

Za Boha a národ

For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský katolícky sokol

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*May all your prayers be answered
and may you feel the Lord's
presence near you...
not only for Easter,
but always.*

Happy Easter!

Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

Our Lenten journey is coming to an end and on Sunday, April 9, 2023 we will celebrate Easter Sunday when we all rejoice the simple message of "He Is Risen" the foundation of our Christian faith. There is one more week in our Lenten journey and that is Pas-



sion – Holy week. Holy week starts on Palm Sunday giving us a special week to prepare for Easter were we can truly reflect on how we lived our lives this Lenten season and use this week to make up for any of our shortfalls.

Easter allows us to carry-on our Slovak traditions to celebrate our Catholic faith just as our ancestors did in Slovakia. How many of us still prepare Easter Baskets to have blessed for the special meal to enjoy on Easter Sunday. As generations move forward it is important to pass on to the next generations our Slovak traditions into the future.

Only we can preserve these traditions for our children and grandchildren, let us make it happen.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors held its First 2023 Quarterly Meeting on Friday, March 17 and on Saturday, March 18, 2023 at the Scranton Hilton in Scranton, PA. The Board heard the following 2022 reports; Museum and Scholarship, Financial, Audit, Budget, Legal, Mortgage, Donation requests, Physical Fitness, Actuary, and Investments. An investment presentation was given by Mr. William Grundig of Dynasty Advisors who explained his thoughts on investing.

The Governance Committee Chairperson, Sister Kathleen Watkins and Sister Julie Dobbs gave a presentation on the work the committee did over the past several months comparing the Slovak Catholic Sokol to other fraternal. The Committee is recommending some changes they feel are needed to make our Society better.

The Governance Committee is still accepting suggestions on

(Continued on page 8)

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Slovak Catholic Sokol Public Group



1st Quarter Board of Directors Meeting was held on March 17 and 18 in Scranton, PA. Standing (Left to right): Supreme Physical Director, Martin Degnan; Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon; General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr.; Chairperson of Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek; Supreme Treasurer, James F. Knis; Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller. Sitting: Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath; Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift; Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic; Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.

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



The month of March kept with normal tradition and delivered us on the east coast a handful of cold and bitter days. Now that April has arrived, we can certainly look forward to enjoying the long-awaited season of spring.



I am pleased to report that the First Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors, held March 17th-18th at the Hilton Scranton, in Scranton, PA was very successful. The

Hilton Scranton is the site of our upcoming 34th Quadrennial Convention to be held August 5th-8th, 2023. This past year was an extremely challenging year as we experienced enormous volatility in our financial markets. But I am proud of our Board and our Home Office Staff as we continue to persevere through it all. In the coming issues, you can read the activity reports of our Supreme Assembly regarding their duties performed in 2022. I hope you take the time to read these reports as your Directors have put their time and energy in servicing our fine organization. We also had the opportunity to hear from our Board Governance Committee, represented by Kathleen Watkins and Julie Dobbs. I thank Sister Kathy, Sister Julie, and the entire committee for all their hard work and dedication to the organization. A society like ours needs to continue to evolve to stay relevant and I believe many of the Governance Committee's recommendations are trying to do just that.

I hope that many of our members are taking the time to schedule and celebrate Join Hands Day on Saturday, May 6th. It is a national day of volunteering sponsored by America's fraternal benefit societies. It is a day of community service that specifically targets and develops relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Many communities across the world use this day as a building block to start the communication process between the

young and old. With the mix of our young adults and our "wise and experienced" members, the Slovak Catholic Sokol can be a shining example of this special day. Since its inception, Join Hands Day has enjoyed the support and participation of many of our members. I urge our local Group, Assembly and Wreath leaders to schedule a community service event and let the rest of our membership know about it through our Falcon. For the past 118 years, our organization has encouraged our members to get involved in their communities because it is essential to our identity. Remember, Join Hands Day should not only be celebrated one day a year. This is what we do and who we are as Sokols!

Around this time every four years, the Home Office Staff usually is in "Convention Mode". This year is no different as we have received the delegate forms by the March 31st deadline. As a democratic institution, the Convention is the highest governing body in our organization. The next couple of months, we will publish the names of all the delegates who have been selected to participate as representatives of their local Assembly, Wreath, and Group. In the next couple of weeks, our Delegates will receive an instructional packet with details regarding the process to reserve their room, tentative schedule, nighttime activities, etc. In lieu of being more efficient and saving on postage, we will be posting a lot of the "Convention Items" on the Convention Menu on our website, www.slovak-catholicsokol.org. The Convention Menu should be up and running by May 1st. If any Delegates would like hard copies of any particular report, you can always contact me at the Home Office. Even if you are not a delegate, you still have time to offer input and suggestions for the good of the organization. You may submit any recommended changes to either the Bylaws or New Motions Committee, which will be meeting in late May/early June. Any suggested recommendations must be made in writing, signed, and mailed to the Home Office by May

21st for consideration and review.

And finally, allow me to take this opportunity to wish all our members and families a blessed and joyous Easter. On behalf of my beautiful Wife, Maggie, our Sons, Reid and Cole, and our entire Family, may you and yours enjoy a wonderful Easter! God Bless and Zdar Boh!

Sokol Calendar

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

GROUP 5 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING will be held in conjunction with the **GROUP 5 BOWLING TOURNAMENT** at AMF bowling – Rivera Lanes 20 S Miller Rd. Fairlawn, OH. The group meeting will start at 11:15 a.m. and bowling to follow at 12:30/1:00 p.m.. All group 5 officers are encouraged to attend the meeting, whether bowling or not. Any questions please call Group 5 Secretary Sue Blosser at 770-853-7257.

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.

AUGUST 5-8, 2023

34TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, Scranton, PA.

AUGUST 18-20, 2023

GOLF TOURNAMENT at Kensington Golf Club, Canfield, OH.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATE

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

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

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic
THE LORD IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then



the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." Matthew 28:2-6b

What an experience that must have been! Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb early in the morning to pay tribute to our Lord's sacred body. They brought the oils and perfumes that they planned on placing on his beaten and bruised body. They came to offer Him their last act of love. But as the women arrived, the earth quaked, and the angel of God appeared to them.

As they left, Scripture says they then left the tomb quickly, "fearful yet overjoyed." All they could think about was telling the other disciples of their encounter when another incredible joy befell them. Jesus Himself met them on the way. In their amazement, the women fell at His feet and did Him homage. Not the homage they planned on doing to a dead body, but the homage due to a risen Savior. They worshipped Him. Jesus then spoke: "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me" (Mt. 28:10).

It was true. All they had hoped for came true. They saw Jesus arrested. They saw Him beaten. They saw Him falsely accused. They saw Him sentenced to death. And they saw Him die. Now for the miracle of miracles, they saw their Savior alive. Every hope that they had come true. Everything came to fruition in that moment. All that was lost was restored a hundredfold.

The Resurrection of Christ is not simply an event that took place long ago. It's an event that continues to take

place when we patiently walk with our Lord through the trials, crosses, and sufferings of life, with hope and trust in His power to do all good things. Evil always loses in the end when we remain steadfast in our hope in Him.

As we celebrate the reality of the Resurrection of Christ, ponder the promise He has spoken to you. If you have surrendered all to Him and died to the world of sin, keep your eyes now on the Resurrection. Have hope in Him and in His power to breathe new life into your heaviest cross.

Sometimes we have hope in our own ideas of the Resurrection. We ask for some hope to come true because we think it is what we need. But the Resurrection of Christ should teach us that His plan for new life for each one of us is far superior to what we could ever imagine. Do you believe that? Do you maintain your hope in Christ even when all seems lost?

Reflect, today, upon the unfathomable plan that God has for your life. Know that if you remain faithful until the end, our Lord will bring forth greater joys in your life than you could ever think possible. It may not happen according to your schedule or your wishes, but it will happen in accordance with His perfect divine will. Do not doubt. Do not be afraid. Have hope and trust and anticipate the moments when the power of the Resurrection brings forth the greatest joys you could ever imagine.

My Resurrected Lord, I trust You with all my mind, heart, soul and strength. I believe that You are faithful to perfection and that Your fidelity will never fail. Give me hope when I need it the most and help me to keep my eyes on the glory that awaits. You have conquered all evil. May I always trust in You!

Môj vzkriesený Pane, dôverujem Ti celou svojou mysl'ou, srdcom, dušou a silou. Verím, že si verný dokonalosti a že Tvoja vernosť nikdy nesklame. Daj mi nádej, keď ju najviac potrebujem, a pomôž mi, aby som upieral oči na slávu, ktorá ma čaká. Premohli ste všetko zlo. Nech Ti vždy dôverujem!

JOIN HANDS DAY IS OBSERVED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY

This year, Join Hands Day is Saturday May 6, 2023. Its focus is uniting the older generation with the younger generation through volunteering. Join Hands Day was founded in 2000 by the America's Fraternal Benefit Societies in partnership with the Point of Light foundation as a way for two generations to volunteer for a greater purpose, "creating a world where no one sits on the sidelines."- points of light.



It is a way for groups of people of all ages to share an experience for a cause greater than their own. It is through a common event or activity that a greater bond is fostered between the two generations as opposed to creating further dis-

tance. This humanitarian national holiday encourages all age groups to come together and participate in acts of kindness.

Our organization hosts sporting events in which multi-generations participate. It is not uncommon to see fathers and sons bowling or golfing together during the International Tournaments. Mothers and daughters have also been seen enjoying sporting events together. Our Sokol traditions are passed on from one generation to the next. Adding a humanitarian event will strengthen the connection even more and bridge the generational gap. Having local groups participate in Join Hands Day is a goal supported by the Supreme Officers and Local group Presidents.

(Continued on page 9)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2022

REPORT OF THE SUPREME CHAPLAIN

Pochvalen bud' Pán Ježíš Kristus!
Oslavujte prvé štvrt'ročné stretnutie;

In Compliance with Section 4.0 article (h) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my report of activities for the calendar year 2022. The duties, obligations and responsibilities of the Office of the Supreme Chaplain are clearly spelled out in the Bylaws. I tried to the best of my ability to fulfill them.

Following is a listing and brief explanation of my activities:

I attended/ participated in all four quarterly Board of Director meetings which were called by our Supreme President. Three of the meetings were held in person, one was held as a zoom meeting. For the meetings in person, I provided Mass for those in attendance to meet their Sunday obligation.

In conjunction with the third quarterly meeting, I attended the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

I was asked to attend/participate in the closing day for the International Clinic on July 16, 2022 held at Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. I provided Mass for the participants and guests.

I attended the Group Presidents meeting held Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2022 in Scranton, PA at which I participated in the discussions and provided Mass for the participants and guests.

As National President for the Slovak Catholic Federation I conducted the order of business for both the Spring and Fall Board meetings as well as represented our organization as per one of my duties in the bylaws.

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

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

I sincerely wish to thank my mom for her love and support over this past year. To the parishioners of Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA and Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harveys Lake, PA, I am appreciative for their patience and understanding during my absence from the parish in order for me to fulfill my duties as Supreme Chaplain.

I am most appreciative to our Supreme President, Mr. Michael Horvath for his encouragement and support, along with our Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC for his time, energy, and dedication to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and his support shown to me.

I pray that we commit ourselves to do our part to live our organization's slogan, "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body", and we defend our organization's motto, "For God and Nation". As we begin our 118th year we can be very proud of our impressive past, may we commit ourselves to assure a promising future.

ZDARBOH!
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic
Supreme Chaplain

REPORT OF THE SUPREME PRESIDENT

Pochvalen bud' Pán Ježíš Kristus!

In compliance with Section 3.2, Article (t) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my 2022 annual report to the Board of Directors and members for their review. Section 4.1 of the Constitution and Bylaws list the duties, obligations, and responsibilities of the Supreme President.

2022 the Society celebrated its 117th year and the year had unusual highs and lows. What we all experienced were issues that had not been seen in decades, such as the riding highs of the economy, to the economy diving faster than a hawk going after its prey; how inflation surfaced to be the cause of all our economic woes when jobs are good, but not the amount that pushed unemployment to historic lows, when no one wants to work and employers cannot find works. All economic theories seem to have upended in what was normally our stable economic growth. As in the past, time balances out the ups and down and we learn how to live in the new economic world.

Living in fear! What we experienced and learned on February 24, 2022, is that world peace in this modern world is still as fragile as it was before the information and cyber world was created. Who would ever thought we would see an invasion of a 21st century modern government by another advanced society for made up pretenses by an unhinged despotic leader for the sake of personal autocratic beliefs of the old world. The citizens of Ukraine have suffered 12 months of hell they do not deserve since they just like us want to live in peace, provide for their families, educate their children and give them the best lives they could. But they are living a life as refugees, huddled together in basements and looking for a safe place to survive the hellish bombardment of missiles daily which end up killing innocent citizens. Let us continue to support the country of Ukraine and the Ukrainian citizens in prayer and life needed supplies.

The Society's Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, Jr. F.I.C. retired in April 2022 after 12 years of leading the Slovak Catholic Sokol sales efforts. We all wish Brother Al an incredibly happy and healthy retirement. We all know he will be enjoying many more rounds of golf.

I chaired and presided over all the Board of Director meetings that were held in-person or virtual in 2022. I want to thank the Board for the work they did in 2022.

I wrote monthly article that were printed in the Falcon to inform the membership of what I did in the previous month, insight to was planned for the upcoming months and messages of the need for life insurance and annuity investment in our Society.

I sat in on the Supreme Physical Fitness Board meetings held virtually and in-person in 2022 and offered my thoughts to their planning of our fraternal events.

I represented the Slovak Catholic Sokol at the Slovak Catholic Federation's 2022 spring meeting held at Sisters of Saint Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA and the fall meeting held at St. Andrew's' Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

I attended and participated in our 76th International Bowling tournament held May 13-14, 2022, in Cleveland, Ohio. I had

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2022

(Continued from page 5)

the privilege of awarding the 2022 Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award for Bowling to Brother Don Papcun from Assembly 36, Detroit, MI.

Participated in the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee's selection meeting.

On June 17, 2022 I attended the funeral of our past Supreme Office Lieutenant Colonel, (retired) Dennis Zifcak in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. Brother Zifcak proudly served the Slovak Catholic Sokol as Supreme Office for more than 16 years.

I was invited by Assembly 78, Group 10, Bethlehem, PA to attend the Mass to honor all living and deceased member of the Assembly and speak at their Anniversary and Reunion celebration on June 5, 2022.

The Supreme Physical Fitness Board held the 50th Slet Clinic at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA to prepare the Group Directors and Directresses and their assistants for the 50th International Slet. It was my pleasure to attend the Clinic's closing ceremony and see the enthusiasm of the Sokol Fitness Board and the Group leaders. They accomplished a lot in the short time they had to create, modify and train.

The Governance Committee was selected from the members that sent in letter requesting to be on the Committee. Sister, Kathleen Watkins, Past Supreme Officer and President of Group 14, Pittsburgh, PA accepted the Chair of the Committee. The Committee will study our Society to other Slovak Catholic Societies and make recommendations that can improve the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Participated in the virtual organizational meetings the Committee held before they began their studies.

I attended and participated in 67th International Golf Tournament held August 12-14, 2022 in Dubois, PA. It was the first time in many years the time of the tournament did not conflict with family vacation. I was able to share the awarding of the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award for Golfing to Sister Linda S. Frank, from Wreath 54, Group 17.

After the September Board of the Directors meeting held September 17-18, 2022 in Cleveland, Ohio the Board attended the Centennial Mass of Thanksgiving of the Benedictine Order of Cleveland. After the Mass the Board of Directors attended the 100 year banquet where I gave congratulatory greeting on behalf of the Society and members.

On October 1, 2022, the Society's Group Presidents assemble at the Scranton Hilton in Scranton, PA for their pre-Convention meeting. The Presidents spoke on what they were doing in their Groups and heard from our Supreme Secretary and myself on the By-Laws and their duties. They gave themselves 6 goals to accomplish by the end of 2022 and before the 34th Quadrennial Convention in 2023.

I attended the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance's annual meeting held on October 16-18, 2022 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA.

On November 4, 2022, Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I honored Brother Michael Matras for being the 2021 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. With Brother Matras's family and friends we celebrated his accomplishments as a participant in many of the Society's fraternal

activities and for bringing to the Society new members over the past four decades.

I represented the Society on November 6, 2022 at Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh annual Slovak Festival. The Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Radovan Jarocik, commented on the Program and how the University is helping with spreading information on the importance of Slovakia in the global community.

I met with the Supreme Auditors when they did the Annual and Semi-Annual audits done at the Home Office in Passaic, NJ.

I sat in on many Webinars PNC Investments, our investment professional advisor, the American Fraternal Alliance and others businesses and associations held during the year that helped give the Society a better understanding of what was happening in banking, investment and economic arenas and the Fraternal Benefit Society world.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I made visits to the Scranton Hilton to start making arrangements for the Society's 34th Quadrennial Convention August 5-8, 2023 in Scranton, PA.

Brother Scott and I talk a couple times a week to go over issues the Society faces and to discuss upcoming meetings and activities. I want to Thank Brother Scott for his ability to handle all that he has to do as our Supreme Secretary daily, weekly, monthly and yearly. He has been able to manage the business and fraternal ends of the Society making sure everything is accomplished efficiently and on time. He is a great partner in seeing that all he and I do is for the betterment of the Society.

Thank you to the Home Office staff; you are the true heart of the Society. You see to it that all the business is done professionally, courteously, in a timely manner and is accurate. All members should be proud of your abilities and dedication.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me this past year. It is not easy to find solutions to every problem but tough decisions have to be made and administered in a fair a just manner for total support for the Society not any individual.

I finish by giving Thanks to my wife, Suzanne, the rest of my family, Group 7 and Assembly 59 and Society members for the support they have given me this past year to help me fulfill my duties as the President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Thank You.

With God's Blessings to All, Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Horvath
President

REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

Slávna Ročná Schôdza!

In compliance with Section 4.3, Article (n) page 26 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I hereby submit my written Annual Report for the year 2022 to the Supreme Board of Directors.

My duties, obligations, and responsibilities as the Supreme Secretary are clearly listed in our Bylaws and I have performed these duties for the past year to the best of my ability. I wish to report that all decisions made by the Board of Directors and

any City, State or Federal mandates, have been executed as required.

This past year our organization celebrated its 117th Anniversary as a fraternal benefit society and it was a challenging year for everyone as we dealt with the after-effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

After reviewing all the financial reports which will be presented to this Annual Meeting, I am certain that you will concur with me that our organization, like others, has experienced and endured another year filled with challenges and uncertainties. The Society continues to remain financially strong even after providing numerous fraternal benefits and services to our members.

HOME OFFICE EFFICIENCY

The Home Office staff continues to be one of our most valuable assets. As in previous years, the Home Office continues to make every effort possible to provide courteous and efficient service as needed. The employees are constantly updating and requesting information on behalf of our members. Along with our software provider, the staff has gone through extensive training in getting information to our members and agents in a quick and efficient manner. With all the technological advances in our world today, our staff has implemented changes to make items more accessible and the changes have proven to be successful. I would also like to thank and congratulate our former Director of Sales, Albert J. Suess, on his retirement. Albert was given the task in 2009 to build an agency force from scratch for the Society and the goal has most certainly been accomplished. We thank him for his service to the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

During the past year, we have consistently updated the hardware and software used in our Editorial Department and have made upgrades to our Sokol Website. We have also made significant inroads in the ever-changing world of social media as we look to engage all members of our Society. I would like to thank Livia Karak and Louie Smeriglio for all their hard work and dedication.

During the year in my capacity as the Supreme Secretary, it was necessary to attend various Financial and insurance seminars, meetings, and classes. New rules and regulations on both the state and federal level continue to emerge. The reporting process to all the life insurance related agencies and State Insurance Departments is an important task, but necessary to protect our fine organization. The Home Office staff and Board of Directors have done a great job meeting all the requirements and making the necessary changes to operate in an efficient manner.

Looking ahead to the future, I am confident that with the support of our Supreme Officers and our members, we will continue to make prudent decisions to meet all challenges that may come our way.

STATISTICS

The amount of Premium Income received during the year was \$5,525,000 of which \$1,915,000 was for life insurance premiums and \$3,610,000 was received as annuity premiums. The face amount of insurance written totaled \$5,100,000 and the total amount of insurance in force was \$239,476,000. The Society has 26,673 members with 29,804 certificates in force and 78 Assemblies/Wreaths. Assets as of 12/31/2020 were \$99,750,407 and the Adjusted Unassigned Funds total \$7,208,000. The Solvency ratio is a financially strong 107%.

COMMENTS

Many successful activities were held throughout the year on the local, group, and national levels. The National Tournaments

under the direction of our Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and assisted by the Supreme Physical Fitness Board all proved to be a success for the organization. I would like to commend Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, Supreme Physical Director, Martin Dignan, and Supreme Physical Directress, Katie Swift, and the entire Supreme Physical Fitness Board on a job well done.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere fraternal thanks and gratitude to our Directors, Honorary Supreme Officers, and all members of the Supreme Assembly for their support and cooperation throughout the year, especially once again our Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath. Your passion and love for the Slovak Catholic Sokol is very much appreciated. To all our Group, Assembly, and Wreath Officers, again I say "thank you" for all your hard work and dedication. And finally, I would like to thank all our loyal members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

CONCLUSION

As the Slovak Catholic Sokol begins its 118th year as a Fraternal Benefit Society, the administrators of our organization will face numerous challenges concerning the life insurance industry. I have the utmost confidence in our Supreme Board of Directors and our professionals that the membership of our fine organization will always come first.

In closing it is very important to me to thank my Wife, Maggie, my Sons, Reid Thomas and Cole William, and my entire Family. Thank you for all the love, patience, and support you have given me and for always being there to provide inspiration.

God Bless our Board of Directors, all our Members and the Slovak Catholic Sokol! Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY

AS OF 12/31/22

ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 682,735	\$ 4,437,366
Investments - Bonds & Bills	87,949,279	86,597,199
Investments - Stocks	8,983,322	15,567,990
First Mortgage Loans	564,321	582,765
Loans on Certificates	326,282	297,603
Accrued Interest Receivable	856,034	857,738
Sokol Building/Land	324,225	317,663
Accounts Receivable	39,649	39,900
Due From Groups	-	(98)
Prepaid Items	24,560	18,786
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 99,750,407	108,716,912

(Continued on page 14)



Annalise Romine, a Wreath 93/Group 4 member participated in a Lions Club International Knights of Columbus Peace Poster contest. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. The 2023 theme was "Leading with Compassion" and the students (ages 11-13) were asked to create a poster (no words allowed) that displayed this theme in whatever way they wished. Annalise won first place in her school, then in her local district, and then in the multi district competition. She took third at the state level. This was the furthest one of the St. Leonard students has ever gotten. She also won first place at her school and the local district as well. The above picture is her poster and also the phrase she had to compose to explain the poster: *"The mountains in my poster represent the struggles in our lives that are blocking our way. The sunrise shows that we can overcome these struggles when we lift each other up and lead one another with peace, love, faith and compassion"*.

Message from our Supreme President

(Continued from page 2)

changes to the Society's By-Laws. Any member who wants to suggest a By-Laws change can send it to the Committee's Chair, Kathleen Watkins at kathyw323@gmail.com or Julie Dobbs at sokolka33@icloud.com.

The 34th Quadrennial Convention is only four months away, August 5-8, 2023 at the Scranton Hilton in Scranton, PA. All members wishing to be delegates have submitted their Delegate Forms. The Delegates will be receiving Convention information in the up-coming weeks to help them prepare for the work to be done at the Convention. The Society's website will have a Convention menu added to it where all Convention documents will be listed for the Delegates and members review.

The Physical Fitness Board is finalizing all the arrangements for the 50th International Slet. The Board will be contacting all the Groups attending the Slet with the information the Groups need to make their final preparations.

The Physical Fitness Board is all set for the 77th International Bowling Tournament, May 19-20, 2023 at AMF Airport Lanes in Buffalo, NY. I hope all Sokol bowlers will take advantage of this fraternal activity and join the membership at this very competitive event. I am looking forward to seeing again our members and the bowlers from the other Fraternals for another memorable weekend of fraternalism.

Earth Day 2023 will be celebrated on Saturday, April 22, 2023. The first Earth Day was in 1970 and is a global activity recognized in 190 countries. Earth Day is to bring awareness to environmental issues and concerns that are critical to the Earth's and our health and existence. Earth Day focuses on Climate Literacy, proper use of plastics, planting trees, clean air and water, business involvement, global cleanup, and sustainable fashions. Let us do something on Earth Day to make it and little better for future generations.

As a reminder, Join Hands Day will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023. This annual event is very important to all fraternal Societies since it offers Fraternals a way to show they are doing projects to help their communities. I encourage all Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths to do a Join Hands Day project with their membership. Take pictures of your project and send them to our Editor so we can show everyone the Slovak Catholic Sokol does fraternal projects to help their communities.

The Slovak Catholic Federation is accepting articles for the 2023 Good Shepherd. Anyone wishing to submit and article for publication on any Slovak topic can send it to Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821 or barbarasable@hotmail.com.

My family and I wish all members, their families and our friends have a very Blessed and Happy Easter, "Prajem požehnanú a veselú Vel'kú noc".

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

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, jmatton@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. Matton**, *Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics*

JOIN HANDS DAY IS OBSERVED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY

(Continued from page 4)

Planning your event is simple. Decide what you will join hands for. What will your focus of volunteering be? The ideas are endless: Animal shelter needs, homelessness or poverty, schools, nursing home facilities, neighborhood projects. The event should be significant enough to make a difference, but manageable to be accomplished in one day.

A local volunteering event can be paired with the Walking Program. Any group walking on Join Hands Day while providing service to their community will be eligible for a prize from the Walking Program. The winning Group will be chosen through a random drawing. If your group is interested in participating, please send me a picture of the event with a brief description of the community service your group provided along with contact person information.

Any member from Group 17, Youngstown, Ohio is invited to attend the local event at Boardman Park at 1:00 pm. We will be collecting items to donate to an Animal Shelter – to be chosen that day. I look forward to hearing from EVERY group and can't wait to see the all the good that will be done on May 6 by our members.

Zdar Boh!
Nancy Kropolinsky
Supreme Assistant Physical Directress

SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS APPEAL OF THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 45th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, clergy with Slovak ancestry, and previous donors.

As of March 20, the 2023 Appeal has received \$8,719 from 111 donors. Among the 22 donations received from various Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Assembly 23, Assembly 71, Assembly 78, Assembly 162, Group 12, Group 16, Group 18, and Wreath 14 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol have donated a combined total of \$675. Donations to date have also been received from 19 clergy and religious, and 70 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

All wishing to contribute to the 2023 Appeal is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2023 will be credited toward the 2024 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

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



45TH ANNUAL SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS APPEAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

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

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**

SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 13TH-14TH, 2023

FIRST SESSION: FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH – 8:00 PM

Opening Procedures

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James (Jim) Matlon, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Janice Matlon followed with a prayer.

Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Rob Palchanis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics, Frank Laury, conducted roll call. Members who were present: Supreme President—Michael J. Horvath; Supreme Secretary—Scott T. Pogorelec; Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics—James C. Matlon; Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics—Frank P. Laury, III; Supreme Physical Director—Martin Degnan; Supreme Assistant Physical Director—Dusan Dorich; Supreme Physical Directress—Katie Swift; Supreme Assistant Physical Directress—Nancy Kropolinsky; Supreme Physical Fitness Board Members—Janice Matlon and Robert R. Palchanis, III.

Opening Remarks

Supreme President Michael (Mike) Horvath had opening remarks regarding the fact that situations were out of our control in the past two years and yet we continued to plan and keep things moving forward including running a successful Clinic. This event brought leaders of the groups together with the common goal of making the 50th Slet a success. Things are also changing, and we have to realize what those changes are. Despite assemblies and wreaths closing or requesting to merge, we are continuing to move forward, and we will see how things unfold in the coming weeks and months regarding people reporting numbers of participants at the set deadlines. Regardless, we are going to celebrate and do our best.

Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec said in his opening remarks that our main job is to remain positive despite whatever bad news is coming to us. Encourage other leaders to keep trying. We have to get members to come back and see if we can keep up our own ways of doing things and encourage our members to participate. Be ready to rethink how we are doing things. Some of the barriers are that the activities that kids and youth are participating in take a higher priority over Sokol events. As leaders, we are here to make the bowling tournament, golf tournament, and mainly the 50th Slet the best it can be. We have to think about and take action of what is benefitting to our members. The bottom line is to continue to stay positive.

Supreme Physical Director Marty Degnan said in his opening remarks that it was great to see everyone together for the Clinic and to have the leaders together here in this room. He said that we have to have both communication with each other and follow-through as to what was proposed. If events have to evolve from what they were, we have to do whatever it is we can to keep both the youth and older members involved.

Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift said in her opening remarks that sometimes we have a hard time changing, but we have to take chances and make choices to help our organization keep growing. We still have the social part of our organization unlike most others like us. Our current members in their 20s and 30s are likely busy with their kids, but that is also motivating. They can then return with their children. We have to make choices, take chances, and make changes. Katie gave an example of how this our Slovak Catholic Sokol organization has been a priority in her life since the age of 13. We will have to add things in at the Slet and take things out to keep things moving to the future.

Meeting Objectives and Goals

Sports Director James Matlon highlighted some of the great things we did with the SNPJ camp and how we came together in a positive virtual way despite the challenges due to COVID-19.

At this point, as Brother Jim said, the main goal and objective of this meeting is to plan for the 50th Slet.

Old Business

Assistant Sports Director Frank Laury made a motion to approve the minutes from the Fitness Board meeting of 2022, and Supreme Assistant Physical Director Dusan Dorich seconded it. All were in favor of this.

Review 2022 Clinic at Kutztown University

Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift started with her review of the Clinic saying it was awesome recapping the groups who participated: Group 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, and 19. People were really excited to see each other, and they gave us their honest feedback.

Brother Frank said that the Clinic went smoothly and normal.

Brother Dusan said that it was good that people who have been there took the younger people under their wings.

Sister Katie said that those with experience shared their thoughts and ideas with those who needed ideas to get things going.

Brother Jim said that it really helped to be working with Kutztown University that has worked with us many times before so that it helps us run everything smoothly.

Brother Dusan said that at Kutztown you just have to deal with one person instead of some different departments like the last Slet location.

Sister Katie echoed that the facilities were great.

Supreme Physical Director Marty Degnan said that Kutztown's staff was very responsive, and there was a lot of communication. The participants worked hard but had a great time.

Sisters Katie and Nancy both reflected that it was very odd not having Brother Steve Underation there.

Brother Frank agreed that it was very hard without both Brothers John and Steve Underation. Brother Frank was happy to see Brother Marty do a great job running his first Clinic. Brother Frank said that the spirit in the room throughout the Clinic made it feel like it is not going to fail.

Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Nancy Kropolinsky said that we all come together for the betterment and good of what we are doing. She also said that she felt less stress and that we were steady, calm, and efficient. The leaders set the good tone that trickled down to everyone else.

Brother Dusan said that it was really good to go to Dorney Park to have a time to just relax, take a break, and then get to work the next day.

Brother Jim said that despite the adversity and having to push back the Clinic multiple times, moving forward with a positive attitude. It was strange to not have Group 14 there, but we continued anyway.

2022 Bowling & Golf Tournaments

Moving on to a recap of 2022's Golf Tournament, Brother Frank acknowledged and praised Supreme Physical Fitness Board Member Kristen Popik for helping with all of the logistics of making golf run smoothly. She worked so quickly and efficiently. The number of golfers is growing and is here to stay. It is drawing participants of all ages.

Brother Jim said that his goal was to make the golf event have the most "bang for its buck" for what was supplied.

Sister Katie was questioning the female golf numbers and how

we can make another event spin off of it more appealing to women.

Brother Frank said that he already did ask people if they would be ok to making the golf event more of a family weekend, but the men who participate really like it in the format it is as a mostly male event.

Many members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board were talking back and forth about looking ahead to this year's tournament that it really is going to be great for facilities and the quality of the course. It should also draw many Group 17 participants due to its location.

Looking ahead, Brother Jim was explaining some of the details for the 2023 Golf Tournament to be fleshed out during tomorrow's meeting.

Brother Frank recapped the bowling tournament expressing that everyone was happy to be back and doing things in-person.

Brother Jim explained that it was good to have quality hospital-ity food and to be able to meet everyone's expectations.

Sister Nancy said that the bowling tournament was fun and lively. The banquet was relaxed and everyone was having a good time.

Brother Jim said that four organizations coming together for one tournament really helps to promote fraternalism because with bowling everyone is at the same venue for the entire event.

With a similar objective, Sister Nancy thinks that this year's golf tournament will help people gather more effectively because the hotel is connected to the banquet hall, that is next to the golf course.

It was shared by many members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board that, overall for both golf and bowling, we are trying to replicate the best of all of the events we are trying to run.

There also was a discussion about prize money and how with fewer bowlers, it is easier to win a prize than golf and yet more people are coming to golf.

There were 45 Sokol participants in the 2022 bowling tournament, and the younger people are not participating anymore. We are going to offer mixed teams and mixed doubles in this coming year to try to draw more people in and get people to have fun.

Review 2022 Falcon Articles

Brother Dusan said that almost all article assignments were fulfilled in the last year. Together as a Board, we then worked on creating the following assignments for 2023:

Jan.—Frank

Feb.—Katie (Frank's article will be published here for 2023)

March—Kristen

Apr.—Nancy

May—Marty

June—Dusan

July—Nancy

Aug.—Janice

Sept.—Kristen

Oct.—Rob

Nov.—Marty

Dec.—Katie

Sister Katie made a motion to close the evening session, and Brother Rob seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Second Session: Saturday, January 14th—9:30 AM

2023 Main Event—50th International Slet at Kutztown University

Sports Director Jim Matlon opened the meeting by asking what details we would like to share about the Slet.

Supreme Physical Directress Katie Swift questioned whether we move forward with version 2 of the Slet schedule. She wanted each member of the Board to share his or her opinion.

Brother Dusan thought we should keep version 1 of the

schedule with an April 1 deadline for registration. Brother Marty agreed with version 1. Brother Rob felt that we should keep version 1. Brother Frank felt that version 2 would be best. Sister Janice thought that version 2 is best. Sister Nancy thought that version 2 is best.

Sister Nancy wonders how many people we can run through track and field in the time allotted in version 2.

Brother Jim gave his opinion about definitely needing two days, but that would also fit in with version 2.

Supreme Secretary Scott Pogorelec agreed that we can fit all events in version 2. He cited the fact that in Brockport when we had weather delays, we were still able to fit it all in. It would also save the organization money to decrease a day and put the savings towards more events and supplies within the days we have.

Supreme President Mike Horvath thought that we could accomplish all that we need to do in three days. The Supreme Board is going to support the Slet no matter what it is. We have to figure out what is doable and what we are comfortable with.

Brother Scott was happy overall to see that we took the effort to create a schedule that would reduce a day especially with the financial constraints of a convention year.

Brother Jim acknowledged that there was some wiggle room in the schedule but that we should still keep the Dorney Park event within the Slet.

Brothers Dusan and Marty discussed that individual drills can be done simultaneously with other events.

Sister Katie and Brother Jim were discussing overall how we can fit all main events into the Slet schedule.

Sister Katie said that we need to lock in plans now.

Sister Nancy said that we should have a 30 and over age group based on the initial estimates of people we have as opposed to also including a separate 45 and over age group.

Trip to Dorney Amusement Park

Sister Nancy was questioning some of the logistics of Dorney Park and how we are going to monitor them because they are mostly adults and hope that they are making the right choices. We are also saying that participants can go to the water park. They have to follow Dorney Park's rules for swim attire.

Brother Jim will look into being able to use the picnic pavilion for dinner, but there is a minimum number there. If for some reason we don't meet the minimum, it will be a food voucher system instead, which is what we used for the Clinic.

Brother Frank mentioned that we need a lunch slot/plan for Thursday because it was accidentally omitted. We can shift an opening Mass to Friday morning so that 12:00—1:00 can be lunch. We then adjusted Friday's schedule accordingly.

50th Anniversary shirts and souvenirs for all participants

Sister Nancy brought up t-shirt ordering and was wondering if she was in charge of ordering the t-shirts again, and we agreed that she is.

50th International Slet Gala Dinner

In general, members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board were all discussing the schedule and some basic logistics regarding how many medals and trophies we need for events and judges we need for drilling.

Closing ceremonies will include Mass.

The gala will include a dinner and dance in a separate place. We can display old uniforms and/or put them in there as a costume in the photo booth. This will include a DJ. Sister Jacque Manyak will compile an old video that would include as many years as possible. It will include cuts of old videos and old photos. This is going to be 15-20 minutes total. Then we can have the week in review with

(Continued on page 20)

REPORTS OF THE SUPREME OFFICERS FOR 2022

(Continued from page 7)

TOTAL INCOME (LOSS) \$ (134,856) \$ (28,139)

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Life Reserves	\$ 82,189,360	\$ 87,343,893
Asset Valuation Reserve	706,914	2,468,604
Interest Maintenance Reserve	386,792	385,585
Reserve for Supplemental Contracts	3,116,573	3,394,151
Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan	4,987,780	4,825,870
Reserve for Convention	170,000	120,000
Claims Payable	256,701	280,897
Conversion - Canadian Currency	4,765	3,879
Accounts Payable	30,000	30,000
Sokol Secure Fund	1,452,638	1,388,097
Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund	85,000	85,000
Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund	100,000	100,000
Dr's Lesko Medical Scholarship Fund	20,000	20,000
Yencha Memorial Scholarship	26,800	23,400
Krista L Glugosh Memorial Scholarship Fund	24,000	24,000
Dividend Payable	50,000	50,000
Advance Premiums	28,492	46,505
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ <u>93,635,815</u>	\$ <u>100,589,881</u>
Undistributed Funds - Sokol	<u>\$ 6,114,592</u>	<u>\$ 8,127,031</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS	\$ <u>99,750,407</u>	\$ <u>108,716,912</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Investment Income	\$ 3,465,093	\$ 3,389,825
Amortization of IMR	67,820	41,645
Dividends on Stocks	324,673	351,256
Interest on Mortgages	24,801	15,461
Interest on Certificate Loans	23,255	19,031
Sale of Cookbooks	528	643
Rent Received - Sokol Building	111,890	110,175
Life Premium Income	1,932,000	2,195,000
Annuity Income	3,592,000	12,437,000
Suppl. Contract	-	940,000
Miscellaneous Income	13,073	(1,410)
Sale of Securities/Amortization	762,898	1,079,271
TOTAL INCOME	\$ <u>10,318,031</u>	\$ <u>20,577,897</u>
EXPENSES	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Death Benefit Claims Paid	\$ 1,940,021	\$ 1,732,084
Interest Expense	97,860	85,420
Fraternal Expenses	652,005	518,650
General Expenses	1,185,456	1,220,705
Employee Retirement Expenses	393,114	352,363
Commissions	265,758	472,698
Annuity Benefits	10,644,403	6,990,220
Taxes & Fees	34,197	69,832
Reserve Increase	(5,023,371)	8,917,000
Cash Surrenders	263,444	247,064
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ <u>10,452,887</u>	\$ <u>20,606,036</u>

ZDAR BOH!
Scott T. Pogorelec, FIC
Supreme Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol

REPORT OF THE SUPREME VICE-PRESIDENT

The following report for 2022 is submitted to the Board of Directors as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Board of Directors kept busy by continuing the Quarterly Meetings. Participated in our Quarterly meeting held on March 18th and 19th In Wilkes-Barre, PA. Our 2nd Quarterly meeting was held by Conference Call on June 23rd The 3rd quarterly meeting was held in Independence OH September 17th and 18th and our 4th Quarter meeting was held in Boca Raton, FL on December 4th through the 6th. Many good ideas were discussed while the Board worked with our Supreme Secretary and our Financial Advisors as to how we will continue through the upcoming years. In March of each year the Board of Directors hold the Slovak Catholic Sokol Museum Board of Directors Meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Scholarship Committee met through email communication. The members of the committee were as follows: Michael J. Horvath, Supreme President, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C, Supreme Secretary, James Matlon, Supreme Sports Director and John D. Pogorelec, Jr. Esq, General Counsel. The winner's photos appeared in the June 2022 issue of the Falcon. There were 29 Slovak Catholic Sokol College Grant winners, 2 Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Grants, 2 Emil Slavik Memorial Grants, 1 Doctor Lesko Medical Grant, 1 Krista Glugosh Memorial Grant, 1 Yencha Family Grant and 4 Museum Memorial Grants awarded totaling \$44,000. In addition, 6 Slovak Catholic Sokol Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant Recipients totaling \$3,000. Lastly 1 Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant Recipients received a total of \$250. In total the committee awarded \$47,250 to well deserving youth of our organization. A special thank you to PNC Bank for the gracious donation towards our Memorial Scholarship grants.

OTHER FRATERNAL COMMITTEES

I currently serve as a Board of Director to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.

The Annual Meeting was held in Hershey from October 17th through the 18th I did participate in numerous phone meetings throughout the year. In addition, I currently sit as a Board of Director on the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

As Supreme Vice President, I have represented the organization at various functions including the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Golf Outing and the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour Banquet. I participated in our International

Golf Tournament held in Dubois, PA.

KIDS KORNER

As Supreme Vice President, I continue to provide the Kids Korner in the Falcon Newspaper monthly expanding to three pages. I try to provide interesting monthly facts suitable for children along with various puzzles and games. In the summer in conjunction with the Kids Korner is a Summer Reading program also.

CONCLUSION

Finally, I have remained diligent in my efforts to increase our membership by enrolling new members throughout the year. In 2022, I have enrolled 4 new members for a total of \$45,000 in insurance. I look forward to another successful year in our organization.

Zdar Boh!
Edward D. Moeller
Supreme Vice President



On Sunday, March 19 Assembly 182 celebrated 100th Anniversary at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, NY. Slovak Mass was celebrated by Fr. Stefan Chanas. Reception followed in the church hall. Standing (l-r): Frederick Koval, Daniel F. Tanzone, Jane Konzelmann, Ladislav Korcak, Anna Korcek, Jozef Korcek and Marc Gurega. Seated: Wally Korcek, Nina Holy, Judy Glogovsky and Fr. Stefan Chanas.

50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET SCHEDULE

The 50th International Slet is approaching fast!!! The Supreme Physical Fitness Board meets every month to diligently go through all the details to make sure the International Slet will be great!

We are all so excited! To still be able to host such a great event that brings so much laughter, friendship and memories is so amazing! The Slovak Catholic Sokol is one of the last fraternal to host such an outstanding event. Come join us and help build those fraternal bonds that last a lifetime.

2023 50TH INTERNATIONAL SLET SCHEDULE

July 13th-16th

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

7/13 - Thursday

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

7/14 - Friday

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

7/15 - Saturday

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

7/16 - Sunday

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

If you have not heard from your Director, Directress, Sports Director or Group President and you want to participate, please reach out to me or any member of the SPFB. Please join us for an event to remember.

Zdar Boh!
Katie Swift
Supreme Directress



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" - - April 2023

Earth Day - April 22nd

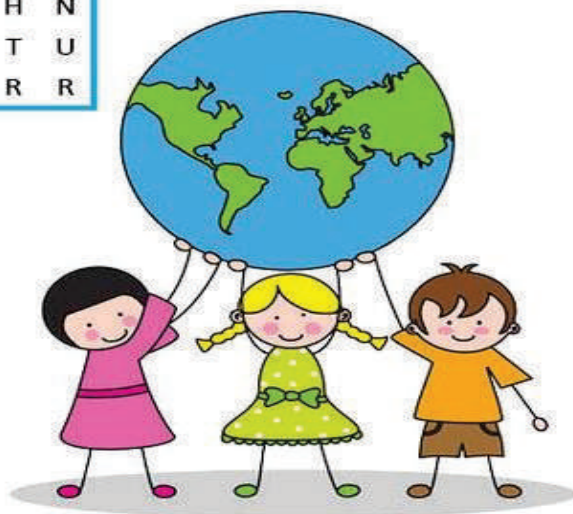
Circle all of the hidden words. When you have found them all, the uncircled letters will spell out a secret message from a famous conservationist.

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

- RECYCLE
- REDUCE
- RESOURCES
- REUSE
- SMOG
- TRASH
- TREES
- WASTE
- WATER
- WILDLIFE

- AIR
- APRIL
- CLEAN
- COMPOST
- CONSERVATION
- ENERGY
- ENVIRONMENT
- EXTINCTION

- FOREST
- GLOBAL
- LAND
- LITTER
- OCEAN
- OZONE
- PEOPLE
- PLANET





KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - - April 2023

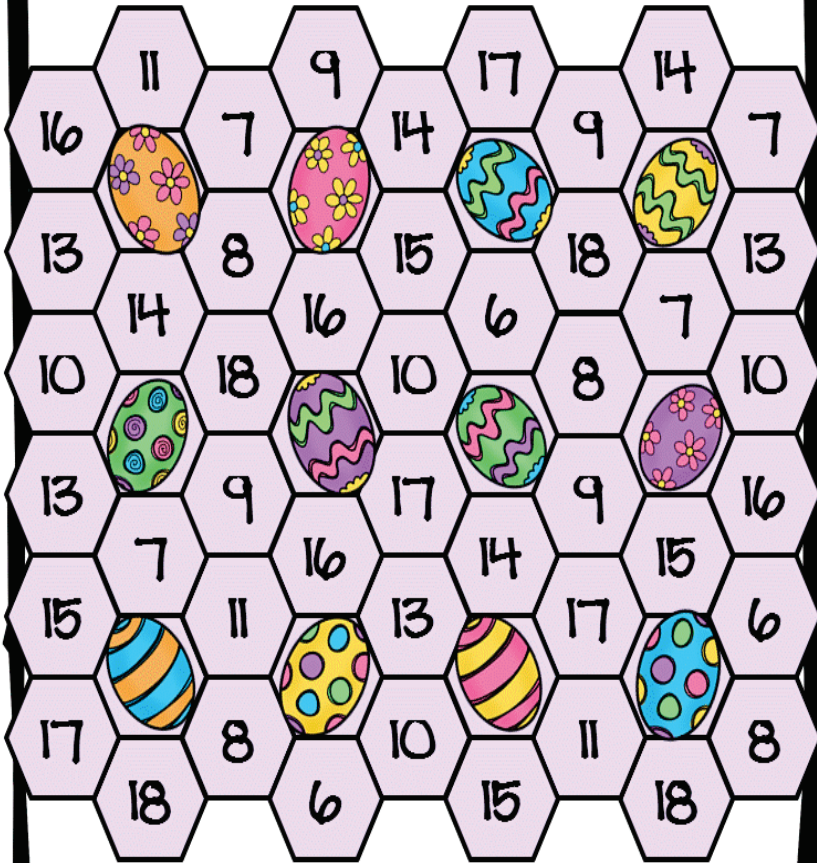
Easter Egg Hunt

Add 12 or Subtract from 12

a game for 2 players
Need: 1 dice, counters

Be the first player to find an Easter Egg by surrounding it completely.

Players take turns to roll the dice. They then choose to add 12 to the number on the dice or take the number from 12. The answer is then covered with a counter. For example if a player rolls 4, they can add 12 and cover 16 or take 4 from 12 and cover 8. Play continues until one of the eggs is completely surrounded with a counter on each of the spaces around it. The player who places the last counter to surround the egg is the winner.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

Chase Seifert 4/11
Carissa Hoeck 4/13
Colton Seifert 4/15



SEND YOUR BIRTHDAY DATES TO ME

vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org



SUPREME PHYSICAL FITNESS BOARD MEETING

(Continued from page 13)

pictures running in the background.

Brother Frank will compile a week in review at the Slet to be shown at the Gala dinner

Sister Katie said we should have a poster contest for Slet participants to compete in and get the posters printed. Brother Marty said he would be in charge of that.

Brother Marty will find a local DJ and a photo booth.

50th International Slet Celebration/Souvenir Book

Brother Jim led us through a money request document for the funds we are going to ask for to go towards various parts of the Slet.

One major task with the souvenir booklets, as one of the items listed, is to ask people to write a welcome letter such as: Brother Scott as Secretary, Brother Mike as President, the governor of PA, the president of Kutztown University, Brother Jim as Sports Director, the Slovak ambassador to the US, Brother Fr. Andy as chaplain, and maybe the leader of the local diocese. It would be good to look up who we have asked in past books. Also, we can ask for other fraternal organizations to congratulate us in written form.

Brother Jim brought up the cost for people and organizations to spend to get an ad in the souvenir book. One full page would be \$200, half page is \$100, and a quarter page is \$50.

Sister Katie suggested that we ask whether members would like their business cards to be put in the books for \$25 because they might not have enough to fill any more space.

We then discussed how much well wishes would be, and we set it at \$15.

2023 Physical Fitness Board Recommendations

We also reviewed the official 2023 Annual Supreme Physical Fitness Board Recommendations.

Brother Dusan has been in contact with Honey Svoboda at Kutztown University, and she said that exact numbers have to be provided by June 7.

We have to know the number of group participants by April 1, and registration has to be in by May 15. Background checks must also be done by May 15. Brother Marty will check with Brother John D. Pogorelec, Jr. to be sure that those background checks will work for our purposes.

Sunshine Fund

Sister Janice reported that we have a current balance of \$18.59 in the Sunshine Fund, and board members contributed \$20 each.

Walking Program

Sister Nancy gave a report on the walking program that now has 64 participants. We were trying to make ways to make this more relevant. Many people are now tracking steps and distances throughout the day, which is different than going on a walk specifically. We are thinking that we could combine the Join Hands committee with the walking program to make it happen for a purpose. People should register their group and/or assembly or wreath, which is a minimum of five people. The team should register by April 15. Then Join Hands Day is on May 6 where everyone can participate. You then get a \$50 stipend to spend however you want such as buy a Visa gift card.

General New Business

Brother Jim led a review of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board activities of 2022. Activity reports are due March 1 as a Word document sent to Scott.

Brother Jim said that we should connect on monthly Zoom calls from here forward.

Brother Jim asked about the sponsorship that would be done by Dick's Sporting Goods, and Brother Marty is going to look into that.

2023 International Sporting Events

Brother Jim needs workers for bowling and golf.

Sister Kristen will work at the bowling tournament on May 19th-20th at AMF Airport Lanes in Buffalo, NY.

Brother Rob will work at the golf tournament on August 18th-20th at the Kensington Golf Course in Canfield, OH.

Brother Jim also asked us to look into what the Governance Committee will be working on next weekend.

Brother Mike explained that this committee is created to look closely at the bylaws who then will become the Bylaw Committee.

Sister Katie wants to be able to create a new sanctioned event such as SNPJ or a future spring golf event. Mike said that a recommended bylaw should be created so that all events that use the Slovak Catholic Sokol name. This recommendation is coming from the fact that there was confusion as to how a Central District golf tournament could have happened in 2022 without official approval.

Sister Katie also wants to add a bylaw to hold people accountable, such as the Group Presidents. They should have to submit a yearly report. The Board discussed and mutually agreed upon recommendations to submit to the Bylaws Committee to support this.

Final Discussions on the 50th International Slet from July 13th-16th at Kutztown University in Kutztown, PA

Sister Katie said that at the 2022 Clinic and a recent Board of Directors meeting it was brought up as to whether or not we can have a gymnastics exhibition at Closing Ceremonies. We would have to decide on the criteria for the routine submitted and ask those interested in participating to submit their video by July 1. Sister Katie is suggesting that they choose a song to then demonstrate some basic gymnastics moves with some safety limitations.

Sister Katie and Brother Jim reviewed the track events we have for the 30+ age group and make sure the Board agrees on all of them.

The Board then reviewed all of the important upcoming deadline dates for 2023.

Slet Assignments for the Physical Fitness Board

Nancy handed out a list of all responsibilities that were accomplished in past Slets. She requested that we please review it to see what we think is still relevant and what we still need to add, especially in light of the 50th Slet. We would decide on roles at the next Zoom call.

Brother Jim did a recap of the main events and follow-up items that we need to accomplish and look at, and we agreed on meeting by Zoom on February 7 at 9:00 Eastern.

Sister Katie also wondered what our best method of communication is among Board members and among physical directors and directresses. She said that she would look into possible apps we can use for this.

Sister Katie said that we need to continue to post on Facebook and make posts to the Slovak Catholic Sokols page.

Board members mentioned some of the main tasks we need to do as an immediate follow-up to this meeting in order to be prepared for February 7.

Closing Remarks and Actions

All Board members went around the room to give a recap of how we feel these meetings went and any final words we had.

Sister Janice led closing prayer.

Brother Marty made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Brother Mike. All were in favor.

OBITUARIE

**SISTER MARGUERITE HRUBY,
SS.C.M.**

Sister Marguerite Hruby died at Nazareth Center in Danville, PA on February 14, 2023, on the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius.



She was the daughter of Ignatius and Margaret (Dirda) Hruby, who had been married by Father Matthew Jankola. Ursula Bernardine Hruby was born in Bridgeport, CT, on November 14, 1935.

After graduating from Saint Cyril Academy in 1953, she received an RN from St Vincent's School of Nursing in Bridgeport, CT in 1956. She said that she found the mottos of these two schools to be a guiding force throughout her life; St Cyril Academy's motto was, "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve," and St Vincent's was "The charity of Christ urges us..."

Sister Marguerite entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius from St Cyril and Methodius Parish in Bridgeport, CT on February 2, 1957, and was professed on Aug. 13, 1959. She said on her 60th Anniversary as a Sister that entering the Community was not a surprise since she had two aunts who were Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; Sister Margaret Dirda and Sister Genevieve Dirda, and an older sister, Sister William Hruby who also entered the Community.

Sister Marguerite served in the ministry of healing for her entire Religious Life, as a nurse, Director of nursing, and Administrator of Maria Joseph Manor, and later as a Congregational Consultant for health issues. She received her Masters in Public Administration with a graduate certificate in gerontology from Marywood University. It was her masters' thesis on independent living for Seniors which planted the seeds for what eventually bloomed as The Meadows at Maria Joseph Manor. Sister Marguerite was present in 1962 when Bishop George L Leech blessed and dedicated the new home for the aged, and she was present in 2012 when Bishop Joseph P McFadden celebrated the 50th anniversary of the facility.

Sister Marguerite's life of service was rooted in the Gospel, summed up in two favorite quotes, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve," and "Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to Me." Sister Marguerite was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Cecelia and brother, William,

IN MEMORIAM

FEBRUARY 2023

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 9	William F. Balint, Trumbull, CT	84	February 11, 2023
Assembly 11	Jane E. Woodward, Rock Island, IL	74	February 4, 2023
Assembly 11	Mary A. Lazar, Vernon Hills, IL	95	February 20, 2023
Assembly 23	Matthew B. Brady, Winsted, CT	63	February 10, 2023
Assembly 28	Paul Chupka, Danville, KY	84	January 7, 2023
Assembly 36	Ronald E. Gallik, New Port Richey, FL	81	January 13, 2023
Assembly 59	Kaleb Walker, Plymouth, PA	21	February 4, 2023
Assembly 59	Elijah Rivers, Wilkes-Barre, PA	23	January 30, 2023
Assembly 78	John Ferri, Malvern, PA	96	February 9, 2023
Assembly 162	Pauline M. Novakowski, Carteret, NJ	88	December 18, 2022
Assembly 162	Emily Kabatra, Franklin, NJ	96	February 1, 2023
Assembly 163	Velma M. Juback, Donora, PA	98	January 25, 2023
Assembly 167	Marlene Robinson, Akron, OH	84	May 26, 2022
Assembly 167	Ann Huffman, Doylestown, OH	95	February 16, 2023
Assembly 188	Josephine Rogers, New Port Richey, FL	89	September 15, 2023
Assembly 312	Francis Raspet, Zelienople, PA	92	February 1, 2023
Assembly 312	Stephen Burczynski, Linden, NJ	75	February 13, 2023
Wreath 13	Charlene J. Dobron, Florida	84	March 22, 2021
Wreath 15	Lillian M. Balko, Lexington, KY	96	August 19, 2022
Wreath 15	Donald J. Jurenek, Sagamore Hills, OH	77	February 8, 2023
Wreath 15	Andrew Varganin, Cranberry, PA	87	February 19, 2023
Wreath 15	Joseph Trupkovich, Cogan Station, PA	68	February 20, 2023
Wreath 34	Carol Schoenewald, Beachwood, OH	94	December 27, 2022
Wreath 22	Eleanor M. Zigerell, Pittsburgh, PA	90	February 16, 2023
Wreath 54	Stephanie M. Lombardo, Canfield, OH	80	January 28, 2023
Wreath 81	Peter Kahanik, Whiting, IN	84	December 28, 2022
Wreath 81	Geraldine J. Schuhrke, Whiting, IN	84	December 3, 2022
Wreath 81	Mary A. Kozak, Whiting, IN	91	December 9, 2022
Wreath 157	Donato C. Farole, Nesquehoning, PA	90	January 21, 2023

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it? Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.

and her sister in Community, Sister William.

General visitation was on Monday, February 20, 2023. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Maria Hall Chapel by Reverend Gerard Heintzelman, with concelebrants Reverend

Dennis Delassandro and Reverend Charles Ocul. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery.

Donations in memory of Sister Marguerite can be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, 1002 Railroad Street, Danville, PA 17821.

KASIGARDA – MÚZEUM VYSTĀHOVALECTVA Z ÚZEMIA SLOVENSKA DO SEVERNEJ AMERIKY

V obci Pavlovce nad Uhom v okrese Michalovce dokončujú múzeum, ktoré bude mapovať vystaĥovalectvo z územia Slovenska do Severnej Ameriky. Otvorené by malo byť od 6. mája. Informovala o tom hovorkyňa Ministerstva obrany (MO) SR Martina Kakaščíková.

Historik docent Martin Javor kúpil domček v Pavlovciach nad Uhom, ktorý dal zrekonštruovať. Plánuje v ňom otvoriť prvé múzeum vystaĥovalectva zo Slovenska do Severnej Ameriky nazvané Kasigarda. Dedinská stavba navyše predstavuje jeden z posledných „amerických domov“ postavených v tomto regióne. Zemlianka, prezývaná tiež Harajdova chyža, ktorá stojí od konca 19. storočia, sa po 129 rokoch výrazne zmenila.

Martin Javor, docent histórie na Filozofickej fakulte Prešovskej univerzity, sa zaoberá výskumom vystaĥovalectva z územia Slovenska. Podľa jeho slov „je neuveriteľné, že nám takmer tretina národa za posledných 150 rokov emigrovala, a my o nich vieme veľmi málo.“ To bol aj jeden z dôvodov, prečo založil Kasigardu – Múzeum vystaĥovalectva z územia Slovenska do severnej Ameriky.

Onedlho sa bude môcť verejnosť pozrieť na vyše 4 000 zbierkových predmetov, ktoré vypovedajú o časti našej histórie, ktorá doposiaľ nebola takto podrobne zmapovaná. Múzeum vystaĥovalectva z územia Slovenska do Severnej Ameriky v Pavlovciach nad Uhom je unikátom zásluhou docenta Martina Javora, ktorý sa so svojimi študentmi z Prešovskej univerzity a rodinou venuje neuveriteľným príbehom spojeným y históriu vzstaĥovalectva Slovákov do Ameriky.

Projekt múzea Kasigarda opakovane podporilo Ministerstvo obrany SR prostredníctvom dotačnej schémy v celkovej hodnote 40 000 eur.

6. marca múzeum navštívil minister obrany SR Jaroslav Naď.

„Či už v predvojnovom alebo medzivojnovom období, ale tiež po druhej svetovej vojne opustili stovky tisíc Slovákov naše územie a odišli do Severnej Ameriky. Mnohí sa vrátili naspäť, mnohí tam ostali,“ povedal Jaroslav Naď



Minister obrany J. Naď (vľavo) počas návštevy múzea. Vpravo je docent Martin Javor.

počas návštevy pripravovaného múzea.

„Už onedlho sa bude môcť verejnosť pozrieť na vyše 4 000 zbierkových predmetov, ktoré vypovedajú o časti našej histórie, ktorá doposiaľ nebola takto podrobne zmapovaná. Múzeum vystaĥovalectva z územia Slovenska do Severnej Ameriky v Pavlovciach nad Uhom je unikátom a určite sa vidíme na jeho oficiálnom otvorení.“

Ďakujem docentovi Martinovi Javorovi, ktorý sa so svojimi študentmi z Prešovskej univerzity a rodinou venuje neuveriteľným príbehom, ktoré vám pri návšteve pútavo vyrozpráva“, povedal minister Naď počas svojej návštevy.

SLOVENSKÁ VLÁDA ODOBRIĽA DAROVANIE MIGOV UKRAJINE

Slovensko pošle na Ukrajinu stíhačky MiG-29 a časť systému protivzdušnej obrany Kub. Dočasne poverená vláda Eduarda Hegera o tom rozhodla 17. marca. Darovanie strojov, náhradných dielov a protiletadlových rakiet Kyjevu sa uskutoční na základe medzivládnej dohody a Bratislava za to dostane kompenzácie od spojencov. Celý proces darovania by mal trvať niekoľko týždňov.

„Vláda jednohlasne schválila medzinárodnú dohodu a rozhodla o darovaní MiG-29 a systému protivzdušnej obrany Kub na Ukrajinu,“ ozrejmil dočasne poverený premiér Heger. Dodal, že darovanie podľa neho prebehlo čisto ústavnou formou a prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová je o tom informovaná. Stíhačky majú podľa Hegera slúžiť na ochranu a nie na útok. Naď dodal, že Slovensko získa asi 200-miliónov eur vysokú kompenzáciu z Európskeho mierového nástroja a USA by mali Slovensku doručiť vojenskú techniku v hodnote približne 700-miliónov dollárov.

Slovensko na Ukrajinu pošle celkovo 13 lietadiel. Tri migy majú pochádzať ešte z Československej socialistickej republiky a majú byť použité výhradne na náhradné diely.

Podľa dočasne povereného ministra obrany Jaroslava Naďa rokovania o darovaní prebiehali viac ako pol roka. Naď pripomenul, že Ukrajina má fabriku na servisovanie sovietskych strojov a majú aj pilotov, ktorí na nich vedia lietať.

TRADIČNÉ VEĽKONOČNÉ PEČENIE

ŽERBO REZY

Kvások: 3 polievkové lyžice mlieko, 1 polievková lyžica práškový cukor, 20 gramov droždie

Cesto: 500 g polohrubá múka, 2 kusy vajce, 250 g maslo

Plnka: slivkový lekvár, 200 gramov mleté orechy, 200 g práškový cukor, 1 balík vanilkový cukor

S vlažným mliekom si pripravíme kvások, rozpustíme v mlieku s cukrom droždie. Do preosiatej múky pridáme kvások, vajíčka, mäkké maslo a vymiesime hladké cesto. Rozdelíme na tri časti. Prvú časť vyvalkáme a dáme na vymastený plech, potrieme lekvárom a posypeme orechami zmiešanými s práškovým cukrom, na to vyvalkáme druhý plát a znova potrieme lekvárom a posypeme orechami s cukrom a prikryjeme tretím plátom. Necháme na plechu na teplom mieste aspoň 20 - 30 minút. Popicháme vidličkou a vrch cesta potrieme mliekom. Pečieme na 200 stupňov asi 25 minút a po vychladnutí polejeme čokoládovou polevou alebo posypeme práškovým cukrom.



PUNČOVÝ REZ

Piškové cesto: 4 kusy vajce, 4 polievkové lyžice kryštálový cukor, 4 polievkové lyžice olej, 4 polievkové lyžice voda, 5 polievkové lyžice polohrubá múka, štipka, prášok do pečiva

Trené farebné cesto: 6 kusy vajce, 2 hrnčeky práškový cukor, 250 g masla, 2 hrnčeky polohrubá múka, 1 balík prášok do pečiva, 1 polievková lyžica kakao

Sirup na poliatie: 100 ml rum, 100 ml malinový sirup, 400 ml voda, punčová aróma

Poleva: 6 polievkové lyžice citrónová šťava, 2 polievkové lyžice voda, práškový cukor, džem

Piškové cesto: Vajíčka vyšľaháme s cukrom do peny, pridáme vodu, olej, múku s práškom do pečiva. Cesto rozotrieme na papier na pečenie a upečieme plát. Postup zopakujeme a upečieme.

Trené cesto: Žltka s cukrom a Herou vyšľaháme do peny pridáme muku s práškom do pečiva. Nakoniec jemne vmiešame sneh z bielkov. Cesto rozdelíme na 3 časti. Jednu časť necháme bledú, druhú časť zafarbíme kvapkou červenej



gélovej farby a do tretej časti vmiešame kakao. Cesto pomocou lyžice kladieme striedavo na papier na pečenie. Upečieme. Prvý plát natrieme džemom naň položíme trojfarebný plát ktorý polejeme sirupom. Sirup pripravíme zmiešaním vody, sirupu, rumu a pár kvapiek punčovej arómy. Poliaty plat potrieme džemom a položíme naň druhý plát z piškótového cesta.

Vrch natrieme polevou. Polevu pripravíme vymiešaním citrónovej šťavy, vody a práškového cukru a kvapky červenej gélovej farby. Cukru pridáme toľko aby nám vynikla hustá poleva. Keď poleva zaschne zákusok pokrájame.

ORECHOVÉ ŽLTKOVÉ REZY

Cesto: 6 bielok, 250 g práškový cukor, 150 g polohrubá múka, 250 g maslo, 300 g mleté orechy 1 balík prášok do pečiva

Žltková poleva: 6 žltkov, 250 gramov práškový cukor

Cesto: Mäkké maslo si vyšľaháme s cukrom, postupne pridáme orechy a na striedačku tuhý sneh z bielkov a preosiatu múku zmiešanú s práškom do pečiva. Plech vymastíme a vysypeme múkou, naň vylejeme cesto a pečieme na 180 stupňov C asi 30-35 minút.

Žltková poleva: Žltka vyšľaháme s cukrom do penista. Ešte na horúci koláč vylejem trošku polevy a spravíme akoby škrupinku z nej, na tenko a až potom vylejeme zvyšok polevy a zahladíme. Necháme úplne uschnúť a vychladnúť. Koláč je najlepšie krájať nahriatym nožom.



VEĽKONOČNÝ VENIEC Z KYSNUTÉHO CESTA

500 g hladkáhladká múka, 250 ml mlieko, 2 ks žltok, 100 g rozpustené maslo, ½ kocka čerstvé droždie, ½ balíček prášok do pečiva, 5 polievková lyžica cukor, 2 ks vanilínový cukor, ½ čajová lyžička soli, nastrúhaná citrónová kôra, hrozienka, sušené brusnice, plátky mandlí, orechy (podľa chuti), na potretie: vajce, mlieko, rozpustené maslo

Do 1 dl vlažného mlieka si rozpustíme droždie, pridáme 1 polievkovú lyžicu cukru, vymiešame a necháme nakysnúť. Do väčšej misky pridáme hladkú múku, zbytok mlieka, žltky, kvások, rozpustené maslo, prášok do pečiva, zvyšný cukor, vanilínový cukor a sol'. Vymiesime hladké nelepivé cesto. Nakoniec zapracujeme nastrúhanú citrónovú kôru.

Môžeme pridať aj hrozienka namáčané v rume alebo brusnice, plátky mandlí, nasekané orechy - podľa chuti. Cesto poprášime múkou, prikryjeme utierkou a necháme vykysnúť na teplom mieste 1 až 1,5 hodiny. Vykysnuté cesto si preložíme na múkou vysypanú dosku a ozdelíme ho na tri časti. Z každej časti si vypracujeme dlhé valčeky, ktoré na konci spojíme a upletieme vrkoč a spojíme do kruhu. Preložíme na plech vymastený tukom. Ak chceme otvor, do vnútra venca vložíme hrubý sklenený pohár dnom hore, ktorý sme si potreli tukom, aby sa cesto neprilepilo. Necháme ho ešte na teplom mieste podkysnúť. Veniec potrieme vyšľahaným vajíčkom zmiešaným s mliekom a rozpusteným maslom. Posypeme plátkami mandlí. Pečieme pri teplote 180 oC 10 minút. Potom teplotu znížime na 150 oC a pečieme približne 20 minút podľa potreby, záleží aké veľké pletenky zvolíme.





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<http://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm>

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

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