



**Planning for September Classes  
Czech and American Sokol Honor  
Guard in Prague Oct 4- 8.**

## *The Sokol Eye – Sokolským Okem*

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The past few months have been quite difficult in our Sokol organization due to the loss of several prominent members. I wondered how I would share this information with all of you while also trying to deliver a positive message for the summer, and what I found that fit very well to what I was feeling was summarized in a quote by Chuck Palahuniuk, “The goal isn’t to live forever, the goal is to create something that does.”

*Laddie Hniz Bakanic* passed away February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. Laddie was a Sokol New York member and was our first Olympic gymnast participating in the London games in 1948. The Women’s team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and were recipients of a bronze medal for the US. When we share the news that Sokol produced Olympians, it is true that Laddie left us something that will live on. Laddie would have been 97 this fall.

*Roy Zitny* passed away March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Roy was a Sokol Brookfield/Spirit Member his whole life and served in many leadership roles, but most importantly, he served as the National American Sokol President. Roy was always a strong leader who brought his business expertise and advice to the organization. He and his wife were always present at Central District events and Czech picnics up until Covid broke out. Hawaii will never be the same without Roy and Vlasta. Roy was 92 years old.

*Rome Milan* left us on April 23, 2021. Rome touched generations of lives, was known around the world, and worked endlessly to find ways to keep the history of Sokol alive. He traveled to USAG conventions with his large display of the history of gymnastics which included the history of Sokol.

Rome was a gift to Sokol and he work and efforts will live on forever. Rome attended a celebration of his life at Sokol FW several days before he passed, where many of his colleagues and former gymnasts performed a special number for him and the Memorial was held May 16<sup>th</sup> at Sokol FW. Rome was 62 years old.

After he was diagnosed with ALS, he began a journey to visit all of the Sokols in Europe. Unfortunately, his life’s journey came to an end sooner than he planned, but achieved visiting 422 Sokols! The last conversation I had with him on the phone back in March, I promised that I would complete his goal and see that his work is compiled and shared with the world.

To these three Sokols that created legacies, and to all Sokol members and friends who have lost loved ones this year, we send them off to soar with the other Sokols in the sky.

Zdar! Zdar! Zdar!

As we move into the summer months and taking a break from Sokol activities, we can spend some time thinking of our own goals and what we can do that will “live on.” Usually, we would be with each other this summer for a National Slet, and we would be creating those memories and goals. It is important to keep pushing forward, forward ever forward and keep creating your Sokol history. To document your stories, memories and goals, I created a place in a padlet app. The link is here: ***Click here to leave your story or read a story:*** <https://tinyurl.com/SokolStories>

I hope you enjoy reading the stories people post. Be the difference, be the history and be a gift to Sokol that lives on forever. Have a wonderful summer!

At’ žije Sokol!

Nazdar!

Jean Hruby, President



Attention Sokol members! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be hosting an “in-person” Instructors School this summer. Instead, we will be hosting a virtual Instructors School over Zoom! Will it be in July? Will it be in August? Will it be during both months? Stay tuned for additional details and the class schedule soon! We are excited to see everyone and grow as coaches to prepare for this upcoming Sokol season and beyond!

Follow Us!  @sokolinstructorschool  @sokolinstructorschool

### 2021 ASO Virtual Instructors School Unit Director Survey

We need your help! We have created a survey for Unit Directors to complete. Please reach out to unit members to spread the word about the school and gauge their interest. Unlike our “in-person” School, this will not provide as many hours of instruction that would usually occur in 14 days. As a result, this will not be able to achieve the certification of a two-week school. However, this will be an extremely valuable learning experience for all who attend! We are tentatively looking at early July to early August, about 4 weeks, with 3-4 days per week, and 2-4 hours of classes per day. This will include afternoon and evening sessions. Similar to a Director’s Conference, participants can attend 1 class, many classes, or even all of the classes offered! **Please gather potential interest from your unit and complete/submit the survey by Tuesday 6-8-21! Click on the link below to find the survey:** <https://forms.gle/6QANo94Zu9vFSFjm7>

Submitted by Bro. Dan Bajek, ASO National Instructors School Director

The American Sokol National Marketing Committee received some feedback that our members are looking to receive more unit specific news/information in the publication that we send out. To help source that content, the committee is looking for volunteers from the units in ASO to identify content, work with the national committee on aligned messaging, and help expand our message to social media platforms. Ideally, we would like to meet monthly via Zoom with this group to continue to broaden our message and work toward our goals. Can you identify at least one volunteer within your unit that you think would be a good fit for this position and send their email to Lynda Filipello. Please reach out to this person ahead of time to let them know that we’ll be in touch once you pass their name along. Thank you!

If you have questions, don’t hesitate to reach out  
Caleb Conrad ([calebconrad1124@gmail.com](mailto:calebconrad1124@gmail.com))  
Kathy Barcal ([kbarcal@comcast.net](mailto:kbarcal@comcast.net))  
or Lynda Filipello ([lyndafilipello@aol.com](mailto:lyndafilipello@aol.com))

### 2021 Donations

Czech Catholic Union \$50 Jason Knight \$250

### Future Sokol Leaders Fund Donation

In memory of Ladislava (Laddie) Hniz Bakanic \$100  
From Irene Wynnyczuk

### GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE DONATIONS

In memory of Roy Zitny, past ASO President  
Helen Galan Vicky Gergel Joanne Schneider  
Meribeth & John Tooke

### Rising Star ~ Claire Wickiser Submitted by Bro. Dan Bajek, Sokol Naperville Tyrs

Congratulations to Claire Wickiser from Sokol Minnesota of the Western District for being named American Sokol Rising Star for the 3rd Quarter 2021!

Claire began Sokol at seven years old as a participant in girls class at Sokol Minnesota. She joined her unit after listening to a recommendation from a friend and is the first in her family to join Sokol! As she grew older, Claire made the competition team at ten years old and continues to train and compete on team. She remains very active in Western District events by often competing in Special Number and Gymnastics competitions as well as participating in the 2017 Iowa National Slet. Claire participated in the Central District Skills Clinic in 2019 and 2020, while also winning the “Best All-Around Female” award in 2020. She has two full years of coaching experience in her unit helping the 4-6 year old girls class, boys class, and anywhere else that she is needed. She is entering her senior year at Central High School in St. Paul, MN and graduates in spring of 2022. Claire stays involved at school as an honors student and member of the Track and Field team.



Claire attended the National Instructors School for two years to enhance her coaching/leadership skills and involvement in Sokol. She went to Kurz in 2018 at Sokol Greater Cleveland and 2019 at Sokol Spirit. The school had a large impact on Claire in developing her as a contributing member of Sokol Minnesota. As a student, she learned how to spot gymnastics skills, classroom management, problem solving skills, and leadership strategies. Cal, Marching, Czech terms and knowledge, Sokol specific classes, all helped prepare her to teach Marching at Culture Camp. The school opened her eyes to the non-gymnastics parts of Sokol. Claire expresses interest in completing all four levels of the school as well as learning at the virtual school this summer.

Claire’s favorite Sokol memory was going to the 2017 Iowa National Slet. Her Excel Gold team won 1st place and she enjoyed meeting new people at the Junior/Young Adult Social. Her life changing Sokol moments were meeting new friends at Slet and Kurz. When she attended Kurz in 2019, she realized that seeing all of her Sokol friends who live out of state again really meant everything to her.

In the future, Claire desires to attend college and study Elementary Education, but is still deciding on the school. Her dream job is to become an elementary school teacher, coach at least one sport in her future district, and remain involved in Sokol.

Claire will take on more responsibilities in her unit this year by assisting with class registration. If her career after college keeps her in the St. Paul area, she is interested in helping Sokol at the Unit, District, and National levels. Claire has so much potential to be successful in her career and Sokol. Expect her to do great things someday within our organization. I wish her the best of luck as she completes high school and college to achieve her goals!



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### 2021 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Grant Award

The American Sokol was privileged to receive a 300,000kc grant through the Chicago Consulate in late March. Three applications submitted in August of 2020 were awarded the following: Gateway to the Future fund \$6,688-Foundation; Honor Guard Training \$4,459=new program; and Lending Library of Czech films and audiobooks \$2,229-Education, new program. This is the largest award received since the American Sokol started the annual application process. The Foundation is deeply honored that the programs for membership and units was found to be a good fit with the award goals.

All Sokol units can apply for these grants by contacting the Czech Consulate in their region or going to [https://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/consular\\_information/contacts/offices\\_in\\_usa.html](https://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/consular_information/contacts/offices_in_usa.html). The website for your consulate should carry the 2022 award applications due August 1, 2021 in the next few weeks. The application is sent electronically. Several Sokol units over the years have been awarded grants...Sokol Chicagoland recently, Sokol Fort Worth, Sokol Greater Cleveland, Sokol Washington D. C., Sokol Spirit, and others.

There is also info about scholarships to study in the Czech Republic or special summer language classes, participate in art exhibitions, free viewing of upcoming Czech films "Czech that Film" and much more information.

The American Sokol Foundation is proud to announce the 2021 Gateway to the Future and Unit Growth grant winners.

**\$20,000\* will be released to the following units through the GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE fund:**

**Chicagoland** Phase 2 Camera Security project\*\*; **Greater Cleveland;** Storefront on Historic building, glass, lighting, display; **Detroit;** Sokol Camp Building upgrade; **Ennis, Texas;** AED Medical Device; **Minnesota;** 3<sup>rd</sup> floor eco shades historical room; **Spirit;** Two fire Escapes; and **Tabor;** Replace failing security camera system.

\*Portions of these awards were underwritten by a grant from the 2021 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and by a 2021 grant from the ASO Endowment Foundation fund. American Sokol thanks these two entities for their willingness to assist in the repair and vision of local Sokol units.

\*\*Also, a recipient of partial funding from a grant from 2021 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

**\$10,000 will be released to the following units through the UNIT GROWTH fund:**

**Greater Cleveland:** website update, **San Francisco:** New member drive, **United Illinois:** Mobile gym bus, and **Washington D. C.:** Website/newsletter upgrade.

**WATCH** your mail and email for an opportunity to assist the **GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE** and **FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS funds**. An appeal letter was sent explaining the need to establish these two legendary accounts to reach the endowment level financially. An email blast will follow as a reminder. Annually both funds distribute needed grants to units and programs. An endowed fund assures continued support by setting up a financial formula to fund while maintaining its base.