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SOKOL TIMES

JUNE 13, 2013

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Roberta Pegg, a student at Sharpshville High School in Pennsylvania, has been chosen as Sokol Farrell's "Gymnast of the Year."

Pegg chosen as Sokol USA Farrell's Gymnast of the Year

Sokol USA Farrell is proud to choose Roberta Pegg, a student at Sharpshville High School in Pennsylvania, as Sokol Farrell's "Gymnast of the Year." Roberta is quite a multi-talented young woman and is well deserving of the honor. Besides working hard at practice in the Sokol gymnasium, she is involved with the high school varsity track and field team, the high school dance line, as well as taking dance lessons. Roberta and her mother Chris have been members of Sokol USA for the past 13 years.

Roberta's first Sokol competition was at the National Slet in Pittsburgh in 2007 where she placed second in Level 2 Girls Ages 9 years and under with 34.95 points, which is an average of 8.74 points per event and just 0.10 of a point from first place. In 2009, at the ASO Slet in Fort Worth, Texas, she placed second in Girls Level 3, again just a fraction of a point from the top spot. And in 2011 at the Sokol USA Slet in Cleveland, Roberta stroke "gold" when she earned a

Besides working hard at practice in the Sokol gymnasium, she is involved with the high school varsity track and field team, the high school dance line, and takes dance lessons.

first place in Juniors Level 4 Ages 12-14 with a score of 34.75. After her success in Cleveland, she began to work on Level 5 and is working hard to master the routines at that level. She plans to compete in Level 5 Juniors at the ASO Slet in Milwaukee this month.

When in the gym, Roberta likes the uneven bars the best. Her best skills on that event are in the Level 5 routine. This includes a "free hip circle to a glide kip, front hip circle" combination on the low bar as well as a "kip" on the high bar. On the floor, she is working on a "front handspring, front tuck salto" combination as well as a "standing back salto." The Level 5 balance

beam compulsory routine includes a "cartwheel" and Roberta is beginning to "hit" a high percentage on this skill.

About Sokol, Roberta says, "Sokol is a great organization because it's not like most gymnastics clubs. It's more interesting because one can learn about the origins of the organization and its entire history. Sokol gives one the opportunity to participate with, as well as compete against Sokols from all over the world. Gymnastics is a great sport because it teaches the individual flexibility, strength, confidence, responsibility and courage. For most people, it is

(Continued on Page 8)

Frequently Asked Questions About The Proposed Merger

In response to questions that have been presented concerning our pending merger with GBU Financial Life, the following are answers or responses. Please continue to send your questions concerning merger to Headquarters. Thank you.

Milan S. Kovac
Supreme Secretary

#1: ADVANTAGES

- Sokol fraternal programs will be our primary focus.
- Sokol will retain its fraternal identity and governance over all existing Sokol Lodges.
- Sokol USA is no longer responsible to underwrite, process or administer or pay claims for death or surrender.
- GBU provides policy services to our members.

#2: BENEFITS OF A LARGE FRATERNAL

- Reduces expenses via the economy of scale.
- Meets costly compliance and regulatory issues.
- Provides marketing opportunities.
- Offers a distribution system (agents).
- Engages in product development.

#3: Is the State of New Jersey forcing this merger?

- Sokol USA is not under any pressure by regulatory authorities.

#4: Are there other states with more favorable conditions for fraternal?

- More fraternal are domiciled in Illinois and Pennsylvania.
- It is costly to re-domicile; Sokol USA is a well-managed fraternal.
- Sokol USA does not have any issues with the NJ DOBI.

#5: What happens in the next four years if we do not merge?

- Sustained financial well being becomes more difficult each year.
- Results depend upon leadership, economic environment and management.

#6: What is negatively impacting Sokol USA's financial well being?

- Declining membership.
- Lack of insurance sales.
- Declining investment income.
- Additional compliance and regulatory fees.
- Lack of a professional distribution system (agents).

#7: Are there alternatives to merging at this time?

- Status quo will result in a:
- Decline in membership.
 - Decline in active membership.
 - Decline in investment income.
 - Decline in assets.

#8: Can operations be economized in order to prevent a merger at this time?

- Sokol USA has one of the lowest cost operators in the fraternal field.
- There is very little expense that can be cut.

#9: Did Sokol USA receive offers from other fraternal organization?

- The Supreme Lodge decided to seek proposals from non-sectarian societies.

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SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL
OF THE USA

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SOKOL OFFICE:
Telephone: (973) 676-0280
Toll Free: (888) 253-0362
FAX (973) 676-3348
E-mail: SOKOLUSAHQ@aol.com

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PAS SLOVAK FOLK ENSEMBLE PERFORMS AT EMBASSY

The Pittsburgh Area Slovak (PAS) Folk Ensemble was honored to accept an invitation to perform at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic on Saturday May 11, 2013, in Washington D.C. The Embassy opened its doors to the Washington public that day, together with all of the embassies of the European Union countries and the Delegation of the EU to the United States, as a part of the EU Open House Event. The embassies offered to the public a rare look inside their premises and provided a unique opportunity to experience the heritage, traditions and tourist attractions of the EU member countries. The event is popular among the public and promotes both individual EU states along with the European Union itself.

PAS performed four half-hour programs representing the Eastern and Horehron regions of Slovakia. The program from the Eastern region had dances full of temperament with the Krucena – a couples twirling dance; Verbunk – a men's military dance; Cardas – a two-step dance, plus songs of a lonely heart, and a fiery girls circular dance called a Karicka. Concluding the set was a romantic suite of dances from Zemplin. The Horehron program featured the precision and beauty of the dancers stamping and rhythmic movements. It included the Horehronsky Dupak, in which the young men and women impress each other with unique stamping and dancing skills. The conclusion of the program was the Odzemok men's axe dance. Each of the performances received thunderous applause. For the lines of people waiting to get in to see the next presentation, the PAS orchestra and men went outside and entertained the audience with music and singing.

A highlight of the day was a private audience with the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, Peter Kmec. He praised the group for the exceeding everyone's expectations and attracting so many visitors, which was estimated to be about 3,000.

PAS was truly a part of the splendor of Slovakia with diverse performances of music, songs and dances to proudly display our cultural heritage at the Slovak Embassy. For more information about PAS, please visit www.pasfolkensemble.com.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

To the Milan Getting Scholarship

From Sokol Lodge 164, Detroit, Mich. \$100.00
In memory of deceased Sokol members

From Sokol Lodge 258, Campbell, Ohio \$50.00
In memory of deceased Sokol members

From Barbara Fronko-Froehlich, Lexington, Ky. \$1,000.00
*In memory of my beloved parents
Emma Radakovich Fronko & Stephen Francis Fronko*

To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund

From Sokol Lodge 164, Detroit, Mich. \$100.00
In memory of deceased Sokol members

From Sokol Lodge 258, Campbell, Ohio \$50.00
In memory of deceased Sokol members

From Sokol District Pavel Mudron \$90.00
In memory of deceased members



Members of the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble pose in front of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC. The group performed there on May 11th as part of a European Union Open House Event.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

-Three fraternal societies made presentations: The Royal Arcanum, Boston, Mass.; NSS Life (National Slovak Society), McMurray, Pa.; and GBU Financial Life, Pittsburgh, Pa.

#10: Why has the process of merger been decided by only the Supreme Lodge (SL)?

-The SL is the executive and managing body of Sokol USA, as described in Article III of the by-laws.
-The 2009 convention charged the SL to review all options for the future of the society. After many meetings with much deliberation and consideration, the SL is recommending to merge with GBU Financial Life as the best merger partner for SOKOL USA membership.
-The final decision is up to the Convention delegates.

#11: The SL sets a course or policy for action.

-The SL has devoted a great deal of time toward this project.
-The action presented is subject to legislative approval by the Convention.

#12: Why are we being presented with only one merger partner at the Convention?

-The SL reviewed the three merger opportunities and proposals in detail.
-The best possible merger candidate is being presented to the Convention.

#13: Why weren't all possible merger partners given an opportunity to present proposals at the Convention?

-Merger proposals were very detailed and involved much analysis. Multiple proposals being presented at the Convention would not give Sokol USA the necessary opportunity for a full and proper analysis of a merger partner.
-The following factors were reviewed for each potential candidate: Financial strength, future growth potential, past merger experience, current administrative systems and staffing, distribution system, portfolio of insurance and annuity products that will be available to members, and continuation of the Sokol fraternal programs.
-After interviewing the three potential candidates, the SL has selected the best candidate.

#14: Why did the Supreme Lodge choose GBU as the best offer?

GBU offered the strongest proposal including:
-Distribution of excess surplus is determined by Sokol USA.
-Retention of our elected SL for five years versus a two-year period.
-Appointment of our gymnastic directors to the GBU Fraternal Activity Committee.

#15: GBU also offered:

-\$15,000 contribution per year, for five years, toward our Sokol programs.
-In addition to the \$3.25 per member that is contributed annually, Sokol youth can participate in the GBU Scholarship Program in addition to the Sokol Milan Getting Scholarship Program.
-GBU awarded more than \$80,000 in scholarships last year.

#16: Why is GBU interested in Sokol USA?

-GBU considers Sokol USA to be a strong, viable partner.
-Sokol USA membership adds 5,000 members to GBU.
-GBU is interested in the Sokol programs and believes in the proliferation of our health and sports programs.

#17: Why should Sokol USA be interested in GBU?

-GBU is a billion-dollar, asset-size society.
-GBU has a conservative view in accounting and investing, and a fully transparent operation.
-GBU's solvency is 105.6, which is considerably higher than the other candidates.
-GBU's administration and operations are highly sophisticated.

#18: GBU has previous merger agreements with:

-Hungarian Reformed Federation
-United Lutheran Society (ULS)
-Lutheran Fraternities of America Life

#19: GBU has a record of being good to merger partners.

-All partners continue to conduct their original society programs without interference.
-Each former society acts as their own GBU District, enabling them to retain their particular identity and govern their former lodges or assemblies as prior to the merger.

#20: How will Sokol USA members' additional paid-up life benefits be determined by GBU?

-The additional benefits will be determined by Sokol USA's actuary.
-The formula involves a person's age, current cash value and length of time in Sokol.

#21: At the Convention, is there any room for negotiation? (ie: If we agree with the idea of a merger, but don't like the agreement.)

-No, the Supreme Lodge has spent many hours negotiating the best agreement for Sokol USA and believes the agreement is fair to all parties.
-The boards of both societies are in agreement.
-The merger is subject to the approval of each society's membership.

#22: What are the demographics of GBU's membership?

-The membership demographics of both societies are similar in regard to average age, and are reflective of this nation.

#23: What are GBU's expectations of our athletics programs in terms of the number of participants, new policies, budgets, etc.?

-There are no preconceived notions about the number of participants.
-Sokol USA will continue to maintain our programs with discretion on spending within our new Sokol USA District structure.
-New Sokol members will be required to purchase a GBU insurance policy or an annuity, though the document headings will read: SOKOL USA...Division of GBU.
-GBU hopes some of our programs can be adapted or collaborated with other GBU districts.

#24: In five years, what will affect GBU's decision as to what to do with us?

-It all depends on us, the Sokol USA members, and our programs.
-All past GBU merger partners still retain their original fraternal identity and Lodges. They also act as a Division of GBU Financial Life.

#25: What happens to the Sokol USA "brand" after five years?

-The "brand" stays as is, as long as we continue to be successful.
-We are Sokol – we are not changing signs on buildings.

#26: Does GBU have any advertising or marketing initiatives that can help us with our brand?

-We believe Sokol USA will receive some dedicated service by GBU.

#27: What programs does GBU already offer?

-GBU encourages their districts to be community and culturally minded.
-GBU supports our troops, programs for cancer research and Habitat for Humanity.
-Check their website at www.gbu.org for fraternal projects.

#28: Would any of GBU's current members want to join in our activities?

-GBU will encourage their members to participate with Sokol programs.
-GBU looks to Sokol USA for its leadership and experience in assisting and coordinating current and future physical activity programs.

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#29: What remains in control of the local lodge?

-The local lodge retains control of all of its assets and programs.

#30: Will this merger have any impact on lodges owning their own property and funds?

-Lodges will continue to manage their own assets, providing there is transparency.

#31: Do the lodges have to incorporate?

-The incorporation will apply to lodges having a liquor license and real estate.
-Most Sokol USA lodges with property already have a separate corporation.

#32: Will each lodge's assets remain separate from other lodges?

-Each lodge will retain control of its assets.

#33: What gets transferred to GBU?

-All assets under the auspices of the S.G.U. SOKOL U.S.A. Headquarters. This includes stocks and bonds, real estate, mortgages, collateral loans, cash and the home office.

#34: What will the role of the local lodge secretary or financial secretary be?

-Handle the lodge's invoices for local lodge dues.
-Serve as a liaison between the Sokol District Officers and their lodge members.

#35: Will the current Sokol USA Districts be dissolved?

-The Sokol USA Districts should decide their own fate.

#36: What happens to the Sokol Camp Organization after the merger?

-Slovak Sokol Camp of NJ will be dissolved as soon as its assets are sold and obligations met.

#37: What happens to the Sokol Camp Growth Fund after the merger?

-The Growth Fund will be dissolved after paying its obligations.
-The principal sums of money will be returned to the participating Lodges and Districts.
-GBU offers a similar program called a "District Escrow" account. The present interest rate is 4.5 percent.

#38: Will Milan Getting Scholarship (MGS) recipients be eligible for renewals?

-The MGS program will continue to offer renewals and new scholarships yearly.
-Sokol USA members may also apply for a GBU scholarship.

#39: Will Sokol USA still be able to host a Sokol Slet?

-It is our intention to continue holding Slets.

#40: Will Sokol USA continue membership in the world-wide body of Sokols?

-It is our intention to remain active in the International Sokol movement.

Celebrating fraternalism



From left, John West from Sokol Lodge 16, Slovak Republic Ambassador Petr Kmec, Sokol USA President Joe Bielecki and Justine West from Sokol Lodge 16 attended the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh banquet on March 16, 2013. During the event, Sokol USA member Cynthia Maleski was presented with the 2013 Fraternalist of the Year award.

Silent Auction at Convention

There will be a silent auction at the Sokol USA convention in Bethlehem in July. Lodges and members are encouraged to bring prize baskets to the opening of the convention. The baskets will be available during the convention for people to make bids. Bidding will close prior to the end of the convention so that the winning bidders will be able to pay and take home their baskets.

The proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund. Please contribute prize baskets so that the auction will be a success. For information, please call Joe Bielecki at 412-390-0900 or Jennifer Moulton at 636-549-3332.



PENNSYLVANIA FRATERNAL ALLIANCE 2013 SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2013 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program.

Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance or by visiting the website of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance at www.pafraternal.org.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a 2013 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2013 as a full-time student (12 semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: **"The impact of a Fraternal Organization on your daily life, family and community."**

Return the completed application, essay and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 1, 2013.

At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

If you or your society has not received the information on the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship, please contact Charlotte L. Androckitis, FIC, Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Chairperson, at the Polish Union of the US of NA, P.O. Box 660, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703-0660. You can also call 570-823-1611 or e-mail cla@polishunionusa.com

Sokol USA's Single Premium Insurance Coverage

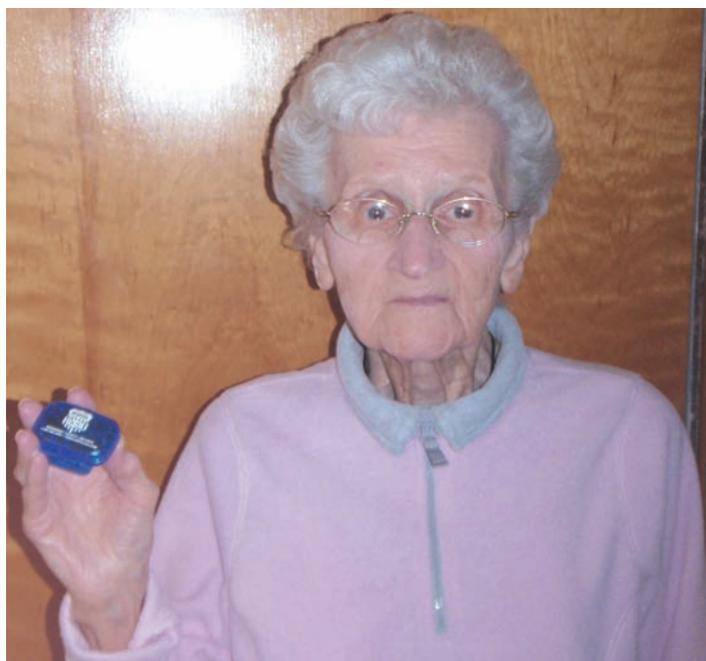
*Affordable Rates Different Rates for Men and Women
Excellent Coverage Simplified Application Process
You will not be turned down because of age
Pay Once, Have Coverage for Life*

Minimum Policy is \$3,000

<u>\$3,000 Policy</u>		<u>\$5,000 Policy</u>	
Newborns:	\$213 for males	Newborns:	\$355 for males
	\$180 for females		\$300 for females
Age 5:	\$252 for males	Age 5:	\$420 for males
	\$213 for females		\$355 for females
Age 18:	\$399 for males	Age 18:	\$665 for males
	\$342 for females		\$570 for females
Age 21:	\$432 for males	Age 21:	\$720 for males
	\$372 for females		\$620 for females
Age 30:	\$567 for males	Age 30:	\$945 for males
	\$504 for females		\$840 for females
Age 40:	\$792 for males	Age 40:	\$1,320 for males
	\$705 for females		\$1,175 for females
Age 65:	\$1,695 for males	Age 65:	\$2,825 for males
	\$1,512 for females		\$2,520 for females

<u>\$10,000 Policy</u>	
Newborns:	\$710 for males
	\$600 for females
Age 5:	\$840 for males
	\$710 for females
Age 18:	\$1,330 for males
	\$1,140 for females
Age 21:	\$1,440 for males
	\$1,240 for females
Age 30:	\$1,890 for males
	\$1,680 for females
Age 40:	\$2,640 for males
	\$2,350 for females
Age 65:	\$5,650 for males
	\$5,040 for females

For a complete list of rates by age, please contact your local Lodge or Sokol USA Headquarters at 888-253-0362 or SOKOLUSAHQ@AOL.COM



The Healthy Heart Walking Club selected Bessie Babuska (left) and Olga Cernicky as Walkers of the Month. Both are in their 90s and walk regularly.

Healthy Heart Walkers of the Month

Having trouble getting motivated to walk a few miles? Looking for a few inspirational walking role models? This month, the Healthy Heart Walking Club is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of two walkers: Sister Olga Cernicky and Sister Bessie Babuska. What's remarkable about these walkers is that they both prioritize their exercise routine, and that both of these athletes are over 90 years young! We applaud Sister Cernicky and Sister Babuska for being walking role models.

Olga Cernicky is 90½ years old, but you wouldn't know it if you knew her. Olga has been a Sokol member since age 5, was a medal-winning gymnast in her youth and participated in countless Sokol tournaments and Slets. In the past, she has dutifully served as an auditor for the Arnold Lodge, her home lodge. She was happily married for almost 70 years to Melvin Cernicky, who was also a Sokol officer and instructor for many years. Olga continues to be active today, tracking her steps whenever she can and doing her favorite activities: crafts, scrabble, sewing, puzzles and watching golf tournaments and the Pittsburgh Steelers. As a matter of fact, she started golfing at the age of 60 and bowled well into her seventies. Olga is a great example of the Walking Club's mission to keep healthy, active and a life-long Sokol.

Like Olga, Bessie Babuska has been a Sokol for most of her life. She was originally a member of the Little Falls, N.Y., lodge, but then moved to Perth Amboy, and then to Lodge 12 (Newark at that time, now called Central Jersey). While she was never a gymnastics instructor, she was a very active member of Sokol, served in various officer positions, and participated in the calisthenics. And of course, she dedicated many years of service (and elbow grease!) to Sokol Woodlands. When she moved to Florida in the mid-1980s, she joined a walking club and hasn't stopped walking since! Now, at age 91, she's active every day and enjoys walking outdoors. While Bessie enjoys a sensible amount of time out in the Florida sun, she'll walk in her shady yard or just to the convenience store and back if it's too hot!

Thanks to Olga and Bessie for inspiring us! Happy walking!
Brandi Kovac

Lodge 12 Gymnastics



Gymnasts from Sokol USA Lodge 12 in Central Jersey pose for a picture during a recent workout. From left are Wyatt and Lance Kovac, Rachel Glazner, Norah Valentin, Emeline and Katie Kovac, Madeline and Philip Rehwinkel, Samantha Glazner, Elizabeth Rehwinkel, Wanda and Katherine Koch, Neechee Rehwinkel and Ellen Kovac. Not pictured are Julia Valentin, Brandi Kovac, Mackenzie and Abby Burratti, William Rehwinkel, John and Robert Koch, Tommy Hoy, Devon and Damian Walker, and Leah and Noah Brndjar.



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.

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.

Do you know where I am?

Sokol USA is trying to locate the following members.
If you know the whereabouts of any of these "missing" members,
please contact Headquarters at:
Telephone: 973-676-0280
Toll Free: 888-253-0362
Fax: 973-676-3348
E-mail: SOKOLUSAHQS@aol.com

Name	Lodge	City	State
BERDELL, FRANK	20	FORD CITY	PA
BOTOS, JOHN	130	NEW KENSINGTON	PA
BROWN, PATRICIA	191	CHICAGO	IL
BURAN, MILTON	158	ENDICOTT	NY
CHRISTIAN, LOUIS	219/260	CANTON	OH
COOPER, ANNA	45/130	TARENTUM	PA
DAVIS, NANCY ELAINE	93	BETHELEHEM	PA
DOCKTOR, JOHN	126/500	ELLSWORTH	PA
DULIN, ANNA	31W/254/500	ERIE	PA
DURIS, ALBERT	248	ROSSFORD	OH
EBERLY, SHIRLEY	29/500	TRENTON	NJ
ELLO, MICHAEL	248	ROSSFORD	OH
FAIX, ROBERT	130	NEW KENSINGTON	PA
GAJZIK, MARY	46	MCKEESPORT	PA
GALLIK, EDWARD	26	GUTTENBERG	NJ
GASPAROVIC, MATILDA	11W/46	MCKEESPORT	PA
HABOVSKY, RAYMOND	146/103	FARRELL	PA
HEFFERNAN, IRENE	154/500	NORTH CHICAGO	IL
HUTKA, AGNES	276	PITTSBURGH	PA
KILLIAN, EDWARD	248	ROSSFORD	OH
KOBULARIK, MICHAEL	46	MCKEESPORT	PA
KOTASEK, FRANK	273/37	WILKES BARRE	PA
KRALIK, HARRY	93	BETHELEHEM	PA
KUBILUS, ANN	19W/500	DERBY	CT
KYPTA, FRANK	26	GUTTENBERG	NJ
LISTON, ELIZABETH	68	BLAISVILLE	PA
LUKASIK, WILLIAM	315/306/114	CHICAGO	IL
LYDA, JOHN	20	FORD CITY	PA
MALINOVSKY, ANDREW	92/103	LORAIN	OH
MATTISEN, MARGARET	33W	JOHNSTOWN	CT
MCGRATH, MARGARET B	159/500	ELIZABETH	NJ
MIGNOGNA, HELEN	128/130	SPRINGDALE	PA
PECK, ROBERT	20	FORD CITY	PA
PELKER, STELLA	248	ROSSFORD	OH
POSNEY, ROBERT	130	NEW KENSINGTON	PA
PUSKAR, JOHN	130	NEW KENSINGTON	PA
REHOR, ANNA	2W/1	BRIDGEPORT	CT
RESAR, GEORGE	150	RACINE	WI
ROVNAN, MARY	45/130	TARENTUM	PA
SADLON, EDWARD	30	DANBURY	CT
SCAFE, MARY	20	FORD CITY	PA
SEVICIK, ALBERT	257/260	LAKESWOOD	OH
SPECKHART, EDWARD	92/103	LORAIN	OH
STALTER, ANNA	65/32	ROCKAWAY	NJ
STEVESAND, OLGA	98/3	RACINE	WI
THEIS, WALTER	260	CLEVELAND	OH
URSIN, JOHN	28/500	DUQUESNE	PA
VASECKA, CHARLES	27/500	MASONTOWN	PA
VILK, WILLIAM	62	AMBRIDGE	PA
VOJTKO, EMERY	37	MALTBY	PA
WALCROFT, HELEN	28/500	DUQUESNE	PA
WILHELM, FRANCES	130	NEW KENSINGTON	PA
YELLEN, ROBERT	66/1	TRAVIS, S.I.	NY
ZBORIL, ANNA	112/164	DETROIT	MI
ZIOLKOWSKI, DANIEL	17/500	JERSEY CITY	NJ
ZUCHOWSKI, ROBERT	248	ROSSFORD	OH

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

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

Lodges, Districts or individual members having motions or suggestions for the good of the Sokol U.S.A., or petitions shall forward same on the forms furnished by the Supreme Secretary, not later than sixty (60) days prior to the Convention, who shall deliver the same to the appropriate convention committee. All correspondence shall be directed to the Supreme Secretary, SOKOL USA, PO Box 189, East Orange, NJ 07019-0189

Milan S. Kovac, Supreme Secretary

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

A CONTINUING GIFT TO THE MILAN GETTING SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF \$1,000.00.

Given in memory of my beloved parents,

**Emma Radakovich Fronko
(1910-2004)**

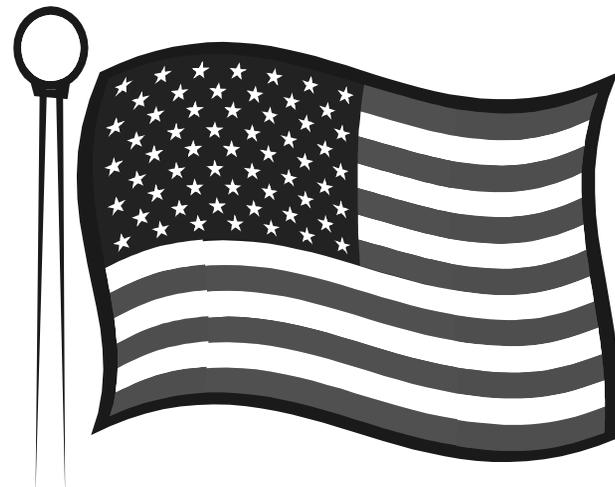
and

**Stephan Francis Fronko
(1906-1993)**

By Barbara Fronko Froehlich

*The Milan Getting Scholarship Committee
sincerely thanks Mrs. Froehlich for her
continued support of the scholarship program.*

**Celebrate Flag Day
on June 14th!**



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.

JOHN J. MAGO – (1922-2013) A member of Lodge 255, Leechburg, Pa. He is survived by his son.

MILDRED ZAMFINO – (1907-2013) A member of Lodge 7, Byram, Conn. She is survived by her children.

STEVE NICKLEACH – (1913-2007) A member of Lodge 20, Ford City, Pa. He is survived by his children.

ELIZABETH NICHLEACH – (1916-2008) A member of Lodge 20, Ford City, Pa. She is survived by her children.

ANNA KOVAL – (1919-2013) A member of Lodge 42W, Tarrytown, N.Y. She is survived by her son.

STEPHEN DELICH – (1936-2008) A member of Lodge 214, Palmerton, Pa. He is survived by his children.

ANDREW C. ZILLA – (1917-2013) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. He is survived by his daughter.

ANNA T. BLANAR – (1923-2013) A member of Lodge 66W, Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by her children.

JOHN ZATROCH – (1917-2012) A member of Lodge 92, Lorain, Ohio. He is survived by his wife.

JOSEPH ZILLA – (1922-2012) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. He is survived by his wife.

ATTENTION ALL SOKOLS

This is a reminder that the 2013 Sports Festival will be taking place Tuesday, June 25th to Sunday, June 30th in Milwaukee.

For information, please check out the American Sokol web site at www.american-sokol.org/. Just click on the "Wheelin' in Milwaukee" 2013 Sports Festival logo.

From the President's View

Memorial Day has come and gone, and the summer is in full swing. We honored the war dead during the long holiday weekend and many of our members remembered their loved ones by planting flowers and decorating their graves. Many others enjoyed the weather over the long weekend by having barbeques and picnics.

This summer brings our Sokol USA convention, which happens at the end of July. The convention will address the very serious issue of merger between Sokol USA and GBU. The text of the proposed merger agreement has been published in the Sokol Times. There have also been regional meetings in Chicago, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pittsburgh and Farrell, addressing questions which lodges in these regions have had. The Sokol Times has also published frequently asked questions so that our Sokol USA membership can understand the merger agreement and have any concerns addressed.

The Supreme Lodge was tasked by the 2009 Sokol USA National Convention with exploring the options, including merger, to secure Sokol USA's future. To that extent, special committees were formed relating to succession planning and the future.

The committees reviewed the declining membership statistics, the declining numbers in new policies issued, and the declining premium income facing Sokol USA. As their analysis deepened, the consensus was merger with another society would best secure the future of Sokol USA insurance policy holders as well as the athletic programs and the gymnastics department.

The Supreme Lodge interviewed several societies regarding the topic of merger. To be considered as a merger partner, the society had to be a financially sound and well managed society, non-sectarian, and willing to provide guarantees regarding the future of the Sokol



Joseph Bielecki

sports programs. After a lengthy process, the Supreme Lodge voted to explore merger with GBU. The Supreme Lodge extended negotiations with GBU. A tentative merger agreement was agreed upon by Sokol USA's Supreme Lodge and the GBU Board of Directors. It is this tentative agreement which has been published in the Sokol Times and discussed in the visits to the regional lodges.

This agreement will be presented to the delegates at the Sokol USA Convention in Bethlehem for approval at the end of July. Our convention will have very serious and detailed presentations and deliberations on this important issue. I encourage all of our lodges to participate in the convention by sending delegates, by deliberating, and by voting as they see fit to secure the future of our beloved Sokol USA.

NAZDAR!
Joe Bielecki, President

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.

ROBERTA PEGG IS FARRELL GYMNAST OF THE YEAR

(Continued from Page 1)

difficult to perform in front of large groups of people. Gymnastics taught me just how to handle the pressure. This, I believe, will help me later on in life."

"Also, gymnastics has helped me in other sports. I'm a sprinter and long jumper on the high school track team. The strength and flexibility demands of gymnastics have permitted me to advance in my running. It also forces me to push myself toward being better at what I do. Without my gymnastic training at Sokol, I do not believe I would have reached the Pennsylvania District 10 meet qualifications in track. I am so glad that I have joined Sokol because I have learned so many life lessons," she added.

Sokol Farrell agrees that Roberta really works hard to achieve her goals. Congratulations, Roberta and Nazdar!



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.



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
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- 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!

Sokol relationships



In the Sokol Times April issue, a group of photos of three former Sokol waitresses, Suzie Kohl, Judy Papanek and Jean Bagel, was printed. The fourth one of the group was Darinka Kohl from Lodge 96 in Cudahy, Wis., who by chance met up with Anne Marie Sopoci, President of Lodge 39/40W, in Chicago during an American Sokol program.

Sokol Social News

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Marian and John Resetar of New Kensington, Pa., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on April 24th. They were married in 1948 and are members of Sokol USA Lodge 130 in New Kensington.