

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Scenes of the 71st Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament and the 81st Annual Bowling Tournament of the Greek Catholic Union

Chacko's Family Bowling Lanes + Wilkes-Barre, Pa. + May 19-21



Christine M. Sofranko, our Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award recipient at this year's bowling tournament is shown with past recipients of the honor who were present at this year's competition. Shown with Christine who resides in Moon Township, a Pittsburgh suburb and enjoys membership in Wreath 85 in McKees Rocks, Pa. are from the left, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, Anthony J. Glodava of Clifton, N.J. who received the award in 2005; Michael T. Matras of Perryopolis, Pa. who received the award in 2015; Walter Kazmierczak, Jr. of Reading, Pa. who received the award in 2006; Honorary Supreme Officer Andrew J. "Butch" Hvozdic of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. who received the award in 2003 and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath.



Supreme President Michael J. Horvath is shown above addressing the kegglers and guests at the traditional bowling banquet held on Saturday evening, May 20 at Genetti's Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



Christine M. Sofranko, second from the left, was the recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award at this year's bowling tournament. Our veteran Sokol activist and active kegglers are shown with members of her team including, l-r, Colleen Evans, Marianne Nalli and Gena Keil. Marianne is our Sokolka while Coleen and Gena belong to the GCU.



Detroit kegglers included, from the left Joanne Mozuras, Helen Minarish, Karen Kaufman and Judy Goetz.



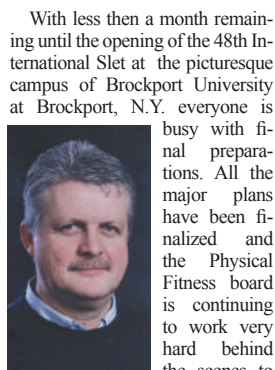
Well-known Clifton, N.J. Sokol activists included bowlers from Assembly 162, from the left, Anthony Glodava, Frank Pompiano and Thomas J. Krack.

Our 48th Slet is Just Around the Corner

Final Slet Preparations

by Dusan Dorich

Supreme Assistant Physical Director



With less than a month remaining until the opening of the 48th International Slet at the picturesque campus of Brockport University at Brockport, N.Y. everyone is busy with final preparations. All the major plans have been finalized and the Physical Fitness board is continuing to work very hard behind the scenes to ensure that this year's Slet will be one of the best. The Supreme Physical Fitness Board will be arriving on Tuesday, July 11th, for their meeting and to make sure that all is completed for the arrival of Slet participants. The participants will arrive on Wednesday, July 12.

This year's Slet once again will end with the departure on Sunday July 16. The scheduling of all the major events has been finalized.

Brockport University is located 20 min. north west from Rochester NY. Campus is small and more than suitable for our Slet. Facilities are great. New York Special Olympics hold their year final at the campus. This year's gymnastics competition will be held right at the University since they have their own facility. This is the first time

in more than 20 years that we don't have to travel to the gymnastic facility for our own competition.

Groups should keep in mind and plan ahead re the group chaperons. Any group that is bringing more than twenty five participants of the same sex is allowed to bring one chaperone. For example if your group is bringing 40 female and 26 males you can bring 1 female and 1 male chaperone. If your group is bringing 52 female and 35 male you can bring 2 female and 1 male chaperones. The chaperones will be considered participants at the Slet and will have to abide by the rules and regulations like the participants. Chaperones however are not required to compete in any events, provision that was approved by the Board of Directors.

Here are just a few helpful hints for making the final preparations necessary for a successful SLET.

Drillers, it is a good idea to practice your drills with your competition partner. Another good idea for drill practice is to do so in front of a mirror, this way you will see exactly what the judges will see on competition day. Commander and Commandress should be spending time reviewing all the drills, including the Mass Drill, with your drillers. The Mass Drill could be part of the competition as a team or individual competition.

When practicing for track and

field events, especially in hot and humid weather don't forget to replenish your body with plenty of fluids. Be sure to give your body the warm up and cool down times it desperately needs to function at its best without sustaining any injury.

Commander and Commandress are reminded to check the rules and regulations book for proper uniform descriptions. Be sure that your Drillers have the uniforms required for competitions. As you know, points are deducted for improper dress.

When packing be sure to include the following:

- a baseball cap or hat
- Adequate sunscreen (SPF 15 OR HIGHER IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)
- at least one sweatshirt or sweater (in case the evenings are cool)
- Bathing suit, the university has pool

Feel free to bring along an extra pillow if you so desire.

Both participants and the Physical Fitness Board are staying at University. Dorms are not air conditioned so if you wish bring a fan.

Please double check that you have all your uniform and sporting needs before closing your suitcase. Do not forget, as the rules and regulation book states, the ONLY advertising permitted on any clothing

(Continued on page 6)

Monsignor John J. Bendik Celebrates his Golden Jubilee of Ordination in Pittston, Pa.



Many Sokol members of Group 7 turned out for the celebration honoring Monsignor John J. Bendik on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the holy priesthood on Sunday, May 28 in Pittston, Pa. Monsignor was principal celebrant of a 3 p.m. Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, where he has served as pastor since 1996. Following the festive liturgy, more than 800 guests turned out for a reception and dinner given in his honor at Genetti's Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. On the above photo, our jubilarian, Monsignor Bendik is shown seated with his sister, Helen Ann Bendik. Standing are, l-r, Rev. Richard A. Cirba, chaplain of Group 7, "Rev. Joseph Murgas;" Heather Horvath, Sue Horvath, Monsignor's brother, Frank Bendik; Supreme Chaplain Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath. Our jubilarian has been our Sokol of Assembly 71 in Edwarsville, Pa. since birth. Our prayers and warm fraternal wishes go out to Monsignor Bendik on this milestone in his very fruitful priestly ministry among us. May God continue to bless him with good health and happiness during his well-deserved retirement. Zdar Boh!

Linda M. Strom Honored in Pittsburgh



Well-known Slovak fraternal leader, Linda M. Strom was honored by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) as their 2017 Fraternalist of the Year. The FSGP includes 17 fraternal societies and nine business-associated groups which represent nearly one million fraternalists in the Keystone State. Linda, a native of West Mifflin, Pa., currently serves as the national secretary-treasurer-CEO of the National Slovak Society, the oldest Slovak fraternal in America. She is also our long-time Sokolka of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh. She was honored at the FSGP's annual banquet held at the Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg on March 25. She is shown above receiving the Fraternalist of the Year plaque from FSGP president and our director of sales and marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Sister Linda who beautifully mirrors the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system in general and of Slovak fraternalism in particular.

Recalling the Founders of the Slovak Catholic Sokol as we Celebrate our 112th Anniversary

Matus Husy
Michal Kalafut
Jozef Rafac
Jozef Pavlicko
Jan Hilla, Jr.
Jakub Skupin
Andrej Servas
Lukac Kuna
Jozef Kuruc
Juraj Kopacka
Jozef Kacmarcik
Jozef Hilla, Jr.
Valent Bednarcik, Sr.
Michal Kucala
Michal Prelich
Andrej Bekes
Jakub Butz
Jozef Hills, Sr.
Valent Soltis
Jan Hlavac
Jozef Paluch
Vincent Dronzek
Andrej Klukosovsky

Valent Lapsansky
Valent Bednarcik, Jr.
Jozef Kalafut
Matej Kuruc
Jakub Plucinsky
Valent Tomaskovic
Jan Gronkovsky
Juraj Halupka
Jozef Halupka
Michal Zagursky
Stefan Bigos
Jakub Waxmonskey
Paul Tibus
Juraj Lopusnak
Jan Moss
Andrej Kovalik
Juraj Domyon
Martin Molitoris
Jozef Prelich
Jakub Frankovic
Ludvik Soltis
Valent Bizub
Jozef Petrasko

The names of the above founders are not presented alphabetically but read from the left, as they signed the membership roll at the founding meeting held on July 4, 1905 in Passaic, N.J.

Eternal is their memory and Zdar Boh!

Slovak Catholic Sokol

112th Anniversary



Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain**"Say the word and my servant will be healed"**

by Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC

What kind of expectant faith and trust does the Lord Jesus want you to place in him? In Jesus' time the Jews hated the Romans because they represented everything the Jews stood against - including pagan beliefs and idol worship, immoral practices such as abortion and infanticide, and the suppression of the Israelites' claim to be a holy nation governed solely by God's law. It must have been a remarkable sight for the Jewish residents of Capernaum to see Jesus conversing with an officer of the Roman army.

Why did Jesus not only warmly receive a Roman centurion but praise him as a model of faith and confidence in God? In the Roman world the position of centurion was very important. He was an officer in charge of a hundred soldiers. In a certain sense, he was the backbone of the Roman army, the cement which held the army together. Polybius, an ancient writer, describes what a centurion should be: "They must not be so much venturesome seekers after danger as men who can command, steady in action, and reliable; they ought not to be over-anxious to rush into the fight, but when hard pressed, they must be ready to hold their ground, and die at their posts." The centurion in the Gospels who approached Jesus was not only courageous, but faith-filled as well. He risked the ridicule of his associates as well as mockery from the Jews by seeking help from a wandering preacher from Galilee. Nonetheless, he approached Jesus with great confidence and humility. He was an extraordinary man because he loved his slave. In the Roman world slaves were treated as property and like animals rather than people. The centurion was also an extraordinary man of faith. He believed that Jesus could heal his beloved slave. Jesus commended him for his faith and immediately granted him his request. Are you willing to suffer ridicule in the practice of your faith? And when you need help, do you approach the Lord Jesus with expectant faith?

Heavenly Father, you sent us your Son Jesus that we might be freed from the tyranny of sin and death. Increase my faith in the power of your saving word and give me freedom to love and serve others with generosity and mercy as you have loved me.

**Fun Facts About Summer**

The first modern Olympic Games were held in the summer in 1896 in Athens, Greece.

The first day of summer is between June 20th and June 22nd every year. The first day of summer is called the summer solstice, and the day varies due to the Earth's rotation not exactly reflecting our calendar year.

The last day of summer is September 20th.

Watermelon is one of summer's best summer treats. Did you know that watermelons are not a fruit, but a vegetable instead? They belong to the cucumber family of vegetables.

The Eiffel tower actually grows in the heat of the summer. Due to the iron expanding, the tower grows about 6 inches every summer.

If you love ice cream, the summer season should be your favorite. July is national ice cream month.

(Continued on page 13)

**HOME OFFICE CLOSING**

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, the Home Office will be closed on Monday, July 3 and Tuesday July 4. The Home Office will reopen for business on Wednesday, July 5. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. An enjoyable and safe Fourth of July celebration to all! Zdar Boh!

Message from our Supreme President

by Michael J. Horvath

On July 4, 2017 the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be celebrating its 112th anniversary. This is certainly a noteworthy accomplishment by any business standard. Not many businesses are fortunate enough to make it to 50 or 75 years and businesses that make it to 100 years certainly have something going for themselves. We should be very proud



of our Society's leadership over the decades which has enabled us to celebrate such an historic milestone.

I suggest that all our members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol should set some time aside on the Fourth of July, as they celebrate the United States of America's 241st Independence Day and remember our Society's special day, its founders and all who have served the Society over the decades.

The first day of summer of 2017 has arrived and I am ready for all it brings. I am sure there are not many that do not like the warm weather and all the summer activities we can enjoy over the next 8 weeks. I know we have our vacations planned, whether they are to visit relatives, go to the shore, trek into the mountains, explore U.S. cities or national parks, venture abroad or just bask in the lazy, hazy days of summer right in our own backyard.

Whatever it is you do over the summer have fun, be safe and have safe travels.

There is one summer activity I would like to mention and it could be the most interesting and enjoyable activity of the season. Your attending this activity not only would give you the opportunity to be with

many of your family and friends, but it will also show your support for our Society's most cherished and important activity, our international Slet.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol has been holding Slets for the past 105 years, another enviable record. It was in 1912 that the first Slet was held in Wilkes-Barre, PA and has been held biennially ever since. In various parts of the United States and Canada. The Slet was created to bring together Sokol members from all our Groups to celebrate the very best of the Sokol movement, competing in gymnastics and track and field events. The Slet was a place where friendships were made, fraternalism was fostered and fair and competitive competition was learned.

This summer's 48th International Slet will take place July 12 -16, 2017 at the State University of New York - Brockport in Brockport, NY. Brockport is located about twenty minutes outside Rochester, N.Y. I hope that many of you will consider making a day trip or longer to come to the Slet and cheer on our Sokol athletes who are keeping this valued tradition alive.

For many, attending the Slet will bring back fond memories for sure which you can then think about and wonder if all your family members and friends are Slovak Catholic Sokol members. When you think of the family members and friends that are not members make the list and let them know what they are missing out on and then make an effort to sign them up as a member.

If you need assistance with signing up a family member or a friend or need information on the Slovak Catholic Sokol, contact the Home Office or our Director of Marketing and Sales for assistance.

See you at the Slet. Zdar Boh! With God's Blessing to All!

IMPORTANT 2017 INTERNATIONAL SLET INFORMATION

Slet information is now accessible on our website at www.slovakcatholicsokol.org under Sports Programs

You can access general rules and regulations, qualification times and distances for track, track records, volleyball information, gymnastics qualifiers, hotel info, pin trading information and much more!

You can also access videos of the drills at scsdrills@gmail.com password: sokoldrills

Celebrating the 240th Birthday of Old Glory

On Flag Day, June 14th, members of the home office staff took time out to celebrate the 240th birthday of the Stars and Stripes during a civic program held in the board room. Adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, the flag symbolizes the aspirations, struggles, sacrifices and achievements of our ancestors. Home office staff members shown above include, l-r, Frank Revisore, Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, Livia Karak, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Lorrie Pinck, Clarissa Serrano, Kelly D. Movilla, Kevin R. Guillen, Ela Mas, and Billie Lou Moakley.

Follow Us On Twitter and Instagram

Many of you are already following Slovak Catholic Sokol on Facebook, but did you know we are now on Twitter and Instagram?

You can follow us for daily updates on upcoming activities and events, as well as pictures of your favorite Sokols. Feel free to forward pictures of your group activities to: kathyw323@gmail.com so that we can tweet them!

We are looking forward to gaining MANY new followers!

If you are new to Twitter and Instagram, here are some basics on how to sign up:

TWITTER

- * Upload the Twitter app on your phone or go to www.twitter.com
- * Click "Sign up for Twitter."
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Choose your username. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow

**INSTAGRAM**

- * Upload the Instagram app on your phone or go to www.instagram.com
- * Click "Sign up" and enter your e-mail
- * Create a username and password
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow



Zdar Boh!

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board



REFLECTOR ...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

94th Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on Thursday, July 20

The 94th Annual Slovak Day will take place Thursday, July 20, 2017 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate their heritage with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Folk Dance performances, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities as well as foot-tapping music for dancing. These combine to build a treasure chest of memories—many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created.

A highlight of Slovak Day is the con-celebration of the Slovak Liturgy in the Main Pavilion directly behind "Garfield's Revenge" at 4:00 p.m. The Main Celebrant of the Liturgy will be the "Very Rev. Msgr. Peter M. Polando", of Youngstown Ohio, along with several Catholic priests from the Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Altoona-Johnstown Dioceses. Immediately following will be the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by the "Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble" (PAS) and the "Pittsburgh Slovaksians".

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy holubky (stuffed cabbage), halusky (sweet cabbage and noodles), pirohy and klobasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with the homemade favorite—ceregi and Paska. Enjoy this delicious dinner or ala-carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as the strolling musicians play all of the "Slovak favorites". Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride "Garfield's Revenge" from 12:30 p.m. until the food is sold out.

In Pavilion # 3 you will be able to see an exhibit "Slovak Wood Craft Shop" prepared by the "PAS" Jr. and Maly Ensembles. The exhibit will include Slovak heirlooms of folk treasures that show the incredible skill and artistry found in the Slovak villages.

In the Main Pavilion # 5 there will be Slovak Cultural Displays provided by the Slovak Fraternals.

A special youth area will feature activities just for children. The children's program will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 p.m. by the Main Pavilion. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat.

From 1 to 4 p.m., one can sit back and enjoy the music or kick up your heels dancing, grab a partner and twirl to traditional Slovak music of the George Batyi Ensemble at the Kitchen Pavilion.

For a day to remember, join all Slovaks on Thursday, July 20, 2017, Kennywood Park. The cost of tickets are \$26 for Fun Day General Admission, \$15 for those 55 years of age and over, plus a coupon will be available for those 70 years and over to be paid at the gate for \$11.00 + tax. Tickets and coupons are available by contacting Sue Ondrejco at (412) 421-1204 or Mary Lou Wagner at (412) 462-1957.

For general information about the 94th Slovak Day contact Chairwoman Mary Lou at (412) 462-1957.

44th Summer Festival set for July 8 in Danville, Pa.

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius will host their 44th annual Summer Festival on Saturday, July 8 on the spacious grounds of their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pa. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store and religious and Slovak articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Holupky, Halusky and Potato Pancakes as well as traditional American picnic favorites such as hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like a petting zoo, raffles and bingo.

The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former stu-

dents, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visiting with friends old and new.

Bus parking is available. The festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with Mass celebrated at 5 p.m. to satisfy the Sunday obligation. Tours of the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius will also be available. The revered Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, containing the largest collection of Slovakia in the U.S., is located here. For additional information on this year's festival, please call: Sister Barbara Sable at: 570 275-3581, Ext. 302. We hope that many of our members will avail themselves of the opportunity to celebrate an enjoyable summer afternoon.

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius were founded in 1909 in Scranton, Pa. by the Rev. Matthew Jankola, who served as the second supreme chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Generations of Sokol members were taught by the Sisters in parochial schools located in the northeast and the midwest.

44th Gary Indiana Slovak Day set for Sunday, July 16

All is in readiness as the Slovak community of the four county, Diocese of Gary in northwest Indiana celebrates Slovak pride at this year's 44th annual Slovak Day Celebration set for Sunday, July 16. This year's Slovak Day observance will be held at the popular Salvatorian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa located at 5755 Pennsylvania Street (Broadway) in Merrillville, Ind. The shrine serves as a Mission House for priests conducted by the Society of the Divine Savior.

Festivities begin with a concelebrated Mass in the Shrine Church at 10:30 a.m. with priests of Slovak ancestry from the diocese as well as neighboring dioceses concelebrating. Following the liturgy, a delicious luncheon featuring traditional Slovak culinary specialties will be enjoyed. A cash bar will be available throughout the afternoon. The cultural program begins at 1 p.m. and will feature the skill and artistry of the Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble of Chicago who will perform the music and dances of the various regions of Slovakia. There will be a cash raffle and music for dancing throughout the afternoon.

This year's Slovak Day will be dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the establishment of the new Diocese of Gary and the consecration of its first bishop, the Most Rev. Andrew G. Grutka who at the time was serving as pastor of Holy Trinity Slovak Parish in Gary. Bishop Grutka's consecration and solemn enthronement took place on February 25, 1957 in the newly designated Cathedral of the Holy Angels. The new Diocese of Gary encompassed the four northwest Indiana counties of Lake, LaPorte, Porter and Starke. Bishop Grutka was the first ordinary of Slovak ancestry to be appointed in the United States. Needless to say, those of Slovak ancestry in the new diocese particularly rejoiced at the appointment. At the time of the establishment of the new diocese, a total of five Slovak parishes existed, one in Gary, and two each in East Chicago and Whiting. Today just the Church of St. John the Baptist in Whiting and the parish of the Assumption in East Chicago serves a completely Hispanic community. On a sad note, in recent weeks the building of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Whiting was raised. Until his death in 1993, Bishop Grutka remained a towering figure not only within the Church of Indiana but within the Slovak community both in America and in our ancestral homeland of Slovakia.

We look forward to seeing many Sokols and Sokolky at this year's Slovak Day. For additional information call Betty Yurechko at tel. 219 795-1518 or visit www.facebook.com/SlovakDayCelebration.



The Word of God...

Gospel for the Thirteenth Sunday of the Year - July 2nd

Mt 10:37-42

Jesus said to his apostles:

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 'Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the Fourteenth Sunday of the Year - July 9th

Mt 11:25-30

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Lodge Jottings

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Assembly 34 Wreath 47

We are pleased to announce that our traditional Sokol Family Day Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. Our festivities will be held on the grounds of SS. Cyril and Methodius School, located at 1315 Second Street, N.E. in Minneapolis. We have planned an enjoyable day which will feature games for the children, plenty of delicious picnic style food and refreshments. An enjoyable afternoon of traditional Sokol fellowship is assured. All members of Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 are welcome, free of charge, to join us for this traditional summer fraternal event.

Ours is a proud fraternal legacy which we continue to promote. Our parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius, established in 1891 is now the oldest Slovak Catholic parish in the United States dedicated to the

Apostles of the Slavs. Local Slovak fraternal lodges affiliated with this parish rank among the oldest within each of our Slovak Catholic fraternals. In the First Catholic Slovak Union, our Minneapolis lodge is Branch 3 and in the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Minneapolis lodge is also Branch 3. In our own Slovak Catholic Sokol, our Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 date to 1909 and rank among the oldest lodges of the organization. This proud Slovak fraternal legacy is unique in that the Minneapolis Slovak community finds itself as the only one in Minnesota and is hundreds of miles from the nearest other Slovak community. Yet, we have managed to remain active.

We are pleased that our young members continue to foster the gymnastic and athletic traditions of the Sokol movement. This July, our young people will travel to the State University of New York at

(Continued on page 13)

Sokol Calendar

WED. JULY 5

■ Memorial Mass for the repose of the soul of the Rev. Msgr. Peter P. Dora at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. at 7 p.m., refreshments to follow at the Parish Center.

SAT. JULY 8

■ 44th annual Summer Festival hosted by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius at their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pa. beginning at 10:30 a.m. concluding with Mass at 5 p.m. to satisfy the Sunday obligation in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius; hand-reflected items, flea market, homemade baked goods, ethnic food, entertainment for children, for information call Sister Barbara Sable at tel. 570 275-3581, ext.302.

SUN. JULY 9

■ Annual Golf Tournament hosted by Assembly 59 at the Hollenback Golf Course, North Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 9 a.m.; Captain and Crew are \$40 per person, refreshments follow at the North End Slovak Citizens Club; for information contact Butch Hvozdivic at 570 825-3584 or Nancy Fedor 570 826-0752.

JULY 12-16

■ 48th International Slet at the State University of New York at Brockport, N.Y.

SUN. JULY 16

■ Slovak Day Picnic hosted by the American Slovak Zemplin Club of Cleveland at the Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Rd., Broadview Heights, Oh., noon to 8 p.m. free admission.

■ 44th annual Gary, Indiana Slovak Day at the Salvatorian Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 5755 Pennsylvania St. (Broadway), Mer-

rillville, Ind. beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m., luncheon to follow with cultural program beginning at 1 p.m.; for information call Betty Yurechko at tel. 219 795-1518 or visit www.facebook.com/SlovakDay-Celebration.

THURS. JULY 20

■ 94th annual American Slovak Day of Western Pennsylvania at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa. beginning at 12:30 p.m. with children's games and treats; Mass at 4 p.m.; Slovak folk entertainment at 5 p.m.; for information contact Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com or tel. 412 421-1204.

JULY 28-30

■ Annual Pierogi-Pirohy Fest, hosted by the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce in downtown Whiting, Ind. featuring Polish and Slovak folk ensembles, culinary specialties, games and exhibits, Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for additional information visit www.pierogifest.net or call toll free 800 659-0292.

JULY 29-30

■ 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association on Saturday with Mass of Thanksgiving, Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Cleveland at 4:30 p.m., dinner to follow at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center; Sunday open house and rededication of the statue of St. Ann and open house at the home office in Beachwood, Oh. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUN. JULY 30

■ 87th annual Milwaukee Slovak American Day at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th St., Franklin, Wis. beginning with Mass at 12 noon; cultural program at 2:30 p.m. featur-

ing our Group 4 Slovak Catholic Sokol drillers and the Tatra Slovak Dancers; traditional Slovak culinary favorites along with American picnic favorites; homemade bakery; for information call Betty Valent at 414 425-6137.

AUG. 12-13

■ Annual Holy Dormition Pilgrimage hosted by the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate at their monastery in Sloatsburg, N.Y.

SUN. AUG. 13

■ Annual Marian Slovak Day Pilgrimage hosted by New York-New Jersey area Slovak societies at the Salesian Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, Filors Lane, West Haverstraw, N.Y., confessions at 10 a.m., concelebrated Slovak liturgy at 11 a.m. followed by a luncheon and Marian devotions beginning at 2:30 p.m.

■ 12th annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest hosted by Our Lady of Sorrows Parish on the grounds of St. Matthias Church grounds, 2800 Shady Run Rd., Youngstown, Oh., 12 noon to 8 p.m.; for information contact Loretta Ekoniak at tel. 330 549-3760 or loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

SUN. AUG. 20

■ Annual Sokol Family Day Picnic hosted by Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 on the grounds of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, 1315 2nd Street, N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 1 to 4 p.m.; games for children, food and refreshments for members.

AUG. 25-27

■ 27th annual Slovak Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, Mich. 48314, Friday: 6-11 p.m., Saturday: 12 noon - 11 p.m., Sunday: 12 noon - 9 p.m. for additional information call 586 726-6911 or www.adoremylord.com.

SUN. AUG. 27

■ Summer Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish on the parish grounds, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J., 1-7 p.m.

SEPT. 2-3

■ 83rd annual pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, hosted by the Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great at their Motherhouse, Mount Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.

SEPT. 6-8

■ 131st annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance, the trade association of fraternal benefit societies in the U.S. and Canada, at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass, Chandler, Ariz.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JULY 12TH

In keeping with our bi-weekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, July 12th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, July 6th. View *e-Falcon* on our website: www.slovakcatholicssokol.org. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh!
- Daniel F. Tanzzone, Editor

At the 75th Slovak Bowling Congress

Jay Barna of Pittsburgh takes home 32nd SCS All Events Bowling Sweepstakes

Our well-known Pittsburgh Sokol keglers, Jay Barna was the winner of the 32nd Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol All-Events Wrist Watch Bowling Sweepstakes at this year's exciting 75th annual Slovak Bowling Congress of America (SBC) tournament held at Bill White's Twin Star Bowling Lanes in Kent, Oh. This year's competition billed as America's oldest Slovak bowling tournament was staged weekends from April thru May 7, 2017. At this year's historic 75th annual competition, Brother Jay had a winning score of 2068. His actual score was 1690 plus 378 handicap pins over the nine game total.



Brother Jay, who resides in Pittsburgh is a long-time member of Assembly 16 on the city's historic south side. He has been active in the SBC tournaments for many years now and currently serves as a member of the SBC Advisory Board. Over the years, he has actively participated in various local Sokol and Group 14 fraternal and sporting activities. Congratulations Brother Jay!

Brother Jay was among the 12 Sokol keglers from Pennsylvania and Ohio who competed at this year's SBC competition for the annual SCS All-Events Sweepstakes. A total of 157 teams competed at this year's tournament with a total of \$25,080 awarded in prizes.

The Slovak Bowling Congress was established in 1939 and is certified by the United States Bowling Congress. The annual competition has been held weekends since its inception. However, no competitions were held during World War II, resuming in 1946. Our SCS All-Events Sweepstakes has been a part of the annual competition since 1986. The sweepstakes were approved by the S.C.S. Board of Directors at the recommendation of the late Dr. Stephen J. Hletko of Chicago, a former sports director of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and a founding member of the Slovak Bowling Congress. Winner of this year's Stephen J. Hletko Memorial Award was Mike Benton of Sharpsville, Pa. Other sweepstakes and awards garnered at this year's competition include the Tony Slanina-Ikey Straka Memorial Trophy was won by The Dream Team of Warren, Oh.; the John Zolna Memorial Award won by Mike Benton of Sharpsville, Pa.; the Jednota All-Events Sweepstakes, won by George Kacsanek of Akron, Oh.; the FCSLA - All Events Sweepstakes, won by John Golias of Brecksville, Oh. The USBC Awards included the 300 score of Rob Harvischak, James Smith, Viktor Varner, Dan Gerrieri, Bud Hatfield, Kevin Lee, Jim Brenders, Jerry Hromada, Frank Dallas, Mike Benton, Bob Cregar and Lee Eighmy, Jr.

Next year's 76th annual Slovak Bowling Congress of America tournament is scheduled for April 2018 at the Freeway Bowling Lanes in Warren, Oh. John M. Golias of Brecksville, Oh currently serves as president and Joe M. Harkulich of Masury, Oh. is the secretary of the Slovak Bowling Congress. For information on the SBC call Joe M. Harkulich at tel. 330 448-8630.

Again, our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Brother Jay Barna. As well, a sincere thank you to all our Sokol bowlers who participated in this year's competition in the best traditions of Sokol good sportsmanship and camaraderie.

2017 SCS ALL-EVENTS SWEEPSTAKES PARTICIPANTS

Name	City	Score
Jay Barna	Pittsburgh, Pa.	2068
Peter Underation	Barberton, Oh.	2022
Rich Underation	Barberton, Oh.	2019
Dan Dawson	Barberton, Oh.	2015
Lee Fanzo	Pittsburgh, Pa.	2012
Steve Bakita	Barberton, Oh.	2005
Marty Underation	Barberton, Oh.	1997
Luis Palos	Lorain, Oh.	1945
Lance Werner	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1879
Tim Girard	Cleveland, Oh.	1856
Norm Harms	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1854
Larry Werner	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1737

Congratulations to all our Sokol participants.
Zdar Boh!

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it? Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.

Za Boha a Národ  *For God and Nation*
Slovak Catholic Falcon
SLOVENSKÝ KATOLICKÝ SOKOL
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Annual Pierogi-Pirohy Fest set for July 28-30 in Whiting, Ind.

Continuing in a time-honored Midwest Slavic tradition, this year's annual Pierogi-Pirohy Fest is scheduled for the weekend of July 28-30 in downtown Whiting, Ind. This community, rich in Slavic traditions, is located just about a 20-minute drive from Chicago. The festival celebrates the pan-Slavic love of the culinary speciality, Pierogi in Polish, Pirohy in Slovak. The popular summer festival, which attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year, is presented by the Whiting Roberts-dale Chamber of Commerce. This year's festival opens on Friday, July 28 at 11 a.m. and concludes at 10 p.m. Saturday's hours are also 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday's hours are

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival is quite a unique experience, jam packed with street vendors selling food, drinks and fun novelty items such as t-shirts, along with imported arts and crafts from Poland and Slovakia. There is a Polka Dance Off contest judged by Mr. Pierogi and Ms. Paczki. Entertainment is provided daily and include presentations by a number of Polish and several colorfully attired Slovak folk ensembles from various parts of the midwest and Canada. The dancers perform from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information visit www.pierogifest.net or call 800 659-0292.

Final Slet Preparations

(Continued from page 2)

worn during the SLET is the Slovak Catholic Sokol logo.

A special reminder to Commanders and Commandresses to inform the Supreme Physical Director of your means of transportation and approximate time of arrival at Brockport University. Be sure to allow ample traveling time so that you arrive in Brockport with enough time for registration and meeting.

This year right after registration and lunch we will have our opening ceremonies at the track and field stadium 1:30 -3:00 pm.

Please advise Kathy Watkins of your travel plans in writing, by phone or email.

Reminder to all the group leaders to bring with them and hand them in on registration all medical forms, consent & release forms.

If anyone has any questions please call Kathy Watkins at 412 225 8233, email kathyw323@gmail.com or John Underation at 330 607 2477, email junderation@sbcglobal.net.

Finally, just one thought to keep in mind; even though the SLET is a competition, we are still a fraternal organization and maintaining the fraternal spirit will make this the most memorable and successful SLET yet!

Wishing you all a safe trip. See you at Brockport University. ZDAR BOH!

American Slovak Zemplin Club's picnic on July 16 in Cleveland

Cleveland's American Slovak Zemplin Club will host their traditional Slovak Day Picnic on Sunday, July 16 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Slovak Sokol Camp located at 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Hts.(between State and Broadview Road) in Broadview Heights, Oh.

Traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with American picnic favorites will be featured throughout the day. Home baked Slovak pastries and kolace will be available for sale. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the ever-popular Johnny Pastirik Band. The popular imported Slovak beer, Zlaty Bazant will be available. A variety of games and activities for children and adults will be featured. An enjoyable afternoon celebrating our rich Slovak heritage is assured. Admission is free.

The club's president and our Sokol, George Carny extends a cordial invitation to area Sokols and Sokolky to come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and camaraderie supporting the American Slovak Zemplin Club which has been active in the Cleveland area since its founding in 1941. For additional information on this year's picnic call George Carny at tel. 440 885-5702.



Celebrate Sokol tradition at its best

Plan to come out and enjoy a memorable summer afternoon at the closing ceremonies and exhibition of our 48th International Slet on Saturday evening, July 15 at the stadium of The State University of New York at Brockport, N.Y. beginning at 4:30 p.m.



Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA 17821

2017 **Summer Festival** Saturday July 8th
10:30 am - 5:00 pm
fun food games flea market baked goods
Saturday Mass for Sunday

Local SOKOL Golf Tournament

SLOVAK CATHOLIC
Assembly 261 Wreath 155
SOKOL Reading, PA

◆ Saturday, July 15th, 2017
◆ 1 p.m. Shotgun Start
◆ The Manor Golf Club

• Food • Drinks • Prizes • Cash Prizes •
All Included!
Scramble Format with "3" Flights!

• \$ 70.00 per golfer •
Sign your foursome up now!
All entries must be received by July 1st
Hole Sponsors (\$40 per hole) and volunteers needed!

Questions or Payment:

• Call the Club at (610) 375-4500 •
• Registration and Payments can also be mailed or submitted to your bartender at the Sokol Club •

Foursome Sign Up Sheet (threesome and pairs also welcome)

Name	Email or Phone
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Please mail completed foursome sign up sheet, along with payment (\$70/golfer) to:

The Reading Sokol
Attn: Paul Keturakis
411 Crestmont Street
Reading, PA 19611

Make Checks Payable to:
Slovak Catholic Sokol

Sharing the fraternal story

Fraternalists at Legislative Luncheon in Harrisburg, Pa.



Our organization's Sales and Marketing Director, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. and Theresa A. Kluchinski, president of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, shown center, with fraternalists and State Representatives at the annual Legislative Luncheon hosted by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa. on April 25.

The Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance (PFA) hosted its annual Legislative Luncheon on April 25 at the Capitol Building in Harrisburg, Pa. More than 20 fraternal representatives and more importantly, over 130 State Senators and Representatives joined us for the luncheon. This year's

luncheon was one of the largest attended by state legislators. The luncheon was a great success and we were able to "get the message out" to our Pennsylvania legislators of what fraternal organizations are all about and how we benefit our members and the communities we serve.

State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski helped coordinate the annual event at the capitol and took the time to introduce and explain to the House of Representatives during their session, the work of fraternal benefit societies and their efforts in promoting outreach, volunteerism and service to the community.

The purpose of the luncheon is to introduce ourselves and share our organizations' stories, so that our Senators and Representatives might better learn of the important role played by fraternalists in the Keystone State. The PFA represents 40 fraternalists with more than 750,000 members in Pennsylvania. Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. of the Slovak Catholic Sokol serves as president of the PFA with Theresa A. Kluchinski of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union serving as the secretary-treasurer.

Thanks and gratitude go out to the following organizations/companies who made this year's legislative luncheon a rousing success: ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, LLC, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, GBU Financial Life, ISDA Fraternal Association, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the Loyal Christian Benefit Association, the National Slovak Society, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the Polish Falcons of America, the Polish Beneficial Association, Providence Association of Ukrainian Catholics of America, the Slovene National Benefit Society and the William Penn Association.

87th Annual Milwaukee Slovak Day set for July 30 at the Croatian Park

The Milwaukee area will host its traditional American Slovak Day observance on Sunday, July 30 at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th Street in Franklin, Wis. Hosted by the Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee, this year's event marks its 87th anniversary, ranking then as one of the oldest Slovak Day observances in the country.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, Slovak Day begins with an outdoor Mass celebrated at 12 noon in the scenic and spacious park. Celebrant of the liturgy will be the Rev. John J. Jamnicky. Father Jamnicky is a popular and well-known priest in the area's Slovak community.

The cultural program begins at 2:30 p.m. and features an array of entertainment for every member of the family. Our Sokol, Ralph Hass, president of the Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee, will serve as the master of ceremonies. The program will feature our Group 4 Sokol drillers from Milwaukee's Wreath 93 under the direction of Physical Directress Tricia Radtke, Lisa Hoeck, assistant directress and Brad Hoeck, physical director. Also performing will be the popular Tatra Slovak Dancers who will

present the music, song and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. Live music for dancing and listening pleasure by The Ed Hause Band will be enjoyed until 6 p.m. Children's games and activities will be available throughout the afternoon.

Traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with popular American picnic favorites will be available throughout the day. Homemade Slovak pastries as well as imported beer from Slovakia will be featured. Imported handmade ornaments, jewelry and crafts from Slovakia and the Czech Republic will be available for sale. There is free admission and plenty of parking available. Complimentary golf cart transportation is available at the park for the "Young at Heart." For additional information on this year's American Slovak Day Picnic, call our Wreath 93 Sokolka, Betty Valent at tel. 414 425-6137 or Ralph Hass, president of the Federated Slovak Societies at tel. 262 893-2972. We hope that many Group 4 members will celebrate our rich heritage at this year's American Slovak Day. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

Independence Declared

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress, seated in formal session, took the final vote for independence. The rest of the day and the next were spent in debate over the form and content of a declaration drafted by Thomas Jefferson. Several changes were made and the final document was adopted on July 4. As President of the Congress, John Hancock was the first to sign.

Within two days, copies were

dispatched to all the states. On July 8, the Declaration of Independence was first read publicly in Philadelphia. A day later, George Washington and his troops heard it in New York City. By August 2, 1776, some 50 members of Congress had signed the document.

Over the next several months, others followed suit until the last signature was finally affixed in 1781.



The declaration house, where Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the declaration of independence.

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SUNDAY JULY. 16. 2017.
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Free Admission, ***** Admission is free



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Slovak Catholic Sokol



Scenes of the 71st Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament and the 81st Annual Bowling Tournament of the Greek Catholic Union



Enjoying this year's competition are, l-r, Mike Mantsch, Clay Cato, Mark Brooks and John Miller, Jr.



All smiles from Group 9 keglers including, l-r, James Bart, Nicholas Cassisi, Thomas Muldoon and John Smith.



Enjoying the competition are, l-r, Leonard Hempel, Christopher Mathewson, John P. Minarish and John L. Minarish.



Well-known Group 7 keglers included, l-r, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, David Check, Gary Blasko and Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan.



Enjoying the competition are the above GCU keglers, from the left, Donald Ribarchak, George Lopata, Ryan Kislock and Dan Kutzfara.



Sokol keglers enjoying this year's competition include, l-r, Alan Keagy, John Goberish, Doug Simon and Nathan Keagy.



Keglers shown include from the left, John Hoppey, Paul Komishock, John Moyer and Terry Lindner.



Enjoying the competition are, l-r, Bob Suslita, Steve Cruty, Robert Bakalar and Robert J. Bakalar.



All smiles from, clockwise from front center, Scott Pitman, Robert Mosloski, Don Salmanowitz and Marc Kudlacik.



Lovely keggers included, l-r, Agnes Rohrbach, Coleen Dubitsky, Janice Moyer and Margaret Hoppey.



Lovely Group 7 bowlers included, l-r, Bernadette Jacob, Kelly Palchanis, Heather Horvath and Group 7 President Amy Degnan-Blasco.



Enjoying the tournament are, l-r, Janet Kumpon, Dorothy Bakalar, Daria Shierly and Marlene Yuschak.

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Price tag for Slovak teams at Winter Olympics announced

The participation of Slovak athletes in the upcoming 2018 Winter Olympic Games and Winter Paralympic Games in Pyeongchang in South Korea will cost \$2.2 million, reads a document on the preparation and participation of the Slovak national team in the Winter Olympics that has been submitted for comments.

A total of \$1.6 million will be earmarked in the state budget for this purpose, with the rest due to be paid by the Slovak Olympic Committee and the Slovak Paralympic Committee. The XXIII Olympic Winter Games are slated for February 9-25, 2018, and the XII Paralympic Winter Games for March 9-18, 2018.

The Olympic Committee expects Slovakia to be represented in ten sports categories, with the national team set to consist of approximately 60 athletes and an equal number of support team members such as coaches, technicians, physicians, masseurs, etc. The paralympian team is likely to be 50 strong, including athletes, support personnel, team leaders and others.

Lajcak meets Lavrov: we're diplomats, dialogue is our duty

Russia is viewed by Slovakia as an important economic and trading partner despite the current complex international situation, with Slovakia interested in further economic cooperation, stated Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak at a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Kaliningrad, Russia on June 6.

"We're living in a complicated and unstable security environment. Russia plays an important role when it comes to international security and stability. We consider dialogue with Russia to be very important. We're diplomats, and engagement in dialogue is our principal duty. I'm pleased that we've been successful in continuing not only in political dialogue, but also in the spheres of trade exchanges and economic cooperation, with specific results also due to the work of an intergovernmental commission, including an agreement on a cyclotron center. We view energy as being among the biggest challenges for the future, with Slovakia interested in a partnership in gas transit with the efficient use of existing infrastructure for transporting both crude oil and gas," said Lajcak, according to the press department of the Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Ministry.

Lajcak in Russia stressed that Slovakia is interested in pursuing pragmatic and constructive relations with Russia oriented towards specific results. This concerns trade and investments, tourism and cooperation with Russia's regions. The Slovak minister noted that Russia remains one of the most significant trade and investment partners for his country outside the EU.

At the same time Lajcak expressed the hope that the recent trade-exchange slump will be reversed in 2017. The previous year saw a trade-exchange decline of 17.65 percent, mainly due to EU sanctions, drops in oil prices and the devaluation of the Russian ruble, stated the Slovak ministry.

In energy, Lajcak and Lavrov discussed Russia's plans to supply Europe with oil and gas vis-a-vis prospects of competing the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, with Lajcak stressing that it would be in the interests of all the parties involved to launch talks featuring the EU, Russia and Ukraine in order to achieve a long-term contract concerning the transit of gas after 2019.

In another part of the talks, the two ministers exchanged their views on priorities of the 72nd UN General Assembly, due to be presided over by Lajcak, with a special focus on reform processes, including reform of the UN's peace-keeping operations, and preparations for the 2018-19 budget. Lajcak stressed that his priority as the General Assembly president will be dialogue, mediation with a special focus on peace and pre-

ventive diplomacy, and a balanced approach to all three UN pillars - peace and security, human rights and development.

Thousands attend students' anti-corruption rally in Bratislava

A major anti-corruption rally organized by students took place in the center of Bratislava on June 5, featuring thousands of people and students marching at the front with a banner which read: 'The Deed is Taking Place.'

The banner referred to a number of scandals with the involvement of politicians that were dropped by the law enforcement authorities with the explanation that the "deed didn't take place."

One demand of an earlier student protest in mid-April has been met in the meantime, namely the scrapping of the controversial Vladimir Meciar amnesties of 1998, while other demands were repeated at the June 5 rally, including the dismissal of Interior Minister Robert Kalinak and Police Corps president Tibor Gaspar, the resignation of Special Prosecutor Dusan Kovacic and a proper investigation into the headline-making scandals Gorilla and Bastemak. In addition, the protesters demanded a thorough investigation into actions pardoned by Meciar in the 1990s.

"People have stopped not caring about where the country is going, how it's being governed and by whom... that there's corruption and the state is being pillaged, with education and health care lacking this money," said secondary school student David Straka, who was one of the main organizers of the march.

The speakers included former Smer-SD regional secretary Renate Kolencikova, former investigator of former president Michal Kovac's son Michal's abduction Peter Vacko, the mother of the murdered former police investigator Robert Remias, Anna Remiasova and foreign students. The police reported no incidents during the protest.

Stats Office: unemployment rate stood at 8.7 percent in 1Q17

The number of jobless people decreased year-on-year by 44,800 people (15.7 percent) to 239,700 in the first quarter of 2017, the Statistics Office reported on June 7.

The unemployment rate compared to the 1st quarter of 2016 declined by 1.7 percentage points to 8.7 percent. The unemployment rate among male jobseekers fell by 0.7 p.p. to 8.7 percent, while among women the figure decreased by 2.9 p.p. to 8.7 percent. When compared with the 4th quarter of 2016, and considering seasonal effects, unemployment went down by 12,300 people to 235,300.

In terms of age, the largest group of unemployed were people aged between 35-49 (35 percent or 83,800 individuals). All age categories recorded year-on-year decreases, with the biggest drop of 11,100 individuals seen among people aged between 25-34.

The number of people who had never had a job made up 21,700 individuals of all unemployed.

As regards regional distribution, the highest numbers of unemployed were found in Presov (54,200 individuals) and Kosice (45,500 individuals) regions. Unemployment shrank in all regions, with the biggest relative drops seen in Trencin (38.3 percent) and Trnava (35 percent) regions.

State spent \$4 million for cultures of ethnic minorities in 2016

The state allocated more than \$4 million for supporting the cultures of ethnic minorities in 2016, with almost \$2 mil-

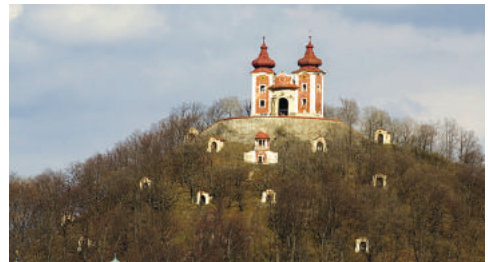
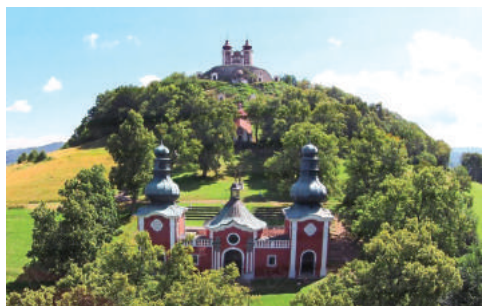
lion of the sum going for the Hungarian minority, TASR learned on June 14.

The figures were part of a report on the status of ethnic minorities approved by the Cabinet on June 14.

Still in terms of state financial assistance, the Hungarian minority was followed by the Roma or Gypsies (more than \$675,000) and the Ruthenians (almost \$325,000).

"The financial resources represent a basic condition for supporting the cultures and languages of ethnic minorities living in Slovakia, thus enabling applicants to carry out individual activities aimed at preserving and developing their cultures," reads the report.

(Continued on page 11)



Religious shrines have dotted the landscape of Slovakia for centuries, reflecting the rich faith of the Slovak people. One of the most popular sites is the shrine of The Calvary in Banská Štiavnica located in central Slovakia. The extensive shrine complex features the various events in the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. The Jesuits established the shrine in 1751 and has played an important role in the religious life of the area for centuries. Although created at the height of the baroque period, the architecture of the buildings reflect a sober and moderate decorative style which allows pilgrims to concentrate on the life of faith. In 1951, Calvary was nationalized by the communist regime and subsequently began to deteriorate. Following the fall of communism in 1989, the shrine again became popular. In 2007, Calvary was included in the World Monument Fund's list of the 100 most endangered religious monuments in the world. This attracted new support and saw the establishment of the Calvary Fund. The fund leads the continuing restoration process and is working to return the religious and cultural life to this shrine. Today Calvary continues as a popular tourist and faith attraction.

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 10)

Parliament rejects home-schooling for higher primary school grades

Home-schooling won't be introduced in Slovakia for the higher primary school grades, as on June 15 Parliament turned down a legislative proposal ushering in such an option presented by the liberal Freedom and Solidarity party (SaA).

Only home-schooling for the lower primary grades is currently permitted in Slovakia. Meanwhile, SaA claimed that home-schooling also for the higher grades has already been introduced in several European countries.

"According to various global studies, home-schooled children - i.e. children educated by their parents or selected persons - don't lag behind their peers in results, social and economic maturity," stated the SaA.

MPs largely view Kiska's State of the Republic as true to reality

While President Andrej Kiska delivered his own perspective on where Slovakia stands, he sees things as they really are, several Members of Parliament concurred following Kiska's State of the Republic address in Parliament on June 14.

On the other hand, governing Smer-SD party MP Dusan Jarabek said that Kiska "had better appoint new Constitutional Court judges before delivering State of the Republic addresses." Furthermore, in his reviewing Slovakia's economic success, Kiska failed to mention who has made this success possible, said Jarabek.

"I didn't quite like the attack against the Interior Minister (Robert Kalinak) either," said Jarabek, noting that it appeared as though the president had taken a cue from the Opposition.

Opposition Freedom and Solidarity (SaA) MP Lubomir Galko said that Kiska's speech had sat well with him. "It contained what I wanted it to contain. He denounced corruption and spoke about the ever deeper distrust dividing common people and politics as such," said Galko, before adding that the president also succinctly named the cause of the divide - inequality before the law.

MP Karol Farkasovsky of the co-governing Slovak National Party (SNS) noted that he expects the speech to elicit a variety of reactions. "He described the state of the republic from his viewpoint. Some aspects merit deeper reflection, and I believe that his speech will be inspirational for society," he said.

"His (Kiska's) evaluation of the Slovak economic success caught my attention...it was fairly objective," said Farkasovsky, before adding that while Kiska is entitled to present his own opinions, he should also look for and recommend solutions.

Opposition OĽaNO-NOVA MP Alan Suchanek said that the takeaway message from Kiska's address for him is that Slovakia is continuing to wrestle with corruption and injustice. "This time round, he dealt with the health care sector only in passing, but he did praise Health Minister Tomas Drucker and Justice Minister Lucia Zitnanska (Most-Hid) as those who are genuinely trying to change things, and I believe he was on target," said Suchanek.

"We are Family" MP Milan Krajniak called Kiska's speech "standard." He opened up issues that are of interest to him. What struck a chord with me was that he'd highlighted the gap between our economic performance and the salaries of employees in Slovakia," said Krajniak.

He added that extremism is best tackled when citizens feel that the state ensures freedom, safety and a dignified life for them. That said, people are aware of social injustices and, as a consequence, vote for extremist parties such as LSNS, said Krajniak.

Most-Hid MP Peter Kresak recognized what he called Kiska's principled attitude towards fascism. "He sees things for what they are. He described both the negatives and the positives," said Kresak.

Icelandic firm Marel plans to expand its production in Nitra

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on June 17 in Reykjavik visited the headquarters of a company called Marel that is running a plant in the Nitra industrial park, TASR learned on the same day.

The company exports meat, fish and poultry processing equipment to several continents. Fico labeled Marel as one of the best examples of economic cooperation between Slovakia and Iceland.

Marel chief Arni Oddur Thordarson informed the Slovak prime minister that the firm plans to expand its production in Nitra. "Our production was originally located in Iceland, Scandinavia and the Netherlands; however, we view Nitra as a platform with a further growth potential," said Thordarson.

"We launched production in Nitra in 2005. The good news is that we are going to boost our production capacities there as soon as at the end of this year and the beginning of 2018. Preparatory works have already been started," said Thordarson.

When asked by TASR whether he is not concerned about a lack of qualified workforce while expanding the company's production in Slovakia, the Marel chief stated this is a Europe-wide problem.

"We are currently employing 300 people in Nitra and want to increase their number to 500. There are 50,000 people available in Slovakia at the moment and we must fight for them. Naturally, we will not hire just anybody," added Thordarson.

Fourth of July Trivia Facts

1. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July Fourth?

Two

2. What day did most signers of the Declaration of Independence actually sign the document?

Aug. 2, 1776

3. Did you know which president was born on July 4?

It was Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president, in 1872

4. Which three presidents died on the Fourth of July?

They were three of the first five presidents: John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe. The second president, Adams, and the third, Jefferson, both died in 1826, the 50th anniversary.

6. When did the Fourth of July become a legal federal holiday?

1870. Then, in 1938, Congress re-affirmed the holiday to make sure all workers received full pay.

7. Is there something written on the back of the Declaration of Independence?

Yes! It's said the following is written upside down and backwards: "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776." It's not known who wrote it, or when. In Revolutionary War years, parchment was rolled up, so this probably served as a message.

10. When were fireworks first used to celebrate July Fourth?

1777. Congress chose fireworks as a way to celebrate the first anniversary. They were ignited over Philadelphia. The celebration also included bonfires and bells.

Rotary Visit to Father Murgas Room



The Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. recently gathered at King's on the Square for a tour of the Rev. Jozef Murgas Room. Approximately 15 members were in attendance. The tour guide was Magdalen M. Benish, a board member of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania and our Sokolka of Assembly 59. The highlights of the life of Father Murgas, a pioneer in wireless telegraphy and well-known Slovak religious and cultural leader in America were shared. In addition, an explanation of the various items on display in the room, including the painting of Father Murgas "Jesus in the Temple" as well as his butterfly collection. The group found the museum very interesting and informative. A luncheon followed and a lot of discussion was shared among the group. Information on the Rev. Jozef Murgas Room may be obtained on the web site at shsnp.org or by calling Magdalen M. Benish at 570 823-1222. Shown on the above photo are, l-r, Joseph T. Broghamer, Allen Mullins, Bob Lawrence and Magdalen M. Benish, the tour guide.

Slovak U.S.A.

As a project for the Slovak Catholic Federation, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School in Cleveland is trying to assemble an on-line guide of *Places of Slovak Interest* around the United States. Please send him information about anything connected to Slovak history or culture in your city or state (excluding Cleveland, OH) at gerard@chhs.edu

Caring and Sharing Project of Our 48th International Slet

In just a few weeks, we will gather together to enjoy our organization's 48th International Slet at SUNY Brockport, N.Y. In the best traditions of fraternal outreach, the Supreme Physical Fitness Board decided to participate in a philanthropic project or a 'good deed.' We would like the youngsters who will compete at the Slet to participate. Sometimes it is difficult to get them involved by bringing canned goods for a local food pantry. Because canned goods can be difficult to pack, we have decided to pursue a different route. This year, we have decided to participate in an organization known as the Crayon Initiative. This an organization that takes used, unused, broken and old crayons and melts them down to become new crayons. They are then donated to children's hospitals.

We encourage all our Slet participants to bring along all the crayons they have laying around the house. This is an opportunity to put those old crayons to new use. Complete details of this project may be found on this page. We thank our Slet participants in advance as we promote fraternal outreach.

Zdar Boh!

Katie Swift

Supreme Assistant
Physical Directress

RECYCLING UNWANTED CRAYONS INTO UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

DO YOU HAVE USED, BROKEN CRAYONS THAT ARE HEADED FOR THE TRASH? WE CAN DO SOMETHING GREAT WITH THEM!

Color us excited about our partnership with The Crayon Initiative. The Crayon Initiative is a unique charitable organization that takes unwanted or used crayons and remanufactures them to donate to children's hospitals. Drop off your crayons and donations at Camp Argo to support this great cause.

Collect used or unwanted crayons from restaurants, schools, and homes.

Send collected crayons to The Crayon Initiative for processing.

Donate remanufactured crayons to children's hospitals.

How does it work?

Give us your crayons and give back!

Learn more at: www.thecrayoninitiative.org or email us at campargorachel@gmail.com

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Obituaries...

Former chaplain of Group 2

Monsignor Peter P. Dora passes away peacefully at age 76 in New York City

Monsignor Peter P. Dora, a well-known Connecticut educator, pastor and chaplain, passed away peacefully on June 5 at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y. He was 76.

A native of Stamford, Conn., he was born there April 29, 1941, the son of Paul Dora and the former Rose Kmetz. They were married at the former Most Holy Trinity Slovak Church in Yonkers, N.Y. They later settled in Stamford, Conn.

Monsignor Dora attended K.T. Murphy Grammar School, St. Mary School and Stamford High School. Discerning a call to the priesthood, he began studies at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, Conn. and St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Md. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport on May 20, 1967 at the Cathedral of St. Augustine, Bridgeport by the late Bishop Walter W. Curtis. He celebrated his first solemn Mass at his home parish of St. Benedict in Stamford.

Always interested in education, after ordination he served as faculty member and spiritual director of Notre Dame Girls High School in Bridgeport; St. Mary High School in Greenwich and at the former Christ the King Preparatory School in Southport Conn. He was also spiritual director of the Diocesan College House of Studies. In 1973, he became director of religious education in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

In 1976, Msgr. Dora took a sabbatical to pursue ecumenical studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and at the Woodstock Center at Georgetown University, and he later completed further studies at Fairfield University and at the Monastery of Taizé, France. He was appointed director of Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs in 1981, a position he held for 10 years.

In 1984, he became pastor of his home parish of St. Benedict in Stamford. Six years later, he became pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stratford, where he had started as a part-time parochial vicar after his ordination. At Holy Name, Msgr. Dora was a popular and respected leader of the faith and Slovak community as well. He was a member of Assembly 9 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and later served as chaplain of Group 2, "Rev. Stephen Panik. In 1992, he was honored at the annual St. Martin Day celebration of Group 2 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. In July 1991, he served as the gracious host pastor for our organization's 26th national convention liturgy held at Holy Name Church. He has always supported various projects of the Slovak community, in particular the



**Monsignor Peter P. Dora
1941 - 2017, R.I.P.**

annual appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation. In April 1992, as pastor of Holy Name, he welcomed the late Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec, S.J. to the parish on the occasion of the Cardinal's receiving an honorary doctorate from Sacred Heart University.

In 2003, he became pastor of St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull, a position he held until 2006, when he took the post of chaplain at Stamford Hospital with residence at St. Clement Parish in Stamford.

Msgr. Dora served as a diocesan consultant, president of the Board of Directors of the Catholic School System for Region VI, and was on the Clergy Personnel Committee and the Priests' Council. In 1991, Pope St. John Paul II named him a Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor at the recommendation of Bridgeport Bishop Edward M. Egan.

Msgr. Dora lived in retirement at Catherine Dennis Keefe Queen of Clergy Residence in Stamford.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on June 9 at the Church of St. Bridget of Ireland in Stamford with the Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport as celebrant. Interment followed at St. John Cemetery in Darien, Conn. The Bosak Funeral Home of Stamford was in charge of arrangements.

Msgr. Dora is survived by his older sister, Sister Patricia Dora, CSJ, of Hartford, his twin sister, Mary Rose Patten and her husband, Dwight, and by his nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass honoring the memory of Monsignor Dora will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 5 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stratford, Conn. at 7 p.m. A reception will follow in the Parish Center. Msgr. Dora served as pastor of Holy Name from 1990 until 2003.

May the priestly soul of Monsignor Peter, who so beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith now rest in peace. May he enjoy the beatific vision.



IN MEMORIAM

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



APRIL 2017

Assembly/Wreath	Member	Age	Date of Death
Assembly 24	Joseph Francis Sparone, Boonton, NJ	70	February 4, 2017
Assembly 48	Joseph George Smilo, Philadelphia, PA	63	April 6, 2017
Assembly 78	Mary K. Alward, Bethlehem, PA	92	March 29, 2017
Assembly 78	Agnes A. Stephan, Bethlehem, PA	95	March 9, 2017
Assembly 79	Keith P. Krumenaker, Lilly, PA	57	March 12, 2017
Assembly 86	Kelly Stoss, Port Griffith, PA	38	April 20, 2017
Assembly 108	John Kavulic, Youngstown, OH	80	March 29, 2017
Assembly 108	William O'mellan Jr., Youngstown, OH	53	March 28, 2017
Assembly 113	Joseph E. Gmo, Kenosha, WI	92	March 21, 2017
Assembly 179	Pauline Rutter, North Braddock	92	March 18, 2017
Assembly 214	Agnes M. Zivic, Rossford, OH	86	March 15, 2017
Assembly 255	Maria E. Wasko, Egypt, PA	99	September 17, 2016
Assembly 261	Michael Ziats, Reading, PA	67	December 7, 2016
Assembly 312	Carmen Begany, Passaic, NJ	74	April 12, 2017
Wreath 1	Rosalie F. Amidon, Bridgeport, CT	97	March 18, 2017
Wreath 1	Margaret B. Nemec, Bridgeport, CT	97	February 25, 2017
Wreath 15	Richard W. Moncheck, Perryopolis, PA	70	March 27, 2017
Wreath 21	George J. Silus, Superior, WI	96	March 6, 2017
Wreath 54	Margaret T. Sobnosky, Youngstown, OH	88	March 1, 2017
Wreath 93	Joseph R. Porubsky, Milwaukee, WI	85	April 2, 2017
Wreath 103	Mary H. Despot, Barberton, OH	95	March 4, 2017
Wreath 107	Helen B. Gasparek, Youngstown, OH	86	March 1, 2017
Wreath 155	Dorothy M. Goodman, Reading, PA	84	March 31, 2017
Wreath 155	Mary Dorothy Dobrosky, Reading, PA	92	April 18, 2017

Irene Sinanis, former Bridgeport Wreath 1 president laid to rest at 89

Irene Lesko Sinanis, a lifelong resident of Bridgeport, Conn., passed away peacefully at her home on May 17 with her caring children and family standing by at the age of 89. She was the widow of the late John Sinanis who passed away in March 2015.



A native of Bridgeport, Irene was born of Slovak immigrant parents, the late Stephen Lesko and the former Mary Dulin. She was graduated from the former St. John Nepomucene Commercial High School and Harding High School. Irene was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Class of 1947, Dental Hygiene program. She had been a member and past president of the Connecticut Dental Hygienists Association and practiced for 50 years in the Bridgeport area. Irene volunteered her services as a dental hygienist to the Special Olympics.

Irene was a life-long member of the former St. John Nepomucene Slovak Parish in Bridgeport and more recently at Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stratford. She was born into an active Sokol family. She was enrolled as a Sokolka at birth in Wreath 1. As a youth, she actively participated in various Slets and other sporting events hosted by Group 2. She served for many years as president of Wreath 1, the oldest female lodge of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, succeeding her late mother, Maria Lesko who has served in the position for more than 25 years. She was active in Group 2 serv-

ing in various capacities including that of judging track and field athletic competitions. Irene represented her lodge at several national Slovak Catholic Sokol conventions, serving on many committees over the years. She beautifully mirrored the spirit of service and volunteerism as espoused by the fraternal benefit system. She will be remembered for collecting soda tabs from her friends for the Ronald McDonald House and collecting yarn for the Linus Project. She also volunteered her time to transport cancer patients for their treatments. Irene loved playing cards with longtime friends who continued to visit over the years. She will be remembered for her robust personality and big smile.

Her life was enriched by her two granddaughters, Sarah Nist of California and Stephanie Nist of Massachusetts. In addition to her granddaughters, Irene is survived by a daughter, Judy Nist and her husband, Bob of Rhode Island; a son, Jay Sinanis of Trumbull, Conn. and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to her husband, Irene was preceded in death by her daughter, Denise Sinanis.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final farewell to Sister Sinanis at the Pistey Funeral in Stratford, Conn. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at Holy Name of Jesus Church. Interment followed at St. John Cemetery in Stratford.

May our Sister Irene, who throughout her life beautifully mirrored our Sokol way of life, now rest in peace. She was a credit to our rich faith and Slovak traditions and will be sorely missed. Our sympathy goes out to the Sinanis family.

John E. Kavulic, 80, was member in Youngstown, Oh.

John E. Kavulic passed away peacefully in Florida on March 29, 2017, surrounded by his loved ones. He was 80.

A native of Youngstown, Oh., John was born there December 25, 1936, son of the late John and Mary (Biroshak) Kavulic. He was a 1955 graduate of Wilson High School and upon graduation enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Afterward, he worked at Republic Steel until being hired by the Youngstown Police Department where he served 32 years. He worked on patrol for 16 years and then was in charge of the record and evidence rooms. After retiring in 1996, John worked as a U.S. deputy marshal.

On April 26, 1998, John married his wife, the former Grace Yavorsky. Together they shared their love of golf and dancing. He enjoyed his family, as well as golf, baseball, bowling, hunting and fishing. He could often be found outside, gardening or doing yardwork. He loved to cook, especially making cheese cake or his special garlic stuffed bacon.

John was a long-time member of Assembly 108 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and participated in numerous Sokol bowling and golf outings. He was also active in Branch 731 of the First Catholic Slovak Union and was a member of the FOP Lodge No. 28 and Eagles Aerie 3298. He was a lifelong member of St. Matthias Parish, now a component of the Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Brother Kavulic is survived by his beloved wife, Grace; children, Kim Marshall, Denise Yavorsky and James (Tammy) Yavorsky; grandchildren, Ryan Yavorsky and Michael Thornton and seven other

(Continued on page 13)

Sokol Birthdays

JULY 1

William Babik, III, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Michele Mager, Elyria, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

Karen Maskara Granatino, Scituate, Mass., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Marie Ann Hutra, Brooklyn, N.Y., a member of Assembly 182, New York City.

George J. Matthews, Jr., Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Albert J. Papcun, Jr., Canton, Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Emily Lynn Pogorelec, Wayne, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Ruth A. Troxil, Youngstown, Oh., a member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

Michael A. Vavrica, Fishkill, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

JULY 2

Rosie Bakita, Barberton, Oh., a member of Wreath 103, Barberton, Oh.

Mary Margaret Geissler, Philadelphia, Pa., a member of Wreath 13, Philadelphia, Pa.

Karen M. Holodak, East Islip, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Renata Jurasiova-Vasil, Garfield, N.J., a member of Assembly 182, New York, N.Y.

Gerard Kubej, Bellevue, Wa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

JULY 3

Genevieve Borovicka, Windber, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Amber M. Clymo, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

JULY 4

Raymond Babik, Jr., Doylestown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Brianna Marie Zofia Burton, Topeka, Kan., a member of Assembly 108, Youngstown, Oh.

Florence Kopchak, Wallington, N.J., a member of Wreath 2, Passaic, N.J.

Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., Natrona Heights, Oh., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Judith A. Nist, Westerly, R.I., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

Donna C. Johnson, Concord, Ca., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

JULY 5

Jason Dudek, Middletown, Conn., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

JULY 6

Helene Janetka Rapchick, Mount Laurel, N.J., a member of Wreath 13, Philadelphia, Pa.

JULY 7

Anna Grega, Central City, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

JULY 8

Valeria Deater, Johnstown, Pa.,

a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

John G. Duch, Esq., Wyckoff, N.J., a member of Assembly 1, Passaic, N.J.

John Fecko, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Andrew J. Michel, Mechanicsburg, Pa., a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

JULY 9

Scott Thomas Pogorelec, Clifton, N.J., our esteemed Supreme Secretary and a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

JULY 10

Robert English, Sarasota, Fla., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Joshua Lynch, Greencastle, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Richard D. Rakovan, Chardon, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

JULY 11

George Dluhy, Jr., Crystal River, Fla., a member of Assembly 162 in Clifton, N.J.

George S. Hanzel, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Michael J. Pjontek, Jr., Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

JULY 12

Rozalia Benca, Newburyport, Ma., a member of Assembly 314, Boston, Ma.

John E. Lisicky, Lorain, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

Emil Pavelek, Croton on Hudson, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

JULY 13

John J. Benus, Saddle Brook, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Daniel S. O'Sullivan, Pelham Manor, N.Y., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

John M. Papcun, Armada, Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Constance Vogel, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

JULY 14

Sylvia Goff, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

JULY 15

James Fesko, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Keith Graham, Plains, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Michael T. Matras, Perryopolis, Pa., President of Assembly 25, Perryopolis, Pa.

Paul Tomasura, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 71, Edwardsville, Pa.

JULY 16

Michael J. Kaczor, Reading, Pa., a member of Assembly 261, Reading, Pa.

Charles Rapchick, Mount Laurel, N.J., a member of Assembly 48, Philadelphia, Pa.

Scholarships available for Pennsylvania members

The Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, which represents more than 750,000 fraternalists in the Keystone State, is pleased to announce its 2017 scholarship program. Applications are now available for this fraternal benefit. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol resident in the state of Pennsylvania may apply for these grants.

To apply, applicants must:

* Be a 2017 high school graduate who will be attending an accredited college, university or trade school etc. in the fall of 2017 as a full time student, carrying a minimum of 12 semester credits.

* Obtain a recommendation letter from the applicant's fraternal benefit society.

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

The completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2017.

Several \$500 scholarship grants will be awarded. For an application and additional information on this year's Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance scholarship grants, contact Virginia Holmes at tel. 412 672-1565 or email holmes7732@aol.com.

Lodge Jottings

(Continued from page 4)

Brockport, N.Y. to compete at our organization's 48th International Slet. We wish them well. We have a proud past and with the continued enthusiasm of our young Sokols and Sokolky, we hope to have a confident future as well.

So, we hope to see a good turnout of our members at this year's Sokol Family Day Picnic on August 20.

Zdar Boh!

James T. Genosky

Financial Secretary, Assembly 34

John E. Kavulic

(Continued from page 12)

grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a sister, Rose(John)Klarich; nieces, Lori MacGregor, Caroline Herb, Michele Zitko and Kristen Elbatout and a nephew, Philip Kavulic.

Family, friends and fellow-fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother Kavulic at the Kubina-Yuhasz-Wasko Funeral Home in Boardman, Oh. A concelebrated Mass of Christian burial was celebrated in St. Matthias Church in Youngstown on April 8. Principal celebrant was the pastor, the Rev. John J. Jerek. Concelebrating was the Rev. Msgr. Peter M. Polando, rector of the Cathedral of St. Columba in Youngstown. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery with full military honors. May our Brother John who so beautifully mirrored our fraternal way of life, now rest in peace.

Minutes of the Group 6 semi-annual meeting held in Belle Vernon, Pa.

The semi-annual meeting of Group 6, "Msgr. Andrew Hlinka" was held on Sunday, June 11 at the Hoss Steak & Seafood Restaurant in Belle Vernon, Pa. Group 6 President Anna Mae Warnick called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She offered a warm welcome and thanked all for their efforts in promoting the work of Sokol fraternalism in Group 6. An enjoyable luncheon was then had by all.

After lunch, Sister Anna Mae Warnick opened the meeting by leading the delegates in the recitation of The Lord's Prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were then read by the secretary, Terri Gardner and recorded. Sister Warnick then opened the meeting with discussion regarding organizing a fall fraternal event to be hosted by Group 6. A committee was appointed to begin working on the get-together. Suggestions were accepted regarding a venue.

A report was presented by the Group 6 Sports Director Michael T. Matras who discussed the Group's participation at the recent international bowling tournament held in May in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. as well as the upcoming softball and golf tournaments. Strong support was given to our Group's participation in the various Sokol sporting and fraternal events.

With no further business, on a motion by Mary Erdley, seconded by John Erdley, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The meeting then closed with a prayer. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Gardner
Group 6 secretary

Fun Facts About Summer

(Continued from page 3)

A June fun fact is that the month of June is named after the Roman goddess Juno.

The first women's bathing suit was created in the 1800's. It came with a pair of bloomers.

The "dog days of summer" refer to the dates from July 3rd to August 11th. They are named so after the Sirius the Dog Star. This star is located in the constellation of Canis Major.

Frisbees, invented in the 1870's as a pie plate, but in the 1940's, college students began throwing them around. They have since stopped being used for pie plates and are now a summertime staple.

For a July fun fact, Roman general Marc Antony named the month of July after Julius Caesar.

July is national blueberry month.

The longest day of the year is on the summer solstice.

Mosquitos are most prevalent during summer months. Mosquitos have been on earth for more than 30 million years.

Most theme and water parks are on a summer seasonal schedule. Most amusement parks have a full time season from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

August was named after Julius Caesar's nephew. He had received the title of "Augustus" which means "reverend".

The first National Spelling Bee was held on June 17th, 1825.

More thunderstorms occur during summer than any other time of year. They are also take place more commonly in the south east of England.

Ice pops were invented in 1905 by an 11 year old boy.

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

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Scenes of the 2nd Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors

Courtyard by Marriott + Wilkes-Barre, Pa. + June 23-24



Members of the Board of Directors pose for a group photo and include, from the left, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, Supreme Treasurer Dennis J. Zifcak, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, General Counsel, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr. and Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek.



Four freedoms: The first is freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want ...everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear...anywhere in the world. - *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Coins Minted since 8 B.C.

The development of coins for money began in the 8th century B.C. with the Lydian people of ancient Asia Minor.

Up to this time, gold and silver were used in the form of bars, not coins. To purchase something, a slice was cut from it and weighed. But there was no way to make sure the bar's purity or weight were uniform. It was also cumbersome.

The Lydians made metal coins of a specific weight and design. They stamped them with a specific symbol that served as their guarantee. The practice caught on and spread like wildfire - to coin a phrase.

Be Healthy and Wise

Want to keep healthy for years to come?

Exercise, eat right, get sufficient rest, read a bit, think occasionally, and have some good reason to get up every morning.

Two Essentials For Life

What are the minimum essentials of life?

Over and above such things as food, air, water, and a roof of some kind over your head, one's absolute minimum needs are two: a comfortable pair of shoes and a bed.

Why shoes and bed? Well, you're either in one or the other all your life.

★ THE AMERICAN WAY ★

Who Cracked the Liberty Bell

Nearly everyone has heard the story of the Liberty Bell and its famous crack. Supposedly, on July 4, 1776, a boy ran to tell the bell ringer at Philadelphia's Independence Hall that independence had just been declared. The bell ringer rang the bell so hard and so long it cracked.

This makes a nice story, but we now know that it was created out of whole cloth by one George Lippard in 1847 for his book on the American Revolution.

Nor does his story fit the known facts. Independence was not even proclaimed until July 8. Ordered for the 50th anniversary of Pennsylvania's democratic constitution in 1751, the Bell cracked long before 1776 - probably while being tested. The Bell was then melted down, recast and rehung.

It cracked yet again. This time, so the story relates, while ringing for the death of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall in 1835. However, the clappers are always muffled at such times, so this story, too, seems dubious.



So, if we don't know exactly who cracked the Bell either time, what do we know?

* In 1839, it became known as the Liberty Bell when it was used as a symbol by the abolitionists.

* The last time it rang was on Washington's birthday in 1846, after which it was taken down.

* And on the first minute of the bicentennial year in 1776, the Bell left Independence Hall for a glass-walled pavilion nearby.

Besides its famous crack, the Bell should also be known for the words inscribed on it: *Proclaim Liberty Throughout All The Land Unto All The Inhabitants Thereof.*

10 Commandments of Your Finances

1. Thou shall not put out more money than you take in.
2. Thou shall spend money thinking of your future as well as your present.
3. Thou shall remember that compound interest is never retroactive.
4. Thou shall not collect credit cards nor use them carelessly.
5. Thou shall honor always thy debts and obligations.
6. Thou shall develop a plan and

spend money also on savings and investments.

7. Thou shall search for high interest rates and a good return.

8. Thou shall live moderately and not worship the god of materialism.

9. Thou shall practice dollar-cost averaging in your investments.

10. Thou shall obtain a financial education so as to be no one's fool.

- **Loren Dunton**, President
National Center
for Financial Education



SPOLOČENSKÉ PODUJATIA

Letný festival v Danville, PA

Sestričky Sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, PA usporiadajú v sobotu 8. júla od 10.30 do 5.00 hodiny Letný festival v Materskom dome vo Villa Sacred Heart v Danville, PA. Svätá omša bude o 5.00 hodine. Počas dňa budú pre deti i dospelých pripravené rôzne aktivity. Na predaj budú slovenské a americké jedlá a koláče. Blížišie informácie o podujatí: Sestra Barbara Sable, tel. č. 570-275-3581.

Piknik v Cleveland, OH

Americko-slovenský klub Zemplin v Cleveland, OH usporiada v nedeľu 16. júla v Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Heights, OH piknik pod názvom "Slovak Day Picnic". Začiatok bude o 12.00 hodine naobed a trvať bude do 8.00 hodiny večer. Na predaj budú tradičné slovenské a americké jedlá, domáce koláče, zákusky a slovenské pivo Zlatý Bažant. Hrať bude Johnny Pastirik Band. Pre deti a dospelých budú pripravené rôzne hry. Vstupné je bezplatné. Blížišie informácie: George Carny, tel. č. 440-885-5702.

Mariánska púť do West Haverstraw, NY

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City usporiada slovenskú púť v nedeľu 13. augusta do Marian Shrine vo West Haverstraw, New York. Spoved' bude pred slovenskou svätou omšou, ktorá bude o 11.00 hodine dopoludnia. Obed bude o 12.30 hodine. Ružencová procesia začne o 2.30 hodine. Blížišie informácie: Mária Božeková, tel. č.: 347-612-1934, Lisa Calabrese, tel. č.: 212-734-46123-

Kto má záujem na púť cestovať autobusom, ktorý bude odchádzať od kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku, má sa prihlásiť na horeuvedených telefónnych číslach. Autobus bude k dispozícii ak bude dostatočný počet záujemcov.

Vedecký seminár venovaný 110. výročiu založenia SLvA

(Pokračovanie zo str. 16)

ktoré boli spojené s postavou M. R. Štefánika a predovšetkým aktívnou bojovou činnosťou tisícov slovenských legionárov v rámci česko-slovenských légii, aj zásluhou spolupráce so Slovenskou ligou v Amerike a dobrovoľníkov z radov amerických Slovákov, sa zameriaval F. Vrabel z Ústavu politických vied SAV. Dokázal, že počty slovenských legionárov neboli symbolické, ako sa to skreslene prezentuje. V skutočnosti išlo o stovky a tisíce obetavých vojakov, hrdinov, ktorí v prvých líniah prelievali svoju krv na frontoch prvej svetovej vojny za slobodu starej vlasti ďaleko za jej hranicami. Základné referáty vyvolali plodnú a podnetnú diskusiu, v rámci ktorej sa nastoľovali otázky a možné dokumentačné i

vedecké riešenia napr. ohľadom záchranu archívu a knižnice Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, revitalizácie slovenského historického povedomia poukázanim na dejiny amerických Slovákov a ich nezastupiteľný zástoj v slovenských národných dejinách, potrebou spracovania a vydania viacerých historických monografií (napr. o predstaviteľoch Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, o slovenských legionároch počas prvej svetovej vojny ako celku a ich predstaviteľoch i bojových jednotkách na všetkých frontoch a pod.).

Príspevky zo seminára budú publikované v samostatnej monografii alebo ako študijná súčasť ročenky Krajanského múzea MS Slováci v zahraničí.

- Pavol Parenička

Na Islande vysvätili kostolík postavený zo slovenského dreva



Slovenské drevo z oblasti Podpolania vysušili a v Hríňovej postavili kostol pre Island. Konštrukciu potom rozbírali a previezli ako prvky trvalej unikátnej stavby v Reyðarfjörðure. 17. júna 2017 kostolík slávnostne vysvätili.

Na kamenistom ostrove je drevo vzácné. Stavby na Islande sú z kameňa. Unikátny drevený kostolík objednal katolícky biskup na Islande františkán David Bartimej Tencer, ktorý má slovenský pôvod. Spolu s drevom prišli zo Slovenska aj remeselníci – tesári, stolári, strechári, aby zrubovú stavbu realizovali podľa nákresov.

Farnosť s novým dreveným kostolom spravuje 3-členná slovenská komunita na čele s Petrom Kováčikom. Na celom ostrove žije asi 13.500 katolíkov (cca 3,5 až 4 % obyvateľstva). Výraznú väčšinu tvoria evanjelici.

Jedinečný drevený kostolík v Reyðarfjörðure má tvar františkánskeho kríža, vysoký je 12 metrov. Zsvätený je sv. Damiánovi. Aj interier je prispôbený slovenským možnostiam. Je to prvý katolícky kostol. Doteraz slúžili sv. omše v rodinných domoch, rybárskej fabrike, budove Červeného kríža alebo v evanjelických kos-

toloch. Katolíci nakoniec kúpili dom. Z priestoru, kde majiteľ choval kurence urobili kaplnku a vytvorili spoločenské priestory. V tesnej blízkosti stojí nový drevený kostol.

Na slávnostnej vysviacke

dreveného kostola na Islande sa zúčastnil aj premiér Slovenskej republiky Róbert Fico v sprievode ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslava Lajčáka a ministra financií Petra Kažimíra. - (foto: TASR)

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

...kde trávil čas pred svojim stand-upom! - pluska.sk
Tesco plánuje na Slovensku veľké zmeny, inšpiruje sa aj diskontmi - trend.sk
Malinový dip z troch ingrediencií - zahradkar.sk
Nemecký diskontný reťazec Lidl... - trend.sk
Zelený kečup nájdete medzi najväčšími failami - trend.sk
Preteky vo Švajčiarsku majú nového lídra - pravda.sk
Rozmýšľate nad kúpou last minute dovolenky - sme.sk
...hasičom a radniciam robí starosti street pooling - teraz.sk
- emma.sk
Najvyšší čas na update...

Kútik humoru

„Trestám vás, vojak Karandula, za to, že ste opitý dostali do kasárni fúrik. Máte niečo na svoju obhajobu?“
„Mám, v tom fúriku ste boli vy, pán poručík.“

Sudkyňa po vynesení rozsudku vraví odsúdenému:

- Dúfam, že toto je naposledy, čo vás tu vidím!
- Prečo, pani sudkyňa? Chystáte sa do dôchodku?

Za prácou do zahraničia odchádza menej Slovákov

Podľa údajov Štatistického úradu SR v prvom štvrťroku tohto roku pracovalo v zahraničí 155 200 Slovákov, čo je v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím vlaňajška približne o 5-tisíc menej.

K návratu na Slovensko motivuje ľudí podľa odborníkov napríklad neistá politická situácia, aká aktuálne panuje aj vo vyspelých európskych štátoch. Veľká Británia chystá brexit, vo Francúzsku, v Nemecku či Holandsku boli či budú voľby. V krajinách so silnejšími ekonomikami je dnes aj silnejšia konkurencia a vyššia ochrana domácych trhov. To znamená, že Slováci majú väčšie problémy uplatniť sa tam. Dalším dôležitým faktorom je však zlepšujúca sa domáca ekonomická situácia. Slováci sa teraz v zahraničí naozaj cítia byť menej akceptovaní a vítaní. Naopak, na Slovensku sa zvyšujú mzdy a klesá nezamestnanosť. Najst' si prijateľnú prácu bližšie k bydlisku je ľahšie.

V zahraničí Slováci najčastejšie pracujú v stavebníctve (v prvom štvrťroku 2017 ich bolo 46 600), v zdravotníctve a sociálnych službách (37 900 osôb) či v priemysle (29 000). Z európskych krajín robí najviac slovenských občanov v Rakúsku (52 400) a v Česku (39 100). Z oboch týchto krajín sa aj najviac Slovákov v posledných mesiacoch vracia. Doteraz tam predovšetkým dochádzali pracovať buď denne, alebo v týždňových cykloch.

Stále platí, že v cudzine si pracovné uplatnenie hľadajú najmä ľudia z chudobnejších regiónov. Momentálne je ich najviac z Prešovského kraja (42 000).

Hoci celkovo je na Slovensku nezamestnaných menej, parametre v zaostalých regiónoch sa naďalej zhoršujú.

Za posledných 15 rokov odišlo podľa štatistikov pracovať mimo Slovenska zhruba 300-tisíc ľudí. Vrátila sa teda približne polovica.

NAVŠTÍVTE NAŠU FACEBOOK STRÁNKU



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Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

Slovak Catholic Sokol

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V Martine sa konal vedecký seminár venovaný 110. výročiu založenia SLvA



Účastníci vedeckého seminára v Martine.

Počas nedávnej Slovenskej jari sa v Martine uskutočnilo mnoho zaujímavých, podnetných a hodnotných literárnych, umeleckých, vedeckých a výstavných podujatí, ktoré pripravila Matica slovenská (MS). Osobitné a popredné miesto v rámci nich zaujal medzinárodný vedecký seminár venovaný 110. výročiu založenia najvýznamnejšej krajinskej organizácie v našich národných dejinách - Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Konal sa 7. júna 2017 v Dome J. C. Hronského, kde sídli Krajské múzeum MS, ktoré túto akciu organizačne i spoločensky pripravilo.

Seminár otvorili predseda MS M. Tkáč a riaditeľka Krajského múzea MS Z. Pavelcová. Počas slávnostných príhovorov na seminári, okrem referentov a účastníkov, privítali generálnu tajomníčku Slovenskej ligy v Amerike N. Holú a podpredsedu Mikuláša Halka. Obaja vzácní hostia na úvod priblížili minulosť i súčasné aktivity, ako aj svoj osobný vklad do rozvoja Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, ktoré sa historicky i v súčasnosti orientujú najmä na kultúrno-politickú, ale tiež vedeckú a vydavateľskú činnosť, napr. dnes

populárne organizovanie festivalov slovenského kultúrneho dedičstva v USA vo viacerých amerických veľkomestách.

Pracovné rokovanie seminára, ktorý viedli a komentovali I. Mrva, riaditeľ Slovenského historického ústavu MS a P. Parenička, pracovník Slovenského literárneho ústavu MS, otvoril príspevok prof. M. Dobrotkovej z Trnavskej univerzity. Detailne sa zamerala na osvetlenie prehistórie vzniku, osudy prvých predstaviteľov a samotný akt založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike 26. mája 1907 v Clevelande ako vtedajšej najvýznamnejšej a strešnej kulturnopolitickej organizácie amerických Slovákov, ktorá vyvíjala mimoriadne bohaté a závažné politické aktivity (napr. r. 1914 americkú i svetovú verejnosť prostredníctvom svojho Memoranda informovala postavení Slovákov a ich národnom i sociálnom útlaku v Rakúsko-Uhorsku, r. 1915 rozhodujúco participovala na prijatí Clevelandskej a r. 1918 Pittsburskej dohody ako základných štátoprávných dokumentov na ceste k vzniku samostatnej česko-slovenskej štátnosti r. 1918).

Prof. R. Letz z Univerzity Kolumbijskej erudovane sa orientoval na účinkovanie Slovenskej ligy v Amerike v prelomových r. 1948-1950 v kontexte boja proti nástupu komunistického režimu v Československu, ktorý intenzívne pokračoval aj po personálnej výmene jej vrcholových funkcionárov. V praktickej činnosti sa to prejavovalo prijatím a etablovaním sa slovenských pofebruárových exulantov v americkom prostredí, no tiež snahami o zjednotenie slovenského krajanského politického exilu a sústredenie všetkých síl (politických aj cirkevných) na podporu na-stolenia demokratického vývoja v starej vlasti na Slovensku.

Problematickou angažovanosti Slovenskej ligy v Amerike pri obrane národných záujmov a práv Slovákov na Orave a Spiši po nespravodlivých a byrokratických začleneniach ich území počas 20. stor. rozhodnutiami delimitačných komisií k poľskému štátu sa zaoberala M. Majeriková-Molitoris zo Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku. Na vojenské aspekty prvého česko-slovenského zahraničného odboja počas prvej svetovej vojny,

(Pokračovanie na str. 15)

Krátke správy zo Slovenska



Minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš privítal v piatok 16. júna v priestoroch Základne výcviku a mobilizačného dopĺňovania v Martine 34 príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl (OS) po návrate z misie Resolute Support v Afganistane. V príhovore pripomenul, že v Afganistane pôsobia viac ako 14 rokov, počas ktorých sa v operáciách Trvalá sloboda, ISAF a Resolute Support vystriedali už tisíce slovenských vojakov.

Z 34 profesionálnych vojakov bolo päť žien a plnili zodpovedným spôsobom úlohy v oblasti prípravy špecialistov ozbrojených síl Afganistanu, zároveň aj špecialistov na opravu a údržbu vrtulníkov. Zdravotnícky tím plnil spoločne s českým tímom úlohy zdravotníckeho zabezpečenia v operácii.

Z výroby linky bratislavského závodu Volkswagen Slovakia zišlo 15. júna päťmiliónte vozidlo. Stal sa ním Volkswagen Touareg, ktorý poputuje zákazníkovi do Austrálie. Volkswagen Touareg sa v Bratislave sériovo vyrába od roku 2002.

Volkswagen Slovakia patrí k najväčším zamestnávateľom, exportérom i investorom v krajine. Zamestnáva 12.300 ľudí. Vyrába automobily Volkswagen Touareg, Audi Q7, Volkswagen

up!, Volkswagen e-up!, Seat Mii, Škoda Citigo a karosérie Porsche Cayenne. Okrem vozidiel produkuje prevodovky, komponenty pre prevodovky, podvozky a motory, ako aj zariadenia používané pri výrobe vozidiel.

Zo závislosti od drog sa vlní na Slovensku liečilo 3253 ľudí. Je to najviac za posledných desať rokov. Medzi liečenými prevládajú ľudia závislí od pervitínu a marihuany.

Do dobrovoľnej vojenskej prípravy sa tento rok prihlásilo 244 záujemcov, z toho je 46 žien, ktorých čaká prijímacie konanie. Každý z uchádzačov musí okrem iného absolvovať aj zdravotné a psychologické vyšetrenia. Rezort obrany chce vycvičiť 150 vojakov dobrovoľnej vojenskej prípravy, ktorí sa po jej absolvovaní automaticky stanú súčasťou záloh. V prípade ich záujmu o vstup do Ozbrojených síl SR už nebudú musieť absolvovať prípravnú štátnu službu.

Ministerstvo vnútra Slovenskej republiky 23. júla zaregistrovalo novú politickú stranu s názvom Nezávislosť a Jednota (NAJ). Bez presadzovať záujmy a práva všetkých obyvateľov, predovšetkým zamestnancov, dôchodcov, živnostníkov a stredných podnikateľov.

Prvé vojenské vrtulníky Black Hawk by mali prísť na Slovensko na prelome júna a júla

Prvé dva americké vojenské vrtulníky UH-60 Black Hawk by mali prísť na Slovensko na prelome júna a júla. Potvrdil to minister obrany Peter Gajdoš 14. júna po rokovaní vlády. S výrobou strojov pre slovenskú armádu sa v americkom Stratforde začalo už v polovici minulého roka.

Ďalšie dva vrtulníky by bť dopravené na Slovensko v priebehu budúceho roka. Zvyšných päť v roku 2019.

Nové americké vrtulníky na-

hradia súčasné Mi-17, ktorým postupne končí technická životnosť. Na Slovensko príde celkom deväť vrtulníkov za 261 miliónov dolárov.

Najväčší modernizačný kontrakt v histórii Ozbrojených síl SR, realizovaný prostredníctvom amerického vládneho programu Foreign Military Sales (FMS), uzavrelo predošlé vedenie rezortu.

Nové vrtulníky by mali prísť na leteckú základňu do Prešova.