

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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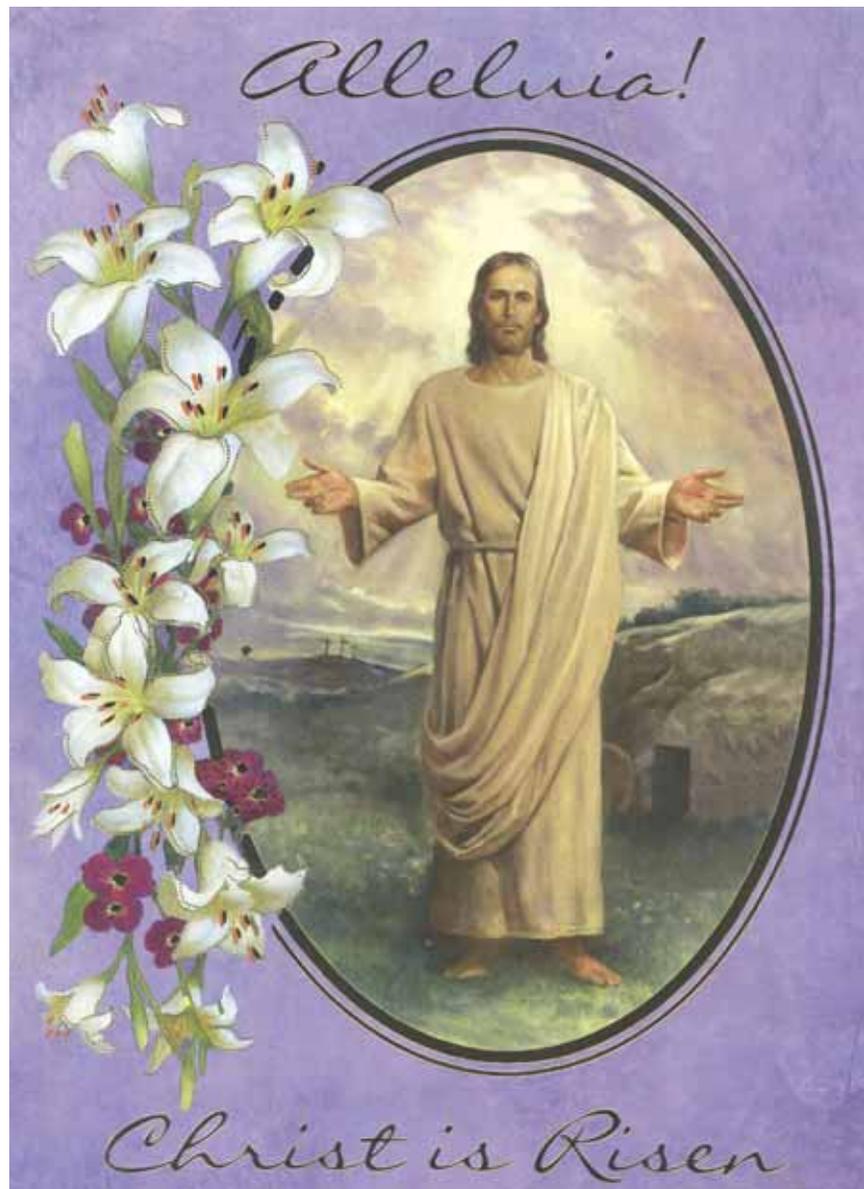
NUMBER 5014

Wishing All Our Members and Friends an Easter
Filled With New Hope, New Life and a Celebration of Faith

This is the day the Lord has made, Alleluia!

**“...Why do you seek the living one
among the dead? He is not here,
but he has been raised. - Luke 24: 5-7**

- Alleluia!



*Radostné a požehnané veľkonočné sviatky
všetkým našim členom a priateľom!*

2014 EASTER MESSAGE

“He has risen, He is not here!” These are words that proclaim the Easter message. In other words, we should no longer expect to experience the ordinary in what the world considers ordinary.

As I write this, it seems like only a few weeks ago that we immersed ourselves in the joy of Christmas. It was a time when we celebrated the love that prompted our God to come to be among his people in the person of Jesus Christ. As you read this, we will have arrived at Easter and the celebration of what it truly means to have the Lord among us in a real sense.



The great thirteenth century teacher, Saint Thomas Aquinas, wrote about that presence of the Lord as having a two-fold effect. The first was that the Christ came to save us from damnation. Thomas called it a remedy. The second was to teach us about our lives. That he referred to as the Lord giving us an example. We easily recognize the first but frequently neglect the second.

God’s presence in human activity, which we recall at Christmas, does not cease during the Good Fridays that come along during our earthly pilgrimage later on. What needs to be remembered is that there also is an Easter joy in our future and that our Good Fridays have meaning and are a means of getting to that joy. Job understood that even in his time. The so-called good thief, Saint Dismas, came to understand that at the very moment of his execution.

What they came to understand (and we are called to come to understand) is that the Lord is present to us at times when we least expect. He is alive and about. Why should Job have expected God to have anything to do with his physical ailment? But, he did. And, why should one of the thieves even dare to think that his Savior might be hanging on the cross next to him, suffering the same fate as he? Yet, he did. There was an Easter joy waiting for both of them—an even better life than before for Job and paradise for Dismas.

I pray that the blessings of this Easter Season give each one of you the strength to turn to a new chapter in your life. May every page of that chapter be filled with an abundance of Alleluias! Be encouraged by the fact that the Lord has risen and invites you to share his victory in rising with him.

This is the power of the Paschal Mystery that we celebrate at Easter—a time when we are reminded of God’s invitation to rise with Jesus to a new life of freedom. Such a life, devoid of needless anxiety, is full of positive attitude toward self and of good will toward others. It is a life of “Alleluias.”

Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec
Bishop Emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown
Protector, Slovak Catholic Sokol



Group 1 Hosts Children’s Bowlingfest in Clifton, N.J.



Group 1 hosted its 9th annual Children’s Bowlingfest on Sunday, March 2 at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes in Clifton, N.J. under the direction of the Group’s Physical Fitness Board. Some of the youngsters who enjoyed the fraternal afternoon are shown on the above photo. Following the competition on the lanes, the young Sokols and Sokolky enjoyed pizza, soda and ice cream. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Vel’ká noc - the Great Night, Celebrating Christ’s Victory Over Death

The word for Easter in various languages reflects the cultural association of each people’s description of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. These words or terms for Easter include *Pasqua* in Italian; *Oster* in German, which is actually named for the pagan Germanic goddess of spring; *Pascua* in Spanish; *Paste* in Romanian; and *Plske* in Danish; among others.

What is interesting when comparing terms for Easter is the use of the same term among the western Slavs, which include the Slovaks, Poles and Czechs. The term for the celebration of Easter is the Great Night *Vel’ká noc* in Slovak, *Wielka noc* in Polish and *Velikonoc* in Czech. The term Great Night so beautifully mirrors the true meaning of Easter. Liturgically, on Holy Saturday evening we gather in our churches to begin the great Vigil of Easter, the Great Night. This vigil or watch gives way to Christ’s resurrection and victory over death.

We begin the Easter vigil, or watch with the lighting of the new fire outside the church. This reminds us that Jesus is our light in darkness. From the new fire, we light the Pascal or Easter candle. The lighted Easter candle is carried into the darkened church where its light seems to illumine the entire edifice. The candle is placed in its stand near the ambo or pulpit. There the ancient Easter proclamation or Exsultet is sung. The watch continues as we recall salvation history through the reading of scripture from the Old Testament. We then sing the Litany of Saints followed by the blessing of water. New members of the community are then presented for baptism. The community welcomes the new members and then renews its own baptismal promises. This is followed by the celebration of the glorious Easter Liturgy.

As you can see, we cannot rush the vigil which always begins after nightfall on Holy Saturday. For the western Slavs, the celebration enjoys great meaning and is rich in symbolism as this “Great Night” gives way to Christ’s victory over death and breaking forth from the tomb. So those of us of Slovak, Czech or Polish ancestry share many common traditions and one of the greatest is the common term describing the great feast of Easter as the “Great Night.”

So when we greet one another during this holy season, with our joyous expression of Easter joy,

let us also remember that our Slovak forebears greeted one another with the expression “*Radostné a požehnané vel’konočné sviatky!*” Like them, the joy and glory of Easter is a reflection of the “Great Night!”



Fraternal brothers - Pope Francis along with cardinals, bishops and staff members of the Roman Curia concluded their week-long Lenten retreat on March 14. For the first time, the retreat was held outside the Vatican at the House of the Divine Teacher in Ariccia located about 15 miles outside Rome. Buses returned the retreat participants to the Vatican and Pope Francis chose to sit with Cardinal Jozef Tomko. The Holy Father congratulated Cardinal Tomko on his 90th birthday and 65th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. No doubt, Pope Francis inquired about the cardinal’s secret on how to live a long, healthy and fruitful life.

**Easter Greeting from our Supreme Chaplain
Resurrection New Life**

By Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic

“And indeed Christ, when he rose up from the earth, drew all to himself (cf. Jn 12:32), rising from the dead (cf Rom 6:29). He instilled in the Apostles his animating Spirit, and through his Spirit built his Body which is the Church” (Pope John Paul II, Crossing the Threshold of Hope [New York: Knopf, 1994],181).



When we rejoice in Jesus’ Resurrection, we also celebrate Christ’s gift of himself, which transforms us and enables us to become a self-gift to others. When this happens, we are renewed by the blessings that Easter gives us. On this day, we rejoice in Jesus’ conquest of sin and death and anticipate the Holy Spirit’s coming on Pentecost.

Jesus continues with us through his Church, the ongoing gift of his divine presence. We rejoice that our hard times and pain, like his, will be overcome, and that we will be rewarded some day.

Each Easter, by the power of God’s grace, given through the Holy Spirit, we renew our desire to cultivate our gift of self. We commit ourselves anew to our Risen Lord in his joys and suffering, so that one day we will rise and live forever in his Kingdom, where no more pain or sadness exist, only God’s all-embracing love. Then will we see how firm faith, steadfast love, and enduring hope prepare us to celebrate eternal life forever.



From the Desk of the Supreme Secretary

My Fraternal View

by Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.



A TIME FOR CELEBRATING AND SERVICE

As Christians, the celebration of Easter is the most important event of our faith. Christ's resurrection from the dead gives us all hope that there is life beyond the grave. As Christians, we sincerely believe this and therefore share this joy during the observance of Easter. Gathering at the Easter Sunday table with our family and friends is an opportunity to once again affirm our faith and share the many traditional foods enjoyed. I hope that your family continues the wonderful tradition of bringing some of those traditional foods to church on Holy Saturday for the blessing. Bring your children and grandchildren to witness this wonderful celebration of faith. Baskets overflowing with klobasy, paska, bacon, ham, the syrek-cheese, horseradish, butter and most importantly eggs - the great symbol of Christ's resurrection, are carried into the church. The pleasant aroma of these foods fills the church in a unique manner as we prepare for the Easter feast. The blessing of the Easter food is a cherished faith tradition of Slovaks, Poles and other Slavic peoples. Preserving our ethnic traditions enhances our lives as Americans. So I hope you and your families have an enjoyable Easter celebration. In my name as well as that of my lovely wife, Annie our children and grandchildren, may you all enjoy a wonderful and blessed holiday.

And now that we are in the full spring of things, warm weather should motivate us to get out more and celebrate fraternalism following the unusually-long hibernation of winter. Winter is now behind us and spring affords us the opportunity of sharing and serving others in the best traditions of the fraternal benefit system. Fraternalists have always been movers and shakers in their communities. Our local fraternal lodges have helped to build many churches, schools along with civic and cultural centers. With our emphasis on sports and gymnastics, many communities built their Sokol clubs and halls which continue to foster our organization's great slogan of "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body." Generations of Sokol members have sustained these institutions which have become wonderful centers of service and volunteerism in their local communities. Many of our local lodges host a number of outreach projects including hosting blood drives, collecting food for local pantries to serve the needy, preparing meals for the homeless, participate in community fund-raisers and festivals, offer classes. All of these efforts always and everywhere remain a credit to the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Our organization is part of the great family of fraternal benefit societies in the United States and Canada which strive to promote good works and serve the needs of the less-fortunate. For the past 14 years, America's fraternal benefit societies united in what is today known as

the American Fraternal Alliance, host an annual event known as Join Hands Day on the first Saturday in May. Join Hands Day, which this year will be observed on Saturday, May 3, is an opportunity for fraternalists and nonfraternalists alike to come together to help make a difference in their communities through helpful projects that connect youth and adults. Join Hands Day gives fraternal benefit societies and volunteer organizations the opportunity to reach out to people they don't know, to connect generations and to develop new relationships. It is the only day on the national service calendar that targets and develops youth/adult relationships through neighborhood volunteering. Our local Sokol Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths can join with lodges of other fraternalists and plan a specific project which will aid their local community.

Here are some reasons why you should participate: * You'll help improve your community. * You'll motivate both youths and adults to become more active in our organization. * You'll increase teamwork, morale and trust among your participantsand boost retention. * You'll build relationships with other organizations. * Volunteers will join you to work on specific causes of mutual interest or concern. * Members of your community will learn about our organization and its many good works. * A benefit for youths - learning the value of volunteering and personally making a positive difference in their own communities. And finally, participating in this year's Join Hands Day will be fun and rewarding. So I hope that many of you will be ambassadors of fraternalism by participating in this day of volunteer service on May 3rd. I thank our many members who have participated in the past and hope that many more will join them this year.

In this issue you will have the opportunity to read the reports of our Supreme Officers which were presented at the first quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, held at our Home Office, March 21-22. These reports reflect their efforts during 2013. In a subsequent issue, the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting will be published. Over the past year, our organization has enjoyed progress on the road to continued success. Our success is dependent on the continued support of our current members and sales force working together. Our insurance and annuity products offer maximum financial protection at competitive prices. Do your fraternal duty and try to sign up a new member this month, your efforts will be appreciated.

Until next time, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our members for all that you do on behalf of our organization. May God Bless you and yours at this holy season of Easter with good health and happiness. Peace be with you and Zdar Boh!

Sokol Calendar

SAT.APRIL 12

■ Easter Bunny Breakfast hosted by Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. 9 to 11 a.m., \$5.00 per person, for reservations call Kathy at (412)225-8233 or kathyw323@gmail.com.

■ Group 14 semi-annual meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 11:15 a.m.

■ Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Assembly 59 at Hollenback Park, North Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 12 noon, refreshments will be served, reservations necessary, call Nancy at (570)406-9680, deadline for reserva-

tions, April 6.

SUN.APRIL 13

■ Assembly 34, St. George patronal feast day observance at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Second Street and 13th Ave., N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by a full breakfast in the Father George Dargay Memorial Hall of the parish, free of charge, call James T. Genosky (763)789-9196.

TUES.APRIL 22

■ Lecture on the Strange World of Quantum Mechanics by Daniel Reitzner, Ph.D. hosted by the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York at the Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd St., New York, N.Y. beginning at 6:30 p.m.rsvp

newyork@svu2000.org.

THURS.APRIL 24

■ Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport meeting in the meeting room of Holy Name of Jesus School, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. beginning at 7 p.m.

SUN.APRIL 27

■ Group 3 semi-annual meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, Route 16, Douglas, Mass. beginning at 10:15 a.m., coffee and danish will be served.

SATMAY 3

■ S.C.S. Scholarship Selection Committee meeting beginning at 10 a.m.

■ Eastern European Food Festival hosted by Assembly 261 and Wreath 155 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 411 Crestmont St., Reading, Pa. beginning at 10 a.m.

■ Join Hands Day observance hosted by America's fraternal benefit societies, youth and adults volunteering together reaching out to our local

communities; for information contact Supreme Vice President Julie A. Dobbs at (262)681-1720, jdobbs2@wi.r.com.

SUN.MAY 4

■ Polka Brunch hosted by the United Slovak Societies of Lorain at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway, Lorain, Oh. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., entertainment; tickets \$15.00, for reservations contact Len Zilko at (440)988-3236.

MAY 9-11

■ 57th annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival at the Monroeville Convention Center, festival hours are Friday, 4-10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.- 10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.; \$10.00 at the door, children age 10 and younger are free admission.

MAY 16-18

■ 68th International Bowling Tournament at the Superbowl Lanes with bowlers housed at the Holiday Inn Express, Canton, Mich.

SUN.MAY 18

■ Kent-Dudince Sister City Association 12th anniversary celebration at the Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, State Route 59, Kent, Oh. beginning with social hour at 1 p.m., dinner at 2 p.m. and entertainment program at 3 p.m.; tickets \$20.00 per person, for tickets call Dr. George Wargo (330)677-9094.

THURS.MAY 29

■ Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport meeting in the meeting room of Holy Name of Jesus School, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. beginning at 7 p.m.

SAT.JUNE 7

■ Fraternal Insurance Seminar hosted by Group 12 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 411 Crestmont St., Reading, Pa. beginning at 10 a.m. luncheon will be served and seminar concludes at 2:30 p.m.; to register call Kathi Smolkowicz at (610)507-3748 or Joseph Harak at (610)779-7964.

SAT.JUNE 21

■ Annual Simply Slavic Festival in downtown Youngstown, Oh. beginning at 12 noon, for information call Loretta Ekoniak (330)549-3760.

FR.JULY 11

■ Quarterly meeting of the S.C.S. Supreme Board of Directors at the Hilton Garden Inn, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 9:00 a.m.

JULY 11-13

■ 27th International Softball Tournament at Kirby Park Softball Fields, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

THURS.JULY 17

■ 91st annual Pittsburgh Slovak Day observance at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pa. beginning with children's games and treats at 12:30 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m. followed by cultural program; music for dancing begins at 6 p.m.

SUN.SEPT.14

■ 16th annual pilgrimage in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows, hosted by the Youngstown Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federatio, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Lipkey Rd., North Jackson, Oh. beginning a 2:30 p.m.

23rd Basketball & Volleyball Tournament Cancelled

Due to a poor anticipated turnout for our upcoming 23rd International Basketball and Volleyball, we have decided to cancel the competition. The tournament was scheduled for the weekend of April 25-27 at Dubois High School in Dubois, Pa. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Fraternally,

Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Director of
Sports & Athletics

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS

APRIL 23RD

In keeping with our biweekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, April 23rd. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, April 17th. View *e-Falcon* on our website: www.slovakcatholicosokol.org. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh!

Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor



REFLECTOR ...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

New Perryopolis, Pa. Sokol Club set to be dedicated

Assembly 15 and Wreath 15 of Perryopolis, Pa. rank among our oldest Sokol lodges. Not only are they among our oldest and most venerable, they remain among our most active as well. Assembly 25 was founded on July 4, 1908, exactly three years after the founding of the national organization. A group of 20 young Slovak immigrants met with the intention of establishing a gymnastic society in the traditions of the Sokol movement which they knew in their ancestral home of Slovakia. The founders chose SS. Cyril and Methodius as patrons of the new lodge and elected Ignac V. Tatala as the first president. On February 10, 1910, a group of young Slovak women gathered and organized Wreath 15 and Mary Kavulic was elected as the first president.

From its very beginning, both lodges wanted to promote our motto of "For God and Nation." Our pioneer Sokols were also instrumental in the establishment of St. John the Baptist Parish. Our Sokols took an active part in various local, Group 6 and national Sokol Slets and sporting events. The need for a Sokol hall was evident. In 1934, the lodge purchased a former school building in Perryopolis from the Perry Township School Board. Over the years, many renovations have been made to this structure which has been the sight of many sporting, fraternal and social events. After 80 years, we are pleased that a major addition and renovation has been completed and our new Sokol complex is ready to be dedicated. A date in May, as yet to be finalized, will begin a new chapter in the life of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Perryopolis.

Many individuals over the years have contributed to the growth and development of our Sokol community. In the new Sokol Club, the vestibule will contain memorial plaques dedicated to their memory. Individual Sokol members are invited to memorialize their ancestors as well as their own names. It will be a permanent memorial and will aid in the continued vitality of our Slovak Catholic Sokol in the area. Memorial plaques range in price from Bronze costing \$50-\$199; Silver \$200-\$499; and Gold at \$500. Individual contributor listing are: Bronze: \$50-\$199, Silver: \$200-\$499, and Gold: \$500. Again, monies realized from this project will aid in the construction costs. Make check payable to Slovak Catholic Sokol and return same with the names of the individual donors or those to be memorialized to Mike Matras % Slovak Catholic Sokol, 24 Memorial Drive, Perryopolis PA 15473, tel. (412)691-1306.

Today, our Perryopolis lodges remain active and look forward to many fruitful, active years ahead with a new Sokol Club. They are pleased to continue to promote the work of Group 6 "Msgr. Andrew Hlinka" which is now headquartered in Perryopolis. Sokol members in various parts of the country are invited to be a part of the growth of Sokol fraternalism by supporting the Perryopolis lodges by subscribing to the memorial plaque project earmarked for their new Sokol Club.

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association to note 12th anniversary on May 18

One of the most active American sister-city associations with ties to cities in Slovakia, the Kent, Ohio - Dudince, Slovakia group will celebrate its 12th anniversary during a wonderful banquet and cultural program on Sunday, May 18. The Kent Dudince Sister City Association will celebrate this milestone at its traditional cultural afternoon to be held at the Kent Elks Lodge Hall, located at Elks Lane - State Route 59, behind the Twin Star bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59 in Kent, Oh. The program begins with a social hour beginning at 1 p.m. A wonderful dinner, featuring Slovak culinary specialties, will be served at 2 p.m. The dinner will be catered by Tom's Country Place of Avon, Oh. Donation of baked goods would be appreciated. At 3 p.m. the cultural program begins. The music of the popular Johnny Pasirik will be enjoyed during the social hour and dinner, as well as for dancing following the program. The cultural program will feature the artistry of the Pittsburgh Slovaks, under the direction of

Sue and Rudy Ondrejco. The well-known folk ensemble will present the various music and dance traditions of the villages and regions of Slovakia. Also performing will be the Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. Tom Ivanec serves as the Director/Program Coordinator of the troupe with Nadia Oros as choreographer.

Tickets for the celebration, which includes dinner and the cultural program are \$20.00 per person. Advance ticket sales only. Ticket orders with directions will be mailed. Make check payable to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, and mail same to Dr. George Wargo, treasurer; 858 Stonewater Drive, Kent, OH 44240, tel. (330)677-9094. Deadline for reservations is May 9.

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association has enjoyed a wonderful cultural program since it founding in 2002.

Effort to promote works of Slovak composer, Peter Breiner

For the past 46 years, the Slovak American Cultural Center of New York (SACC) has hosted a number of projects promoting Slovak culture and heritage in the New York area. Its most recent project is promoting the work of the Slovak composer, Peter Breiner. He is a well-known conductor, composer, and pianist who now resides in New York. Many of his works have been recorded and received with great acclaim. His most recent work "Slovak Dances" (Slovenske tance) was recently premiered and wonderfully received at the 2013 Pohoda Festival in Slovakia. Maestro Breiner believes that folk dances are a treasure of each nation and should be preserved. They present history in a special and beautiful way. He feels strongly that "Slovak Dances" should be known to the world, as others are and become part of the rich tapestry of international musical consciousness.

"Slovak Dances" have been performed successfully. The work needs to be recorded by a world class orchestra like the renowned Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in London. Performed by such an orchestra will make them attractive to audiences worldwide. The project of SACC goes beyond a common album; its aim is to become a cross platform experience with about six hours plus, of additional works suitable for the Millennial generation.

SACC is pleased to be a part of this effort. A fund-raiser to help Maestro Peter Breiner accomplish his dream has begun. First, please visit www.SlovakDances.com; share [facebook.com/SlovenskeTance](https://www.facebook.com/SlovenskeTance). Then consider making a donation to the project. Tax deductible donations made payable to SACC should be sent to SACC, P.O. Box 5395, New York, N.Y. 10185. A list of all donors will appear on the website. This cultural project is under the auspices of Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Jana Tmavcova.

Susan Krcmar, president of the Slovak American Cultural Center and our Sokolka of Assembly 182, encourages our members as well as our Assemblies and Wreaths to consider supporting this wonderful cultural project. All donations, however large or small will be very much appreciated.

Polka Brunch set for May 4 in Lorain, Oh.

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, Oh. will host a Polka Brunch on Sunday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue in Lorain, Oh. The Brunch will feature a live remote broadcast of the WDLW's Polka Express Show with Tom Borowicz and Dick Benetto from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Between noon and 3 p.m., there will be a live polka concert featuring Jimmy K. Polkas. Cost of the brunch is \$15.00 per person and will feature all your favorite brunch fixings, prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Slovak Club. Advance ticket sales only. For reservations, contact Len Zilko at (440)988-3236. An enjoyable time is assured.

The United Slovak Societies is comprised of members of our local Slovak fraternal societies in Lorain, including Wreath 111 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Branch

(Continued on page 6)



The Word of God ...

Gospel for Passion/Palm Sunday - April 13th

Matthew 21:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew

*When Jesus and the disciples
drew near Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage
on the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples,
saying to them,
"Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately
you will find an ass tethered,
and a colt with her.
Untie them and bring them here to me
And if anyone
should say anything to you, reply,
'The master has need of them'
Then he will send them at once."
This happened
so that what had been spoken
through the prophet
might be fulfilled:
"Say to daughter Zion,
'Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt,
the foal of a beast of burden."
The disciples went and did
as Jesus had ordered them.
They brought the ass
and the colt
and laid their cloaks over them,
and he sat upon them.
The very large crowd
spread their cloaks on the road,
while others cut branches
from the trees and strewed them on the road
The crowds preceding him and those
following kept crying out and saying:
"Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest."
And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken
and asked, "Who is this?"
And the crowds replied,
"This is Jesus the prophet,
from Nazareth in Galilee."*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for Easter Sunday - April 20th

John 20:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to John

*On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb
early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple
whom Jesus loved,
and told them,
"They have taken the Lord
from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him."
So Peter and the other disciple
went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran,
but the other disciple
ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;*

(Continued on page 6)

Reading, Pa. Sokols to host Fraternal Insurance Seminar on Saturday, June 7

Group 12, "Rev. Anton Bernolak" will host a Fraternal Insurance Seminar on Saturday, June 7 in Reading, Pa. The seminar will be held at the recently renovated Slovak Catholic Sokol Club located at 411 Crestmont Street and will be presented by our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, Jr. The seminar begins at 10 a.m. with coffee and a continental breakfast. The seminar presentation follows from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served from 12:30 to 1 p.m. The second session of the seminar begins at 1 p.m. and concludes at 2:30 p.m. Presentations will include Fraternal Benefits, Life Insurance, Burial Trust and Annuities.

Group 12 would like to extend an invitation to fellow Sokol members to attend from Groups making up the Eastern District, including Group 1, Passaic, N.J.; Group 2, Bridgeport, Conn.; Group 3, Douglas, Mass.; Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Group 10, Bethlehem, Pa. and Group 18, Lansford, Pa. The purpose of this highly informative program is designed to bring awareness to our members and guests of the many financial and fraternal benefits that the Slovak Catholic Sokol offers. Throughout the past few years, the Slovak Catholic Sokol has evolved its life insurance and annuity products that help fulfill individuals' current and future financial needs.

All current and future members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol are invited to attend the Fraternal Insurance Seminar. A continental breakfast and luncheon will be provided for all in attendance courtesy of the Home Office. In order to make the necessary preparations, those planning to attend should contact the following Kathleen Smolkowicz at tel. (610)507-3748 or Joseph Harak at (610)779-7964.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol - A tradition of providing sound financial protection and benefits to our members.

Scholarships available to Lorain, Oh. members

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, Oh. will once again award college scholarship grants to high school seniors who will graduate this year. Seniors who are members of our Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111 may apply for these grants. In addition to our graduating seniors, grants are also available to those who are members of the following local Slovak fraternal lodges: Branch 114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 228 of the First

Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 177 of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and Assembly 160 of the National Slovak Society.

For an application as well as the rules for these grants, contact Helene Virant at tel. (440)282-3325. Deadline for the completed application is May 30, 2014. We encourage our Lorain Sokols and Sokolky to apply for these grants. Zdar Boh! - **Michele Mager**, Secretary, United Slovak Societies

Welcome Sokol Bowlers

Group 16 "Rev. Ferdis Juriga" with headquarters in Detroit, Michigan, is pleased to host this year's exciting 68th International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament, scheduled for the weekend of May 16-18. We assure our bowlers that they will be in for a warm fraternal welcome in the Motor City area. Members of Group 16, which includes our lodges in Detroit, Michigan and Rossford, Ohio, will provide maps and brochures of several worthwhile attractions in the Detroit area that our bowlers might want to take advantage of during their stay with us. We will have a table set up with this information at both the Holiday Inn Express and the Super Bowl Bowling Center. Among the opportunities are popular casinos both in Detroit and in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. We remind you that a passport is needed for those planning to cross the border into Canada. Also, for those who like golf, the Fellows Creek Golf Course, site of our tournament banquet, will offer a special golfing rate for our members who would like to golf either before or following our bowling tournament. So, we in Group 16 look forward to welcoming our Sokol brothers and sisters from various parts of the U.S. and Canada at this year's tournament. We want to see that all participants have an enjoyable stay with us. See you soon!

Zdar Boh!

Andrea Ames Papcun
President, Group 16

Bridgeport Slovak Alliance promotes Slovak culture

The Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Conn. has been actively promoting Slovak culture and heritage for more than eight decades. Founded by the late Rev. Stephen Panik, the Slovak Alliance hosts a variety of activities for young and old alike. In addition, it sponsors a scholarship program for students. Regular meetings are held in the meeting room of Holy Name of Jesus School located at Mary Avenue behind the church on 1950 Barnum Avenue in Stratford, Conn. beginning at 7 p.m. All those interested in promoting Slovak culture are invited to join us.

Our upcoming schedule includes our general membership meetings set for Thursday, April 24, Thursday, May 29 and Thursday, June 26. The traditional Slovak Day Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 14 at the Germania Schwaben Hall in Bridgeport. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Thursday, September 25; Thursday, October 30; and Thursday, November 20. The final event of the year is the traditional Christmas party held at the Mill River Country Club in Stratford on Sunday, December 7. For information on the Slovak Alliance, contact Marta Szychak at (203)377-1874 or Paul Misur at (203) 583-0235.

Zdar Boh!

Eileen S. Wilson

From the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

Spring Into Sports

by Denise DiMartino

Spring is a great time of year to make a commitment to getting into shape. As the days get longer and warmer, the great outdoors beckons us to come out of hibernation and get active with spring sports and activities. Why is this so important?

Physical activity is known to help with losing weight and with being healthy. It can improve mental and emotional health as well. According to studies, there are many people who are not active in the United States. Try to get yourself motivated and start moving this spring. The United States Department of Health and Human Services recommends adults:

* Get at least two hours and thirty minutes each week of aerobic physical activity that requires moderate effort. Aerobic workouts should last for at least 10 minutes.

* Do strengthening activities at least two days a week. This includes push-ups, sit-ups, and lifting weights.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services gives these guidelines to get active the safe way:

* If you haven't been active in a while, start slowly and build up.

* Make sure you always stretch and warm up before any activity.

* Choose activities that are appropriate for your fitness level.

* Use the right safety gear and sports equipment.

* Choose a safe place to do your activity.

* See a healthcare provider before starting a new fitness program.

A great way to get active is to participate in our various Sokol sporting events this year. Remember to be true to our organization's tradition, all of us need to promote our ageless slogan of "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body!"

So don't forget to mark your calendar and plan to participate in our 2014 Sokol events.

May 16-18, our 68th International Bowling Tournament, Canton, Mich.

July 11-13, our 27th International Softball Tournament, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

August 1-3, our 59th International Golf Tournament, Middlesex, Pa.

August 14-17, our International Clinic - Kurz in preparation for our 47th Slet and First Sokol Camp Adventure at Camp Fitch, North Springfield, Pa.

I hope to see you at some of these activities. For more information on these events, please visit www.slovakcatholicssokol.org. Zdar Boh!




Za Boha a Národ **For God and Nation**
Slovak Catholic Falcon
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National Catholic Sisters' Week

Foundation for Catholic Education Awards

On March 11, 2014, the Foundation for Catholic Education of the Diocese of Metuchen in New Jersey honored all of the religious communities who had staffed schools in the Diocese. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, whose Motherhouse is in Danville, Pa., were honored for serving at Holy Trinity School in Perth Amboy for 55 years. Sister Michael Ann Orlik, S.S.C.M., General Superior, accepted the award in the name of the Congregation. Sister Michael Ann, herself was a vocation from Holy Trinity Parish and an alumna of its parochial school. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius staffed Holy Trinity School from 1935 to 1990.

In presenting the award, the Most Rev. Paul Bootkoski, Bishop of Metuchen, thanked the Sisters for their devotion and outstanding service, and said, "They are the first models of service to community - the women who devote their lives to teaching as Jesus did. They have given their time, talent and treasure



Sister Michael Ann Orlik

to touch the lives of thousands of children over the years." The award ceremony coincided with National Catholic Sisters' Week, March 8-14.

The White House Easter Egg Roll

The annual Easter Egg Roll is the largest event at the White House, sometimes with nearly 40,000 in attendance. Some historians credit First Lady Dolly Madison with organizing the event, while others say the egg rolling parties began during President Abraham Lincoln's presidency.

It is known that as far back as 1872, children in the Washington, D.C. area convened on the grounds of the Capitol to roll eggs. Apparently, the members of Congress were not pleased with this loud, messy tradition and passed the Turf Protection Law in 1876 to prohibit the area from being used as a playground. The following Easter was a rainy day, so the children did not come, but in 1878, it came as a shock that

they were barred from their fun. One version relates that President Rutherford B. Hayes took pity on them and opened the South Lawn of the White House.

Since then, the event has evolved to include bands, food and more elaborate games. First Lady Pat Nixon introduced the tradition of having a White house Easter bunny, usually a White House staffer dressed in a rabbit suit. During President Reagan's tenure, the Attorney General Edwin Meese wore the rabbit suit. The following year, Meese's wife, Ursula took over and so loved the role that she donned the suit for six Easters, earning the nickname the "Meester Bunny." First Lady Michelle Obama will preside over this year's festivities scheduled for April 19.

How Rabbits Became An Easter Symbol

Rabbits are a sign of new life, a powerful Easter metaphor. Several factors contribute to rabbits being seen as an Easter symbol: They are extremely fertile animals, potent signs of abundant new life; they sometimes represent the moon, which relates to Easter's date being set by the moon; and rabbits burrow underground, which is likened to Jesus in the tomb.

The connection also has pagan roots. According to pagan history,

rabbits were the favorite animal of the goddess of spring, Eostre, who was thought to have placed eggs in the tall grass at the start of spring, and to have used rabbits to deliver the eggs to children.

When the early German immigrants came to the United States, they brought with them a legend of a poor woman who loved to surprise children. With no money to buy gifts, she colored eggs in rainbow colors and hid them in nests of grass and sticks. Just as the children approached the nests, a rabbit hopped away. The children then believed that the rabbit had left the eggs as an Easter surprise.

- Catholic Digest



Polka Brunch set for May 4 in Lorain, Oh.

(Continued from page 4)

114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 77 of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and Assembly 160 of the National Slovak Society. Many Sokols and Sokolkys have been active in the work of the United Slovak Societies over the years. We hope to see many Lorain area Sokol members at the spring brunch.

Zdar Boh!

Michele Mager, Secretary
United Slovak Societies

Don Thy Easter Bonnet

One of Christianity's most celebrated early converts, the Emperor Constantine, is credited by historians with having made new clothes so much a part of the Easter season that the custom has persisted through the centuries.

The Emperor decreed that, as a special honor to the newly risen Lord, every member of his court appear on Easter morning in new raiment. The tangible symbol of rebirth and new life, after the austere period of Lent, is observed this day.

Shot Heard 'Round the World

President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated April 14, 1865. It happened while he sat watching a humorous play, "Our American Cousin," in Ford Theatre in Washington, D.C. The red silk damask-covered rocker in which Lincoln was seated at the time is now among the collection items on exhibit in the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich.

Sokol Birthdays

APRIL 17

Joan Yanosick, Pittsburgh, Pa., recording secretary of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Catherine Yonkoski Gorski, Milwaukee, Wis., a member of Assembly 82, Dunlo, Pa.

APRIL 18

Cynthia Ann Bednar, Bethlehem, Pa., a member of Assembly 78, Bethlehem, Pa.

Marilyn T. Bergeron, Little Falls, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Thomas Mikoni, Lebanon, Pa., a member of Assembly 78, Bethlehem, Pa.

APRIL 19

Jennifer Anne O'Sullivan Esq., Pelham, N.Y., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

John Sinanis, Trumbull, Conn., treasurer of Group 2 and auditor of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn. Ava Szluka, Hopatcong, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

APRIL 20

Zofia Jurkowski, Wayne, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

APRIL 21

Tina Hellinger, Lorain, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

Viera Stano, North Chelmsford, Mass., a member of Assembly 314, Boston, Mass.

APRIL 22

Dr. Mark M. Stolarik, Ottawa, Ont., Canada, a member of Assembly 48, Philadelphia, Pa.

Terry Johnson, Franklinville, N.J., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

APRIL 23

Katherine Hanson, Minneapolis, Minn., a member of Wreath 47, Minneapolis, Minn.

Josephine McEvoy, Surfside Beach, S.C., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq., Clifton, N.J., vice president of Group 1 and president of Assem-

bly 162, Clifton, N.J.

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

APRIL 24

Eileen Schwyer, Jenkintown, Pa., a member of Wreath 13, Philadelphia, Pa.

Loretta G. Smith, Canfield, Oh., a member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

APRIL 25

Rose Marie Kedzuf, Orland Park, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

APRIL 26

Annie Pogorelec, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

John D. Rushin, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Elsie Termyna, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Jerome J. Wassel, III, Bethel Park, Pa., a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

APRIL 27

Carolyn M. Bazik, Lansford, Pa., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

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

Edward J. Sabol, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

APRIL 29

Alicia Mary Maslar, West Reading, Pa., a member of wreath 155, Reading, Pa.

Msgr. Peter P. Dora, Stamford, Conn., a member of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn.

APRIL 30

Timothy Evans, Erie, Pa., a member of Assembly 25, Perryopolis, Pa.

Stephen Kovacic, Philadelphia, Pa., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Sharron A. Cloft, Eagle, Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Easter Legends

A lovely legend tells how the robin got his red breast. On the way to Calvary, a little robin noted that a thorn had pierced the forehead of Jesus, causing it to bleed. So he flew down and plucked out the thorn. But as he did so, a drop of Christ's blood fell on the little bird's breast, staining it red. From that time on, all robins have had a red breast as a reminder that one of them was kind to our Lord. So goes the legend.

Gospel for Easter Sunday

(Continued from page 4)

he bent down
and saw the burial cloths there
but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb
and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths
but rolled up in a separate place.
Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.
For he did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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(Effective January 1, 2012)

Reports of the Supreme Officers for 2013 Presented at the First Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors Held at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J., March 21-22, 2014

REPORT OF THE SUPREME CHAPLAIN

Pochvalen bud' Pan Jezis Kristus!
Clenom Zboru Direktorov!

In Compliance with Section 4.0 article (g) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my report of activities for the calendar year 2013.

The duties, obligations and responsibilities of the Office of the Supreme Chaplain are clearly spelled out in the Bylaws. I tried to the best of my ability to fulfill them.

Following is a listing and brief explanation of my activities:

On January 25, 2013, I represented our organization by participating in the National March for Life held in Washington, DC. I organized the transportation from Epiphany Parish and School in Sayre, PA, working closely with the President of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Mrs. Theresa Kluchinski. I enjoyed traveling with my fellow Slovak Catholic Sokol Group 7 President and the Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, Mr. Michael Horvath and his family along with local members of both Fraternals.

I attended the 1st Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors held March 15-16, 2013 held at our Home Office in Passaic, NJ. I not only provided the spiritual needs for this meeting; (ie) daily Mass, prayers beginning and ending each session, but also conducted a memorial service remembering all our deceased members for the year 2012 as well as participate in all deliberations.

From April 14-26, 2013 I participated in the Pilgrimage of Faith sponsored by the Slovak Catholic Federation. During the Pilgrimage I was introduced not only as the National First Vice-President of the Slovak Catholic Federation but also as the Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. This pilgrimage was organized to celebrate the 1,150th Anniversary of the arrival of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia, present day Slovakia as well as to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy. The trip included visits to Italy, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The 2nd Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors was held June 28-29, 2013 at the Best Western Genetti Hotel and Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA. I not only provided prayer for the beginning and conclusion of each session but also participated in all matters discussed. The Board of Directors were given the opportunity to participate in the 26th Annual Softball Tournament held at the Jake Kislak Softball Complex in Drifton, PA on Saturday, June 29, 2013. I provided the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation for all who participated in the tournament.

I was honored to have been selected by the Board of Directors to serve as one of the chaperones for our 46th International Slet held at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, PA from July 16-20, 2013. I provided Mass for the Opening and Closing of the Slet, prayerful support and encouragement to all participants. Despite the record heat during the week, the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and the staff of Slippery Rock University did an awesome job in conducting a very successful Slet.

August 17, 2013 I participated in the Group Presidents' meeting which was held in Pittsburgh, PA. I provided the prayer to open and close the sessions of the meeting, provide Mass to fulfill our Sunday obligation as well as speak on the importance of each Group upholding our organization's motto "Za Boha a Narod", "For God and Nation."

I attended the 58th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation held in Wilkes-Barre, PA at the Best Western East Mountain Inn from Sept. 15-17, 2013. I wish to express my appreciation to all the delegates who chose to re-elect me to my 4th term as National First Vice-President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. One of the duties of the National First Vice-President is to conduct the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

During my report to the Convention I mentioned how pleased I am that the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors yearly approve a donation to the Annual Appeal and that a number of Groups and Assemblies follow their lead in contributing.

On September 21, 2013 I participated in the 3rd Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors via teleconference. Opening and closing the meeting with a prayer. I found it to be very productive and most cost effective.

Sunday, September 22, 2013, Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas" held its 78th Sokol Day gathering. I was able to once again attend this wonderful fraternal event which was held at the Plains Pavilion in Plains, PA. I commend the officers and members of Group 7 for continuing to hold this event, one of the oldest Sokol Day gatherings in our organization.

On Saturday, October 5, 2013 it was my honor to attend the presentation of our organization's Fraternalist of the Year Award at Vanderlyn's Restaurant in Kingston, PA to Mr. Fred Graham. Fred has known me since I was a child and I have had the opportunity to grow up in the Slovak Catholic Sokol through his leadership and example of what it means to be a true fraternalist.

On Saturday, November 19, 2013 Group 7 "Reverend Joseph Murgas" held its Annual Meeting at Saint John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, PA. I concelebrated the Mass with Fr. Richard Cirba, Group 7 Chaplain as well as participated in the matters discussed during the course of the meeting.

The 4th Quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors was held Dec. 6-7, 2013 in Las Vegas, NV. I provided the opening and closing prayers for all sessions. Once all business was completed, the Board of Directors was afforded the opportunity to conduct a site inspection for possible consideration for any future Slovak Catholic Sokol events.

As per the Duties of the Supreme Chaplain, Section 4.0 (d) I followed through, to the best my ability, inviting all our Group Chaplains to submit articles to Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, as they wish, concerning matters of our Catholic Faith, or any other topic they choose to share with our membership for publication.

I submitted monthly articles for publication in the Falcon, which I trust all found to be informative.

I recommended Two individuals for membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol this

past year.

I sincerely wish to thank my parents for their love and support over this past year. To the parishioners of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA for their patience and understanding during my absence from the parish in order for me to fulfill my duties as Supreme Chaplain.

I am most appreciative to our Supreme President, Mr. Larry M. Glugosh for his encouragement and support, along with our Supreme Secretary, Steven M. Pogorelec, FIC for his time, energy, and dedication to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and his support shown to me.

I pray that We all commit ourselves to do our part to live our organization's slogan, "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body", and we defend our organization's motto, "For God and Nation". As we begin our 109th year we can be very proud of our impressive past, may we commit ourselves to assure a promising future.

ZDAR BOH!

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
Supreme Chaplain

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PRESIDENT

Slavna Rocna Schodza!

In compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2013 written report to the Board of Directors.

The past year has been very exciting and challenging. I have fulfilled my role to the best of my ability and represented our membership as your Supreme President. The Board of Directors, our membership and my family continues to support my goals, objectives and provide me the necessary strength to carry on with my work and life. I would sincerely like to thank all of you for your support, understanding, love and prayers.

With this said, as I look back on 2013 from the eyes of the Supreme President and I see an organization that continues to grow in membership and improve its financial health. Our 2013 annual operating budget had a positive year and actually turned a profit from operations, despite some last minute reserves and some unforeseen legal expenses. Regardless, our sales and marketing organization signed over \$35M in new life and annuity business and our home office staff helped manage our expenses, which resulted in a very good financial year. Given these improvements I am confident that our fraternal society will continue to grow and prosper especially with the leadership, focus and dedication of our Supreme Assembly, as it relates to the main objectives in our long term business plan.

It has been a true privilege and honor to serve the Slovak Catholic Sokol and represent the membership as the Supreme President. It has also been my pleasure to work with the entire Supreme Assembly, especially the Board of Directors and the Supreme Physical Fitness Board. I would like to sincerely thank them for their guidance, commitment and support in terms of the fraternal, spiritual and financial aspects of the organization. As representatives of our organization, you demonstrated a great deal of insight and experience throughout the year which certainly contributed to our success. In addition, I would sincerely like to thank the local and Group Officers for their continued support, cooperation and contribution to our wonderful society.

My duties, obligations and responsibilities are clearly outlined in the Bylaws and I have performed these duties to the best of my ability and objectively keeping in mind the best interests of our membership. In general the feedback we have received from our members has been generally positive and supportive, as we have endeavored to represent the membership and listen to all suggestions for the betterment of our organization.

During the past year, I attended all four of the quarterly Board of Director meetings, the Annual Scholarship Committee meeting in April, the Group Presidents' meeting in Pittsburgh last August, the AFA Annual meeting in September, the annual SPFB meeting, the SCF Convention and other fraternal events, conventions and activities. I also attended our International Bowling tournament (May), the International Softball tournament (July), the International Slet (July) and the International Golf tournament (August). I want to personally thank all of our 2013 participants, coaches and parents who attended these fraternal events and enjoyed our program. We look forward to seeing you in the future.

In the fall, I attended the annual Fraternalist of the Year event in Wilkes Barre, PA where we celebrated with our 2013 recipient, Brother Fred Graham. The local Group 7 officers, family and friends did a wonderful job hosting a special celebration. As a special note, Brother Fred is also the first Scottish/Slovak recipient in our history. My sincerest congratulations to Brother Fred for winning this prestigious award, which represents his many years of dedication and commitment to our society.

In addition to the above list of activities and events, I continued to enroll new Sokol members, increase my own family's insurance, attended several conference calls, attended some administrative meetings at the home office and contributed monthly articles to our newspaper. As Supreme Officers in the Slovak Catholic Sokol, it is important that we fulfill all of our duties and obligations to the organization by signing up new members, selling life insurance, annuities and becoming a good role model for our youth. Remember our youth is our future!

Once again, I would like to sincerely thank the entire membership for their support and dedication to our blessed society. As in the past, I will continue to work hard on your behalf to achieve the key objectives of our organization, namely growth in our fraternal Catholic membership, a continued love and understanding of our Slovak heritage, a stimulation of activity for our youth and the continued solvency in our organization.

In conclusion, I would once again like to thank everyone who helped my family

(Continued on page 8)

Reports of the Supreme Officers for 2013

(Continued from page 7)

over the past year. I could not have accomplished my goals and represented the organization without your constant support, understanding and prayers. In the past I have stated that in our home "Life means Family" and this was very apparent and needed throughout the past year. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart and please continue to keep our family in your prayers!

God bless you all and the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Larry M. Glugosh
Supreme President, Slovak Catholic Sokol

REPORT OF THE SUPREME VICE-PRESIDENT

Clenom Zboru Direktorov!

In compliance with the constitution and bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my activity report for the year 2013.

Over the past several years the Supreme Board of Directors primary goal has been to turn our organization around from a financial and membership perspective, thus assuring longevity and success. With the strong leadership of our Supreme President and Supreme Secretary along with collaboration amongst our board members, decisions and changes have been implemented. We are finally celebrating success, as this year ended with positive membership growth. I want to commend our Director of Sales and Marketing, Brother Albert Suess for his leadership and persistence toward our collective goal, and I look forward to many more years of success with him at the helm of this endeavor.

For the past approximately 20 years I have authored and edited the Kids' Corner, a monthly kids' page in our *Slovak Catholic Falcon*. With the assistance of Jennifer Romine, Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, our monthly contribution has offered our youth the opportunity to better understand our organization and be involved even when their family lives far from an active Group. It has been a pleasure to see repeat participants in our summer reading programs and activities with some of the early participants now applying for college scholarships. I would like to take a moment to thank Dr. Michael Kopanic for his monthly contributions, offering phonetic translation of our monthly themes to Slovak words and phrases as well as the editorial staff for their assistance.

One of my favorite responsibilities as a Vice-President is to serve as the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. I am humbled to have participated in the awarding of thousands of dollars representing hundreds of scholarships to our deserving student members over the past 10 years. During the 2013 scholarship season we gave out a total of 78 scholarships to grade school, high school and college students. Standardizing the college scholarship program and moving it into the 21st century by creating an all online process are just a few of the process improvements implemented over the past several years. Every year we have "key learnings" that we share with our future applicants, and I am happy to say that this has resulted in a higher quality process. The Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship Fund continues to accumulate enough consistent funding to allow us to offer scholarships in each of the past 7 seasons. In 2013 we were blessed to be able to offer two \$1000 Memorial Scholarships to college student/members who live the volunteer spirit of our fraternal history. Our members are invited to donate to our Memorial Scholarship Fund-a fund developed to offer a way for a member to honor a lost loved one or fellow Sokol member. Those memorialized continue to be recognized in the *Falcon* on a quarterly basis. Take notice of the Wreaths and Assemblies who have made it their practice to use this fund as the vehicle to honor members who have died or to celebrate a special event-an opportunity I think that other Wreaths/Assemblies should consider. Thanks to our generous donors, I am confident that we will be able to continue to offer this scholarship for years to come.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Disaster Relief Fund was created and advertised in late 2011 following several natural disasters after which we felt unprepared to assist our members in need. Our members responded quickly and generously, and We are now positioned to be able to offer some financial assistance to those who may suffer damage and loss due to a future Natural Disaster.

Join Hands Day is held each year on the first Saturday of May and I would like to applaud several of our Groups/Wreaths/Assemblies that have made a habit of participating in this worthy event. I encourage others to do the same, plan ahead and even consider partnering with the Special Olympics on one of their many events held on or around the first Saturday of May.

In 2013, I was excused from attending our late June Board of Directors meeting due to a family conflict, but was in attendance at each of the remaining meetings as well as the scholarship selection meeting. In addition, I attended the annual Group 4 meeting as well as my Wreath meetings.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my family, my fellow board members and the home office staff for all of their support as I strive to fulfill the expectations of this role.

Zdar Boh!
Respectfully submitted,
Julie Ann Dobbs
Supreme Vice-President

REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

Clenom Zboru Direktorov!

In compliance with Section 4.3, Article (I) page 25 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my written annual report for the year 2013 to the Board of Directors.

My duties, obligations, and responsibilities as the Supreme Secretary are clearly

listed in our Bylaws and I have performed these duties to the best of my ability keeping in mind at all times the best interests of our members and organization. I wish to report that I have, as required, executed and carried into effect all the decisions of the Convention, the Supreme Board of Directors, and mandates of state and federal regulators.

In 2013 our organization celebrated its 108th Year as a fraternal benefit society and it continues to offer sound financial protection and wonderful fraternal benefits for our members. Having been in existence for 108 years is a remarkable accomplishment and achievement for any organization to be proud of.

Throughout the year many fraternal programs and activities were conducted by our Assemblies, Wreaths, Groups, as well as the Supreme Assembly. The success of all of these events is due to the dedication, support, and cooperation of the officers, agents and members in the promotion of our organization's endeavors which is truly valued.

After reviewing all of the financial reports during this Board of Directors Meeting, I am certain that you will concur with me that our organization has experienced one of our most successful years, especially with the increase of new members and certificates. The Society continues to remain financially strong as anyone will see when the financial reports are presented.

HOME OFFICE EFFICIENCY

The Home Office staff, which is a dedicated group of individuals, continues to provide experienced and knowledgeable service to the membership on a daily basis. I am very thankful for all that they do. The workforce continues to process requests for life insurance, annuities, loans, mortgages, scholarship and seminarian grant information, billing, mailing of dividends, verification of insurance coverage for Housing and Nursing Home facilities, filling the requests for cookbooks and, of course, the payment of death claims in a timely manner. They also update important necessary personal data such as Social Security numbers, name changes, addresses, telephone numbers, change of beneficiaries, collecting additional information to keep membership records as up to date as possible.

In 2013, as in previous years, we continue to advise our members to take advantage of the best certificate dividend options offered and recommend that they continue to use their dividends to purchase additional paid-up insurance which is of course beneficial to the member and our organization. Most importantly, increasing our membership continues to be our main concern and our number one objective. Through the efforts of Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C., our Director of Sales and Marketing in establishing a professional sales force to compliment our current recommenders, we have been able to realize greater sales of our life insurance and annuity products which have increased assets, surplus and profitability for our organization.

Our Director of Sales and Marketing continues to revise and update informational brochures and other educational materials and make them available to our members and interested parties that inquire at the Home Office. In addition due to his efforts, we have changed and improved, and brought up-to-date our S.C.S. Web Site for our members to view and to keep them informed of events, programs and the various offerings promoted throughout the year. All of our forms and applications are available on this web-site as an additional service. Also, our Supreme Vice-President has made the College, High School and Grade School Scholarship applications available on the web-site. Our members can now view the Slovak Catholic Falcon publication on the Internet, thus saving the organization postage and printing expenses. We continue to have four licensed life insurance individuals on staff employed at the Home Office and at our Sales and Marketing Director's office located in Pittsburgh, PA to offer assistance to our members and licensed agents.

In conformity with Title V of the "Gramm-Leach Bliley Act" we have, as in previous years, met the requirements and issued the "Slovak Catholic Sokol Privacy Commitment Statement to our Insured's" during 2013. Our well-known bi-weekly publication, the *Slovak Catholic Falcon*, continues to serve as an important means of making information readily available and helpful to keep our members informed of meetings and events. It also enables the membership to read meeting minutes, officer's reports and various financial reports. In addition, articles, results and photos regarding the sporting tournaments and activities that the organization offers are publicized throughout the year. I thank Brother Dan Tanzone for his many years as our Editor and for the fine job that he does.

As in the past, the Home Office has received and welcomed numerous visitors and guests from the religious, political, and athletic fields and other Fraternal Societies to our Home Office here in Passaic, New Jersey. We make every effort to see that everyone is welcomed during their visits and we appreciate the compliments regarding our Slovak Catholic Sokol hospitality and facility.

During this Board of Directors meeting, I pray that we all will be blessed and inspired to make the proper decisions in order for our organization to continue as we have in the past 108 years to offer fraternal programs, benefits, products, and reliable service to our members for countless more years to come and for future generations to enjoy and benefit from.

STATISTICS

The statistics for the year of 2013 reflect an increase of 60 certificates and an increase of 137 members. The amount of Premium Income received during the year was \$4,522,752 of which \$702,845 was for life insurance premiums and \$3,819,907 was received as annuity income. Face amount of Insurance written totaled \$39,746,950 and the amount of Insurance in Force was \$146,289,773. The Society has 27,968 members with 31,076 certificates in force and 96 Assemblies/Wreaths. There are also 543 annuities totaling \$8,669,748. Assets as of 12/31/2013 were \$63,817,281 and the Unassigned Funds equaled \$10,093,784. The Solvency Ratio is a creditable 118.79%.

ACTIVITIES AND DUTIES

As the Supreme Secretary, it is necessary for me to meet on behalf of our organization with state legislators and insurance regulators in our state capital of Trenton, New Jersey. Also every effort is made to attend various financial and insurance seminars, meetings, and educational classes as the life insurance industry is constantly changing so our

(Continued on page 13)

The Beautiful Easter Basket Tradition

One of the most beautiful faith traditions of the Slovaks and other Slavic peoples is the custom of bringing an Easter Basket to the parish church on Holy Saturday to be blessed by the priest or deacon. This basket is filled with many of the foods enjoyed by Slovaks at the Easter Sunday feast. The blessing of the baskets stems from the desire of the Christian community to ask God's blessing on the foods that will break the great fast of Lent and from which they have abstained during the holy season of Lent. Many of the foods enjoyed at Easter have their roots in the Passover observance of the Old Testament, while others are symbolic of the risen Christ himself, our true Passover. Foods traditionally blessed for Easter, the feast of the Lord's Passover from death to life, include some of the following listed below. The foods prepared in advance, are placed in a basket, covered with a special hand-crocheted cloth, often one which has been handed down for generations, and taken to church for the Holy Saturday rite. In addition, children may bring their baskets to church for the blessing filled with candy and eggs.

EGGS - Brightly decorated eggs, called kraslice in Slovak, are a symbol of the new life that is ours in Christ. Eggs are a sign of hope and resurrection. Jesus comes forth from the tomb as the chick breaks the shell at birth. Because of this special meaning, it is fitting that the eggs to be blessed be decorated with symbols of Easter, Alleluia, and so forth.

PASKA - The Easter bread, is a sweet, yeast bread rich in eggs, butter and raisins, symbolic of Christ himself who is the true bread of life. It is usually a round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait giving it a crowned effect or Greek abbreviations for the name of Christ. The letters XB indicate the Old Slavonic, the proto-Slav language, for Christ is Risen!

KLOBASY - This spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products is indicative of God's favor and generosity. It is also a sign of abundance and the joy of the Easter season.

BACON - A piece of uncooked bacon, known as slanina in Slovak, which is cured with spices is also enjoyed. It is symbolic of the overabundance

of God's mercy to us. **HAM** - Ham celebrates the freedom of the New Law which came into effect through Jesus' resurrection. It is distinct from the Old Law which forbade certain meats. Ham is often the principal meat of the Easter feast. Some may prefer lamb or veal.

CHEESE - The special Easter cheese is known as syrek in Slovak. It has a rather bland taste. The use of nutmeg and sugar in its preparation will give it a sweeter flavor. It is indicative of the moderation Christians should have in all things. Cream cheese may also be blessed and placed in a small dish. Both may be decorated with symbols made of cloves or pepper balls.

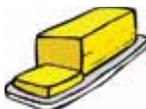
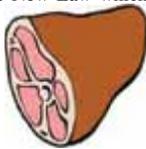
HORSERADISH - This food made with beets and the hot-tasting root is known as chren in Slovak and represents the bitter herbs prescribed in the Passover meal of the Old Testament as a reminder of the bitterness and harshness of life in Egypt. For us, it recalls the bitterness and suffering of Christ which led to his death on the cross on Good Friday.

SALT - This food reminds us to flavor our dealings with others by the example of Christ. Salt is blessed because it was used to preserve food just as Jesus preserves us to eternal life.

BUTTER - This favorite dairy product, known as maslo in Slovak, is often shaped into a figure of a lamb. The lamb is an ancient Passover food by whose blood the Israelites were saved. Jesus is our Paschal (Passover) lamb by whose blood we are saved. It also reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

WINE - Wine is the drink of the Passover meal as well as the Last Supper. Its sparkle reminds us of the glory of Easter. Wine gladdens our hearts and helps us enter into the joy of the resurrection.

Preserving our wonderful Slovak faith traditions is one way of enhancing our observance of Easter. A blessed Easter to all - veselú Vel'kú noc!



Rosaries needed by Missionary in India

Our old friend, Father Paul Cruz, a longtime missionary in India, sends greetings and prayerful best wishes to our members for a happy Easter. Over the years, many of our members have supported his mission for which is very grateful. Now ordained a priest for 52 years, he writes "I am okay by the grace of God and your helping prayers."

In this request, Father Paul asks to send him rosaries for his people. He notes that there are more than five thousand people who need a rosary for their spiritual life. In addition, pens, pencils, etc. for children are also of great use. In return, he promises to keep us all in his daily prayers and Masses. He signs "with love and priestly blessings." Send items or a donation to: Rev. Paul Cruz, P.O. Box No: 691571, St. Joseph's Priest Home, Kottiyam P.O., Kollam 691571, Kerala, India.



Our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic celebrated Mass for our living and deceased members the opening and conclusion of the first Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors in the Board Room at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J., March 21-22.



During the March 21-22 meeting of the Board of Directors held at our Home Office, our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, center, gave an explanation of the reasons for blessing homes and in this case our organization's headquarters building. Shown with him are l-r, Supreme Treasurer Dennis J. Zifcak, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Edward D. Moeller, Supreme Physical Director Dusan Dorich, Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh, Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen S. Watkins, Supreme Vice President Julie Ann Dobbs, partially hidden, and Chairperson of Supreme Auditors Michael J. Horvath.



Continuing with the tradition of the Blessing of our Home Office building, our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic is shown above offering the prayer of blessing for our headquarters building and then marked the door posts with blessed chalk. Father Andrew marked the lintel of the entrance to our Board Room 20 + C + M + B + 14. The initials remind us of the legendary names of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar and also stand for the Latin motto: Christus Mansionem Benedicat (May Christ bless this house). Looking on during the blessing are, l-r, Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh, Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and Supreme Vice President Julie Ann Dobbs.

Scenes of the Annual St. Joseph Patronal Day Observance Hosted by Assembly 182

St. John Nepomucene Parish + New York City + Sunday, March 23

Assembly 182 hosted its traditional St. Joseph's Day celebration on Sunday, March 23 at the parish of St. John Nepomucene in New York City. The annual event celebrates the lodge's patron, St. Joseph and affords the opportunity for the members to gather and share traditional Sokol fellowship and hospitality. The program opened with the officers, members and guests marching in a body to St. John Nepomucene Church where the 11 a.m. Slovak Mass was celebrated for the living and deceased members of Assembly 182 by the Rev. Stefan Chanas, parochial vicar of the parish. Father Chanas offered a warm welcome to the assembled Sokols and Sokolky and thanked Assembly 182 for its efforts over the past 91 years since its founding in the parish.

Following the beautiful liturgy, the nearly 100 members and guests gathered in the parish social hall where a delicious luncheon was served. A warm welcome was extended by Assembly 182 President, Dr. Ladislav Korcek who led in the opening prayer. The assemblage then sang the anthems of the United States and Slovakia. Dr. Korcek thanked all for their attendance and interest in the work of the lodge. He offered a special welcome to the members of our former Assembly 282 who were recently consolidated with Assembly 182. A report of the various activities hosted by the lodge during the past year were reviewed. The Vice President Jozef Bodo thanked all for their assistance in the fraternal events hosted by the lodge, including the St. Nicholas Day party for the children, the pre-Lenten social and the sporting afternoon for young members. The Financial Secretary Anna Korcak gave an overview of the finances of the lodge and thanked all

for their cooperation.

Editor Daniel F. Tanzone served as the principal speaker during the luncheon which included traditional Slovak culinary specialties. He spoke of the many activities hosted by our organization and commended the New York Sokol members for their efforts in promoting our Slovak heritage in the BigApple. This year's celebration paid tribute to the late Monsignor Stephen J. Krasula, P.A. on the occasion of the centennial of his ordination to the priesthood. A native of Namestovo in Slovakia, he was born there in 1887. He came to the United States in 1907 and entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. He was ordained a priest on June 4, 1914 in New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral. He served as pastor of the New York parish from 1916 to 1968. He passed away in 1970. He was a leader of the American Slovak community in general and the Slovak Catholic Sokol in particular. He served as the Honorary Protector of the organization for many years. He serves as the patron of Group 1. Participants of the St. Joseph Day admired the plaque honoring Msgr. Krasula located in the vestibule of the church.

Other speakers at the luncheon included John Kulhan and Michael J. Zakutny, both Honorary Presidents of Assembly 182. Greetings were also offered by the pastor of the parish, Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton and the associate pastor, Father Stefan Chanas who offered the closing prayer. The celebration concluded with the singing of God Bless America and Hej Slovaci. An enjoyable fraternal afternoon was had by all.

Zdar Boh!
Anna Korcak
Financial Secretary



Headtable guests and officers of Assembly 182 are shown seated, l-r, Nina Holy, Slovak League of America national secretary-treasurer; Rev. Stefan Chanas and Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton, associate and pastor, respectively, of St. John Nepomucene Parish; Assembly 182 honorary presidents, Michael J. Zakutny and John Kulhan. Standing, l-r, Jozef Bodo, vice president; John A. Holy, vice president; Dr. Ladislav Korcek, president; Anna Korcak, financial secretary; Milan Dait, president of Assembly 1 of the Slovak League of America; Jozef Bilik, president of Branch 716 of the Jednota and Editor Daniel F. Tanzone.



Shown in front of the plaque honoring Msgr. Stephen Krasula on the centennial of his ordination are, l-r, Michael J. Zakutny, Rev. Stefan Chanas who celebrated the patronal feast day Mass; Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton, pastor of the parish and Assembly 182 officers, Anna Korcak, financial secretary and Dr. Ladislav Korcek, president.



1914 marks the 100th anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of the late Msgr. Stephen J. Krasula, P.A. He served as pastor of St. John Nepomucene Parish from 1916-1968. He passed away in 1970. A special plaque honors his memory in the vestibule of the church. At this year's St. Joseph's Day observance, Honorary President of Assembly 182 and noted Slovak civic and cultural leader, John Kulhan, center, is shown above in front of the plaque honoring Msgr. Krasula, with his children including, l-r, Anne Marie, John, Jr., Dr. Darlene and Jean all of whom attended the parish school where they had fond remembrances of Msgr. Krasula.



Honorary President John Kulhan, displaying his new memoir, Freedom's Gate, is shown with standing, l-r, Assembly 182 President Dr. Ladislav Korcek, Bertha Marsik Seitz, Joseph S. Gasparec, and Editor Daniel F. Tanzone.



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik"

April, 2014

Right Left Easter Game Story

You can wrap several different gifts or pass around eggs. Each person in the circle is holding something and as the story is read, you pass the object left and right based on the story. At the end, you open the gift that you are holding. It works best when they are all different gifts so they want to be passed. But, it is still super fun when everyone is holding the same object. Have fun!!!!

There were only two days LEFT before the Passover the chief priests wanted to find the RIGHT way to arrest and then kill Jesus. RIGHT then, Judas Iscariot went RIGHT to the chief priests to offer to hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted and as he LEFT they promised to give him money. So, Judas waited and watched for the RIGHT time.

On the first evening of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Jesus and His disciples met for the Passover meal. RIGHT while they were eating, Jesus told them that one of them would hand Him RIGHT over to His enemies. This LEFT the disciples in a state of sadness.

When they finished their meal they LEFT to go to the Mount of Olives. Jesus told His disciples that all of them would leave Him, but Peter argued that He would stay RIGHT with Jesus always. Jesus told Peter that RIGHT that very night, before the rooster crowed twice, He would deny Him three times.

At the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus instructed His disciples to keep watch while He LEFT to pray. Jesus fell RIGHT to the ground, praying that the hour might pass RIGHT by Him.

When Jesus returned to His disciples, Judas appeared. Judas, was about to hand Jesus RIGHT over to His enemies. Judas went RIGHT to Jesus and kissed Him. The men grabbed Jesus and arrested him RIGHT there. Jesus was taken RIGHT to the high priest and Peter followed.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin wanted to put Jesus RIGHT to death, but they could not find anything to use against Him. Many told lies about Him, but Jesus LEFT all of their questioning unanswered. The high priest asked Him if He was the Christ and Jesus was LEFT to answer the only thing He truthfully could, "I am." RIGHT away, they found him guilty of blasphemy and said he must die.

At the time, Peter was RIGHT below in the courtyard. He was asked three times if He knew Jesus, but three times he denied he did. RIGHT away the rooster crowed for the second time and Peter broke RIGHT down and sobbed.

Early in the morning Jesus was tied RIGHT up and handed over to Pilate. Pilate was LEFT amazed at the character of Jesus. He didn't feel RIGHT about harming Him, but the crowds shouted that they wanted Jesus put RIGHT to death. Pilate wanted to satisfy the crowd so he ordered that Jesus be whipped and nailed to a cross RIGHT away.

The soldiers LEFT with Jesus RIGHT away. They put a purple robe on Him and twisted thorns together to make a crown to put RIGHT on his head. They hit Him and spit RIGHT on Him. They made fun of Him and then forced Him to carry a cross RIGHT up Golgotha Hill.

They nailed Jesus RIGHT to that cross. Then they divided up what was LEFT of His clothes, casting lots to see what each of them would get. They crucified two robbers with Jesus. One was on his RIGHT and one was on his LEFT.

At noon, daylight LEFT and darkness covered the land for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried RIGHT out in a loud voice, My God, my God, why have you LEFT me? When Jesus took his last breath the temple curtain was torn RIGHT in two from top to bottom.

As evening approached, Joseph went RIGHT to Pilate and asked that Jesus' body be LEFT for him to bury. With Pilate's consent Joseph took the body RIGHT down from the cross and wrapped it in linen. He LEFT the body in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone RIGHT against the entrance of the tomb.

RIGHT on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome LEFT to go to the tomb. They LEFT just after sunrise. They were going to apply spices RIGHT to Jesus' body. When they arrived they were LEFT in shock. The very large stone had been rolled RIGHT away. They entered RIGHT into the tomb and saw a young man dressed in a white robe. He was sitting on the RIGHT side. He told them not to be afraid because Jesus had risen and had already LEFT the tomb. He instructed the women to go RIGHT to Jesus' disciples and let them know that Jesus had risen.

Slovak Words=Slovenské slová

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Detský kútik [dyet-ski] [koo - teek] = Kid's corner

Palm Sunday = **Kvetná nedeľa** [Kvet-naah nye-dyeh-lah] literally it means, Blossom Sunday

Holy Week = **pašiové týždň** [pah-sheo-veh teezh-den] The "ň" is like "ny" in "canyon."

Holy Thursday = **Zelený štvrtok** [zeh-leh-nee shtver-toke] Literally, Green Thursday

Good Friday = **Veľký piatok** [Vell-kee pyaah-toke] Literally, Great Friday

Easter = **Veľká Noc** [Vell - kaah notes] - Literally, it means „Great Night," i.e. when Jesus rose from the dead.

Happy Easter = **Veselá veľká noc** [Veh-se-lah vell-kaah notes]

Easter Bunny Mix Up

RESETA	EGE	NILERNY	KBSEAT	POH	TUNH	DACHY	RASETT	CHKCSI	TECOHLACO
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

- Chase Hazelbaker 4/11
- Amanda Hartman 4/12
- Georgia Holthenrichs 4/12
- Carissa Hoeck 4/13
- Leonny Dixon 4/16



What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Andrej Kiska elected as Slovakia's new president

Businessman-turned-philanthropist Andrej Kiska, 51 was elected president of Slovakia in the second round of the 2014 presidential election on Saturday, March 29 against Prime Minister Robert Fico, according to official results of the vote released by the Central Electoral Commission(UVK) on Sunday morning, March 30.

Based on the results, Kiska garnered a total of 1,307,065 votes or 59.4 percent, compared with Fico, who received 893,841 votes, or 40.6 percent of the vote.

UVK added that of the total of 2,223,814 ballots that were cast on March 29, 23,806 ballots were invalid, which slightly exceeded 1 percent of all the votes.

The voter turnout in the second round stood at 50.48 percent, which was roughly 7 percentage points higher than in the first round held on March 15. The highest turnout was recorded in the electoral district of Senec(Bratislava region), where it stood at 60.88. Conversely, the poorest figure was posted for the electoral district of Trebisov(Kosice region) with 38.78 percent.

"From the point of view of the Interior Ministry, the election was peaceful," said UVK's Eva Chmelova, adding that they didn't record any disturbances. As added by the Statistics Office head Ludmila Benkovicova, the results of the vote were processed by the Office in a professional manner and was without problems.

Kiska is due to be sworn in on June 15, when the five-year term of incumbent President Ivan Gasparovic expires. Kiska becomes Slovakia's fourth president since its independence in 1993.

Profile of Slovakia's new President Andrej Kiska

Andrej Kiska was born in Poprad located in the historic Spis region of Slovakia in 1963. Having a received a degree at Bratislava's Slovak Technical University(STU), Kiska left Slovakia in 1990 for the United States aiming to settle there for life. After taking up various jobs during the 18 months he lived in the U.S., he returned to his home country after a year to pursue a career in business, however.

Even though his first attempt backfired, he later co-founded a number of still-thriving hire-purchase companies(Tatracredit, Triangel, Quatro). In 2005, Kiska sold his stakes in the firms to VUB bank and turned his attention from business activities to philanthropy.

In 2006, he co-founded a charitable organization called Good Angel('Dobry anjel') which helps families with children with serious health conditions that suffer from financial difficulties via regular financial contributions.

In recognition of his business activities, Kiska was given the 2006 Manager of the Year award by Trend Weekly. In addition, he received the Crystal Wing award for his achievements in philanthropy.

Lacking any political history whatsoever, Kiska ran for president as an independent candidate.

After the first round of the presidential election on March 15, Kiska placed second with 455,996 votes from among a pool of 15 presidential candidates. In the second round, Kiska received 1,307,065 votes or 59.4 percent of the votes cast.

Kiska is married to his second wife, Martina. He has a daughter, Natalia age 23 from his first marriage who resides in London and he and his second wife, Martina have a daughter, Veronica age 9 and a son, Victor, age 5.

Lajcak invites Kerry and Biden to Slovakia

Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak in Washington, D.C. on March 20 invited U.S.

Secretary of State John Kerry and Vice President Joseph Biden to a visit to Slovakia.

Biden was already invited to Slovakia by Prime Minister Robert Fico during his visit to the White House in November. The Vice President agreed, but a date for the visit still hasn't been set. According to Lajcak, Kerry may attend the international security conference Globsec in Bratislava in mid-May, celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising(SNP) on August 29, or a Visegrad Four(Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary) event, which will be presided over by Slovakia as of July.

Lajcak and Kerry also discussed the EU-USA summit set to take place in Brussels the week of March 31. "The last such summit has been in 2011, which sends out strange signals - if we didn't need to communicate at all," Lajcak told TASR, adding that the summit should feature debates on a free-trade zone and energy.

Also, Lajcak and Kerry touched on the NATO summit scheduled for September, with Lajcak lending support to the so-called 'open door policy', which means further enlargement of the alliance. A serious candidate for joining NATO at the moment is Georgia.

Porsche Cayenne to be fully made in Slovakia

Another generation of the Porsche Cayenne line will be completely manufactured by the Volkswagen Slovakia facility in Bratislava as of 2017, Volkswagen spokesman Vladimir Machalik confirmed on March 19.

"We view the decision to transfer also the final manufacturing processes of Porsche Cayenne to Bratislava as an expression of trust from Volkswagen concern for our work," said Volkswagen Slovakia board of directors chairman Albrecht Reimold. "Quality requirements apply to all Volkswagen facilities around the world. We've abided by them and will continue to meet them 100 percent in the future as well."

Ever since the introduction of Porsche Cayenne model in 2002, the SUV's varnished bodywork along with a large number of its component parts have been manufactured at Volkswagen's facility in Bratislava. Subsequently, it is transported for finalization of manufacturing process to Leipzig. By shifting all production processes to Bratislava, Volkswagen will make a significant use of synergetic potential in the Slovak capital and cut down transport costs - while speeding up the manufacture.

Since 1991, Volkswagen Slovakia has produced more than 3 million vehicles and currently employs more than 9,400 people. Its Bratislava facility produces automobiles Volkswagen Touareg, Audi Q7, Volkswagen up!, Volkswagen e-up!, SEAT Mii, Skoda Citigo and Porsche Cayenne's bodyworks.

President honors 7 soldiers for bravery, including 3 posthumously

On March 18, President Ivan Gasparovic honored seven soldiers, including three posthumously with the presentation of medals for their bravery.

Medals were awarded to deceased soldiers who lost their lives in terrorist attacks in Afghanistan in July and December 2013, as well as to servicemen who sustained serious injuries or helped the wounded in the attacks.

At the ceremony, also attended by Defense Minister Martin Givrac and Chief-of-General Staff of the Slovak Armed Forces Peter Vojtek, Gasparovic awarded one of the medals to the deceased Sergeant Daniel Kavuliak, who was killed in a terrorist attack in Afghanistan in July 2013.

Another two medals for courage went to soldiers Martin Chropovsky and Matej Macho, who suffered serious injuries

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

in the same attack. Also honored was soldier Milan Tomlak who gave first aid to those hit and protected them during their transfer.

Other bravery decorations were awarded posthumously to Patrik Frastia and Edmund Makovnik, who died in a bomb attack on a military convoy in Kabul on December 27, 2013.

In his address at the ceremony, President Gasparovic expressed his gratitude to the families of the deceased for their bravery and for the way in which they brought up their sons. He also emphasized the professionalism of the decorated soldiers.



There are many colorful Slovak folk traditions associated with the celebration of the Easter season. One of these is the Easter Monday ritual known as "Oblievacka" in which men do their traditional kroj and splash women with water and gently hit them with willow branches known as "Korbac" to evoke youth, strength and beauty for the spring season. In some places, splashing women with buckets of water have been replaced by perfume. Afterwards, the women reward the men with Easter eggs, fruit and money. Scenes of this tradition is shown above from the village of Trencianska Tepla located north of Slovakia's capital city of Bratislava.

Reports of the Supreme Officers for 2013

(Continued from page 8)

organization remains in compliance with these changes. The reporting process to all the life insurance related agencies and State Insurance Departments is an enormous task, but necessary to protect our organization and the membership and most importantly to maintain our tax exempt status.

Also, I was privileged and honored to represent our Society at many National, Group, Assembly and Wreath functions as well as city and state activities. As always, I welcomed the opportunity to represent the Slovak Catholic Sokol at all the events that my schedule allows. Also, while attending our organization's events, I look forward to meeting and sharing with our members and always encourage them to promote the continued development and growth of our organization.

I continue to attend the monthly meetings of the Passaic-Bergen-Hudson Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and benefit from the continuing education classes that are provided which enables me to keep current with the insurance industry changes and is mandatory in order for me to maintain my life insurance license. I have been invited to attend several functions at the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations in New York, NY and the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. At the Home Office, I have met several times with the representatives from PNC Investment Bank, CPS Actuaries and the Sokol Accountant when necessary to discuss our operations. In addition, I have also met with the Supreme President and our General Counsel to discuss organizational matters as needed. I also attended the quarterly meetings of the N.J. Association of Fraternal Insurance Counselors and, as a Past President, the quarterly meetings and Annual Convention of the New Jersey-New York Fraternal Alliance in Atlantic City, NJ. When my schedule allowed, I also attended the Slovak Catholic Federation Executive Board Meetings, and the Slovak League of America meetings, as well as the Annual Meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance in Hollywood, FL.

As required by my office, I have recorded the minutes of the four Quarterly Board of Directors meetings. The detailed minutes of our meetings are published in a timely manner as well as the monthly financial reports for our membership to review. I continue to submit monthly articles to the Slovak Catholic Falcon to keep the membership informed and up to date with relevant information. I continue to serve on the Scholarship Advisory and Selection Committee, as appointed by our Supreme President, and assisted our Supreme Auditors during their two audits.

I attended our 26th International Softball Tournament in Drifton, PA, our highly successful 46th International Slet held at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, PA, and our 58th International Golf Tournament in Barnesville, PA.

On August 17th, along with our Supreme Chaplain and Supreme President, a Group Presidents meeting was conducted in Pittsburgh, PA with sixteen Group Presidents/Representatives in attendance.

Also, on October 6st, it was a privilege along with our Supreme President to honor Brother Fred Graham in Wilkes-Barre, PA on the occasion of his selection as the Slovak Catholic Sokol 2013 Fraternalist of the Year at a reception along with his family and friends.

Lastly, along with our Supreme President, Former Supreme Treasurer and General Counsel we continue with our efforts to resolve the illegal transfer of funds from Assembly 206 to the Social Club which litigation is still pending. Several conference calls were also conducted throughout the year regarding this matter.

COMMENTS

During the year 2013 several events took place which should be noted. Slovakia celebrated its 20th Anniversary as a free and independent nation and is a member of NATO. Our beloved Slovak Catholic Sokol organization reached a milestone year and celebrated its 108th Anniversary. Many successful activities were presented and conducted on the local, group, and national levels. The Slet took place in July, at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. All of the other Slovak Catholic Sokol International Sports and Athletic Tournaments were very successful events conducted under the direction of our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, Edward D. Moeller and assisted by the members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

During the year of 2013, a total of 885 new members were enrolled in our organization, 822 for life insurance and 63 for annuities. In addition to the 885 new members, 55 members increased their insurance with the organization. A total of 65 members and 63 agents submitted business throughout the year to the Home Office and the organization appreciates their efforts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At this time, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our Directors, Honorary Supreme Officers and all the members of the Supreme Assembly for their cooperation and teamwork over the past year. To all our Group, Assembly and Wreath Officers, I thank you for your dedication and support.

To all our loyal and supportive members and their families "thank you" for all that you do for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. To the wonderful and committed Home Office Staff, thank you and may God bless each one of you and your families for all of your loyalty, dedication and cooperation which is very much appreciated.

CONCLUSION

As the organization enters its 109th year as a Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society, we will continue to be confronted with the life insurance industry challenges and changes due to regulatory requirements and various other federal, state and city mandates. These insurance changes and the resulting actions the administration decides to take will dictate the way that our Society can conduct and operate its day to day business. I am confident that working with a professional sales force along with our recommenders, we can look forward to the future growth and the continued success of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternal Life Insurance and Benefit Society.

In closing, it is very important that I express my thanks, appreciation and gratitude to my wonderful wife, Annie, and our family, for their love, encouragement and for always being supportive of me as I performed my duties on a daily basis. I thank the good Lord for all of his many blessings bestowed upon me and my family as well as to all of the members

of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and their families. Peace be with you all.

God Bless You, God Bless America and God Bless the Slovak Catholic Sokol!
Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4.13(j), the undersigned submits this report to the Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol to outline and detail the activities of the General Counsel during the year 2013.

As your General Counsel, one of my duties is to advise on any local and Federal legislation which may apply to the operation of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. I continue to monitor the legislative bulletins which report on the status of Bills pending or passed by the Legislatures in the States in which we are licensed to do business and Federal Legislation. The two most significant regulatory issues are: (1) insolvency and sustainability; and (2) unclaimed property benefits.

With regard to solvency, regulators are looking at several key factors when assessing an insurer's financial strength, to wit, (1) the ability to generate a steady flow of new life insurance premiums; (2) the ability to control expenses; (3) the ability to balance the amount of new annuity business with new life insurance business; and (4) the impact on organizations with an overexposure to annuity business in the event of an increase in interest rates. With regard to unclaimed life insurance benefits, insurers are required to search the Social Security Death Master File for life insurance policies, annuity contracts, and retain asset accounts to determine if an insured is deceased and compare those items for identified potential master file matches of its insureds. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has introduced such legislation as House Bill No. 1937. If enacted, it will take effect 90 days after enactment.

Federal issues primarily concern the tax-exemption for fraternal benefit societies. There is widespread agreement that the tax code needs to be overhauled and that tax reform legislation will be introduced with proposals coming from the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. These proposals may include a repeal of the fraternal exemption. The obstacles to any tax from legislation include the partisan political stalemate in Congress and the fact that 2014 is a Congressional election year. Fraternalists must be prepared to influence legislation that may include the repeal of the tax exemption status.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I have attended all meeting called by our Supreme President in order to carry out and administer the business of the Slovak Catholic Sokol as required by the By-Laws. The Minutes of these meetings are published in our Sokol newspaper, and my participation therein is well documented.

The stock market has rallied; however, interest rates on bonds we hold in our portfolio continue to be very low. Insurance experts are predicting that yields on treasuries will rise to 5 or 6 percent by 2018 which may result in higher yields on bonds. A major factor in predicting that rates will rise are market expectations over the Federal Reserve's plans to "taper" or pull back from the monetary policy known as quantitative easing. The latter aims to stimulate the economy by having the Federal Reserve purchase assets of longer maturity than short-term government bonds, and thus lower longer-term interest rates.

Lower yields on bonds result in less income to support and operate our sports programs and the other fraternal benefits which are provided for the membership.

Although the economy is struggling, one bright note is the turn around in the new members joining the organization. Our Director of Sales and Marketing has established an agency system and has recruited 110 authorized agents to sell our policies. The monthly statistics show that we have reversed the negative flow and loss of membership and now show a positive flow of new members for our organization. We are optimistic that the positive trend will continue, and our organization will become stronger through new members.

Recently, I read where Pope Francis denounced "trickle down economics" and "excessives of consumerism." Our fraternal was founded on the core principle of helping one another. Our society has focused on helping members and those less fortunate in the communities where members live and work. Our society is well governed and managed well and exemplifies a business model that serves individuals, communities, and nations. I applaud Pope Francis' comments, and I am pleased to state that our society does not operate on a philosophy of exclusion and inequality.

There are no lawsuits pending against the organization at the present time; however, we continue to be involved in litigation concerning the assets of Assembly 206 Ambridge, Pennsylvania, and the illegal transfer of funds from the Assembly to the Social Club. Depositions have been taken of our President, Supreme Secretary, and Yours Truly, and I anticipate that a trial date will be scheduled in the near future. Again, I exhort all of you in selecting officers in our Assemblies and Wreaths to elect individuals who will promote the fraternal interest of our organization and not their own personal financial interest. There is one new mortgage commitment issued to Perryopolis, Pa. in the amount of \$350,000.00 for the building of a new Sokol home. There were no new loans issued to our membership. Our present portfolio is up-to-date with the exception of one member who unfortunately has forced us to commence foreclosure proceedings for non-payment of mortgage installments, property taxes, and insurance.

The Business Development Committee has not had any serious discussions with other fraternal benefit societies except for cooperative use of computer systems to reduce computer expenses.

In the past year, I attended the American Fraternal Alliance meeting held in Hollywood, Florida, as well as the New Jersey/New York Fraternal Alliance meeting held in Atlantic City, New Jersey. I have documented my participation by submitting articles and

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Reports of the Supreme Officers for 2013

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reports to our Sokol newspaper. On a local level, I continue to serve as Group I President and as Honorary President of Assembly 162 in Clifton, New Jersey. This past year shows that we have turned the corner concerning our membership from a negative to a positive, and we look forward to the future. We have to be prepared to generate the financial resources to fund the programs for our membership. We must continue to participate in community service activities to justify the tax-exempt status. We must continue to fund social events and programs for "the excluded" and meet the needs of our membership.

I extend my thanks to all my fellow Supreme Officers for their contributions to strengthen our organization by making decisions in the best interests of our beloved Slovak Catholic Sokol. Let us continue to support the fundamental mission which was established by our founders, and that is, members helping one another.

ZDAR BOH!
Respectfully submitted,
John D. Pogorelec
General Counsel

REPORT THE SUPREME DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND ATHLETICS

The following activity report for 2013 is submitted to the Board of Directors as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 2013

In the early months of 2013, I began finalizing plans for our various tournaments that were to be held throughout the year. By the end of March and continuing into early April, applications for our International Bowling tournament began to arrive. I began the task of creating a schedule of events and depositing all tournament fees as received. I followed up with the hotel and bowling establishment to verify that each facility was prepared to assist in ensuring a successful tournament. The Physical Fitness Board met in Pittsburgh, PA the weekend of January 25th to 27th 2013. This was an opportunity to discuss ways to improve our various sporting events and to stay in contact with our members. The meeting was successful and helped allow the board to prepare for the upcoming year. From March 14th through the 17th I attended the Board of Directors Meeting held at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ.

MAY 2013

During the weekend of May 17th through the 19th the 67th International Bowling Tournament was held at the Airport Bowling Lanes in Buffalo, NY. At the conclusion of this tournament, all financial reports were filed and Golf shirts were mailed to the winners. By the end of May, the applications for the Softball tournament began arriving. Once the applications were received, I was able to create the schedules and make arrangements for the umpires so that the tournament would run smoothly. On May 23rd, I participated as a speaker in a Fraternal Seminar in Pittsburgh speaking about the Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternal and Sports Programs. This was a great opportunity to showcase our organization.

JUNE 2013

In late June the Board of Directors met at the Genetti Best Western Hotel in Wilkes-Barre, PA. On Saturday the Board traveled to the next tournament on our schedule, the 26th International Softball Tournament held in Drifton, PA June 28th through the 30th. Although this tournament was not as well attended as anticipated, plans were discussed in an effort to revitalize the tournament and once again prove that this is another great fraternal benefit the Slovak Catholic Sokol has to offer. Immediately following the tournament, the financial report was prepared and submitted. During the month of June, rosters from the various Groups were submitted for the upcoming Slet. I scheduled all of the Track & Field events and placed the various athletes into their respective events. I maintained contact with the Athletic office of Slippery Rock University and at this time.

JULY 2013

The International Slet was held the week of July 16th through the 20th, at Slippery Rock University. I spent time tweaking the Track & Field Schedules and continually posted schedule changes and event results. My main function was to be responsible for the Track & Field portion of the Slet and assist in other areas necessary throughout the week. Each evening the entire Physical Fitness Board met to discuss the happenings of the day and prepare for the next day. During Closing Ceremonies I had the opportunity to announce the Winners of the Slet. Throughout the month of July, applications for the golf tournament were arriving. I worked to prepare the schedules. All monies received for the Golf Tournament were deposited and recorded.

AUGUST 2013

The Weekend of August 9th -11th brought with it the 58th International Golf Tournament in Barnesville, PA at the Mountain Valley Golf Course. A good number of golfers attended with several new members experiencing this event for the first time. Instead of trophies, the Winners received golf shirts that were sent out after the tournament. As was the case with the Bowling tournament, this was very well received. Once again a financial report was finalized and submitted.

SEPTEMBER 2013

On Saturday, September 21st a conference call was held with the Board of Directors. By utilizing a conference call, this was another proven cost saving method, by eliminating travel costs.

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2013

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the Harrah's Hotel in Las Vegas the Weekend of December 5th through the 8th. I continue to maintain contact with the various venues for our upcoming 2014 events While seeking out and establishing contact with various sites for the 2014 events.

In closing, as Supreme Director of Sports & Athletics I have and will continue to work to ensure our organization is well informed regarding our sporting events. I am diligent in my efforts to increase our membership by enrolling new members throughout

the year. In 2013, I have enrolled 7 new members. I remain active in my local assembly and group and look forward to another successful year in our organization.

Zdar Boh!
Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Director of Sports & Athletics

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT SPORTS DIRECTOR

February 17, 2014

In compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2013 Activity Report as the Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics.

The first event of the year was the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the weekend of January 25th through the 27th. It was a very successful meeting as we finalized all of the 2013 sporting events, including the 46th International Slet.

On May 17-19, I worked at the 67th International Bowling Tournament held at the Airport Lanes in Buffalo, New York. The bowlers stayed at the Buffalo Holiday Inn, located just a few miles from the bowling lanes. The Holiday Inn provided clean and comfortable accommodations and great tasting food for the bowling banquet on Saturday evening. I submitted an article and 110 pictures that included all of the team pictures taken on Friday evening and many additional pictures during the doubles and singles competition on Saturday.

The second annual event that I worked, was the 26th International Softball Tournament held in Drifton, Pennsylvania on the weekend of June 28-30th. The Genetti Best Western served as the hotel for the 60 softball players. The softball complex in Drifton provided easy access to all of the fields that were in great shape even after the torrential rain which fell on Friday evening. The softball fields provided an excellent background for the team pictures and action shots.

I submitted an article to the Slovak Catholic Falcon, for publication along with 120 pictures taken at this exciting annual tournament.

The main International Sporting Event of 2013 was the 46th International Slet held from July 15-20, at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. It was the most memorable sporting event of the year, with over 230 athletes from nine Groups that competed in Gymnastics, Track & Field, Individual and Team Drilling and Volleyball trying to accumulate the most points for their groups to capture the International Slet Flag. During the Slet, over 1,900 pictures were taken and after reviewing each picture removing some duplicates, and cropping and adjusting the digital pictures, 950 were submitted for publication in the Slovak Catholic Falcon. The 2013 Slet Pictures were added to the Slovak Catholic Sokol website for all of the participants, parents and friends to View and recall the great memories of the 46th International Slet.

The final International Sporting Event in 2013 was the 58th International Golf Tournament held at the Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville, Pennsylvania the Weekend of August 9-11. The Weather was picture perfect and all of the golfers and guests really enjoyed the fun filled weekend.

During the golf tournament, over 200 pictures were taken and 140 submitted with a corresponding article to the Slovak Catholic Falcon.

After each sporting event in 2013, all of the pictures taken were submitted to Lou Smeriglio to post on our Website and to help him prepare, in advance, for our Annual Review Book.

I attended the Group I annual Meeting on November 17th in Clifton, New Jersey. I gave a recap the all of the activities that Group I participated in during the year and to help promote and encourage participation for all of the planned activities in 2014. In early December, I submitted an article to the Slovak Catholic Falcon summarizing of all the 2013 International Sporting Events.

In closing, I extend my thanks to Edward D. Moeller, the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, and fellow Supreme Officers who worked or participated in the International Sporting Events in 2013. I would also like to personally thank all of the members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol who participated in any or all of the 2013 International Sporting Events. In 2014, one of my primary goals is to encourage participation of more members at every one of the International Sporting Events and the Clinic.

Fraternally yours,
James C. Matlon
Supreme Assistant Sports Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

In compliance with the Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my Activity report for 2013.

January - March 2013

I attended a meeting of the Slovak Canadian National Council to review the activities of 2012 and to plan the activities for 2013 together with the rest of the directors. I traveled to Pittsburgh PA to attend the meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board. The meeting was very productive with input from everyone present. The Slet schedule was finalized.

I traveled to Passaic, New Jersey to take part in the yearly meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors. The meeting was productive, with lots of great ideas being presented for the betterment of our great organization. I feel that after many years

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our organization is going in the right direction. Many thanks go to our Supreme President, Supreme Secretary, rest of the directors and our marketing director for a job well done. Together with Kathy Watkins, I started to work closely with the representative from Slippery Rock University to make sure all our needs are taken care of for the upcoming International Slet. I worked closely with Kathy Watkins on the final registration forms for the International Slet.

April - June 2013

I attended a meeting of the Slovak Canadian National Council. Main topic discussed was the 1150th anniversary of SS. Cyril & Methodius. Year long activities were planned together with the Slovak Museum and SS. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Parish. I was a co-chair of the Carassauga Ethnic Festival in Mississauga. Last year was the first time that the Slovaks took part in it. Once all the Slet registrations were received I worked with Kathy Watkins and the Slippery Rock University to finalize all the plans for the International Slet. I reviewed the drills for the upcoming Slet. Kathy Watkins and I visited Camp Finch in North Springfield PA to make sure it is the right place for our first Sokol camp. The Camp director took us on a tour of the whole facility. After the meeting Kathy Watkins and I spent a few hours together to finalize the rooming list for the Slet. We reviewed most of the paperwork for the Slet.

I traveled to Wilkes-Barre, PA to attend the quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors. First part of the year was reviewed. It was a great meeting. On Saturday, we traveled to Drifton PA to attend and support the participants of the 26th International Softball Tournament. It was a great day of competition.

July - September 2013

I attended a meeting of the Slovak Canadian National Council in Mississauga Ontario to review all the final plans for the main event of the year.

Together with Kathy Watkins, Ed Moeller and the rest of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, I conducted our 46th International Slet. The following groups were represented at the Slet 1,3,4,5,7,11,14,17 and 19. It was great to see Group 17 at the Slet after many years but sad not to have group 12 present. After a long day of competition the Board would meet nightly to ensure that the next day's activities were set up and duties taken care of. Many thanks to the Physical Fitness Board for their hard work at the Slet. I was excused from the conference call of the Board of Directors due to my heavy work schedule.

I traveled to Slovakia. While in Slovakia I met with the main contact for North America from the Urad pre Slovakov Zijucich v Zahranici. Main topics of discussion were changes that are happening at Urad, when it comes to grants for the Slovak organizations in North America. Some were positive some negative. I took part in the 1150th Anniversary of SS. Cyril & Methodius that took place at our Slovak Church in Mississauga. I had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Jozef Halko from Slovakia to our Slovak parish. Our church was full and over 200 people took part in the luncheon following the Mass.

October - December 2013

While in Slovakia I took part in the 60th anniversary of Lucnica. The Lucnica Folklore Ensemble is well known all over the world. Once again, I met with the urad pre Slovakov Zijucich v Zahranici. This time my meeting was with the director of the Detva festival for Krajanska Nedela which is a program for Slovak dance groups outside of Slovakia. Lots of new changes went into the event.

Together with Kathy Watkins, I have started to talk about the plans for our next year's International Clinic. We have contacted the director of camp Fitch to finalize as many details as possible.

I traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to take part in the year end meeting of the Board of Directors. This year's meeting was one of the best I have taken part in. It is so great to see positive figures being presented. It is so nice to see our plans that were set few years back paying off. Many thanks for it to our Supreme Secretary, Supreme President our Marketing Director and the rest of the Board of Directors.

I attended the year end meeting of the Slovak Canadian National Council.

I would like to thank the entire Board of Directors for their support of the Physical Fitness Board.

I am looking forward to work even harder over the next few years as a member of the Board of Directors to make sure we stay on the positive side of all the plans we implement.

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

Fraternally yours,
Zdar Boh!
Dusan Dorich
Supreme Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

Supreme Assistant Physical Director

Dear Brother & Sister Sokols and Sokolky,

I am pleased to present to you the following activities and programs for which I, as a member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, proudly represented the Slovak Catholic Sokols. As another year quickly has passed, I have enjoyed these fraternal activities in 2013, and have met a number of existing members with whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting. This form of camaraderie brings anticipation of seeing this individual at the next year's event, and enjoy other memorable events.

In January I attended the annual meeting for the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

(SPFB) which was held in Pittsburgh, PA. During this time, we come together as a group to collaborate multiple thoughts and ideas for the betterment of the organization. The upcoming International Slet being held in Slippery Rock, PA was a major discussion item as this was a new location for the groups. The SPFB compiled the Slet agenda and covered the logistics to ensure a safe and efficient week of events for the participants. The board also reviewed correspondence from the local groups to make sure suggestions were enacted, and one of the previous events, volleyball, was added into the Slet schedule. One of the other major agendas during the meeting was to have a Sokol Camp in the off Slet year. Multiple locations were discussed to hold this camp, and the board agreed to submit a proposal to the Supreme Board of Directors meeting to be held in March.

Fast forward a few short months, and the International Slet is upon us in July. The SPFB arrived a day early to wrap up any last minute preparations and welcomed all 230 participants the following day. There is always an air of excitement for the participants as they rekindle old relationships, and the newest of athletes welcome their few days of independence from daily routines. One of the aspects of the Slet that I truly enjoy is coordinating the events as they are happening. As team drill, gymnastics, and all of the track events play out, there is no greater feeling of watching the participants hard work pay off as they compete. And being on the board knowing that our efforts to organize these competitions pays off with memories and friendships, there is no greater feeling. As the weeks competition wraps up, and the closing ceremonies are upon us, there is a pride that I take each and every time Sokol members come together for a common goal. Fraternalism.

I wish to thank all of my fellow Sokol faithful for the opportunity to serve as an officer of this wonderful organization.

Zdar Boh!
John M. Underation
Supreme Assistant Physical Director

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

In accordance with the by-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2013.

As the Supreme Physical Directress of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I now have the opportunity to attend more events as a member of the board of directors. I also help to promote our organization and increase our membership by signing up new members.

January - March

I e-mailed all of the group sports directors to get their yearly information for the activity report.

I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board (SPFB) meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Following the meeting, I compiled a list of expectations and responsibilities that were agreed upon at the meeting and mailed them to the SPFB.

I responded to the correspondence received from Group 3 and Group 4.

I e-mailed all of the physical directresses to make sure they had the new marching commands.

I e-mailed all of the physical directors and directresses to inform them that anyone 18 and over who will be competing at the Slet must obtain a criminal background check through NCSI. I attached all necessary information to the e-mail, so that they could have the participants complete the forms.

I contacted Lisa Weinzetl at Slippery Rock University to remind her that we will need four dance judges to judge at the Slet.

I contacted several of our members to inquire as to their interest in judging drills at the Slet.

I was able to confirm three judges.

I wrote an article for the Slovak Catholic Falcon detailing important items for the upcoming Slet.

I attended the Board of Directors meeting at The Slovak Catholic Sokol Headquarters in Passaic, NJ.

I sent out the Slet registration forms to the group physical directors, directresses and sports directors.

I received paperwork from Assistant Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift and Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Nancy Kropolinsky regarding possible camp sites for the summer of 2014. I compiled all the information to present at the Board of Director meeting in July.

As a member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, I attended the Easter Bunny Breakfast held by Group 14.

April - June

I sent out the Slet qualification forms to the group physical directors, directresses and sports directors.

I contacted Louie to inquire as to the possibility of adding an International Slet section to our website so that all Slet forms can be easily accessed on our website.

I mailed out the drill DVDs to the judges and mailed the gymnastics DVDs to the group directresses.

I was in contact with Lisa Weinzetl at Slippery Rock to finalize details about the Slet.

I completed all necessary forms for Slippery Rock University.

I reviewed the drills for the upcoming Slet.

After receiving the Slet registration forms, I verified that all participants 18 and over have completed the required criminal background check through NCSI.

I completed the rooming list for the dorms and finished all necessary paperwork for the Slet.

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Supreme Physical Director Dusan Dorich and I visited Camp Fitch to ensure it would be an appropriate place for the First Slovak Catholic Sokol Camp Adventure to be held in the summer of 2014.

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

July - September

I attended the International Slet at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. While at the Slet, I Worked collaboratively with the SPFB to ensure the event ran as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

I sent out a Slet Questionnaire to get feedback from the SPFB, as well as the group leaders for each group who attended the International Slet.

I attended the annual golf tournament in Hazelton, Pennsylvania.

I contacted several venues to obtain quotes for the International Convention to be held in summer of 2015.

I wrote an article for the Falcon detailing the events of the Slet at Slippery Rock University.

I was part of the Board of Directors meeting via conference call.

October - December

I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

I contacted the director of Camp Fitch to get a contract and discuss plans for Slovak Catholic Sokol Camp Adventure to be held in August of 2014.

As a representative of the SPFB, I attended the Group 14 Annual Children's Christmas Party.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as the Supreme Physical Directress for the Slovak Catholic Sokol. It has been an honor and a privilege to hold a board of directors' position in such a distinguished organization. I am looking forward to the challenges that my new office will bring over the next few years.

Zdar Boh!

Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress

July-September

I attended the International Slet at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania. This week of fraternal fun always proves to be a great experience. Alongside my fellow SPFB members I helped to prepare for a five day competitive event filled with drills, gymnastics, track and field, volleyball and entertainment. We all Worked to exhaustion in our efforts to ensure the successful resolution of the competition.

After the International Slet was complete, I sent a letter of appreciation to the Steve Heasley Gymnastics facility to express our deep gratitude for the help and support provided by the owner and staff to the Slovak Catholic Sokols in their efforts to make our gymnastics meet a huge success.

Due to lower than normal participation numbers, I was directed not to work the Golf Tournament.

October-December

At the start of this quarter I organized the annual Walk-A-Thon. On this special day all of our walkers join together to walk in fraternal spirit. Anyone who walks this day is allowed to triple their miles. Hopefully in the future we will be able to plan a central Walk-A-Thon.

I worked with the Supreme Directress on ideas for the upcoming summer camp in 2014.

The female board members coordinated in picking new drill music for the upcoming International Slet. Many ideas were mentioned.

I wrote my report and started to organize for the 2014 year.

Being part of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board is not only a huge personal honor but an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience. Each passing year I feel as though the Supreme Physical Fitness Board implements both incremental and sweeping changes that contribute to the overall success of our organization. I am proud to be part of this Board and I look forward to the many accomplishments yet to come.

Zdar Boh!

Katie Swift
Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

REPORT OF THE SUPREME ASSISTANT PHYSICAL DIRECTRESS

Slovak Catholic Sokol-Supreme Physical Fitness Board - 2014 Annual Report

This year has proven to be yet another successful year for the Supreme Physical Fitness Board. This year included the International Slet, one of the biggest responsibilities of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and an event that demands a great degree of prior planning and synchronization. Our Board has worked diligently in close coordination to organize and host an amazing event. In accordance with the Slovak Catholic Sokol By-Laws, I am submitting my annual activity report detailing this and other key executive efforts.

January-March

The year began with the collection and review of total miles logged by our walking program participants. January is always the busiest period for the Walking Program as all of our competitors submit their year end totals. After collating all the results, I wrote an accompanying article summarizing the results and further promoting the program which I submitted along with the mileage totals to our organizational paper for publication. I also ordered and mailed appropriate awards to each participant based on their respective level of participation.

Also during this quarter I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The annual meeting is a very important opportunity for Board members to share ideas, review past performance, and help better the organization.

Additionally, I contacted Steve Heasley at Butler Gymnastics to verify that all required preparation for the International Slet Gymnastics competition had been effectively coordinated and was proceeding according to plan.

Along with the other Board members I Worked with our Supreme Directress to complete my required Background check.

I researched possible venues for a potential 2014 summer camp. I wrote a report detailing my findings which I provided to the Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen Watkins and the Supreme Director Dusan Dorich.

I produced a draft Sokol Newsletter. The board considered implementing a Sports Flyer component produced by myself and John Underation and distributed as a component of the monthly Social e-mails. Execution of this rough concept is on hold pending additional research.

April-June

During this period I worked jointly with Supreme Directress Kathleen Watkins to finalize the arrangements for the upcoming International Slet.

At mine and Supreme Directress Watkin's request, Directress Traci Walkowiak of Group 14 and Wreath 22 along with the Group 14 Gymnastics program graciously assisted the SPFB in the production of a gymnastics video. The video included all the qualifiers for boys', men's, girls' and Women's gymnastics. Our hope was this larger demonstration would encourage more groups to participate and to understand the moves.

I finalized all remaining coordination and wrote a contract enabling our use of the Steve Heasley Gymnastics facility in Butler, Pennsylvania. At the same time I produced and submitted an article detailing the location, rules, and general information regarding the International Slet to the paper.

A further significant activity during this quarter was my development of packets detailing all the gymnastics rules, regulations and qualifiers for distribution to the Steve Heasley Gymnastics facility and staff I also provided explanations to several questions arising from these published rules.

REPORT OF THE MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD

Dear Supreme Officers,

In accordance with the By-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit the following year report for 2013.

January 2013 - I traveled to Pittsburgh, PA for the Supreme Physical Fitness Board (SPFB) annual meeting. We reviewed the year and all of the sporting events. We discussed new ideas such as adding volleyball back to the Slet and also the possibility of starting summer camp, in the Slet off years. It was a very productive meeting.

February-June 2013 - I was in contact with Supreme Physical Directress Kathy Watkins to prepare for the upcoming Slet. I was also in contact with the entire SPFB reviewing job duties. I was in contact with all of the group directresses to organize the individual drill schedules.

April 2013 - I wrote an article for the Slovak Catholic Falcon about "Spring into Sports"

July 2013 - I attended the International Slet in Slippery Rock, PA at Slippery Rock University. The SPFB were busy from morning until late evening each day running the Slet and preparing for the next day's events. The following are examples of some of the duties that I was assigned. Day 1 - I ran the individual drill competition, assisted with opening ceremonies and Minute to Win It game in the evening. Day 2 - I assisted SPFB member Katie Swift with the gymnastics competition. After gymnastics, I assisted with field events. Day 3 - I worked the finish line at the track and field competition. I documented all times and places for Supreme Sports Director Ed Moeller. Day 4 - I worked the finish line again at track and field finals and assisted with closing ceremony practice. Overall it was a very successful Slet.

August 2013 - I worked the golf tournament in Hazelton, PA. I assisted the Supreme Sports Director Ed Moeller at the event.

September-December 2013 - I was in contact with members of the SPFB regarding lessons learned from this year's events and what changes we can make for future events.

I wanted to thank our members for re-electing me to this position at the 2011 National Convention. It has been an honor to serve on the Supreme Physical Fitness Board for the past year. I look forward to the rest of my term!

Denise DiMartino

Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

REPORT OF THE MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD

Slovak Catholic Sokol-Supreme Physical Fitness Board - 2014 Annual Report

In accordance with the by-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2013. As a Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member, I have had the opportunity to attend many activities and events throughout the year. In an effort to promote local group involvement, I relayed all national communication to Group 17 and provided assistance to the Group Physical Fitness Board in order to generate interest in members attending the 2013 International Slet. On an international level, I submitted comments and

(Continued on page 17)

Reports of the Supreme Officers for 2013

(Continued from page 16)

reminders of upcoming events to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook page.

January- March 2013

I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and served on the Sports Program Committee. I gathered information pertaining to Camp Fitch as a possible site for the 2014 Camp and submitted information to Supreme Physical Directress, Kathy Watkins for reference. I Worked closely with Supreme Physical Directress, Kathy Watkins to secure two member judges for the Slet. I prepared a presentation for Group 17 members pertaining to the 2013 International Slet and conducted an informational meeting along with Supreme Assistant Physical Director, John Underation to generate group interest.

April - June 2013

I submitted an article to the Falcon pertaining to stewardship and the Slovak Catholic Sokol life. I worked collaboratively with Ed Moeller, Director of Sports and Athletics and James Matlon, Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics during the International Bowling Tournament. I contacted the Slippery Rock Feed My Sheep Food Pantry to gather information for the International Slet Outreach program and submitted an article to the Falcon requesting donations from groups, wreaths and assemblies. On behalf of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, I provided assistance to the Group 17 Sports Director and attended the Group 17 Slet qualifications event.

July - September 2013

I visited the Slippery Rock Feed My Sheep Food Pantry to gain further insight into their operation of service. In addition, I introduced Carol Lambert, Director of Operations during the 2013 International Slet Opening Ceremonies. I attended the International Slet at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania and worked collaboratively with the SPFB throughout all aspects of the event to ensure success. While at the Slet, I had the pleasure of witnessing outstanding athletes with core Slovak Catholic Sokol values. It was an honor to serve in this capacity and experience the Slet from a new perspective as a member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board. I collected donations from Groups, Wreaths, Assemblies and individuals and submitted monies collected to the Feed My Sheep Food Pantry. I sent out acknowledgments to all those who donated on behalf of the SPFB, and I submitted a final report to the Falcon. As a representative of the SPFB, I attended the Group 17 Picnic and presented individual awards to the 2013 John J. Stofko Memorial Sports Award recipients.

October - December 2013

As a representative of the SPFB, I attended the Group 17 Children's Christmas Party and provided information to members regarding the 2014 Summer Camp. It has been a pleasure serving the Slovak Catholic Sokol as a Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member during this eventful year. As I look ahead to new assignments and duties, I am excited to be a Witness to the fraternalism and camaraderie displayed in all aspects of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Zdar Boh!

Nancy Kropolinsky
Member of the Physical Fitness Board

REPORT OF THE MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD

In accordance with the by-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my annual report for 2013. 2013 was a busy year as a member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and I had the privilege of participating in that capacity at my first international Slet. After twenty years as a physical directress, I welcomed the new responsibilities and changes.

Throughout the year, I continue to assist our Supreme Vice-President, Julie Ann Dobbs, with the Kids Corner section of the newspaper. Each month we work collaboratively to complete the Kids Corner in a way that appeals to our youth. We try to keep it interesting, yet informative. Our youth are our future; therefore, we feel that some of the newspaper should be dedicated to them.

January 2013

I attended the Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. We discussed details for upcoming International Slet.

I was elected to represent the board at the upcoming International Slet of the American Sokol Organization to be held in Milwaukee, WI in June 2013.

I helped compile a list of emails to include in group emails for Slet correspondence.

February -March 2013

I kept in close contact, via email, with the other members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board to organize, plan, and create a schedule, games, and programs for the 2013 International Slet.

April 2013- May 2013

I continued to keep in contact with the SPFB as we made plans for the upcoming International Slet.

I planned, organized, and gathered all materials for the Minute to Win It games at the International Slet.

As a representative of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I attended two meetings of the American Sokol International Slet committee and communicated with the national directress numerous times.

I contacted Brother Steve Pogorelec and asked for pamphlets, insurance information, and trinkets to hand out at the Sokol USA International Slet.

June 2013

I organized and created charts, Slovak team names and posters, and all game directions for the Minute to Win It games at the International Slet.

I created registration forms for all participants of the International Slet.

I collected all medical release forms, emergency forms, photo release forms, and all other forms for each participant of the international Slet through the mail and kept an accurate record of forms received.

With the help of Lisa Hoeck, directress of Group 4, we created and displayed a Slovak Catholic Sokol booth at the Sokol USA International Slet to help people become aware of our organization.

I attended the Sokol USA International Slet organization from June 25-28, 2013 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a representative of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. I volunteered at the rhythmic gymnastic competition and gave a speech on behalf of our organization. I observed the marching, drilling, gymnastic, and wheeling competitions as well as the opening and closing ceremonies. I proudly watched the Group 4 Slovak Catholic Sokol drillers perform and receive a standing ovation. I spoke to many of the committee members, participants, and directors to learn the similarities and differences of our organizations.

I reviewed the drills and marching sequence for the SKS International Slet.

As a member of the SPFB, I attended and helped time racing events at Group 4's Qualification Track and Field meet.

As a member of the SPFB, I attended the Group 4 Qualification Gymnastic meet and drill exhibition.

I contacted all groups to organize the opening and closing ceremonies flag bearing and mass responsibilities and mailed all volunteers readings and songs prior to arrival.

July -September 2013

I wrote a report about my experience, ideas, and suggestions from my participation in the Sokol USA International Slet.

I attended the 2013 International Slovak Catholic Sokol Slet at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania and worked collaboratively with the board to create a successful experience for all.

As a representative of the SPFB, I attended the annual Slovak Day picnic in Milwaukee, WI.

As a representative of the SPFB, I attended the Group 4 annual meeting.

I organized all the photographs I took at the Slet by groups and events. I sent a copy to Jim Matlon. I also sent each group directress a copy of their group participants via google drive email.

October-December 2013

I attended the Wreath 93 Halloween Party at a pumpkin farm.

I attended the Wreath 93 Annual Family Christmas Party.

It has been a privilege to serve the members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and to work so closely with the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

Zdar Boh!

Jennifer Romine
Member of the Physical Fitness Board

REPORT OF THE MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD

In accordance with the Constitution and By-laws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I submit my Annual Report as a Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

January 2013 -- Attended the Annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

May 2013-- Participated in the 67th International Bowling Tournament held in Buffalo, NY.

June 2013-- Participated in the 26th International Softball Tournament held in Hazleton, Pa.

Did a site inspection for future International Clinic/Camp at Camp Kresge in White Haven, Pa with Brother Dusan, Sister Kathy and Sister Kelly Palchanis.

Attended the Group 7 Parents Club Happy Hour Fundraiser.

July 2013-- Attended and helped to conduct the 46th International Slet at Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, Pa.

Wrote an article for publication in the Slovak Catholic Falcon newspaper.

September 2013-- Attended the Annual Group 7 Sokol Day held in Plains, PA.

November 2013--Attended the Group 7 Annual Meeting held at St John the Evangelist parish in Pittston, Pa. Re-elected to the position of Group 7 Vice President.

Being back at the Slet in Slippery Rock was a milestone event for me returning to the Board. I had forgotten what a monumental task the preparation and actual event was. Never has being so tired ever felt so satisfying.

I would also like to thank the Board and the Sokols for reaching out to me during a very trying time for my family. Many of us have experienced the loss of a loved one over the years and knowing that there is a comfort, empathy and sympathy that others can offer is a great consolation. Your cards, calls and email messages meant a lot to me and showed me that I do have another family that is special to me. From the entire Degnan family I would like to say 'Thanks'.

Zdar Boh!

Martin Degnan
Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board

(Continued in next issue)

Report of the Supreme Secretary for the Month of February 2014

**REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL**
Activity for the Month of February, 2014

EXPENSES

ASSETS	
	YEAR TO DATE
Cash - Senior Account	\$ 457,625.17
Cash - Bank of Montreal	13,834.31
Cash - Payroll Account	40,000.00
Petty Cash	264.00
Investments - Bonds & Bills	51,346,673.11
Investments - Stocks	7,306,596.16
Capital Reserve	1,248,755.28
Stock Adj. to Book Value	2,470,904.24
First Mortgage Loans	613,876.18
Loans on Certificates	225,439.37
Accrued Interest Receivable	641,007.00
Prepaid Expense	13,873.66
Sokol Building	2,701,594.61
Land	204,108.00
Furniture & Fixtures	160,860.62
Computer	119,133.22
Sokol Baby Spoons	10,075.00
Due from Groups	13,968.41
Accounts Receivable	19,380.60
Non-Admitted Assets	<u>-127,040.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$67,480,928.94</u>

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	
	YEAR TO DATE
Life Reserves	\$ 44,607,824.00
Reserve Dep. Furn. & Fixtures	150,508.34
Reserve Dep. Sokol Building	2,626,836.24
Asset Valuation Reserve	1,372,821.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	49,119.00
Reserve for Supplemental Contracts	1,288,431.59
Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan	4,724,693.00
Reserve for Convention	218,250.00
Matured Endowments	74,482.24
Annuity Payable	150,709.00
Claims Payable	213,668.00
Accounts Payable	170,177.36
Sokol Secure Fund	246,652.01
Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund	85,000.00
Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund	100,000.00
Dr's Lesko Medical Scholarship Fund	20,000.00
Krista L Glugosh Memorial Scholarship Fund	24,000.00
Dividend Accum. at Interest	318,737.34
Dividend Payable	44,506.10
Advance Premiums	10,092.00
Premium Load	<u>2,993.75</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$56,499,500.97</u>
Undistributed Funds - Sokol	10,981,427.97
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS	<u>\$67,480,928.94</u>

INCOME		
	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Interest on Bonds and Bills	\$ 186,358.35	\$ 359,707.58
Other Investment Income	0.00	327.63
Dividends on Stocks	11,555.25	31,205.50
Interest on Mortgages	2,534.06	2,975.77
Sale of Cookbooks	87.00	87.00
Rent Received - Sokol Building	1,505.00	4,460.00
Premium Income	67,262.50	134,690.49
Annuities	536,300.00	1,119,706.68
Miscellaneous Income	7.71	47.71
Gain on Sale of Securities/Amortization	<u>2,600.00</u>	<u>5,200.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 808,209.87</u>	<u>\$1,658,408.36</u>

	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Operating Expense - Sokol Building	\$ 9,483.85	\$ 9,879.51
Building Maintenance and Repairs	2,375.00	2,375.00
Rental Area Expenses	241.92	277.62
Property Taxes	0.00	29,934.23
Depreciation Expense Building	311.52	623.04
Rent for Space	1,250.00	2,500.00
Pension Plan - Print	563.14	1,126.28
Salaries - Office Employees	40,448.40	88,446.30
Salaries - Editorial Employees	6,144.00	14,403.00
Payroll Taxes-Employer	3,777.11	5,968.30
Hospitalization	8,160.37	16,948.04
Pension Plan - Office/Officers	9,437.59	18,875.18
Office Expenses	5,840.92	6,734.88
Supreme Officers Travel	100.00	910.00
Accountant Expenses	2,600.00	5,200.00
Postage - Office	106.05	106.05
Telephone - Office	320.00	621.01
Telephone - Editorial	123.06	255.16
Printing - Katolicky Sokol	2,800.00	4,200.00
Postage - Sokol Paper	490.00	2,730.00
Miscellaneous Publication Expense	176.00	776.00
Other Printing	110.10	1,302.70
Other Legal	3,127.36	3,127.36
Death Benefit Claims Paid	75,757.50	116,585.50
Cash Surrender Values Paid	17,091.69	46,940.51
Annuity Surrenders	137,255.59	261,839.45
Annuity Suppl. Contracts	564.14	1,128.28
Matured Endowments Paid	0.00	224.00
State Insurance Dept. Lic./Fee	325.00	2,559.16
Bank Charges - Bond Account	13,076.01	26,213.68
Dues & Subscription	25.00	433.85
Donations & Contributions	110.00	235.97
Convention Expense	7,500.00	15,000.00
Commission Expenses	23,346.16	45,992.56
Annuity Commissions	8,196.77	18,939.78
Advertising - Promotional	595.00	1,030.59
Agency Expenses	2,129.25	6,711.32
Board of Directors Expense	540.00	540.00
Physical Fitness Board Expense	9,508.19	9,508.19
Supreme Officers Bond	1,424.00	1,424.00
Local Fees/ Rebates	-2,396.86	-4,099.38
Interest Expense	<u>1,067.03</u>	<u>2,238.85</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 394,100.86</u>	<u>\$ 770,765.97</u>
TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ 414,109.01</u>	<u>\$ 887,642.39</u>

ZDAR BOH!
Steven M. Pogorelec, FIC
Supreme Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol

(Editor's note: We have noticed a number of returned copies of our Falcon due to incorrect addresses of our members. We ask that when individuals move, that they complete the form below for a change of address or call the home office. We thank you for your continued cooperation)

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST
FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON**
P.O. BOX 899 • 205 MADISON STREET
PASSAIC, N.J. 07055

NEW CHANGE CANCELLATION

Certificate No. _____

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Vlani sa zo Slovenska vyvážali najmä autá a televízory

Vlani sa zo Slovenska vyviezol tovar v celkovej hodnote 64,4 miliardy eur. Firmy exportovali najmä autá, televízory a telefónne súpravy. Upozorňuje na to vo svojej najnovšej analýze Poštová banka na základe údajov Štatistického úradu.

“Automobily sú jednoznačne našim najdôležitejším vývozným artiklom. Po autách s nálepku Made in Slovakia siahali vlani najmä Nemci, Briti, Číňania, Francúzi a Taliani. Do tejto päťke smerovala v roku 2013 viac ako polovica všetkých áut vyvezených zo Slovenska,” približuje analytická banka Dana Špacírová.

Zároveň doplnia, že poradie v rebríčku najväčších importérov slovenských automobilov sa v porovnaní s rokom 2012 mierne zmenilo. “Veľká Británia a Francúzsko si vymenili pozície a Taliansko vytlačilo z prvej pätky USA,” hovorí Špacírová.

Významnou mierou sa na slovenskom exporte vlani podieľali aj výrobcovia televízorov a monitorov. V roku 2013 sa zo Slovenska vyviezli obrazovky v celkovej hodnote 5,4 miliardy eur a najčastejšie sa vyvážali do Nemecka, Veľkej Británie a Ho-

landska.

“Top trojku slovenských exportných položiek vlani uzatvárali telefónne súpravy, ktoré zosadili z bronzovej priečky ropné oleje,” uvádza Špacírová. Telefóny sa zo Slovenska vyviezli v celkovej hodnote 3,2 miliardy eur a tvorili tak rovných 5 % slovenského exportu. Svojich odberateľov našli najmä v Českej republike, Poľsku a v Rakúsku.

Najväčšia časť slovenského vývozu pritom smeruje do krajín Európskej únie, predovšetkým na nemecký a český trh. “Z krajín mimo EÚ si najvyšší podiel na našom exporte drží Ruská federácia, na ktorú sa ale postupne dotahuje Čína,” doplnia analytici.

V rebríčku najvýznamnejších obchodných partnerov Slovenska sa však čoraz vyššie šplhá aj Čína. Za zvyšujúcim sa podielom Číny na slovenskom exporte treba podľa jej slov hľadať najmä vývoz osobných automobilov.

Kým v roku 2007 do Číny smerovalo len 2,8 % zo Slovenska vyvezených automobilov, tak v roku 2013 to bolo už 11,4 %. Zjednodušene povedané, každé deviate auto vyrobené na Slovensku putovalo do Číny.

Marec bol najteplejší v histórii meraní v SR

Marec v roku 2014 bol na Slovensku najteplejším marcom v histórii meteorologických meraní u nás. Informoval o tom Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav (SHMÚ).

Priemerná mesačná teplota vzduchu v marci dosiahla takmer na všetkých meteorologických staniách s denným spravidajstvom najvyššie hodnoty v celom období ich prevádzky.

Pre marec boli typické dni s veľkými rozdielmi medzi maximálnou a minimálnou dennou teplotou vzduchu, pomerne často aj 20 stupňov, v najkrajnejších prípadoch až 26 stupňov. Predpokladom pre rýchly vzostup dennej teploty vzduchu bol často sa opakujúci nerušený snežný svit, čo spôsobilo, že tohtoročný marec bol napríklad v Bratislave na letisku druhý najslnečnejší od roku 1951.

Nedostatok snehovej pokrývky v zime, málo zrážok v marci, veľa snežných a v niektorých dňoch aj veľmi veterných dní spôsobilo vysušovanie prírodného prostredia, čo sa prejavilo aj na nízkej priemernej relatívnej vlhkosti vzduchu v popoludňajších hodinách. Tento trend sa v posledných rokoch v Bratislave zvyrazňuje.

Po zrážkovo nevýraznej zime dosiahli marcové úhrny zrážok najnižšie hodnoty na Záhorí, kde to nebolo ani 10 milimetrov za celý mesiac a iba o pár milimetrov viac zrážok spadlo aj v západnej polovici Podunajskej nížiny a v Bratislave.

To je podľa SHMÚ pri aktuálnom vývoji počasia veľmi nepriaznivá situácia.

Andrej Kiska

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)

jom spotrebiteľovi. Sortiment sa postupne rozšíril o nábytok, športové potreby, hračky atď. V roku 1999 zriadili akciovú spoločnosť QUATRO, ktorá ponúkala konkurenčný produkt splátkového predaja priamo v predajniach.

Sieť rodinných firiem Tatra-Credit a QUATRO sa postupne rozrástla o akciové spoločnosti SLOVENSKÁ POŽIČOVŇA, Q - CAR a Slovenské kreditné karty, čím sa stala najväčším splátkovým predajcom pôsobiacim na Slovensku so základňou cca 400 000 klientov. V decembri 2004 prebehla akvizícia siete týchto piatich spoločností Všeobecnou úverovou bankou, ktorá ich v januári 2005 zahrnula do holdingovej štruktúry spoločnosti Consumer Finance Holding.

Andrej Kiska nastúpi do úradu prezidenta SR 15. júna 2014.

Slovenské veľkonočné tradície



Neoddeliteľnou súčasťou slovenských veľkonočných tradícií sú ručne zdobené veľkonočné kraslice, ktoré sú známe po celom svete.

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)

a používajú sa aj v súčasnosti: svätenie vody, zelene, potravín a zapalovanie ohňa.

Vajíčko – symbol nového života, plodnosti a zároveň prejav lásky. Zdobeními vajíčkami (kraslicami) obdarúvali dievčatá mládenčov na znak toho, že ich nosia vo svojom srdci.

Voda – symbol čistoty a zdravia.

Zeleň – symbol životnej sily a zdravia.

Oheň – symbol očisty, mal zaháňať zlé sily.

Páska – obradový koláč, sym-

bol hojnej úrody.

Erotická mágia – ak dievča nájde na jar mravenisko má ho vziať a nasypať okolo domu, aby po celý rok chodilo za ním tolko mládenčov, koľko bolo v mravenisku mravcov.

Podľa tradícií šibanie nemalo mladé dievčatá ponižovať, naopak, dotyk čerstvým, miazgou napučeným vrbovým prútkom sa mal na telo ženy preniesť, aby sa stala ohybnou, mladou, krásnou a plodnou. Preto mládenčiaci polievali dievčatá studenou “živou” vodou a dbali, aby neobišli ani jeden dom.

Slovensko zaostáva pri príprave na výmenu daňových informácií s USA

Americké ministerstvo financií zverejnilo zoznam krajín, ktoré budú mať uzavretú medzinárodnú dohodu s USA o poskytovaní daňových informácií v rámci požiadaviek zákona FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act).

Slovensko však na aktuálnom zozname chýba, medzi zverejnenými štátmi však už figurujú všetky okolité krajiny ako Česká republika, Maďarsko, Poľsko a Rakúsko. Zákon FATCA pritom nadobudne účinnosť od 1. júla tohto roka. Upozorňuje na to Slovenská banková asociácia (SBA).

Cieľom FATCA je zmapovať príjmy Američanov v zahraničí a zabrániť daňovým únikom. Bankám a ostatným finančným inštitúciám založeným a pôsobiacim mimo územia USA ukladá povinnosť poskytovať informácie o účtoch Američanov. Na dohodu s americkou stranou sa pripravuje Ministerstvo financií.

“Pokiaľ medzivládna zmluva s USA, upravujúca požiadavky zákona FATCA, nebude podpísaná do jeho účinnosti a slovenské banky nebudú poskytovať údaje o účtoch amerických občanov, americké banky začnú z platieb vyplácaných na Slovensko zražať pokutu vo výške 30 % z hodnoty platby,” priblížila v správe pre médiá hovorkyňa SBA Zuzana Tučeková.

SBA preto vyzýva štátne orgány na urýchléné konanie, aby zaistili včasnú implementáciu dohody, zabránili vznikajúcej neistote a predišli hroziacim dôsledkom. “Zároveň ponúkame podporu pri tvorbe dohody akceptovateľnej pre USA,” dodala Tučeková.

Tlačový odbor Ministerstva financií však pre TASR uviedol, že rokovania s americkou stranou o návrhu dohody pokračujú a k ich ukončeniu by mohlo dôjsť už v najbližších týždňoch. - sme.sk

KONCERT SLOVENSKÉHO SPEVÁKA PETRA STAŠÁKA

V nedeľu 27. apríla o 2.00 hod. popoludní bude v Crakovia Manor, 96 Main Ave., Wallington, NJ koncert slovenského speváka Petra Stašáka. Vstupné je \$50.00. V cene vstupenky je jedlo na bufetový štýl, víno, káva a koláč. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: Stanka, tel. č. 201-375-5488.

SKUPINA DRIŠĽAK NA TURNÉ V USA

Skupina Drišľak, zo Slovenska ktorá bude na turné v USA, bude mať nasledovné vystúpenia:

V sobotu 3. mája o 7.00 hod. večer v Harristown, NJ. Informácie: Olga, 609-529-1522, 609-771-6736.

V nedeľu 4. mája o 2.00 hod. popoludní v hale Kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 235 Ackerman Avenue v Cliftone, NJ. Vstupné je \$35.00 za dospelých, \$15.00 za deti od 13 do 18 rokov a deti vo veku 12 rokov a mladšie majú vstup bezplatný. V cene je započítané jedlo. Bližšie informácie na tel. č. 973-706-8493, 201-757-8481, 201-694-3735.

V sobotu 10. mája o 7.00 hod. večer v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Manhattan, NY. Informácie: Mária, 347-612-1934, Dominik, 914-403-7877.



Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation

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Slovenské veľkonočné tradície

Veľká noc je symbolom prebúdajúceho sa života, sily, vytrvalosti a plodnosti. Na Slovensku bola vždy Veľká noc bohatá na tradície a zvyky, z ktorých sa mnohé zachovávajú dodnes.

Veľká noc je pre kresťanov najväčším sviatkom. Kresťania si pripomínajú umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista. Veľkej noci predchádza 40-dňový pôst. Pôstne obdobie začína Popolcovou stredou. Počas pôstneho obdobia sa kresťania zdržiavajú zábavy, hodovania, majú sa duchovne obnovovať a zamýšľať nad svojím životom, zúčastniť sa svätej spovede.

VEĽKONOČNÉ TROJDNIE

Zelený štvrtok - spomienka na ustanovenie sviatosti Oltárnej a sviatosti kňazstva. Pri svätých omšiach sa posväcujú tri druhy oleja: krizma, olej katechumenov a olej chorých. Olej je znamením sily a používa sa pri rôznych sviatostných obradoch (krst, birmovanie, pomazanie chorých, vysviacka kňazov). "Zaväzujú" sa zvonu a na znak smútku zostávajú mlkve.

Veľký piatok - nekonajú sa sväté omše, kresťania si pripomínajú utrpenie, umučenie a ukrižovanie Krista. Je to veľký

pôstny deň. Kresťania sa zdržiavajú mäsitých pokrmov a do sýta jedia iba raz denne.

Biela sobota - obrady sa konať po západe slnka. Podľa tradície je táto noc nocou očakávania Pána, noc bdenia. Začína sa sláviť Kristovo vzkriesenie. Na znak Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania sa zvonu opäť rozozvučia.

Po veľkonočnom trojdni nasleduje Veľkonočná nedeľa. Je oslavou Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania, víťazné zavŕšenie Kristovho vykupiteľského diela.

ĽUDOVÉ ZVYKY A TRADÍCIE

Symbol nového života, novosti, sa spája s čistotou. Ak mali mať obradové úkony úspech, ľudia museli obnoviť a vyčistiť svoje príbytky i riad, v ktorom sa chystali pripravovať a konzumovať obradové veľkonočné jedlá.

Zelený štvrtok bol deň, keď sa vyhánal dobytok na pašu po prvý krát. Na dvere stajní sa (okrem iného) kolomazou alebo cesnakom robili kríže, aby chránili dobytok pred strigami. Zlých duchov vyhánali z dediny rapkáče a biče. Konzumovali sa zelené jedlá ako žihlava, špenát, kel, čakanka.

Na veľký piatok sa ľudia kúpali

pred východom slnka v potoku, aby nemali vrede, chrasty, lišaje a aby boli po celý rok zdraví. Dievčatá verili, že po umytí budú čerstvé ako lastovičky, nebudú mať pehy na tvári a ak si umyjú vlasy, rýchlejšie im budú rásť.

V tento deň vládla magická sila zeme. Bolo zakázané siať a orať, so zemou sa jednoducho nemohlo hýbať.

Biela sobota bola dňom prípravy obradných jedál, najmä šunky z bravčoviny (niekde jahňa alebo baránka). Masť zo šunky odkladali ľudia na liečenie rán a mnohí verili, že chráni aj pred hadím uštipnutím.

V sobotu sa "pálili judáše" - spaľoval sa oheň starého roka a ľudia zakladali v domácnostiach nové ohne.

V nedeľu po omši sa dávali posvätiť jedlá, najmä obradný koláč, zvaný na východnom a strednom Slovensku „páska“. Pevné miesto tu mali vajčká ako symbol kontinuity života. Vajčko rozdeľoval gazda medzi všetkých stolujúcich. Stolovanie pripomínalo Štedrú večeru. Zvyšky z posvätených jedál sa nesmeli vyhadzovať. Pálili sa, primiešavali dobytku do jedla, alebo sa zakopávali na poli.

Na Veľkonočný pondelok chodili mládenci po dedine a šibali dievčatá korbáčmi upletenými z vrbového prútie. Na niektorých miestach bola známa aj polievačka. Voda má zabezpečiť ženám zdravie a krásu. Robila sa rôzna ľubostná a erotická mágia, pripravovali sa špeciálne pokrmy, ktoré sa dali zjesť vybranému mláďencovi.

SYMBOLY A MÁGIA

V tradičnej kultúre je Veľká noc spájaná s príchodom jari. Prosperitné a magické úkony mali zabezpečiť dobrý začiatok hospodárskeho roka, hojnosť, prosperitu a zdravie ľudí a dobytky. Množstvo z prostriedkov využívaných v pohanských obradoch prevzalo kresťanstvo

(Pokračovanie na str. 19)



Všetkým našim členom, priateľom a čitateľom prajeme požehnané veľkonočné sviatky.

Novým prezidentom SR bude Andrej Kiska

Novým prezidentom Slovenska bude občiansky kandidát Andrej Kiska, ktorý vo voľbách, ktoré sa konali 29. marca, výrazne



porazil súčasného premiéra a predsedu strany Smer-SD Roberta Fica. Podľa oficiálnych výsledkov Kiska získal 59,38 percenta, hlasy mu odovzdalo 1 307 065 voličov.

Jeho protikandidát Robert Fico dostal 40,61 percenta, teda 893 841 hlasov voličov.

ŽIVOTOPIS A. KISKA

Narodil sa 2. februára 1963 v Poprade, v rodine učiteľov. V roku 1986 úspešne ukončil inžinierske štúdium v odbore mikroelektronika na Elektrotechnickej fakulte Slovenskej technickej univerzity v Bratislave a začal pracovať ako projektant v spoločnosti Naftoprojekt v Poprade. V roku 1990 odišiel do Spojených štátov, kde vykonával manuálne práce. Podľa vlastných vyjadrení, tento pobyt v USA ovplyvnil jeho budúcu kariéru: „Z Ameriky som si priniesol nes-

miernu chuť podnikat'.

Kiska sa na Slovensko vrátil v decembri 1991. V marci 1992 spolu s bratom Ing. Jaroslavom Kiskom a bratrancom Ing. Bystrikom Kiskom založili spoločnosť s ručením obmedzeným TRIANGLE GROUP INTERNATIONAL so sídlom v Kežmarku, ktorá vystupovala ako pobočka rovnomennej americkej spoločnosti v Severnej Karolíne vlastnenej ich priateľom. Firma prevádzkovala sieť zlatníctiev na Slovensku, spolu s pobočkou v Ostrave. Po neúspechu so skúšobnou výrobou vlastných zlatých šperkov sa zamerala na ich nákup od slovenských a českých zlatníkov a následný predaj v Spojených štátoch. Na tento účel v USA založili spoločnosť Eurogold, ktorá sa však nedokázala presadiť v konkurenčnom prostredí.

8. októbra 1996 založili spoločnosť s ručením obmedzeným TatraCredit, ktorá ponúkala službu Triangel. Tá spočívala v nakúpení spotrebnej elektroniky priamo od výrobcu, s cieľom obísť veľkoobchodnú a maloobchodnú maržu,[6] a následnom splátkovom predá-

(Pokračovanie na str. 19)



Veľkonočný pondelok je ešte aj dnes časom kúpačky (na východnom Slovensku), resp. šibačky (na západnom Slovensku). Voda má zabezpečiť ženám zdravie a krásu.