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SOKOL TIMES

AUGUST 10, 2017

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Sokol USA Participates in National Slet

By Chris Yatchyshyn

Cedar Rapid, Iowa, was the sight of the American Sokol XXIV Slet and Festival held June 22-25. Home to the Czech Village, the city's center of Czech heritage, and the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library, this location added to the cultural ambiance of the event. Nicknamed the "City of Five Seasons," Cedar Rapids boasts that the fifth season is the time to enjoy the other four! Symbolizing the slogan is a 60-foot-tall stainless steel Tree of Five Seasons Monument located downtown along the north river bank. The symbolic tree design was incorporated within the Slet logo and awards, nicely tying in the Slet location with the event theme, "The Tradition Continues."

The four-day Slet hosted by the Western District truly exemplified the Slet slogan. Despite the major flood that put their original Sokol Hall under six feet of water in 2008, the Cedar Rapids Unit continues the Sokol tradition in their new building that opened in March 2009. This site hosted the gymnastics competition on Saturday and the two-week Sokol Instructors School that followed the Slet.

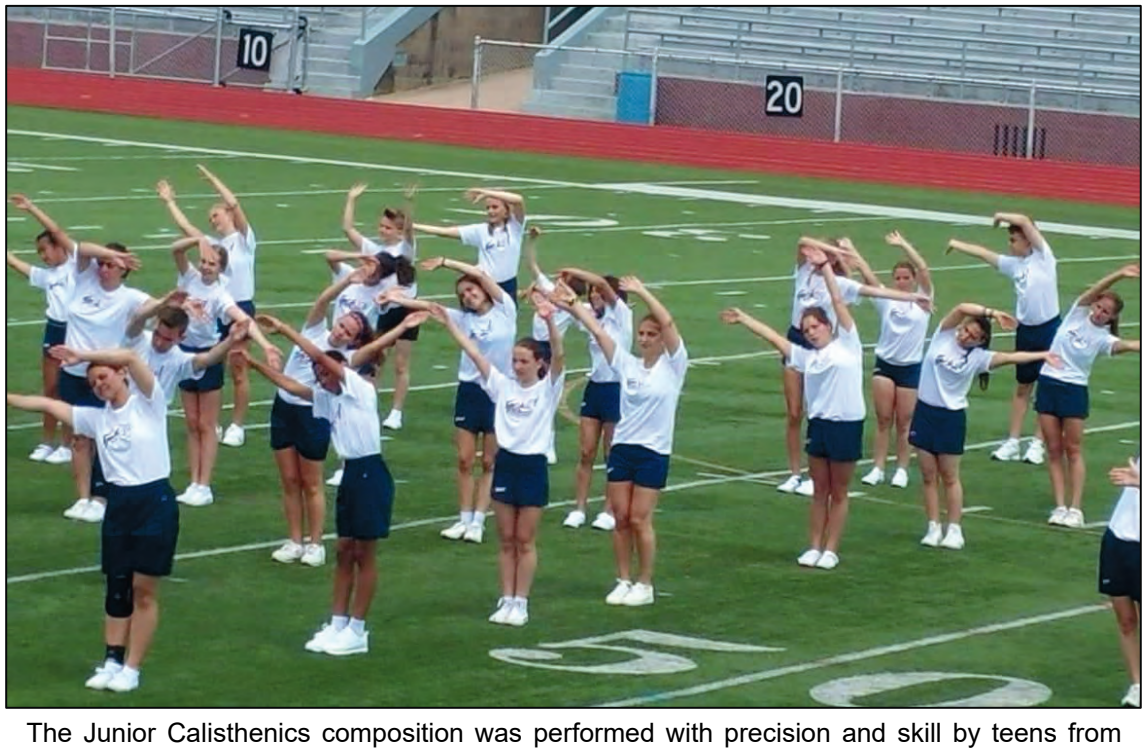
The Clarion served as the host hotel and featured the Sokol Museum and Souvenirs Room, provided free breakfast, and a pool for the guests to enjoy. Due to the high number of participants, several other hotels conveniently located nearby also housed many Sokols.

The festivities began on Thursday evening with the Opening Ceremony Program held at the Scottish Rite Temple, a unique location where the audience sat in tiered, theatre-style seats as they enjoyed "American Sokol's Got Talent," a clever format used to highlight special numbers on stage and the unveiling of a new American Sokol flag. My personal favorite was a precisely-executed number that incorporated the use of drums, marching, tumbling and great costumes. If I were judging, I would have pushed the "golden buzzer" for Sokol Spirit's unique and impressive performance! Following the fun show, everyone moved to the adjoining hall for an evening of socializing with Sokol friends.

The Volleyball Tournaments and Fitness Challenge were held on Friday at the Iowa Sports Center, where the competitions were exciting and the athletes demonstrated their awesome team and individual strengths. Throughout the four-day event, the National Czech and Slovak

(Continued on Page 4)

Monessen Sokol members assemble before the Slet performance.



The Junior Calisthenics composition was performed with precision and skill by teens from Sokol lodges and units from across the country.

From the President's View

Joseph Bielecki

This article goes to press shortly before our Sokol USA Convention. Therefore, I cannot give you any updates regarding matters passed by the convention or officers elected.

However, it is my hope that as many lodges as possible will have sent delegates and participated in the deliberations, discussions, and decisions to be made at the August convention. Many important matters are coming before the convention for discussion. The first is the proposed new by-laws which, if passed, will serve to govern our Sokol USA District. The second matter is the election of officers who will lead our District for the next four years. I wish all who are elected as officers at the convention great success during their coming four-year term of office!

Several of the present officers are retiring from the Board and new individuals will be elected to take their place. Brothers Kovac, Trgala and Walko have announced they are not running for re-election. They have been of great service to this organization and I thank them for their many years of collective service, devotion to, and efforts on behalf of Sokol USA.

Special thanks go out to Brother Kovac for his many years of managing the real estate and investment portfolios for the good

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SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the
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OF THE USA
Sokol USA - District 4000 a Division of GBU Financial Life

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IN MEMORY

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

MICHAEL E. DERUBIS – (1960-2017) A member of Lodge 68, Blairsville, Pa.

ELIZABETH GRIMALDI – (1923-2017) A member of Lodge 1, New York, N.Y.

MARGARET KAPRAL – (1923-2017) A member of Lodge 32, Boonton, N.J.

JOSEPHINE KING – (1926-2017) A member of Lodge 42W, Tarrytown, N.Y.

JOSEPH KOVACH – (1926-2017) A member of Lodge 269, Whiting, Ind.

ZDENKA KUDLAC – (1929-2017) A member of Lodge 15W, Binghamton, N.Y.

JOSEPH MASSAR – (1921-2017) A member of Lodge 223, Hoboken, N.J.

JOHN MAYERS – (1921-2017) A member of Lodge 39/40W, Berwyn, Ill.

ANN MURPHY – (1919-2013) A member of Lodge 32, Boonton, N.J.

PAUL REMIAS – (1931-2019) A member of Lodge 103, Farrell, Pa.

NINA SMOLEN – (1933-2017) A member of Lodge 244, Westfield, Mass.

RICHARD TOMKO – (1933-2017) A member of Lodge 46, Mckeesport, Pa.

JOHN ZENGOTA – (1949-2017) A member of Lodge 26, Guttenberg, N.J.

Lodge 26 Guttenberg, NJ

will hold its next meeting
on Saturday Sept 9th.

For location and time,
please contact Brother Buddy Burkhardt
at 201-766-0002 or abukh2130@gmail.com.

SOKOL USA
A Division of GBU FINANCIAL LIFE

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FROM LODGE 32, BOONTON, N.J.

Greetings Former Sokol Gymnasts:

We hope this letter finds you in good spirits and health.

Boonton Sokol has been a strong community gymnastics program for many decades. We are very lucky to have one of the largest and longest running programs in the Sokol USA Organization. How long ago were you a participant?

We would like to keep this great tradition vibrant and even grow in the future. As such, the Lodge is looking for additional instructors to support the gymnastics program and lead it into the future.

Do you remember your days at Sokol? Learning gymnastics in a fun way? Marching, trampoline, relay races, cal (OK, not too many people liked that). Maybe you were even lucky enough to go to a *Slet* or *Kurz*!

Would you be willing to help keep those traditions and memories alive?

If you can help in anyway, please reach out to one of us. We're sure we can find a way for you to get involved again. We look forward to hearing from you.

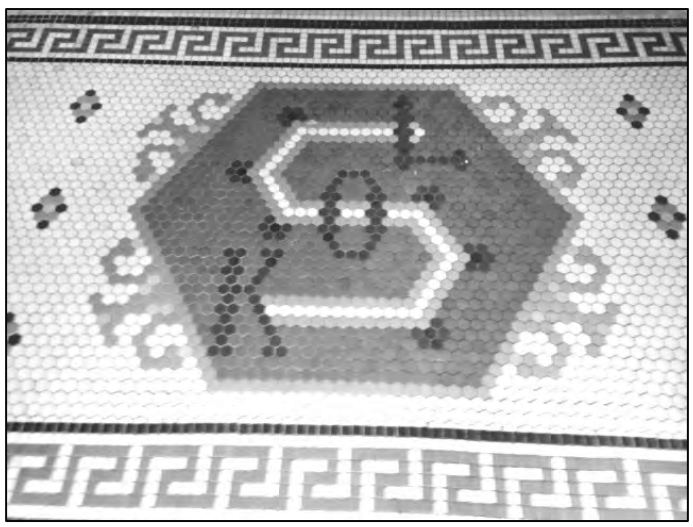
Nazdar!
Boonton Sokol Directors

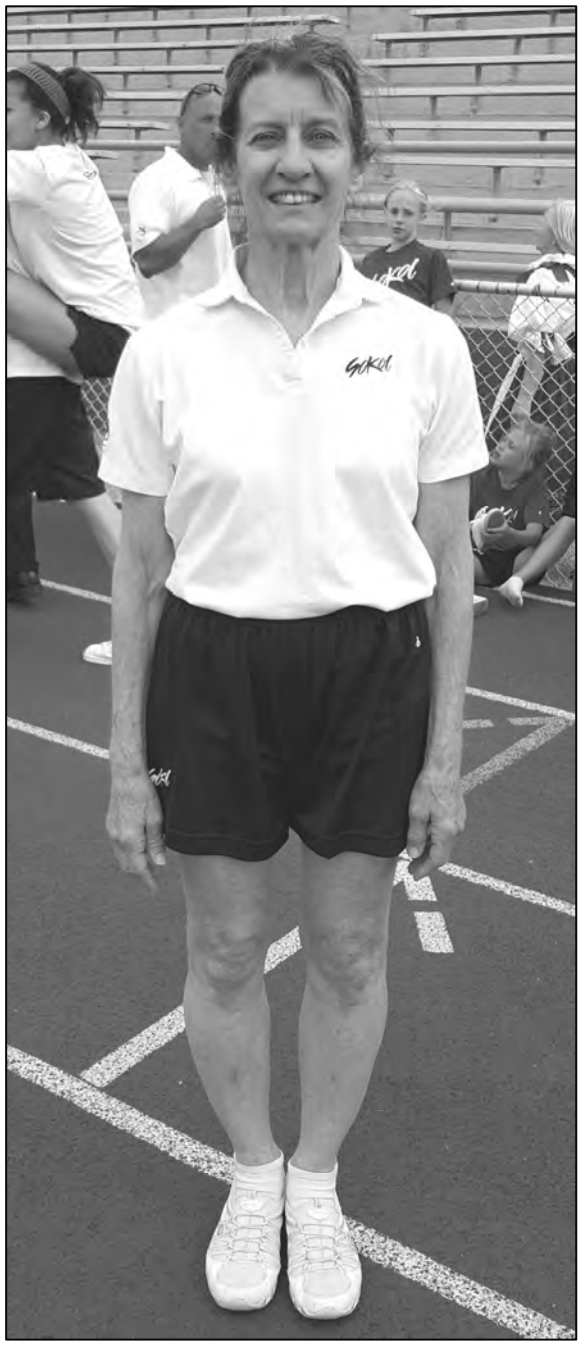
Nicole Zaremba	nfavale@optonline.net	(973) 229-5457
Judy Bindas	judithbindas@hotmail.com	(973) 960-8087
Eric Skovronek	eskov65@gmail.com	(973) 727-3531

SOKOL USA
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

Assets		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Cash – GBU		
30117006	**$ 17,475.77**	
30117105	**$ 1,470,694.42**	
Total Cash – GBU		**$1,488,170.19**
Cash-M/M Investors Bank		**7,253.40**
Cash – PNC		**13,337.73**
Petty Cash		**500.00**
Total Checking/Savings		**$1,509,261.32**
Other Current Assets		
Total Collateral Loans	**$ 38,275.01**	
GBU A/R	**$ 48,338.85**	
Total Mortgage Receivable	**$ 214,624.01**	
Total Other Current Assets		**$ 301,237.87**
Fixed Assets		
Total Real Estate (depreciated value)		**$ 4,491.13**
TOTAL ASSETS		**$1,814,990.32**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liability – Expense Payable	**$ 347.02**	
Total Mortgage Loan Escrow	**$ 8,726.74**	
Total Liabilities		**$ 9,073.76**
Equity		
Consolidated Fund (Ret'd Earn)	**$1,814,990.36**	
Net Income	**$- 9,076.04**	
Total Equity		**$1,805,914.32**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		**$1,814,990.32**

These figures are unaudited. No assurance is provided on this financial statement.





Above at left, inscriptions on the middle of the building's exterior read, from left, "Sokolovna," "1908" and "Gymnastics." Under the roof is written, from left, "Svatopluk, Cech;" "Fugner, Tyrs;" and "Klacel, Havlicek."
Above at right, inside the entrance, floor tiles feature an intricate inlaid Sokol emblem.
At right, one of four large windows form a lit, coordinated mural showing scenes of the bridges in downtown Prague. This one is of the famed Charles Bridge (Karlovy Most).

The Sokolovna of Cedar Rapids

One of several pleasant surprises during my recent trip to the American Sokol Slet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was visiting a restaurant called "Back Pocket."

This restaurant is what used to be the local "Sokolovna" – the Sokol Hall. It's in an old part of town near the "NewBo" (Bo is for Bohemian; Bohemia is a region of the Czech Republic) neighborhood. In 2008, a devastating flood of the Cedar River destroyed many buildings, including the Sokolovna, in this historic neighborhood.

While the members of Sokol Cedar Rapids moved to a location on the outskirts of the city, where all this year's Sokolfest gymnastics competitions were held, the new owners of the old flood-damaged building cleaned it and repurposed it to a brewery and restaurant. Their renovations preserved not only the handsome exterior but also some interior features as part of the new decor.

When you go to Cedar Rapids to tour the Czech and Slovak Museum, be sure to find time to see the Back Pocket. This gem of a building is located at 415 3rd Street SE, just across the river.

Ellen Kovac

District Board Finance Committee Member Ellen Kovac competed in both the Fitness Challenge and the Garnet Level Gymnastics, capturing first place in both!

Just A Few Things

After a cool, wet start to the season, Summer is finally here. As the heat and humidity rise, I'd like to remind you to stay hydrated during all outdoor activities. Also, don't forget your sunscreen or spend too much time in the sun between 10 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon, which is when the strongest rays of light are shining down.

Milan Getting Scholarship applications have been received from five young members and another five have filed the paperwork for their renewals. Good luck in the upcoming semester to you all. Also, in passing to next year's graduates, it's never too soon to start thinking about getting your applications ready for our Sokol Awards as well as the GBU scholarships. Remember that young members entering the 8th grade can apply for the GBU Freshmen Awards.

As I mentioned previously in the June issue of the Times, a major cultural event, the 16th Conference of the Czechoslovak Genealogical International Society, will be held in Pittsburgh from October 17th to 21st, 2017. The website with complete details is www.cgsi.org. Looking for a good book to read? If so, during the recent board meeting, several members recommended the book "Dreams of a Great Small Nation" by Kevin J. McNamara. This would serve as a nice introduction to the cultural event as it's a very interesting read of the true story in World War I about the Czech-Slovak Legion.

Finally, it was discussed at the July board meeting that six of our lodges have filled out and returned at least the first quarter, and in some cases, also the second quarter Lodge Activity forms. Please take time to fill out these forms and return them to headquarters at the earliest convenience. The board is very interested in your activities and would like to promote them to all our members as well. Have a safe, enjoyable summer everyone.

Nazdar

Sister Nancy Shurina

Convention Report

Submitted by Chris Yatchyshyn and Todd Yatchyshyn, Co-Directors of Sports Fitness & Wellness

Hello, fellow convention delegates! It has been an honor for us to serve as Co-Directors of the Sports, Fitness and Wellness (SFW) Department for the past four years and, if nominated, we will again accept the nomination for Co-Directors.

Congratulations to each of you for being selected as a convention delegate to represent your lodge, district, or national position. The convention is the highest authority in our organization and it holds much power in determining the future of Sokol USA. Once again, there are important decisions to be made that will affect how we govern, how we operate and how we support our districts, lodges and members. We hope you enthusiastically embrace your delegate status and are passionate about the future of Sokol USA.

It is our responsibility to make decisions that will enable our organization to flourish, but we must be equally careful with our finances so that Sokol USA can continue to thrive for many years to come. We need to elect persons to the Board who are willing to work in between meetings, persons who aren't satisfied with the status quo, and persons who will make every effort not only to maintain but to grow Sokol USA and the programs we offer.

During the past four years, we have adjusted to working within the GBU structure as Sokol USA District 4000, but now it is time to focus on our "Sokol" vision for the future. We need to determine who we are as a fraternal organization; we need to make changes where necessary; and we need to initiate new efforts where it makes sense.

Once we assess where we are and our vision for the future is clear, we need to set goals and implement strategies to accomplish them.

To be successful, we can never be satisfied. We always need to be looking forward and seeing how we can best meet the needs of our members, lodges and districts. In 2014, the Pen Argyl Lodge 410 was charted and today it offers a strong fitness training program for over 70 members. Are there other initiatives that can help foster Sokol ideals through Sports, Fitness or Wellness Programs? Do we have the courage to give more initiatives a chance, to ensure growth in our membership?

In 2016, the SFW Department organized the very successful 120th Anniversary Slet and work has begun on Sokolfest XXVIII that will be held in 2019. During the past four years, Sokol USA has held three Weekend Instructor Training Schools, a Slet Training session in October 2015 and, in May 2016, a regional competition/training session was sponsored by Monessen Sokol at Falcon Gym-

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At left, the All Sokol Finale was performed by several hundred Sokols of all ages and abilities. At right, Kathy Naccarato of the Pen Argyl Lodge and Scott Pracko of the Chicago Lodge assisted with the Fitness Challenge Competition where the athletes performed in four events: Shuttle Run, Dot Drill, Hand-Release Push-Up and Plank Hold.

At left, A strong gust of wind unfurled the Slet flags just prior to the gymnasts marching forward on the field. At right, Sokol Farrell members at the American Sokol Slet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Chicago Lodge 306 members at the American Sokol XXVI Slet and Festival.

Sokol USA joins Slet activities

(Continued from Page 1)

Museum & Library was available to visit and served as the site of the Friday night Slet Banquet. I was happy to arrive early to view the special “TWISTS AND TURNS: THE STORY OF SOKOL” display, Dale Chihuly’s magnificent glass sculptures, and the “Faces of Freedom” exhibit. This is a very informative and engaging museum; it was well worth my pre-banquet visit.

During the evening, the first National American Sokol Awards Presentation was held. Many deserving members were recognized with various awards for their years of service to the organization. Also featured were a silent auction, a wine pull fundraiser and lots of fine music for dancing. And, while the banquet was held downtown, back at the Clarion, the Juniors Youth Social was in full swing. Members of SALT (Sokol Aspiring Leaders of Tomorrow) helped plan the event designed specifically for their age group.

Saturday featured the Gymnastics Competitions where 220 Sokols competed for individual and team awards. Ranging in age from young children to resilient seniors, there was a fine display of

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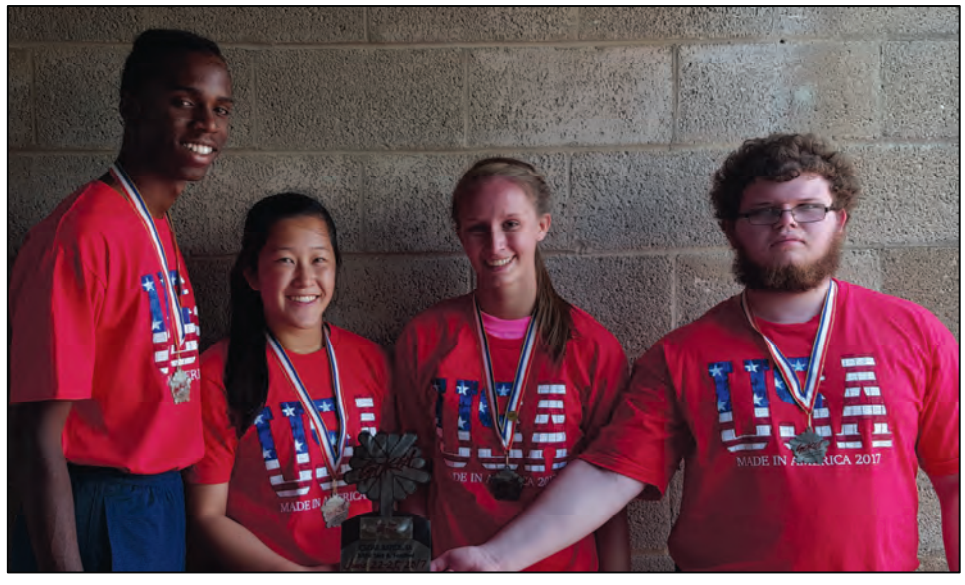
At left, Pen Argyl Sokol Lodge 410 members following the Closing Ceremony Program at Kingston Stadium. Above, Sokol Farrell members were all decked out in their red, white and blue outfits at the Slet banquet held at the Czech and Slovak Museum & Library.

The Sokol USA Tug of War Team was made up of members from Chicago Lodge 306 and Monessen Lodge 47. The team is on the right in the red “USA” shirts.



Above at left, Sokol Tots from several lodges and units anxiously awaiting the Grand March of the Slet Program.

Above at right, members from five Sokol USA lodges wearing their finest patriotic attire at the American Sokol Slet Banquet.

At right, the Sokol USA Team placed second in the Slet Relay Race. Team members from left are Tay Bronson and Anna Vogt from Monessen Sokol, Roberta Pegg from Farrell Sokol and Phil Tudisco from Chicago Sokol.

Sokol USA
Profit & Loss
January through December 2016

	Jan - Dec 16	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
GBU Merger Agreement		15,000.00
Interest on Acct. # 30117105		62,495.35
Interest on Acct. #30117006		753.96
Return of Premium		0.00
New Members Rewards		800.00
Membership Dues from GBU		16,016.00
Member Fees Assessed		7,146.71
Sport, Fitness & Wellness Donat		4,561.88
Milan Getting Scholorship		6,678.50
Mortgage Interest Income		9,200.00
Collateral Loan Interest Income		2,096.30
Misc. Income		1,278.86
Total Income		126,027.56
Expense		
Region (District) Fees		724.32
Fraternal Distribution to Lodge		3,484.80
Campaign Reward		1,070.00
Advertising		5,528.77
Milan Getting Scholarship		5,500.00
National Board Expenses		1,137.14
National Board Meeting Exps.		
Expense	10,419.03	
Subsidy	-10,309.28	
Total National Board Meeting Exps.		109.75
National Board Meeting Fees		4,400.00
Bank Service fees		488.17
Donations		
Expense	7,137.68	
Subsidy	-4,624.26	
Total Donations		2,513.42
Real Estate Exp.		
Real Estate Expense	14,650.86	
Real Estate Taxes	8,930.25	
Total Real Estate Exp.		23,581.11
Office		5,020.69
Telephone		3,568.57
Professional Fees		2,775.00
Postage		1,885.26
Publication		
Expense	12,350.08	
Subsidy	-2,007.50	
Total Publication		10,342.58
Insurance		6,489.35
Sokolfest Advances & Expenses		
Expense	14,294.44	
Return of Advance and Expense	-12,480.00	
Total Sokolfest Advances & Expenses		1,814.44
Sokolfest Officer Travel Exp		10,915.41

No assurance is provided on this financial statements

Sokol USA participates in Slet

(Continued from Page 4)

beginner, intermediate and advanced gymnastics for the spectators to view. Sokol USA had many winners; congratulations to all of you. Your hard work paid off!

A traditional Victory Dance was held at the Clarion on Saturday evening. Throughout the night, the attendees enjoyed music and dancing. There was also a basket raffle. Special thanks to Juanita LoGiudice for assisting Sokol USA in creating a basket to help support the event.

On Sunday, the culmination of "The Tradition Continues," the Closing Ceremony Program, was held at Kingston Stadium. The well-organized rehearsals began at 9 a.m. and the performance began precisely at 1:30 p.m. As the gymnasts and dancers were lined up in the back of the field ready to march forward, a strong gust of wind unfurled the many colorful flags ready to lead the procession. There was a collective "sigh of pride;" it was time to begin!

Following the national anthems, the Pledge of Allegiance led by advanced-level gymnast Joe Bajek and a brief welcome from American Sokol President Jean Hruby, the flags were decorated with commemorative ribbons. As the National Physical Director Maryann Fiordelis instructed the gymnasts to march off the field, the children remained to perform their composition written by Michelle Jirousek and Heidi Vencl from Sokol Greater Cleveland. They did a great job and received a long applause. The next performance was a Folk Dance composed by Angela Chybik of the Moravian Cultural Society. The music, and dancing performed by Sokols in beautiful costumes, added a festive ambiance to the afternoon show.

Following gracious remarks from Slet Chairperson Allison Gerber, the competitive Tug of War competitions were held. Congratulations to all who participated on the Sokol USA team. What we lacked in

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From the President's View

(Continued from Page 1)

of our organization. His stewardship and management of Sokol USA's investments helped our organization weather many difficult national economic cycles. His efforts and devotion are to be commended. We wish him great happiness in all his undertakings in his retirement.

Sokol USA is a major sponsor of the upcoming Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's (CSGI) Conference which will be held October 17-21, 2017, in Pittsburgh, Pa. There will be many interesting lecture sessions, a banquet, and a tour of Slovak Pittsburgh. Many of our members are also members of CGSI. CGSI has also done many Sokol-related articles and lectures in the past. One can register for individual sessions of the conference or for the full conference events. For further information, please go to https://www.cgsi.org. CGSI has also provided some conference-related information which is available in this issue of The Sokol Times. Many of their lecture programs are insightful and informative and I encourage those who are able and interested to check out their offerings.

Additionally, in 2018, there will be a Sokol Slet in Prague in the Czech Republic. Many of our members will certainly attend and, as more information regarding the All Sokol Slet in Prague becomes available, it will be posted in The Sokol Times.

I send you best wishes for an enjoyable remainder of the summer!

NAZDAR!
Joe Bielecki
President, Sokol USA

Convention Report

(Continued from Page 3)

nastics. In addition to the many Sokol USA programs and events that our lodges sponsor, Central Jersey and Boonton continue to be active in Sokols of the East, Chicago participates in American Sokol Central District activities and Sokol Farrell participates in events with Sokol Greater Cleveland. Sokol USA sponsors many opportunities for our members to participate in American Sokol Development Conferences and Sokol Instructors School, and Todd continues to serve on the staff of both. In June, over 80 Sokol USA members participated in the American Sokol Slet and Festival in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Through a series of conference calls originally initiated by American Sokol President Jean Hruby, the program directors of Sokol USA, American Sokol, Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Polish Falcons are exploring new and innovative approaches to sustain our programs and extend our collective missions through leadership training programs, sports tournaments, summer camps and national Slets. Todd's enthusiasm for these collaborative initiatives has greatly helped to move the process forward. The next meeting is scheduled for November 4th when we will meet in person at the Polish Falcons headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pa., to work on logistics for participating in each other's events and collaborative scheduling.

Chris' many years of Sokol experience helps to provide guidance and mentorship to the SF&W Department. Encouraging young members to be leaders is essential. Our vision for the future of Sokol USA is to grow our organization, which in turn will continue many of the strong traditions and Sokol ideals that have enabled our organization to thrive for over 121 years. We believe this can be achieved if we support our young members by listening to their ideas, provide opportunities for them to create and run events, utilize their technological and social media skills, and, most importantly, give them opportunities to showcase the Sokol ideals in a manner that is attractive to other youth and young adults. Young people are key to our future success; however, experienced mentors with a strong love for Sokol is equally crucial and are needed in every area of our organization. Together we will keep Sokol USA strong.

If we could change one thing in Sokol USA, it would be the atmosphere on the Board, which we believe has become stagnant. Too often we settle for "the same old way" instead of trying new and innovative ideas. Too often we have our own agendas; and too often we don't listen to one another. We can't be afraid to try and we can't fault one another if an effort is not successful. Creative and new initiatives can be scary, but we must accept the challenge to ensure the future of Sokol USA. It's time to set a positive tone; it's time to be creative; but most importantly it's time for TEAMWORK. Our founder Miroslav Tyrs would have it no other way.

Nazdar!

The Yatchyshyn Family “Continuing the Tradition” at the American Sokol Slet and Festival.

NATIONAL SLET IN IOWA

(Continued from Page 6)

strength, we displayed in spirit and attire – the bright red “USA” shirts worn by our team members looked really sharp!

A very creative and much more difficult calisthenics, written for the juniors by Christina Wurst of Sokol Tabor to the song “Beautiful Day,” followed. The juniors rose to the challenge and gave an excellent performance to the delight of the audience. In contrast to the advanced movements the juniors performed, it was time for the seniors to show off their simpler yet extremely precise movements. The Senior II Cal was a compilation from calisthenics previously written by Ed and Anne Halik for the 1989, 1993 and 1997 Slets, assembled and directed by Jan and Chuck Kalat of Sokol KHB. The seniors, many who have been performing calisthenics for decades, received a great audience response of appreciation.

The next calisthenics performance was written by Alex Zahbrosky and Howie Maskill of Sokol Spirit for the adults, using the songs “Bastille” and “Dynamite.” Another fine performance of well-executed movements and formation transitions continued to impress the audience. The relay race followed and Sokol USA finished with a strong second-place performance. Great job team – and especially to Roberta Pegg of Farrell who has run on the last three Sokol USA relay teams!

Following uplifting remarks from Maryann Fiordelis, the All Sokol Finale written by Tom Pager of Sokol Spirit was performed by hundreds of gymnasts in neon pink, green, and yellow shirts that signified the moves they performed – dance, fitness or general moves. And, they did not perform separately. At all times, everyone in the group was executing movements that corresponded to their ability level causing an explosion of color and movement on the field, dazzling the spectators as they performed “Sokol Baby, Yeah.” What a great finale!

The afternoon celebration ended with retiring the colors and lots of goodbye hugs. Congratulations to American Sokol on another fine Slet and Festival as “The Tradition Continues.” Nazdar!

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International
16th Genealogical/Cultural Conference
October 17–21, 2017

Major Sponsors

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Senator John Heinz History Center
In Association with the Smithsonian Institution

NSS Life
Family Matters...

SOKOL USA
District 4000—A Division of GBU Financial Life

U. S. Steel Košice

Western Bank
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Fees apply for conference and program registration. Please consult the official program for more information.

Tours

Tuesday, October 17, 8 a.m.: Pittsburgh’s Industry of Our Immigrants
Wednesday, October 18, 8 a.m.: Slovak Historic Bus Tour of Pittsburgh
Wednesday, October 18, 8:30 a.m.: Rusyn Historic Bus Tour of Pittsburgh

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 18; 7 p.m.: World War II Slovak Film Festival

Thursday, October 19; 9 a.m.: Pennsylvania Vital Records
Beyond Kolaches: Cuisine as a Reflection of Historic Changes in the Czech Nation
Coal Mine Culture – A World of its Own
World War I on Slovak Lands
10:15 a.m.: Courthouse Research in Pennsylvania: In the Realm of the Prothonotary
Beyond Zatkovich and the Pittsburgh Agreement: American Ethnonreligious Influences on Czechoslovakia
Collections of the Heinz History Center
The Cycle of Life in Czech and Slovak Villages
1:30 p.m.: Genealogical Resources in Western Pennsylvania
Genealogy – Getting and Staying Organized
Overcoming Brick Walls in Eastern Europe Research
Slovakia – Land of Miners
3 p.m.: Reading Kurrent Workshop
The Aliens are Coming: USCIS Records Sets
Creating a Family Archive
Sites of the Czech Republic and Their Stories
A Crash Course in Slovak: Useful Words and Phrases for Travel and Genealogy

Friday, October 20; 8 a.m.: Keynote Address: They Built This City: Celebrating Pittsburgh’s Industries and Immigrants by Lisa Alzo
9:15 a.m.: How to Research Czech Birth/Marriage/Death Registers on the Internet: A Practical Lesson
What was it like in 1969, 1989 and 1993?
Emigration from Slovakia
Rusyn, Russian, Slovak, Ukrainian – the Quest for Identity among Carpatho-Rusyns
11 a.m.: “After the Roof” – Surname Changes in the Czech Past
How to Locate Those Elusive Military Records for Ancestors Who Served in the Austro-Hungarian Army
The American Slovaks and the Start of the Great War
Parish Histories: A Prospective Window on Carpatho-Rusyn Genealogy
1:45 p.m.: Homes of Our Czech Ancestors in the Old Fatherland
Czecho-Slovak Legion: Historic Significance
Beginning Slovak Genealogy
Changed by Thalerhof
3:30 p.m.: Stable Cadastral Maps of the Czech Republic
Slovaks and Rusyns Seen through the Eyes of Travelers: 1795-1915
Traditional Slovak Customs during the Year
From the Carpathians to the Alleghenies: Carpatho-Rusyn Immigrants in the Greater Johnstown, Pa. Area
7:15 p.m.: Parade of Kroje

Saturday, October 21, 7:30 a.m.: Reading Kurrent Workshop
8 a.m.: Czech Family Name Sources – A Lesson for Foreign Genealogists
Identification of Alias Names in Slovak Records – Two Case Studies
Roma in Central Europe: Past and Present
Andy and the Rusyns
9:45 a.m.: The Czechs of Bohemian Hill
Slovakia – Wealth Center of Old Hungary
The Making of a State: The American Creation of Czech-Slovakia with the Cleveland Agreement and the Pittsburgh Pact
Rusyns – The Story of Survival
12:30 p.m.: Life in Bohemia and Moravia in the 18th Century
Identifying Pittsburgh’s Slovak Cluster Communities and Their Role in Preserving Slovak Heritage
Unlocking the Secrets of the Czech Archives: You Can Find Your Ancestors
A Village-Based Reframing of the Historical Narrative of Carpatho-Rusyns in the U.S.
2:15 p.m.: How to Locate Houses on a Current (Katastr) Map of the Czech Republic
Slovak Land Records and Maps
Tying the Knot! Betrothal and Wedding Rituals and Customs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia with Clues for Genealogists
Who are Rusyns?

At left, Neechee instructs girls at the low bar. At right, she teaches roundoff dismounts, including to her daughters, off the balance beam. (Photos by Greg Bender)

Lodge 12 names 'Neechee' Rehwinkel as Athlete of the Year

Lodge 12 Central Jersey is happy to honor Anna "Neechee" Rehwinkel as our Athlete of the Year.

Neechee is a life-long Sokol gymnast who continues to get on the apparatus to stay in shape on gym nights. Her four children have all participated in our Sokol gymnastics programs.

As one of our instructors, she's an excellent motivator who teaches her class of gymnasts with great knowledge and professionalism. In addition, she has created special numbers, learned, performed in and taught many calisthenics exercises, and led, along with three of her children, the Children's Calisthenics at our Sokolfest in Pittsburgh last year. "It's amazing how easily she puts routines together. She's awesome," Coach Ellen Kovac said.

With seemingly endless energy, Neechee has ordered uniforms, designed Lodge 12 T-shirts, and done whatever she sees as necessary to foster our Sokol program. She is also a former lodge Financial Secretary, following in the footsteps of her mother, Anne Gorgol.

Next, Neechee will, for at least the fourth time, represent Lodge 12 as our delegate to the Sokol USA Convention being held in Pittsburgh. We know she will represent us well.

We salute you, Neechee, for living a Sokol life of a sound mind in a sound body, and we thank you for sharing your many talents and skills with all of us. You are a great example.

Nazdar!
The Lodge 12 Staff

Instructor School Grads

Three Sokol USA juniors attended the two-week American Sokol Instructor School held at the Cedar Rapids Gym following the Slet. From left are Lily Glover from Sokol Farrell, staff member and Sokol USA Director Todd Yatchyshyn, and Jade Hackett and Violet Thornton from Chicago Lodge 306. Lily graduated in first place in the Beginner Level Course and received the Leadership Award. We applaud the dedication of these young Sokols and know they will be a great asset to their lodge gym programs.

Ready for the summer

Lodge 39 celebrated the start of summer with a luncheon at MC Cook's Restaurant in McCook, Ill., on Sunday, June 11th. Everyone enjoyed socializing and the delicious meal.

PEN ARGYL SOKOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH – 14-year-old Lorenzo Reto (at left) is a member of Pen Argyl Sokol Lodge 410. Lorenzo is a wrestler who joined Sokol 5-Tool Fitness in August 2016 to enhance his training program. As a home-schooled eighth grader, Lorenzo competed for a private wrestling club in the 126-pound weight class and had an amazing season this past winter. His record was 32 wins, two second places and two third places. We are very proud of his hard work and well-deserved success. Lorenzo will attend Pen Argyl Area High School in the fall and plans to compete on the wrestling team. The coaches of Lodge 410 enjoy working with this very dedicated athlete and look forward to assisting him as he progresses in his wrestling career. Congratulations Lorenzo!