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SOKOL TIMES

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

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From the President's View

Recently I attended an event in Pittsburgh and the subject of fraternalism came up. To many, "fraternalism" sounds like a dry topic. In reality, however, it is manifested many times in our everyday lives and we do not realize it. The athletic programs and the volunteer activities offered by our very own Sokol lodges are prime examples of fraternalism at work.

People come together to share a common bond and to often help each other or perform community service. These are all examples of fraternalism. In our own Sokol world, fraternalism is at work every day. For example, many, many of our Sokol lodges and Sokol members donated to the Hurricane Sandy relief fund program announced by our headquarters. Many of our members also send memorial contributions to our scholarship fund to mark the passing of deceased members or to assist our Sokol youth by funding our Sokol USA Milan Getting Scholarship Program.



Joseph Bielecki

Additionally, many of our Sokol members are active in fraternal activities both with Sokol USA and other groups, (Continued on Page 4)



Sokol USA President Joseph Bielecki displays one of the hand-made walking sticks from Soko Serbia's 120th Anniversary.



Above and below, sled performance at the Soko Serbia 120th Anniversary



SOKOL TIMES

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

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DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

To the Milan Getting Scholarship

From Beatrice Walko, Greenwich, Conn. <i>In memory of Anna Sopoci</i>	\$50.00
From Dorothy A. Erickson, Rolling Meadows, Ill. <i>In memory of Anna Sopoci</i>	\$25.00

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.

EVELYN SKURLA – (1926-2012) A member of Lodge 66W, Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by her children.

VERONICA DAVIDEK – (1916-2012) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. She is survived by her children.

ANTHONY F. GAYDOS – (1927-2012) A member of Lodge 12, Newark, N.J. He is survived by his children.

JOHN BOTSKO – (1925-2012) A member of Lodge 260, Cleveland, Ohio. He is survived by his wife and children.

JOHN HUSOVSKY – (1926-2012) A member of Lodge 93, Bethlehem, Pa. He is survived by his daughters.

MARY KENGOR – (1908-2012) A member of Lodge 45 Tarentum, Pa. She is survived by her daughter.

WILLIAM ANTAL – (1923-2012) A member of Lodge 36 Binghamton, N.Y. He is survived by his wife.

MICHAEL J. ROHACEK – (1964-2012) A member of Lodge 304, Chicago, Ill. He is survived by his wife and children.

PAULINE FILMER – (1929-2013) A member of Lodge 33W, Johnstown, N.Y. She is survived by her husband.

JOHN TOKAR – (1920-2012) A member of Lodge 93, Bethlehem, Pa. He is survived by his granddaughter.

CHARLES R. CAMERON – (1922-2012) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. He is survived by his daughter.

JOSEPH J. GILAN – (1910-2000) A member of Lodge 36, Binghamton, N.Y. He is survived by his nieces and nephews.

EDWARD DAVIDEK – (1923-2013) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. He is survived by his wife.

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.

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 or Norah Valentin at norahjane@verizon.net.

2013 JUNIOR OLYMPIC NATIONAL 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.

For addition information, visit www.usaqvm.org.

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 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 122, Kenosha, Wis. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting North Ocean Habitat for Humanity, Toms, River, N.J.</i>	\$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 39/40W, Chicago, Ill. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Salvation Army, Union, N.J.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00
Lodge 255, Leechburg, Pa. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the American Red Cross, Bethlehem, Pa.</i>	\$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
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 2, Bridgeport, Conn. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Salvation Army of Connecticut, Bridgeport, Conn.</i>	\$300.00 \$300.00
Lodge District L. Stur Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Salvation Army, Union, N.J.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00
Joseph Bielecki, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Robin Hood Relief Fund, New York, N.Y.</i>	\$50.00 \$50.00
Lodge 7, Byram, Conn. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Salvation Army of Connecticut, Bridgeport, Conn.</i>	\$250.00 \$250.00
Lodge 7, Byram, Conn. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting Habitat for Humanity</i>	\$250.00 \$250.00
District Nitra, Binghamton, N.Y. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Robin Hood Relief Fund, New York, N.Y.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00
Slovak American Krivan Lodge 306, Ill. Sokol USA Match <i>Benefitting the Robin Hood Relief Fund, New York, N.Y.</i>	\$100.00 \$100.00
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$5,000.00

65TH 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 65th Bowling Tournament

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

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

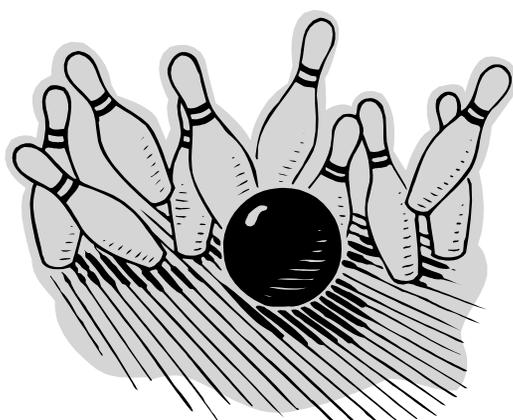
Boonton Lanes
 720 Myrtle Avenue
 Boonton, NJ 07005
 973-355-0123

	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: _____



ATTENTION SOKOL BOWLERS

The 65th Annual Sokol Bowling Tournament, hosted by Boonton Lodge 32, will be held on May 18th and 19th. 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

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



Sokol USA President Joe Bielecki presents Soko Serbia President Gordana Rajnovic with a gift from Sokol USA marking Soko Serbia's 120th anniversary.



Above and below, slet performances during the 120th Anniversary celebration of Soko Serbia. At bottom, a Soko Serbia banner in the Cyrillic alphabet.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

(Continued from Page 1)
and perform a great deal of community service. For example, Justine West from our Lodge 16, Braddock, Pa. group was recently recognized as Volunteer of the Year for her fraternal activities at the national level by the Telephone Pioneers, a national group of retired telephone company workers who are very active in community service nationwide.

I saw fraternalism at work during my trip to Serbia to mark Soko Serbia's* 120th anniversary. The Serbian group staged several days of gymnastic exhibitions, a symposium and other events which culminated in a huge Sokol gymnastic exhibition. Over 20 percent of Soko Serbia's membership came from all over their country to perform in the national exhibition.

During their grand finale gymnastic exhibition, there was a featured demonstration by two of their lodges from small villages high in the mountains of southern Serbia. These two villages were poor and their Sokol organizations could not afford to build or to rent halls for their events. However, news of our Healthy Heart Walking Club traveled via our online publication to Europe and these villages began walking clubs. Their membership hikes in the mountains frequently and each member carves his or her own walking stick. These two small lodges were delighted to attend the grand finale exhibition and proudly did rhythmic gymnastic exercises using their walking sticks. As they marched out of the stadium, they passed a grandstand holding the visiting Sokols from other countries and

the walking club members gave each of the foreign visitors one of their walking canes.

It was a touching phenomenon to see that other Sokols have adopted one of our programs and it was even more touching to receive such a kind hand-made gift. This is a prime example of fraternalism at work. People come together, they meet and go hiking together, and they perform a very healthy and engaging activity.

As spring approaches, I encourage our membership to meet, to enjoy the fellowship of other Sokol members and their lodges, and to share the joy that comes from sharing a fraternal activity together.

NAZADAR!
Joe Bielecki

*Soko Serbia is the official title of our sister Sokol organization in Serbia.



Photos from Soko Serbia



Clockwise from above: Headquarters of Soko Serbia; Serban Falcon banner; Tyrs Street sign near the Soko Serbia headquarters; the start of a gymnastics exhibit; Soko Serbia members carry in the flags.



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.

Sokol Golfers Save the Date!

4TH ANNUAL SOKOL USA FARRELL FOUR PERSON OPEN GOLF SCRAMBLE

June 8, 2013

SHENANGO LAKE GOLF CLUB
99 Birchwood Drive,
Transfer, PA 16154



(More information to follow)

Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting

Thursday, September 13, 2012
(Continued from January)

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 made, seconded, and carried to approve the recommendation.

20. That Sokol USA subsidize half the travel of Sokol USA members participating in the American Sokol Slet (competitors, judges, Slet performers, chaperones) to be held in Milwaukee, WI in June 25-30, 2013.

Finance Committee Action: Motion made, seconded, and carried to approve the recommendation.

The gymnastic department should be aware that though the Finance Committee has approved their budgetary recommendations for the coming year, we ask the National Directors to be aware that an adverse financial climate or serious decline in gymnastic enrollment may cause future expenditures to be re-evaluated.

Proposals 1-20 were voted on in total as one recommendation by the Gymnastics Dept. The recommendation was seconded by Scott and passed unanimously.

B. Lodge/District Recommendations

Other than the recommendation from District M. M. Hodza that was previously discussed, there were no additional recommendations.

Todd thanked the directors for participating in the conference call.

VII. Adjournment of Phone Conference

Motion to adjourn the conference call was made by Todd and seconded by Brandi. The conference call ended at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Yatchyshyn

REPORTS

Director of Men

This past year has been a year of ups and downs including extreme highs balanced by some true disappointments. My involvement at the national level of Sokol USA has included my participation in the Succession Planning Committee to search for a viable replacement for Milan Kovac as Supreme Secretary following his planned retirement sometime following the 2013 convention. To protect the organization at present, Treasurer Buddy Burkhart of Guttenberg has secured the certifications required to continue in Milan's absence, if any unforeseen tragic events were to occur. It has been an educational experience to discuss the financial workings of the organization during these conference calls. In addition to the Succession Planning Committee, Supreme Lodge members attended three presentations from fraternal organizations that could become potential merger partners. These meetings were informational and presented us with an opportunity to ask questions about how the Sokol USA athletics programs could fit into the scope of their organizations.

Many years ago Supreme Secretary Jan Sopoci shared an idea with my mom. He

suggested that a \$1,000,000.00 fund for the gymnastic department be established so it could survive off the interest if the organization ever merged with another fraternal organization. He explained that would be a way to keep the Sokol USA programs and the Sokol ideals alive. I know I speak on behalf of both directors that we will try to encourage the Supreme Lodge to protect a portion of our organizations' surplus assets for continued Slet and sporting events.

We will deliver our best efforts in establishing a fund, although we will need your assistance if the opportunity presents itself. I urge all of you to speak to Supreme Lodge members to voice your support of this idea, in addition to other financial incentives a merger may provide. Currently we cannot discuss specifics of a merger because we have not entered into negotiation with any specific Fraternal Benefit Society, but we have some goals in mind when selecting a partner, all of which are possibilities that seemed acceptable to the groups that presented to the Supreme Lodge members last spring.

1. Maintain Sokol identity, name, colors and programming
2. Provide additional paid-up insurance to our members with our organization's surplus
3. Encourage the merging partner to make grant funds available for improvement and expansion to our sports and/or fraternal programs
4. All lodge property and assets would remain under control of individual lodges

As you can imagine this is an extremely involved process and we are just beginning to enter the very detailed stage, but if a merger would occur we think it is vital to use a portion of the surplus to create a fund to help maintain the Sokol sports programs. On a positive note, while "spectating" at this year's National Bowling Tournament, hosted at the Bethlehem Lodge, John Kaminitzky bowled a perfect game of 300! This was John's first ever 300 game, and he said, "I felt everyone's energy in the room as I approached the ninth and tenth frames. I know everyone was supporting me and there was no pressure at all." Jokingly John also asked if he could start renting a locker to bowl regularly on these lanes as he bowled well over his average all weekend.

I mentioned, this year also had some very exciting experiences. I was invited to serve on staff at the American Sokol Instructors' School for a second consecutive year. The school was held in West, TX at a fabulous 8000 sq/ft. air conditioned gymnastics facility with a catering hall on the same lot. The school was not attended by any Sokol USA students, but it is understandable since the school was very far from any of our lodges and after reviewing the lodge reports it is evident we do not have a large number of gymnasts in that age range. The school has endured several changes over the past three years including a more structured and focused approach to learning and writing in correct calisthenics terminology, and a revision of the spotting and progressions curriculum so that all graduates of the beginner school can spot and teach all Level 3 skills, all intermediated students can spot and teach Level 4 skills, and advanced students will master the teaching and spotting of Level 5 skills. The curriculum was revised this summer to reflect skills and progression of the new men's routines that were introduced last gym season. We are looking forward to the upcoming release of the new women's routines in the upcoming year to revise the curriculum and make changes as needed.

More emphasis was also placed on cultural events. This was the first year students were required to create a folk dance as part of the team competitions. This event led to the renewed interest of folk dancing among the school-aged population. The infusion of modern dance steps into the folk dancing was incredibly well received by the ASO Southern District members attending the event.

In addition to serving on the National School Staff, I continued to represent Sokol
(Continued on Page 7)

Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Conference Call Meeting

(Continued from Page 6)

USA on the American Sokol School Board and was instrumental in the drafting of the Host Unit Application for Unit or Lodges interested in hosting the National Instructors' School. It is my hope that in the near future the Monessen Lodge may host the school once a shower facility project is completed.

I was also recently invited to serve on the American Sokol BOI and take part in their monthly conference calls as a representative of Sokol USA. It is my hope that we can form a closer working relationship with ASO moving forward, as a means of maintaining our Sokol identity in the midst of our possible merger.

This year also contained some lows as I mentioned previously. My wife and I had originally planned to attend the Slet in Prague. It would have been our first trip overseas and we were disappointed when we were forced to cancel due to speculations that my wife may be furloughed from her teaching position. Luckily, Katrina still has her teaching position; however she was switched from kindergarten to 2nd grade. We understand the performances were amazing and we missed an opportunity of a lifetime to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Sokol. We look forward to the next international Slet and hopefully more economically stable times.

The second unfortunate happening this year was the cancellation of the National Golf Tournament. There were only a handful of golfers registered to attend. Selecting a location mid-way between our most populous Sokol regions, Western Pennsylvania and New Jersey proved to be a failure. In the future I will relocate the tournament to one or the other on a rotating basis and reduce the format to a one-day event similar to the format used at the Independence Slet, which featured a two-player scramble that produced our highest participation in a Slet Golf Tournament.

To end my report, I would first like to state that I have enjoyed serving Sokol in a Director's capacity and look forward to the opportunity to continue in this capacity moving forward. Currently we are uncertain of the national board structure as we are faced with the potential for merger. On the local level it has always been my dream to have a Sokol lodge. I have been diligently searching for funding and opportunities to establish a Sokol in the Wind Gap area. Currently I have a dedicated group of baseball players and student athletes who work out regularly in a local weight room. The program is run by a friend and me; both of us are baseball coaches in the area and we run the weight room as volunteers. I have struggled with the concept of introducing these families to Sokol in hopes we may obtain the Project 2nd Century loan. Since there is no formal application for this funding, I am hesitant to ask my participating families to purchase policies, if this loan won't actually be available.

I am also interested in forming a Sokol Athletics Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization. These are undeveloped thoughts, and I have just begun the investigation of what this endeavor would entail. As a not-for-profit Sokol Athletics Foundation, we would be able to apply for and accept youth and community development grants that we do not currently qualify for as a Fraternal Benefit Society. I would like your thoughts on this mission. I feel this is the one true way we will be able to grow and expand as an organization.

Nazdar!
Todd Yatchyshyn

Director of Women

October 21-23, 2011, I attended the American Sokol BOI Meeting and Development Conference held in Fort Worth, Texas. The well-run meeting was very informative. American Sokol has many excellent programs in place and their willingness to include Sokol USA offers many opportunities. The two-day Development Conference was another worthwhile experience. It was an excellent opportunity for personal growth and professional development, which we hope to offer to Sokol USA directors.

To date I have participated in all scheduled Sokol USA meetings and conference calls. As needs arise, I address issues from lodges regarding their gymnastics programs and interact with the other Sokol organizations. I continue to serve on the Milan Getting Scholarship Committee, reviewing applications as they are received.

I attended the Society Future Committee Meeting in November and participated in all subsequent phone conference calls on that topic. In mid August I attended a small group meeting to help draft a merger agreement. I continue to struggle with the reality that Sokol USA may undergo major changes in order to best protect the life insurance policies of the membership. I understand that limited sales of new policies and increased costs in regulations are driving the need for change, but I am equally concerned that Sokol USA remains a vital organization the continues to offer sports programs and carries on the Sokol ideals, even if we become an entity of another fraternal insurance organization.

I will continue to listen with an open mind to presentations on future options but I will not lose site of the Sokol ideals. Personally, I believe that preserving our Sokol

TURN BACK THE CLOCK SOCIAL NIGHT

Many years ago, what we now call Social Night at Sokol Lodge 306, was called "20/20 Club." It was a social club where members paid \$20 for 20 weeks. Every Friday evening, these members would gather at our hall to enjoy the company and cheap drinks and snacks at the bar. Nickel Bingo and cards would be played in the lower hall. The weekly raffle door prize drawings for 20/20 members would be followed by a complimentary sandwich spread. The kids would be let loose to play in the gym while this was going on in the lower hall. It was a fun and relaxing way to wind down after a long week of work/school for all.

Lodge 306 would like to invite gymnasts and parents on Friday, February 22nd from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. for another return to the old days. The bar will feature mixed drinks and tap beer for 50 cents and soda for 25 cents.

We only ask that everyone please bring a snack to share. Sokol will provide lunch meat sandwiches. We will have a raffle drawing and nickel Bingo for all to enjoy. The gym will be open for the kids to play, so bring the whole family and come on down for a night of fun, games and refreshments. We hope to see you there.

identity is equally important to protecting the policies of our members. With that in mind, I will carefully evaluate all options presented to the board and continue to volunteer to participate on all subcommittees.

Nazdar!
Chris Yatchyshyn

Assistant Director of Men

This past year my involvement in Sokol has been mostly limited to activities on the local level at lodge 32. I continue as director of men, a position I have held for over 20 years. We continue to maintain a small group of dedicated boys. However, the split in age and ability necessitates two instructors. I am very grateful for my assistant the last few years, Casey Wright, who has been very helpful and enthusiastic.

I attended the District MM Hodza competition and participated in several fundraisers for the Boonton lodge (pancake breakfasts, Slovak dinners, etc.).

This past summer required considerable time to be spent on the dissolution of our cheerleading program. Due to lower participation rates and mostly the need for a more advanced facility, the program was discontinued. While the decision was abrupt, the process associated with all the finances has belabored on.

I do look forward to the final acceptance and implementation of the code of conduct. This past year we have seen more and more instances in the news that make it crystal clear that such a code must be in place.

Finally, I look forward to continued involvement in Sokol and preparations for this year's American Sokol Slet. Hopefully, Boonton and all of Sokol USA will have meaningful participation.

Nazdar!
Eric Skovronek

Assistant Director of Women

It's been a fairly quiet year, I been focused mostly on the items listed in the Lodge 47 report. I am very proud to say that some of "my kids" have graduated this past year. Paige Allen graduated from Ringgold HS and will be attending class at Cal U, which means we are lucky to still have her around to gym and coach! Paige will be studying nursing. Chelsey Billick graduated from Monessen HS and will be attending Carlow for elementary education. Caroline Tucker will be attending Johns Hopkins for Pre-Med. We look forward to seeing them on break! I am also very proud to announce that Stacy Hoffman has graduated with her BSN from Cal U. She also left Mon Valley Hospital to work at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Mercy Trauma Center. Some of the girls I have coached since they were 2 years old, and watching them grow into mature young ladies make me realize that I'm actually the lucky one.

We hope this year will bring many new members who caught the Olympic spirit and want to try gymnastics.

Charity Ruhl

(To Be Continued in March 2013)

BOONTON SOKOL

301 Pine St., Boonton, NJ



New Date – March 1 Fish & Chips Dinner

4:30 to 7 PM; Adults \$10, Children \$7

Featuring batter fried fish or chicken tenders, French fries, coleslaw, hush puppies, coffee, tea and dessert. Take-out available. Snow date: March 2.

For reservations or information, call 973-263-9831

April 14, Tricky Tray

Doors open at 2:30

The Westin Governor Morris, Morristown, NJ

\$50.00 includes a sheet of level 1 and a sheet of level 2, full dinner buffet, tea/coffee/soda and dessert.

For information, call Karen 973-476-9439



Sokol Social News



Gertrude and John Simon

John & Gertrude Simon celebrate 69th Anniversary

Mr. John and Mrs. Gertrude Simon of Fayetteville, Ga., members of Lodge 155 in Leechburg, Pa., recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary.

Brother Simon held many leadership positions in Lodge 255 and was a District MCT Trustee for many years. Mr. Simon is 93 years old and is a World War II veteran. Mrs. Simon celebrated her 96th birthday on January 7th.



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 2nd 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 SOKOLUSAHQS@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 29th. Please contact Sokol USA headquarters with any questions.