



*Za Boha a národ*

*For God and Nation*

# Slovak Catholic Falcon

## Slovenský katolícky sokol

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## Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

The plans for the Society's 34th Quadrennial Convention, August 5-8, 2023, at the Scranton Hilton, Scranton, PA, are being reviewed and updated to assure the Delegates and guests a pleasant stay and grand experience in the Electric City.



The Verification Committee, as per our By-Laws, myself and our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. met on April 12, 2023, at the Home Office to examine the Delegate forms sent in by the Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths to verify the eligibility of the members wishing to be a delegate to the 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention. Over 180 delegate forms were received, which shows the membership is involved and interested in making decisions that will improve our Society. The Committee

also selected from the members that indicated on their form they were willing to serve on a Convention Committee the members to serve on the various Committees. Information on the Convention schedule, and proceedings are being sent to the Delegates for their planning.

On Saturday, April 15, 2023, Brother Scott, and I had the privilege of traveling to East Douglas, MA to honor our 2022 Fraternalist of the Year (FOTY) Sister Judith Manyak from Group 3, Douglas, Massachusetts. Sister Judy's family organized a welcoming and warm fraternal celebration for her at the Group 3 Sokol Club. With her family and friends in attendance Brother Scott and I gave remarks on how important Sister Judy is to Group 3 and Society by being a leader who takes care of not only her own but an extended national Sokol family. For over three decades she took her teams into battle on the hardwood

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## LAW DAY MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL COUNSEL

On May 1, 2023, America celebrates Law Day. This marks the 66th annual observance of this special day set aside to commemorate the law. Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share. It is an appropriate occasion for us to pause and



consider the role of law in our society and the responsibilities of every citizen with respect to law. We should dedicate this day and emphasize the great heritage of American law which protects our rights and freedom. This year's theme is "Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration" which emphasizes the dynamic growth of the law that continues to function and protect our freedoms despite the complexity and size of our government and society.

Our nation is dedicated to individual liberty and the fundamental freedom of man. We Sokols instinctively recognize the law as the guardian of our liberty. We know that where the law is disobeyed, there chaos exists. Our law, although not perfect, is the marvel of the modern world. Under it, we have grown and progressed to become the richest and most powerful nation in the world. For over 247 years, we have prospered through an ingenious system of laws founded upon a written Constitution setting forth the limited powers of a central government with defined checks and balances upon co-equal branches of government. Today in our country, every person enjoys more equal social justice, more protection of life, liberty, and property, a broader opportunity to pursue happiness, and a greater personal freedom than has ever been provided for by any other system in recorded history.

What should Law Day mean to you as a Sokol? My message of Law Day to each of you is that a just and democratic rule of law must prevail in order that we may live

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY SCOTT T. POGORELEC, F.I.C. CONVENTION PREP!



Greetings from Passaic, NJ! Spring is here and for most of us, the temperatures are slowly rising. We have even experienced some 90 degree days here in Jersey!



It is hard to believe, but the Convention is three months away. By now, most of our Delegates should have received their first correspondence with the hotel reservation information and the tentative Convention

Schedule. I wanted to give our Delegates a little tutorial on how to access some of our Convention items that are currently on or will be on the website under our Convention Menu. If you go to our website, [www.slovakcatholicssokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicssokol.org), you will see a list of items on the top of page. The last item on the right, you will find "Convention".



If you click "Convention", your browser will go directly to the menu.



Currently on the Menu, you will find the aforementioned reservation letter and updated schedule. Regarding the reservation letter, all rooms are based on double occupancy. The Single Room Supplement is \$250.00 and must be pre-paid before July 15, 2023 payable to the "Slovak Catholic Sokol." Delegates should make every effort to pair-up and share rooms. You will also find the Convention Committee information. Please note that all suggested and recommended changes to be considered by the By-laws and New Motions Committees must be submitted in writing and mailed to the Home Office no later than May 31, 2023. Also, any petition and donation requests must be submitted in writing and mailed to the Home Office by July 3, 2023. No donation requests will be accepted from the Convention floor.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to add more information to the Convention Menu, such as the Four-Year Supreme Officer Reports. We have decided that it is more efficient and cost effective to put the reports up electronically for our Delegates to read. I will also be emailing the reports to all the supplied emails given by our Delegates in their registration form. If any delegate still wants a hard copy mailed to them, please contact me at the Home Office and I will be glad to send you one.

If anyone has any questions regarding the Convention, please feel free to reach out to me at (800) 886-7656 or email me at, [scott@slovakcatholicssokol.org](mailto:scott@slovakcatholicssokol.org).

A big congratulations to our 2022 Fraternalist of the Year, Judith Manyak, of Douglas, MA. I had the pleasure of attending the celebration of Judy on April 15, 2023 in Douglas, MA. Sister Judy has been a member of our Society for over 50 years and those years have been filled with service, passion, and love. Congratulations again Judy!

God Bless all our Members and Happy Mother's Day to all our Sokol Moms!

Until next time, stay safe, stay strong, and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

## Sokol Calendar

**SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023**

**THE GROUP 3 SEMI ANNUAL MEETING** at 10 a.m. at the Sokol Hall Rt 16 Douglas, MA. All Group 3 Members are invited to attend. This is an important meeting as we will be discussing items pertaining to this year's Convention being held in August in Scranton, PA. Coffee and danish will be available.  
– **Christine Manyak, Group 3 Secretary**  
**MAY 19 - 20, 2023**

**NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT** at the Airport Lanes, 3754 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY. Accommodations at Buffalo Airport Hotel, 4600 Genesee St. Application will be available by February 1. Deadline for applications is April 17.

**SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023**

**FRIENDS OF SLOVAKIA 2023 PICNIC** from 3:00 to 7:00 at the Knights of Columbus in Arlington, Virginia. Cost: \$15 per person (high-school age and older). Children younger than high-school age are free. Pay at the door by cash, check, or Venmo.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023**

Join **SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ASSEMBLY 78 AND PARISH MEMBERS OF INCARNATION OF OUR LORD IN BETHLEHEM, PA** to gather and kick off the summer with a **SAUERKRAUT AND PORK CELEBRATION**. 2 p.m. Mass at Incarnation of Our Lord, 3 p.m. Sauerkraut & Pork Celebration at Labuda Reception Hall. Tickets are \$10 each and will go on sale May 1<sup>st</sup>. Buy tickets at church or contact Assembly 78 President, Francis Blonar at 610-866-8381.

**JULY 13-16, 2023**

**50<sup>TH</sup> SLET** at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA.

**AUGUST 5-8, 2023**

**34<sup>TH</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION**, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, Scranton, PA.

**AUGUST 18-20, 2023**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT** at Kensington Golf Club, Canfield, OH.

### SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the **SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON** will be that of **JUNE 1, 2023**. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **MAY 22, 2023**.

The next **SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL NEWSLETTER** will be posted on our website on **MAY 15, 2023**.

# MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING HELD IN SCRANTON, PA

## MINUTES OF THE 2023 SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On March 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., S.C.S. Museum President Edward D. Moeller called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to our annual meeting.

A Memorial Prayer Service to pray for all members who have died this past year was conducted by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC.

Supreme Physical Director, Martin Degnan, led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brother Moeller proceeded to ask Museum Secretary/Treasurer James Knis, to conduct the roll call of the Museum Board of Directors. The roll call was conducted, and all ten Directors were present.

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board held on March 19, 2022, were approved on a motion made by Supreme General Counsel John Pogorelec Jr., and seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James Jerek. Motion approved by a voice vote.

Under correspondence, Museum President Moeller reported we received thank you letters from three of the four recipients of last year's scholarships.

Brother Moeller noted that thanks to the generous donations from members and corporate donors, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship Fund continued to accumulate enough funds which has allowed us to offer four \$1,000 scholarships. He acknowledged we again received a generous donation from PNC Bank through the efforts of Mr. Thomas Calimano, Vice-President/Marketing Director, and S.C.S. Portfolio Manager.

Museum Treasurer Knis reported a net increase of \$1,061.48 as the January 1, 2022, balance was \$22,432.51 and the December 31, 2022, balance was \$23,493.99. Museum funds are deposited into two accounts, \$11,614.24 with PNC Bank which earns a minimum amount of interest and \$11,879.75 which earned 2% interest with the Sokol Secure Fund. 2022 total income was \$5,094.48, with \$4,785.00 coming from donations and \$309.48 from interest. The Treasurer reported total expenses for 2022 of \$4,033.00, which represents four \$1,000 scholarships and \$33.00 for the New Jersey filing fee. The Treasurer advised the names of the donors were published quarterly in the Falcon. A motion to approve his report was made by Supreme President, Michael Horvath, and seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James Matlon and approved by a voice vote.

Supreme Secretary, Scott Pogorelec reported we had four visitors to the Museum this past year.

In new business, after discussion, Brother Moeller recommended we award up to four \$1,000 scholarships this year. A motion was made by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James Matlon, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James Jerek. Motion approved by a voice vote.

A discussion was held regarding the importance of getting the video of the Museum completed this year, especially in line with the possible sale of the building.

Chairman Moeller asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned on a motion from Supreme President, Michael Horvath and seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
**James F. Knis**  
*Museum Board Secretary/Treasurer*

## MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING HELD IN SCRANTON, PA

Friday, March 17, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, March 17, 2023, and welcomed all the members of the Board.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F. offered the **Opening Prayer** leading the Directors in the reading of the Prayer to Practice the Golden Rule.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. took the **Roll Call** and the following members responded:

Supreme Chaplain.....Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC  
Supreme President.....Michael J. Horvath  
Supreme Vice-President.....Edward D. Moeller  
Supreme Secretary.....Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.  
Supreme Treasurer.....James F. Knis  
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.....Martin Degnan  
Supreme Physical Directress.....Katie Swift

The record will show all ten members of the Board of Directors are in attendance. Acknowledged

President Horvath gave his **Opening Remarks**, welcoming the Board of Directors to the site of our 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention and thanking them for their hard work and dedication to the organization.

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on December 4-5, 2022, and published in the February 1, 2023, issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, seconded by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC.

Approved  
President Horvath advised the Directors that they have all received copies of the **2022 Directors Activity Reports** and requested a motion for their acceptance. Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, will forward any typographical mistakes found to our Supreme Secretary for correction. General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

The Supreme President then announced the following **Committee Assignments**.

**ASSIGNMENT OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES****BUDGET COMMITTEE****James F. Knis, Chairperson**

Michael J. Horvath

Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

James G. Jerek

**PHYSICAL FITNESS COMMITTEE****James C. Matlon, Chairperson**

Martin Degnan

Katie Swift

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic

John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

**SCHOLARSHIP ADVISORY/SELECTION COMMITTEE****Edward D. Moeller, Chairperson**

Michael J. Horvath

Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

James F. Knis\*

Katie Swift\*

\*(Two different B.O.D. Members will rotate each year)

Acknowledged

President Horvath asked the Supreme Secretary to present any **Communications** or greetings.

Brother Secretary indicated that well wishes for a successful meeting were received from Group 7 President, Amy Degnan Blasco, on behalf of all Group 7 members and from Honorary Supreme Officer, Larry M. Glugosh, on behalf of all Group 19 members.

Also received were letters from Mark Papcun, S-036 President, and Joan Pupik, S-214 President, regarding a merge of Assemblies. The Board agreed to table the discussion to the Bylaw Committee as it would impact Section 6.0 of the Bylaws.

Acknowledged

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., to present the **2022 Annual Financial Report of the Supreme Secretary**.

Several questions were presented and addressed in a general discussion. A motion to accept the report was made by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, and seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis. Approved

President Horvath then asked our Supreme Secretary to give the Board an update on the **2022 Sales Report**.

Brother Secretary reported that as of December 31, 2022, a total of 293 new members have joined our organization through the purchase of life insurance and annuity certificates. The total face amount of insurance issued for 2022 was just over five million.

The total number of certificates in force is 29,804, consisting of 28,869 life certificates and 935 annuity certificates.

The total amount of life premium dollars remained strong in 2022. We have built a solid base of renewal premium over the last five years primarily through Legacy Life and Legacy 20.

Brother Secretary also updated the Board on the Agent Sales' Campaigns, as well as the Membership Campaign centered around our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet in 2023.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board. President Horvath thanked Brother Secretary for presenting the report and entertained a motion for acceptance, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

President Horvath thanked Brother Secretary and called upon the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, to present the **2022 Annual Report of the Supreme Auditors**.

**2022 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Supreme Auditors have reviewed the records and accounts of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and hereby present the 2022 Annual Report:

1.	<b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 40,993.22</u>
2.	<b>BUILDING RENTALS</b>	
	A. First floor office space is leased by the Slovak League of America.	\$ 3,300.00
	B. Tri County Plumbing rents supply storage space.	\$ 6,500.00
	C. Little Achievers Academic Child Care	\$ 82,109.67
	D. Museum	\$ 15,000.00
	E. Parking leases on a month to month basis.	\$ 4,980.00
	Total Rental income January 1 to Dec 31, 2022	<u>\$ 111,889.67</u>
3.	<b>FRATERNAL CONGRESS EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 11,579.40</u>
4.	<b>34th QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION</b>	
	August 5 - 8, 2023 in Scranton, PA	\$ 62,513.42
	Travel Expense	\$ -
	Meals and Banquet Charges	\$ -
	Lodging	\$ -
	Per Diems/Officers and Delegates	\$ -
	Donations	\$ -
	Committees	\$ -
	Printing Expenses	\$ -
	Gifts for Delegates	\$ -
	Audio/Visual, Sound Systems	\$ -
	Office Expense	\$ -
	Planning Meeting	\$ -
	Entertainment	\$ -
	Total	<u>\$ 62,513.42</u>
5.	<b>OUTSTANDING SLET BALANCES</b>	
	All Groups Current	\$ -
	Total	<u>\$ -</u>
6.	<b>PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ -</u>
7.	<b>PUBLICATION EXPENSES</b>	
	Slovak Catholic Falcon	
	Printing	\$ 25,275.00
	Postage	\$ 13,600.00
	Annual Activity Review Book	\$ -
	Miscellaneous Printing	\$ 280.00
	Total	<u>\$ 39,155.00</u>
8.	<b>REVIEW OF EXISTING MORTGAGES</b>	
	A. Outstanding Mortgage Balances:	<u>\$ 564,320.52</u>
	B. Interest income on mortgages	<u>\$ 24,801.20</u>
9.	<b>SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE</b>	
	Scholarships	\$ 43,427.10
	Committee Expenses	\$ -
	Total	<u>\$ 43,373.85</u>
10.	<b>SPORTS AND ATHLETIC EXPENSES</b>	
	A. District Tournaments	
	None Held	<u>\$ -</u>
	B. 76th International Bowling Tournament	
	May 13-14, 2022 Cleveland, OH	
	Home Office Allotment	\$ 2,090.00
	Returned to Home Office	\$ (24.00)
	Total	\$ 2,066.00
	Supreme Officers Expense/Insurance	\$ 3,980.97
	Total	<u>\$ 6,046.97</u>

(Continued on page 7)

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,  
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic  
**MAY IS MARY'S MONTH**

For centuries, the Catholic Church has emphasized the month of May as a time of honor and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Parishes and families often celebrate with special pilgrimages, devotions, or placing a crown on a statue of Mary, traditionally called a "May Crowning."



On April 29, 1965, Pope Blessed Paul VI promulgated his encyclical *Mense Maio* ("The Month of May"), which promoted May devotions to the Blessed Mother, knowing that, "the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise". Despite being a lesser-known encyclical, its timing and topic are revealing. Released on the eve of the last session of the Second Vatican Council and amid escalating violence and unrest of the Vietnam War and the 1960's, the help of Mary was "a matter of top priority" considering "the present needs of the Church and the status of world peace". The words of Paul VI are just as relevant today. In our contentious social and political climate, focusing on Mary is not a pious distraction from real issues, but a vital source for grace, truth, and mercy.

May devotions to Mary began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but there is little information to know how it was celebrated. In its present form, the practice of May devotions to Mary originated within the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in the 18<sup>th</sup> century under Father Latomia of their Roman College. Shortly afterwards, devotions were adopted at the Jesuit's mother church in Rome, the Church of the Gesù, and then began to spread throughout other area churches to the entire globe. (Pope Francis, who is also a Jesuit, has a special devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots, a phrase first attributed to St. Irenaeus of Lyons who said, "The knot of Eve's disobedience was loosened by the obedience of Mary").

The image of Mary wearing a gold crown appears in early Eastern and Western iconography, drawing inspiration from the Coronation of Mary as understood in Catholic biblical tradition based on the passage from Revelation 12:1. Some churches and families participate in a special May Crowning celebration. Pope Clement VIII (1592-1605) first placed two crowns on the Marian icon called "Salus Populi Romani" in the Roman Basilica of St. Mary Major, but the crowns were later lost. On the Feast of the Assumption in 1838, Pope Gregory XVI once again added crowns in a special rite, officially starting the tradition as it is still performed today.

One reason the devotion has come to extend over the entire month is the abundance of Marian feast days in May: Mary, Queen of Apostles (Saturday before Pentecost – May 14<sup>th</sup>, this year), Our Lady of Fatima (May 13), Mary Help of Christians (May 24), and the Visitation (May 31).

For good measure, May also celebrates our biological Mother's Day (May 14<sup>th</sup>, don't forget!). Let Mary's month be a new reason to honor and celebrate your own mother.

There is no lack of reasons to stay close to Mary this month, and throughout our lives. Find ways to honor her with your words and actions by seeking new ways to bring about mercy and peace through our churches into our hurting world.

# Attention!

## ALL SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEMBERS

The 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention of our organization will be held in Scranton, PA from August 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Bylaws and New Motions Committee will be selected after the Verifications and Eligibility Committee meets in April, 2023.

"ALL" suggested and recommended changes to be considered by these committees, whether they are a Bylaw change or a New Motion, must be submitted in writing and mailed to the Home Office and received by May 31, 2023.

**NO FAXED COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

Zdar Boh!

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

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

## AS PER OUR ORGANIZATION'S BYLAWS

### DONATION REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 34<sup>TH</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

In order to insure that our members and delegates to our upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention, scheduled for August 5 - August 8, 2023 in Scranton, PA, understand the procedure for donation requests at the Convention, I refer to page 15, Section 2.2(c) of our Bylaws. This section states: "The Petitions and Donations Committee shall consist of the Supreme Chaplain, Supreme President, and Supreme Secretary. Donations shall be limited to a maximum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) to any one church, religious organization, social or cultural association, with a total donation limit of Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00).

Petitions and requests for donations must be submitted in writing and mailed to my attention at the Home Office, 205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ 07055 no later than one (1) month prior to the Convention. No Faxed copies or E-mails will be accepted. This year's deadline for submitting all petitions and donation requests is Wednesday, July 5, 2023. No petition or donation request will be accepted from the Convention floor. The Committee shall submit a written report to the Convention.

I hope that all members and delegates fully understand our Bylaws related to petitions and donations. Our Bylaws clearly state our official policy and therefore serve as our guide in all our Convention deliberations and decisions. I bring this important issue to your attention so that we all have sufficient time to submit any petition or donation request to be considered by the Committee and delegates of the 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this important matter.

Zdar Boh!

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

# MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 5)

**C. 50th International Slet**

To be held July 12 - 15, 2023 University of Kurtztown, PA

**D. 67th International Golf Tournament**

August 12-14, 2022 DuBois, PA

Home Office Allotment	\$	5,600.00
Returned to Home Office (surplus)	\$	1,142.94
		<u>4,457.06</u>
Supreme Officers Expense/Insurance	\$	5,886.93
	\$	<u>10,343.99</u>

**E. International Clinic**July 15 -17, 2022 Kurtztown University,  
Kurtztown, PATotal \$ 38,600.27**F. Other Sports & Youth Programs**Walking Program  
Kid's Corner Reading Program  
Insurance

	\$	-
	\$	-
	\$	336.00
Total	\$	<u>336.00</u>

**Summary of Sports and Athletic Expenses**

<b>A. District Tournaments</b>	\$	-
<b>B. 76th International Bowling Tournament</b>	\$	6,046.97
<b>C. 50th International Slet</b>	\$	-
<b>D. 67th International Golf Tournament</b>	\$	10,343.99
<b>E. International Clinic</b>	\$	38,600.27
<b>F. Other Sports Expenses</b>	\$	336.00
Total	\$	<u>55,327.23</u>

**11. OTHER ACCOUNTS REVIEWED**

Accountant Expenses	\$	35,062.89
Actuarial Expense	\$	108,730.00
Advertising / Promotional	\$	12,598.04
Agency Expenses	\$	21,838.89
Annuity Commissions	\$	76,451.85
Annuity Withdrawal & Cash Surrenders	\$	9,392,404.09
Bank Charges - Bond Department	\$	183,193.74
Building Maintenance and Repairs	\$	13,164.48
Commission Expenses	\$	185,822.50
Computer Expenses	\$	69,733.79
Death Benefit Claims Paid & Paid Up Additions & Annuity Death Benefits	\$	3,202,718.41
Donations and Contributions	\$	11,883.05
Dues & Subscriptions	\$	3,877.19
Group Assessments	\$	46,486.78
Hospitalization	\$	62,159.16
Interest Expense	\$	111,104.42
Marketing Expenses	\$	15,051.18
Miscellaneous Income	\$	26,910.97
Office Expenses	\$	12,765.64
Operating Expense-Sokol Building	\$	65,400.71
Other Legal Expenses	\$	3,970.09
Pension Plans Office/Officers Payments	\$	391,283.35
Pension Plans-Print Shop Payments	\$	1,831.76
Postage Office	\$	10,238.66
Property Taxes-Sokol Building	\$	91,701.24
Rental Area Expenses	\$	13,904.46
Reserve Annuity Supplemental Contracts	\$	2,791,403.80
Salaries-Editorial	\$	40,319.10
Salaries-Office	\$	363,306.00
Salaries-Supreme Officers	\$	113,050.00
Sale of Cookbooks	\$	527.50
SKS 2020 Committee	\$	1,000.00
State Insurance Licenses & Fees	\$	3,676.41
Supreme Auditors	\$	11,449.19
Supreme Officers Employee Bonding	\$	2,051.00
Supreme Officers Travel	\$	8,307.72
Supreme Officers Uniform Allowance	\$	208.55
Telephone-Editorial	\$	2,470.02
Telephone-Office	\$	6,570.03
Workman's Compensation	\$	5,291.76

We, the Supreme Auditors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol would like to thank the members for allowing us the honor and privilege to serve as your Auditors.

We, the Supreme Auditors, conducted our Audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and practices. In reviewing the accounts of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, we found the accounts to be in order and in agreement with the financial report of the Supreme Secretary.

We, the undersigned Supreme Auditors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, gratefully acknowledge the kindness and cooperation of the following during the audit: Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Office Consultant, Peter Dobko, Bookkeeper, Melanie Sasiela, and the Home Office Staff of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

We, the undersigned Supreme Auditors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol hereby acknowledge that on, March 15, 2023 we reviewed the policy of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in accordance with PA Act 154 regarding the marketing practices and found that the Slovak Catholic Sokol is in compliance with PA Act 154.

We, your Supreme Auditors would like to assure the membership of the Slovak Catholic Sokol that we are active Slovak Catholic Sokols and participate in our Organization's activities on all levels in addition to our regular Supreme Auditor reporting responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,

**James G. Jerek***Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors***Edward P. Bajus***Supreme Auditor***Bradley P. Hoeck***Supreme Auditor*

Brother Jerek addressed several questions and touched on the various recommendations from the Supreme Auditors to the satisfaction of the Board.

A motion to accept the report was made by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr. Esq. and seconded by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon.

Brother President thanked Brother Jerek and called upon Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, to present the **2023 Budget Report**.

The Supreme Treasurer indicated that the Budget Committee, consisting of himself, the Supreme President, the Supreme Secretary, and the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors met various times virtually to discuss the 2023 Budget. Brother Knis noted that especially during these volatile fiscal times, certain numbers are always subject to change.

Brother Knis addressed several questions to the satisfaction of the Board. A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic and seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek.

President Horvath thanked Brother Knis and called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. to present the **Legal Department Report**.

General Counsel informed the Board of Group 4's desire to change the home city to Milwaukee, WI, as most of its active membership resides in that area. Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis,

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# MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 7)

made a motion to accept the change, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Approved

Brother Counsel also updated the Board on the sale of the existing print shop. A meeting with the Zoning Board of Passaic, NJ is scheduled for April 25, 2023, to discuss the matter further. Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, made a motion that pending the deliberations at the April 25th meeting, we begin the process and investigation of potentially selling the entire Home Office Building, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller.

Approved

Brother Counsel and Brother Secretary will update the Board on any developments regarding the property.

Brother Counsel then discussed the S.C.S. Policy Statement with respect to **Conflicts of Interest**, reminding the Directors, that the Slovak Catholic Sokol has the utmost confidence in the loyalty and integrity of its officers, directors, and employees. He reemphasized the traditional policy of the Slovak Catholic Sokol on this subject that each Supreme Officer has a signed completed statement on file. The State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance recommended that the approval of the Statement of Conflict of Interest be made part of the minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting.

To comply with this request, Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, Martin Degnan.

Approved

General Counsel also updated the Board on the mortgages currently on file. All insurance and interest payments are on time and statements are being provided monthly.

Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Approved

The Supreme President then asked the Supreme Secretary for the **Donation Requests**.

1. **Slovak Catholic Federation**, Bridgeport, PA, request from Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Appeal Coordinator, request for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

**The Board recommends** a donation of \$500 in support of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

2. **Chair of Slovak History and Culture**, Ottawa, ON, Canada, request from M. Mark Stolarik, Professor and Chair Holder, request to support the activities of the Chair.

**The Board recommends** a donation of \$200 in support of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture.

3. **Gianna House**, Eastpointe, MI, request from Group 16 President, Andrea Papcun, to help cover repairs after bursting pipes caused flooding. Gianna House is a safe residence for at-risk, pregnant young mothers-to-be and mothers with infants. Group 16 would match the donation.

**The Board recommends** a donation of \$200 in support of Gianna House.

4. **Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association**, Pittsburgh, PA, request from Joseph Senko, Executive Director, requesting a donation of \$300 for sponsorship fee.

**The Board recommends** a donation of \$300 to cover the sponsorship fee for 2023.

5. **Assembly 167 Sokol Club**, Barberton, OH, request from Julie Laurry, Recording Secretary S-167, requesting a donation to help defray the costs for a new roof for the Sokol Club.

**The Board recommends** a donation of \$200 towards the repairs of the Sokol Club.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, made a motion to accept the Donation Report, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Approved

President Horvath thanked the Supreme Secretary and called upon Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, for the **Scholarship Report**.

Brother Moeller reported that as of March 17, 2023, we have received a handful of completed applications. Brother Edward indicated that like in the past, more applications come during the week before the deadline, which is March 31, 2023.

The Scholarship Selection Committee will meet in May to select the 2022-2023 recipients. Acknowledged

Brother President then called upon the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, for the **Physical Fitness Committee Report**.

The annual meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from January 13-15, 2023. During our annual meeting, the Fitness Board discussed a variety of ways to try and increase the number of Groups and Group leaders to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet at Kutztown University. We also had follow-up zoom calls on February 7<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Slet schedule and recommendations to help make our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet a success. We will have another zoom call on April 11<sup>th</sup> to update the progress on all the required tasks for the Slet.

Arrangements are finalized for the 77<sup>th</sup> International Bowling Tournament at AMF Airport Lanes in Buffalo, NY. This year will be our second combined annual bowling tournament with the GCU, FCSU and NSS. I have received six bowling applications as of March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The 68<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament will be held at Kennsington Golf Course, in Canfield, Ohio. The Flying B Golf Course, located nearby Salem, Ohio, will be the second course for the annual tournament. The hotel lodging will be at the Courtyard by Marriott at Kennsington Golf Course and Holiday Inn in nearby Boardman, Ohio.

The applications, information letter and hole sponsorship are currently posted on our website and will be emailed to our golfers in April.

The dates, locations, and assignments for our 2023 athletic programs:

<u>2023 Events</u>	<u>Host City</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
<b>Bowling</b>	AMF Airport Lanes Buffalo, NY	May 19-20	Kristen Popik	
<b>Slet</b>	Kutztown University Kutztown, PA	July 13-16	Fitness Board	
<b>Golf</b>	Kennsington, Golf Course Canfield, OH	August 18-20	Robert Palchanis	

**2023 ANNUAL SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

Following are the proposed recommendations from the 2023 Physical Fitness Board meeting for review and approval at the annual Board of Directors meeting in March. We thank our Group Presidents, Sports Directors, Physical Directors, Physical Directresses, and valued members of our society for bringing forth their input and ideas.

1. The prize allotment for the International Bowling Tournament remains \$60.00 per team (\$30.00/team, \$20.00/double, and \$10.00/single). No increase.
2. The banquet and souvenir allotment for the International Bowling Tournaments not to exceed \$35.00 per participant. No increase
3. The banquet, prize money and souvenir allotment of \$55.00 per participant for the International Golf Tournament. An additional \$5.00 to help cover the increasing banquet prices.
4. An allotment, not to exceed \$2,000.00 to the Walking Program for all related mailings, certificates, and prizes. No increase.
5. An allotment, not to exceed \$2,000.00, to purchase props for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet for both male and female drillers. No Increase.
6. Recommend an allotment of \$20.00 per participant for a souvenir at the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet.
7. The Home Office will cover the cost for the Pennsylvania and Kutztown University background checks for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet.
8. Recommend that a \$50.00 per diem for all Physical Directors, Physical Directresses and Sports Directors and \$30.00 per diem for Assistant Physical Directors and Directresses for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet. The Group Officers must abide by all the rules and qualifications for the Slet as established by the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.
9. Recommend that any Group with 25 or more male or female participants at the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet may assign one qualified chaperone to be considered as a Slet participant. (1 chaperone/25 male participants – 1 chaperone/25 female participants).
10. Recommend the entire Board of Directors attend the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet Exhibition on Saturday.
11. Invite past Supreme Physical Directors, Supreme Physical Directresses and Sports Directors to our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet for the Saturday Exhibition.
12. Recommend that we have four Slovak Catholic Sokol members as drill judges for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet. The judges will be considered participants and receive \$75.00 per diem, up to a maximum of three days.

13. We also are requesting if needed to have up to 4 external drill judges for our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet, at a maximum cost of \$125 per judge per day.
14. Videos of our fraternal activities and annual sporting events as a marketing tool to help increase participation and membership.

After a lively discussion regarding all items and recommendations, General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., moved for the acceptance of the report, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis.

Approved

Having completed all the business on the morning agenda, Brother President entertained a motion to adjourn for lunch, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller.

Approved

**SECOND SESSION  
Friday, March 17, 2023 - 1:00 p.m.**

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

President Horvath then welcomed Allan Ferrone, CPS Actuarial, to present the **Actuarial Report**.

Mr. Ferrone presented the yearly report on the results of the Slovak Catholic Sokol's Annual Statement.

The Sokol assets now stand at just under one hundred million, as we saw annuity withdrawals pick up in 2022.

Brother Ferrone reported on the operational results in 2022. The amount of money the Sokol collects from investment income and premiums is less than the money being paid out for benefits, insurance/fraternal expenses, dividends, and the amount needed to fund the required increases in reserves. Brother Allan indicated the Sokol needs to find ways to lower expenses and went over certain areas where change can affect operations in a positive way. The Home Office and Board will continue to find ways to lower expenses.

A discussion ensued regarding the operational results and areas where the Sokol can improve their efforts. Mr. Ferrone answered all questions to the satisfaction of the Board.

Brother President then called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano and Ms. Cynthia Cole, of PNC Institutional Asset Management to present the **PNC Advisor's Report**. Tom and Cindy were also joined by Ms. Debbie Kolsovsky, PNC's Northeast Regional Market Director.

Mr. Calimano discussed PNC's outlook for the financial markets and the economy with the Board. Additionally, he reviewed the investment strategies recently implemented in both the equity and fixed income portfolios and future potential strategic changes in the portfolio. The individually invested bond portfolio for the twelve months ended December 31, 2022, continues to be of high quality with a solid investment grade rating average.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole also discussed future potential portfolio repositioning and PNC's outlook for the financial markets during these challenging times.

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

A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Director of

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## REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2022

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME TREASURER

I hereby submit my Annual Report for the year 2022 to the Supreme Board of Directors in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

The duties, obligations, and responsibilities of the Supreme Treasurer are spelled out in our Bylaws, and I have worked to the best of my abilities to perform them as Supreme Treasurer. I again need to take this opportunity to thank all of the delegates for giving me this opportunity to serve as Supreme Treasurer.

As the Secretary/Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum, I processed all donations to the Museum Account, reported those donations on a Quarterly basis in the Slovak Catholic Falcon, and processed all necessary paperwork.

In the month leading up to our first Board of Directors meeting, as Chairperson of the Budget Committee, I conducted several conversations with the Supreme Secretary, Supreme President, and Supreme Auditor regarding the 2022 Proposed Budget to present it for approval at that meeting.

On March 18-19, 2022, I attended the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Annual Meeting which was held in Wilkes-Barre, PA. During that meeting I presented the Museum's Annual Financial Report. At the conclusion of the Museum Meeting, I attended the First Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting for the year where I presented the Slovak Catholic Sokol Annual Budget for discussion and approval. It should be noted that the Board meeting was held in Wilkes-Barre so the Board Members could see firsthand the marketing campaign we are conducting in conjunction with the Wilkes-Barre Pens.

On May 13, 2022, assisted the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics with the 76th International Bowling Tournament.

On June 23, 2022, I attended the Second Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, which was held via Zoom.

In July, I submitted the required Annual Report to the State of New Jersey for the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum. I also processed the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Scholarships which because of the growth of the scholarship funds, we were able to increase from three to four deserving recipients.

On August 13, 2022, assisted the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics with the 66th International Golf Tournament.

On September 17-18, 2022, I attended the Third Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting for the year which was held in Independence, Ohio so the Board Members could attend the St. Andrew Abbey Centennial Mass and Celebration.

On October 9, 2022, I attended the Group 5 Annual Meeting, which was held via Zoom.

On December 4-5, 2022, I attended our final Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting for the year, which was held in Boca Raton, Florida.

Other Sokol activities included serving my 44th year as President of Assembly 180 in Canton, Ohio. Assembly 180 had another great year in representing the Sokol spirit. I participated in our philanthropic projects including school supplies for the needy, stocking the St. Mary's Food Pantry, supplying turkeys for the underprivileged, supporting Ronald McDonald house, and the purchasing and wrapping of Christmas presents for the underprivileged.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow Board Members, for their cooperation in working through the many issues which come before us as a Board and their support in dealing with the committees I was involved with, such as the Sokol Museum, the budget com-

mittee, and salary committee. While many organizations are still limited in their activities, the Sokols were able to conduct very successful Bowling and Golf Tournaments and the clinic in preparation for the Slet.

Zdar Boh!

**James F. Knis**, *Supreme Treasurer*

### REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4.11G) of the Constitution and By Laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the undersigned hereby submits this report for the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors to detail the activities of the General Counsel during calendar year 2022.

Pursuant to the By Laws, my office continues to review new state and federal legislation pertaining to fraternal benefit societies in the various states in which the Slovak Catholic Sokol is licensed to do business. The objective is to determine whether pending litigation will have an adverse effect on or ability to continue to do business within each particular state. Particular emphasis is placed upon the review of tax legislation which may attempt to eliminate the tax exempt status of our organization. Currently, there is no adverse legislation which will negatively impact our organization.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I have attended all meetings called by our Supreme President. My participation at these meetings is well-documented, and the minutes of these meetings are published in our Slovak Catholic Falcon. When called upon by our Supreme President and Supreme Secretary, I have rendered opinions and given advice concerning questions of law relating to our Slovak Catholic Sokol organization. I continue to participate in as many Sokol functions as my schedule allows me to attend.

In matters concerning contract negotiations, I previously informed our membership that our organization entered into a contract with one of its long-standing tenants to sell a parcel of real estate on the home office site which had previously served as our print shop. The purchase price is \$185,000.00. The buyer finalized its plans and filed a development application for review and approval by the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Passaic. The hearing date is scheduled for February 21, 2023. Once the buyer receives the appropriate approvals from the municipal zoning board, we can proceed with closing of title of the property in question.

Our mortgage portfolio is in good standing. There were no new mortgages issued during the past year, and our mortgage portfolio has dwindled to two (2) mortgages. This is a wonderful fraternal benefit which we offer to our members when they consider purchasing homes. However, there seems to be little interest since commercial lenders are apparently offering more favorable terms. As interest rates continue to increase in the future, our members will recognize that our program is more favorable to them. With respect to our current two (2) mortgages on file, I verified that the property taxes and insurance are all paid to date.

There are no pending lawsuits against the organization. I previously informed the membership of a generous benefactor that passed away leaving a Last Will and Testament with a specific bequest to the Slovak Catholic Sokol. As previously reported, the will was admitted to probate and later challenged by another heir in Lorraine County Probate Court. The will contest litigation settled out of court in 2021, and our organization received its distributive

share of the estate earlier this year. The inheritance proceeds totaled \$22,727.98.

This past year I worked with Jennifer Romine, Group 4 President, and Lisa Hoeck, Financial Secretary, to secure a new headquarter location for the said Group. Group 4 has a unique situation when it comes to membership. Group 4's headquarters is Chicago, Illinois, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana. While in the past many active members have been represented from each state, unfortunately, this is not the case as much anymore. While traveling to international competitions, the large majority of the group's participants reign from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. Due to their demographics and involvement over the years, Group 4 members are requesting a city and state change. They definitely would like to keep its Group 4 name as well as its members from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana; Consequently, they are only requesting a city and state change for its headquarters from Chicago, Illinois to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Board of Directors considered the request at the December quarterly meeting, but stayed the matter pending the receipt of further information from the Group officers.

As General Counsel and President of Group 1, I attended the Group President's meeting on October 1, 2022 at the Hilton Scranton and Convention Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

This will be the site of our next quadrennial convention scheduled from August 5-8, 2023. It was nice to meet in person, since the last time we had convened as a body was in August 2019. We had a wonderful discussion about fraternalism. The Presidents decided they have work to do after the meeting and gave themselves six (6) goals to meet in 2023. I wanted to share with you a list of goals that we came up with:

- 1) Send at least ten (10) new e-mails to our Supreme Secretary before Christmas with names of potential new members;
- 2) Submit an article and/or pictures to the Slovak Catholic Falcon about Group activities within the next six (6) months;
- 3) Try to plan something for Join Hands Day and make sure that the information is published in the Slovak Catholic Falcon;
- 4) Each year, every group should be sending in a nomination for the National Fraternalist of the Year;
- 5) Create a Facebook communication page for your group; and
- 6) Send a donation to the Slovak Catholic Federation.

The Presidents said that they will mention the goals at their Group's annual meetings to let the membership know what the goals are which can help with communication between the Society, the Groups and membership.

In matters concerning the economy, the year 2022 will be remembered as one of the most consequential in Federal Reserve history. The central bank raised interest rates by a cumulative 4.25% this year, the most since 1980. Between June and November, the central bank raised its benchmark interest rate by .75 basis points at four (4) consecutive meetings. Not since 1994 had the Federal Reserve raised rates by .75% at even a single meeting. What is prompting the rate increases is skyrocketing inflation. Last year, consumer inflation has clocked in at 7.1%--the fifth straight monthly drop but still a painfully high level. The volatility in the financial markets, driven by Federal Reserve actions, inflation fears, rising COVID trends, and the war in Ukraine, has not eased.

The toughest issue we experienced this year as a governing body is how our equities are performing, which is not well in this precarious stock market environment. Their performance directly affects our unrealized gain/loss and Asset Value Reserve. As of December 31, 2022 the Sokol portfolio value was \$84,712,264, and, as December 31, 2021 the value was \$114,918,191.

During 2022, the bond portfolio was impacted by rising inter-

est rates and overall the portfolio experienced net withdrawals of almost \$9.5 million.

Bond prices declined year over year in 2022. Most of the decline took place after the first nine (9) months of the year with a recovery in the fourth quarter. However, the recovery was not enough to offset the full year decline. The silver lining is the yield to maturity is significantly higher when we are reinvesting maturities.

As a governing body, we continue to explore any opportunities which would benefit our membership. I am confident that membership growth will continue, which is vital for the future of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Throughout the course of the year, I have submitted articles and reports to our Slovak Catholic Falcon for matters which are informative to our membership. In local matters, I continue to serve as President of Group 1, and I continue to serve as President of Assembly 162 in Clifton, New Jersey.

I wish to thank all of my fellow Supreme Officers for cooperation extended to me during the past year. May God bless our deliberations and touch our minds with His wisdom to make decisions for the good of all the members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

ZDAR BOH!

Respectfully submitted,

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

### **REPORT OF THE SUPREME DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS**

In compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2022 Activity Report as the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, I was on a zoom call with leaders from the GCU, FCSU and NSS to discuss our combined 2022 International Bowling Tournament. The annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting held in via zoom call on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>. We also had a second zoom call on March 5<sup>th</sup> to work on the schedule for our Clinic that will be held in July at Kutztown University.

I attended the Board of Directors 1st Quarter Meeting held in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania from March 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Directors approved all the recommendations the Physical Fitness Board proposed for the 2022 sporting events. On April 20<sup>th</sup> I drove to Cleveland, Ohio to meet with the George Palmer the General Manager of the AMF Brookgate Lanes and finalize our bowling schedule and the Friday hospitality. I also met with Brian Wipprechet the General Manager of the Crown Plaza, the host hotel for our tournament and the Saturday evening bowling banquet.

The first sporting activity of the year was the 76<sup>th</sup> International Bowling Tournament held at Brookgate Lanes in Brook Park, Ohio. This was our first International Bowling Tournament since 2019. The annual tournament included bowlers from the GCU, FCSU and NSS. A total of a 46 participants from the Slovak Catholic Sokol took part in the annual event. Frank Laury and Nancy Kropolinsky were assigned to work the bowling tournament. Nancy submitted the bowling tournament article and pictures, which were published in the July issue of the Falcon.

The 2022 results for Men and Women's Team, Doubles and Singles and corresponding prize money were also published in the Falcon and posted on our website. The bowling tournament financial report was submitted to the Home Office on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Fitness Board had additional zoom calls on May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> to finalize the schedule and assignments for our International Clinic at Kutztown University.

On Saturday June 23<sup>th</sup>, I participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Board of Directors conference call. I attended the 2022 International Clinic on July 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> at Kutztown University in Kutztown,

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## REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2022

(Continued from page 11)

PA. I was in charge of the transportation of Clinic participants who flew into and out of Newark Liberty International Airport. I made the arrangements for the Clinic participants to attend Dorney Amusement Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania on Friday evening.

The final tournament of the year was the 67<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament held from August 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> at Treasure Lake Resort in Du Bois, Pennsylvania. The annual golf tournament had 146 golfers including 105 from the SCS and 41 from the FCSU and GCU. Kristen Popik was the Fitness Board member assigned to the tournament and worked with Frank Laury to help make sure we had the correct names for all of the golfing foursomes and golfers in the candid pictures that were taken during the weekend event. Kristen Popik submitted the golf tournament article and Frank Laury submitted golf pictures for the Falcon. Frank Laury submitted the additional golf pictures that are posted on our website. The Flight Winners and all prize money recipients were published in the Falcon and also posted on our website. The prize money checks were mailed out in late August after all of the scores and handicaps were verified. The flight winners and best scratch scores received championship golf shirts that were mailed to each winner in early October. The golf tournament financial report was submitted to the Home Office in November.

I attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Board of Directors Meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio the weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. On the drive home after our meeting, I stopped at the Kennsington Golf Course in Ohio to work on the arrangements for the lodging, hospitality and banquet for our 2023 International Golf Tournament.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board of Directors Meeting held in Boca Raton, Florida. The final meeting of the year was extremely productive as we set goals for the last year of our four year term as a member of the Board of Directors. We continue to explore new ideas to expand our communications and increase participation for activities at the local, group and national level.

All of the arrangements for 2023 tournaments have been completed and I am currently working on locations for the 2024 bowling and golf tournaments. In closing I would like to thank all members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for their support during the year, especially my Assistant Frank Laury. I will continue to use the Falcon and the Slovak Catholic Sokol website to help publicize all of our sporting events. Hopefully we will have a great turnout for our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet, which will be held at Kutztown University from July 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Zdar Boh!

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

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I submit my Annual Report as Supreme Physical Director.

January-March 2022 Attended the virtual Physical Fitness Board Meeting.

Attended the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey game sponsored by the Board of Directors.

Attended virtual meetings for the Physical Fitness Board.

April-June 2022 Assumed the duties of the Supreme Physical Director Participated in the International Bowling Tournament in Cleveland OH Submitted an article for publication to the Slovak

Catholic Sokol Falcon Attended the virtual Board of Directors Meeting.

Attended virtual meetings for the Physical Fitness Board July-September 2022 Conducted the International Clinic in Kutztown PA.

Attended the Board of Directors Meeting held in Cleveland OH and was present for the 100th Anniversary Mass and Reception for the Benedictine Monks of St. Andrew's Abbey.

Participated in the Group 7 Annual Sokol Day Celebration. Attended virtual meetings for the Physical Fitness Board.

October-December 2022 Attended the Group Presidents Meeting in Scranton PA Submitted an article for publication to the Slovak Catholic Falcon.

Attended the Board of Directors Meeting held in Boca Raton FL.

As we all know, this past year has seen some significant changes occur in the Sokol organization. But throughout these circumstances one constant that hasn't changed is the fraternalism that we share with each other. Whenever and wherever we gather there is a true bonding together through our love of the Sokol Way.

It was truly a pleasure to be a part of the resumption of activities in person. Conducting a Clinic, attending meetings and participating in the Bowling Tournament were a time for me to reflect on how lucky we all are to have friends from all over that we can share our brand of fraternalism with.

In closing, I'd like to thank all my family for their pride and support. Seeing them attend the Clinic Finale brought tears to my eyes. Thanks to the Board of Directors for making me feel welcomed as part of that distinguished group. Finally, thanks to the Physical Fitness Board and all of the Clinic participants. Without your hard word preparing for this event, the planning and execution, I feel that it would not have been the success that I saw it to be.

It is an honor to be associated with each and every one of you and to be your Physical Director.

Zdar Boh!

**Martin Degnan**, *Supreme Physical Director*

### REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

In accordance with the bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I, Supreme Directress Katie Swift, am respectfully submitting my 2022 annual report.

January-March I contacted all Group Presidents encouraging activity for the future and asking for submission of an activity report from the previous year.

The female Physical Fitness Board met virtually to discuss scheduling, rules and regulations and preparations for the Annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting.

Contacted Group Directress, Directors and Sports Directors for suggestions, ideas and input for the SPFB meeting.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board met virtually on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the annual meeting. Lengthy discussions took place on sporting events, International Clinic preparations and all yearly activities.

The SPFB held the virtual monthly meeting on March 5 to discuss recommendations to be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting.

Attended the Board of Directors meeting in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

April-June The SPFB held the virtual monthly meeting on April 12, 2022. At this time we discussed the resignation of Supreme

Physical Director John Underation and the transition to the new Supreme Physical Director Martin Degnan.

On April 26, 2022, the female Physical Fitness Board members met to discuss all the details for the International Clinic.

Held countless meetings with Directors and Directress about the changes in command as well as changes for the International Clinic.

Worked with Supreme Assistant Director Dusan Dorich to establish and finalize the contract with Kutztown University for the International Slet.

Worked with the female fitness board to finalize all female rules and regulations.

The SPFB held the virtual monthly meeting on May 21, 2022. At this meeting the board finalized the Clinic schedule, rules and regulations changes, rules for the newly added youth basketball section, plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and much more.

I worked closely with Supreme Council John Pogorelec and Kutztown University for the proper steps for background checks to protect the youth of our organization for the International Clinic.

I contacted each Directress and Director for information to be collected for the background checks. Also made sure each leader had the newest registration packets, International Clinic revised schedules and copies of Rules and Regulations.

The monthly SPFB virtual meeting was held on June 18, 2022.

Attended the Board of Directors meeting that was held virtually on June 23, 2022. At this meeting Supreme Sports Director Jim Matlon, Supreme Director Marty Degnan and I gave reports on the upcoming International Clinic

I submitted all the information for each member of the SPFB and International Clinic members to be submitted for background checks.

Confirmed all arrival times, travel times and events for the International Clinic July-September

The monthly SPFB meeting was held on July 9, 2022.

The International Clinic was held from July 14-17, 2022 with the SPFB arriving on July 12, 2022. There were representatives from Group 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 19. All the leaders worked hard and are excited for the 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet to be held in July 2023.

I made revisions to the International Slet schedule and Rules and Regulations from the suggestions and input we received at the International Clinic.

Organized the google drive with updated drill videos from the International Clinic.

I was unable to attend the Board of Directors meeting due to the passing of my father. Thank you for all the kind messages, notes and gifts sent from my Sokol family.

October-December Contacted the SPFB with updates and changes for the International Slet.

Worked closely with the SPFB members, Directress and Directors to establish new contact lists, information packets and goals for the upcoming year.

Attended the Board of Directors meeting on December 3-5th, 2022.

There are many correspondence, text messages, emails, and phone calls that happen monthly between the SPFB, BOD and leaders. I consistently update social media as well as have submitted several articles to the Falcon.

Keeping our fraternal activities alive and thriving into the future is my main goal.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Katie Swift**, *Supreme Physical Directress*

## MINUTES OF GROUP 2 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Group 2 held their semi-annual meeting on Saturday, 3/11/2023 at the Holy Name of Jesus Hall in Stratford CT. It was held following a delicious catered luncheon by Lisa's in Stratford. President Al Neudeck led all delegates in a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. It was agreed upon to have a meeting every 6 months as COVID has stalled much activity the past years. Assemblies 9 AND 33 and Wreath 39 were represented. Wreath 1, Assembly 86 and 123 are active but could not send a representative.

### REPORTS

Officers presented their reports. Motion made by Barbara Sheehy and seconded by Mary Ann Wells to accept all reports collectively. Secretary Darlene Knapik-Musial reviewed the 10/22/2022 meeting minutes. The revision was that Assembly 9 did not dissolve.

The meeting minutes did not appeared in the Falcon yet.

Larry Wells gave a report of the number of members and our financial status. President Al Neudeck gave his report reviewing the highlights of the president's meeting. Discussed upcoming Slet. Reports of all Assemblies and Wreaths were given verbally. Most of the activity has been donations to deserving organizations considering COVID restrictions. A motion made by Larry Wells 7 seconded by Ann Neudeck to accept all reports with the 1 revision to previous meeting minutes.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. Convention 8/5-8/23 in Scranton PA. Representing Group will be President Al Neudeck and Sports Director Larry Wells.

2. Previous agreed upon Donation for Youth Athletic Equipment was taken off the table as there were only 6 applications to their program this year. Motion was made by Darlene Knapik-Musial and seconded by Ann Neudeck to make a donation to Assumption School for their sporting program to pay for youth fees, purchase uniforms, fees & equipment.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion made by Barbara Sheehy and seconded by Darlene Knapik-Musial to contact Fr. Skip Karcsinski to offer that he will be Group 2 Chaplain.

2. Assembly 9 and Wreath 39 will send representatives to the Convention.

3. All expenses for the upcoming Bowling Tournament 5/19-20 in Buffalo, NY will be absorbed by the Group for any active member.

4. Motion made by Larry Wells and seconded by Barbara Sheehy that the Group pay for any active member's costs to attend the Slet in Kutztown for moral support for all our athletes and participants.

5. Motion made by Bob Sheehy to disregard the previous amount voted on to donate to Holy Name of Jesus on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to increase that to a donation - seconded by Mary Ann Wells. Motion made by Barbara Sheehy and seconded by Darlene Knapik-Musial to consider future additional donations as their year of fund raising for building repairs goes underway.

6.) Per headquarters suggestion to nominate a Fraternalist of the year a motion was made by Larry Wells and seconded by John Tkacik to nominate Jim Iancale. Jim was extremely active with Group 2, Assembly 9, Headquarters and tremendous amount of time with our youth. Larry will get in contact with Jim for information and complete a nomination packet.

7. Next Group 2 meeting date will be in 9/2023 - specific date TBD.

(Continued on page 22)

## 50<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SLET

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board is overly excited to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Slet. We hope you will join us!!!!

### 2023 50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET SCHEDULE JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup> \*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

#### 7/13 - Thursday

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Registration
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Director/Directress Meeting
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Welcome in Garden Area
2:00 p.m.	Load Bus for Dorney Park

#### 7/14 - Friday

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:15 a.m. -9:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies will start with Mass
9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Track and Field & Individual Drills
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Basketball/Volleyball & Individual Drills
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Drill Competition

#### 7/15 - Saturday

7:00 a.m. -8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon	Track and Field Finals with awards
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m. -3:00 p.m.	Exhibition Practice
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremonies including Mass
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Gala Celebration

#### 7/16 - Sunday

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Dismissal

Rooms are going fast!!! There is still time to book your room and help celebrate!

There is a group room rate at the Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton, 15080 Kutztown Road, Kutztown, PA 19530, 484-641-8800.

### WREATH 39 SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE

In keeping with our Sokol Fraternal spirit and our slogan "A sound mind in a sound body" and to support our youngsters in their quest for higher education our Wreath will once again offer a scholarship grant to a deserving member. The scholarship honors the memory of all our dedicated members who have labored on behalf of our Wreath 39 since it's founding in 1912 under the guidance of the late Father Matthew Jankola. Our beloved member Ann D. Knapik instituted this Scholarship to have Wreath 39 that she was eternally dedicated to, forge forward and continue to encourage our youth to further their

(Continued on page 24)

## LAW DAY MESSAGE FROM OUR GENERAL COUNSEL

(Continued from page 2)

together in a civilized society and enjoy the blessings of security and freedom. In reality, we ourselves create this rule of law, not only through our legislatures and the courts, but also, and in a more important way, by our daily conduct, by our respect for the law, by our respect for the rights of our neighbors, and by our own self-respect.

In a democratic system, government is the direct product of the society and exists to serve that society. Attitudes of indifference, contempt and hostility are not justified and cannot be tolerated. We should view our democratic government as our Sokol organization, a great corporation which we have organized to deal with business that is of great concern to all of us. In our government as in our Sokol organization, we are all shareholders and each of us has a vote. Only by understanding this and exercising our rights, does the rule of law become reality. As we identify with the democratic rule of law, so shall we identify with the goals and objectives of our beloved Slovak Catholic Sokol.

The obligation and responsibility to exercise the rule of law which at its best is the rule of justice, falls upon each of our shoulders. Whether or not we can build a better society in this country, will depend upon whether or not we decide and convince ourselves that we should obey the law and respect it regardless of whether we agree with it.

We have seen the cherished freedoms of our founding fathers survive over two hundred forty-seven years after their time. In our time, the deciding factors in making a lawful society work are you and me! Are you ready, willing, and able to meet the challenge?

In pursuit of the aforesaid goals, I join all our Sokols and Sokolky in commemorating Law Day, and I urge you to cherish your freedom by a dedication to the rule of law.

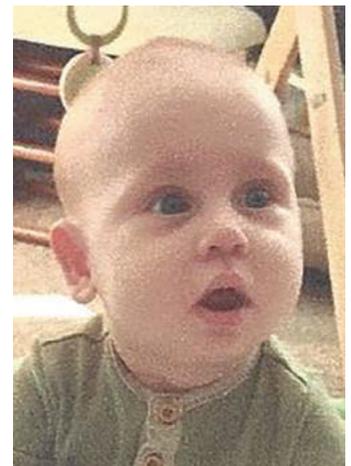
Zdar Boh!

**JOHN D. POGORELEC, JR., GENERAL COUNSEL**

### Introducing our newest members



Bella Rose Nejdlik, born January 18, 2023, is the daughter of Alexander and Sarah Nejdlik of Milwaukee, WI. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, WI.



Harvey W. Kalawa, born July 18, 2022, is the son of Kristina M. Gemoll of West Allis, WI. He was enrolled as a member of Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, WI.

# MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 9)

Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon. Approved

The Supreme President then opened the floor for discussion regarding the **Annuity Interest Rate** to be offered for the upcoming month.

Our professionals remained to take part in these deliberations as they are an important part of our business. After lengthy discussions, a motion was made by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis, to change our crediting rates on all annuities, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek. Approved

The Board will monitor annuity crediting rates monthly going forward.

Brother President asked if there was any **Unfinished Business** to address.

The Salary Committee updated the Supreme Secretary on the salary and goals for 2023. Brother Secretary will also update the Board on any changes regarding the Home Office Staff.

Acknowledged

Having completed the afternoon agenda items, President Horvath entertained a motion to adjourn, so moved by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., seconded by Supreme Vice-President Edward D. Moeller. Approved

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, closed the meeting with a prayer.

## THIRD SESSION

Saturday, March 18, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

President Horvath called the third session to order and called upon Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, for a prayer.

General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brother President welcomed William Grundig of Dynasty Advisors to the Board meeting.

Mr. Grundig presented a portfolio review and proposal to the Board highlighting our asset allocation and the benefits of Dynasty Advisors.

Mr. Grundig answered various questions from the Board and his presentation was appreciated by all.

The Board will continue to monitor any future potential investment opportunities or partners.

Brother President thanked Mr. Grundig and then called upon Kathleen Watkins and Julie Dobbs of the Board Governance Committee.

Sister Kathy and Sister Julie updated the Board on the recommendations of the Board Governance Committee to the Bylaw Committee for our 34<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention.

A thorough discussion followed which included many questions by the Board as well as the Board providing background to several items which they believed the committee should take into consideration.

The recommendations will be finalized by June, distributed to all delegates, and posted on the Convention Menu on our website. Sister Kathy and Sister Julie also indicated that they would have an open zoom call for all delegates prior to the Convention to answer any questions or concerns. Acknowledged

The Board would like to thank the Board Governance Committee, consisting of Kathy Watkins, Julie Dobbs, Steven Burican, Cynthia Walkowiak, and Gary Manyak, for all their hard work and dedica-

tion to the Society.

Brother President questioned if there was any **New Business** to address.

Brother Secretary informed the Board that the 2nd Quarter Meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd. He will update the Board of any changes.

Our Supreme Chaplain also informed the Board that Mass will be held in our meeting room at 4:30 p.m.

Having completed all items on the agenda, Brother President entertained a motion to adjourn, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift. Approved

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

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

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM DONATIONS JANUARY – MARCH 2023

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations which were received during the period January through March 2023 for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum located at our home office in Passaic, NJ. A donation in someone's honor is a great way to pay tribute to a Sokol member who has been active in your Group, Assembly, or Wreath.

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 scholarship grants the Museum Board gives out, depends upon the amount of donations received.

### DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of	Donated by	Amount
Living and Deceased Members Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 78	Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 78 Bethlehem, PA	\$ 200.00
Deceased Members Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 93	Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 93, Milwaukee, WI	100.00
Deceased Members Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 4 Sumner Bemis, Paul Bukosky Mike Lako, Dolly Hussar Rich Jozwiak	Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 4, Milwaukee, WI Supreme Vice-President Edward Moeller and his wife Janice	100.00
Living and Deceased Members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol	Members of the Supreme Board of Directors	200.00

Total Donations this Quarter: \$ 700.00

Total donations Year to Date: \$ 700.00

Thank you for your generosity,

**James F. Knis, Supreme Treasurer**

# DRIVE TO 50 SALES CAMPAIGN

## CELEBRATING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SLET

The Slovak Catholic Sokol will be reaching a significant milestone within the SOKOL World – We will be hosting and presenting our 50<sup>th</sup> International Slet (Gymnastic and Track and Field Meet).

To help celebrate this Golden Occasion we have created the DRIVE TO 50 Sales CAMPAIGN. This campaign is designed to benefit and reward our membership, our groups, and recommenders.

## BENEFITING MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH

For more than 116 years our society has provided our members with sound financial protection and outstanding fraternal benefits. As proud members of the SOKOL it is quite easy to expound upon and share the qualities of membership. This is an excellent opportunity to share our excellent offerings with friends and family and get rewarded for it.

Not everyone is born a salesman or comfortable selling life insurance or annuities. Today, we have qualified life insurance and annuity representatives that can assist our existing and potential members in selecting the financial protection to help protect their future.

A supply of SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards will be available to all Group/Assembly/Wreath Officers for distribution. Officers are asked to distribute SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards to existing Members who want to recommend someone to become an insured Benefit Member. SOKOL “DRIVE to 50” Lead Cards are also available for completion and submitting on the SOKOL Web Site [www.scslife.org](http://www.scslife.org). Mail all completed Referral Lead Cards to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol  
P.O.Box 899  
205 Madison Street  
Passaic, NJ 07055

## DRIVE TO 50 DETAILS

### RECOMMENDER REWARDS

- \$10 Referral Fee for each recommendation that results in a sale.
- Qualifies for a semi-annual drawing for an opportunity to win a \$50 gift card.
- Qualify for a \$250 grand prize drawing at the end of the campaign.

### GROUP REWARDS

Awards to qualifying Groups based on the following levels resulting from sales of new life insurance and annuity certificates issued:

- 10 New Certificates (policies):  
\$250 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 25 New Certificates (policies):  
\$500 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses
- 50 New Certificates (policies):  
\$1,000 Credit towards Fraternal Expenses



## DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN – Member Referral Card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender:  Male  Female  Age \_\_\_\_\_  Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION Assembly/Wreath \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Interest:  
 Life Insurance  
 Annuity



## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

### LEGACY LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

#### PERMANENT PLANS

WHOLE LIFE ● SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE ● 20 PAYMENT LIFE

#### TERM PLANS

TERM to AGE 30 ● 10 YEAR TERM ● 20 YEAR TERM

### VANTAGE COLLECTION of ANNUITY PRODUCTS

1 YEAR ● 2 YEAR ● 3 YEAR ● 5 YEAR ● 7 YEAR

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ASSEMBLY 227/GROUP 19, TORONTO, CA

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 19 and Assembly 227 annual meeting was held on Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and attendances were 12. Everyone received a copy of the individual group leader's annual 2022 report.

Sister Kristen Popik opened the meeting with a prayer. She asked all the members to pray for all the Slovak Catholic Sokol members and especially remember all those who have passed away.

Group President Chet Dziuba gave opening remarks and asked everyone to review the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes provided by Sister Diane Cincar and provide any comments or corrections. After some discussion the minutes were approved by Dusan Dorich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Bajus.

Next Brother Chet asked everyone to review the 2022 agenda provided by Larry Glugosh. After some discussion, the 2022 agenda was approved by Stephen Glugosh and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dusan Dorich.

Following the 2022 agenda review, the individual group leaders presented their annual 2022 reports based on the activities from 2021.

### Reports/Comments

- President – Chet Dziuba
- Vice President – Stephen Glugosh
- Sports Director – Ed Bajus Jr
- Physical Director – Steven Popik
- Physical Directress – Anne Marie Wasilewski
- Group Treasurer – Larry Glugosh
- Group Secretary – Diane Cincar

### Report from Chet Dziuba – Group President

Brother Chet asked all the members to read the Group President Report. Brother Chet congratulated Sister Rebecca Bettencourt as our new assistant Physical Directress. Next, Brother Chet provided some details from the president's meeting held in Scranton, PA from Sept 30 to Oct 2, 2022 and provided the Governance Committee Report. There were questions and a discussion pertaining to the information on the report. Next, Brother Chet acknowledged another very successful group fund raiser in February 2022 and extended a gracious thank you to Brother Larry Glugosh for organizing the event. Next, he offered his congratulations to our local sports director Brother Ed Bajus, Brother Dusan Dorich and Brother Larry Glugosh for all their time and hard work in our wonderful well attended golf tournament at Carlisle on June 4, 2022. He highlighted all our Group 19 members made donations and a very generous individual Brother Milan Popik made a very substantial donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Next, Brother Chet advised he was looking forward to our International Slet to be held July 2023 at Kutztown University. Finally he wished all members Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The report was approved by Larry Glugosh and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Glugosh.

### Report from Stephen Glugosh – Group Vice President

Brother Stephen extended greetings to everyone and praised the Group 19 physical fitness leaders for their hard work and dedications to keep our group active. He commented on the great work from Group 19 members for the local golf tournament and for the generous donation to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The report was approved by Ed Bajus and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane Cincar.

### Report from Ed Bajus Jr - Sports Director

Brother Ed Bajus reported there was no 2022 local family-bowling day however want to schedule in Feb 2023 family bowl-

ing day. The local 2022 golf tournament was held Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> at Carlisle Golf & Country Club; there were 46 golfers in attendance. There were many prizes for golfers of all caliber and all golfers received a prize for participating. In keeping with Group 19 goal to support a charity every year, the golfers wore red to support Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. It is a very worthwhile charity that has affected many of our members and the participates donated and raised \$3000. There was a special mention of Brother Milan Popik and his family who made a substantial donation to the charity as well as other participates who donated their golf winnings. Brother Larry commended Brother Ed and his local staff for all their time and effort for this successful tournament. These 2 events were fun for everyone who attended. After some discussion, the report was approved by Larry Glugosh and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chet Dziuba.

### Report from Steven Popik - Physical Director & Anne Marie Wasilewski – Physical Directress

Sister Anne Marie Wasilewski congratulated Sister Rebecca Bettencourt as the Assistant Physical Directress. Next, Sister Anne Marie advised Brother Stephen Popik, Sister Rebecca Bettencourt, Brother Nicolas Dorich and herself attended the International Clinic in July 2022 at Kutztown University in Allentown, PA. At the clinic, the new rules for the upcoming 50th International Slet were discussed. There are 2 new age categories have been added; 30 and over and 45 and over. The participant is not required to compete in the group drill competition but must compete in individual drills and minimum 2 Track & Field events and perform at the Closing Ceremony. They have removed the Junior and Senior drill competition and replaced with, for each group, all females compete as one team and all males compete as one team. Lastly, unfortunately the Gymnastic Competition has been removed due to a decrease in the number of gymnastic participants. After some discussion, the report was approved by Dusan Dorich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kristen Popik.

### Report from Larry Glugosh – Group Treasurer

The report included all the financials for Group 19 / Assembly 227 ending December 31, 2021 and details up to December 4, 2022. Brother Larry stated we are in good financial standings as of December 31, 2021. He indicated that we received quarterly assessments, individual and event contributions throughout 2022 which increased the current balance for the group. After a discussion with the members, the report was approved by Stephen Glugosh and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chet Dziuba.

### Report from Diane Cincar – Group Secretary

The October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 Annual Meeting minutes were presented by Sister Diane Cincar earlier in the meeting and were approved. The report was approved by Dusan Dorich and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Bajus.

Following the Group Officer reports, Brother Dusan Dorich, our Supreme Officer extended greeting to the members. Brother Dusan extended congratulations to 4 members of Group 19 who attended the Clinic in July 2022. All the changes and details for the 50th Anniversary of hosting International Slets scheduled for July 2023 were discussed at the clinic and these changes were included in Sister Anne Marie Physical Directress report.

Next, Brother Ed Bajus member of the Supreme Officers extended greetings to everyone. He informed the members there was an Audit in March 2022 and in August 2022 and these meetings were face to face and the books were in good standings.

Next, Sister Kristen Popik member on the Supreme Physical Fitness Board extended greetings to everyone and thanked all



## 2023 INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

### KENNINGTON GOLF CLUB, CANFIELD, OHIO – AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>- 20<sup>TH</sup>

The longer days and warmer weather means golf season is here and we are closer to the Slovak Catholic Sokol 68<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament which will be held August 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Kennington Golf Club and Flying B Golf Course. The GCU and FCSU members will be joining us again in our annual golf tournament.



We are looking forward to hosting a wonderful weekend of fraternalism and sportsmanship. The participants and guests for the Golf Tournament will stay at the Courtyard by Marriott in Canfield, Ohio or Holiday Inn Boardman, Ohio.

Over the years, this event has become much more than a golf outing, evolving into a true fraternal family event. Many of our members now attend the tournament with their family, which has added to the richness of the event and true fraternal camaraderie.

Please return your application and corresponding fee as soon as possible to my home address: 6 Academy Drive East, Whippany, NJ 07981. If you have any questions pertaining to the event, please call or text me at (973) 647-8551.

Email [jmatlon@slovakcatholicssokol.org](mailto:jmatlon@slovakcatholicssokol.org). **Application and fee deadline for the tournament is July 21<sup>st</sup>.**

The full double occupancy golf package is \$375 at the Marriott Courtyard or \$365 at the Holiday Inn. The single occupancy is \$535 at the Marriott Courtyard or \$515 at the Holiday Inn. The golf package includes the tournament entry fee and prize money, three full rounds of golf with cart, two nights lodging, with breakfast at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel on Saturday and Sunday. The golf package also includes Friday night hospitality and a Saturday dinner.

For our members who may not require the lodging and meal package, there is a golf only package for \$190.00, which includes three rounds of golf, entry fee and tournament expense fee. The double occupancy non-golf weekend package rate is \$160 at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel which includes lodging and breakfast and \$150 at the Holiday Inn.

Each golfer must make his or her own hotel arrangements by contacting the Courtyard by Marriott at (330) 533-6880 prompt 0 or Holiday Inn at (330) 726-1611.

Golf reservations for the practice round on Friday should be made with Kennington Golf Club, (330) 533-8733 prompt #3 or Flying B Golf Course, (330) 337-8138.

The Friday evening Hospitality and Saturday dinner will be held at Waypoint 4180 Banquet Hall attached to the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. There will be a \$30.00 charge for members who would like to purchase additional dinner tickets.

Father Thomas Nasta, the Chaplain from the FCSU will celebrate Mass on Saturday at 4:00 PM at the Waypoint 4180 Banquet Hall.

A brief program will follow dinner on Saturday and we will announce the tournament leaders and the closest to the pin winners. Our Supreme Secretary, Scott T Pogorelec will present the 2023 Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award.

This will be a great fraternal event, and we hope to see you at the Kennington Golf Club in August.

Entry forms may also be found on the Slovak Catholic Sokol Website [www.slovakcatholicssokol.org](http://www.slovakcatholicssokol.org) under Sports Programs.

Zdar Boh!

**James C. Matlon**

*Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics*

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Every contestant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing for at least one (1) year or three (3) months with Single Premium Life Insurance.

2. (A) The golf tournament will consist of six (6) flights as listed below before applying 75% to handicap:

"A" Flight	0 to 12 Handicap	"D" Flight	Callaway System
"B" Flight	13 to 20 Handicap	"S" Flight	Senior, 62 years and over

"C" Flight	21 and over	"W" Flight	Women, Callaway System
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(B) Maximum Handicap per round: Men – 40 & Women - 50

(C) Only the Slovak Catholic Sokol /FCSU/GCU Handicap will be accepted for all flights.

3. The tournament shall be held with prevailing U.S.G.A. rules.

4. Callaway Flights: Golfers who do not have a handicap (handicaps are determined after two years or four rounds) of Tournament play. The Callaway Modified System will be used with two blind holes each round to calculate the daily handicap.

5. (A) All handicaps are subject to review and possible re-rating by "Handicap Committee". In the case of ties, lowest handicap will be declared flight winner.

(B) Women golfers will compete in a separate flight with a Modified Callaway System.

6. All play will be 36 holes: 18 to be played on Saturday August 19th and 18 on Sunday, August 20th.

7. Entry Fee is \$15.00 and Tournament Expense is \$15.00. A Golf Banquet will be held on Saturday evening at Waypoint 4180 Banquet Hall, 4180 Westford Place, Canfield, OH 44406

8. Prizes: There will be a Champion in each flight and the corresponding prize money will be awarded according to the number of entries received for each flight.

9. Foursomes will be paired at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Participants wishing for special twosomes & foursomes, please indicate your golf partners on the golf tournament application.

10. Penalty for being tardy at the starting tee will be according to U.S.G.A. rules with loss of position.

11. **Entries are due by July 21st, 2023.** All tournament fees must accompany Golf Entry Form.

12. Make checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account

13. Mailing address:

**James Matlon**

**6 Academy Drive East**

**Whippany, NJ 07981-1801**

# S.K.S. 68<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM

August 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Kennsington Golf Club – Canfield, OH – Practice Reservations – (330) 533-8733 #3  
Flying B Golf Course- Salem, OH -- Practice Reservations (330) 337-8138

U.S.G.A. 36 Holes      Men-5 Flights – Women-1 Flight

## Entry Deadline: JULY 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

Every golfer must fill out a form and all fees must accompany this entry form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly/Wreath \_\_\_\_\_

*Golfer Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the name on this application is a bona-fide member of this Assembly/Wreath in good standing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assembly/Wreath President or Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ I have participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments

\_\_\_\_\_ I have not participated in two previous SCS Golf Tournaments

\_\_\_\_\_ Men: I am 62 years or older and wish to enter the Senior Flight and have participated in at least two previous SCS Golf Tournaments

Tournament Start Times:      8:00 AM      Saturday      &      8:00 AM      Sunday

Preferred Doubles Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

**All hotel reservations to be made directly through the Courtyard by Marriott, Canfield, OH (330)-533-6880 #0 or Holiday Inn Boardman, OH (330)-726-1611**

## OBITUARIE

### MARY M. BEYER

Mary M. Beyer, 97, passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, Torrington. She was the beloved wife of the late Charles V. Beyer.



Mary was born in Torrington on January 19, 1926, daughter of the late John and Julia (Meyerjack) Zaharek, and had been a lifelong city resident. She was a member of a 100% Sokol family and very proud of her Slovak Heritage and Fraternal Membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Her father was instrumental in establishing Sacred Heart Church in Torrington where she and Charlie were married in 1951. Mary participated in many Slets growing up, eventually becoming an instructor. She was active in Group 2 activities attending the St. Martin Day dinners, bowling tournaments, picnics and other events. Mary also served as a delegate to several national conventions. She attended softball and volleyball tournaments as a spectator, cheering on her children and grandchildren from the sidelines. Mary was vice president of Wreath 86, a position she held until just a few years ago. In addition to the monthly meetings, she and the other officers started a weekly bingo for a period of time to fund the annual Children's Christmas Party.

She was a retired office manager with the Girl Scouts of Northwestern Connecticut and a lifelong member of the Girl Scouts of America. Mary was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Church of St. John

Paul the Great Parish, Torrington, where she served as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. She was a member of the St. Francis Women's Club and the Catholic Council of Women. She was an avid UCONN Women's basketball fan and enjoyed baking.

Survivors include three children, Patricia B. Kelly and her husband, Edward, of Litchfield, Charles V. Beyer and his wife, Katherine Marchand-Beyer, of Torrington, and Janet B. Giampaolo and her husband, James, of Panama City Beach, FL; a sister, Elizabeth T. "Betty" Zaharek (former president of Wreath 86), of Torrington; seven grandchildren, Kara (Beyer) Parker and her husband, Ian; Elizabeth (Kelly) Hodossy and her husband, Philip; Krista (Beyer) Robinson and her husband, Gary; James Giampaolo and his wife, Torrie; James Kelly of Salisbury; Julia Giampaolo French and her husband, Andre; and John Kelly of Salisbury; six great-grandchildren, Wes, Wyn, and Web Parker, Rocco Giampaolo French, and baby sister expected in March, Eloise Hodossy, and Bradley Robinson. She

(Continued on page 24)

## IN MEMORIAM

### MARCH 2023

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	Robert A. Burgeson, Richmond, VA	36	December 30, 2022
Assembly 11	Frank Palenica, Matthews, NC	86	February 15, 2023
Assembly 11	Richard Skrabacz, Streamwood, IL	76	February 28, 2023
Assembly 11	William A. Binger, Coatsburg, IL	94	March 18, 2023
Assembly 16	Summer R. Bemis, Pittsburgh, PA	45	March 3, 2023
Assembly 25	Vincent M. Komacko, Uniontown, PA	47	March 7, 2023
Assembly 59	Mary M. Occhiato, Laflin, PA	75	February 23, 2023
Assembly 59	Janet Sebastianelli, Pittston, PA	60	February 5, 2023
Assembly 59	Johanna O'Brien, Tabernacle, NJ	79	February 20, 2023
Assembly 71	Haylee Oeller, Edwardsville, PA	21	February 9, 2023
Assembly 71	Irvin S. Bartleson Jr., Edwardsville, PA	60	March 25, 2023
Assembly 155	Albert Burzinski, Ironwood, MI	92	March 12, 2023
Assembly 162	Robert J. Baran, Manalapan, NJ	92	October 13, 2022
Assembly 162	Eleanore Kava, Elmwood Park, NJ	86	January 15, 2023
Assembly 182	Stanley Yanosik, New Hyde Park, NY	93	March 19, 2023
Assembly 188	Phyllis A. Rada, Pottsville, PA	88	February 28, 2023
Assembly 219	Stephanie Temple, Rosendale, NY	77	February 4, 2023
Assembly 303	Rev. Christopher Schwartz OSB	76	February 17, 2023
Assembly 314	Rozalia Benca, Newburyport, MA	86	April 8, 2022
Wreath 1	Maria T. Savko, Milford, CT	64	March 26, 2023
Wreath 2	Anna Lorencovitz, Passaic, NJ	72	March 11, 2023
Wreath 15	Marlene M. Danko, S. Connellville, PA	79	March 24, 2023
Wreath 54	Margaret J. Yarb, Youngstown, OH	90	March 13, 2023
Wreath 81	Linda L. Yoder, Elkhart, IN	73	March 14, 2023
Wreath 111	Joseph Ksenich, Lorain, OH	79	January 11, 2023
Wreath 153	Janice Helfen, Fairmount, IN	75	December 19, 2022

### MINUTES OF GROUP 2 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 13)

8. Motion made by Mary Ann Wells and seconded by Barbara Sheehy to make a \$250 donation to Holy Name of Jesus for use of the hall today.

9. Consider making noodles and cabbage to sell at the Holy Name of Jesus Tag Sale in the fall 2023 during their tag sale as a fund raiser.

10. Motion made by Bob Sheehy to donate \$100 to the Holy Name of Jesus Trophy fund for their upcoming car show. Addendum made by Darlene Knapik-Musial to increase this to \$200, seconded by Larry Wells.

11. Motion made by Darlene Knapik-Musial to purchase a policy for a newborn child. Tabled to determine when, for who, parameters etc., until our next meeting.

12. Motion made by Mary Ann Wells to help a member of Group 2 for Join Hands Day and do yard clean up for them. To fund the purchase flowers/bushes at a close future, time

when weather is conducive. Seconded by Ann Neudeck.

13.) Motion made to schedule a gathering for all members for a miniature Golf Day on Rt 67 in Oxford on 9/30. Darlene Knapik-Musial will obtain information and submit to Falcon.

14. Holy Name of Jesus is starting the year long focus on fund raising on 6/3; the Bishop and other community dignitaries will be present for this celebration. All are welcome!

15. Holy Name of Jesus is having their semi-annual tag sale 6/10.

16. Motion made by Bob Sheehy to investigate holding a St. Martin's Day Celebration. Seconded by Barbara Sheehy who will follow up with obtaining information

17.) Discuss at upcoming Group 2 meeting efficacy of our current bank that was merged with a new bank.

Meeting closed by President Al Neudeck with a prayer. ZDAR BOH! - **Darlene Knapik-Musial, Group 2 Secretary**

## JUDITH MANYAK RECEIVED THE 2022 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD



Longtime and dedicated Group 3 activist Judith Manyak of Douglas, MA received the 2022 Fraternalist of the Year Award during the celebration on April 15, 2023 in Douglas, MA. Sister Judy has been an active Sokol Member of Wreath 18 since 1969, first as part of Group 2 then Group 3 when they merged with the Wreaths and Assemblies of Maine, Webster and Boston in 1993. Sister Manyak received the award from Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec (left) and Supreme President Michael J. Horvath (right).



Katie Swift, Judith Manyak and Kathy Watkins

Fraternalism is the relationships of friendship, companionship and fellowship that exists within an organization. As the Supreme Directress, I was honored to be able to travel to Douglas, Massachusetts and help celebrate the Fraternalist of the Year Award. The recipient of this esteemed award was given to the matriarch of our organization, Judy Manyak. Sister Judy is the perfect example of

friendship, companionship and creating fellowship for all of us. Judy has been our guiding light, mother hen, mentor, and the ultimate directress for our organization for over 30 years!

Every Directress and Physical Fitness Board member has sought her unending wisdom and guidance at some point. Judy is always there, always willing to help and always turning everything into a positive. When I started as the Assistant Directress of Group 14 many moons ago, Judy took me under her wing. I always looked forward to seeing Judy at all the different Sokol events and building memories. As time makes us older and life changes, Judy has not only been a Sokol mentor but a good friend and chosen family.

Through all of life's ups and downs, our friendship that started over 35 years ago, continues to grow. I hope Judy will continue to be at every Sokol event and continue to breed fraternalism. As the Supreme Directress, I hope I can be the encouragement to the upcoming youth as Judy has been to all of us. Congratulations on Fraternalist of the Year, Judy is the perfect example of a true Sokol.

– Katie Swift

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SLOVAK DAY AT KENNYWOOD PARK, PA

The Centennial Celebration of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day will take place Thursday, July 20, 2023 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. For 100 consecutive years the Slovaks of Western Pennsylvania have come together to celebrate Slovak Tradition, Family, and Faith at Kennywood Park. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Folk Dance performances, a sing along, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities as well as foot-tapping music for dancing. Special guests include the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Radovan Javorcik; His Excellency The Most Reverend Bishop David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, and His Excellency Bishop Larry Kulick, Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg. These combine to build a treasure chest of memories—many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created.

A Centennial Party will be held at the Main Stage at 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 pm Music by the Rusynsky Bet'are ( Rusyn Rascals) will be there for dancing, a birthday cake and a Meet and Greet with Ambassador Javorcik will be a part of the party. Music by the Rusynsky Bet'are will be heard at Kennywood Park Stage From 3-4 p.m.

The Main Stage program will begin at 3:00 p.m. with a parade of dignitaries from Slovakia, the address the community.. A highlight of Slovak Day is the con-celebration of the Slovak Liturgy in the Main Pavilion directly behind "The Old Mill" at 4:00 pm. The Main Celebrant of the Liturgy will be Bishop David A. Zubik, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Bishop Lary Kulick, Bishop of the Diocese of Greensburg, along with several Catholic priests from the Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Johnstown-Altoona Dioceses. Immediately following will be a sing along and the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by the "Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PAS)" and the "Pittsburgh

(Continued on page 24)

**SLOVAK DAY AT KENNYWOOD PARK, PA**

(Continued from page 23)

Slovakians”.

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy holubky (stuffed cabbage), haluski (sweet cabbage and noodles), pirhory and kolbasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with the homemade favorite – ceregi, and Paska.. Enjoy this delicious dinner or a la carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as the strolling musicians play all of the “Slovak favorites”. Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride “Old Mill” from 12:30 p.m. until the food is sold out.

In Pavilion # 3 you will be able to see an exhibit on “Slovak Kroj” prepared by the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble. The exhibit will include Slovak heirlooms of folk treasures that show the incredible skill and artistry found in the Slovak villages.

In the Main Pavilion # 5 there will be Slovak Cultural Displays provided by the Slovak Fraternals. Also in Pavilion #5 there will be Slovak vendors selling goods from Slovakia.

A special youth area will feature activities just for children. The children’s program will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 pm by the Main Pavilion. The Pittsburgh Pirate Pierogy will be on hand. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat.

From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., one can sit back and enjoy the music or kick up your heels dancing, grab a partner and twirl to traditional Slovak music of the George Batyi Gypsy Stringz Ensemble at the Kitchen Pavilion #4.

For a day to remember, join all Slovaks on Thursday, July 20, 2023, Kennywood Park. Special Slovak Day price tickets are \$25 for the day only..These special priced tickets are available from Committee members only. The discounted price is provided by FC-SLA Life, NSS Life and NSS Life-Region 5. For tickets contact Sue Ondrejco at 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. Checks should be made out to: WPSDA

For general information about the 100<sup>th</sup> Slovak Day contact Chairwoman Mary Lou Wagner (412) 462-1957.

**WREATH 39 SCHOLARSHIP NOTICE**

(Continued from page 14)

love of learning through higher education, enhance their spiritual growth, instill active fraternal participation, and promote the importance of helping others in their community. Hopefully our receipt will continue to labor on behalf of the high ideals of Sokol Fraternism and will learn the importance of making a difference in our local community.

Wreath 39 Scholarship grant is available to a deserving young member of our Wreath. Members need to have a minimum of a \$3,000 insurance policy and must be a senior in high school or be enrolled and/or accepted as a full-time student at an accredited college, university or professional school. Applications are available by contacting our Scholarship liaison Larry Wells at his email of: [lawman1156@gmail.com](mailto:lawman1156@gmail.com). Deadline for completed application is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

In July the Wreath 39 scholarship selection committee will meet to make their decision. The check will be made out directly to the college and presented to the recipient in September.

Best of luck to all our Sokol applicants! Zdar Boh!

**Bob Sheehy, President**  
**Larry Wells, Treasurer**

**PENNSYLVANIA FRATERNAL ALLIANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at [Theresa@lpsc.u.org](mailto:Theresa@lpsc.u.org) or 888-834-6614, or by accessing the PFA Website at [www.pafaternals.org](http://www.pafaternals.org).

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a current year high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: “What has membership in a Fraternal insurance company meant to you”.

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>. At least two \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

If you or your society has not received the information on the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship, please contact Larry Golofski (412) 915-9035 or e-mail [larry.fscla@gmail.com](mailto:larry.fscla@gmail.com)

**SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR RETURNS**

After a three-year break, the Slovakia Heritage Tour’s September harvest festival tour is back this year from September 8-17. This engaging tour reconnects people of Slovak ancestry with their family traditions as well as takes them on an exploration of the history of Slovakia from when our ancestors left this beautiful land to the thriving democracy it is today. Personalized day trips also offer opportunities to visit families and ancestral villages.

The September Slovakia Heritage Tour is now organized and operated by Peter and Jane Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours ([www.bestslovakiatours.com](http://www.bestslovakiatours.com)) who partnered with founder Judy Northup-Bennett for 10 years. Judy is available to talk with interested travelers about the tour to see if it works for their Slovakia travel plans. She also consults on general Slovakia travel information, and how to trace your roots.

To discuss your Slovakia travel plans, as well as for more information on Best Slovakia’s Slovakia Heritage Tour, and how you can create your own personalized journey to explore your family’s story, contact Judy Northup-Bennett, 978-544-5144, [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com) or visit the web site: [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com)

**MARY M. BEYER**

(Continued from page 22)

is survived by many nieces and nephews who she loved to spend time with. Mary was predeceased by her siblings, Julia Misencik (Honorary Supreme Officer, 1992 Fraternalist of the Year), John Zaharek, Sophia Wilcox, Michael Zaharek, Andrew Zaharek, Anna Taddei, and George Zaharek.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Torrington. Burial was in New St. Francis Cemetery, Torrington. Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

## Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

floors of gymnasium at the Slets for Team Drill competition and won many of the battles. All Groups have looked up to Sister Judy for advice, with them asking WWJD, What Would Judy Do? Congratulations to Sister Judy Manyak for all that you do for the Society and a well-deserved recognition of your dedication.

With the whole month of May dedicated to the Blessed Mother, every day in May is set aside to honor, petition, and pray to the Blessed Mother. It is only fitting that on the second Sunday in May we honor our earthly mothers on their special day, Mother's Day, to express our love and reverence for our Mothers. Visiting or calling our mothers and wishing her a Happy Mother's Day says it the best.

I extend my best wishes to all our members who are Mothers, in any degree, "Happy Mother's Day". Let us also remember all Mothers who are deceased, since they are still and will always be with us.

Another day we celebrate in May is our national holiday, Memorial Day. Even though this day was created for remembering those who died while serving in the country's armed services, it also allows us to remember our deceased loved ones and friends. Take time on this unofficial beginning of summer and visit the cemeteries to remember our family and friends who are forever in our hearts and those who served our country.

In two weeks Sokol Bowlers and members from other Slovak fraternalists will meet for the 77th Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament at the AMF Airport Lanes in Cheektowaga, NY. Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and the Supreme Physical Fitness Board have organized an outstanding and competitive tournament. See all of you, May 19-20, 2023, at the tournament and safe travels to all.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board received from the Group Directors and Directresses the forms of their Group members that will be coming and participating in the 50th International Slet, July 12-16, 2023, at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. The Board will use this information to organize a memorable Slet for all the participants to enjoy this historic fraternal event.

All the 2023 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship applications have been received and awarded to our members being educated in Catholic Grade and High Schools and those furthering their education at a college or university. The members will receive notification of their scholarship in the upcoming weeks.

As we begin to enter summer let us remember all things change and we accept change especially spring into summer as something good. Let us remember change happens in our lives and we deal with the change to make us better. This being the case, look at your insurance needs and examine what changes you need to assure you and your family have enough insurance. If you find you are underinsured, call the Home Office for advice and they will provide you with the information to purchase additional or new life insurance.

Stay Safe and Healthy!  
With God's Blessings to All!  
Zdar Boh!

## PENNSYLVANIA FRATERNAL ALLIANCE FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

It is time to submit nominations for the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Fraternalist of the Year Award.

Can you answer "Yes" to the following questions?

- Do you have a member residing in Pennsylvania who, through example and accomplishment, provides outstanding volunteer service?
- Would you like your member to be honored at the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting?
- Would you like your society to be recognized for the outstanding fraternal and volunteer efforts of its members?

If you answered yes to the above, please read the attached guidelines, choose the member you would like to nominate and complete the forms and submit no later than September 1st.

On behalf of the PFA Fraternalist of the Year Award Committee, namely, Dane Medich, Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras and myself we thank you in advance for taking the time to recognize someone in your society as a nominee for this celebrated award.

You can also find the Nominating Form on our website [www.pafraternalists.com](http://www.pafraternalists.com). Form can be completed on-line and e-mailed directly to the Committee.

Fraternally,

**Edward Moeller**, Chairperson

PFA Fraternalist of the Year Award Committee

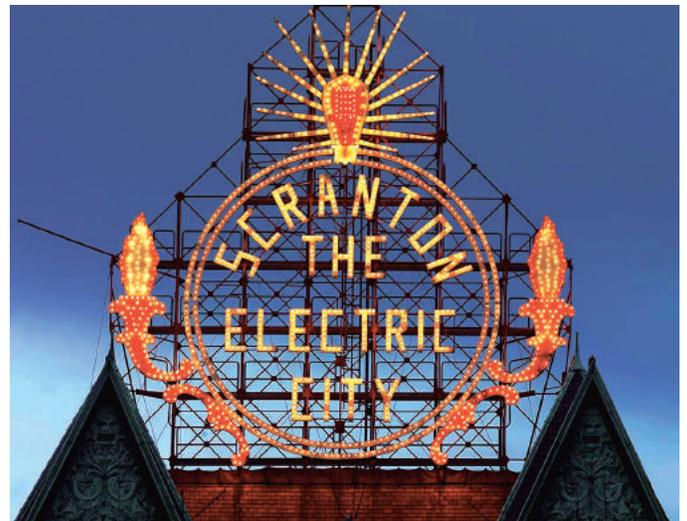


## SAVE THE DATE

### SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL 34<sup>th</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

### AUGUST 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

AT THE  
**HILTON SCRANTON &  
CONFERENCE CENTER**  
Scranton, PA





# KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - May 2023

## Mother's Day Poem

Dear Mom,  
I will love you forever;  
And forever you will be  
The most wonderful mother,  
You mean everything to me.

I thought of buying you flowers  
In the usual way,  
But I knew you would prefer  
A FOREVER bouquet!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!**

Benjamin Roman 5/3  
Parker Pyo 5/15  
Octavia Dixon 5/20  
Nathan DiMartino 5/20  
Lucia Yugas 5/21  
Savannah Vollero 5/22  
Vayda Korenoski 5/28

SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY DATES  
TO ME  
vp@slovakcatholicokol.org



## 77<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT

Steve Luczki  
Rudy Holloman  
Mike Todd  
Alan J. Novotney  
**Assembly 25 - Perryopolis, PA**

Marc Kudlacik  
Robert Mosloskie  
**Assembly 162, Clifton, NJ**

Jeremy Francis  
Justin Francis  
David Iskra, Jr.  
Dave Iskra, Sr.  
**Assembly 59 - Wilkes-Barre, PA**

Don Macko  
Chris Macko  
Robert Macko  
Dan Dawson  
**Assembly 167 - Barberton, OH**

Francis Risko  
Edward Wilk III  
Gary Risko  
Brian Risko  
**Assembly 79 - Lilly, PA**

Marty Degnan  
Michael Horvath  
Frank Lipski  
Tony Rasimas  
**Assembly 59 - Wilkes-Barre, PA**

Al Pogorelec  
Frank Pavlica  
Steve Pogorelec  
John Termyna  
**Assembly 162, Clifton, NJ**

Joann Antosy  
Deborah Unger  
Patricia Latshaw  
Kathleen Smolkowicz  
**Wreath 155 - Reading, PA**

Karen Bakita  
Carol Macko  
**Assembly 167 - Barberton, OH**

Dave Matty  
Clarence Checkton  
Ron Johnson, Jr.  
Bernard T. Seruga  
**Assembly 25 - Perryopolis, PA**

Jeremy Glass  
John Smith  
James Bart  
Corey Shedlock  
**Assembly 79 - Lilly, PA**

Heather Horvath  
Kelly Plachanis  
**Assembly 59 - Wilkes-Barre, PA**

### GROUP 7 ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, April 1, Group 7 members and friends attended the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey game vs the Syracuse Crunch. A fun time was had by all despite a 3-2 Penguin's overtime loss.

Also in April, the Group held its annual Easter flower sale and proceeds were used to provide local families in need with dinner and goodie baskets for Easter.





## **Our Ever-Popular, 304-Page Sokol Cook Book**

**is Now in its Fourth Edition**

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

Place your order today!

Make check or money order payable to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol

P.O. Box 899 – 205 Madison Street

Passaic, N.J. 07055

(Canadian orders kindly add an additional \$15.00 for postage)



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF BOOKS \_\_\_\_\_

(Effective January 1, 2015)

## **SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL 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://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm>

or simply send your donation to: James F. Knis, SCS Museum Treasurer, 6385 Harbor Drive, N.W., Canton, OH 44718. Your bequest will be recognized in the Falcon as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum. Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$1,000 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON**

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

NEW     CHANGE     CANCELLATION

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## **Follow Us On TWITTER**

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

## **INSTAGRAM**

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