Members of the Supreme Assembly

Supreme Officers and Board of Directors

2016 - 2019

Protector
Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B.
Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey
10510 Buckeye Road
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Supreme Chaplain
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
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Sayre, PA 18840

Supreme President
Michael J. Horvath
185 Lawrence Street
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Supreme Vice-President
Edward D. Moeller
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Supreme Secretary
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Supreme Treasurer
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Uxbridge, MA 01569

General Counsel
John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.
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Clifton, NJ 07013

Chairperson of Supreme Auditros
James G. Jerek
381 Melbourne Avenue
Boardman, OH 44512
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics
James C. Matlon
6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981

Supreme Physical Director
John M. Underation
30629 Maple Drive
Bay Village, OH 44140

Supreme Physical Directress
Kathleen S. Watkins
7019 Highland Creek Drive
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Supreme Auditors

Chairperson of Supreme Auditors
James G. Jerek
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Boardman, OH 44512

Supreme Auditor
James F. Knis
6385 Harbor Drive, N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

Supreme Auditor
Brian M. Suchy
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Supreme Physical Fitness Board

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics: James C. Matlon
Supreme Physical Director: John M. Underation
Supreme Physical Directress: Kathleen S. Watkins

Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics
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Norton, OH 44203

Supreme Assistant Physical Director
Dusan Dorich
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Supreme Assistant Physical Directress
Katie Swift
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Woodbridge, VA 22193

Members of the Board

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Youngstown, OH 44511

Julie M. Laury
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Martin Degnan
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Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

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Honorary Supreme Officers

Susan L. Blosser
Julie Ann Dobbs
Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik
Larry M. Glugosh

George J. Kostelnik
Roger J. Manyak
J. Gregory Milanek
Michael J. Pjontek, Jr.

John D. Pogorelec, Sr., Esq.
Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Daniel F. Tanzone
Anne Marie Trethaway
It was an exciting Fourth of July celebration for a group of young Slovak immigrant men who gathered in Passaic, NJ on July 4, 1905. On that day, the 46 founders decided to organize an athletic fraternity for Catholics of Slovak ancestry. On July Fourth 114 years ago, the Slovak Catholic Sokol was founded. Our organization continues to be headquartered in the city of Passaic, NJ. From the ideas and determination of those hearty young Slovaks, all of whom were from the region of Spis in Slovakia, our organization has grown and developed over the years to be known as “America’s Greatest Slovak Gymnastic and Athletic Fraternity.”

As a fraternal benefit society, the Slovak Catholic Sokol provides a variety of insurance plans for every member of the family. Financial security coupled with an extensive gymnastic and athletic program for every member of the family, has seen the organization grow from the original 46 founders to a great family of more than 30,000 members in all parts of the United States and Canada. A total of 93 Assemblies and Wreaths may be found in many parts of the East and Midwest United States and in the Province of Ontario, Canada. The local lodges are part of the organization’s 19 Groups or Districts.

The biennial International gymnastic, track and field meet or “Slet”, as it is known in Slovak, is the culmination of hard work, skill and preparation on the part of the young people from ages 8 and up. The first Slet was held in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1912. Since then, the Slets have attracted thousands of members of the organization who gather to compete in an array of track and field events. These Slets are held every two years in various American or Canadian cities.

In addition to our Slets, the Slovak Catholic Sokol hosts annual bowling, golf, basketball, volleyball and softball tournaments which attract thousands of members annually. Besides the international competitions, district-wide tournaments are also held to promote sportsmanship and camaraderie.

With a strong commitment to its youth, the organization encourages and promotes higher education among the members. Annually, 38 scholarship grants totalling $43,500 are awarded to college-bound members. Annual $500 scholarship grants are also given to qualified members who are attending a Catholic High School as well as $250 grants to those attending a Catholic grammar school. To date, a total of 2,377 members have received a total of over $1,661,500 in scholarship grants.

Furthermore, as a Catholic organization, support is given to various works of charity and benevolence. Active participation in parish life is encouraged and support for religious communities of men and women of Slovak heritage is given. Since the fall of communism in Slovakia, the land of our ancestors, financial support has been given to the Catholic bishops there. Support for the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation is encouraged among the members.

As an organization with pride in its Slovak roots, we encourage a love for and a greater appreciation of our Slovak history and traditions. Support for the work of the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, and other Slovak cultural groups is encouraged.

A review of the extensive athletic program, the promotion of our Catholic faith traditions and love for our Slovak heritage is reflected in the official publication of our organization, the Slovak Catholic Falcon, which has been published since 1911. The magazine offers the membership a review of the activities of the organization in both the English and Slovak languages.

As a fraternal, the organization lends its assistance to a host of other works of charity. Together with four Slovak fraternals, the Slovak Catholic Sokol established the Slovak Foundation at the University of Pittsburgh and has assisted such national causes as the Habitat for Humanity program and Jubilee Ministries.

With a total of $250 million of insurance in force and with assets of more than $88 million, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is among the leading fraternal benefit organizations in the United States. Committed to the democratic way of life, a quadrennial national convention is held in which the representatives of the local Sokol lodges elect the Board of Directors which governs the organization between conventions. In addition, other individuals are chosen to serve as members of the Supreme Assembly. The Board of Directors, Supreme Auditors and members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board form the Supreme Assembly.
Dear Sokols and Sokolky:

Pochvalen bud‘ Pan Jezis Kristus!

I am pleased to be given this opportunity to greet all our members and friends through this “2019 Annual Review Book”. This 25th Annual Review Book highlights our organization’s successful fraternal programs and involvement in the life of the Slovak American and Canadian communities, as well as our strong ties to the Republic of Slovakia. Looking through the book proves once again that the many fraternal activities hosted by our organization are enjoyed by a good number of our membership, truly makes the Slovak Catholic Sokol the envy of our brother and sister Slovak fraternal societies.

Permit me to thank the delegates to our 33rd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH who reelected me as your Supreme Chaplain.

As you enjoy browsing through this year’s book, might you consider sharing it with those who you know that are not current members of our wonderful society. The simple sharing of this book with others, might encourage them to consider membership with our organization.

Throughout these many years, with much change around us, one thing remains the same, the fact that the Slovak Catholic Sokol is a Catholic Fraternal, which maintains a strong sense of loyalty to the Roman Catholic Church and to our Holy Father. This rich religious heritage is clearly reflected during all our fraternal gatherings.

I ask all to join with me and pray that as the Slovak Catholic Sokol enters its 115th year we all commit ourselves to do our part to live our organization’s slogan, “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body”, and we defend our organization’s motto, “For God and Nation.”

We can all be very proud of our impressive past; may we commit ourselves to assuring a promising tomorrow.

ZDAR BOH,
Dear Sokol Members and Friends!
Pochválen bud’ Pán Ježiš Kristus!  
Štastný Novy Rok!

On behalf of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Assembly I extend New Year best wishes to all Slovak Catholic Sokol members, friends and their families. 2020 is the beginning of the second decade of the 21st century and I truly hope it is the year that we will see great signs of Love and Peace in the world. And, where people all over the world can live the Golden Rule with dignity and prosperity.

May the Slovak Catholic Sokol, as it begins its 115th year, continue to be blessed with good leadership that keeps its focus on future growth, financial strength and fraternal activities for its members.

With 2019 in our memories and history book this Annual Review Book will document the success of the Fraternal Activities the Slovak Catholic Sokol enjoyed in 2019. In 2019 the Sokol awarded 56 scholarships to members to help them with their education expenses. Sokol members enjoyed a very successful 73rd International Bowling Tournament, May 17-18, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA and a 64th International Golf tournament, August 16-18, 2019 in Beaver Falls, PA with competition and co-hosting with the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) and the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota).

Our great fraternal Society held its signature fraternal activity, the 49th International Slet, July 17-21, 2019 at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY where more than 200 of our members competed for four days in calisthenics, gymnastics and track and field. Congratulations to Group 4 for being the overall winner and taking home the Championship Slet Flag. May the 50th International Slet in 2021 bring all past and future participants together for a great celebration.

Your Fraternal Society held its 33rd Quadrennial Convention August 4-7, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio. This four day conclave gave Sokol members, the delegates, and the opportunity to review the accomplishments of the Society and the work of its offices for the last four years. The delegates also had the privilege of electing the Society’s leadership for the next four years. I welcome to the Supreme Assembly all delegates elected to serve the membership and look forward to working with you for the next four years. The highlight of the 33rd Convention was the highly anticipated report of the 2020 Committee. The 2020 Committee report looked at the structure and governance of the Society and found all was in order. The delegates left the Convention pleased with its efficiency and results.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol was pleased to select and honor Brother Clifford Moeller of Pittsburgh, Pa as its 2019 Fraternalist of the Year. Congratulations to Brother Moeller and we Thank You for your dedication to the Society. 

The success the Slovak Catholic Sokol enjoyed in 2019 could not have been accomplished if it were not for the leadership given by our Supreme Secretary, Brother Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., the Home Office staff and our Director of Sales, Brother Albert J. Suess, Jr, F.I.C., Thank You. To the Board of Directors, Thank You for your guidance and support in keeping the Society moving forward in 2019. Lastly, the Society recognizes the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for all they do to organize all the fraternal activities we all enjoyed and participated in 2019, Thank You.

To my family, thank you for your support and love and for letting me work for the betterment of the Society.

This and past annual review books highlights the Society's success and the individuals who participated in them. Unfortunately some are no longer with us! One special individual is our Honorary Supreme Chaplain, Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, who died October 12, 2019. All of us thank you for all you did for the Slovak Catholic Sokol family. You and our other Brother and Sisters who have died will not be forgotten and may you and them Rest In Peace.

With God’s Blessings to All! Zdar Boh!
Fraternally Yours,
Dear Sokol Members and Friends:

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to extend greetings to you as we mark our 114th Anniversary as a fraternal benefit society and share our wonderful Annual Review Book of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for the year 2019. I am pleased to let you know that the year 2019 was another event-filled and prosperous one for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. I hope you had the opportunity to participate in one of our sporting, fraternal, or cultural events beautifully depicted in this year’s edition.

One major highlight of our year was, of course, the 49th International Slet. Over 200 competitors travelled to SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY to showcase their abilities. The Slet is the flagship event of our organization and the 49th edition was one to remember. Congratulations to all our winners, especially our athletes from Group 4, who took home the Sokol Flag!

The other major event during our 114th Anniversary was our organization’s 33rd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH. The Convention is the gathering of the highest governing body of the society and is the hallmark of a fraternal benefit system. The decisions made in Cleveland, OH will guide us for the next four years. Congratulations to the newly elected Supreme Officers and thank you to our outgoing Officers for all your hard work and dedication to the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

As we begin our 115th year of service, we look forward to giving future generations the opportunity to enjoy all the fraternal benefits the Slovak Catholic Sokol has to offer. But we can only do this with your help. I urge all our members to look to your family and friends for possible membership to the Slovak Catholic Sokol. If every member signed up one person in 2020, just imagine the impact that would have on our Society. We can do it together!

As we welcome the new year of 2020, I hope that more of our members will make it point to participate in our wonderful fraternal activities. Our “Sokol Family” would love to have you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvth, the Board of Directors and the Physical Fitness Board. You are all assets to this organization and your work does not go unnoticed by our membership. It is through your efforts that allow us to run the events that are so beautifully depicted in this Annual Review Book.

Finally, I would like to thank Livia Karak, Daniel F. Tanzone, Louie Smeriglio and all who had a hand in putting together this wonderful pictorial. Well done!

On behalf of my beautiful wife, Maggie, our sons, Reid and Cole, and my entire Family, I extend warm wishes to all our members for a happy and prosperous new year! Zdar Boh!

Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary
7 Heritage Manor
Wayne, NJ 07470

SLOGAN: “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body” MOTTO: “For God and Nation”

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
A Message from the Supreme Sports Director

Dear Sokols and Sokolky:

It is an honor and privilege to extend greetings to all of our members who are enjoying our 2019 Slovak Catholic Sokol annual review book. This publication provides an opportunity for our members to obtain a capsule view all of our sporting events and fraternal activities that took place this year.

Our fraternal sporting year began with the 73rd Annual International Bowling Tournament held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in May. Members from the GCU and First Catholic Slovak Union joined us on the lanes this year. Congratulations to well-known Sokol fraternalist, Clarence “Buffalo” Checton from Perryopolis, Pennsylvania, the deserving recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award.

The International Slet was held at the State University of New York Brockport in July. The Slet included 143 participants from eight groups. Group 4 Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin won the International Championship Flag for the first time in over 60 years. The Supreme Physical Fitness Board is in the process of planning the 50th International Slet for the summer of 2021, when we hope to increase participation by attracting former and new members for this anniversary event.

The final sporting event of the year, the 73rd International Golf Tournament, was held at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. Three days of near perfect golfing conditions helped make the outing a great success. Congratulations to Mary Margaret Starr from Youngstown, Ohio, who by her activities upheld the ideals of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award and was honored as the recipient for the golf tournament.

I would like to thank Supreme Physical Director, John Underation, Supreme Physical Directress, Kathy Watkins, Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Frank Laury and all of the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for the tremendous effort each put forth individually and cooperatively to ensure success at the 49th International Slet. I appreciate the help received by the board members at each of the aforementioned sporting events. A special thanks to all group sports directors, group leaders and coaches who volunteer their time and energy to support the fraternal activities of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

My hope is that our members will help promote the many benefits of our fraternal society and recommend new members to help the Slovak Catholic Sokol continue to grow and flourish well into the future.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2020 and I look forward to seeing you at future fraternal activities.

Zdar Boh!

Fraternally yours,

James C. Matlon
Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

6 Academy Drive East
Whippany, NJ 07981
Well-known Assembly 25, Perryopolis, PA Sokol, Clarence “Buffalo” Checton was the recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award at this year’s 73rd International Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, PA. Brother Checton, center, is shown with Sokol officers and past recipients of the Petruff Sports Award, and include from the left: Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan, Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Nancy Kropolinsky, Brother Checkton who has been an active Sokol sports enthusiast all his life; Edith M. Babik, Paul Awramko, nephew of the late Frank S. Petruff; Albert Pogorelec and Supreme Assistant Sports Director Frank P. Laury.

Veteran Assembly 162 keglers from Clifton, NJ included, l-r, Albert Pogorelec, Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., John Termyna and Thomas J. Krack.

“Heather’s Heroes” from Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA included, l-r, Heather Horvath, Kelly Palchanis, Marianne Mangiafico and Bernardette Jacob.

GCU National President George N. Juba and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath opened the tournament.

Ambridge, PA keglers included, l-r, Christine Sofranko, Geri Polloch, Kami Simon and Evie Catanzante.

“The New Dallas Charger” team from Group 7 included, l-r, Jeremy Francis, Justin Francis, David Iskra, Jr. and Jeff Jacob.

Lilly, PA team #3 included, l-r. Jeremy Glass, Francis Risko, Gary Risko and Brian Risko.
2 + 2 Barberton, OH bowlers included, l-r, Karen Bakita, Carol Macko, Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa.

Group 7 keglers included, l-r, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan, Charles Tokach and Joseph Hvozdovic, Jr.

“Paul’s Bar & Bowling” from Group 1 included, l-r, Marc Kudlacik, Donald Salmanowitz, Robert Mosloski and Scott Pitman.

Keglers from Ambridge, Lilly and Wilkes-Barre, PA included, l-r, Brian Phillips, Dave Iskra, Sr., John Goberish and Doug Simon, Sr.

Sokolky from Milwaukee, Wis. and Lilly, PA included, l-r, Caroline Gemoll, Vickie Lofrate, Nancy Cassisi and Colleen Keagy.

The Lilly, PA team #1 included, from the left, Nathan Keagy, Alan Keagy, Robert Shedlock and Corey Shedlock.
Edie Babik of Group 17 is shown with Kelly Palchanis of Group 7.

Supreme President Michael J. Horvah is shown with Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan.

Honorary Supreme Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, Sr.

Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Nancy Kropolinsky, far right, is shown with fellow bowlers, l-r, Judy Babik, Kelly Palchanis, Susan Babik and Heather Horvath.

Supreme President Michael J. Horvath addresses the bowlers.
Group 4, “Bishop Stefan Moyzes” of Chicago, IL took home the Championship Flag at our 49th International Slet. The Group 4 team was made up of Sokols and Sokolky belonging to Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, WI. The Group 4 win was only the third in our organization’s history. Group 4 first took home the Championship Flag at the 14th Slet held in Canton, OH in 1948. They repeated their fete at the 15th Slet held in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1950. Group 4 last took home the Championship Flag at the 16th Slet held in Youngstown, OH in 1953. Group 4 has actively promoted the gymnastic and athletic traditions of our organization since its founding in 1911 at Chicago’s oldest Slovak parish of St. Michael the Archangel.
Winners of Spirit Award – Group 1.

Volleyball champions – Group 4.
The new Sokol mascot — Sloboda (freedom). Winner of the name the mascot contest is Andy Lipovsky.

Game night with the juniors.
Group 5 girls and Group 4 boys winners of the junior team drill.

SEE YOU AT THE 50TH!
33rd Quadrennial Convention
August 3-7 - Cleveland Airport Marriott, Cleveland, OH

Group 1, Passaic, NJ

Group 3, East Douglas, MA

Group 4, Chicago, IL

Group 5, Cleveland, OH

Group 6, Perryopolis, PA

Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Group 2 - Bridgeport, CT

Group 10, Bethlehem, PA

Group 9, Johnstown, PA
Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board elected at the 33rd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH pose for a photo following the convention deliberations. Shown seated, l-r are Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation, Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., and Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon. Standing, l-r., Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Kristen Popik, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Assistant Physical Director Martin Degnan, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Robert R. Falchanis, Ill., Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury, Ill., and Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Dusan Dorich and Janice Matlon. The Supreme President and the Supreme Secretary serve as ex officio members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

Our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic is shown administering the oath of office to the newly elected members of the Board of Directors and the Supreme Physical Fitness Board at the conclusion of the final convention session on August 6.
Mass was celebrated daily for the delegates during the 33rd Quadrennial Convention. On Tuesday, August 6, principal celebrant of the liturgy was our organization’s Protector, the Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew-Svorad Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland. Abbot Gary is shown on the above with concelebrants which included, from the left, the Rev. Richard A. Bay, a delegate of Assembly 162 in Clifton, NJ, the Rev. Anthony J. Pleho, a delegate of Assembly 219 in Yonkers, NY and our Supreme Chaplain, the Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic.
During the 64th International Golf Tournament banquet Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. is shown above presenting the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award to Mary Margaret Starr, a member of Wreath 54 in Youngstown, OH, who was this year’s recipient. Looking on are past recipients of the Petruff Award, including from the left, Robert Harak, Robert Palchanis, Jr., Thomas Muldoon, Jr. and Loretta Smith.
L-r: Joe Karaffa, Kyle Karaffa, Mike Suray and Ed Moeller.

Judy Babik, Linda Frank, Loretta Smith, Mary Starr and Kathleen Harak.

Steve Papcun, Paul Pacun, Adam Macurak and Nick Macurak.

Stephen Skorupka, Stephanie Skorupka, Dusan Dorich and John Tutko.

Thomas Petrus, Jake Pontoriero, Michael Petrus and Clarence Checton.

Tom Iskra, Jr., Tom Iskra, Sr., Dave Iskra, Jr. and Nick Tirpak.

Kevin Waksmunski, Brian Phillips, Francis Waksmunski and Keith Shelock.

Tom Muldon III, Tom Muldon, Jr., Devin Selip and Nathan Keagy.
Donald Macurak, Robert Macurak, Robert Sheldock and Corey Sheldock.

Robert Palchanis, Jr., Tony Rasimas, Terri Palchanis and Kelly Palchanis.
More Fraternal Activities...

JANUARY, 18-20 – Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board met for their annual meeting at the Homewood Suites Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA. Members shown, include from the left, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury, III, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation, Members Kevin J. Matlon, Nancy Kropolinsky, and Julie M. Laury, Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Katie Swift, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, Member Martin Degnan and Supreme Assistant Physical Director Dusan Dorich.

FEBRUARY 17 – Msgr. Stephen Krasula” hosted its 14th annual Sokol Children’s Bowlingfest at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes in Clifton, NJ. After enjoying the action on the lanes, the youngsters were treated to refreshments. Shown with the youngsters are standing back row, l-r, Group 1 Physical Director Steven M. Pogorelec, Jr., and Group 1 Sports Director Eric Topczij. An enjoyable time was had by all.

FEBRUARY 17 – SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, NJ honored their patrons SS. Cyril and Methodius. Many Sokols and Sokolky of Assembly 162 in lower photo, attended the celebration. The pastor, Rev. John T. Connolly and our General Counsel, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr. are shown standing with the clergy guests present at the dinner at the Royal Manor in Garfield, N.J. which followed the Mass.

FEBRUARY 17 – Group 1 “Msgr. Stephen Krasula” hosted its 14th annual Sokol Children’s Bowlingfest at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes in Clifton, NJ. After enjoying the action on the lanes, the youngsters were treated to refreshments. Shown with the youngsters are standing back row, l-r, Group 1 Physical Director Steven M. Pogorelec, Jr., and Group 1 Sports Director Eric Topczij. An enjoyable time was had by all.
MARCH 24 – Members who enjoyed the annual co-ed bowling tournament hosted by Group 1, “Msgr. Stephen Krasula” at Paul’s Bowling Academy in Paterson, NJ pose for a group photo. Following the competition on the lanes, traditional Sokol hospitality was enjoyed by all.

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

MARCH 24 – Assembly 182 hosted its annual patronal feast of St. Joseph with Mass and a fraternal luncheon in New York City. The program opened with attendance at the Slovak Mass celebrated by the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O., parochial vicar of the parish, shown left standing, fourth from the left; followed by a luncheon in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall. Headtable guests at the luncheon included, seated, l-r, W. Nina Holy, national Secretary of the Slovak League of America; Editor Daniel F. Tanzone, who was the main speaker; the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the parish and chaplain of Group 1; Dr. Larry Korcek, Assembly 182 president; Jozef Bodo, vice president and Jozef Korcak, auditor.

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

APRIL 2 – Our organization hosted the semi-annual meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF) in the board room of our home office in Passaic, N.J. Shown seated, from the left, are: Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Rev. Thomas Nasta, SCF national first vice president; our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic who serves as the national president of the SCF; Dolores M. Evanko, SCF national secretary-treasurer; Rev. Msgr. Thomas A. Derzack, SCF national chaplain and Loretta Ekonik, president of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley, a director from Youngstown, OH.

APRIL 30 – Annually each year the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance hosts an “Legislative Luncheon” that brings together representatives from fraternal societies to meet with the State Senators and House of Representatives. More than 40 executives, primarily from Pennsylvania-domiciled fraternals, hosted lunch for over 70 state legislators in the Capitol rotunda in Harrisburg. Representative Eddie Day Pashinski of the 1st Legislative District, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Luzerne County, far left and Representative Michael Carroll of the 118th District of Bear Creek, Pa., also of Luzerne County, center, long-time supporters of the fraternal benefit system, are shown with our organization’s representatives, including, l-r, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, our Sales & Marketing Director Albert J. Suess, F.I.C. and Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller.

MAY 4 – Sokols and Sokolky of Group 7 gathered together for Join hands Day to honor Father Joseph Murgas at Sacret Heart Cemetery in Dallas PA. The group planted flowers and cleaned up the memorial site. Officers and members who participated in the event. from l-r, Nancy Fedor, Audrey Graham, Kim Graham, Amy Blasco, Frank Lipski, Tony Rasimus, Pam Lipski, Kelly Palchanis.

MAY – Members of Assembly 180, Canton, OH placed flags on the graves of veterans at a local cemetery. Activities of three generations of our members, including front row, grandmother Helen Boyd; middle row are three of her daughters, l-r, Kathy Figard, Group 5 president; middle, Kar- en Hutnick, Group 5 secretary; and right, Brenda Conners, back row, granddaughter Jessica Hutnick.
More Fraternal Activities...

MAY 19 – The Slovak League of America in cooperation with area Slovak fraternal lodges hosted a dinner commemorating the centennial of the death of the Slovak patriot, Dr. Milan Rastislav Stefanik and co-founder of the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia in St. John Nepomucene Social Hall in New York City. Headtable guests at the dinner include, seated, from the left: W. Nina Holy, Slovak League national secretary-treasurer; the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John the Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini; Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak League national president; His Excellency, Dr. Michal Mlynar, Slovakia’s ambassador to the United Nations; Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., and Ladislava Begec, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York. Standing, from the left are: Kenneth Bombara, Slovak League vice president for Washington, D.C. and Virginia and representative of the Slovak League on the Central & East European Coalition in Washington, D.C.; the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O., parochial vicar at the parish; Sabina Sabados, Regional Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union and president of the Slovak American Cultural Center; Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.; the Rev. Michal Misina, pastor of Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church in New York City; and the Rev. Anthony J. Pleho, parochial vicar of Holy Rosary Parish in the Bronx, NY.

SEPTEMBER 15 – Representatives of three of our Slovak Catholic fraternals joined the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius as they observed the 100th anniversary of the establishment of their motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA and the 110th anniversary of the congregation’s founding. The program included a Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius followed by a reception. Slovak fraternalists are shown above with Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M., General Superior, fourth from the left. Shown with her are l-r, Marion Rubino and Martha Zavada, both of the First Catholic Slovak Union; Theresa M. Kluchinski, national president of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Dolores M. Evanko, national trustee of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and national secretary-treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation; Editor Daniel F. Tanzone who presented a check for $1,500 to the Sisters from our recent 33rd quadrennial convention; and Margaret Jallimore of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union with her grandson, Gaven.

JULY 27 – A new Cross was blessed and dedicated during a Mass celebrated by the Rev. Francis Conka, C.O. at the Slovak Country Club in Ellenville, NY. New York’s Assembly 182 President, Dr. Larry Korcek, far left, a member of the club’s board of directors is shown with some of the principals at the dedication ceremony.

SEPTEMBER 24 – Our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec (left) and General Counsel John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. visited during the American Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit in Washington D.C. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.
SEPTEMBER – In its continued program of fraternal outreach, Assembly 180 in Canton, OH at its meeting collected school supplies which were donated to the local YMCA for their domestic violence shelter as well as their child care activities. Officers and members who participated in the school supplies project included, l-r, Michele Knis, Helen Boyd, Agnes Evanko, vice president; Rose Croy, recording secretary; James Knis, president and a Supreme Auditor; Fran Lehotay and Jessica Hutnick.

NOVEMBER 8-9 – The New England Fraternal Alliance, which represents fraternalists in the six New England states, hosted its 95th annual meeting November 8-9 at the New Bedford Harbor Hotel in New Bedford, MA. Officers and directors elected at the gathering are shown in the photo and include seated, l-r, Estaela Paulina of Luso-American Fraternal; Janet King, Catholic Association of Foresters; and Past President, Irene Grabowy, Polish National Alliance. Standing, l-r Chaplain, Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak Catholic Sokol; Paul Plante, Catholic Financial Life; Anthony L. Pio, Luso-American Fraternal; Secretary-Treasurer, John M. Kamenitsky, Sokol USA, a division of GBU Financial Life; President, Albert Costa, Luso-American Fraternal; Vice President, Daniel Michalak, Polish Falcons of America; Peter Lenart, Polish Falcons of America and Paul Pinsonnaut, Catholic Financial Life.

NOVEMBER 16 – Clifford A. Moeller, Sr., shown center, was honored as our 2019 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. He was feted at a dinner at the Penn Brewery in Pittsburgh, PA. Shown on the photo with him are, from the left: Sharon Monahan, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Diane Moeller, Brother Moeller; Clifford A. Moeller, Jr., Veronica Moeller, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath and Keith Moeller.

NOVEMBER 17 – Group 1, “Msgr. Stephen Krasula” hosted its annual meeting in the New York Parish where the Group’s patron, Msgr. Krasula served as pastor for more than 50 years. Delegates to this year’s meeting are shown in St. John Nepomucene Church following the 10:15 a.m. Slovak Mass with the president, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr. who is also our organization’s General Counsel, shown center, flanked by the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the parish and Chaplain of Group 1 and the Rev. Peter Palecko, C.O. This year’s annual meeting was hosted by Assembly 182 located at the New York Slovak parish.
RECIPIENTS OF THE 2019 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANTS OF $250 EACH

NICHOLAS DESOPO
Lacordaire Academy
Group 1, Assembly 1
Passaic, NJ

REBECCA HESS
St. Catherine of Siena
Group 1, Assembly 162
Clifton, NJ

CLAIRE SKABICH
Saint Philip Preparatory
Group 1, Assembly 162
Clifton, NJ

JOHN P. ZAKOVIC
St. Aidan School
Group 1, Assembly 182
New York, NY

SOPHIA ZAKOVIC
Kellenberg Memorial High School
Group 1, Assembly 182
New York, NY

ANTHONY J. DUONOLA
St. Anthony School
Group 1, Assembly 219
Yonkers, NY

ELIZABETH KOWATCH
Sacred Heart Grade School
Group 1, Assembly 219
Yonkers, NY

HUNTER KOWATCH
Sacred Heart Grade School
Group 1, Assembly 219
Yonkers, NY

EMILY K. JOHNSON
Our Lady of the Valley School
Group 3, Wreath 18
East Douglas, MA

FAITH MYLES
Holy Cross Catholic School
Group 4, Assembly 257
Chicago, IL

MICHAEL MYLES
Holy Cross Catholic School
Group 4, Assembly 257
Chicago, IL

COLE MACKO
St. Francis De Sales
Group 5, Assembly 167
Barberton, OH
This year marks the 48th anniversary of the first presentation of scholarship grants to our deserving young members in support of their quest for a good education. From our earliest years, the Slovak Catholic Sokol has promoted education among our youth. Since 1972, a total of $1,661,500 in scholarship grants have been awarded to 2,377 of our members, certainly an enviable record. This year, we are pleased to introduce the recipients of our 2019 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grants. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes to all of them. Happy future and Zdar Boh!
RECIPIENTS OF 2019 ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS OF $500 EACH

MATTHEW DESOPO
Saint Peter’s Prep
Group 1, Assembly 1
Passaic, NJ

VICTORIA ZAKOVIC
Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Group 1, Assembly 182
New York, NY

DANIEL BALAS
Holy Redeemer High School
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA

ABIGAYL BLASCO
Holy Redeemer High School
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA

COURTNEY M. ISKRA
Holy Redeemer High School
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA

KELCI KUREN
Holy Redeemer High School
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA

CATHARINE E. MATTHEWS
Padua Academy
Group 7, Assembly 59
Wilkes-Barre, PA

MARIA LYNN TRAGLIA
Allentown Central Catholic High School
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA

HUNTER WESOLOWSKI
Holy Redeemer High School
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA

JOSHUA J. BEBLAR
Bishop McCort Catholic High School
Group 9, Wreath 14
Johnstown, PA

CAROLYN HALGAS
St. John Paul the Great High School
Group 12, Wreath 13
Philadelphia, PA

STEPHEN J. SHERMAN
Cardinal O’Hara High School
Group 12, Assembly 186
Drexel Hill, PA
RECIPIENTS OF 2019 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
COLLEGE GRANTS OF $1,000 EACH

ALEXIS BENJAMIN
Yonkers, NY
Marist College
Group 1, Assembly 219
Yonkers, NY

JENNA FREDA
Whippany, NJ
New York State University
Group 1, Assembly 24
Boonton, NJ

SEAN FREDA
Whippany, NJ
Pace University
Group 1, Assembly 24
Boonton, NJ

MILAN SPISEK
Easton, CT
Southern Connecticut State
Group 2, Assembly 9
Bridgeport, CT

MEGAN McDONALD
South Milwaukee, WI
University Wisconsin - LaCrosse
Group 4, Wreath 93
Milwaukee, WI

JEREMY STRUCKEL
Barberton, OH
Ohio State University
Group 5, Assembly 167
Barberton, OH

NICHOLAS ALLARDYCE
Pittston, PA
Penn State University
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA

MARY SILINSKIE
Wilkes-Barre, PA
Kings College
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA

ZACHARY BEBLAR
Johnstown, PA
Indiana University of PA
Group 9, Wreath 14
Johnstown, PA

ALYSSA PERETIN
South Fork, PA
Penn State University
Group 9, Assembly 82
Dunlo, PA

KATERINA TADLOCK
Hartford, WI
University of Georgia
Group 12, Wreath 155
Reading, PA

ASHLEY BAKALARSKI
Pittsburgh, PA
Slippery Rock University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA
RECIPIENTS OF 2019 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
COLLEGE GRANTS OF $1,000 EACH

ALEX JOZWIAK
McKees Rocks, PA
Grove City College
Group 14, Assembly 16
Pittsburgh, PA

HANNAH JOZWIAK
Moon Township, PA
Slippery Rock University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

LEXINGTON MEDE
Pittsburgh, PA
University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

AMANDA MONDIK
Royal Palm Beach, FL
Palm Beach State College
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

SARAH PAVLICK
Pittsburgh, PA
Ohio State University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

CASSIDY SCASSA
Pittsburgh, PA
Duquesne University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

SERENA BARON
Toronto, ON
McGill University
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto - ON, CN

AMANDA CINCAR
Brampton, ON
Ryerson University
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto - ON, CN

JENNIFER GLUGOSH
Mississauga, ON
McMaster University
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto - ON, CN

JESSICA GLUGOSH
Mississauga, ON
McMaster University
Group 19, Assembly 227
Toronto - ON, CN

CODIE PIOTROWSKI
Pittsburgh, PA
Robert Morris University
Group 14, Wreath 22
Pittsburgh, PA

MATTHEW SILINSKIE
West Wyoming, PA
Kings College
Group 7, Assembly 86
Port Griffith, PA
ALEXANDRA JANSSEN  
Madison, WI, University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Group 4, Wreath 93  
Milwaukee, WI

HOPE BROCK  
Somerset, PA  
Logan University  
Group 14, Wreath 22  
Pittsburgh, PA

KRISTIN MONDIK  
N. Palm Beach, FL  
Florida State University  
Group 14, Wreath 22  
Pittsburgh, PA

FRANCESCA YANOSICK  
Moon Township, PA  
Duquesne University  
Group 14, Wreath 22  
Pittsburgh, PA

KRISTA GLUGOSH  
MEMORIAL – $1,000

THE DOCTORS LESKO  
MEDICAL MEMORIAL – $1,000

THE YENCHA SCHOLARSHIP  
GRANT – $1,000

NICHOLAS PERETIN  
South Fork, PA  
Penn State University  
Group 9, Assembly 82  
Dunlo, PA

JULIE ANN SILINSKIE  
Wilkes-Barre, PA, Kings College  
Group 7, Assembly 86  
Port Griffith, PA

BROOKE MORELLA  
Pompton Plains, NJ  
Penn State University  
Group 1, Wreath 2  
Passaic, NJ
Our Aims and Objectives

1. To promote gymnastics and other athletic programs, and to support recreational, social, cultural and patriotic programs for its members and for the general public.

2. To form subordinate Assemblies with a ritualistic and representative form of government under the authority and supervision of the Supreme Assembly.

3. To assist our brother and sister members who are ill or disabled; to ease the burden of widows and orphans of deceased members by comforting them in their bereavement, and to assist our needy aged members.

4. To foster education, brotherly love, and loyalty to one’s country as a citizen of the United States or Canada.

5. To administer our organization as a nonprofit fraternal insurance organization, providing low cost insurance protection for our members.

6. To sustain the Catholic faith, both of the Latin and Byzantine rites.

7. To foster true democratic principles among our members.

8. To adhere strictly to the Fraternal Benefit Organization System and its rules and regulations.

9. To promote Slovak heritage and culture in the United States and Canada.

Membership Qualifications

To become an insured member, a person must furnish satisfactory evidence of insurability and be no more than eighty (80) years of age, nearest birthday.

(1) INSURABILITY
To become an active member, an individual must meet the underwriting standards of the organization required to process an active life insurance or annuity certificate.

(2) MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY
• Supports the ideals of the Catholic Faith.
• Preserves the Slovak Heritage.
• Upholds the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.
• An applicant must apply for membership through a member in good standing or an appointed agent of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

(3) INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED
• In anyway offends public morality.
• Supports a group/movement whose aims are contrary to the Catholic Church.
• Fails to comply with the requirements of Membership Eligibility.

(4) APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE
• Applicant is bound by the laws of the State of New Jersey.
• Applicant is bound in all matters arising out of these Bylaws.

(5) RECOMMENDERS
• A member in good standing may recommend a member.
• A licensed agent appointed by the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

(6) APPLICATION and APPROVAL
• Form supplied by the Home Office of the SCS.
• All underwriting requirements must be met and fulfilled.
A sound financial plan is a must for a young family or individual, and no plan is complete without insurance. The Slovak Catholic Sokol offers two key product lines: life insurance and annuities to help fulfill your financial needs.

**Permanent Life Plans**

Our permanent life plans accumulate cash value over time. The Legacy Series of life plans are designed to provide survivor benefits for designated beneficiaries, family members, creditors, final expense, charitable expense or wealth transfer.

- Legacy Life
- Legacy 10
- Legacy 20
- Legacy Single Premium
- Legacy 3
- Legacy 20

**Term Plans**

Term insurance provides for maximum death coverage at a minimal cost. It is attractive to anyone that has an immediate need that spans over a specific period of time.

- 5 Year Renewable Term
- Term to 25

**Annuity Products**

The Vantage Series of deferred annuity plans is a sound investment vehicle to secure your retirement. They offer guaranteed principal and a highly competitive tax deferred interest rate. The Vantage annuity can provide the security of a consistent flow of income that cannot be outlived.

Our immediate annuity SPIA plan with a lump sum premium payment will provide regular payments for income for a specified period of time.

- Vantage 1
- Vantage 7
- Vantage 2
- SPIA
- Vantage 3
- Traditional IRA
- Vantage 5
- Vantage 5
- Vantage 3
- ROTH IRA

Learn more about our products - contact your agent or our Home Office (800) 886-7656 or Sales Office (888) 381-5431
2019 Annual Review