



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský katolícky sokol

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL • MEMBERSHIP 30,000 • HOME OFFICE: 205 MADISON ST., PASSAIC, NJ 07055

Periodical Postage Paid at original entry of Passaic, NJ 07055 and additional mailing offices

VOLUME CXIV

PASSAIC, NJ, MAY 1, 2025

NUMBER 5197



MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPREME PRESIDENT LARRY M. GLUGOSH

I hope all of our Slovak Catholic Sokol members and officers enjoyed their Easter long weekend. It is a special time to spend with family and friends. It is also a wonderful time of reflection and prayer to God, as we count our many blessings and give thanks for all that we enjoy. In our home, we paid tribute to our mom and grandmother, who loved to spend Easter with her family but we know she is watching over us from Heaven.

With this in mind, my heartfelt best wishes to all the new parents and grandparents who celebrated their new arrivals this year. As I have mentioned in the past, I encourage you to obtain a life and/or annuity policy from our society for your new family member. The premiums are the lowest at birth but the benefits flow and continue for many years, especially when they are in high school and college. Being a member provides you an opportunity to receive an SCS scholarship and participate in many fraternal programs.

Along with giving thanks, we can appreciate some of the quality programs and benefits our fraternal society has to offer to our members including our athletic events, scholarships and soon our summer fraternal programs like sokol picnics and Slovak festivals. As some of you are aware, many of our fellow fraternal benefit societies have cancelled some of their benefit programs due to a lack of participation and/or financial concerns. At our Q1 Board of Directors meeting in March, we recommended to maintain our program for 2025 including our new Heritage Slet family event in June, that requires your support and participation. Check our Slovak Catholic Sokol website, where you can see the Supreme Physical Fitness Board's monthly youth events too.

In addition to funding our fraternal programs, our Board of Directors approved our 2025 operating budget. Our financial performance in 2024 was fairly good but mainly because we reduced our discretionary spending, sold the printing shop and had some one-time cost benefits in the pension plan. In speak-

ing with our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, we are in agreement that moving forward our focus and key objectives for the board will be to maximize our income, continue to reduce operational expenses, optimize our fraternal spending and ensure we maintain good board governance through communication and cooperation. With this in mind, we have started to assess and evaluate our key professional partners and meet potentially new financial advisors. It is our fiduciary obligation to our membership to always ensure we are delivering the best rate of return in our investment portfolio.

In a few weeks, we will honour the special women in our lives on Mother's Day. It is a truly a wonderful day to honor the women in our families for all of their sacrifice, devotion and most importantly their unconditional love. Whether the day is spent with our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, sisters, aunts or wives, it is important we let them know how much we love them and appreciate all the wonderful things they do each day. With this said, a very happy Mother's Day to my wife Susanna and my mom in Heaven. It will be our first Mother's Day without her. She will be missed but never forgotten.

Later this month we hope you also take the time to pay tribute to our many veterans as part of the Memorial Day long weekend or as they call it is Canada, Victoria Day. We should all take some quality time to reflect and appreciate our armed forces. It is important that we remember and recognize those individuals in our local communities, which have served to protect and uphold our democracy and way of life. We are grateful for our good fortune and blessings, as a result of the sacrifice and dedication of our veterans. I hope your weekend celebrations will be peaceful and reflective.

Next week, our Supreme Vice President Andrea Tadlock will once again chair our annual scholarship meeting with members of our Board of Directors. There are many deserving College, high school and grade school applicants and we will do our best to select our 2025 recipients based on their financial need, fraternal involvement and academic merit. As in the past, we will post the award winners in our July publication.

(Continued on page 5)

Slovak Catholic Falcon Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

ISSN:0897-8107

Established April 15, 1911

Official Publication
of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

Issued bi-monthly

Editorial Staff:
Livia Karak

Annual Subscription Rates:
United States \$40.00
All others countries \$45.00

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to

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

Member of the Catholic Press Association
and the

Slovak Newspapermen's
Association of America
Proprietor and Publisher
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
P.O.Box 899

205 Madison Street
Passaic, NJ 07055

HOME OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
9:00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

FRIDAY
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PHONE NUMBERS:
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-886-7656
HOME OFFICE: (973) 777-2605
or 777-2606

FAX NUMBER: (973) 779-8245
E-MAIL: Sokol205@aol.com
WEB SITE: www.scsllife.org

FOLLOW US ON:
TWITTER: www.twitter.com
INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY SCOTT T. POGORELEC, F.I.C.



BUSY TIMES

I hope that many of our members will take the time to celebrate Join Hands Day on Saturday, May 3rd. It is a National Day of Volunteering sponsored by Amer-



ica's fraternal benefit societies. It is a day of community service that specifically targets and develops relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Many communi-

ties across the world use this day as a building block to start the communication process between the young and old. With the mix of our young adults and our "wise and experienced" members, the Slovak Catholic Sokol can be a shining example of this special day. I urge our local Assembly and Wreath leaders to schedule a community service event and let the rest of our membership know about it through our Falcon. Remember, Join Hands Day should not only be celebrated one day a year. This is what we do and who we are as fraternalists.

Perhaps the most important day of the month of May will be Sunday, May 11th. That wonderful day is, of course, Mother's Day. Anna Jarvis is recognized as the Founder of Mother's Day in the United States. She developed the inspiration of celebrating Mother's Day from her own mother, Mrs. Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis, in her childhood. As an activist and social worker, the elder Mrs. Jarvis used to express her desire that we should honor all mothers and pay tribute to the contributions made by them. Following her mother's death, Anna wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mother's Day. The hard work paid off and on May 8, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. I would like to wish all our Sokol Mothers out there a Happy

Mother's Day! And I would especially like to wish my mother, Annie, and my wife, Maggie, a Happy Mother's Day! I remind everyone, once again, that celebrating our beautiful Mothers should not only be a one-day event, but an everyday occurrence.

Let us also not forget the national holidays, Memorial Day and Victoria Day, created to honor and remember those who have died performing their duties while serving in the Armed Services. They served and died so we can live freely, and their sacrifice helped other countries shed the chains of their oppressors. May we never forget what they did for many, and the loss felt by their families. May all their souls Rest in Peace.

In our next issue of the Falcon, our members will also have the opportunity to see the smiling faces of our 2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients. Our scholarship grants are awarded to those on the college, high school, and grade school levels. This year will mark the 51st Anniversary of our generous scholarship program and we are proud of the fact that we have supported over 2,500 students with over \$2.2 million in scholarship grants. Our children are our future, and we need to continue to support them!

The month of May also brings about many wonderful celebrations such as First Holy Communions, Confirmations, and Graduations. I cannot think of a better gift to give your Child or Grandchild than a Slovak Catholic Sokol Life Insurance Policy. Think about all the future benefits your child can reap with a Sokol policy, such as the above-mentioned Scholarship Grants. If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office at (800) 886-7656, and we would be glad to assist you.

I hope that all our Sokol bowlers have a wonderful time at our 79th International Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, PA on May 16th and 17th. Enjoy

the spirit of fraternalism and competition and pick up all those spares!

Please check out the activities for our Heritage Slet during the last weekend of June. Our Supreme Physical Fitness Board has put great effort into putting together this fraternal activity and we hope you can make it!

Until next time, good health to all!

Stay safe, stay strong,
and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

SOKOL CALENDAR

MAY 16-17, 2025

BOWLING TOURNAMENT at Meadows Casino and Racetrack in Washington, PA.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

ASSEMBLY 11 ANNUAL MEETING at the home of Financial Secretary Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Drive, Palos Hills, Illinois, beginning at 2 p.m. If you plan to attend please call Assembly 11 President Joe Seliga at (312) 342-8292.

FRIENDS OF SLOVAKIA AND SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C. ANNUAL PICNIC 3p.m. to 7p.m. at the Arlington Knights of Columbus, 5115 Little Falls Road, Arlington VA 22207.

SUNDAY JUNE 8, 2025

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING of Assembly 163 will be held at Dorothy's house in Donora, PA. at 1:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend please contact Terri Gardner at 724-263-7289.

AUGUST 8-10, 2025

GOLF TOURNAMENT – Friday and Saturday – Oaktree (West Middlesex, PA). Sunday – Yankee Run (Brookfield, OH).

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

The next issue of the **SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON** will be that of **JULY 1, 2025**. **DEADLINE** for all photos and information for this issue will be **JUNE 22, 2025**.

The next **SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL NEWSLETTER** will be posted on our website on **MAY 15, 2025**.

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdo vic

**POPE FRANCIS TO SLOVAK PILGRIMS: 'BEAR WITNESS
JOYFULLY TO HOPE THAT DOES NOT DISAPPOINT'**

Vatican City, Apr 4, 2025 / 11:23 am

Pope Francis on Friday shared a message with Slovak pilgrims, including Slovakia's President Peter Pellegrini, in Rome for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.



In a written message released by the Vatican, the Holy Father welcomed approximately 4,300 Slovak pilgrims who

began their jubilee pilgrimage this week with the celebration of Mass at the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

"I would very much have liked to be present with you to share this moment of faith and communion, but I am still in convalescence and so I will join you through prayer and with all my affection," the pope's message read.

Pellegrini on Thursday posted on X that he "promised" the Holy Father that he would join his country's national pilgrimage to Rome when he visited the Vatican in December of last year.

Archbishop Bernard Bober of Košice, chair of the Conference of Slovak Bishops, is also among the group of pilgrims made up of hundreds of lay faithful, consecrated men and women, priests, and bishops who plan to pass through the jubilee Holy Doors and visit the tombs of apostles and martyrs in Rome over the next few days.

In his message, the Holy Father en-

couraged participants to continue their country's "rich Christian tradition" as witnesses of hope and joy, following in the footsteps of countless saints — including patron Sts. Cyril and Methodius — "who have irrigated [Slovakia] with the Gospel of Christ for more than a thousand years."

"Your pilgrimage is a concrete sign of the desire to renew faith, to strengthen the bond with the successor of Peter, and to bear witness joyfully to the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Romans 5:5), because it is born of the love that sprang from the pierced heart of Christ and poured into us by the Holy Spirit," the pope said.

Describing faith as "a treasure to be shared with joy," the Holy Father said welcoming God's "plan" does not mean having all the answers but rather trusting that "wherever he leads us, he precedes us also with his grace."

"Every time brings with it challenges and hardships, but also opportunities to grow in confidence and in abandonment to God," he said, adding: "Our 'yes,' simple and sincere, can become a tool in the hands of God to achieve something great."

Entrusting the Slovak group to their patroness Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows to guide and protect them on their journey, the pope concluded his message with a special blessing for their families and country.

"Sisters and brothers, continue to walk together, pastors and faithful, keeping your eyes on Jesus, our salvation ... Do not forget to pray for me," he said.

**Introducing our
newest members**



Weston A. Nohl, born December 27, 2022, son of Eric Trokan and Melanie Nohl. He is a member of Wreath 93, Milwaukee, WI.



Oliver D. Bakita, born June 25, 2024, son of Matthew and Alicia Bakita. He is a member of Assembly 167 in Barberton, OH.



Crabtree - Kovacicek
Veterans House
City Mission
is the chosen charity for the
International Bowling Tournament.

During the tournament, we will have a basket raffle where participants can take chances to win and help support the Crabtree - Kovacicek Veterans House. We will also accept monetary donations from individuals, groups, wreaths, and assemblies before and during the tournament.

If you wish to contribute now,
please mail a check made out to

City Mission
and send it to:

Andrea Tadlock
100 Fletcher Farm Road
Vermontville, NY 12989



Find us on Facebook:



**Slovak Catholic
Sokol Public Group**



Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting was held on January 24-25 2025 in Pittsburgh, PA. Front row (l-r): Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Kristin Popik, Supreme Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift, Supreme Director of Sport and Athletic Kathy Watkins, Supreme Physical Fitness Member Janice Matlon. Second row Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Chris Antosy, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletic Rob Palchanis, Supreme Physical Director Dusan Dorich.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL GROUP 17 2025 CALENDAR

March 16- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Our Lady of Sorrows Day at the Races

March 21- 5:00 pm – St. Nicholas Struthers Parish Fish Fry

April 11- 5:00 pm – Piroghi Day at Teenie's Tavern

April 12 - 12:00 noon- 2:00 pm– Easter Egg Hunt and Decorating for ALL Ages, Edgewood Pavilion, Boardman Park

May 3 – Join Hands Day- Details forthcoming

May 16-17 – International Bowling Tournament, Meadows Casino, Pittsburgh

June 26-29 – Heritage Slet Peek n' Peak Resort, Clymer New York

July 12 – Sokol sports Day- Details forthcoming

August 8-10 – International Golf Tournament, Oaktree and Yankee Run Golf Courses

September – District Golf Outing hosted by Group 17, Mahoning Countr Club, Date TBD

October – Fall Activity- TBD

November – Day of Giving- Details forthcoming

Members and guests, please join us at any of these local and international events!!!

- **Nancy Kropolinsky**, *Group 17 President*

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 or 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 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 Fraternalism 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 Deadline for completed application is May 31st. 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 receiptient in September.

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

Bob Sheehy, *President*

Larry Wellsm, *Treasurer*

MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPREME PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 2)

I hope to see many of you at our 2025 International Bowling tournament at the Meadows Casino in Washington PA. I know our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Kathleen Watkins is working closely with the other fraternal societies and members to ensure we have a successful tournament. Bowling has always been a fun and spirited event for our members and we hope this year will be a special fraternal event. This year we are once again co-hosting the tournament with the officers and members from the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) and the National Slovak Society (NSS). We have enjoyed working with the other societies over the years and the feedback is good.

In closing, I would like to wish all the special women in my life a happy Mother's Day. Thank you for everything you have done over the years to enrich our family and bring love, kindness, faith and laughter to our lives.

May God bless all of you!

HERITAGE SLET

JUNE 26-29 PEEK N'PEAK

26 JUNE 2025	7:00 PM OPENING CEREMONIES WITH MASS FOLLOWED BY A FAMILY INCLUSIVE EVENT
27 JUNE 2025	9:00 AM WORSHIP WITH SCAVENGER HUNT 9:00-12PM INDIVIDUAL DRILL, VOLLEYBALL, SENIOR BINGO SOCIAL, MINI GOLF 1:00-4:00 POOL SOCIAL 6:15 DINNER, CORNHOLE AND FIREPIT PARTY
28 JUNE 2025	9:00 AM MORNING MEET UP SENIOR GATHERING ROPES COURSE 1:00 PM POOL SOCIAL TRADITIONAL SLOVAK CRAFT 6:15 PM CLOSING CEREMONY CONCERT AND FIREPIT
29 JUNE 2025	SAFE TRAVELS THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN AND KEEPING OUR TRADITIONS ALIVE



JOINHANDSDAY
it starts with us

MAY 3, 2025

Join Hands Day is a volunteer event that started 25 years ago to inspire adults and youth to volunteer together in their community. Supporting your community and passing the volunteer

spirit to our Sokol members of all ages is a wonderful opportunity. I am encouraging all our members to participate in this day to spread the joy of volunteering in your communities. There are no limits to what you can do!!

After completing your activities, please send me your pictures and videos at vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org. I will publish them in the Sokol Falcon or you can submit them to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1DtqZK7muY/>. Volunteering is a beautiful experience for those on the receiving end and those giving. I cannot wait to see what our Sokol members do to spread the joy on May 3rd!

God Bless you in all that you do.

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President

WALKING TO CONNECT AND DISCONNECT

In today's hyper-connected world, where many of us spend hours on our screens, walking provides an essential break from technology. Walking is an opportunity to disconnect from emails, social media, and constant notifications, permitting the ability to recharge and reset.

This break from screens is crucial for mental well-being. Research shows that too much screen time, especially before bed, can negatively impact sleep quality, contribute to anxiety, and hinder our ability to focus. A simple walk outside, with no digital distractions, allows us to reset and restore our focus, creating a balance between the digital world and the physical world around us.

Apart from the mental and emotional benefits, walking is also a fantastic way to stay physically fit. It's a low-impact form of exercise that can be done by almost anyone, regardless of age or fitness level. Regular walking improves cardiovascular health, strengthens muscles, and enhances flexibility.

But walking isn't just about physical health; it also supports mental sharpness. Studies have shown that regular physical activity like walking can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and even boost creativity and problem-solving abilities. Whether you walk briskly around your neighborhood or go on long hikes, it's a wonderful way to keep both your body and mind in shape.

While walking traditionally offers an opportunity to step away from technology, the digital world has found a way to merge with walking to create new forms of connection. The Slovak Catholic Sokol walking community brings together people from all cities within our organization to walk for fitness, mental health, and shared goals. The 2024 miles walked collectively totaled 66,340.61 miles! That equates to 4 round trips from Group 1 Passaic, New Jersey to Group 19 Toronto, Canada and all our groups in between! Congratulations to all the walkers contributing to this feat. This year's winner again is Rich Walkowiak, walking 2909.5 miles. Second and third place were close with Andrew Peterson walking 2840 miles and Noah Romine not far behind walking 2810 miles.

In a world where we're constantly moving, walking reminds us to take it slow, connect meaningfully, and rediscover the joys of the journey. I look forward to seeing monthly totals!

Nancy Kropolinsky

Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

Schedule for the Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on Saturday, September 13, 2025:

11:00 AM Pilgrims arrive
11:30 AM Upper Church -- Welcome by the Basilica's Director of Pilgrimages
11:45 AM Upper Church -- Overall Tour of the Basilica
12:00 PM to 1:15 PM Memorial Hall -- Availability for Confessions

Cafeteria -- Lunch

1:30 PM Upper Church -- Mass
2:30 PM Procession to the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows
4:00 PM Departure

MINUTES OF WREATH 54 ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 2, 2025 HELD AT DOUBLE BOGEY'S, BOARDMAN, OH

Call to Order and Welcome: President- Loretta Smith

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance: Vice-President- Susan Babik

Roll Call of Officers and Members: Secretary- Nancy Kropolinsky

President- Loretta Smith
Vice President- Susan Babik
Treasurer- Judy Babik
Secretary- Nancy Kropolinsky
Financial Secretary- Mary Olexa
Auditor- Virginia Bartos
Auditor- Joanne Bartos
Sergeant at Arms- Ruth Troxil
Member- Patty Gordulic

Acceptance of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes: Nancy Kropolinsky summarized the minutes of the 2024 Annual meeting. Judy Babik made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Patty Gordulic.

Activity Reports:

Financial Secretary: Mary Olexa reported on members and disbursements given from the Home Office. Susan Babik made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Virginia Bartos.

Treasurer: Judy Babik reported on the finances of the Wreath. Donations made in 2024 included: Our Lady of Sorrows Day at the Races, Slovak Fest, Group 17 Golf Outing, and gifts for the families in memory of Carol Gonda, Patty Holecko and Mary Lou Buck. Nancy

Kropolinsky made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Joann Bartos.

Auditors: Virginia Bartos and JoAnn Bartos confirmed all books are in order. Patty Gordulic made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Susan Babik.

New Business:

Financial Secretary Mary Olexa made a motion to combine the position with that of Treasurer. She informed the members the role has changed and evolved over the years and recommended combining offices. Judy Babik, Treasurer, agreed that both positions conduct the same review of income. Ruth Troxil made a motion to combine both positions, Patty Gordulic seconded. Unanimously approved.

New Motions:

The following items were discussed and unanimously approved:

To support and attend Our Lady of Sorrows Day at the Races, to sponsor a race and a horse.

To make a donation to the Slovak Catholic Federation at St. Cyril & Methodius Parish.

To make a donation to the Heritage Slet for a specific event. Nancy Kropolinsky will discuss with the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and notify members. To support Group 17 events by donating and attending activities.

Correspondence: a Thank You was offered for the donation in memory of Mary Louise Buck.

Adjournment: Joann Bartos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Virginia Bartos.

WREATH 22-SHARING FRATERNALISM



With hearts full of love and many smiles, the ladies of Wreath 22 held their March meeting at the Fair Oaks Senior Living Center. This is the residence of the lovely Joan Yanosick. In attendance was her good friend and longtime past officer, Veronika Moeller. Having both of these two ladies back in our presence to share their love, wisdom and knowledge is the exact example of friendship and leadership.

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2024

REPORT OF THE SUPREME VICE-PRESIDENT

Výročná správa predstavenstvu

In accordance with Section 4.2, Article (j) on page 22 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I am pleased to submit my annual report for the year 2024 to the Supreme Board of Directors. I have diligently strived to fulfill the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Bylaws.

Upon the completion of my first year as a member of the Board of Directors, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the delegates of the 34th Quadrennial Convention held August 5th through the 8th, 2023, in Scranton, PA, for the honor of serving as your Supreme Vice-President. Thank you for your support and trust in my leadership.

Board of Directors Meetings

I have attended the quarterly Board of Directors meetings. It has been a rewarding experience collaborating with my fellow Board members as we collectively strive to guide the Slovak Catholic Sokol (S.C.S.) into a promising future.

S.C.S. Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee convened via email and a virtual meeting on May 2nd, 2024, to select the recipients of the 2024-2025 Collegiate, Catholic High School, and Catholic Grade School scholarship programs. The committee comprised the following members: Larry M. Glugosh, Supreme President; Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Secretary; John D. Pogorelec, Esq., General Counsel; and Katie Swift, Supreme Physical Directress.

The Scholarship Committee awarded a total of 22 Slovak Catholic Sokol Grants. One Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Grant, two Emil Slavik Memorial Grants, one Doctors Lesko Medical Memorial Grant, one Yencha Family Grant, and four Museum Memorial Grants were granted. Furthermore, seven Slovak Catholic Sokol Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grants, and thirteen Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grants were also awarded to deserving recipients. Congratulations to the 2024-2025 grant winners.

The Scholarship Committee was pleased to introduce the John J. Yanosick Memorial Scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. This scholarship was initiated by Joan Yanosick and the South Side Sokol Club to honor the legacy of Group 14's John Yanosick, who is fondly remembered as Uncle Jack. Additionally, the Glugosh family has expanded the eligibility criteria to encompass applicants pursuing degrees in computer science, information technology, or related fields. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Joan Yanosick, the South Side Sokol Club, and the Glugosh family for their unwavering commitment to supporting academic endeavors.

Lastly, the S.C.S. website scholarship pages were updated, and new application forms were created to improve the process for grant applicants.

Kids' Corner

I have continued the publication of the Kids' Corner in the Falcon Newspaper and introduced an opportunity for members under 16 to win an Amazon gift card by submitting monthly puzzles. A new winner is randomly selected after each Falcon publication.

The summer reading program has been maintained to promote literacy among our young members, with new prizes to reward participants for their dedication. I am actively seeking ad-

ditional opportunities to enhance the Kids' Corner and increase engagement among our S.C.S. youth.

Fraternal Activities

I support the Supreme Physical Fitness Board (SPFB) by developing a Slovak Catholic Sokol Mobile Application. This application serves to keep members informed about upcoming sporting and fraternal events organized by the S.C.S. At present, the application has successfully attracted 116 members.

In an effort to support our communities, I have partnered with the SPFB to designate a sponsored charity for each sporting event, encouraging participants to contribute. During the Bowling Tournament, participants generously donated \$1,170 to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, while the Golf Tournament raised \$775 for Dubois, PA's Haven House. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Kathy Watkins for her efforts in creating the exceptional gift baskets that contributed to the success of these charitable initiatives. Thank you to all the participants for making a positive impact on these important causes.

The 2024 Join Hands Day movement was inspirational. Thank you to Groups 2, 5, 7, 12, 14, 16, and 17 for sharing your Join Hands Day activity and providing motivation to help our communities.

To enhance our community outreach efforts, I launched the "Sokol Forward" program, designed to highlight our members' volunteerism and charitable contributions within their respective communities. Each Falcon Publication, a charitable event or volunteer activity is featured amongst our membership. Members, assemblies, wreaths, or groups that are chosen receive recognition for their charitable works and a \$50 donation to the charity they support. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for those selected to earn a \$150 contribution towards their charity by being recognized as the "Sokol Forward Spotlight of the Year." I strongly encourage all members to engage in this initiative and promote our commitment to community outreach.

I had the pleasure of attending the Family Funfest at Peek n' Peak in June and supporting the Golf Tournament in DuBois, PA, in August. In addition, I supported the SPFB and their efforts to initiate a youth council, as well as various online programs. I would like to sincerely thank the SPFB for their outstanding efforts in organizing these programs for the S.C.S. membership.

Conclusion

I want to express my deep gratitude to the entire Board of Directors for their unwavering commitment to the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The thoughtfulness, compassion, and dedication to the well-being of the organization shine brightly through the efforts of each board member. I am also thankful to my family for their steadfast support—my mother, a shining example of Slovak Catholic Sokol values, and my daughters, who inspire me to embrace my passion for this beloved organization. To the entire membership, thank you for your support and for giving me the opportunity to serve you. May the Lord bless you and your families with abundant love and good health. Zdar Boh!

Kindly and respectfully submitted,

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

In accordance with the governing provisions contained in Section 4.11 of the Constitution and By-Laws, the undersigned submits this report to the first quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol to detail the activities of the General Counsel during calendar year 2024.

During the past year, my office continued 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 legislation will have an adverse effect on or ability to continue to do business within each particular state. Particular emphasis is placed upon review of tax legislation which may attempt to eliminate the tax-exempt status of our organization. Currently, there is no adverse legislation pending which negatively impacts our organization.

With regard to contracts and pending real estate matters, I have continuously briefed our membership that our organization had entered into a contract with one of its long-standing tenants, Tri County Plumbing, to sell a parcel of real estate on the home office site which had previously served as our print shop for many years. I am pleased to inform you that the print shop was sold and the transaction officially closed title on November 8, 2024. Net proceeds from the sale, after accounting for adjustments, amounted to \$184,575.60. The legal work performed on the file was quite extensive and included the following: numerous telephonic communications with Buyer's attorney; draft and prepare written communications to Buyer's Attorney; receipt and review of written communications from Buyer's attorney; receipt and review of Resolution adopted by the City of Passaic Planning Board; receipt and review of Neglia engineering report with final conditions to be satisfied; telephonic communications with Valerie Mason, Branch Manager, Foundation Title; telephonic communications with Ali Kopetsky,

Processor/Closer, Foundation Title; review responses to e-mail communications from senior title officer concerning Constitution and By-Laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol; review commitment for title insurance, specifically Schedule A, Schedule B, Part I, Schedule B, Part II - Exceptions, Schedule C, tax assessment search, and judgment search; draft and prepare conveyance documents pertaining to the minor subdivision and ancillary title documents; draft and prepare conveyance documents pertaining to the transfer of Lot 10.01 Slovak Catholic Sokol to Thermal Blockchains; review of Parking/Loading Easement, Utility Easement, License Agreement, Ingress/Egress Easement, and Maintenance and Pedestrian Easement; receipt and review of ALTA and RESPA; completion of closing statement for client; meeting at the home office with Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec to attend to the execution of closing documents; attend to the closing of title and disbursement of deposit check from trust account.

With regard to the home office site itself, after careful consideration, the Board decided to explore further options to market and sell the building, based on the recommendation from CPS Actuaries. Consequently, at the December quarterly meeting, the Board instructed the undersigned to communicate with our professionals to have the building re-appraised. The revised appraisal of the building determined a value of \$3,503,000.00. In addition, during the past year, the Supreme Secretary and I have met on several occasions with a licensed real estate broker and prospective buyer who expressed an interest in purchasing the building and property. More meetings will be scheduled at a later date; I will advise of the status of future contract negotiations.

Last year, I had the pleasure of serving on the Scholarship

Advisory/Selection Committee with Supreme President Larry Glugosh, Vice-President Andrea Tadlock, and Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec. Consequently, we declared 50 winners of our 2024 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship grants. Grants were awarded to young Sokols and Sokolky to assist in their various educational pursuits in Catholic grade school, high school, college, and graduate school.

While on the subject matter of scholarships, I drafted and prepared legal documentation establishing a new scholarship, specifically, the Declaration for the John J. Yanosick "Uncle Jack" Memorial Scholarship Fund. By way of background, the decedent dedicated over 50 years to the youth of Group 14, Assembly 16 and Wreath 22. His devotion to the fundamentals of the Sokol organization was exemplified through ensuring the fraternal aspects of the society. In doing so, he held various offices as Assembly 16 Sports Director, Trustee, Board of Director Sokol Club, and Group 14 Sports Director. Joan Yanosick and the South Side Sokol Club wished to create a scholarship fund to provide financial assistance for members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The express provisions of the trust read as follows:

1. The Sokol shall award one (1) scholarship on an annual basis; and

2. Eligibility for the scholarship shall be restricted to a college or trade school student and a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for a minimum of three (3) years and one (1) parent or guardian for one (1) year; and

3. The scholarship shall be funded from the interest and dividends earned from the principal received in the amount of TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$25,000) DOLLARS received in 2024, and such other amounts as the Grantors may, in their discretion, determine to fund said scholarship fund; and

4. Selection of the successful recipients shall be based upon scholarship ability, financial need, and participation in the activities of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, with a preference to a member from Group 14; and

5. The Board of Directors shall have the power to change the amount and number of 5. The Board of Directors shall have the power to change the amount and number of scholarships awarded in any given year, with the consent of the Grantors.

After drafting and preparing the legal documentation, the declaration was subsequently executed, notarized and filed with the home office. The grant for the first year shall be \$1,000 dollars and apply to this year's round of scholarship appropriations.

In matters concerning litigation, there were no new lawsuits filed against the organization during this past year. Our mortgage portfolio is in good standing. There were no new mortgages issued during the past year and our portfolio contains two mortgages. Both mortgagors are current with their obligations. I continue to verify that the property taxes and insurance are all paid up to date.

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 in the minutes of these meetings published in our Sokol magazine, the Slovak Catholic Falcon. We continue to conduct virtual conference call meetings so all Board members are present via the computer in an effort to reduce the expenses incurred by the organization.

As a governing body, we continue to explore any opportunities which would benefit our membership. I am confident that the membership growth will continue, which is vital for the future of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

In regard to our investment portfolio, 2024 posted a second

(Continued on page 10)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2024

(Continued from page 9)

exceptional year for equities, but core bond strategies produced modest returns even with interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve. Equity returns of 18.5% outperformed the 16.99% return of the S&P 500. Fixed income returns of 1.50% outperformed the 1.25% of the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index. The repositioning we accomplished in the third and fourth quarter realized capital gains, reduced risk, increased average quality in the bond portfolio and the average yield to maturity acquired was between 5.00% to 5.15%. Overall, it was a good year. We continued to provide required liquidity, effectively managed risk, began repositioning the portfolio to reduce duration, increase yield to maturity and efficiently balanced gains and losses. I wish to thank Thomas Calimano, Senior Vice President, PNC Institutional Asset Management, and his team for providing wisdom and guidance in overseeing our investment portfolio throughout the years.

In conclusion, I wish to extend my thanks and gratitude to my fellow Supreme Officers for their contributions to strengthen our organization by making decisions in the best interest of our beloved Slovak Catholic Sokol. May the Board conduct all deliberations in the spirit of fraternalism.

Zdar Boh!
Respectfully submitted,
John D. Pogorelec, Jr.
General Counsel

REPORT OF THE SUPREME TREASURER

Pochvalen bud Pan Jezis Kristus!

I respectfully submit my 2024 Annual Report as Supreme Treasurer in accordance with Sections 3.2 and 4.4 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Constitution and By-Laws.

I attended the First quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors on April 6, 2024, at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ. At the beginning of the First Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors the Museum Board of Directors held their annual meeting. As the Secretary/Treasurer of the Museum Board of Directors I presented the Museum's 2023 financial report and the status of the Museum's scholarship investments. As the Museum's Secretary I took the minutes of the meeting and gave the minutes to Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. to publish in the Falcon.

Helped prepare the Society's 2024 Budget with input and assistance from Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh and Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. When called upon for the Treasurer's Budget report, I explained the budget to the Board of Directors and gave the details behind the budget line items.

I participated online at the Second Quarterly Board of Directors meeting held on June 26, 2024, via Zoom.

I participated online at the Third Quarterly Board of Directors meeting held on September 26, 2024, via Zoom.

I attended the Fourth Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors meeting held on December 7, 2024, in Fort Myers, FL.

As the Treasurer of the Museum Board, I received donations to the Museum's Memorial Scholarship Fund from members and donors and deposited the funds in the Museum's checking account. After receiving the Scholarship Committee's selection on which members would receive a Memorial Scholarship, prepared the scholarship check and sent them out to the members. In

2024 the Museum Memorial Scholarship awarded four \$1,000.00 scholarships.

Prepared an article to acknowledge the Memorial Scholarship donations received, to include the name of the donor, who the donation was for and the amount. The Home Office published this report in the Falcon. I prepared and sent Thank You letters to all who donated to the Museum's Memorial Scholarship Fund.

I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at the Spring meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation's meeting held April 18, 2024, at the Sisters of Saints Cyril & Methodius Mother House in Danville, PA.

I attended and participated in the Slovak Catholic Sokol 78th International Bowling tournament held May 17 – 18, 2024 at the AMF Bowlero Lanes in Pittsburgh, PA.

Represented the Society at the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance's 2024 Annual meeting held October 20-21, 2024, at the Hyatt Place Hollywood Casino in Washington, PA.

Thank you to the Home Office staff for your help and assistance in 2024. You helped make my work as Treasurer easier.

I finish by thanking my family and members for the support they have given me this past year to help me fulfill my duties as the Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Thank You!

With God's Blessings to All, Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Horvath
Supreme Treasurer

REPORT OF THE SUPREME DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2024.

Ongoing from January - May

- Created monthly newsletter and submitted to Falcon and Facebook
- Organized virtual activities and posted on Facebook
- Attended virtual activities hosted by the SPFB (and Father Andrew)
- Hosted group president / sports directors Zoom call

January

- Met with Basil Wahal from the GCU to discuss bowling tournament
- Met with Gil at Bowlero Lanes in Pittsburgh to discuss bowling tournament
- Worked with James Matlon on paperwork and transition
- SPFB Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh

February

- Zoom call with GCU and NSS
- Worked with Basil Wahal on finalizing application and information for the bowling tournament
- Bowling tournament Zoom call with GCU and NSS
- Submitted 2024 bowling tournament announcement and application to Falcon for March and April
- Worked collaboratively with Supreme Vice President Andrea Tadlock to plan outreach for the bowling tournament

March

- Confirmed hotel for bowling tournament and booked rooms for officers attending
- Confirmed rates at Treasure Lake Golf Courses
- Confirmed hotel rates for golf tournament
- Updated application for golf tournament

- Confirmed Lugig's Catering for golf hospitality for Friday evening and reception on Saturday evening
- Met via Zoom with Supreme Vice President Andrea Tadlock and members of the SPFB to discuss options for an SCS App

April

- Deposited checks from bowlers
- Discussed Petruff Award recommendations with Scott and Larry
- Contacted Jim Matlon to order Petruff Award
- Organized all bowling applications
- Confirmed hospitality numbers for bowling
- Emailed out the golf application and sponsorship information to the golfers
- Sent golf information to the Falcon and posted on Facebook
- Shared golf application and sponsorship information with Basil from the GCU
- Reached out to NSS to inquire if they would like to join us for golf
- Confirmed all golf information and posted to Facebook
- Emailed golf information to be put on the website and in the Falcon
- Booked officers' rooms for golf tournament
- Researched information about possible sites for Golf 2025

May

- Sent letter to Scott requesting allotment for bowling tournament
- Put together a basket to be auctioned off at bowling to raise money for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Zoom call with Basil (GCU) and Behtany(NSS) to finalize bowling tournament information
- Zoom call with Andrea, Dusan, and Katie to push out the information for the new app
- Attended bowling tournament
- Deposited all 50/50 money and Children's Hospital donation money
- Mailed check to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- Verified bowling results and shared for the website
- Finalized all bowling bills with GCU and NSS

June

- Finalized all bowling bills with Basil from GCU and Bethany from NSS
- Recorded information from golf applications that were received
- Texted confirmation to all members who sent in golf applications
- Attend Family Funfest at Peek 'n Peak
- Contacted Floyd McKain from HDS about golf souvenirs
- Attended a Zoom call with GCU and NSS to discuss bowling tournament info
- Attended Family Weekend at Peek-n-Peak
- Texted golfers that I received the application
- Sent out a follow-up survey to bowlers
- Deposited checks from golfers
- Contacted Luigi's and Treasure Lake regarding the golf tournament
- Finalized 2025 Bowling Tournament info with GCU and NSS.

July

- Texted golfers to confirm that I received the application
- Completed golf foursomes
- Set golf foursomes to Falcon and to Louie foe website
- Confirmed hotel for tournament

- Deposited all final checks for tournament
- Order Petruff Award from Trophy Works
- Contacted Basil from GCU about printing sponsorship signs
- Picked up sponsorship signs from GCU
- Booked a block of rooms at Meadows Casino Hotel for 2025 bowling tournament

August

- Met with Meadows Casino to confirm details for 2025 bowling tournament
- Put together the cooler of items for the raffle to benefit Haven House
- Ordered necessary supplies for tournament
- Sent refund checks to people who paid and could not attend the tournament
- Attended the golf tournament
- Sent daily emails to golfers during the tournament
- Verified all golf scores/ handicaps and sent names of winners to be posted on website
- Emailed all golfers the list of winners for the tournament
- Mailed checks to the winners in each category and to the skill prize winners
- Sent out a follow-up survey to golfers

September

- Contacted company to order golf polos for the winners
- Contacted several golf courses to inquire as to availability for the 2025 golf tournament
- Confirmed Oaktree / Yankee Run for Golf Tournament-Aug 8-10, 2025

October

- Confirmed / booked block of rooms for the golf tournament at the Hampton Inn and Suites - Sharon, PA
- Mailed golf shirts to winners
- Held a Zoom meeting with group presidents/ sports directors to discuss upcoming activities and events

November

- Ongoing conversations with Dusan Dorich and Katie Swift regarding possible sites for the Slet or a different kind of activity to be held in the summer of 2025

December

- Attended SPFB Zoom meeting to discuss the Slet and possible changes for the summer of 2025.
- Attended the BOD meeting
- Attended a Zoom call with GCU and NSS to discuss the bowling tournament

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen S. Watkins

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In compliance with the bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my Activity report for 2024.

January -March

I met with Vychodna Slovak Dancers to plan their 40th anniversary and to bring band from Slovakia.

Attended Annual meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness board held in Pittsburgh PA. It was our first meeting as a new board. Meeting was very productive with a lot of input from all the members of the Board. We work very hard to establish new goals for the next 4th years. New virtual activities were put in place to

(Continued on page 12)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2024

(Continued from page 11)

better serve our members. We picked music and choreographed new drills.

I planned schedule for the Falcon articles by the SPFB members.

Together with our Supreme Directress planed the schedule for SPFB monthly meeting via Zoom. Hosted with our Supreme Assistant Director Marty Degnan Slovak History class over the Zoom. Work with the two universities that we picked for the future Slet to secure dates for 2025. Attended the monthly book club hosted by SPFB member Zach Manyak.

Worked with our Supreme Directress Katie on plans for the family fun weekend at Peek n' Peak resort.

Kept in touch with the Directors of the groups so they all had all the communications on the plans for the International Clinic.

Coordinated with our Supreme Directress dates for our 2024 International Clinic which would be held our two Saturdays via Zoom. First session would take part in July and second in August.

April-June

Planed our next Slovak Heritage class with our Assistant Marty Degnan.

Together with our Supreme Directress held monthly meeting over the Zoom with the SPFB.

Zoom meeting allowed us to keep in touch and to make sure we are on track with our activities.

Attended Bible Study hosted by our Supreme Directness Katie.

Travelled to Passaic NJ to attended meeting of the new Board of Directors. Meeting was very productive with lots of new ideas coming forward from all the Directors. We set goals for the next four years that we want to achieve.

Attended annual meeting of Group 19, Toronto, Canada, At the meeting informed members of the Group 19 of all the activities that SPFB has planned for the year.

Met with the planning committee of Vychodna Slovak dancers to put final touches on their 401st anniversary program. Worked with our Supreme Directress to finalize our schedule for the International Clinic.

I took part in the family fun weekend at the Peek n' Peak resort. It was a lot of fun and great to see our members being at the resort as one happy family.

I travelled to Wilkes Barre PA to put final touches and to video male division new drills. I attended our Supreme Directors meeting with was held over Zoom.

Hosted with our Assistant Director another class on Slovak History/Heritage.

Took part in Group 19 annual golf tournament. Event was well organized. It was great to see so many young members of the Group 19. Many thanks to the organization committee.

July -September

Together with our Supreme Directress held International Clinic over the Zoom. Clinic was held over two Saturdays. First session covered reviewing all the forms. Informed all the Directors and

Directresses with all the changes that were made to the rules and regulations. Discussion was held how we can increase participation of our members in the current and future activities. Second session

focused on reviewing new drills as well as collecting new ideas from the groups to better our programs.

I attended our International Gold Tournament held at the Treasure Lakes resort. I assisted our Supreme Sports Director with opening and closing ceremonies and with anything else that was needed. Tournament was well attended by our members. Great to see lots of our young members at the event. Great job by our Supreme Sports Director and her Assistant.

I submitted an article to our Falcon regarding International Clinic Together with our Supreme Directress and Sports Director attended Group 7 Annual Picnic held in Wilkes Barre, PA. We visited our Supreme Assistant Director who was taken ill. It was great to see smile on his face when we surprised him.

I attended virtual meeting of the Board of Directors. Meeting was well organized and we managed to review all our goals.

I attended 40th anniversary of the Vychodna Slovak Dancers. Event was sold out. I hosted for 2 weeks couple of the musician who came from Slovakia.

October -December

I travelled to Wikes Bare Pa. to attend the funeral of a dear friend our Supreme Assistant

Director Marty Degnan. Marty was a big part of the SPFB over many years of his service and dedication to our organization. Marty will be missed by a lot of people.

I continued with our Supreme Directress communications with our Group Leaders. We continued to hold our meeting with the rest of the SPFB members.

Together with our Supreme Directress continued to plan next year events and to organize 2025 Slet.

I kept in touch with the universities re our Slet 2025 and to get all the final info we needed for the SPFB meeting in January 2025.

I worked with our Supreme Vice President to provide information for the new SCS App.

I traveled to Florida for the meeting of the Supreme Directors. We reviewed all the activities for 2024. Started planning for the 2025 with changes that I feel will greatly help our organization.

I will continue to work hard over the next 3 years in my position. Together with our Supreme Directress will be driving force for our programs and to get the members to be more involved in them. Will continue to encourage leaders of all our Groups to be active not only on their local level but internationally as well. Together with our Supreme Directress I am honoured to lead our beloved Sokol to the future.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Slovak Catholic Sokol for allowing me to serve as Supreme Physical Director.

Faternally yours,
Zdar Boh!

Dusan Dorich

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 submitting my 2024 annual report.

January- March

- Attended the Annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board

meeting held in Pittsburgh, PA. As our first meeting as a new board we had made great strides. We choreographed 4 new drills as well as a new Mass Drill. We worked together to establish new goals for our term, new virtual events as well as planning the upcoming activities. We also focused and coordinated on other fraternal outreach activities for 2024.

- Organized a schedule of monthly Supreme Physical Fitness Board meetings via Zoom
- Coordinated with all SPFB Members for Virtual events as well as Supreme Chaplain Father Andrew for a Monthly Virtual Rosary
- Coordinated with Assistant Sports Director Rob Palchanis to establish a Virtual Youth Advisory Meeting. The idea of this group is to reach out to the age groups between 16-30 for new activities focused on their wants.
- Coordinated With Supreme Sports Directress Kathleen Watkins a Golf Package for a Winter Sokol Golfers weekend in Myrtle Beach
- Leader of a weekly Bible Study
- Attended the monthly Rosary
- Attended the monthly Slovak Heritage class hosted by Supreme Director Dusan Dorich and Assistant Director Martin Degnan
- Attended Monthly Rosary hosted by Supreme Chaplain Father Andrew and SPFB member, Jancie Matlon
- Attended Monthly STEM activity hosted by SPFB member Kristen Popik
- Attended Monthly Sokol Happy Hour hosted by Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky and SPFB Member Chris Antosy
- Attended Monthly Book Club hosted by SPFB member Zach Manyak
- Researched and contacted different venues and activities for the 2026 International Slet
- Attended the Board of Directors Meeting held in Passaic, New Jersey
- Continued contact with Directress, Directors, Assistants and leaders.
- Submitted articles to the Slovak Catholic Falcon
- Consistently emailed Directors and Directress' keeping all communication flowing
- Finalized all plans for a family fun weekend to be held at Peek n' Peak resort
- Coordinated dates for our 2024 International Clinic which would be held on two Saturdays via Zoom.

April- August

- Coordinated monthly meetings for the Supreme Physical Fitness Board via Zoom. These meetings allow us to quickly touch base and make sure we are on track with all our activities
- Coordinated meetings with Assistant Sports Director Rob Palchanis for monthly Virtual Youth Advisory Meeting
- Leader of a weekly Bible Study
- Attended the monthly Rosary
- Attended the monthly Slovak Heritage class hosted by Supreme Director Dusan Dorich and Assistant Director Martin Degnan
- Attended Monthly Rosary hosted by Supreme Chaplain Father Andrew and SPFB member, Jancie Matlon
- Attended Monthly Stem hosted by SPFB member Kristen Popik
- Attended Monthly Sokol Happy Hour hosted by Assistant Directress Nancy Kropolinsky and SPFB Member Chris Antosy

- Coordinated the Sokol Family Fest Weekend at Peek and Peak Resort and coordinated social activities throughout the weekend
- Consistently contacted Group leaders about activities and upcoming events.
- Coordinated and led the International Clinic via Zoom. This meeting discussed suggestions to increase participation, rules and regulations, and options for the future. This took place over 2 Saturdays. In attendance were the SPFB members and representatives from Groups 1,4,7,11,12, and 14
- Submitted Articles to the Slovak Catholic Falcon
- Attended the International Golf Tournament held at Treasure Lake. Assisted Supreme Sports Directress Kathleen Watkins and Assistant Sports Director Rob Palchanis for opening, closing, and in any other needs to keep the tournament running smoothly.

September - December

- Continued communication via email with Group Leaders and the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Members
- Attended the Group 7 Annual Picnic held in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.
- Attended the Board of Directors meeting held via virtually
- Attended the funeral of our dear brother, friend and leader, Assistant Supreme Director Martin Degnan
- Participated in the Halloween Pumpkin Carving contest led by SPFB Member Zach Manyak
- Submitted articles to the Slovak Catholic Falcon
- Contacted Group Presidents for updates on Group officers and events
- Attended the Wreath 22 quarterly meeting in September as well as the Wreath 22 Christmas Party in December
- Attended the Group 14 Annual Meeting
- Attended Board of Directors meeting held in December in Florida.
- Worked with Supreme Vice President Andrea Tadlock to provide information for the new SCS App
- Worked with the Supreme Director Dusan Dorich to plan events and organize the 2025 activities.

will continue to work hard and strive to be a driving force for programs for all members in our organization. I will continue to encourage all of our leaders from each Group, Wreath and Assembly to keep fraternalism alive and thriving locally, nationally and internationally. I am honored to lead our organization into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Swift
Supreme Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

As per the Bylaws of The Slovak Catholic Sokol for Duties Of the Members Of The Supreme Physical Fitness Board Section 4.12 (d) I am submitting my year report.

January 2024 - December 2024

January 12-13 Attended the SPFB meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Pittsburgh,PA

February- June

I participated with the Zoom activities that SPFB had put to-

(Continued on page 14)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2024

(Continued from page 13)

gether.

May 4 Helped Group 7 with Join Hands Day at Sisters of St. Cyril and St. Methodius spruce up their grounds.

May 17-19 Attended the 76th International Bowling Tournament held in Pittsburgh

June 21-23 Attended the Sokol Family Fest held at Peak'N Peak Resort in NY

June 29-30 Assisted with the final rendition and taping of the drills in Wilkes-Barre

July Attended the virtual clinic

August 9-11 I attended the annual International Golf Tournament at Treasure Lake Golf Courses in Dubois, PA

September I attended Group 7 annual Sokol Day Picnic

November I attended the dedication of a plaque for our late Supreme Asst. Physical Director Marty Degnan.

December 6 I attended Group 7 annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert R Palchanis III

Supreme Asst. Director of Sports and Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT DIRECTRESS OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

In accordance with the by-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2024. As the Walking Program Coordinator, I ensured all participant awards for 2023 were given and promoted monthly themes for Groups to be involved with throughout 2024.

January- March

- Attended the Annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting held in Pittsburgh, PA. Sporting events and fraternal outreach activities for 2024 were discussed and coordinated.

- Attended Supreme Physical Fitness Board meetings via Zoom or conference call to review responsibilities and update progress on activities.

- Coordinated monthly virtual Happy Hour with Brother Chris Antosy.

- Collected Walking Program participant miles, updated participant contact information and organized awards. Submitted an article to The Falcon regarding the 2023 Walking Program.

April- June

- Attended Supreme Physical Fitness Board meetings via Zoom or conference call to review responsibilities and update progress on activities.

- Coordinated monthly virtual Happy Hour with Brother Chris Antosy.

- Assisted Supreme Sports Director, Kathy Watkins and Assistant Sports Director, Rob Palchanis during the International Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, PA. and wrote the article recapping the event.

- Displayed the Memorial Table during the Bowling Tournament Social.

- Attended the Sokol Family Fest Weekend at Peak and Peak and assisted in coordinating social activities throughout the weekend.

July- September

- Attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Clinic Virtual Meeting and offered suggestions to increase participation. Assisted Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift in meeting preparations.

ations.

October- December

- Contributed to on-going communication via email with Supreme Physical Fitness Board Members to recap 2024 activities and generate recommendations for 2024.

It continues to be a pleasure serving the Slovak Catholic Sokol as the Supreme Assistant Physical Fitness Directress. I look ahead to working with the board with enthusiasm while promoting the values and fraternalism of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Zdar Boh!

Nancy Kropolsky

Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AUDITORS

As the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, and in compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2024 Annual Activity Report.

I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the weekend of January 12th through the 14th. During the annual meeting I worked with Kathy Watkins, the new Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, and provided her with documents from previous International Bowling and Golf Tournaments.

I was at the Home Office from March 25th-27th, to work with James Jerek, Edward Bajus and Brad Hoeck to finalize the 2023 Annual Audit Report. The completed Annual Audit was emailed to the Board of Directors on April 4th.

I attended the Board of Directors 1st Quarter Meeting held in Passaic, New Jersey from April 5th through the 7th and presented the 2023 Annual Audit Report provided by James Jerek. I participated in the Board of Directors 2nd Quarter 2024 Meeting via zoom conference call on Wednesday June 27th.

On August 8th I emailed the SCS six-month Trial Balance from January 2024 through June 2024 to the Supreme Auditors Edward Bajus and Brad Hoeck for review.

I attended the 69th International Golf Tournament from August 9th through the 11th at Treasure Lake Resort in DuBois, Pennsylvania and assisted as needed for the entire weekend.

I participated in the Board of Directors 3rd Quarter 2024 Meeting via zoom conference call on Thursday, September 26th.

On October 7th, I attended the Funeral Mass for Marty Degnan, the Supreme Assistant Physical Director at St Aloysius Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

On October 31st, I attended the Funeral Mass Daniel F. Tanzone, at St. Casimir Church in Yonkers, New York. Daniel Tanzone was the former editor of the Slovak Catholic Falcon.

I also attended the 4th Quarter 2024 Board of Directors Meeting that was held in Ft. Myers, Florida from December 6th – 8th.

I would like to thank all members who participated in our Assembly/Wreath, Group and International fraternal activities in 2024. I am hopeful that more members will participate in our future Slovak Catholic Sokol fraternal activities.

Fraternally yours,

Zdar Boh!

James C. Matlon

Chairperson of the Auditors

MINUTES OF GROUP 17 ANNUAL MEETING

Call to order by President Nancy Kropolinsky.

A meeting of Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 17 was held at 7401 Market St. Boardman, Ohio 44412 on 03/02/2025.

Vice -President Glen Kramer led with the Opening Prayer and Sports Director, Monica Shirilla followed leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call taken by Secretary Doug Pusateri. Attendees included:

President Nancy Kropolinsky/ Vice-President Glen Kramer/ Secretary Doug Pusateri/ Treasurer Tom Shirilla/Auditors Mike Ekoniak, Judy Babik, Mary Olexa/ Sports Director Monica Shirilla/Physical Fitness Board Susan Babik, Virginia Bartos, Loretta Smith/ President Emeritus Jim Jerek.

Members: Steve Bartos, Joanne Bartos, Dave Olexa, Joey Rivera, Ruth Troxil, Patty Gordulic Tracey Pusateri

Approval of Minutes from 2024 Meeting: Request for amendment by Glen Kramer to recognize members that placed in the 2023 National Golf Tournament which included: In the Callaway Division- Tom Hamrock placed 2nd, Frank Roth- 3rd, Ed Gonda 5th and Johnny Gordulic- 7th. In the 62-69 age group, Glen Kramer placed 6th, Over 70 division- Rob Hritz placed first, and Loretta Smith placed 2nd in the Women's decision. Congratulations to all!

Motion by Jim Jerek Second by Mike Ekoniak . Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes from 2024: Motion by Glen Kramer Second Nancy Kropolinsky Minutes accepted unanimously.

Officers activity reports:

President Nancy Kropolinsky submitted her report recapping Group 17 2024 events. Motion to accept: Jim Jerek Second by Tom Shirilla. Accepted unanimously.

Vice-President Glen Kramer submitted his report outlining his attendance and responsibilities throughout the year.

Motion to accept: Tom Shirilla Second by Mike Ekoniak. Accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Tom Shirilla submitted his activity report

Motion to accept: Judy Babik Second by Doug Pusateri. Accepted unanimously.

Secretary Doug Pusateri submitted his report

Motion to accept: Joey Rivera Second by Steve Bartos. Accepted unanimously.

Auditors Reports: Judy Babik submitted the report on behalf of the Auditors. Motion to accept: Patty Gordulic Second by JoAnn Bartos. Accepted unanimously.

Sports director Monica Shirilla submitted her report highlighting her involvement throughout the year. Motion to accept: Tom Shirilla Second by Dave Olexa. Accepted unanimously.

Physical Fitness Board: Susan Babik submitted orally and written.

Motion to accept: Monica Shirilla Second by Mike Ekoniak. Accepted unanimously. Virginia Bartos submitted orally and written.

Motion to accept: Judy Babik Second by Joe Bartos. Accepted unanimously. Loretta Smith submitted orally and written. Motion to accept: Susan Babik second by Doug Pusateri. Accepted unanimously. End of activity reports all written copies retained by the secretary for records.

Unfinished Business:

Reimbursement for members who attended Valija Dinner was reopened for discussion and was approved.

A stipend of \$25.00 was also approved for any member that attended the 2024 International Golf Dinner.

Treasurer Tom Shirilla submitted the annual financial report orally and written. Motion to accept: Judy Babik Second by Sue Babik. Accepted unanimously.

New Business:

Discussion and approval of donations to Simply Slavic Festival

Motion to accept Jim Jerek Second Tom Shirilla. Approved unanimously.

Slovak Heritage Foundation Motion to accept Loretta Smith Second by Mike Ekoniak. Approved unanimously.

Slovak Catholic Federation at St. Cyril & Methodius Parish.

Motion to accept Mike Ekoniak Second by Dave Olexa. Approved unanimously.

Our Lady of Sorrows Festival Silver Sponsorship

Motion to accept Glen Kramer Second by Mike Ekoniak. Approved unanimously.

Our Lady of Sorrows Day at the Races Race and Horse sponsorship

Motion to accept Loretta Smith Second by Sue Babik. Approved unanimously.

Local Golf League stipend per participating member

Motion to approve Jim Jerek Second by Loretta Smith. Approved unanimously

Notice of 2025 events

Submitted orally and in writing to all members present March 16th Our Lady of Sorrows Day at the Races
March 21st Fish fry at St. Nicholas Social Hall Struthers, Ohio
April 11th Pierogi Day at Teenies Tavern Youngstown, Ohio
April 12th Easter Egg Hunt and Decorating Contest Edgewood Pavilion Boardman Park
May 3rd Join Hands Day
May 16-17th International Bowling Tournament Meadows Casino Washington County P.A.
June 26-29th International Heritage Slet Peak 'n Peak Resort Clymer N.Y.
July 12th Sokol Sports Day
August 8-10th International Golf Tournament Oaktree and Yankee Run Courses Trumbull Co. Ohio
September 27th Group 17 Sponsored Golf Outing Mahoning Country Club Girard, Ohio
October TBD Facebook Pumpkin Carving Contest
November TBD Day of Giving
December TBD Facebook ugly sweater contest

Good of the Order

Salaries discussed and determined they remain the same. Motion to accept Judy Babik Second by Dave Olexa. Approved unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn.

Mary Olexa Second by Jim Jerek Closing Prayer
Meeting adjourned



KIA SLOVAKIA PRODUCED RECORD NUMBER OF 351,000 CARS LAST YEAR

The Kia Slovakia carmaker manufactured more than 351,000 vehicles at its plant in Teplicka nad Vahom (Zilina region) in 2024, a record for the factory, Kia Slovakia spokesman Tomas Potocek told a news conference.

The Kia Sportage continues to be the model produced in the largest numbers.

The three main export markets of Kia Slovakia in 2024 were the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain.

A total of 351,270 vehicles left the production plant's lines last year, 0.3 percent more than in the previous year. "The biggest demand was for the Sportage model, with more than 221,000 being manufactured in 2024. The remaining 129,000 vehicles were four versions of the Kia Ceed model," said Potocek. Electric versions accounted for a quarter of the vehicles produced.

As many as 18 percent of the company's exports went to the United Kingdom, 11 percent to Germany, and 9 percent to Spain. They were followed by exports to Poland, Italy, France and the Czech Republic. The company exported its cars to 83 countries in total, while more than 7,800 cars remained on the Slovak market.

Kia Slovakia is the only company operated by Kia Corporation in Europe. Its plant was built between 2004-2006, and it launched production in December 2006. It employs up to 3,800 people.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SUMMONS AMBASSADOR OF UKRAINE OVER UKRAINIAN REMARKS

The Foreign and European Affairs Ministry summoned Ukrainian Ambassador to Slovakia Myroslav Kastran, conveying to him sharp criticism over the statements of the Ukrainian side, which the ministry considers to be interference in the internal affairs of Slovakia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy repeatedly spoke critically against Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. He accused Fico of choosing Russia over the USA and its partners when it comes to gas. Speaking at the World Economic Forum last week, Zelenskyy also pointed to the Slovak premier, who he said wasn't seeking access to US gas but "is not losing hope of using the US security umbrella".

A contract for the transit of Russian natural gas through Ukraine expired at the end of 2024, and the country has decided not to renew it. Premier Fico subsequently threatened Ukraine with a halt in electricity supplies and a reduction in support for Ukrainians who have taken refuge in Slovakia in the wake of the war in Ukraine.

PRESIDENT: NEW STYLE OF PURSUING FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS GAINING

The world is changing dynamically and a new style of promoting foreign policy interests is gaining strength, President

Peter Pellegrini stated at a meeting with heads of diplomatic missions and representatives of international organisations accredited in Slovakia.

The head of state thus continued the tradition of the New Year's reception, which is a thanks for the cooperation so far and an opportunity to deepen mutual relations with countries from all over the world.

The president further stated in his address that it's necessary to face new challenges. "In the field of security, energy and migration policy, the uncompromising pursuit of national interests dominates. This poses a major challenge for every institution, including the EU, to keep pace with the world, especially with China and the USA," Pellegrini told around 90 diplomats and representatives of international organisations. It's clear, he said, that the EU can't move forward without the courage to make fundamental changes.

Pellegrini confirmed that Slovakia is pursuing a foreign policy oriented towards all four cardinal directions, adding that Slovakia's place is in the EU and NATO, which, according to him, guarantee internationally recognised borders, free and secure economic development. "New times are coming and it's necessary to prepare for them. It isn't impossible that the EU will have to take more responsibility for its own security, and along with it also Slovakia," noted the president.

GORAL COMMUNITY OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AS ETHNIC MINORITY IN SLOVAKIA

The Goral community [which mainly lives in the north of Slovakia, close to the Polish border - ed. note] will become 15th officially recognised ethnic minority in Slovakia, according to a decision made by the government at its away-from-home session in Cerveny Klaster (Presov region), based on Premier Robert Fico's proposal.

Gorals have welcomed this decision, claiming that it will enable them to preserve their traditions and spread them further.

"This is a source of satisfaction for Gorals, as the Goral community occupies all of northern Slovakia, from the town of Stara Lubovna (Presov region) up to upper Moravia - Jablunkov. We are unique in the environment in which we grow up, we are shaped, we profess values such as hard work, responsibility, family and faith in God. We want the Goral culture to be preserved for future generations," said Pavol Bekes, mayor of the village of Zdiar (Presov region).

Bekes pointed out that thanks to being included on the list of ethnic minorities, the community will be able to obtain money from the state budget for its activities and thus further develop its culture. In Zdiar, it would finance, for example, folklore ensembles and the promotion of Gorals at home and abroad. "We are already part of the intangible cultural heritage in Slovakia, and we would like to be included on the UNESCO list along with the [Gorals among the] Poles and the Czechs," added Bekes.

Gorals applied for inclusion in the list of ethnic minorities back in 2023. The mayor of Zdiar estimates that some 70,000 people in Slovakia belong to this community. The exact number will be known after the next census.

There will now be 15 ethnic minorities in Slovakia. The previous ethnic minority to be recognised in Slovakia was the Vietnamese one in 2023.

MARTIN DEGNAN AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY AS THE 2024 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

The Fraternalist of the Year celebration was held on March 29, 2025 at Wyoming Valley Country Club in Wilkes-Barre, PA in honor of our 2024 Fraternalist of the Year, Martin Degnan, our former Supreme Assistant Physical Director. He passed on October 2, 2024.

He was a member of Assembly 59, Group 7, Father Joseph Murgas, in Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he served as vice president and physical director. He was a member in the North End Slovak Citizens Club, North Wilkes-Barre and the Polish American Veterans Club of Plains Township.

He was a dedicated Sokol always willing and able to lend a hand in his own Group, Assembly and International level. Marty held various positions on the Physical Fitness Board for over 20 years. The Sokol family was truly a huge part of Marty's life and he was very proud of his membership.



L-R: Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh, Marty's Mother, Marie Degnan, who accepted the award and Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec.



Board of Directors (l-r): Supreme President, Larry M. Glugosh, Supreme Treasurer, Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Kathleen Watkins, Supreme Vice-President, Andrea M. Tadlock, Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC. Second row: Chairperson of Supreme Auditors, James C. Matlon, Supreme Physical Director, Dusan Dorich, General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Esq. and Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdoivic.

SLOVAKS OF WESTERN PA TO CELEBRATE 102ND ANNIVERSARY IN KENNYWOOD PARK

At the beginning of the last century, many immigrants left their beloved homeland in search of better opportunities in a new land across the ocean. Many Slovaks built that new life in the coal mines, mills and railroads of Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Despite the dangerous working conditions and long working hours, once a year they came together in a public place to reminisce and share their experiences. "Kenny's Grove" as it was known back then provided the perfect opportunity.

Slovaks from the Tri-State area and beyond will once again present our rich Slovak heritage with a day long celebration in Kennywood Park on Thursday, July 17th. Slovak music will be heard, Slovak dishes will be offered, and souvenirs will be sold.

The Slovak kitchen will begin serving favorite home-made traditional food at 12:30 p.m. There will be games and prizes for the children as well! Musical entertainment will be provided by the "Gypsy Strings" throughout the afternoon. Following a short program in the afternoon, Clergy from the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Dioceses' will join to celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Pavilion. Songs and dances representing our rich cultural heritage will round out the day with a program by the "Pittsburgh Slovaksians."

Join the celebration on July 17th as our heritage is showcased at the 102nd Slovak Day in Kennywood. For more information or discount tickets contact Mary Lou at: (412) 462-1957 or Sue at: (412) 421-1204.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Make all checks payable to: W. PA. SLOVAK DAY ASSOC.

_____ x \$33 = _____
No. of Slovak Day Tickets
Good on July 17th ONLY

_____ x \$40 = _____
No. of **FLEX** Date Tickets
Good for **ALL** Summer

TOTAL PAYMENT

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Email: _____

MAIL TO: S. Ondrejco 234 ILION St. Pgh., PA 15207

S.C.S. BETHLEHEM ASSEMBLY 78 HONORS SAINT FRANCIS SCHOOL SISTERS

On March 22, 2025, a Dedication of Service and Closing of the Convent at Incarnation of Our Lord Parish (formerly SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish) in Bethlehem, PA, was held. The day began with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the 77 years of dedicated service by the School Sisters of St. Francis held in the church with Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, bishop of the Diocese of Allentown, as the principal celebrant. The mass was concelebrated with Pastor Rev. Andrew N. Gehringer, Asst. Pastor Miguel Ramirez, Pastor Emeritus Rev. Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, and Deacon Tony Ocampo.

After mass concluded, a celebratory dinner reception was held in the church hall, the LaBuda Memorial Hall. Milissa Bolcar, who organized and MC'd the event, welcomed those in attendance and recognized the sisters present. Her remarks were followed by an opening prayer by Fr. Andy and dinner. Sister Marian and Sister Roseann gave remarks before dessert.

Then, the Slovak Catholic Sokol Bethlehem Assembly 78 President, Francis Blonar, presented two donations. The first was from the Sokols to the remaining sisters present for the closing of the convent. The second was the Sokol's annual donation to the motherhouse at St. Francis Convent on Bridle Path Road in Bethlehem, PA. The memorable day concluded with a thank-you to the volunteers, remarks, and a final prayer by Msgr. Kozel, and a farewell from Milissa.



The sisters and priests after mass with the bishop.



S. Regina Ann Rokosny, S. Donna Pusch, S. Roseann Velas, Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, Francis Blonar, Rev. Andrew N. Gehringer



Father James Divastio, from Holy Name of Jesus in Stratford CT accepts a monthly check from Larry Wells, Financial Secretary of Wreath 39. It is used to purchase food for the pantry or fresh items to cook once a month to members of our community. Holy Name of Jesus participates by helping to provide a delicious home cooked dinner to members of our community who are in need. Each week they serve meals such as roast beef, stuffed cabbage spaghetti and meatballs and soups including desserts and fruit. The local church feeds approximately 120 people every week. If HNJ does not have enough perishables in the food pantry, they utilize monetary donations to purchase fresh items and protein meats. Wreath 39 members have in the past; and continue to volunteer with this wonderful endeavor by donating, shopping, prepping food, cooking, delivering and serving it personally with a warm welcome and smile. Sharon Lyman, a member of HNJ has been one of the volunteers that help to coordinate this effort. The food is made at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Center and brought down fresh and hot to serve.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM DONATIONS JULY – DECEMBER 31, 2024

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations which were received during the period of July 1 to December 31, 2024 for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Scholarships located at our Home Office in Passaic, NJ.

The monies received from donors fund our annual \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships which assist our members in their educational endeavors. The number of scholarships the Museum Board awards depends upon the amount of donations received.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of	Donated by	Amount
Martin Degnan	Albert Kollesar	\$ 50.00
	Cathleen Casey	\$ 100.00
	Anne Marie	
	& David Trethaway	\$ 100.00
	Julie and Jim Dobbs -----	
	Julie & Frank Laury	\$ 500.00
	Sue & Brian Blosser -----	
	Andrea Tadlock -----	
	Joann Stefanko	\$ 50.00
	SCS Assembly 59,	
	Wilkes-Barre, PA	\$ 100.00
	David Tarantini	\$ 25.00
	Group 4, Wisconsin, WI	\$ 100.00
	Michael & Justine Weiss	\$ 50.00
	Chrissy Richards	\$ 50.00
Deceased Supreme Officers Marty Degnan & Daniel Tanzone	Supreme Board of Directors	\$ 300.00
Claudi Borecki	SCS Group 14, Pittsburgh, PA	\$ 50.00
Deceased members of Group 12	SCS Group 12, Reading, PA	\$ 200.00
Deceased Members of Assembly 86	SCS Assembly 86, Port Griffith, PA	\$ 100.00
Irene Kashchak	SCS Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, PA	\$ 100.00
Carol Gonda	SCS Group 17, Youngstown, OH	\$ 200.00
Mary Vitek	Stephen Vitek	\$ 100.00
Clifford A. Moeller, Sr.	Veronica Moeller & Family	\$ 100.00
Total Donations July – December 2024		\$2,275.00

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors Thank You for your donations and support of the Museum Scholarships.

Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Treasurer

MINUTES OF GROUP 6 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka, Group 6 was held on Sunday, April 6, 2025 at Hoss's Steak & Seafood Restaurant. The meeting was called to order by President Anna Mae Warnick at 1:15 p.m. Opening prayers of "Our Father", "Hail Mary", and "Glory Be" were prayed along with Grace. Anna Mae welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lunch was served and business meeting began after lunch.

Minutes from the annual meeting in October 2024 were read by Secretary, Terri Gardner. Treasurer report was given by Mary Ann Erdley.

Anna Mae asked if anyone was able to gather infor-

mation for their groups, assemblies or wreaths; she requested we continue to try to obtain as much information as possible. Discussion was held regarding suggestions for events or activities for the group. Tentative dates were agreed upon for the Annual meeting to be held on Sunday, October 19, 2025 and the Christmas Party to be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025. These dates are tentative until we can confirm with the restaurants they are available. Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Zdah Boh!
Terri Gardner, Secretary

A NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS STUDYING SLOVAK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

The University of Pittsburgh is the only university in North America offering a minor in the Slovak language and culture. In order to help sustain the Slovak Program, Slovak Catholic Sokol member Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. has funded a permanent scholarship for students who are studying advanced Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh.

THE MICHAEL KOPANIC, PHD FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year students currently studying Slovak courses in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures are invited to apply for the **Michael Kopanic, PhD Fund Scholarship**. Eligible recipients must be in good academic standing, currently enrolled in a Slovak course, and have committed to taking Slovak course(s) within the next academic year.

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. is an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) and a former editor of *Jednota*, the publication of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He has earned degrees from Youngstown State University (A.B.), the University of Notre Dame (M.A.), and the University of Pittsburgh (Ph.D.). At UMGC, Professor Kopanic has served as Course Chair and Course Coordinator for European history courses and received an outstanding teaching award in 2012. He also administers three Facebook sites: Learning the Slovak Language and Culture, Slovak History, and the Slovak Studies Association.

Professor Kopanic has contributed numerous articles to the Slovak Catholic Sokol and other Slovak-American publications, *Naše rodina*, and many academic publications, and edited the books *Slovaks in America* and *Illustrated Slovak History*. A former Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International board member, he serves on the Academic Committee of the Museum of Slovak Emigration to North America, is an academic consultant for Global Slovakia and is on the editorial board of the journal *Kultúrne dejiny* (Cultural History, Ružomberok, Slovakia). He is currently working on a book about Slovak traditional customs.

Prof. Kopanic has always had a keen interest in history and this translated into a wish to learn more about his ancestors while attending college. He wanted to communicate in Slovak with his baba (grandmother) and Slovak-born mother, who emigrated before World War II. This inspired his wish to learn the Slovak language and culture. When studying for a doctorate in history, he found that only the University of Pittsburgh continually offered courses in Slovak, so he transferred to Pitt from the University of Toronto. His quest to learn culminated in his first trip to his mother's ancestral home, and four years later, a year-long stay for doctoral research in communist Czechoslovakia. Since then he has made over 20 trips to Slovakia, including attending the Slovak summer school at Comenius University in Bratislava, *Studia Academica Slovaca*.

Professor Kopanic has devoted his entire life to learning more about Slovaks and their culture. From their birth, he has spoken with his daughters only in Slovak, and hoped they would carry on the culture and language with their children. Furthermore, he decided that he wished to help others with the same yearning to advance their education. In consulting with the Slovak Studies Program and the Slavic Department, he was told that what the Program needed most was funding for those wishing to learn Slovak. Thus he decided to fund an endowed scholarship for students studying advanced Slovak. It is his hope that the Slovak Studies Program will continue to flourish, and as an historian, he said that he wants it to be alive and thriving for hundreds of years into the future.

SLAVIC STUDIES RECEPTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



Attendees at the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic Department Reception

On Tuesday, February 18, 2025, the University of Pittsburgh's Slavic Department held a reception to highlight the achievements of the program. The Slavic Department offers language courses in Russian, Polish, BCMS (Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian), Slovak, and Ukrainian. The undergraduate program features a Russian major, and minors in Polish, Slovak, and BCMS. Summer courses and study-abroad opportunities are available through the Summer Language Institute.

The University of Pittsburgh is the only school of higher education in the USA which has a permanent chair of Slovak Studies and offers a minor in the language. Currently, Renáta Kamenárová serves as the Teaching Assistant Professor and Director of the Slovak Studies Program.

Slavic Department faculty and students presented several interesting talks about their learning experiences during the summer program abroad, including Abby Kraus, another Slovak Studies student, and students of Polish and BCMS. All found studying abroad a very rewarding and enriching cultural experience. Slovak Catholic Sokol member Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. also attended the reception. He has funded a permanent scholarship for students who are studying advanced Slovak.

The Slovak Program and Slavic Studies Program welcome donations to help sustain the study of these cultures and languages. For more information, see the following websites:

Slovak at Pitt: <https://www.facebook.com/PittSlovak>

Slavic Studies website: <https://www.slavic.pitt.edu/about/community-support>

Submitted by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., District 7 President, Recording Secretary for Branch 23

The Slovak Program and Slavic Studies Program welcome donations to help sustain the study of these cultures and languages. For more information, see the following websites:

Slovak at Pitt: <https://www.facebook.com/PittSlovak>

Slavic Studies website:

<https://www.slavic.pitt.edu/about/community-support>

The scholarship:

<https://www.slavic.pitt.edu/michael-kopanic-phd-fund-scholarship>

Submitted by Dr. Michael Kopanic, Jr., Group 9, Johnstown

SISITER KAITLIN TROKAN PROFESSED HER FIRST VOWS

On August 5th, 2024, Sr. Kaitlin Trokan professed her first vows with the Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco in North Haledon, New Jersey. Many friends and family joined her for this special occasion. After professing her vows, Kaitlin flew to Naples, Florida where she is currently teaching theology at St. John Neumann High School. Kaitlin will continue to discern her vocation for the next six to nine years after which time she will profess her final vows.

Kaitlin, a member of Wreath 93, was raised in a strong Catholic and proud Slovak family. She attended St. Dominic Grade School and Catholic Memorial High School. She participated in Sokols where she made several lifetime friends. She also received scholarships from the Sokols to attend St. Dominic Grade School, Catholic Memorial High School and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Kaitlin first visited Slovakia for 3 weeks during college. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in English Education from UW Milwaukee in May 2018.

After graduating from college, Kaitlin received a Fulbright Scholarship and spent a year in Košice, Slovakia teaching English as a foreign language. During this year, Kaitlin lived with a family in Košice where she got to experience life in Slovakia. It was also during this time that Kaitlin met the Salesians while teaching at Gymnázium sv. Edity Steinovej. Kaitlin was inspired by the way these Sisters and Priests interacted with the youth and lived out their faith.

While attending Catholic Memorial High school, Kaitlin's family hosted two exchange students from Slovakia and one from the Czech Republic. Kaitlin and her family remain close with them and their families. Kaitlin was even able to stand up in the wedding of one in Bojnice, Slovakia. It was a beautiful ceremony with the wedding reception being held at the Bojnice Castle. In total, Kaitlin has made four trips to Slovakia while her parents have made two. Most recently in August of 2023, Kaitlin and her parents stayed with Kaitlin's host family in Košice and exchange students living in Ruzemberok and Bratislava. On this trip they also visited the ancestral hometown of the Trokan family, Dolná Poruba. Here they visited the local church, cemetery, distillery and discovered Pizzéria u Trokana. They also met with the mayor, Zuzana Vániová, who shared with them the rich history of the town.

Sr. Kaitlin chose to become a Salesian Sister based on the witness she saw. She continues to live out her faith and the mission of the Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco which is to share Christ with the youth. Additional information about the Salesian Sisters can be found on their website: salesiansisters.org. We congratulate and continue to pray for Sr. Kaitlin as she continues to live out her Faith.



Sr. Kaitlin with her Father Tim and mother Paula Trokan.



Sr. Kaitlin with her family that attended the event in North Haledon, NJ.

2024 "SOKOL FORWARD SPOTLIGHT LEADER"

♥ GROUP 16 ♥



The year 2024 of Sokol Forward was truly inspiring, showcasing our organization's incredible spirit and unity. Groups 4 and 16, along with Wreaths 93 and 155, exemplified the very essence of the Sokol Spirit through their remarkable outreach efforts. Each initiative shone brightly, demonstrating how we can uplift and strengthen our Sokol communities. With compassion, Group 4 President Jennifer Romine joined participants at the National Eucharistic Conference to combat hunger and support those in need. Wreath 93 made a significant impact by actively engaging in community outreach, while Megan Antosy from Wreath 155 selflessly extended her support to first responders and families facing hardships. Group 16 showed great care and commitment by assisting young pregnant women. Together, these inspiring stories remind us of our collective power to make a difference and foster hope within our communities.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors proudly expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable 2024 Sokol Forward Spotlight recipients for embodying the true Sokol Spirit. Your unwavering commitment to community outreach serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for all. The Board is thrilled to announce that Group 16 has been honored as the 2024 Sokol Forward Leader. To further support their incredible community outreach, an additional \$150 will be donated to Gianna House, empowering them to assist women during some of the most pivotal moments in their lives. Together, let us continue to uplift and inspire our communities!

If you'd like to submit an entry to be the '**Sokol Forward Spotlight**,' please send me an email by **June 15th** to vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org and include the following information:

- Group, Assembly, or Wreath Number with city and state
- The name of the charity or volunteer activity
- A description of the volunteer or charitable activity
- The date(s) of the activity
- The frequency of the activity
- How long the members have supported charity or participated in the activities
- Pictures of the event

I am looking forward to sharing your Sokol Spirit. Thank you for all that you do and keep Sokol Forward!

Andrea M. Tadlock
Supreme Vice-President

CHANGE OF PACE – PLANNING A WEDDING

When I sat down to decide what to write about, I realized the most exciting and meaningful thing happening in my life right now, something my friends and family



would want to read about is.....My Wedding! Back in November my boyfriend of 3 ½ years proposed to me at the most magical place on Earth: Walt Disney World. It was early morning, and while I was eager to be first in line for the new Tron Lightcycle Run ride, he had something far more important in mind. Right in front of Cinderella's Castle he wanted to stop for a photo—little did I know, it was the setup for the biggest moment of our lives. When

he got down on one knee, I was speechless. I nodded, teary-eyed, completely overwhelmed with joy. From that moment forward we have been enjoying this special time in our lives preparing for our special day and working on building a life together. As the eldest grandchild on both sides of my family, there hasn't been a wedding in quite a few years and the excitement is abundantly clear. I have analysed my Pinterest board, followed hashtags through Instagram and done a lot of review searches to find the right vendors to make our wedding day special. Although this is totally personal to each bride here my wedding planning journey.

1) The Venue. Before we could book a venue, we discussed a possible guest list so we had a rough estimate of how many guests we wanted to invite, we settled on a max 210 guests. We chose a venue based on location, hall size, availability and of course, food. Luckily for us we did not have a specific date in mind so we choose a season and found an available date within it. With this our wedding date and venue was booked!

2) The Church. With the date set it was time to find a church. Both of us are of Catholic faith and although outdoor wedding venues are beautiful, we both decided it would be more meaningful to us to get married in a church. We went to my parish first and luckily our date was available. We scheduled a meeting with the priest to complete all the paperwork and with that we booked our marriage class to help us prepare for this sacrament. In all honesty, I highly recommend taking the marriage course even if you don't plan on getting married in a church it helps bring out the difficult conversations and helps prepare you for a new chapter in your lives together.

3) The Bridal Party. The next thing was to ask those closest to us to be by our side on the wedding day. We discussed and decide on 5 people each and with all those yeses I took my girls and we tackled the next big decision.

4) The Dress. I have heard horror stories of how

LAW DAY MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF OUR GENERAL COUNSEL

On May 1, 2025, Law Day is celebrated throughout the United States. On this day, all Americans affirm the essential role of the rule of law in the development and preservation of our free society.



This year marks the 68th annual observance of this special day set aside to commemorate the law. The idea for this commemoration was conceived in 1957 by the then President of the American Bar Association, and in 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day by Presidential Proclamation. Subsequently, in 1961, May 1st was set aside by Joint Resolution of Congress as Law Day.

The purpose of Law Day is to call the attention of every American citizen to both the principles and practice of American law and justice. It is the day to reflect on our legal heritage, the role of law in our society, and the rights we, as Americans, enjoy under the Constitution.

Law Day is an appropriate time for all citizens to recognize that each of us has a personal responsibility when it comes to the law. Respect for law is a state of mind which must be taught and practiced daily. There must be a broad sense of citizen responsibility and a sincere desire for order and justice. Part of this process requires that just laws be passed and followed by vigorous enforcement. The public attitude should be public condemnation of those who violate laws or take the law into their own hands instead of tolerance, indifference, and condonation. Those who obey and follow the prophecies of the law should be given respect and appreciation. Law enforcement officials should be given public support to encourage them to discharge their duties in a fair manner.

Our law, though not perfect, is the wonder of this modern world. Under the law, we have grown and become the richest and most powerful nation in the world.

Today in our country, everyone enjoys more equal social justice, more protection of life, liberty, and property, an opportunity to pursue happiness, and greater personal freedom than has ever been provided by any other system in history.

It is vital that we learn and understand that the task of preserving law is the task of preserving freedom. This is a job for every citizen. We all have an equal obligation to organize our lives so that they do not conflict with the rights of others under the law. If government by law is to survive, the great majority of the people must accept the rules and live under that law. The law is the same for all men; the rich and the poor man are equally bound to obey the same traffic laws, for instance.

Did you ever wonder what chaos and confusion would occur if our legal system abolished traffic signals, stop signs, and parking regulations? We may not always like a particular law, but once it is passed, we have no choice other than to comply. Those who decide unilaterally that a particular law is foolish or wrong are expressing disrespect for the a breakdown in the general acceptance of laws, then there will be a breakdown of democracy, and the foundation of our free society will begin to deteriorate.

On this Law Day, I urge all of our Sokols to make a sincere commitment to recognize our individual and collective responsibilities to respect, uphold, and observe the laws which govern us. If the promise of liberty is to be fulfilled, we must meet the demands that our heritage of freedom imposed upon us all.

I join all our Sokols and Sokolky in celebrating Law Day on May 1, 2025, and I encourage you to participate in the making of justice for our society.

ZDAR BOH!

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Pogorelec, Jr.

General Counsel

long the dress take to arrive, so I was not about to waste time. I booked 2 appointments at different locations just to get a feel for what I was looking for. I went in with an open mind and honestly no idea of what style I wanted. The first boutique just wasn't it, nothing that I tried on made me feel like a bride. The second boutique was a completely different experience, and apparently when you keep asking to put dress number 4 back on, you know it's your dress! I picked up my dress last week and I am counting down the days until I can wear it again.

5) The photographer & DJ. This is where the research began. I looked up Instagram profiles, wedding websites, and google reviews. The best advice I could pass on is schedule the interviews, talk to the people and get a vibe for what their style is. As much as I denied knowing what I wanted, my Pinterest page said other-

wise, there was a clear style I was gravitating towards and we made sure to book the vendor that connected with us and understood our vision.

Those are the 5 big decisions that we accomplished first and now everything is falling into place- the florist, hair and make, décor and bridal shower have all been booked and ready to go. Invitations going out next month we are enjoying this season of engagement together. Planning a wedding with my fiancé has been such a joy. We've made every decision together, and he's been the grounding force I needed in what can feel like a whirlwind of choices. I couldn't be more excited for our big day and everything that comes after it.

Zdar Boh!

Kristen Popik

Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member

OBITUARIES

ALBINA SENKO

May 19, 1936 – March 9, 2025

Albina Senko, age 88, of Mt. Lebanon passed on Sunday March 9, 2025. She was born in Slovenska Ves, Slovakia, daughter of the late William and Margaret Kolodziej; beloved wife for 69 years of Joseph T. Senko; mother of Ted (Cindy), Matthew (Cathy), Katherine (the late Frank) Yarussi, Christina (Stuart) Mitchell and the late John and Donna (surviving William) Hilliard; also survived by eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and her sisters Helen (Merle) Sharrer and Margaret (Ron) Kowalski.



Albina grew up under German occupation in Slovakia during WWII. She was a graduate of St. Michael High School, a former Girl Scout leader, as well as a former part owner of Golden Triangle Tours. Albina loved tennis and yoga and was an honorary mother to every kid that had the pleasure to be in her home.

Family and friends were received at Laughlin Cremation & Funeral Tributes, 222 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon on Thursday 6-8 PM and Friday 2-4 & 6-8 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered in St. Michael the Archangel Parish - St. Bernard Church on Saturday at 10:00 AM.

She was a active member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, PA.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL GROUP 17 2025 CALENDAR

March 16- 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Our Lady of Sorrows Day at the Races

March 21- 5:00 pm – St. Nicholas Struthers Parish Fish Fry

April 11- 5:00 pm – Piroghi Day at Teenie's Tavern

April 12 - 12:00 noon- 2:00 pm– Easter Egg Hunt and Decorating for ALL Ages, Edgewood Pavilion, Boardman Park

May 3 – Join Hands Day- Details forthcoming

May 16-17 – International Bowling Tournament, Meadows Casino, Pittsburgh

June 26-29 – Heritage Slet Peek n' Peak Resort, Clymer New York

July 12 – Sokol sports Day- Details forthcoming

August 8-10 – International Golf Tournament, Oaktree and Yankee Run Golf Courses

September – District Golf Outing hosted by Group 17, Mahoning Countr Club, Date TBD

October – Fall Activity- TBD

November – Day of Giving- Details forthcoming

Members and guests, please join us at any of these local and international events!!!

- **Nancy Kropolinsky**, Group 17 President

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 47th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak Institute and College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of April 21, the 2025 Appeal has received \$14,315.00 from 136 donors. Among the 44 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Assembly 11, Assembly 23, Assembly 24, Assembly 34, Assembly 48, Assembly 59, Assembly 78, Assembly 162, Assembly 182, Group 7, Group 17, and Wreath 54 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol have donated a combined total of \$1,110.00. Donations to date have also been received from 3 churches, 19 clergy and religious, and 70 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2025 Appeal are asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. **Gifts received after November 30, 2025 will be credited toward the 2026 Appeal.** Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penndel, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



47TH ANNUAL SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS APPEAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to: Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President, Slovak Catholic Federation, Our Lady of Grace Church, 225 Bellevue Avenue, Penndel, PA 19047-4052



IN MEMORIAM

FEBRUARY 2025 - MARCH 2025

Assembly 11	John Charles Kadlub of Whiting, IN	71	January 21, 2025
Assembly 11	James Gorz of Chicago, IL	66	February 21, 2025
Assembly 11	Emilia Oleksy of Wheeling, IL	95	February 3, 2025
Assembly 16	Eleanor Steffanina of Pittsburgh, PA	95	January 26, 2025
Assembly 25	John Charles Rosick of Charleroi, PA	94	February 21, 2025
Assembly 25	Elmer Tinkey of Indin Head, PA	83	February 26, 2025
Assembly 25	Lawrence E. Wilson of Perryopolis, PA	82	March 3, 2025
Assembly 34	Joseph J. Waselak of Coon Rapids, MN	96	February 6, 2025
Assembly 36	Margaret J. Schultz of Troy, MI	86	February 13, 2025
Assembly 54	Andrew A. Skunda of Butler, PA	77	February 22, 2025
Assembly 59	Mary Ann Fuller of Plymouth, PA	79	January 17, 2025
Assembly 59	Rosalie King of Wilkes Barre, PA	85	February 15, 2025
Assembly 59	Jean H. Simkulak of Wyoming, PA	96	February 16, 2025
Assembly 71	Virginia Bartleson of Edwardsville, PA	64	February 18, 2025
Assembly 78	Margaret M. Susa of Bethlehem, PA	88	February 2, 2025
Assembly 79	Betty Ann Agosta of Lilly, PA	98	February 14, 2025
Assembly 108	Jerome F. Yanek of Batavia, IL	86	February 5, 2025
Assembly 162	Patrice Van Havere of Pennington, NJ	64	January 29, 2025
Assembly 162	Anna Tomaszkowicz of Butler, NJ	68	March 13, 2025
Assembly 167	Edward Nagy of Granville, OH	88	December 20, 2024
Assembly 167	Tomich, Agnes of Norton, OH	89	September 3, 2021
Assembly 167	Donna R. Underation of Norton, OH	89	March 11, 2025
Assembly 182	Potemri Peter of Woonsocket, RI	86	January 16, 2025
Assembly 227	Mary Chodelka of Brampton, Canada	87	February 9, 2025
Assembly 235	Anthony J. Massara of Exeter, PA	87	January 7, 2025
Assembly 312	Virginia M. Hood of Somer Point, NJ	91	November 23, 2024
Assembly 312	Salle O'Brien of Brooklyn, NY	76	December 30, 2024
Assembly 312	Geraldine Walker of Wayne, NJ	78	January 19, 2025
Assembly 312	Stephen Dubosky, Jr., of Lansford, PA	70	January 20, 2025
Assembly 312	Andrew T. Mulano of Louisville, OH	92	February 9, 2024
Assembly 312	Elizabeth B. Galgoci of High Point, NC	82	March 17, 2025
Assembly 312	Jennie Margaret Serina of Harlesville, PA	99	March 11, 2025
Wreath 1	E. Helen Beausoleil of New Port Richey, FL	98	February 27, 2025
Wreath 13	Rose M. Donnelly of Phoenixville, PA	91	January 10, 2025
Wreath 15	Mildred C. Mayher of Richfield, OH	92	December 31, 2024
Wreath 22	Deborah Miller of Ligonier, PA	73	February 12, 2025
Wreath 22	Dolores M. Vodzak of Bethel Park, PA	94	February 20, 2025
Wreath 22	Albina Senko of Pittsburgh, PA	88	March 9, 2025
Wreath 34	William J. Krajcik of Munster, IN	82	November 2, 2024
Wreath 34	Edward Oravec of Mason, OH	94	February 7, 2025
Wreath 47	Chee Yang of St. Paul, MN	64	February 26, 2025
Wreath 54	Cecelia M. Morrison of Cucamonga, CA	96	January 28, 2025
Wreath 54	Margaret Chizmar of Canfield, OH	100	March 15, 2025
Wreath 81	Rose Lubek of Whiting, IN	96	February 18, 2025
Wreath 93	Emily McNulty of Wauwatosa, WI	98	June 26, 2023
Wreath 93	Roger L. Porubsky of Huntersville, NC	83	February 23, 2025
Wreath 93	Jee Thao of Eau Claire, WI	82	March 27, 2025
Wreath 111	Mary Louise Brezina of Amherst, OH	81	March 25, 2025
Wreath 153	Donald Punchak of Middleburg Hts. OH	82	January 19, 2025
Wreath 155	Dorothy Moyer of Reading, PA	95	February 6, 2025

PO VW ZASTAVUJE VÝVOZ ÁUT DO USA JAGUAR LAND ROVER

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) zastavil s okamžitou platnosťou dodávky áut do USA, ako rekciu na clá prezidenta Donalda Trumpa. Zabolí to aj závod v Nitre, kde z liniek schádzajú modely Defender a Discovery.

V nitrianskom závode automobilky JLR, ktorý zamestnáva približne 4 800 ľudí, schádzajú z liniek modely Land Rover Defender a Land Rover Discovery. Teraz sa ale k americkým zákazníkom nedostanú.

„USA sú dôležitým trhom pre luxusné značky JLR,“ uviedol hovorca britskej automobilky vo vyhlásení. „Prijímame krátkodobé opatrenia vrátane vývozu áut do USA v apríli, v čase, keď pripravujeme naše strednodobé až dlhodobé plány.“

Jaguar Land Rover predal vlani približne 430 000 vozidiel, z ktorých takmer štvrtina skončila v Severnej Amerike, uvádza automobilka vo svojej výročnej správe. V januári spoločnosť vykázala 17-percentný pokles štvrťročného zisku pred zdanením.

Krok automobilky je najnovším príkladom globálneho dosahu Trumpovej colnej politiky, pričom aj ostatné automobilky prehodnocujú svoje obchodné stratégie.

Jaguar Land Rover, ktorý vlastní indická Tata Motors, je podľa objemu jedným z najväčších britských výrobcov. Zastavenie vývozu áut do USA sa však dotkne aj slovenského závodu automobilky JLR v Nitre, kde sa vyrábajú modely Land Rover Defender a Discovery. Tento podnik zamestnáva vyše 4 800 ľudí.

Británia uviedla, že sa sústreďuje na snahu zabezpečiť obchodnú dohodu s Washingtonom. Predpokladá sa, že JLR má v USA zásoby dovezených áut na niekoľko mesiacov, ktoré nebudú podliehať novým clám, informovali noviny Times of London.



Máje boli známe už v antike. Staroveké národy dávali pred 1. májom na domy a hospodárske budovy stromčeky na ochranu pred zlými duchmi a chorobami. Májová zeleň ako magický prostriedok vyjadrovala želanie poľnohospodárov, aby ich úroda mala silu a dobrý rast. Máj vtedy predstavoval mladý stromček najčastejšie smrekový, jedľový alebo brezový. V Slovanskej kultúre sa máje stavali z dôvodu hoj-významu, ktorý sa najčastejšie skloňuje v dnešnej dobe. Staval sa pred domy, v ktorých bolo dievča súce na vydaj. Krivý alebo nepravidelne rozkošatený strom bol hanbou pre dievča aj pre darcu. Mládenci s muzikou šli do každého domu, pred ktorým stal máj a v tanci vykrútili dievča i všetky ženy v dome. Tanečnice ponúkali pálenkou a vybrali peniaze za máj.

MAMIN HLAS

Taký máš hlas, mama moja,
ako zvonky na úbočí.
Začujem Ťa znenazdania,
div mi srdce nevyskočí.
Taký máš hlas, mam moja,
ako šepot vetra v lese.
Usmejem sa mimovoľne,
keď sa ku mne z diaľky nesie.
I keď karhá, napomína,
vždy je to hlas milý, známy,
ten jediný v celom svete,
ľúbezný hlas mojej mamy.

E. Čepčuková



HOLLYWOODSKÝ FILM MATCHBOX SA TOČÍ NA SLOVENSKU

Natáčanie hollywoodskeho akčného trháku Matchbox na Slovensku sa blíži do finále, pričom posledné dni strávil štáb najmä v okolí Žiliny a na Kysuciach. Herci a produkčný tím si popri pracovnom nasadení nachádzajú čas aj na objavovanie krás Slovenska.

Akčný film inšpirovaný legendárnymi autami sa nakrúca priamo na slovenských cestách. Pozorným obyvateľom mesta a okolia neušli známe tváre ako John Cena či Jessica Biel, ktoré sa objavili priamo na natáčaní. Nechýbali ani kaskadéri, ktorí mali na starosti nebezpečné scény. Veľká časť produkcie prebieha na diaľničnom úseku, kde koncom marca vyrástla rozsiahla filmová základňa – stany, vrtulníky, športové autá, motorky aj kamióny, ktoré budú súčasťou filmových scén.

Matchbox, pod taktovkou režiséra Sama Hargrava, oživuje spomienky na ikonické autíčka z 50. rokov minulého storočia. Okrem Johna Cenu a Jessicy Biel sa vo filme objaví aj Danai Gurira, známa napríklad z marvelovskej série Black Panther.

Natáčanie si vyžiadalo aj dočasné uzávery niektorých úsekov ciest, no zároveň prinieslo do regiónu jedinečný hollywoodsky ruch, aký sa len tak nevidí. Slovensko sa opäť ukazuje ako atraktívna destinácia pre svetové filmové produkcie.

MÁTE VYSOKÝ KRVNÝ TLAK?

Kľúčom k boji proti vysokému tlaku majú byť potraviny bohaté na draslík. Nový výskum z University of Waterloo naznačuje, že zvýšenie pomeru draslíka ku sodíku v strave môže byť účinnejšie pri znižovaní krvného tlaku než len samotné obmedzenie príjmu sodíka. Štúdia bola nedávno publikovaná v časopise American Journal of Physiology – Renal Physiology.

Vysoký krvný tlak postihuje viac ako 30 percent dospeléj populácie na svete. Je hlavnou príčinou koronárnej choroby srdca a mŕtvice a môže viesť aj k ďalším ochoreniam, ako sú chronické ochorenia obličiek, srdcové zlyhávanie, nepravidelný srdcový rytmus a demencia.

Výskum naznačuje, že zvýšenie príjmu potravín bohatých na draslík – ako sú banány alebo brokolica – môže mať priaznivejší vplyv na krvný tlak než len zníženie sodíka.

Dnešná strava však býva oveľa bohatšia na sodík a chudobnejšia na draslík. To by mohlo vysvetľovať, prečo sa vysoký krvný tlak vyskytuje predovšetkým v priemyselne vyspelých spoločnostiach, a nie v izolovaných komunitách.

Výskum zároveň ukazuje, ako pohlavie ovplyvňuje vzťah medzi draslíkom a krvným tlakom. Štúdia zistila, že muži si vyvinú vysoký krvný tlak ľahšie než ženy pred menopauzou, ale zároveň u mužov lepšie funguje zvýšený pomer draslíka k sodíku.

KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Členské štáty EÚ v stredu hlasovali za návrh Európskej komisie (EK) na zavedenie obchodných protiopatrení voči Spojeným štátom a zhodli sa na tom, že clo na tovary z USA sa začne vyberať od 15. apríla. Návrh EK zaviesť odvetné opatrenia vznikol v reakcii na marcové rozhodnutie administratívy USA uvaliť clá na dovoz ocele a hliníka z EÚ. Komisia spresnila, že EÚ považuje americké clá za „neopodstatnené a škodlivé“, pretože spôsobujú hospodársku ujmu obojstranným a zároveň aj globálnej ekonomike a zdôraznila, že EÚ uprednostňuje rokovania s USA, ktoré by priniesli „vyvážené a vzájomne prospešné“ výsledky. Komisia, podľa viacerých tlačových agentúr, pripravuje aj ďalší zoznam tovarov, ktoré môže zaťažiť clami v odpovedi na takzvané recipročné clá, ktoré pred týždňom oznámil americký prezident Donald Trump a ktoré znamenajú 20-percentné colné zaťaženie tovarov z Európy a 25-percentné clá na automobily. Americké produkty z tohto druhého zoznamu by mali podliehať clám od 16. mája.

Vlani navštívilo 13 slovenských jaskýň 476.765 ľudí. Oproti roku 2023 bola návštevnosť vyššia. V posledných rokoch je najnavštevovanejšou jaskyňou Belianska jaskyňa. Po Belianskej jaskyni je najnavštevovanejšou Demänovská jaskyňa slobody. Najnižšiu návštevnosť má Brestovská jaskyňa.

Na Slovensku v roku 2023 evidovali pôrodnice 48.812 pôrodov, pri ktorých sa narodilo 49.375 detí. Ide o historicky najnižšie počty od sledovaného roku 1996. Dlhodobou najvyššou pôrodnosťou v Bratislavskom kraji sa v posledných rokoch presunula na východné Slovensko. Vyplýva to z dát Národného centra zdravotníckych informácií. Počet zaznamenaných pôrodov predstavuje medziročný pokles o 3970 v porovnaní s rokom 2022. Od roku 1996 išlo o najnižší počet pôrodov s poklesom o 10.972. Pôrody prvoroďčiek predstavovali 42,9 percenta.

V komore národnostných menšín, ktorá tvorí súčasť Rady vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny, bude mať jedným členom zastúpenie aj goralská národnostná menšina. Vyplýva to zo zmeny a doplnenia štatútu rady, ktoré schválila vláda SR. Rada vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny ako samostatný poradný orgán kabinetu vznikol definitívne schválením jej štatútu na konci októbra 2024. Nadväzuje na činnosť predchádzajúceho Výboru národnostných menšín a etnických skupín, plní funkciu konzultatívneho orgánu pri koordinácii verejných politik i zabezpečovaní účasti príslušníkov národnostných menšín na riešení vecí týkajúcich sa národnostných menšín. oblasť implementácie Európskej charty regionálnych alebo menšinových jazykov. Gorálov ako 15. oficiálnu národnostnú menšinu v SR uznali rozhodnutím vlády na konci januára 2025.



Slovak Catholic Sokol

205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ • USA • 07055

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](http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm)

or simply send your donation to: Michael J. Horvath, SCS Museum Treasurer, 185 Lawrence St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. 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
- * Click "Sign up for Twitter."
- * Provide basic information about yourself. ...
- * Choose your username. ...
- * Click "Create my account."
- * Search physicalfitnessboard and click follow

INSTAGRAM

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