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To all our members:

*Wishing you a
Very Happy, Healthy
and Prosperous New Year!*

*From the Supreme Lodge Officers
of Sokol USA*



SOKOL TIMES

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

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UPCOMING SOKOL EVENTS AT BOONTON SOKOL

January

Friendship Club: Lodge fundraiser. For \$25, you are entered into a drawing every Friday night to win \$25. At the end of 20 weeks, there is a dinner (included in the \$25) where they draw for multiple cash prizes up to \$350.00. See Pat if you are interested. There are two sessions per year. The new session will begin in January. You can't go wrong here. \$25 for 20 chances to win \$25 and free dinner and drinks.

February 2

**Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast
8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon**

Featuring regular and blueberry pancakes, bacon and sausage, home fries, scrambled eggs, coffee, tea and juice. Take-out available. Adults \$7; Children \$4. For reservations or information, call 973-263-9831.



Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Meeting

Saturday, July 27, 2013- Sands Hotel, Bethlehem PA

(Continued from December 2013)

Lodge/District Report: Lodge 306 Chicago/Lodge 39/District L. Stur

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

- We had a Men's Volleyball Team participate in the Central District league in fall 2011. They placed 3rd out of ten teams.
- We had a Women's Volleyball participate in the Central District Women's Volleyball Tournament in November.
- We had four of our Gymnastics Staff officers attend the American Sokol Director's Conference in October.
- We had four boys participate in the Central District Competition in December.
- 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.
- Lodge 306 hosted the Central District Cal/Marching competition on Feb. 9. We also had 20 competitors and several medal winners in this meet.
- We had our two wheel gymnasts (Matthew Pracko, Henry Owen) and one judge (Thalassa Millwood) participate in the Wheel Weekend competition/activities in October and March.
- At the Central District Gymnastics Competitions in May, we had 34 competitors. We brought home 23 individual medals and added six team trophies to our collection!
- We sent a delegation of 47 people to the American Sokol Sportsfest/Slet in Milwaukee in June. We had 23 gymnasts who brought home many individual medals and two team trophies, we had a Marching team that won a team trophy, and had individual participants in other events such as the 5K run (Matthew and Amy Pracko), Wheel Gymnastics (Matthew Pracko and Henry Owen), and the opening ceremonies (Scott, Amy, Samantha and Matthew Pracko). We had 32 participants who performed their cal in the closing ceremonies/slet program.
- In summer 2012, 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 opened 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 plan to hold a similar gymnastics class and instructors clinic in August this year, but for only two weeks. As a result of early registration, we already have 14 gymnasts signed up for this!

- We continue to make contributions to the American Liver Foundation in Matthew's name.
- 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 distribute our *Sokoletter* 10 times a year thanks to the work of Scott and Amy Pracko, as well as John and Jackie Pracko.
- Our gymnasts also participate in all of our fundraiser dinners selling raffle tickets, and the juniors serve as kitchen workers every Sunday for Bingo.

Year: **2012-2013** Lodge/District: **Sokol USA Farrell**
Director(s) **Stephen Banjak; Bibiana Murcko**

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

Sokolettes 6, Junior Girls 3, Sr. Women 10, Sokolads 2, Junior Boys, Sr. Men 2, Tots, Cheerleaders, Instructors 4

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

Juniors: Wednesday & Thursday evenings

Children: Thursday evening.

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

List any fundraisers you have conducted this year: **St. Nicholas Dinner; Chocolate Bar Sale; Golf Scramble**

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lodge Competition(s) | District Competition(s) |
| Area Competition(s) | USAG Competition(s) |
| Sokol School | National Camp |
| Volleyball Tournaments(s) | Bowling Tournament(s) |
| American Sokol Sports Festival: 19 | |

Describe events in your lodge, district or community in which your gymnasts participated: **Will attempt to start a Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics class in the Fall.**

Year: **2012-2013** Lodge/District: **Monessen/District Tatra**
Director(s) **Charity Ruhl, Ron Moffit, Al Vogt, Stacy Hoffman**

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

Sokolettes 5, Junior Girls 20, Sr. Women 10, Sokolads, Junior Boys, Sr. Men 5, Tots Cheerleaders 10, Instructors 12

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

Tuesday, Friday, Sunday: Woman's gymnastics

Tuesday: Cheer

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

Approximately 150 non Sokol members in recreational classes, tumbling, karate, preschool gymnastics, and drop in playtime with parents

List any fundraisers you have conducted this year: **Handstand walk a thon, hoogie sales, mixed bags, The Polar Bear Meet**

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News from Kenosha



Brother James Komarec, Treasurer of Lodge 122 of Kenosha, Wis., displays a picture of the 1916 delegates to the Sokol Convention held in Chicago. Brother Komarec's grandmother, Emilia Zuzinec, is in the photo. The framed photo was presented to the Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society, located in Cudahy, Wis. The Wisconsin Slovak Museum & Heritage Center is located at 3702 East Layton Ave., Cudahy, WI 53110-0164. For additional information, write to WSHS, P.O. Box 100164, Cudahy, WI 53110-0164; visit WisconsinSlovakHistoricalSociety.org or e-mail to WSHS@sbcglobal.net. Thank you, Brother Komarec, for sharing!



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 2014-2015 academic year must be received at Sokol USA by April 1, 2014. New scholarship recipients will be announced by June 1, 2014.

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.

Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Meeting

(Continued from Page 3)

During the past four years I made a strong effort to attend all Sokol USA meetings, conference calls and special committee meetings. I also continue to write articles and submit photos of Gymnastics Department events to the Sokol Times. Co-directing the Gymnastics Department is an important responsibility that I take seriously, but I also understand my fiduciary responsibility as a member of the Supreme Lodge, overseeing our unique fraternal benefit society.

Working with the former directors and present American Sokol Director Maryann Fiordelis during the past four years has provided a great exchange of ideas and mutual respect. American Sokol aims to promote Sokol ideals to make a positive impact on the communities where they have active units. Their vision is admirable and challenging. Recently they hired long-time Sokol member Mary Cushing to serve as National Operations Advisor to travel and meet with the units to see how their National groups can best help them. I wish them the best of luck with this new endeavor and also congratulate them on their successful Sports Festival held in Milwaukee last month. I applaud their efforts to take risks, trying new programs while still promoting the Sokol ideals. I also appreciate their invitations to include Sokol USA in many of their fine programs such as the instructor schools and development conferences.

Sokolfest 2011 was a great example of working closely with our American Sokol brothers and sisters from Greater Cleveland. Including Sokol Canada's 100th Anniversary celebration during our festivities was another admirable effort in collaboration. It is my hope that we will continue to work closely with all our sister Sokol organizations.

While I have often been discouraged by the lack of change in our organization, I am now struggling with the proposed merger that could forever change the structure of Sokol USA. Without question it is the responsibility of our Supreme Lodge officers to make wise decisions regarding the business end of Sokol USA, but I have always viewed the Gymnastics Department as the heart and soul of Sokol USA. I believe it is the duty of all the leaders of this organization to honor the first aim, as stated in our by-laws, "To promote Sokol physical culture." I think this will be even more important going forward.

Presently we are on the verge of taking a bold step by merging with a larger fraternal. The main goal is to ensure the value of our members' insurance policies and

annuities, but an added benefit to the members is to use most of the organization's surplus to increase the face amount of their policies. To many this makes prudent financial sense; however, there is still the need to adequately fund Sokol USA.

Four years ago in my report as Cultural Activities Chairperson I emphasized that planning new programs for juvenile and adult members is absolutely necessary for the continuance of our organization. I stated that equally important was a marketing plan if we ever hoped to grow Sokol USA. Whether we remain an independent society or a subsidiary of a larger fraternal organization the message really doesn't change. We still need to expand programming and market Sokol USA, maybe even more so if the merger goes through. We still need to sell insurance policies, we still need to maintain our programs, and we still need funding to function as a viable Sokol organization.

The proposed merger agreement keeps Sokol USA fairly in tact for a period of five years by providing an annual district dues of \$3.25 per member, a \$15,000 yearly incentive for fraternal programming, a one-time membership award of \$10.00 per new member and paying officers' salaries. After five years, only the per-member district dues continues, but our responsibilities don't change. We still have to sell policies and offer programs if we want to keep our unique identity. Otherwise, Sokol USA could be absorbed into the larger fraternal if we are not diligently working to maintain our current number of members and our Sokol identity through existing and expanded programming.

Deciding how we split our surplus is extremely important. An increased policy value is attractive, but how much are the Sokol ideals and Sokol USA programs worth? After the first five years, we will be limited to the interest of an endowment fund we establish and the annual per member district dues of \$3.25, unless we are extremely creative in securing new funding sources. I realize that funding alone will not continue Sokol USA, the Sokol ideals, or the Sokol programs; however, funding is still a necessary factor. We must carefully consider all that needs to be funded in the future, not just the Gymnastics Department. If we want to maintain a mailing address, if we want continue the *Sokol Times* on a limited basis, if we want to hold board meetings, conference calls, or a national meeting, if we want to support other Sokol organization events, if we want to offer incentives-everything costs money. Financial planning for the future of Sokol USA is imperative.

For five years our officers will be paid; what happens after that? We need to decide just how much financial limitation we want to put on ourselves going forward – especially when we are expected to maintain membership and produce programs. Sokol USA has a very high solvency, mainly due to wise decisions by our former and

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From the President's View

The New Year 2014 has begun! The holiday festivities are over and it is back to the daily routine.

Traditionally, the new year is a time of making resolutions. Resolutions can be of all kinds. They can be resolutions to improve one's health via a better diet, by healthier living, or by engaging in an exercise program.

Resolutions can also attempt to try to improve our characters or habits by exercising more patience, by listening more, or by changing some aspect of character which we feel needs improvement. Our resolutions can also focus on community involvement or volunteerism or fraternalism. People can resolve to improve their communities through volunteer activities.

I encourage all of our members to make a New Year's Resolution. It does not matter whether we fulfill our New Year's Resolutions perfectly. It would be great if everyone did. What is

important is that we make resolutions for improvement and that we TRY!

2014 is a new beginning and a new opportunity for all of us. I encourage our lodges to meet and to begin fitness, wellness or sports programs. This is a perfect time for our members to join the Healthy Heart Walking Club or to take up bike riding or any number of other sports activities. Our members can count calories, diet away the holiday season gain, or learn about wellness issues such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, or cardiac care.

The important thing is that we TRY! Let us make our 2014 New Year's Resolutions and see what happens! The most important thing is to TRY!

NAZDAR!
Joe Bielecki
President-Sokol USA



Joseph Bielecki



Do you know the average person gains 1-2 pounds over the holidays? Get ready for the Holidays by WALKING!

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
64 East 111th St.
Apt. #811

New York, NY 10029

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!

HOLIDAY DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

To the Milan Getting Scholarship

From Sokol Lodge 114, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. \$500.00
May Peace and Joy Be your Gift this Christmas Season

From Anthony Puglisi, Sokol Times Editor \$50.00
Wishing all a Wonderful Holiday of Peace and Beauty

To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund

From Sokol Lodge 114, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. \$500.00
May Peace and Joy Be your Gift this Christmas Season

From Harvey & Antoinette Johnson, Allentown, Pa. \$100.00
In Memory of Robert J. Freisleben Sr. of Lodge #62, Ambridge, Pa.

From Sokol Lodge 244, Westfield, Mass. \$100.00
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From Anthony Puglisi, Sokol Times Editor \$50.00
Wishing all a Wonderful Holiday of Peace and Beauty

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.

STEPHEN JOHN KOVAL – (1935-2013) A member of Lodge 32 in Boonton, N.J. He is survived by his wife.

FREDRICK D. HANLIN – (1942-2013) A member of Lodge 255 in Leechburg, Pa. He is survived by his wife.

RICHARD P. KOTULAK – (1928-2013) A member of Lodge 126 in Ellsworth, Pa. He is survived by his children.

LOUIS F. WALDECK – (1917-2007) A member of Lodge 130 in New Kensington, Pa. He is survived by his son.

PAUL FALATEK – (1917-2013) A member of Lodge 93 in Bethlehem, Pa. He is survived by his niece.

SHIRLEY MAY HOLICK – (1938-2013) A member of Lodge 30 in Danbury, Conn. She is survived by her children.

DORENE DEAN – (1955-2013) A member of Lodge 255 in Leechburg, Pa. She is survived by her husband.

ALBERTA KOTULAK – (1925-2002) A member of Lodge 126 in Ellsworth, Pa. She is survived by her sister.

ELIZABETH GREENMAN – (1927-2013) A member of Lodge 33W in Johnstown, N.Y. She is survived by her daughter.

STELLA YURCO – (1917-2007) A member of Lodge 26 in Guttenberg, N.J. She is survived by her son.

Sokol USA National Gymnastics Department Meeting

(Continued from Page 4)

present financial secretaries. In no way should we squander that achievement, but I also do not want to see Sokol USA struggle financially in the future.

I understand the reality that Sokol USA may undergo this major change in order to 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 that change, but I am equally concerned that Sokol USA remains a vital organization that continues to offer sports programs, carries on the Sokol ideals and grows, even if we become an entity of another fraternal insurance society. I believe that preserving our Sokol identity is equally important to protecting the policies of our members.

If the merger becomes reality we need to make careful plans to financially support the future, but it will also give us the opportunity to devote most of our attention to programming since it will no longer have to take second place to our insurance responsibilities. It is my hope that we will all work together toward a strong future for Sokol USA. To do so I believe we will need to revise officer positions and responsibilities, create a vision for the future and a fully-developed strategic plan to achieve our goals. Following my report is a suggested revision for the Sokol USA Board of Directors. It is simply food for thought that I hope will begin a sincere discussion for the betterment of Sokol USA.

Nazdar!

Sokol USA Board of Directors (14 members as suggested by GBU) Possible Realignment of Positions & Responsibilities

Administration

President

Calls meetings, sets agendas, runs meetings, requests reports, assigns committees, leads strategic planning, sets vision for future

Vice President

Assumes above responsibilities above in the absence of the president, oversees Milan Getting Scholarship Committee

Treasurer

Maintains checkbook, signs checks, provides financial update for all meetings

Programming

Co-Director

Oversees Sokol USA Programming

Co-Director

Initiates outreach/collaborations with sister Sokol Organizations and GBU

Fraternal Activities Coordinator

Initiates national activities and assists lodges with local activities

Finance Committee

Finance Chairman

Oversees annual audit, approves expenses, responsible for strategic financial planning for future of Sokol USA

Finance member #1

Audits books; receives, records, submits & acknowledges MGS & Gym Dept. donations

Finance member #2

Audits books; responsible for national level fundraising and provides guidance for local fundraising efforts

Growth Committee

Membership Director

Coordinates with GBU insurance agents and local lodges to set dates for insurance agents to visit; runs annual membership drive

Marketing Director

Works in conjunction with GBU to market Sokol USA programs & insurance; assists local lodges with advertising efforts

Communications Committee

Secretary – Recording & Corresponding

Takes minutes at all meetings & conference calls, sends out reminders for meetings, collects and distributes materials electronically in preparation for and following meetings

Print Communications Director

Collects, edits and prepares articles for GBU publication & Sokol Times

Digital Communications Director

Oversee & updates web site, and social media: Facebook, e-mail blasts, twitter

Executive Committee: President, Vice President, Two Directors and Finance Committee Chair

MINUTES OF M.M. HODZA DISTRICT MEETING

OCTOBER 19, 2013

TARRYTOWN, NY

President Judy Bindas called the meeting to order at 10:20AM. The following people were in attendance:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Lodge</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Judith Bindas | 32 – President |
| Teddy Fernandez | 1 – Vice-President |
| Brandi Kovac | 12 – Co-Director / Secretary |
| Norah Valentin | 12 - Treasurer |
| Ellen Kovac | 12 |
| Pat Ritz | 32 – Co-Director |

Sis. Bindas led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for deceased members followed.

Minutes from the 2012 meeting were read. One sentence that was accidentally written twice was deleted. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. Motion seconded. Motion carried. Sis. Bindas thanked the Officers for all of their hard work in the past year.

Treasurer's Report

Sis. Valentin presented a detailed annual report of the District's finances, as well as a comprehensive ten-year summary. She also categorized each expense and listed what we've spent on average over the ten years in each category. This average provides a great perspective on our spending and adds a nice touch to the report – thank you Sis. Valentin! This year, our income about equaled our expenses. The District did not have any participants in the Milwaukee Slet, so there were no reimbursements for that. Sis. Valentin didn't know if the District should have made a donation to certain charities this past year like to the Hurricane Sandy rescue efforts or to Sokol West. The Officers agreed that the District does not need to make additional donations to the same charities that the Local Lodges and the Supreme Lodges already support.

Sis. Valentin received what she thought was a request from Boonton for the Bowling Tournament. The request was an email from a person she didn't know; the request wasn't in the usual format and didn't include the names of participants. Sis. Bindas and Sis. Ritz will check with Sis. Mary Backus to see if she was the contact person for the tournament and see if Boonton can re-submit. Sis. Valentin reported that Bank of America, our current bank, charged several new fees to our account. She argued with the bank, and they eventually waived the fees. She may look to switch banks in the future. The District did not receive any fraternal contributions from Sokol USA Headquarters this year. Sis. Valentin asked if it was clear what would happen to our District post-merger; will we still get the fraternal contributions and District assessments? Sis. Ellen Kovac stated that at the 2013 Convention, the delegates were told that the Districts will remain the same. It was decided that during our working lunch, we would draft a letter to the Supreme Lodge with our questions and concerns.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

The District applauded Sis. Valentin for the superb care she takes with our finances.

Sokol Woodlands

Sis. Ellen Kovac reported that there is a serious offer to purchase Sokol Woodlands. The contract has not been signed, but the closing is imminent. Members have been taking their personal property home. Local lodges were notified that last weekend was their last chance to pick-up gymnastics equipment from the field house. From here on in, you must contact Headquarters if you are interested in going to the grounds, because it may not be Sokol property for too much longer.

Sis. Bindas stated that so many members have wonderful memories of the camp, and she thanked the District members who helped keep it open.

Gymnastics

Sis. Brandi Kovac attended the United Sokols of the East meeting held at Sokol NY on 10/16/13, and shared the following information:

The US of E will run a joint Children's and Jr/Sr Competition on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at ASO NY. The meet will be run in a warm-up / compete format, like last year. We anticipate the start times to be similarly staggered like last year (Boys & Men starting at 8:00am, then two sessions of Girls & Women). At the next meeting

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Minutes of M.M. Hodza District Meeting

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in February, each organization should bring their expected number of participants in each level, and then the start times will be finalized. Novice girls will use the same routines as last year. All other USAG Female routines have changed, and the levels are more difficult, so we anticipate more Sokol gymnasts in Novice and Level 1 than usual. The US of E will try to hire judges for both sessions of the female competition, but of course volunteers will still be needed. The next US of E meeting is on 2/12/14.

Sokol New York may hold a training session, to which we'd be invited, however, no dates were set.

National Directors said that they would buy a copy of the new routines and distribute to the lodges, but we haven't received anything as of yet. Sis. Ritz will follow up with the National Directors.

With those dates set, the District decided to hold its competition on 3/8/14 in Boonton. Boonton notices that their gymnasts really improve between the District competition and the US of E competition. The boys will register and group stretch at 10:00AM and warm-up / compete at 10:30AM. The girls will register and group stretch 12:30PM and warm-up / compete at 1:00PM. Just as a reminder, the uniform policy is as follows: female competitors must wear a leotard that is red, white, and blue or any combination thereof, and male competitors must wear blue shorts, with a red, white, or blue shirt.

There were so many participants in last year's competition – it was great to see! If possible, the District would like to offer a small lunch in between the boys and girls, and hopefully another ice cream social, due to its popularity. We discussed the need/desire to get more volunteers to help at the event. Last year the coaches & judges were the same people as the cooks & servers! We spoke highly of the ANONYMOUS donor that sponsored our District competition a few years ago. Sis. Brandi Kovac will draft an announcement for the Sokol Times inviting an individual member, Lodge or another District to sponsor our District competition, and/or come and help! Motion was made and seconded.

In 2014, the Canadian Sokols will host a "Mini-Slet" weekend, and a tentative schedule of events has been released. It will be June 26-29, 2014 in Masaryktown (a suburb of Toronto). We will encourage our members to attend.

National Gymnastics Department Meeting

Sis. Valentin, Sis. Brandi Kovac, Sis. Pat Ritz, Sis. Judy Bindas, Sis. Ellen Kovac, Sis. Anna Rehwinkel and Bro. Eric Skovronek all attended the National Gymnastics Department meeting the day preceding the Convention. The main topic was the impending merger and what has, or has not been planned, so far for the next few Slets. The Gymnastics Department discussed several directions the organization could go, depending on the results of the merger vote.

Bro. Steve Banjak wanted to have a Sokol USA special number for the Canadian Slet, which he was willing to write. His vision involves a larger number that includes everyone, and then each Lodge to have time allotted to perform something on their own. We are unclear as to the events that will be offered if the entire "mini-Slet" is to be held in the outdoor Masaryktown park, but we want to support our participants if they choose to attend. At this point, the District should contact Bro. Banjak in the next few months with the number of members we plan on attending.

2013 Convention, held in Bethlehem, PA

The District thanks Sis. Pat Ritz for representing us at the Convention. The first item on the agenda was the merger with GBU. The merger was voted for & passed by a large majority. Also, members who volunteered to be on the Transition Team will help to design the new structure of "District Sokol" within GBU's organization. The District wants to congratulate Bro. Emil Trgala and Sis. Ellen Kovac, who both got elected to the Supreme Lodge's Finance Committee.

There were a few By-Law changes to note. First, to conduct official business, we only need 5 members for a quorum. Second, the Gymnastics Department changed its name to the Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department. The minutes of the Convention has been / will be published in the Sokol Times.

The District vows to support the Lodges as we adjust to structure the merger brings.

Lodge Reports:

#1 New York – Bro. Fernandez is not sure if the remaining Lodge #1 officers are meeting regularly. Bro. Fernandez and Bro. George Dano are still active with some activities at Sokol New York. Lodge 1 is proud to host this year's District meeting.

Central Jersey – For the second straight year, we moved unexpectedly half-way through the year again when JK Gymnastics suddenly - & without warning - went out of business. Lodge 12 is now renting Henderson's in Edison, NJ on Friday nights. Lodge 12 loves the new gym, and the gym owners. There are other groups in the gym, but it has been easier to share equipment. The location is further for several members. We are lucky to have enough instructors, and have room for more gymnasts. Both co-directors of Lodge 12 are USAG Safety Certified through 2016. Lodge 12 also may plan a 115th anniversary party for next year.

#32 Boonton – Boonton holds classes on Monday (boys) and Tuesday (girls) evenings; enrollment is about the same as last year. Boonton lost two valuable instructors during the middle of last year. Unfortunately, they were spearheading the Tricky Tray, so that fundraiser was canceled. They are training two new instructors, and have two assistant instructors. Sis. Nicole Zaremba has reinstated the tots program and now has a tots class on Monday afternoons. Also, the Boonton Town Recreation Department leads a yoga class for special needs students in the hall. The Cheerleading issues from last year have all been resolved. Boonton continues to non-stop fund-raise! They had Stuffed Cabbage take-out, a Fish & Chips dinner, holiday calendar raffle, and more! There was a successful Slovak Dinner last year, but it may be changed to a Stuffed Cabbage take-Out this year since Sis. Alison Chada may not be able to run the dinner. They recently had a successful pancake breakfast, and as usual, they will hold one on Superbowl Sunday and one on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. Back by popular demand, Boonton will have The Giving Tree again, which gives back to the local community. Also, the Lodge occasionally rents out the hall out again to generate income. Their bowling league was down to 18 people last year, but this year there are 9 teams of 4 bowlers! Two new people are already signed up as social members, and hopefully the new bowlers will be interested in getting involved in other Lodge activities. Boonton hosted the National Bowling Tournament last May; turnout was low. Next year's tournament will be in Palmerton.

Sis. Bindas congratulated the Lodges on their great activities. Motion made & seconded to accept Lodge Reports.

The meeting will adjourn for a "working lunch" while we draft a letter to the Supreme Lodge.

The meeting called back to order at 1:30pm. Sis. Bindas thanked Bro. Fernandez for a nutritious, scrumptious meal. Bro. Fernandez should submit all food expense receipts to Sis. Valentin in the proper format within 60 days.

Recommendations from the Co-Directors for 2013-2014

1. The District help finance District students sent to Sokol Instructors' Schools by reimbursing 50% of the most reasonable means of transportation.
2. The District host at least one Eastern Area training session, if needed, during the 2013-2014 season, with reimbursement provided by the National Gymnastics Department.
3. The District reimburse Director(s) travel, lodging and food expenses arising from District participation in authorized activities.
4. The District retain its membership with the United Sokols of the East. (The \$100 annual membership fee will be paid as follows: \$30 by the District, \$35 by Lodge 12 and \$35 by Lodge 32.)
5. The District sponsor an annual competition for Children, Juniors and Seniors to be held March 8, 2014 in Boonton; and the District financially support this event by paying for awards and participants' meals.
6. The District have representation at the 2014 Sokol USA National Sport, Fitness and Wellness Department Board meeting; paying for expenses not covered by the National Gymnastic Department.
7. The District subsidize expenses for District participants in any 2014 Sokol USA National sports tournament (golf, bowling, volleyball, etc.), excluding Sokolfest activities, by paying \$10.00 per participant, per tournament.
8. The District reimburse member instructors one-half their tuition for completion of the USAG Safety Certification Course.
9. The District pays for the Professional Membership in the USAG for each of the District Officers, if the Membership is not paid by the Supreme Lodge.
10. The District subsidizes expenses for District participants in 2014 to the Canadian "Mini-Slet" to be held in Masaryktown by paying \$75.00 per participant in a Slet-sanctioned event.

(Continued on Page 8)

Minutes of M.M. Hodza District Meeting

(Continued from Page 7)

Motion was made and seconded that the recommendations be accepted. Motion carried.

Old Business

The District is pleased that Sokol USA has adopted the USAG Code of Conduct. Bro. Fernandez applauded our diligence in this matter.

New Business

This weekend, Bro. Eric Skvronek is attending a training clinic in Monessen, PA with his daughter, who is currently assisting with classes in Boonton. Sis. Ellen Kovac made a motion to reimburse Bro. Skovronek \$100.00 towards his expenses. Motion seconded and carried.

Sis. Ritz recommended holding a training clinic in Boonton to learn the new female routines. Sis. Kovac suggested that the younger levels can learn quite well from the DVD, but Levels 3 & 4 would really benefit from a clinic, especially for beam & floor. The District agreed to hold the session on Monday, December 30, 2013 in Boonton.

Fundraising continues to be done on an "as needed" basis. This year, we are not sure how many District members will participate in the Canadian Slet. Just in case, we will continue to sell green Sokol back-packs, along with Sokol cookbooks. Sis. Ellen Kovac may have also come into some coloring books that could be sold.

Sis. Brandi Kovac brought the US of E bill that she received this week, and Sis. Valentin immediately paid the District's portion of it. (The \$100 annual membership fee will be paid as follows: \$30 by the District, \$35 by Lodge 12 and \$35 by Lodge 32.)

As in the past, any urgent business and business that arises before the next annual meeting can be discussed and voted on via email. The District should especially be aware of the consequences of the merger.

Salaries:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| President | \$75.00 |
| Vice President | \$30.00 |
| Secretary | \$55.00 |
| Treasurer | \$75.00 |
| Directors | \$75.00 each |

The salaries have remained the same for more than 12 years. Motion was made and seconded that salaries remain the same for another year. Motion carried.

Nomination of Officers:

Nominations of officers were opened.

Judy Bindas nominated for President. She accepted the nomination.
Teddy Fernandez nominated for Vice President. He accepted the nomination.
Brandi Kovac nominated for Secretary. She accepted the nomination.
Norah Valentin nominated for Treasurer. She accepted the nomination.
Brandi Kovac nominated for Co-Director. She accepted the nomination.
Pat Ritz nominated for Co-Director. She accepted the nomination.
There being no more nominations, nominations were closed.

Motion made and seconded that the secretary cast one vote for the slate. Motion carried.

- President – Judy Bindas
- Vice President - Teddy Fernandez
- Secretary – Brandi Kovac
- Treasurer - Norah Valentin
- Co-Directors – Brandi Kovac and Pat Ritz

Our next meeting will be on 10/18/14. We will tentatively schedule it to be held in Tarrytown, NY (Boonton is the back-up location); the meeting will be at 10:00AM with a light breakfast and lunch served.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandi Kovac, Secretary

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.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY EVENTS WITH YOUR "SOKOL FAMILY"

The Sokol Times Social Page is a great 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 07019-0189. 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.