

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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“Spookfest” at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club

Scenes of the Halloween Party on Oct. 28 hosted by Group 14, “St. Francis of Assisi in Pittsburgh, Pa.



(Additional pictures on p. 13)

An outstanding fraternal benefit

\$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2018

by Edward M. Moeller
Supreme Vice President

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2018. Our scholarship program, which had its beginnings in 1972 affirms our organization's commitment to the support of higher education among our youth. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2018 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two(2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards in each category.

A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships, one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,500 each; two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each; one The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000; one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and three(3), Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. In 2018, we will inaugurate the Yencha Scholarship Grant for study in the liberal arts in the amount of \$1,000. This new grant has been established by John and Mary Yencha of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Members of the Yencha family have been active in Slovak Catholic Sokol activities, both internationally and on the Group 7 level, for generations.

With one application you may apply for all college scholarship grants for which a member is eligible.

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

Slovak Catholic Sokol(a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

- * Must have a minimum of \$3,000 permanent Life Insurance Coverage.

- * Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years

- * Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL TIME student at an accredited college, university or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.

- * Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better.

- * One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member.

- * Essay - "How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?"

Theodore and Mary Jane Rich(one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,500 will be awarded)

- * Same requirements as for SCS scholarship

AND

- * One parent must be of Slovak ancestry

- * Must be majoring in the medical curriculum

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

- * Same requirements as for SCC scholarship

AND

- * Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

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

The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship(1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- * Same requirements as for SCS scholarship

(Continued on page 7)

Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. elected to the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance board

Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. was elected a director of the New Jersey - New York Fraternal Alliance during the group's 84th annual convention held at the Tropicana Casino & Resort in Atlantic City, N.J., on October 12-13. The alliance represents 28 fraternal benefit societies doing business in New Jersey and New York. At this year's convention, a total of 15 societies were represented by 33 delegates and 3 guests. The Slovak Catholic Sokol is among fraternal benefit societies domiciled in the state of New Jersey and plays an important role in the promotion of the fraternal benefit system. Presiding at this year's annual convention as president was Drew Wesnak of the National Slovak Society. The keynote address at the October 12 banquet was given by Andrea Litewski, Director of Education of the American Fraternal Alliance, the trade association of the fraternal benefit system in the United States and Canada.

A letter recognizing the leadership of the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance was received from the Hon. Chris Christie, Governor of the State of New Jersey in which he acknowledged the bonds of fraternity between the New Jersey and New York members and their exemplary efforts in promoting a spirit of volunteerism which strengthens their individual communities. A memorial service was conducted by our Honorary Supreme Officer and past president of the New Jersey Fraternal Alliance,

Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Sam Sbraccia, F.I.C. of the Polish Beneficial Association and Frederick Durso, Sr., F.I.C. of the Knights of Columbus. Among those remembered was Alvin Eglow of Vision Financial Group who served as the accountant of the Slovak Catholic Sokol as well as other fraternal societies and was a frequent presenter at the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance's annual conventions.

Presenters at this year's annual convention included Allan Ferrone of CPS Actuaries, Inc., Edward U. DePersis of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, Larry White, Managing Director of AQS Asset Management and Brendan Peppard, Assistant Commissioner for Life and Health Insurance at the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. Each discussed important topics of interest for today's fraternal benefit society.

During the convention banquet, the Hon. Donald Guardian, Mayor of Atlantic City, N.J. addressed the delegates. He thanked the NJ-NY Fraternal Alliance for Selecting Atlantic City as the site of the annual convention and the wonderful volunteer work and contributions to charitable causes organized by fraternal. President Wesnak announced that the Atlantic City Rescue Mission was a charitable cause being supported by the NJ-NY Fraternal Alliance at this year's annual meeting. Howard Hirsch, Director of Development of the Atlantic City Rescue Mission thanked the

fraternals for their continued support. Over 600 meals are served each day and approximately 250-300 people sleep in the mission each night. The mission also operates a women's center. Support for the mission beautifully mirrors the high ideals of fraternal outreach and service. A check for \$1,000 was presented to the Atlantic City Rescue Mission by President Wesnak. Richard Cecchi of Workmen's Benefit Fund of the USA presented a \$1,000 donation for the mission from the Recreation Farm Society, Inc. In addition, other monetary donations, healthcare items and food staples were contributed by member societies and individuals. Mr. Hirsch offered his gratitude for the generous donations and support provided again for the mission.

Checks for \$500 each were then presented to the recipients of the 2017 Youth Leadership Award recipients, Nicole Murphy of Workmen's Benefit Fund and Brittany Raffo of the Knights of Columbus. Each in turn presented the award to their selected charities.

The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Justine Wesnak of NSS Life. The installation of officers and board members followed. Installing Officer was Theresa A. Kluchinski, president of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. She recognized Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., of the Slovak Catholic Sokol; Justine Wesnak of the National Slovak Society and Frederick Durso, Sr.

(Continued on page 7)

Message from our Supreme President

by Michael J. Horvath

2017 is quickly coming to an end as we are already in the middle of



the year comes to a close and the new one begins.

More than half of our active Groups have held their annual meeting and we wait to read what they deliberated at the meetings and what they are planning for 2018. I would like to remind the Presidents of the Groups that have not held their annual meetings there is only six weeks left before the end of the year to hold your Annual meeting. If you are having a problem organizing your annual meeting inform our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, so he has a record of the issue. Please ask for help if this is what you need.

I also would like to remind our Assemblies and Wreaths now is the time to start planning your annual meetings and to send in your notice of the date and location of the meeting so they can be published in the Falcon. Meetings, especially annual meetings are so important to the ex-

istence of any organization, so I ask every member attend your annual meeting to help your Assembly or Wreath remain active and grow.

Since 1919 our country has set aside November 11 as Veterans Day, the day we honor all living and deceased men and women who served in the United States armed services. These men and women served to protect our country and way of life. We owe them so much especially our Slovak Catholic Sokol members who served. We thank you for your service.

Next Thursday we will celebrate that special day we give thanks for all of our blessings, Thanksgiving Day. Not only do we show our gratitude for all we have on Thanksgiving Day but it should also be the day we share what we have with others. I hope it is a day you can enjoy being together with family and friends to watch the many parades and sporting events to keep us awake after our hearty feasts. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

While you are with your family and friends on Thanksgiving Day mention our Society, drop the subtle hints about being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and introduce them to our fraternal benefits. And, maybe, they will ask, how they can become a member.

Zdar Boh!

With God's blessings to all!

Slovak Christmas Tree in Chicago

Each year, the various ethnic communities of Chicago, Ill. decorate individual Christmas trees reflecting their respective holiday traditions and heritage. These trees are displayed at the Museum of Science & Industry as part of the annual "Christmas Around the World" exhibit. The exhibit,

which had its beginnings in 1942, will be featured from November 18 thru January 7, 2018. The Slovak tree will be among the 49 ethnic trees featured at this year's exhibit. The museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive on Chicago's south (Continued on page 3)



Officers of the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance are shown above during a memorial service during this year's 84th annual convention held, October 12-13 at the Tropicana Casino & Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. Among those shown on the above photo are newly elected member of the board, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., far left; and Honorary Supreme Officer and past president of the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance, Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., fifth from the right.

New Yenchu scholarship grant established

We are pleased to announce that a new \$1,000 college scholarship grant has been established and will be available to our scholarship applicants in 2018. Edward P. Yenchu of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. has created an annual memorial scholarship grant in the name of his parents, John A. Yenchu and Mary Yenchu, and his daughter Lyn Yenchu, in memoriam. An annual grant of \$1,000 will be available to provide financial assistance for students pursuing college-level studies at a college, university or professional school. Applicants need to meet the eligibility requirements of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and have at least one parent of Slovak descent. Applicants need to major in the "arts" curriculum, i.e. literature, performing arts, culinary arts, media arts and visual arts. The first recipient of the Yenchu Scholarship will be announced in 2018. The application process will be made on-line. For additional information on this new Sokol college scholarship grant, see the article by the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller which begins on page 1 of this issue.

Thanks and gratitude go out to the Yenchu family for this generous fraternal gesture in support of higher education. Members of the family have beautifully mirrored the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system in general and of Slovak fraternalism in particular. They have been active in our organization for generations on both the local Group 7, "Rev. Joseph Murgas" level as well as nationally as well.



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Slovak Catholic Sokol



From the desk of the Supreme Secretary**Thank You**

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

Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause. -Abraham Lincoln

As the season of fall is in full swing, I cannot believe that the year 2017 is nearing its end. The month of November is a perfect time for us to reflect on the past year and give thanks for what we have.



Fortunately for us, this month has a day of remembrance to do just that.

This past Saturday gave us the opportunity to reflect on those who have served and who are currently serving to defend and protect our American way of life. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War." Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. After World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became legally known as Veterans Day. Interestingly, in 1968, the observation of Veterans Day was set as the fourth Monday in October. The first Veterans Day under the new law was Monday, October 25, 1971. Many states disapproved and continued to celebrate the holiday on its original date of November 11th.

In 1975, after it became evident that the actual date of Veterans Day carried historical and patriotic significance to many Americans, President Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th beginning in 1978. If November 11 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or following Monday, respectively.

It is important for us to recognize these individuals who make considerable sacrifices during their service. We should take this time to acknowledge these brave men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our freedom. During this time of the year, I like to put out a little list of things that we can do as Slovak Catholic Sokol members to show our gratitude to these amazing men and women:

1. **Express thanks:** If you see someone in uniform or someone you know has served, simply say "thank you."
2. **Send a care package:** Send a package of gratitude to a soldier. There are many organizations to assist with this, such as Operation Gratitude.
3. **Teach:** It starts with our children. Let your children know how thankful they should be for our brave men and women in our military.
4. **Volunteer:** Something near and dear to our hearts as a Fraternal. Volunteer at a local VFW or Veteran's Hospital.
5. **Donate:** Donate financially to the USO or another organization that helps our Veterans.

These are just a few ways you can show your support and gratitude to our wonderful men and women who serve this great country.

As many of you know, our longtime Editor, Daniel F. Tanzone, will be retiring at the end of the year. We cannot thank Danny enough for all that he has done for our Organization. Fortunately for us, we will still be able to rely on Danny occasionally, but we do want him to enjoy his well-deserved retirement. With Danny retiring, there will be some changes to the frequency of the newspaper. We will be going to a monthly publication starting this month. We will also be working on a new format of the Falcon that we will keep the membership updated on. Our plan is to have much more content on our website and social media platforms, while still publishing our monthly periodical. It is very important for our Groups, Assemblies, and Wreaths to constantly submit material and content to be published in our Falcon. The more people know about us, the better!

Finally, on behalf of my beautiful wife, Maggie, my son, Reid, and my entire Family, I wish all of our members a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. I urge you to value the special time you have with your families and do not take it for granted. God Bless everyone and Zdar Boh!

Slovak Christmas Tree in Chicago

(Continued from page 2)

side near the University of Chicago. For information on museum hours, call tel. 773 684-1414 or visit the museum's website at www.msichicago.org.

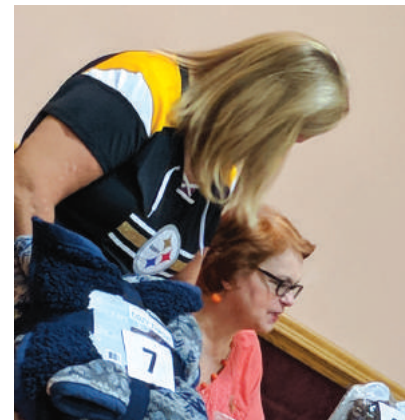
For the past 22 years, the Slovak tree has been sponsored and

decorated by Chicago's Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The interesting and colorful exhibit is a must for Chicagoland families and individuals. Hope to see you there!

- Robert Tapak Magruder

Scenes of the Annual Spaghetti Luncheon hosted by Wreath 22

Slovak Catholic Sokol Club + Pittsburgh, Pa. - Saturday, October 21





REFLECTOR...

Notings from Sokol and Slovak life

Andrew Pulver to perform at Westfield, N.J. concert

The well-known boy soprano, Andrew Pulver who began singing at the age of three, will perform at a benefit concert hosted by The Musical Club of Westfield on Sunday, November 19 at The First Baptist Church of Westfield located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield, N.J. The benefit concert "Music from the Heart of Europe... Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Russia" will feature the music, song, national decor and delicacies to celebrate the Heart of Europe.



Young Andrew will perform the beloved Slovak folk songs "Keby Som Bol Vtackom" by Mikulas Schneider-Tnnavsky and "Rodny Moj Kraj" by Gejza Dusik (words by Pavol Braxatoris). Following the concert in church a reception will follow in the church's social hall.

A native of Summit, N.J., 15-year old Andrew Pulver made his opera debut in the title role of Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors with Stony Hill Players of Summit. In 2013, he sang the solo role of "real Jake" in the Metropolitan Opera's premiere of Nico Muhly's Two Boys. He has also performed at events hosted by the Washington National Opera, and the Glimmerglass Festival. He has been a regular at the annual Slovak Children's Folklore Festival hosted by the Slovak American Cultural Center at New York's St. John Nepomucene Church. Andrew is currently an Honors Student in the 10th grade at Newark Academy in Livingston, N.J. He has been our Sokol since birth in Assembly 182 in New York City and hails from a prominent Slovak family. He will be accompanied at the concert by his mom, Tanya Ferencok Pulver. Admission to the concert is \$10.00 at the door. The benefit concert supports the College Scholarship for Music Majors.

Traditional Vilija Dinner set for Dec. 10 in Youngstown, Oh.

The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley (ASCA) will host its annual Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 10 at the Father Snock Center of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish - the former St. Matthias School at 2800 Shady Run Road in Youngstown, Oh. Continuing with the age-old tradition, festivities begin at 4 p.m. with the appearance of the first evening star. The annual event recreates one of the most beloved Slovak faith traditions "Stedry Vecer" (bountiful evening) or Vilija, the traditional Christmas Eve dinner in a Slovak home.

The Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to attend Mass celebrated in the past at Midnight. In eastern Slovakia, it is a meatless meal but by no means a meager one. The meal will begin with the sharing of the Oplatky, the Christmas wafer eaten with honey. Mushroom soup, fish, pirohy, bobalky and kolace will be enjoyed. There will be musical entertainment suited to the season featuring the artistry of the ever-popular Pittsburgh Slovaks, as well as much more, including a Basket auction and a lotto tree raffle. Oplatky will be available for sale.

While some still celebrate the Vilija at home on Christmas Eve, many do not. Attending the December 10 Vilija affords the opportunity to continue to appreciate and celebrate this faith tradition, especially among the younger generations. Cost of the dinner ticket remains a very affordable \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under age 12. Children age 4 and younger are welcome free of charge. Advance reservations only. For reservations contact Ron Garchar at tel. 330 533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330 549-3760 or email Loretta at loretaekoniak@gmail.com. Deadline for reservations is December 4. An enjoyable evening is assured.

Traditional Slovak Vilija set for Dec. 10 in Cleveland, Oh.

The traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper - Slovenska Vilija will be celebrated on Sunday, December 10. Hosted by the Benedictine Abbey of St. Andrew Svorad, the Slovak Institute and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, the program begins with Mass celebrated at 12 noon in the Abbey Church, located at 2900 Martin Luther King Drive in Cleveland. The meatless luncheon featuring all the foods enjoyed at the Christmas Eve supper in a Slovak home will follow in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School.

A wonderful cultural program will also be enjoyed featuring the talent and artistry of the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble and the accordionist, Ralph Szubski. There will also be fabulous basket raffles and other activities. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. Limited seating and advance ticket sales only at \$20.00 per person. For reservations call tel. 216 721-5300 x 100 before the deadline date of Nov. 28th.

59th Slovak Catholic Federation convention Mass and dinner in Youngstown, Oh.

The Cathedral of Saint Columba of the Diocese of Youngstown was filled with the beautiful sound of the majestic pipe organ, numerous orchestral instruments and the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Daniel W. Laginya as Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB, Abbot of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland and numerous priests processed to the altar to begin the Mass marking the start of the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The assembled worshippers, who came from across the United States as well as the Youngstown and surrounding dioceses, filled the pews. The Mass was held on Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Abbot Gary Hoover, the principal celebrant, was joined by 11 other priests, all of whom can claim at least some Slovak heritage. Sister Thomas More Dzumak, of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA presented the reading from the Book of Sirach. Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, of the Benedictine Abbey of Saint Andrew Svorad in Cleveland offered the reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB who serves as the Moderator/Protector of the Slovak Catholic Federation proclaimed the Gospel. Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V. F., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Pastor of Epiphany Parish in Sayre, PA was the homilist. He spoke about God being the King and the servants being ourselves. It is important, Father Hvozdic stressed, that no matter how many times we approach God for forgiveness, He is always there to forgive. God's heart is full of mercy and forgiveness, and so should we be to those who wrong us. Marie Golias, Second National Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation led the Universal Prayer. The Mass concluded with "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" sung in both English and Slovak.

A dinner, which was preceded by a cocktail hour, was held at the nearby social hall of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with close to 250 people sharing food, faith and fellowship. Many individuals took advantage of the opportunity to visit Saints Cyril and Methodius Church (now part of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish), which is a block away from the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Saints Cyril and Methodius has the distinction of being the oldest Slovak-ethnic Catholic church in Youngstown, having been built in 1896. It is considered the "Mother Church" of not only numerous other Slovak congregations, but also hosted various other ethnic groups as their presence grew in the area, but which had not yet established their own worship sites.

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, J. C. L., a Past President of the Slovak Catholic Federation,

(Continued on page 14)



The Word of God...

Gospel for the 33RD Sunday of the Year - November 19th

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one--to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'"

Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - November 26th

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sokol Calendar

WED. NOV. 15

■ Annual meeting of Group 14 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SAT. NOV. 18

■ Dinner honoring our 2017 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year, Daniel F. Tanzzone at St. John Nepomucene Parish, 411 East 66th Street at the corner of First Avenue, New York City; Mass at 5 p.m. in church followed by dinner in the parish social hall, 406 East 67th Street.

■ Men's Night Out social hosted by Holy Name of Jesus Parish in the Parish Center, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. 6:30 - 11 p.m., \$15.00 per person; call Larry Wells 203 375-2836.

SUN. NOV. 19

■ Music from the Heart of Europe benefit concert hosted by The Musical Club of Westfield at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St., Westfield, N.J. beginning at 3 p.m., admission \$10.00.

■ Assembly 162 meeting in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 12:30 p.m.

SUN. NOV. 26

■ Christmas Bazaar of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in the social hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada following the 9 a.m. Mass until 1 p.m., Slovak culinary specialties, imported items.

DEC. 2-3

■ 8th annual Old World Christmas Market at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 1400 Inspiration Place, SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, imported items from Slovakia and the Czech Republic, entertainment, seasonal speciali-

ties; family activities; Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., free admission to museum.

SUN. DEC. 3

■ Traditional Stedry Vecer - Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner hosted by the United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh., cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., entertainment by Ed Klimczak, \$20.00 per person, advance reservations only, call Len Zilkko 440 988-3236.

■ Traditional St. Nicholas Day party - Mikulasova zabava hosted by the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini beginning with Mass at 10:15 a.m. followed by program in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall, 406 East 67th St., New York, N.Y. at noon; for information call the rectory at 212 734-4613.

■ Annual Group 17 Children's Christmas Party hosted by Wreath 54, and Assemblies 107 and 108 at Camelot Bowling Lanes, 628 Boardman-Canfield Rd., Boardman, Oh. 1-3 p.m., bowling, pizza, pop and visit from Santa; call Edie Babik at 330 782-9555 by Nov. 30 to register.

■ Whiting, Wreath 81 annual meeting and Christmas party at John's Restaurant, 4145 Calumet Ave., Hammond, Ind. beginning at 12:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 1 p.m.; members \$10.00 and guests \$15.00; for reservations call Judy Strisko at tel. 219 659-6743.

■ Christmas party and meeting of the Slovak Heritage Society of the Laurel Highlands at the Am-Slo-Club, Johnstown, Pa., 2-4 p.m., \$5.00 for members and guests.

■ Svaty Mikulas (St. Nicholas) Party hosted by the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. at The Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 3523 International Court, N.W., Washington, D.C., 2-4:30 p.m., buffet luncheon, live music by Orchester Prazevica; for reservations visit the deslovaks.org.

DEC. 3-4

■ Quarterly meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at the Westin Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

MON. DEC. 4

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

SAT. DEC. 9

■ Children's Christmas party hosted by Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. doors open at noon, festivities begin at 1 p.m., deadline for registration is Nov. 16.

■ Traditional Christmas Eve Supper - Vilija hosted by The Slovak Garden, A Home for American Slovaks, Inc. in the social hall, 3110 Howell Branch Rd. #100, Winter Park, Fla. beginning at 2 p.m., \$20.00 per person, for reservations call 407 677-6894 or slovagarden@centurylink.net.

SUN. DEC. 10

■ Traditional Christmas Eve Supper - Vilija hosted by St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club beginning with Mass at noon in the Abbey Church followed by the meatless meal in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School, 2900 Martin Luther King Drive, Cleveland, Oh., \$20.00 per person, for reservations call 216 721-5300 x 100 before the deadline of Nov. 28.

■ 110th anniversary celebration of the Slovak League of America at St. John Nepomucene Parish, 411 East 66th St., New York City; Slovak Mass at 10:15 a.m., luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

■ Traditional Vilija Dinner hosted by the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley in the Father Snock Center of the former St. Matthias School, 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, Oh. beginning at 4 p.m.; tickets \$20.00, advance sales only; for reservations contact Ron Garchar at 330 533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330 549-3760 or email at loretaekoniak@gmail.com.

■ Assembly 167 Children's Christmas Party at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Center, 888 West Hopocan Ave. Barberton, Oh. from 2 - 5 p.m.

MON. DEC. 11

■ Annual Christmas dinner and social hosted by Wreath 111 at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6 p.m., call Martin Zemanek at tel. 440 225-8676 for reservations, deadline for reservations is Dec. 4.

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

Keeping the Thanks in Thanksgiving

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdo vic

There it was in black and white – a famous cartoon in the local newspaper expressing the current commentary on holiday merchandising. It depicted Halloween night complete with little spooks carrying their sacks and demanding "trick or treat." But across the sky was a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer with Santa cracking his whip above them.

Another newspaper cartoon made its satirical comment on the season: between Frankenstein and Santa was a scrawny turkey pushing frantically with his wings to preserve his place on the calendar. Thanksgiving is in trouble, and it seems the only people trying to save it from extinction are the turkey growers and the supermarkets. But it was not always this way. You may remember Grandma and Grandpa's table laden with meats and produce from the farm. Gathered around such a feast, everyone bowed his head and gave thanks to God.

Contrary to what some think, Americans did not originate the idea of Thanksgiving. Harvest festivals have been around in various countries for centuries. Most school children know about the Plymouth colonists and the first Thanksgiving. Few know that in 1621, the first governor, William Bradford, decreed there to be a three-day harvest feast with the Wampanoag people who helped the colonists survive the winter of 1620. The pilgrims did not hold a true Thanksgiving until 1623 following a drought, prayers for rain, and a subsequent rain shower. The path from Governor Bradford and the colonists to Thanksgiving Day by the colonists after the harvest as well as proclamations for days of Thanksgiving by the Continental Congress, George Washington, John Adams, and James Madison. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Thanksgiving to be the next to the last Thursday in November in order to help the depressed economy by giving a longer Christmas buying season. In 1941, Congress established that Thanksgiving would occur annually on the fourth Thursday of November.

Today Thanksgiving in more of a market for the beginning of Christmas shopping. Thanksgiving has become a mere speed bump on the way to Christmas. Now only your child and Hallmark salt-and-pepper shakers remind you of the origin of Thanksgiving. Even the slogan, "Have a Happy Turkey Day" reflects a flippant focus on prosperity.

Thankfully, there are more and more parents, organizations, and communities giving thanks and reaching out to the poor and homeless to provide Thanksgiving dinners. Sadly, most people take what they have for granted and, at best, tip their hats to the Almighty Provider.

How about you? Will your Thanksgiving celebration this year be more than fall colors, football, and a family dinner? After all, without thanks, it's only Turkey Day.

Here are some ideas to properly celebrate Thanksgiving and our great blessings from our great God:

- Take time to pray and focus the holiday on giving thanks. "Let us enter His presence with Thanksgiving" (Psalm 95:2)
- Individualize colorful place cards: "Thank you, God, for ((name))." Or, take these cards to the person at whose home you are eating.
- Create a child-friendly, edible centerpiece using a bowl overflowing with a variety of grapes. Or take flowers to the hostess of the dinner you are attending.
- Ask a family member to read Psalm 100 at the table or in the car while traveling.
- Hold hands and thank God for your family, friends, and the food God has given.
- Create a family Thanksgiving wreath. Using colorful paper, have your guests trace one of their hands, cut out the handprint, sign it, and write something for which they are thankful. Glue the handprints to an orange poster board wreath.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER 13TH

In keeping with our new monthly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, December 13th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, December 7th. 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

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(Continued on page 16)

*Held Via Conference Call***Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors****FIRST SESSION****Saturday, September 23, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.**

Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2017 and greeted all the members of the Board on the call.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic, V.F. offered the **Opening Prayer** leading the Directors in the reading of the Prayer to Practice the Golden Rule, and a prayer for our members recovering from surgery or illness.

Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins led the Board members in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**.

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

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

The record will show that all ten members of the Board of Directors are on the Conference Call. **Acknowledged**

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on June 23, 2017 in Wilkes-Barre, PA and published in the August 23, 2017 issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak. **Approved**

President Horvath inquired if any **Communications** were received for presentation at the meeting.

A written communication was received from our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C. requesting to be excused from the conference call due to his attendance at the Johnstown Slavic Festival. **Acknowledged**

President Horvath then asked our Supreme Secretary to give a brief overview of the **Membership/Sales and Marketing Report** given to our Board members by our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr., F.I.C.

The Supreme Secretary reported that as of August 31, 2017, a total of 408 new members have joined our organization this year through the purchase of life insurance and annuity certificates. The total face amount of insurance issued for the first eight months is \$12,162,332.00.

The total number of certificates in force is 31,578, consisting of 30,829 life certificates and 749 annuity certificates. Brother Albert's report also indicated that as of August 31, 2017, there were 387 deaths, 1 certificate matured, 32 cancelled, 28 expired, 175 surrendered and 40 lapsed for a total loss of certificates of 563.

With the help of the General Counsel, Brother Suess identified the legal obligations of our licensed States pertaining to our agents and recommenders. He indicated that we are putting together a program to recruit and train our member recommenders in hopes that they will be able to properly service our current and future potential members.

Brother Albert also gave an update on the current Sokol Legacy Campaign. A mailing was sent out to the Groups, Assemblies, and Wreaths by the Home Office in hopes of stimulating the membership. Advertisements were also created to be displayed at our various Sokol clubs throughout the country.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and President Horvath thanked the Supreme Secretary for presenting the report. President Horvath then asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic, V.F., seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins. **Approved**

President Horvath thanked the Supreme Secretary and called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano, Market Director/Senior Vice-President, PNC Institutional Asset Management.

Mr. Calimano discussed the portfolio's current asset allocation, reviewed the historic and the year to date cash flows, the long-term growth of the portfolio, the effects of the equity and fixed income market's performance, and provided an overall relationship review.

Mr. Calimano reviewed PNC's outlook for the financial markets and the economy with the Board. Additionally, he reviewed the investment strategies recently implemented in both the equity and fixed income portfolios. PNC forecasts that the Federal Reserve will increase short term interest rates 0.25%, as measured by the Federal Funds Rate, in December 2017.

Brother Calimano addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook and Mr. Calimano indicated the Society is in a strong financial position, especially in this volatile fiscal environment. The Board members expressed thanks to Mr. Calimano and President Horvath entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek. **Approved**

President Horvath then called on the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, for the **Physical Fitness Board Report**.

Brother Matlon reported on the 48th International Slet that was held at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY from July 12-16, 2017. He called on the Physical Director and Physical Directress to offer additional comments. Brother Underation and Sister Watkins reported that 9 Groups were represented and 190 participants were in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all and Sister Watkins thanked the entire Board for all their support. Sister Wat-

kins indicated that SUNY Brockport is a possible site for the 49th International Slet. Brother Matlon, Brother Underation, and Sister Watkins will meet with university representatives to iron out some details and resolve any concerns or issues.

The 2017 Golf Tournament was held at Treasure Lake Resort on August 18-20, 2017. There was a total of 115 golfers from the Slovak Catholic Sokol, along with 13 golfers from the Greek Catholic Union. The banquet was held on Saturday night and the highlight was most definitely the presentation of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award to John S. Homacek of Barberton, OH. The results and pictures are available for viewing on our website.

Sister Watkins gave an update on the 2nd Annual Reunion, which will be held during the first weekend in June once again. More information will follow on our website and social media platforms about the reunion and possibly another event during the summer months for our Sokol families. A ski weekend was investigated by Supreme Assistant Physical Directress, Katie Swift, but the cost seems to be rather high. More research will be done regarding this event.

Sites that are being considered or are already confirmed for the 2018 Sports Program:

May 20-22, 2018	Bowling	Orleans Hotel & Lanes, Las Vegas, NV
August 10-12, 2018	Golf	Tam-O-Shanter & Oaktree Country Club, West Middlesex, PA

After a lengthy and lively discussion, President Horvath asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak. **Approved**

President Horvath thanked Brother Matlon, Brother Underation, and Sister Watkins for their report and called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. for the **Legal Department Report**.

Counsel reported that there are several items to report on:

1. Brother John offered comments regarding the Sokol Club in Ambridge, PA and our intention to have this property sold as soon as possible.
2. Brother John verified the property taxes and insurance are all paid to date on the three existing mortgages on file.
3. Lastly, Brother John commented on the work done with Brother Albert regarding the legal opinion for the selling of our products in our various licensed states.

After a brief discussion regarding the above items, President Horvath entertained a motion to approve the report, so moved by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek. **Approved**

President Horvath called upon Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, for the **2017 Semi-Annual Audit Report**.

Brother Jerek reported that the Audit for the first six months of 2017 was conducted at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ on August 11-12, 2017. The report was printed in the September 20, 2017 issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother James proceeded to review the report and addressed several questions from the Board members. Brother Jerek expressed his thanks to the Supreme Secretary and the Home Office staff for their cooperation and appreciates the continued efforts of the various Boards to control and reduce many of the expenses.

After a brief discussion, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. **Approved**

The Supreme President questioned the Board members regarding the **Annuity Interest Rate** to be offered for the fourth quarter of 2017.

The Board members had a lively discussion regarding the Annuity Interest Rate, taking into consideration our investment portfolio and the low interest rate environment. The Board mutually agreed to keep interest rates at their current level and reevaluate them during the December meeting.

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

The Board members were informed by Brother Secretary that our Fraternalist of the Year presentation will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017 in New York, NY. Final arrangements are being made to honor this year's recipient, Daniel F. Tanzone. The Board of Directors wishes to again extend their congratulations to Brother Tanzone on this well-deserved honor. **Acknowledged**

Under **New Business**, President Horvath called on Brother Scott for a Convention site update. Brother Secretary reviewed the sites considered and informed the Board that his recommendation for the 2019 Convention is the Cleveland Airport Marriott in Cleveland, OH from August 3-7, 2019. Many factors went into the recommendation including location and cost. The staff at the Cleveland Airport Marriott have been a joy to work with and Brother Secretary knows that the 2019 Convention will be enjoyed by all of our delegates. Brother President entertained a motion to approve the Cleveland Airport Marriott in Cleveland, OH as our 2019 Convention Site, so moved by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic, V.F., seconded by Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation. **Approved**

After discussions with our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, the Supreme Secretary informed the Board members that the date and site for the **next Supreme Board of Directors meeting** will be December 3-4, 2017 with travel dates being December 2 and 5, 2017 in Fort Lauderdale, FL at the Westin. **Acknowledged**

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, entertained a **motion to adjourn**, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins. **Approved**

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic, V.F., offered the **Closing Prayer** for all those in need as well as for all the ill and deceased members of the Organization. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

From the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Fraternal Activities Still Going Strong

It's that time of the year again. Fall and all the celebrations, holidays and events that come with it. Many of our Groups will be scheduling their Annual Meetings or other various social functions. But as you attend or plan for these events, take a close look around at the other people that are there, or more specifically, that aren't there. Many of us will see the same faces, a few new ones and a lot will see missing people.



Recently, my Group held their Annual Sokol Day. According to our records, it was the 82nd time we held this event. A long time, a great tradition. I remember attending when I was younger. Back then, it was a preview of the upcoming Slet drills for the people who couldn't attend. It was a proud day for those of us who worked long and hard, weekly, to learn and perfect the routines. I remember the grassy field we used, the reel-to-reel tape and microphone amplifying the music and the bright sunshine on the field. But most of all I remember the crowds that would gather to watch and the nervous feeling in the pit of my stomach. The mantra of 'don't mess up' running in my mind. As I grew older and assumed the Director roll, I remember thinking 'did we practice enough, are they ready?'. But in the end, if we did a good job or not, the large crowd was always appreciative of our efforts. The kitchen would shut down, the polka band stopped playing just so the attendees would come to the field to watch us. Times have changed, of course. The venue changed, the time of the year changed. But one thing that sticks out in my mind is that the crowds changed the most. When we finished drilling, we ran around and played games, ate the delicious foods and begged not to leave because of the fun we were having. There used to be thousands of people there, to my child's mind.

Our Slet was held this past summer. The excitement of competition, renewal of old friendships and making new friends too. Who could forget their very first Slet experience? Again, it seemed that there were thousands of participants and parents who went. The week-long competition, track and field, and calisthenics, team and individual, were overwhelming to someone as young as I was. Going to new colleges and different places to compete. Organizing and instructing my drillers, mak-

ing sure things were covered that parents need to know about when I became Director. Things changed for me as I grew accustomed to the experiences and moved up in ranks. But still the size of the event awed me.

I have competed in quite a few International Bowling Tournaments over the years too. Bus rides to distant cities often meant little or no sleep before the team event on Friday night. Rising early the next day to start all over again with doubles and singles. The banquet on Saturday night and wishing friends a safe journey home till next year. Just the amount of people that were there and the noise that all those bowling balls made was amazing. It was something to see and hear.

But the reason for this column is not to truly reminisce, although it is nice to remember the old days. It's to remind you that the older we get, the more things change. The interest level in maintaining local Group activities may have dwindled. The International events may have decreased in popularity and attention. But we are still here! Still going strong! It's time to take a look around and see who else we can get involved in all of our events. Reaching out to new members to come to an Annual Meeting. I remember when an Annual Meeting was an all-day affair with Mass and meal followed by serious and long debate about the affairs of the Group. I remember the crowds at our Sokol Day, just the amount of people there. Reach out to your local parishes, and invite them to one of your events to get more people interested in what Sokol has to offer. The recent Golf and Bowling Tournaments included a few new members from Group 7. Before the events were even over, they were inquiring when and where next year's will be. I see children of parents that I used to compete against at the Slets, now participants themselves.

I know that not everyone has the time to come to these events. I realize that some of us are growing older and can't do what we once did. Participants become parents with children whose interests are more diverse than ours were. And tragically some of our members pass away. But fraternalism has always been a hallmark of our organization. If we all just reached out to one friend, one time, and took the time to show them Who We Are, and What We Represent, that friend could become a life-long active member. All it takes is reaching out.

Zdar Boh!
Marty Degnan
Supreme Physical Fitness
Board Member

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.

Lodge Jottings

CLIFTON, NJ Assembly 162

Our next regularly scheduled monthly meeting is set for Sunday, November 19 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Avenue. All members are invited to attend.

On our meeting agenda will be discussion of our annual children's Christmas party scheduled for Sunday, December 17 as well as any other lodge business which needs to be addressed.

A blessed Thanksgiving to all our members and their families.

Zdar Boh!

John D. Pogorelec, Jr.
President
David Bulwin
Recording Secretary

LORAIN, OH. Wreath 111

We extend a cordial invitation to all our members to join us for our annual Christmas dinner and social, scheduled for Monday, December 11 at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue in Lorain beginning at 6 p.m. An enjoyable and memorable evening has been planned. We will enjoy the foods enjoyed on Christmas Eve in a Slovak home. In addition, we will host our traditional raffle which benefits our various charitable endeavors. In order to make the necessary arrangements, we ask those members planning to attend to make their reservations by calling our recording secretary, Marty Zemanek, at tel. 440 225-8676. Deadline for reservations is Monday, December 4. Come and enjoy the evening with your fraternal family.

We have enjoyed a busy fraternal year and we look forward to finalizing our various activities in the new year 2018 during which we will celebrate our lodge's 98th anniversary. Input from our members will insure our success. Wishing all a very blessed and holy Christmas season as well as a happy and healthy new year, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
Helen M. Zemanek
President

PITTSBURGH, PA Wreath 22

The next meeting of our Wreath, under the spiritual pa-

(Continued on page 16)

HOLIDAY HOME OFFICE CLOSING

In observance of Thanksgiving, the Home Office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24. The Home Office will reopen for business on Monday, November 27. Regular business hours are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A blessed and bountiful Thanksgiving to all. Zdar Boh!

Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. elected to the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance board

(Continued from page 2)

of the Knights of Columbus who were completing their terms as Director. In addition, each served as president of the state alliance and remained active in its good works.

Mary Jo Savidge, national secretary-treasurer of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union was installed as president for the 2017-2018 term. Other officers and directors include: Daniel Pol-laci, Knights of Columbus, vice president; Bryan Werner, Artisans Order of Mutual Protection, second vice president; Cynthia Macon, Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum, secretary-treasurer; and Drew Wesnak, NSS Life, past president; directors: Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Samuel Sbraccia, Lynda Dillman, Matthew M. Blistan, Jr., Richard Cecchi, Christine Kaszupski, Yuri Smyczak and Anthony Pio.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. on his election to the Board of the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance. Brother Scott continues in a strong line of leadership which the Slovak Catholic Sokol has provided the fraternal benefit system in New Jersey and New York. The late Tibor T. Kovalovsky served as president of the New Jersey Fraternal Alliance in 1983 and our Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C. was president in 1997. In the New York Fraternal Alliance, the late Tibor T. Kovalovsky served as president in 1980 and our Honorary Supreme Officer Daniel F. Tanzone was president in 1995. In 2015, the two state fraternal alliances merged and is now known as the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance.

\$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2018

(Continued from page 1)

AND

- * Majoring in Nursing or Medical curriculum
- * One parent must be of Slovak ancestry

Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- * Same requirements as for SCS scholarship

AND

* Majoring in curriculum with a focus in computer graphics, design or layout
Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants) in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

- * Same requirements as for SCS scholarship

* Essay - "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you - how/why."

The Yenchu Scholarship Grant (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- * Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
- * Majoring in the liberal arts curriculum

The process of applying for any of the above college level scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are ONLY available on our website www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program may be directed to:

Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org
(412) 881-3506

Deadline for submission of all scholarship applications is **March 31, 2018**

In addition to our college grant program, we make available 18 Catholic High School Grants in the amount of \$500 each as well as 36 Catholic Grade School Grants in the amount of \$250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in the December 13 issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon*.

Keep Your Slovak Catholic Sokol Home Office Numbers Handy

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EDITOR - (973) 777-4010
FAX NUMBER - (973) 779-8245
E-MAIL - Sokol205@aol.com
WEB SITE - www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Slovak Catholic Federation 59th National Convention

September 17-19, 2017

The 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation was held September 17th-19th, 2017 in Youngstown, Ohio. The activities began with Mass on Sunday at 4pm at the Cathedral of Saint Columba with Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland and the Moderator/Protector of the SCF as the principal celebrant. He was joined by several officers of the federation, Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdic, V.F., SCF National President, Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, J.C.L., Past National President and Rector of the Cathedral, Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, First National Vice President, and Reverend Monsignor Thomas A. Derzack, National Chaplain, along with numerous priests from the Diocese of Youngstown and others representing the broad geographic scope of the federation. A dinner was held at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall following the Mass with more than 200 people in attendance.

The actual business component of the convention began on Monday, September 18th, with opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia. Following a roll call of officers and delegates, and review of the convention schedule, the convention addressed routine matters, such as the acceptance of the Minutes of the 58th national Convention in 2013, and reports of the National Officers and Local Chapters. Mass was held just prior to the lunch break. The various committees of the Federation, bolstered by additional delegates in attendance, met during lunch and for a period of time afterwards to establish goals and action plans to be implemented in the upcoming months and years.

The specific committees are: Constitution Committee, responsible for review of the Constitution and By-laws, as revised at the 58th

National Convention; Communications, responsible for devising better ways to disseminate information regarding the goals and purposes of the Slovak Catholic Federation with emphasis on the Good Shepherd/Dobry Pastier, on-going contact with the publications of the Slovak Catholic fraternal, and diocesan publications, upgrading the SCF website and regular updates of the Facebook page; Evangelization and Spirituality, responsible for the development of resources to assist pastoral ministries and make recommendations regarding future SCF Pilgrimages of Faith; Heritage and Culture, responsible for suggesting ways to celebrate Slovak heritage, especially at the local level, identifying and encouraging possible partnership with other Slovak Catholic organizations; Membership, responsible to review the membership renewal process, including layout of the brochure, the success (or limitations) of the current regional structure of the SCF, review of the success of the chapters, offer suggestions on how to increase membership; Nominating and Resolutions, responsible for presenting candidates for various offices and positions on the SCF National Board, compose and recommend formal communications from the 59th National Convention.

Only minor changes were proposed for the constitution, mostly related to titles, roles and terminology to better reflect the current construct of the National Board and the involvement of various officers. The Communications Committee made several proposals that were accepted by the delegates. This includes a decision to publish the Good Shepherd/Dobry Pastier on a bi-annual basis with the issue due to be distributed in February of every even year. This compilation will represent the preceding two years and include the updated financial reports, priests, parishes, and fraternal details as in the past. Due to the very sparse re-

sponse to the solicitation of articles for the Good Shepherd/Dobry Pastier, an effort will be made to more aggressively pursue articles. The Secretary/Treasurer will e-mail the meeting minutes within one month of the Board meetings as well as the meeting packets that had been available only at the start of the semi-annual meetings. Consideration will be given to creating an e-mail newsletter for the membership to keep them apprised of the activities of the National Board, the local chapters and other relevant information. Re-activation of the website and Facebook page will be given high priority.

The Evangelization and Spiritual Committee established the goals of finding or creating translations of traditional Slovak hymns and compiling a list of possible pilgrimage sites of specific interest to Slovak Catholics. The Heritage and Culture Committee will develop Slovak-related material, such as prayers for inclusion on the website, compile a comprehensive list of Slovak festivals around the country, strive to restore the Summer Fest in conjunction with the 4 Slovak fraternal, make an outreach to potential pilgrimage sites and plan a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Membership Committee stressed the need for an accurate and updated listing of SCF members, the inclusion of a Student Membership, at a reduced cost, to be added to the brochure, coordinating a membership drive with the active involvement of the fraternal, and an option to "join" a specific chapter when joining or renewing with the SCF.

The Nominating Committee created a slate of individuals to serve in the elected roles of the National Board of Directors. The entire slate was accepted by the delegates and consists of: Moderator/Protector, Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, O.S.B.; President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, (Continued from page 13)

Mark your calendar

Children's Christmas Parties Set

Catasauqua, Pa. - Assembly 72 will host its annual Children's Christmas Party for members age 12 and younger on Sunday, December 17 beginning at 1:30 p.m. The festivities will be held at the Slovak Center located at 5th and Grove Streets in North Catasauqua. The program will include entertainment, refreshments and of course a visit by jolly old Santa himself who will complete the enjoyable afternoon. Parents are welcome to join in the fun. In order to make the necessary arrangements, parents are asked to call Marge Hogan at tel. 610 217-4916 or Steve Roman at 610 262-8301 to register their children for this fraternal event. Wishing all a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, New Year may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Stephen Roman
Secretary

Donora, Pa. - Assembly 163 will host its traditional Christmas party for children on Sunday, December 10 at Dorothy's Place in Donora beginning at 1 p.m. in conjunction with the lodge's semi-annual meeting. Junior Sokol members are cordially invited to attend. A Christmas movie will be shown and snacks and pizza will be enjoyed. While the children are enjoying the movie, the adult meeting will take place. Light refreshments will be served during the adult meeting. An enjoyable fraternal afternoon is assured. For additional information call Theresa Gardner at tel. 74 263-7289. A joyous Christmas season to all our members.

Zdar Boh!

Theresa Gardner
Financial Secretary

Lilly, Pa. - Assembly 79 will host its traditional Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16 at the Slovak Citizens Club located at 136 Railroad Street. Festivities begin at 2 p.m. Junior Sokol members along with their parents and grandparents are welcome to join us for this annual fraternal event. Refreshments will be served and a visit from Santa Claus will complete the afternoon of holiday festivity. Children up to age 16 will receive a treat from Santa. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. Wishing all a joyous Christmas season, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Elizabeth Phillips
Financial Secretary

Pittsburgh, Pa. - This year's exciting party for junior members of Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 is scheduled for Saturday, December 9 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh. Doors open at 12 noon with festivities beginning at 1 p.m. Children ages 0-12 years of age who are registered are welcome to attend. Registration will be held every Wednesday and Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. until November 16 at the Sokol Club. Alternative registration methods: please contact Carmella(Suess)Marzec, cell 412 414-9249; email: suesscm@gmail.com or Facebook: Group 14, Pgh, Pa Slovak Catholic Sokols.

Due to space concerns, a limit of 150 children has been set for the party. Thus early registration is recommended. No names will be taken after the deadline of November 16th. Refreshments will be served along with entertainment and a visit from Santa that will complete the afternoon of Sokol fellowship. Every year in the spirit of caring and sharing, we have asked for donations. This year we will be collecting coats and warm clothes which will be given to a local homeless shelter.

Members are invited to join the Group 14 Pgh.Pa Slovak Catholic Sokols Facebook Page for Christmas Party updates and other Group 14/Assembly 16/Wreath 22 activities. We are looking forward to another year of fun during this holiday season in the best traditions of Pittsburgh Sokol fellowship and fraternalism.

Zdar Boh!

Carmella(Suess)Marzec
Chairperson

Group 17, Youngstown, Oh. - All is in readiness for this year's exciting Children's Christmas and Bowling Party for junior Sokol members of Group 17. This year's party is scheduled for Sunday, December 3 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Camelot Bowling Lanes, 628 Boardman-Canfield Road in Boardman, Oh. The annual holiday event is hosted by Wreath 54 and Assemblies 107 and 108. An afternoon of fun and fraternalism is planned. Junior Sokol members can enjoy two hours of bowling, pizza, pop and of course a visit from Santa will cap off the afternoon. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. Please call Edie Babik at tel. 330 782-9555 by November 30 to register.

Zdar Boh!

Edie Babik
Chairperson



The deliberations of each day at the 59th national convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation(SCF) in Youngstown, Oh., September 17-19 began with the celebration of Mass at the hotel. On September 18, the Rev. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B., who serves as president of Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Oh., fourth from the left, was principal celebrant of the liturgy. Concelebrating with him were, l-r, Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and SCF national first vice president; Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic, our Supreme Chaplain and national president of the SCF; Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland and SCF moderator/protector; Rev. Robert Seeman, national spiritual advisor of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union; Rev. Joel Kovanis and Msgr. Thomas A. Derzack, national spiritual advisor of the SCF and chaplain of Group 18 of our organization.



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik "

November, 2017

Slovak Words=Slovenské slova

By Michael Kopanic

Thanksgiving Day = Deň vd'akyvzdania
(Den (soft "n") vdyak-ee-vzdaa-nyia)

Turkey (a tome, a male) = moriak [more-ee-awk]

Turkey (a hen, a female) = morka [more-kah]

Turkey (a hen, in Spiš dialect) = pul'ka [pool-kah]

gobble = hltat' [hl-taat with a soft "t"]

The turkey gobbles. Moriak hltá.

Happy, lucky, fortunate = šťastný [shtyaast - nee]

Happy Thanksgiving Day = Šťastný Deň vd'akyvzdania [Shtyaast-nee Dye (soft "n") vdyak-ee-vzdah-nyia]

cornucopia = roh hojnosti [row hoy-no-stee]

apple pie = žemlovka [zhem-lov-kah]

pumpkin pie = dyňový koláč [dee-nyo-vee ko-lawch]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Peyton Manyak 11/2
Taylor Slonac 11/4
Alexandra Bond 11/6
Nina Martyak 11/8
Luke McLeary 11/20



Happy
Thanksgiving

GOBBLER PLACE CARDS

Sweeten up your table with these turkey pals, quickly and cleverly constructed from cupcake liners.

How it's done: Flatten a standard-size cupcake liner, then draw eyes on a mini cupcake liner. With a glue stick, adhere a beak and snood cut from colored paper. Using a brush or cotton swab, dab white glue around the rim of the mini liner. Set it off-center on the larger liner, as shown, and let it dry. With the glue stick, attach the turkey to a folded tent card (we used decorative-edge scissors to cut ours from brown card stock). Add turkey feet and a name with marker.



13 13		7 7	4 4	
6 6				10 10
9 9				
				5 5
8 8	3 3	11 11		12 12

Thanksgiving Bump

Subtraction - Roll 2 and Take from 15
a game for 2 players

Need: 2 dice and 8 counters per player - each player uses a different color

To Play: Players take turns to roll the 2 dice, add the numbers together and then subtract the total from 15. Then they cover this number with one of their counters, covering the large number. If another player has covered that number, they can 'bump' that counter off and put one of their own counters on it. If that number is covered by one of the player's own counters, they can add another counter on top and then they have won that space. You can only 'bump' when there is only one counter on the number. The winner of the game is the first player to use all 8 of their counters.



Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula" hosted its annual meeting on October 29 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. Group 1 Chaplain, Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of New York's United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John the Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, shown center was the principal celebrant and homilist at the 10:30 a.m. Slovak Mass. Shown flanking him, l-r, are Rev. Peter Bujdos, C.O., Group 1 President John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Rev. John T. Connolly, pastor of the Clifton parish; Rev. Msgr. John J. Demkovich and Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. Shown with them are supreme officers, group officers and delegates. This year's annual meeting was hosted by Assembly 24 of Boonton, N.J. and arranged by Assembly 162 of Clifton. - Photo by Louis Smeriglio

Lucnica Folk Ensemble Performs at the United Nations



October 24 was certainly a red-letter day for Slovakia as its most famous folk ensemble, Lucnica performed in the UN Day concert presented by the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations. The concert took place in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York. The concert was part of the 72nd Annual United Nations Day which recalled the founding of this international body on October 24, 1945 in San Francisco. The glittering evening's concert featured the talent and virtuosity of Lucnica which performed the music, song and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. The Slovak connection with the UN dates back to its establishment following the Second World War. The former Czechoslovakia was among its 48 founding members. Slovakia's own Foreign and European Minister Miroslav Lajcak is currently serving as president of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. During the concert, Mr. Lajcak addressed the capacity crowd which included representatives of the 193 member nations of the UN. A group of the New York area Slovak community were invited to attend.

Thankful It's November

The month of November has one significant holiday: Thanksgiving. This year give thanks for a holiday with many pluses and a lack of the minuses that plague other festive times of the year. Note these as you reach for that drumstick:

- * For once you can stuff yourself as much as any turkey ever was stuffed and win approval instead of being made to feel guilty.

- * No one complains that it takes all day to cook dinner.

- * The weather is no longer hot and muggy. It's crisp without being so cold you have to wrap and unwrap before going in and out.

- * No hangover to get over from too much auld lang syne the night before.

- * Enough national and local football for the most die-hard of fans.

- * No eggs to dye or hide or go seek.

- * Thanksgiving starts a long four-day weekend.

- * No earaches from firecracker noise and no crowds to fight.

- * Once the turkey's stuffed and in, a leisurely pace sets in.

- * No leaves to rake, lawns to mow.

- * There's always enough food left for yummy leftovers the next few days.

- * No costumes to wear no trick-or-treaters to follow around or tricksters to clean up after.

- * Everyone expects to be happy Thanksgiving Day. And they are.

- * No outdoor lights to string up, presents to buy and wrap, cards to mail out.

- * Giving thanks day is not controversial.

So what is Thanksgiving? November's simple holiday with a simple history, a simple but meaningful message, and all the food you can eat. What more could you want? Be thankful!



Thanksgiving Easier Now

In times past, Americans labored long and hard for the Thanksgiving harvest. They nursed the corn from the ground, baked their own bread, picked the berries, and hunted and shot that bird.

Little wonder there were prayers of Thanksgiving before the meal.

Today, however one need only stop at the supermarket and select the choicest of the best food in the world.

A simple "thank you" and another harvest for Thanksgiving is complete.

Save Me the Drumstick

"Mom," said little Susie, "our teacher told us the Puritans invited all the Indians for Thanksgiv-

ing dinner. Why don't we invite some?"

"We have, Susie. But today they're called relatives.

Pat His Head - Hard!

Father(to waitress): "Wrap up the rest of the steak for the dog."

Small son: "Oh, goody. We're going to get a dog."

Dreams Come True If....

To get something done, you must believe you can do it.

But making that something come true demands three more ingredients: planning, preparation, and practice.

Try them for getting whatever dream or idea you want to see come true.

Jankola Library again offers traditional Christmas Oplatky

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers eaten at the Christmas supper, will again be available this holiday season from the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius at Jankola Library and Slovak Museum in Danville, Pa. Orders will be accepted from October 23 until December 15, 2017.

The Oplatky are thermal-sealed in packs of five. They can be purchased for \$5.00 per package. In addition, the minimum cost for shipping and handling is \$7.00 and upward, depending upon the number of packs ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Orders can be customized to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library must be paid before orders will be shipped.

For more information as well as a list of books, tapes and other items available at Jankola Library or to place an Oplatky order, contact Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M., director at tel. 570 275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.



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Slovak Catholic Sokol



**Scenes of the Annual Octoberfest - With a Slovak Flavor - hosted by the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
St. John Nepomucene Social Hall + New York City + Sunday, October 22**



Father Richard D. Baker, pastor of the parish and our Group 1 chaplain, third from the right, is shown above with members of the Octoberfest committee who offer him Octoberfest spirits.



Father Richard D. Baker is shown above with Octoberfest revelers including, from the left, Anna Korcak, financial secretary of Assembly 182; Sabina Sabados, president of the Slovak American Cultural Center; and Joan Skrkon, secretary of Branch 716 of the Jednota.



All smiles from some of the guests who enjoyed this year's Octoberfest.



Father Richard D. Baker is shown with the chief chef of the Octoberfest John Skrkon, flanked by committee members, Maria Bozekova and Lisa Calabrese, parish manager and director of religious education.



Father Richard D. Baker is shown with some of the Octoberfest revelers.



Father Richard D. Baker, second from the left, is shown with, l-r, Mark Pacoe, parish Director of Music and Media Outreach; Nina Holy, national secretary-treasurer of the Slovak League of America, our Honorary Supreme Officer, Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik and her daughter, Claudia Marsik, who is president of our Sokol, Wreath 168.



Some well-known Sokols and Sokolky who enjoyed the annual Octoberfest are shown above.



What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Parliament okays sending additional Slovak soldiers to Iraq

Slovakia will dispatch up to 25 members of the Slovak Armed Forces to serve as part of NATO's Training Capability Building-Iraq - NTCB-I mission, as Parliament passed a proposal to this effect sponsored by Defense Minister Peter Gajdos (a Slovak National Party/SNS nominee) and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak (Smer-SD) with 110 votes on October 13.

At a meeting of heads of state and governments of NATO members in Brussels in May, Slovak President Andrej Kiska offered Slovakia's contribution to building defense and security capacities in Iraq at a level defined by a government resolution, reads the material.

Slovak soldiers will provide only training services, such as consulting, and assistance in building up the capacities of the Iraqi defense and security forces on Iraqi territory in the field of manual and mechanical minesweeping and repairs of Russian equipment in their possession.

NATO has been operating in Iraq based on a request by the Iraqi government and subsequent decision adopted at the NATO summit in Warsaw in 2016. It has been active there since January 2017 within the non-combat activities of the alliance. This activity is aimed at providing consulting and training to Iraqi military personnel.

Hofmann: NATO enhanced forward presence sends our signal of unity

The NATO combat units deployed in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Poland earlier this year are significantly integrated in national defense forces, demonstrating that "military forces from the whole of NATO and both sides of the Atlantic" are ready to respond to any display of aggression against any of the allies, said commander of the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE) Manfred Hofmann at the end of a two-day conference of NATO Force Integration Units-NFIU in Bratislava on October 11.

"The Enhanced Forward Presence clearly refers to the firmness of Transatlantic bonds and sends out a clear message that NATO is united," said Hofmann.

The MNC NE Command in Szczecin, Poland, as well as individual NFIU commands in Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia - which all come under MNC NE - support the Enhanced Forward Presence with the use of all necessary means, thereby boosting the security of these countries, said Hofmann.

"I'm proud that we're considered to be guardians of security in this area," said the commander, adding that attention during the past 18 months has been paid especially to NFIU in the Baltic, but "it's also necessary to bear in mind that the southern part of our engagement has been as important as the northern one." Hofmann then thanked the Slovak Armed Forces and "all Slovaks" for their support for NATO's engagement in the region.

The Slovak NFIU unit in Bratislava-Vajnory was officially activated on September 1, 2016 and became fully operational on June 1, 2017.

STU in Bratislava awards Jur Hronec Medal to President Kiska

The Bratislava-based Slovak Technical University (STU) on October 19 bestowed the Jur Hronec Medal on Slovak President Andrej Kiska, who is an alumnus of the university, TASR learned from STU spokesperson, Andrea Settey Majduchova on October 20.

The university, which is marking the 80th anniversary of its founding this year, has awarded the bronze medal for the first time.

"I very much appreciate this award on the part of my alma mater. The technical studies teach us to the smallest detail how the world functions, but my university teachers gave me a lot more not only on the technical but also the human side," said the president.

STU was established in 1937 as the M.R.Štefánik Technical University in Košice. Two years later it was renamed the Slovak Technical University and moved to Bratislava. The Slovak mathematician Jur Hronec was its first rector. The university's highest honor is named for Hronec.

Thoughts on enlarging V4 only proves its strength

The fact that following the general election in Austria, some voices are again being heard about joining the Visegrad Four (V4) group only confirms the strength of this platform and shows that the V4 (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic) is heading in the right direction, stated Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD) shortly after arriving at a European Council session in Brussels on October 19.

The Slovak premier further denied the creation of a new V4 format, claiming that it wouldn't be good to change the original well-functioning brand. However, he added that he can imagine setting up a V4+ format. We've already shown by the number of meetings that leaders of other states are ready to communicate with us," said Fico at a press briefing in Brussels when asked about the possible accession of Austria to the V4.

The idea of Austria joining re-emerged after the general election held in the country on October 15. The leader of the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) Heinz-Christian Strache, whose party might join the coalition with the winner of the election, called for Austria to join the V4 group as early as last year.

Fico: no future trade talks with UK possible before resolving its exit

Brexit mustn't be a victory for Britain; and an agreement between the EU and the UK mustn't hurt anyone, stated Prime Minister Robert Fico on October 20 after a two-day EU summit in Brussels.

The Slovak premier stated that British Prime Minister Theresa May, despite some opposite political views in Britain, assured her European partners that she has a strong interest in reaching a Brexit agreement in all its aspects. These involve the so-called Brexit bill, human rights as well as future business relationship.

"I was pleased to hear that she offered even more guarantees to the EU citizens who live and work there," said the prime minister, adding that this concerns some three million EU citizens in Britain. At the same time, the UK expects the same approach towards around one million UK citizens living in the EU.

When it comes to Britain's exit bill, Fico said that despite the fact that there is a general agreement between the member states on not mentioning the specific figures, the Union and the UK hold largely different views in this regard. It's rumored that the EU has mentioned a \$65-105-billion divorce bill, while London has unofficially indicated a \$25- billion bill.

According to Fico, until the Union and the UK don't agree on rules concerning UK's departure, no talks on their

(Continued on page 15)

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



The city of Ruzomberok is a colorful and historical center located on the Vah river in north central Slovakia about 50 miles from Zilina. It currently has a population of 30,000. The first written mention of the town dates to 1233 as terra Reuche. The town was established by Germans who named it Rosenberg, community of roses. It acquired its town rights in 1318. In 1340, Hungarian King Charles Robert confirmed its town rights and extended more. In the 19th century, it was one of the centers of the Slovak national movement. It slowly became one of the industrial and financial centers of the Kingdom of Hungary, especially after the Kassa Oderberg Railway was completed in 1871. By the 20th century it was an important industrial town. It had the biggest cotton mill in Slovakia. Ruzomberok was long associated with Monsignor Andrej Hlinka who became pastor there in 1905 and remained until his death at age 74 in 1938. In 1906, it was the site of what became known as the "Cernova Massacre."

A new church had been built in Cernova, a part of the Ruzomberok parish in 1906. Msgr. Hlinka, a native of Cernova, had been imprisoned by the Hungarian authorities at the time for pro-Slovak activities. The people of Cernova wanted him present at the church's dedication. Instead the Hungarian authorities decided to dedicate the church on their terms without his presence. A crowd of villagers blocked the town's entrance of the Hungarians who came to dedicate the church. Without warning the gendarmes began to fire upon the crowd. Nine people were killed on the spot, three more succumbed to their wounds later in the day and twelve were seriously wounded along with an additional sixty who were also wounded. This single event placed Hlinka in the vanguard of the fight of the Slovaks for emancipation from Hungarian tyranny. Hlinka built up the Church of St. Andrew and restored it to the neo-Baroque style. A large mausoleum was built as part of the complex honoring Hlinka. Following his death in 1938, his body was placed there and became a site of pilgrimage for all of Slovakia. In the closing months of World War II, the body of Hlinka was taken and to date has never been found. The city has an impressive city hall built in 1895 in the neo-Baroque style as well as the monastery of the Holy Cross which dates from 1730. The Ludovít Fulla Gallery is a branch of the Slovak National Gallery and is dedicated to Fulla's works of art as well as a place for concerts. Apart from numerous primary and secondary schools, the city has two universities. The Catholic University is based in Ruzomberok and the University of Zilina has a branch there.



Eduard Kukan Honored in New York



On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the United Nations on October 24, well-known Slovak diplomat, Eduard Kukan was honored at a reception at the Slovak Mission to the United Nations in New York. Dr. Kukan served initially for many years as Ambassador of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations. Following the independence of Slovakia in 1993, he returned home to serve as the country's Foreign Minister. During his years in New York, he enjoyed a close association with the American Slovak community. Dr. Kukan, far left, is shown at the reception with our well-known Sokolky, Jane Holy Konzelmann and her mom, Nina Holy who serves as the national secretary-treasurer of the Slovak League of America and has been the long-time co-chairperson of the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. Looking on, on the right, is Miroslav Lajcak, Slovakia's current Foreign and European Minister who is presently serving as the president of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

SCF 59th National Convention

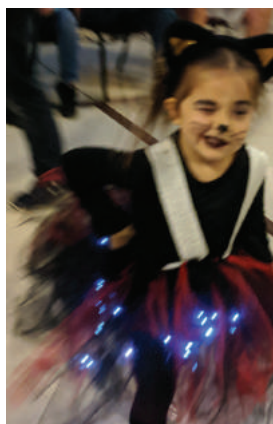
(Continued from page 8)

V.F.; Past President, Msgr. Peter Polando, J.C.L.; First Vice President, Rev. Thomas Nasta; Second Vice President, Ms. Marie Golias; Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Dolores Evanko; and Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Thomas Derzack.

After considering several operational and procedural issues the convention adjourned. The date established for the Spring Meeting of the National Board is April 30th and May 1st, in Danville, PA, with the session being held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Fall Meeting will return to Youngstown on September 17th and 18th to accommodate the subsequent meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy.

The level of support provided by the Slovak Catholic community from the broader Youngstown area was very gratifying. From the opening Mass through the well-attended initial dinner, capped with the convention dinner on Monday night in the social hall of the Cathedral of Saint Columba, the out-of-town visitors were treated to a truly memorable and enjoyable stay. The convention attendees expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the planning, work and success of the entire endeavor involved in hosting the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Scenes of the Halloween Party on Oct. 28 hosted by Group 14, "St. Francis of Assisi in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Assembly 86 Enjoys 82nd Annual Sokol Day Picnic



Members of Assembly 86 of Port Griffith, Pa. joined Sokols and Sokolky at this year's 82nd Annual Sokol Day Picnic hosted by Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas" on Sunday, October 8 at the Lions Pavilion in Plains, Pa. Officers and members of Assembly 86 enjoyed the annual fraternal event and are shown on the above photo. Shown seated from the left are: Mary Ann Keating, Mary Vitek and Elizabeth Fereck. Standing, l-r, Bernard Novobiliski, Assembly 86 president; Florence Para, Stephen Vitek, financial secretary; Elaine Gow, Tom Gow and Albert Fereck. Not shown on the photo, Ann Yench, recording secretary. An enjoyable time was had by all.

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



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Zdar Boh!

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board



Find us on
Facebook



Slovak Catholic Sokol



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 9, "SS. Cyril and Methodius"

The annual meeting of Group 9 was called to order at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 1 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club in Lilly, Pa. This year's meeting was hosted by Assembly 79. In the absence of the president, the meeting was called to order by the Vice President Steve Phillips. He led the delegates in prayer as well as a moment of silence for our deceased members. Brother Phillips then led the assemblage in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

At this point, the president Joanne E. Spisak arrived and assumed the chair. In addition to Sister Spisak and Brother Phillips, the following officers were in attendance: Alice Podrebarac, secretary; Nancy Fesko, treasurer; and Robert Kunrod and Susan Blazosky, auditors. Margaret Kunrod, one of the auditors, was unable to attend. A total of 25 delegates represented the following lodges: Wreath 14 of Johnstown; Assembly 82 of Dunlo as well as the host, Assembly 79 of Lilly.

The secretary then read the minutes of the previous meeting. These minutes were then approved. Officer reports were then presented. The president thanked all for their active support of the work of Sokol fraternalism within Group 9 over the past years. The report of the president, Joanne E. Spisak was accepted on a motion by Tom Muldoon, seconded by Theresa Valko. The vice president attended the annual meeting. The secretary, Alice Podrebarac attended the annual meeting and assisted at the Sokol booth at the Slavicefest in Johnstown, Pa. on September 23. The treasurer, Nancy Fesko attended the annual meeting and assisted at the Sokol booth at the Slavicefest. These reports were accepted on a motion by Mary Ann Warkosky, seconded by Mike Phillips.

Old Business

This year's bowling tournament had no participants from Dunlo or Johnstown, however 20 members

from Lilly competed in this fraternal activity and 10 members competed at the national bowling tournament. The Group discussed purchasing an ad for this year's Slavicefest, however since the home office purchased one, it was decided not to purchase one from the Group.

The donation of \$50 to scholarship applicants will receive a 30-day extension to provide proof of application and send same to Nancy Fesko.

New Business

The home office suggested that Group 9 acquire an insurance agent to represent the Sokols in the sales and marketing application of Sokol insurance and annuity products.

The report of the auditors was then presented. They indicated that all books were found to be in order. There was an increase in the value of the Group 9 Sokol Secure Fund. There are no liabilities. The auditors commended the treasurer on a job well done.

On a motion by Dolly Yonkoski, seconded by Dr. Michael Kopanic, a donation of \$100 was recommended for this year's SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation. Accepted.

The president announced that next year's annual meeting, at a date to be decided at a later date, would be held in Dunlo, Pa. hosted by Assembly 82.

On a motion by Dolly Yonkoski, seconded by Theresa Valko, it was agreed to pay all officers salaries and other expenses. Accepted.

With no further business, on a motion by Dolly Yonkoski, seconded by Theresa Valko, the annual meeting was adjourned. A closing prayer for our deceased members was offered as well as grace before meals. A wonderful lunch was then enjoyed by all. Winner of the 50-50 raffle was Alice Podrebarac. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Podrebarac
Group 9 secretary

59th Slovak Catholic Federation convention Mass and dinner

(Continued from page 4)

and Rector of Saint Columba Cathedral, organized the opening activities with the help of a dedicated, capable group of individuals. The Welcoming Committee consisted of Edie Babik, Carol Gonda, Glenn Kramer, Nancy Kropolinsky, and Joseph Scavina. The Banquet Committee had Dots Bolash, Barb Hosa, Grace Kavulic, and Nancy Scavina. Members of the Program Committee were Carol Dumez, Melanie Leonard and Dolores Sonoga. Rosemary Heald, Paul Ritz, Shelly Zura and Shirley Zura comprised the Tickets Committee. Finally, the Organizing Committee was made up of Jackie Bobby, Jim Bobby and Jim Jerek. The National Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the delegates to the convention were deeply grateful for and impressed by the results of the work done by the local group. The Mass, dinner and entire course of the convention was a joyful time filled with many memorable moments.

Pittsburgh Slovaks offer Slovak Christmas recording

The Pittsburgh Slovaks, one of the country's oldest and best known Slovak folk ensembles, has produced a new recording "Vianocne Koledy" (Christmas Carols), a CD collection of beloved Slovak favorites such as Do hory do lesa valasi/povedzte nam pastierovia/Plesajte vsetci ludia/Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme/Dnesny den sa radujme/Ticha Noc/Silent Night and more.

This recording is a result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories. The cost of the recording is just \$17.00 which includes postage and handling. Make check payable to Pittsburgh Slovaks and send same to 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207.

Your Health in a Nutshell

The U.S. Department of Agriculture advises the following for a healthy diet:

- * Eat a variety of foods.
- * Maintain an ideal weight.
- * Avoid too much fat, saturated fat and cholesterol.
- * Eat foods with adequate starch and fiber.
- * Avoid too much sugar and salt.
- * If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.

Giddyup!

One hundred eighty-five years ago, Lank O'Dell began his first day on a new job. In fact, even the occupation was brand new. Lank was America's first streetcar driver. On Nov. 14, 1832 the John Mason, first horse-drawn streetcar, started

Minutes of the annual meeting of Group 16, "Rev. Ferdis Juriga"

The Group 16 annual meeting was held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Sterling Heights, Mich. The officers and delegates gathered to attend the 4 p.m. Mass in church. Following the liturgy, they gathered in the parish social hall. Group 16 President Andrea Papcun called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and offered the opening prayer and a moment of silence in memory of Group 16 members who had passed away during the last year. She then bid a warm welcome to all who included: John Papcun, vice president; Mark Papcun, secretary; Laverne Eland, treasurer; Stephen Papcun, sports director and Paula Papcun, member at large.

No auditor was able to attend this year's meeting. The at-large-member Paula Papcun was designated as temporary auditor and reviewed the treasurer's report and confirmed its accuracy.

Secretary Mark Papcun presented the minutes of the 2016 meeting and confirmed that the minutes from the prior year were sent to SCS headquarters. On a motion by John Papcun, seconded by Laverne Eland, the minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

During the past year, Group 16 accepted the resignation of our long time serving and beloved chaplain, Rev. Benjamin Kosnac. Father Ben has been reassigned to return to Slovakia and continue his priestly ministry there. Our Group, as well as all at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish will indeed miss his presence and love for the Church and our organization. The president invited the newly appointed pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, the Rev. Libor Marek to attend the annual meeting. He was asked to serve as chaplain of Group 16. Father Marek graciously accepted. President Papcun indicated that she would begin the process of enrolling Father Marek as a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Group 16 officers each submitted their respective reports to the Group which chronicled their activities and accomplishments during the past year. Duties of each office in accordance by our bylaws were fulfilled. After all of the reports were presented and discussed, on a motion by Laverne Eland, seconded by Paul Papcun, they were accepted unanimously.

Assembly 36 President Mark Papcun submitted his report along with financial statements prepared by the secretary-treasurer Stephen Papcun.

Joan Pupik, president of Assembly 214 in Rossford, Oh. submitted

her report, along with their financial statements to the Group.

President Andrea Papcun presented a report on her attendance at the Group Presidents Meeting held in Cleveland, Oh., September 15-17. Highlights included discussion on the new Legacy policy now available to current members and the desire of headquarters to designate an insurance recommender in each Group. Also shared by President Papcun from the meeting were the discussion about possible Group streaming within the organization, a push for obtaining emails from all members and the downsizing of the costs related to the publication of the Slovak Catholic Falcon.

Business items discussed included the following:

* It was determined that the bank account signature cards had not been recently changed in order to keep up with officer changes. A date was set within the coming week for the officers to meet and update the cards accordingly.

* Participation, or lack thereof, in the Fall Festival of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish was discussed. Due to the unavailability of a booth at the festival, and/or the lack of response from the festival committee, it was decided that the Group not be visible at the event. However, prizes were contributed to the children's booth as well as the adult raffle ticket prizes.

* Mark Papcun, John Papcun and Stephen Papcun formed a committee to explore a possible Group 16 participation effort in 2018 celebrating the centennial of the founding of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

* This up and coming year's charitable donations and events were discussed and recommendations were submitted for specific contributions. It was agreed that a donation of \$250 be given new priest vestments at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish. In addition a donation of \$150 be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in honor of the beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey, O.F.M., Cap.

* In an effort to market the organization's membership benefits, a decision was made to explore the cost of placing advertisements in the bulletin of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

With no further business, on a motion by Andrea Papcun, seconded by Laverne Eland, the meeting was adjourned. A prayer was offered for our deceased members. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Papcun

Group 16 interim secretary

its route on Fourth Avenue in New York City. For 12 1/2 cents, passengers could ride from Prince to 14th Street in style, pulled by two horses handled by O'Dell.

What Shape's Your Shape in?

Taking a fitness test is a good

way to get an idea of what shape you're in before you start an exercise program. Standard tests exist which measure cardiorespiratory endurance, flexibility, muscle strength and endurance, as well as body fat. These same tests can also tell you how you're progressing.

Get your shape in shape.

(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

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

☐ NEW ☐ CHANGE ☐ CANCELLATION

Certificate No. _____

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sokol Birthdays

NOVEMBER 14

Helen Zemanek, Lorain, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

NOVEMBER 15

Donald L. Bly, Mountain Top, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

NOVEMBER 16

Lisa M. Gahn Phrophetstown, IL, a member of Assembly 64, Erie, Pa.

Livia Karak, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J. a member of the home office staff.

Milan Krupa, Yorktown Hts., N.Y., a member of Assembly 182, New York City.

Daniel M. Maskara, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Robert Puskar, Dayton Oh., a member of Assembly 127, Monessen, Pa.

Anna M. Repcik, Hollywood, Fla., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

NOVEMBER 17

William Lendacky, Jr., Fairless Hills, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Jessica Raichel, Hillsborough, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Christine Ritacco, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Assembly 127, Monessen, Pa.

Michael F. Slank, Weatherly, Pa., a member of Assembly 136, Nanticoke, Pa.

NOVEMBER 18

Brooke Hess, Cedar Grove, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Dolly Lutz, Pittsburgh, Pa., financial secretary of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jerry Yatsko, Mountain Top, Pa., a member of Assembly 136, Nanticoke, Pa.

NOVEMBER 19

Andrej Brchnel, E. North Port, N.Y., a member of Assembly 182, New York, N.Y.

Elizabeth M. Pirnick, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 71, Edwardsville, Pa.

Andrew Pulver, Summit, N.J., a member of Assembly 182 in New York City.

NOVEMBER 20

Nancy Capozoli, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Matthew S. Kolodziej, Lansing, IL, a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Stephen Mason, Scranton, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

NOVEMBER 21

Therese M. Buc, Palos Hills, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Adam Dubos, Tulsa, OK, a member of Assembly 108, Youngstown, Oh.

Rev. Frantisek Halka, overseas U.S. Army Military Chaplain, a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Margaret L. Hvozdic, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Sandra J. Tau, Merrifield, Minn., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

NOVEMBER 22

Barbara Ann Bershok, Level Green, Pa., a member of Wreath 155, Reading, Pa.

Jill Lutz, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Joseph D. Pastrokovich, Belle Vernon, Pa., a member of Assembly 127, Monessen, Pa.

Dennis J. Tech, Union City, Pa., a member of Assembly 64, Erie, Pa.

NOVEMBER 23

Hon. Peter C. Eagler, Clifton, N.J., a member of the Clifton City Council and a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Stephen Scerba, Stratford, Conn., a member of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn.

NOVEMBER 24

Shirley A. Kacmarcik, Stuart, Fla., a member of Wreath 18, East Douglas, Mass.

Helen Kotulich, Monroe, Conn., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

Anton J. Vavrica, Fishkill, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

NOVEMBER 25

Kaja Gula, New York City, a member of Wreath 168, New York City.

Mary R. Maskara Clarke, Fairfield, Conn., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

NOVEMBER 26

Victor V. Gogolak, McLean, Va., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Ann Hruska, Boardman, Oh., a member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

Patricia Janetka Khoury, Boynton, Fla., a member of Wreath 13, Philadelphia, Pa.

John P. Kopchak, Jr., Park Ridge, N.J., a member of Assembly 1, Passaic, N.J.

Bernadette Rusin, McDonald, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

NOVEMBER 27

Joseph Richnavsky, Jr., Dunlo, Pa., a member of Assembly 82, Dunlo, Pa.

NOVEMBER 28

Mark S. Phillips, Youngstown, Oh., a member of Assembly 108, Youngstown, Oh.

Stephen J. Sterback, Allen Park, Mich., a member of Assembly 127, Monessen, Pa.

Mary Vitek, Pittston, Pa., a member of Assembly 86, Port Griffith, Pa.

NOVEMBER 29

Helen Louise Bruno, Reading, Pa., a member of Wreath 155, Reading, Pa.

Wyatt James Macurak, Dallas, Ga., a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Katie Jozwiak Swift, Woodbridge, Va., Supreme Assistant Physical Directress and a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

NOVEMBER 30

Evelyn Bryson, Milwaukee, Wis., a member of Wreath 93, Milwaukee, Wis.

Thomas Dikos, Jr., New Lenox, Ill., a member of Wreath 81, Whiting, Ind.

Julia Mazurkiewicz, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

DECEMBER 1

Amanda Marie Benek, Tamqua, Pa., a member of Assembly 110, ST. Clair, Pa.

Jennifer C. Camardello, Clifton Park, NY, a member of Assembly 313 Winter Park, Fla.

Crystal A. Hendershot, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Jennifer M. Hendershot, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Brian F. Hritz, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

DECEMBER 2

Scott Hvozdic, Sr. Hillsborough, N.J., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Renee L. Pizzella, Plains, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

DECEMBER 3

Anthony A. Bokeko, Medford, N.J., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

Frances Blazek, McMurray, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Christopher J. Hanrahan, Katonah, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Shane Syms, Dupont, Pa., a member of Assembly 59 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

DECEMBER 4

Ashley N. Buck, Poland, Oh., a member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

Diane F. Klotnia, Dayton, Oh., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Laura L. Krapsho, Alexandria, Va., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

DECEMBER 5

Andrew M. Rajec, Broadview Heights, Oh., a member of Wreath 93, Milwaukee, Wis.

Teresa Stanek Rea, Esq., Alexandria, Va., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Louisville, Ky., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

DECEMBER 6

Mary Kay Potanko, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Nicholas Roman, Schnecksville, Pa., a member of Assembly 72, Catsauqua, Pa.

DECEMBER 7

Dr. Pamela M. Antoniuk, Cranston, R.I., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Kelly Anne Mihalik, Wenonah, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Bradford John Mihalik, Wenonah, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

DECEMBER 8

Mary Lee Macurak Finch, Dallas, Ga., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

DECEMBER 9

Lillyann Bucci, Tarpon Springs, Fla., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Rev. Joachim Pastirik, O.S.B., a member of Assembly 303, Cleveland, Oh., and Chaplain of Group 5.

Steven J. Pogorelec, Woodland Park, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 12)

future cooperation is possible. "Perhaps Britain has thought that we would be linked or skip some sensitive points and that the market and free trade would be given priority," said Fico, adding that this didn't happen.

The premier stated that it was clear even before the summit that "we wouldn't move to the second phase," as all EU leaders concurred that "not half enough progress in the negotiations has been reached to do so."

Memorial to soldiers killed in foreign missions unveiled

A memorial to fallen soldiers of the Special Operations Forces was unveiled in Zilina on October 16 with Defense Minister Peter Gajdos (a Slovak National Party/SNS nominee) in attendance, TASR learned on the same day.

During his address at the ceremony, Gajdos stated that two Slovaks - Captain Edmund Makovnik and Sergeant Patrik Frastia - along with US Air Force Captain David Lyon lost their lives on December 27, 2013 in a suicide attack on a military convoy in Afghanistan.

"After four years the memory of professional soldiers Patrik Frastia and Edmund Makovnik have been honored again. It's a sign of respect for our fellow soldiers, especially on the part of the Special Operations Fifth Regiment, which didn't have to be ordered by superiors to build this memorial," said the defense minister.

Parliamentary defense and security committee chairman Anton Hrnko (SNS), who was also present at the ceremony, added that this is the third memorial honoring Slovak soldiers who have lost their lives when serving in foreign missions. "People who go to fight for the nation, for the state in a foreign country, have some sort of moral support in the fact that if something happens to them during the mission they won't be forgotten. Such memorials remind us that we won't forget their sacrifice for the benefit of the state, nation, homeland, peace and democracy in the fight against those who threaten peace, democracy and all our values," said Hrnko.

The monument was created by sculptor Peter Repka. The idea of creating a memorial to soldiers of the Special Operations Forces emerged in December 2013 following the first deaths on active duty of soldiers from the Slovak unit.

Survey: half of Slovaks have positive view of Slovakia's EU membership

Fifty percent of Slovaks consider the country's membership in the European Union (EU) to be a good thing, according to the latest Eurobarometer survey.

Almost three quarters of Slovaks (74 percent) are convinced that Slovakia has benefited from membership in the European Union.

According to communications attaché of the European Parliament's Information Office in Slovakia Sona Mellak, this is one of the highest figures in the EU, as the EU average in terms of benefiting from EU membership was 64 percent in the survey.

She went on to say that the EU's image in Slovakia has improved when compared to previous surveys, including when it comes to the country's voice within the EU. As many as 39 percent of Slovaks think that the country's voice has some force in the EU. "In this case, however, the figure is below the European average (47 percent)," said Mellak.

The Eurobarometer survey also showed that Slovaks worry mainly about terrorism (48 percent), uncontrolled migration (45 percent), poverty (39 percent) and unemployment (36 percent).

The survey was carried out in all 28 EU-member states between September 23-October 2. As many as 27, 881 Europeans, including 1,084 respondents from Slovakia, took part.

Sefcovic: we need to communicate benefits of EU membership better

The joint declaration by the top three Slovak constitutional officials on Slovakia's foreign policy holds quite some importance from the perspective of election results in various European countries, said European Commission Vice-president Maros Sefcovic on October 23.

"It's evident that (political) parties with clear and anti-European programs have garnered significant results. We need to draw lessons from this also in Slovakia and engage in better communication concerning what has improved throughout Slovakia's EU membership," stated Sefcovic.

The European Commission vice-president called the declaration issued by President Andrej Kiska, Parliamentary Chair Andrej Danko (Slovak National Party/SNS) and Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD) a noteworthy message sent by Slovakia to its EU partners.

Kiska, Fico and Danko on October 23 adopted a declaration in which they promised jointly to observe the pro-European and pro-Atlantic orientation of the country, both abroad and vis-a-vis Slovakia's citizens. Moreover, they support the country's future at the EU's core and the constant deepening of the eurozone. They'll advocate the principles of equal treatment on the internal market without discrimination against any EU consumers.



Obituaries...

Attorney John G. Duch, Slovak cultural and civic activist, passes away on Oct. 8

John Gregory Duch, Esq. passed away peacefully into the Lord's hands on October 8th, surrounded by family members.

A native of Garfield, N.J., John was born there July 9, 1960 son of Thomas Duch and the late Helen M. Onufer. He attended local schools and was a

graduate of Lehigh University

and Seton Hall School of Law. He was engaged in the practice of law until the time of his death. Active civically, Attorney Duch served as a councilman and Deputy Mayor of the city of Garfield, N.J. He was the Public Defender in Clifton, Elmwood Park, Rochelle Park, and Central Bergen Municipal Court. He maintained his law practice in Clifton and Elmwood Park, N.J.

He was active in the Slovak community for many years. For the past 18 years he served as the co-chairperson of the New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. He was a member of Assembly 1 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Passaic and enjoyed membership in the Greek Catholic Union, serving as a past vice president of District 7. He was

also a member of Branch 235 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He was an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Slovak League of America.

Brother John was the long-time chairman of the Margaret Muscarelle Child Development Center in Garfield, N.J., a former member of the Wyckoff Education Foundation, a frequent marcher in the Pulaski Parade sponsored by St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Garfield, an active band parent at Ramapo Regional High School, and a former assistant coach for the Wyckoff Lacrosse program.

Professionally, he was a member of the Bergen County Bar Association and a Volunteer Arbitrator in the Passaic County Superior Court.

Brother John was a life-long Byzantine Catholic and was an active member of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Passaic, N.J. At St. Michael's, he was active in the Holy Name Society, the Rosary Society, the annual festival committee, and the ever-ready kitchen crew. It was at St. Michael's Cathedral that he met his wife, the former Elizabeth Paulich whom he married 27 years ago, who survives. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Alexandra (Sasha), Gregory and Stephen. In addition, he is survived

by his father Thomas, his brother, Thomas J. Duch and his wife, Cheryl; his father-in-law, John Paulich; his brother-in-law, John Peter Paulich; his sister-in-law, Judy Li-quori; and sister-in-law, Christine Kapinos and husband James; and many loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother Helen O. Duch and his mother-in-law, Anne Paulich.

Brother John was an extraordinary man who wore dozens of hats, reflecting his fraternal philosophy of service to others. He will be long remembered for his selfless dedication to his family, his Byzantine Catholic faith, his charities, his civic and professional organizations and the Slovak community. He will be sorely missed.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother John at the Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home in Clifton. A con-celebrated funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on October 13 at the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel in Passaic with the rector, the Rev. Jack Custer as principal celebrant. Among the 10 concelebrants was the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances X. Cabrini in New York City. Interment followed at St. Michael's Cemetery in South Hackensack, N.J.

May our Brother John, who so beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith, now rest in peace. He was a patriotic American, devoted Greek Catholic and proud Slovak son. Eternal is his memory. Vecnaja jemu pamjat!

Edward L. Svitek, 86, Wreath 81 member, passes away in Arizona

Edward Lambert Svitek "Gramps" passed away peacefully of complications from Sigmoid Volvus on August 19 in Mesa, Ariz.. He was 86.

A native of Downers Grove, Ill.,

he was born there April 27, 1931, to Victor and Ann Ganda. He was then adopted by Andrew and

Sophia Svitek of Whiting, Ind.

He was graduated from Clark High School in Whiting, Ind. in 1949. "Gramps" attended Purdue University and served in the U.S. Army and was a Korean War veteran. He retired from LTV Steel in 1993, after 41 years as an Electrician Foreman. He was actively involved in the local AA community and settled in Arizona. He was an active member of Queen of Peace Parish in Mesa, Ariz. He was a long-time member of Wreath 81 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Whiting.

Brother Svitek is survived by his dearly-loved wife of many years, Jeannie Svitek;

his sister, Anne Shanske, many nieces and nephews, as well as his son, Gregory and daughter-in-law, Renee Svitek of Houston, Tex.; Dee Meador (Frankie) of Mesa, Ariz.; and George Lewis Adkins (Naomi) of Prichard, W.Va. He is also survived by grandchildren: Jamie Harper (Ben) of Houston, Tex., Michelle Svitek also of Houston; and Bill Meador (Lisa) of Sun Tan Valley, Ariz. and great-grandchildren: Corbin Harper, Caitlin Guenther, Dylan Meador, Keegan Goodreau AR USN, Cameron Goodreau, Kelsey Meador, Jack Meador, and Alysa Goodreau. He was preceded in death by a son, Edward Andrew Svitek, his parents, brothers, Al, Victor, Joseph and sisters Zita and Rita.

Brother Svitek's family and friends will always remember him as a loyal, loving, extremely selfless and positive role model to all he met. "Gramps" enjoyed watching sports, especially his beloved Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on September 7 at Queen of Peace Church in Mesa, Ariz. Interment followed. May our Brother Svitek rest in peace.

Sokol Calendar

(Continued from page 5)

SAT. DEC. 16

■ Assembly 79 Children's Christmas Party at the Slovak Citizens Club, 136 Railroad St., Lilly, Pa. beginning at 3 p.m.

SUN. DEC. 17

■ Traditional Vilija-Stedry Vecer luncheon hosted by the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr, and St. Frances X. Cabrini in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall, 406 East 67th St., New York, N.Y. beginning at 12:30 p.m. \$20, for reservations call 212-734-4613.

■ Annual Advent-Christmas concert under the direction of Stephen J. Knoblock with choir of the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Elmsford and the former Most Holy Trinity Slovak Parish with instrumentalists in the Church of St. Casimir, 239 Nepperhan Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. beginning at 3 p.m., tickets \$15.00 each at the door.

■ Assembly 163 semi-annual meeting and Children's Christmas party at Dorothy's Place in Donora, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m., Call Theresa Gardner at tel. 724 263-7289.

(Continued on page 17)

Lodge Jottings

(Continued from page 7)

trona of St. Cecilia, is scheduled for Monday, December 4 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, South Side, beginning at 7 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

Please make sure you come hungry, since following our business meeting, we will enjoy our annual Christmas dinner. Also, as in the past, in a spirit of caring and sharing, we ask that all our ladies bring along a monetary donation that will be put toward a charity or a family in need this holiday season. We thank all for any consideration given this request in the true spirit of Sokol fraternalism.

Looking ahead, the annual meetings of our Wreath 22 along with Assembly 16 are scheduled for Saturday, January 13 at the Sokol club beginning at 11 a.m. Election of officers for the new year will take place. All Assembly and Wreath members are invited to attend.

Wishing all a very joyous Christmas season along with a happy, healthy New Year, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Carmella (Suess) Marzec
Recording Secretary

WHITING, IND.

Wreath 81

Our officers are finalizing plans for our traditional Christmas party and annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, December

3. The meeting and festivities will take place at John's Restaurant, located at 4345 Calumet Avenue in Hammond, Ind. The business meeting will be called to order at 12:30 p.m. and will include reports of the officers and plans for our fraternal activities. Election of officers to serve our Wreath in 2018 will take place. Following our meeting our dinner to follow at 1 p.m. The cost of the dinner for members is \$10.00 and guests are welcome at \$15.00. Reservations are required and can be made by calling our secretary, Judy Strisko at tel. 219 659-6743 before the deadline date of November 28th. Payment is due with your reservation. We extend a warm and sincere invitation to all. An enjoyable afternoon of traditional Sokol fellowship and camaraderie is assured.

Our Wreath continues to support our local food pantry and in the spirit of Christmas giving and our Care and Share efforts, we ask those planning to attend our party to consider bringing along a monetary donation for this worthy community project.

Our members and officers send warm wishes to all who are not able to join us at the Christmas party because of illness or distance. We miss you, but be assured that you are always remembered in thought and prayer. A joyous Christmas season to all!

Zdar Boh!

Judy Strisko
Recording Secretary



In Memory of...

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here's how it works:

Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at

<http://slovakcatholicssokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm> or simply send your donation to:

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

- ♦ Your bequest will be recognized in the *Falcon* as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum.
- ♦ Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory. Keep the spirit of your fellow Sokol alive by investing in a way that their fraternal dedication will not be forgotten.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

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

ANNUITY RATES

EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2017

	<u>CURRENT</u>	<u>MINIMUM GUARANTEE</u>
VANTAGE 1	1.35%	1.00%
VANTAGE 2	1.50%	1.00%
VANTAGE 3	2.15%	1.00%
VANTAGE 5	3.00%	2.00%
VANTAGE 7	3.25%	2.00%

SINGLE PREMIUM IMMEDIATE ANNUITY – SPIA

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

NO LONGER OFFERED EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 31, 2011

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

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



Just \$15.50 which includes postage and handling
Sokol Assemblies and Wreaths can order a case of
12 cook books for just \$170.00 – Place your order today!

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NUMBER OF BOOKS _____

(Effective January 1, 2015)

Held in Minneapolis, Minn.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 11, “St. John Nepomucene”

The annual meeting of Group 11, under the fostering care of St. John Nepomucene, was held on Sunday, October 8, 2017 in Minneapolis, Minn. Hosting this year's meeting were Assembly 34 and Wreath 47, both of Minneapolis. Officers and delegates attended the 9 a.m. Mass at the Church of SS. Cyril and Methodius, which was celebrated for the living and deceased members of Group 11.

Following the liturgy, the delegates enjoyed a continental breakfast in the church hall. Group 11 President David J. Genosky called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and extended a warm fraternal welcome to the officers and delegates and thanked the hosts. The secretary then read the roll call and the following were in attendance: David J. Genosky, president; DeLores J. Genosky, vice president; James T. Genosky, secretary; Luke Matlon, physical director; Mary Matlon, physical directress; and David Matlon, sports director. In addition the following delegates were present: Dick Genosky and Jacob Genosky, Assembly 34; Joan Jaques, Dawn Genosky, Doreen Genosky and Lori Matlon, Wreath 47. There were no representatives from the other lodges belonging to Group 11, namely Wreath 21, Superior, Wis. and Assembly 155, Ironwood, Mich.

The minutes of the annual meeting held Oct. 30, 2016 were approved as published. The president, David Genosky reported that we remained active hosting our traditional patronal feast of St. George Mass and breakfast as well as our family picnic held on Aug. 20, 2017.

The Sports Director, David Matlon gave a report on this summer's 48th International Slet held in Brockport, N.Y. with four participants from Group 11. He indicated that Group 11 will be represented at next year's Supreme Clinic - Kurz in 2018 in preparation for the 49th International Slet scheduled for the summer of 2019.

David Genosky then presented

the treasurer's report and then appointed Doreen Genosky, Lori Matlon and Dawn Genosky to serve on the auditing committee. He also appointed Joan Jaques, Jacob Genosky and Dick Genosky to serve on the new motions committee. The first session of the annual meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The second session of the annual meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. with a report from the auditing committee. The committee reported that it had found the books, bank statements and the treasurer's report all to be in order and recommended approval. Suhlas!

Under old business, both the St. George Patronal feast day observance and the family picnic were enjoyed by all. The expenses were reviewed and the home office grants were appreciated.

The New Motions committee congratulated Ellie Dwinell, our Catholic grade school scholarship winner. The committee recommended we fully support our track and field team at the upcoming Supreme Clinic - Kurz in 2018 and the 49th International Slet in 2019, since this is our only national activity in which our members participate. Suhlas!

Brother David Genosky gave a report on the recent Group Presidents Meeting held in Cleveland, Oh. He indicated that a number of topics were discussed including Group finances, mergers, the Sokol Secure Fund, chaplains, scholarships our official publication and more.

All officers were re-elected to complete their four-year term. The president, Brother Genosky will appoint a new treasurer. He thanked all the officers for their service as well as the hosts for their hospitality.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. A closing prayer was offered.

Zdar Boh!

David J. Genosky

President

James T. Genosky

Secretary

Sokol Calendar

(Continued from page 16)

■ Assembly 72 Children's Christmas party at the Slovak Center, 5th & Grove Streets, North Catasauqua, Pa. beginning at 1:30 p.m., call Marge Hogan at tel. 610 217-4916.

■ Children's Christmas Party hosted by Assembly 162 in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. following the annual meeting which begins at 12:30 p.m.

SUN.DEC.31

■ New Year's Eve celebration - Silvester Steak Fry hosted by the United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Oh., 5-9

p.m., for information call Len Zilko a 440 988-3236.

FRI.JAN.19

■ 45th annual Right to Life March in opposition to abortion in Washington, D.C., buses from Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton, Pa. call Theresa Kluchinski at Ladies Pa. Slovak Catholic Union, tel. 888 834-6614; from Cleveland, Oh. call Kelly at First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association tel. 800 464-4642, ext. 1051.

SAT.FEB.10

■ 25th annual Slovak Ball hosted by the Slovak American Cultural Center at The Royal Manor, Garfield, N.J.; for reservations call 973 357-1209, SlovakAmericanCC.org.

Štvrtinu nových pracovných miest v SR obsadzujú cudzinci

Cudzincov pracujúcich na Slovensku pribúda, pretože mnohé firmy majú problém nájsť kvalifikovaných ľudí. Jedno zo štyroch nových pracovných miest obsadia cudzinci. Pracovníkov zo zahraničia sú nútené prijímať hlavne firmy nachádzajúce sa na západe a severe Slovenska.

Práve tam pre nízku nezamestnanosť nedokážu podniky obsadiť vznikajúce pozície miestnymi ľuďmi. Už koncom budúceho roka po spustení výroby automobilky Jaguar Land Rover môžu cudzinci obsadzovať až tretinu vznikajúcich pracovných miest.

Na Slovensku aktuálne pracuje takmer 46-tisíc cudzincov a celkovo je v domácej ekonomike zamestnaných približne 2,5 milióna ľudí.

Počet zahraničných pracovníkov v SR ďalej narastá. Počas druhého štvrťroku 2017 ich počet narástol o 3 295, čo je priemerný nárast 1 098 ľudí mesačne. Dá sa povedať, že štvrtina novovytvorených pracovných miest v slovenskej ekonomike bola obsadená ľuďmi zo zahraničia.

Pri súčasnom raste objednávok firmy nestihnú pokryť

voľné pracovné pozície miestnymi ľuďmi a záujem o hromadný dovoz cudzincov majú hlavne domáce priemyselné podniky.

Na Slovensku je zamestnaných 2,5 milióna ľudí. V súčasnosti v domácej ekonomike pracuje 46-tisíc cudzincov. Aktuálna miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti je vo výške 6,42 percenta.

Z úradov práce môže do zamestnania nastúpiť 175-tisíc Slovákov. Medzi najviac nedostatkové profesie patria operátori výroby, vodiči vysokozdvížnych vozíkov, šičky, kontrolóri kvality priemyselných výrobkov, IT špecialisti, elektrikári, opravári strojov a zariadení.

Pracovníci so zahraničia v súčasnosti zo zaplattených odvodov pomáhajú financovať slovenský dôchodkový systém a v prípade odpracovania 15 rokov získajú nárok na penzie. Podmienky nároku na dôchodok podľa slovenských právnych predpisov sú rovnaké pre všetkých poistencov bez ohľadu na to, či sú cudzinci, alebo štátni občania Slovenskej republiky. Ak odpracujú menej rokov, získajú pomernú časťku vypočítanú na základe ich mesačného príjmu a odpracovaných rokov.

Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí chce vo Washingtone kúpiť novú budovu

Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí chce vo Washingtone kúpiť novú budovu, rezidenciu veľvyslanca. Tá súčasná sa teraz nachádza mimo hlavného mesta, v Mc Leane v štáte Virginia.

Ministerstvo chce požiadať vládu o udelenie súhlasu na začatie obstarávania. Po ukončení výberu vhodnej rezidencie minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí predloží najvýhodnejšiu ponuku ministrom financí so žiadosťou o pridelenie peňazí na kúpu novej nehnuteľnosti. Informácia je v medzirezortnom pripomienkovom konaní.

Súčasná rezidencia Veľvyslanca Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone sa nachádza mimo hlavného mesta Washingtonu, D.C., a to v Mc Leane v štáte Virginia.

„Vzhľadom na lokalitu a veľmi zlú dopravnú dostupnosť, rezidencia nespĺňa požiadavky kladené na plnenie základného účelu diplomatickej rezidencie a Slovenská republika je jediným členským štátom Európskej únie, ktorý využíva rezidenciu

mimo hlavného mesta,“ píše sa v materiáli s tým, že veľvyslanectvo, ktoré dlhodobo upozorňuje na nevyhovujúce podmienky, vykonalo prieskum trhu a oboznámilo sa s miestnymi zvyklosťami pri kúpe nehnuteľností.

Ministerstvo vlastní v USA niekoľko budov. Rezidencia veľvyslanca vo Washingtone je budova postavená po 2. svetovej vojne, nachádza sa v lokalite, kde sa nenachádzajú žiadne iné diplomatické objekty, fyzický stav budovy zodpovedá jej veku a obmedzeným peniazom určeným na údržbu.

Keď rezort diplomacie zoženie novú budovu, túto starú plánuje predaj. Okrem toho Slovensku patrí aj administratívna budova veľvyslanca vo Washingtone a rezidencia stáleho predstaviteľa SR pri OSN v New Yorku. Okrem toho si Slovensko prenája administratívne priestory stálej misie pri OSN a generálneho konzulátu v New Yorku. Podľa ministerstva je potrebné zvážiť umiestnenie oboch úradov do priestorov vo vlastníctve Slovenska. - SITA

Bratislava má šancu získať európsku liekovú agentúru

Slovensko má veľkú šancu získať Európsku liekovú agentúru (EMA). Ako píše denník Financial Times Bratislava spolu s talianskym Milánom sú hlavnými favoritmi. Odvoláva sa na informácie od vysokopostavených diplomatov.

Agentúra momentálne sídli vo Veľkej Británii, kvôli Brexitu sa musí presťahovať.

Záujem o ňu má celkovo 19 európskych miest. Za tvrdých

súperov sú považované ešte Amsterdam a Kodaň.

EMA zamestnáva cez 900 ľudí a rozhoduje o liekoch, presnejšie schvaľuje liečivá, ktoré idú na európsky trh, ak sa vyskytne problém, prijíma opatrenia.

Bratislava je vážnym kandidátom aj napriek varovaniu samotej agentúry, že až 70 percent zamestnancov by mohlo odísť, ak by sa jej sídlom stalo práve naše hlavné mesto.

Slovenská ponuka je podľa britského denníka najsilnejšia zo strednej a východnej Európy. „Slovensko, člen eurozóny, je v Bruseli vnímané ako bašta

prinajmenšom nejakého proeurópskeho čítania v regióne k čoraz nepriateľskej európskej integrácii,“ píše Financial Times.

Záujem o presídlenie agentúry deklarovalo Slovensko už v apríli. Opätovne potvrdilo kandidatúru v júli. Nahrávať mu môže najmä to, že ešte žiadnu európsku agentúru na svojom území nemá. Plusom môže byť aj dobré napojenie na Viedeň.

V kandidatúre Slovensko podporili aj Maďarsko a Česká republika.

O novom sídle liekovej agentúry sa rozhodne 20. novembra tohto roka.

Jaguar zvažuje v Nitre vyrábať aj elektromobily

Slovensko ako automobilová veľmoc má všetky predpoklady na spustenie masívnej výroby vozidiel na elektrický pohon. Aktuálne o tom uvažuje pri Nitre budovaná automobilka Jaguar Land Rover, ktorá v prípade kladného rozhodnutia zvýši konečný počet slovenských zamestnancov zo 4-tisíc až na 6-tisíc. Stane sa tak v prípade, keď vedenie automobilového koncernu Slovensku odklepne projekt s označením Powertrain.

Elektromobily môžu na Slovensku celkovo vytvoriť tisíce nových pracovných miest, čo by posunulo hore aj platy.

V obchode či službách majú ľudia hrubý plat okolo 700 eur mesačne, priemerná mzda v krajine sa blíži k 1 000 eurám a v automobilovom priemysle sú platy aj o tretinu vyššie, a to napríklad v bratislavskom Volkswagen, ktorý už láka ľudí z celého Slovenska.

Jaguar Land Rover bude musieť ponúknuť nadštandardné platy, aby pre závod v Nitre obsadil tisíce pozícií.

Aktuálne prípadné dosahy rozšírenia výroby skúma slovenské ministerstvo životného prostredia a základné informácie o celom projekte sú zverejnené na enviroportáli.

Viete, že...

... paprika patrí medzi výživovo najhodnotnejšiu zeleninu. Odborníci ju zaraďujú medzi potraviny s najsilnejšími antioxidantnými vlastnosťami. V paprike sa nachádza veľa vitamínu K, vitamínu B6, kyseliny listovej,

vlákniny, horčička, zinku, vápnika, draslíka, mangánu.

... Slovensko je po Rakúsku druhou najľahšiejšou krajinou v strednej Európe?

... najrozsiahlejší stredoveký hradný komplex v strednej Európe je Spišský hrad



Nedaleko Nízkych Tatier, na ceste medzi dedinami Liptovská Osada a Liptovská Lúžna, leží výnimočné miesto zvané Gothál. Je to multifunkčný areál, ktorý poskytuje ubytovanie, športové a relaxačné aktivity v príhlom komplexe Vodného sveta. Nachádza sa v nádhernom prostredí Liptova na rozhraní Veľkej Fatry a Nízkych Tatier a je vzdialený iba 12 kilometrov od lyžiarskych svahov na Donovaloch. Gothál ako výraz má veľmi dlhé korene. Je to pôvodný názov Liptovskej Osady, ktorý dedinke dali benediktínski mníši v roku 1288 a v preklade znamená „božie domčeky“. Zatiaľ, čo v minulosti sa vďaka benediktinom v tejto oblasti rozvíjalo najmä náboženstvo, kultúra, umenie a nové techniky hospodárenia, dnes je toto miesto ukážkou modrej architektúry a starých slovenských tradícií.

NAVŠTÍVTE NAŠU FACEBOOK STRÁNKU



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

Prírodné liečivá z domácej lekárničky

Blíži sa sezóna chorôb z prechladnutia či zapáleného hrdla. Pred tým ako siiahnete po tabletkách, skúste tradičné prírodné lieky. Symptómy prechladnutia dokážu potlačiť aj látky, ktoré nájdete v dostupných prírodných produktoch. Mnohé z nich sú bežnou súčasťou kuchynskej police s koreninami. Pritom posilňujú imunitu, majú protizápalové účinky a bránia množeniu škodlivých baktérií a vírusov.

Cesnak pomáha obranyschopnosti tela. Je výborným zdrojom vitamínov (A, B1, B2, C, D) ako aj minerálnych látok, napríklad jódu. Povzbudzuje imunitu, pôsobí antistresovo, a pre jeho účinky pri nádche a prechladnutí si získal prívlastok „prírodné antibiotikum“. Jeho blahodarný efekt sa prejaví najmä ak je čerstvý.

Med - ak je neriedený, bráni množeniu mikroorganizmov, má probiotické vlastnosti a potláča potenciálne nebezpečné baktérie.

Echinacea môže povzbudiť imunitný systém počas prechladnutia, chrípky, infekcii horných dýchacích ciest či infekcii močových mechúra. Analýza výskumov o echinacei ukázala, že užívanie prípravkov z rastliny v celku znižuje pravdepodobnosť vzniku prechladnutia o 58 percent a dokáže skrátiť dobu liečenia o takmer jeden a pol dňa.

Zázvor obsahuje látky, ktoré majú silné protizápalové a antioxidačné účinky. Tlmí množenie baktérií a vírusov, čím sa uplatňuje v prevencii respiračných ochorení, nádchy a chrípky. Zlepšuje tiež prekrvenie tela. Napriek blahodarným účinkom si treba strážiť dávkovanie. Na prípravu čaju stačí použiť maximálne štyri gramy strúhaného zázvoru, v prípade sušeného iba gram.

Harmanček je ideálny pre ľudí, ktorí majú problémy so spánkom. Upokojuje podráždený žalúdok a tiež zmierňuje príznaky žalúdočných vredov. Jeho antibakteriálne vlastnosti pomáhajú posilňovať imunitu.

Inhalovanie harmančekových výparov zmierňuje prejavy prechladnutia a bolesť krku.

Škorica má výrazné antioxidačné vlastnosti a zároveň pomáha telu bojovať so zápalmi. Škoriová kôra dokonca napomáha znižovať cholesterol a cukor v krvi.

Šalvia lekárska má protizápalové, antivirové a antibakteriálne účinky. Čaj zo šalviových listov sa pije proti kašľu a pri poruchách trávenia či dokonca na zmiernenie potenia.

Jablčný ocot má antibakteriálne vlastnosti. Vďaka svojej kyslosti môže pomôcť rozpúšťať a uvoľňovať hlien v hrdle a zastaviť šírenie baktérií. Ak máte pocit, že sa v hrdle začína rozmáhať zápal, vyskúšajte klokať vodu s dvomi lyžičkami jablčného octu. Medzitým pite dostatok vody.

Tymián sa osvedčil ako prostriedok proti nadúvaniu a zápalom tráviaceho traktu. Mierni kašeľ a vo všeobecnosti má protizápalové účinky. Vďaka svojim účinkom sa dá využiť pri liečbe nachladenia, kašľa, bolesti v krku a infekciách v ústach. Dá sa použiť pri inhalácii, ako ústna voda, alebo kloktadlo.

Repík má mimoriadne široké uplatnenie. Pomáha pri problémoch s tráviacou sústavou, má močopudné účinky, pri žľzných a močových kameňoch, pri poruchách pečene. V jesennom a zimnom období môže pomôcť pri liečbe nádchy a kašľa. Keďže má stahujúci účinok, používa sa aj na rany.

Mäta dokáže omnoho viac, než len osviežiť dych. Výluh zmierňuje bolesť hrdla a tísni kašeľ. Vďaka obsahu mentolu uvoľňuje hlien. Mäta má protizápalové vlastnosti a preto môže okrem liečenia vírusových a bakteriálnych infekcií pomôcť aj pri hojení rán.



100-ROČNÝ RECEPT NA NAJLEPŠÍ MAKOVÝ A ORECHOVÝ ZÁVIN



Cesto: 600 g polohrubej múky, 60 g práškového cukru, 2 ks žltka, 50 g kvasníc, 2 dcl mlieko, 250 g maslo.

Maková plnka: 300 g maku, hrozienka, 1 dcl rumu, citrónová kôra, 300g kryštálového cukru, 1,5 dcl vody. Z cukru a vody uvaríme cukrový sirup. Do maku zamiešame horúci sirup a pridáme 1 dcl rumu a asi 3 prúžky citrónovej kôry.

Orechová plnka: 300 g mletých orechov, pomarančová kôra, 300 g kryštálového cukru, 1,5 dcl vody. Do orechov zamiešame horúci cukrový sirup a asi 3 prúžky pomarančovej kôry.

Príprava závinu: Vo vlažnom mlieku rozpustíme cukor, pridáme kvasnicu, pripravíme kvások. Do vykysnutého kvásku pridáme žltka, prešľaháme a pridáme rozpustené maslo. Všetko pridáme do múky a šľahačom (lepšie však ručne) spracujeme cesto. Vyformujeme 4 rovnaké bochníčky a necháme 30 min. odstáť. Naplníme plnkou.

Plnku si rozdelíte na rovnaké časti (ak by bolo niekde plnky veľa, závin praskne). Makovú plnku po natretí ešte posypeme hrozienkami. Hotový závin potrieme trikrát rozšľahaným celým vajcom a jedenkrát žltkom. Dáme na 40-45 minút piecť do vyhriatej rúry (320 stupňov F).

ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

Opäť jeden vydarený styling. - topky.sk

...radikálne zmenila imidž... - emma.sk

V bratislavskej Petržalke pribudlo ďalšie workoutové ihrisko. - teraz.sk

...dojatie nad neutíchajúcou standing ovation, ktorú mu publikum venovalo. - topky.sk

Ktorá zelenina má lepší nutričný profil? - žena.sk

Štvrtina firiem pridá ľuďom nové benefity. - finweb

Toto je 5 must have kúskov tejto jesene! - emma.sk

Slovenská liga oznamuje

1. ZBOR SLVA V NYC POZÝVA NA OSLAVU 110. VÝROČIA SLVA

Najstarší zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike – 1. zbor v New Yorku, pripravuje oslavu 110. výročia existencie Slovenskej ligy v nedeľu 10. decembra v spoločenskej hale slovenského kostola Sv. Jána Nepomuckého (First Ave a 66th Street).

Výbor 1. zboru pripravuje v spolupráci s predstaviteľmi Slovenskej ligy zaujímavý program. Slávnosť začne o 12.30. hodine popoludní. Na oslave sa bude podávať obed a občerstvenie. Vstup na oslavu je bezplatný.

SLOVAKIA – ROČNÍK 2017

Slovenská liga oznamuje, že v týchto dňoch vyšiel ďalší ročník Slovakia – ročník 2017 (Volume XCVIII). Toto vydanie má 171 strán a obsahuje bohatý výber príspevkov na rôzne témy so vzťahom na slovenskú históriu, kultúru a literatúru. Cena jedného výtlačku je \$10.00 (v cene je zahrnuté poštovné). Objednávky posielajte na adresu:

Slovak League of America
205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

Podujatia v New York City MIKULÁŠSKE POPOLUDNIE

Farská rada pri kostole Sv. Jána Nepomuckého vás pozýva na Mikulášske popoludnie s mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré bude v nedeľu 3. decembra o 1.00 hodine poobede vo veľkej hale kostola. Vstup je zdarma. Kvôli organizačnému zabezpečeniu majú rodičia nahlasovať deti, s ktorými plánujú prísť na Mikuláša, Marike Hricovej, telefón 347-277-6433, alebo na farskom úrade počas pracovnej doby na číslo 212-734-4613.

ŠTERDÁ VEČERA

V nedeľu 17. decembra bude kostolnej hale Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého podávaná Šterdá večera. Začiatok bude o 12.30 hodine. Vstupné je \$20.00 za osobu. Blížšie informácie a rezervácie na horeuvedenom telefónnom čísle.

Matica slovenská má nového predsedu

Predsedom Matice slovenskej sa stal doterajší podpredseda MS Marián Gešper. Rozhodlo o tom 398 delegátov Valného zhromaždenia MS, ktoré sa konalo 10. a 11. novembra v Liptovskom Mikuláši.

V tajných voľbách odovzdalo Mariánovi Gešperovi svoj hlas 258 delegátov valného zhromaždenia, čo predstavuje 67,01% oprávnených voličov. Marián Gešper je historicky najmladším predsedom Matice slovenskej. Okrem predsedu delegáti Valného zhromaždenia MS zvolili aj 38 členov Výboru MS.



Pri príležitosti 25. výročia prevádzky Sústavy vodných diel Gabčíkovo – Nagymaros sa 25. októbra stretli členovia vlády SR na rokovaní priamo v Gabčíkove. Ministerstvo životného prostredia (MŽP) v materiáli pripomínajúcom toto výročie zdôrazňuje, že vybudovaním diela sa zvýšila protipovodňová bezpečnosť Bratislavy a prilahých území, vytvorila sa vodná plavebná cesta v hĺbke najmenej 3,5 metra a zastavila sa erózia dna časti starého toku Dunaja. Vďaka vodnému dielu sa tiež zvýšila kapacita zásob podzemnej vody, zlepšili sa podmienky života vodných živočíchov a lesnej zveri, vytvorili sa podmienky pre rozvoj vodných športov, turistiky, ale aj umenia a kultúry, a vznikli podmienky na získanie ekologicky čistej elektrickej energie.

Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation
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SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

Daniel F. Tanzone, redaktor

Telefónne číslo: (973) 777-4010

Všetky články, príspevky a správy treba posilať na adresu:

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Na oslave 45. výročia OSN v New Yorku vystúpil folklórny súbor Lúčnica



Súbor Lúčnica sa ako kultúrny ambasádor Slovenska predstavil v OSN pod novým logom "Lúčnica & Slovakia, Good Idea". - Foto: Oto Raček

Medzinárodné spoločenstvo už 72 rokov oslavuje 24. október ako Deň Organizácie Spojených národov - sviatok vstupu Charty OSN do platnosti. Táto univerzálna medzinárodná organizácia vznikla v roku 1945 s cieľom po druhej svetovej vojne pomôcť vo svete udržať mier. Každoročne preto patrí 24. október medzi najdôležitejšie dni v kalendári OSN.

Pre Slovensko mal tohtoročný Deň OSN osobitný význam, nakoľko sa v utorok 24. októbra na oslavách tohto sviatku po prvý raz v dejinách OSN predstavili aj slovenskí umelci. V sále Valného zhromaždenia vystúpil umelecký súbor Lúčnica s predstavením, ktoré sa nieslo

v znamení motta Potenciál v rôznorodosti.

"Túto tému považujem za mimoriadne vhodnú práve pre dnešný deň a toto prostredie. Rôznorodosť je chlebom a soľou multilateralizmu. Bez neho by sme sa vrátili tam, kde bol svet pred 45 rokmi: keď platilo len to, o čom rozhodla moc a vojenská sila," uviedol na úvod podujatia Miroslav Lajčák, ktorý predsedá 72. zasadnutiu Valného zhromaždenia OSN.

Pokiaľ chceme naplno využiť potenciál v rôznorodosti, musíme sa ju podľa Lajčáka naučiť prijať. "Musíme komunikovať - a nielen v teórii, ale aj v praxi. Potrebujeme ozajstný dialóg namiesto série monológov," dodal.

Generálny tajomník OSN António Guterres v posolstve adresovanom hosťom podujatia poďakoval Slovensku a Lúčnici a vyzdvihol schopnosť umenia zjednocovať a inšpirovať.

Slovensko malo unikátnu možnosť prezentovať počas sviatku OSN svoju kultúru a umenie pred zástupcami 193 krajín sveta. Žiadne iné publikum vo svete nebude tak reprezentatívne a rozmanité ako to, pred ktorým v New Yorku vystúpila Lúčnica, ktorá už 70 rokov otvára svojim umením srdcia a mysle publika po celom svete. Súbor Lúčnica sa ako kultúrny ambasádor Slovenska predstavil v OSN pod novým logom "Lúčnica & Slovakia, Good Idea". - TASR

Do Iraku odšlo pätnásť slovenských vojakov, budú školiť odminovanie

Slovensko posla do Iraku pätnásť vojakov, ktorí sa budú podieľať na príprave inštruktorov irackých ozbrojených síl pre oblasť odminovania. Onedlho ich bude nasledovať ďalších desať vojakov, špecialistov na opravy sovietskej a postsovietskej techniky.

S odchádzajúcimi vojakmi sa 27. októbra v Sereďi rozlúčil minister obrany Peter Gajdoš a

náčelník Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl SR Milan Maxim.

Slovenskí vojaci sa nebudú podieľať na bojových operáciách, ani na ich plánovaní. Nebudú pôsobiť v bojovej misii, ale výcvikovej.

S vojakmi išli do Iraku aj štyri kusy odminovacej techniky.

Pôsobenie Ozbrojených síl SR bude v rámci tzv. výcvikových aktivít NATO so súhlasom

Irackej republiky a vymedzenie jeho podmienok bude zabezpečené medzinárodnými zmluvami, resp. medzinárodnými zmluvnými dokumentmi.

Slovensko ponúklo túto pomoc ešte na májovom summite NATO v Bruseli. Mandát v počte do 25 príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky schválila vláda aj Národná rada Slovenskej republiky.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska



□ Bratislava tri roky za sebou prepisuje rekordy v návštevnosti. Koncom tohto roka môže dosiahnuť hranicu 1,5 milióna návštevníkov. Do Bratislavy prichádzajú podľa štatistik najmä turisti z Česka, Nemecka, Rakúska, Anglicka i Poľska. Za prvých sedem mesiacov tohto roka zaznamenali nárast návštevníkov Bratislavy o vyše osem percent a prenocovania stúpili takmer o šesť percent.

□ V sledovanom období s podstatne zvýšil počet turistov z Číny a Izraela, ich nárast návštevnosti je viac ako 50-percentný. Bratislavu spoznávajú aj turisti z Peru, Mongolska, Haiti, Singapuru či Iránu.

□ Nezamestnanosť na Slovensku zlomila ďalší rekord. V septembri jej miera poklesla na 6,42 percenta, je tak najnižšia od roku 1993. Čím nižšie čísla, tým častejšie firmy tvrdia, že nedokážu medzi nezamestnanými nájsť schopných ľudí, ktorých by chceli zamestnať, upozorňuje ústredie práce. Spoločnosti tak ponúkajú voľné pracovné miesta aj ľuďom zo zahraničia.

□ Predseda vlády Robert Fico podpísal 26. októbra na Úrade vlády SR pred médiami vládne nariadenie, podľa ktorého sa hrubá minimálna mzda na Slovensku od začiatku budúceho roka zvýši z 435 eur na 480 eur.

□ Do nákladného prístavu v Bratislave prišiel 13. novembra prvý skúšobný čínsky vlak s kontajnermi. 27. októbra vyzrazil a z čínskeho prístavu Dalian, príchod do prekladiskového terminálu v prístave bol naplánovaný o dva týždne neskôr. 41 kontajnerov viezlo tovar pre zákazníkov do celej Strednej Európy. Vlak okrem kontajnerov pre slovenských zákazníkov viezol aj kontajnery určené do iných krajín EÚ.

□ Skúšobný vlak z Číny je podľa ministerstva vôbec prvým, ktorého trasa vedie cez takmer celé územie Slovenska. Od

budúceho roka začne vlak z Dalianu premávať do terminálu v prístave Bratislava raz týždenne, v druhej polovici roka 2018 pôjde dvakrát za týždeň. Úspora času prepravy po železnici, v porovnaní s námornou prepravou, predstavuje približne 16 dní.

□ Ceny bytov a obytných domov na Slovensku v treťom štvrtroku stúpili na viac ako osemročné maximum. Priemerná cena bývania v krajine však za svojím vrcholom z roku 2008 zaostáva o 11 percent. Vyplýva to z údajov, ktoré zverejnila Národná banka Slovenska. Meter štvorcový bytu či domu stál v treťom štvrtroku v priemere 1 378 eur, čo je najviac od prvého štvrtroku 2009.

□ Medziročne reality v treťom štvrtroku zdraželi o 6,4 percenta, tempo rastu cien sa tak zvolnilo druhý kvartál po sebe. Hoci ceny bývania na Slovensku v priemere zaostávajú za svojou doterajšou maximálnou hodnotou, v porovnaní s historickým maximum sú len o niečo lacnejšie, pričom niektoré typy bytov sú už najdrahšie v histórii.

□ Ceny domov sú oproti doterajšiemu vrcholu o 12 percent nižšie. Tradične je najdrahšie bývanie v Bratislavskom kraji, kde je aj najvyššia životná úroveň.

□ Sociálna poisťovňa vyplácala k 31. októbru 2017 na Slovensku starobný dôchodok 413.299 mužom a 644.279 ženám. Najmenej ľudí poberalo dôchodok v Trnavskom kraji (112.961 obyvateľov) a v Trenčianskom kraji (127.075). Naopak, najviac takýchto občanov žije v Nitrianskom kraji. Tam starobný dôchodok poberalo 143.304 ľudí a v Košickom kraji - celkom 140.227. Priemerná výška samostatne vyplácaného starobného dôchodku k poslednému októbrovému dňu dosiahla 428,02 eura, pričom muži dostávali priemerne 475,86 eura a ženy 381,98 eura.