



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL

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NUMBER 5126

Rejoice! It's Easter!

EASTER
greetings

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
Let not your soul be sad
Easter is a time of joy
When all hearts should be glad.

Glad to know that Jesus Christ
Made it possible for men
To have their sins forgiven
And, like Him, to live again.

So at this joyous season
May the wondrous Easter Story
Renew our Faith so we may be
Partakers of "His Glory!"

*May Your Easter be Filled
with Blessings*



Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

March was a busy month and April is being just as busy. In March the 1st quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held March 22-23, 2019 at the Airport Marriott in Cleveland, Ohio. The Board of Directors reviewed the Society's business for 2018 and discussed a variety of issues that are currently ongoing and will be coming up during the year.



The Society's Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C., gave a detailed presentation on the insurance and annuity sales for 2018. He showed there were increases in the amount of insurance in force but again the downside was there was a decrease in membership due to deaths and surrenders. He provided the Board with 2019 goals which can be reached with every member doing their part to sign up new members.

The Chairperson of the Auditors, James G. Jerek informed the Board the annual audit went well and pointed out some issues they would like to see improved.

The Board heard from the Physical Fitness Board which went over the activities they have planned for 2019; the Bowling Tournament in May, the Reunion in June, the Slet in July and the Golf Tournament in August. These activities prove that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will have a busy summer and provides activities for its member to enjoy.

Our Vice President, Edward D. Moeller updated the Board on the Scholarship results. He gave an encouraging report on the number of applications received and stated there are more to come as the deadline approaches. Some other issues were discussed which will improve the application process for 2020.

Our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., presented to the Board his report for 2018. He showed again he kept expenses in check and the Society's Assets grew by \$1,000,000.

He also went over the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking and Insurance report that was issued after their examination of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for the past five years. The report showed all was in order and they were satisfied with our operations, investments and reserves.

PNC Institutional Advisory Solutions manager, Thomas Calimano, gave a review of the Society's investment portfolio for 2018 and for the January and February 2019. He reported 2018 ended up on the down side but has shown improvement in 2019. He indicated to the Board 2019 will be a better year.

The Board then heard from Parkway Advisors of Abilene, Texas. Parkway Advisors in a consulting company that specializes in various services for the insurance business sector. They reviewed our investment portfolio and provided ways they think it can be improved. They also provided the Board with an analysis of our investment risks. Their overall comments are we are doing well and there are minor adjustments they feel we can take.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors are working hard to keep the Society on a positive path that is financially strong and solvent.

Our Supreme Secretary and I attended the Slovak Catholic Federation's 2019 spring meeting which was held April 2, 2019 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Home Office in Passaic, NJ. The Federation is an important organization since it provides financial assistance to the Slovak Pontifical College in Rome. The financial assistance helps with the educational cost for priests from Slovakia with their studies in Rome. I encourage all members to become a member of the Federation which will help with this important cause and mission.

The Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom bus trip, Saturday April 6, 2019! This bus trip to our nation's Capital was organized by Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA. It was a long day with lots to see. Along the banks of the Potomac River, the tidal basin and in other areas of the Mall it was a sea of Cherry Blossom Pink. What a sight. In addition to the beauty of the pink blossoms was the beautiful sea of humanity. As I walked Wharf and paths I heard the voice of people speaking in many languages and am sure they were in awe of nature's way of expressing harmony. If seeing the Cherry Blossom in Washington, D.C. is on your bucket list go next year but be prepared for the slow casual walking and long lines.

I want to thank all members who were elected by their Assemblies and Wreaths to be a delegate to the Slovak Catholic Sokol 33rd Quadrennial Convention which

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*From the desk of the Supreme Secretary***JOIN HANDS**by Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. 

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

The month of March kept with normal tradition and delivered us on the east coast a handful of cold and bitter days. Now that April has arrived, we can certainly look forward to enjoying the long-awaited season of spring. During the month of April, the first flowers begin to appear and the grass begins to grow in that beautiful shade of green. The bees start buzzing and the birds begin singing as the temperatures steadily rise. In short, it has been a long winter, thank God it is spring!

I hope that many of our members will take the time to celebrate Join Hands Day on Saturday, May 4th. It is a national day of volunteering sponsored by America's fraternal benefit societies. 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. With the mix of our young adults and our "wise and experienced" members, the Slovak Catholic Sokol can be a shining example of this special day. Since its inception, Join Hands Day has enjoyed the support and participation of many of our members. I urge our local Assembly and Wreath leaders to schedule a community service event and let the rest of our membership know about it through our Falcon. For the past 114 years, our organization has encouraged our



members to get involved in their communities because it is essential to our identity. Remember, Join Hands Day should not only be celebrated one day a year. This is what we do and who we are as Sokols!

Around this time every four years, the Home Office Staff usually is in "Convention Mode". This year is no different as we have received the delegate forms by the March 31st deadline. As a democratic institution, the Convention is the highest governing body in our organization. The next couple of months, we will publish the names of all the delegates who have been selected to participate as representatives of their local Assembly, Wreath, and Group. In the next couple of weeks, our Delegates will receive an instructional packet with details regarding the process to reserve their room, tentative schedule, nighttime activities, etc. In lieu of being more efficient and saving on postage, we will be posting a lot of the "Convention Items" on the Convention Menu on our website, www.slovakcatholicssokol.org. If any Delegates would like hard copies of any particular report, you can always contact me at the Home Office. Even if you are not a delegate, you still have time to offer input and suggestions for the good of the organization. You may submit any recommended changes to either the Bylaws or New Motions Committee, which will be meeting in late May/early June. Any suggested recommendations must be made in writing, signed, and mailed to the Home Office by May 21st for consideration and review.

And finally, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all our members and families a blessed and joyous Easter. On behalf of my beautiful Wife, Maggie, our Son, Reid Thomas, and our entire Family, may you and yours enjoy a wonderful Easter! God Bless and Zdar Boh!

SOKOL CALENDAR**SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

■ **EASTER LUNCHEON** hosted by the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall, 407 East 67th St. New York, N.Y. beginning at 1 p.m., \$25.00 per person; for reservations call the rectory at tel. 212 734-4613.

MONDAY, MAY 6

■ **WREATH 22 MEETING** at the Slovak

Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

■ **ASSEMBLY 59 MEETING** at the North End Slovak Citizens Club, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 7:30 p.m.

MAY 17-18

■ **73RD INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT** at Noble Manor Bowling

Lanes, Pittsburgh, Pa.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

■ **COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE SLOVAK PATRIOT, GENERAL MILAN R. STEFANIK**, cofounder of the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, hosted by the Slovak League of America and area Slovak fraternal societies at St. John Nepomucene Church, corner First Ave. and East 66th Street in New York City; Slovak Mass at 10:15 a.m. luncheon and program in the parish social hall, 406 East 67th Street beginning at 1 p.m.

**GROUP 3 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

The Group 3 "Rev. Edmund Mochak" semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, Route 16, Douglas, Mass.. Coffee and danish will be available at 10:00 a.m. with the meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting as we prepare for a busy year that includes the International Slet and Convention. Annual festivities and new activities will be discussed.

We look forward to seeing you!
Christine Manyak, Group 3 Secretary

**Message from our
Supreme President**

(Continued from page 2)

will be held August 3-7, 2019 at the Airport Marriott in Cleveland, Ohio. Our Supreme Secretary and I will be meeting to verify the delegate forms and preparing the Convention packets. All Convention materials can also be found on the Slovak Catholic Sokol website. I ask all members to visit the website and review the posted document as a way to prepare for the Convention.

Since this is our Convention year, each member, especially our delegates, should do their best to sign up a new member. If this happens it would be a great year for our Society. If you need information on signing up a relative or friend call our Director of Sales or the Home office for assistance.

With God's Blessings to All!
Zdar Boh!

OUR NEXT ISSUE

In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be **MONDAY, MAY 6**.

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
PEER INTO THE EMPTY TOMB

Years ago when I was in seminary, I was fortunate enough to be able to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It's one of the most extraordinary places I've ever been. During our visit to Jerusalem each morning we would attend Mass, rotating around the holy places. One such morning our Mass was in



the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is a church that contains the sites of Calvary and the tomb of Christ. I was very excited because our group had made a reservation to say Mass in the tomb itself. The chapel in the tomb is very small, so if you attend Mass in there, you can't help but be pressed up right up against the altar. During the Eucharistic Prayer, as I was kneeling, I could see into the space where the body of Jesus had been laid to rest. And it was empty.

Now, I knew it would be empty. I believe in the resurrection of Christ. But still, there is something strange about peering into an empty tomb, since death is a fundamental part of the human experience, hanging over everything. The spirit of the world tries to convince us that the tomb is the end, that there is nothing on the other side of death. But the empty grave of Christ testifies against that. His appearance to the disciples testifies against that. He came to them, not as a ghost, but in the flesh. He spoke to them, breathed upon them, touched them, and ate with them. Such things, the world tells us, are not supposed to happen.

But the truth is that death was not supposed to happen. Adam and Eve were not supposed to die. With their sin came death – both for them and for us. It is with the death and resurrection of Christ that we are freed from slavery to sin and offered eternal life. Jesus was supposed to be in the tomb Easter morning, but He wasn't. We live in a world in which a man rose from the dead.

That morning in Jerusalem when I attended Mass and peered into the empty tomb of Jesus – it was a remarkable feeling. Because there, just above the grave that held the dead Jesus, the priest made present the living Jesus. The Eucharist is the Body of Jesus crucified, Jesus resurrected, Jesus glorified. And He was there with us, alive in His empty tomb.



Members of the Board of Directors are shown above during their quarterly meeting held, March 22-23 at the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel include, seated from the left Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic. Standing from the left: Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins, General Counsel, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr. and Supreme Treasurer Dennis J. Zifcak. The Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel will be the site of our upcoming 33rd quadrennial convention, August 3-7.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
REUNION WEEKEND

MAY 31- JUNE 2, 2019

ROCKY GAP CASINO – RESORT
16701 LAKEVIEW ROAD NE
FLINSTONE, MD 21530

JOIN US FOR A FRATERNAL WEEKEND OF EVENTS

Friday: 8:00 p.m. – Social at the Outdoor Bar and Fire Pits
Saturday: 12:00 noon – Luau at the Resort Beach area
Saturday: 7:00 p.m. – Evening Social in the Cumberland Room
Cash bar, \$10.00 per person for appetizers

A SPECIAL GOLF RATE will be offered at the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course.
Mention Slovak Catholic Sokol when booking.

Double Occupancy Rooms are reserved at a **GROUP RATE OF \$129.00/NIGHT**
Call 1-800-724-0828

RATES ARE GOOD UNTIL MAY 3, 2019
Be sure to ask for the Slovak Catholic Sokol Rate
After reserving your room, please email Nancy Kropolsky at NLKROP@aol.com

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON
PUBLICATION DATES

<u>PUBLICATION DATE</u>	<u>ARTICLE DEADLINE</u>
May 15, 2019	May 6, 2019
June 19, 2019	June 10, 2019
July 17, 2018	July 8, 2019
August 14, 2019	August 5, 2019
September 18, 2019	September 9, 2019
October 16, 2019	October 7, 2019
November 13, 2019	November 4, 2019
December 18, 2019	December 9, 2019

COPING WITH BEING AWAY FROM HOME

A famous Sokol once said, "I went to the Slet expecting to make new friends, but I ended up with a new family".

Many of you have seen this article in the paper before. Several years ago, I wrote a similar article because I understand how difficult it can be for a child to be away from home for the first time. I can also appreciate the difficulty that the parents experience when sending their son or daughter away without them.

For some children, the Slet is more than just a competition; it is the first time that they are spending more than one night away from mom and dad. Being away from home and staying in a dorm can be a difficult for kids of all ages, but especially for our juniors. Hopefully, this experience will be a positive one that will help your child feel more comfortable when you are not with him or her. Being at the Slet without a parent offers a wonderful opportunity for both you and your children to practice "letting go" -- an experience that can contribute to the development of healthy independence. Learning to let go allows children to develop autonomy and a stronger sense of self. Here are some ways to help your child feel more secure about being away from home:

- Listen to and talk about concerns. As the day of departure arrives, some children understandably experience uneasiness about going off to the Slet. It is important to talk about their fears and try to put them at ease. Rather than acting on what you believe his or her feelings to be, ask good questions such as "We've been busy packing your gear. What are your thoughts about heading off to the Slet in a few days?"
- Give him or her confidence. Communicate your confidence in his or her ability to handle being away from home and remind him or her about "small victories," successes that he or she has experienced in other situations.
- Let your son or daughter know that being away from home is part of growing up. Sometimes children struggle with leaving mom and dad because they know you are struggling with letting them grow. If you are anxious about your child leaving, you will make it harder for him or her to feel comfortable.
- Pack a special note or card. Hide a card or small note in his or her suitcase so that when he or she arrives at the college and unpacks, there is a nice surprise waiting.
- Make sure he or she is ready to take care of his or her own hygiene. It is important for your son or daughter to know how to shower, brush his or her own teeth, comb his or her own hair, etc. Remind him or her that hygiene is important, especially after a long day at the track.
- Tell your child that you are only a phone call away. He or she can call you each night.
- Bring a little piece of home. Have your child choose to bring along one special thing that reminds him or her of home (a picture, teddy bear, action figure, blanket).
- Tell your child to have FUN. Discuss how much fun it will be to hang out on a college campus with friends. Talk about competing, sharing a room with someone else, eating breakfast, lunch, and dinner together, having late night pizza, etc.
- Support you child. If you are going to be at the Slet, remind him or her that you will be there at the daily events. If you will not be there, tell your son or daughter that you will be thinking about him or her.
- Prepare your child for the possibility that he or she may

not "win". This is probably the most difficult thing for many kids. In today's society, many children have been taught that everyone is a winner. In sports like T-ball, every child gets a trophy at the end of the season. This sometimes leads children to believe that they will always be rewarded for a job well done. Although we would like to believe this, it is not always the case. There will be winners and losers. Not everyone will get a medal or trophy. Even though a child may do his or her very best, verbal praise from friends and coaches may be the only reward. Stress the importance of doing the best you can without expecting a trophy or medal.

As a mother, I understand wanting to keep your little ones "under your wing" forever, but this is a great opportunity for your child. He or she will gain independence, form lasting friendships, and make lifelong memories. Children feel a sense of accomplishment when they gain some independence and make their own decisions. He or she may not make the best food choices at the cafeteria, as I found out when my sons have told me they had ice cream or pop for breakfast every day, but that is all part of the experience. All that really mattered was that they enjoyed himself. They came back from the Slet raving about how much fun they had, and that they could not wait to go again.

Jacque McTaggart once said, "Your child will be better prepared to tackle the bumps on the road of life if he has been given the gift of guided independence." So parents . . . Relax. . . your children are in very capable hands. I am sure their independence will surprise you! I am looking forward to working with all of your children at the upcoming Slet at SUNY Brockport. Feel free to reach out to me at kathyw323@gmail.com if you have any concerns or questions.

For daily updates, especially during the Slet, you can follow us on Twitter and Instagram at [physicalfitnessboard](https://twitter.com/physicalfitnessboard), and on Facebook at Slovak Catholic Sokol. We are also hoping to live stream parts of the competition. Stay tuned for details.

Zdar Boh!

Kathleen S. Watkins

Supreme Physical Directress
kathyw323@gmail.com

GROUP 14 ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH

The Group 14 "St. Francis of Assisi" meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. We will meet at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club located at 2912 East Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Some new business that will be discussed is bringing back some activities and plan family friendly activities so that the adults and children can spend time together while enjoying an evening out. Also any old business as well as fundraisers and the upcoming Slet will be discussed.

We switched the time for this meeting to happen during our gymnastics practices so that more parents can attend while their children are practicing. Hopefully you will join us to show that the Sokol spirit is still alive and well!!

Carmella Marzec
Group 14 President

BOOK YOUR ROOM(S) FOR THE 2019 SLET NOW!

As you are making your plans for attending this year's 2019 Slet at Suny Brockport University in New York, make sure that you book your rooms now. The rooms are ready for you to reserve for 4 days and 4 nights – July 17-21 at the beautiful Hampton Inn Brockport, Econo Lodge and the Dollinger's Inn & Suite hotels. It is so easy to reserve your room. Just call and reserve your room under the Slovak Catholic Sokol. There are only 40 rooms between the three hotel, so book early.

HERE IS SOME INFORMATION ON THE HAMPTON INN BROCKPORT

- * Hotel rating: a wonderful 9.1
- * Phone number: 1-585-391-6747
- * Address: **Hampton Inn Brockport**
4873 Lake Road Brockport, NY 14420, USA
- * 10 rooms blocked under Slovak Catholic Sokol until June 1st. Call to make your reservations today.
- * Rate: \$128 plus tax for Wednesday/Saturday nights.
- * Rooms come with a king bed
- * FREE: breakfast, WiFi, toiletries, cable TV, cancellation-no repayment needed, parking
- * The hotel has: an **indoor pool, fitness center, 24 hour business center**
- * It is **only minutes away** from Suny Brockport University

THINGS TO DO AROUND THE HAMPTON INN BROCKPORT

- * It is 22 minutes drive from Greater Rochester International Airport.
- * It is approximately 13 miles from Hamlin Beach State Park on Lake Ontario.
- * It is a 20 minute drive from the hotel to downtown Rochester (shopping and dining)
- * It is 19 miles away from the National Museum of Play
- * Minutes away from the Victorian Village on the Erie Canal
- * Minutes away from the Brockport Community Museum – Museum without walls
- * Visit the Sweden Town Park for a great place to have a picnic, play a pick up baseball or soccer game, or just walk the walking trails. Included are skate park, playground, pavilion and restrooms.

There are also two other hotels within the same area. Rooms are not locked in so if you choose to use either of these hotels, please call early for room availabilities, pricing, and amenities. Here are the names and phone numbers of the other hotels that are in close proximity to the Suny Brockport University as well.

*ECONO LODGE BROCKPORT:

- Hotel rating 6.3 Pleasant
Phone Number: 1- 585- 637- 3157
6575 4th Section Rd. Brockport, NY 14420
- * 20 rooms held under Slovak Catholic Sokol until July 1. Call to make your reservations today.
 - * Pricing: 2 Q beds \$84.99 plus tax for Wed./Thurs. nights and \$94.99 plus tax for Fri./Sat. nights.
 - * Minutes away for Brockport University
 - * No pool, free breakfast and WiFi, non-smoking rooms

*DOLLINGER'S INN & SUITES:

- Hotel rating 9.3 Wonderful
4908 Lake Rd. S Brockport, NY 14420
Phone Number: 585-391-8147
Pricing: All rooms reserved have 2 double beds
Wed/Thurs \$109 per night Fri/Sat \$119 per nights plus tax
- * 10 rooms blocked under Slovak Catholic Sokol until June 1st. Call to make your reservations today.
 - * Minutes away from Brockport University
 - * No pool, free breakfast and WiFi, non-smoking rooms, pet friendly, small fitness, refrigerator, microwave

This is a fantastic event that you won't want to miss. Everyone enjoys watching their child, as well as his/her teammates, compete for the International Slet Flag. There are so many memories that are made throughout the course of the week. Don't miss out. Book your rooms early and enjoy your vacation.

See You There,
Julie Laury
Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member



Continuing in a time-honor fraternal tradition, Assembly 182 hosted its annual patronal feast of St. Joseph with Mass and a fraternal luncheon on Sunday, March 24 in New York City. The program opened with attendance at the Slovak Mass celebrated by the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O., parochial vicar of the parish, shown left standing, fourth from the left; followed by a luncheon in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall. The celebration honored the parish's Josephs and Josephines. Founded in 1923, Assembly 182 has been active in St. John Nepomucene Parish as well as the New York area Slovak community. Headtable guests at the luncheon included, seated, l-r, W. Nina Holy, national Secretary of the Slovak League of America; Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, who was the main speaker; the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the parish and chaplain of Group 1; Dr. Larry Korcek, Assembly 182 president; Jozef Bodo, vice president and Jozef Korcak, auditor.

LODGE JOTTINGS

PITTSBURGH, PA, WREATH 22

The next meeting for Wreath 22 under the spiritual patronage of Saint Cecilia, is scheduled for Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m.. We will meet at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club located at 2912 East Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa.

We will be discussing our upcoming raffle ticket sale and also if we will be having a June meeting to discuss the convention at our April 1st meeting. We hope to see you all there!!

We are asking currently looking for any members of Wreath 22. We understand that there were some local Wreaths in the surrounding Pittsburgh area that have closed in the past few years, and we are looking for YOU! We would love for you to be apart of our Sokol Family and to join us for not only our meetings and events but to be apart of the Wreath 22 family!! If you are unsure if you belong to Wreath 22 PLEASE feel free to reach out to us and we can see if you are a member to our Pittsburgh Family! Feel free to email SuessCM@gmail.com

Zdar Boh!

Carmella (Suess) Marzec
Wreath 22 Secretary

WILKES-BARRE, PA, ASSEMBLY 59

The regular meeting of our lodge was held on Thursday, March 7 at the North End Slovak Citizens Club. A good

turnout of members participated. The president, Tony Rasimus called the meeting to order and asked Nancy Fedor to offer the opening prayer. Supreme President Michael J. Horvath then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Convention delegate forms were passed out and need to be completed by March 31. The treasurer's report was read by Nancy Fedor.

A tentative date for the Assembly's golf tournament has been set for Sunday, June 23 with a cost of about \$45.00. A 9 a.m. shot gun start was set and refreshments will follow at the North End Slovak Citizens Club. Group 7 will host a trip to Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 6. On May 4, the Group will host a Comedy Club night at the Casino.

A letter of thanks was read from the Slovak Catholic Federation acknowledging our donation of \$75.00 towards this year's SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal as well as one from the North End Slovak Club for our donation of \$50. Our next meeting is set for Tuesday, May 7. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sue Horvath, seconded by Pam Lipski. A blessed spring season to all.

Zdar Boh!

Renee Pizzella



Members who enjoyed the annual co-ed bowling tournament hosted by Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula" at Paul's Bowling Academy on Sunday, March 24 in Paterson, N.J. pose for a group photo. Following the competition on the lanes, traditional Sokol hospitality was enjoyed by all.

Introducing our newest members



Calvin Wesley Cybela, born July 4, 2018, is the son of Daniel Lynn Cybela and Kimberly Marie Richardson of Germantown, Wis. He was enrolled as a member of Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, Wis.



Harper Marie Toth, born January 21, 2019, is the daughter of Joseph and Katherine Toth of Pittsburgh, Pa. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2018 PRESENTED AT THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD IN CLEVELAND, OH, MARCH 22-23, 2019

REPORT OF THE SUPREME CHAPLAIN

Pochválen bud' Pán Ježíš Kristus!
SLÁVNA ROCNÁ SCHÖDZA

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 2018.

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. The 25th Anniversary celebration of the Declaration of the Independence of the Slovak Republic coincided with the Annual March for Life, thus I was able to attend the celebration that same day which was held at the Library of Congress.

I attended the 1st quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol held March 15-18, 2018 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 Danville, PA on April 30-May 1, 2018. As Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hold an automatic seat on the Slovak Catholic Federation Board of Directors.

On June 30, 2018, I participated in the 2nd quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, held via tele-conference. I offered a prayer for the beginning and conclusion of the meeting as well as participated in the discussions of the meeting.

I along with our Supreme President, Mr. Michael J. Horvath and Supreme Secretary, Mr. Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. represented our organization at the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, August 4-7, 2018 in Cleveland, OH.

As National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation it is my responsibility to conduct the Fall Board of Directors meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation held in Youngstown OH on September 17-18, 2018. As Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hold an automatic seat on the Slovak Catholic Federation Board of Directors.

On September 27-30, 2018 I participated in the 3rd quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors and the 2020 Committee meeting held in Cleveland, OH. I opened and closed all sessions with a prayer as well as participated in the discussions of the meeting.

The 4th quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors was held Dec. 1-4, 2018 in Charleston, S.C.. 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 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 pub-

lication.

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

I sincerely wish to thank my mom and my dad, may he rest in peace, 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 114th year we can be very proud of our impressive past, may we commit ourselves to assure a promising future.

ZDAR BOH!

Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, 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 2018 annual report to the Board of Directors and members for their review. Section 4.1 of the Constitution and Bylaws lists the duties, obligations and responsibilities of the office of the Supreme President.

As I begin this report please take a moment to remember and pray for all members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, our family members and friends who have died in 2018. May their souls rest in eternal peace!

2018 marked the 113th year from the founding of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and here listed for your review and approval is my report that summarizes my activities, meetings and events I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at as your President in 2018.

Since the Society's founding in 1905 its mission is still the same; provide financial security to its members through superior and market accepted insurance and annuity products and to keep the Society financially sound and solvent. This was accomplished through the leadership and guidance from our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. And, I am able to say the Slovak Catholic Sokol is financially stable and solvent.

Working with the Society's professional advisors, PNC Institutional Asset Management, CPS Actuaries, Vision Financial Group CPA's LLP and others our Supreme Secretary has been able to maintain our profitability via a healthy investment portfolio, keep the Society compliant with State Insurance Departments reporting requirements, and enhance our already existing quality customer service functions with operational improvements.

The success of our Society not only comes from the leadership and guidance of our Supreme Secretary, it also is attributed to the excellent work the Home Office staff gives to the organization, the membership and all who they work and come in contact with each

and every day. Your dedication and professionalism is deeply appreciated. I and the Supreme Assembly say "Thank You".

Even though the Slovak Catholic Sokol is in good financial shape with an investment portfolio of \$80,997,059 as of December 31, 2018, this is down from 2017. There are reasons for the decrease in the portfolio, the stock and bond market, which at the end of the 2018 was not performing like it was in 2017. Another contributing factor was the decrease in membership due to deaths, surrenders, lapses, etc. which was more than the number of new members joining the Society. The business that Assemblies, Wreaths and members wrote in 2018 was only 10% of the total business, the other 90% came from our network of professional agents that recommend and sell our products. We have to ask ourselves, what kind of year it would be if we only relied on businesses from our Assemblies, Wreaths and members.

The Supreme Assembly and I thank everyone who signed up a new member in 2018 your efforts contributed to our success. We also want to recognize and thank our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. for the work he does to keep the Society competitive and bringing in the business it needs to grow. 2019 could be a year of growth due to reports that indicate an increase in life insurance sales.

When I read other Fraternal Society publications and compare them to ours, I might be biased, but, I am very proud of the Falcon and the content of the articles printed in it. This does not happen by itself. In 2018 the Falcon went from the newspaper format to a magazine format. This change gave the Falcon a brighter and fresh look which enhanced its appeal and feel. Thank you to our editorial staff, Daniel F. Tanzone, editor and Livia Karak for the work they did to transition from the old to the new format. Also, congratulation to Daniel T. Tanzone on his retirement.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol would not be the fraternal benefit society it is if it were not for its annual events and activities that are organized by the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths. The Supreme Assembly and members Thank You for making our Society shine throughout the year.

In 2019 the Board of Directors were very active not only for doing the duties as outlined for their positions in the Constitution and Bylaws but also taking time to represent the Slovak Catholic Sokol at activities and events when called upon. Thank you for your guidance throughout 2019 and all you have contributed to the success of our great Society.

There is a lot more to report on but space is limited and I would like to use my remaining space to report on my activities.

My report summarizes all of the activities, meetings and events I attended and represented the Society as your Supreme President. As you will read in the report this was a very busy year as well as productive and exciting one.

I have detailed these activities, meeting and events in the articles I submit to the Falcon for publication for all members to read what I did to fulfill my duties as Supreme President.

First Quarter

I attended the annual meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, January 12-14, 2018 in Boardman, OH. At the meeting I extended greeting to the SFPB on behalf of the Board of Directors and participated in their discussions.

On January 19, 2018 myself and others Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme offices and member participated in the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. While at the March for Life, I, our Supreme Chaplain, Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, and Editor, Daniel F. Tanzone, represented our Society at a reception at the Library of Congress to meet Slovakia's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Peter Kmec, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the in-

dependence of the Slovak Republic.

I chaired the 1st 2018 quarterly meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors held on March 16-18, 2018 at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board of Directors I attended its 2018 Annual meeting which was held at the beginning of the quarterly Board of Directors meeting.

Second Quarter

The Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance held its annual legislative meeting, April 16-17, 2018 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Our Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. and I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at this important event. I had the opportunity to meet with the Presidents of the other Pennsylvania Fraternals to discuss legislative issues that affect all of our Societies.

The American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) held its Executive Summit April 22-25, 2018 in Arlington, Virginia. On the first day of the Summit I participated in the small society roundtable to discuss issues that can do harm to all small fraternal societies. On the second day, all fraternal leaders were split into teams to go up to Capitol Hill to talk with the members of Congress and Senators about the social benefits of Fraternal Societies.

I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at Slovak Catholic Federation's spring meeting held on April 30 - May 1, 2018, at the Sisters of SS. Cyril & Methodius Motherhouse in Danville, PA

On May 5, 2018 I participated in a Join Hands Day project with members of Group 7 Wilkes-Barre, PA.

I took part in the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship committee conference call on May 9, 2018 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 2018 scholarship.

On May 21-22, 2018 I participated in our 72nd International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling tournament held in Las Vegas, NV. The tournament was co-sponsored and combined with the Greek Catholic Union's (GCU) 82nd bowling tournament. It was my honor to award the 2018 Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sport Award to our well-known Sokol activist, Brother Chet Dziuba from Toronto, Canada.

I represented our Society at the 100th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement at the Heinz History Center on May 31, 2018 in Pittsburgh, PA. Slovakia's Ambassador to the United State, the Honorable, Peter Kmec met with the Slovak Fraternals and expressed his appreciation to us for our decades of support. It was a pleasure to inform him that our Society, The Slovak Catholic Sokol, for decades was the caretaker of this historical document.

Third Quarter

The second annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Reunion was held June 1-3, 2018 at the Rocky Gap Resort & Casino in Flintstone, MD. I represented the Supreme Assembly at the reunion and welcomed the Sokol members that attended. The rain did not stop the Sokol spirit that was brought to the reunion. This year the event, games and activities were organized by our Supreme Physical Directress Kathy S. Watkins and her assistant Katie Swift. Thank you for a fun Sokol weekend.

I chaired the 2nd Board of Directors quarterly meeting on June 30, 2018, which was done via conference call.

I attended the Slovak Catholic Sokol Clinic "Kurz" July 27-29, 2018 at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY. While at the Clinic I had the opportunity to meet with many of the Group Directors and Directresses and discussed with them the need to get more members involved about our activities. At the Clinic there were a number of new and younger group leaders, which is a positive sign for our organization. I also had the opportunity to give a short insurance seminar to

(Continued on page 10)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2018

(Continued from page 9)

help everyone understand what our fraternal benefit society, Slovak Catholic Sokol, is about and does.

On August 3-7, 2018 I, our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, and our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic were invited to attend the First Catholic Slovak Catholic Union (Jednota) 51st Convention, August 4-6, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. At the Convention we delivered Slovak Catholic Sokol greetings and best wishes for a successful convention to the Jednota delegates.

I and Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. attended the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) Annual Meeting September 4-8, 2018 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This was the AFA's last annual meeting since the Alliance has reorganized its structure and operations.

On September 28-29, 2018, I chaired the 3rd quarterly Board of Directors meeting at the Airport Marriot in Cleveland, Ohio, the site of our 33rd Quadrennial Convention. At this meeting the 2020 Committee met to discuss its progress and interview the Board of Directors.

Fourth Quarter

On Friday, November 9, 2018 I and our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. had the honor and privilege of attending a celebration for the Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year, our very active Sokolka, Ms. Edith M. Babik from Wreath 54 in Youngstown, Ohio.

Our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I represented our Society at a reception at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. to welcome the new Slovak ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Ivan Korcok on November 16, 2018.

I chaired the 4th quarterly board of Directors meeting held December 2-3, 2018 at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, S.C. This last meeting of 2018 allowed the Board to review what was accomplished in 2018 and set some of the Society's goals for 2019.

I participated in all of the 2020 Committee conference call meetings that were called for by the Committee's Chairperson.

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 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, etc. In addition to Group 7 activities, I attend Slovak Catholic Federation Wilkes-Barre Chapter and the Fraternal Societies of Northeastern Pennsylvania meetings as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Horvath

Supreme President

REPORT OF THE SUPREME VICE-PRESIDENT

The following activity report for 2018 is submitted to the Board of Directors as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 2018

From March 15th through the 18th I attended the Board of Directors Meeting held at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. On April 21st I attended the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh's Fraternalist of the Year Banquet held in Southpointe, PA.

MAY 2018

On May 9th as Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, I

participated in a conference call to help to select our 2018 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship winners. A total of 41 applications were received for the various College Scholarships with a total of 41 members from 14 groups receiving scholarships totaling \$33,500. 11 applications were received for the Abbot Jerome Koval OSB Memorial Catholic High School Grant with 12 students from 5 different groups being granted \$500 each for a total of \$4,000. Finally, 22 applications were received for the Catholic Grade School Scholarship with 17 students from 9 different groups being granted \$250 each for a total of \$4,250. A grand total of \$41,750 was granted by the Slovak Catholic Sokol for 2018.

A special thank you to PNC Bank for their gracious donation towards our Memorial Scholarship grants.

On Thursday May 17th I attended the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Seminar held at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott.

JUNE 2018

On Saturday June 30th I participated in the Board of Directors meeting that was held via Conference Call.

AUGUST 2018

I attended the International Golf Tournament which was held in West Middlesex, PA. August 10th -12th, 2018 I had an opportunity to participate in the golf tournament with numerous members of my family.

SEPTEMBER 2018

From September 28th through the 30th I attended the Board of Directors Meeting that was held at the Cleveland Airport Marriott in Cleveland, OH.

OCTOBER 2018

From October 21-23, 2018 I attended the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting as a delegate for the Slovak Catholic Sokol held at the Doubletree Hotel in Washington, PA. This allowed me the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to discuss topics of interest to the fraternal benefit system. At this meeting I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.

DECEMBER 2018

I attended the Board of Directors Meeting which was held in Charleston December 1st through the 3rd.

On Monday December 10th I participated in a phone conference as a Board of Director of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.

In 2016 I was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association 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 2018, I have enrolled 10 new members for a total of \$60,000 in insurance. 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 2018 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 113th 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.

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 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 2018 a successful year. Their dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the organization and members have been second to none. I would also like to recognize Albert J. Suess, F.I.C., for all his hard work while serving as our Director of Sales/Marketing. Through his efforts, along with our Home Office Staff, we have made great strides in our sales department.

We have undergone many changes in our Editorial Department as the Falcon has transitioned to a monthly magazine style format. We are also proud of our Monthly Newsletter that along with the Falcon, keeps our members informed of all the happenings in our Society. During the past year, we have consistently updated the hardware and software used in our Editorial Department and have made upgrades to our Sokol Website. We have also made significant inroads in the ever-changing world of social media as we look to engage all members of our Society. I would like to thank Livia Karak and Louie Smeriglio for all their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank our former Editor, Daniel F. Tanzone, for his guidance and commitment during this transition period.

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 \$6,680,420 of which \$2,194,630 was for life insurance premiums and \$4,485,790 was received as annuity premiums. The life insurance premium received was the highest amount received in our Society's history. The face amount of insurance written totaled \$14,034,048 and the total amount of insurance in force was \$234,635,697. The Society has 27,730 members with 30,411 certificates in force and 89 Assemblies/Wreaths. During the year 2018, a total of 511 new members were enrolled in our organization. Assets as of 12/31/2018 were \$85,246,510 and the Unassigned Funds total \$7,750,225. The Solvency ratio is a financially strong 111%.

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

CONCLUSION

As the Slovak Catholic Sokol begins its 114th 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. Thank you for all the love, patience, and support you have given me and for always being there to provide inspiration.

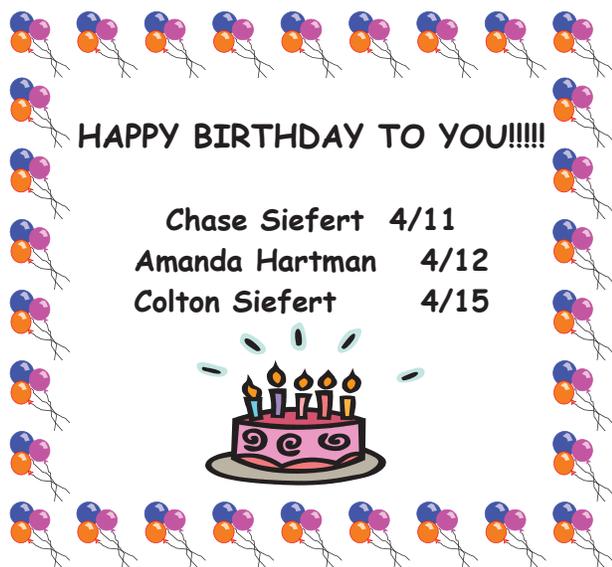
God Bless our Board of Directors and all of our Members and the Slovak Catholic Sokol! Zdar Boh!

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

(Continued in the next issue)



KIDS' CORNER "Ďetský kútik" April 2019



Materials:

- Small paper bag
- Pink and white construction paper (1-2 sheets of each color for each puppet)
- 2 pipe cleaners (your preference of color)
- Scotch tape (to hold the pipe cleaners in place)
- 1 pom pom for the nose
- Googly eyes or a marker to draw the eyes on

Directions:

1. Cut the white construction paper to fit the bag. Cut out white ears to make the outer ear.
2. Cut the pink construction paper for the inner ears, cheeks and belly. Use the template above if you need to.
3. Cover the bag in white construction paper using glue.
4. Add the white outer ears first using glue, followed by the pink inner ear.
5. Glue the pink belly in place.
6. Cut each pipe cleaner into thirds to make three whiskers on each side of the face. Tape them into place
7. Cover up the tape using the pink circles for cheeks





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

April 2019

Name: _____

Easter

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

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

BASKET BONNET BUNNY CANDY CELEBRATE CHICKS CHOCOLATE	CHURCH DAFFODIL EGGS FAMILY FOOD HOLIDAY JESUS	LAMB RESURRECTION RISEN SPRING SUNDAY TRADITIONS
--	--	---

JinxKids.com

spring crossword birds

Across

- A blue bird with a crest on its head.
- These birds are known for mimicking the sounds of other birds.
- A red bird with a crest of feathers on its head.

Down

- This bird pounds its beak into wood to find insects.
- Small birds that eat nectar.
- A bird that typically has a red breast.

Word Bank

Robin Woodpecker Bluejay Hummingbirds Mockingbirds Cardinal

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coloringpage.eu

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland**News and Views
from Slovakia...****ZUZANA CAPUTOVA WINS PRESIDENTIAL RACE IN SLOVAKIA**

Zuzana Caputova on Sunday, March 31 was officially announced as the winner of Slovakia's 2019 presidential election on 58.4 percent of the votes in Saturday's run-off against Maros Sefcovic. The official announcement was made by the State Electoral Commission at noon on Sunday.



Caputova received the votes of 1,056,582 people, while Sefcovic obtained 752,403 votes (41.6 percent).

The turnout in the run-off reached 41.79 percent, while it was 48.74 percent in the first round two weeks ago.

Caputova is due to become the first-ever female president of Slovakia, which has had four presidents since it became independent in 1993 – Michal Kovac, Rudolf Schuster, Ivan Gasparovic and Andrej Kiska. She will be appointed Slovakia's first-ever female president on June 15, 2019.

The highest regional turnout in the run-off round of Slovakia's presidential election on Saturday, March 30 was seen in the Bratislava region (54.66 percent), with Kosice region, at the opposite end of Slovakia geographically, also finding itself at the opposite end in terms of turnout on 35.33 percent, the Statistics Office announced on Sunday.

STERLING: USA NOT SEEKING PERMANENT PRESENCE OF ITS TROOPS IN SLOVAKIA

The United States is not seeking to construct a US military base in Slovakia and is not negotiating the permanent presence of US troops in Slovakia, either, US Ambassador to Slovakia Adam Sterling has stressed in a video posted on a social network in connection with the proposed Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) between Slovakia and the USA.

Sterling said that he understands the need for a discussion on such an agreement, but it must be based on facts.

"The agreement will provide a legal framework for the two countries to expand military and defence cooperation. Any final agreement would be bilateral, agreed to by both nations and approved via the democratic processes of both nations," explained Sterling, who highlighted the fact that the agreement will allow the USA to invest in Slovakia's military infrastructure, thereby supporting the security of Slovakia and of other NATO allies. "Such an investment would probably also lead to contracts for Slovak companies and good jobs for Slovak workers," stated the ambassador.

Sterling pointed to the fact that the USA has several defence

cooperation agreements or similar agreements in place around the world, including with many other NATO allies. According to him, the agreement is important both for the USA and Slovakia and can "strengthen our shared security and prosperity".

The Slovak Defence Ministry, headed by Peter Gajdos (Slovak National Party/SNS), announced last week that it would no longer participate in talks on receiving financial help as part of the DCA with the United States, claiming that the agreement would put Slovakia's sovereignty in jeopardy. According to the ministry, the offer presented by the United States failed to reflect the operational requests of the Slovak Armed Forces.

The Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry was surprised by the Defence Ministry's decision, which has also been criticised by President Andrej Kiska and several opposition and coalition MPs. Subsequently, Parliamentary Chair and SNS chair Andrej Danko claimed that no one has refused US funding to repair Slovak air bases because no funds were offered, reiterating that Slovakia's foreign policy orientation hasn't changed.

Gajdos on Thursday also claimed that the funding hadn't been rejected, adding that the negotiations on the DCA need to be completed first and that these talks are the task of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. He also claimed that the Foreign Affairs Ministry hasn't accepted his ministry's comments, and so the latter won't take part in the talks until its remarks are taken into account.



Blessing of the Easter food baskets on Holy Saturday or Easter morning is a tradition among Roman, Byzantine Catholics and Orthodox Christians in Slovakia. Since Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians fast during Lent, not one morsel of this blessed food is eaten until after Mass on Easter Sunday when it becomes the traditional Easter breakfast. The basket usually contains butter, bread, kraslice(decorated eggs), sausage, ham and/or lamb, smoked meats, cheese, salt, and cake. A candle is placed in the basket so it can be lit during the blessing, and some families tie a bow or ribbon around the basket handle. Everything is covered with a richly embroidered cloth that rests atop the food. It symbolizes Christ's burial shroud. It's usually made of linen and is embroidered with religious symbols related to the Resurrection and the celebration of Easter. These basket covers are passed down from generation to generation.

*Selected stories are provided by TASR
– the Slovak Republic's official News Agency.*



Our organization hosted the semi-annual meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation(SCF) on April 2 in the board room of our home office in Passaic, N.J. Directors are shown on the above photo. Founded in 1911 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. by the Rev. Joseph Murgas, the Slovak Catholic Federation was established to promote and coordinate religious activities of Slovak Catholic fraternals and religious communities in their effort to address themselves to the pastoral needs of American and Canadian Catholics of Slovak ancestry. Shown seated, from the left, are: Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Rev. Thomas Nasta, SCF national first vice president; our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic who serves as the national president of the SCF; Dolores M. Evanko, SCF national secretary-treasurer; Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Derzack, SCF national chaplain and Loretta Ekoniak, president of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley, a director from Younstown, Oh.



Officers of the Slovak Catholic Federation,(SCF) which hosted its board of directors meeting on April 2 at our home office, pose in front of the painting of General Milan R. Stefanik, whose centennial of death will be observed in May. Shown on the photo are from the left, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Rev. Thomas Nasta, national first vice president of the SCF and national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union; our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, who serves as national president of the SCF; Dolores M. Evanko, national secretary-treasurer of the SCF and Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. The painting of General Stefanik is the work of our late Supreme President Paul C. Fallat who was an accomplished artist. The painting has graced our board room since 1955.

GROUP 7 UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Group 7 officers meeting at North End Slovak Citizens Club in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. All members and officers are welcome to attend.

On **Saturday, May 4th**, the group will hold a fundraiser at Wise Crackers Comedy club at Mohegan Sun Pocono. Show starts at 9:00 p.m., \$20 per person, basket raffle will be held after the show. If any member wishes to donate a basket for the comedy club raffle, the group will accept donations before and after the April 25 meeting. Raffle chances will be available for sale starting Saturday, April 27 until Saturday, May 4 at the North End Slovak Citizens Club in Wilkes-Barre. Baskets will be chanced off at the end of the Comedy club and winners will be contacted. Tickets can be purchased by contacting any of the group officers.

Please contact any group officers for the upcoming events or visit our Facebook page "Group 7 Slovak Catholic Sokol". Or contact Amy Blasco at 570-574-0136.



MARCH 24 – Mass for living and deceased members of Group 7 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church. Members who attended mass gathered for lunch at River Street Grill in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Members shown, include from the left, Tony Rasimas, Audrey Graham, Nancy Fedor, Father Richard Cirba, Frank Lipski, Kelly Palchanis. Back row, l-r. Sue Horvath, Irene Kaschak, Kim Graham, Dawn Palchanis, Pam Lipski, Heather Horvath, Amy Degnan Blasco.

S.C.S Museum Donations for January – March 2019

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations received during January through March 2019 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.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

IN MEMORY OF	DONATED BY
All Faithfully Departed Members	Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors

Total donations \$200

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

2019 Fraternalist of the Year Program celebrates volunteerism and outreach

Life insurance and annuity benefits are offered by both commercial insurance companies and fraternal benefit societies. Both commercial and fraternal entities provide financial protection. A fraternal, such as ours, provides much more than financial security. Fraternals provide an important extra benefit not found in commercial suppliers - that of service and outreach to the community. Fraternals have been doing that for more than a 150 years.

The first American fraternals were founded at the time of the Civil War. Since then Fraternals and their members have supported and sustained countless churches, educational and cultural institutions. Fraternals from their earliest years have made a difference in the lives of countless individuals in communities across the United States and Canada. For generations, fraternalists have been movers and shakers in their communities who champion many noble causes. They beautifully mirror the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system. Since 1905, members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol have been among them.

Since 1985, our organization has taken the time to salute an individual member who champions a spirit of caring and sharing by honoring them with our Fraternalist of the Year designation. Each year we ask our members to recommend an individual member who in their eyes reflects the vibrant spirit of Sokol fraternalism and outreach at its best. Such individuals serve as role models and mentors. They often do so quietly and without much acclaim. Well, now is the opportunity for an Assembly, Wreath, Group or individual member to take the time and nominate an individual member for recognition as our 2019 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. So at your next lodge or Group gathering selecting a candidate for our Fraternalist of the Year program should be on the meeting agenda.

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 fraternalism 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 tel 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 Monday, July 8, 2019.

STUDENT COLLEGE LOAN SEMINAR

- Are you looking to start college and need a student loan?
- Are you looking into student loans?
- Are you looking to consolidate your student loans for repayment?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2019 – 6:00 PM

Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church
401 E. Main Street, Miners Mills, PA

Presentation by Tony E. Connell, V.P., Citizens Bank

Topic – Student College Loans

Sponsored by the Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania

Reservations are required. RSVP by July 10, 2019

Call Charlotte L. Androckitis at 570-814-1611
or e-mail to clafkl@aol.com

41st SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 41st year raising funds to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry.

As of March 31, \$12,701 has been received from 108 donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



41ST ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS APPEAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Memory of _____ Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to: Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, Sacred Heart Church, 120 Jefferson St., Swedesburg, PA 19405

SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP FOR SLOVAK STUDY

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) and the Stephanie Husek Scholarship Fund are offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia from June 30-July 19, 2019. The \$3,000 grant covers transportation, tuition, room and board. The applicant must be a full time college student, of Slovak heritage who must not have previously attended the program. For information contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or tel (412)956-6000.

THE SOKOL WIN - WIN LEAD PROGRAM BENEFITING MEMBERS

Program Runs - August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019

The Slovak Catholic Sokol for over 113 years has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. The Society is introducing a program that will benefit our existing and potential members.

As a proud existing member of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. Not everyone is born a salesman or comfortable selling life insurance or annuities. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future.

THE PROCESS

Share with a relative or a friend the qualities of membership with the SOKOL. Our fraternal programs, benefits and financial products (life insurance & Annuities).

Complete and submit the MEMBERSHIP REFERRAL CARD to the Sales Office.

An Authorized SOKOL Agent will contact and provide professional advice to place the individual into the right solution.

If your referral purchases a SOKOL Life Insurance or Annuity you earn \$10.00. In addition, for every qualified referral, your name is entered in the \$50 gift card semi-annual drawing and the end of campaign's grand prize of \$250.

AVAILABILITY

A supply of SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards will be available to all Assembly/Wreath Presidents for distribution.

Assembly/Wreath Presidents and other Assembly/Wreath Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member.

Making it easy - SOKOL WIN - WIN Lead Cards are available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Mail completed Referral Lead Cards to the Sales & Marketing Office.

The Assembly/Wreath that has the largest number of new Members referred through this program will be awarded \$500 and will receive recognition in the FALCON, on the SOKOL website and the 2019 National Convention.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL - Member Referral Card

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Email: _____

Gender: Male Female Age: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Interest:
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance
<input type="checkbox"/> Annuity

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION Assembly/Wreath: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

EVERYONE WHO WINS!

The New Member
(Financial Protection & Fraternal Benefits)

The Recommender
(\$10 - \$50 - \$250)

The Assembly/Wreath-
(\$500)

New Members + New Sales = Fiscal Strength

Slovak Catholic SOKOL
Sales & Marketing
2403 Sidney Street
Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
855-874-9179

sales@slovakcatholicsokol.org
www.slovakcatholicsokol.org



OBITUARIES

Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop-emeritus of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese laid to rest

The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, retired Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa. passed away unexpectedly on March 20. He was 83 years old.

Bishop Joseph was a long-time member of the Slovak Catholic and served for many years as our organization's Episcopal Moderator. He was a regular contributor to our publication over the years. He



was active in the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation where he served as national president and Episcopal Moderator.

A native of Bannister, Mich., he was born there August 13, 1935, son of the late Michael and Alzbeta(Orchran) Adamec, both immigrants from western Slovakia. He attended Michigan State University and studied for the priesthood at the Pontifical Nepomucene College in Rome. He was ordained a priest on July 3, 1960. The following year, he completed studies and was

awarded a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Lateran University.

Bishop Joseph was ordained for the Diocese of Nitra, Slovakia - the native diocese of his parents. The severe political situation in Czechoslovakia at the time prevented him from fulfilling his desire to serve the Church in the land of his family. Instead, he returned to the United States and began his ministry in his home diocese of Saginaw, Mich.

In Saginaw, Bishop Joseph held a number of diocesan positions including chancellor and secretary to the bishop. He also served as pastor of parishes in Bay City and Saginaw. In 1985, Pope St. John Paul II named him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor.

On March 17, 1987, Pope St. John Paul II named Msgr. Adamec the Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa. He was ordained to the episcopacy and installed as the seventh Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown on May 20, 1987. Jozef Cardinal Tomko, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples was the principal consecrator and installing prelate.

Bishop Joseph served as ordinary of the diocese until his retirement on Jan.14, 2011. He was the longest serving Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown. Since retirement, he resided in Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Bishop Joseph was active in the work of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops serving on a number of committees including that of the Aid for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe which greatly assisted in the rebuilding of the Church in Slovakia and Eastern Europe following the fall of communism there. He took an active interest in the work of the American Slovak community, especially in the Slovak Catholic Federation where he was president and served as long-time episcopal moderator. He was a founder of the Conference of Slovak Clergy and was active in our Slovak fraternals. He participated in many Slovak Catholic Sokol conventions, jubilees and other activities. He continued a close collaboration with the Bishops of Slovakia and visited there on numerous occasions.

A viewing took place on March 25 at the Cathedral of the Blessed

Sacrament in Altoona. The funeral liturgy was celebrated in the cathedral on March 26 with Cardinal Justin F. Rigali, Archbishop-emeritus of Philadelphia as principal celebrant. Also present and concelebrating was the Most Rev. Mark L. Barchak, current Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown as well as other bishops and priests. Interment followed in the crypt of the cathedral.

Supreme President Michael J. Horvath headed the delegation of members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol which took part in the funeral rites of Bishop Adamec.

Bishop Joseph was a devoted servant of the Lord who throughout his priestly and episcopal ministry beautifully mirrored our Cyrillo-Methodian heritage of faith. He will be sorely missed. May he enjoy the beatific vision.

Dr. William S. Lesko, dedicated philanthropist and Catholic gentleman, laid to rest at age 82

Dr. William S. Lesko of Franklin Lakes, N.J. and Twin Rivers Farm in Arlington, Vt. passed away peacefully on March 2 at the age of 82.

A native of Passaic, N.J., he was born there January 16, 1937, son of the late Dr. Stephen Lesko and the former Cecil Simpson. His father too was a physician. He was raised in Wallington, N.J. The Lesko family were among the pioneer Slovak immigrants in the area who hailed from what is today eastern Slovakia.

Bill or "Doc" as he would come to be known to his family, close friends and adoring patients, graduated from East Rutherford High School in 1954 where he was a top student and all-state football and baseball player. He received his undergraduate degree from Fordham University in 1958, and following his own father's journey with medicine, went on to the Seton Hall School of Medicine. While in medical school, he married his high school sweetheart, love of his life and partner in all, Joan(Capizzano) Lesko.

While completing his medical training in Ophthalmology, he served in the U.S. Army Reserves. He and Joan began their family, which would ultimately include five children.

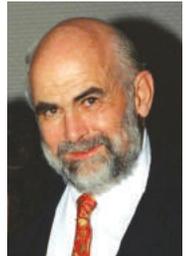
In 1968, Dr. Lesko founded North Jersey Eye Associates(NJEA) in Clifton, N.J., where he practiced full time until immediately prior to his illness. NJEA became a bastion of the large surrounding medical community. Dr. Lesko, was recognized as a renowned surgeon and teacher, with a long list of innovations to his credit. He served as President of the medical staffs at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, N.J. and the New Jersey Academy of Ophthalmology. He remained committed to the community of Wallington, providing physicals at no cost to the Wallington School System.

Dr. Lesko was an accomplished outdoorsman and enthusiast. He was a coach to local sports teams, a fly fisherman and enjoyed travel with his family. His passion for fishing took him with a cherished group of friends to remote salmon rivers of northern Russia. The waters of Cancun were also a favorite destination and one where he accomplished the rare Super Grand Slam of saltwater fly fishing.

In his later years, Dr. Lesko became an avid beekeeper and conservationist. He was a benefactor of the Battten Kill Watershed Alliance, a member of Trout Unlimited and served as a trustee of The Windbeam Club.

Dr. Lesko was a coach at heart in every aspect of his life. Whether it was young athletes, young doctors or novice fishermen, he was there to teach. Sports and competition were a lifelong passion for him. He coached Franklin Lakes recreational football and baseball teams

(Continued on page 19)



In Memoriam

JANUARY 2019

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	George J. Mihelik, Bridgeport, CT	89	December 31, 2018
Assembly 11	Anna B. Vavra, Chicago, IL	89	December 27, 2018
Assembly 11	John Peter Remijas, Chicago, IL	57	November 23, 2018
Assembly 23	Robert E. Gorman, Torrington, CT	64	November 21, 2018
Assembly 24	Anthony Kromka, Boonton, NJ	85	November 27, 2018
Assembly 24	Virginia A. Woolston, Boonton, NJ	98	December 13, 2018
Assembly 25	Gary L. Hamilton, Perryopolis, PA	66	December 14, 2018
Assembly 59	John Michael Yench, Wilkes-Barre, PA	86	October 23, 2018
Assembly 59	Elizabeth Ungvarsky, Wilkes-Barre, PA	79	January 1, 2019
Assembly 59	Judith Banas, Wilkes-Barre, PA	59	January 8, 2019
Assembly 59	Andrew Swider, Wilkes-Barre, PA	86	January 8, 2019
Assembly 64	Dr. Ronald Duska, Erie, PA	81	October 25, 2018
Assembly 69	Margaret Zavatchen, Smock, PA	83	February 5, 2017
Assembly 69	Josephine Kopachko, Smock, PA	86	January 5, 2019
Assembly 71	Margaret Coach, Edwardsville, PA	91	December 19, 2018
Assembly 71	Michael C. Walko, Edwardsville, PA	70	January 6, 2019
Assembly 78	Joseph J. Kundek, Bethlehem, PA	99	January 12, 2019
Assembly 78	Bernadine Tarola, Bethlehem, PA	89	December 21, 2018
Assembly 86	Mary E. Rabicki, Port Griffith, PA	93	December 21, 2018
Assembly 86	Margaret Lapusnak, Port Griffith, PA	93	December 29, 2018
Assembly 86	Marian B. Vaxmonsky, Port Griffith, PA	94	November 29, 2018
Assembly 86	George W. Hizny, Port Griffith, PA	94	November 12, 2018
Assembly 113	Joseph Nasticky, Kenosha, WI	88	January 3, 2019
Assembly 162	Janet Eliezer, Clifton, NJ	68	May 21, 2009
Assembly 167	Frederick F. Jursik, Barberton, OH	89	September 9, 2013
Assembly 180	William V. Machuga, Canton, OH	94	January 21, 2019
Assembly 255	Anna Marakovits, Egypt, PA	90	December 22, 2018
Assembly 312	Mike Romako, Passaic, NJ	79	August 7, 2018
Wreath 2	Palma Frankowski, Passaic, NJ	69	December 27, 2018
Wreath 14	Stephen F. Ondick, Johnstown, PA	77	January 8, 2019
Wreath 15	Geraldine Sabol, Perryopolis, PA	81	December 28, 2018
Wreath 29	Margaret Falvo, Farrell, PA	97	December 30, 2018
Wreath 34	Ann Sabol, Cleveland, OH	97	December 14, 2018
Wreath 34	Michael W. Cervenak, Cleveland, OH	89	October 21, 2018
Wreath 69	Dorothy Rolling, Niagara Falls, NY	80	January 9, 2018
Wreath 81	Mary Ann Bara, Whiting, IN	71	November 30, 2018
Wreath 85	George Mountain, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	80	December 23, 2018
Wreath 93	Michael C. Kolb, Milwaukee, WI	63	November 23, 2018
Wreath 93	Alice T. Dyszelski, Milwaukee, WI	92	November 22, 2018
Wreath 147	Geraldine M. Gulla, Larksville, PA	81	December 28, 2018
Wreath 153	Wanda Rudziewski, Parma, OH	81	November 29, 2018

Dr. William S. Lesko

(Continued from page 18)

for over twenty years, lectured medical students on advances in Ophthalmology and mentored beekeepers as a member of the Vermont Beekeepers Association.

He was a long-time member of the oldest lodge of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Assembly 1 in Passaic, N.J. The Lesko family has been active in our organization for generations. In 2009, Dr. Lesko established the Doctors Lesko Medical Memorial College Scholarship fund which provides an annual grant to deserving members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol who are pursuing medical studies.

In addition to being the beloved husband to Joan for 59 years, Dr. Lesko is survived by his children, William, Jr., Dr. Cecily (Mark Murphy), Greg (Kelly), Glenn (Christine), and Tim (Stephenie) and grandchildren, Graham, Mathew, Emma, Charlie, Will, Alexandra, and Elise. He is also survived by a brother, Steven (Karin) and many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings Joan, Anne and Daniel.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their respects to Dr. Lesko at the Vander Plaat-Mermeulen Memorial Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on March 14 at the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Franklin Lakes, N.J. Entombment followed at Mary Rest Cemetery.

Dr. Lesko was a dedicated professional, philanthropist and community activist. He beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. He was a credit to the Slovak community and will be sorely missed. May he rest in peace.



Dr. William S. Lesko was a life-long philanthropist and Catholic gentleman. He is shown above with His Eminence, Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.S.S.R, the Archbishop of Newark, N.J. during a reception in April 2018 inaugurating the new medical school associated with his alma mater, Seton Hall University on the campus of Hoffman LaRouche in Clifton, N.J.

Centennial of the death of the Slovak Patriot General Milan R. Stefanik, 1880-1919

On May 4 we will observe the 100th anniversary of the death of one of the most important Slovak personalities, General Milan Rastislav Stefanik. General Stefanik was one of the principal founders of the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia in 1918 along with Thomas G. Masaryk and Eduard Benes. His death on May 4, 1919 at the young age of 39 concluded a very extraordinary life whose efforts led to the liberation of the Slovaks and Czechs.

Milan R. Stefanik was born on July 21, 1880 in the western Slovak village of Kosariska. He was the son of the local Lutheran pastor. From an early age, he strove to lift his Slovak fatherland up from the social, economic, and cultural oppression of the Magyar rule of Budapest. He enjoyed a great thirst for knowledge. Since he considered science to be fundamental, he registered at the Polytechnical School in Prague. He wavered between this school and the School of Philosophy at Charles University where courses on Astronomy were offered. During the summer semester of 1902 he studied Astronomy in Zurich, Switzerland. A year later, he visited Italy for the first time to visit astronomical observatories there. In November 1904,



he went to France. In 1905, he began his career at the scientific observatory in Meudon. Astronomical research took him to many parts of the world including Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Morocco, the United States as well as other exotic climes. He soon gained an international reputation in astronomy.

He became a naturalized French citizen in 1912. Following the outbreak of World War I, he volunteered for military service, in the French Air Force, which was still in its infancy. His efforts and abilities soon attracted the attention of the French high command, and was elevated to the rank of brigadier general. In 1915, he organized the Czechoslovak Legion made up of almost 100,000 young Czechs and Slovaks who fought on the allied side. They refused to fight on behalf of Austria-Hungary. They fought on the French, Italian and Russian fronts.

During these years however, Stefanik never forgot his desire to help liberate his homeland from Hapsburg rule. In December 1915, he began collaborating with Thomas G. Masaryk and Eduard Benes with the idea of liberating the Slovaks and Czechs. General Stefanik proved invaluable with his many political and cultural connections in Paris and in Italy. The cause soon enjoyed great support. In 1917, he traveled to the United States where he was welcomed by the strong movement promoting Slovak and Czech liberation most notably by Slovak and Czech organizations united in the Slovak League of America and the Czech National Alliance. He met with Slovak Catholic priests to assure them of the place of the Church in the newly proposed Czecho-Slovak Republic. From New York, he traveled to Washington, D.C. where he received the strong support of the administration of President Woodrow Wilson and his Fourteen Points program.

The long sought dream of the liberation of Stefanik's fatherland finally was realized on October 28, 1918 when the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia was proclaimed. The original spelling of the new republic with the hyphen reflected the duality of the new Republic. The hyphen disappeared in 1923.

Sadly in the final months of 1918, Masaryk and Benes issued

documents of fundamental importance to the future arrangement of the Czecho-Slovak state, affixing Stefanik's signature without consulting him first. The two then ascribed to themselves all the key offices of the government excluding Stefanik. He was nominated as Minister of War even though the war was over. A new Ministry of National Defense was set up, however Stefanik was not named its head. Such actions certainly indicated the intentions of Masaryk and Benes regarding Stefanik.

The early months of 1919 found Stefanik still in Italy. Finally, he looked forward to a triumphful welcome in his liberated Slovak homeland. Thus at 8:07 a.m. on May 4, 1919, he departed in his "Caproni" a single engine aircraft from Campoformido Airport (Udine) outside Padua. It is said that he indicated that he chose to fly to Bratislava rather than travel by rail "in order not to touch Austrian soil." Approaching Bratislava at 11:30 a.m., on landing, the plane crashed to earth, ablaze. Stefanik and his Italian flight companions were found dead near the airport wreckage. This tragedy ended a very extraordinary life. The unexpected death left Slovaks world-over dismayed. He was a major author of the liberation of Czechs and Slovaks. Interesting enough, the Prague government immediately began bestowing high honors on the Slovak hero. The Prague government even promoted a Stefanik Cult and even went as far as creating the glory of a legend around this deceased individual. All this to promote the ideology, already official, of the "Czechoslovak Nation."

While Stefanik never lived to set foot in a free and independent Czechoslovakia, for the past century he has inspired generations of Slovaks and those of Slovak origin, to promote his legacy during both trying and jubilant years including: Slovak autonomy in 1938; the war-time Slovak Republic, 1939-45; a return to a centralized Czechoslovakia, 1946-48; the advent of 41 years of Communism, 1948-1989; a free and democratic Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, 1989-1992 and finally a free and democratic Slovak Republic which celebrated its 26th anniversary on January 1, 2019.

We celebrate the legacy of General Milan R. Stefanik's greatness on the centennial of his death. May we continue to be inspired by his dedication to freedom and democracy.

The American Slovak community has many monuments to General Stefanik in various parts of the United States. In the board room of our Slovak Catholic Sokol headquarters building a beautiful portrait of this hero graces its walls. It is the work of the late Paul C. Fallat, a noted local artist, who served as Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol from 1955 until his death in 1973.

Dear friends,

On May 4th, 2019, the Slovak Republic will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the tragic plane crash of the brigadier general Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik, and 140 years since his birth (on July 21st, 2020). The Slovak government declared the year 2019 the Year of Milan Rastislav Štefánik. In collaboration with renowned Slovak institutions, we have prepared the exhibition entitled "**Brigadier general Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik (1880 – 1919) - scientist, diplomat, politician and military leader in pictures**" as a tribute to his life and achievements. This exhibition will be displayed at Rutherford Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada from March 5th to March 29th, 2019. Opening reception will be on Thursday, March 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Rutherford Library Atrium. – **Peter Ondrus, MD, PhD**

TRADITIONS OF A SLOVAK EASTER

Easter is the most significant Christian holiday. Because it is a moveable holiday, its date changes every year. In Slovakia they celebrate Easter for five days – from Thursday until Monday. Every day has its name and importance: Holy Thursday (Green Thursday); Good Friday (Great Friday); Holy Saturday (White Saturday); Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

As any other Slovak holiday, Easter is also connected with the specific dishes, drinks, habits and superstitions. Preparations for the biggest day of the year starts on Green Thursday. Ladies in the house are busy cooking and baking all types of the Easter goodies. The foods most typical for the Easter are Paska bread, egg cheese – Hrudka, smoked pork ham (of lamb), bacon and sausages, hard boiled eggs and various pastries. Same dishes have different names based on the region.



On White Saturday, housewives take a sample of everything they have prepared, put it in the basket and they go to church to get their food blessed. Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets on Holy Saturday or Easter morning is a tradition among Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian Central and Eastern European nations. Food from the basket can't be eaten until the Easter Monday and it traditionally becomes Easter breakfast for the family. Typical basket should include Paska bread, egg cheese – Hrudka, smoked pork ham (of lamb), bacon and sausages, butter, hard boiled eggs, various pastries bottle of wine, bit of salt and candle that gets lightened up during the blessing process.

EASTER DECORATIONS

The most important Easter decoration is Kraslica – an egg-shell with two small holes on the two sides of it. The egg inside is blown out of the shell. The techniques for decorating the eggs are different: the ornament is drawn with melted wax, the egg is then painted, the wax melts and then on the color background there is a white ornament left.



There are two more flowers, rather bushes, and one tree associated with our Easter decorations and Easter itself. The bushes are called "zlatý dažď" (golden rain) and "bahniatka." People collect the branches and put them in the water. Then they hang their kraslice and other decorations on them. The tree associated with Easter is the willow. Men use willow branches to make "korbáč." They use it on Easter Monday to whip single girls.



EASTER MONDAY

"Oblievačka" (water pouring) is a typical Easter Monday custom in Slovakia. The character of oblievačka slightly varies from region to region. On this day men visit their female relatives and friends and pour water on them or spray them with perfume, and whip them gently with special whips made of braided willow rods. According to tradition, pouring water on women will guarantee their beauty and good health throughout the year. Recently oblievačka and sibačka (whipping) have not been as intense as they used to be in the past decades. In many regions, water buckets have been replaced with perfumes, a small syringe filled with water, a water cup, or a water pistol. However, in some villages you may still see young men, sometimes riding on the horses or dressed in traditional folk costumes, who come with rattles and braided whips decorated with colorful ribbons. They may take females out of the houses and douse them with a bucket or buckets filled with cold water. After oblievačka and sibačka, women reward men with sweets, fruit, money, or painted Easter eggs - kraslice.



SLOVAK EASTER BREAD OR PASKA

2 cups milk, 1/2 cup sugar, 2 teaspoons salt, 12 ounces butter (3 sticks), 3 (1/4-ounce) packages active dry yeast, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 cup warm water (no hotter than 110 F), 3 large eggs (room-temperature), 8 cups all-purpose flour (divided). 1 cup milk (or 1 beaten egg yolk, to wash the dough)

Grease three (7x3-inch) round bread pans and set aside. In a small saucepan, heat 2 cups milk, 1/2 cup sugar, salt, and butter over low heat until butter melts and sugar dissolves. Cool to lukewarm (no hotter than 110 F) and set aside. Dissolve yeast and 1 tablespoon sugar in warm water placed in a mixing bowl or stand mixer bowl that has been warmed. Let proof for 5 minutes. Add eggs, reserved milk mixture, and 4 1/2 cups of the flour. With the dough hook attachment, mix on speed 2 for 1 minute. Continue mixing on speed 2, and add remaining flour 1/2 cup at a time and mix about 2 minutes or until dough clings to hook and cleans sides of the bowl. Continue mixing 2 minutes longer or until dough is smooth and elastic. It will be sticky to the touch. Place dough in greased bowl, turning to grease top. Cover and let rise in warm place about 1 to 2 hours or until doubled. Punch down dough and divide into thirds, reserving a small piece of dough from each to make decorations. Shape each third piece of dough into a round loaf in the prepared pans. Using reserved dough, decorate with a cross in center or braids around the edge. Cover and let rise in warm place 1 to 2 hours or until doubled. Heat oven to 350 F. Gently brush tops of risen dough with milk or beaten egg yolk. Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans immediately and cool on wire rack.



Zvyky a tradície Veľkej noci na Slovensku

Kresťanské sviatky Veľkej noci majú pôvod v židovskom sviatku pásah, a sú tiež spojené s pohanskými rituálmi víťania jari a zabezpečenia hojnosti úrody. Keďže ide o pohyblivý sviatok, každý rok mu prislúcha iný dátum. Slávi sa vždy v prvú nedeľu po prvom splne mesiaca od jarnej rovnodennosti. Termín preto môže padnúť na obdobie od druhej polovice marca až do konca apríla.

Ako prvá prichádza Popolcová streda, ktorou sa začína štyridsaťdňový pôst končiaci Bielou sobotou. Táto očista tela aj duše mala symbolizovať pôstne obdobie Ježiša Krista na púšti. Pre našich predkov to znamenalo, že jedli iba jedno jedlo denne a museli sa vyvarovať mäsu, rybám, mlieku a vajciam.

Prípravy vrcholila v tzv. Veľkom alebo Svätom týždni, ktorý sa začína Kvetnou nedeľou, pokračuje Modrým pondelkom, Sivým utorkom, Škaredou stredou, Zeleným štvrtkom, Veľkým piatkom, Bielou sobotou, Veľkonočnou nedeľou a končí Veľkonočným pondelkom. V tomto období si kresťania pripomínajú posledný týždeň Ježišova života na zemi. Počas tohto týždňa prebiehajú všetky najdôležitejšie zvyky a tradície.

Na zelený štvrtok sa naši predkovia umývali rannou rosou ešte pred východom slnka, aby boli po celý rok zdraví. Tento deň symbolizuje pre kresťanov predovšetkým poslednú večeru s Ježišom Kristom. Dobytok sa po prvýkrát vyhánal na pašu, na stajnu sa robili cesnakové kríže aby chránili dobytok pred strigami a zlých duchov vyhánali tradičné rapkáče a biče.

Na Veľký piatok sa ľudia kúpali po krk ponorení v potoku, aby nemali vedy, chrasty, lišaje a boli po celý rok zdraví. Ženy verili, že po umytí bude ich pleť očarujúco krásna a jemná, ba dokonca, že im vlasy budú rýchlejšie rásť. Bolo zakázané siať a orať, dokonca nikto nesmel nič robiť na záhrade. Tento deň je v kresťanstve symbolom ukrižovania Ježiša Krista.

Na Bielu sobotu je dôležité mať doma poriadok a končiť s prípravami na hodovanie. V tento deň sa pripravovali obradné jedlá predovšetkým z mäsa a pálili sa tzv. judáše. Spalovaním ohňa zo starého roka sa zbavovali všetkého zlého a zakladal sa v domácnosti nový oheň.

Veľkonočná nedeľa je dňom hojnosti, radosti, veselia a osláv, ktoré pramenia z Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania. Tento deň ukončuje dlhé obdobie pôstu. Po omši sa dávajú posvätiť tzv. košíky hojnosti, ktoré obsahovali všetky pripravené pokrmy. Tradovalo sa, že tomu, kto sa prvý vráti z omše domov, ako prvému dozrie úroda na poli. Stôl hojnosti pripomínal štedrovečerný stôl. Ak ste si mysleli, že naši predkovia zvyšky z posvätných jedál (škrupiny z vajec, kosti) vyhadzovali, ste na veľkom omyle. Zakopávali ich na poli, primiešali do poravy zvieratám alebo spálili v peci.

Veľkonočný pondelok je časom zábavy, kúpačky alebo šibačky. Voda je oddávna symbolom zdravia, krásy a mladosti. Typickým zvykom pre tieto sviatky je na západe populárne šibanie a na východe poriadna oblievačka. Šibačka korbáčom z ôsmich, dvanástich alebo až dvadsiatich štyroch spletených čerstvo narezaných prútov vrby je pokračovaním starej tradície roľníckych rodín. Bitie zeleným prútkom malo zabezpečiť znovuoživenie sily, rast, hojnosť, a hlavne zdravie.

VEĽKONOČNÝ MAZANEC

PRÍSADY: 400 g hladká múka, 100 g polohrubá múka, 100 g krupicový cukor, 1 kocka čerstvé droždie, 150 g rozpustené maslo, 3 ks žltok, 1 PL citrónová kôra, 1 balíček vanilkový cukor, 200 ml vlažné mlieko, štipka soli, mandľové lupienky na dekoráciu, 1 ks žltok na potretie



POSTUP: Do hrnčeka si nalejeme polovicu vlažného mlieka, pridáme rozmrvené droždie a lyžicu cukru. Kvások necháme pracovať a medzitým si v miske zmiešame múky, zvyšný cukor, rozpustené maslo, žltky, citrónovú kôru, zvyšné mlieko a štipku soli. Nakoniec vmiešame vykysnutý kvások a rukami vypracujeme cesto, ktoré prikryjeme utierkou a necháme kysnúť asi hodinu. Cesto vyberieme na pracovnú dosku a rúru zapneme na 220°C (430 F). Cesto premiestnime na plech vystlaný papierom na pečenie, opäť ho necháme trochu vykysnúť. Nakoniec ho potrieme žltkom, posypeme mandľovými lupienkami a vložíme piecť do rúry. Po 10 minútach pečenia teplotu znížime na 170°C (340 F) a pečieme ďalších 20 minút.

BARÁNOK

PRÍSADY: 500 g hladká múka, 3 dcl mlieko, 150 g maslo, 1 žltok, 100 g kandizovaný pomaranč, 4 ks vajcia, 120 g cukor, 25 g droždie, štipka soli

POSTUP: Formu na pečenie baránka dobre vymastíme a vysypeme múkou. Bileka vyšľaháme s vanilkovým a práškovým cukrom a prišľaháme žltka. Pridáme múku zmiešanú s kypriacim práškom a zľahka premiešame. Cesto vylejeme do pripravenej formy, zakryjeme s druhou časťou a upečieme.

Po upečení baránka vyklopíme a na mriežke ho necháme vychladnúť. Keď je vychladený, posypeme ho práškovým cukrom.



*Prajeme Vám
požehnané a veselé
veľkonočné sviatky*



26. SLOVENSKÝ PLES V GARFIELD, NJ

Zladiť všetko tak, aby ples dokonale odzrkadľoval tému "Pod hladinou mora" je dozaista výzva. Organizátori 26. Slovenského plesu ju však zvládli výborne. Členovia Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska (S-AKS) dlhé hodiny pripravovali každý detail. Viac ako 420 účastníkov, ktorí 23. februára vstúpili do Royal Manor v Garfield, New Jersey, privítala bohatá výzdoba. Atmosféru počas recepcie dotvárala Erin Hill, uznávaná harfistka, ktorá vystupovala s hviezdami ako Enya či Cyndy Lauper. Svojimi tónmi doprevádzala aj fotenie sa na červenom koberci, ktorý samozrejme nesmel chýbať. S logom Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v pozadí sa na okamih každý stal žiarivou hviezdou večera.

Po recepcii sa hostia presunuli do elegantne pripravenej sály, kde mali možnosť sledovať profesionálnych tanečníkov Vanesu Falisovú (narodenú v Humennom) a jej partnera Yúsifa Amsatra. Prítomných privítali moderátori Sabina Sabadoš, predsedníčka S-AKS a predsedníčka plesového výboru a Peter Krajniak, tajomník S-AKS. V úvode predstavili hostí - stáleho predstaviteľa SR pri OSN veľvyslanca Michala Mlynára s manželkou Dr. Andreou Mlynárovou, Miroslava Jenča, zástupcu OSN pre politické otázky, generálnu konzulku Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku Ladislavu Begeč, generálneho konzula Českej republiky v New Yorku Miroslava Rameša, konzula a zástupcu Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku Mateja Saloňa, konzula Českej republiky v New Yorku Karla Smékala s manželkou.

Počas večera hrala hudobná skupina Express pod vedením Mareka Šoltísa. Úspešné vystúpenie mal aj spevák zo Slovenska Pavol Hammel.

Nechýbala ani tombola s hodnotnými výhrami a lahodné dezerty či typické bryndzové halušky, pirohy a pečené prasiatko.

Slováci a americkí Slováci opäť ukázali, ako dobre a radi sa bavia. Všetci sa už nepochybne tešia budúročného plesu, lebo skúsenosti z predošlých rokov dokazujú, že sa je na čo tešiť!

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko vás už teraz srdečne pozýva na ďalší ročník Slovenského plesu, ktorý sa uskutoční v sobotu 22. februára 2020.

Zoznam sponzorov plesu a fotografie nájdete na webovej stránke: SlovakAmericanCC.org - Sabina Sabadoš



Sediaci zľava: stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN veľvyslanec Michal Mlynár a zástupca OSN pre politické otázky Miroslav Jenča. Stojáci: Dr. Andrea Mlynárová, predsedníčka S-AKS Sabina Sabadoš, generálna konzulka SR v NY Ladislava Begeč, generálny konzul ČR v New Yorku Miroslav Rameš, konzul ČR v New Yorku Karel Smékal s manželkou.

ZUZANA ČAPUTOVÁ BUDE PRVOU SLOVENSKOU PREZIDENTKOU

Oficiálnou víťazkou druhého kola prezidentských volieb, ktoré sa konali v SR 30. marca, je Zuzana Čaputová so ziskom 58,4 percenta hlasov. Maroš Šefčovič získal 41,59 percenta hlasov. Oficiálne výsledky potvrdila Štátna komisia pre voľby a kontrolu financovania politických strán na tlačovej konferencii v nedeľu 31. marca.

"Na základe takéhoto výsledku volieb, sčítania hlasov aj štátna komisia skonštatovala svojím uznesením, že za prezidentku SR bola zvolená pani Zuzana Čaputová," vyhlásil predseda komisie Eduard Bárány, ktorý zagratuloval víťazke volieb. Poďakoval zároveň všetkým ďalším kandidátom, ktorí sa zúčastnili na voľbách, a tiež tým, ktorí sa podieľali na ich organizácii.

Čaputovú volilo 1.056.582 voličov, Šefčovičovi odovzdalo svoj hlas 752.403 voličov. Volebná účasť dosiahla 41,79 percenta, čo je 1.847.417 voličov. Oproti prvému kolu bola účasť nižšia, vtedy prišlo hlasovať 2.158.859 voličov, čo je 48,74 percenta hlasov.

Slováci si piatykrát v histórii Slovenskej republiky volili prezidenta v priamych voľbách. Slovensko malo dosiaľ štyroch prezidentov. Prvým bol Michal Kováč, ktorého však volil parlament. Priamo si občania volili hlavu štátu prvýkrát v roku 1999, vybrali si Rudolfa Schustera. Po ňom bol dvakrát na čele štátu Ivan Gašparovič a dosiaľ posledným prezidentom je Andrej Kiska. Funkčné obdobie mu uplynie 15. júna, keď bude inaugurovaná jeho nástupkyňa Zuzana Čaputová. Stane sa tak prvou ženou v úrade prezidenta Slovenskej republiky a zároveň vo veku 45 rokov aj najmladšou osobou, ktorá túto funkciu na Slovensku zastávala.



Novozvolená prezidentka Slovenskej republiky Zuzana Čaputová

SLOVENSKÁ LIGA OZNAMUJE

SPOMIENKA NA M.R. ŠTEFÁNKA

Slovenská liga v Amerike si pripomenie v nedeľu 16. mája 100. výročie tragickej smrti generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika. Podujatie sa bude konať o 12.30 v spoločenskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku (First Ave. a 66th St.).

Príhovor bude mať profesor a historik Dr. Michael Kopanič. Slovenská liga pozýva slovenskú verejnosť, aby si prišla uctiť pamiatku národného hrdinu M. R. Štefánika.

VYŠLO ĎALŠIE ČÍSLO PUBLIKÁCIE SLOVAKIA

Začiatkom tohto roku bolo vydané nové číslo publikácie Slovenskej ligy v Amerike - Slovakia 2019. Obsahuje mnoho zaujímavých článkov, hlavne z obdobia keď sa rodila druhá Slovenská republika. Slovakiu 2019 si záujemcovia môžu objednať za \$10.00 (vrátane poštovného) na adrese: Slovak League of America, 205 Madson Streer, Passaic, N.J. 07055. Šeky vystavte na Slovak League of America.



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