



american sokol publication

November/December 2018 | Volume 141 | Issue 7



Members from the Chicago area participated in the O'Hare Plane Pull fundraiser for Special Olympics of Illinois on September 22, 2018. The Central District Team raised \$1,870 and pulled a full-sized plane 12 feet in 11.37 seconds. The CD Team ranked 16th among 98 teams for monies raised. See pg. 4 and a story here:

https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20180922/something-i-have-to-do-3000-join-ohare-plane-pull-to-benefit-special-olympics?fbclid=IwAR17hNHAGVCHVbAYCZuYDHhjWB65ij_Xir-8wwRWpZ9h9q-k2Uhf3USIAE

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From the Editor...

The holiday season has officially begun! We wish you all a gloriously memorable time with friends and family.

The 2021 National Sokol Slet will take place in the Chicagoland area. Planning is already underway - but before that, the coming year belongs to Sokol USA with their Sokolfest in Buffalo, NY this summer. Hope to see you June 26-29, 2019! *Niagara is waiting...*

#OneSokol

NAZDAR!



**PLEASE SUBMIT EVENT
INFORMATION AT LEAST TWO
MONTHS PRIOR TO THE EVENT**

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The Presidential Address

The Sokol Eye – Sokolským Okem

It has been a long two months and I have so much to share with you! Since our last publication this *Sokol Eye* has been busy experiencing Sokol life, events and spending wonderful hours with our members and friends. There are several things I enjoy the most serving as your President: Spending time with all of you learning about your Units, talking with you and sharing your stories with others, and representing American Sokol, and now World Sokol, helping to keep Sokol moving forward for another 150 years.

Moravian Day and a Special Sokol Leader...unexpected visit.

In September, at the Moravian Day Weekend in the Chicago area a United Moravian Society member, who told me that he “knew” me, but maybe I didn’t know him, approached me. He said I would understand tomorrow at the main event. Sunday of Moravian Day is full of colorful costumes (Kroj), Czech/Slovak singing and folklore, food and also, unexpected meet-ups. The surprise I had on Sunday was when this nice man showed up with his mother, Sylvia Pistorius. Upon walking into the event I approached Sylvia and introduced myself along with Sister Vera Hibler (SGC). Sylvia was overcome with emotion and was happy to see us. We spoke for a while but the best story came out of our meeting and Sylvia agreed to have me share it with you.

Sylvia’s Story: “I was so proud to have prepared and been able to perform at the Slet in Prague after the wall had come down. This was going to be an amazing Slet for all of us. But, when we got there, the Czech Sokol Organization leaders asked for volunteers to give up their spots on the field. Why? Because this would be the first time they would be able to perform in a Sokol Slet in 40 years!!!! Now, I knew that I had been performing in official Sokol Slets in America during this entire time...” What did Sylvia do? Why, of course, Sylvia gave up her spot and watched from the sidelines. Sylvia told this story and was emotional, tearful, but very proud that she was one of the people who gave a Czech Sokol a chance to be a Sokol again. This was a story that I have never heard and after hearing it, I knew that Sylvia’s story was one to share.

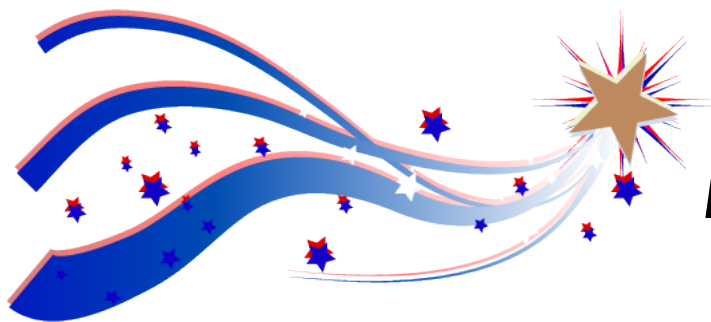
This wasn’t the end of the amazing experience. As Sylvia was in line to get her food, Sister Joan Sedlacek (MN) stood behind her patiently waiting to be noticed. When Sylvia turned around there was silence, a pause, time to recognize, and then Sylvia bursts out with joy, “Joanie Sedlacek”! The hugs and tears didn’t stop. Sylvia Pistorius had served many years on the National American Sokol Boards and this was the first time we have seen her in many years. Sylvia resides in Florida and still teaches exercise classes locally – “the Sokol way” as she stated. We were so happy to have an encounter with her and that it simply brought back the reasons we remain loyal to this organization. Thank you Sylvia for coming to Moravian Day this year. It was a great Sokol experience to meet you in person.

Chicago



Since then, we have all been participating in events that honor the 100th Anniversary of the first Czechoslovakia Centennial. The Consulate General in Chicago hosted events over two weeks including a Gala where I received the Medal of Honor from the Czech Republic for American Sokol’s contributions to the formation of a country. Other events included an evening with famous rock musicians performing at our own Sokol Tabor, a night with the Czech Philharmonic performing at Orchestra Hall, Swing Music at the Midwest Club, and so on. One lovely event was held at the University of Chicago. American Sokol donated money, along with other Czech organizations, to plant Lipa (Linden) trees around the Tomas Garrigue Masaryk Memorial at the University of Chicago, erected in 1949 and created by Albin Polasek. Did you know that the University of Chicago football team is called the “Blanik Mountain Knights?” It is still awe-inspiring that our TGM still holds the Czech influence at the University of Chicago. I attended the tree-planting ceremony along with the incredible students of the TG Masaryk School and the visiting students from the Prague High School, Gymnasium and Aleji. Students

continued on page 9



RISING STAR

MATTHEW CARLOZZI

submitted by Howie Maskill
Sokol Spirit President



Matthew Carlozzi is a rising star for American Sokol. He joined Sokol as a Junior Boy when a friend invited him to try a class at Sokol Greater Cleveland and has been a true Sokol ever since! He has attended National Instructor Schools and participated in every Slet since he joined Sokol including trips to Prague in 2006, 2012 and 2018. Matt's collegiate years brought him to Chicago where he attended Loyola University. There he found a new home as a member of Sokol Stickney.

Matt served as a National Camp counselor starting in 2002. He was an integral part of the camp staff for eight years. This is where he found a passion for engaging our Sokol youth and decided to do more to support future camps. In 2009 Matt and three other Sokols rode their bikes over 1,100 miles from Chicago, IL to Ft. Worth, TX to celebrate the American Sokol International Sport and Cultural Festival. As part of that trek, they also started down the path toward another goal. They rode to raise money to fund an American Sokol National Leadership Camp. The goal of this camp is to maintain year-round programming for the communities that surround it, all the while maintaining the Sokol ideals. The following year, Matt organized 20 Sokols to participate in the world's largest annual Triathlon in Chicago. In 2017 he recruited 14 Sokols to ride their bikes together from Chicago to Cedar Rapids, IA for the Slet. These three ventures have raised over \$21,000 for a future National Leadership Camp. There are rumors of a bike ride next

summer to Buffalo, NY for the 2019 Sokol USA Sokolfest, so don't be surprised if you see Matt on a bike in the very near future.

Matt serves his Unit, the Central District, and American Sokol in many ways. In 2017 he was on the Winter Slet planning committee. He is a current member of the National BOI and a very active 2nd Vice President of the Central District. He also serves as Unit 1st Vice President and Treasurer at Sokol Stickney. He will also be very involved in the upcoming 2021 American Sokol Slet as committee Vice Chairman. In 2016 Matt graduated from Chicago State University with a doctorate in pharmacy. Matt is regularly sought out to help Sokol and while working towards his degree he often said, "I'll do more for Sokol after I graduate". It is safe to say he stuck to that promise.

Thank you, Matt for your dedication to Sokol. Na zdar!



The Sokol Educator

from The National Education Committee

Brotherhood Flag speech

Translated by Emily Polacek, source unknown

2nd Sokol Slet 6-16-29

Soldier Field, Chicago, IL

*The history of Stahy
no Propory Flag*

Brother Vice Regent:

The president of the Czechoslovak Sokol Organization of Prague bestowed upon me the utmost honor. I'm to present to you, the representatives of the American Sokol Organization, this flag. Our whole Sokol family, to be sure, even all of the Czechoslovak people send their heartfelt greetings. They agreed that it would be an unmistakable sign for this assemblage of men and women, who feel such ardor for our Sokol cause, for this not be to a faithful indication of this place where there is an inseparable bond. Would that the donor was given a sign of the morality and ideals of our American Sokol branch.

The red color of the flag brings to mind the combined bloodshed by our Sokols and countrymen. The blood shed in the last days of battle for our freedom and independence. The Slovak blue, then, reminds us that their azure sky holds together what the ocean between us cannot part. The motto on the flag "Two Sokol Organizations - One Brotherhood" which will always remain truthful. With our good wishes that you will work to further the ideals which Sokol flag stands for. We raise this flag to your celebrated star-spangled flag, a symbol of your new homeland, the democratic North America. Nazdar!"

After Dr. Krovak's speech, the orchestra played the Czechoslovak hymns, "Where is My Home" and "Lightning Above the Tatry" whereupon Dr. Vlach accepted the flag on behalf of the American Sokol Organization, the flag of our country that was the cradle of our very existence. Dr. Vlach vowed that this flag would be carefully handled and protected. He then gave Dr. Krovak an American flag to show our love and devotion to the Sokol cause and ended his speech with a rousing "Nazdar!"



The Sokol Flag taken to Prague this summer.

COMING SOON!
National Merit Award Info

Submitted by Sue Bares, National Educational Director



Rome Milan Receives Pride of Texas Award



On September 1st, Rome Milan of Sokol Ft. Worth, TX, received the 2018 Pride of Texas Award. The Pride of Texas Award is presented to the person(s) who has worked for the past several years serving and supporting the Gymnastics Association of Texas (GAT) community. The following is why Bro. Milan was given such an honor.

American Sokol Southern District Director of Men since 1985, Rome was born as a fourth-generation lifetime Sokol member. Together, both Rome's father and uncle began the high school program in Texas, the Gymnastics Association of Texas, and Texas Gymnastics Judging Association. As a young Sokol gymnast, he competed in Sokol competitions, AAU area meets and was a demonstrator for many coaching clinics, workshops, and Instructors schools. As a gymnastics competitor at Trinity High School, Rome qualified for finals in three events his junior and senior years. Rome went on to the University of Texas at Austin like his father and uncle, where he was team captain. Rome was first certified as a State Gymnastics Judge in 1976. Rome received National Judging certification in 1977 and International Brevet

certification in 1985. He worked as USGF staff member as assistant to Events Program Director in 1981-83.

Rome graduated from UT with a BS in Education in 1982, and began coaching gymnastics for Weatherford High School in Weatherford, TX, then at Boswell High School from 1989-2000. Texas has the largest high school gymnastics program in the USA. Rome's high school teams qualified for State Championships 14 of 18 years with three third place finishes, two second place, and one Texas State Championship.

He was a Gymnastics Training Site Director at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games, USGF Videographer at 1988 Olympic Games for Team USA, and Staff at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics Games. Rome volunteered for several international competitions including the 1979 World Gymnastics Championships, held in Fort Worth, Texas and worked as a coordinator and Floor Manager at several other international Gymnastics Competitions, including 1987 Pan Am Games, 1990 Good Weill Games, and the 1991 World Championships. Rome served as president twice and sat on the Gymnastics Association of Texas board from 1992-2004. Rome is honored as a Life Member of both the Texas High School Gymnastics Coaches Association and the Gymnastics Association of Texas. Currently, Rome serves on the USA Gymnastics Advisory Council and had served in the 21 member Board of Directors with USA Gymnastics until 2018. Rome retired from coaching in 2000 to attend the Sydney Olympic Games in Australia.

After a 10-year stint as a professional impressionist artist, Rome was requested to return to coaching to help resurrect a faltering Public School District gymnastics program. Rome coached at the Birdville I.S.D. High School gymnastics teams as well as the Birdville ISD Middle School teams for the last 8.5 years until his diagnosis of ALS. Rome is a collector of Olympic, gymnastics, and Sokol memorabilia. Today his collection includes authentic Sokol and Olympic pins, posters, medals, flags, Olympic torches, uniforms, and even vintage gymnastics apparatus. Rome first began presenting their artifacts on display in 1997. His displays have been viewed by thousands across the country. They are a highlight at the National Gymnastics Coaches Congress and has been a fixture at the National Championships for the last 10 years. Rome is determined to salvage, save and share the spirit of gymnastics, Sokol and Olympic History to all around him. Rome is on the Texas High School Hall of Fame Committee, the Sokol Awards Committee and the Sokol Museum and Library Committee.

50th Anniversary of THE PRAGUE SPRING and Films

Submitted by Sister Meribeth K. Tooke, Foundation Director

The Prague Spring (Czech: Pražské jaro, Slovak: Pražská jar) was a period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia during the era of its domination by the Soviet Union after World War II. It began on January 5, 1968, when reformist Alexander Dubček was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSČ), and continued until August 21, 1968 when the Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Pact invaded the country to halt the reforms. During the years leading up to 1968 there were many films released which became to be known as the "Czech New Wave".

Since 2011, Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, Illinois has shown Czech films with subtitles monthly in their Czech classroom (constructed as part of the building in 1929). The films with subtitles are shown by the Czech language teacher and discussed with the audience. The movies have been well received in the community. Starting with the September film, Sokol Spirit's Education film class has as its theme: The Prague Spring 50th Anniversary.

The following films lead-off with the showing of *Burning Bush*, done by Europe HBO in 2013 in three parts. Done in color for TV with actual B/W news clips it portrays actual facts that happened five months after the collapse of the Czech government by Russia when the shocking act of a student of the Charles University's Faculty of Arts, protested the Soviet occupation by setting himself on fire in Prague's Wenceslas Square on January 16, 1969. He died four days later. The story is told through the eyes of defense attorney Dagmar Buresova who defended Palach's legacy in a lawsuit. The film shows Czech society transformation.

Other Films to be Shown During the 2018-19 Season

*Miloš Forman's films *Black Peter*, 1953; *Loves of a Blonde*, 1965, 1st Oscar nominated film; *Fireman's Ball*, 1967, another Oscar nominated film, which utilized Bohemian neighbors and for which Forman was thrown out of the country.

*Vojtěch Jasný's *All My Good Countrymen*, 1968, Cannes Film Festival Best Director and Technical. Jasný went into hiding after release. The script took 10 years to write and showed a Moravian village from 1945 till 1967.

*Ladislav Grosman, writer with Jan Kadar/Elmar Klos, directors *The Shop on Main Street*, 1964, Winner of the 1965 Oscar for best foreign film was filmed in Prague.

*Zbynek Brynych's *The Fifth Horseman is Fear*, 1964 was hailed as a "nearly perfect film" by film critic Roger Ebert (a local Chicagoan who had for several years a film review program on PBS TV with Gene Siskel).

*Jiří Menzel's *Closely Watched Trains*, 1966, from the novel by Bohumil Hrabal and *Capricious Summer*, 1967 by Czech writer Vladislav Vancura (Summer of Caprice).

Other directors of note were František Vlácil, Věra Chytilová, Ivan Passer, Pavel Juráček, Jaroslav Papoušek, Jan Němec, Jaromil Jireš, Evald Schorm, Elmar Klos and Slovak directors Dušan Hanák, Juraj Herz, Juraj Jakubisko, Štefan Uher, Ján Kadár, Elo Havetta and others. The quality and openness of the films led the genre to be called the Czechoslovak Film Miracle.

The Czechoslovak New Wave was an artistic movement in cinema which evolved out of the earlier Devětsil movement of the '30s. Disgruntled with the communist regime that had taken over Czechoslovakia in 1948, students of the Film and TV School of The Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (also known as FAMU) became the dissenters of their time. Their objective in making films was "to make the Czech people collectively aware that they were participants in a system of oppression and incompetence which had brutalized them all."

FAMU continues to produce outstanding Film and TV

**Congratulations to the Central District's
2018 President's Award Recipients: Nancy
Pajeau & Howie Maskill, presented by Adam
Wilt & Heather Beasley, the 2017 awardees.**



Sokol Stickney's Unit Name Change

After 91 years of being Sokol Stickney the members voted for change – a name change. After much discussion and being that we no longer reside in Stickney, the majority agreed that we should not take a name after a City or town.

On June 6th, 2018 the members voted to change our name to United!

How did we decide or settle on United? One of the names that was submitted was the name Unity.

One member said:

Sokol Unity, because where we came from, where we are, and wherever we end up, we will be a part of the commUNITY. Families of many different backgrounds, uniting. We lost our building, but were given this amazing opportUNITY at St. Hugh, one that has been nothing short of amazing, with amazing results. We've created a triUNITY of sorts, merging our Czech, American, and local communities into one!

And out of Unity came United!

Same great people, same great Sokol, just a new identity!

Nazdar!

President, Richard Vachata



Central District Plane Pull Fundraiser

The Plane Pull on Saturday was a big success. Our time was 11.37 seconds, an improvement of five seconds over last year. \$1,870 was raised for Special Olympics. Topped last year by \$25. As our turn to pull approached, Coach Carlozzi lined up the team, formed two ranks, and we then marched out to the plane in formation, singing a Sokol march. Continued the Sokol theme for the team picture (left). Every team was assigned a Special Olympics participant as a 21st member. Our "honorary Sokol" is the young lady with the plane pull t-shirt in the front.



On the team of 20, we had members/friends from Stickney/United (9), Spirit (7), Naperville Tyrš (3), and Tabor (1). The Team consisted of: Dan Bajek, Alex Maskill, Alexis Suvetor, Kim Elliott, Shannon Griffing, Josh Suvetor & Margaret, Ben Larson, Taylor Larson, Rich Vachata, Andrea Vachata, Hailey Vachata, Brittney Scott, Adam Wilt, Lauren Wilt, Joseph Placek, James Zahrobsky, Nick Cartwright, Joe Bajek, and, all orchestrated by Matt Carlozzi. Check out *The Daily Herald* article.



The American Sokol provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.

continued from page 3

sang traditional Czech and Slovak songs, and we placed a wreath at the monument to commemorate the 100th Anniversary. The Lipas will look amazing around the statue. A plaque with our name will be placed at this site.

Washington, D.C. Gala

Another grand Gala I attended was in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the American Friends of the Czech Republic. Fred Malek was honored for his contributions to the Czech Republic and the Czech American Community. Madeleine Albright (*pictured right with Jean Hruby*) was there along with the past four U.S. Ambassadors to the Czech Republic. Thank you to Kristyna Driehaus and the KMD Foundation for inviting me to attend, hosting American Sokol. The best part of this event was walking in and seeing that Sokol West's Mary Beth Dulock and her daughter Anna were there to be recognized. I was very proud to see our member Anna Dulock speaking about the restoration of Sokol West and her pride in Sokol. We had a whole table of Sokols at this event in Washington, D.C. and it was a very proud moment for me to share this experience with them.



Sokol Detroit

There were many celebrations centered on the Centennial and I was lucky to choose the Sokol Detroit Dinner Party, an annual fundraising event themed "100 years of Czechoslovakia." Thank you to Sister Renata Greene, President of Sokol Detroit and Executive Board Members Alex Novacek for inviting me, and Maryann Fiordelis for hosting me in her home. Again, this is one of the most enjoyable benefits I have serving you as President. I met so many members that I communicate with on Facebook, or simply through Sokol events. Seeing the Brandon and Singley Families was heartwarming. We met and spent a lot of time together in Prague. Hearing their presentation and stories of their 2018 Prague Slet experiences truly made me proud and energized for future trips. When Sokols spend time together at Slets we all become a closer family. Visiting with Sokol Detroit members including Lisa Tague, her son Owen, Al Treichel, the Kalivodas, Greenes and Carolyn Sabados, to name a few are always treasured moments. (Missed Meg Novacek, Melanie Mily and Lynn Conrad!) One other amazing moment at this event was meeting the Hurych Family. Brother Victor Hurych, Sr. and I spent time talking about Sokol, wars, and life. Nothing makes me happier than being able to represent our organization and connect with everyone, especially our Sokol founders. Victor Hurych Sr. (98 years young) was one of the members who formed Sokol Detroit. This is an honor for me to meet him, his family, and connect with Sokol Detroit. Now to share it with you adds to the story and what this *Sokol Eye* sees on her missions.

World Sokol Organization

If you were on social media you would have seen the documentaries of the Centennial Celebrations in the Czech Republic. Sokols were recognized, honored, participated, and represented. The videos from Prague were breathtaking including the digital light show on the National Museum. The Czech Parliament also honored us, American Sokols, for our contributions to the formation of the first Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately we were unable to attend but will receive the award soon.

In Closing...

It is with gratitude that I thank all of you for being members and supporters of American Sokol. It truly is an amazing time in history to say we are Sokols. November is also a time to remember our Veterans. Countless members of our organization served in the military here in the U.S., and in Czech/Slovak Republics. We recognize that Sokols had a prominent influence in the history of our countries helping to form them and to honor the democratic desires for freedom. Thank you to all who serve now, and have served in the past. Our Sokol ideals have contributed so much to society – formed countries and built communities.

I wish you a fabulous holiday season. We have so much to celebrate and I look forward to 2019 continuing our traditions and working to keep our Sokol alive.

At' žije Sokol!
Nazdar!

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AMERICAN SOKOL INSTRUCTORS SCHOOL JULY 15 - JULY 29, 2018

by Sister Mary Cushing, 2018 American Sokol School Director

A total of 32 students from 10 American Sokol Units (representing five of the six Districts) as well as seven students from DA Sokol and two students from Sokol USA attended this year's American Sokol National Instructors School. There were seven students from Northeastern District (all from Sokol Greater Cleveland); three students from Western District (from Sokols Cedar Rapids and Minnesota); 10 students from Central District (from Sokols Naperville Tyrs, Spirit, Tabor and Chicagoland); two students from Eastern District (from Sokols NY and Little Ferry); and one student from Southern District, (from Sokol Zizka/Dallas).

There were 22 Beginners, one Intermediate, three Advanced and 6 Advanced II students of which nine were boys and 23 girls ranging in age from 12 to 20 years old. Interesting fact, this year's Adv II class was all boys!! This year Sokol Greater Cleveland hosted the School. This was the seventh time a National Instructors School was hosted by SGC.

Once again the staff did an outstanding job! The staff included Sis. Michelle Jirousek from Sokol Greater Cleveland, who this year was the senior staff member, in addition to being School Nurse; Bro. Dan Bajek from Sokol Naperville Tyrs; Sis. Kristine Betik from Sokol KHB; Bro. Joe Bajek from Sokol Naperville Tyrs; and first time staff member, Sis. Kristin Merker from Sokol USA Lodge 306. We also had an IT (Instructor in Training) this year, Bro. Conor Wodarczyk from Sokol Greater Cleveland.

Sis. Jane Wise, from Sokol Greater Cleveland, performed the duties of School Registrar, which primarily takes place before the school begins. The duties of the onsite School Secretary was handled again this year by Sis. Alexandra Betik from Sokol KHB.

Our kitchen and meals were coordinated by Sis. Jane Wise, with Sis. Maria Pinazatto Zak heading up the lunches and Sis. Olga Nemicek heading up the dinners, with many volunteers helping with the preparation & serving of the meals. A big thank you to all of them and the volunteer drivers and three former students who sold snacks to the students each night.

The classes and curriculum continue to evolve innovatively and progressively in order to engage and excite the students at all levels and will surely benefit each unit where these students return to teach. Because of the expertise we had on our staff, students were able to take advantage of some different classes as well as our traditional ones. We instituted something new

Once again, we did the annual certification on concussions developed by the CDC (Center for Disease Control). All upper class students still held their CPR certification, so that course wasn't offered. The Advanced students took the on line USAG U100 Course of Fundamentals of Gymnastic Instruction; while the Advanced II students took a new approach with the on line AAU Course for Coaches. The outings included a whole afternoon at the Independence Community Pool and a couple of games of cosmic bowling on another day.

Our graduation program was presented on Saturday evening, preceded by a delicious pork dinner. We had many spectators, parents, family, friends and members from a variety of Sokol units both local and out of the district. As tradition, the students demonstrated many of the things and activities learned over the previous two weeks, most of which were choreographed by the students themselves. But this one was very special – it was my last school as School Director. The staff and the students made it very memorable for me. This was a good time to “retire”; this was my 25th school and 10th as School Director.

The graduation program concluded with the presentation of diplomas and special awards. The Leadership Award is given to the one student from each school level that the staff feels were outstanding in this area. The Beginner Leadership Award went to Ariel Kuhl from DA Sokol ; the Intermediate Leadership Award went to Makayla Ozmun from Sokol Cedar Rapids; and the Advanced II Leadership Award went to Jacob Jirousek from Sokol Greater Cleveland.

The American Sokol provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.

We inaugurated a new scholarship award in memory of past School Director, Bro. Bud Benak, who passed away this last year. This award recognizes one student who really is exemplary in their leadership, service, academics, etc. The student (either parents or unit) are reimbursed for the registration fee amount paid as long as receiving an individual plaque. This year's Bro. Bud Benak Scholarship Award was presented to Charles Svestka from Sokol Tabor.

Our 2018 Sokol Instructors School officially concluded with our final flag lowering and you could hear the resounding tradition of the three Sokol "Zdars!" ringing out loud and clear to conclude another successful Kurz. There was cake and socializing followed by the last night of social activities, pizza, packing and fun!

A tremendous thank you to the staff that did an outstanding job! I would also like to extend a big thanks to the helpers and volunteers; the awesome students and once again the American Sokol for continuing to support this important and worthwhile venture! NAZDAR!



2018 American Sokol Instructor's School
Sokol Greater Cleveland
Cleveland, Ohio

Did you know, working in non-profit can help build your resume to gain more earning potential?

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In Memory Of...

Blanche Jirousek

Blanche Jirousek, dedicated wife and mother passed peacefully on 8/2/2018. She was born Blanche Emily Kirch on January 1, 1933. Later, while visiting Czechoslovakia she was able to escape war threats as a young child and return to America. She graduated as a Latin scholar and Valedictorian of her class at Farragut High School in 1950. Blanche enjoyed classical music and was first chair violinist in her high school symphony.

She loved Sokol where she met her husband, Tony Jirousek, of 30 years. Together they spent much time teaching and mentoring gymnastic students at Sokol Havlicek-Tyrs in the Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. They moved to Clarendon Hills where they built a house and raised their two children, Scott and Jenny.

Blanche was an ambitious, strong and determined hard worker. Central Steel Fabricators of Chicago and The Squire Shop in Hinsdale were among the many office jobs of her employment.

As an avid Cubs fan Blanche also enjoyed fishing and playing cards. She will be deeply missed for her incredible strength and ever-present love of family through many hardships. Blanche is survived by her son Scott, her daughter Jenny and brother Tony Kirch.



Miroslav J. Janosik

Janosik, Miroslav J. Thursday, October 4, 2018. Beloved husband of Martha Janosik (nee Trepka); dear father of Mark (Debbie) Janosik and Marla (Don) Breidenbach; loving grandfather of Alexis (Brad) Janosik-Schneid, Maria (Leslie) Breidenbach, Elizabeth Janosik, Kevin (Erin) Breidenbach, Andrew Janosik, Ryan (Kayla) Breidenbach and the late Amy Breidenbach; loving great-grandfather of Colby Breidenbach and great-great-grandfather of Tater; our dear uncle and friend to many.

Memorials to the ACEC or Sokol Camp.

Anna T. Karovic

Anna T. Sustek was born in Velké Rovné, Slovakia on

October 18, 1919. She immigrated to the United States in 1937 with her father and one suitcase of belongings. She met and fell in love with Adolf Karovic at a Hody dance in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago in 1939. The two wed in 1941. They had one son, Anthony Karovic, in March of 1944. In December of 1944 Adolf enlisted in the US army where he served until the end of WWII. Soon after Adolf returned from the war they purchased a home in Stickney, IL. It was there that Anna "Babi" reconnected with her heritage and began to attend dances at the Sokol hall in Stickney. When her



continued on page 14

Richard Charles Ptacek

Richard Charles Ptacek, age 91, formerly of Stickney, IL passed away on Wednesday October 10, 2018. Richard was born July 17, 1927 in Cicero, IL. A Marine Veteran, WWII. Member of the American Sokol Organization and Sokol Spirit. Dick met his wife of 61 years, Marie (nee Kreibich) Ptacek, at Sokol Tabor's Snowball Dance in 1952.

Richard is survived by his wife, Marie Frances Ptacek; daughter Lynne (Paul) Goodridge; son Richard (Lorraine) Ptacek; and daughter Jacki (Blaine) Rada; brother Chuck (Dorothy) Ptacek; grandchildren Ali (Jesse) Hiers, Matthew (Chasity) Goodridge, Adrian Ptacek, Samson Ptacek, Lukas Ptacek, Annaliese Ptacek, Thaddeus (Alison) Rada-Bayne and Sequoia Rada and great-grandchildren Ainslea Hiers and Grayson Hiers.

In lieu of flowers, please make any donations to Sokol Spirit, 3909 Prairie Avenue, Brookfield, IL 60513.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.MountAuburnFuneralHome.com for the Ptacek family.

Here is some of Richard (Dick) C. Ptacek's Sokol History

1933 Enrolled in 1st Class Boys at Sokol Slavsky at 6 yrs old.

1942 Attended the ASO Instructor's Course in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

1944 & 1945 Taught Boys Classes at Sokol Stickney

1945 Competed in Championship Division and took 2nd Place

1946 Became a member of Sokol Slavsky

1948 Was a member of the gymnastic team chosen by the ASO to compete in Czechoslovakia, but did not go due to the ASO cancelling the trip for political reasons. (The ASO was afraid that the gymnasts might not be allowed to leave Czechoslovakia once they were there.)

1950 Was a member of the gymnastic team chosen by the A.S.O. to participate in the California Slet.

1950 – 1993 Member of Sokol Slavsky's B.O.I.

1951, 1952 & 1974 Sokol Slavsky Director of Men

1952 - 1953 Central District Director of Men with Director of Women, Ellen Jeanne Schnabl

1953 - 1954 Taught Women's class at Sokol Berwyn

1953 Competed in Championship Division

1958 - 1965 ASO BOI member

1965 – 1985 ASO BOI 1st Assistant to the Director of Men

1985 – 1990 ASO BOI Director of Men with Director of Women, Sylvia Pistorius

1990 Honorary Director of Men

1990 – 1997 ASO BOI Member

1977 & 1985 Composed Calisthenics for Men

It was very special to be able to have my daughter Lynne, co-compose the 1977 Men's Cal with me. Then in 1985, Mildred Prchal and I were getting ready to compose the Men and Women's Cal and had already chosen the music. However, Mildred passed away unexpectedly, and my other daughter, Jacki, stepped in to compose the Women's Cal, which once again ended up being a very special journey. This was also the first time that the Men and Women's Cals had been videotaped, so it could be learned more easily and exactly by other Sokols across the country.

2016 Has been a member of Sokol for 70 years





American Sokol Seals – The Tradition Continues

Dear Members and Friends of Sokol,

September 2018

Everyone who loves American Sokol knows our determination to continue growing our membership and being able to serve our communities for years to come. We have an incredible history of training our youth to become extraordinary leaders and for pursuing the mission of developing strong minds and bodies. Our success has placed us on a straight path but if we are to achieve our full potential we need to empower our youth, instructors and leaders and make available the resources to achieve their goals.

This year, our campaign of traditional **SEALS** feature the American Sokol celebrating the **100th Anniversary** of the **Independence of Czechoslovakia** and our “**Long Live Sokol**” vision. Supporting American Sokol with your generous donation is a wonderful way to show your support and to open the door to our community. Many members continue to use and collect these seals.

Please show your support of your organization and our programs with a donation.

American Sokol is a 501(c)3 organization that gratefully acknowledges receipt of your donation. You may use your donation towards deduction on your Federal Tax Return for the year in which the donation was made.

Nazdar!



Jean K. Hruby
American Sokol President



~~~~~  
Checks payable to: AMERICAN SOKOL SEALS, 9126 Ogden Av, Brookfield, IL 60513

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*Samples of the Seals have already been mailed to all members.*

**American Sokol Organization** 9126 Ogden Ave, Brookfield IL 60513 tel: **708-255-5397** or **aso@american-sokol.org**

The American Sokol provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.

# AMERICAN SOKOL FOUNDATION

As the newly elected Foundation Director (Sister Meribeth Tooke\*, Spirit), I wanted to share with you those members who have been appointed/elected as the Foundation Committee (an Executive Board standing committee):

1. Central District – Sister Judi Soulides, Sokolice Tabor
2. Eastern District-Brother Charles Meabon, New York
3. Northeastern District-Brother Chuck Bares, Detroit
4. Pacific District-Sister Michelle Schear, Los Angeles
5. Southern District-Brother Brad Durham\*, Fort Worth
6. Western District-Sister Marit Lee Kucera, Minnesota
7. Future Sokol Leaders Administrator-Sister MaryAnn Fiordelis\*, Detroit
8. Member-at-Large (OPEN)
9. Member-at-Large (OPEN)
10. Member-at-Large (OPEN) \*indicates member of the Executive Board

The Foundation Committee Standard Operating Procedure calls for advisors to the foundation who do not attend quarterly meetings, but are called upon when needed. Preferably these members would be American Sokol members.

1. NONPROFIT (Foundation Admin.) - Brother Adam Wilt, Spirit
2. LEGAL (OPEN)
3. FINANCIAL/ACCOUNTING (OPEN)
4. GRANT WRITING (OPEN)

**DO YOU SEE YOURSELF** as a member-at-large or an adviser to the Foundation, or have expertise in this field? Currently the foundation besides the Endowment Foundation which grants annually depending on a yearly goal, makes grants from various restricted bank/investment accounts of the American Sokol. A great example of this is the Future Sokol Leaders Fund which has existed since 1960. At the convention last April, the Foundation, by bylaw, was made the manager/ custodian of all restricted American Sokol financials.

The Foundation business plan for the next four years has as its chief goal to fund the Gateway to the Future (currently in its 4th round of grant approvals) and Future Sokol Leaders Fund to the endowment level so that we will not have to worry about funding money for programs from either of these two “working” internal grants. The foundation just had its first budget approved for the next Sokol year by the Executive Board. The next quarterly committee teleconference meeting is Tuesday, December 4th, 7:30pm CST.

If YOU are interested or know of a GREAT CANDIDATE to fill any of the open positions, please let me know either through email to [foundation@american-sokol.org](mailto:foundation@american-sokol.org) or [mktooke830@gmail.com](mailto:mktooke830@gmail.com). Otherwise please call me directly at 708-354-9126. PLEASE THANK the committee members when/if you get a chance on moving forward with all the tasks/goals ahead as we clear up the grant process while being enlightened by following those Acts which have followed the Federal Stimulus Act of 2009 on transparency and the management of grants of non-profit actions. I know together we can make the Foundation a stronger helpmate for the American Sokol.

Nazdar, Sister Meribeth Tooke, Foundation Director



# NEW MEMBERSHIP PINS AVAILABLE

Membership pins are again available. We have a new and updated design with the current Sokol emblem, slightly larger than the previous design which makes it more visible - better to show off your years of Sokol membership. Pins are 1 1/4 in diameter. Clasp attachment.

The ASO office will no longer take orders for membership pins.

Units can order them directly from:

Crown Trophy  
19 E. 31st St.,  
La Grange Park, IL 60526  
(708) 947-4000



Anna T. Karovic *continued from page 10*



first granddaughter, Kimberly Karovic Elliott, was 4 years old, Babi made sure she was signed up for Tots class. Babi passed her love of Sokol and her heritage down to Kimberly. The two of them performed in many exhibitions and Sokol Slets together, even traveling to Vienna in 1982. When Kimberly's two children were old enough, they began sharing Sokol memories with their great-grandmother. Along with Babi, they participated or attended the last 18 Sokol Stickney exhibitions, dozens of Central District competitions, and Sokol Days along with the last five American Sokol National Slets. Babi also attended the American Sokol 150th weekend celebration where she

enjoyed meeting the Czech dignitaries. She has spent countless hours at Sokol Stickney and always enjoyed watching the children. Because of her commitment and love of Sokol, Sokol Stickney has started a program scholarship in her honor; this fund will be used to send the children of Sokol Stickney to Sokol camps, clinics and schools. NazDar Babi!

*by Kimberly Karovic Elliot*





## Mark your Calendar

### Events around the American Sokol

Get your event featured! Email [editor@american-sokol.org](mailto:editor@american-sokol.org)

## November

- November 3**     **Annual Spaghetti Dinner** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL
- November 4**     **Central District Annual Meeting** - Sokol Tabor, Berwyn, IL
- November 4**     **100 Years of Czechoslovakia** - Sokol Tabor, Berwyn, IL
- November 10**    **Vendor & Crafter Fair** - Sokol Detroit, Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights, MI
- November 17**    **Annual Holiday Fair** - Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
- November 17**    **Fall Quiz Night** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL
- November 18**    **Central District Women's/Girl's Volleyball Tournament** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL

## December

- December 1**     **St. Nick Pancake Breakfast** - Sokol St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- December 2**     **Unit Christmas Party** - Sokol KHB Ennis, Ennis TX
- December 8**     **Christmas Party** - Sokol New York, New York, NY
- December 8**     **Central District Men's/Boy's Gymnastics Competition** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL
- December 8**     **Czech Beer Festival** - Sokol St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
- December 8**     **St. Nick's Dance Mikulasska** - Sokol Greater Cleveland, Bohemian National Hall, Cleveland, OH
- December 9**     **Annual Meeting** - Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
- December 9**     **Rhythmic Competition** - Sokol Chicagoland, Elite Sports Complex, Downers Grove, IL
- December 14**    **Winter Exhibition** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL
- December 17**    **Youth Classes Holiday Party** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL
- December 31**    **New Year's Eve Dance** - Sokol KHB Ennis, Ennis TX

## January

- January 18-20**   **Central District Skills & Progressions Clinic** - Sokol Tabor, Berwyn, IL
- January 27**     **Pancake Breakfast** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL

## February

- February 3**     **Central District GIJO Tumbledown Meet** - Naperville Central High School, Naperville, IL
- February 16**    **Cal & Marching Competition** - Sokol USA Lodge 306, Chicago IL
- February 24**    **Membership Brunch** - Sokol Spirit, Brookfield, IL



### American Sokol Deadline

Send your submissions, articles, events and photos to [editor@american-sokol.org](mailto:editor@american-sokol.org) by the 1st of the month prior to the publication issue. For example, send items you want included in the October issue no later than September 1st.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**  
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# PERIODICAL

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