

*Za Boha a národ*

*For God and Nation*

# Slovak Catholic Falcon

*SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL*

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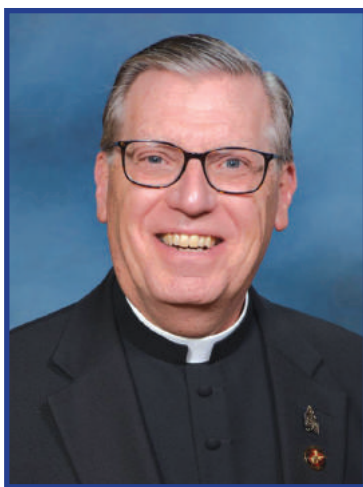
PASSAIC, NJ, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

NUMBER 5136

## INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL SUPREME ASSEMBLY – 2020-2023



**Rt. Rev. Gary A. Hoover, O.S.B.**  
**Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey**  
*Protector*



**Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozic**  
*Supreme Chaplain*



**Michael J. Horvath**  
*Supreme President*



**Edward D. Moeller**  
*Supreme Vice-President*



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**John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.**  
*General Counsel*



**James G. Jerek**  
*Chairperson of  
Supreme Auditros*

## Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

This being the first article of the New Year I would like to wish all members and friends a Happy New Year, 2020, and hope all of you had a wonderful 2019 Christmas and holiday.



This year our Christmas was a little different than the many Christmas' of the past. My family held our traditional Christmas Eve dinner as it was always done, with the Christmas

Eve prayer and toast, then the breaking and sharing of the oplatky, servings of fish, potatoes, peas, pirohy, pagach, stewed fruits and to finish the meal the mushroom soup. Then on Christmas Day the family came to visit from the afternoon to the evening to share the special day, to watch the children open their Christmas gifts, receive their crazy uncle Mike gift and to see our new and untraditional Christmas tree. No fresh-cut this year!

Yes, an artificial Christmas tree! This was done out of necessity since we were leaving on Saturday, December 28 to visit my wife's sister and her family in Fort Worth, Texas for New Years and to attend the "2020 Winter Classic" the ice hockey game on New Year's Day at the

Cotton Bowl in Dallas, Texas. The home team, the Dallas Stars, won so everyone was happy. Since we were going to be gone for a week the need to assure the tree had enough water everyday was our concern, so an artificial tree made sense just for this year. For all of you who think I made the most Grinchy sin, I ask for your forgiveness. For the artificial believers, I did not go over to the plastic side, yet. As of today, the tree is still up and not a single artificial plastic needle has fallen. What a pleasant feeling!

2020, a new decade has begun and everyone who has the ability of using their crystal ball, read cards, tea leaves or any future fortune telling abilities what are you seeing or predicting before it happens. Yes we know the obvious and the general predictions, but what we really need to know are the unusual who's, what's, when's and where's.

As we all know, 2020 is the standard for perfect eyesight and most of us need help achieving a 2020 vision. So here is what I see, 2020 means opportunities for everyone who has a positive attitude, is focused on seeing the opportunities and making them happen and realizing the good the opportunities will bring to all. Now you are asking, how will this happen?

Our Society has entered its 115<sup>th</sup>  
(Continued on page 20)

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Brookgate Lanes, 14950 Snow Road in Brook Park, Ohio. The GCU Fraternal Society will be joining us again for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year along with the First Catholic Slovak Union and National Slovak Society. The bowling application is posted on our web site. **The application deadline is April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

The tournament lodging for bowlers and guests will be at the Cleveland Airport Marriott, 4277 West 150<sup>th</sup> Street Cleveland, OH 44135, tel.: 216-252-5333. The guaranteed rate is \$99.00 for single or double occupancy Friday and Saturday night.

Team events will be bowled on Friday evening, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The first squad will commence at 5:30 p.m. and the second squad at 8:00 p.m. On Friday evening hospital-

ity food and refreshments will be served at 6:45 p.m. at Brookgate Lanes, allowing time to relax and socialize before or after team bowling. Doubles and Singles events will be bowled on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

The cost for the 74<sup>th</sup> International Bowling Tournament will be the same as last year: \$22.00 per event, \$5 for all-events and \$29.00 for the banquet on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>. The total for each bowler participating in team, doubles, singles, all-events and the banquet is \$100.00.

If you have any questions, please send me at email at [jmatlon@slovakcatholic-sokol.org](mailto:jmatlon@slovakcatholic-sokol.org), call or text me at my cell phone: 973-647-8551.

Fraternally yours,  
**James C. Matlon**

*Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics*

## Slovak Catholic Falcon Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Slovak Catholic Sokol



*From the desk of the Supreme Secretary***THE SOKOL SEASON**

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



*"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9*

Greetings from the Home Office and Happy New Year to all our members! I hope the holiday season was filled with plenty of joy and time with your family. With the cold weather upon us and a lot of outdoor activities on hold, February allows us to look ahead into the year and get our schedules prepared for the upcoming spring and summer months. We hope that you plan on joining us at one of our outstanding fraternal activities.



In preparation for our 2020 fraternal activities, I had the pleasure of joining our Supreme Physical Fitness Board in Pittsburgh, PA on January 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> for their annual meeting. Our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, and I were honored to join in the planning of our fraternal season. Many thoughts and ideas were shared, and I commend our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and the entire Physical Fitness Board on a well-run, efficient meeting. This being the first year after a Convention, we are happy to welcome our new Physical Fitness Board Members, Janice Matlon, Kristen Popik and Robert Palchanis III. We know you will do a great job! I would especially like to thank our outgoing Officers, Kathleen S. Watkins, Julie M. Laury and Kevin Matlon, for all their hard work and dedication to the Society. Along with the events already planned, the SPFB are looking to add additional fraternal events throughout the year. They will be reaching out to our local Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths for their input in this matter. Please take the time to assist them so we can generate some new and exciting ideas! With that being said, let us take a look at our 2020 schedule.

We have announced that our 74<sup>th</sup> International Bowling Tournament will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> at Brookgate Lanes in Brook Park, OH. Lodging for our keggers

will be at the Cleveland Airport Marriott, the site of our most recent Quadrennial Convention. In true fraternal spirit, we will be joined by a handful of other Fraternals and we should easily exceed participation levels from the prior year. I hope both our devout regulars and many new faces will join us as we celebrate this great annual tradition. For more information, check our website, or email our Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, [james-matlon@optonline.net](mailto:james-matlon@optonline.net).

From July 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, our Supreme Physical Fitness Board and our Group Physical Directors/Directresses will be meeting at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA for our biennial International Clinic. This is a time for our leaders to get together to learn our drills, the rules and regulations and to get the layout of the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet to be held at Kutztown University in 2021. I know the goal of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is to make the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet the most memorable to date and we look forward to seeing what they come up with!

The month of August will give our avid golfers a chance to polish off their clubs and join us for the 65<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament held once again at Seven Oaks Country Club in Beaver, PA from August 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Seven Oaks is the home of our brother fraternal, Greek Catholic Union, and truly a beautiful site. We hope to see our regulars and some new faces at this year's competition!

As many of you know, hosting our fraternal activities is both time consuming and costly. To justify these programs, we need the cooperation of our Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths. Active and vibrant lodges are imperative to facilitate interest at our national events. Please take the time to promote our events at your local level. You will always be the backbone of our Society and we cannot do it without you!

Until next time, Happy Valentine's Day to my three Valentines, Maggie, Reid Thomas and Cole William, and to all our Members and Families! Have a wonderful month, stay warm and God Bless!

Zdar Boh!

**SOKOL CALENDAR****SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

■ **ASSEMBLY 11 ANNUAL MEETING** at the home of the Financial Secretary Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Dr., Palos Hills, IL beginning at 2 p.m., those planning to attend should call Therese at tel. 708 598-1468.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

■ **GROUP 14 "LEAP INTO FUN" NIGHT** in honor of Leap Year at the Sokol Club, 2912 E Carson Str., Pittsburgh, PA. There will be activities, appetizers, Chinese Auction, etc. for both adults and children.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

■ **GROUP 1 YOUTH BOWLINGFEST** at the Palace Bowling Lanes, Clifton, N.J. from 2-4 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15**

■ **PATRONAL FEAST OF ASSEMBLY 182**, beginning with Slovak Mass at 10:15 a.m., Church of St. John Nepomucene, 66th Street and First Ave., New York, N.Y. program and luncheon to follow at 1 p.m. in the parish social hall.

**MARCH 20-21**

■ **QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE S.C.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS** in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

■ **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA** at St. John Nepomucene Church, New York, N.Y. at 10:15 a.m. MA.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

■ **GROUP 1 SPAGHETTI SUPPER** at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, NJ beginning at 4 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

■ **EASTER EGG HUNT** hosted by Assembly 59 at Hollenback Park in Wilkes-Barre, PA beginning at 1 p.m. Assembly members ages infant through 8 years old are invited to participate. For reservations call Nancy at tel. 570 860-0752 or Tony at 570 239-9825; deadline for reservations is March 14.

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON  
PUBLICATION DATES**

The next issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of March 1, 2020. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **FEBRUARY 22, 2020.**

## INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL SUPREME ASSEMBLY – 2020-2023



**James C. Matlon**  
*Supreme Director  
of Sports and Athletics*



**Katie Swift**  
*Supreme Physical Directress*



**John M. Underation**  
*Supreme Physical Director*



**Bradley P. Hoeck**  
*Supreme Auditor*



**Edward P. Bajus**  
*Supreme Auditor*



**Frank P. Laury III**  
*Supreme Assistant Director  
of Sports and Athletics*



**Nancy Kropolinsky**  
*Supreme Assistant  
Physical Directress*



**Martin Degnan**  
*Supreme Assistant  
Physical Director*



**Robert P. Palchanis III**  
*Member of the Supreme  
Physical Fitness Board*



**Dusan Dorich**  
*Member of the Supreme  
Physical Fitness Board*



**Jenice Matlon**  
*Member of the Supreme  
Physical Fitness Board*



**Kristen Popik**  
*Member of the Supreme  
Physical Fitness Board*



## HONORARY SUPREME OFFICERS



**Susan L. Blosser**



**Julie Ann Dobbs**



**Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik**



**Larry M. Glugosh**



**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 Trethway**

# \$63,000 in S.C.S. Scholarship Grants Available to Eligible Members in 2020

by Edward D. 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 2020. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2020 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 \$2,000 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, one Yencha Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.

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, one Yencha Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and three Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.

**With one application you may apply for all college scholarship grants for which you are eligible. Note that only one grant per applicant will be awarded.**

## 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 \$2,000 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry
- Must be majoring in medical curriculum

### **EMIL SLAVIK (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS 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 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

### **YENCHA SCHOLARSHIP (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)**

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in Liberal Arts Curriculum

### **Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (3 grants in the amount of \$1,000 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 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.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.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@slovakcatholicsokol.org](mailto:vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org)  
(412)881-3506

## **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 31, 2020**

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 December 2019, February and March 2020 issues of the Falcon.



## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP –TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic Sokol College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few issues with the process over the past several seasons. With the help of our technical webmaster, we have redesigned the application process and you should find it to be much more user friendly. You will find the on-line application on our website at [www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org) beginning November 1, 2019.

To be best prepared for this process a successful applicant should:

- Review the application on-line for required content and gather prior to beginning to complete the form.
- Be prepared to attach both your essay (in PDF or Word format) and a color head and shoulders picture of yourself (in .jpeg format).

Please note, you may want to print a copy for your records prior to submitting. All applicants will receive automatic confirmation that their e-mail has been received.

It really isn't that difficult to qualify for one of our many college scholarships. With now four years of the new College Scholarship Application process behind us, it is clear that there are a few ways to assure that your application will be reviewed.

### 1. **ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS ON THE APPLICATION.**

For example- if something does not apply to you- say N/A. If you are fully independent from your parents- as in, you are not claimed by them on their tax return, you should indicate that in the space asking for total parent income. Leaving this blank does not tell the whole story.

### 2. **INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPLICATION-** i.e. photo; transcript; essay.

Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW.

I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.

• **Transcripts-** please note that "official transcript" means that you have requested it from your University or College and that it has been sent directly to me in a sealed envelope. We have not been as strict in the past on this issue, but began holding each applicant to this requirement last season and will continue to do so moving forward.

### 3. **SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED ELEMENTS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.**

The application is clear and I just want to prevent a waste of your time and energy.

Failure to include/complete any of the above items will result in the application being disqualified. To be honest, it is not easy for our committee when we need to disqualify applicants for simple yet important missing requirements.

Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify in order to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a particular scholarship. Competition was fierce for the larger \$ scholarship, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.

Not every applicant receives a scholarship every time they apply. If you have not received one in the past, I encourage you to apply again this year. Before submitting your application- take some time to review the bullet points above in order to assure that your application will be included for consideration.

Good luck and Zdar Boh!

**Edward D. Moeller**

*Supreme Vice President*

*Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee*

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,  
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

## CYRIL AND METHODIUS – SPIRITUAL FATHERS OF SLAVIC CIVILIZATION

In many ways, Eastern Europe owes its cultural and religious shape to the two missionary brothers, Saint Cyril (827-869 AD) and Saint Methodius (826-884 AD). These two brothers were sent as missionaries by the Byzantine Emperor to the Slavic speaking peoples of the Moravia region. In doing so, they invented the precursor to the Cyrillic alphabet and laid the foundations for the liturgy used in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, the Serbian Orthodox Church, and the Russian Orthodox Church, among other churches in eastern and Slavic-speaking Europe.



Cyril and Methodius were born Constantine and Michael, respectively, to an influential Byzantine army officer in Thessalonica. While in Thessalonica, the boys received a robust education. When they reached maturity, they were sent to the Imperial School of Constantinople. Michael was an able administrator and served as governor in Macedonia for a time. His brother Constantine became a scholar and professor at the Imperial School and lectured on philosophy.

Michael was very successful by the standards of his culture, but he began to tire of worldly pursuits and resigned his official position for the life of the monastery. After becoming a monk, he adopted the name Methodius.

Around 860, Emperor Michael III received a request from Moravian princes to send missionaries to spread Byzantine Christianity. The Moravian Empire was increasingly coming under the influence of the Roman Church, which used Latin as its liturgical language. The Church in Rome had also commissioned numerous German missionaries and priests to go to Moravia to spread Christianity.

The increasing influence of Latin Christianity and the use of a Latin liturgy gave the Germans significant influence in Moravia. The Moravians feared that the use of the Latin language in the liturgical and Biblical texts would allow the Germans, who used a Latin liturgy in their churches, to gain religious and cultural influence and eventually political dominance over Moravia. Thus, the desire to have the liturgy and scriptures translated into their native tongue, or at least a language other than Latin, was politically motivated as well.

When Michael III looked for who to send, he found that Constantine and Methodius were an ideal fit. They both knew a Slavic dialect spoken near Thessalonica and had proven themselves to be competent leaders and thinkers. They arrived in 863 and began to assist local congregations in making a liturgy in the Slavic language spoken in Moravia. While working on the liturgy, they realized that the Latin and Greek alphabets were not ideal for Slavic languages, so they created a new alphabet which would later evolve into the Cyrillic alphabet.

The alphabet that the missionary brothers created, the Glagolitic script, is not identical to the Cyrillic script, but the early Cyrillic alphabet was derived from it. The alphabet was

(Continued on page 17)

# Slovak Catholic Sokol Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

## ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic High School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

## APPLICATION

**ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION** you must submit a typed or written essay **DOUBLE SPACED** in 100 to 200 words on the following topic:

**"WHAT DOES THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEAN TO ME?"** This essay must be submitted along with the application.

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2020** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

[www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org)

## DISQUALIFICATION

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

## RETURN OF GRANT

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.



## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly/Wreath # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ High School Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? \_\_\_\_\_

(yes/no)

If yes, please indicate Grade School or High School. What year? \_\_\_\_\_

High School verification (to be completed by High School Principal)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Principal of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in the 2020-2021 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2020. Return completed application to:**  
**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**



## Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School Grants

As a fraternal benefit, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants each per Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).

### ELIGIBILITY

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of **not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.**

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic Grade School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

### APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2020** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @  
[www.slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org)

### DISQUALIFICATION

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

### RETURN OF GRANT

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

### SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly/Wreath # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member? \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Face Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? \_\_\_\_\_

(yes/no)

If yes, what year? \_\_\_\_\_

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal's signature)

Principal of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in the 2020-2021 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2020. Return completed application to:  
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

## MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING HELD IN DEERFIELD BEACH, FL

### FIRST SESSION

**Sunday, December 1, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.**

After a beautiful Mass offered by our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Deerfield Beach, FL and greeted all the members.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, V.F. was called upon for the **Opening Prayer** leading the Directors in the reading of the Prayer to Practice the Golden Rule.

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. Hvozdozovic, 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 all ten members of the Board of Directors are in attendance. Acknowledged

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held via conference call on October 2, 2019 and published in the November 13, 2019 issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

Brother President asked the Supreme Secretary if there were any **Communications** to be presented to the Board at this time.

Along with many thank you notes regarding donations, Brother Scott read a letter from Group 7 President, Amy Degnan Blasco, extending warm wishes and hopes for successful deliberations to the Board of Directors on behalf of the officers and members of Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Acknowledged

President Horvath then asked our Supreme Secretary to give a brief overview of the **Membership/Sales Report** forwarded 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 October 31, 2019, life business regarding certificates sold and premium dollars are ahead of the anticipated projections. Life premiums will exceed the 2018 totals. Annuity sales have shown a decrease, mainly due to market and competitive influence.

Brother Scott updated the Board on the progress of the agent sales' campaign and the progress of the 2017 CSO development.

Brother Scott also reported that 2 new Sokol Secure Fund accounts were opened in 2019. Efforts will be made to continue to encourage and educate our Assemblies and Wreaths on this wonderful offer and opportunity.

Also discussed was the enhanced efforts in 2020 to market and advertise our Society.

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 Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic. Approved

President Horvath called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano and Ms. Cynthia Cole, PNC Institutional Asset Management, for the **Investment Report**.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole discussed the portfolio's current asset allocation, reviewed the historic and the year to date cash flows, discussed future potential portfolio repositioning and PNC's outlook for the financial markets and economy.

Brother Calimano and Sister Cole addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook and they indicated the Society is in a strong financial position, especially in this volatile fiscal environment.

The Board members thanked Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole and President Horvath entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak. Approved

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

Brother Matlon gave a recap of the 2019 Sports Program, which was highlighted by the 49th International Slet at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY on July 17th-21st. The Slet photos and results were posted on the Slovak Catholic Sokol website.

Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation, also gave the Board an update on the sites being considered for the upcoming Clinic and the 50th International Slet in 2021.

Sites that are being considered or are already confirmed for the 2020 Sports Program:

May 15-17, 2020	Bowling	Brookgate Lanes Cleveland, OH
August 14-16, 2020	Golf	Seven Oaks CC and Black Hawk, Beaver, PA

After a lengthy and lively discussion regarding our current and future fraternal activities, President Horvath asked for 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 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 Counsel reported on the recent American Fraternal Alliance Meeting held in Washington D.C. that he attended with the Supreme Secretary.
2. Brother John also reported on a potential buyer for the print shop connected to the Home Office. The discussions are at the beginning stages and the Supreme Secretary and himself will update the Board accordingly.
3. Lastly, Brother John verified the property taxes and insurance are all paid to date on the three existing mortgages on file.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the above items, President Horvath entertained a motion to approve the report, so moved by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak. Approved

President Horvath thanked the General Counsel for his report



and entertained a motion to adjourn for lunch, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, led the Board in a closing prayer.

## SECOND SESSION

**Sunday, December 1, 2019 - 1:30 p.m.**

President Horvath called the Second Session to order and asked our Supreme Chaplain to open with a prayer.

After the prayer, led by our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, Brother President called up our Supreme Secretary for the **Mortgage Department Report**.

Brother Scott reported that as of November 30, 2019, the organization has 3 existing mortgages totaling \$610,320.79. Principal payments received for the eleven months in 2019 total \$41,553.92 and interest payments total \$33,868.87. All mortgages are paid up and on time. Acknowledged

Brother President began discussion regarding the **declaration of a dividend** for the year 2019 to be distributed during 2020. The 2018 dividend declaration issued in 2019 was \$50,000.00.

After a brief discussion, Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, moved that a dividend be declared for the year 2019 in the amount of \$50,000.00 payable in 2020 for all qualifying certificates, 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 first quarter of 2020.

The Board members had a lively discussion regarding the Annuity Interest Rate, taking into consideration our investment portfolio, the interest rate environment, product sales of our Vantage Collection, and the recommendations of our Director of Sales and Marketing. Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, made a motion to continue with our current rates for the first quarter in 2020, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

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 was held on Friday, November 16, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA to honor this year's recipient, Clifford A. Moeller. Brother Secretary was in attendance, along with Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller and Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins. A great time was had by all and Brother Moeller was extremely appreciative. Acknowledged

The Board members were informed by Brother Jerek that the Annual Audit will be held March 16-19, 2020 at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. Also, the 2020 First Quarterly Meeting will be held on March 20-21, 2020 in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Acknowledged

Brother President informed the Board that they will be meeting tomorrow, December 2nd, at 9:00am, for an open forum discussion regarding the society, as well as a 2020 Business/Fraternal Plan. Acknowledged

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, entertained a **motion to adjourn**, so moved by Supreme Physical Director, John M. Underation, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, led the Board in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C., Supreme Secretary**

## LODGE JOTTINGS

### NEW YORK, NY, ASSEMBLY 182

Our lodge will host its traditional patronal feast day observance honoring St. Joseph on Sunday, March 15 at St. John Nepomucene Church, located at the corner of East 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue in Manhattan. We will attend the 10:15 a.m. Slovak Mass which will be celebrated for the living and deceased members of Assembly 182 by the Rev. Martin Kertys. Following the liturgy, we will enjoy a fraternal program and luncheon in the parish social hall. All members are cordially invited to join us for this annual fraternal event.

In addition, we extend an invitation to our brother and sister Sokols and Sokolky of Wreath 168 as well as area Sokol lodges to join us. At this celebration we celebrate the Josephs and Josephines among us. This year marks the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Assembly 182. It was in the spring of 1923 that a group of young Slovaks met at St. John Nepomucene to establish a new Sokol lodge. They chose St. Joseph as patron of the new lodge. For more than 70 years, we have hosted a patronal feast day observance and we look forward to seeing a good turnout at this year's celebration in the best traditions of Sokol fraternalism and fellowship on the road to our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in three years. Zdar Boh! – **Dr. Larry Korcek, President; Anna Korcak, Financial Secretary**

A JOINT FRATERNAL EVENT FOR  
FCSU, GCU, NSS & SCS MEMBERS

2020 NATIONAL  
**BOWLING**  
TOURNAMENT

GREETINGS  
from  
OHIO

*Brookgate Lanes*

14950 SNOW ROAD  
BROOK PARK, OH  
216-676-4325

2020 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT  
CLEVELAND, OH  
FRIDAY, MAY 15 &  
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

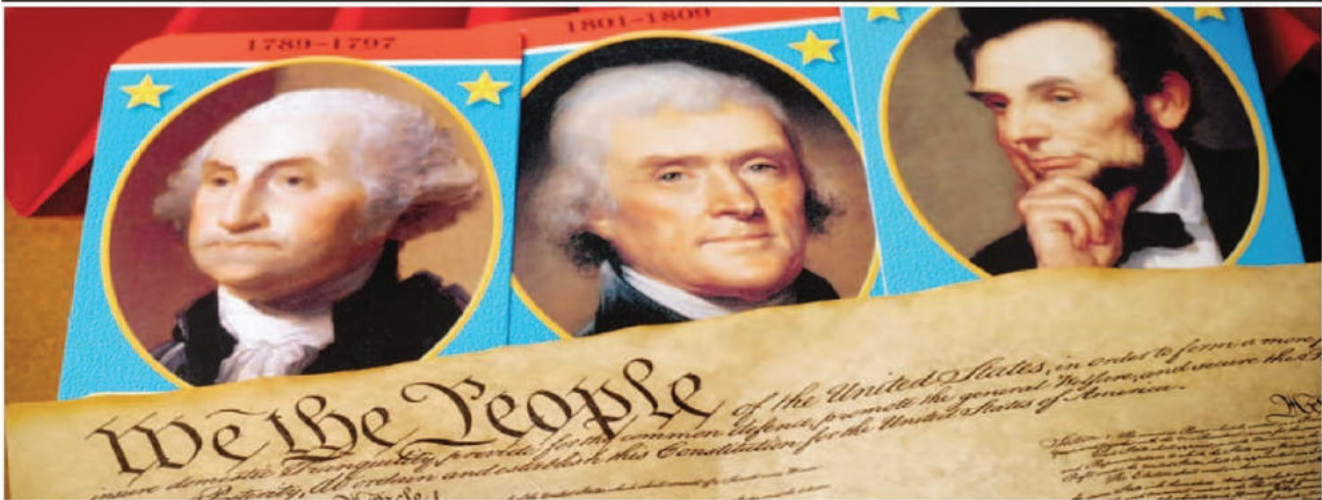
**MARRIOTT**

**LODGING**  
Cleveland Airport Marriott  
4277 West 150th Street  
Cleveland, OH 44135



## KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - February 2020

### PRESIDENTS' DAY WORD SEARCH



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

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- |               |              |             |             |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. George     | 5. President | 9. February | 13. Vote    |
| 2. Washington | 6. United    | 10. Leader  | 14. Holiday |
| 3. Abe        | 7. States    | 11. Federal | 15. Country |
| 4. Lincoln    | 8. America   | 12. Elect   |             |

Created by  
Sue Lindhout  
Grand Forks Herald 2011



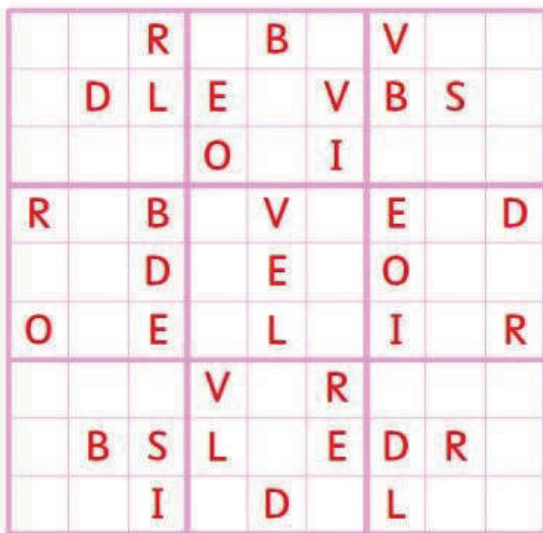


## KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - February 2020



### Valentine's day Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters L O V E B I R D S. Don't guess - use logic



## Slovak Words=Slovenské slova

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Šťastný svätý Valentínsky deň = Happy St. Valentine's Day

/Pronounced [shtyaast-nee sve-tee vaah- len-teen-skee dyen, with a soft n. ]

I love only you. (romantic) = Milujem len Teba. [mee – lew – yem len Tye – bah ]

frajer [fry – air ] = boyfriend

frajerka [fry – air – kah ] = girlfriend

Miláčik [Me – laah-cheek] = darling, honey, sweetheart

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Harper Toth	1/21
Joseph Phillips	2/12
Julie Diaz	2/17
Riley Slonac	2/23
Aiden Ahern	2/23
Mackenzie Ahern	2/23
Lauren Martyak	2/28



## JENNIFER FLYNN OLDENBURG NAMED HEAD COACH OF THE OHIO STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Jennifer Flynn Oldenburg, a member of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, PA, has recently been named Head Coach of The Ohio State Women's Volleyball Team. Jen former four-year standout for the Buckeyes is returning to Columbus, Ohio as the Head Coach of The Ohio State Women's Volleyball Program. She became the sixth head coach in program history, the Ohio State Department of Athletics announced Friday, January 17, 2020. "We are thrilled to welcome Jen back to Ohio State," said Janine Oman, deputy director of athletics and women's volleyball program administrator for Ohio State. "Her energy, diverse coaching experiences and passion for Ohio State and our women's volleyball program were the determining factors in her selection. We are excited for the future of the women's volleyball program under Jen's leadership."



Jennifer's sports career in short started as a 1996 graduate of Baldwin High School. Jen was a three-sport athlete in volleyball, basketball and softball. She helped lead her volleyball teams to the State Championship in 1995 as well as three WPIAL titles in 1992, 1994, & 1995. As the starting shortstop for the softball team, she was also a key member of the four WPIAL Championship teams (1993-1996). She graduated from Ohio State in 2001 with a Bachelor's Degree in sports and leisure studies and spent the 2001 season on staff as a volunteer assistant coach for the Buckeyes. During her time on the court from 1996-99, she recorded 3,213 career assists (7<sup>th</sup>) and 1,138 digs (12<sup>th</sup>) to secure her place in the program's history book. She handed out 1,587 assists during the 1997 campaign to check in at No. 4 among OSU's single season leaders. She led Ohio State to four consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances and was the first conference player to be named All-Big Ten at two different positions (setter and outside hitter). In the Classroom, Jennifer received OSU Scholar-Athlete laurels every year and was a three-time Academic All-Big Ten honoree.

Following her undergraduate career, Jennifer went to be the starting setter for the USA National Team and led the squad to a Silver Medal at the 2002 World Championship in Germany. She also started for the Grand Rapids Force (USPV) and played on the USPV "Dream Team" starting at setter for the Millennium Cup Champion USPV All-Stars, where she was named to the all-tournament team. Prior to her time back in Pittsburgh, Jennifer spent nine seasons (2003-2012) at the University of Illinois as an assistant coach for the women's volleyball team. She had a hand in all aspects of the program during her tenure, focusing on recruiting, on-court training, travel, and summer camps while serving as a liaison for multiple entities throughout the athletics department. Her work with the team's serving and passing as well as the defensive specialists was instrumental in leading Illinois to four-straight NCAA Sweet Sixteen appearances and the NCAA runner-up finish in 2011. Five of her players earned All-America honors and nine different players received 13 first team All-Big Ten honors.

Jennifer returned to Pittsburgh, PA in 2012 with her husband, Steve, son Maverick and daughter Cassidy, as Club Associate Director of the Pittsburgh Elite Volleyball Association currently being in her 8<sup>th</sup> year.

Mostly recently, she returned to her Buckeye roots when she joined former Ohio State head coach Jim Stone's staff as an assistant coach for the USA Volleyball Girls Youth National Team, who won the Gold Medal at the U18 World Championships in Egypt September 2019. This is the first Gold Medal for the United States in any age-group category for both girls and boys.

Congratulations, Jennifer Flynn Oldenburg.

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM DONATIONS OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2019

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations received during October through December 2019 earmarked for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum located at our home office in Passaic, NJ. The monies received from these donations fund our annual \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships, which assist our young people in their educational endeavors. The number of these scholarships grants is dependent upon the amount of donations received.

### DONATION RECEIVED

In Memory of	Donated by
Departed members of Group 17	Group 17, Youngstown, OH
Museum Memorial Scholarship Fund	PNC and Mr. T. Calimano, Marketing Director/Vice President
Departed members of Group 7	Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA
Msgr. Francis Beeda	Assembly 86, Port Griffin, PA Group 7
Msgr. Francis Beeda	Michael J. Horvath and family
Msgr. Francis Beeda	Dennis J. Zifcak

Total donations: \$2,925

Total Donations for 2019: \$3,265

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

## LEAP INTO FUN WITH GROUP 14

**FEBRUARY 28 – 7:00 PM**

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL HALL  
2912 EAST CARSON STREET, PITTSBURGH, PA.**

**Free admission for all members and their family**

All Group 14 members are invited to attend our first annual Family Fun Night! We would love to see all of you, especially our members who we haven't seen for a long time!

- \* Games, face painting, crafts, and a bouncy house
- \* Pizza, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages
- \* Cash bar for adults
- \* Corn Hole

There will be a Chinese Auction and 50/50 raffle.

There will be two "pampering" stations for adults (Mini Massages and Paraffin Hand Wax). A minimal fee will apply.

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY FEBRUARY 15**

Call or text Kathy Watkins at 412-225-8233 with number of adults and children who will attend.

\*\*\*Anyone under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult



# SCENES FROM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTIES

## WREATH 93, MILWAUKEE, WI

Junior Sokols and Sokolky enjoyed a fun-filled Christmas party on December 7, 2019. The day began with the gathering at the Milwaukee County Zoo where the youngsters enjoyed walking around the unique facility. At 5 p.m. the group gathered at St. Leonard's Church to attend Mass. We were then privileged to watch the school's drama club, led by Jennifer Romine put on a wonderful play "Is This Christmas." Annalise Romine was a tree and Maggie Heuberger was an angel.

The evening continued with an enjoyable dinner with St. Nick in the parish's fellowship. It was filled with lots of laughs, stories, a scavenger hunt for the kids, art activities with a highlight being the visit and stories from St. Nick. Gifts were exchanged and a birthday song for Jesus completed the wonderful evening.

The day was adventurous and filled with great memories. Needless to say, a wonderful time was had by all. Thanks to all who had a hand in the day's success.

– Lisa Hoeck, secretary



## ASSEMBLY 16, WREATH 22, PITTSBURGH, PA



## ASSEMBLY 162, CLIFTON, NJ





## LIGHTS, CAMERA, DANCE!

What an exciting time to be a member of the Vychodna Slovak Dancers! Still buzzing from our group's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in October, our dancers were excited to maintain the momentum and compete in Slovakia's biggest folklore competition: Zem Spieva.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Zem Spieva, it's a reality TV show where Slovak folklore acts (be it dancers, singers, musicians, etc.) compete to win the title of champion. Currently in its third season, the show has become a major hit, and is now one of the highest rated TV shows in Slovak history.

For the opening studio round, the 63 competing acts are organized into groups of three, based on the region they reside in: Eastern Slovakia, Western Slovakia, Central Slovakia, or International Slovaks (for those living abroad). One act from each group of three advances to the semi-final, based on the judges' verdict.

Our Senior ensemble decided that this was the year we would audition for the show, and were delighted to find out we had advanced to the first studio round. This meant we would be visiting Slovakia for filming in late November, competing in the International Slovaks category. We knew that meant a lot of hard work ahead, and soon began preparing our dance Napostred Dediny, from the region of Horehronie, which we would be competing with. As the filming date approached, our dancers got more and more excited. But the nerves didn't really set in until we arrived at the RTVS studio in Bratislava, where it all became very real.

For our studio performance, we were fortunate to have our dear friends udová Hudba Zemplin, from Michalovce, at our side to help us sound our best, as well as singers from FS Vienok (based out of Bratislava). Having the live band always brings our dances to life, not only for the audience, but for our dancers as well.

After multiple interviews backstage with the show's hosts, we waited with bated breath for our turn to perform. We were prompted with an introduction from the judges: "Vychodna Slovak Dancers, z Toronta", and then got our musical queue from Zemplin, and the rest is history. We received rave reviews from the judges, including one judge who said that our group was on par (skill-wise) with folklore ensembles from Slovakia (one of the best compliments we could ever receive). They were also very impressed at how we maintained Slovak traditions, even though the majority of us were born in Canada. Although we received positive feedback, we still didn't know if we'd done enough to make it onto the next round.

After several hours of waiting (while groups of 3 from other regions were being filmed), we were summoned to another studio where we would receive the results of who would be advancing to the semi-finals from our International trio. Our direct competitors were Slnieko, a children's folklore ensemble based in Calgary (whose kids showed us their impressive moves backstage, before filming), and singer/fujara player Roman Andrej Stolarik, from Ottawa.

The judge who would be announcing the results walked into the studio, and the nerves in the room noticeably intensified, creating drama and tension (like any good TV show). There was a brief speech, a dramatic pause, and then the announcement of who would be moving on: "Vychodna Slovak Dancers". Cheers of excitement ensued, not only from the dancers but also all our family members and friends who came out to support us. We thank everyone for all the support we've received up to this point, and hope we can deliver a great semi-final performance in March!

We had an incredible (and compact) experience: long flights/layovers, late night practices, early morning filming (which carried on through the better part of the day), and memories to last a lifetime.



For more information on the show, you can visit [rtvs.sk](http://rtvs.sk), where you will find full episodes in the Archive (posted on Sundays, as the show airs live on Saturday evenings).

If you have family and friends back in Slovakia, be sure to tell them about our group advancing to the semi-finals! We need all the support we can get, as the semi-finals (and whether or not we make it to the final) is based strictly off viewer votes (by SMS). So please spread the word! We will see you on stage in March!

## 2020 YOUNGSTOWN/SPISSKA NOVA VES SISTER CITIES HERITAGE TOUR OF SLOVAKIA

Come join us as once again as we tour our beautiful ancestral homeland of Slovakia. Walk the streets of your ancestors. Do a little research on your family, visit your ancestral village and perhaps find long lost relatives. Talk with your oldest living relatives, they have much to offer. This past year we had a reporter from Slovak radio who interviewed the tour participants and recorded them for Slovak International Radio and Slovak radio. Reserve your slot now. We have a 49 passenger air conditioned bus with rest room. Our tour is always first class. We have the best guide in all Slovakia and the best bus driver. We provide the names of fellow tour participants that will tell you about our tour. Space is limited. The tour will be in July 2020. Dates will be determined once festival dates are established. The approximate cost of the tour will be \$4,000 depending on air fares. The cost includes first class hotels, 2 meals a day, entertainment and admissions to cultural exhibits. Lunch is on your own. An enjoyable time is assured.

Our well-known Sokol members of Wreath 15, Jim and Kay Bench will be pleased to provide you with additional information on this year's tour. Call Jim Bench at tel. 724 771-7900, email: [skbench@gmail.com](mailto:skbench@gmail.com). Our tour cannot be topped for sightseeing, entertainment, fun, memories and lasting friendships. We look forward to having many Sokols and Sokolky join us for our 2020 tour.



## CYRIL AND METHODIUS – SPIRITUAL FATHERS OF SLAVIC CIVILIZATION

(Continued from page 7)

based on a cursive form of the Greek alphabet that was in use in the Byzantine Empire at the time. The specific rules for their new alphabet were influenced by those of a local Slavic dialect spoken in northern Greece.

This early version of the Cyrillic script was used to write the first Slavonic liturgy, which became the basis for the Old Church Slavonic liturgical and literary tradition. This tradition is the precursor to Church Slavonic, which is still used by many Eastern Orthodox churches in Europe today.

The new liturgy was successful, but not everyone was happy about it. The local German priests and bishops were zealous for Rome and saw the use of a non-Latin liturgy as threatening to their influence. As a result, they opposed the brothers. They accused Constantine and Methodius of encroaching on their ecclesiastical jurisdiction. This came to a head in 868, when Constantine and Methodius had to go to Rome to appear before Pope Adrian II to explain their reasoning for making a vernacular liturgy.

They explained to him their belief that the liturgy should be in the vernacular language to make it more accessible. Pope Adrian II was won over by their arguments and commissioned them to go back and continue their missionary work. Methodius was made archbishop of his own archdiocese of Moravia, where the vernacular liturgy would be used. During this time, Constantine also officially became a monk and took the name Cyril. Unfortunately, Cyril passed away while they were still in Rome in 869.

Methodius continued his work of creating a vernacular liturgy and collection of sacred texts. By the end of his life, Methodius had translated most of the Bible as well as most of the works of the Church Fathers into Slavonic. Methodius' work was not without difficulty, however. The German bishops still opposed the use of a non-Latin liturgy. In 870, Methodius was deposed as archbishop and confined to a monastery, preventing him from continuing his work. However, he gained the favor of Pope John VIII, who released him and reinstated him as archbishop around 873. Pope John VIII allowed continuation of the vernacular liturgy but limited its use and required that the Latin liturgy also be used to appease the Germans.

Methodius died in 884, partially from exhaustion because of the relentless pursuit of his rivals. Under Pope Stephen V (885-891), the rulings of Pope John VIII were reversed, and Latin became the sole liturgical language in all of Moravia. Methodius' disciples were driven into exile.

Although Methodius' reforms were reversed in Moravia and other western Slavic regions, the tradition begun by Cyril and Methodius did not end there. Their disciples went east and south to regions that are now Serbia, Bulgaria, and eventually Russia, where the Old Church Slavonic liturgy was later readily adopted.

In the late 9th century, the kingdom of Bulgaria adopted Old Church Slavonic as the liturgical language of the state church. It was at this time that the earliest form of the true Cyrillic alphabet was developed, derived from the Glagolitic script. Old Church Slavonic evolved into Church Slavonic in the 14th century, which is still used today in many Eastern Orthodox church traditions, especially the Russian Orthodox Church.

Methodius and Cyril laid down the foundations for a Slavic Christianity distinct both from the Byzantine East and the Latin West, which helped to create a Slavic civilization. Much of what makes Slavic nations Slavic today can be traced to these two missionary brothers from Byzantine Thessalonica.

## JAQUELYN MANYAK NAMED TO ALL SPORTSMANSHIP TEAM

Jaquelyn Manyak, a 5th year senior captain on the Fitchburg state Volleyball team was recently named to the 2019 Fall All Sportsman Team in the MASCAC Division. She was one of six Fitchburg State student athletes who were recently honored for their outstanding sportsmanship in and outside their field of competition.



The summer before her freshman year, Jaquelyn was instrumental in getting volleyball reinstated at Fitchburg State, which had not fielded a varsity women's volleyball team since 2001. The first two seasons they competed as a club team and transitioned to a full division III varsity team.

Jaquelyn serves as the Assistant Physical Directress of Group 3 "Rev. Edmund Mochak" and has been active in both the local and national levels of Sokol competition.

Jaquelyn will graduate in May 2020 with a degree in Film/Video Communications as well as a degree in Professional Communications. She is the daughter of Gary and Maria Manyak and belongs to Wreath 18 in East Douglas, Mass. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Jaquelyn. She is a credit to our organization and to the Manyak clan which has been active for generations. Happy future and Zdar Boh!

## SCENES OF THE ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY HOSTED BY MILWAUKEE, WREATH 93



A group of Sokols and Sokolky of Milwaukee, WI, Wreath 93 ushered in the holiday season with their Christmas party held on Saturday, November 16, 2019. The evening began with dinner at the Old Country Buffet followed by laughs at Comedy Sportz.

## THE 2019 RECAP OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

**Frank P. Laury III, Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics**

This year's sporting events kicked off with the 73rd Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament, held on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Noble Manor Lanes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The combined bowling tournament included members from the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) Fraternal organization for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year along and members from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).



The Bowlers stayed at The Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel. The three fraternal organizations combined with 29 Men's Team and 12 Women's Teams, for a total of 164 bowlers. The annual sporting event began Friday with hospitality dinner. Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon welcomed all of the bowlers. Basil Wahal, Activities and Communications Director from the GCU, and Kevin Collins, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director coordinated the lane assignments for all 41 teams.

First night team tournament winners include: Female Division first place winners from the FCSU Team consisted of Chris Tokarsky, Denise Ricciuti, Anne Mitro and Bobbie Werner from the Slovak Catholic Sokol, with a handicap score of 2815 total. Second place team 412 members from the GCU included Patricia Kutzfara, Patricia Nisjach, Barbara Wahal, Melanie Basl with a combined handicap score of 2373. Third place team winners from SCS with a handicap score of 2347 were Heather Horvath, Kelly Palchanis, Marianne Mangiafico and Bernadette Jacob. Women's Team Scratch winners include: First place winners from the GCU, Team 412 with an actual score of 1995. Second place to SCS team 2+2 from Barberton and includes: Karen Bakita, Carol Mako, Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa with an actual score of 1802. Rounding out the Women's Team Scratch Division are SCS Heather's Heroes with a total score of 1786.

The Men's Team Division with Handicap First Place Winners from FCSU, Mon Valley Boys: Vernon C. Smith, David Smith, George Resi and Vernon E. Smith with a handicap score of 2815. Second place winners from SCS Assembly 162: Albert Pogorelec, Honorary Supreme Officer, Steve Pogorelec, John Termyna and Thomas Krack with a score of 2767. Third place winners are from Lilly, PA and include SCS members: Thomas Muldoon Jr., Nicholas Cassisi, James Bart and John Smith with a score of 2705. Men's Team Scratch winners include: First place winners Club Lanes consisting of bowlers: Ryan Lebanik, Jeffrey Siesky, John Adamcik and Mark Cherpak with an actual score of 2251. Second place was awarded to GEO Lawn Service and included Robert Pugh, Wayne Newmyer, George Romanchak, Steven Romanchak beating the Mon Valley Boys by 1 pin for scores of 2195 and 2194 respectively. On Saturday morning, bowlers returned to the Noble Manor Lanes for the Doubles and Singles competition. In the Women's Division, Patricia Kutzfara and Barbara Wahal bowled a combined score of 1,220 ahead of the second place team from Lilly, PA Colleen Keagy and Nancy Cassisi who bowled a 1,208 combined handicap score. Third place was Anne Mitro and Carol Gemoll scoring 1201. All results were handicap scores.

Scratch Women's Doubles winners include: GCU ladies, Patricia Kutzfara and Barbara Wahal took first place with an actual score of 1037; while SCS women took second and third. Second place winners Diana Simpson and Jean Karaffa scored 1032 while Third Place winners Karen Bakita and Carol Mako

scored 962.

In the Women's Singles Division, the same three ladies took first, second and third place in both scratch and handicap events. Handicap Singles Division: Kathleen Shirilla was 1st place with a score of 770, Patricia Kutzfara held 2nd place score of 754 and Jean Karaffa rounded out 3rd place score of 735. Scratch standings resulted in Jean Karaffa placing 1st with a score of 579, Kathleen Shirilla placing 2nd with a score of 551 and Patricia Kutzfara scoring in 3rd with a total of 526. In the Men's Division with Handicap, Vernon Smith Junior and David Smith claimed first place and second place going to Vernon Smith and George Pesi. The winners rolled a total of 1490 with handicap. Second place winnings were won by a one pin margin against third place duo. George and Vernon rolled a 1449 combined score for second place over Brian Phillips and Dave Iskra Sr. bowling a 1448.

The Men's Double Scratch Division winners include: First Place Ryan Lebanik and John Adamcik for a total of 1296 pins; Second Place Jeffrey Siesky and Mark Cherpak with a combined score of 1289; and Third Place Winners were Charles Houser and Keith Eggar for a score of 1280. In the Men's Singles Division, Handicap scores, in first was Vernon E. Smith with a score of 819; second place winner – AJ Novotney with a score of 789 and third place winner with a score of 776 was Ryan Lebanik. Scratch winners include: First place winner, Andrew Keebler with an actual score of 719, Second place goes to Vernon E. Smith with a score of 702 and third place, with a score of 692 was Ryan Lebanik. In the Women's Division for All-Events with handicap, Patricia Kutzfara placed first with a score of 2002: Singles- 526, Doubles- 534, Team- 462, with a handicap of 480. Anne Mitro earned second place with a total score of 1921. Singles- 426, Doubles- 460, Team- 447, with a handicap of 588. Third place recognition goes to Nancy Rice with a total score of 1915: Singles- 458, Doubles- 421, Team- 430, with a handicap of 606. Highest recognition of best scratch all events winner for the female division goes to Melanie Basl with an overall actual score of 1660: Singles- 522, Doubles- 532, and Team- 606.

The Men's division for All-Events with handicap resulted in AJ Novotney, from Perryopolis, Pa, placing first with a score of 2,215: Singles- 672, Doubles-581, Team- 611 and a handicap of 351. Second place was awarded to David Smith for a score of 2,204: Singles- 463, Doubles-674, Team- 590 and a handicap of 477. Third place honors goes to Charles Houser with a total score of 2,177: Singles- 658, Doubles-742, Team- 588 and a handicap of 189. Men's All Events Scratch Winner was Andrew Keebler with an actual score of 2039. Andrew scored 719 in Singles, 690 in doubles and 630 in Team events.

One of the highlights of the tournament was the performance of Gregory Maranowski attempting to bowl a perfect score. He ended up with 9 strikes and a final score of 262. After the bowlers finished with doubles and singles on Saturday afternoon, a Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated by Fr. Tom Nasta of the FCSU at the Pittsburgh Plaza Hotel prior to the banquet. The Banquet began with Kevin Collins, FCSU Fraternal Activities Director welcomed the fraternal organizations and bowlers. Father Nasta offered a blessing. After dinner, I congratulated all bowlers and recognized SCS officers present. Mike Karffa, spokesperson for the GCU introduced officers present. The final event of the evening was the announcement of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award presented each year to a member of our organization who has been very active at the Assembly, Group and National level promoting and participating in the International Bowling Tournaments. This



honor was presented to Clarence Checton from Group 6, Periyopolis PA, better known as "Buffalo". He now joins the following winners of the past seven years: Paul Awramko, Paul E. Sweeney, Albert J. Pogorelec, Michael Matras, Francis Risko, Christine Sofranko, and Chet Dziuba. That concluded the 2019 Bowling Tournament.

The second sporting event was the 49<sup>th</sup> International Slet held on July 17-21, at SUNY Brockport, NY. At the Slet we had an introduction of our new Sokol mascot, SLOBODA (freedom). The winner of the name the mascot contest was Andy Lipovsky from Group 5. The competition began on Wednesday after arrival, with senior individual drill competition. A total of 143 participants and 26 SPFB members and chaperones were in attendance. Group 1, Passaic, New Jersey, Steven Pogorelec, Jr., Carmela Lambert (acting); Group 3, East Douglas, Massachusetts, Gary Manyak, Judy Manyak, Zach Manyak, Joshua Cyr, Jaque Manyak; Group 4, Chicago, Illinois, Tricia Radtke, Brad Hoeck, Noah Romine, Lisa Hoeck; Group 5, Cleveland, Ohio, Steve Underation, Jayme Blosser, Andy Lipovsky; Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Matthew Malenovitch, Kelly Palchanis; Group 11, Superior, Wisconsin, Rebecca Matlon, Rachel Matlon; Group 14, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Aaron Kercell, Haley Hast, Gavin Watkins, Kara Devers, Brittany Hast; Group 19, Toronto, Ontario, Steven Popik, Kristen Popik, Michael Wasilewski, Anne Marie Wasilewski. During the first day there was a gymnastic and track clinic, which the track clinic got rained out but was a good opportunity to get the track high jump and throwing events all set for Thursday. Since it continued to rain throughout the day, opening ceremony was moved inside. The Participants were in their multi-colored spirit shirts, during opening ceremony and mass. After gathering at the back of the stadium for group pictures, the opening procession of the groups began.

The participants marched in and sat in the bleachers for mass. At the conclusion of mass the program continued with supportive and good luck comments from Supreme President Michael Horvath. John Underation then introduced Brian Blasco, member of Group 17, Youngstown Ohio who has become a professional motivational speaker. He entertained the crowd with a few Slet memories of his own and some inspiring words. After Brian Blasco's presentation, the groups returned to the dorms to unpack, tour the campus, and get in some last minute practice. That evening was the Seniors Volleyball Tournament which Group 14 and Group 4 were in the championship. Group 4 prevailed with their experience. While volleyball was going on in the gym, the juniors were enjoying the some fun activities in the courtyard of and common area of the dorms.

Thursday morning, the track and field competition was in full swing. Following track, the individual drill competition continued and the gymnastics competition began in the Tuttle North Gymnastics facility. Gymnasts competed in vault, floor exercise, balance beam, uneven bars, parallel bars, and pommel horse.

All around Gymnastic winners were, Girls 8-9 Hanna Lang from Group 14, Girls 10-12 Kaylie Novotnak from Group 14, Girls 13-15 Brooke McArdle, Girls 16 and over Brittany Hast from group 14. The Boys 8-9 winner was Kyle Peterson Group 4, Boys 10-12 Bryce Watkins group 14, Boys 13-15 Mitchell Rawkow Group 4 and 16 and Over was Jonathan Gable from Group 14.

The evening began with the junior individual drill finalists performing for the judges. The main evening event was the junior drill competition in which three boys' teams and three girls' teams competed. The Junior team drill winners were: Boys Group 4 and Girls Group 5. The individual drill finalists also performed and the winners were announced.

Girls 8-9 Annalise Romine from Group 4, Girls 10-12 Kennedy Macko from Group 5, Girls 13-15 Nicole Leslie from Group

5 and Girls 16-over Jenna Babinchak from Group 19, Directress Jaque Manyak from Group 3. On the Boys side, boys 8-9 Connor Swift from group 14, Boys 10-12 Andrew Peterson from Group 4, boys 13-15 Nicholas St. George Group 3 and in Boys 16 and over Daniel Underation from Group 5 and his Dad Steve Underation took home the hardware for Director Drill Champion. Friday was a heavy day of track and field with plenty of heat. The Athletes did well battling the heat and we even had the 7 and under race. The Evening began with senior individual drill finalist and then Senior team Drill Competition. The Men from Group 3 won and the Women from Group 19 prevailed. Saturday rolled around and we got an early start on the finals in Track and Field. That afternoon we assembled into the Gym for Closing ceremonies, awards and Mass. The Board of Directors and Supreme Physical Fitness Board Members were announced as well as each group and its leaders as everyone marched into the gymnasium for our closing mass. After the conclusion of the mass, the program continued with the following:

- Comments were given by our Supreme President Michael Horvath.
- The ceremonial lighting of the torch by the all-around high scorers in track and field and gymnastics: All-around Track – Luke Underation, Amaya Fluker; All-around gymnastics – Jonathan Gable, Brooke McArdle. Drill performances by the junior boys, junior girls, senior men and senior women.
- Mass drill performance by all of the athletes.
- Following the mass drill, the SPFB proceeded with the awards ceremony. Drill performances by the junior boys, junior girls, senior men and senior women.
- Mass drill performance by all of the athletes.
- Following the mass drill, the SPFB proceeded with the awards ceremony.

All Around Track and Field Winners were: Boys 8-9 Evan Radtke Group 4, Boys 10-12 Andrew Peterson Group 4, Boys 13-15 Peyton Manyak. Group 3, Men Luke Underation Group 5, Girls 8-9 Annalise Romine Group 4, Girls 10-12 Ava Haire Group 3 Girls 13-15 Amaya Fluker. Group 4, Women Brittany Hast Group 14, John J. Stofko Spirit Award Winner – Group 1 – Passaic, New Jersey.

Overall Team Drill Winner – Group 5 – Cleveland, Ohio Overall Track and Field Winner – Group 4 - Chicago, Illinois Overall Gymnastics Winner – Group 14 - Pittsburgh, PA.

The International Flag Winner for total points scored in the weeks competitions went to Group 4 of Chicago, Illinois. The night ended with a Dance for all of the participants, which included a picnic style dinner and DJ. Sunday morning all participants were up and destined for home.

The final sporting event for the year was the 64<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament. The Tournament was held August 16-18, 2019 at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course, Beaver, PA. 101 golfers participated in the tournament combining with the Greek Catholic Union(GCU). The course was in fantastic shape, with 80 degree weather the whole weekend. This year's winners include: "A" Flight Winners– first place - Tom Iskra Sr. (136), and a tie for second place - Frank Dano III and Frank Dano IV (137). Flight A top scratch score winner - Frank Dano IV (149). "B" Flight Winners - first place - Thomas Petrus (137) and in second place - Matt Burfield (139). "B" flight best scratch score Zachary Oravetz (166). This year's "C" Flight Winner - Corey Shedlock with a score of (136) and in second place- Jake Pontoriero (143). The best scratch score goes to Corey Shedlock (182). "Senior" Flight winners- first place went to Dave Blazek (132) and second place went

(Continued on page 21)



## Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

year of existence and of providing financial security and fraternal activities on a national and local level to its members. How many businesses do you know that are 115 years old? I am sure not many! This makes the Slovak Catholic Sokol special and part of a unique group of companies in today's business world, especially fraternal insurance.

The positive attitude is the Society is 115 years old, and continuing on our past performance the Society will see its 116 anniversary and beyond. The Society's Board of Directors and Executives are focused on doing all they can to see that the Society remains profitable and grows. The Slovak Catholic Sokol is committed on seeing all of its fraternal activities are better than the best and is ready to add new fraternal activities for members to participate in and enjoy Sokol fraternalism.

This 2020 future is attainable and requires all to get involved. However, there is, "The top down or grass roots" conundrum here. Where does growth, profitability, fraternal activities, member's involvement, etc. all begin but not end and who is responsible for all of this. I like to see this as everyone is responsible. All this can be summed up this way; for grass to grow it needs sunshine and rain from the top and the proper nutrients to feed the grass roots. If there are not the proper nutrients for the roots all the rain and sunshine will not make the grass grow.

So from the top, The Society and Supreme offices will supply the sunshine and rain for the grass to the Assemblies, Wreaths and members to grow; from the bottom the Assemblies, Wreaths and members have to grow the membership base allowing younger members to become involved and take leadership roles to give the grass the nutrients needed for strong and healthy growth while using the sunshine and rain from the top. Then when it is harvest time all will benefit.

I just returned from the Supreme Physical Fitness Board (SPFB) meeting which was held January 17-19, 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA. Your SPFB which has decades of service to the Society and its members met to prepare for the fraternal activities that will take place in 2020; the 74<sup>th</sup> International Bowling Tournament, May 15-16, 2020 in Cleveland, OH, the International Clinic, July 2020 at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA and the 65<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament, August 14-16, 2020 in Beaver, PA.

In addition to these events for 2020 the SPFB is also working on venue sites for our fraternal activities in 2021 and 2022. However, most of their organizational skills in 2020 will be focused on the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet which will be held July 2021 at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA. The SPFB will use all of their creative talents to stage a spectacular 50th International Slet that all remember for the next 50 years. The SPFB's 2020 crystal ball sees over 200 members participating in the 50<sup>th</sup> Slet and hundreds of members in the stands to witness a mass drill made up of the 2021 Slet participants and Slet participants of past Slets. Mark your calendars today to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Slet in July 2021 in Kutztown, PA.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. Also may all have a wonderful Mardi Gras Day celebration and a reverent Ash Wednesday as all of us begin the forty days of Lent.

I will close with, help make 2020 the year that is vision clear, you belong to a great Society and you can make it even better by signing up new members, participating in fraternal events and getting involved in your Assembly or Wreath and Group.

With God's Blessing to All!

Zdar Boh!

## PRE-LENTEN "FASIANGY" IN MILWAUKEE, WI

The traditional pre-Lenten celebration, hosted by Assembly 20 of the Slovak League of America in cooperation with the local Slovak fraternal lodges, is set for Saturday, February 22 at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 3100 South 41<sup>st</sup> Street in Milwaukee, WI beginning at 5 p.m. Kindly note that this is a new location for the celebration in the Slovak tradition of "ostatne fasiangy." Slovak food and homemade bakery will be available. A live, five-piece band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. At 6:30 p.m. the popular Tatra Slovak Dancers will perform the lively music and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. An enjoyable evening is assured. Admission is \$5.00 per person.

We especially extend a cordial invitation to the members of Wreath 93 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol to join us for an entertaining and enjoyable evening before the beginning of Lent, a Milwaukee Slovak tradition spanning nearly three-quarters of a century. For additional information, contact our Sokolka Betty at tel. 414 425-6137 or Ellen at 262 893-7483.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NEW ENGLAND MEMBERS

The New England Fraternal Alliance, which represents fraternalists in the six New England states, will offer scholarship grants to deserving students in 2020. Two \$1,000 grants will be available to full time students in their sophomore, junior and senior years in college or graduate school. Awards are payable directly to the recipients. For additional information on these grants, contact Daniel Michalak, chairman of the scholarship committee, 53 Barberry Lane, Meriden, CT 06451-2601. Any member of a Sokol Assembly or Wreath in New England may apply for these grants.

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL DISCOUNT PROGRAM

As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, you now have access to hundreds of travel and entertainment discounts. Just become a member of Tickets At Work to access your discounts.

Tickets At Work is pleased to offer entertainment and travel discounts for both regional and nationwide attractions and events to all Slovak Catholic Sokol members. These discounts are not available to the general public and are exclusive to the Tickets At Work Corporate Discount Program. Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added!!

How to Get Started:

1. Go to <http://www.ticketsatwork.com>

2. Click on "Become a Member"

3. You will then be prompted to create an account with your email address & company code. **COMPANY CODE IS: CP-SCS**

Once enrolled, you will have access to all the discounts nationwide. If you do not have internet access, you can call customer service at the toll free number 1-800-331-6483, and use the Slovak Catholic Sokol code CPSCS. Customer Service is available 7 days a week. See the TicketsAtWork.com website for details and restrictions. If you have any questions, contact Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen Watkins at [kathyw323@gmail.com](mailto:kathyw323@gmail.com) or 412-225-8233.

## THE 2019 RECAP OF THE SPORTING EVENTS

(Continued from page 19)

to James Bart (135). The best scratch score goes to Albert Suess (165). "Callaway" Winners rounded out the men's division. There was a tie for second place. The winners were Joseph Hvozdozic Jr. and Frank Lipski (152).

"Women's" Flight winners- fourth place -Linda Frank (150) and a three way tie for second place went to Nancy Crouthamel, Christina Schultz and Terri Palchanis(152). "Women's" best scratch score of (206) was shot by Terri Palchanis.

Most of the golfers took advantage of the practice round on Friday and enjoyed the evening hospitality at the Clubhouse at Seven Oaks Country Club. Golfing began with the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, wishing all golfers good luck and the shotgun start signaled 51 golf carts to head towards their starting location. After golf ended for the day, a Byzantine Liturgy was celebrated at 4:30 p.m. in the GCU chapel by Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla. After golf ended there was a banquet with a buffet style dinner in the ballroom of the Seven Oaks Country Club. Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Jim Matlon welcomed all of the golfers and guest and recognized all veterans in the room for their service. After the meal, the Assistant Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Frank Laury announced the Saturday flight winners and introduced the Supreme and Honorary Supreme officers in attendance, including: Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Vice President, Edward Moeller, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James Matlon, Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James J. Jerek, Supreme Auditor, Jim Knis, Supreme Physical Director, John Underation, Supreme Physical Directress, Kathy Watkins, Supreme Assistant Physical Director, Dusan Dorich and Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, Julie Laury. Julie ran the Raffle and also revealed the winners of the Closest to the Pin and Longest Putt from Saturday's contest. The Closest to the Pin winners included: Scott Pogorelec, Paul Papcun, Frank Dano III and Steve Koval. The Longest Putt winners were: James Bart and Ben Moeller. There were some great prizes including: SCS sweatshirts, golf hats and very generous gift cards to the Seven Oaks Country Club Pro Shop. Once, she finished giving away all of the raffle gifts, our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, reflected on the honor and recognition that comes with the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. He recognized past winners asking them to join him at the podium to induct this year's prestigious winner. Past Golf Awardees included Robert Harak, Tom Muldoon Jr., Loretta Smith, and Robert Palchanis. This year's award winner for the 2019 Frank S. Petruff Sports Award was Mary Margaret Starr from Wreath 54 in Youngstown, Ohio. The tournament ended Sunday at the Black Hawk Golf Course. Closest to the Pin winners on Sunday included: Nick Macurak, Gary Watkins, Kyle Karaffa and Ryan Burfield. The tournament went well and the weather was great. There are talks of returning to Seven Oaks again in 2020. 2019 was a busy year having the Slet, Convention and Golf throughout the summer, but so many people helped make it run smooth. I would like to thank everyone who helped out and volunteered their time, including Claire Matlon and Supreme Officers Mike Horvath, Scott Pogorelec, Ed Moeller, Jim Jerek, and Jim Knis. I also would like to recognize the hard work the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Jim Matlon has done to make these Tournaments successful. Looking forward to the new decade and the upcoming sporting events.

Hope to see a lot of you there! Until then, hope you have a great start to the New Year! Zdar Boh!

## In Memoriam

### NOVEMBER 2019

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	Michael Ribicky, Bethany, CT	66	March 9, 2018
Assembly 9	Stephen Scerba, Stratford, CT	89	September 3, 2019
Assembly 16	James D. Duttry, Dubois, PA	83	November 13, 2019
Assembly 24	John Farkas, Morris Plains, NJ	77	November 19, 2019
Assembly 25	Earl Henkel, Mt. Pleasant, PA	80	November 16, 2019
Assembly 28	John Stefanik, Webster, MA	95	November 14, 2019
Assembly 48	Sister Paulette Lendacky, Placentia, CA	92	October 23, 2019
Assembly 59	Marc E. Drevitch, Wilkes-Barre, PA	38	October 20, 2019
Assembly 82	Gloria J. Weyandt, Dunlo, PA	85	November 11, 2019
Assembly 86	Jeanne Marie Novitsky, Snyderstown, PA	47	November 18, 2019
Assembly 113	Rudolf Scuglik, Kenosha, WI	90	October 2, 2019
Assembly 182	Frank Lazorki, Florham Pk. NJ	88	November 12, 2019
Assembly 188	Anne A. Bokeko, Medford, NJ	96	November 18, 2019
Assembly 257	Theresa Burnes, Morris, IL	85	May 18, 2015
Wreath 3	Agnes A. Strout, Brunswick, ME	98	September 28, 2019
Wreath 39	Dorothy Uhelsky, Stratford, CT	64	October 28, 2019
Wreath 54	Jeanette Lukes, Youngstown, OH	80	August 12, 2019
Wreath 81	Paul M. Dolak, Hammond, IN	58	October 7, 2019
Wreath 153	Mary Kozak, Delray Beach, FL	98	October 26, 2019

### DECEMBER 2019

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 11	Keith Dirks, Hardin, IL	86	May 31, 2017
Assembly 11	Donald E. Wylder, Auburn, IL	63	December 25, 2019
Assembly 59	Janice L. Moreck, South Montrose, PA	62	November 28, 2019
Assembly 71	Albert D. Lenchak, Dupont, PA	89	November 23, 2019
Assembly 34	Soua Lor, Saint Paul, MN	33	November 21, 2019
Assembly 34	Francis Genosky, Blaine, MN	86	November 30, 2019
Assembly 110	Martin Skrobak of St. Clair, PA	72	December 12, 2019
Assembly 180	Michael R. Lofgren, Oak Park, IL	46	October 28, 2019
Assembly 227	Joseph Takerer, Toronto, Canada	67	November 27, 2019
Wreath 1	Joanne Buckmir, Fairfield, CT	78	November 30, 2019
Wreath 14	William G. Walent, Bedford, PA	75	December 21, 2019
Wreath 15	Mary B. Snyder, Monessen, PA	94	December 15, 2019
Wreath 18	Margaret L. Ozaniak, Dudley MA	88	May 27, 2019
Wreath 34	Kathleen Gundling, Parma, OH	88	November 21, 2019
Wreath 81	Robert A. Pastrick, Chestertown, IN	89	October 28, 2016
Wreath 85	Robert Poklemba, Oldsmar, FL	82	February 3, 2018
Wreath 93	Chue L. Yang, Menomonie, WI	47	November 8, 2019

## ANNOUNCING THE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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



No applications will be  
accepted after  
April 13, 2020

ENTRY BLANK—74<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, FCSU, NSS & GCU  
"USBC MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED"  
AMF Brookgate Lanes  $\diamond$  Brook Park, OH  
Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16, 2020

No applications will be  
accepted after  
April 13, 2020

Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for the bowlers to be registered in the tournament.

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	SCS TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2018-19 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet

Please check one: ☐ Men's Application ☐ Women's Application

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 15

☐ 5:30 PM ☐ 8 PM

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENT—SATURDAY, MAY 16

☐ 9 AM ☐ 12:30 PM ☐ We could bowl Sunday if necessary.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Make Entry Fee payable to: Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account

Mail to: James Madon, 6 Academy Drive East, Whippany, NJ 07981.

BOWLING FEE AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK.

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION.

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED.

Financial Totals for this Application	
Entry Fee for Each Event	
Prize Fee-\$10. <sup>00</sup> + Bowling Fee-\$7. <sup>50</sup> + Tournament Fee-\$4. <sup>50</sup> = \$22. <sup>00</sup>	
Optional Events	Banquet + Bowling Entry
All Events-\$5. <sup>00</sup> Banquet-\$29. <sup>00</sup>	\$100. <sup>00</sup> per person
_____ Singles Event @ \$22 ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Doubles Event @ \$22 ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Team Event @ \$22 ea. = \$ _____	
_____ All Events @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____	
_____ Banquet @ \$29 ea. = \$ _____	
Total Enclosed \$ _____	



## Important to All Tournament Entrants

### Read Carefully Information Given Below

### Rules and Regulations of Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament

The purpose and aim of our organization in sponsoring annual bowling championships is to promote good sportsmanship, fraternalism and national interest in the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

As you know, each year the Supreme Assembly, recognizing the great importance of bowling in our organization, donates \$60.<sup>00</sup> to the prize fund for each team entry entered in the International Tournament. This financial contribution on the part of our organization is added to the regular prize fee collected by the bowlers. All prize fees collected will be refunded 100% in prizes.

In order to successfully operate our tournaments, we must have cooperation and exact adherence to all entry rules and regulations which govern teams and individuals.

Please read these rules carefully. Do not overlook any detail. Comply with all requests at time entry blank is being filled out and when sending it in with the proper money order, certified check or check. Be sure you have the bowlers affidavits as of all sanctioned league averages for 21 games or more in accordance with our rules governing averages. This will speed up the mailing of prizes after results have been checked. Remember that false information will result in forfeiture of all rights to prizes.

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Slovak Catholic Sokol Championship Tournament is open to all members of our organization, both male and female (no juniors) who are in good standing and have been members for at least (3) three months SPL or (1) one year for all other policies, prior to the date of tournament with a minimum of \$3,000.<sup>00</sup> coverage. Policy Holders - no Social Members. As mandated by the 2007 Convention, all new members enrolled after January 1, 2008 will require a new minimum of \$5,000.<sup>00</sup> of insurance coverage to participate in the 2020 programs.

2a. All members of the competing teams must be members of the same Assembly or Wreath. There is no limit to the number of teams from each Assembly or Wreath.

2b. An Assembly or Wreath not having enough bowlers to make up a team may combine with another Assembly or Wreath to make up a team.

3. Doubles teams may be from any Assembly or Wreath for both Men and Women Divisions.

4. All participants must be certified by the respective Assembly or Wreath Financial Secretary and may enter only once for each division.

5. High Score recognition automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible nonmembers can qualify for high score recognition at their option by paying a \$5.<sup>00</sup> participation fee. Affiliated membership is \$21.<sup>00</sup>.

6. There will be at least one prize for each (10) ten entries in each event, and each (20) twenty entries for All-Events for Men and Women.

7. All-Events (optional), shall be handicap. This prize fund is a separate entry (\$5.<sup>00</sup>) and no tournament expense fee is assessed for this. Only those entrants paying this fee are eligible. Please indicate All-Events entries by placing an "X" before names in Team Entry space on Entry Form side.

8. Prize fee will be \$10.<sup>00</sup> per bowler per event. Cost of bowling and tournament expenses \$12.<sup>00</sup> per bowler per event. Total = \$22.<sup>00</sup> per event.

9. No entry money will be returned for any reason.

10. The United States Bowling Congress rules and regulations apply to all bowlers.

11. The Championship in both Men's and Women's Divisions will receive individual championship shirts. In the event of a tie for championship, lowest team handicap will receive shirts, cash prizes will be divided equally.

12a. Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2018-2019 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2020. A male bowler whose current average of 21 games or more at time of entry is (10) pins or more higher than the previous season's average must use his current average. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history of Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. If none of the above apply, the average of 175 for men will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

12b. All participants will be governed by rating requirements of USBC Rule 319e. Average to be adjusted accordingly. Failure to use the current average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average thereby resulting in a lower classification of more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher. However corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.

12c. Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2018-2019 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2020. A female bowler whose current average of 21 games or more at time of entry is (10) pins or more higher than the previous season's average must use her current average. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history of Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. If none of the above apply, the average of 150 for women will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

13. Teams wishing to bowl all nine games as Team, Double and Singles in one day or a specific day or time must submit that request at time of entry. (Only if necessary)

14. List team names in order of lineup to bowl. The USBC substitute rule will be used in the event it is necessary. Average certification must accompany entry form.

15. All teams must bowl according to the published schedule. In order to ensure your choice of schedule time, send entries in early.

16. Bowlers have 48 hours from completion of tournament to notify manager of error in score.

17. Every consideration will be granted to request date/time preferences for out-of-town teams and individual bowlers. The success of the tournament depends upon all participants.

18. Bowlers need not report information as required by USBC (Rule 319d provision) for tournament prize winnings.

**ENTRIES CLOSE**  
**MIDNIGHT, APRIL 13, 2020**



**What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland****News and Views  
from Slovakia...****WIRE CRAFT AND ART ADDED TO UNESCO  
LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

Wire craft and art, known as 'drotarstvo' in Slovakia, has been included on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, becoming Slovakia's seventh element on the list, TASR learnt from Slovak State Traditional Dance Company (SLUK) PR manager Nora Cechmankova.

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, holding a session in Bogotá, Colombia, approved the motion to add wire craft and art to the list without any comments.

Wire craft and art is a specific type of folk craft in Slovakia. It has undergone many changes and taken many forms during its development but remains an important part of Slovak culture.

As the name suggests, wire craft and art was named after the basic component required, namely wire. Wire artisans manually bend, tie and intertwine metal threads without welding or brazing.

**SKALSKY: SLOVAKS IN LOW LANDS PACK CHURCHES  
WEARING FOLK COSTUMES**

Many Slovaks living abroad celebrate Christmas with their traditions together, be it in churches and at meetings with the traditional cabbage soup 'kapustnica' being served, TASR was told on Friday by Vladimir Skalsky, chairman of the World Association of Slovaks Living Abroad and director of the Slovak House in Prague.

"I live in Prague, which has seen pre-Christmas meetings in the Slovak House and at the Slovak Embassy, but there have also been meetings in regional communities of Slovaks and regional Slovak-Czech clubs in individual towns," said Skalsky, adding that Slovaks abroad also organise meetings to mark Saint Nicholas Day and New Year's Eve.

Skalsky estimates that around 1.5-2 million ethnic Slovaks now live abroad, including those living for three centuries in the 'Low Lands', meaning Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Croatia, and Slovaks who emigrated across the Atlantic.

"In the Low Lands, for example, Christmas is very traditional and religious, it's nothing unusual to see churches full of Slovaks wearing folk costumes," said Skalsky.

Meanwhile, around 300,000-400,000 people with Slovak citizenship live abroad in the long-term. "A large proportion of them return to Slovakia to spend Christmas there; I estimate that as much as one half of them," said Skalsky.

Apart from their homeland, many Slovaks abroad miss traditional Slovak food and ingredients, said Skalsky. "In some places they're reliant to find replacement in the ever-present Polish shops," added Skalsky.

**COURT SENTENCES ZOLTAN ANDRUSKO TO 15 YEARS  
IN JAIL FOR KUCIAK'S MURDER**

A senate of the Specialised Criminal Court (STS) in Pezinok (Bratislava region) sentenced Zoltan Andrusko to 15 years in jail under medium security conditions for the premeditated murder of investigative journalist Jan Kuciak. The verdict is final and valid, as Andrusko consented to a plea bargain.

The STS senate earlier in the day rejected the original plea bargain between Andrusko and a Specialised Criminal Court (USP) prosecutor. The prosecutor originally proposed that the court should sentence Andrusko to ten years in prison for his involvement in the murders of Kuciak and his fiancée. However, senate chair Pamela Zaleska said that she would view a 15-year sentence as appropriate in this case.

Andrusko acted as a go-between in the Kuciak murder. The killing was allegedly ordered by Alena Zs., who was in turn allegedly acting according to a commission from well-known businessman Marian K. His shady activities were frequently the target of Kuciak's articles.

According to the prosecutor's office, Miroslav M. and Tomas Sz. actually carried out the murders, while Andrusko mediated a financial reward for them.

Kuciak and Martina Kusnirova were shot dead in their house in Velka Maca (Trnava region) on February 21, 2018.



The village of Cicmany (Žilina region) in winter. – Photo by TASR

In the 19th century, Slovakia was frequently troubled by the first snowstorms as early as in October and frosty weather continued until Saint Catherine's Day (November 25), TASR has been told by Slovak National Library spokesperson Katarina Stefanides Mazarova, who was citing copies of 19th-century newspapers.

"Thaw then followed – or didn't. It seems that our forefathers were experiencing autumns that we don't even dream about," said the national library spokesperson.

A particularly strong winter with heavy snowfall was seen in 1855-1856. "Slovaks then had 75 nights with frost and 52 days with the daytime highs not exceeding zero degrees Celsius. Conversely, bees were seen flying in Gemer [a traditional region in south-central Slovakia – ed. note] on Christmas Day of 1857, flowers were blooming and even the oldest people were saying that they hadn't remembered such holidays," added Stefanides Mazarova.

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



## News and Views from Slovakia...

### 'SLOV SLOV' EXHIBITION TO SHOW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SLOVAKIA AND SLOVENIA

Similarities and differences between Slovakia and Slovenia, two European countries frequently confused by foreigners, were shown at an exhibition called 'Slov Slov' at Ponitrianske Muzeum in Nitra in January. The exhibition, co-organised by Slovenia's Embassy in Slovakia, Comenius University in Bratislava and the Slovak National Museum, provided information on many aspects of life in the two countries in the Slovak, Slovenian and English languages.

"It was about homeland studies, legends and language, but also about food, customs and current literature. Many of the exhibits have become traditional items of folk culture.

### PRIME MINISTER URGES SLOVAKS LIVING IN BRITAIN TO REGISTER THEMSELVES ASAP

Speaking on RTVS's programme 'Sobotne dialogy' (Saturday Dialogues), Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) in connection with Brexit called on Slovaks living in Great Britain to register themselves as soon as possible so that they have their current rights guaranteed. "After the clear victory of Prime Minister Johnson, who has now a comfortable majority in the British Parliament, there are probably no more doubts that Britain will definitively leave the EU," stated Pellegrini. He said he congratulates Boris Johnson on his victory, however, he thinks it's a bad signal, as this is the first time that someone is going to leave the elite group of the European Union.

Pellegrini expects Britain to ratify the Brexit agreement very quickly. In this connection he pointed to the fact that there will be only 11 months left to settle all relations. "If we fail to agree on everything within 11 months, Britain will become a third country to us, it will be a subject to regulations like any other third country and nobody wants that," stated the prime minister. Pellegrini stressed that nothing changes for some 100,000 Slovaks living or working in Britain until the end of 2020. "They only need to register themselves and then they will be viewed as British citizens having all their rights guaranteed also after 2020," stressed the prime minister, urging them not to leave it up to the last moment.

The prime minister noted that the Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry has published all the important information concerning Brexit on its website. "Meanwhile, as the Slovak prime minister I invite all of the Slovaks living in Britain to return to Slovakia," said Pellegrini, calling on them not to stay in Great Britain and come back home if they feel like this.

### SMER WANTS TO TACKLE LACK OF DOCTORS IN SLOVAKIA

If Smer-SD makes it into the new government following the February 29 general election, it will focus on three main issues – support for pensioners and for young families, and the growing lack of doctors in the country, said party chairman Robert Fico at a programme conference in Banská Bystrica on Saturday.

More specifically, Smer wants to introduce a 13<sup>th</sup> monthly pension amounting to 460 for each pensioner and 13<sup>th</sup> monthly family allowances due in August, i.e. before the start of the new school year in September. According to Fico, Slovakia will lack 3,000 doctors in 2024, despite the fact that the country has four universities producing doctors. The problem is that many of them leave for abroad after graduating. Fico said that in view of the fact that the state spends 50,000-55,000 on educating each doctor, he'll propose that they should be given two options – either to pay off the bill after graduating, or to stay in Slovakia for at least ten years.

## DISCOVER SLOVAKIA'S RICH FOLK TRADITIONS ON SEPTEMBER TOUR

Be a part of Slovakia's exciting folk art and traditional music revival on the 2020 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 11-20. This nine-day, small group tour (limit of 15 travelers) brings you back to your Slovak family roots as you explore the vibrant culture, intriguing history, and spectacular countryside of your ancestral land.

Over the past few years Slovakia has seen a revival of interest in its traditional music, dress and crafts. Once again people are sewing, embroidering and wearing the traditional kroj (clothing) distinctive to each village. Traditional folk patterns are finding their way into contemporary fashion as well as home and product design. Musicians playing the folk music of each region can be found in cafes, restaurants, street corners and parks bringing back the old-country melodies that you might remember from your childhood. For young people it's now "in" to dance and play music with a folk-dance company, filling the stages of local festivals with the swirling of colorful outfits, and acrobatic dance moves to the lively, haunting village tunes.

From the Danube plains to the Tatry Mountains and Eastern Slovakia, we'll travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and small cities with well-preserved medieval buildings, Soviet-era remnants, and the vibrant life of Slovakia today. You'll see Slovakia up-close and personal, joining with Slovaks as they celebrate age-old Wine, Harvest and Mining Festivals.

One of the most important parts of the tour is for travelers to explore their own Slovak roots with personalized visits to Slovak family and ancestral villages. Working with our genealogist, we'll help you trace your family history and reconnect with family if that's possible. We'll also help you extend your stay with pre- and post-tour extensions in Slovakia or to Prague, Budapest or Krakow.

For more information and to discuss your personal family plans, please contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144, [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com)

For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com)

### OHIO FRATERNAL ALLIANCE 2020 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance annually awards a college scholarship to a graduating high school senior up to \$500. Scholarship applications may be obtained from any Ohio Fraternal Alliance member fraternal home office or contact: Michael Czarney, tel. 440-420-0995; e-mail: [mczarney@hotmail.com](mailto:mczarney@hotmail.com)

Scholarship Applicant Requirements:

1. Applicant must be Ohio resident. They must be a current youth policy member of a fraternal society, or included in a family member policy that does not have youth policies belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Alliance.
2. Applicant must be a 2020 high school graduate.
3. Applicant must submit a minimum 150-word essay entitled: How I'm personally involved in my Fraternal Society & its Future.
4. Applicant must submit a list of the following activities: Church related activities, local community and volunteer activities, school activities/clubs.
5. Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from a local Fraternal Society officer.
6. Essay, all activities, and letter will be judged.

**Completed application must be dated and submitted by March 27, 2020 and mailed to:** OFA Scholarship Committee, Attn: Michael Czarney, 1208 Meadowbrook Ct., Amherst, OH, 44001

## SLOVENSKÍ VOJACI VO SVETE

V zahraničných operáciách a misiách v rámci medzinárodného krízového manažmentu v súčasnosti pôsobí vyše 500 slovenských profesionálnych vojakov. Celkovo sa ich v zahraničí vyskúšalo už takmer 19,5 tisíce. Viac ako 150 ich v rámci takzvanej posilnenej predsunutej prítomnosti NATO pôsobí pod velením Kanady vo výcvikovom priestore lotyšského mesta Adaži neďaleko hlavného mesta Riga.

Pol stovky vojakov je na operácii Resolute Support v Afganistane, kde zabezpečujú výcvik, poradenstvo a podporu pre afganské bezpečnostné zložky.

V Bosne a Hercegovine je s cieľom monitorovania situácie na celom území krajiny v operácii ALTHEA umiestnený 41-členný kontingent.

Najpočetnejšia misia slovenských vojakov je dislokovaná na Cypre. Slovensko je v nej od roku 2001 jednou z troch vedúcich krajín a pôsobí v nej zhruba 240 slovenských vojakov.

Mimo operácií a misií slúži ešte približne 90 vojakov a zamestnancov ministerstva obrany na rôznych veliteľstvách či v štruktúrach NATO, Európskej únie alebo OSN. Ďalší zastávajú pozíciu vojenských pridelených. Takmer tri desiatky pôsobia v Bruseli v centrálnych NATO a Európskej únie. – *pravda.sk*

## NA SLOVENSKU PRISTÁLI POSLEDNÉ VRTUENÍKY BLACK HAWK

V priestoroch Vrtulníkového krídla generálplukovníka Jána Ambruša v Prešove pristáli v sobotu popoludní posledné tri z deviatich vrtulníkov UH-60M Black Hawk. Ide o naplnenie kontraktu so Spojenými štátmi americkými.

„Kontrakt tak bol naplnený a Slovensko má aktuálne deväť nových viacúčelových vrtulníkov,“ uviedla hovorkyňa Ministerstva obrany SR Danko Čapáková.

Ide o časť dodávky z deviatich vrtulníkov na základe zmluvy s USA Ministerstvo obrany SR realizovalo obstaranie viacúčelových vojenských vrtulníkov UH-60M Black Hawk prostredníctvom amerického vládneho programu FMS (Foreign Military Sales).

V celkovej hodnote 261 miliónov amerických dolárov je okrem ceny vrtulníkov zahrnutá aj dvojročná logistická podpora, výcvik leteckého a technického personálu a výdavky spojené s prepravou vrtulníkov na územie Slovenska. – *TASR*

## STREDNÁ DĹŽKA ŽIVOTA SLOVÁKOV SA ZVÝŠILA

Vyplyva to zo správy Európskej komisie s názvom Stav zdravia v Európskej únii (EÚ) a na Slovensku, ktorej výsledky v piatok prezentovali analytici v kancelárii Zastúpenia Európskej komisie v Slovenskej republike.

Približne polovicu všetkých úmrtí na Slovensku možno pripísať rizikovým faktorom správania. Pre zdravie slovenských občanov predstavuje hrozbu dlhodobá vysoká spotreba tabaku a rastúce miery nadváhy a obezity u detí. Zatiaľ čo vo väčšine krajín EÚ podiely fajčiarov za posledné desaťročie výrazne klesali, na Slovensku zostala spotreba tabaku stabilná.

Miera obezity patrí u dospelých na Slovensku medzi najnižšie v EÚ.

Podľa analytikov tiež Slovensko vykazuje vysoké miery úmrtnosti pre príčiny, ktorým sa dalo predísť a ktoré sa dali liečiť.

## KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Z bratislavského Volkswagenu Slovakia smeruje približne každý piaty vyrobený automobil za Atlantický oceán. Americkí zákazníci majú záujem hlavne o luxusné SUV vozidlá značiek Volkswagen Touareg, Porsche Cayenne, Audi Q7 a Audi Q8. Navyše v slovenskom priemysle pôsobia stovky dodávateľov, ktorých prevodovky, spojky, nárazníky či brzdné doštičky končia vo vozidlách exportovaných do USA.

Uplynulý rok bol veľmi až extrémne teplý na celom území Slovenska. Mesiace jún, november a december sa zapísali ako tie, počas ktorých boli teploty výrazne vyššie od normálu. Teplotne nadnormálne boli väčšinou aj zvyšné mesiace roka. Naopak, v máji boli teploty nižšie ako zvyčajne, výraznejšie odchýlky od normálu však dosiahli iba na západe krajiny. Absolútne najvyššiu teplotu roku 2019 v SR namerali prvého júla v Kuchyni na Záhorí, znamenali tam 37,6 stupňa Celzia. Najnižšiu teplotu pozorovali meteorológovia v Oravskej Lesnej, kde bolo 23. januára mínus 26 stupňov Celzia.

Prvý slovenský mrakodrap pri nábřeží Dunaja v Bratislave naplánovala spoločnosť J&T Real Estate. Veža Eurovea Tower má mať 47 nadzemných podlaží a jej výška dosiahne 168 metrov. Predaj bytov v mrakodrape sa už začal a podľa očakávania lámal rekordy. V niektorých prípadoch ceny presahujú šesťtisíc eur za štvorcový meter.

580 eur je výška minimálnej mzdy na rok 2020. Ide o hrubú mzdu, z ktorej sa ešte odpočítajú odvody a dane. Oproti roku 2019 sa minimálna mzda zvýšila o 60 eur. Upravuje sa aj výška minimálnej mzdy podľa stupňov náročnosti. Suma 580 eur platí pre prvý stupeň náročnosti, pri druhom až šiestom stupni sa minimálna mzda bude pohybovať od 696 eur do 1 160 eur. 3,333 eura je od 1. januára 2020 minimálna mzda za hodinu. Zo súčasných 2,989 eura sa tak zvýši približne o 0,34 eura.

Výroba automobilov na Slovensku sa mierne zvýšila a vystúpila na rekord. Vlni sa vyrobilo viac ako 1 100 000 automobilov. Produkcia v automobilových závodoch Volkswagen Slovakia, Kia Motors Slovakia, PSA Group Slovakia a Jaguar Land Rover totiž v roku 2018 presiahla 1 080 000 vozidiel. Slovensko tak aj naďalej ostáva na prvom mieste vo svete, znamená to, že sa tam vyrobilo 202 osobných motorových vozidiel na 1 000 obyvateľov. Podiel automobilového priemyslu na celkovom priemysle dosiahol 49,5 percenta a podiel na exporte 46,6 percenta. Automobilový priemysel na Slovensku priamo zamestnáva vyše 177-tisíc ľudí a priamo aj nepriamo generuje až 275-tisíc pracovných miest.

V decembri minulého roka sa na Slovensku zaregistrovalo 7 714 nových osobných automobilov. Oproti predchádzajúcemu roku to predstavuje nárast o 29,32 %. Päťtinový podiel na trhu tvorila značka Škoda, za ňou nasledovali Kia a Hyundai. Takmer 30-percentný pokles zaznamenali registrácie malých úžitkových automobilov. Kým v decembri 2019 dosiahli počet 537 vozidiel, rok predtým to pritom bolo 754. V tejto kategórii dominovala značka Fiat. Informoval o tom Zväz automobilového priemyslu SR.



## FAŠIANGOVÁ ZÁBAVA V MILWAUKEE, WI

20. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee, WI usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 22. februára v Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 3100 S. 41<sup>st</sup> Street v Milwaukee, WI. Začiatok bude o 5.00 hodine večer. V kultúrnom programe o 6.30 hod. sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty, tel. č. 414-425-6137; Ellen, tel. č. 262-893-7483.

## OSLAVA V NEW YORK CITY

182. zbor S.K.S. usporiada oslavu svojho patróna sv. Jozefa v nedeľu 15. marca v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého na rohu East 66<sup>th</sup> Street a First Avenue, Manhattan, NY. Slovenská svätá omša bude o 10.15 hodine dopoludnia. Po omši bude v kostolnej hale nasledovať spoločenský program a obed. Usporiadatelia pozývajú členov 168. venca, aby sa na podujatí zúčastnili.

## PÄŤ SPÔSOBOV, AKO VYUŽIŤ CITRÓN

**ODSTRAŇOVAČ ŠKVŔN** ⇒ Prepojte citrón a polovicou potrite znečistené miesto na látke, nechajte pôsobiť niekoľko hodín (cez noc) a následne operte.

**KÚPEL PRE ZELENINU A OVOCIE** ⇒ Ak sa obávate pesticídov a konzervačných postrekov na povrchu ovocia či zeleniny, doprajte im kúpeľ v studenej vode a citrónovej šťave (1PL šťavy na liter vody). Potom ich osušte v papierovej utierke a uskladnite, ako ste zvyknutí. Podobný kúpeľ tiež oživí ovädnutý šalát alebo špenát.



**NA DOSKY NA KRÁJANIE** ⇒ Ak nechcete dosku či povrch, na ktorej ste spracovávali mäso, striekať dezinfekčným prostriedkom. Potrite ich citrónom a následne opláchnite vlažnou vodou. Citrónová šťava pôsobí ako prírodná dezinfekcia a navyše nádherne vonia.

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**NALEŠTITE MEĎ A MOSADZ** ⇒ Handričku zľahka namočte do zmesi citrónovej šťavy a soli, preleštite ňou riad či iné doplnky z mosadze alebo medi a opláchnite ich vlažnou vodou. Budú sa lesknúť ako nové.

## ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

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## FAŠIANGY - OBDOBIE JEDLA A ZÁBAVY



Fašiangy v Čičmanoch

Po sviatku Zjavenia Pána, známom aj pod názvom Traja králi (6. januára), sa 7. januára začali fašiangy, ktoré sa skončia pohyblivým utorkom (25. februára) pred Popolcovou alebo takzvanou škaredou stredou. Tá v roku 2020 pripadne na 26. februára. Fašiangy boli a zostali obdobím jedla a zábavy.

Slovo fašiang pochádza z nemeckého vast-schane, ktoré vo voľnom preklade znamená posledný nápoj. Symbolizovalo nasťavajúci 40-dňový pôst pred Veľkou nocou, ktorý sa v minulosti bral vážne. Preto mali byť posledné fašiangové dni, nazývané ostatky, dňami zábavy. Z veľkomoravského obdobia je známy názov mjasopust.

Korene fašiangových zvykov siahajú do dávnej minulosti, až k slovanským pohanským predkom. Podľa dĺžky fašiangového obdobia sa rozlišovali krátke a dlhé fašiangy.

Naši predkovia žili a stravovali sa striedmo, ale počas fašiangov pred pôstom bolo zvykom jesť do sýtosti. Tradičnými jedlami boli fánky, šišky, pampúchy, záviný a rôzne zabíjačkové špeciality.

Inú formu získali fašiangy po prijatí kresťanstva. Z nich ako fragment zostali až do dnešných dní obchôdzky v maskách. V súčasnosti ide skôr o zábavu, ale v minulosti mali masky rituálny význam. Tie fašiangové boli najmä zvieracie. V prvej polovici 20. storočia k maskám pribudol aj vojak so šablou a na ňu napichovali gazdiné potravinové podarúčky. Každá obec mala svoje tradičné vinšovačky:

*Od Fašiang do Veľkej noci,  
 vinšujem vám kratšej noci,  
 cez deň slnka tepleho  
 a zdravička pevného!  
 Fašiangy sa krátia,  
 viac sa už nevrátia!*

Fašiangové obchôdzky a zábavy vrcholili na spoločnej veselici v krčme, kde sa vystrojila hostina spojená s tancovačkou a o polnoci sa pochovávala basa. Akt pochovania basy symbolizoval, že hudobné nástroje zmlknu, zábava sa končí, nastáva obdobie pôstu a ľudia sa majú ponoriť viac do seba. – TASR



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