

**Constitution and By-Laws  
of  
Sokol USA  
Organized July 4, 1896**

**Revised, Adopted and Amended  
at the**

**XXXV Convention**

**held at**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**August 11 through August 14, 2017**

**Index**

**By-Laws**

Article I -	Name, Mission, Objectives and Motto .....	1
Article II -	Organization of Sokol U.S.A. ....	1
Article III -	Management of Sokol U.S.A. ....	1
Article IV -	The Convention .....	2
Article V -	National Board .....	4
Article VI -	Duties and Rights of National Board Officers .....	5
Article VII -	Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department .....	11
Article VIII -	National Board Committees .....	11
Article IX -	National Non-Board Committees .....	12
Article X -	Resolutions of Disputes .....	12
Article XI -	The Official Publications .....	13
Article XII -	Treasury .....	13
Article XIII -	Validity of By-Laws/Certification .....	14

**Appendix**

Certificate of Incorporation, etc.

**ARTICLE I**  
**Name, Mission, Objectives and Motto**

**Section 1.** The name of this association is: “Sokol” of the United States of America, or as referred to in these By-Laws, as “Sokol U.S.A.”, with its headquarters at 301 Pine Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005.

**Section 2.** The mission of Sokol U.S.A is to promote a sound mind in a sound body through physical, cultural, moral and educational development of its members.

**Section 3.** The Objectives of Sokol U.S.A. are:

- a) To promote Sokol physical culture and sports, fitness and wellness to its members.
- b) To educate its members in the Sokol ideals and history, and to support Sokol literature.
- c) To promote the democratic tradition and patriotic spirit of the United States of America.
- d) To provide social and fraternal activities.
- e) To maintain classes or schools for instruction of members.
- f) To aid its members and their dependents in case of accident, sickness and death.
- g) To promote social, cultural and charitable interactions between our members and their communities.

**Section 4.** The motto of the Sokol U.S.A. is “Break through, jump over, but do not crawl under.”

**ARTICLE II**  
**Organization of Sokol U.S.A.**

**Section 1.** The aims of Sokol U.S.A. shall be attained by:

- a) Establishing a Governing Body Referred to as the “District Board” in these By-Laws.
- b) Establishing subordinate lodges and regions which shall implement the mission and objectives set forth in Article I.
- c) Creating and maintaining funds for the purpose of paying obligations of Sokol U.S.A.
- d) Owning and holding real estate and other property as necessary for the fulfillment of the aims and purposes of Sokol U.S.A.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Management of Sokol U.S.A.**

**Section 1.** The management of Sokol U.S.A. consists of:

- a) The Convention which shall be the legislative and appellate body of Sokol U.S.A.
- b) The District Board which shall be the executive and managing body of Sokol U.S.A.
- c) The Dispute Resolution Committee which shall be the judicial body of Sokol U.S.A.
- d) The subordinate local lodges to which members belong.
- e) The regions in which the subordinate local lodges shall be grouped.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **The Convention**

- Section 1.** The Convention is the highest legislative body and judicial tribunal for Sokol U.S.A., and shall consist of the District officers, delegates of the local lodges, representatives of the regions, Honorary officers, appointive officers, and guest delegates.
- Section 2.** Each lodge in good standing is entitled to one (1) delegate for every fifty (50) members in good standing or major fraction thereof, i.e. twenty-six (26), as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the Convention. Each lodge having less than fifty (50) members is entitled to one (1) delegate. A lodge delegate may not be represented by a District officer or Honorary officer. The District Board will reimburse the traveling and lodging expenses of not more than two (2) lodge delegates.
- Section 3.** A lodge delegate shall be a voting member in good standing of the lodge for at least one year, except delegates of newly organized lodges shall be members in good standing for at least six months prior to the opening of the Convention. A member need not be present at the meeting called for election of delegates to be elected a delegate if the lodge so determines.
- Section 4. Region Representation**
- (a) Each Region/District having a regular program of gymnastic, sports, fitness, or wellness, is entitled to one delegate having all the same rights and responsibilities as a Lodge delegate, including voting on all matters that come before the Convention and running for any office on the National Board.
  - (b) A Region, at its own expense, may send one of its officers, having qualifications the same as a delegate, as a representative who shall not be eligible for election to any office.
  - (c) A Region may not be represented by a lodge delegate, District officer or an Honorary Officer.
- Section 5.** Lodges shall have one (1) vote for every twenty-five (25) adult members in good standing or fraction thereof, as of the statement of membership for the last month preceding the Convention. Lodges having twenty-five (25) or fewer adult members, District officers, Honorary officers, guest delegates and region representatives shall each have one (1) vote.
- Section 6.** The National Assistants to the Co-Directors when attending the SFW Committee meeting immediately preceding the Convention may attend the Convention without the right to vote but with expenses paid the same as delegates.
- Section 7.** Sokol USA shall pay all transportation and lodging costs for each lodge delegate, Region representative, District officer, Honorary Officer, appointive officer, and guest delegate attending the Convention. An individual lodge may subsidize the per diem expenses of its delegates as determined by the lodge prior to election of the delegates.
- Section 8.** The Convention shall be held at least every four years at the time and place determined by the previous Convention. In the event that suitable arrangements cannot be made at the site selected, the District Board shall be empowered to select another convention site. The sessions of the Convention shall be open to all members of Sokol U.S.A. Non-members may enter the Convention only with the permission of the Convention chairperson or with the approval of a majority of the delegates.
- Section 9.** The delegates in attendance at the Convention must never represent less than the voting power required to amend the Charter or the Constitution and By- Laws of Sokol U.S.A., i.e. two-thirds.
- Section 10.** The District Board shall establish the operating procedures for the District Convention. These procedures shall be distributed to the regions and lodges no later than six months prior to the District Convention.
- Section 11.** The President, or in the President's absence, the Vice-president shall open the Convention. The Convention shall elect from its members a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to conduct its sessions.

The Fraternal Secretary shall appoint Convention Secretaries to keep minutes of the Convention.

**Section 12. Powers of the Convention.** The Convention shall be the sole judge of the election, qualification and constituency of its own members and in addition to other powers herein specified shall have the power to:

- (a) Possess Jurisdiction over the District officers, Dispute Resolution Committee, regions, local lodges and all other subordinate bodies and officers provided in the By-Laws.
- (b) Make laws, rules and regulations for the government of Sokol U.S.A. which shall not be in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation of Sokol U.S.A. or the laws of the United States of America or its States.
- (c) Pass upon the reports of the officers and committees.
- (d) Nominate, elect and fix the salaries and bonds for officers provided in these By-Laws.
- (e) Fix membership dues to various funds, and to specify the financial means necessary for the fulfillment of the aims and purposes of Sokol U.S.A.
- (f) Affirm, reverse or modify decisions of the District Board.
- (g) Redress grievances and prefer and determine charges of wrong doing or By-Laws violation against a member or delegate.
- (h) Designate and elect as honorary District officers, guest delegates and Honorary members, persons who have rendered a special service to Sokol U.S.A. or to our Nation.
- (i) Amend, enact or repeal these By-Laws or the Articles of Incorporation of Sokol U.S.A. in the manner provided in these By-Laws.
- (j) Do and perform any and all acts and things deemed necessary or expedient for the welfare and perpetuity of Sokol U.S.A., and to carry out its objectives.

**Section 13.** All revisions of and amendments to the By-Laws require the sanction of a two-third majority vote.

**Section 14.** A special convention shall be called by the President upon the written request of two-thirds of the District Board, or upon the written request of a majority of the local lodges. Upon the receipt of a sufficient number of such written requests, the President shall within thirty (30) days, order a special convention and publish the call for such convention in the official publications and communicate the same to each lodge and region. Such convention shall be held within ninety (90) days from the date of the call. In the event the President refuses to comply with this provision within thirty (30) days from receipt of such sufficient number of written requests, then the Fraternal Secretary shall issue such a call and publish same in the official publication. All written requests shall be sent in duplicate, one copy to the President, and the other to the Fraternal Secretary. Delegates to a special convention shall be elected by each lodge and district as provided for the election of the delegates to a regular convention.

**Section 15.** In the event of a special convention, if there be charges pending against the President, then the Vice-President shall preside and appoint such of the pre-convention committees provided in the By-Laws as may be necessary.

**Section 16.** In time of grave necessity, the President may recommend the call of a special convention. In this event, the Fraternal Secretary shall send ballots to the lodges, and if a majority of the lodges approve, the District Board shall fix and order the time of the holding of such special convention.

**Section 17.** The call for the special convention published in the official publications shall state the purposes for which such special convention is to be held, and the first order of business to be considered and acted upon shall be such matters. The special convention may also consider and act upon all other matters coming before it, and has the same powers as a regular convention.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **District Board**

- Section 1.** The National Board of Directors consists of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Fraternal Secretary, Recording Secretary, five (5) Financial Trustees, Fraternal Activities Director and two (2) Co-Directors of Sports, Fitness & Wellness (SFW).
- Section 2. Nomination by Petition.** Any adult member in good standing can be nominated for a position on the District Board at least four (4) months prior to the Convention by submitting the following to the District Board:
- a) A letter of nomination by an adult member in good standing for the proposed candidate stating the position for which the member would like to run. The candidate may nominate their self.
  - b) A letter authenticated by an officer of the proposed candidate's lodge verifying that they are a member in good standing.
  - c) The proposed candidate will include a brief biography including qualifications and a statement explaining why they would like to be a candidate.
- Section 3. Vetting by the District Board.**
- a) The District Board will validate the proposed candidate's biographical submission and will notify the candidate of their findings. If validated, the member's biography and statement for election will be distributed to the delegates and lodges, and the candidate's statement will be published in the *Sokol Times*.
  - b) Members verified to run for office must attend the Convention. If a member is not a convention delegate, the member will be responsible for his/her expenses.
  - c) The above procedure does not preclude nomination from the Convention floor. Any delegate to the Convention may be nominated from the floor for a District Board position.
- Section 4.** Between conventions the District Board shall exercise all administrative and executive powers of the Convention necessary to conduct the business of Sokol U.S.A.
- Section 5.** The term of office of the District Board officers shall begin on the first day of January next following the Convention. All officers shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.
- Section 6.** The official year of the District Board begins January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, and annual reports of Sokol U.S.A. are made accordingly.
- Section 7.** The District Board shall hold a minimum of seven (7) meetings per year including an annual meeting in the spring and semi-annual meeting in the fall of each year; the remainder of the meetings will be a combination of conference calls, committee meetings and regional meetings. In the case of necessity, the President shall call a special meeting.
- Section 8.** Two- thirds of the District Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. The sessions of the District Board except as modified in these By-Laws shall be conducted according to "Robert's Rules of Order."
- Section 9.** The meetings of the District Board shall be open to members of Sokol U.S.A. When the welfare of Sokol U.S.A demands, a closed executive session may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the District Board present. A report of all proceedings of each meeting shall be published complete in a single issue of the *Sokol Times* as soon as practicable following each meeting.

- Section 10.** At meetings of the District Board, when the suspension of a National officer or a grave matter is under consideration, the balloting must be open and recorded in the minutes of such meeting so that the membership may know how each officer voted. Upon motion of a member of the District Board, seconded by two (2) other members, the President shall order a roll call on any question.
- Section 11.** The District Board shall have the power to waive the dues and assessments payable to Sokol U.S.A. from all members after they reach age 80. The dues for these members will be paid from the surplus funds of Sokol U.S.A. These members will retain the status of members.
- Section 12.** The District Board shall approve or disapprove the district's annual budget, all bills and payable obligations, and the purchase, sale or exchange of real estate, mortgages, bonds and other investments of Sokol U.S.A. as may be presented by the Trustees.
- Section 13.** The District Board shall have the power to establish and induct new lodges and regions where needed or deemed advisable. It shall assign to each new lodge and region its number and furnish it with a charter.
- Section 14.** The District Board shall enforce the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A and enactments of the Convention, and shall supervise all the lodges and regions and their officers.
- Section 15.** The immediate past President of Sokol U.S.A. shall be invited to attend meetings of the District Board with right to speak but no voting privilege.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Duties and Rights of District Board Officers**

- Section 1.** Every officer of the District Board shall devote as much time and skill as may be necessary to carry on the affairs of Sokol U.S.A; shall and obey enforce the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A. and carry out the mandates of the Convention; shall counsel and assist the District Board, the local lodges and regions and the members of Sokol U.S.A. in their respective activities; and shall promote and keep harmony and good will among the members. In addition to the duties herein specified, every officer of the District Board shall:
- (a) Attend as many of the local lodge meetings in such officer's area as may be practicable and help to stimulate fraternal activities of the local lodges.
  - (b) Be familiar with the fraternal certificates issued by GBU, and acquaint and assist the local lodges in such officer's area in understanding the benefits of the fraternal insurance programs and certificates.
  - (c) Assist the local lodges in such officer's area during membership drives.
  - (d) Report to the District Board meetings such officer's involvement in the activities related to Sokol U.S.A which occurred between the meetings of the District Board.
  - (e) When delegated by the President to do so, install new local lodges, and when occasion demands, shall instruct local lodge officers in the method of conducting affairs of the local lodge and of keeping its books properly; shall attend meetings of local lodges to ensure that the local lodges are conducted as provided in these By-Laws; and shall be liaison officers between the District Board and local lodges.
- Section 2.** Every officer of the District Board must be a member of Sokol U.S.A. and a citizen of the United

States. A member who is a national officer in another fraternal organization may not be an officer on the Sokol U.S.A. District Board. An officer of the District Board may hold office in a local lodge or region of Sokol U.S.A.

- Section 3.** Every officer of the District Board and responsible employee is obligated to reveal to the District Board any interests or affiliations that they may be engaged in which would be in conflict with their official duties and will so certify each year on a form provided for this purpose.
- Section 4.** An officer of the District Board against whom a complaint has been filed by a majority of the members of the District Board shall be suspended immediately upon the filing of such complaint. A hearing shall be held to hear such complaint within thirty (30) days.
- Section 5.** In the case of resignation, suspension or death of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President. Vacancies in any other District Board office shall be filled by an election among the local lodges in meetings assembled from two or more candidates nominated by the District Board with the defeated candidate or candidates who received the next highest votes for these offices at the preceding convention having priority in the nomination to fill such vacancies. In the case of emergency, such vacancies may be filled temporarily by Executive Committee appointment and said temporary appointee shall act until a successor is elected as provided herein.
- Section 6.** The per diem of officers of the District Board officers during the Convention, regular or special meetings, or any other occasion, as ordered by the President or District Board shall be as determined by the Convention Committee on Expenses and Salaries plus lodging and travel expenses. Mileage shall be in accordance with current Internal Revenue Service Allowance.
- Section 7.** Sokol USA shall furnish fidelity bonds covering all officers of the District Board in the amount of \$50,000 with the exception of the President, Fraternal Secretary, Treasurer and the Financial Trustees which will be for \$200,000. Such bonds shall be obtained by Sokol USA before any officer takes office. Any officer failing to qualify for such bond within fifteen (15) days before taking office may be declared ineligible by the District Board and in that event such officer's vacancy shall be filled as provided for in case of a vacancy. Similarly, an officer whose bond has been cancelled and who fails to furnish Sokol USA with satisfactory fidelity bond before the day of cancellation of such officer's original bond, shall be declared ineligible by the District Board and such office declared vacant. The bonds of all officers furnished to Sokol USA shall be in the custody of the Fraternal Secretary.
- Section 8.** Every officer shall at the conclusion of such officer's term of office and upon election or appointment of such officer's successor, turn over to the successor all records, monies, bonds, securities, instruments, papers and property of every kind pertaining to such officer's respective office.
- Section 9.** Each present and future officer of Sokol U.S.A. and the legal representative of each officer shall be indemnified by Sokol USA against reasonable costs, expense (exclusive of any amount paid to Sokol U.S.A. in settlement), and counsel fees paid or incurred in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding to which any such officer, or such officer's legal representatives, may be made a party by reason of such officer being or having been such officer, to the maximum extent permitted by New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Law; provided, however, that indemnification for any such costs, expenses or counsel fees paid or incurred prior to such individual having submitted written notice thereof to Sokol U.S.A shall be subject to approval of the District Board.
- (a) The District Board in its discretion shall have the power to indemnify any employee or agent of Sokol U.S.A. against reasonable costs, expenses (exclusive of any amount paid to Sokol U.S.A. in the settlement), and counsel fees paid or incurred in connection with any threatened, pending



or completed action, suit or proceeding to which such employee or agent may be made a party by reason of such employee or agent being or having been an employee or agent of Sokol U.S.A., to the maximum extent permitted by the New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Law.

- (b) Such right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not in restriction or limitation of, any other privilege of the officers, agents or employees.
- (c) Expenses incurred by a present or future officer pursuant to this Article shall be paid by Sokol U.S.A in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such advanced amount if it shall ultimately be determined that the person is not entitled to be indemnified pursuant to application of New Jersey law.
- (d) Sokol U.S.A may purchase and maintain insurance to protect itself and any person eligible to be indemnified hereunder against any liability or expense asserted against or incurred by such person in connection with any action, suit or proceeding.

### **Honorary Officer**

**Section 10.** An Honorary officer shall be entitled to a seat and voice in the Convention, and shall be entitled to vote. An Honorary officer shall be eligible to run for any elected office, and if elected must relinquish the honorary title.

### **Executive Committee**

**Section 11.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Financial Trustee.

The Executive Committee administers the affairs of the Sokol U.S.A. in the interim between meetings of the District Board as circumstances require, and it shall have all powers and authority necessary to conduct the affairs of Sokol U.S.A properly and in accordance with the decisions and directives of the District Board and the Convention.

- (a) The Executive Committee shall have access any and all vault and safe deposit boxes held in name of Sokol U.S.A.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall have veto power over all officers of Sokol U.S.A in the interpretation of their duties in the interim between the meetings of the District Board.
- (c) Four members of the Executive Committee must be present to constitute a quorum for the conducted business.
- (d) All business conducted by the Executive Committee must be approved by majority of those present and the full board shall be notified of such decisions as soon as possible.
- (e) Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presented to the next meeting of the District Board.

### **President**

**Section 12.** The President is the Chief Executive Officer of Sokol U.S.A. and as such shall have the usual responsibilities associated with such office in general. The President shall promote the growth of Sokol USA., strive to fulfill its aims and objectives and lead strategic planning initiatives. The specific responsibilities of the President shall be detailed further in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual approved by the District Board of Directors.

**Section 13.** If the President fails to perform the duties of the Office as provided in the By-Laws, the District Board may ask for the President's resignation. If the President commits a serious misdeed contrary to the By-Laws and the welfare of Sokol U.S.A, the misdeed shall be reported to the District Board which may, if deemed necessary, file a complaint with the Dispute Resolution Committee of Sokol U.S.A. for disposition.

#### **Vice President**

**Section 14.** In the absence or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President on a temporary basis. In the event that the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall immediately fill such vacancy, and the office of Vice President shall be filled as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. **(See Article VI, Section 5).**

The Vice President shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the District Board in general. In particular the Vice President shall:

- (a) Formulate and initiate programs to increase Sokol U.S.A. membership in conjunction with the Membership/Marketing and Digital Committees.
- (b) Supervise the Membership/Marketing and Digital Chairpersons.
- (c) Prepare and submit annually a proposed budget to the treasurer, with the assistance of the Membership/Marketing and Digital Chairpersons.
- (d) Perform such other duties as the President or District Board shall direct.

#### **Fraternal Secretary/CFO**

**Section 15.** The Fraternal Secretary shall serve as the Chief Financial and Operating Officer for Sokol USA. The Fraternal Secretary serves as the liaison between the District Board and GBU Financial Life. The specific responsibilities of the Fraternal Secretary shall be detailed further in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual approved by the District Board of Directors.

#### **Recording Secretary**

**Section 16.** The Recording Secretary shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual. In particular the Recording Secretary shall:

- (a) Record all minutes of the District Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings and maintain same; shall publish in the official publications the minutes of all meetings of the District Board and Executive Committee, and shall mail the minutes of all meetings to the members of the District Board.
- (b) Serve as the Editor of the *Sokol Times*, solicit and collect articles for submission to the *GBU Reporter*, *Sokol Times* and Sokol USA website, interface with the printer of the *Sokol Times* and the editor of the *GBU Reporter*.
- (c) Coordinate print communications to the lodges and regions and work in conjunction with the Digital Committee Chairperson.
- (d) Prepare and submit annually a proposed budget to the Treasurer.
- (e) Perform such other duties as the President or District Board shall direct.

#### **Treasurer**

**Section 17.** The Treasurer shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual. In particular the Treasurer shall:

- (a) Receive from the Fraternal Secretary quarterly reports of receipts and disbursements and verify same to the District Board.

- (b) Have charge of the official seal of Sokol U.S.A. and impress with it all official papers and documents; keep all accounts and receipts and keep a full inventory of all property belonging to Sokol U.S.A.
- (c) Have custody of notes, mortgages, insurance policies and all documents pertaining there to.
- (d) Receive, have care and custody of all funds of Sokol U.S.A. and deposit same in the name of Sokol U.S.A in such bank or banks or savings institutions as the District Board may elect. Such banks and saving institutions shall be members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Federal Saving and Loan Insurance Corporation
- (e) Countersign all checks for payment of all bills for regular expense when approved by the Fraternal Secretary, and also bills for extraordinary expense upon approval by the District Board.
- (f) Shall work as Chairperson of the Budget Committee to formulate the District Budget which shall be subject to approval by the District Board.
- (g) Perform such other duties as the President or District Board shall direct.

### **Financial Trustees – Five (5)**

**Section 18.** There shall be five (5) financial trustees. The Financial Trustees shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual. The duties of the Financial Trustees are to protect the assets of Sokol USA from misuse and to provide a financial oversight of activities and operations.

The Financial Trustees shall elect an Executive Financial Trustee from the elected Financial Trustees at a meeting called by the President-elect solely for this purpose following their election and prior to the end of the Convention. In particular the Financial Trustees shall:

- (a) Perform an inventory of property belonging to the district and report at the last meeting of each year. Property of the district must have the title “GBU” as well as the district number affixed to it. Should a lodge or region disband or transfer as a whole to another lodge or region, all assets are to be transferred with the membership by GBU’s home office.
- (b) Serve as the Audit Committee and audit the records of any and all officers of the District and any committee thereof and at year-end review the preparation of the Annual Report to GBU’s home office, and report their finding at the next District meeting.
- (c) Verify that the District Officers are bonded as provided by GBU Financial Life.
- (d) Of the remaining four (4) Financial Trustees, one Financial Trustee will be responsible to explore, initiate and share fundraising opportunities on the national and local levels to help promote and support Sokol activities. The other Financial Trustee will be responsible to research, apply for and share grant opportunities on the national and local levels to help promote and support Sokol activities.
- (e) Perform such other duties as the President or District Board shall direct.

### **Fraternal Activities Director**

**Section 19** The Fraternal Activities Director shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the District Board in general. In particular the Fraternal Activities Director shall:

- (a) Develop and organize necessary programs and committees to achieve and promote fraternal activities.

- (b) Coordinate with region and/or lodge officers and develop programs based on available venues, equipment and expertise specific to the region or lodge.
- (c) Develop non-sport activities that can be accomplished during regional or lodge meetings.
- (d) Assist in the establishment of cultural displays (i.e. libraries, museums, etc.) for lodges.
- (e) Interface with the Co-Directors of Sports, Fitness and Wellness regarding any fraternal activities or aspects which may arise in the SFW Department.
- (f) Interface with GBU Fraternal Department to involve District Sokol USA in GBU-wide fraternal events.
- (g) Interface with the Recording Secretary to promote all fraternal activities in print, digital and social media.
- (h) Supervise the Education Chairperson and together coordinate educational activities.
- (i) Prepare and submit annually a proposed budget to the Treasurer, with the assistance of the Education Chairperson.
- (j) Perform such other duties as the President or District Board shall direct.

### **Co-Directors of Sports, Fitness and Wellness**

**Section 20.** The Co-Directors shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the District Board in general. In particular the Co-Directors shall:

- (a) Develop and coordinate the activities of the Sports, Fitness and Wellness (SFW) Committee.
- (b) Upon their election to office, the Co-Directors shall each appoint two National Assistants subject to approval of the Convention.
  - i. The National Assistants shall assist the Co-Directors in their official duties, and in the absence or incapacity of the Co-Directors shall temporarily assume full rights and responsibilities pertaining to the office of such Director, with the exception of having voting privileges on the District Board.
- (c) Call and preside over the meetings of the SFW Committee; and in accordance with the decisions of such meetings shall recommend to the District Board dates and places for sports competitions, tournaments, and Sokolfests (slets), schools for gymnastic instructors, and shall recommend whether or not Sokol U.S.A. should participate in the sport activities of other organizations.
- (d) Direct all SFW activities conducted by Sokol U.S.A., at which they ensure that all rules and regulations are kept, appoint judges, and provide everything necessary for meets and contests.
- (e) Provide to region and lodges instructions and directives related to SFW activities, and ensure that the SFW activities of Sokol U.S.A. are conducted according to the Sokol system of physical education.
- (f) Have responsibility for technical publications of the SFW Department and for coordinating the gathering of all material on physical training and other material in the *Sokol Times*, and shall assist with other official publications created as a result of future national commitments or contracts.
- (g) Prepare reports of member participation in physical training and statistics of physical activities in District Sokol U.S.A., and submit these reports to Annual Meetings of the District Board and the Convention.
- (h) Maintain membership in professional sports organizations.
- (i) Annually prepare and submit a proposed budget to the Treasurer.
- (j) Perform such other duties as the President or the District Board shall direct.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department**

- Section 1.** The **Sports, Fitness and Wellness (SFW) Department** is comprised of the two Co-Directors, two Co-Director Assistants, the Honorary Gymnastics Directors, and, if any, two regional directors from each gymnastics or sports active regions, and two lodge directors from each gymnastics or sports active lodges.
- Section 2.** The SFW Department is responsible for developing and organizing programs to achieve and promote gymnastics, sports, fitness, and wellness activities.
- Section 3.** A meeting of the Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department shall be held to formulate programs of gymnastics, sports, fitness and wellness activities for all components of Sokol U.S.A. The Department shall plan training sessions, competitions, schools for gymnastic instructors and. physical training. It shall also select subjects of instruction and formulate regulations thereof.
- Section 4.** The Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department shall nominate candidates for the offices of Co-Directors and shall recommend to the Convention that the nominees be elected by the Convention to their respective offices.
- Section 5.** Minutes of all Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department meetings will be sent to the District Board or Convention and published in the Sokol Times as soon as practical following the meeting.
- Section 6.** Proposals concerning SFW Department activities are subject to approval by the Sokol U.S.A. District Board or at the Sokol U.S.A. Convention.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**District Board Committees**

- Section 1.** The District Board consists of six structural committees: Administration; Audit; Budget; Membership/Marketing; Fraternal Activities; and Milan Getting Scholarship.
- Section 2.** Each District officer is a member of one of the structural committees:
- (a) The **Administration Committee** is comprised of the President, Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. The **Administration Committee** is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Home Office, handling meetings, setting agendas, leading strategic planning, and requesting and receiving reports.
  - (b) The **Membership/Marketing Committee** is comprised of the Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Membership/Marketing Chairperson and the Digital Chairperson. The Membership/Marketing Committee is responsible for addressing communication with membership, coordinating marketing efforts and promoting Sokol USA membership and programs.
  - (c) The **Audit Committee** is comprised of five (5) Financial Trustees. The **Audit Committee** shall meet in conjunction with each Annual and Semi-annual Meeting of the District Board and at such other times as circumstances may require, and is responsible for supervising the property of Sokol U.S.A. and management thereof.
  - (d) The **Budget Committee** is comprised of the Treasurer, Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Fraternal Activities Director and one of the Sports, Fitness, and Wellness Co-Directors. **The Budget Committee** is responsible for preparing an annual budget for submission the District Board.

- (e) The **Fraternal Activities Committee** is comprised of the Fraternal Activities Director and the Education Chairperson. **The Fraternal Activities Committee** is responsible for developing and organizing programs to achieve and promote fraternal activities.
- (f) The **Milan Getting Scholarship Committee** is appointed by the District President. The Milan Getting Scholarship Committee is responsible for promotion and approval of the Milan Getting Fund scholarships and the promotion of the GBU Foundation scholarships to Sokol USA members.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **District Non-Board Committees**

The need for specialized assistance to the District Board is met by the establishment of the three following non-Board positions that will serve the District Board and Sokol USA: Membership: Marketing Chairperson, Digital Communications Chairperson and Education Chairperson, who will recruit the members of their respective committees.

The Chairpersons will be appointed by the District Board and will be invited as needed to Meetings of the District Board to report their activities. They will have voice but no vote at the Meetings. They shall receive proper compensation and expense reimbursements.

They shall perform all duties assigned by the Board but not limited to their specific responsibilities detailed in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Resolutions of Disputes**

- Section 1.** The purpose of this Article is to provide a method for fair resolution of disputes consistent with the fraternal nature of Sokol U.S.A. without the delay and expense of formal legal proceedings. The Convention shall elect one of its Members to be the Chairperson of the Dispute and Resolutions Committee. Six (6) additional Members of Sokol USA, each from a different lodge, shall be chosen by the Chairman to constitute the Committee as need arises.
- Section 2.** The Chairperson of the Dispute Resolution Committee is the Chief Judicial Officer of the Sokol U.S.A. and as such the Chairperson of the Dispute Resolution Committee shall:
- (a) Preside over all cases and appeals as may be filed in accordance with these By-Laws.
  - (b) Assemble a committee into session from time to time as circumstances may require.
  - (c) Determine times and places of sessions.
  - (d) See that all cases and appeals are impartially and justly tried.
  - (e) Report findings and decisions to the District Board and the Convention.
- Section 3.** The Jurisdiction of the Dispute Resolution Committee within the Sokol U.S.A. extends to the following:
- (a) Complaints against the District Board, a District Officer, individual lodges, individual lodge officers, individual members for violation of the By-Laws, or for inappropriate conduct not consistent with the aims of Sokol U.S.A.
  - (b) Appeals of judicial decisions of the District Board.
- Section 4.** The procedures and duties of the Juries are detailed in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual and in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**The Official Publications**

- Section 1.** The official publications of Sokol U.S.A. are the *Sokol Times*, which shall be printed on a regular basis, and the Sokol U.S.A. website. In both, among other things, will be published reports of District Board meetings, financial reports, minutes of the SFW Committee, other matters pertaining to the management and direction of Sokol U.S.A., and instructive articles expounding Sokol principles and national ideas.
- Section 2.** All members who pay administration dues are entitled to receive the *Sokol Times* at no cost. All other members may receive the *Sokol Times* only upon request to the Fraternal Secretary at a fee fixed by the District Board.

**Editor**

- Section 3.** The District Board Recording Secretary shall serve as the Editor of the *Sokol Times*. The Editor's duties are to edit and publish the *Sokol Times* according to the purposes and objectives of Sokol U.S.A.
- Section 4.** The Editor may not publish:
- (a) Any political or religious articles of partisan nature.
  - (b) Any libelous or other articles detrimental to the welfare of Sokol U.S.A.
  - (c) Any article, controversial or otherwise, that does not bear the writer's name.

**ARTICLE XII**

**Treasury**

- Section 1.** The treasury of Sokol U.S.A. is a Consolidated Fund consisting of operating funds and Milan Getting Scholarship Fund.

**Consolidated Fund**

- Section 2.** The Consolidated Fund consists of the following:
- (a) All dues received from members.
  - (b) All monies accrued from investments of the Consolidated Fund.
  - (c) All other regular and special income.
- Section 3.** All necessary payments for the administrative and activities of Sokol USA are paid from the Consolidated Fund.

**Milan Getting Scholarship Fund**

- Section 4.** The Milan Getting Scholarship Fund is established to provide college academic scholarships for full time accredited post-secondary education to deserving and qualified members who are and intend to be active members. Monies for this fund shall be obtained by contributions from all available sources.



**ARTICLE XIII**  
**Validity of By-Laws**

- Section 1.** The Convention of Sokol U.S.A. is authorized to change, add to, amend or suspend these By-Laws as it deems necessary. With the legal adoption of such amendments, the former section pertaining to the same shall become void, suspended.
- Section 2** These By-Laws were revised and adopted by the XXXV Convention of the Slovak Gymnastic Union “Sokol” held from August 11 through 14, 2017 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and shall remain in full force and effect from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022.
- Section 3.** These By-Laws shall be observed by the District Board, District Board Officers, Regions, Subordinate Lodges, their Officers and all Membership without exception.
- Section 4.** Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of these By-Laws in which the word “member” occurs shall apply to both male and female members.
- Section 5.** The District Board President shall have authority to decide matters involving the interpretation of these By-Laws and in matters not adequately covered in the By-Laws, but such decisions may be appealed to the Resolutions of Disputes Committee and further appealed to the Convention of Sokol U.S.A. by any party or parties affected thereby.
- Section 6.** Every copy of the By-Laws duly certified by the District Board President and attested by the District Board Fraternal Secretary shall be received as evidence in all matters and suits arising before any Civil Court.
- Section 7.** All contested points of procedure at Conventions and all other meetings shall be decided on the basis of *Roberts Rules of Order*.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned Officers, hereby certify that the foregoing By-Laws were approved and legally adopted by the 35th Convention of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the U.S.A. held from August 11 through 14, 2017 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and that the same have been declared the legal By-Laws of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the United States of America effective August 14, 2017.

**Attested by;**

Joseph Bielecki, Supreme President

Milan S. Kovac, Supreme Secretary