless shelter in the Dubois area. Due to a huge response from our members, numerous boxes were loaded up and sent to the Haven House. A huge thank you to all who donated.

SEPTEMBER 2017

On September 21st I attended the AQS Leadership Series that was held at the Greentree Doubletree Hotel. This provided an opportunity to enrich my knowledge of the fraternal benefits provided by other fraternal.

On Saturday September 23rd a conference call was held with the Board of Directors. By utilizing a conference call, this was another proven cost saving method, by eliminating travel costs.

OCTOBER 2017

From October 22-24, 2017 I attended the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting as a delegate for the Slovak Catholic Sokol held at the Seven Springs Resort. This allowed me the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to discuss topics of interest to the fraternal benefit system.

DECEMBER 2017

I attended the Board of Directors Meeting which was held in Ft. Lauderdale December 2nd through the 4th.

In 2016 I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Society representing the Slovak Catholic Sokol. This board meets bi-monthly with an emphasis on promoting our Slovak heritage. As Supreme Vice President I also took over the duties of publishing the Kids Komer in our Falcon Newspaper. I continue to provide the Kids Komer on a monthly basis.

Finally, I have remained diligent in my efforts to increase our membership by enrolling new members throughout the year. In 2017, I have enrolled 8 new members for a total of \$53,000 in insurance and 1 Annuity for \$217,985. I look forward to another successful year in our organization.

Zdar Boh!
Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice President

REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

Slavna Rocna Schodza:

In compliance with Section 4.3, Article (I) page 25 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my written Annual Report for the year 2017 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 112th Anniversary as a fraternal benefit society and many fraternal activities were planned and conducted throughout the year by our Assemblies, Wreaths, Groups, and Supreme Assembly. The success of all these events and the support in the promotion of our organization is truly appreciated. I would like to thank our Board of Directors, especially our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, for your hard work and support over the past year and beyond.

After reviewing all the financial reports which will be presented to this Annual Meeting, 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. The Society continues to remain financially strong and after providing numerous benefits and services to our members, we were once again able to improve our Surplus and continue to thrive during an uncertain economic time.

HOME OFFICE EFFICIENCY

As in previous years, the Home Office continues to make every effort possible to provide courteous and efficient service as needed on a daily basis. The employees are constantly updating and requesting information on behalf of our members. Along with our software provider, the Home Office staff has 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

(Continued on page 16)

JOIN THE WALKING PROGRAM TODAY!

For more information contact **Catie Swift** at katie70@aol.com

15 MINUTES OF WALKING A DAY CAN CHANGE YOUR BODY



April is National Volunteer Month



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

A tradition of providing sound financial protection and benefits to our members

ANNUITY RATES

EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2018

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
VANTAGE 1	1.35%	1.00%
VANTAGE 2	1.75%	1.00%
VANTAGE 3	2.25%	1.00%
VANTAGE 5	3.00%	2.00%
VANTAGE 7	3.25%	2.00%

SINGLE PREMIUM IMMEDIATE ANNUITY – SPIA

5 TROUGH 9 YEARS	2.75%
10 YEARS OR MORE	3.50%

NO LONGER OFFERED EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 31, 2011

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
FLEXIBLE	3.00%	3.00%
SINGLE PREMIUM	3.00%	3.00%



slovakcatholicsokol.org

Woman On U.S. Currency

The first paper money issued by the United States government was printed in March 1862, but it was many years before currency as we know it appeared in America. But in 1886, a woman's picture turned up on the dollar bill. This one-time honor went to Martha Washington.



Pennies - Valuable

Tony Delight's in Chicago, one of the nation's most famous tonorial salons, regretfully announced price increases:

- Haircuts went from 10 cents to 12 cents.
- Shaves, from 5 cents to 6 cents.
- Curling, from 20 cents to 25 cents.
- Shampoos to 25 cents. (The year was 1860)



Salt & Pepper Facts

- * Salt is not a food. It's an element - the only rock we eat.
- * More salt is used for industrial chemicals and de-icing than for food.
- * Roman soldiers actually were paid in salt.

In Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," Judas has knocked over a salt container, which forever made spilled salt a signal of bad fortune.

* Salt has been used to keep evil spirits away since the ancient Greeks.

* Black pepper was first used in food preparation in China around the third century A.D.

* The world's largest producer and exporter of pepper is Vietnam.

* Adding pepper to a load of laundry can brighten colors - the abrasiveness prevents soap buildup.

* Deer hate pepper. Sprinkle some around the plants in your yard.

* Individual peppercorns were used as legal currency in Europe during the Middle Ages. - *Posel*

Can't Buy Its Wag

The dog, "Canis familiaris," will work for intangible rewards. A word of praise or a pat on the head are rewards it likes. No wonder it's called "man's best friend."

So deserve to be your dog's best friend, particularly during National Pet Week this May 6-12. Take it to a vet for an annual checkup.

Penny Wise, Libra Foolish?

Ever wonder why "lb." is used as the symbol of pound, when the word contains neither an "l" nor a "b"?

Answer: The symbol is a contraction of "libra," the Latin word for pound.

Mother's Day(with love) May 13

Mother's Day has always been somewhat different from other special occasions and holidays. Christmas and Easter both have religious meanings. Unfortunately, too many look upon Christmas as a time to exchange gifts, and on Easter as a day for wearing new clothes and coloring a few eggs.

Other holidays mean a day off from work, a chance to watch a parade, eat a huge dinner, or to set off fire-crackers. Each of these celebrations is for one's own exclusive enjoyment and pleasure.

But on one day people think of somebody besides themselves. On Mother's Day they are unselfish. It

is a day set aside to express more than ever the love, honor, and respect held for Mothers. So give Mother a gift or flowers and try to make her realize what she means to you. It's good idea, don't you think? Why not make the most of it this Mother's Day...



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL HANGOUTS

The NEW SOKOL HANGOUTS will be a way to meet up with fellow Sokols at events you may be doing in your area. If there is a something you are involved in, consider being a 'host' for the event. All you have to do is inform Assistant Physical Directress Katie Swift at 412-303-3338 or [Katie70@aol.com](mailto:katie70@aol.com). She will organize a meeting place at the event and let you know which other Sokols may want to join you.

- July 13, 2018 AAA Rail Riders baseball game (Friday night before softball tournament) Wilkes-Barre, PA
- July 14, 2018 Night at the Mohegan Sun Casino (Saturday night after softball tournament) Wilkes-Barre, PA
- Aug. 20, 2018 Warrior Dash Poconos, PA

Keep a look out in the Falcon and on email, Facebook, and Instagram for upcoming events!

Teach your children money basics

April is Financial Literacy Month. It is the time to teach our children the financial facts of life. Here are six simple ways to help your kids be smart about money in everyday moments:

You need money to buy things

Take a trip to a store with your children this month, rather than buying online. While you're there, tell them what you're doing. Kids as young as 3 can understand basic money concepts like exchange (you give the cashier money, you get the stuff you want) and value (a car costs more than a carton of milk).

You get money by working

Money can seem like magic to kids, especially when we use cards or apps. So it's important to explain that it doesn't appear out of thin air. You work hard to earn the money to pay for food, clothes, and everything else. Talk about the different jobs people have—teacher, doctor, firefighter. And if you can swing it, take your child to work this month. It will be fun for you—and an eye-opener for your child.

You need to wait and save up for something you want

Show them how patience pays off. We wait for our turn on the swings. We wait for our birthday. Encourage your kid to forgo small purchases (candy, stickers) and

instead put cash in a piggybank to save up for a bigger toy (a Lego set!) he or she really wants.

Buy what you need before you buy what you want

While you're shopping, point out the differences between needs and wants: "We need milk and veggies; we want chocolate milk and potato chips." Then it's your kid's turn. As you walk down the aisles, ask: "Want or need?" Needs go in the cart. All but one or two wants stay on the shelves.

A bank is the safest place to keep your money

By age 5, your kid is ready to open a bank savings account. Look for an actual brick-and-mortar bank, so he or she can get the full experience. And before you pay a visit, make sure you find a no-fee account. (A number of banks have these for young savers—or will offer them if you bank with them, too.)

You should only buy what you can afford.

Use cash in front of your kids—and show them that you need to make choices in a store. If you give your kid an allowance, do so with dollars—not debit cards. Not only does cash help with counting and math skills, but research shows people spend less when they use actual dollars rather than plastic.

Wreath 93 Junior Members visited local nursing home

In January junior members of Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, Wis. had spent their afternoon at San Camillas Nursing Home. They spoke to the crowd about Slovak Catholic Sokol, the benefits of becoming a member, their experiences in Sokol, and Riana even presented a history of Slovakia to the crowd.

Then they performed drills, did gymnastics, made pyramids, show-

cased their medals, sang carols and ended the program with hot chocolate and donuts.

The children were then surprised with a performance from Karate America and a program they were highly participated in. Of course lunch and a visit from Sokol Santa completed the afternoon. It was a wonderful way for all generations to spend a cool winter day.



Join us for the 2018 Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

Honorary Slovak Consul, Joseph T. Senko is pleased to announce that this year's 13th annual deluxe 15-day tour to Slovakia, Austria, Poland and Hungary is set for August 13-26. The itinerary for Slovakia includes visits to the historic cities and towns of Bratislava, Svaty Jur, Devin, Bojnice, the High Tatras, Levoca, Kezmarok, Spiška Sobota, Spišský Hrhov, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kosice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Presov. Some of the highlights in Slovakia include six castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings and rafting on the Dunajec river which forms the natural boundary between Slovakia and Poland. This is the only 2018 tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and the Mayor of Presov. A tour of the imperial capital of Vienna is also included in the itinerary.

As you travel through various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit your ancestral villages and families.

At no extra cost, Brother Senko who is our Sokol of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh, has included two nights in Poland and two nights in Hunga-

ry. While in Poland, the tour will visit the shrines of St. Faustina and the Shrine of the Black Madonna - Our Lady of Czestochowa. In addition, the tour will visit the Wadowice, the birthplace of St. Pope John Paul II, the famous Wieliczka salt mines and Auschwitz. And of course, we will stop in Zakopane.

In Hungary, the tour will visit the architectural sites including the Royal Palace, Citadella fortress and the Hungarian parliament.

The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,300 per person, based on double occupancy. This includes round-trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional English-speaking guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or tel. 412 956-6000. Join your fellow Sokol members on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the land of our ancestor. An enjoyable and memorable experience is assured.

Bratislava Boys Choir in Concert at New York Slovak Church



New York's United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini hosted Slovakia's renowned Bratislava Boys Choir at a wonderful concert on Saturday evening, March 10. The acoustically-splendid Church of St. John Nepomucene made for the perfect venue for the concert.

The Bratislava Boys Choir was founded in 1982 by Magdalena Rovnakova. Since then the ensemble, has performed across Europe as well as in Russia, Japan, Canada and the United States. This is the third visit to the United States by the choir

and the first one to perform in New York City. The concert was hosted by the office of the Slovak Consul General in New York. The choir performs across Slovakia and while in the country's capital at various venues, however the Reduta, home of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra is generally its home base. At the New York concert, the 27-voice ensemble performed an array of classical, contemporary and folk works in Latin, German, English and Slovak.

The concert concluded with the choir singing beloved Slovak folk

songs to the delight of the near-capacity crowd who join in at the historic Slovak church. Shown on the photo are the Rev. Richard D. Baker, center, pastor of the parish and host of the evening with members of the concert committee, headed by Mark Pacoe, Director of Music and Media Outreach at the parish; Lisa Calabrese, parish Manager and Director of Religious Education, the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O., Slovakia's Ambassador to the United Nations Michal Mlynar, the Slovak Consul General in New York, Ladislava Begeg, and their entourage.



The Grassalkovich Palace (Slovak: Grasalkovicov palác) is a palace in Bratislava and is the residence of the president of Slovakia. The building is a Rococo-late Baroque summer palace with a French garden. The building was finished in 1760, by architect Anton Mayerhofer for the Croatian noble and Croatian aristocrat Antal Grassalkovich, a close friend of empress Maria Theresa. It features many rooms and an impressive staircase. During the 1939–1945 period, the palace became the seat of the president of the First Slovak Republic Jozef Tiso. In 1950, the building was turned into the "Klement Gottwald House of Pioneers and Youth" (Dom pionierov a mladeze Klementa Gottwalda), which was an activity center for Bratislava's schoolchildren, all of whom were so-called pioneers at that time. The schoolchildren caused extensive damage to the palace, and the necessary restoration only became possible following the transition from Communism in late 1989 with the Velvet Revolution. The restoration of Grassalkovich Palace during the early 1990s was overseen by the inaugural First Lady of Slovakia, Emilia Kovacova. Following its restoration, the palace became the residence of Slovakia's president on September 30, 1996. Its once-large gardens are now a public park, complete with a statue of Bratislava-born composer Jan Nepomuk Hummel.

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

FICO RESIGNS AS PRIME MINISTER, PELLEGRINI TO FORM NEW CABINET

On Thursday, March 15 Robert Fico (Smer-SD) stepped down from the post of Slovak prime minister, as he handed over his resignation to President Andrej Kiska.

Fico's Government resigns as well, with the ministers keeping their posts until a new cabinet is appointed.

At the same time Kiska tasked Vice-premier Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) with setting up a new government. Pellegrini earlier on Thursday delivered to Kiska signatures from 79 MPs supporting the new government.

Fico decided to step down from his post after a two-week coalition crisis that emerged following the murders of investigative journalist Jan Kuciak and his girlfriend Martina Kusnirova. Marek Madaric was first to resign on the post of culture minister over the murder, while the resignation of Robert Kalinak as the interior minister followed a week later.

PRESIDENT KISKA APPOINTS NEW GOVERNMENT LED BY PETER PELLEGRINI

Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) has become the new prime minister of the Slovak Republic, replacing Robert Fico (Smer-SD) in this post. President Andrej Kiska appointed Pellegrini to the post on Thursday, March 22. Subsequently, he also appointed the remaining members of the new Government.

Pellegrini has assumed the top executive post after taking an oath prescribed by the Constitution.

As part of the reshuffling of personnel, aside from the new prime minister, Richard Rasi (Smer-SD) has become new vice-premier for investments and informatisation, Tomas Drucker (a Smer-SD nominee) interior minister, Andrea Kalavska (a Smer-SD nominee) health minister, Lubica Lassakova (Smer-SD) culture minister and Gabor Gal (Most-Hid) justice minister.

Other ministries have not seen changes at their helm. Peter Kazimir (Smer-SD) remains the finance minister and concurrently holds a vice-premier post. Miroslav Lajcak (a Smer-SD nominee) remains the Foreign and European Affairs Minister, Peter Ziga (Smer-SD) economy minister and Jan Richter (Smer-SD) the labour, social affairs and the family minister.

Gabriela Matecna (a Slovak National Party/SNS nominee) remains at the helm of the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry, while Peter Gajdos (SNS) continues to lead the Defence Ministry and Martina Lubyova (a SNS nominee) the Education, Science, Research and Sport Ministry. Arpad Ersek (Most-Hid) remains the transport and construction minister and Laszlo Solymos (Most-Hid) the environment minister. Solymos has also become a vice-premier in the new Government.

Subsequently, the new Cabinet will meet at its first session and pass its Government Manifesto. The confidence vote in the new Government in Parliament took place on Friday (March 23).

The reshuffling of personnel came as a result of the government crisis that occurred after the murders of journalist Jan Kuciak and his girlfriend, as well as other circumstances including the release of information on top governing politicians' alleged links to the Calabrian Mafia.

PELEGRINI DISCUSSES INVESTIGATION INTO JOURNALIST'S MURDER IN BRUSSELS

The investigation into the murders of journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kusnirova is a complex case, yet the Government will do its utmost to have it resolved, Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) said on Thursday after arriving to what is his first EU summit in Brussels in

his new role.

When asked by foreign journalists about the progress of the investigation into the double murder, Pellegrini conceded that he's not familiar with the details at this moment.

"It's the most massive investigation in the history of Slovakia. This case has seen the greatest amount of police officers assigned to it since the creation of Slovakia, almost all elements are busy with it," said Pellegrini.

Pellegrini added that Slovak investigators on the case are also engaged in cooperation with international organisations, Italian police and other partners, all of whom "want to help us".

"It's a complex case and finding the perpetrators will be extremely important. We'll do our utmost to make it happen, as that's important not only to the Government, but also to people and the bereaved that we find the truth," he claimed.

SLOVAK PRODUCTS SHOWCASED AT WORLD'S LARGEST FOOD EXPO IN DUBAI

A total of nine Slovak food companies for the first time ever presented their products at the world's largest food and beverages exhibition entitled Gulfood Dubai, which took place between February 18-22 in Dubai.

"If we want our food producers to be successful, it won't be possible without marketing and presentation. We have decided to be much more active and help our food and drink producers to present themselves abroad and introduce them on new markets. We have managed to get nine Slovak food companies to Dubai where their products are showcased on the spot," stated Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Gabriela Matecna (a Slovak National Party/SNS nominee) at the exhibition.

"As part of our business mission, we are accompanied by representatives from another 18 (Slovak) companies that have had an opportunity to establish important contacts here. Even though Slovakia can not compete in the amount of production, it surely can in the quality of food," she added.

Michal Feik of the Agriculture Ministry further told TASR that as many as 5,000 companies from more than 120 countries worldwide exhibited their products at the food fair. This year, for the first time ever, Slovakia had a national exhibition at the event. It was organised by the Slovak Investment and Trade Development Agency (SA-RIO) in cooperation with the Agriculture Ministry.

Matecna also held talks in Dubai with Cabinet members of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), including UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Affairs Minister Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The talks focused mainly on investments and research in the field of food security and food monitoring, cooperation in horse breeding, equitation and falconry as well as environmental, water quality and energy issues.

63% OF FOREIGN COMPANIES POSITIVELY ASSESS SLOVAKIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

A survey presented at a press conference by the Slovak-German Trade and Industry Chamber (SNOPK) on March 26 showed that the current economic situation in Slovakia was evaluated positively by 63 percent of the foreign companies polled, up by 18 percent compared to a year ago.

Only 3 percent assess the situation as bad. Some 41 percent of businesses expect the economic situation to further improve over the year. Half of the survey participants

Selected stories are provided by TASR-Slovakia, the Slovak Republic's official News Agency.

expect an unchanged overall economic situation.

Expectations of development in individual companies are even more optimistic, with 44 percent of companies counting on better deals, and only 8 percent of companies preparing for a worse economic year. Approximately 47 percent of companies would subsequently want to increase the number of their workers and 41 percent also want to increase their investments.

(Continued on page 18)



On a limestone cliff of 711 m over Stará Lubovna in the north-east of Spis stands Lubovna Castle. The castle was built at the turn of the 13th and 14th century, when it became a part of the boundary castles system in the north of the Hungarian Kingdom. Besides the protection of the former Polish-Old Hungarian border, its task was to secure the important trade route passing along the valley of the Poprad river to Poland. Through a reconstruction accomplished after a great fire in 1553, the Lubovna Castle obtained a modern shape of a Renaissance fortress. After the return of the Spis towns to Old Hungary, the role of the Castle diminished and the Castle itself fell into decay. Later on the Castle was successfully reconstructed and the castle museum exhibitions have been installed there. In 1991, the castle chapel was reconstructed and re-consecrated. Regular church services are still held there. An independent museum exhibition is presented by an open air museum in the area at the foot of the castle hill. It consists of a set of folk buildings that form a picturesque settlement around the Castle.

Scenes of the Annual Lenten Mass and Communion Breakfast hosted by Assembly 25 and Wreath 15 in Perryopolis, PA on March 11



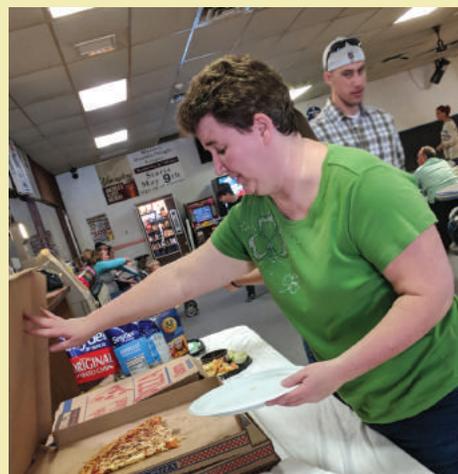
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Slovak Catholic Sokol



Scenes of the Bowling Party hosted by Group 14, "St. Francis of Assisi" at the Coral Bowling Lanes in West Mifflin, Pa., March 18



Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance 2018 Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2018 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance or by contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at Theresa@lpsc.org or 888-834-6614.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.

- Be a 2018 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2018 as a full time student (twelve semester credits).

- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.

• Submit a 500-word essay on: "What does fraternal mean to you? What would you do to increase the relevance of fraternalism to you and your peers?"

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2018.

At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional schol-

arships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

If you or your society has not received the information on the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship, please contact Joann Blackwell 412-261-3550 or e-mail www.orderisda.org.



2018 Slovak Heritage program in Pittsburgh

Continuing in a fine cultural tradition spanning many years, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) will again present a series of monthly evenings devoted to our rich Slovak culture, history and heritage. On the first Monday of each month, interested individuals gather at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, located at 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Mt. Lebanon, Pa. 15228 beginning at 7 p.m. where topics of interest to Americans of Slovak ancestry are enjoyed. Area Sokol members are welcome to participate.

"Weddings in Slovakia" will be the topic of the May 7 evening. Back by numerous requests, Otilia Golis will repeat her presentation of a wedding in Slovakia.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement, an important document in the creation of the first Czecho-Slovak Republic. Richard Kocur will give an in-depth presentation of the history of the Pittsburgh Agreement with some little-known facts on June 4.

No meetings are held during the summer months of July, August and September. The first fall meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 1 dedicated to "Slovak Genealogy." Lisa Alzo, an expert in Slovak genealogy, will feature some time saving tips on research-

ing your Slovak ancestors.

On Monday, November 5, the Rev. Peter Haladej, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Liverpool, Oh. will present a lecture titled "You shall leave your mother and father." He will explore the complexity of transitions in religion, culture, and life when moving from Slovakia to the United States.

The final cultural evening is scheduled for Monday, December 3 titled "Show - N - Tell." Because of the popularity of this program in prior years, again participants are invited to bring along their memorabilia from Slovakia - photos, books, souvenirs, etc. to share their experiences. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate.

So mark your calendars and plan to spend an enjoyable evening exploring our rich Slovak heritage and traditions. For information on the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, check out Facebook at www.facebook.com/westernpaslovaks or visit www.wpasca.org or call tel.(888)SLOVAKS, 412 531-2990 or fax at 412 531-4793. Our organization is a sponsor of the WPSCA. Our Sokol of Assembly 16, Joseph T. Senko, who is the area's Honorary Slovak Consul, serves as the executive director. Our Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller serves on the WPSCA board of directors.



PENNSYLVANIA FRATERNAL ALLIANCE 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2018, to: Joann Blackwell Chairperson * Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Committee * ISDA Fraternal Association * 419 Wood Street * Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Date: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Your Fraternal Benefit Society: _____ No. of Years a Member _____

College you will be attending in 2018/2019: _____

Scholastic Achievement (Honors/Awards)*: _____

Extracurricular School Activities*: _____

Civic (non-school) Activities*: _____

Fraternal Benefit Society Activities*: _____

*Information may be submitted on a separate sheet of paper. Please type or print.

Submit a 500-word essay on: **"What does fraternal mean to you? What would you do to increase the relevance of fraternalism to you and your peers?"**

I understand that my selection for this scholarship is based upon my answers to these questions and the essay I have written; and, further, that my application is in competition with other eligible persons and that the decision of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is final. This application is completed with my knowledge and consent, and false information will void the award. The information that is provided in this application is true and complete.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Our Ever-Popular, 304-Page **Sokol Cook Book** is Now in its Fourth Edition



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Sokol Assemblies and Wreaths can order a case of
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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

NUMBER OF BOOKS _____

(Effective January 1, 2015)

Reports of the Supreme Officers

(Continued from page 9)

changes have proven to be successful.

The Home Office staff is one of our most valuable assets, and I would like to express my gratitude to them for making 2017 a successful year. Their dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the organization and members have been second to none.

During the year in my capacity as the Supreme Secretary, it was necessary to attend various Financial and insurance seminars, meetings, and classes. New rules and regulations on both the state and federal level continue to emerge. The reporting process to all the life insurance related agencies and State Insurance Departments is an important task, but necessary to protect our fine organization. The Home Office staff and Board of Directors have done a great job meeting all the requirements and making the necessary changes to operate in an efficient manner.

Looking ahead to the future, I am confident that with the support of our Supreme Officers, Director of Sales and Marketing, and our members, we will continue to make prudent decisions to meet all challenges that may come our way.

STATISTICS

The amount of Premium Income received during the year was \$7,397,231 of which \$2,042,970 was for life insurance premiums and \$5,354,261 was received as annuity premiums. The face amount of insurance written totaled \$16,028,098 and the total amount of insurance in force was \$228,596,320. The Society has 28,006 members with 30,695 certificates in force and 91 Assemblies/Wreaths. Assets as of 12/31/2017 were \$84,206,925 and the Unassigned Funds total \$8,273,599. The Solvency ratio is a financially strong 111%.

ACTIVITIES AND DUTIES

I would like to report to the Board of Directors and our membership, my attendance and participation at the following meetings and activities during 2017.

JANUARY-MARCH: January 20th-22nd, attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting in Cleveland, OH. Also visited potential Convention Sites along with the Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath while in Cleveland. March 5th, attended the 12th Annual Group 1 Children's Bowling Fest. March 16th, held a conference call with our Budget Committee consisting of Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, and myself to discuss the operating budget. March 21st-23rd, assisted our Supreme Auditors with the 2016 Annual Audit. March 24th-25th, attended and recorded the minutes of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors Meeting held at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. March 26th, attended the Group 1 Annual Spaghetti Dinner in Clifton, NJ.

APRIL-JUNE: April 3-4, attended the Spring Board Meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation in Wilkes-Barre, PA. April 18th, met with Thomas Calimano, PNC Financial Advisors, to discuss the S.C.S. Portfolio. May 6th, performed a Convention site inspection to Valley Forge Resort in Valley Forge, PA. May 13th, had a conference call with the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Selection Committee. June 8th-9th, had a Convention site inspection at the Cleveland Airport Marriott in Cleveland, OH and met with the Events and Catering Team. June 23rd-24th, attended and recorded the minutes of the 2nd Quarter Meeting of the Board of Directors in Wilkes-Barre, PA. June 24th, attended the 2020 Committee Meeting in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

JULY-SEPTEMBER: July 14th-16th, attended the 48th International Slet in Brockport, NY and extended greetings. August 4th-5th, conducted a site inspection and met with the event coordinator of French Lick Resort for a possible Convention destination. August 11th-12th, assisted our Supreme Auditors with the 2017 Semi-Annual Audit conducted at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. August 18th-20th, attended the S.C.S. Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake Resort in Dubois, PA and was honored to award the Frank Petruff Memorial Sports Award to John S. Homacek. September 6th-8th, along with Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, and our General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., attended the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. September 14th, participated in a conference call as part of the 2020 Committee. September 15th-17th, attended the Group Presidents Meeting at the Cleveland Airport Marriott in Cleveland, OH. September 17th-19th, attended the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation in Youngstown, OH. September 23rd, conducted and participated in the 3rd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting via conference call.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER: October 12th-13th, attended the 84th Annual Convention of the New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance and was elected to the Executive Board as a Director. October 29th, attended and extended greetings at the Group 1 Annual Meeting. November 18th, honored to present the 2017 Fraternalist of the Year Award to our Editor, Daniel F. Tanzone, at St. John Nepomucene in New York, NY. December 2nd-5th, attended the 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

I continue to attend monthly meetings of the Passaic/Bergen/Hudson National Association of Financial Advisors and continue to benefit from the continuing education classes that are provided which is mandatory in maintaining an insurance license. I meet with representatives from PNC Bank, CPS Actuaries, and Vision Financial regularly to discuss our general operations. I regularly attend both Assembly 162 and Group 1 meetings. I maintain constant contact with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance to discuss any operational or regulatory matters. I regularly have meetings with our Supreme President and General Counsel as members of the Business Development Committee to find possible areas of improvement in our operations.

During the year 2017, I was able to enroll 16 new members into our organization with a total face amount of \$127,000 in insurance.

COMMENTS

Many successful activities were held throughout the year on the local, group, and national levels. The National Tournaments under the direction of our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and assisted by the Supreme Physical Fitness Board all proved to be a success for the organization. I would like to commend Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation, and Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins, and the entire Supreme Physical Fitness Board on a job well done.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would again like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our Supreme Officers, especially our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, for their support and hard work throughout the year. A special thank you to our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvoz-

dovic, V.F., for his spiritual guidance over the past year and always. Finally, thank you to our Group, Assembly, and Wreath Officers for your cooperation and hard work throughout the year. I would also like to thank our loyal members and their families for all that you do for the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

CONCLUSION

As the Slovak Catholic Sokol begins its 113th year as a Fraternal Benefit Society, the administrators of our organization will face numerous challenges concerning the life insurance industry due to regulatory requirements and other federal, state, and city mandates. These changes and the resulting decisions of our administrators will dictate our operations immensely. 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.

During this meeting, I will reemphasize the importance of increasing our membership and generating more income for the Society, both through premium and operational methods. I will also reiterate the point that we need to keep a keen eye on our expenses and find areas where we can improve. I am confident in our Board that we can accomplish these goals and more.

In closing it is very important to me to thank my Wife, Maggie, my Son, Reid Thomas, and my entire Family every day. 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 and all of our Members and the Slovak Catholic Sokol!
Zdar Boh!

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

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

In accordance with Section 4.13(j) of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Constitution and By-laws, this report is hereby submitted to the Board of Directors for the purpose of advising of the activities of the Office of the General Counsel during calendar year 2017. I have endeavored to fulfill all duties and obligations of my office to the best of my ability for the good and welfare of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

As General Counsel, I continue to render legal opinions to our Supreme President, Supreme Secretary and other Supreme officers upon their request concerning day to day operations of our home office. When it becomes necessary, I have prepared memorandums, opinions, and communications relative to the business of the Slovak Catholic Sokol with various levels of government. Earlier this year, at the request of Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., and Albert Suess, Director of Sales and Marketing, I drafted and prepared a legal opinion concerning the issue of fraternal agent licensing requirements and exemptions for the states that the Sokol conducts business or is proposing to conduct business. In that opinion, I analyzed on a jurisdictional basis the licensing exemptions for fraternal agents based on 1) the status of an agent (full time vs. part time), 2) the number of policies sold by an agent, and/or 3) the amount of insurance sold annually by an agent.

During the past year, my office continued to review new state and federal legislation concerning policy and development pertaining to fraternal benefit societies. I review the legislative bulletins which report on the regular sessions held by Legislatures in the various states in order to determine whether pending legislation will have an adverse effect on our ability to do business within a particular state.

On the national level, major tax changes approved by Congress in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act became law on December 22, 2017. The good news for fraternal benefit societies is that our long standing tax exempt status is preserved and maintained in the various tax reform measures. Fortunately, during policy discussions, debates and deliberations, the United States Congress recognized the value of fraternal contributions to the American economy and social fabric. The history of fraternal benefit societies and the significant religious and benevolent activities fraternal members engage in through their local lodges help explain why Congress originally A exempted organizations like the Sokol from income tax in 1909.

Now that the century-old provision remains in place, we need only be concerned that there remain no political threats emanating on the state level where fiscal pressures may force local legislatures to look for new income sources to balance budgets. A threat to the tax exemption in any state is a threat to our business model everywhere. With that said, it is anticipated that the Slovak Catholic Sokol can continue to serve its members in each state where we are licensed to do business with tax exempt resources.

In addition, it is my responsibility to ensure that our organization is in compliance with federal and state controlling legal authorities and that our Directors and Officers understand the provisions of each particular act. In the regulatory field of law, this year the Department of Labor has begun to implement the first phase of a series of new regulations commonly referred to as the Fiduciary Rule. These rules were promulgated to improve consumer access to retirement information to help Americans achieve their financial security goals. The law specifically applies to our organization's sales agents, when involved in transactions pertaining to funds from an IRA or other retirement plans subject to Title I of the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). With regard to compliance, fiduciary advisors have an obligation to adhere to an Impartial Conduct Standard when making investment recommendations. Simply stated, this means advice by agents must be in the best interests of the members regardless of the interests of the agent or the society; no false or misleading statements; and reasonable compensation.

Throughout the year, the practical application and enforcement of the law has led to multiple legal challenges, numerous policy debates and mounting political pressures stemming from opponents in the financial services industry and advocates favoring stronger consumer protection laws. Consequently, late last year, the Department of Labor postponed the applicability date of the rule's compliance deadline until July 1, 2019 in order to solicit further public comment and to re-examine the law's impact on access to retirement information. This could lead to significant revisions to the regulatory framework governing financial advisors, brokers and insurance agents. I will continue to closely monitor developments and advise the Board of Directors accordingly.

In matters concerning litigation, there were no lawsuits filed during the past year. I previously informed you that the lawsuit concerning the assets of Assembly 206 in Ambridge, Pennsylvania has been settled. Nevertheless, the Board of Directors continues its diligent efforts to market and sell the property owned by Assembly 206. With the assistance of a listing

agent retained in Pennsylvania, I continue to receive updates concerning prospective inquiries and showings. I have participated in numerous telephone calls, electronic mail communications and discussions with all interested parties. I have further reviewed and approved as to form and legality the updated commercial listing contracts and I anticipate that market activity will increase this year. Through continued collaborative efforts, I am hopeful that 2018 will be the year that the property is sold.

Last year, I reported on the successful efforts to secure a new tenant to occupy the first floor of our home office for the use of a children's day care facility. I am pleased to report that the lease was officially finalized and executed this past year, that the tenant has assumed occupancy and possession and is current with monthly rental payments.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol continues to offer a mortgage program to the membership and lodges in an effort to further the good will and fraternalism among our members. When a mortgage loan is granted, it is my duty to supervise and review all necessary paperwork to ensure that the Slovak Catholic Sokol has a first lien on the property. Currently, our portfolio has three (3) existing mortgages. All mortgage payments are current and being received on time. No new applications have been received for presentation during the past year. Since our rates of interest and terms are indeed competitive with commercial lenders, it is recommended that our members consider securing a mortgage through the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I have attended all of the quarterly meetings called by our Supreme President. One (1) quarterly meeting was conducted by conference call in an effort to reduce expenses. I also had the pleasure of attending this year the biennial meeting of the Group Presidents. My participation at the meetings is well documented in the minutes of these meetings published in our Sokol paper, the Slovak Catholic Falcon. During the course of its meetings and deliberations, the Board of Directors has been carefully evaluating costs in order to reduce expenses wherever possible. Our expenditures on our fraternal programs exceed the income we are receiving from our investments and our insurance premiums paid by the membership. Nevertheless, the governing body has been adhering to the fiscal recommendations of our professional advisors in order to improve the growth, progress, and success of the organization. Based on the foregoing, the Slovak Catholic Sokol continues to remain a solid financial institution.

The stock market had an impressive year and our financial portfolio remains strong and continues to grow. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates three (3) times in 2017. Recently released minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee reflect optimism about future economic growth in the wake of the recent appointment of the new Federal Reserve Chairman. In addition, three (3) more interest rate increases are expected in 2018. Our investments should continue to benefit notwithstanding the market volatility, as we begin a new era in monetary policy.

As I have in the past, I attended the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The opportunity to gather with the officers of other fraternal organizations fostered an expansion of knowledge and appreciation of fraternalism that is crucial to the growth of our own organization. In addition, I had the pleasure of attending this past year the biennial meeting of Group Presidents in Cleveland, Ohio. Topics discussed included group activity, fraternal programs, interaction with the home office and groups, spiritual matters, and new ideas to energize the groups. The interaction between all group presidents resulted in a lively meeting which was a complete success. In addition, I continue to attend as many Sokol functions as time permits, and am active in my local Assembly and Group, holding the office of President in both. Throughout the year, I have submitted articles and reports to our Sokol newspaper for publication to keep our membership advised of ongoing activities within the fraternal benefit system.

In conclusion, as we proudly celebrate our 113th Anniversary, I wish to extend my thanks to my fellow Supreme Officers for their contributions to strengthen our organization by making decisions in the best interest of our beloved Slovak Catholic Sokol. May the Board of Directors conduct all deliberations in the spirit of fraternalism.

ZDAR BOH!
Respectfully Submitted,
John D. Pogorelec, Jr.
General Counsel

REPORT OF THE SUPREME TREASURER

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

I would like to again thank the delegates of the 32st Quadrennial Convention for electing me and giving me the opportunity and the privilege to continue to serve as your Supreme Treasurer. The past six and a half years have seen many changes to the organization and we have continued the turnaround of our organization from one that was losing members to one with membership growth and increased portfolio value. The Board of Directors is continuing to work harmoniously under the leadership and vision of our Supreme President Michael J. Horvath. As with any change in leadership comes fresh ideas and Mike has brought those to the table.

My activities as your Supreme Treasurer through the past year are as follows:

December 2107: Prepared the 2018 budget, with our Supreme President, Supreme Secretary, Supreme Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, myself, and the board of directors. The logic is, we wanted to enter 2018 with a framework of a budget rather than waiting until the March 2018 meeting to adopt one.

March 2017: Participated in the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board meeting as the Museum Treasurer in Passaic, NJ. Reviewed and discussed Museum finances and general business.

March 2017: Participated in the Annual Board of Directors meeting in Passaic, NJ. Discussed Slovak Catholic Sokol business, investment results, and submitted the 2017 operating budget that was approved by the board members.

May/June 2017: Continued to work on Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threats (SWOT) analysis as directed by our Supreme President. The intent is to work on selected items over the next three years.

July 2017: Participated in the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting in Wilkes-Barre, PA and observed the International Softball Tournament.

September 2017 I participated in our Quarterly Board of Directors meeting via tele-conference.

December 2017: Participated in the Quarterly Board of Directors meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Completed site inspections for potential future convention sites.

In addition to my duties as your Supreme Treasurer, I maintained my involvement in Group 3, Douglas, Massachusetts. I also attended and participated in various Assembly, Group, and International athletic and fraternal activities and programs.

I would like to take a moment to extend my sincerest thanks to our Supreme President Mike J. Horvath, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C. and the Home Office staff for their support, encouragement, and cooperation through these past several years. I have had the distinct privilege to work with a great Board of Directors and although we may have had minor differences of opinions, we always came as friends and leave as closer friends.

I would like to give a special thanks to my family and partner for their/her support.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and may God continue to Bless the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the United States of America.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colonel Dennis J. Zifcak (Ret)
Supreme Treasurer

REPORT OF THE SUPREME DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

In compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2017 Activity Report as the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics.

The first event of the year was the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio the weekend of January 20th through the 22nd. The annual meeting was important to help set-up the agenda for 2017 sporting events including the 48th International Slet. On my drive to Cleveland, I stopped at Luigi's Villa in DuBois, PA to view the facility and finalize the buffet dinner menu for the golf tournament in August. I also stopped at the Park Inn in West Middlesex, PA to confirm the arrangements for the 2018 Golf Tournament.

I attended the Board of Directors 1st Quarter Meeting held in Passaic, New Jersey from March 24th through the 26th. The Board of Directors approved all the recommendations from the Physical Fitness Board for each of the 2017 sporting events. On May 7th, the Fitness Board Members participated in a conference call to assign tasks and finalize the plans for the 48th International Slet.

The first sporting activity of the year was the 71st International Bowling Tournament held at Chacko Bowling Lanes in Wilkes-Barre, PA. The 2017 bowling tournament was held in conjunction with the GCU for the third straight year. A total of 160 participants took part in the event. Fitness Board member, Julie Laury, was the staff member assigned to the bowling tournament. She submitted the summary article and pictures which were published in the Falcon. The 2017 results for Men and Women's Team, Doubles and Singles and corresponding prize money were also published in the Falcon and posted on our website. This year, the top scratch scores also received prize money for the Team, Doubles and Singles events. The bowling tournament financial report was submitted to the Home Office on July 22nd.

I attended the 2nd Quarter Board of Directors Meeting in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on June 23rd and 24th. The 2017 Softball Tournament that was scheduled in June was cancelled due to a limited number of teams registering for the annual event.

In June and early July, I completed all of the Track & Field events sheets for the 48th International Slet that was held at SUNY Brockport from July 11th through the 16th. Congratulations to Group 3, East Douglas, Massachusetts on their 1st Place Finish at the Slet. It was the first time Group 3 achieved the milestone. I also would like to thank all of the participants for the fun, fraternalism and Sokol spirit that was evident every day at SUNY Brockport during the 48th International Slet.

The final tournament of the year was the 62nd International Golf Tournament held at Treasure Lake Resort from August 18th through the 20th in DuBois, Pennsylvania. The golf tournament had 127 golfers including thirteen participants from the GCU. Nancy Kropolinsky was scheduled to work the tournament and took pictures of every foursome and candid pictures at the popular sporting event. Nancy Kropolinsky and Frank Laury worked together on the article and corresponding pictures for the Falcon. The Flight Winners and all prize money recipients were published in the Falcon and also posted on our website. The prize money checks were mailed out in early September after all of the scores and handicaps were verified. The flight winners and best scratch scores received championship golf shirts that were mailed to each winner in November. The golf tournament financial report was submitted to the Home Office on October 22nd.

On Saturday September 23rd, I participated in the Board of Directors 3rd Quarter conference call. On October 29th I attended the annual meeting for Group 1 and provided the upcoming dates for the Bowling, Softball, Clinic and Golf Tournament, letting the members of Group 1 know well in advance of the sporting activities planned for 2018.

On November 18, I attended the Fraternalist of the Year Mass and celebration honoring Brother Daniel Tanzone. The event took place at St John Nepomucene in New York City. Many Sokols and Sokolky from the surrounding states were present to congratulate our Brother Sokol on his numerous accomplishments and decades of dedication to our fine organization.

On December 2nd through the 4th, I attended the 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting that was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The final meeting of the year was very productive; establishing new goals for the next two years. We are constantly exploring new ideas to expand our communications and increase participation at the Assembly/Wreath and Group Meetings. On the National level the activities include the newly established Sokol Reunion, Bowling, Softball, Clinic/Slet and Golf.

All of the arrangements for 2018 tournaments have been completed and I am currently arranging the 2019 bowling and golf tournaments. In closing I would like to thank all members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for their support during my year, especially my Assistant Frank Laury. I will continue to use the Falcon and the Slovak Catholic Sokol website to help publicize all future sporting events. Hopefully everyone who participated in the 2017 sporting events enjoyed themselves and will also participate in as many events as possible in 2018.

Zdar Boh!
James C. Matlon
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

Historic Church of St. Margaret of Antioch In Kopcany, Slovakia



The Church of St. Margaret of Antioch, near Kopcany, Slovakia, is one of still standing churches for which the Greater Moravian origin is considered. It is among the oldest churches in Slovakia. The church was built probably in the 9th or 10th century and was first mentioned in 1329. It was used until the 18th century when a new church was built in the village of Kopcany.

The church is an original pre-Romanesque building. It is a single-cell church with small rectangular chancel to the east chancel. The recent excavations have shown that the original church had a rectangular narthex at the west end of the church, and this contained a large stone lined tomb for the founding

figure of the church. When the narthex was pulled down, the Gothic arch which formed the entry at the west end was inserted.

Since 1995, the church has been listed under Slovak cultural heritage. The outside of the church is openly accessible to the public. It stands in a field to the east of Kopcany and it is about 1 mile from the major Greater Moravian site at Mikulcice, which is on the other side of the Morava river. It is approached by a road and is fairly close to the ruins of a 16th-17th-century building which may have been a farm or manor house.

The small church near the Czech-Slovak border has long been considered a baroque chapel and its

dating had a stormy development. The first architectural survey of the church was conducted in 1964 and refined dating to gothic period. In 1996, Viktor Ferus published a hypothesis about the Great Moravian origin of the building. During investigations in 2004, three graves and jewelry from the time of Great Moravia were found outside the church. The position of graves already respected the position of the church and the graves contained mortar from the building and the size and shape of fragments indicates that they originate from the construction phase and not later destruction. In that times, the church was considered to be the only one still standing Great Moravian building in Czech and Slovak republics. The key challenge is to validate if the mortar could be introduced to the older horizon during excavating of the younger graves. In 2013, a collective of authors analysed a piece of wood from the building by dendrochronology, declaring that it can be dated to 951 what shifts the construction phase to the 2nd part of the 10th century, between the fall of Great Moravia and the foundation of the Kingdom of Hungary. Neither of these results were universally accepted and are under further validation.

Currently, archaeological research is focused on the reconstruction of the historical landscape and its settlements. Also during this period the church has undergone further restoration work and the old render has been stripped from the walls. This now shows that the two arched windows on the north side of the nave are original while the windows on the south side were altered in the later Romanesque period. – Wikipedia

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 12)

According to the investors, Slovakia is a typical state for EU membership: it has a productive workforce, the willingness to deliver performance at a relatively low cost, as well as the availability and quality of local suppliers.

Slovakia was generally viewed by the survey participants as the second most attractive investment site in Central and Eastern Europe. As in previous years, the Czech Republic ended up in first place, and Estonia and Slovenia ranked third and fourth. The share of companies that would invest again in Slovakia, even under the current conditions, remains stable at 80 percent.

Regarding negatively perceived factors, no improvement has been observed by the investors. Workforce availability is still perceived critically. Many companies are increasingly worried about the development of labour costs. In addition to labour shortages, the pressure on salary levels is also caused by a significant increase in the minimum wage and bonuses for night and weekend work.

Regarding the status of Slovakia's fight against corruption, the investors are very dissatisfied. They presented the worst evaluation in this regard since the survey's introduction in 2004.

In addition to SNOBK, the survey was also organised by the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia, the Slovak-Austrian Chamber of Commerce, and Advantage Austria Bratislava in February and March 2018. The survey polled 131 companies operating in Slovakia.

COURT RULES THAT UBER MUST STOP OPERATING AND MEDIATING TAXI SERVICE

The company Uber must stop operating its taxi service in Slovakia, as it uses persons and vehicles that fail to meet requirements set by Slovak legislation, TASR learned from the Civic Association of Licensed Taxi Drivers (OZKT) on Tuesday, March 27.

Uber is not allowed to mediate its taxi service with drivers that fail to meet the same conditions required from taxi drivers, according to a Bratislava I District Court verdict issued in mid-February. This means that the company will have to switch off its mobile application in Slovakia.

The court's decision was the result of a complaint filed by the OZKT against Uber in January. The OZKT welcomed the valid and enforceable verdict on taking immediate action against Uber. "We find this verdict to be the logical outcome of our several-month-long fight for equality in business in the field of taxi services. The court fully identified itself with our claims, thus confirming the fact that Uber was mediating taxi services through drivers and vehicles that are at odds with Slovak legislation and harm the business environment," OZKT representatives have told TASR.

Uber must stop providing its taxi services immediately, as the deadline for appeal has already lapsed, which means the verdict is valid and there's no possibility to contest it.

Over 100,000 users have registered with the Uber application in the more than two years of its operation on the Slovak market. Bratislava taxi drivers have repeatedly protested against Uber since its arrival, claiming that it was ignoring Slovak legislation. With its extremely low prices, the service was distorting the business environment. Taxi drivers have been declaring for long time that they do not oppose these mobile applications as such, but that they only want equal business conditions and adherence to the law by all.

April 22 is Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day events in more than 193 countries are now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network.

On Earth Day 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, China, and some 120 other countries. This signing satisfied a key requirement for the entry into force of the historic draft climate protection treaty adopted by consensus of the 195 nations present at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

In 1969 at a UNESCO Conference in San Francisco, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace, to first be celebrated on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. This day of nature's equinox was later sanctioned in a proclamation written by McConnell and signed by Secretary General U Thant at



the United Nations. A month later a separate Earth Day was founded by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970. Nelson was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom award in recognition of his work. While this April 22 Earth Day was focused on the United States, an organization launched by Denis Hayes, who was the original national coordinator in 1970, took it international in 1990 and organized events in 141 nations.

Numerous communities celebrate Earth Week, an entire week of activities focused on the environmental issues that the world faces.

Did you know that...

... a total of 228 castles are registered in the Slovak Republic.

...the border of Slovakia with Austria is 60 miles long, with the Czech Republic 156 miles, with Poland 340 miles. The shortest border with Ukraine is 61 miles long and the longest border, with Hungary, is 416 miles long.

...the first Slavs settled down in the main territory of Slovakia in the 5th century.

...the Janko Král Park in Bratislava is the oldest public park in Europe; it was founded in the alluvial forest on the right bank of the Danube, in the period of 1775 - 1776.

...the Spis Castle is the largest medieval castle complex in Central Europe.

...the State Mint in Kremnica, founded in 1328, is the oldest continuously operating company in Slovakia and one of the oldest mints in the world.



Putting up maypoles is a Slovak tradition that dates back to ancient times. Usually the tallest trees were stripped of branches and bark with only the treetop left, and the post was erected to protect from evil spirits and illnesses. In the Middle Ages, maypoles were placed in front of churches and town-halls as symbols of respect. Since the 15th century, maypoles began to be used by young men, who placed them in front of young girl's homes to show their interest.



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

April, 2018

Spring Word Search Puzzle

Name: _____

Spring

W	P	R	O	B	I	N	P	E	S	R	G	H	I	P	H	R	S
P	S	K	D	D	C	E	L	P	E	B	G	A	P	P	Z	F	T
U	U	X	L	A	L	M	L	G	A	G	L	R	R	M	F	X	C
D	N	S	D	I	F	F	H	U	S	U	S	O	E	D	O	L	Q
D	S	H	M	E	L	F	L	E	O	M	E	W	S	E	E	J	R
L	H	O	E	O	U	A	O	O	N	B	E	E	W	S	N	N	A
E	I	W	L	N	E	B	C	D	W	R	D	A	N	G	O	J	I
N	N	E	T	A	G	U	W	S	I	E	S	T	Z	R	W	M	N
L	E	R	I	R	K	D	L	N	E	L	R	H	V	O	H	S	B
F	X	S	N	E	X	S	D	Z	K	L	F	E	R	W	N	U	O
R	H	D	G	G	B	C	W	V	G	A	X	R	A	I	N	N	W
N	V	C	R	O	C	U	S	C	Y	Y	U	W	A	R	M	T	D

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

BLOSSOM	GROW	SEEDS
BUDS	LILACS	SHOWERS
CROCUS	MELTING	SUN
DAFFODIL	PUDDLE	SUNSHINE
FLOWER	RAIN	UMBRELLA
GARDEN	RAINBOW	WARM
GREEN	ROBIN	WEATHER
	SEASON	

Slovak Words=Slovenské slová

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Detský kútik [dyet-ski] [koo - teek] = Kid's corner

spring = jar [yaar]

warm = teplo [tyep-low]

warmer = teplejšie [tyep-lay-shye]

outside = vonku [vone-koo]

In the spring, it is warmer outside. = Na jar je teplejšie vonku

[Nah jar, yeh tyep-lay-shye vone-koo]

grass = tráva [traah-vah]

mow = košiť [ko-sheet]

I have to mow the grass. = Musím košiť trávu. [Moo-seem]

Matching Flowers

Circle the two flowers in each row that are the same.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Chase Hazelbaker 4/11
Amanda Hartman 4/12

Reports of the Supreme Officers

(Continued from page 17)

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2017.

Upon entering my 14th year of being an officer of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, I am always amazed and astonished at the dedication of the various leaders of all levels in our storied organization. This leadership is always prevalent as you witness the inner workings of an International Slet, and see how much detail is executed from the Supreme President and Supreme Secretary all the way down to each Junior driller. I am honored to continue representing our organization in my capacity, and want to express gratitude for all members and officers that I get the pleasure of working with throughout the year.

January - March

In preparation of the annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting scheduled to be held in Cleveland, OH, I had worked with local hotels to find a suitable venue for hosting our meetings. I communicated with our Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec regularly to ensure the hotel met the criteria needed for the meetings.

Prior to the annual Physical Fitness Board Meeting, I had coordinated with Kathy Watkins and James Matlon the review material that would be covered through the course of our SPFB meetings.

I attended the SPFB meeting in Cleveland, OH. Final preparations for the 2017 calendar year events were discussed in length, with special attention to the International Slet to be held in Brockport, NY in July.

I attended the Board of Directors meeting at The Slovak Catholic Sokol in Passaic, N.J. where numerous timely and relevant topics were discussed, including the inclusion of social media for the Slovak Catholic Sokol, which is vital to staying in touch with our younger members.

April - June

I maintained contact with my local Groups 4 and 19 to inform them of the sporting activities and any updates for the upcoming Slet. I took part in the Supreme Physical Fitness Board conference call, where the Board reviewed assignments and duties for all of the upcoming events.

I maintained contact with Kathy Watkins and SUNY Brockport to discuss the schedule, safety procedures and facilitation of the Slet accommodations.

I worked with Kathy Watkins, Roger Manyak and all of the local groups in finalizing the new drill uniforms for all of the male participants.

July - September

I worked with the SPFB board and SUNY Brockport to finalize any remaining paperwork required by the Board of Health for our safety drill and emergency plans.

I attended the International Slet at SUNY Brockport and collaborated with the SPFB and University officials to ensure a smooth and coordinated event. A special congratulations to the leaders and participants from East Douglas, MA Group 3 on their International Slet victory!

I attended, as a participant, the International Golf tournament held at Treasure Lake in Dubois, PA.

I was part of the Board of Directors meeting conference call.

October - December

I was in contact with directors at SUNY Brockport to discuss dates and contracts for the 2018 -2019 events.

I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Thank you so much for your continued confidence in the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, and I look forward to the 2018 fraternal events. I hope to see many of you soon!

Sincerely,
John M. Underation
Supreme Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2017.

As the Supreme Physical Directress of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I am a member of the Board of Directors. As a member of this esteemed group, I am able to be a part of decision making, which ultimately has an effect on the future of the organization. Throughout the year, I was in contact with Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, Supreme President Michael Horvath, and the Supreme Physical Fitness Board regarding the activities within the organization. I was also in frequent contact with the above mentioned officers, as well as SUNY Brockport regarding our upcoming International Slet. In addition, I communicated via e-mail and phone with my two assigned groups, Group 11 and Group 17, to keep them abreast of future activities and tournaments and answer any questions they had. In order to give our group leaders online access to important forms and keep our members updated on upcoming events, I continually contacted Louie Smeriglio, our website consultant, to upload relevant paperwork and information to our website. As part of our goal to use more social media to reach out to our members, I consistently updated Twitter and Facebook.

January - March

In preparation for the upcoming Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting, I sent out activity report spreadsheets for the group leaders to complete. Once they were returned, I compiled a complete list of all local and group activities. In addition, I gathered all of the

suggestions and recommendations from each group so that they could be discussed at the meeting.

I e-mailed the SPFB members the necessary paperwork for the upcoming meeting and asked them to print it and be prepared to discuss it.

I attended the SPFB meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Following the meeting, I responded to all of the group leaders who sent recommendations on ways to improve our events, and I updated the SPFB notes and paperwork accordingly.

I messaged several members, as well as group presidents, directresses, and directors and gave them information about signing up for electronic Falcon.

I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Passaic, NJ.

I revamped the International Slet schedule based on the information received from Brockport University.

I messaged several members via e-mail and Facebook to give them information on the Inaugural Sokol Reunion at Rocky Gap in Maryland.

I contacted the uniform company to confirm all of the directresses had placed an order for new drill uniforms.

I helped Assistant Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift with organizing the First Sokol Reunion at Rocky Gap in Maryland. Additionally, we planned group activities for The Saturday evening get-together.

I contacted SUNY Brockport Dance department to inquire about judges.

I contacted Louie Smeriglio to have him e-mail all members on the Slovak Catholic Sokol Falcon e-mail list about the reunion.

I wrote an article regarding the use of social media for the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

April - June

I e-mailed Slet registration forms to the directors and directresses so that they could begin working on them.

I e-mailed several members of our organization to inquire as to their interest in judging individual and team drill at the International Slet.

I confirmed four Sokol judges and four dance judges for the International Slet.

I emailed Louie Smeriglio all of the forms for the International Slet so that they could be added to the website for easy access.

I contacted all 8 drill judges and mailed out DVD so that they are prepared for the competition.

I was part of the SPFB conference call to discuss the International Slet.

I updated the medical forms, volunteer forms for opening ceremony/closing ceremony and church volunteer form for the International Slet.

I messaged several members personally regarding the reunion.

I updated a former article about "Going Away to the Slet" and sent it to our editor, Dan Tanzone for the publication.

I attended the Inaugural Sokol Reunion at Rocky Gap in Flintstone, Maryland.

I updated the team drill scoring sheets for team drill and created a new excel program for scoring drills and gymnastics at the International Slet.

I worked with SPFB Member Nancy Kropolsky to organize an order of Slovak Catholic Sokol hoodies for anyone wishing to purchase one.

I e-mailed directresses/directors with Slet reminders and important updates.

I e-mailed the SPFB members regarding their individual responsibilities for the International Slet.

As I received qualification forms for the International Slet, I sent a confirmation e-mail to each participant.

I forwarded all qualification and registration forms to Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec for verification and approval.

July - September

I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

I attended the International Slet at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY. I worked collaboratively with the SPFB members, chaperones, and group leaders, as well as the staff at the university to ensure that everything was being run efficiently.

I wrote an article for the Slovak Catholic Sokol Falcon detailing the events that took place at the International Slet.

I attended the International Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake in Dubois.

I wrote a thank you article for the publication to personally thank everyone who helped to make the International Slet such a success.

I completed all post-Slet paperwork.

I e-mailed a Slet questionnaire to all of the directors and directresses to get feedback on the Slet and ask for recommendations to help improve our event.

I was part of the Board of Directors meeting via conference call.

October - December

I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

I corresponded with the female members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board regarding music choices for the drills for the upcoming International Clinic. I listened to several pieces of music to find new drill music for the next clinic as we will be meeting in January to choreograph the drills.

As a representative of the SPFB, I attended the Group 14 Annual Children's Christmas party.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve another term as the Supreme Physical Directress for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. It has been an honor and a privilege to work so closely with an honorable and respected group of people within the organization. I am looking forward to the growth of our organization and all that it will entail.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2017.

As the Supreme Assistant Physical Directress of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I am honored to be part of such an elite group of men and women who help make decisions to better the organization. Throughout the year, I was in contact with Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, Supreme President Michael Horvath, and the entire Supreme Physical Fitness Board (SPF B) regarding activities within the organization.

January - March

In preparation for the upcoming SPFB meeting, I completed my annual report and gathered all the information for which I was responsible.

I attended the SPF B meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

As a goal to be more active on social media, the SPF B decided to actively update Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. I accepted the responsibility of the Instagram account.

I began collecting results for the walking program and sent e-mail and social media reminders to members encouraging them to send in their year-end totals. I also researched appropriate, easy to ship, and cost effective awards for the program.

Together with Supreme Directress Kathleen Watkins I coordinated with Brockport University to revamp the International Slet schedule.

I finalized plans for the first ever Reunion weekend to be held in June. After assessing several potential destinations, on my recommendation the SPFB chose to contract with Rocky Gap Resort and Casino in Maryland. The resort offered a casino, lake, golfing, hiking and a full spa. I closely scrutinized all pricing and details for the event. Along with Supreme Directress Kathleen Watkins, I prepared several night time events and a developed a detailed schedule. I messaged several members via e-mail and Facebook to give them information on the First Sokol Reunion. I worked with Supreme Directress Kathleen Watkins to create flyers for the event.

After securing the details, I provided Louie Smeriglio and Danny Tanzone with articles about the event to be published online and in the Falcon. I also messaged and emailed many members directly to advertise the event.

I compiled the final walking program results, distributed awards, and constructed the new 2017 packages to be mailed to each participant. I then wrote an article publishing the results.

Along with Supreme President Mike Horvath, Supreme Chaplain Father Andrew Hvozdic, and other members of the organization I attended the Right to Life March in Washington DC.

I revised and updated the gymnastics rules and regulations for the upcoming International Slet and coordinated with all the Directresses and Directors to address any questions or problems that arose while preparing for the International Slet.

I produced an article disseminating information about the SUNY Brockport gymnastics facility along with the rules and regulations governing the conduct of the International Slet.

April - June

I worked closely with Director John Underation to finalize preparations for the gymnastics competition including facility, judges, scoring and administration.

I conducted a site visit to Rocky Gap Casino and Resort to complete preparation for the first annual SCS reunion.

Each International Slet, as an organization, we take on a philanthropy project. This year I contacted Brian Ware, the founder of the Crayon Project. The Crayon Project is a non-profit organization that collects old, used and broken crayons to be melted down and reformed for children's hospitals around the country. This year, based on my recommendation, the SPFB voted for The Crayon Project as our philanthropy effort.

I participated in a Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Conference call.

I directly messaged several additional members regarding the reunion, gymnastics qualifications, and walking program.

I attended the Inaugural Sokol Reunion at Rocky Gap in Maryland. Based on the positive feedback generated from the event, this will be an event added yearly. Members from SD (different groups totaling around 50 people participated). The event commenced with an outside social on Friday evening. The beautiful lake, live music and fire pits were fun for all.

Saturday morning, some participants golfed while others enjoyed the spa or sat near the lake and I hosted a walking program hike. Saturday evening, the participants shared a Sokol style social with appetizers, drinks, and games.

I submitted a final report to the SPFB members on the success of the reunion. As with every first time event, we discussed the positives and negatives of the event in detail to further improve subsequent gatherings.

I submitted an article to the Falcon highlighting the key events of the reunion.

I worked closely with Supreme Directress Kathleen Watkins to develop an improved scoring program for the upcoming gymnastics competition.

I e-mailed all the Directors and Directresses and submitted an article to the Falcon explaining the Crayon Project and our organizational objectives in supporting it to the participants, leaders, and attendees at the International Slet.

I responded to e-mails and worked with other members of the SPFB to finalize the many last minute details associated with the International Slet.

I detailed gymnastics rotations, produced score cards, and otherwise saw to the necessary preparations to ensure a smooth competition. I also made sure to cross-check and confirm my list with all group Directors and Directresses.

July - September

I worked closely with the Supreme Physical Directress and the Physical Fitness Board to complete final preparations for the International Slet.

I arranged and confirmed both the DJ and photo booth to support the Saturday evening banquet scheduled for the last evening of the International Slet.

I attended the International Slet at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY. I worked closely with other SPF B members, chaperones, and group leaders, as well as the staff at the university to ensure that all events were successfully conducted.

I worked with Supreme Assistant Sports Director Frank Laury to ensure that the many donations collected for the Crayon Project during the International Slet were delivered in a timely fashion. We collected a little over 600 pounds of crayons!

October - December

I submitted an article to the Falcon discussing the walking program as well as reminding members to start submitting their year-end totals.

I started work on the contract for our next Rocky Gap Reunion weekend. At the same time I began researching other potential venues to conduct events. Ideas provided to the board include a group ski weekend, a Sokol cruise, or a visit to an indoor water park.

I coordinated with the female members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board to select music for the drills during the upcoming International Clinic. We reviewed several pieces of music to identify new drill music for the next clinic. We will meet in January, in Boardman, Ohio, for our annual SPFB meeting and to choreograph the new drills to be taught at the 2018 International Clinic.

I would once again like to thank the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, the Board of Directors, and all the members of this great organization for allowing me the fantastic opportunity to serve in my current position. My heart truly belongs to the Slovak Catholic Sokol and I hope for the continued opportunity to help lead the organization into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zdar Boh,

Katie Swift

Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In compliance with the bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my Activity report for 2017.

January - March 2017

I attended a meeting of the Slovak Canadian National Council to plan the future of the Council.

I met with the new Cultural committee to put for a plan re the trip of Vranovcan Folk Ensemble from Slovakia to Canada with their theme show ZBOHOM.

I travelled to Cleveland Ohio to take part in the Physical Fitness Board meeting. Last year events were reviewed. Plans for the upcoming Slet were finalized and new and exciting schedule planned. It was a great meeting with input from the whole board. The whole board worked hard as one.

Together with the Slovak Ambassador to Canada Andrej Drobna continued to plan Slovak Day in Ottawa for the celebration of 150th Anniversary of Canada. The program will have performers from Canada as well as Slovakia. It will include art shows, cooking clinics, visit by well know Slovak hockey players as well as craft demonstrations

April - June 2017

I represented Physical Fitness Board at the annual meeting of the Gr 10 SCS. I informed them about the plans for the upcoming Slet as well as all the events we planned for 2017. I worked on the assignments given to me by Physical Director and Directress for the International Slet. Together with the Cultural committee continued to work on the plans for Vranovcan. I continued to work with Slovak Ambassador on the plans for Slovak Day. I kept in touch with my liaison groups about this year events.

I represented Physical Fitness Board at the annual golf tournament of Gr 19. I wrote an article regarding the International Slet for the Falcon. I send out reminders to Physical Fitness Board re their Falcon articles.

July - September 2017

I travelled to Brockport NY to take part in the International Slet. This year Slet was held at the State University of New York. The whole Physical Fitness board arrived a day before the participants to make sure all final details for the Slet were in place. I help out and worked closely with our Physical Director, Directress, Sports Director, Fitness Board, chaperones and group leaders to make sure everyone every participant knew what was happening every day. It was nice to see a lot of new participants at the Slet. I think the new schedule format worked well. I met with Slovak Ambassador in Milton to finalize Slovak day celebrations. I travelled to Dubois PA to take part in the International Golf Tournament which was held at the Treasure Lakes resort. Continued working with Cultural committee to put final plans for Vranovcan stay in Canada in effect. Helped out where needed during Vranovcan stay in Canada. Helped Peter Kocak, Vranovcan's artistic director to put best possible light effects for their show ZBOHOM. Finalized programs for Vychodna Slovak Dancers and Vranovcan re the Slovak Day celebrations in Ottawa.

October - December 2017

I worked on assignments given to me by Physical Director and Directress for the upcoming meeting of the Physical Fitness Board in January of 2018. I continued to work and updated my liaison groups about upcoming events. I send reminders out to the Physical Fitness Board re Falcon articles.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Slovak Catholic Sokol for allowing me to serve as Supreme Assistant Physical Director. Many thanks to Scott, Mike, Jim, Kathy and John for their professional leadership.

Fraternally yours,

Zdar Boh!

Dusan Dorich

Supreme Assistant Physical Director

In Memoriam



Slovak Catholic Sokol extends sincere sympathy to the bereaved families of deceased members

DECEMBER 2017

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	Michael Ferik, Bridgeport, CT	91	December 1, 2017
Assembly 10	Robert J. Tomko, Farrell, PA	28	August 25, 2017
Assembly 16	Kevin Bachner, Pittsburgh, PA	34	August 30, 2017
Assembly 48	Mary Pierson, Philadelphia, PA	92	August 24, 2017
Assembly 59	Richard J. Stegman, Wilkes-Barre, PA	82	December 16, 2017
Assembly 78	Emil Mitman Jr., Bethlehem, PA	93	November 29, 2017
Assembly 162	Elizabeth Ann Bryant, Clifton, NJ	37	December 7, 2017
Assembly 219	Michael Bosko, Yonkers, NY	90	July 16, 2010
Assembly 255	Alois Holencik, Egypt, PA	84	November 24, 2017
Assembly 303	Richard E. Richmond, Cleveland, OH	70	November 1, 2017
Assembly 312	Geraldine Williams, Passaic, NJ	78	October 28, 2017
Wreath 2	Doris Dolack, Passaic, NJ	82	December 12, 2017
Wreath 11	Anna Ivancic, Johnstown, NY	104	October 23, 2017
Wreath 11	Theresa Sweet, Johnstown, NY	89	November 27, 2017
Wreath 14	Regina Marie Demko, Johnstown, PA	70	November 18, 2017
Wreath 15	Madeline Volchko Beltran, Perryopolis, PA	63	July 31, 2016
Wreath 69	Elizabeth Kramarz, Niagara Falls, NY	101	November 30, 2017
Wreath 93	Elsie Tessmann, Milwaukee, WI	96	November 8, 2017
Wreath 111	Albert A. Janosik, Lorain, OH	89	November 7, 2017

JANUARY 2018

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	Michael Ferik, Bridgeport, CT	91	December 1, 2017
Assembly 9	Reginald Kopnick, Bridgeport, CT	91	December 17, 2017
Assembly 9	Anna Martha Pekar, Bridgeport, CT	96	January 27, 2018
Assembly 11	Anna Bukovy, Chicago, IL	93	November 28, 2017
Assembly 16	Michael J. Wierzchowski, Pittsburgh, PA	58	January 11, 2018
Assembly 28	Anna Laskowski, East Douglas, MA	97	December 30, 2017
Assembly 28	John Paul Kleya, East Douglas, MA	90	December 13, 2017
Assembly 32	Caroline Kurtz, Palmerton, PA	87	September 15, 2017
Assembly 32	Bridget Xander, Palmerton, PA	88	December 12, 2017
Assembly 59	Gerald Shinal, Wilkes-Barre, PA	80	November 20, 2017
Assembly 78	William A. Yenca, Bethlehem, PA	86	January 7, 2018
Assembly 78	Thersa Soltis Maus, Bethlehem, PA	91	January 7, 2018
Assembly 78	Michael John Kokosky, Bethlehem, PA	47	January 24, 2018
Assembly 78	Bernard M. Burda, Bethlehem, PA	82	January 28, 2015
Assembly 79	Raymond C. Guzik, Lilly, PA	69	December 7, 2017
Assembly 86	Elizabeth Morosky, Port Griffith, PA	91	December 17, 2017
Assembly 108	Frank Polchak Jr., Youngstown, OH	77	October 27, 2017
Assembly 108	Anna Firment, Youngstown, OH	99	December 28, 2017
Assembly 113	Josephine Neubauer, Kenosha, WI	102	April 13, 2017
Assembly 113	Anne Mercier, Kenosha, WI	94	December 30, 2017
Assembly 127	Carol A. Baron, Monessen, PA	61	November 4, 2017
Assembly 136	Marion Fedorchak, Nanticoke, PA	59	January 29, 2018
Assembly 155	Agnes Stano Armata, Ironwood, MI	88	December 20, 2017
Assembly 162	Edna S. Zidek, Clifton, NJ	93	June 18, 2017
Assembly 163	Irene Sukla, Donora, PA	89	December 28, 2017
Assembly 167	Joseph R. Underation, Barberton, OH	76	December 21, 2017
Assembly 255	Joseph Hudak, Egypt, PA	67	December 30, 2017
Assembly 312	William E. Piga, Passaic, NJ	66	November 10, 2017
Wreath 1	Danielle B. White, Bridgeport, CT	40	December 22, 2017
Wreath 8	Josephine Pumpa, Bellaire, OH	95	December 22, 2017

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Wreath 15	Mildred Ruth Shenal, Perryopolis, PA	74	December 25, 2017
Wreath 15	John Sepski, Perryopolis, PA	92	December 25, 2017
Wreath 22	Cecilia T. Regec, Pittsburgh, PA	90	January 29, 2018
Wreath 34	Agnes Sopko, Cleveland, OH	97	December 8, 2017
Wreath 43	Dennis R. Ruppert, Akron, OH	74	January 6, 2018
Wreath 85	Joseph R. Jahoda, McKees Rocks, PA	92	December 19, 2017
Wreath 85	Amelia Vukovan, McKees Rocks, PA	72	January 3, 2018
Wreath 85	Joseph Bilko, McKees Rocks, PA	82	April 3, 2008
Wreath 85	Ann Varhol, McKees Rocks, PA	90	December 23, 2017
Wreath 86	Barbara Cardella, Torrington, CT	78	January 3, 2018
Wreath 93	Kristin M. Ciganek, Milwaukee, WI	47	December 6, 2017
Wreath 103	Mary Ann Gorday, Barberton, OH	86	September 8, 2017
Wreath 103	Patricia Vesalo, Barberton, OH	60	December 20, 2017
Wreath 153	Mary Johnston, Parma, OH	99	December 11, 2017

FEBRUARY, 2018

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 11	Alfred M. Massura, Chicago, IL	91	March 6, 2017
Assembly 16	James Mailki, Pittsburgh, PA	69	January 9, 2018
Assembly 79	Bernadine C. Bednar, Bethlehem, PA	70	November 18, 2017
Assembly 79	Vincent Seaman Jr., Lilly, PA	59	November 25, 2018
Assembly 79	Andrew T. Slebodnick, Lilly, PA	64	July 22, 2017
Assembly 79	George M. Lukacs, Lilly, PA	92	February 16, 2018
Assembly 79	Andrew L. Slebodnik, Lilly, PA	87	September 28, 2017
Assembly 82	Shirley E. Friecko, Dunlo, PA	70	January 21, 2018
Assembly 85	Eleanor Batiz, E. Vandergrift, PA	89	December 9, 2017
Assembly 108	Richard W. Texler, Youngstown, OH	79	January 12, 2018
Assembly 108	Jerome Kral, Youngstown, OH	89	December 5, 2017
Assembly 162	Robert J. Wertalik, Clifton, NJ	62	July 28, 2017
Assembly 163	Josephine A. Smith, Donora, PA	80	July 8, 2015
Assembly 176	John Balog, New Brighton, PA	94	November 6, 2017
Assembly 179	Kevin Culligan, North Braddock, PA	64	February 6, 2018
Assembly 179	Nathaniel Smart, North Braddock, PA	51	January 29, 2018
Assembly 188	Joseph Michael Gulla, Lansford, PA	76	February 14, 2016
Assembly 214	Edward Beres, Rossford, OH	82	January 30, 2018
Assembly 261	Martin Nicholas Gyomber, Reading, PA	87	January 18, 2018
Assembly 312	Anna M. Sochulak, Passaic, NJ	81	January 9, 2018
Assembly 312	Gloria Swanson, Passaic, NJ	74	January 8, 2018
Assembly 312	Leonard Reinhardt, Passaic, NJ	87	February 11, 2018
Wreath 11	Elizabeth Popson, Johnstown, NY	84	January 30, 2018
Wreath 14	Josephine Sikirica, Johnstown, PA	92	December 29, 2017
Wreath 29	John Duda, Farrell, PA	89	December 5, 2017
Wreath 29	Edward Carik, Farrell, PA	88	September 16, 2017
Wreath 43	Katherine Zubovic, Akron, OH	91	January 7, 2018
Wreath 81	Thomas J. Ustanik, Whiting, IN	84	January 24, 2018
Wreath 81	Anna Jurbala, Whiting, IN	93	December 27, 2017
Wreath 81	Irene Velasko, Whiting, IN	78	July 30, 2017
Wreath 93	Virginia E. Hodgson, Milwaukee, WI	92	January 13, 2018
Wreath 93	Helen Hrobar, Milwaukee, WI	90	February 10, 2018
Wreath 107	Stanley Bonish, Youngstown, OH	94	January 13, 2018

Give the gift of education. **Make a donation**

Announcing the 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 do-

nation form on line at <http://slovakcatholicssokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm> or simply send your donation to:

Dennis J. Zifcak
SCS Museum Treasurer
33 Pincrest Rd.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

- 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. Keep the spirit of your fellow Sokol alive by investing in a way that their fraternal dedication will not be forgotten.



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Potraviny, ktoré znižujú vysoký tlak

Vysoký krvný tlak často nebýva sprevádzaný žiadnymi príznakmi. Preto sa nazýva aj „tichý zabijak“. Môže poškodiť organizmus mnohými spôsobmi. Predovšetkým zvyšuje náhamu srdca a ciev. Pretože srdce musí po dlhé obdobie pracovať ťažšie ako za normálnych okolností, má snahu zväčšiť sa – steny hrubnú (hypertrofia srdcového svalu). Mierne zväčšené srdce pracovať dobre, ale ak sa zväčší príveľmi, môže to spôsobiť veľké problémy. Jedným z najčastejších príznakov je dýchavica po fyzickej námahe. Za optimálny vysoký tlak sa považujú hodnoty nižšie ako 120/80. Pri tlaku 130-139/85-89 hovoríme o prehypertenzii a je vysoká pravdepodobnosť že sa vyvinie skutočná hypertenzia.

Liečivé účinky potravín

U mnohých potravín sa zistilo, že pomáhajú znižovať krvný tlak. Patrí k nim aj sója, obilné vložky, čerstvá šťava z červenej repy zmiešaná s medom, zeler, uhorka, prípadne uhorková šťava, zelená listová strava, kiwi, hrozno a červený melón.

Cibula znižuje vysoký krvný tlak a obsah tukov v krvi, navyše rozpúšťa krvné zrazeniny.

Pravidelné užívanie cesnaku prináša výrazné a často úplne uspokojivé zníženie tlaku. Za rozumnú dávku sa uvádza 1

strúčik na osobu a deň alebo po 2-3 týždne 1-2 strúčiky cesnaku s týždennou prestávkou.

Chorým s vysokým krvným tlakom sú odporúčané grapefruity, pretože je v nich veľa draslíka, ktorý pôsobí proti hypertenzii. Na poprednom mieste medzi potravinami určenými osobám trpiacim vysokým krvným tlakom patria banány s veľkým množstvom dôležitého draslíka. Jeden banán obsahuje dostatočné denné množstvo draslíka, potrebné k udržaniu normálneho krvného tlaku a funkcie srdca.

Včelí med nie je len sladidlom do čaju, ale aj potravinou s liečivým účinkom. Okrem hodnotných minerálnych látok obsahuje aj enzýmy, napr. acetylcholin, znižujúci krvný tlak.

Obmedzenie konzumácie tukov, najmä živočíšnych, by malo mať vplyv na zníženie vysokého tlaku. Vyhnajte sa tiež príliš sladkým pokrmom, zákuskom a sladeným nápojom. Pozor na kofeín a alkohol! Obmedzte pitie kávy, všetkých kofeínových nápojov a alkoholu, pretože mnohé štúdie potvrdzujú, že majú vplyv na zvýšenie krvného tlaku.

Ak máte nadváhu, snažte sa schudnúť. Cvičenie i relaxačné techniky sú overené spôsoby, ako znížiť riziká všetkých cievnych a srdcových ochorení.

Vyšla nová ročenka Slováci v zahraničí

(Pokračovanie zo str. 24)

Bağlašová sa vo svojom príspevku zaoberá problematikou slovenských kalendárov vo svete. Autorka Sandra Kralj Vukšić prináša informácie o vzniku, úlohách a aktivitách Slovenského kultúrneho centra v Našiciach. Ďalšia informácia Sandry Kralj Vukšić je venovaná 25. výročiu krajanského periodika Prameň. Príspevok Zuzany Pavelovej sa zaoberá rekapituláciou činnosti Krajanského múzea Matice slovenskej počas roku 2017.

Ročenka Slováci v zahraničí č. 34 je obsahovo veľmi bohatá, kvalitnejšia, myšlienkovito plná. Zaujímaví si ju môžu objednať cez webovú stránku www.vydavatel.sk. - **Zuzana Pavelcová**, riaditeľka Krajanského múzea v Martin MS

Do pozornosti pre zaujímavcov o štúdium slovenčiny v Bratislave

(Pokračovanie zo str. 24)

slovenského jazyka, pripomíname, že vzdelávacie programy slovenčiny ako cudzieho jazyka nájdete na stránke Jazykovej a odbornej prípravy cudzincov a krajanov ČDÚ UK.

Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

S pozdravom

Mgr. Tatiana Ilavská, PhD.

manažérka marketingu

Centrum ďalšieho vzdelávania

Naša adresa: Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Odborárov 10/a, 831 04 Bratislava, SLOVENSKO / SLOVAKIA; E-mail: tatiana.ilavska@cdv.uniba.sk; tel.: +421 2 50 11 77 11, webová stránka: www.cdv.uniba.sk

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

Nedávny happening českých turistov... - *trend.sk*

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8 beauty prešlapov - *diva.sk*

Spoločnosť Tatry Mountain Resorts začne prevádzkovať ďalší skiareál - *aktuality.sk*

Diskontný retazec Lidl... - *trend.sk*

...dostala cenu pre politické liderky. - *sme.sk*

Single život jej konečne spieva. - *diva.sk*

Inšpirujte sa look-om modelky. - *wanda.sk*

Ako sa nakupuje v slovenskom outlete - *sme.sk*

Na Slovensku je cash stále populárny - *trend.sk*

...prezradila jej beauty triky. - *emma.sk*



Po prvý raz v 123-ročnej histórii farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku prišiel posvätiť veľkonočné jedlá newyorský arcibiskup. Obrad posvätenia vykonal v sobotu 31. marca newyorský arcibiskup kardinál Timothy M. Dolan (tretí zľava). Na snímke s ním sú (zľava): pomocný bratislavský biskup Jozef Halko, ktorý navštívil farnosť počas Svätého týždňa, tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a členka 182. zboru S.K.S. Nina Holá a miništrant Dávid Kulka.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

(Pokračovanie zo str. 24)

nanosti zaznamenaný vo všetkých krajoch. Najvýraznejší pokles miery evidovanej nezamestnanosti bol v Banskobystrickom a Žilinskom samosprávnom kraji. Na okresnej úrovni sa nezamestnanosť znížila v 75 okresoch, v štyroch okresoch bol zaznamenaný nárast.

○ Ku koncu februára tohto roka bolo na úradoch práce voľných 78.388 pracovných miest. Medzimesačne počet voľných miest vzrástol o 3425. Najviac pracovných miest bolo v

Bratislavskom kraji, najmenej ich bolo v Banskobystrickom kraji.

○ Horský záchranári tohto roku zasahovali vo Vysokých, Nízkych Tatrách a Malej Fatre pri skialpinistoch viac ako vlni. Kým počas vlaňajšej sezóny nezahynul žiaden skialpinista, v tejto sezóne si hory vzali životy až piatich. Najviac smrteľných nehôd v Nízkych Tatrách. Najviac obetí si vyžiadali Nízke Tatry, kde zahynuli traja skialpinisti. Počas tejto zimy zasahovali 116-krát aj pri turistoch, najviac vo Vysokých Tatrách.

Na filmovom festivale vo Washingtone premietali aj snímku o Tatrách

Vo Washingtone D.C. sa 18. marca začal najväčší festival enviro filmov na svete - Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital. Medzi vyše stovkou filmov z celého sveta sa priamo v premiére predstavil aj jeden slovenský - Tatra Mountains: Life on the Edge. Jeho autor Erik Baláž.

Cieľom filmu je ukázať citlivé vysokohorské prostredie najmenších veľhôr na svete a poukázať na potrebu jeho ochrany.

Cieľom anglickej verzie filmu je podobne ako v prípade slovenských filmov ukázať citlivé vysokohorské prostredie najmenších veľhôr na svete a poukázať na potrebu jeho ochrany. Zachtáva život kamzíkov, svišťov, medvede, orlov a ďalších zvierat, pričom najväčšie sú zábery

rysov vo vysokohorskom prostredí.

Film nakrúcali tri roky. Spolu 1500 dní v teréne. Bolo to extrémne náročné a občas aj nebezpečné.

Film mal na festivale premiéru v jednom z hlavných premietacích časov - v nedeľu popoludní v jednej z hlavných budov festivalu, v Carnegie Institution for Science. Po premietaní nasledovala diskusia, na ktorej sa Erik Baláž zúčastnil spolu s riaditeľom Ekotopfilmu Petrom Límom.

Festival trval do 25. marca a zúčastnilo sa ho viac než 30.000 návštevníkov. Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital je nielen najväčším svojho druhu na svete, ale aj najstarším v USA. Konal sa už po 26. raz.

V Demänovskej doline objavili unikátnu jaskyňu



Územie Slovenska je mimoriadne bohaté na jaskynné priestory, ktoré vznikali počas miliónov rokov pôsobením kameňa, vody a vzduchu.

V Demänovskej doline sa v súčasnosti nachádza zhruba 300 jaskýň a väčšina z nich má súvis s viac ako 40 kilometrov dlhým Demänovským jaskynným systémom. Jednou z nich je aj jaskyňa Chladivý dych, ktorú nedávno objavili a preskúmali členovia Jaskynniarskeho klubu Demänovská Dolina. Viac ako 600 metrov dlhá jaskyňa vo svojich útrobách ukrýva tajomstvá

staré milióny rokov.

Na Slovensku je sice približne 80 jaskýň dlhších alebo rovnako dlhých, podľa predsedu speleoklubu Pavla Hericha je však z vedeckého pohľadu veľmi zaujímavá, napríklad z hľadiska klímy. Vzduch tam totiž v určitom období silne pulzuje. Existuje len málo jaskýň, ktoré majú takúto klímu. Navyše je kryogénne silno porušená, čo znamená, že v ľadových dobách bola pravdepodobne vyplnená ľadom a deštrukcia sintrových nátekov, kvapľov, stalagmitov, stalaktitov a pagod bola mimoriadna.

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VOLUME CVII

PASSAIC, N.J., 18. APRÍLA 2018

ČÍSLO 5113

Vyšla nová vedecká ročenka Slováci v zahraničí



Takmer 400 stranová vedecká ročenka Slováci v zahraničí vyšla vo Vydavateľstve Matice slovenskej už po 34. krát. Recenzne ročenku posúdili doc. PaedDr. Pavol Parenička, CSc. a PhDr. Peter Mulík, PhD. Zostavovateľsky sa pod ňou podpísali Gabriela Hamranová a Zuzana Pavelcová.

Tridsiaty štvrtý ročník zborníka je osobitý najmä vďaka vyššej vedeckej úrovni, ktorú zabezpečila stať venovaná 110. výročiu založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Táto kapitola je písomnou reflexiou odborného vedeckého seminára s medzinárodnou účasťou, ktorý v júni 2017 usporiadalo Krajanské múzeum Matice slovenskej.

Kapitola zachytáva nielen zdravicu z pera generálnej tajomníčky Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Ninyy Holej, ale i spomienkový príspevok Jána Holého, čestného predsedu tejto inštitúcie. Stať obsahuje šesť odborných štúdií zaoberajúcich sa prevažne dejinami Slovenskej ligy v Amerike.

Ďalšiu kapitolu zborníka s názvom Štúdie otvára príspevok Petra Karpinského. Analyzuje text publikácie Praktický slovensko-anglický tlumač, ktorú v roku 1905 vydal v USA Pavol K. Kadák. Anna Kováčová sa zaoberá dejinami Slovákov v Angyalfölde, ktoré zachytili dobové periodiká. Štúdia Jany Sivičekovej sa zaoberá analýzou myslenia vojvodinského Slováka Andreja Siráckeho prostredníctvom jeho článkov publikovaných v Slovenskej jednote v období 1942

Do pozornosti pre záujemcov o štúdium slovenčiny v Bratislave

Vážení a milí krajanovia,

chceli by sme Vám dať do pozornosti, že kalendár podujatí pre krajanov na rok 2018 bol na základe výsledkov koordinovanej porady a rozhodnutia ministerky školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR schválený.



Vzdelávacie programy pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí s dotáciou MŠVVaŠ SR, organizované Centrom ďalšieho vzdelávania Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave (ČDV UK), sú uverejnené na portály pre vzdelávanie Slovákov v zahraničí Eduabroad.sk a môžete sa začať na ne prihlasovať.

V prípade akýchkoľvek otázok, kontaktujte prosím, manažérku vzdelávania pre krajanov ČDV UK Mgr. Eudmilu Ábelovú, tel.: +421 2 50 11 77 19, mobil: +421 911 730 039, e-mail: abelova@cdv.uniba.sk.

V prípade záujmu o štúdium (Pokračovanie na str. 23)

Krátke správy zo Slovenska



Bratislavská automobilka Volkswagen Slovakia plánuje do konca tohto roka prijať viac ako päťsto nových zamestnancov. Spoločnosť tak ešte viac posilní svoje postavenie najväčšieho súkromného zamestnávateľa. S novými pracovníkmi by totiž mal celkový počet zamestnancov prekročiť od budúceho roka hranicu 14-tisíc.

Len za posledné tri roky pritom Volkswagen Slovakia vytvoril 2 900 nových pracovných miest. Pre porovnanie, britsko-indická automobilka Jaguar Land Rover plánuje vo svojom novom závode pri Nitre do roku 2020 zamestnať 2 800 pracovníkov. Vlani za týmto účelom spustila náborovú kampaň, v rámci ktorej hľadala tisíc ľudí. Bratislavský Volkswagen ku koncu vlaňajška zamestnával už 13 700 ľudí.

Sociálna poisťovňa evidovala ku koncu januára tohto roka vyše 1,39 milióna dôchodcov na Slovensku. V porovnaní s januárom minulého roka ide

o nárast o 10,7 tisíce penzistov. Od konca januára 2008, teda počas desiatich rokov, sa počet dôchodcov zvýšil o 142,6 tisíce.

Retazec rýchleho občerstvenia Burger King sa vracia na Slovensko. V nasledujúcich piatich rokoch plánuje na slovenskom trhu otvoriť pätnásť prevádzok. Burger King prvý krát otvoril na Slovensku v roku 2010. Reštaurácie prevádzkovala firma Tekaz s českým majiteľom, ktorá primárne podnikala v stavebníctve. Burger King pod jej vedením nevydržal na slovenskom trhu ani dva roky. Dve bratislavské a jedna žilinská reštaurácia skončili na sklomku roka 2011.

Miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti na Slovensku ku koncu februára tohto roka klesla na 5,72 percenta. Medziročne bola miera nezamestnanosti vo februári nižšia o 2,67 percenta.

Vo februári 2018 bol pokles miery evidovanej nezamestnanosti (Pokračovanie na str. 23)



Bratislava je mesto bohaté na historické pamiatky, z ktorých mnohé sa nachádzajú v Starom Meste. Mestská pamiatková rezervácia je jedna z najväčších na Slovensku. Dominantou je Bratislavský hrad, vedľa ktorého sa nachádza budova Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky a neďaleko Dóm svätého Martina. - Foto: BTB/Adam a Matej Kováčovci