

MINUTES OF THE  
AMERICAN SOKOL  
2012 DISTRICT DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE  
Club House Inn, Westmont, Illinois  
OCTOBER 19, 2012

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m. on October 19, 2012, by National Director Sis. Maryann Fiordelis.

All District Directors, American Sokol Board of Instructor members and guests were requested to rise and introduce themselves. A sign-in sheet was passed around. Cell phones should be turned off or set on vibrate during today's meeting.

**PRESENT:**

Sis. Maryann Fiordelis, Detroit/Northeastern,  
ASO Physical Director  
Bro. Bob Kucera, Naperville-Tyrs/Central, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Assistant ASO Men's Director, Men's District  
Director  
Bro. Chuck Kalat, KHB/Southern, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant  
ASO Men's Director  
Sis. Allison Gerber, Cedar Rapids/Western, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Assistant ASO Women's Director  
Sis. Jan Kalat, KHB/Southern, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant ASO  
Women's Director  
Sis. Bev Domzalski, Chicagoland/Central, ASO-  
BOI recording secretary  
Sis. Kathy Barcal, Spirit/Central, Women's  
District Director  
Sis. Barb Vondra, Stickney/Central, representing  
Southern District Women's Director  
Sis. Juanita LoGiudice, Tabor/Central, ASO BOI  
Office Secretary  
Bro. Rome Milan, Fort Worth/Southern, Men's  
District Director  
Sis. Theresa Vernon, Western District Men's &  
Women's Director

Sis. Jane Wise, Greater Cleveland/Northeastern,  
ASO-BOI  
Bro. Howie Wise, Gr. Cleveland/Northeastern,  
Men's District Director  
Sis. Mary Cushing, Detroit/Northeastern,  
Women's District Director  
Sis. Donna Sbriglia, New York/Eastern,  
Women's District Director  
Bro. Todd Yatchyshyn, Sokol USA, Director of  
Men  
Sis. Chris Yatchyshyn, Sokol USA, Director of  
Women  
Sis. EllenJeanne Schnabl, Spirit/Central, ASO  
Educational Director  
Sis. Wendy Malysak, Sokol Canada, Director of  
Women  
Sis. Anna Janous, Sokol Canada, President  
Bro. Robert Tmej, Sokol Canada, Director of  
Men  
Sis Svatka Hermanek, Sokol Canada, Sokol  
Toronto Director of Women  
Bro. Richard Yatchyshyn, Sokol USA, guest  
Sis. Irene Mergl, New York/Eastern, guest  
Bro. Paul Lebloch, Spirit/Central, ASO-BOI

**VOTING RIGHTS**

- Each District Director has one vote, 1st and 2nd ASO BOI Assistants each have one vote, and the National Director has one vote and will break a tie. Sis. D. Sbriglia and Sis. T. Vernon each have two votes for their Districts. Bro. B. Kucera has two votes, one as Central District Men's Director and one as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant to ASO BOI Director. Sis. L. Laznovsky gave proxy to Sis. B. Vondra as Southern District Women's Director. Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussions, present opinions and suggestions even though they have no voting power. Motions are restricted to those who have voting rights.

**General Conference Plans**

- Copies of National and District Director Reports and Committee Reports were posted on the ASO BOI web site for conferees to review prior to the Conference. Agenda was presented and will be followed.

- Vouchers were distributed and need to be returned at the end of the conference.
- For the Development Conference on Saturday, registration begins at 7:30 a.m., orientation at 8:00 a.m. and sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. All Saturday sessions will be held at Sokol Spirit; lunch and dinner will be served there and a social will be held afterwards. The Sunday sessions will be held at Sokol Tabor and lunch will be served. Those staying at the Club House Inn have received information at the hotel. Session schedules will be given at registration on Saturday morning.
- Everyone assigned to a task for the weekend is expected to be responsible for that job. Development Conference sessions were briefly summarized.

## 2013 SPORTS FESTIVAL

### Volunteers

- Still looking to fill volunteer jobs for 2013 Sports Festival.
  - Sis. Fiordelis named the vacant jobs and the responsibilities of those positions. If the vacant positions are not filled, Sis. Fiordelis will appoint a volunteer.
  - Sis. Fiordelis reviewed the current American Sokol Slet 2013 Action List.
  - Discussion followed regarding gymnastics scoring/flash scoring. Electronic score flashers could be supplied by the equipment rental company.
- MOTION made by Bro. R. Milan to use electronic score flashing at the gymnastics competition during the 2013 Sports Festival, seconded by Sis. M. Cushing and passed.
- Bro. R. Milan, Bro. H. Wise, Bro. B. Kucera and Bro. C. Kalat will investigate costs, etc. for electronic score flashing systems for use at the Sports Festival.

At 3:40 p.m. a break was taken; meeting resumed at 3:50 p.m..

### Tournament Rules Changes

- Discussion followed regarding the changes/updates to the Sokol tournament rules to accommodate the 2013 Sports Festival. These changes are posted on the web site.
- The biggest change was to make the Sports Festival a little more open to the public.
- Changes made included:
  - The word Slet is replaced with the words Sports Festival throughout.
  - Awards distribution mainly affects the lower number of competitors. This will allow for a few more awards to be given out. The same distribution goes for teams.
  - On the gymnastics side, the amount of people on a team changed. There will be a minimum of 3 people on a team, but the maximum can be as many as you want. The top three (3) scores on the team will count for each apparatus event.
  - A competition option for adult women's uniform allows women to wear form fitting shorts over a leotard.
  - The general rules of conduct were revised and condensed making them more generic as opposed to being specific to Sokol.
  - Warm-ups clothing can be team colors; any combination red, white and blue will be kept for Sokol competitors with no logo on clothing. Guest organizations can be in any other colors.
- The final approved version of the tournament rules is marked as approved on 9/1/2012.

- One additional change discussed was the Women's masters routines. Masters is a routine, not an age group; however, there are three age groups that are allowed to compete masters routines. There is no Master I or Masters II and should be removed.

## NATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Programs vs. Resources

- The current updated Program Coordinator chart dated 10/2012 was sent out via e-mail along with BOI Directors Conference Agenda. Sis. Gerber explained the chart set-up. Any changes or suggestions to this chart should be sent directly to Sis. Gerber.
- The chart needs to be finalized and posted on the web for people to utilize this information.
- There are 14 criteria that make up a program and the coordinator needs to report and promote that program.

### Increasing Membership Through Programs

- Discussion was held to determine what the National BOI can do to increase membership through these programs.
- It was suggested that there needs to be more promotion of these programs from the national to the units. The Sokol publications does promote these programs; however, there needs to be some follow-up especially some personal contact from district directors to get units to continue to use these programs.

### How do we challenge Units to partake in the programs that we currently offer?

- Sis. Fiordelis asked Sis. Gerber to re-send the survey that was sent out earlier this year to all the district directors to give to the unit directors to find out if these programs are being utilized. A deadline should be set for return of these surveys. The district directors will be responsible for this survey being sent out and returned.

## WORLD SOKOL FEDERATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

### American Sokol Fitness Challenge

- Sis. Jane Wise reported on the program details for the 2012-2013 challenge. MOTION made by Sis. A. Gerber to approve the Fitness Challenge program for the 2012-2013 season as reported by Sis. J. Wise, seconded by Sis. K. Barcal and passed.

### WSF Show Competition

- Discussed Lynette Gilbert's involvement in making CD and DVDs on behalf of American Sokol. Lynette does not get paid for copies she makes for Sokol. She has received some equipment as remuneration from American Sokol and she has gotten paid for certain projects. There is miscellaneous money in budget to be used for Lynette's work. MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat for the BOI to look into remuneration for Lynette, seconded by Sis. K. Barcal and passed.
- Bro. Kalat offered to lead this effort and he will report back to the BOI by the next BOI meeting in November.

## SKILLS

- There are no awards for skills for Masters division. It was felt the participation ribbon is sufficient.
- Discussed ranking each skill. One hundred (100%) percent achievement is needed in order to pass a skill level and get an award.

MOTION made by Bro. C. Kalat to stick with the old method for the Skills cards, seconded by Sis. K. Barcal and passed.

- Bro. Bob Kucera and Sis. Allison Gerber will make sure cards say what has been agreed on and give a copy of the correct skill cards to Bro. Pajer to post on the web site.

At this time (5:30 p.m.), a break was taken for dinner. The meeting will resume during dinner.

- The meeting resumed at 6:00 p.m. during dinner with Sis. Anna Janous speaking about the World Sokol Federation. If there is something American Sokol needs from the WSF, American Sokol should let Sis. Janous know and she will work with American Sokol and WSF.

- Sis. Fiordelis will work with Sis. Janous in her communications with the WSF.

- Sis. Fiordelis asked the BOI to brainstorm on ways for American Sokol to collaborate with WSF.

- At one time, American Sokol offered our camp program to COS; American Sokol would like to again encourage them to join the American Sokol camp.

- Sis. Janous noted that besides the COS, other countries belong to the WSF, i.e. Slovakia, Poland, Serbia and Slovenia (which will be celebrating 100 years next year).

- American Sokol has a problem translating Czech calisthenics to English.

- American Sokol has participated in COS Show Competitions; however, COS deadline is April 1 and it is difficult for American Sokol to meet that deadline every year as it does not coincide with American Sokol program timeline.

- Sis. Janous is going to take back to COS all of the suggestions just made concerning the American Sokol working with the COS.

### INSTRUCTOR BASE

- To ensure that we have quality instructors, the following suggestions were made:

- Send instructor school to units and vice versa.
- Use the students after national instructors school.

- Discussion followed regarding gym prices, instructor hiring and evaluating teaching skills. - -

- Also discussed what to do to reward instructors for doing a good job.

- Goals were discussed. Possibly change the word goals to something else to make it appeal to the BOI.

- It was noted that incentives as a reward should be given to instructors; one idea would be to send someone to a gymnastics congress to learn more. Many different organizations offer gymnastics instruction, lectures, etc. USA Gymnastics has a lot of information online to learn from.

### BOI DRIVEN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

- There is \$3,000 in the FSLF budget to start a BOI Leadership Development program. Sis. Fiordelis asked for ideas for this program. The following prompted various discussions associated with leadership development:

- Instructors in training at course.
- Send someone to a Congress.
- Traveling instructor.
- Patti Komara training videos'
- Program about nutrition

- Sis. Fiordelis requested that the BOI think about leadership development and choose topics for discussion in the future.

At 7:05 p.m. a break was taken to take pictures of the BOI. Meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

### COMMUNICATING

- Several comments were made on what a unit's most effective form of communication is; i.e. newsletters, notes to post on refrigerator, internet communication.
- BOI communications are effective through meetings. Conference calls are difficult at times because conversations can be lost talking over other people on the call. All district directors need to be on ASO BOI teleconference meeting calls so that Sis. Fiordelis knows they are getting information that needs to be passed down to their units.
- Unit directors need to feel comfortable in going to a District Director to get any information they are looking for.

### 150 MEMORIES

- Sis. B. Vondra thanked Jean Hruby and Lynette Gilbert for their assistance in putting the 150 Memories DVD together.
- Total donations were \$7,672.00. There was \$2,663.63 for expenses, i.e. printing, mailing, copying DVD, etc. The total profit was \$5,008.37. \$3,000.00 was donated to the BOI. There will be 150 Memories DVDs available for purchase tomorrow at \$30.00 each.

### PROBORTUNITY

- Sis. B. Vondra presented a new concept called "virtual race." A week would be chosen to walk, run, bike ride, etc. anywhere in the country during that time. After the race, on your honor, you put your race time in. Pictures are uploaded to Flickr with results posted. This would be a race used as a fundraiser. Money would be donated to American Sokol; however, a cause is needed for this race. Many other ideas were shared in conjunction with this idea.
- Fundraisers should tap into people outside of Sokol for donations. Unfortunately, many fundraising programs are geared toward the Sokol membership.

### SOKOL USA

- Sokol USA may hold their next National Slet in Hershey PA.
- Sokol USA is not sure of its future with the insurance programs associated with them. It was suggested that American Sokol send a letter to the upcoming Sokol USA convention that American Sokol would be interested in merging with Sokol USA.
- Several questions were asked and discussion followed concerning the possible problems with merging.

### SOKOL CANADA

- Winter games are held during the last weekend in February with cross country and downhill skiing, snowboarding, etc. This event is held at Horseshoe Valley about 1 hour north of Toronto.
- Summer games will be held August 10, which includes swimming, cross country running, barbecue with lots of beer and camping.
- Bro. Kalat requested written information to place in the Directors Newsletter regarding these activities.

- Sokol Toronto has about 120 members. It rents a gym on a regular basis. Sokol Toronto is the only Sokol unit in Canada that does gymnastics.
- Many Sokols in Canada are not active and have lost the Sokol spirit.
- Sokol Toronto is active; it is located in a Czech and Slovak community. There are several events going on during the year for children and adults. There are many fundraisers for Sokol.
- Sokol Canada is considering holding a mini Slet at Masaryk Town. There would be no competitions, but there would be beach volleyball, soccer, golf and calisthenics.

## ANNUAL OFFICER, DISTRICT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Questions/Clarifications on Reports

- All reports were posted on the BOI web site for review prior to this meeting.

Questions/comments only were allowed for each of these reports.

### Central District

- No discussion.

### Northeastern District

- No discussion.

### Southern District

- No discussion.

### Western District

- No discussion.

### Eastern District

- No discussion.

### Pacific District

- No report received.

### National School Board Report

- No discussion.

### Instructors School Report

- No discussion.

### Attendance Report

- This report is in a new format. This format was acceptable and there was no further discussion.

### District Directors Newsletter

- Donations are accepted. Sokol New York did give a donation.

### Gymnastics Skills Report

- No discussion

### BOI Strategy Report

- American Sokol BOI is always trying to make Sokol better; the plan is out there.

### Uniform Report

- No discussion.

### Educational Directors Report

- No discussion.

### Walking Challenge

- How can we get more participation? It was suggested to pitch this program to individuals rather than have units organize this challenge.
- BOI is not sure units are telling their members about this program.

- A new challenge idea was discussed. It would be a walk to Milwaukee. Each unit would do a portion of those miles and add up miles. Goal would be to get to Milwaukee by June 25, 2013. This idea would need to be worked out and finalized to present to American Sokol.

#### Wheels Program

- No discussion.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### ASO BOI Budget

- Bro. Kalat reviewed the budget and future forecast.  
- The executive board reviewed the proposal for the FSLF and approved the budgeted expenses of the BOI.

##### Unfinished and postponed agenda items

- No discussion.

##### Calendar of Upcoming Activities

###### Central District

- Boys gymnastic competition level 3+ and skills testing will be held in December; the following weekend is the Girls Rhythmic meet.  
- GIJO meet is in February; then there will be a marching and calisthenics competition at Lodge 306. (when?)  
- In April the Special Number Competition is held.  
- In May, there will be an awards event in lieu of a Sokol Day since Sports Fes is in Central District this year. It will be held at Sokol Spirit.  
- In November, Women's volleyball will be held.

###### Eastern District

- On April 20, United Sokols of the East for DA USA and ASO.  
- In January there is a calisthenics clinic.  
- Other events include a pancake breakfast, pasta dinner, game night and volleyball tournament hosted by Sokol New York.  
- Sokol Baltimore is not active at this time. It has no gym space.  
- Every year Sokol Little Ferry holds a Halloween event.

###### Northeastern District

- Sokol Greater Cleveland's exhibition will be on February 23, 2013.  
- In June is the Summer exhibition and Competitions are on May 18, 2013.  
- Sokol Detroit will hold its annual hayride in October.  
- On January 31, the winter exhibition will take place.

###### Southern District

- In 3 weeks, the fall BOI meeting will be held.  
- There are a lot of individual unit social events planned.  
- The Annual Meeting will be held in Corpus Christi.  
- Will be in attendance at the National Polka Festival.  
- The Slet will be held at Sokol West.  
- Sokol West has a big festival around Labor Day.  
- At the State Fair in October Southern District will have an exhibition.

###### Western District

- There will be a skills clinic on November 3, 2012 at Sokol South Omaha.  
- The semi-annual meeting will take place in March.

- The April District Meeting will be at Sokol South Omaha.

National Events

- In April, a GIJO meet will be held in conjunction with Central District.

- Sports Festival will beheld June 25-30, 2013 in Milwaukee, WI.

- There will be a Sokol booth at the Winter Fest in Milwaukee at the State Fairgrounds on December 27-30, 2012. The Wheels program will be performing.

- Bro. Rome Milan is collecting Indian Clubs and requested that any units who may have a pair contact him.

- The next ASO BOI conference will be held at convention time, unless money is raised to hold another conference in October 2013.

This meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly R. Domzalski, BOI Recording Secretary