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SOKOL



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From the President's View: 2 Slets – Same Sokol Spirit

The Sokol movement, born in Prague in 1862, still pulses through the veins of many communities worldwide. The Sokol movement has expanded, grown and evolved in many different ways in each of the countries to which it has spread. This summer, I had the privilege of attending two Sokol Slets – one sponsored by Sokol Poland, which was held in Brodnica, Poland, and the other, the ASO Slet in Chicago. Both gatherings showcased the movement's unique mix of physical challenge, intellectual engagement, and cultural celebration. Both of these mass events help keep the Sokol tradition thriving.

Sokol Poland chose to host its Slet in the historic and scenic city of Brodnica, in the Masovian Lake District in north-central Poland. The Sokol Poland



Joseph Bielecki

events showcased a large Sokol Poland historical exhibition of posters, photos, newspapers, and many other items, many of which were donated by the Polish Falcons of America several years ago. The exhibition showed the evolution of the Sokol movement in Poland and Polish America, where it



Attending the festivities at the Chicago ASO Slet are (from left) John Kennedy, Sokol USA; Joe Bielecki, Sokol USA; Jean Hruby, ASO; and Robert Tmej, Sokol Canada.

arrived via Polish immigrants. In tandem with the exhibition, there was an afternoon of academic presentations addressing various Sokol Poland topics. Additionally, Sokol Canada, ASO, and I, from Sokol USA, were invited to give historical talks describing how our organizations came to be and grow in our respective countries.

Beyond the lecture hall, the Slet buzzed with a festival of competitions. Several thousand Sokol Poland members participated in a variety of events. One of Sokol Poland's specialties is the Fit Kid competition. The Fit Kid movement, for K-8 children, is fairly new in Europe, and Sokol Poland members are often

champions in these competitions. It combines rhythmic gymnastics, dance, and strength exercises. Other popular events at the Slet included table tennis, floor hockey, and walking soccer, as well as several unexpected events: grenade throwing, pistol and rifle marksmanship, and AK-47 assembly contests. These particular events harkened back to Sokol Poland's early emphasis on civic preparedness. They are also very popular at the present because of Poland's concerns over the current war in Ukraine. Under strict supervision, participants competed with rifles and pistols in a variety of target shooting exercises. Additionally, one of the more fascinating events was the

hand grenade tossing combinations. Dead, but real, hand grenades were thrown at a variety of marked circles on the ground some distance away. The goal was similar to dart throwing in terms of scoring points, however the technique is rooted in traditional Graeco-Roman gymnastics. The same technique to throw a javelin (a position that appears in a variety of historical Sokol posters and postcards) is used to successfully throw a hand grenade, which weighs a pound or two. Another interesting event was a speed competition event, also in the category of self defense preparedness: in this event, participants assembling an AK-47 in 45

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Sokol USA President Joe Bielecki (left) and Polish Falcons President Tim Kuzma at the Sokol Slet in Brodnica, Poland.

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Honoring Resilience, Leadership and Spirit: The 2025 Sokol USA Chicago Frankie Kajari Achievement Award

As the curtain falls on another exceptional gymnastics season, we take a moment to reflect not just on the skill and dedication of our athletes, but on the heart and spirit that drive our Sokol community. One of the most meaningful ways we do this at Sokol USA Chicago Lodge 306 is through the presentation of the Frankie Kajari Achievement Award – a recognition that goes far beyond athletic ability. It is about character, growth, and the power of positivity, even in the face of adversity.

A Legacy That Lives On

The award is named in memory of Frankie Kajari, a joyful and spirited young gymnast who was a part of our Sokol family in the 1990s. Though none of our current coaches had the opportunity to work with Frankie directly, the stories of his vibrant energy, unshakable spirit, and relentless determination continue to inspire us today. Diagnosed with leukemia at a young age, Frankie remained a beacon of light in our gym – showing up to class with a smile, working hard through his treatments, and lifting others with his presence until his passing at just 10 years old.

The Frankie Kajari Achievement Award was created to honor his memory and to recognize young athletes who embody the resilience, heart, and spirit that Frankie shared with the world. It's not about being the strongest, the fastest, or the most technically advanced. It's about showing up with purpose, supporting teammates, and growing into a leader – on and off the mat.

This year, we are proud to recognize two outstanding recipients whose journeys have left a lasting mark on our Sokol community.

Olivia Escalera: A Ray of Light and Leadership

From the moment Olivia Escalera stepped into our gym in 2018, it was clear she brought something



Frankie Kajari Achievement Award recipients are (from left) Darcy Fukushima and Olivia Escalera.

special. With an energy as bright as her ever-present smile, she quickly became our resident "social butterfly," always connecting with her peers, lifting spirits, and bringing a contagious enthusiasm to every class.

But Olivia's true impact goes far beyond her positivity. She has grown into a trusted leader – someone with an uncanny ability to notice when others are struggling and to respond with kindness and encouragement. Coaches speak of her natural intuition, her emotional intelligence, and her ability to balance her light-hearted sass with genuine mentorship.

Olivia has proudly represented Sokol on multiple stages, including Sokol Fest in Buffalo, N.Y., and most recently competed with the Sokol USA National Volleyball Team at the American Sokol National Slet in Chicago. Her dreams of becoming a coach are already taking root through her leadership in the gym, and while she won't be attending instructor school

this summer, we have no doubt that her coaching journey is only just beginning.

With her joyful presence, sharp wit, and deep commitment to the Sokol values, Olivia is not just a gymnast – she is a force. We are honored to recognize her as a 2025 recipient of the Frankie Kajari Achievement Award.

Darcy Fukushima A Voice, A Leader, A Role Model

Our second award recipient, Darcy, joined our Sokol family in 2018 and returned in the spring of 2024 with a renewed purpose and presence that quickly caught everyone's attention. Though she was the oldest in her Tuesday class, she didn't just participate – she led, embracing the opportunity to be a mentor to younger athletes.

Her spark as a leader truly ignited during her time at the American Sokol Instructor School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. There, she made a lasting impression – (Continued on Page 4)

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SOKOLS AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

Do any fellow Sokols have pictures or memories from "Sokol Day" at the 1964-65 World's Fair in Queens, N.Y.? If so, the New York Hall of Science in Corona, N.Y., would love to have them! Sokol USA's own Sister Ellen Kovac was there and performed. The Hall of Science has a picture of her, would love to have more and, in general, learn more about our organization's participation.

If you like, you can send Brandi Kovac your written memories, anecdotes, or pictures at: BKKovac@aol.com and she will forward them to the museum. Or, if you'd like to communicate with them directly, here's their request:

Did you attend the 1964-65 World's Fair - or know someone who did? If so, we'd love to hear from you! We are eager to share photos, videos, and other memories from the fair so that we can look back and dream forward together! If you have something to share, send a note to info@nysci.org with the subject line "World's Fair Memories." Thank you in advance!

Judith Smith

March 5, 1945 ~ June 5, 2025

Judy Smith, 80, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2025. Judy was born on March 5, 1945, in West New York, N.J., to Harold and Rose Smith. One of six children, she was the fifth born child and youngest daughter of Harold and Rose. Judy will be remembered by all who knew her for her generosity, and as a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, friend, teacher, coach, and role model.

Judy was a lifelong advocate for physical education and a dedicated leader within the Sokol USA gymnastics organization. She began her lifelong journey with Sokol at the age of 7 when she joined the Sokol Lodge 26 in Guttenberg, N.J. She excelled as a gymnast from an early age.

Judy quickly embraced the Sokol philosophy of physical and moral development through gymnastics. Recognized for her potential and leadership, she was selected to attend the prestigious Sokol National Instructors' School.

As a graduate, Judy served with distinction, volunteering for over two decades in leadership roles at the Local Lodge, District Lodge, and Supreme Lodge levels. Her dedication and organizational talent led to various leadership elections, including lodge secretary, district treasurer, vice president, and president.

In 1978, Judy was elected Supreme Treasurer of Sokol USA at the XXVth Convention in Parsippany, N.J. She was the first woman to serve as Supreme Treasurer in the history of the Sokol organization – a position she held through 1986 after being re-elected at the XXVIth Convention in Pittsburgh. As a key figure in the district, Judy played an active role in nearly every Sokol gymnastics festival and competition in the New York metropolitan area and attended competitions across the country, including Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and New York, as well as international competitions in Europe.

Judy's lifelong service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Sokol principles left a lasting legacy in the organization



Judy Smith

she served so passionately. She will be remembered as a true Sokol pioneer, mentor, and role model to generations of gymnasts and leaders.

Judy was known to have high standards for her extended Smith and Sokol families, which only made us all better and stronger. She encouraged us, she cheered us on, she corrected us, when necessary, and most importantly she was proud of our accomplishments and was always there for us when things didn't work out as well as we had hoped.

In addition to her dedication to gymnastics, Judy was well known for her generous spirit, deep love for her family, passion for cooking, and her beloved beagles – Maffie, Snoopy, and Daisy.

Judy was predeceased by her parents; her sister Dolores, her brothers Harold, Donald, and Lawrence and his wife Joan and is survived by her brother David and his wife Maureen, as well as Donald's wife Inez. Judy will always be remembered as a loving aunt, great aunt, and great great aunt by her family, and honorary relative to so many in the Sokol gymnastics community.

A memorial service and mass to honor Judy's life was held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, 130 St. Maximilian Lane, Toms River, N.J., on Friday, June 13, 2025.

Though our hearts are heavy, we find comfort in the love Judy shared and the beautiful memories we hold dear. Judy will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Memories of Judy Smith

By Chris Natoli Yatchyshyn

On Friday, June 13, we said a final goodbye to our friend Judy. A lovely memorial service and mass was held at St. Maximilian Kolbe Church in Toms River, N.J. Besides many of her family and friends from the area, in attendance from Sokol USA were Treasurer Buddy Burkhardt, President of Guttenberg Sokol James Malik, Sports, Fitness and Wellness Director Todd Yatchyshyn and his daughter Alana, myself and my sister Lorraine Mayer who was also a former gymnast taught by Judy.

Judy was a dear friend, a teacher, a coach and a role model to so many of us in Guttenberg Sokol. She was a person you didn't forget because you wanted to be like Judy. She was always prepared and organized. She followed through on every task she accepted, and she always did it well. Sometimes she was tough with us but that only made us better and stronger. She encouraged us, she cheered us on, sternly corrected us when necessary, but most of all, she was there for us when things didn't work out as well as we had hoped.

She didn't have children of her own, but she was an exceptional aunt, great aunt and honorary relative to so many of us. In Sokol we refer to each other as brother and sister. I think in Judy's mind we were all her relatives, and she made each of us feel like part of the family.

Judy was kind, dependable, loyal, and very generous. As a coach, she never left any of us out, which meant she often covered our expenses when our families couldn't. She did this for many years. I never quite knew how there was enough money to cover the warm-up suit or the balance of a trip until I was an adult. I realized that she was making up the difference, when I witnessed her buying tickets or paying for meals for gymnasts who couldn't.

Judy would drive us to so many Sokol events – to exhibitions, meets, training sessions, meetings or all the way home from a Sokol School 300 miles away. Her actions always made us feel included and special. She did all this as a volunteer, dedicating so much time to providing such great experiences for so many young people.

Whether she was taking orders for our uniforms and gym slippers in the local gym or as the national treasurer of Sokol USA, she was very organized and efficient – and she would jump in whenever there was a crisis. Once, in the early days of computers, many of the competitors' scores had been entered into a new scoring program when the computer cord was accidentally stepped on and fell out of the electric socket. All the information was lost. Judy grabbed the score sheets, a calculator and ran up to her hotel room. She tallied the entire national competition by hand – probably as fast and accurate as any computer could have done back then.

It was Judy's initiative to hold the first Sokol children's competition on the national level. The first one was a great success, and today young children continue to make up a large segment of our national competitions.

Judy liked to cook. She would often tell me about recipes she would try. In particular, I remember her cooking lobsters and making thick pork chops Italian style.

Judy was considerate and kind to everyone she encountered. I recall her telling me about her tenants in Maywood. They had a little girl who Judy and Dolores treated as one of their own. When they were about to sell the house in Maywood, Judy was concerned about the tenants. She was worried about them finding another affordable apartment. At the repast, my sister and I had the privilege of sitting with the former tenants, who told us so many stories from during the 23 years they rented from Judy and her sister Dolores. We also met their daughter, now a mom of two, who remains close friends with one of Judy's great nieces.

We also shared memories with Judy's nephew Scott Smith who was another favorite of Judy's. He made all her final arrangements and spoke of her in the fondest way – even recalling trips to New York he would make with her to other Sokol gyms when he was a very young boy.

For those of us who called Judy our teacher and coach, I like to think that many of our best qualities were shaped in part by Judy. I hope she was proud of our best efforts and accomplishments, and I hope they continue to pay tribute to her.

Memories from another very close friend:

Judy brought her talents to the entire Sokol organization. She served as Supreme Treasurer for many years and Assistant Director for many more years. During this time, there was not a gymnastic festival or competitions without Judy working from start to finish to ensure its success. Judy was a one in a million person. I and many have lost a dear friend.

Nazdar, Rest in Peace.
Bea Walko

SOKOL FARRELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Sokol Farrell is accepting donations to the Scholarship Fund. Well over \$40,000 has been awarded to Sokol Farrell members.

Donations may be sent to: Sister Dorothy Slezak, Chairman, 6850 Seneca Road, Sharpsville, PA 16150. Checks may be made to "Sokol USA Farrell."

Please refer to the Sokol Farrell website for scholarship applications and instructions. We are located at <http://www.sokolfarrell.org/>.

Summer Finishes 2025

I'm always amazed how quickly the seasons go by and summer has been no exception. For one reason or another, that seems especially true this year. Maybe it's because of how busy the end of June and July were that the time just flew by. Congratulations to all our members who traveled to Chicago to represent Sokol USA at the ASO Slet. Also, special thanks to those at the following Instructors School hosted by our 306 Lodge.

The new "Get Outta Your Booth" event at Bethlehem went off without a hitch. Over 70 people attended and shared ideas and experiences over the last June weekend. Due to its success, the event will return next year. Kudos to our lodges that held Independence Day celebrations in conjunction with their communities including Leechburg and Danbury.

As many of you should know if you regularly read this article, I'm always promoting our scholarship benefits. In addition to the National Award, I want to acknowledge our lodges who give these to deserving youths in our area. Our Farrell Lodge awards the Annual Stephen Banjak Scholarship at its year end celebration. Likewise, Bridgeport Lodge sponsors up to two scholarships yearly. This year Leechburg gave out two scholarships as well. It is wonderful to see our lodges giving back with these awards which also help to promote Sokol USA in the communities.

Finally, I wish everyone to continue having a safe and enjoyable Summer and I hope to see you all at the next big event.

NAZDAR
Sister Nancy Shurina
Chair of Fraternal Activities



Savannah Andarsy and Chase Heney from Leechburg are the two recipients of a \$1,000.00 scholarship. With them is their guidance counselor Mrs. Linkes.

Sponsor a Gymnast

Are you interested in sponsoring a gymnast and getting updates on how the sponsored gymnast is progressing?

Reach out to Kristin Greenberg at kgreenberg.sokolusa@gmail.com to find out how you can become a part of this new sponsorship program.



Jakob Carl Kennedy

Jakob Carl Kennedy

September 29, 1999 – June 27, 2025

Jakob Carl Kennedy, 25, of North Charleston, S.C., passed away far too soon on June 27, 2025. Born on September 29, 1999, he was the beloved son of John and Stephanie Pasquale Kennedy.

Jakob had a deep love for the outdoors and spent much of his younger years hunting, fishing and swimming at the Sokol Club, and playing baseball. He found joy in nature and in the simple, meaningful moments shared with family and friends. His warmth, adventurous spirit, and big heart touched the lives of all who knew him.

He is survived by his parents; his cherished "Nana," Jean Heber of Summerville, S.C.; his son Jayce; his brothers, Brian Zolotorofe and Thomas Kennedy; his sister, Rebecca Zolotorofe; and his sister-in-law, Jennifer Zolotorofe. He is also survived by his grandparents, Donald and Paula Kennedy, and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins.

Jakob will be deeply missed by all who loved him. His memory will live on forever in their hearts.

Private services will be held in South Carolina, with burial next to his great-grandparents, Carl and Betty Kennedy.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jakob's memory may be made to: Sokol USA Slet Fund, P.O. Box 677, Boonton, NJ 07005-0677.

Results of Delegate Vote on Convention and Sokol Fest Merger

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In accordance with the directive of the Delegates from the XXXVI Convention, the submitted ballots have been officially counted, with a total of 100 votes received by the deadline of July 15, 2025.

Voting Results:

- **In Favor:** 69 votes
- **Opposed:** 31 votes

With a two-thirds majority vote in favor, it has been officially decided that the next Convention and Sokol Fest will be merged and held concurrently in 2027 in Detroit, Michigan.

Further details, including digital copies of all submitted ballots, will be shared with the National Board via email. A formal letter outlining additional information will also be mailed to all delegates.

We extend our sincere thanks for your participation, time, and thoughtful consideration regarding this important matter.

FRANKIE KAJARI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(Continued from Page 2)
not just with her skills, but with her commanding presence and passion for Sokol tradition. In fact, her booming voice during marching drills became legendary, echoing across the grounds and leaving no doubt that the future of Sokol leadership is in very good hands.

Darcy's return from Sokol School has only deepened her involvement. She's stepped up as an assistant coach in both boys' and girls' classes, and she brings warmth, reliability, and dedication to every role she takes on. Her journey mirrors that of many long-time Sokol leaders: growing up in the program, discovering a love for teaching, and stepping confidently into the role of mentor.

Though she took a year off from Instructor School this summer, we fully expect to see her back – louder, prouder, and more inspiring than ever.

Darcy's unwavering spirit, leadership, and heart make her a truly deserving recipient of the Frankie Kajari Achievement Award.

Celebrating the Spirit of Sokol

The Frankie Kajari Achievement Award is not just a celebration of individual excellence – it's a reflection of the very best of what our community stands for: resilience, kindness, leadership, and joy. Olivia and Darcy exemplify these values in every sense, and we are so proud to celebrate their accomplishments, their growth, and their bright futures ahead.

Congratulations to our 2025 recipients and thank you for carrying Frankie's legacy forward with such grace and heart.

QUESTIONS?

Do you have any official Sokol business and/or questions? Reach out to Brother John Kennedy at info@sokolusa.org.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED

To the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund

Sokol USA Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio \$127.50
In Memory of Deceased Members

Sokol USA Lodge 12 \$50.00
In Memory of Deceased Members

Sokol USA Lodge 15, Yonkers, N.Y. \$170.00
In Memory of Deceased Members

To the Sport, Fitness and Wellness Fund (Donations to the 2027 Slet Fund are included.)

John and Mary Kamenitsky \$100.00
In Memory of Jakob Kennedy

Robert and Maryellen Smith \$50.00
In Memory of Jakob Kennedy

Doris and Jack Tryansky \$100.00
In Memory of Jakob Kennedy

Sokol Lodge 26, Guttenburg, N.J. \$100.00
In Memory of Jakob Kennedy \$25.00
In Memory of Judy Smith, \$50.00
Former National Treasurer
In Memory of Stan Karoly \$25.00

Richard and Christine Yatchyshyn \$100.00
In Memory of Judy Smith, \$50.00
Former National Treasurer
In Memory of Jakob Kennedy \$50.00

From the Estate of Milan Kovac \$300.00
by Brandi and Lance Kovac
In Memory of Honey Trnka \$100.00
In Memory of Judy Smith, \$100.00
Former National Treasurer
In Memory of Stan Karoly \$100.00

Sokol USA Lodge 12 \$50.00
In Memory of Deceased Members

Sokol USA Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio \$106.25
In Memory of Deceased Members

Sokol USA Lodge 15, Yonkers, N.Y. \$170.00
In Memory of Deceased Members



SKILLS ASSESSMENT
– Sokol USA Chicago held their annual tots skills assessments. Gymnasts performed skills on each of the events and showcased what they had learned throughout the year.



WINNER'S CIRCLE – Table tennis medal ceremony, including Polish Falcons President Tim Kuzma and Sokol USA President Joe Bielecki, at the Polish Slet.

Sokol Poland Slet in Brodnica, Poland



Above at left, Sokol USA President Joe Bielecki (left) and Sokol Poland Damian Malecki. Above in center, a representative of the Polish Ministry of Culture who prepared the museum exhibition and Damian Malecki (right), President of Sokol Poland. Above at right, attendees of the Sokol Poland Slet in traditional uniforms.



Above at left and center show part of the opening ceremony of the Sokol Poland Slet in Brodnica, Poland. At right, Sokol Poland made a huge exhibit with posters, documents and photography at the Brodnica Museum, illustrating their Sokol history, as well as that of the Polish Falcons of America.



Photos at left show images from the Grand March at the opening ceremonies at the Sokol Poland Slet.

ASO Slet in Chicago



Above at left, attending the ASO Slet in Chicago were (from left) Joe Bielecki, Czech Sokol President Martin Chlumsky and John Kennedy. Above in center are Sokol USA participants at the ASO Slet. Above at right, COS from Prague sent a large number of participants to attend the ASO Slet in Chicago.



Photos above and ate left, COS participants from the Czech Republic performed a special number at the ASO Slet in Chicago.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

(Continued from Page 1)
seconds or less, in order to earn points. It was amazing to see the precision and speed in which the participants trained in this discipline were able to accomplish their task.

This was the first Sokol Poland Slet in about 15 years. Participants came from all regions of Poland. Many participants traveled by bus or car more than eight hours to reach Brodnica. There was a great spirit of camaraderie, people were friendly and gregarious, and many new friends were made among the attendees.

The contrast between the two Slets was interesting to observe, but they both show that the Sokol spirit remains adaptable and enduring.

Less than a day after I returned from Sokol Poland's Slet, I joined Brother John Kennedy and other Sokol USA members at the ASO Slet in Chicago. The ASO Slet was a much more traditional Sokol Slet, focusing on field exercises, tug-of-war, and mass rhythmic gymnastic performances. In addition, there were individual events such as pickleball, fitness challenge, floor exercises, balance beam, basketball, and a variety of other sports. Martin Chlumsky, the COS President from Prague, brought 200 COS members, who performed a mass scale choreographed number at the conclusion of the ASO Slet. This was a fascinating event to see. The contrast between the two Slets was interesting to observe, but they both show that the Sokol spirit remains adaptable and enduring, bringing a variety of new sports and events to each of the Slets, as well as showcasing traditional Sokol rhythmic gymnastics and mass calisthenics.

Brother Kennedy and I promoted our upcoming Sokol USA Slet, scheduled



CHICAGO
COMPETITION – Sokol USA Chicago Lodge 306 held their annual in-house competition in June. There were three boys' competitors, seven bronze competitors, and six silver competitors. We are so proud of all the gymnasts that participated and showed off their hard work.

for 2027, and it is our hope that will be well attended and enjoyed by all.

While the temperature in Poland was temperate and comfortable, the weather at the Chicago Slet was very hot and humid. It served as a reminder to keep moving and keep hydrated! In this hot summer weather, it is

important to drink water regularly, seek shade between events, sport a light hat when the sun is at its peak, and pace yourself. Don't forget your water bottle!

Nazdar!
Joe Bielecki
President, Sokol USA

WEBSITE REDESIGN UNDERWAY

Sokol USA is working with Lab Media, redesigning our website! The new website design will be a user-friendly comprehensive site to better fit the needs of our lodges and Sokol USA together.

We are looking for high resolution images of your lodge members and functions. Please include the lodge name and names of individuals in the photos.

New images can be emailed to SOKOL USA trustee John Kennedy at kennedy1073@gmail.com



At left, Sokol USA Chicago Lodge 306 women won second place in the gymnastics tag team event at the Chicago Slet. The team included Natalie Smith, Thalassa Millwood and Kristin Greenberg. At right, Natalie Smith and Kristin Greenberg from Sokol USA Chicago placed in the top third of the Women's Bronze division for 35 to 49 year olds at the Chicago Slet.



One of the most popular events at the Sokol Poland Slet was table tennis. There were so many participants that all of the tables were in play for almost an entire day.



At left is the medal ceremony for the Fit Kid competition. At center is the Fit Kid competition. At right is the medal ceremony for the table tennis competition. These are all from the Polish Slet.



At left, ASO Slet participants with Joe Bielecki (second from right) Martin Chlumsky (right) at the Chicago Slet. At right, from left, Joe Bielecki, Sokol USA; Thalassa Millwood, Sokol USA; ASO visitor, and John Kennedy, Sokol USA at the Chicago Slet. Below from left are photos of the field hockey, walking soccer, AK-47 assembly contest and hand grenade throwing contest at the Polish Slet.





Grand March of the Sokols at the Chicago Slet.



Children's calisthenics routine at the Chicago Slet.



Rockova Symfonie Calesthenics at the Chicago Slet.



At left are American Sokol honorees and award winners. Above are Lodge 103 boy's gymnasts Gabriel Ruof, Ryan Goda and Mason Ruof.

XXV American Sokol Slet

(Continued from Page 12) included a tots' cal, children's cal, junior/senior cal, folk dances, a relay race and Tug of War. The Slet performance was followed by a Celebration Dance at Compass Arena.

Sunday concluded the Slet activities with a 9-hole golf outing at Twin Lakes Golf Club and Farwell Social at a well-known Sokol watering hole, The Fill Up Station in Berwyn.

Congratulations to all the competitors, participants, and volunteers who made this gathering so special. The efforts of American Sokol to select high quality facilities in convenient locations was noticed and appreciated by all! Sokol USA can only hope to replicate their efforts in Michigan in 2027!

Nazdar!
Todd & Heidi Yatchyshyn
Sports, Fitness, and
Wellness Co-Directors



Sokol members from abroad performed calisthenics routines in Chicago.



The all Sokol performance



Above at left, Reyna Reynolds won first place in the Xcel Bronze 7- to 8-year-old division. Above at right, Logan and Cathy enjoying the bouncy house at the celebration social event Friday Saturday evening.

XXV American Sokol Slet was a success!

Congratulations to American Sokol on hosting the XXV American Sokol Slet in Chicago! At the first state-side Slet in six years, the American Sokol Board of Instructors, Slet Committee, and many dedicated volunteers presented a truly spectacular five-day event from Wednesday, June 25 to Saturday, June 29.

The event kicked-off at Hinsdale South High School (HSHS) Stadium with a Family Fun Run/Walk, DJ, food trucks, inflatables, yard games and catching up with brother and sister Sokols. The fraternal bonds of friendship are never weakened by time passed, but it was obvious that this gathering meant more to many. The hugs squeezed a little tighter and held on a little longer.

Thursday featured the volleyball tournament at TPS Sports and fitness. The facility was top notch and featured a tavern for gathering after the tournament. Congratulations to the Sokol USA women from Lodge 306 who captured a third-place finish.

Women's Tournament Results

1st Place: Sokol Spirit
2nd Place: Sokol Greater Cleveland
3rd Place: Sokol USA Lodge 306

Men's Tournament Results

1st Place: Sokol Tabor
2nd Place: Sokol Greater Cleveland
3rd Place: Sokol Spirit

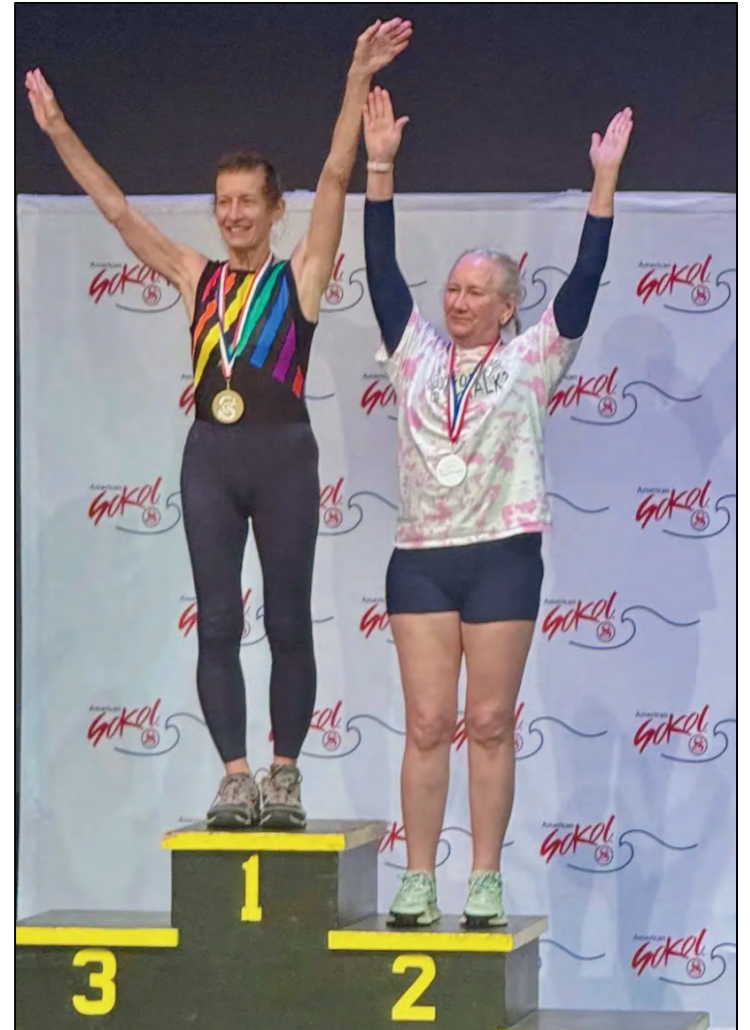
Also on Thursday was a youth event, brewery tour, banquet and a one-man multi-media show titled "The Accidental Hero" that highlighted the adventure of a World War II American officer who miraculously liberates the Czech villages of his grandparents. The youth event was held at the Wintrust Sports complex and offered laser tag, an arcade, basketball, badminton, futsal, pizza, and snacks. The banquet held at the Crowne Plaza hotel featured a polka band, plated meal, a silent auction and celebration of achievements of honorees.



The women's volleyball team from Sokol USA Lodge 306 finished in second place.

The Gymnastics Competition was held on Friday at HSHS featuring two sessions of men's and women's gymnastics with 20 Sokol USA members participating. Liliani Young, Brooklynn Redmond and Joanna Totin. Your hard work and excellence in the competition makes all of us very proud of your accomplishments!

Friday's activities also included the first ever National Pickleball Tournament, the Fitness Challenge, and a Chicago Style Social held at Sokol Spirit that included a Silent Disco, live music, Italian beef, hot dogs, and more.



A champion once again, Ellen Kovac celebrates her gold medal in the Women's Garnet Division.

Saturday's Slet Sokols Calisthenics of 300 participants, written by American Sokol President, Adam Wilt and his sister Alix Fron. Other performances from abroad performing calisthenics from the COS Prague Slet and an All-

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At left, Thalasa Millwood (left) and her favorite cheese curd bandits Reyna Reynolds and Alana Yatchyshyn. At right, Fraternal Secretary John Kennedy leads the Sokol USA contingent on the Brew Tour.