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# SOKOL TIMES

MARCH 14, 2013

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## From the President's View

As I write this month's article, I am on my way home from Kiev, Ukraine, where I gave several days of talks to law students. There were many impressions from this experience. First, the students were very eager to practice speaking English and were full of questions about America, its legal system and legal education in the United States. For Ukrainian students, travel abroad is not so easy. It requires visas which are not so easy to obtain and contacts like this are a window to new perspectives for the students. While walking around Kiev, there were many sidewalks and roads covered deep in snow and ice. There is no tradition of businesses or homeowners salting or shoveling ice and snow from their walkways.



Joseph Bielecki

In talking to people, I also learned that there was no tradition of the fraternal system in their country as we have in the United States. This underscores the innovation in the immigrant era America of the late 1800s which gave us the fraternal system that we have today. At that time, people came together to accomplish common goals or to fulfill common needs. They created fraternal life insurance societies such as ours so that in the event of a tragedy, such as the untimely death of a provider, families would not be left destitute. Also in our case, our members established lodges and sports halls to provide physical activity and recreation which they had enjoyed in Europe.

With the passage of time, the fraternal system in America has

grown strong. It offers its members financial security. It provides opportunities for improving our communities, for socializing, and for our members to enjoy sports and physical fitness.

Now that spring fast approaches, it is my hope that our members will continue to come together in our lodges and be active in physical fitness, sports and fraternal activities. The coming good weather will enable us all to shake off the winter, to be active, and to enjoy winter, to be active, and to enjoy the benefits of fraternalism and Sokol!

Nazdar!  
Joe Bielecki  
President, Sokol USA

## The Passing of Sister Millie Mihalik

Just two months shy of her 100th birthday, Sister Mildred Mihalik, nee Durkovic, a long-time and loyal member of Berwyn Lodge 39-40, was called to her eternal rest on February 13, 2013. Millie was born April 25, 1913, and lived primarily in Chicago and North Riverside, and most recently as a resident of the British Home in Brookfield, Ill.

Friends and family gathered to say good bye at the Hitzeman Funeral Home in Brookfield on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Officiating (Continued on Page 2)



Joseph Senko (right) displays the Medal of the President of the Slovak Republic that he recently received. With him are Ambassador Peter Kmec and Albina.

## Senko Awarded Presidential Medal

At a recent reception at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., Joseph Senko of Pittsburgh, Pa., was awarded the Medal of the President of the Slovak Republic for extraordinary merit in the development of friendly relations with the Slovak Republic, as well as promoting Slovakia throughout the world. This is the highest award that the Slovak government awards to foreigners.

Senko has been the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania since 1997. In this capacity, he receives and responds to approximately 100 inquiries each year. Shortly after becoming Honorary Consul, he formed the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, a non-profit organization that presents approximately 10 Slovak cultural programs each year.

He is also a charter member of the Executive Committee of the Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization Friends of Slovakia, which was formed in 2001 to seek friendship and understanding between Slovakia and the United States. Senko is the Chairman and Treasurer. This organization has sponsored over 125 events since it was formed, including providing scho-

*The Medal of the President is the highest award that the Slovak government awards to foreigners.*

larships for Slovak students, annual freedom lectures, receptions for dignitaries from Slovakia, and artistic and cultural events.

Some of the more notable programs which Senko has accomplished are:

--The collection, repair and shipment of 250 computers to Slovakia that were distributed to 45 schools.

--The shipment of 60,000 copies of an American children's magazine that were distributed to 830 schools to assist in teaching English.

--The shipment of medical supplies to hospitals in Svidnik, Bardejov and Bratislava.

Senko is presently arranging his 10<sup>th</sup> tour to Slovakia. Over 250 people from the United States have participated in previous tours.

# SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the  
SLOVAK GYMNASIAC UNION SOKOL  
OF THE USA

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## SISTER MILLIE MIHALIK

(Continued from Page 1)

was the Reverend Mark Jargstors. In addition to being a Sokol, Sister Millie was also a long-time and active member of the Slovak Athletic Association Ladies Auxiliary. A Sokol honor guard flanked the casket, while Lodge President Anne Marie Brinley gave the following eulogy.

Today we gather to say our final farewell to our beloved departed sister, Mildred Mihalik. Always known as "Millie," our sister Sokolka was a loyal member of Sokol USA, first in the Ladies Lodge 40 and then, when several lodges merged, in Berwyn Lodge 39-40. She was a gymnast in her youth, when the Slovak Sokols had their hall in the old neighborhood of Chicago. She attended Sokol Gymnastic School, known as Kurz, in New Buffalo, Mich. One of the highlights of her Sokol youth was participating in one of the Slets at Soldier's Field. She stayed active in the organization throughout her life.

I first came to personally know Sister Millie in the '80s when I relocated back to the greater Chicago area after living away for many years. She would be at every lodge meeting at the Slovak AA Hall on 26th Street working in the kitchen, faithfully performing her duties as lodge social hostess. She would cart from home everything needed for the lunch we would share before conducting our business meetings. And after lunch was finished, there would be Millie, faithfully leading the clean-up crew to leave the kitchen even cleaner than we found it! Sister Millie worked diligently and cheerfully in this way for many years, until she finally "turned in her tablecloth" both figuratively and literally! But even when her age made serving not possible, she was always eager to join us in attending whatever meetings or special lunches she could.

After she moved into the British Home and getting around became more difficult, we appreciated that her son Bob and also her nephew Richard would bring Millie out to the McCook Restaurant for our lodge spring and Christmas dinners. She would love to talk about her family and show off photos of her precious great-grandchildren. She was certainly a proud grandma and great-grandma as everyone here can attest.

We will miss Millie's cheerful smile and positive outlook on life. She would sometimes talk about even this day. She told me on more than one occasion how she had planned and written down her final wishes down to the detail. She knew how to enjoy this life on earth the good Lord had given her, but she also was ready for the life to come when our earthly work is done.

On behalf of the officers and members of Sokol USA Lodge 39-40, I express our condolences to the family of our Sister Millie Mihalik. She was a beloved sister and friend, and we will cherish her memory. May she rest in peace. Nazdar!

## BOONTON SOKOL

301 Pine St., Boonton, NJ

The Tricky Tray event  
scheduled for April 14  
has been Cancelled.

*We apologize for any inconvenience.*

## FOURTH ANNUAL SOKOL USA FARRELL FOUR-PERSON OPEN GOLF SCRAMBLE



SHENANGO LAKE GOLF CLUB  
99 Birchwood Drive  
Transfer, PA 16154  
June 8, 2013; 9 AM

**ENTRY FORMS:** All Sokol members and non-members are invited to participate in the **FOURTH ANNUAL SOKOL USA FARRELL OPEN FOUR-PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE** at Shenango Lake Golf Club on June 8, 2013. **SHOTGUN START** is at 9:00 a.m.

**Registration Fee includes:** Green fee, cart, skins game, T-shirt, door prizes, line prizes, beverages, steak dinner, and food at the turn.

### FEATURING:

- Keys to a 2013 Chevrolet Camaro for the **FIRST** Hole-in-One on a designated par 3
- \$5,000 Cash Prize for ANY Hole-in-One on a designated par 3



**Team Prizes (based on minimum of 25 teams)**

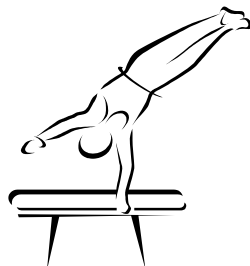
- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$800 per team
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$400 per team
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$200 per team

**Entries Accepted on "First Come" basis. Limit of 30 teams.**

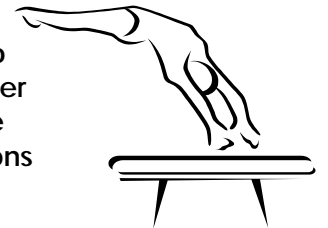
Information and entry forms can be downloaded by visiting <http://sokolfarrell.org> and clicking "News and Events" and "Golf Scramble" or by contacting Brother Tim Brandt, chairman; 1448 Hall Ave.; Sharon, PA 16146; Phone: 724-866-8553.

**29 TEAMS WERE ENTERED LAST YEAR.  
ENTER NOW AND BEAT THE CUT OFF!**

## GYMNASTICS COMPETITIONS!



Whether you're getting ready to compete or getting ready to cheer on our athletes - here are some upcoming gymnastics competitions to put on your calendar:



**March 23, 2013 - District MM Hodza competition** at the Boonton Sokol Hall: Sokolads, Junior Boys and Senior Men: register and group stretch at 10 a.m., followed by warm-up and competition at 10:30 a.m.  
Sokolettes, Junior Girls and Senior Women: register and group stretch at 12:30 p.m. followed by warm-up and competition at 1 p.m.

**April 20, 2013 - United Sokols of the East competition** at the American Sokol Hall in New York City:  
Registration and competition times are TBA.

# XXXIV CONVENTION OF THE S.G.U. SOKOL USA

**JULY 27 - 31, 2013  
SANDS HOTEL  
BETHLEHEM, PA**

*This is a reminder to all lodges and districts to begin preparation for the election of lodge and district delegates. More details to come.*

## LODGE 2 ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lodge 2, Bridgeport, Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, has continued its scholarship program for high school graduates, it was announced by Lodge President Miguel Alicea. "In 2012, we awarded three high school students, one from Bunnell High School in Stratford and the other two from Trumbull High School, Connecticut, \$1,000 scholarship awards. We will offer up to two \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors accepted for admission to an accredited four-year college/university who are Slovak or Carpatho-Russian descent and residents of Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull, Shelton or Milford, Connecticut," said Alicea.

Applicants must complete the official Application for Scholarship Award and submit it with requested documentation to the Lodge's Secretary by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Award must be applied to tuition or the purchase of text books in the pursuit of higher education.

"Criteria to be used in judging are overall merits of applicants, cumulative grade average, community activities, college acceptance, financial need and essay content," he continued.

"The essay content," said Lodge Secretary John Kamenitsky, "is somewhat unique. Rather than the usual 'why do I want this award,' we are asking the applicants to discuss the history, culture or traditions of Slovak or Carpatho-Russian heritage or stories about their ancestors in Slovakia."

"We hope to encourage the applicants to study the history, customs and traditions of their forefathers in Slovakia," he concluded.

Applications were sent to all high schools and churches in the area and are available from the Lodge at [jkamenitsky@snet.net](mailto:jkamenitsky@snet.net). Entries for consideration must be forwarded by May 1 to:

Sokol USA Lodge 2 – Bridgeport  
c/o John Kamenitsky, Secretary

485B Commanche Lane  
Stratford, CT 06614  
Or e-mail: [jkamenitsky@snet.net](mailto:jkamenitsky@snet.net)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

### THE SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL OF THE U.S.A SUPREME LODGE MEETING

Will Meet on Saturday, April 6, 2013, commencing at 8:30 AM  
Site: Embassy Suites Hotel, 909 Parsippany Blvd, Parsippany, NJ

The Finance Committee will meet April 4, 2013 at Headquarters for a review of the Society records.

The Finance Committee will meet on Friday, April 5, 2013 to conclude their deliberations.

*All requests, recommendations and grievances from Members, Lodges and Districts must be received at SOKOL USA Headquarters, PO Box 189, East Orange, NJ 07019-0189 no later than March 22, 2013.*

**Joseph S. Bielecki**  
Supreme President

**Milan S. Kovac**  
Supreme Secretary

## Donations for Hurricane Sandy

*Hurricane Sandy has brought devastation to the eastern United States and we are supporting charities that are assisting those most in need. The Supreme Lodge has endorsed a matching grant program, whereby Headquarters will match any Lodge or District donation dollar for dollar toward charities which have dedicated resources toward those communities in need.*

Lodge 59, Trenton, N.J. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Hillside, NJ</i>	\$200.00 \$200.00	Lodge 2, Bridgeport, Conn. Sokol USA Match Benefitting the Salvation Army of Connecticut, Bridgeport, Conn.	\$300.00 \$300.00
Lodge 114, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting City Harvest –Breezy Point NY, New York, N.Y.</i>	\$500.00 \$500.00	Lodge District L. Stur Sokol USA Match Benefitting the Salvation Army, Union, N.J.	\$100.00 \$100.00
Lodge 122, Kenosha, Wis. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting North Ocean Habitat for Humanity, Toms, River, N.J.</i>	\$50.00 \$50.00	Joseph Bielecki, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sokol USA Match Benefitting the Robin Hood Relief Fund, New York, N.Y.	\$50.00 \$50.00
Lodge 26, Guttenberg, N.J. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Salvation Army, Union, N.J.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00	Lodge 7, Byram, Conn. Sokol USA Match Benefitting the Salvation Army of Connecticut, Bridgeport, Conn.	\$250.00 \$250.00
Lodge 39/40W, Chicago, Ill. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Salvation Army, Union, N.J.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00	Lodge 7, Byram, Conn. Sokol USA Match Benefitting Habitat for Humanity	\$250.00 \$250.00
Lodge 255, Leechburg, Pa. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the American Red Cross, Bethlehem, Pa.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00	District Nitra, Binghamton, N.Y. Sokol USA Match Benefitting the Robin Hood Relief Fund, New York, N.Y.	\$100.00 \$100.00
Lodge 16, Braddock, Pa. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the American Red Cross Southeast Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00	Slovak American Krivan Lodge 306, Ill. Sokol USA Match Benefitting the Robin Hood Relief Fund, New York, N.Y.	\$100.00 \$100.00
Lodge 12, Newark, N.J. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Hillside, NJ</i>	\$200.00 \$200.00	Lodge 276, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sokol USA Match	\$200.00 \$200.00
		<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$5,400.00</b>

## 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.

## Lodge 39/40 Holiday Party



Lodge 39/40 held its annual Holiday Party at McCook's Restaurant in McCook, Ill., on December 9, 2012. The festivities began with a delicious Czech meal followed by a Christmas card and bakery exchange. There was plenty of socializing and everyone received a lovely poinsettia plant to take home. Brother Gerald von Schwedler delivered poinsettia plants to shut in members later that week. At the party are (seated from left) Millie Melka, Emily Brower and Jan Sopoci; and (standing) Gerald von Schwedler, Debbie Golden, Arlene von Schwedler, Anne Marie Brinley, Paul Brinley, and Nancy and Al Brower.

### DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

#### To the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund

From Sokol Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio <i>In memory of deceased members</i>	\$250.00
From Sokol Lodge 79, Mahanoy City, Pa. <i>In memory of deceased members</i>	\$90.00
From Sokol Lodge 39/40W, Chicago, Ill. <i>In memory of Mildred Mihalik</i>	\$50.00

#### To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund

From Sokol Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio <i>In memory of deceased members</i>	\$250.00
From Bill and Shirley Merrall, Cosby, Tenn. <i>In memory of Anna Sopoci</i>	\$25.00
From Robert and Mildred Freisleben, Ambridge, Pa. <i>In memory of Marie Kozar</i>	\$100.00

### IN MEMORY

*Of our deceased Brother and Sister Sokols with a sincere expression of sympathy to their families from the Supreme Officers of Sokol U.S.A.*

- IRMA RALBOVSKY** – (1915-2013) A member of Lodge 33W, Johnstown, N.Y. She is survived by her daughter.
- BERNARD SWETT** – (1929-2013) A member of Lodge 127, Star Junction, Pa. He is survived by his wife.
- MARY PARENTI** – (1947-2013) A member of Lodge 66W, Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by her sisters.
- MARY JASSO** – (1904-1997) A member of Lodge 45, Tarentum, Pa. She is survived by her grandchildren.
- BERNARDINE BORUCKI** – (1931-2013) A member of Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio. She is survived by her children.
- MARGARET CAMERON** – (1917-2013) A member of Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio. She is survived by her children.
- FRANK KOJNOK** – (1926-2010) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. He is survived by his children.

## Lodge 103 Farrell announces scholarship

Applications and eligibility requirements for the \$1,000.00 "Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship" are available by downloading the three-page form from our web-site: <http://sokolfarrell.org>. Click on "News and Events" and "Scholarship." Deadline for receipt of completed applications by the Scholarship Committee is May 15, 2013.

Applications can also be received by writing to Brother Melvin Slezak, 6850 Seneca Road; Sharpville, PA 16150-8418.

Brother Steve Banjak lived his whole life believing in and supporting the ideals of the Sokol movement founded by Dr. Miroslav Tyrs in the Czech Republic and established by Ivan Branislav Zoch in Slovakia.

Brother Banjak was active in the Sokol gymnasium in Farrell, Pa., since he was introduced to the organization when he was 14 years old, stopping only when his advanced age and health did not permit it. As President of Lodge 103, he led the lodge for a period of 50 years, seeing it become one of the most successful lodges in the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA. Currently Lodge 103 has approximately 300 members. Brother Banjak also held almost every office in District Svätopluk, including President. In 1958, he was President of the Committee responsible for the very successful XIII Sokol USA Slet held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Upon his death in October 2006, the membership of the lodge unanimously voted to name this scholarship in his hon-



Steve Banjak

or as a way to remember him for his many years of service to Sokol. The first recipient of the scholarship was announced at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the lodge held at the Radisson Hotel on May 20, 2006.

Recipients of the Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship are:

- 2006-Oleksandra Banjak
- 2007-Oleksandra Banjak
- 2008-Katie Shebeck
- 2009-Lucia Murcko
- 2010-Robin Platte
- 2011-Bibiana Murcko
- 2012-Shared between Robin Platte and Bibiana Murcko

The Scholarship is available for download by following the links in the box above. The Scholarship will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Sokol USA Farrell, which is held on the first Sunday in June of each year. Applications are due to the Scholarship Chairman on or before May 15th of each year.

### 2013 Junior Olympic Compulsory Workshops

--Sponsored by USA Gymnastics  
 --May 31 to June 2, 2013: ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, Orlando, Fla.  
 --June 7 to 9, 2013, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nev.

The workshop will provide participants with a clear understanding of the 2013-2021 USA Gymnastics Women's Junior Olympic Program: concepts, compulsory exercises, the interpretation of the text, and technical execution of the skills. Coaches at the workshop will earn W311 University credit and judges will earn Continuing Education Clinic credits. The Women's Junior Olympic Program Committee members will be presenting the new compulsory exercises.

Professional, junior professional and instructor members may register online at [www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org). Standard registration fee is \$375. Standard registration fee for non-members is \$425. Fees include a Compulsory Program Book, DVD and floor exercise music CDs.

For addition information, visit [www.usagym.org](http://www.usagym.org).

### CENTRAL JERSEY GYM CLASSES

Lodge 12, Central Jersey, is pleased to announce two happy changes in our gymnastics program.

First, we have moved our Friday night classes yet again. As of December 2012, we are renting at a very well-established gymnastics school near Inman Avenue in Edison, N.J. where we have all the necessary men's, women's and children's equipment. Our classes run from 7:15 to 9 p.m. As in the past, and in keeping with the Sokol philosophy, we welcome gymnasts of all ages and abilities.

A second important upgrade to our program is the addition of the Koch and Rehwinkel families. Wanda Koch and Neechee Rehwinkel are the daughters of a former longtime Lodge 12 officer, Anne Gorgol. They were active Sokolettes, Junior Girls and Senior Women. Now, we are thrilled that they each have returned to the Union County area and have resumed activity with Sokol Central Jersey. We'd like to welcome our new gymnasts William, Phillip, Elizabeth and Madeline Rehwinkel and John, Katherine and Robert Koch. Also, thanks to Wanda and Neechee joining Lodge 12 instructors Norah Valentin, Lance Kovac, Ellen Kovac, and (when available) Julia Valentin. Our teaching staff is really strong now.

We welcome one additional member: 1-year-old Noah, son of Leah Brndjar. Noah isn't working out regularly with us yet, but we believe he will be soon.

If you would like information about joining Sokol Central Jersey, please contact Ellen Kovac at [ellenkovac@aol.com](mailto:ellenkovac@aol.com) or Norah Valentin at [norahjane@verizon.net](mailto:norahjane@verizon.net).

## Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting Thursday, September 13, 2012

(Continued from February 2013)

### Assistant Director of Women

It has been a fairly quiet year for me in regards to National duties. At the local level, I volunteered in the kitchen for the Central District Progressions Clinic in January, I also attended the graduation that concluded the weekend. I attended the Wheel Gymnastics weekend with Matthew in March, it is amazing to me how all of these gymnasts can flip around like that. I attended the Central District girls' competition and Sokol Days in May.

I also continue to help with the fundraisers that our lodge hosts in order to support the gymnastics program.

Amy Pracko

### District MM Hodza

Co-Directors: *Pat Ritz and Brandi Kovac*

Gymnasts (Indicate number of **Sokol members only** in each group):

*Combine Boonton and Central Jersey's numbers.*

Indicate numbers of any additional non-Sokol participants & describe the programs:

List any fundraisers you have conducted this year:

*Leading up to the Cleveland Slet, Boonton & Central Jersey held two training sessions and had joint workouts. Since we didn't have any participants going to Prague, we didn't have District fundraisers or training sessions this past year. We did, however, hold a joint social with Sokol New York and participated (by competing, coaching and judging at) the United Sokols of the East competition.*

List the number of participants you had in each of the following:

*Combine Boonton and Central Jersey's numbers.*

Describe events in your lodge, district or community in which your gymnasts participated:

*Numerous District members have helped maintain the Sokol Woodlands camp ground, either by making financial donations, or with manual labor on weekends and throughout the summer.*

<u>Name, Lodge</u>	<u>Office Held</u>	<u>Email</u>
Judith Bindas, 32	President	judithbindas@hotmail.com
Teddy Fernandez, 1	Vice President	tfernandez_ns@hotmail.com
Norah Valentin, 12	Treasurer	norahjane@verizon.net
Pat Ritz, 32	Co-Director	patricia.ritz@novartis.com
Brandi Kovac, 12	Co-Director / Secretary	bkkovac@aol.com

### Boonton Lodge 32

Director of Men: Eric Skovronek    Director of Women:    Patricia Ritz

Gymnasts (Indicate number of **Sokol members only** in each group):

Sokolettes 20, Junior Girls 8, Sr. Women 5, Sokolads 4, Junior Boys 4, Sr. Men 2, Tots 0, Cheerleaders 0, Instructors 7

List the nights on which you hold **Sokol classes** & indicate which group(s) gym:  
Mondays – boys; Tuesdays Girls; Thursdays Tots

Indicate numbers of any additional non-Sokol participants & describe the programs:  
This year we will host a yoga program for special needs children. Anticipating 6-10 participants

List any fundraisers you have conducted this year:

Our usual Fish & Chips dinner, Slovak dinner, pancake breakfasts, friendship club and pierogi sales all continue.

List the number of participants you had in each of the following:

Lodge Competition(s) n/a, District Competition(s) 25, Area Competition(s) 6, USAG Competition(s) n/a, Sokol School 0, National Camp 0, Volleyball Tournament(s) 0, Nat'l Bowling Tournament DK, Sokolfest XXVI

Describe events in your lodge, district or community in which your gymnasts participated: in addition to our fundraisers we also donated Christmas gifts to local families in need. We have just kicked off the process of our 2012 tricky tray which should be a significant fundraiser for the upcoming season.

It is unfortunate that we must report the dissolution of our cheerleading program. Participation was down and the skill level of the girls was exceeding the capacity of our facility. Many have joined into other local cheerleading groups.

### Bridgeport Lodge #2

List the number of participants you had in each of the following:

Nat'l Bowling Tournament **One**

Sokolfest XXVI **Two workers**

Describe events in your lodge, district or community in which your gymnasts participated:

### Central Jersey Lodge 12

Co-Directors: Norah Valentin, Ellen Kovac

Gymnasts (Indicate number of **Sokol members only** in each group):

Sokolettes 8, Junior Girls 1, Sr. Women 6, Sokolads 3, Junior Boys 3, Sr. Men 2, Tots 0, Cheerleaders 0, Instructors 6

List the nights on which you hold **Sokol classes** & indicate which group(s) gym:

**All classes are on Friday nights.**

Indicate numbers of any additional non-Sokol participants & describe the programs:  
*None*

List any fundraisers you have conducted this year:  
*None*

List the number of participants you had in each of the following:

Lodge Competition(s) District Competition(s) **3**

Area Competition(s) **3 judges**    USAG Competition(s)

Sokolfest XXVI **Seven participants, plus several banquet attendees** (If this refers to the Independence Sokolfest)

Describe events in your lodge, district or community in which your gymnasts participated:

**Several individuals and families participate in the maintenance of Sokol Woodlands buildings and grounds.**

**In January, we had to find a new location due to the sudden closing of the gym we had been renting. We are now in a nice location in East Brunswick.**

**We've been pleasantly surprised to have nine additional participants this year, our former instructors Wanda Gorgol Koch and Neechee Gorgol Rehwinkel, and their seven children, both families having returned to our area very recently.**

### Lodge 306 Chicago/Lodge 39/40W/District L. Stur

Director of Men: **Bryan Pracko**  
**Kristin Merker**

Director of Women:

Gymnasts (Indicate number of **Sokol members only** in each group):

Sokolettes **18**, Junior Girls **8**, Sr. Women **11 (2 from Lodge 39/40W)**, Sokolads **14**, Junior Boys **1**, Sr. Men **11**, Tots **20**, Cheerleaders **0**, Instructors **10**, Wheel Gymnastics **4**

List the nights on which you hold **Sokol classes** & indicate which group(s) gym:

**Mon.: Adv. Wheel Gymnastics, Sokolads, Jr. Boys, Jr. Girls; Tues.: Sokolettes; Wed.: Sr. Men and Sr. Women; Fri.: Tots, Jr. Boys, Jr. Girls, Volleyball; Sat.: Beg. and Adv. Wheel Gymnastics (Sr. Men & Women gymnastics participants work out with Juniors on Mondays & Fridays)**

Indicate numbers of any additional non-Sokol participants & describe the programs:

**We allow non-members to participate in our Wheel Gymnastics classes. In 2011-12, we had one parent who was a non-member participate in**

(Continued on Page 8)

**PROFIT AND LOSS**

January through September 2012

Ordinary Income/Expenses	
Income	
SCHOLARSHIP-MILAN GETTING	8,113.60
ACCIDENT & HEALTH PREMIUM	136.95
AMORTIZATION-IMR	94,146.00
ANNUITY	192,000.00
ASSESSMENTS-GYMNASTICS	1,188.14
ASSESSMENTS-INDIGENT	233.34
ASSESSMENTS-LIFE	56,931.87
DIVIDEND ON STOCK	61,469.14
Total GAINS/LOSSES-BONDS	0.00
Total GAINS/LOSSES-STOCKS	0.00
GYMNASTIC INCOME	
GYM FUND DONATIONS	5,277.20
GYMNASTIC ITEMS	4,631.56
Total GYMNASTIC INCOME	9,908.76
INCREASE/DECREASE BONDS	-15,177.56
INTEREST INCOME	
INVESTMENT INCOME-OTHER	1,216.84
ACCRUED INT. BOND PURCH	-30,761.52
Total BONDS INDUSTRIAL	666,133.64
CERTIFICATE LOANS	58.80
COLLATERAL LOANS	21,826.63
GYM DEPT.-INVEST SAVINGS	53.29
MORTGAGE LOANS	26,972.18
PNC CHECKING	16.24
Total INTEREST INCOME	685,516.10
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	2,287.70
Total RENTAL REAL ESTATE	42,000.00
Total Income	1,138,754.04
Expense	
Recon Disr	0.01
OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	4,000.00
INTEREST DIV ACCUM	4,565.00
PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS	
ANNUITY PAID	43,557.90
CASH SURRENDER	20,685.66
DEATH CLAIMS	148,498.55
INTEREST-ANNUITY	6,962.97
INTEREST ON ENDOWMENTS	4,730.35
Total PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS	224,435.43
ACTUARIAL & ACCOUNTING FEE	77,687.93
BANK CHARGES	1,110.68
BOOKS/PERIODICALS	391.40
BUREAU/ASSOC. FEES	4,500.00
CAMPAIGN REWARDS	2,240.00
Total CONVENTIONS	27,000.00
DECREASE-LIFE RESERVE	168,972.00
DEPRECIATION BUILDING	2,716.00
DIVIDENDS	5,573.15
DONATIONS/ADVERTISING	1,19.30
EXPENSE OF SUP. LDG. MTG.	50,410.66
FRATERNAL EXPENSE	11,531.02
GYMNASTIC EXPENSES	
SOKOL SLET 2012-PRAGUE	1,500.00
SAFETY CERTIFICATION	150.00
USAG PROF. MEMBERSHIP	538.50
GYMNASTIC BOWLING	1,010.00
GYM DIRECTORS EXPENSE	749.20
GYMNASTIC EQUIPMENT	500.00
GYMNASTIC INSURANCE	2,141.00
GYMNASTIC MISCELLANEOUS	10,672.15
GYMNASTIC NATIONAL MEET	4,226.58
GYMNASTIC OTH. SALARIES	1,320.00
GYMNASTIC TRAVEL EXP.	331.00
GYMNASTIC VIDEO & MISC	-660.00
GYMNASTIC EXPENSES-Other	330.00
Total GYMNASTICS EXPENSES	22,808.43
HOSPITALIZATION	38,709.87
INSURANCE (EX. REAL ESTATE)	14,355.65
INVESTMENT EXPENSES	14,600.14
LEGAL EXPENSES	1,000.00
NJ EXAMINERS FEES	4,000.00
OFFICE EXPENSES	16,395.25
OFFICERS' TRAVEL EXPENSES	16,581.94
OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS	21,005.00
PAYROLL TAX EXPENSES	12,746.34
POSTAGE, EXPRESS, TEL&TEL	3,780.04
PRINTING/STATIONARY	1,882.10
RENT EXPENSE (rent)	42,000.00
Total RENTAL REAL EST. EXP.	24,608.74
SALARIES	
SALARIES-SUP. OFFICERS	250.00
SUPREME LODGE SALARY	21,330.00
OFFICE	71,883.73
OFFICER	84,262.10
Total SALARIES	177,725.83

**BALANCE SHEET**

As of December 30, 2012

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
CASH-PNC CHECKING	252,733.36
CASH-CANADIAN BK OF COM	3,705.96
CASH-M/M GYMNASTIC	29,254.35
CASH-PNC CAPITAL RESERVE	0.40
PETTY CASH	500.00
Total Checking/Savings	286,201.43
Other Current Assets	
Total BONDS	9,434,506.83
STOCK	
PREFERRED STOCK	645,060.00
COMMON STOCK	223,994.00
Total STOCK	869,054.00
Total MORTGAGES RECEIVABLE	1,108,809.46
Total COLLATERAL LOANS	499,276.23
CERTIFICATE LOANS	3,117.53
BENEFICIARY TRUST FUND	
RESERVE FOR TRUST FUND	-17,249.01
TRUST FUND FOR BENEFICIARY	17,249.01
Total BENEFICIARY TRUST FUND	0.00
BOND INTEREST DUE	154,210.00
EXCHANGE	2,769.74
MORTGAGE INTEREST DUE	379.00
PREMIUMS DUE	2,629.00
Total Other Current Assets	12,074,751.79
Total Current Assets	12,360,953.22
Fixed Assets	
AUTOMOBILE	
ACCUM DEPREC-AUTO	-30,095.95
AUTOMOBILE-other	30,095.95
Total AUTOMOBILE	0.00
REAL ESTATE-BUILDING	
ACCUM DEPREC-BUILDING	-60,691.12
REAL ESTATE-BLDG-other	67,898.25
Total REAL ESTATE -BUILDING	7,207.13
Total Fixed Assets	7,207.13
TOTAL ASSETS	12,368,160.35
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
NON-ADMITTED COLLATERAL LOAN	93,011.83
A&H RESERVE	1,290.00
ADVANCE PREMIUMS	820.00
AVR	120,074.00
CLAIMS-LIFE	80,403.00
DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	268.54
DIVIDEND ACCUMULATION	121,116.41
EXPENSES PAYABLE	123,267.00
IMR	466,486.25
LIVE RESERVE	4,816,309.00
Total MORTGAGE LOAN ESCROW	8,065.81
NON-ADMITTED MORTGAGE	506,601.00
RESERVE FOR UNPRES. CHECKS	1,411.32
TAXES DUE	40,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	6,379,124.16
Long Term Liabilities	
ANNUITIES-LEFT WITH SOCIETY	137,995.31
MATURED ENDOWMENTS-LEFT W/SOC	128,619.04
Total Long Term Liabilities	266,614.35
Total Liabilities	6,645,738.51
Equity	
CHANGE IN NON-ADMITTED ASSETS	-62,521.00
UNASSIGNED FUNDS	
CHANGE IN AVR-2012	-49,507.00
Unrealized-common 2012	23,029.00
Unrealized pfd-2012	26,060.00
INDIGENT FUND	8,974.41
ACCIDENT AND HEALTH FUND	53,610.29
Total UNASSIGNED FUNDS	62,166.70
CONSOLIDATED FUND	5,595,174.72
(Retained Earnings)	
Net Income	127,601.42
Total Equity	5,722,421.84
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	12,368,160.35
<hr/>	
Total SCHOLARSHIP	6,500.00
STATE LICENSE FEES	3,049.12
TELEPHONE EXP.	3,151.59
Total Expense	1,011,152.62
Net Ordinary Income	127,601.42
Net Income	127,601.42

# 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOKOL U.S.A. NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

May 18 to 19, 2013

Entry Fee Per Event:  
 Bowling \$ 9.00  
 Prize Fee \$ 9.00  
 Tournament Expense \$ 1.00  
 TOTAL \$20.00

The \_\_\_\_\_ Bowling Team

From Lodge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Of Sokol USA.

**COMBINATION ENTRY BLANK**

Team Entry Fee: \$80.00  
 Doubles Entry Fee: \$40.00  
 Singles Entry Fee: \$20.00  
 All Events Fee: \$ 1.00



**ENTRIES CLOSE: May 1, 2013**

Checks Payable to: Sokol 65<sup>th</sup> Bowling Tournament

Send Entries to: Mary Backus  
 42 Smith Road  
 Denville, NJ 07834

The undersigned captain hereby makes entry into the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual National Bowling Tournament of Sokol USA, May 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, and agrees to comply with the rules which govern the Sokol USA Tournament.

Boonton Lanes  
 720 Myrtle Avenue  
 Boonton, NJ 07005  
 973-355-0123

	Sanction #	Name	Avg	Event	Time	
1				TEAM		CAPTAIN: LODGE:
2						ADDRESS:
3				SINGLES		CITY: STATE: ZIP:
4						TELEPHONE:
				DOUBLES		

	Sanction #	Name	Avg	Event	Time	
1				TEAM		CAPTAIN: LODGE:
2						ADDRESS:
3				SINGLES		CITY: STATE: ZIP:
4						TELEPHONE:
5				DOUBLES		

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

## From the Supreme Secretary

The year 2012 financial information of this Society is within this issue of the Sokol Times (Page 6). I am happy to report that our financial conditions are in good order. The dollar value of our admitted assets is eleven million six hundred thousand dollars (\$11,600,000). In addition, our retained earnings, or sometimes referred to as "surplus," is at a record high of five million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$5,700,000).

We continue to have "gains from operations," also known as "net income." The overall strength of our bond portfolio is at a record 92 percent in class 1 & 2, which are ratings of "high and highest." Though these figures are very positive, we continue to lose membership through natural attrition. We are not adding to our membership and our certificate count is down to 5,799, which is a loss of more than 300 certificates.

The status of our Society has not changed much since my report of March 2012. I did not wish to republish those remarks as that would appear redundant. Those remarks are still available on our website under the Sokol Times archived March 2012 issue. I can also e-mail that document should anyone request. The gist of my

remarks was as follows: We cannot continue to live off of our investment income. We must generate premium income at a level which supports our administrative staff. We need to decide if we wish to remain as a stand-alone fraternal benefit society. Or, merge with another society with certain preconditions to ensure protection for our members and the continuity of our Sokol programs. I firmly believe that merger with a financially sound and well managed society is in our best interest.

Our Convention is scheduled for July 27 through 31, 2013, at the Sands Hotel in Bethlehem, Pa. It is important that every lodge and district choose a delegate and be represented at this quadrennial event. Convention materials and forms will be sent to each lodge and district this month. The lodge and district officers must promote the attendance and representation at our Convention.

Nazdar!  
 Milan S. Kovac  
 Supreme Secretary



## ATTENTION SOKOL BOWLERS

The 65th Annual Sokol Bowling Tournament, hosted by Boonton Lodge 32, will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. More details will appear in future issues.

Please save the date and plan to join us. We look forward to seeing our old friends and meeting new ones.

Nazdar  
 Boonton Lodge 32  
 Mary Backus  
 Marjo3732@aol.com

## Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting

(Continued from Page 5)

this class. We also allow non-members to participate in our Summer Gymnastics classes. We had six new gymnasts (non-members) participate this summer, along with 8 current members.

List any fundraisers you have conducted this year:

**Physical Fitness Dept. Fundraisers:** Celebrating Home Sale (candles), Cartwheel-a-thon, Cookie Walk, Candy Sale, Lodge Exhibition, Awards Banquet, Summer Gymnastics.

**Lodge 306/SASK Fundraisers:** Weekly Sunday Bingo, 2 Spaghetti Dinners, Fall Festival Dinner/Dance (Hody), Palm Sunday Brunch, Exhibition Ad Book, Chicken Paprikas Dinner.

List the number of participants you had in each of the following:

Lodge Competition(s) 30, District Competition(s) 26 (34 cal participants in Central District Sokol Day), Volleyball Tournament(s) 10 (Men's Team), Nat'l Bowling Tournament

Describe events in your lodge, district or community in which your gymnasts participated:

In addition to those events listed above, we had a Men's Volleyball Team participate in the Central District league in fall 2011. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of ten teams. We had four boys (Matthew Pracko, Henry Owen, Raymond Thornton, Henry Morrison) participate in the Central

District Skills day in December. We had six gymnasts (Samantha Pracko, Hannah Kreinik, Sophie Kreinik, Caroline Young, Phil Tudisco, Kyrna Majeski) and two instructors (Kristin Merker and Bryan Pracko as co-Director) participate in the Central District Skillz and Progressions Clinic in January. We had four Lodge 306 officers (Cindy Merker, Amy Tudisco, Kristin Merker, Bryan Pracko) who attended the American Sokol Administrative Conference in January. We had two instructors (Cindy Merker and Bryan Pracko) volunteer their help at the Super Tumbledown GIJO gymnastics meet in February hosted by the Central District. We had our four wheel gymnasts (Matthew Pracko, Hugo Gehant, Ana Gehant, Henry Owen) and one judge (Thalassa Millwood) participate in the Wheel Weekend competition/activities in March. Matthew Pracko won 1<sup>st</sup> place in his age division! At the Central District Competitions in May, we had 28 medal winners in both Gymnastics and Cal/Marching competitions! We had about 20 gymnasts and marchers who participated in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in the Forest Glen neighborhood. We held Summer Gymnastics at Lodge 306 for three weeks in July/August, and celebrated the London Olympics during class time. We had fourteen gymnasts and four instructors (Bryan Pracko, Kristin Merker, Cindy Merker, Hannah Kreinik) participate in the class. Lodge 306 hosted a free instructors' clinic (taught by Bryan Pracko) in conjunction with summer classes. It was open to the Central District and was attended by about 18 instructors for the three levels of instruction (beg., int., adv.). This included 7 adults/parents and 2 Jr. Girls from Lodge 306 who have expressed interest in helping with classes in the upcoming season. We continue to make contributions to the American Liver Foundation in Matthew's name, and support Amy Pracko's quest to run in the upcoming Chicago Marathon. We had the gymnasts and friends make Christmas/Holiday cards to send to troops stationed overseas in November/December, under the direction of Cindy Merker. We also distribute our Sokoletter 10 times a year thanks to the work of Scott and Amy Pracko, as well as John and Jackie Pracko. Our building, the Sokol Community Center, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. This milestone will be recognized at our October Spaghetti Dinner.

(To be Continued in April 2013)



Do you know the average  
person gains  
1-2 pounds over the holidays?  
Well... WALK IT OFF!!!

## Sokol Healthy Heart Walking Club

Benefits include:

Reducing your stress level      Lowering your risk of heart disease  
Controlling your weight      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 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Apt. 9A  
NY, 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!



## 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 2013-2014 academic year must be received at Sokol USA by April 1, 2013. New scholarship recipients will be announced by June 1, 2013.

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