

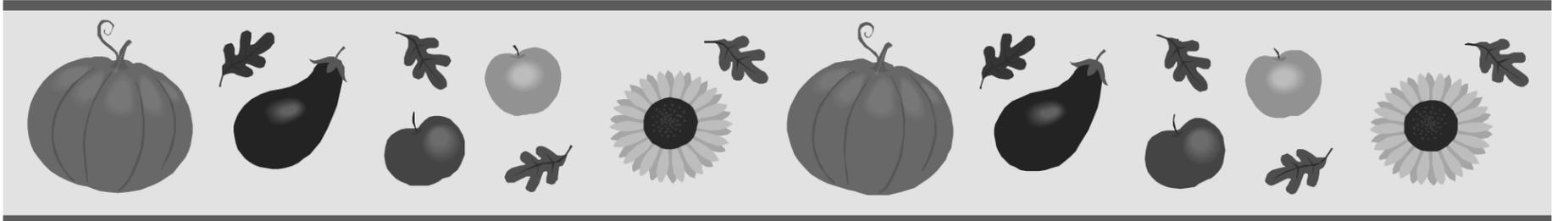
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SOKOL *TIMES*

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

PUBLICATION FOSTERING FRATERNAL, CULTURAL & PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY 14, 1905

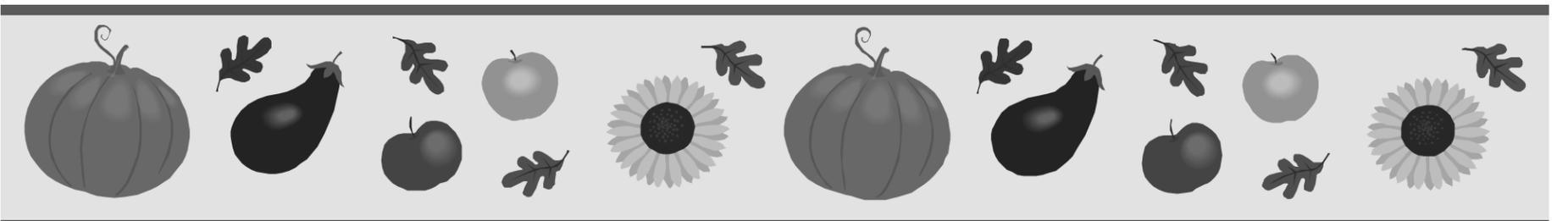
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Happy Thanksgiving!



From the Supreme Lodge Officers of Sokol USA



SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the
**SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL
 OF THE USA**

Published monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

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DONATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund

From Central District \$100.00
 of the American Sokol Organization
*Thank you for your generosity
 and hospitality at your Sokol USA Slet*

Editor's Note: Donations for the Sokol USA Gym Fund and the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund with "Holiday Greetings" must be received at Sokol Headquarters no later than November for publication in the December 2011 issue. Greetings and donations received after that date will be published in the January 2012 issue. Thank you for your support.

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY REBUILDS, PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has been delivered from a disaster. The epic Flood of 2008 and an economic slump were not enough to take the museum off course, and the new Museum and Library is expected to open in Summer 2012. Perhaps you have seen media coverage of the successful move and raising of the 1,400-ton flood affected building, which now sits above the 2008 flood line atop its new foundation. You can read more information and see videos of the Monumental Move at www.ncsml.org.

For over 35 years, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library has collected, preserved and interpreted the stories of Czechs and Slovaks. Did you know that the NCSML is preserving our history, in particular? The museum's collection contains about 200 Sokol artifacts from around the United States, including photos, exercise equipment, pennants, uniforms and more. No other museum dedicated to Czech and Slovak history and culture has the scope or reach of the NCSML – or the ability to bring this precious history and culture to so many people around the world.

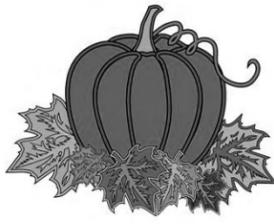
When the new Museum and Library opens, it will serve as a place where visitors of any age and from any location can connect with the stories of Czechs and Slovaks. In learning about others, they will learn about themselves. They will be inspired to question: Who am I? Where did I come from? What

makes me unique? What do we have in common? What do I stand for? The universal nature of these questions, and the themes of freedom and identity, family and community, and human rights and dignity, will make the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library an important, relevant and viable institution for many years to come.

Do you want to get involved? Making financial and artifact donations or becoming a member are great ways to forward the mission of the NCSML. Through the end of December 2011, all Sokol members receive \$10 off an annual individual or family membership (regularly \$35 and \$45, respectively). Memberships include admission to all exhibits, as well as a subscription to the NCSML's biannual *Slovo* journal and more. To take advantage of this membership offer, simply visit the NCSML's Online Museum Store at store.ncsml.org and click "Memberships" in the top left corner. During check out, enter the coupon code "SOKOL" and your \$10 discount will be automatically applied. You can also call Lindsey Buchheit at 319-362-8500 to learn more or join by phone.

An exciting future lies ahead for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. You can stay informed on construction progress, as well as learn more about donation or visit planning, at www.ncsml.org. Stay tuned for news of the 2012 grand opening.

Upcoming Sokol Events Lodge #32 Boonton, NJ



November – Pierogi Sale

Homemade by the Sokol ladies.
 \$6 per dozen.

Call Alison at 973-361-5325 to place your order.

Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving Pancake Breakfast 8:30 AM to 12 Noon; Adults \$6, Children \$3

Featuring Regular and Blueberry Pancakes, Bacon and Sausage, Home Fries, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee, Tea and Juice.

Take-out available.

For reservations or information,
 call 973-263-9831



January 13 – Slovak Dinner

Seatings at 4 or 6 PM

Adults \$12, Children \$6

Featuring Homemade Pierogies, Stuffed Cabbage, Chicken Paprikash, Kielbasa & Kraut, Salad, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee And Tea.

Eat in or take out. Snow date: Saturday January 14. Reservations Required.

For reservations, call Alison at 973-361-5325



Bring your friends !!!

SUPPORT OUR SOKOL FARRELL GYMNASTIC PROGRAM

BY BRINGING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS to our

St. NICHOLAS PARTY (sv. Mikulaš)

JOHN LAPINSKI ORCHESTRA
 FOR LISTENING & DANCING

See the beautifully and Newly Remodeled Bar Room

FARRELL SLOVAK HOME

800 SPEARMAN AVE.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2011



TRADITIONAL SLOVAK HOME MADE FOOD MENU:

Appetizer: Choice of Kapusnica (sauerkraut and kolbasy soup) or Salad. **Main Course:** Holubky (stuffed cabbage), Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Homemade Desert and Coffee included. Free Hot Dogs for the Children.

*Food service begins at 5:00 pm. Carry out service at 6:00 pm.
 Dancing is from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.*

Donation:

Sit down service with live music, dancing and singing.....\$12.00
 Carry out service.....\$9.00

SLOVAK AND ENGLISH CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG
 (words provided)

*Get your tickets from a Sokol gymnast or call the SOKOL USA FARRELL
 HOTLINE at 724-342-1129 to reserve your place.
 (Leave a message) Seating is limited! Come early, stay late.*

From the President's View

From time to time, I am asked two questions. The first question is "Why should I buy insurance?"

Many people will say that they do not need insurance because they intend to save what would be spent on an insurance premium and invest it rather than purchase the life insurance. On the surface, this sounds like a good idea. However, the sad reality of these difficult economic times is that very few people actually save the money and so do this.

All too often parents are paying for children's educations, repaying their own student loans or paying for home mortgages and do not have any savings to invest. For these people, a premature or an unexpected death at a young age is an enormous tragedy. It leaves the

surviving family without a wage owner and without funds for a burial or for living expenses.

A paid up insurance certificate is an asset which can be cashed out or, sometimes, borrowed against. It can be cashed out to pay obligations or educational expenses. Often, grandparents purchase an insurance certificate for a newly born grandchild so that when the child reaches college age the insurance certificate can be liquidated and the money used for college educational expenses.

There is the "pre-need" aspect of an insurance certificate. Older people can pledge or assign an insurance certificate (within the applicable guidelines) to cover their future funeral cost.

The insurance certificate can be a valuable financial planning

tool to people at all stages of life.

I am often asked the companion question, "Why should I sell insurance?" For our society there are several reasons.

The first is that Sokol USA membership is based upon ownership of a Sokol USA life insurance certificate. Without membership via an insurance certificate, one cannot purchase a Sokol USA annuity which pays a favorable rate.

Another reason is that without new members, our society will wither away through demographics. If new members are not continually added, the passing of our older members through the natural process of aging will cause our membership to fade away.

By selling insurance and

adding new members, our lodges secure their future and that of Sokol USA in general. Our lodges need members in order to exist. If no new members, or fewer members, are added on an ongoing basis, a lodge will find that the process of aging demographics will make it impossible to continue its programs or activities. It is very disappointing to see requests from lodges to merge or to close.

Sokol has many good things to offer. It offers financial security, it offers a gymnastic program, a walking club, and many fraternal activities to those who are interested. Next year will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sokol movement by Dr. Miroslav Tyrs. I encourage our lodges and our members to enlarge their ranks and bring



Joseph Bielecki

new members to Sokol USA. You will be surprised how many you ask will say "Yes! To Sokol USA membership. NAZDAR! Joe Bielecki, President

FROM THE SUPREME SECRETARY

To Members and Lodge & District Officers,

As we fast approach the end of another year, many Lodges will hold annual meetings to elect the officers for the coming year. Please remember to complete the form listing the Lodge Officers and address information. The form was sent with the previous assessment. If there are no changes in Lodge leadership, the form should still be completed and forwarded to Headquarters. I thank you for your attention to this detail.

At this time of the year, many lodges will provide monetary support to local and national charities. We encourage this support. As Sister Jennifer Moulton has advised, a food pantry contribution, adoptions of a family in need for the holidays are a means of bringing Sokol to the public eye. It also demonstrates our fraternal spirit of assisting people within our community. By the same token, we remind each lodge, if able, to not forget their "shut in" Sokol members. Sometimes a simple greeting or holiday card will brighten someone's day.

I certainly would be remiss if I did not mention the need to support our own National Gymnastic Fund and the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund. Donations to these funds are always graciously accepted.

I wish everyone a Very Happy Thanksgiving and ask that we remember our Men and Women serving our Nation throughout the world. Their dedication and sacrifice allow us to celebrate and be thankful for what we have received.

Milan S. Kovac
Supreme Secretary

ATTENTION BOWLERS & GOLFERS



The National Directors would like to better communicate with our Sokol Bowlers and Golfers. We would like a contact person from each lodge with whom we can communicate. Individuals who would like to share ideas and brainstorm about how to increase participation in our national tournaments are also encouraged to forward their contact information. We hope to communicate by e-mail and schedule a conference call discussion in the future.

Please send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address to:

Todd Yatchyshyn
341 Old Allentown Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091
yatch18@aol.com

Sokol Community Center

Presents its

Fall Festival Dinner Dance

"HODY"



Saturday, November 12, 2011

Sokol Community Center
4855 N. Elston Ave.



5:30pm – Cocktails

6:30pm – Dinner

(Roast Pork, Chicken, Jaternicky, and all the trimmings)

7:30pm – DJ and Dancing

\$15 Adults

\$8 Children (ages 6-12, 5 and under no charge)

Reservations Required

Call Harriet Kelly at 773-736-7229 (by November 10, 2011)

Pastry Donations Appreciated

Holidays Approaching

We are approaching a very crazy time of year. In the upcoming month, we are going to be feasting at family gatherings and getting lists together to go shopping for December 25th. We may not have a lot of time for lodge activities this month. But we all as a lodge do something simple to make a difference in another person's or persons' lives.

Making a difference is simple and could take as few as two to three hours of you and your lodges' time. During the next few weeks, you will notice many stores, churches and communities asking for help or assistance. This is your opportunity to pick a cause and give back to your local community.

Some of the ideas that you and your lodge

may do are:

-Have a bake sale and use the proceeds to buy toys, clothes, food and donate them.

-Collect books and donate them to a local non-profit organization.

-Go to a local church and pick a few angels off the angel tree and then go shopping as a group.

-Call the Red Cross or United Way to receive a family to buy for this holiday season.

Remember, getting together even for a few hours will make our lodges stronger and in return it will help to make Sokol USA a more inviting organization. It all starts with you.

Nazdar!

Jennifer Moulton

5.5% ANNUITY RATE

The Single Premium and Flexible Premium Annuities offered by the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol earn a 5.50% rate of interest. Annuities are a very sound investment for your retirement years.

For information and an application, write to the home office at 276 Prospect Street, P.O. Box 189, East Orange, NJ 07019 or call our toll free number at 1-888-253-0362.

Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol Of USA Profit & Loss January-September 2011

Jan – Sep 2011

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
SCHOLARSHIP-MILAN GETTING	7,766.00
ACCIDENT & HEALTH PREMIUM	80.15
AMORTIZATION-IMR	58,770.00
ANNUITY	25,000.00
ASSESSMENTS-GYMNASTICS	629.40
ASSESSMENTS-INDIGENT	127.35
ASSESSMENTS-LIFE	43,791.68
DIVIDEND ON STOCK	49,995.61
GAINS/LOSSES – BONDS	
LOSS ON SALE OF BONDS	-102,718.23
GAINS/LOSSES-BONDS other	<u>33,832.00</u>
Total GAINS/LOSSES - BONDS	-68,886.23
GAINS/LOSSES – STOCKS	
GAIN ON SALE OF STOCK-COMMON	74,836.13
LOSS ON SALE OF STOCK-PREFER	-25,705.00
GAINS/LOSSES-STOCKS other	<u>0.00</u>
Total GAINS/LOSSES – STOCKS	49,131.13
GYMNASTIC INCOME	
GYM FUND DONATIONS	<u>1,400.00</u>
Total GYMNASTIC INCOME	1,400.00
INCREASE/DECREASE BONDS	3,120.00
INTEREST INCOME	
INVESTMENT INCOME-OTHER	137.12
ACCUED INTEREST PURCH OF BOND	-10,227.90
BONDS – INDUSTRIAL	451,832.65
CERTIFICATE LOANS	62.85
COLLATERAL LOANS	1,284.70
GYM DEPT.-INVESTORS SVS BK	15.36
MORTGAGE LOANS	10,456.39
PNC CHECKING	<u>40.80</u>
Total INTEREST INCOME	453,601.97
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	20.00
RENTAL REAL ESTATE INCOME	
Total RENTAL REAL ESTATE INCOME	<u>49,500.00</u>
Total Income	674,047.06
Expense	
PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS	
ANNUITY PAID	14,692.21
CASH SURRENDER	15,112.73
DEATH CLAIMS	76,300.61
INTEREST – ANNUITY	<u>2,811.03</u>
Total PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS	108,916.58
ACTUARIAL & ACCOUNTING FEE	57,917.86
BANK CHARGES	479.68
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	82.00
DECREASE-LIFE RESERVE	22,000.00
DECREASE LIFE RESERVE	32,000.00
DIVIDENDS	4,862.41
DONATIONS & ADVERTISING	1,404.84
EXPENSE OF SUP. LDG. MTG.	28,307.20
FRATERNAL EXPENSE	5,229.19
GYMNASTIC EXPENSES	
SLET 2011	21,605.90
USAG PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP	750.25
SCHOOL EXPENSE (KURZ)	1,300.00
GYMNASTIC BOWLING	1,320.00
GYMNASTIC INSTRUCTORS SCHOOL	100.00
GYMNASTIC INSURANCE	1,710.50
GYMNASTIC MISCELLANEOUS	601.28
GYMNASTIC TRAINING SESSION	882.83
GYMNASTIC EXPENSES - Other	<u>2,241.32</u>
Total GYMNASTIC EXPENSES	30,512.08
HOSPITALIZATION	17,930.17
INSURANCE (EXCEPT REAL ESTATE)	13,332.77
INVESTMENT EXPENSES	14,857.47
OFFICE EXPENSES	12,430.82
OFFICERS' TRAVELING EXPENSE	12,052.98
OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS	10,560.00
PAYROLL TAX EXPENSE	8,927.83
POSTAGE, EXPRESS, TEL & TEL	7,388.27
PRINTING & STATIONARY	1,734.06
RENT EXPENSE (Rent)	49,500.00
RENTAL REAL ESTATE EXPENSES	
Total RENTAL REAL ESTATE EXPENSES	23,337.39
SALARIES	
SALARIES-SUPREME OFFICERS	3,787.50
SUPREME LODGE SALARY	825.00
OFFICE	45,729.81
OFFICER	<u>62,625.40</u>
Total SALARIES	112,967.71
Total SCHOLARSHIP	3,000.00
STATE LICENSE FEES	3,144.99
TELEPHONE EXP	<u>2,745.99</u>
Total Expense	<u>585,622.29</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>88,424.77</u>
Net Income	<u>88,424.77</u>

CASH BASIS

NOTICE TO LODGE AND DISTRICT SECRETARIES

Recently Headquarters mailed to each Lodge and District a form to list the names of the Lodge and District Officers' names, address and telephone number. It is requested that these forms be completed and returned to Headquarters as promptly as possible. This information will be used in the event we need to contact or communicate with officers through means other than the Sokol Times. Your cooperation is extremely appreciated. Thank You.

Milan S. Kovac
Supreme Secretary

Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol Of USA Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2011

Sep 30, 2011

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
CASH – PNC CHECKING	134,631.10
CASH – CANADIAN BK OF COM	4,133.17
CASH – M/M GYMNASTIC	24,576.86
PETTY CASH	<u>500.00</u>
Total Checking/Savings	163,841.13
Other Current Assets	
BONDS	
BONDS	<u>9,067,493.58</u>
Total BONDS	9,067,493.58
STOCK	
PREFERRED STOCK	753,244.00
COMMON STOCK	<u>213,598.00</u>
Total STOCK	966,842.00
MORTGAGES RECEIVABLE	
Total MORTGAGES RECEIVABLE	1,127,131.33
COLLATERAL LOANS	
Total COLLATERAL LOANS	465,733.17
CERTIFICATE LOANS	3,154.68
BENEFICIARY TRUST FUND	
RESERVE FOR TRUST FUND	-17,113.08
TRUST FUND FOR BENEFICIARY	<u>17,113.08</u>
Total BENEFICIARY TRUST FUND	0.00
BOND INTEREST DUE	149,296.00
EXCHANGE	3,557.81
MORTGAGE INTEREST DUE	2,824.00
PREMIUMS DUE	<u>3,776.00</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>11,789,808.57</u>
Total Current Assets	11,935,649.70
Fixed Assets	
AUTOMOBILE	
ACCUM DEPREC – AUTO	-27,081.00
AUTOMOBILE – OTHER	<u>30,095.95</u>
Total AUTOMOBILE	3,014.95
REAL ESTATE - BUILDING	
ACCUM DEPREC - BUILDING	-55,259.19
REAL ESTATE – BUILDING – OTHER	<u>67,898.25</u>
Total REAL ESTATE – BUILDING	12,639.06
Total Fixed Assets	<u>15,654.01</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>11,969,303.71</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
NON-ADMITTED COLL. LOAN	96,312.83
A&H RESERVE	1,290.00
ADVANCE PREMIUMS	586.00
AVR	86,263.44
CLAIMS – LIFE	25,500.00
DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	253.35
DIVIDEND ACCUMULATION	108,768.41
EXPENSES PAYABLE	66,563.77
IMR	489,145.25
LIFE RESERVE	4,683,322.00
MORTGAGE LOAN ESCROW	
Total MORTGAGE LN ESCROW	-23,206.51
NON-ADMITTED – MORTGAGE	358,000.00
NON-ADMITTED – AUTO	3,014.00
RES. FOR UNPRES. CHECKS	2,251.79
TAXES DUE	<u>24,140.12</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>5,922,204.45</u>
Total Current Liabilities	5,922,204.45
Long Term Liabilities	
ANNUITIES – LEFT WITH SOCIETY	91,141.51
MATURED ENDOW. – LEFT W/SOC	<u>199,204.00</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>290,345.51</u>
Total Liabilities	6,212,549.96
Equity	
UNASSIGNED FUNDS	
UNREALIZED BOND-2011	83,041.23
UNREALIZED STOCK-2011	-50,919.00
UNREALIZED PREFERRED-2009	34,100.00
INDIGENT FUND	8,974.41
ACCIDENT AND HEALTH FUND	<u>53,610.29</u>
Total UNASSIGNED FUNDS	128,806.93
CONSOLIDATED FUND	5,539,522.05
(Retained Earnings)	
Net Income	<u>88,424.77</u>
Total Equity	<u>5,756,753.75</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>11,969,303.71</u>

CASH BASIS



WHO NEEDS MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

High School Seniors planning to attend college or current college students, Sokol USA's **Milan Getting Scholarship** is available to Sokol USA members!

Education is never something that should take a back seat. Improve your financial ability to attend college by applying for the Milan Getting Scholarship. Each year, Sokol USA is proud to award the Milan Getting Scholarship to Sokol USA members who are furthering their education. Contact Sokol USA Headquarters by phone or e-mail (1-888-253-0362 or SOKOLUSAHQ@AOL.COM) and obtain an application and get ready to enjoy one of the benefits of being a Sokol USA member.

Applications for the 2012-2013 academic year must be received at Sokol USA by April 1, 2012. New scholarship recipients will be announced by June 1, 2012.

Reminder: All current Milan Getting Scholarship recipients must submit a scholarship renewal application each year by June 29th. Please contact Sokol USA headquarters with any questions.

SPONSOR A GYMNAST

Sponsor a Gymnast is a new program designed to encourage parents to enroll their children in Sokol USA by purchasing a Single Premium Life Insurance Policy. Since this type of insurance policy is a significant financial investment, the goal of the program is to provide a one-time sponsorship for the yearly gymnastics fee, which is an added expense in excess of the cost of the policy.

In the past, all you needed to participate in Sokol gymnastics classes was to be a member of a Sokol lodge. With the rising costs of gymnastics equipment, liability insurance, facility maintenance or rental, our gym programs have to charge an additional yearly gymnastics fee, on average about \$85.00 per gymnast.

Selling a Single Premium Life Insurance Policy is a great advantage for Sokol USA. It makes the child a member for life, whether or not the child continues to participate in the gymnastics program. It also allows Sokol USA to invest funds more quickly when the total payment is made at the time of purchase.

This program is the perfect opportunity for you to show your Sokol Spirit by welcoming a new lifelong Sokol member to our family by making a contribution of \$85.00 to the Sokol USA "Sponsor a Gymnast" Fund. As funds become available, gymnastically active lodges will be notified and sponsorships will be divided equally among gyms with candidates interested in purchasing Single Premium Life Insurance Policies.

For more information about this program, please contact the National Directors or Sokol USA Headquarters. While \$85 is the recommended sponsorship level, sponsorships in any amount are welcome. Checks are payable to Sokol USA; include "Sponsor a Gymnast" in the memo line.

Checks can be mailed to:

Sponsor a Gymnast
Sokol USA
P.O. Box 189
East Orange, New Jersey 07019-0189

Sponsor a Gymnast today - Nazdar!

Directors: Chris Yatchyshyn, cwatch@verizon.net
and Todd Yatchyshyn, yatch18@aol.com
Sokol USA Secretary: Milan Kovac, SOKOLUSAHQ@AOL.COM

Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting Wednesday, August 31, 2011 – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Todd Yatchyshyn – Dir. of Men, Chris Yatchyshyn – Dir. of Women, Eric Skovronec – Asst. Dir. of Men & Lodge 32 Boonton, Matthew Reynolds – Asst. Dir. of Men, Amy Pracko – Asst. Director of Women, Charity Ruhl – Asst. Dir. of Women & Lodge 47 Monessen, Norah Kaplan – Lodge 12 Central Jersey, Kristen Merker – Lodge 306 Chicago, Stephen Banjak – Lodge 103 Farrell, Scott Pracko – District L. Stur, Rich Yatchyshyn, Dist. Tatra

The agenda, lodge reports, address list and recommendations from the directors and lodges were presented via e-mail in advance of the call.

Agenda

- I Call Meeting to Order - Welcome
- II. Self Introductions
- III. National Staff Reports
- IV. Questions/Comments - Lodge Reports
- V Old Business
 - A. Sokolfest XXVI Review
 - B. World Federation Meeting
 - C. Code of Conduct
- VI Date and Site of the 2011 National Training Session
 - A. Session Topics
- VII. Recommendations/Budget
 - A. Recommendations from National Directors
 - B. Recommendations from Lodges
- VIII Adjournment of phone conference

Welcome & Self Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chris Yatchyshyn who also agreed to be the secretary. All participants were asked to state their name and the lodge or district they represented.

National Staff Reports

Todd reported that he taught at the two-week Instructors' School held in Chicago in July. Sokol USA had four students attend, one from Farrell and three from Chicago. Todd shared a little bit about each of the Sokol USA students and complimented all four on their progress. Chris added that Sarah Goda of Farrell graduated first in the intermediate level, repeating her first place finish as a beginner the year before.

Todd and Chris thanked everyone for their help at Sokolfest. Chris thought the Opening Ceremonies and the Slet performances went extremely well. She also was pleased with the first Sokol USA Team Marching Competition and was happy that the Monessen Lodge participated, giving Sokol USA representation. Todd felt we

had good participation in all the events and that people really enjoyed the Sokol Decathlete Challenge and the Field Events. Eric felt the Slet went well and the venues were a great choice; Matthew agreed. Amy said her kids had a great time. Rich added that he felt the help we received from the Indy Fieldhouse Director Bill Furman was exceptional and he was pleased with the participation in the field events. Since most of the reports from the national staff centered on their Sokolfest preparations and implementation, the review of the Slet continued. Written reports submitted from the National Staff are included at the end of the minutes.

Sokolfest XXVI Review

The general consensus was that the event was very successful and participants enjoyed the experience. It was agreed the choice of venues for the sports events, social events and Slet were excellent. Special thanks to Katrina Coleman and Charity Ruhl for working so hard to find a second set of venues when the Hershey arrangements fell through. In addition, Greater Cleveland's wonderful facility and their willingness to host the Thursday evening social really added to the "Sokol" ambience that we can't always get at rented venues.

Judy Smith e-mailed a list of recommendations to be considered when preparing for the next Slet; it was shared with the directors. Other suggestions from the discussion included paying more attention to flag etiquette, as well as the order in which national anthems should be played.

Compliments and thanks were again extended to Stephen Banjak and the Farrell gymnasts for the wonderfully orchestrated opening ceremonies, as well as the special numbers presented by Monessen, Central Jersey and Chicago. The participation of the Cleveland Folk dancers and the Spirit gymnasts in Chicago's wheel number really added to the show. We were all in agreement that it was the best Opening Ceremonies we have ever presented. Performing before a completely full set of bleachers is also a great way to start off a Slet.

A discussion was held on the merits of the custom T-shirt vendor versus having another Slet T-shirt for sale, in addition to the one that was distributed compliments of District Jan Francisci. The smaller-sized gymnasium came into question which did not allow for two set of women's equipment. We also experienced difficulty in obtaining USAG men's judges which prolonged the men's session. While these were challenges, considering the number of gymnasts registered, it was the right decision to go with a smaller gym and one set of women's equipment. The real challenge was trying to run all the competitions in one day to avoid a second day of rental fees for the gymnastics equipment.

It was pointed out that the separate awards area in the cafeteria room worked very well and the Monessen parents did a fabulous job of running the competitions – including all aspects from the mail-in registrations to the awards presentations, which occurred just minutes after the completion of each session. To have 230 gymnasts compete between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM and have the rented equipment loaded on the truck by 5:30 PM was amazing. Special thanks to Lodge 47 Monessen for helping the

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Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting

(Continued from Page 5)

National Staff set up and tear down the equipment, along with Lodge 12 Central Jersey who played a major roll in the tear down.

It was agreed the Slet rehearsals and performance went well and the rented sound system was a great asset. Scott Yatchyshyn was acknowledged for running the sound system at the Slet. Rich Yatchyshyn was also thanked for the addition of the field events competition that kept many participants active in between calisthenics rehearsals and the BBQ picnic. It was hoped that more of the participants would have stayed after having lunch at the BBQ to view the presentation of the Fitness Challenge and Field Events awards. The timing of the presentation of these awards probably should have been emphasized more.

The Slet program went well and everyone was grateful the weather cooperated. Chris stated that many spectators really enjoyed the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble. Chris added that recognition of Sokol Canada's 100th Anniversary throughout the 4-day event was also very much appreciated.

It was also agreed that Bill Furman, our contact with the Independence facilities, and the Athletic Boosters did a fantastic job of assisting us through all our scheduled

events. They went over and above what was agreed upon and the convenience of the food services and the reasonable prices were appreciated by all.

Todd shared comments from the Sokol Instructors School students who participated in a Slet discussion during one of their lecture periods. Overall the comments of the students were very positive. They liked the location and venues, enjoyed the social events, the free T-shirt and they really liked the drawstring souvenir bags. Some still miss the large awards ceremony and asked if there might be a way to recognize at least first-place winners at an event where everyone was present. He also shared that Maryann Fiordelis really enjoyed the field events and suggested that perhaps Rich could run them at the next American Sokol Slet.

The one scheduling disappointment that was expressed was the timing of the Sokol World Federation meeting. The majority of the national directors, and others, who had an interest in attending the meeting, were still at the gymnastics competitions on Thursday at 3 PM. Most felt the meeting should have been held on Sunday morning following the Slet activities. This year more than ever, they had wanted to attend to learn about the events of the 150th Anniversary Slet in Prague. They feel the WSF meetings are really about the sports programs and Slets, so we should not schedule them at a time when the directors have other obligations.

Chris expressed disappointment that we did not have anyone to video tape the opening ceremonies and the Slet. By the time we remembered this task it was too late to hire anyone to do it. Monessen, Farrell and Central Jersey have some video. Chris asked that copies be made and sent to her to try to compile them.

Lodge Reports

The lodge reports were submitted and distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting and are attached at the end of the minutes. There were no questions regarding the reports.

Old Business

Sokolfest XXVI Review

The review of Sokolfest XXVI was held earlier in the conference call.

World Federation Meeting

Chris was unable to open the file of minutes from the World Sokol Federation. It was hoped that Brother Bielecki could give a recap of the meeting, but due to his mother's serious illness he informed the directors he would not be able to make the call. The directors will share any information about the WSF meeting that is shared at the Supreme Lodge meeting.

(Note: At the Supreme Lodge Meeting Brother Bielecki informed the directors that the XV All-Sokol Slet, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Sokol will be held in Prague July 1-6, 2012. Events include the traditional parade through the city and Slet in the Strahov Stadium. Other cultural programs and stage performances will be held in smaller venues throughout the city and in Tyrsvudum. As information becomes available he will pass it along to the directors.)

Code of Conduct

Chris reminded the directors to share copies of the Code of Conduct with all instructors. Chris will e-mail a copy to the directors. Since all lodge officers should be familiar with the Code of Conduct it was suggested that headquarters should send a hard copy annually to all lodge presidents to review at their meetings.

Date & Site of 2011 National Training Session

Since a conference call annual meeting was held the directors suggested that a training session be held later in the year, with a variety of sessions similar to the American Sokol Development Conferences. It was decided that since we had already had a busy year with the Slet we would not hold a National Training Session in 2011, but we may consider options for spring 2012. One suggestion was to have the directors or a specialist present the same session(s) in all three areas.

Todd suggested that we use the training sessions to also create a Sokol USA special number to be performed at the American Sokol Slet in 2013. He will be selecting some music and sharing it with the lodges to voice their preferences. At each of the training sessions he'd like those present to help create a section of the special number. This way all the lodges would have had a part in creating it as well as performing it.

Chris asked about the Wheel Gymnastics class at 306. Kristen said it was held on Saturdays. Scott offered more details and will see if he can get more information from

Wolfgang Bientzle about instructors in areas near our other lodges. Scott said there is a big push in the Chicago area because the Wheel Gymnastics World Championship is being held in Chicago in 2013.

It was also recommended that directors and instructors participate in local workshops and training sessions offered by outside professionals. Norah Valentin and Nicole Zarembo recently attended a preschool training class that they found very worthwhile. Norah reported that Flipping Education is a great resource for teaching aids, ideas and music. Their website is <http://www.flippingeducation.com/>

Directors' Recommendations

1. That Sokol USA pay full tuition of any Sokol USA member to attend a National Sokol Instructors School in 2012 with the recommendation of their Lodge Director and prior to attending the school, obtain the approval of the National Directors.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried.
2. That the Supreme Lodge subsidize the cost of tuition for Sokol USA campers to attend the National Camp/Leadership Development Camp with a \$3,000.00 subsidy to be divided equally among the participants with a maximum allowance of the cost of one week's tuition.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
3. That a maximum of one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800.00) be allocated for the 2011-2012 season for hosting or participating in training sessions, mini-Kurz, or invitational competitions. A proposal must be made in advance with the approval of the National Directors. Proper documentation must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the event for reimbursement of the expenses.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
4. That the Reactivation Project be continued to help any lodge that is not presently active, or to begin a new lodge with the intent of becoming athletically active, or to assist an active lodge that is adding a new program, up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per lodge with the prior approval of the National Directors.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
5. That Sokol USA support the Professional Development of individuals who attend clinics and/or conferences related to the teaching activities of the gymnastic department. Prior approval of the National Directors is required. No more than one thousand (\$1,000) should be spent for the 2011-2012 season.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
6. That the Supreme Lodge support "Project Safety" by reimbursing the sum of 50% of an expenditure up to \$1000 on new mats or equipment during the 2011-2012 season.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
7. That Sokol USA reimburse one half the tuition of the USAG and the AACA (cheerleading) Safety Certification cost to all Sokol USA member instructors with prior approval from the National Directors.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried.
8. That Sokol USA pay the cost of Professional Membership in USAG for the National staff for the 2011-2012 season.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
9. That the Supreme Lodge reimburse up to two instructors per lodge for professional membership in USAG.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
10. That Sokol USA join the USAG Member Club Program as a total organization. The cost is approximately one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$165.00).
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
11. That the National Directors and the Supreme Lodge Secretary coordinate and administer the purchase of accident insurance for all gymnastically active lodges.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
12. That the Supreme Lodge pay for travel, room, per diem & registration fee for the National Directors to attend the American Sokol Directors' Conference in October 2012.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
13. That the Supreme Lodge provide fifty dollars (\$50.00) per bowling team to the host lodge of the National Bowling Tournament for the "prize fund," with a minimum 20-team contribution, plus the cost of trophies or awards.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
14. That the Supreme Lodge pay a travel expense of ten dollars (\$10.00) per Sokol USA bowler attending the National Bowling Tournament, payment is to be made to the participant's lodge. The host lodge is not eligible.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
15. That the Supreme Lodge pay ten dollars (\$10.00) to the host lodge for every eligible Sokol USA golfer in the National Golfing Tournament plus the cost of awards.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried

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Fellowship at Sokolfest



Enjoying the company of friends and family at the recent Sokolfest in Cleveland are (from left) Matt Blistan, Amelia Blistan, Ethel Moschak and Natalie Gardner.

Sokol Social News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joseph Chambal, a member of Sokol USA Lodge 114 and a resident of Yonkers, N.Y., celebrates his 80th birthday.

IS YOUR FAMILY COVERED?

Insurance coverage for all family members is an essential part of personal financial planning. Don't put off taking care of this responsibility.

See your lodge Financial Secretary or call Sokol Headquarters toll free at 1-888-253-0362 for additional information or membership applications.

MESSAGE TO MEMBERSHIP

The Supreme Lodge is working diligently through its Supreme Lodge Committees in investigating and examining our options regarding the future of Sokol USA.

As I have reported in The Sokol Times on many occasions, there are two Supreme Lodge committees designated with the task of determining our "Society Future" and "Succession Planning." The committee members have been discussing many issues including, but not limited to, acquisition, merger,

separating insurance from fraternal activities, or spinning off our gymnastic department as a separate entity, defining the duties of the chief operating officer, reviewing office operating and disaster planning, establishing a separate entity to better administer our fraternal activities, and the hiring of professional management.

The committees are deliberating and discussing all of the above in order to provide direction for the next Convention. With Brother

Kovac's anticipated retirement, we also need to determine whether there are viable candidates for the position of Supreme Secretary from within our membership. As Sokol USA is a benefit society with more than \$11million of assets, insurance in force of more than \$8 million and a real estate and mortgage portfolio, any candidate for this position should be an individual with proven managerial skills.

This is a call to the membership in that if there is

anyone who has a sincere interest in becoming the Supreme Secretary, to make his or her intentions known.

Members who have an interest in seeking the position of Supreme Secretary are asked to send a letter of intent and a resume to Brother John Kamenitsky, 485B Commanche Lane, Stratford, CT 06614.

NAZDAR!
Joseph S. Bielecki
President

SHARE YOUR FAMILY EVENTS WITH YOUR "SOKOL FAMILY"

The Sokol Times Social Page is a new way to keep up with your old and new friends! Share your families' events with your Sokol family. We want to hear from you. Only news regarding members of our lodges will be printed.

Complete one of the attached forms and mail the information and a photograph of clear quality to Sokol USA, 276 Prospect Street, P.O. Box 189, East Orange, NJ 07109-0189. Information and photographs also may be e-mailed to: SOKOLUSAHQ@aol.com

ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS & ANNIVERSARIES



NAMES: _____

 PHONE #: _____
 HOMETOWN: _____
 SOKOL LODGE: _____
 YEARS MARRIED (IF APPLICABLE): _____

BIRTHDAYS



NAME: _____
 BIRTH DATE: _____
 AGE: _____
 PHONE #: _____
 HOMETOWN: _____
 SOKOL LODGE: _____

PROMOTIONS, HONOR ROLLS & OTHER EVENTS



NAME: _____
 PHONE #: _____
 HOMETOWN: _____
 SOKOL LODGE: _____
 EVENT: _____

Photographs are not required, but they do add to the presentation. Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your photograph returned.

**Remember Those Who
Have Served Our Country**



**Celebrate
Veterans Day
on Friday, Nov. 11th!**

**Sokol USA National Gymnastics
Department Conference Call Meeting**

(Continued from Page 6)

- 16. That the Supreme Lodge support a National Sporting Activity, up to five hundred dollars (\$500) plus the cost of awards.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
 - 17. That the Supreme Lodge pay for the full travel expense for all authorized Sokol USA delegates to attend the 2012 National Gymnastic Department Meeting/Training Session, with room & per diem for the directors and room & food allowance for the assistants.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
 - 18. That Sokol USA lodges conducting weekly gymnastic programs can apply for financial aid from the Supreme Lodge in order to supplement the compensation of instructors. Gymnastically active lodges that received funds for the 2010-2011 program year will submit an explanation of how the funds were used and may request up to \$2,000 (two thousand dollars) each, for the 2011-2012 program year, for a sum of \$12,000 based on a total of six gymnastically active lodges.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
 - 19. That Sokol USA subsidize half the travel for one national cheerleading competition per year up to \$500 per lodge. All participants must be policy-holding members.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried
- Recommendations 1-19 were voted on in total by the Gymnastics Dept. The recommendations were seconded and passed unanimously.**
- 20. That Sokol USA subsidize the participation of the National Directors at the XV All-Sokol Slet in Prague, Czech Republic in 2012.
Motion seconded and passed unanimously
Finance Committee Action: Motion made and seconded to take no action at this time and bring this item to the Supreme Lodge for discussion.
 - 21. That a sum of up to three hundred dollars (\$300) be subsidized per Sokol USA member who participates in calisthenics or a special number in the XV All-Sokol Slet in Prague, Czech Republic in 2012, with a cap of six thousand (\$6,000) total. If there are more than 20 participants, the \$6,000 will be divided equally by the number of eligible participants.
Motion seconded and passed unanimously.
Finance Committee Action: Motion carried

(To be continued in December)



**Looking for a fun way to burn off
calories?**

Join Sokol USA's

Healthy Heart Walking Club

Benefits include:

- Reducing your stress level
- Controlling your weight
- Lowering your risk of heart disease
- Controlling your blood pressure

Sign up for Sokol's Healthy Heart Walking Club by sending your name, mailing address and home lodge to:



Brandi Kovac
280 East 2nd Street, Apt. 9A
New York, NY 10009
OR email: BKKovac@aol.com



You will receive a free Sokol pedometer and a Healthy Heart mileage chart. You are responsible for recording your mileage. Walk with fellow Sokol members, or on your own. Contact Brandi when you reach a milestone and get a reward!

Got Insurance?

**Introducing Sokol USA's NEW
Single Premium Insurance Coverage**

*Affordable Rates Different Rates for Men and Women
Excellent Coverage Simplified Application Process
You will not be turned down because of age
Pay Once, Have Coverage for Life*

Minimum Policy is \$3,000

\$3,000 Policy

Newborns:	\$213 for males
	\$180 for females
Age 5:	\$252 for males
	\$213 for females
Age 18:	\$399 for males
	\$342 for females
Age 21:	\$432 for males
	\$372 for females
Age 30:	\$567 for males
	\$504 for females
Age 40:	\$792 for males
	\$705 for females
Age 65:	\$1,695 for males
	\$1,512 for females

\$5,000 Policy

Newborns:	\$355 for males
	\$300 for females
Age 5:	\$420 for males
	\$355 for females
Age 18:	\$665 for males
	\$570 for females
Age 21:	\$720 for males
	\$620 for females
Age 30:	\$945 for males
	\$840 for females
Age 40:	\$1,320 for males
	\$1,175 for females
Age 65:	\$2,825 for males
	\$2,520 for females

\$10,000 Policy

Newborns:	\$710 for males
	\$600 for females
Age 5:	\$840 for males
	\$710 for females
Age 18:	\$1,330 for males
	\$1,140 for females
Age 21:	\$1,440 for males
	\$1,240 for females
Age 30:	\$1,890 for males
	\$1,680 for females
Age 40:	\$2,640 for males
	\$2,350 for females
Age 65:	\$5,650 for males
	\$5,040 for females

**For a complete list
of rates by age, please
contact your local Lodge
or Sokol USA
Headquarters
at 888-253-0362 or
SOKOLUSAHQSA@aol.com**