



Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský katolícky sokol

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MEMORIAL – FEBRUARY 14

Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

Our Society has begun preparing for its two major 2023 Event.

The first is the Slovak Catholic Sokol 50th International Slet, July 12-16, 2023 at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. Then two weeks later the Society will hold its 34th Quadrennial Convention, August 5-8, 2023, at the Hilton Scranton and Conference Center, Scranton, PA.



On January 14, 2023, I attended with Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. the Supreme Physical Fitness Board's Annual meeting held to go over all the plans for the 50th International Slet. The Board went over the scheduled and made adjustments based on the information that was provided to them by the Group's Physical Directors, Directresses and Sports Directors. The changes the Board made was to ensure all competitors would be able to compete in their events and have a memorable time at the 50th International Slet.

Supreme Secretary has mailed out the 34th Quadrennial Convention Registration forms to the Supreme Officers, Honorary Officers, Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths. In our By-Laws and the instructions enclosed with the Registration Forms inform how the delegates are elected and what their responsibilities are as delegates. Every member wanting to be a delegate, the Groups, Assemblies and Wreath are required to adhere to the deadlines as listed on all the forms.

On January 21, 2023, Supreme Secretary and I attended to Governance Committee meeting to help the Committee review the By-Law comments sent in by the membership. The Committee has held over the past couple of months virtual meeting to prepare for this meeting. Each Committee member was responsible to examine the By-Laws of another Fraternals to see how our Society matches up with that fraternal and learn what changes they made at their last Convention. At this meeting the Committee presented some of their concerns and asked for

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Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group



Well known Slovak cultural and fraternal activist Nina Holy celebrated her 90th birthday on December 18th, 2022. A birthday celebration with family and friends was held at Cedar Crest Village in Pompton Plains, NJ, where she resides. Pictured is the immediate family - two daughters - Jane Konzelmann and Luby Masi and her husband Tom, grandchildren and tree great-grandchildren. Nina Holy is the Treasurer of Slovak League of America and an officer and member of many Slovak organizations. She is a member of Slovak Catholic Sokol, Assembly 182 in New York, NY.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY
SCOTT T. POGORELEC, F.I.C.
COME JOIN US!**



"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Proverbs 19:21

Happy February to all! Dealing with these cold temperatures indoors gives us some time to think about our spring and summer activities



In preparation for our 2023 Fraternal Events, I had the pleasure of attending our Physical Fitness Board Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA on January 13th-14th.

Our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, and I were honored to be there sharing in the energy and excitement of the meeting. Many thoughts and ideas were exchanged and I commend our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and our entire Physical Fitness Board on a well-run and efficient meeting.

With that being said, we need the cooperation and passion of our Members. As many of you know, hosting our fraternal activities are both time consuming and costly. To justify these programs, we need to have the full and enthusiastic cooperation at our Groups, Assemblies, and Wreaths. We need your help to promote our various athletic programs within your own local Assembly or Wreath. Our local branches are the heart and soul of our fine Organization. Active and vibrant lodges are imperative to facilitate interest at our national events and are the cornerstone to the fraternal benefit system. Please take the time to attend a Lodge or Group meeting and promote these wonderful activities. Let us take a look at what is on the calendar!

For our loyal Sokol keglars, we have announced that our 77th International Bowling Tournament will be held on May 19th-20th in Buffalo, NY at Airport Lanes. I hope our devout regulars and many new faces will join us as we celebrate this great weekend.

Of course, the highlight of our programs in 2023 will be our 50th International Slet at Kutztown University in Kutz-

town, PA from July 13th-16th. The closing Exhibition is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th. The Slet is a unique experience for our young members that supply them with memories and friendships that last a lifetime. Our Physical Fitness Board is hard at work to ensure that a safe and enjoyable time will be had by all. If you have the time, please try to make it to the Saturday Exhibition to see all the hard work our athletes have put in over the past two years. You will not regret it!

As the calendar turns to August, the delegates of the 34th Quadrennial Convention will be meeting in Scranton, PA at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center from August 5th-8th. This is obviously the most important event for our Society as we deliberate and mold our Organization for the next four years and beyond. By now, our Group, Assembly, and Wreath representatives have received the delegate registration forms. I urge all our potential delegates to get the forms into the Home Office by March 31, 2023. The Verification and Eligibility Committee will not accept registration forms after that date. We hope to see you there!

August will also give our avid Sokol golfers a chance to polish off their clubs and join us for the 68th International Golf Tournament held at Kensington Golf Course in Canfield, OH on August 18th-20th. We hope to see both old and new faces on the links!

As you can see, we have a busy year ahead of us. Mark your calendars and make it a point to be a part of these wonderful activities. If anyone has any questions regarding our sports programs, please contact our Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, at 973-647-8551 or email him at jmatlon@slovakcatholicsokol.org. You can also give me a call at the Home Office or email me at scott@slovakcatholicsokol.org, and I will be glad to assist you.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day, especially my three Valentines, Maggie, Reid Thomas, and Cole William! Until next time, stay safe, stay strong, and STAY POSITIVE!

Zdar Boh!

Sokol Calendar

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

GROUP 17 ANNUAL MEETING at 1:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish/ St. Matthias Rectory located at 915 Cornell St. Youngstown, OH. All Wreath and Assembly members are invited to attend. Please contact Tim Shirilla at 330-550-8382 or Nancy Kropolinsky at 330-727-2487 to register.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (WPSCA) at 7 p.m. at St. Bernard Church, Clairvaux Hall, 311 Washington Rd., Pittsburgh, PA. Bishop Larry Kulick of the Greensburg Diocese will be the featured speaker. The meeting is open to the public. All are invited.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

ASSEMBLY 11 ANNUAL MEETING at the home of Financial Secretary Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Drive, Palos Hills, Illinois, beginning at 2 p.m. Those planning to attend should call Therese at tel. (708) 598-1468.

MAY 19 - 20, 2023

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

JULY 12-16, 2023

50TH SLET at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA.

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON
PUBLICATION DATE**

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

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

THE 2022 RECAP OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

This year's sporting events kicked off with the 76th Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament which was held on Friday, May 13th and Saturday, May 14th, 2022, at the Brookgate Lanes, Cleveland, Ohio. The combined bowling tournament included members from the Greek Catholic Union (GCU) Fraternal Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) and for the first time, members of the National Slovak Society (NSS). The Crown Plaza Hotel was the host hotel for the 2022 Bowling Tournament. There were a 144 Bowlers from the combined organizations which consist of 27 men's teams and 9 women's teams.



On Friday, the members were treated to hospitality before Bowling began at 7:00 p.m.. Friday night team tournament winners include: Female Division first place from the SCS/GCU Team 2+2 Barberton Bowlers: Karen Bakita, Carol Macko, Diana Brashear and Jean Karaffa with a combined scratch score of 1929. Women's Team Handicap Results include members from SCS in first place, Heather's Heroes with a score of 2360. The Men's Team Division Scratch First Place Winners from FCSU, Slovak Lanes: Rusty Groner, Ryan Trifiletti, Jerry Hromada and Gino Delmonico with a score of 2551. Men's Team Handicap First place winners from GCU, CPRL Mixed Mens: John Kutzfara, Matthew Basl, Michael Patak and John Niskach with a score of 2990.

Saturday morning, bowlers returned to the Brookgate Lanes for the Doubles and Singles competition. Scratch Women's Doubles winners include Diana Brashear and Jean Karaffa with first place honors with an actual score of 1026. In the Women's Handicapped Doubles Division, 1st place team of Patricia Niskach and Melanie Basl bowled a combined score of 1211. The Men's Double Scratch Division winners include: Adam Digon and John Niskach for a total of 1339. In the Men's Double Division with Handicap, Clay Cato and Chris Barca claimed first place with a score of 1523. In the Women's Singles Scratch Division, Melanie Basl placed first. Women's Handicap Singles Division resulted in Nicole Nasta taking first place with a score of 654. Men's Singles Scratch Division winner was Alex Sir Louis with a score of 752. Women's Division for All-Events scratch score, Jean Karaffa had the top score of 1702. In the women's All- Events Handicap, Nicole Nasta was awarded first place with a total score of 2159. In the Men's Division, scratch score, Brian Risko finished in First Place with a 2205. The Men's division for All-Events with handicap resulted in Brian Risko placing first with a score of 2358. Congratulations to Jean Karaffa and Brian

Risko for the all events actual scores. Brian also was cheered on as he missed a perfect 300 by 2 pins!

After bowling, Mass was celebrated and banquet to follow. Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James Matlon started the program off by introducing the Dignitaries from each fraternal organization, which they welcomed bowlers and offered opening remarks. Joe Stefka President and CEO of NSS, Mike Horvath President of SCS, Andrew Rajec, President of FCSU and Mike Karaffa National Director of GCU commented on the success of the event. The final event of the evening was the announcement of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award presented each year to a member of our organization who has been very active at the Assembly, Group and National level promoting and participating in the International Bowling Tournaments.

On behalf of his uncle and godfather Frank Petruff, Gary Pitoniak and our President Mike Horvath presented the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award to Don Papcun from Assembly 36, Detroit, Michigan.

The second international event was the International Clinic at Kutztown University in Pennsylvania from July 13th-17th. The members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board (SPFB) arrived on campus Wednesday, July 13, to set up and finalize details for the incoming group Directors and Directresses. All members of the Physical Fitness Board were present which included Physical Director Marty Degnan, his assistant Dusan Dorich, and member of the board Rob Palchanis along with Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift, her assistant Nancy Kropolinsky, and members of the Board Kristen Popik, Janice Matlon and Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James Matlon and his assistant Frank Laury.



Participants included Eric and Hailey Topzcij from Group 1; Gary, Zack, and Judy Manyak from Group 3; Noah and Jen Romine and Lisa Hoeck from Group 4; David and Daniel Underation and Jayme Blosser from Group 5; Kelly and August Palchanis from Group 7; Chaz, Luke, Mary, and Laura Matlon from Group 11; Chris Antosy and Kathi Smolkowicz from Group 12; and Steven Popik, Nicholas Dorich, Annemarie Wasilewski, and Rebecca Bettencourt from Group 19.

The SPFB presented several informational seminars, most of which focused on preparing for the 2023 Slet. This included

information on general rules and regulations, the dress code, overall point scoring, individual and team drills, senior volleyball, junior 3-on-3 basketball, and the tentative Slet schedule. The week mainly consisted of Drill teaching and fine tuning of the Drills for the Upcoming Slet. The men practiced one former drill that is returning from last Slet: "Hall of Fame". They also practiced two new drills: the Slovak drill "Lisocka, Ej poduvaj ty vitriku" by Kandracovci and a classic mash-up of past drills including "Eye of the Tiger," "Mission Impossible," "Nights in White Satin," and "Iron Man." The women practiced a Slovak drill with the title "Anka, Anka" by Kollarovci, a modern drill "Sit Still, Look Pretty" by Daya, and a classic mashup of past drills including "Hero," "Fame," "Fight Song," "Roar," "Cotton-Eyed Joe," and "Looking for Freedom."



The entire group worked on the Mass Drill later Friday afternoon. Soon after drilling the women of the board presented a token of remembrance to the male Clinic participants and members of the SPFB in memory of past Group 5 director Steve Underation. They presented the men with a torch pin, which represented the light of the Holy Spirit and the light of the symbolic torch we use at the Closing Ceremonies of each Slet. This was such a touching and yet tough ceremony to get through since Steve meant so much to all of us! That evening the participants went to Dorney Park located in nearby Allentown, PA. It was a great time at the amusement park. Seemed like everyone had



fun and no problems except the ones who got stuck on the broken down Ferris wheel including myself for an hour.

On Saturday, there were separate drill sessions in both

the morning and afternoon for men and women to make final preparations for the Saturday night exhibition. The participants headed to the gym at Keystone Hall for Mass at 6:45 p.m.. Our Supreme Chaplain Father Andrew HvozdoVIC celebrated Mass for the group. When Mass concluded, there were remarks from the Events Leader of Kutztown University, Katie Swift, Supreme President Michael Horvath, and Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec. The night progressed with an exhibition performance of all drills in front of an audience of local Sokol members and family members of the participants. Overall the Clinic week went great and the Participants seemed very happy to be back together!

The final sporting event was the International Golf Tournament held August 12th-14th at Treasure Lake in Dubois, PA. Most of the participants played a practice round of golf at the Treasure Lake Resort Gold Course during the day, and at 7 p.m.. Golfers headed over to attend the hospitality at the Lakeview Lodge. There was a total of 146 golfers in attendance for the weekend, 105 from the Slovak Catholic Sokol, 38 from FCSU, and 3 from GCU. The number of golfers in each flight: 18 "A" Flight, 26 "B" Flight, 21 "C" Flight, 38 Senior Flight, 30 Callaway and 14 Wom-



en. Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James Matlon and Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Frank Laury along with Kristen Popik on the SPFB waited for the golfers to arrive and register for the weekend. Upon registration the golfers received a golf towel and a ball marker souvenir as well as the opportunity to sign up for closest to the pin.

James Jerek, Chairperson of Supreme Auditors and James Knis, Supreme Treasurer, came out for the day to keep the Golfers Hydrated with refreshments. James Matlon gave instructions and off went the Golfers at 8 a.m. sharp. After golf ended that day the golfers headed to the banquet at the Silver Course Pavilion that evening for Mass which was celebrated by Father Thomas Nasta. Dinner was catered by Luigi's Italian Restaurant. James Matlon introduced the leaders of GCU, FCSU and the SCS Supreme Officer in attendance at the event, which included Honorary Officer Steven M. Pogorelec, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme Treasurer James F. Knis, Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek, Supreme Auditor Edward Bajus, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury, Supreme Assistant Physical Director Dusan Dorich and Kristen Popik Physical Fitness Board Member.

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MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING HELD IN BOCA RATON, FL

Sunday, December 4, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

After a beautiful mass given by my Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S Hvozdovic, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 4, 2022, and greeted all the members.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, was called upon for the **Opening Prayer**.

Supreme Physical Directress, Katie M. Swift, led the Board Members in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., was asked to take the **Roll Call** and the following members responded:

Supreme Chaplain Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
 Supreme President Michael J. Horvath
 Supreme Vice-President..... Edward D. Moeller
 Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
 Supreme Treasurer James F. Knis
 General Counsel John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.
 Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors..... James G. Jerek
 Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics..... James C. Matlon
 Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift
 Supreme Physical Director Martin Degnan

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

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on September 18, 2022, and published in the November 1, 2022, issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis. Approved

The Supreme President asked our Supreme Secretary if there were any **Communications**.

Brother Secretary informed the Board that there was one communication from Group 7 President, Amy Blasco, wishing the Board well on their deliberations. Acknowledged

President Horvath then asked our Supreme Secretary to give a brief overview of the **Membership/Sales Report**.

Brother Secretary gave the Board a brief overview of our life and annuity business to date, agency update, and the current agent sales campaigns. He also informed the Board of the various advertising efforts that have currently been in place and will be expanded upon in the new year. He also updated the Board on the membership campaign, Drive to 50, centered around our 50th International Slet.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and President Horvath thanked Brother Secretary for presenting the report. President Horvath then asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

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

Brother Matlon updated the Board on the 2022 activities

and accomplishments of the Physical Fitness Board.

- 77th International Bowling Tournament, May 13th – 14th in Cleveland, OH
- International Clinic, July 14th-17th at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA
- 67th International Golf Tournament, August 12th-14th, Treasure Lake Resort, DuBois, PA

The Golf Financial Report was completed and mailed to the Home Office on November 23, with a surplus check of \$1,142.94. All the pictures taken and tournament results for the Bowling Tournament and Golf Tournament are posted on the Slovak Catholic Sokol Web Site.

Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, updated the Board on the arrangements for the 50th International Slet, along with the potential participation numbers we can expect.

All arrangements are confirmed for the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Annual Meeting scheduled for January 13th-14th, 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The most important Fitness Board objective for 2023, will be to use all social media outlets to promote our 50th International Slet.

Sites that are confirmed for our 2023 Sports Program:

May 19-20, 2023	Bowling	AMF Airport Lanes, Buffalo, NY
July 12-16, 2023	Slet	Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA
August 18-20, 2023	Golf	Kensington Golf Club, Canfield, OH

Brother President then entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, seconded by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Approved

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

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

Brother Calimano and Sister Cole addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook and they indicated the Society is weathering this volatile fiscal environment to the best of their ability.

The Board members thanked Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole and President Horvath entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis. Approved

President Horvath then called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. for the **Legal Department Report**. Counsel reported that there are two items to report on:

1. Brother Counsel informed the Board that he received a letter on behalf of Group 4 in reference to changing their headquarter city. Brother John will follow up and supply them what is needed to do so.

2. Brother John also reported on a potential buyer for the print shop connected to the Home Office. The agreement has been made for the sale of the existing print shop building for \$185,000. The next step is getting approval from the city of Passaic. A hearing is scheduled for early 2023. The Supreme Secretary and General Counsel will update the Board accordingly.

After a lengthy discussion about the above items, President Horvath entertained a motion to approve the report, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by Supreme Physical Director, Martin Degnan. Approved

Brother President began discussion about the **declaration of a dividend** for the year 2022 to be distributed during 2023. The 2021 dividend declaration issued in 2022 was \$50,000.00.

After a brief discussion, Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, moved that a dividend be declared for the year 2022 for \$50,000.00 payable in 2023 for all qualifying certificates, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

Brother President then called on the Supreme Secretary to give the **Mortgage Department Report**.

Brother Scott reported that as of November 30, 2022, there are 2 existing mortgages totaling \$567,146.69. During 2022, principal income received amounted to \$15,617.94 and the interest received totaled \$17,126.47. All mortgages are paid on time.

A motion to accept the report was made by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis. Approved

Brother President questioned if any **Donations** have been presented.

Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA for help in work being done to update Maria Hall, which serves as a residence for retired Sisters, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

President Horvath questioned if there was any **Unfinished Business** to address.

Brother Secretary informed the Board that the 2023 First Quarterly Meeting is scheduled to be held on March 17-18, 2023, in Scranton, PA at the Hilton Scranton Conference Center, site of our upcoming 34th Quadrennial Convention. Acknowledged

Brother President also informed the Board that they will be meeting tomorrow, December 5th, at 9:00 a.m., for an **Open Forum** discussion regarding the Society, as well as a 2023 Business/Fraternal Plan.

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, entertained a **motion to adjourn**, so moved by Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

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

Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C.

Supreme Secretary

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

ASH WEDNESDAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.



Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest, deacon or lay minister applies the ashes to a person's forehead, they speak the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, they may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Typically ashes are distributed during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Anyone should feel welcomed to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening. In some cases, ashes may be delivered by a priest or a family member to those who are sick or shut-in.



SAVE THE DATE

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
34th QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

AUGUST 5th - 8th, 2023

AT THE

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

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF GROUP 12 HELD NOVEMBER 19, 2022 IN READING, PA

President Joe Harak called to order our annual Group 12 meeting with the opening prayers Our Father and Hail Mary followed by reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The roll call of officers was taken and present were President Joe Harak, Vice President Greg Milanek, Recording Secretary Joann Antosy, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Lare Leso, Physical Director Christopher Antosy Jr., Physical Directress Kathleen Smolkowicz.

Delegates attending were Pat Latshaw, Chris Antosy Sr., Anne Leso, Joanna Leso, Paul Keturakis, and via by zoom, Andrea Tadlock.

President Harak welcomed everyone attending the meeting. Time was given to read the copy of the minutes from the 2021 Group 12 meeting. A motion was made by Paul Keturakis to accept the minutes seconded by Greg Milanek.

President's report: Joseph Harak

October 1, 2021, I attended the annual Presidents meeting in Scranton, PA. Discussed was a generalization of work done at the home office. Also discussed at the meeting was the governance committee report. The committee consisted of Julie Dobbs, Kathy Watkins, Gary Manyak, Cindy Wakoviak, Steve Burican. The committee is in charge of contacting other fraternal organizations to see/ask how there boards are governed. A full report of there findings will be given at our Convention in Scranton, August 2023. I do have a list of questions the committee is asking the organizations if anyone would like to see them.

The committee asked our Groups, Assemblies, and Wreaths to submit articles and photos to the Sokol Falcon on activities within in your group.

A concern of the committee has been that many of our members are not receiving the Sokol Falcon either by mail or email. We are asked to submit 10 or more email addresses to increase the circulation of the newspaper. Greg Milanek made known anyone can go to the Sokol web site www.slovakcatholicssokol.org and read the Falcon on the site along with viewing all the other information regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Johanna Leso mentioned you can call the Home Office at 1-800-886-7656 to verify if you are on the mailing list. Our membership is declining. Any member is allowed to sign up new members up to a \$10,000.00 policy. Over a \$10,000.00 policy it is a law in the state of New Jersey to have a license insurance agent issue the policy.

The upcoming events for 2023 will be:

May 19 to 20 bowling tournament will be held in Buffalo, NY

July 14 to 18 the Slet will be held in Kutztown, PA.

August 5 to 8 the Convention will be held in Scranton, PA

August 18 to 20 the golf tournament will be held in Canfield, OH.

We congratulate all our Sokol scholarship winners especially those from Group 12:

2022 College Scholarship Grant:

Camile Griffith attending Albright College

Carolyn Halgas attending George Mason University

Olivia Tadlock attending University of Delaware

2022 Abbot Jerome M. Koval O.S.B Memorial High School Grant:

Cole Baker attending Berks Catholic High School

A reminder regarding the scholarships, a recipient must have at least a \$5,000.00 insurance policy with the Sokols for at least 5 years. A recipient could be awarded a scholarship three times, previously it was twice. The application for a scholarship is in the Sokol Falcon and on the Sokol website.

A motion made by Kathleen Smolkowicz to accept the President's report. Pat Latshaw seconded the motion.

Vice President's report: Greg Milanek

I was not needed to attend meetings or events this past year although I am here when the President needs my assistance.

A motion was made by Chris Antosy Jr. to accept the Vice President's report. Kathleen Smolkowicz seconded the motion.

Treasurer's report: Lar'e Leso

Our assessment from the Home Office is declining due to our membership declining.

Other income came from SCS Assembly 261 Wreath 155 Inc. who paid their loan in full to Group 12.

Money was moved from the checking account to the secure account. The interest rate was 2.5% the first two quarters of this year. The third quarter it was 2%.

A motion made by Greg Milanek to accept the Treasurer's report. Johanna Leso seconded the motion.

Physical Fitness Board: Physical Directress Kathleen Smolkowicz and Physical Director Christopher Antosy Jr.

Both Kathleen and Christopher attended the International Clinic held at Kutztown University in July. The Slet to be held in 2023 will be the 50th Slet and we need more participants. The Supreme Physical Fitness Board made changes to the Slet to encourage more participants. A 35 and older division has been added, there are no Junior and Senior drill teams since it is combined as one female drill team and one male drill team. Due to the liability concerns, gymnastics has been taken out of the Slet. Added to the Slet are a men's and women's mixed team volleyball and three player basketball team competitions.

We are not the only Group with low participation, other Groups are having the same issue. We need to reach out to our members for participants. Andrea Tadlock mentioned her three daughters who are scholarship winners will participate in the Slet. That brings the total to four female drillers and one male driller from Group 12.

With the low participation the organization could sadly be facing the last Slet. The Supreme Physical Fitness Board would then suggest have yearly camps for families, which they did have in the past. Chris Antosy suggested having a local Sokol day to entice more participants.

In May of 2021 we had four participants attend the bowling tournament in Cleveland, Ohio. They were Joann Antosy, Deb Unger, Pat Latshaw and Kathleen Smolkowicz.

Paul Keturakis made a motion to accept the Physical Fitness report. Anne Leso seconded the motion.

Old Business:

Group 12 sent 2 representatives to the Clinic this past July. They were Physical Directress Kathleen Smolkowicz and Physical Director Christopher Antosy Jr.

A suggestion was made to set up a school scholarship for Group 12 members. This was not pursued. Greg Milanek made a motion to continue the scholarship process. Kathleen Smolkowicz seconded the motion. Andrea Tadlock volunteered to work with the Treasurer to pursue the scholarship award.

New Business:

Johanna Leso mentioned the passing of Barbara Wentling from Philadelphia, PA Wreath 13. Barbara passed away September 14, 2022. She attended the past four Conventions. Rest in peace Barbara.

President Harak suggested having a reception at the Sokol hall the day of the exhibition of our 50th anniversary of the Slet. Also, provide a bus from the Sokol hall to Kutztown to view the exhibition.

Greg Milanek made a motion for the Group to pay for Slet expenses and activities. Andrea Tadlock seconded the motion.

S.C.S. 2022 BOWLING TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The 77th Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 19th and 20th, 2023 at the AMF Airport Lanes, Buffalo, New York. The GCU Fraternal Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society will be joining us again this year. The bowling application is also posted on our web site and the submission deadline is April 17, 2023.

AMF Airport Lanes, 3754 Genesee Street
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

The lodging for bowlers and guests will be at the Buffalo Airport Hotel in Cheektowaga, 4600 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga, NY 14225; tel.:716-634-6969.

The guaranteed rate is \$109.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy on Friday and Saturday night.

Team events will be held on Friday evening, May 19th at 6:30 PM. The Friday evening hospitality including food and refreshments will be served at 5:00 PM at the bowling lanes. Doubles and Singles events will be bowled on Saturday, May 20th at 10:00 AM.

The cost for the 77th International Bowling Tournament: \$23.00 per event, \$5 for all-events and \$31.00 for the banquet on Saturday, May 20th. The total for each bowler participating in team, doubles, singles, all-events and the banquet is \$105.00. If you have any questions, please send me an email, jmation@slovakcatholicsokol.org, text or call me, cell phone number: 973-647-8551.

Stay safe and I will see you in Buffalo, New York. – **James C. Matlon**, *Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics*

Greg Milanek made a motion to continue with our donations. Seconded by Andrea Tadlock.

The donations are as followed:

\$200.00 to the SCS Memorial fund in memory of Barbara Wentling.

\$100.00 to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Danville, PA.

\$100.00 to Walk the K Polka show at I Heart Radio.

\$100.00 to the Slovak Catholic Federation. The president is Father Andrew Hvozdovic. The motion was made by Joe Harak. Seconded by Andrea Tadlock.

\$50.00 to each athlete from Group 12 participating in the golf and/or bowling tournaments. Motion made by Greg Milanek. All in favor.

\$100.00 to Reading Sokol local golf tournament. The motion was made by Joe Harak. Seconded by Anne Leso.

General Discussion:

Greg Milanek asked if Headquarters is having a book commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Slet. President Harak said he has not heard anything regarding a souvenir book.

Kathleen Smolkowicz is honored to have the mass drill "Chariots of Fire" performed at the upcoming Slet. It was the drill made by herself, Michele Kaleda Kegeerize, and Greg Milanek.

Prior to the convention which is August 5 to 8, 2023 we will schedule a meeting with our delegates from our assemblies and wreaths.

President Harak gave a moment of silence in memory of Barbara Wentling. This was followed by the closing prayers.

A motion was made by Pat Latshaw to adjourn the meeting. Kathleen Smolkowicz seconded the motion. All in favor.

Joann Antosy, *Group 12 Secretary*

PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD MEETING PITTSBURGH, PA – JANUARY 13-14, 2023



The Physical Fitness Board Meeting was held on January 13th and 14th in Pittsburgh, PA. Sitting (l-r): Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Member of the PFB Nancy Kropolinsky, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Katie Swift, Member of the PFB Janice Matlon, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC. Standing: members of the PFB Robert Palchanis and Dusan Dorich, Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James Matlon, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury and Supreme Assistant Physical Director Martin Degnan.

Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

Supreme Secretary and my opinions.

The Committee will present their recommendations to the Board of Directors at the 1st Quarterly Board meeting, March 17-19, 2023. After this meeting the Committee will continue to prepare the final draft of their By-Law recommendations for the Delegates to consider the 34th Quadrennial Convention.

It has been a mild winter so far and probably most are hoping it will continue as we enter February, usually the coldest month winter. As we all know February is known for being the month that we celebrate Valentine's Day, and Presidents Weekend. This year Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023. Have a nice Valentines Day and enjoy it with your family, have fun whatever you do on the Presidents Weekend and on Ash Wednesday prepare yourself for Lent and do something meaningful over the forty days to be ready for Easter.

During these three special days of February ask yourself if all your and your family's life insurance coverage is adequate for the needs of today living. If not, contact the Home Office, they will be able to help you plan for your future. While you are inquiring about insurance coverage the Home Office can also help you with our annuity products.

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

No applications will be accepted after April 17, 2023

ENTRY BLANK—77th ANNUAL
A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, FCSU, NSS & GCU
 “USBC MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED”
 AMF Airport Lanes ⇄ Cheektowaga, NY
 Friday, May 19 & Saturday, May 20, 2023

No applications will be accepted after April 17, 2023

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

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	SCS TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ CERT/POLICY# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2021-22 _____ USBC No. _____ Wreath/Assm No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles or <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events

Please check one: Men's Events Women's Events Mixed Events

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENTS—SATURDAY, MAY 20
 Bowling begins at 10 AM for all bowlers.

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 19

Hospitality Meal Served 5 PM at Airport Lanes Bowling Begins at 6:30 PM All Teams

Team Name: _____

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____

Make Entry Fee payable to: Slovak Catholic Sokol Sports Account

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

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

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION.

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

Financial Totals for this Application	
Entry Fee for Each Event	
Prize Fee-\$10. ⁰⁰ + Bowling Fee-\$8. ²⁵ + Tournament Fee-\$4. ⁷⁵ = \$23. ⁰⁰	
Optional Events	Banquet + Bowling Entry
All Events-\$5. ⁰⁰ Banquet-\$31. ⁰⁰	\$105. ⁰⁰ per person
___ Singles Event @ \$23 ea. = \$ _____	
___ Doubles Event @ \$23 ea. = \$ _____	
___ Team Event @ \$23 ea. = \$ _____	
___ All Events @ \$5 ea. = \$ _____	
___ Banquet @ \$31 ea. = \$ _____	
Total Enclosed \$ _____	

Important to All Tournament Entrants Read Carefully Information Given Below Rules and Regulations of Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament

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

As you know, each year the Supreme Assembly, recognizing the great importance of bowling in our organization, donates \$60.00 to the prize fund for each team entry entered in the International Tournament. This financial contribution on the part of our organization is added to the regular prize fee collected by the bowlers. All prize fees collected will be refunded 100% in prizes.

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

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Slovak Catholic Sokol Championship Tournament is open to all members of our organization, both male and female (no juniors) who are in good standing and have been members for at least (3) three months SPL or (1) one year for all other policies, prior to the date of tournament with a minimum of \$3,000.00 coverage. Policy Holders - no Social Members. As mandated by the 2007 Convention, all new members enrolled after January 1, 2008 will require a new minimum of \$5,000.00 of insurance coverage to participate in the programs after January 1, 2020.

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

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

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

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

5. High Score recognition automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible nonmembers can qualify for high score recognition at their option by paying a \$5.00 participation fee. Affiliated membership is \$21.00.

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

7. All-Events (optional), shall be handicap. This prize fund is a separate entry (\$5.00) and no tournament expense fee is assessed for this. Only those entrants paying this fee are eligible. Please indicate All-Events entries by placing an "X" before names in Team Entry space on Entry Form side.

8. Prize fee will be \$10.00 per bowler per event. Cost of bowling and tournament expenses \$13.00 per bowler per event. Total = \$23.00 per event.

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

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

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

12a. Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2021-2022 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2023. A male bowler whose current average of 21 games or more at time of entry is (10) pins or more higher than the previous season's average must use his current average. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history of Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. If none of the above apply, the average of 175 for men will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

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

12c. Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2021-2022 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2023. A female bowler whose current average of 21 games or more at time of entry is (10) pins or more higher than the previous season's average must use her current average. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history of Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. If none of the above apply, the average of 150 for women will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

13. Bowlers may choose to bowl in their respective gender team and doubles event or on a mixed team or mixed doubles team but cannot participate in both divisions. Singles and All Events are gender specific. Mixed team and mixed doubles scores will be used to calculate All Events specific to the gender of the bowler. Must have 6 teams and 10 doubles teams to hold the mixed events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ENTRIES CLOSE
MIDNIGHT, April 17, 2023**

\$63,000 IN S.C.S. SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ELIGIBLE MEMBERS IN 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$63,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2023. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2023 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards and a maximum of one (1) in each of the other categories.

A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Yencha Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and four Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

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

College scholarship eligibility requirements:

Slovak Catholic Sokol (a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

- Must have a minimum of \$3,000 permanent Life Insurance Coverage
- Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years.
- Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL TIME student at an accredited college, university or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.
- Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better
- One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member
- Essay- "How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?"

Theodore and Mary Jane Rich (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

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

Emil Slavik (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
AND
- Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
AND
- Majoring in Nursing or Medical curriculum
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry

Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
AND
- Majoring in curriculum with a focus in computer graphics, design or layout

Yencha Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

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

Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (4 grants in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
- Essay- "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why".

The process of applying for any of the above college level scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are **ONLY** available on our website @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

Questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program may be directed to:

Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice-President
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee
vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org
(412)881-3506

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ALL
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
IS MARCH 31, 2023**

In addition to our college grant program, we make available 18 Catholic High School Grants in the amount of \$500 each as well as 36 Catholic Grade School Grants in the amount of \$250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in each of the next issues of the Falcon.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP – TIPS FOR SUCCESS

I just wanted to take a moment to highlight the recent changes made to the Slovak Catholic College Scholarship Program. We will continue to use a completely on-line process as we have had few issues with the process over the past several seasons. With the help of our technical webmaster, we have redesigned the application process and you should find it to be much more user friendly. You will find the on-line application on our website at www.slovakcatholic-sokol.org beginning December 1, 2022.



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

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

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

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

1. Answer all questions on the application.

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

2. Include all requirements for the application- i.e. photo; transcript; essay

Start the process for requesting your transcript NOW. I have found that sometimes this is the hold up for some applicants.

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

3. Submit all required elements prior to the deadline.

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

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

Lastly, apply for all college scholarships for which you qualify to give yourself the best chance at receiving something. There were several applicants who limited themselves to a

SLOVAKIA@30

Slovakia@30 is a collaborative project of the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. (SASW), Friends of Slovakia (FOS), and the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Slovak independence.

The project consists of four online lectures by distinguished experts on key areas of public life in the Slovak Republic: foreign policy, domestic politics, the economy, and civil society. Although each lecture will be a self-contained presentation, the organizers have designed the four-part series to be an integrated overview of Slovakia's development over the past 30 years.

At the time of the peaceful split of Czechoslovakia on January 1, 1993, Slovakia was little more than three years into its postcommunist transition. The young country faced immense challenges establishing an independent foreign policy, consolidating democratic institutions, and creating a market economy and a vibrant nongovernmental sector.

What can we say now, from the vantage point of 2023, about how well Slovakia has met these challenges? What have been the country's greatest successes? Its greatest failures? And how well prepared is contemporary Slovakia for the challenges of the present and the near future?

SASW, FOS, and the Slovak Embassy have recruited four exceptional speakers to address these questions for this Slovakia@30 lecture series. They are:

January 18, 2023: H.E. Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States ("30 Years of Slovak Foreign Policy")

February 23, 2023: Kevin Deegan-Krause, Professor of Political Science, Wayne State University ("30 Years of Slovak Domestic Politics")

March 16, 2023: Ivan Mikloš, Chairman, Strategic Advisory Group for Supporting Ukrainian Reforms and former Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic ("30 Years of the Slovak Economy")

April 13, 2023: Zuzana Wienk, Director of Bystriny ("Currents"), a civil-society organization that helps civic initiatives and active citizens work together to improve their communities ("30 Years of Slovak Civil Society") [date to be confirmed]

To register to participate online visit Friends of Slovakia Facebook or LinkedIn.

particular scholarship. Competition was fierce for the larger \$ scholarships, but there seems to be more opportunity with the other scholarship offerings.

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

Good luck and Zdar Boh!

Edward D. Moeller

Supreme Vice President

Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee

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

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

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

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

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2023** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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



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

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ High School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

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

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

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that _____
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2022-2023 school year.

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

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2023. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANTS

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

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

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

APPLICATION

This application must be **received** on or before, **March 31, 2023** with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

DISQUALIFICATION

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RETURN OF GRANT

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



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, what year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that _____
(Name of student)

is a student at the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2022-2023 school year.

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

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF THIS APPLICATION IS MARCH 31, 2023. Return completed application to:
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 MADISON ST., P.O. BOX 899, PASSAIC, NJ 07055**

DRIVE TO 50 SALES CAMPAIGN

CELEBRATING THE 50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET

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

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

BENEFITING MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH

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

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

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

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

DRIVE TO 50 DETAILS

RECOMMENDER REWARDS

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

GROUP REWARDS

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

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



DRIVE TO 50 CAMPAIGN – Member Referral Card

Name _____

Address _____

Phone ____ - ____ - ____ Email: _____

Gender: Male Female Age _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / _____

RECOMMENDER INFORMATION Assembly/Wreath _____ Email _____

Name _____ Phone ____ - ____ - ____

Interest:
 Life Insurance
 Annuity



SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

LEGACY LIFE INSURANCE PLANS

PERMANENT PLANS

WHOLE LIFE ● SINGLE PREMIUM LIFE ● 20 PAYMENT LIFE

TERM PLANS

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

VANTAGE COLLECTION of ANNUITY PRODUCTS

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



KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - February 2023

Happy Valentine's Day

Word Search

Search for the hidden words going up, down, left or right.

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

ADMIRER	LOVE	CUPID
FRIENDSHIP	FLOWERS	CHOCOLATE
VALENTINE	CHERUB	HEART
COURTSHIP	HUGS	BOUQUET

www.nepamom.com

This is my hand.
My hand will do
A thousand loving things for you.
And you will remember
When I am tall...
That once my hand was just this small.
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Joseph Phillips	2/12
Riley Slonac	2/23
Aiden Ahern	2/23
Mackenzie Ahern	2/23
Lauren Martyak	2/28

Happy Presidents Day

THE 2022 RECAP OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS

(Continued from page 5)

Other announcements that were made were the winners of closest to the pin on the Silver Course, congratulations to Joe Murray and Karen Bakita. Our Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec said a few words and then awarded the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. He introduced the past winners of the award that were present including: Thomas P. Muldoon, Jr., Loretta S. Smith, John S. Hornacek, Robert R. Palchanis, Jr., and Edward Baker and then announced the winner of this year. Congratulations to Linda S. Frank from Youngstown, Ohio for being the 2022 recipient of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award. She was stunned! There was also a toast given in memory of the very good friend and past golf partner, Mary Margaret Starr. Sunday morning the golfers switched courses and off they went for round two.

Congratulations to Tom Iskra Jr. and Joe Underation for being closest to the pin on the Gold Course on Sunday.

The winners for the Golf Tournament are as followed: "A" Flight, from the SCS, Dave Iskra, Sr. with a score of 143, the best scratch score for "A" Flight from SCS, Joseph Murray with a 144! "B" Flight winner is from the SCS, Tom Iskra III with a score of 137, the best scratch score is Ryan Burfield from the SCS with a score of 164 "C" Flight winner and the best scratch goes to Chris P. Macko from the SCS with a score of 141 and scratch score of 183. Senior Flight winner from the SCS is John Hornacek with a score of 135, and the best scratch score goes to Anthony Nastasi from FCSU with a scratch score of 157. Callaway winner with the best score and the best scratch score is Hayden Macko from the SCS with a score of 147 and scratch score of 164. Women's winner is Carol Macko from SCS with a score of 150, the winner of the best scratch score is Stephanie Skorupka from SCS with a scratch score of 200.

The weekend could not have been any better. Beautiful weather, great food and lots of Fraternalism!

The upcoming year has generated a lot of excitement with the International Slet's 50th anniversary and Golf Tournament at the Beautiful Kennsington Resort in Youngstown!

Please check slovakcatholicsokol.org for all the details on upcoming events.

Zar Boh!

Frank Laury

Assistant Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...Presidents Day was established in 1885 in honor of President George Washington's birthday. His birthday was on February 22, 1732.

...the government debated renaming the holiday to Presidents Day to include President Abraham Lincoln's birthday, but the proposal failed in committees. Lincoln's birthday was actually on February 12, 1809.

...president Theodore Roosevelt has the most national parks named in his honor Lincoln is a close runner-up for that title.

...there are 35 parks named after American Presidents, and one park that celebrates four of them.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

COFFEE FILTERS ... Who knew! And you can buy 1,000 at the Dollar Tree for almost nothing even the large ones.

▶▶ Cover bowls or dishes when cooking in the microwave. Coffee filters make excellent covers.

▶▶ Clean windows, mirrors, and chrome... Coffee filters are lint-free so they'll leave windows sparkling.

▶▶ Protect China by separating your good dishes with a coffee filter between each dish.

▶▶ Filter broken cork from wine. If you break the cork when opening a wine bottle, filter the wine through a coffee filter.

▶▶ Protect a cast-iron skillet. Place a coffee filter in the skillet to absorb moisture and prevent rust.

▶▶ Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.

▶▶ Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.

▶▶ Weigh chopped foods. Place chopped ingredients in a coffee filter on a kitchen scale.

▶▶ Hold tacos. Coffee filters make convenient wrappers for messy foods.

▶▶ Stop the soil from leaking out of a plant pot. Line a plant pot with a coffee filter to prevent the soil from going through the drainage holes.

▶▶ Prevent a Popsicle from dripping. Poke one or two holes as needed in a coffee filter.

▶▶ Put a few in a plate and put your fried bacon, French fries, chicken fingers, etc on them. It soaks out all the grease.

▶▶ Put baking soda into a coffee filter and insert into shoes or a closet to absorb or prevent odors.

▶▶ Use them to strain soup stock and to tie fresh herbs in to put in soups and stews.

▶▶ Use a coffee filter to prevent spilling when you add fluids to your car.

▶▶ Use them as a spoon rest while cooking and clean up small counter spills.

▶▶ Can use to hold dry ingredients when baking or when cutting a piece of fruit or veggies. Saves on having extra bowls to wash.

▶▶ Use them to wrap Christmas ornaments for storage.

▶▶ Use them to remove fingernail polish when out of cotton balls.

▶▶ Some soups call for ingredients that need to be "fished" out of the soup before serving, like bay leaves, herbs with tough stems, or whole spices. Just place those ingredients in the center of a coffee filter, then twist it up and tie it off with a piece of twine. Drop the sachet into your simmering soup, and you'll be able to easily pluck it out when your soup is ready to serve.

▶▶ Keep a stack of coffee filters in your car. They are handy for keeping dust off of your console and dashboard. You can also use them as napkins in a pinch, or to clean up spills.



What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland**News and Views
from Slovakia...****30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

The Slovak Republic became an independent country on January 1st, 1993 when it agreed with the Czech Republic that Czechoslovakia would cease to exist and that both countries would become independent countries in their own right. It is also called the Velvet Revolution because it peacefully ended 74 years of communist rule in Czechoslovakia.

Slovakia's current population is 5.45 million people. The Czech Republic was recorded at 10,758,266 as of December 28, 2022.

Slovakia is now an independent developed country and is a member of European Union (EU), the Eurozone, the Schengen Area, the OECD, the United Nations and NATO.

Slovakia is the world's largest per-capita car producer and Slovakia manufactured a total of 1.1 million cars in 2019, representing 43% of its total industrial output, and it is a country which is home to 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

A gala evening marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak Republic took place at the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava on Saturday, January 7. The event, was attended by top state officials as well as important guests from abroad.

**MINISTER KACER WELCOMES DECLARATION
ON COOPERATION BETWEEN EU AND NATO**

Acting Foreign Affairs Minister Rastislav Kacer welcomes the joint declaration on cooperation between NATO and the European Union that was signed in Brussels on Tuesday, January 10 by European Council President Charles Michel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

"The long-awaited signing of the joint declaration confirms a key agreement between NATO and the EU on sharing not only the same values, but also the security environment. In response to the events in Ukraine last year, both organisations have demonstrated to us that they are standing on the right side of history," stated Kacer, who pointed out that NATO and EU membership are vital for Slovakia. "By their actions, they confirm in practice their irreplaceable role for us. Therefore, Slovakia supports maximum cooperation between the Alliance and the Union," he said.

This is the third joint declaration to be signed after the previous two signed in 2016 and 2018. "The context of the joint declaration is dominated by the war that Russia is waging in Ukraine. This war is undermining European security and stability and breaking international law and the principles of the UN Charter. The leaders of both organisations unambiguously condemn the Russian aggression and at the same time express their full solidarity with Ukraine. This war in our neighbourhood underlines the importance of trans-atlantic ties and the need for still closer cooperation between the EU and NATO," stated Kacer.

**UKRAINIAN VICE-PREMIER VISITED
THE HUMANITARIAN CENTRE IN GABCIKOVO**

Ukrainian Vice-premier Iryna Vereshchuk visited the Humanitarian Centre in Gabcikovo (Trnava region) on Monday, January 9. The facility, which is run by the Interior Ministry's Migration Office, has been providing accommodation and basic services to Ukrainian refugees since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022. Accompanied by Interior Ministry State Secretary Lubomir Sablica and Migration Office head Jan Orlovsky, the Ukrainian vice-premier visited the premises providing accommodation to Ukrainian citizens who had fled the war. "Since the beginning of the war, the Interior Ministry has been doing its utmost to help our Ukrainian friends fleeing Russian aggression. Thirty percent of the centre's residents have already found jobs in Slovakia," said Sablica. In the centre's cinema hall, Vereshchuk held a more than one-hour discussion with Ukrainians living in the centre. She said that she was pleased to see the premises where they live. "I listened to their opinions and experiences from the past months, and we held a constructive dialogue with our colleagues from Slovakia," stated Vereshchuk. At the same time she thanked Slovak officials for their attitude towards and help provided to refugees. According to Orlovsky, the situation in connection with refugees from Ukraine has been stabilised, and the Gabcikovo centre is functioning well.



The Calvary above the city of Prešov is a Baroque complex with beautiful views and valuable interiors. In the past, it was considered the second most beautiful Calvary in Austria-Hungary (after the Calvary in Banská Štiavnica). All chapels have a similar shape with a gable facade decorated with ornaments and the coat of arms of the donor and a semicircular vaulted entrance portal with a richly decorated grid. The second dominant of Calvary, the Chapel of the Holy Steps, deviates from the described shape. It was built in 1765 according to the model of the Sancta Scala chapel near the Lateran Church in Rome. A cemetery was also established next to the church and chapels. The cemetery was originally used to bury the donors of the Calvary, later it became the place to bury the people from nearby neighborhoods. The cemetery features several interesting and artistically valuable aristocratic and burgher crypts in the Empire and Historicism art styles. In 1836, catacombs were built under the church, serving as a tomb for priests.



DECEMBER 2022

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 25	Jeffrey A. Novak, Perryopolis, PA	64	December 8, 2022
Assembly 11	Maryann Galvan, Palos Hills, IL	86	November 29, 2022
Assembly 25	Earl G. Lohr, Smithton, PA	72	December 8, 2022
Assembly 48	Marie Sedor, Swedesburg, PA	92	November 11, 2022
Assembly 59	Ty Biggs, Hanover Twsp., PA	54	December 7, 2022
Assembly 78	Florence Sovorsky, Bethlehem, PA	91	November 29, 2022
Assembly 96	Walter P. Lisowski, Rochester, NY	72	August 21, 2022
Assembly 108	Mark A. Terpin, Bradenton, FL	73	November 18, 2022
Assembly 108	Dorothy Gregory, Cortland, OH	92	November 24, 2022
Assembly 188	Germaine Brunda, Nesquehoning, PA	75	December 6, 2022
Assembly 188	Michael Lukac, Lansford, PA	76	December 1, 2022
Assembly 312	Mark E. Lisowski, Rochester, NY	41	November 3, 2022
Wreath 2	Varonika Frankowski, Clifton, NJ	92	November 30, 2022
Wreath 11	Anna Yakush, Amsterdam, NY	96	November 21, 2022
Wreath 13	Helen Sroba, Trevoise, PA	94	December 12, 2022
Wreath 15	Darlene Uhutch, Roscoe, PA	82	December 1, 2022
Wreath 14	John F. Kubacka, Johnstown, PA	78	December 3, 2022
Wreath 39	Mary C. Mojcher, Stratford, CT	100	November 28, 2022
Wreath 81	Joseph Kertis, Raleigh, NC	94	December 4, 2022
Wreath 93	Ruth Lang, New Berlin, WI	98	November 9, 2022
Wreath 93	Marlene A. Coleman, LaCrosse, WI	97	November 24, 2022
Wreath 111	Margaret J. Hare, Lorain, OH	90	June 24, 2022

**SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MUSEUM
DONATIONS OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022**

We are pleased to acknowledge the following donations which were received during the period October through December 2022 for our Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum located at our home office in Passaic, NJ. A donation in someone's honor is a great way to pay tribute to a Sokol member who has been active in your Group, Assembly, or Wreath.

The monies received from these donations fund our annual \$1,000 Memorial Scholarships which assist our young people in their educational endeavors. The number of scholarships the Museum Board gives out, depends upon the amount of donations received.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of	Donated By	Amount
Dolly Hussar	Honorary Supreme Officer Julie Dobbs and her husband James	\$ 25.00
Dennis Zifcak	Honorary Supreme Officer Julie Dobbs and her husband James	25.00
Dolly Hussar	Supreme Treasurer James Knis and his wife Michele	50.00
Dolly Hussar	Group 5, Cleveland, OH	250.00
Living and Deceased Members of SCS Group 7	Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, PA	100.00
Barbara Wentling	Group 12, Reading, PA	200.00
Joseph and Margaret Pramik	Celeste Oprean	100.00
Total Donations this quarter:		\$ 750.00
Total donations for 2022:		\$ 4,785.00

Thank you for your generosity,
James F. Knis, Supreme Treasurer



Life insurance is always a perfect gift for that special loved one. It's a gift that will last a lifetime. It cannot be lost, stolen, broken or squandered away. It is economical, worth something immediately and appreciates in value over the years.

Of course it is a Slovak Catholic Sokol life insurance policy or annuity plan. By providing your child, grandchild or other members of your family and friends with a Sokol insurance policy, you have a number of advantages which should be considered. It is first and foremost a lifetime of insurance protection at a cost that can never be replicated. It also creates a cash value account that may be used for future college expenses or some other of life's emergencies. And, you will have also protected that loved one's insurability which means that no matter what happens to their health in the future, they will always be insured under the policy you purchased for them.

Another important fact about life insurance is that it is the cornerstone of any financial plan. By purchasing a policy today when rates are low, you will have started that special child or grandchild off on the right road to financial success.

And in addition, the Slovak Catholic Sokol offers a number of fraternal benefits. Our athletic and gymnastic programs emphasize our belief in both physical and mental health, as well as our commitment to our fraternal way of life. Each year, our organization provides scholarship grants to our members. As a firm believer in the Catholic school system, we provide grants to students attending Catholic grade school and high school. We also offer a generous number of college scholarships as well.

So why not purchase that life insurance policy or annuity plan now so that the new year can start that loved one on the road to financial success. Give a call to our Home Office at 1 800 886-7656. We will provide you with all the rates and applications or see your local Assembly or Wreath officers.

Sokol life insurance policy makes a wonderful birthday gift, first Holy Communion, Confirmation or graduation gift as well. Think about it and start that favorite loved one on the road to financial success.

EURÓPA ZAŽILA DRUHÝ NAJTEPLEJŠÍ ROK V HISTÓRII MERANÍ

V celosvetovom meradle sa rok 2022 zaradil na piate miesto. Celoročný priemer teplôt v Európe bol vlni druhý najvyšší v histórii záznamov. Vyšší priemer bol iba v roku 2020.

Minuloročné leto bolo v Európe doteraz najteplejšie a sprevádzali ho mimoriadne dlhé a intenzívne vlny horúčav na západe a severe kontinentu.

V celosvetovom meradle sa rok 2022 zaradil na piate miesto, vyplýva to zo správy agentúry Európskej únie pre sledovanie atmosféry a klimatických zmien Copernicus.

Podľa meraní zaznamenala Európa najvyššie emisie škodlivých plynov z lesných požiarov za uplynulých 15 rokov a rovnako ako v posledných rokoch rástla koncentrácia oxidu uhličitého a metánu v ovzduší.

V mnohých krajinách západnej a južnej Európy bol minulý rok najteplejší v histórii, v ostatných častiach kontinentu však v minulosti zaznamenali vyšší teplotný priemer.

Podľa správy bolo vlni o 0,3 stupňa Celzia chladnejšie ako v roku 2020 a o desatinu stupňa teplejšie ako v rokoch 2014, 2015 a 2019. V celej Európe okrem Islandu boli ročné teploty vyššie ako priemer z rokov 1991 až 2020.

Teplota v Európe sa za posledných 30 rokov zvýšila viac ako dvakrát oproti celosvetovému priemeru a jej nárast je najvyšší zo všetkých kontinentov na svete.

Teplotne nadpriemerné bolo najmä leto, čo v kombinácii so suchým počasím viedlo k neobvykle vysokému počtu požiarov v juhozápadnej Európe, najmä vo Francúzsku a Španielsku.

“Rok 2022 bol ďalším rokom klimatických extrémov v Európe aj na celom svete. Už teraz pociťujeme ničivé dôsledky otepľujúceho sa sveta. Následkom môže ľudstvo predísť iba v prípade, ak urýchlene zníži emisie uhlíka a rýchlo sa prispôsobí meniacej sa klíme,” uviedla Samantha Burgessová, zástupkyňa riaditeľa služby Copernicus Climate Change Service.

V celosvetovom meradle bol minulý rok o 0,3 stupňa Celzia nad priemerom obdobia 1991 až 2020. Napríklad v niektorých častiach Sibíri či severnej Antarktídy prekročili teploty tento priemer o dva stupne.

Antarktického morského ľadu ubudlo toľko, že jeho minimálny rozsah bol najnižší za obdobie 44 rokov, počas ktorých sa stav ľadovcov sleduje cez satelity. – ČTK



KÚTIK HUMORU



Vošiel som do lekárne, uvidel som ceny za lieky a vrátil som sa domov. Povedal som si, že lepšie bude umrieť. Pozrel som si ceny za pohrebné služby a vrátil som sa do lekárne.

Vtáčia chrípka, opičie kiahne....vyzerá ro tak, že skončíme u zverolekára!

V taxíku sa vezie opitý muž a začne sa vyzliekať. Taxikár mu povie: “Nevyzliekajte, ešte nie ste doma.”

Muž reaguje: “To mi hovoríte teraz, keď som už dal topánky za dvere?”

SLOVENSKÉ OPÁLOVÉ BANE



Krásne opály zo Slovenských opálových baní, ktoré sa nachádzajú na východnom Slovensku medzi obcami Červenica a Zlatá Baňa, obdivuje celý svet. Dnes sú banské diela vychytenou turistickou lokalitou a technickou pamiatkou.

Opálové bane predstavujú svetový skvost a národný poklad Slovákov, ktorý stále ukrýva množstvo neprebádaných chodieb, tajomstiev a legendárneho opálu. Slovenské opálové bane sú najstaršie na svete a v Európe jediné.

V podzemí je približne 30 kilometrov banských chodieb a 17 horizontov, z ktorých je päť zaplavených. Sprístupnených pre verejnosť je 1 280 metrov.

Opálové bane boli známe po celom svete už od konca 16. storočia. Drahý opál, ktorý sa v nich ťažil, si zvlášť obľúbili členovia rodiny cisára Napoleona. Cisárovná Jozefína nosila najslávnejší opál Oheň trójsky. Najväčší opál menom Harlekýn je uložený v prírodovednom múzeu vo Viedni.

Bane z dôvodu povojnových rokov a zlej ekonomickej situácie ukončili ťažbu v roku 1922 na lokalite Libanka a v ostatných banských poliach. Zlatý vek opálových baní pri obci Červenica dnes pripomína zrekonštruovaný vchod štôlne Jozef, kde je hlavný vstup do podzemia opálových baní.

VÝROBA ÁUT NA SLOVENSKU VLANI KLESLA

Napriek celoročným problémom s nedostatkom rôznych komponentov poklesla výroba áut na Slovensku minulý rok len približne o päť percent. V roku 2021 sa vyrobilo niečo viac ako 1 000 000 automobilov. Na každých 1000 obyvateľov sa na Slovensku v roku 2021 vyrobilo 184 vozidiel. SR tak naďalej zostáva svetovou jednotkou v počte vyrobených áut na tisíc obyvateľov. Zároveň Slovensko patrí k absolútnej svetovej špičke aj v množstve vyrobených áut v prepočte na zamestnancov. Priamo v automotive pracuje 176 000 ľudí.

AKO V DOMÁCNOSTI VYUŽIŤ SÓDU BIKARBÓNU

Jedlá sóda má nekonečný potenciál. Okrem pečenia ju môžeme použiť aj ako pomocníka v domácnosti.

Ak chcete spriechodniť upchatý odtok, najprv doň nasypete šálku jedlej sódy a potom nalejte 1-2 šálky octu. Nechajte pôsobiť asi 20 minút a potom do odtoku nalejte liter vriacej vody. Ak je odtok silne upchatý, postup zopakujte.



Jedlá sóda je starý domáci prostriedok, ktorý rozpúšťa masť, odstraňuje vodný kameň a neutralizuje nepríjemné pachy. Na výrobu čistiaceho prostriedku stačí zmiešať sódu bikarbónu a vodu na pastu. Potom ju naneste pomocou špongie na čistený povrch, nechajte pôsobiť a zotrite vlhkou handričkou. Ak chcete neutralizovať zápach napríklad v chladničke, umiestnite do nej malú misku s jedlou sódou.

Pridanie štipky sódy bikarbóny do vody na varenie strukovín, ako je hrach, šošovica, fazuľa či cícer, urýchli ich zmäknutie. Niektorí dávajú trochu sódy bikarbóny aj pri varení kapusty, vraj to zabráni nadúvaniu. Aj vajcia sa budú ľahšie šúpať, ak dáte do vody, v ktorej sa varia, jedlú sódu.

Sóda bikarbóna je univerzálna aj pri praní. Pridajte polievkovú lyžicu priamo do pracieho prostriedku. Vďaka nej bude bielizeň nielen žiarivo biela, ale aj zmäkčená. Ak chcete odstrániť nepríjemný zápach z oblečenia, rozpustíte polievkovú lyžicu jedlej sódy v piatich litroch vody. Nechajte v nej bielizeň hodinu namočenú a potom ju vyperte.

Sóda bikarbóna má alkalický účinok, ktorý môže pomôcť pri pálení záhy a prekyslení. Nikdy ho však neužívajte v kryštalickom stave, ale iba rozpustený vo vode. Zmiešajte malé množstvo sódy bikarbóny s vodou, citrónovou šťavou a troškou cukru či medu a vypite.

Ak pridáte do vody s rezanými kvetmi lyžičku sódy bikarbóny, zostanú čerstvé oveľa dlhšie.

Ak máte v domácnosti mravcov, nasypete sódu všade, kadiaľ chodia, aj d otvorov odkiaľ vychádzajú.

KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Štyridsaťpäť percent Slovákov vníma existenciu samostatného Slovenska ako úspešný príbeh. Ďalších 44 percent s tým nesúhlasí. Vyplýva to z prieskumu agentúry NMS Market Research, ktorý sa realizoval od 18. do 22. novembra na vzorke 1027 respondentov. Najväčšie rozdiely sú u ľudí s rôznym stupňom vzdelania. S vyšším vzdelaním je v spoločnosti viac Slovákov, ktorí hodnotia existenciu samostatného Slovenska ako úspešný príbeh. Za najpozitívnejší vplyv na vývoj samostatného Slovenska najviac respondentov (27 percent) považuje vstup do Európskej únie, NATO a prijatie eura. Za udalosť, ktorá negatívne ovplyvnila vývoj Slovenska, najviac respondentov (40 percent) označilo pandémiu ochorenia COVID-19. Za druhú najnegatívnejšiu udalosť označili zase víťazstvo hnutia OĽANO v posledných parlamentných voľbách (32 percent). Trojicu negatívnych míľnikov uzatvára vznik vlády Vladimíra Mečiara v roku 1994 (26 percent).

Slovensko vyslalo na maďarsko-srbskú hranicu ďalších 38 policajtov. Doterajšiu skupinu príslušníkov Policajného zboru vystriedajú pri pomoci s ochranou tejto vonkajšej schengenskej hranice pred nelegálnou migráciou. Zostať by mali do konca februára. Koncom decembra 2022 vyslalo Slovensko 30 policajtov aj do operácií Frontexu (Európska pohraničná a pobrežná stráž) v Rumunsku a Srbsku. Úlohou slovenských policajtov bude hraničný dozor a hľadková činnosť v spoločných tímoch s maďarskými kolegami v oblasti mesta Kiskunhalas od ochranného plota na srbsko-maďarskej hranici smerom do vnútrozemia. Taktiež budú vykonávať úlohy podľa aktuálnych operačných potrieb maďarskej strany. Minister vnútra potvrdil, že v prípade potreby bude pôsobenie príslušníkov Policajného zboru v Maďarsku predĺžené.

Slovenská populácia starne a má viac ako milión ľudí vo veku nad 64 rokov. O 30 rokov bude podľa prognóz Európskej komisie na Slovensku o takmer 600-tisíc viac ľudí vo veku 65 rokov a viac a o 700-tisíc menej ľudí v produktívnom veku medzi 15 a 64 rokov.

Nový výskum amerického inštitútu NiceRx zaradil Slovensko do desať krajín s najkratšou strednou dĺžkou života v OECD. Slovensko sa umiestnilo na 3. mieste s priemernou dĺžkou života 78 rokov. Krajina s najkratšou priemernou dĺžkou života s priemerom 75,7 rokov je Lotyšsko. Na čele rebríčka je Hong Kong so strednou dĺžkou života 85,29 rokov.

Na Slovensku sa zvýši počet zahraničných vojakov v rámci mnohonárodnej bojovej skupiny NATO. Pribudnú vojaci zo Švédska a z Fínska, rozhodla vláda. Návrh musí ešte prerokovať parlament. Rozširuje sa tak návrh z mája 2022, keď parlament schválil prítomnosť do 700 vojakov z Českej republiky, do 200 vojakov z Holandska, do 100 vojakov z Poľska, do 200 slovenských, do 600 amerických a do 1 200 nemeckých vojakov.



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