

(USPS 500-660)

# SOKOL TIMES

APRIL 10, 2014

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## From the President's View

Finally, spring has arrived and we are able to put away our winter coats, snow shovels, and sidewalk salt and to begin to enjoy the spring weather. The first harbinger of spring occurred on the weekend of March 21 and 22 when the Supreme Lodge had its customary spring meeting. Members of the Finance Committee met on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> and reviewed the organization's records and performed their audit duties. The balance of the Supreme Lodge met on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This was the first Supreme Lodge meeting for the new members of the Supreme Lodge who were elected at the August Sokol USA National Convention in Bethlehem. The Supreme Lodge welcomed Ellen Kovac (Finance Committee), Nancy



Joseph Bielecki

Shurina (Fraternal Activities Director) and Stephen Banjak (Finance Committee). Plaques, given in recognition of their service to the Supreme Lodge and Sokol

USA, were sent to the three retiring members of the Supreme Lodge: Joanne Check, Gerald Von Schwedler and Jennifer Moulton.

The Supreme Lodge had a very productive meeting. Many issues relating to the merger were discussed and the Supreme Lodge members were provided with material from the Transition Committee.

GBU will file a Combined Financial Statement as of March 31, 2014, which will include the Sokol USA statistics. During the coming months, our membership will begin to receive many materials from both Sokol USA and GBU.

Congratulations go out to the members of our newest Sokol USA Lodge in Pen (Continued on Page 5)

## MERGER UPDATE

The Societies are in the final stage of completion of the merger. GBU's first quarter of 2014 regulatory filing will be a combined statement. As of April 1, 2014, all securities in our custodial account will have been transferred to GBU.

It is expected that by July 1, 2014, every member will have been contacted with a letter of greeting from the combined organization. Also, each member will receive a "certificate of assumption," which indicates that GBU is responsible for payment of the benefit of your Sokol benefit certificate. Additionally, everyone will receive an additional fully paid single premium certificate as part of our excess funds distribution. The additional benefit certificate is provided at no cost to the member.

It is very important that we have your current address and, if you are getting the Sokol Times, it probably means we have your address. However, maybe your sister, cousin, uncle, neighbor or friend has not kept in touch. Please reach out to them and have them contact this office via telephone at 888-253-0362 or e-mail to sokolusahqs@aol.com.

Thank you for your attention and, if you have any questions concerning your benefits or the merger, please contact Headquarters.

Milan S. Kovac  
Supreme Secretary

## Well Known Personalities in Slovak History

**Editor's Note:** This is the first part of an ongoing series about the Slovak people, history and culture.

The Slavs are the most numerous ethnic and linguistic body of peoples living in Europe and may be generally divided geographically and linguistically into three main divisions: Eastern, Western and Southern. It is estimated that the Slavs number over 300 million in the world.

The Eastern Slav group comprises the Russians, Belarussians, Ukrainians and the Ruthenians or Carpatho-Russians, also known as Rusyns (before World War II, the latter were a part of Czechoslovakia).

The Western group incorporates the Slovaks, Czechs, Poles and the Sorbs or Upper and Lower Lusatians, also known as the Wends (the latter lived within the pre-war borders of modern Germany, but where almost completely assimilated).

The Southern Slav group includes the Bosnians, Slovenes, Croats, Serbs, Dalmatians, Montenegrins, Macedonians and Bulgarians (all but the Bulgarians were a part of the former Yugoslavia).

It is probable that originally all Slavs spoke the same language. As late as the 9<sup>th</sup> century, the Christian missionaries, **Cyril and Methodius**, apparently had no difficulty understanding and being understood by all the Slavs they met. With the rise of nationalism, the differences between the various groups were underscored and prevented them from remaining as a homogenous group.

The Slavs were also divided by two distinct cultures: the Byzantine or eastern and the Latin or western culture. In the addition, the Hussite reformation in the Czech lands and the Lutheran reformation in Germany had a definite affect on the culture of the Slovaks. But, because of the central location of the Slovaks among the Slavs, their language is very closely related to the other Slav languages and their culture is a blend of the eastern and western cultures.

From the 17<sup>th</sup> century on, Pan-Slavism increased and became to some extent a development in opposition to Pan-Germanism. The history of the Slavs during the past three centuries is dominated by their struggles for liberation from Turkish, German, and Magyar



This maps shows a historical distribution of the Slavic languages. The area shaded in light purple is the Prague-Penkov-Kolochin complex of cultures of the 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> century AD, likely corresponding to the spread of Slavic tribes at the time. The area shaded in darker red indicates the core area of Slavic river names.

domination. The Slavs, however, have not been able to unify politically, mainly as the result of different national interests.

# SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the  
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL  
OF THE USA

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## NEARBY HOTELS FOR SOKOL CANADA MINI SLET 2014

### Holiday Inn Express Toronto East

50 Estate Drive, Scarborough, On M1H 2Z1  
(ph) 416-439-9666 (f) 416-439-4295

Price per night @ \$109.00 before taxes (cad).  
You can choose from the following:  
King bed non smoking/ smoking  
Queen beds non smoking/ smoking

Reservations for the group block can be made by calling 416-439-9666 with a credit card.

This price is confirmed until May 14, 2014, so you must reserve prior to this date. An advance deposit is required for groups and buses. If the deposit is not received by the cut-off date, all rooms will be released without further notification. For cancellation policy, please ask hotel.

### Best Western Plus Executive Inn

38 Estate Drive Toronto East Scarborough, On M1H 2Z1  
(ph) 416-430-0444 (f) 416-430-0555  
[www.bestwestern.com/ca/executiveinnontario](http://www.bestwestern.com/ca/executiveinnontario)

You can choose from the following:  
\$108.00 plus taxes /traditional two queen beds, non-smoking  
\$106.00 plus taxes/ king executive, non-smoking (1 king + double sofa bed)

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 416-430-0444 or 1-877-430-0444 (toll free) or faxing a reservation request to 416-430-0555.

This price is confirmed until May 26, 2014, for credit card guarantee reservations only. After that, the rooms will be released without further notifications. For cancellation policy, please ask hotel.

### Travelodge Toronto East

20 Milner Business Court, Toronto On M1B 3C6  
(ph) 416-299-9500 (f) 416-299-6172  
[www.travellodgetorontoeast.com](http://www.travellodgetorontoeast.com)

Price is \$89.00 plus taxes /night. Standard guestrooms are equipped with one queen bed, two double beds. This price is for single/double occupancy bases. Early departure fee is \$35.00 if any rooms check out prior to the departure date.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 416-299-9500 and asking for the special rate for Sokol Gymnastics no later than May 26, 2014. All guests are required to have a credit card to guarantee the reservations at the time of booking. After May 26<sup>th</sup>, rooms will be released without further notification. For cancellation policy, please contact the hotel directly.

For further inquiries on hotels, please contact:  
Anna Janous  
Sokol Canada President  
905-884-9829

## Sokol Canada invites you to its Mini Slet



## SOKOL CANADA MINI SLET

June 26 to June 29, 2014

Dear Sokol Friends:

Sokol Canada is inviting you to our Mini Slet on June 27-29 in the Toronto area.

We regret that we were unable to attend the last ASO Slet in Milwaukee. Our representatives were ready to go and all purchases were made but, due to unforeseen circumstances, they were not able to attend. We hope this will not influence your decision in participating at our slet. We always look forward to seeing you. Our slet is for family, filled with fun, enthusiasm and a new look into the Sokol spirit.

Most of the events will be held at a beautiful park, which is called Masaryktown. It is owned by MMI organization and will be rented by Sokol for the slet.

Please have in mind that all prices are in Canadian dollars. Hotels are a very short walking distances from one another and Masaryktown is about a 10-minute drive away.

We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you in Toronto June 27-29, 2014!

Nazdar!  
Anna Janous  
President

### Scheduled Events & Prices

**Thursday, June 27:** Welcome Party and Opening Ceremony; \$15.00

This event will be an outside program. It will feature live music, Czech food, beverages, BBQ and Prague restaurant with Czech dinner, beer and piano entertainment.

**Friday, June 28:** All-day track and field competitions; Adults \$35.00, children up to age 11 \$15.00

**Friday, June 28 (evening):** Special number teams (concert included); \$45.00  
Spectators evening concert including team competition; \$20.00

**Saturday, June 29:** gymnastic competitions

age groups	
15 – 17	\$45.00
12 – 14	\$45.00
9 - 11	\$45.00
6- 8	\$45.00

Volleyball men, women and mixed teams: \$170.00

**Saturday, June 29 (evening):** Outdoor social for youth with food stand , BBQ and DJ; \$20.00

Social in Prague restaurant – dinner includes band; \$55.00

**Sunday, June 29:** Mini Slet at Masaryktown: Admission for all participants in advance is \$10.00 and at the gate is \$15.00

An all-day food stand will be available with food and beverages. "Kolacky" and other Czech specialities will be available in the Prague restaurant, which will be open from 11.30 a.m. with Czech dinner and beer.

After the Slet, there will be more entertainment in the park, music, dance, bonfire and more.

Please note that costs are in Canadian dollars.

If you have questions, contact Sister Anna Janous at [anna.sokol@bell.net](mailto:anna.sokol@bell.net)

**Sokol Canada** \* 26 Penwick Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4c – 5b4  
tel. 905 884 – 9829 \* [www.sokolcanada.ca](http://www.sokolcanada.ca)

# Welcome Pen Argyl Lodge 410

By Chris Yatchyshyn  
 For the first time in well over 50 years, a group of interested persons petitioned to organize a new Sokol USA lodge. As per the by-laws, the group submitted their applications and request to Sokol USA President Joseph Bielecki, who found the documents in good order, so a notice ran in the February 13, 2014, issue of the *Sokol Times*. No objections were made during the required 30-day waiting period, which has since ended, so a charter shall be granted to Pen Argyl Sokol Lodge 410.

The group consists of friends of Sokol USA Director Todd Yatchyshyn. Most are connected with local baseball, fitness or karate programs in Pen Argyl and the surrounding area. Some are coaches and trainers; others are parents of kids involved in a fitness training program; some are simply supporters of Sokol USA and the new lodge. In the coming months, articles will be written introducing the new members, who were formally

introduced to Sokol USA in the fall.

At a meeting held in October, a modified version of the power point *What is Sokol?* created by Brother Stephen Banjak was shown. A testimony by Erl Persson explained how he felt Sokol was a great fit with the local fitness training program that he and Todd run on a volunteer basis. Todd then explained how Sokol USA membership required the purchase of an insurance policy and Chris presented the various types of insurance policies available. Also present was Kathy Nacarrato, who offered her testimony about Sokol USA and its benefits, and Rich Yatchyshyn assisted in addressing questions with some of the attendees. During the following six weeks, 12 adults applied for membership, five more than the required seven needed to petition for the new Pen Argyl Lodge.

The Borough of Pen Argyl consists of approximately 3,600 residents located in Northampton

County, Pa. It is located 18 miles north of Easton in the Lehigh Valley region of the state and is part of Pennsylvania's Slate Belt. The borough is served by the Pen Argyl Area School District, providing public education for over 1900 students from the boroughs of Pen Argyl, Plainfield Township and Wind Gap; the high school resides in Pen Argyl Borough.

Pen Argyl is known for a couple of notable persons. Kristin Maloney is a retired gymnast from Pen Argyl, who was coached by Jack Carter in the 2000 Olympics and won bronze in the Team Event. Maloney was the U.S. senior all-around National Champion in 1998 and 1999, and the 1998 Goodwill Games gold medalist on the balance beam. Actress Jayne Mansfield is buried in Fairview Cemetery located on the borough's outskirts. Her heart-shaped gravestone is visible from the road. Pen Argyl is also home to the Weona Park Dentzel Carousel, which is listed in the

National Register of Historic Places.

Under the guidance of National Directors Todd and Chris Yatchyshyn, the new lodge plans to be active in the near future. The first step will be to elect officers from the new members and begin the incorporation process under the name Sokol 5-Tool Fitness, with the tagline *Fitness for All; Baseball & Softball Instruction*. The new lodge also intends to apply for a 501c3 status.

While the new lodge will follow the Sokol ideals, it will not run a traditional gymnastics program. Based on the popularity of certain sports in the area, the lodge plans to promote fitness training for all ages, as well as baseball and softball instruction. They also intend to run karate and other group instruction classes.

The directors and new members began looking for a location to house the new lodge and its future programs. Presently, they are considering a two-story store front on the main street in Pen Argyl. The intention is to use the first floor as the fitness facility and group fitness training area. The second floor would house the batting cages, which could be pushed back when a larger floor space is needed, such as for calisthenics.

The new lodge is working on a business plan, detailing the required funds to cover start-up expenses, such as training for the coaches, fitness equipment and batting cages. They are also compiling the cost of monthly operating expenses, rent for six months while programming is established, and making cost comparisons in order to set participation fees.

The biggest obstacle for moving forward will be finances. Presently the new lodge has no funds, but the lodge will apply for

the \$1,000 offered through the Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department for lodges beginning sports programming. This is a very small step toward the nearly \$70,000 start-up funds that will be needed, so many other options are being explored.

During the recent Supreme Lodge Meeting, Chris and Todd Yatchyshyn presented the vision for Pen Argyl Sokol, on behalf of the new lodge members. They explained how the lodge intends to run a program that meets the Sokol ideals and fulfills the Sokol USA criteria of promoting sports, fitness and wellness opportunities for the members and the local community.

Todd and Chris plan to transfer into the Pen Argyl Lodge to work along side the new members to help ensure the successful future of the lodge and its programs. The goal is not only to start a Sokol program in Pen Argyl, but also to grow the membership of Sokol USA. This is very important for our organization if we hope to maintain our current name under the new merger with GBU. In addition, over 80 percent of present members in our gymnastically-active programs are female. The new program will most likely attract more males, which could also be an asset to our overall Sokol USA ranks.

Please join the national directors in welcoming the members of our newest lodge, which joins the ranks of Sokol USA just prior to the official merger with GBU. This is an exciting way to end the history of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol USA and it offers an equally exciting new beginning to our history with GBU. We hope all Sokols will embrace the new venture and unite with us to make it a reality in the very near future.

Nazdar!

## American Sokol **INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL** JUNE 29 - JULY 13, 2014

Hosted by

**Sokol Greater Cleveland**

Levels: Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, Advanced II

Minimum age ⇨ 13

School Fee: \$325 for American Sokol Youth Members - Early Bird Discount - Postmarked by May 1  
 \$375 for Adults or other Sokol Organizations - Early Bird Discount - Postmarked by May 1  
 \$425.00 Postmarked May 2 - June 7  
 \$450.00 Late fee - Postmarked after June 8

For additional or immediate information contact:

Jane Wise 216-642-1429  
 or email: [hjwise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hjwise@sbcglobal.net)  
 or [www.american-sokol.org](http://www.american-sokol.org)

**For applications: Contact your District or Unit Director**

### DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

**To the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund**

From Sokol USA Lodge 15, Yonkers, N.Y. \$100.00  
*In memory of deceased members*

**To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund**

From Sokol USA Lodge 15, Yonkers, N.Y. \$100.00  
*In memory of deceased members*

### *Sokol Social News*

#### ANNIVERSARY

Dennis and Irene Katz of Schiller Park, Ill., members of Sokol Lodge 306, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Irene Katz of Schiller Park, Ill., a member of Sokol Lodge 306, celebrated her 74<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

## LODGE 306 MEMBER AND 26.2 MILES

On October 13, 2013, Lodge 306 member Amy Pracko ran the Chicago Marathon with the American Liver Foundation in honor of her son, Matthew, who lives with a genetic liver condition. After 18 weeks of training and anticipation, she completed 26.2 miles in 6 hours and 44 minutes.

She was hoping to beat 2012's time, but an injury flared up at mile 2 making for a VERY long 24.2 more miles. After a month of rest, she began her training to take on another 26.2 miles in Disney World. On January 12, 2014, this race proved to be her best as she completed it in 6 hours and 15 minutes, shaving 11 minutes off her best time.

Matthew's Liver Savers would like to thank everyone for their continued love and support. This year, they raised an amazing \$4,100 for the American Liver Foundation in honor of Matthew. Matthew is continuing to be monitored once a year and will graduate from 5<sup>th</sup> grade in June.



At left, Sokol Lodge 306 member Amy Pracko with her son Matthew at the Chicago Marathon in October 2013 and, at right, after finishing the Disney World Marathon with a personal best time in January 2014. Amy ran to raise funds for Matthew's Liver Savers.

## ATTENTION SOKOL FARRELL, PA LODGE 103 MEMBERS

Applications and eligibility requirements for the \$1,000 "Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship" are available by downloading the three-page form from the Sokol Farrell website at <http://sokolfarrell.org>. Click on "News and Events" tab and then click on "Scholarship." Completed applications must be received by the Scholarship Committee by May 15, 2014.

Applications can also be received by writing to Brother Melvin Slezak at 6850 Seneca Road, Sharpville, PA 16150-8418.

Brother Steve Banjak lived his whole life believing in and supporting the ideals of the Sokol movement founded by Dr. Miroslav Tyrs in the Czech Republic and established by Ivan Branislav Zoch in Slovakia.

Brother Banjak was active in the Sokol gymnasium in Farrell, Pa., since he was introduced to the organization when he was 14 years old; stopping only when his advanced age and health did not permit it. As President of Lodge 103, he led the lodge for a period of 50 years, seeing it become one of the most successful lodges in the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA. Currently Lodge 103 has approximately 300 members. Brother Banjak also held almost every office in District Svätopluk, including President. In 1958, he was President of the Committee responsible for the very successful XIII Sokol USA Slet held in Cleveland, Ohio.

Upon his death in October 2006, the membership of the lodge unanimously voted to name this scholarship in his honor as a way to remember him for his many years of service to Sokol. The first recipient of the scholarship was announced at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the lodge held at the Radisson Hotel on May 20, 2006.



Steve Banjak

Previous recipients of the scholarship are:  
2006 Oleksandra Banjak  
2007 Oleksandra Banjak  
2008 Katie Shebeck  
2009 Lucia Murcko  
2010 Robin Platte  
2011 Bibiana Murcko  
2012 Robin Platte and Bibiana Murcko  
2013 Daniel Konopski

The Scholarship will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Sokol USA Farrell, which is held on the first Sunday in June of each year.

## Kent-Dudince Sister City Association 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, May 18, 2014  
1 PM Social Hour ~ 2 PM Dinner ~ 3 PM Program  
Kent Elks Lodge Hall  
Elks Lane, State Route 59  
(Behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59)

Music by Johnny Pastirik during the Social Hour and Dinner  
Dancing following the program.  
Pittsburgh Slovaks  
Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Directors  
Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland  
Naida Oros, Choreography; Tom Ivanec, Director/Program Coordinator

Tickets are \$20 per person  
Advanced Ticket Sales Only. Deadline to purchase tickets is May 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Ticket orders with directions will be mailed.

Catered by Tom's Country Place of Avon, Ohio  
Donations of baked goods is appreciated.

### Ticket Order Form -- Kent Dudince Sister City Anniversary Banquet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lister other attending (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Association  
Mail to: Dr. George Wargo, Treasurer  
858 Stonewater Drive, Kent, OH 44240 (330-677-9094)

## From the President's View

(Continued from Page 1) Argyl. The Pen Argyl members filed an application for a charter to become a Sokol USA Lodge and it was noted in the February issue of the Sokol Times. Since my last President's View column, the Pen Argyl Lodge has been granted a charter and is in the process of selecting its officers and establishing its programs.

Our Fraternal Activities Director, Nancy Shurina, spoke to the Supreme Lodge

regarding a bicycle fitness program which she intends to put forward to our Sokol USA membership. Nancy is in the process of finalizing the details of this program. Please keep an eye out in future editions of the Sokol Times for more information and details.

I encourage our Lodges and members to take advantage of the beautiful spring weather by getting out and doing fitness and wellness related activities.

This is the perfect time to walk or bike off the winter pounds. It is also a good time of year for our Lodges to meet and to do fraternal and community related activities to promote Sokol USA and its good works.

NAZDAR!

Joseph Bielecki  
President  
Sokol USA



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

## Sokol Healthy Heart Walking Club

Benefits include:

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

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



**Brandi Kovac**  
**64 East 111<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Hawaiian Birthday... sort of



Sister Arlene von Schwedler never traveled to Hawaii, but last summer her family brought Hawaii to her. Friends and family joined Arlene on July 4<sup>th</sup> for her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Guests were greeted with leis and enjoyed Hawaiian food, tropical drinks served at a tiki bar, and the music of Elvis, Don Ho and other Hawaiian artists. Two authentic Hawaiian dancers provided entertainment, including a fire dance. Some of the guests even joined the dancers in a few Hula numbers. After dark, a cake ablaze with sparklers was followed by an hour and a half fireworks provided by her son.



## 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](mailto:SOKOLUSAHQ@aol.com)) and obtain an application and get ready to enjoy one of the benefits of being a Sokol USA member.

New scholarship recipients will be announced by June 1, 2014.

**Reminder: All current Milan Getting Scholarship recipients must submit a scholarship renewal application each year by June 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Sokol USA headquarters with any questions.**



# Palm Sunday Buffet Dinner

at The Sokol Community

## At The Sokol Community Center

4855 N. Elston Ave.  
Sunday April 13, 2014

Served from 11:30am  
to 1:30pm

FOR RESERVATIONS  
contact

The Sokol Community Center 773-685-1464  
or  
Harriet Kelly 773-736-7229  
by April 10<sup>th</sup> please

Donation:  
Adults \$12.00  
Children (12 and under) \$6.00

### 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOKOL USA FARRELL FOUR-PERSON OPEN GOLF SCRAMBLE

SHENANGO LAKE GOLF CLUB  
99 Birchwood Dr., Transfer, PA 16154  
June 14, 2014

**ENTRY FORMS:** All Sokol members and non-members alike are invited to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SOKOL USA FARRELL OPEN FOUR PERSON GOLF SCRAMBLE at Shenango Lake Golf Club on June 14, 2014. SHOTGUN START: 9:00 a.m.

**Registration Fee Includes:**

Greens fee, cart, skins game, T-shirt, door prizes, line prizes, beverages, BBQ steak dinner, and food/beverages at the turn.

**Featuring:**

\$5,000 cash prize for ANY hole-in-one on a designated par 3.

Team prizes (based on minimum of 25 teams):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$800 per team
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$400 per team
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$200 per team

*Entries will be accepted on a "first come" basis.*

*Limit of 30 teams.*

**30 TEAMS WERE ENTERED LAST YEAR.  
ENTER NOW AND BEAT THE CUT OFF!**

Information and entry forms can be downloaded by visiting <http://sokolfarrell.org> and clicking News and Events and then Golf Scramble or by contacting Brother Tim Brandt, Chairman, 1448 Hall Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146; 724-866-8553.

*Proceeds benefit Sokol Farrell Youth and Adult  
Gymnastics/Fitness/Wellness Programs.*

## 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.*

# 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOKOL U.S.A. NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Entry Fee Per Event:  
 Bowling \$ 9.00  
 Prize Fee \$ 9.00  
 Tournament Expense \$ 2.00  
 TOTAL \$20.00

The \_\_\_\_\_ Bowling Team

From Lodge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Of Sokol USA.

**COMBINATION ENTRY BLANK**

Team Entry Fee: \$80.00  
 Doubles Entry Fee: \$40.00  
 Singles Entry Fee: \$20.00  
 All Events Fee: \$ 1.00



**Shift Times:**  
 May 17<sup>th</sup>: 12 p.m. Teams  
 May 18<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. Singles and doubles

*Hoping to see you here.  
 Mixed teams are welcome this year!*

**ENTRIES CLOSE: May 3, 2014**

Checks payable to: Palmerton Sokol Hall  
 Memo: 66<sup>th</sup> Bowling Tournament

Send Entries to: Sokol Hall 214  
 452 Lehigh Ave.  
 Palmerton, PA 18071

The undersigned captain hereby makes entry into the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual National Bowling Tournament of Sokol USA, May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, and agrees to comply with the rules which govern the Sokol USA Tournament.

Palmerton Sokol 214  
 452 Lehigh Ave.  
 Palmerton, PA 18071  
 610-900-4323

Sanction #	Name	Avg	Event	Time	
			TEAM		CAPTAIN:
					ADDRESS:
			SINGLES		CITY: STATE: ZIP:
					TELEPHONE:
					LODGE:

Singles	Avg	Fee	Doubles	Avg	Fee	All Events	Avg	Fee	Total

## Holiday Get Together



Members of Lodge 39 in Berwyn, Ill., had a holiday get together. Attending the event were (seated from left) Emily Brower, Millie Melka and Dorothy Erickson and (standing) Arlene von Schwedler, Gerald von Schwedler, Debbie Golden and Al Brower.

## May 17 & 18, 2014

The time is approaching for the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Sokol USA Bowling Tournament. The dates are Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18, 2014. The lodges in the local area will bowl during the week of May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Palmerton Sokol Club Lanes. The schedule for start times will be stated in the April issue of the Sokol Times.

This year, the tournament is open to mixed teams. No longer will it have to be just a men's or women's team. We are hoping this will help open the tournament to more participants. The tournament is to be a handicap based totals only, no more scratch divisions, as this was decided at the 2013 meeting.

For those interested in staying, we will have rooms set aside at a hotel right off the PA Turnpike (Exit 74 Mahoning Valley). We will run a bus to Mohegan Sun Casino for those seeking to play some games, watch the horses, or just to walk around and relax. The bus will pick competitors up at the hotel and drop them back off.

There will be the annual meeting to decide the site of next year's tournament as well as general discussion for the good and welfare of our sport.

Please feel free to email any questions to us at [sokol214@ptd.net](mailto:sokol214@ptd.net). Thank you!

Palmerton Sokol Lodge 214  
 465 Lehigh Ave  
 Palmerton, PA 18071  
 610-900-4323

Or Jerry Pereira  
 610-737-2784

# Slovenska Republika: The Slovak Republic

**Editor's Note:** This is the second part of an ongoing series about the Slovak people, history and culture.

The Slovak flag is made up of three bars: from the top, white, blue, red, with the Slovak coat of arms on the center left of the field. The coat of arms represents the three mountain ranges that were formally within the borders of Slovakia: the Fatra, Tatra and Matra mountain ranges. The latter is now a part of present day Hungary. The double cross represents the introduction of Christianity to the Slovaks by Cyril and Methodius who came from Macedonia.

Slovakia is a Central European country about twice the size of Maryland. It has a population of about 5.5 million people. It has a parliamentary democratic form of government. The President of Slovakia is elected by popular vote for a five-year term. Currently Ivan Gašparovič holds this office.



This position has very little power and is mostly ceremonial. The Prime Minister of Slovakia is either the head of the majority party or majority coalition and is appointed by the President. Iveta Radičová currently holds this office. This position is the most powerful political position in Slovakia.

On January 1, 1993, the Slovak Republic peacefully gained its independence to become one of the two successor states of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic (the former Czechoslovakia); the other, of course, being the Czech Republic.

On January 19, 1993, Slovakia was accepted into the United Nations Organization as one of the newest independent states on the rapidly changing map of Europe. In April 2004, Slovakia was accepted into NATO and, on May 1, 2004, became a member of the European Union.

The Slovak lands comprise the territory lying between the White Carpathian and the Beskide mountains in the northwest, the Tatra Mountains in the northeast, and the Morava and the Danube Rivers in the south. A glance at the map will show you that the region is primarily mountainous, giving way in the south to the plain formed by the Danube and its tributaries opening into Hungary.

The highest mountain is Gerlach in the High Tatras at 8,737 feet. The mountains provide forests, pasture land and minerals. The mineral resources (iron, copper, mercury, gold, silver and lead) are one of the chief causes



of the post-war Slovak industrial boom. The principal rivers are the Vah, beginning in the Tatra Mountains and passing through the cities of Martin, Žilina and Trenčín; the Hron, also rising out of the Tatra Mountains and going through the cities of Banská Bystrica and Zvolen; and the Dunaj, forming the southwestern border between Slovakia and Hungary.

The largest city in Slovakia is the capital, Bratislava, with a population of about a half million. Other principal cities in western Slovakia are Zvolen, Martin, Banská Bystrica; and in eastern Slovakia are Poprad, Rožňova, Bardejov, Prešov, and Slovakia's second largest city, Košice.

The Slovaks and Czechs consider themselves two very distinct peoples. Visitors cannot begin to understand the Slovaks unless they recognize the force of Slovak nationalism and why it is so strong. There was only one time in history prior to 1918 when the Czechs and Slovaks were united in one state. This was during the Great Moravian Empire (This will be discussed in the lecture on Svätopluk, which will be

published at a later date). When the Magyars swept across the Danubian plain in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, they destroyed the Great Moravian Empire and conquered Slovakia, which remained under Hungarian rule until 1918. The Slovaks remained an oppressed people for one thousand years.

Modern day Slovakia is comprised of 85.8 percent ethnic Slovaks, 9.7 percent Hungarians, about 1.7 percent Roams (gypsies), about .8 percent Czechs and less than .4 percent Ruthenians and .2 percent Ukrainians. About 60 percent of the population practices Roman Catholicism, 10 percent Lutheran, 5 percent Greek Catholic and about 1 percent Orthodox. The total population of Slovakia is 5,312,000 people.

Previously, the unit of currency in Slovakia was the Slovak Crown (Koruna), depicted as "Sk." Each crown is divided into 100 halierov. As of October 5, 2008, one dollar can purchase approximately Sk 22. Slovakia converted to the Euro currency in January 2009. As of March 2011, 1.00 USD is equal to 0.71 EUR or 1.00 EUR equals 1.41 USD.

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July 27<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>

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[nationalcamp2014@gmail.com](mailto:nationalcamp2014@gmail.com)

## 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.*

**DALE A. KOSTUIK** – (1933-2014) A member of Lodge 255 in Leechburg, Pa. He is survived by his wife.

**BERNICE WILK** – (1926-2014) A member of Lodge 66W in Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by her children.

**KYLEE ANNA SAGENICH** – (1993-2014) A member of Lodge 103 in Farrell, Pa. She is survived by her parents.

## 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.