

(USPS 500-660)

SOKOL TIMES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

PUBLICATION FOSTERING FRATERNAL, CULTURAL & PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY 14, 1905

Entered as Second-Class Matter, February 7, 1980 at East Orange, New Jersey under the act of August 24, 1912, provided in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1918 authorized July 3, 1918

Sokol USA XXXIV Convention in Bethlehem, Pa.



The newly elected Supreme Lodge are (seated from left) Finance Committee member Debbie Golden, Finance Committee member Ellen Kovac, Fraternal Activities Director Nancy Shurina, Honorary Supreme Lodge Secretary Jan Sopoci, President Joseph Bielecki, Vice President Scott Pracko and Director Todd Yatchyshyn; and (standing) Director Chris Yatchyshyn, Finance Committee member Stephen Banjak, Finance Committee member John Kamenitsky, Treasurer Buddy Burkhardt, Secretary Milan Kovac, Finance Committee member Paul Brinley, Finance Committee member Emil Trgala and Finance Committee member David Walko.



Steve Barron and Joe Bielecki



Sister Dotty Walek served as the convention hostess.



Members of the newly elected Finance Committee are (from left) Stephen Banjak, John Kamenitsky, Ellen Kovac, Debbie Golden, Emil Trgala, Paul Brinley and David Walko.

MERGER APPROVED!

The Delegates to the XXXIV Convention overwhelmingly approved the merger of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the U.S.A. and the GBU Financial Life of Pittsburgh, PA. The GBU membership has also approved the merger. Both societies now await approval by the regulatory authorities in the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Upon approval by the states, additional information will be forthcoming.

SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL
OF THE USA

Published monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

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All communication for publication should be sent to Editor at P.O. Box 189, East Orange, NJ 07019 by the 22nd of the previous month.
Second Class postage paid in East Orange, NJ
Annual Subscription for non-members is \$10.00

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

To the Milan Getting Scholarship

From Sokol Lodge 36, Binghamton, N.Y. <i>In memory of deceased Sokol members</i>	\$112.00
From Sokol Lodge 74, Plymouth, Pa. <i>In memory of deceased Sokol members</i>	\$50.00
From Milan S. Kovac	\$130.00
From Christine Yatchyshyn	\$45.00
From Joseph S. Bielecki	\$75.00
From Charity Ruhl	\$80.00
From James Malik	\$60.00

To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund

From Sokol Lodge 74, Plymouth, Pa. <i>In memory of deceased Sokol members</i>	\$50.00
From Sokol Lodge 36, Binghamton, N.Y. <i>In memory of deceased Sokol members</i>	\$112.00

IN MEMORY

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

ANNA DODDY – (1922-2013) A member of Lodge 66W in Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by her son.

EVELYN HIRKO – (1923-2013) A member of Lodge 63 in Homestead, Pa. She is survived by her children.

PAUL FAKO – (1913-2013) A member of Lodge 30 in Danbury, Conn. He is survived by his wife.

ELIZABETH LACINA – (1920-2013) A member of Lodge 260 in Cleveland, Ohio. She is survived by her children.

MARY KANA – (1908-2013) A member of Lodge 164 of Detroit, Mich. She is survived by her sister.

MARY SCHENKER – (1923-2013) A member of Lodge 103 of Farrell, Pa. She is survived by her daughter.

JOHN F. KORIENEK – (1925-2013) A member of Lodge 39, Berwyn, Ill. He is survived by his wife.

HELEN MIGNOGNA – (1925-2009) A member of Lodge 130, New Kensington, Pa. She is survived by her daughter.

IRENE Y.SOTTUNG – (1917-2013) A member of Lodge 12, Newark, N.J. She is survived by her nephews.

ROBERT POSNEY – (1928-2007) A member of Lodge 45, Tarentum, Pa. He is survived by his wife.

SOKOL USA DISTRICT MCT ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, October 27 at 1 PM
Clarion Hotel, Route 28 North, Exit 14

AGENDA

Election of Officers
Officers' Reports
Lodge and District Reports
Slet Report

*RSVP by October 17th by calling
Patricia A. Blistan at 412-322-8865.
We Trust All Lodges Will Be Represented.*

Nazdar!
Patricia A. Blistan



Do you know the average
person gains
1-2 pounds over the holidays?

Well... WALK IT OFF!!!

Sokol Healthy Heart Walking Club

Benefits include:

Reducing your stress level Lowering your risk of heart disease
Controlling your weight Controlling your blood pressure

Sign up for Sokol's Healthy Heart Walking Club
by sending your name, mailing address
and home lodge to:



Brandi Kovac
64 East 11th 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!

From the President's View

At the end of July, Sokol USA held its national convention in Bethlehem, Pa. There was fellowship, spirited debate and many important issues were addressed.

The delegates gave up several days of their time, left their families and came to Bethlehem to discuss important issues facing our society. After lengthy debate and presentations by our officers and the leaders of GBU, the convention voted, by a wide margin, to ratify the Agreement of Merger between Sokol USA and GBU Financial Life. Ms. Lea Ann Hazi, Chair of the GBU's Board, and Mr. James Stoker, Chief Executive Office of GBU, went to great lengths to explain the Merger Agreement and how Sokol USA will function as a District within the framework of GBU.

The Convention elected Supreme Lodge Officers. Sister Joanne Check, Sister Jennifer Moulton and Brother Gerald von Schwedler chose not to run for re-election. It has been my privilege to have served the past four years with these talented and dedicated individuals. Sister Ellen Kovac, Sister Nancy Shurina and Brother Steve Banjak were newly elected to the Supreme Lodge. It will be a pleasure to work in the future with them for the benefit of our society.

There will be a committee to provide a structure for the new Sokol USA District of GBU. Many volunteered to serve on the committee. Also, the Convention approved the re-titling of the Gymnastic Department to the Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department. From the dialogue

at the Department's meeting and at the Convention, I am sure many new and interesting developments will emerge and benefit all lodges in the future.

The merger of Sokol USA and GBU will be effective when it is approved by the Insurance Departments of Pennsylvania (where GBU is headquartered) and New Jersey (where our society is domiciled). Our members will see enhanced life insurance policies and an endowment for the benefit of all our Sokol programs.

The Convention delegates enjoyed a splendid banquet and a fascinating speech by Brother Charles Bednar in the newly renovated complex that was formerly the Bethlehem Steel factory. Additionally, the delegates enjoyed a summer picnic dinner and a fine evening

of Sokol fellowship at the Bethlehem Sokol Hall.

Many thanks to Sister Joanne Check, Sister Teena Coleman and their many convention volunteers for planning and organizing such great accommodations and activities for the delegates. Special thanks go out to the members of our own Sokol USA Bethlehem Men's and Women's Lodge for its warm welcome of our convention delegates. A special thank also goes out to Sister Beatrice Walko, Honorary President, for serving as Convention Chair.

Finally, many thanks to the individuals and lodges who donated prize baskets to the Silent Auction held during the Convention, as well as thanks to the generous bidders. The Silent Auction raised over \$700 for



Joseph Bielecki

Sokol USA's Milan Getting Scholarship Fund.

Nazdar!

Joe Bielecki
President, Sokol USA

Principles can help guide Sokol USA into a new phase

The social highlight of the Convention was the banquet held on Sunday evening at ArtsQuest, located at SteelStacks, a 10-acre campus dedicated to arts, culture and education. Once the home of Bethlehem Steel, the blast furnaces provide a historical background for this restoration project.

Following a dinner, the delegates and guests were treated to an interesting address by Brother Charles Bednar. Dr. Bednar, the son of former Chief Physical Director and Editor Brother Karel Bednar and professor of Political Science at Muhlenberg University, shared a historical perspective on the history of Sokol and possible implications for the future. You will find the following interesting, intellectually stimulating and just enjoyable reading.

By Charles Sokol Bednar

As Sokol USA confronts a crucial turning point in its organizational existence, it may help to clarify a yet uncertain future by recalling the organization's historical roots and what it has accomplished over more than a century of its existence.

Sokol USA's roots are in a Sokol movement which began in the mid-19th century in Praha in what is now the Czech Republic, but was then a province of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Sokol movement was an important aspect of a Czech national-cultural revival after more than 200 years under an Austrian rule which elevated the German language and culture while denigrating Czech language and culture as characteristic of an ignorant peasantry. It should be noted that so entrenched was the Germanization of the Czech lands that scholars like Tyrs, without whose efforts the Sokol movement would not have come to fruition, and Masaryk, whose leadership was essential to the creation of an independent Czechoslovakia, wrote originally in German and had to work at improving their Czech.

The Sokol movement was intended by Tyrs to awaken pride in Czech history and culture and to create, through gymnastic training and mass calisthenics,

a disciplined core of physically fit men who would form the nucleus of a future army that would eventually fight for liberation from Austrian rule.

But beyond these nationalist goals, Tyrs' Sokol program was aimed at the physical, moral and intellectual improvement of all humans. For Tyrs, physical fitness was not an end in itself. It was a means to the end of developing those elements of human nature which best defined the highest human ideals. The maxim, *mens sana in corpora sano*, "a healthy mind in a healthy body," has to be understood in Tyrs' context. Tyrs, who was a professor of philosophy and aesthetics at Charles University in Praha, was well acquainted with classical Greek philosophy as represented by Plato and Aristotle, and he endorsed their notion of physical training as aimed at disciplining the soul (today we would say the human passions) and making possible the development of human reason, that one element of human nature which, for both Plato and Aristotle, linked humans with the divine.

Unlike contemporary sports, the purpose of physical training for Tyrs was not to develop specialized physical skills which only a few could master. Sokol physical training was specifically designed for the mass of people, women and men who would be given access to forms of physical exercise appropriate to the age and gender. It was designed to demonstrate that even the so-called average individual could benefit from physical training and gain in self confidence.

It was also designed to encourage forms of social cooperation that required a degree of selflessness not typical of everyday life. In effect, the Sokol gymnasiums represented a new social environment, one in which members addressed one another as brother and sister, thereby, implicitly at least, recognizing their common humanity and their mutual commitment to a cause which transcended their narrow personal concerns.

Tyrs also well understood that, as Jefferson had stated earlier, a democracy could exist and flourish only when the

citizenry had achieved a moral and intellectual level necessary to sustain a civic culture in which citizens find satisfaction in working for the common good, readily accept social responsibility and participate actively in the political system. From its onset, the Sokol movement had as its ultimate goal not only a free nation, but also a democratic one.

Tomas Masaryk recognized the importance of the Sokol in the establishment of an independent democratic Czechoslovakia and he was always at the podium during the slets in Strahov Stadium. In his conversation with Karel Capek, Masaryk stated: "Sport will be a great advance and a return to the culture of the ancients, which is what Tyrs had in mind with his Sokol gymnastic movement. I myself had no opportunity to indulge in sports other than my participation in the Sokol movement, but even now not a day passes without my doing the Sokol drill."

At about the time that the Czech national revival began, a similar national reawakening had started in Slovakia, which by then had been under Hungarian (Magyar) rule for some 800 years. Unlike the rule of the Austrian Hapsburgs, who in later years occasionally made concessions to the various non-Germans in their domain, Hungarian policy, as regards to the Slovaks, was aimed at eradicating all elements of Slovak national and cultural identity. Given the conditions in the Czech lands and in Slovakia, hundreds of thousands of Czechs and Slovaks migrated to America. Once established in the United States, they formed various social and fraternal organizations to promote their cultural heritage and provide forms of mutual support as they slowly assimilated to a new and challenging environment. Sokol USA (until 1962, the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol) was established in 1896 by Slovak groups in New York City and Bridgeport, Conn. In the years that led up to World War II, numerous additional lodges were founded in various states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio and Illinois. At one time,

Sokol USA maintained summer camps in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Wisconsin. Summer gymnastic training sessions (*kurzes*) were held each year, local and regional festivals (*slets*) were organized and a corps of Sokol gymnastic instructors, under the supervision of a chief physical director and directress, traveled to individual lodges to assist in the operation of their gymnastic programs.

Prior to World War I, Slovak and Czech American Sokols made significant financial contributions to Masaryk's efforts to establish an independent Czechoslovakia, volunteered to join the Czechoslovak Legion in France and later served in the U.S. military in both World Wars. In their communities, Sokol USA members were frequently involved in social and political activities and the gymnastic programs offered Sokol youth opportunities to mature both physically and mentally to become productive members of their community.

What sort of future can Sokol USA anticipate? Contemporary America is vastly different from the America that existed in 1896 when Sokol USA was founded. Given its limited resources and small and aging membership, what niche can Sokol USA find within which it can exist and meaningfully function? Where can it make a contribution to the well-being of the American society?

Recently, the American Medical Association officially designated obesity as a disease which is a causal factor in cardiovascular problems, diabetes and cancer. Unlike some diseases which are linked to genetic factors, obesity, for the most part, is a consequence of a lifestyle typically characterized by immoderation and lack of personal discipline. This lifestyle is not necessarily chosen as such by the affected individuals. It is a lifestyle promoted, along with other factors, by a popular and profitable electronic communication technology which provides a least-effort form of entertainment that creates the illusion that one is participating in the real world by staring into a small screen or texting unseen others. Under these circum-

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Milan Getting Scholarship Recipients

Nicole Shannon

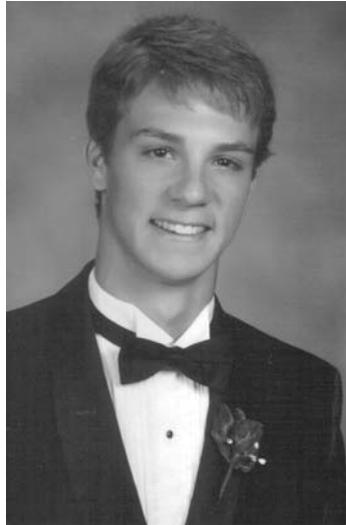
I am about to begin my junior year at Carlow University in Pittsburgh, Pa. I am studying middle level education (grades 4-8), specializing in science and English.

I am involved in university activities and affairs. This past spring, I studied abroad in Ireland. I have recently been promoted to the university's tour guide team leader, which is a prestigious honor being a student working in the admissions office. In addition, I am working part-time at Justice and Brothers Clothing Company at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall located just north of Pittsburgh. During the school year, I am an active member of SPIRiT (Student Promotional Recruitment Team). This organization plans admissions events as well as hosts campus visit days and overnight programs. I am also involved in many education organizations on campus.

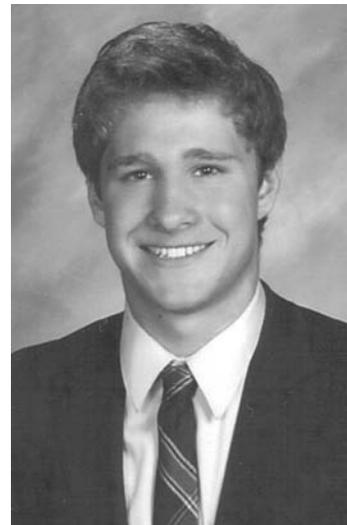
My involvement in Sokol has been throughout my entire life. I am a regular member and have been since birth. I participated in the Sokol gymnastics program when it was available at Lodge 255. My family also has many years of involvement in Sokol. My grandparents, aunt, uncle, cousins and immediate family are all regular life members. My father previously was the recording secretary in Lodge 255 and my grandfather held various lodge offices for nearly 30 years



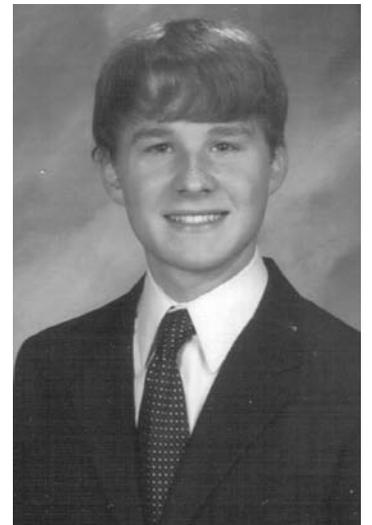
Nicole Shannon



Conner Annunziato



Chris Fazekas



Matthew Fazekas

and has been (and still is) a district officer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my grandfather for his involvement in Sokol and to the Sokol organization for their commitment in helping future generations secure the skills and education that are required to compete in today's work force. The financial help Sokol provided me in scholarship form will directly contribute to and help me to achieve my life goals. It will help to fund the books and supplies for my required classes of this coming school year.

When I graduate, I hope to educate and inspire my students the way some of my teachers have inspired me during my years.

Conner Annunziato

Thank you for awarding me the Milan Getting Scholarship renewal. I am now a sophomore at Goucher College and this money from the scholarship is so helpful for me and my family. This scholarship allows us the chance to be free from worrying about money for books and other necessities similar to books. I cannot express or emphasize enough how much this money helps alleviate stress from me and my family.

Chris Fazekas

I am writing this thank you not just for the money that I received from this organization, but for the opportunities that come with it. Everyone knows how hard it is to

get a loan for college, so this money that was gifted to me has helped greatly in my endeavors.

I will be attending Fairfield University in the fall. There, I will study philosophy and then go on to law school. As you can see, I have goals and I would have never been able to even attend the university without your help.

I like to think that we as people are not just the sum of our actions, but also the actions of others. The Sokol organization did not have to gift me with the \$500 scholarship, but you have and I am very appreciative. I hope to one day be a successful lawyer who does not work to get paid, but one who will work to help those who need a hand. I will do my part in the future and lend a hand to those who need me just as this organization has done for me. Again, thank you for the scholarship. It really has made a difference.

Matthew Fazekas

I am currently enrolled in Quinnipiac University and am entering my junior year. I am a math major and am interested in having a career in mathematics. I am also interested in literature and enjoy reading in my spare time. Academics are very important to me, so I take my work seriously and am taking as many classes that I can with interest me.

Over the past few years, I have taken a few jobs to help support myself while getting an education. I have worked in a convenience store for four years as well as being a tutor, teacher's aide and new student ambassador at my college.

In the future, I hope to be more involved in the Sokol organization, as currently I am not very aware of what the organization does. My family, however, is involved, so I will be interested to see in what way I can contribute. After I graduate school, I will possibly be entering a graduate program for math, while possibly working a part-time job during breaks and weekends.

Thank you for granting me this scholarship, as I am sure I will be able to use it efficiently during my school years.

Bethany Moffit

I want to thank the Milan Getting Scholarship Committee for renewing my scholarship this year. This will help continue my path to becoming an early childhood education teacher. I am truly grateful and appreciative of the selection committee and the scholarship.

During my junior year at the University of Pittsburgh, I volunteered with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. I have two boys that I work with each week. These boys are very special and I love working with them.

On campus, I am also involved with our SPSEA (Student Pennsylvania State Education Association). I actively plan and participate with monthly group activities to help enhance children's learning and enrichment.

I also stay extremely busy by working and volunteering at three part-time jobs. One job is in sales at the local mall, the second one is at a child learning center and I continue to volunteer at our Lodge 47 in Monessen. I continue to teach and coach the children each week at our gym, from ages pre-school through competitive level 5s. And I continue to have a passion for the sport of gymnastics and our families at Lodge 47.

Again, I want to thank the Milan Getting Scholarship Committee for renewing my scholarship and providing me this great opportunity.

Charles Bednar

(Continued from Page 3)

stances, it is not surprising that childhood obesity, in particular, has become a national health concern.

Sokol USA obviously does not have the resources to become a national force in efforts to address the problem of obesity and other lifestyle-related illnesses in the United States. But it can effectively address the problem of childhood obesity in those local communities where a Sokol lodge has an active program of gymnastics and related physical activities, such as the Sokol Healthy Heart Walking Club. All available resources should be channeled to such lodges so that they can expand their programs to include nutritional and lifestyle education along with physical training. Such lodges should be encouraged to reach out to a broader constituency in their communities, including schools and other concerned groups, and to seek federal and state grants designed to support such efforts.

As John Maynard Keynes, the famous English economist, once remarked, in the long run we

Recalling who we are and where we come from should help to remind Sokol USA of the principles on which it was founded, principles which can continue to guide its members as the organization transitions to a new phase in its long and honorable history.

are all dead. True. But in the meantime, each of us can strive to come a bit closer to that ideal balance of "a healthy mind in a healthy body." We can try to communicate this ideal to those around us, especially the young, by setting an example in our own lives and not succumbing to those pernicious social trends that would turn us from citizens into consumers and from active participants in the real world into passive spectators addicted to a lifestyle that represents both a personal and a social disaster, a personal disaster in the obvious medical and psychological sense and a social disaster in terms of the cost to society for treating

lifestyle-related diseases, not to mention the cost to American democracy of a citizenry whose passion for self-indulgence makes them indifferent to the general welfare, the promotion of which, along with justice and liberty, was the purpose for which the American Constitution was established.

Recalling who we are and where we come from should help to remind Sokol USA of the principles on which it was founded, principles which can continue to guide its members as the organization transitions to a new phase in its long and honorable history.

Nazdar!



**XXXIV CONVENTION
OF THE
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SOKOL U.S.A.**

Held in Bethlehem, PA
From July 28 through July 30, 2013

**FIRST SESSION
Sunday, July 28, 2013**

The first session of the XXXIV Convention convened at 1:00PM at the Sands Resort Hotel in Bethlehem, PA on Sunday, July 28, 2013 with a processional march of officers. The American and Sokol flags were carried by Supreme Lodge Officers. After the National Anthems and the Pledge of Allegiance, the colors were posted.

Bro. Joe Bielecki asked the delegation to observe a moment of silence in honor of our deceased Sokol members who have passed since the XXXIII Convention: Bro. Melvin Cernicky, Sis. Mary Raykos, Bro. George Raykos, and Sis. Anna Sopoci.

Bro. Bielecki called upon Sis. Bea Walko, to give the invocation. Bro. Bielecki announced that there is a silent auction to benefit the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund.

Bro. Bielecki then introduced the Supreme Lodge members:
Sis. Jennifer Moulton, Chairperson of Fraternal Activities;
Bro. Todd Yatchyshyn, Director of Men;
Sis. Christine Yatchyshyn, Director of Women;
Sis. Deborah Golden, Finance Committee Member;
Sis. Joanne Check, Finance Committee Member;
Bro. Milan Kovac, Supreme Secretary;
Bro. Scott Pracko, Vice President;
Bro. Arthur Burkhardt, Treasurer;
Bro. John Kamenitsky, Chairperson of the Finance Committee;
Bro. David Walko, Finance Committee Member;
Bro. Emil Trgala, Finance Committee Member;
Bro. Paul Brinley, Finance Committee Member;
Bro. Gerald von Schwedler, Finance Committee Member; and
Bro. Joseph Bielecki, President.

Bro. Bielecki then introduced former Supreme Lodge Officers who are now present as delegates:
Bro. Joe Dubovi, President of the Supreme Court;
Sis. Judy Smith, former Treasurer;
Bro. Richard Yatchyshyn, former Director of Men;
Bro. John Walek, former President;
Sis. Karen Ondira, Honorary Directress;
Sis. Beatrice Walko, Honorary President;
Bro. Stephen Banjak, former Chief Physical Director;
Bro. Eric Skovronek, former Finance Committee Member;
Bro. Jan Sopoci, Honorary Supreme Secretary; and
Sis. Christine Coleman, former Finance Committee Member.

Sis. Erin McGann will serve as Convention Secretary; Dr. Alton Slane, who will serve as the Parliamentarian; and Sis. Dottie Walek will serve as Hostess.

Bro. Bielecki called upon the Verification Committee.

REPORT OF THE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE:
Advisor – Sis. Joanne Check, Finance Committee Member
Member – Sis. Kristin Merker, Lodge 306
Member - Bro. John West, Lodge 16
Member - Bro. Jeff Richter, Lodge 93
Member - Sis. Margaret Stangl, Jan Kollar



Convention Delegates awaiting the results of an important vote.

Lodge Delegates:

<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Delegate</u>	<u>Votes</u>
2 – Bridgeport, CT	Miguel Alicea	2
7 – Byram, CT	Darren Molony	7
12 – Central Jersey, NJ	Kathy Naccarato	6
	Ellen Kovac	
16 – Braddock, PA	John West	2
	Justine West	
26 – Guttenberg, NJ	James Malik	4
32 – Boonton, NJ	Helen Kobryn	16
	Eric Skovronek	
	Ed Bohon	
39/40W – Berwyn, IL	Arlene von Schwedler	4
	Anne Marie Brinley	
47 – Monessen, PA	Charity Ruhl	3
59 – Trenton, NJ	Nicholas Debnarik	1
68 – Blairsville, PA	Nancy Shurina	4
	Frank Shurina	
93 – Bethlehem, PA	Steven Barron	4
	Jeffrey Richter	
103 – Farrell, PA	Stephen Banjak	6
130 – New Kensington, PA	Josephine Funkhouser	3
	Mary Elaine Holmes	
255 – Leechburg, PA	Steven Thomas	6
276 – Pittsburgh, PA	Matthew Blistan, Sr.	5
	Carolyn Coleman	
306 – Chicago, IL	Cindy Merker	6
	Kristin Merker	
401 – Tampa, FL	Karen Pearson	1
66W – Bethlehem, PA	Judith Stangl	3

District Delegates:

<u>District</u>	<u>Delegate</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Jan Kollar	Margaret Stangl	1
Ludovit Stur	Bryan Pracko	1
M.C.T.	Patricia Blistan	1
	Gerald Blistan	
MM Hodza	Patricia Ritz	1

Supreme Lodge Officers:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Votes</u>
President	Joseph Bielecki	1
Vice President	Scott Pracko	1
Treasurer	Arthur Burkhardt	1
Supreme Secretary	Milan Kovac	1
Finance Committee Member	Deborah Golden	1
Finance Committee Member	David Walko	1
Finance Committee Member	Emil Trgala	1
Finance Committee Member	Paul Brinley	1
Finance Committee Member	Gerald von Schwedler	1
Finance Committee Member	Joanne Check	1
Finance Comm. Chairperson	John Kamenitsky	1
Fraternal Activities Chair	Jennifer Moulton	1
Director of Men	Todd Yatchyshyn	1
Director of Women	Chris Yatchyshyn	1

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The Delegates of the XXXIV Convention.

**XXXIV CONVENTION
OF THE
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SOKOL U.S.A.**

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Guest Delegates:

Honorary Sup. Secretary	Jan Sopoci	1
Former President	John Walek	1
President of Sup. Court	Joe Dubovi	1
Former Treasurer	Judy Smith	1
Honorary President	Beatrice Walko	1
Former Fin. Comm. Member	Christine Coleman	1
Former Director of Men	Richard Yatchyshyn	1
Honorary Directress	Karen Ondira	1

The registered Alternates to the Convention are: Sis. Nancy Debnarik, Lodge 59 and Marline Alicea, Lodge 2.

The total number of votes is 109. There are 28 Lodge delegates totaling 83 votes, 5 District delegates totaling 4 votes, and 22 Supreme Lodge and Guest delegates (one vote each). Bro. Bielecki asked Bro. Milan Kovac, Supreme Secretary, to confirm that the convention has a quorum in order to conduct business. Bro. Kovac confirmed that we do.

Bro. Ed Bohon, Lodge 32, made a motion to accept the report of the Verification Committee. Bro. Milan Kovac seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

Bro. Bielecki excused the Verification Committee. Bro. Kovac asked the delegation to review the Agenda and Operating Procedures for the XXXIV Sokol USA Convention.

**OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR THE XXXIV SOKOL USA CONVENTION
JULY 27-30, 2013**

A. GENERAL ARRANGEMENT OF CONVENTION

1. Saturday 7-27-13	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Gymnastic Dept. Meeting
	12 noon to 5:00 PM	Registration Committee Meetings
	6:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Supreme Lodge Meeting

2. Sunday 7-28-13	10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Registration Committee Meetings (Committee Advisors to Post Time)
	1:00 PM	Convene Session #1 Opening Formalities: President Presiding Introduction of Guests Order of Business Committee Reports A. Verification B. Convention Order & Program C. Merger D. Convention Expense & Salary E. Ballot & Election – Nominating Process
	6:30 PM	Banquet
3. Monday 7-29-13	7:00 AM to 8:00 AM	Breakfast
	9:00 AM to 12 noon	Convention Session #2 F. Verification G. New Motions H. Nominations I. Officers' Reports/Cultural Activities & Publicity
	12 noon to 1:00 AM	Lunch
	1:30 PM	Convention Session #3 J. Verification K. Petitions & Appeals L. Gymnastic Department M. New Jersey State Dept. Report N. By – Laws
	5:30 PM to 7:30 PM	Social Bethlehem Sokol Hall

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**XXXIV CONVENTION
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SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL
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SOKOL U.S.A.**

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- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. Tuesday
7-30-13 | 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM | Breakfast |
| | 9:00AM | Convention Session #4
O. Verification
P. Elections & Ballot
Q. Elections
R. Resolutions |
| | 12 noon to 1:00 PM | Lunch |
| | 1:30 PM | Convention Session #5
S. Verification
T. Unfinished Committee Reports
U. Oath of Office |

B. AGENDA FOR THE CONVENTION

1. Opening of the Convention:
 - March of Supreme Lodge Officers
 - National Anthems
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Moment of Silence
 - Invocation
 - President's Greeting
 - Formal Introduction:
 - Supreme Lodge Officers
 - Honorary Supreme Lodge Officers
 - a) Beatrice Walko, Honorary President
 - b) Jan Sopoci, Honorary Financial Secretary
 - c) Judy Smith, Honorary Treasurer
 - d) Karen Ondira, Honorary Directress of Women
 - President of the Supreme Court- Bro. Joseph Dubovi
 - Former Supreme Lodge Officers
 - a) Teena Coleman
 - b) Stephen Banjak
 - c) John Walek
 - d) Richard Yatchyshyn
 - e) Eric Skovronek
 - Recording Secretaries
 - Appointment of Sergeant at Arms and Hostess
2. Initial report of the Verification Committee
3. Confirmation Report of the Verification Committee
4. Report on Convention Order and Program
5. Election of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson the Convention
6. Merger
7. Report on Convention Expense & Salaries
8. Ballot & Elections – Nominating Process
9. Report on New Motions Committee
10. Report on Officer Reports/Cultural Activities Report
11. Nominations
12. Petitions & Appeals
13. Gymnastic Department
14. New Jersey State Insurance Report
15. By – Laws
16. Election & Ballot
17. Resolutions
18. Unfinished Business
19. Oath of Office
20. Designation of the XXXV 2017 Sokol USA Convention
21. Adjournment

C. GENERAL OPERATION

1. The Convention of the Sokol USA is the highest legislative body and judicial tribunal for the entire Sokol USA, for all its components, and all its membership.



From left are Steve and Joan Barron, Jennifer Moulton, Joann Check, and Josie and Teddy Bielecki.

6. The Convention will be open for registration on Saturday, July 27, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 5:00PM and on Sunday, July 28, 2013 from 10:00 to 12:00 PM.
7. Committee's will meet on Sunday, July 28, 2013. Advisors will notify Committee members of time and place.
8. The first session will convene on Sunday, July 28, 2013 at 1:00PM. It is anticipated that all committee reports will be prepared.
9. Further sessions will be held Monday through Tuesday, July 30, 2013. Morning sessions from 9:00 AM and afternoon sessions from 1:30 PM.
6. All convention sessions shall be called to order on time.
7. Badges will be provided for delegates, alternates, district representatives, Supreme Lodge Officers, Legal Advisor, and Guest Delegates. All the foregoing shall be required to wear their identification badges at all Convention sessions.
8. Delegates and District representative shall sit in the section reserved for them and shall be in their seats before the opening of each session.
9. Alternates and guests shall sit in the section reserved for them.
10. Guests will be introduced at the end of each session. Messages will be read at the morning sessions.
11. The Convention Sergeant-At-Arms shall see to it that the sessions are not disturbed by anyone. She/he shall sign in all guests. She/he shall announce all guest speakers and permit them to enter upon consent of the convention Chairperson.
12. Two permanent microphones will be set up.
13. The Convention Secretaries selected by the Supreme Lodge will take minutes. The minutes of the preceding sessions will be read each morning immediately after the roll call. Copies of the minutes will be prepared for each delegate. Minutes will be published in the Sokol Times within 90 days after the Convention.
14. One set of tape recording of the Convention proceedings is made.
15. Robert's Rules of Order are to be used as per article XXVII, Section 7 of the By-Laws.
16. The formal opening of the XXXIV Sokol USA Convention will be 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 28, 2013 with our customary opening ceremonies, welcoming address, roll call and introductions.
17. The Verification Committee will give its report to the convention as to who are bona-fide delegates, alternates, district representatives, Supreme Lodge officers, and guest delegates, and the Committee's determination of the number of votes accorded to each delegate.
18. The Committee on the order and Program of the Convention will give its report for acceptance.
19. There will now be the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Convention.
20. All Convention committees are to meet Saturday, July 27, 2013 to complete their deliberations and be prepared for their presentation on Sunday, July 28, 2013. They shall be ready to report to the Convention or until they are formally dissolved by the Convention Committee.
21. All recommendations will be given in writing to the proper Convention Committee.
22. The Committee on Elections and Ballots shall have supervision of the

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arrangements for the distribution and casting of ballots and their preservation until placed in the hands of the Supreme Secretary, who shall seal and file them.

23. Changes in the structure of the Supreme Lodge, district, or subordinate lodge, or in the duties or responsibilities of any officer, committee, or department must be recommended by the New Motions Committee. Only then, after being passed by the Convention, may a vote be taken in order to request the By-Law Committee to recommend the necessary By-Law changes.
24. All proposed changes to the By-Laws must be submitted to the Convention By-Laws Committee before these changes are presented to the convention for consideration.
25. The By-Law Committee will come forward and state "In accordance with the New Motions Committee recommendation No. _____, we move that Article _____, section _____, of the By-Laws be changed to read from _____ to _____ for the following reason _____."
26. All Motions, resolutions and recommendations shall be written, signed by the mover and presented to the Convention Secretary.
27. When a Committee is initially called to report, the Advisor introduces the Committee Chairperson who then introduces the other members of the Committee. The Committee Secretary reads a proposal. A majority Committee member moves for either adoption or rejection, and explains the majority rationale. If there is a minority position, a minority Committee Member moves to amend, reject or adopt, and explain the minority rationale. The majority Committee member may accept the amendment or withdraw the original motion. After a reasonable time for discussion, the Convention Chairperson states the question and opens the floor for discussion, the Convention Chairperson asks "Are you ready for the question?" Upon a delegate answering "Question," the Convention Vice-Chairperson again states the question and calls for a vote.
28. The Convention Vice Chairperson or designated member will record the names of those ask to be recognized for debate, or to amend or second motion.
29. Delegates shall be entitled to the floor only if they rise, come to the micro-phone, address the Chair, give their name and that of the lodge or district they represent.
30. A delegate may speak not more than twice or longer than three minutes each time on any one question on the same day.
31. No delegate may speak a second time to the same question if one who has not spoken requests the floor.
32. The Convention, by a two third vote may limit equally the time and the number of speakers for each side of a question and the total time for the debate on a particular question.
33. The Convention Vice Chairperson or designated member will signal when the allotted time has expired.

D. CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. A Committee shall meet as necessary during the Convention, or until it shall be dismissed upon completion of its duties by the Convention Chairperson.
2. The advisor shall call, chair, and open the first meeting of the Convention Committee. The first item of business will be the election of the Committee Chairperson and Secretary.
3. The Convention Committee will be supplied with a packet containing a synopsis of items to be considered, the synopsis will be based upon recommendations, petitions and grievances, or appeals received in Headquarters.
4. It will be the Chairperson's responsibility to determine which recommendations should be made to the Convention using Minutes of the XXXIV Convention as a guide if no items are provided.

Bro. Stephen Barron, Lodge 93, moved that the Convention Operations and Procedures be accepted. Bro. John Walek seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE XXXIV CONVENTION

Nominations from the floor were opened. Bro. Kovac, nominated Sis. Walko to be Chairperson of the Convention. Sis. Kathy Naccarato, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.



Secretary Erin McGann takes minutes during one of the convention sessions.

Bro. David Walko, Finance Committee Member, nominated Bro. Joe Bielecki to be Vice-Chairperson of the Convention. Sis. Joanne Check, seconded. There were no further nominations for Convention Vice-Chairperson and ... MOTION CARRIED.

Sis. Walko reminded the delegation that every delegate may speak only twice per topic, with a time limit of 3 minutes.

MERGER PROPOSAL

Bro. Kovac, Sis. Yatchyshyn and Bro. Bielecki gave a presentation regarding the potential merger of Sokol USA with GBU. The presentation outlined the advantages of the merger. The Supreme Lodge received proposals from three organizations and felt GBU offered the best proposal. Sokol USA has a solvency rate of 195%. Sokol USA loses an average of 140 life policies each year, and we do not replace that number with new members. Most Fraternal are suffering from a decline in membership. The average age of our policy holder is 53 years old. Discussion ensued, and questions were taken from the floor. GBU has merged with other organizations that have maintained their own programs. Bro. Bryan Pracko, Sis. Kovac, Bro. Richter, Bro. Debnarik, Sis. Funkhouser, Sis. Naccarato, Sis. Ruhl, Bro. Richard Yatchyshyn, Bro. Banjak, Sis. Walko, Sis. Christine Coleman, Bro. Matthew Blistan, Bro. Scott Pracko, Bro. Alicea, Bro. Todd Yatchyshyn, Sis. Pearson, Bro. Skovronek, Bro. Kamenitsky participated. The merger with GBU is an opportunity to continue without bearing the financial burden of regulatory compliance. Funds will be available for athletic programs, slets, and other social activities. Majority of questions arose regarding Sokol USA's surplus funds.

Sis. Walko announced a 5-minute break.

The meeting reconvened at 3:10pm. Sis. Walko reminded the members of the Silent Auction. Bro. Bielecki wishes the Blistan's a happy 66th wedding anniversary and a happy birthday to Sis. Ondira, Sis. Moulton, Bro. Trgala, Sis. Stangl, and Bro. von Schwedler.

Sis. Walko announced Ms. Lea Ann Hazi, Board Chairperson of GBU. Ms. Hazi addressed the delegation regarding the potential merger between GBU and Sokol USA. Ms. Hazi spoke of GBU's involvement with and support of Relay for Life, Habitat for Humanity, and Operation Reach Out. Ms. Hazi reassured the delegation that our programs will continue to run as they do now. Ms. Hazi introduced James Stoker, CEO of GBU.

James Stoker addresses the delegation. GBU has a 105.5% solvency rate. GBU has a scholarship called Foundation, which all members are eligible to participate in. GBU paid out over 100 scholarships last year. Sokol USA members would be able to participate in both Sokol USA and GBU's scholarships. The estimated membership of GBU is approximately 50,000 members. James Stoker welcomes Bro. Matthew Blistan, Vice President of GBU to speak.

Bro. Matthew Blistan addresses the delegation. Bro. Blistan mentions that an increased membership will reduce administrative costs, which is needed to maintain the eternal existence of Sokol USA. GBU owns a state of the art computer system. Bro. Blistan speaks on the existence of Sokol USA's identity post merger. He reassures the delegation that other organizations that previously merged with GBU have not been absorbed by GBU. Sokol USA has the opportunity to maintain its brand and identity. Bro. Matthew Blistan opens the floor to questions. Bro. Debnarik asked about GBU's rating. Mr. Stoker responds GBU got a B++. Sis. Ruhl inquires

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Matt and Gerald Blistan were delegates from the Pittsburgh Lodge and District MCT.

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about GBU's membership and where they see Sokol USA in 5 years after the merger. Bro. Alicea and Bro. Richter asked what makes GBU different and/or the viable option for Sokol USA. LeaAnn Hazi responds that GBU has a membership of 50,000. Bro. Bryan Pracko inquires about how Sokol would sell policies to new gym members. Bro. Blistan and Mr. Stoker respond that GBU may have insurance agents in the area. Current GBU members will not be eligible to participate in Sokol USA's scholarships. New GBU members are eligible if they are assigned to a Sokol USA district. Bro. Bryan Pracko also asked if GBU would help with marketing or increasing Sokol USA's members. GBU responds that they would like to with the help of the gymnastic directors. GBU clarifies that they are a 501c3.

Sis. Walko thanks the GBU presenters, and calls on Bro. Kovac to make a motion. Bro. Kovac moves to ratify the agreement of the merger between Sokol USA and GBU dated February 28th, 2013. Bro. von Schweder and Bro. Barron seconded the motion. Sis. Walko reminded the delegation that this is a structural change that requires a 2/3 vote. This will be a roll call vote. Sis. Walko calls upon the Elections and Ballot committee.

THE ELECTION AND BALLOT COMMITTEE

Advisor – Bro. David Walko, Finance Committee Member
Member – Sis. Nancy Shurina, Lodge 68
Member – Sis. Karen Pearson, Lodge 403

There are 83 lodge votes, 19 Supreme Lodge votes and 3 Guest delegate votes. The District delegates will NOT be allowed a vote on this matter.

LODGES	# of VOTES	YES	NO
2- Bridgeport	2	2	
7 -Byram	7	7	
12- Central Jersey	6	6	
16-Braddock	2	2	
26-Guttenberg	4	4	
32-Boonton	16	16	
39/40W-Berwyn	4	4	
47-Monessen	3	2	1
59-Trenton	1	1	
68-Blairsville	4	4	
93-Bethlehem	4	4	
103-Farrell	6		6
130-New Kensington	3	3	
255-Leechburg	6	6	
276-Pittsburgh	5	5	
306-Chicago	6	6	
401-Tampa	1	1	
66W-Bethlehem	3	3	
President	1	1	
Honorary President	1	1	
Vice President	1	1	
Supreme Secretary	1	1	
Honorary SS	1	1	
Treasurer	1	1	
Honorary Treasurer	1	1	
Finance Committee--PB	1	1	
Finance Committee--JC	1	1	
Finance Committee--DG	1	1	
Finance Committee--JK	1	1	
Finance Committee--ET	1	1	
Finance Committee--GV	1	1	
Finance Committee--DW	1	1	
Fraternal Activities	1	1	
Director of Men	1	1	
Director of Women	1	1	
Honorary D of W	1	1	
Supreme Court	1	1	
Guest Delegate--TC	1	1	
Guest Delegate--JW	1	1	
Guest Delegate--RY	1	1	
TOTAL	105	98	7

MOTION CARRIED.

Sis. Walko makes motion to recess the first session. Sis. Ondira seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Sis. Walko adjourned for the day with the next session to commence tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Erin McGann

SOKOL USA FARRELL

will offer

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EVERY TUESDAY EVENING AT 5:30 PM beginning October 8, 2013

Sokol Meeting Room Slovak Home, Spearman Avenue, Farrell, PA

Call Sokol Hotline at 724.342.1129 – Leave a message – We'll get back to you.

STEVE BANJAK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED AT ANNUAL MEETING

President and Committee Chairman Brother Mel Slezak from Sokol Farrell announced the 2013 winner of the Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship as Daniel Konopski a member of Sokol Farrell since October 2005.

When it comes right down to it, there is nothing Daniel likes better than acting. It's been a part of him ever since he can remember. He considers it fun and a challenge. As a member of a Drama Club in high school and after having three main roles in three separate plays, he has learned the value, struggle and reality of trying to perfect something.

Daniel took on more responsibility when he became president of the club. As president, he had to ensure that



Daniel Konopski

the show, the set, the characters and the cast's acting, as well as his own, were as close to perfect

as possible. Despite the hard work involved, through his acting, he has made many friends and has learned to be a leader.

Daniel explains, "Although nothing will ever be perfect, I've learned that one will never realize their true potential until one tries to achieve that near impossible goal of perfection."

Daniel will be going to Niagara University this fall and double majoring in communications and theater. We at Sokol Farrell agree with his sentiments and are proud of the fact that we have such a solid member in our organization who will contribute to making our country the best it can possibly be. Nazdar, Daniel, and good luck in your studies!



Roberta Pegg, Sokol Junior Level 5 National Champion, performed her floor exercise routine during Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh.

Sokol Lodges perform during Slovak Day

Members of Sokol Farrell and Sokol Monessen recently performed at "Slovak Day" At Kennywood Park In Pittsburgh.

For those who are not familiar with the park, it was founded in 1898 as a small trolley park near Pittsburgh. Kennywood Amusement Park is now considered to be one of America's "finest traditional amusement parks." Its collection of old wooden coasters and newer, faster steel coasters also makes it a favorite with roller coaster connoisseurs. Although it features many state-of-the-art rides, Kennywood still retains a nostalgic atmosphere and is a designated national historic landmark.

For as long as one can remember, one of the great attractions to Kennywood, besides the rides, are the Nationality Days the park sponsors throughout the summer. There is an Irish Day, a Greek Day, an Italian Day, a Serbian Day, a Slovene Day and, of course, in Western Pennsylvania it wouldn't be complete without a Slovak Day.

It was the first time our club was invited to perform at this event. We asked Sokol Monessen to participate with us. We decided that our part of the program would be a presentation of the Senior Calisthenics that we had learned for the Slet in Wisconsin. It was written for blocks of eight and therefore would fit into a more confined area such as we might expect at Kennywood. Additionally, it was composed to contemporary music with an emphasis on the "Beatles." Since we already knew the exercise, it would take a minimum of practice to do well.

Following our group performance, the Monessen Sokol gymnasts executed a skilled tumbling display to music which was greatly appreciated by the audience. And finally, Roberta Pegg, Sokol Junior Level 5 National Champion, "wowed" the audience with her floor exercise routine.



Performing at "Slovak Day" are (bottom row from left) Rachael Bender, Sarah Goda and Sasha Banjak; (middle row from left) Bibiana Murcko and Janel Brandt; and (at top) Roberta Pegg.



WHEELIN' IN MILWAUKEE – Above, the 5K Run was the first competitive event held as part of the American Sokol 2013 Sports Festival on Wednesday, June 25 at Hart Park. Sokol USA participants included Stacy Hoffman and Charity Ruhl from Monessen and Amy and Matthew Pracko from Chicago. Below, Sokol USA Supreme Lodge Officers with flag bearer Tim Brandt from Farrell Sokol. From left are Supreme Secretary Milan Kovac, President Joe Bielecki, Brandt, Director of Women Chris Yatchyshyn and Finance Committee Member Paul Brinley.



HEALTH BENEFITS OF WALKING

Walking is a low impact exercise that has many health benefits. Some of the benefits are lowering blood pressure, managing type 2 diabetes and managing cholesterol. Walking is not a very expensive activity. All you need is loose clothing, sturdy shoes and a water bottle.

Before you start walking, you need to plan out your walking route, warm up and stretch out for about five minutes. Don't forget to grab your water bottle.

Make sure you start out slow. Go at your own pace and gradually increase the amount you walk. Start to challenge yourself by making goals and keeping track of your progress.

To stay motivated and make it fun not a chore. This is easily done by walking with a friend. It could also be accomplished by changing your routine. For example: walk at a different time, changing your path and your scenery.

Walking is one of the easiest ways to get into shape and improve your health. The benefits will make a difference in your life. Plus you can join the Healthy Heart Walking Club by contacting Brandi Kovac at 64 East 11th Street, Apt. 811, New York, NY 10029 or e-mail BKKovac@aol.com.

Start today!

Sokol Social News

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Devin Richard Yatchyshyn was born on June 16, 2013, at 10:23 a.m. in St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa. He weighed 8 pounds and 15 ounces and was 21½ inches long. His parents are Todd and Katrina Yatchyshyn. Rich and Chris Yatchyshyn are the proud grandparents. Devin is the newest member of Lodge 47 Monessen. Above at left, Todd is hoping baseball will be Devin's future sport! Above at right, the Yatchyshyn family at the convention evening social hosted by the Bethlehem Sokols on Monday, July 29.

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.

Gymnastics Department Meeting

July 27, 2013



Gymnastics Department delegates are (seated from left) Karen Ondira, Charity Ruhl, Chris Yatchyshyn, Todd Yatchyshyn, Matthew Reynolds and Eric Skovronek; and (standing from left) Brandi Kovak, Anna Rehwinkel, Ellen Kovak, Rich Yatchyshyn, Norah Valentine, Bryan Pracko, Kristen Merker, Cindy Merker, Judy Bindas, Steve Banjak, Pat Ritz and Scott Pracko.



Above, former and current Sokol USA National Directors are (from left) Karen Ondira, Rich Yatchyshyn, Bea Walko, Chris Yatchyshyn, Steve Banjak and Todd Yatchyshyn. Below, Lodge 12 Central Jersey and Lodge 32 Boonton Gymnastics Department delegates.



National Gymnastic staffare (from left) Assistant Eric Skovronek, Assistant Matthew Reynolds, Director of Men Todd Yatchyshyn, Director of Women Chris Yatchyshyn and Assistant Charity Ruhl. Not pictured is Assistant Amy Pracko, who was unable to attend since her daughter Samantha's team was participating in the softball championships – and won!



Above, former Supreme Lodge officers (from left) Tina Coleman, Judy Smith and Bea Walko enjoy lunch together. Below (from left), Arlene Von Schwedler, Finance Committee Member Debbie Golden and President Joe Bielecki take a lunch break.



Lodge 47 Monessen and Lodge 306 Chicago Gymnastics Department delegates.

