

(USPS 500-660)

# SOKOL



# TIMES

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

August 10, 2023

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

## From the President's View

How quickly passes the time! Summer has sped past, and we are now almost at the first of August as I write this column. Labor Day and the end of summer season will soon be here.

At the end of summer will come Labor Day and the last hurrahs of summer, of the picnic season and farewell to the warm and sunny summer weather!

In mid-June, Sister Nancy Shurina, Sister Debbie Golden and I attended a fraternal weekend for GBU districts. The event was very informative. Each GBU district was permitted to send a small number of delegates from their district board. The weekend was devoted to fraternalism, fraternal projects and exploring ways to engage membership in fraternalism. It was very exciting and interesting. Many ideas were discussed.

In mid-September, the MCT District of Sokol, USA will hold a fraternal event with the purpose of raising money to benefit the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund. The event will be a Slovak-style ethnic lunch held in a restaurant on the North Side of Pittsburgh. There is a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, and it is my hope that more and more of our lodges will take advantage of the grant program that Sister Shurina has created. It is a very good way of developing projects and getting our membership engaged in fraternal activity and doing things in our communities. Several lodges have already participated in the grant program and the results



Joseph Bielecki

have been very interesting.

There are many opportunities for our lodges to do volunteer projects. There can be community clean up days, there can be engagement with other groups to do projects jointly, such as with veterans' groups. Many organizations are looking for groups to partner with them on specific projects.

As we approach the waning days of summer, it is my hope that our membership will continue to engage in walking, bike riding or any number of athletic activities in order to take advantage of the remaining nice weather.

I also encourage our lodges to continue to meet regularly and to continue in their activities and to get back into the full swing of things. It is important to gather together and engage in fraternal or physical activities and to share the Sokol spirit of fraternalism. We are now well past the end of the COVID lock down and many, many things nationwide have returned to normal.

(Continued on Page 2)



**FOOD DRIVE** – Sokol Danbury, Lodge 30 held a food drive on July 16, 2023. It was a stormy day and the weather was not on their side. However, the partnership between the VFW and Sokol continues to stay strong. All Sokol members pictured are also VFW members. Thank you to all who participated in this event to help the towns' families in need! (More photos on Page 3)



# SOKOL TIMES

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



Published bi-monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month

SOKOL OFFICE:  
Telephone: (973) 676-0281  
E-mail: info@SokolUSA.org

All communication for publication should be sent  
to Editor at 408 Main Street, P.O. Box 677,  
Boonton, NJ 07005-0677  
Or info@SokolUSA.org  
by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the previous month.  
Second Class postage paid in East Orange, NJ  
Annual Subscription for non-members is \$10.00

## GBU Financial Life

A Member Owned, Not-for-Profit  
Insurance Provider  
4254 Saw Mill Run Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-3394  
412-884-5100 \* 800-765-4428  
www.gbu.org ~ Email: info@gbu.org

# SOKOL USA

A Division of **GBU** FINANCIAL LIFE



**SOKOL USA  
HEADQUARTERS  
HAS A NEW  
MAILING ADDRESS:**

**SOKOL USA  
408 Main Street  
P.O. Box 677  
Boonton, New Jersey 07005**

## Sokol USA District MCT Milan Getting Scholarship Fundraising Dinner

at Huszar Restaurant  
627 E North Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Names of each person attending:

---



---

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Menu choice (choose one): \_\_\_\_\_ chicken paprikash

\_\_\_\_\_ mushroom paprikash

\$50 per person

Cash bar only

Parking available on street only

**Only the first 60 paid registrants can be accommodated due to restaurant seating capacity.**

Please make your check payable to "Sokol USA"  
Mail payment in care of Sis. Nancy Shurina  
240 North Morrow Street  
Blairsville, PA 15717

## From the President's View

(Continued from Page 1)

2024 will be the year of the All Sokol Slet in Prague, Czech Republic. This will occur from June 30 to July 5, 2024. I encourage those who are interested, able and can afford to go to Prague, to experience the activity and enthusiasm of such a gigantic scale event. It is a return to Sokol roots, and it is a very special and unique experience to see so many thousands of people engaging in Sokol movement and Sokol sports. For those who cannot travel, I encourage them to follow the COS website for photos and information about the upcoming Slet and the activities of the Slet year. The website is www.sokol.eu. Using this site, you can follow all of the information as it comes out regarding the events

planned for 2024.

Finally, I encourage or members to go to our Sokol USA website. On our website one can follow chair aerobic exercises posted by Sister Ellen Kovac. There are also many posts made by our sports fitness and wellness departments and our lodges regarding their

past and upcoming events and there are also short cultural and historical videos available on the website. I wish all of our members a wonderful and happy remainder of summer.

NAZDAR!

Joseph Bielecki  
President  
SOKOL USA

## GBU REPORTER DEADLINE

GBU Reporter submissions  
for the winter edition (January 2024) issue  
are due no later than October 25, 2023, to  
sokoltimessubmissions@gmail.com.



# Heat Wave 2023

It's been a scorcher of a Summer all across our country this year. Not only has there been major droughts and wildfires as a result of the high temperatures, but the heat has also been accompanied by severe storms releasing flash floods that have devastated many of our local communities. I personally want to thank all of our first responders for their service during these challenging times. With this extreme weather occurring across the states, please remember to check on senior members, friends and neighbors to make sure they are all safe. Summer brings about the most weather-related deaths in our country than any other season, so let's make sure to stay safe and look out for each other.

On a happier note, this has been a busy and fun-filled experience as well. Recently I and several fellow Sokol USA members joined up with other GBU Districts to celebrate this year's Zoo Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The weather was warm but not oppressive as we enjoyed a catered lunch, prizes and music before breaking off to tour the various animal exhibits. In the coming weeks, both the Danbury and Leechburg lodges will be holding a golf outing open to the community. Leechburg's outing benefits the estate of a local MS victim, while Danbury is sponsoring a collection of assorted items for a domestic violence shelter on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Our lodges are providing important services to their communities, and I am happy to share their efforts with the rest of our membership.

Finally, plans are in full swing for the MCT Fraternal Project to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at Huszar's Restaurant. Local lodges Blairsville, Braddock, New Kensington and Pittsburgh have already sent reservations in and we are expecting a nice turnout. This event benefits our own Milan Getting Scholarship, one of the best benefits our society has to offer. As always, please send me information regarding your lodge events to share at [fna240@verizon.net](mailto:fna240@verizon.net). Until next we meet, have a safe and happy Summer and be careful of the heat and weather.

NAZDAR  
Sister Nancy Shurina

## DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

|  |  |          |
|--|--|----------|
| To the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund                        |  |          |
| From Sokol Lodge 248 Rossford, Ohio                          |  | \$127.50 |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| From Sokol Lodge 12, Newark, N.J.                            |  | \$50.00  |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| From Sokol Lodge 15, Yonkers, N.Y.                           |  | \$120.00 |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| From John and Mary Kamenitsky, Lodge 12                      |  | \$100.00 |
| <i>Birthday Wishes to John Kamenitsky</i>                    |  |          |
| From GBU Life Matching Funds                                 |  | \$100.00 |
| <i>Matching Funds for Birthday Wishes to John Kamenitsky</i> |  |          |
| From Sokol USA Lodge 500, Boonton, N.J.                      |  | \$250.00 |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| To the Sport, Fitness and Wellness Fund                      |  |          |
| From Sokol Lodge 248 Rossford, Ohio                          |  | \$127.50 |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| From Sokol Lodge 12, Newark, N.J.                            |  | \$50.00  |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| From Sokol Lodge 15, Yonkers, N.Y.                           |  | \$120.00 |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |
| From Sokol USA Lodge 500, Boonton, N.J.                      |  | \$250.00 |
| <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>                         |  |          |



FOOD DRIVE – Sokol Danbury, Lodge 30 held a food drive on July 16, 2023. More photos on Page 1.



## Milan Getting Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the most recent recipients of the Milan Getting Scholarship: Jolene Giampietro of Lodge 32 in Boonton, N.J., and Abigail Grieco of Lodge 30 in Danbury, Conn. The Scholarship Committee and all members of Sokol USA wish you Good Luck on your journey in college!

The Milan Getting Scholarship is a benefit available to all Sokol USA policy or annuity holding members attending a two- or four-year college or university full time, renewable for up to three additional years. This program is supported by contributions from members, lodges and districts as well as fundraisers. The application is available on our Sokol USA website.

Debbie Golden  
Interim Vice President





American Sokol Instructor school participants and staff. The school was held at Sokol Greater Cleveland.



Members of the American Sokol Instructor School 2023 staff are (from left) Sister Alix Fron, Sister Lili Glover, Sister Zoey Breitreutz, Sister Kristin Greenberg, Brother Buddy Benak (School Director), Brother Raymond Wodarczyk and Brother Andrew Bajek (IT). Not pictured is Brother Kevin Fitzpatrick.



Sister Lili Glover (left) from Sokol USA Farrell and Sister Kristin Greenberg from Sokol USA Krivan (Chicago) Lodge 306 were two of the eight members on the American Sokol Instructor School staff.

## INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Sokol USA would like to send a huge congratulations to American Sokol on hosting another successful Instructor School.

This year's school was a 10-day long course held at Sokol Greater Cleveland. There were 10 students who participated in the school. There were eight beginners, one intermediate and one advanced. Brother Buddy Benak was the School Director with seven staff members teaching alongside him.

Everyone did an amazing job and we are so proud of the students and the staff who took the time to participate and make the program such a success.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** – Sister Arlene von Schwedler turned 90 years young on July 4<sup>th</sup> with about 50 family members and friends. The Hawaiian themed birthday party featured lots of delicious homemade food, a Tiki bar and Hawaiian dancers. See Page 5.

## QUESTIONS?

Have any official Sokol business and/or questions? Reach out to Brother John Kennedy at [info@sokolusa.org](mailto:info@sokolusa.org).



# Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Arlene von Schwedler



Sister Arlene von Schwedler turned 90 years young on July 4<sup>th</sup> with about 50 family members and friends. The Hawaiian themed birthday party featured lots of delicious homemade food and a Tiki bar. The Hawaiian dancers performed several numbers, including one with fire! Guests were encouraged to participate by learning some island style hip shaking led by one of the dancers. The evening was capped off with an hour-long fireworks extravaganza provided and masterfully ignited by her son, GJ, a pyrotechnics professional. We wish her many more happy and healthy years!







## SOKOL USA DISTRICT 4000 National Board Meeting Held in Parsippany, New Jersey Saturday April 1, 2023

1. Call the meeting to order @ 9:00 am EST
  2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
  3. Moment of Silence for deceased members and families - A special note
  4. Roll Call of Officers & Guests (Newly elected officers)
    - Brother Joseph Bielecki – President (Present)
    - Sister Deborah Golden – Interim Vice-President (Present)
    - Brother Arthur Burkhardt – Treasurer (Present)
    - Sister Kristin Greenberg – Recording Secretary (Present)
    - Brother Jeff Richter – Trustee (Present)
    - Brother Michael Cunningham – Trustee (Present)
    - Brother John Kennedy – Fraternal Secretary (Present)
    - Sister Kerri Sommer - Trustee (Present)
    - Brother Greg Bender - Trustee (Present)
    - Brother Jerry Pereira - Trustee (Present)
    - Sister Nancy Shurina – Fraternal Activities Chair (Present)
    - Sister Chris Yatchyshyn – Co Director Sport, Fitness, & Wellness Dept. (Present)
    - Brother Todd Yatchyshyn – Co Director Sport, Fitness & Wellness Dept. (Present - Arrived @ 11 am - 11:55 am EST )
- Also Invited:
- Brother Milan Kovac, Past Fraternal Secret (Present - Arrived @ 9:40 am EST)
  - Brother John Kamenitsky (Present)
  - Sister Ellen Kovac, Guest (Present - Arrived @ 10:40 am EST)

### 5. Presentation of Agenda Agenda approved

#### a. Acceptance of minutes from December 2022 meeting

Sister Nancy Shurina made a motion to accept the minutes as distributed. Brother Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### b. Trustees Report

Bro. Jeff Richter shared that the committee spent time with introductions and reviewing the purpose of the trustees for any new officers present. They also reviewed the fiscal year 2022 balance sheet, the status of the balances of all of the cash accounts.

Brother Kennedy gave a presentation on escheated property. Brother Kennedy has found property from across 10 states in hopes we can reclaim some of this property. Discussion was had about the 1 outstanding mortgage we currently had. The mortgagor had a reduced mortgage. We were receiving interest payments from them regularly but missed two payments at the end of 2022. Payment was received by them at the end of January but regular payments have not yet been received. Bro. Burkhardt volunteered to send out the letter to encourage them to resume payments.

Discussion was also held about the collateral loan held by Pen Argyl. The loan had gone into forbearance during the pandemic. Correspondence was shared by Sis. Nacarrato shared they are not yet back to their pre-pandemic level and a breakdown of their finances. They did make a small profit last year but that was thanks to their landlord being very flexible with their rent checks. After discussion, the trustees recommended keeping the loan in forbearance until their next recruitment cycle. The next point when they could show some growth would be September. They could then hopefully resume a modified payment schedule based on their financials at that time.

The balance of the growth fund was reviewed. They accepted Bro. Kennedy and Bro. Burkhardt's presentation.

Discussion was had about the audit in the spring. Usually takes a few hours and the new trustees were shown what the process is like. However, we are in the

midst of an audit by our accounting partner. The estimated completion date of that audit will be June 1st. Once the audit is available, Bro. Kennedy will share it. The purpose and timing of this audit was completed with the transition of the new board to ensure all financials were in working order. Bro. Kennedy shared that there have been many regulations and changes to how audits are done for non-profits. The recommendation is that this is done on an annual basis rather than every five years. By doing this annually, we will save money based on how much time it will take them to complete the audit. Bro. Kennedy shared the status of Sokol USA. Sokol USA is currently a 501 c 8.

There was no fraternal activities business at this time.

One piece of business was submitted by Sis. Yanchyshyn to clarify some of the recommendations that were submitted at the Chicago meeting in October. The text of the minutes the Trustee committee discussed were to replace the project safety subsidy with a program cost subsidy of 75% of a sports fitness wellness program up to \$3000 and leave all non-project safety subsidies in place. This would include the \$2000 funding provided for running a program.

The first question was in regards to the direction and how the program cost subsidy would be administrated, submitted for request, and implemented. The trustees agreed if the lodge meets the simple requirement for running a sports fitness and wellness program, they should be approved for that subsidy but will defer to the SFW director on how that is actually administrated.

The second question was in regards to whether this subsidy was in addition to the \$2000 subsidy currently in place. The answer to that was yes.

The third question was in regards to whether there were other requirements besides having the program costs and submitting it. Based on review of the minutes there were no other requirements listed.

The fourth question was in regards to whether these lodges requesting the subsidy should have representation at the SFW Department meetings. The trustees agreed that representation could be recommended but not something that must be set forth to receive the subsidy.

The fifth question was in regards to lodges applying for this subsidy should show proof of insurance, certification, and background checks. The trustees felt doing their due diligence and showing the lodges are keeping the young Sokols safe and felt if they wanted to use the subsidy as a means to ensure those things are occurring that is a fine request to make.

Sis. Yatchyshyn shared the concern that there are less requirements being put in place for the \$3000 subsidy compared to the \$2000 subsidy that we give the lodges that already have programs. She also felt that if you are receiving the money on behalf of programming costs, the lodges should be at the meetings and being part of discussions because that is where we share out information from any gymnastics and professional organizations. She encouraged considering those changes to be put in place in the future. She also recommended anyone you are bringing in that you are having those adults being background checked and the person teaching should be certified by the overarching professional organization.

The SFW shared their appreciation for the Trustees and their consideration of these pieces.

Bro. Kennedy briefed the Trustees with a discussion had with GBU. They had radically changed the annuity being offered originally. The product has the same name, the preferred 5 and has gone up to \$1000 and is payable in \$100 monthly payments until the minimum is met. In addition, Leslie from GBU spoke with Bro. Kennedy about a \$25 social membership that GBU offers. If paid, the payer holds all the rights and benefits of a GBU member other than having voting rights and applying for the scholarships offered. Bro. Kennedy discussed potentially partnering with that model and the trustees recommended discussing that at a point in the National Board meeting.

Conflict of interest statements were distributed and expense voucher processes were explained to the trustees.

Sis. Yatchyshyn inquired which checks have come out from the budget but is there a report that can be shared with the SFW department that is itemized by which checks have been distributed.

Bro. Kennedy shared he can get the SFW department that breakdown which lodges got what and include any travel expenses the SFW department may have.

(Continued on Page 7)

## SOKOL USA DISTRICT 4000 National Board Meeting

(Continued from Page 6)

### c. Report of SFW Committee

Report deferred until Brother Yatchyshyn joins the meeting @ 11am EST

SFW Report was shared with the National Board. Bro. Yatchyshyn shared the highlights of the report. The activities being recorded by the lodges is reaching 1500 people. We may have lost our largest active lodge in our program, there are still many programs and a variety of programs being offered.

Bro. Pereira shared they have been hosting line dancing classes. It is currently on hold until September but it has been a successful addition for Palmerton.

Bro. Yatchyshyn also highlighted the progress Lodge 306 has made by revising and restructuring their programming to better fit the needs of their members and coaching staff. They have also not lost too many of their members during the restructuring. They have also restructured their price structure to be more in line with more competitive programs in the area while also keeping one of the best rates nearby.

Bro. Yatchyshyn shared that the Monessen lodges still have about 1000 participants in their programs.

Bro. Yatchyshyn highlighted the special events section and shared the variety of ways programs are engaging with their communities through running fundraisers, rentals, etc.

Bro. Bender inquired about where the lodge 12 report was since it was not listed with the other lodges. Bro. Yatchyshyn shared that the reports included were the only ones received.

An update on warm weather activities will be shared when we hold our fall National Board Meeting.

Bro. Yatchyshyn has been spending a great deal of time working closely with American Sokol. One of the areas he is currently coordinating with them is through becoming an affiliate program with the U.S. Centers for Safesport. Sokol USA is not currently able to do this on their own because you need at least 200 coaches and volunteers.

Sis. Yatchyshyn shared that Safesport is a training type of program and won't provide any liability protections.

Bro. Yatchyshyn shared there are discussions about planning our next event. The Polish falcons are also interested in potentially hosting the event jointly.

Bro. Yatchyshyn also shared that in 2024 the Czech Sokol organization will be hosting a slet program in Prague. As more information becomes available it will be shared with everyone. American Sokol is currently in the early stages of planning the tours and travel.

In 2025 the American Sokol is planning on running their Slet. They are also planning to host an Instructor School this summer. It will be taken over with a new format and new instructor. The school is shorter and only about 9 days long. This is a good opportunity for any young adults because you learn more than just teaching gymnastics.

Bro. Cunningham made a motion to accept the report. Jerry Pereira seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### d. Collateral Loan for Sokol USA Lodge 410 Pen Argyl

Report deferred until Brother Yatchyshyn joins the meeting @ 11am EST

Bro. Richter reviewed what was discussed in regards to the Collateral Loan based on information shared by Sis. Nacarrato in the Trustee report..

Bro. Yatchyshyn shared that the most important thing for the Pen Argyl lodge will be relocation to a new facility. It is very difficult at this time to get into space right now. Due to some of the decisions made by the current landlord, they have been limited on how they can function. They were hoping to partner with community groups but they can't really offer and meet the needs of these groups. The money received from the loans and other lodges only helped meet about 50% of the business plan presented years ago.

Bro. Richter shared these loans can be a little risky and everyone at Sokol is rooting for Pen Argyl while also being cognizant of needing a plan in place.

Brother Kennedy made a motion to accept the trustee recommendation. Sister Greenberg seconded the motion. Motion passed with 12 officers approving the motion and 1 officer (Brother Yatchyshyn) abstaining.

### e. Report of Milan Getting Scholarship Committee

Sis. Golden shared they had only 1 application as of today. Bro. Kennedy shared he received a letter that there was a scholarship in route to them from a member at Lodge 32. She is an active member and on the rolls.

Brother Kennedy shared GBU has a new software program that can be used through their portal. It will hold any of the scholarships that GBU offers. We would be able to set our own requirements for our scholarship and it would alleviate any of the paperwork concerns we may have about scholarships coming in. It will also be able to track and ensure that all of the requirements are being met rather than it being bounced back.

Sister Nancy Shurina made a motion for Sokol USA to utilize the GBU portal for the upcoming scholarship season (Fall 2023-Spring 2024). Brother Jerry Pereira seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Sister Nancy Shurina made a motion to move Sokol USA funds into the GBU fund. Sister Deborah Golden seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### f. Report of Fraternal Activities

Sister Nancy Shurina shared that we are pushing to get more engaged in our community. Through engaging the community we would hopefully increase membership. Sis. Shurina shared about having \$500 in seed money available to run a community engagement program. Currently, Sis. Shurina is currently working with MCT on a luncheon with 50% of cost going to the scholarship fund. Any seed money would be used for advertising, entertainment and cost of tickets. Sis. Shurina has been in contact with several members from various lodges who also have ideas for use of this seed money.

### g. Audit

See Trustees report. There is nothing else to report.

### h. Mortgage Receivable M-1274 Desiree Gordon \$25,000.00

See Trustee report for full details.

### i. Directors Insurance

Brother Burkhardt shared we have directors insurance but does not cover sexual assault/Molestation. Bro. Kennedy and Bro. Burkhardt are currently looking into what is available to us as a smaller organization.

Bro. Bielecki recommended working more closely with the SFW directors to identify what is exactly needed based on what the professional programs we currently work with offer.

Sis. Yatchyshyn shared Sokol USA does hold a policy through AAU but the officers are not all listed as administrators on the policy. The only reason we have a policy is so we are able to hold a National meet every four years. That policy would not cover us because not all of our members are AAU members. For this reason, AAU may not be the answer to this issue. However, we should have several of our officers listed on the policy.

Meeting recessed @ 10:15 am. Meeting Resumed @ 10:40 am EST

### j. Chicago Lodge & Issues - Meeting went into Executive Session @ 10:40 am EST

Brother Cunningham made a motion that Brother Scott Pracko be indefinitely suspended from Sokol USA, this includes districts and lodges. Sister Nancy Shurina seconded the motion. Motion passed with 12 officers approving the motion and 1 officer (Sister Greenberg) abstaining.

Tabling executive session @ 11:00am EST to allow Bro. Yatchyshyn to provide the SFW report and discuss the Collateral Loan for Sokol USA Lodge 410 Pen Argyl.

Executive session resumed @ 11:30 am EST.  
Meeting left executive session @ 11:45 am EST.

(Continued on Page 8)



## Fraternal event at the zoo



From left, Joe Bielecki, Nancy Shurina and John Kessler from Altoona District 45 visit the GBU event tent during the organization's Zoo Day in July.



HONORED VETS – Sokol Danbury, Lodge 30 member and All-American Post Commander at VFW National Convention.



SOKOL GENERATIONS – Lodge 30 member Joan Burlinson and Sokol Danbury, Lodge 30's newest Sokol member.

## SOKOL USA DISTRICT 4000 National Board Meeting

(Continued from Page 7)

### k. Prague Slet

Brother Bielecki shared that the Slet is scheduled for June 30, 2024 - July 3, 2024. Normally we allocate funds for Sokol USA participants and board members. There is still very limited information about tours and what will be available for participants interested.

Sis. Shurina shared we had previously set a budget of about \$10,000.

Bro. Kennedy recommended we table the decision on funding until we have more information at the Fall 2023 Board meeting.

### 6. New Business

### 7. Old Business

Meeting recessed @ 11:55 am EST. Meeting Resumed @ 12:15 pm EST

### e. GBU Policy -

Bro. Kennedy shared the social membership that GBU offers is a \$25 membership. Social members through the GBU policy do not have a voice or a vote. They consider them a full member otherwise. If we adopted these guidelines, we would have to modify them according to our needs. Bro. Kennedy recommended we create a \$100 annual social membership where \$25 would go to GBU, \$50 goes to the National organization, \$25 to the local lodge.

Sister Nancy Shurina made a motion to accept a new social membership policy in which members are charged \$100 annually. Brother Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### a. Lodge EIN Information

Brother Kennedy shared the document with EIN numbers. Once the unclaimed lodges are all taken care of, then we will begin the process of dissolving lodges. A resolution will be needed to do this. At this time, there is a lot of leg work and paperwork that needs to be completed before this can happen.

Motion was made by Brother Michael Cunningham to give Brother Kennedy to dissolve lodges that are completely inactive according to our records. Sister Nancy Shurina seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### b. Website/social media

Brother Kennedy shared

### c. Status of Membership in Suspension

### d. Sokol Times

Sister Yatchyshyn shared concern about minutes going into the meeting. Further clarification about what should be submitted. Sis. Yatchyshyn recommended confirming that when minutes are shared, that they be confirmed if they are approved and ready to be submitted into the Sokol Times.

### 8. Correspondence

### 9. Other

### a. Date, Time, and location of next meeting

June 25, 2023 @ 8pm EST via Zoom

Doodle will be sent out for the October Meeting @ Palmerton Lodge

### 10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned @ 1:10 pm EST