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American Sokol  
9126 Ogden Ave  
Brookfield, IL 60513

**American Sokol 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2022 issue**



**Events June 9-12  
Convention in Ennis, Texas**

**Convention info has been sent to  
all units.**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022  
FROM  
YOUR AMERICAN SOKOL  
EXECUTIVE BOARD!**

**MAY 2022 BE A POSITIVE  
YEAR IN YOUR UNIT WITH  
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP  
ACHIEVEMENTS.**



**Now available – the Virtual Museum (it's free)**

Sokol and Czech history, Slets, buildings, Sokol to America, Sokol in world wars, souvenirs and treasures, gymnastics

Link: [Sokolmuseum.org](http://Sokolmuseum.org)

**Our Vision**

**“Sharing the story of Sokol’s contributions to gymnastics, culture and democracy”**

Sokol Museum and Library (SML) is a non-profit (501c3) organization providing a virtual museum and library materials for educational, cultural and historic purposes.



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Submit material 1 month prior to:  
January-March edition  
April-June edition  
July-September edition  
October-December edition  
We reserve the editorial rights to edit material.

***The Sokol Eye – Sokolským Okem***

A new year is upon us, and we continue to wrestle with the pandemic crisis. Thinking this would be well behind us by now, I wish I could be sharing news of Slet Preparations, International events, and reporting on Unit visits, but we must continue to be steadfast, follow the path to healing and driving through this storm.

Nationally we have been able to pursue Unit grants that are helping keep programs active. Grants were provided in many ways, from assisting with new sanitation products to new equipment that is used to allow distanced activity.

We were so blessed to receive a sizeable donation to help us make grants possible to keep Units moving forward. Units are operating, but in a different way than we used to before.

The most important thing to remember is that Sokols keep moving “forward.” Thank you to all that have donated, volunteered, and helped keep our Sokols open during this difficult time.

Your graciousness has been overwhelming. This June in 2022, American Sokol will be hosting its 22<sup>nd</sup> National Convention. As my terms of office quickly come to an end, I appreciate the great things we were able to accomplish over the last eight years. It saddens me to know that the last four years were spent mostly in a pandemic situation, however, I am grateful that during this time we were

**Sokol Greater Cleveland Celebrates in 2022**

In December of 2021 Sokol Greater Cleveland (SGC) was honored by American Nationalities Movement, an organization founded by past Mayor of Cleveland of Czech descent Ralph Perk, for the unit’s service to the community. This is the first time an organization was chosen; typically it is individuals such as Ohio Secretary of State, one of the other honorees this year. The year 2022 will be an exciting year for SGC as the building the organization owns and is based in will celebrate 125 years since the dedication. A variety of celebratory events are planned culminating in a gala on September 25th – the building know as the Bohemian National Hall was dedicated on September 26th, 1897. One of the first events will take place on Saturday, January 22 at 7:30pm (EST). This Virtual SGC Auction will feature Czech crystal, Czech garnet jewelry, paintings of Prague, and more. Sokols from around the country are welcome to join via zoom. A short video tour of our building will be part of the event, come and join the camaraderie from around the nation. The meeting ID is 844 3537 8422 and the password is Sokol.

**AMERICAN SOKOL  
2021 DISTRICT DIRECTORS’ CONFERENCE**

The American Sokol District Directors’ conference was held on Saturday, October 9, 2021 at the Hyatt House Chicago in Oak Brook. Five districts of the American Sokol BOI were represented at the conference. Also in attendance were the ASO President, National Physical Directors, Assistants, Recording Secretary, School Board Director, Board Members, and National Membership Director.

At the conference each district gave updates about how their districts were handling the re-opening of their gyms and following Covid safety precautions. Each district submitted an annual report which will be posted on the American Sokol website. We had representation from Sokol USA and were presented a report which detailed information about their lodges. There are no definite plans for Sokolfest 2023 at this time due to Covid.

The School Board gave a report through a PowerPoint presentation detailing 1) Pros and cons of the 2021 Virtual School and 2) The bids received from units to host the 2022 Instructor School 3) 2022 School Budget 4) School Board goals and 5) Standing Operating Procedures.

As a National BOI we discussed the upcoming convention to be held in 2022 in Texas. The BOI is proposing adding a bylaw to accept the youth director under the ASO BOI under Article 12. We also reviewed and discussed other proposed changes to the by-laws that may be voted on at convention. The BOI also reviewed and updated their budget to be presented to the Budget and Finance committee.

The ASO BOI announced that Sis. Mary Cushing is interested in being the next National Physical Director. Her election will be ratified at the convention.

## Report of Straz Honor Guard

Let me take this opportunity to thank American Sokol for the support of these historic events American Sokol Straz took part in. Thank you to Sisters Lynda Filipello, Allison Gerber, and Jean Hruby for the guidance and for being pillars of help in A.S. O. Straz. The Honor Guard has presided over many important events including the President of the Czech Republic, General from the Czech Military, and many Heads of State of the Foreign Ministry.

The A.S.O. Honor Guard Straz made history this past October 9, 2021 as we were the first non-Czech Citizens / Military to perform at the Prague Castle.

Training began each day at 8 A.M. ending at 5:30 or 7 P.M. We marched an average of 15 miles a day with drills including marching, Czech drill calls, wreath placing, flowers, flags and swords.

Ceremonies we participated in were Lidice, Church of Ss. Cyril, Czech TV interview, Tyrs Dum flag ceremony for official October 8<sup>th</sup>, candle lighting event at the bridge, and Prague Castle.

Thank you to all Sokols who supported us for everything.  
Theodore (Teddy) Jan Polashek  
American Sokol Straz

For Country, for Sokol, for My Brothers & Sisters  
This is my Honor and Sacrifice

Teddy's full report is on the american-sokol.org website along with many pictures. ASO Honor Guard pictures are included in the Seals which help to support this program. Information on the horrific massacre of the Lidice residents and the elimination of the town by the Nazis can be researched online. Anthropoid movie can be viewed in Netflix.

## Sokol Eye continued...

grants, establish the Honor Guard, and continue to do some preservation of the archives. We have an amazing history, and it is one that we can continue working on during any pandemic. With a new National Executive Board, you will have great ideas and fresh energy to move "forward" into the next chapter of the organization. While I look "forward" to my completion, know that my support will remain in place to assist the officers as they begin their journey.

I wish you all a fabulous and safe holiday season with family, friends, and look "forward" to a bright new 2022.

Forward, Forward, not a step back! Kupředu, (kupředu) zpátky ni krok! Thank you for being part of the Sokol Family.

*Ať žije Sokol* – Long Live Sokol

Jean Hruby - President



Anna Cooková is Owner & Founder of CzechTalk, LLC, a company specializing in Group & Private Czech Language & Culture lessons online and in the translation of old letters & journals from Czech to English. She has presented talks on her Czech related research at multiple international and national conferences and has helped Czech-American Organizations nationwide offer Czech courses. She and her husband live in Central Wisconsin with their bilingual daughter, who also loves all things Czech. She currently serves as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of Sokol Milwaukee.



## Fighting for the Right to Speak Czech

By Anna Cooková  
Sokol Scrapes Educational Series  
#0001

Learn about the passion and drive your ancestors had for preserving their right to speak the Czech language. Many went to great lengths, devoting their entire lives to the identity of their countrymen, an identity rooted in their language.

**Saturday, January 29th, 2022**  
**10am-11am Central Time**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82452530497?pwd=T0JJS3hHUkxQNGdXQTRkS0FzZG8vdz09>  
Meeting ID: 824 5253 0497  
Passcode: 232863



## Announcing the American Sokol 2022 National Merit Award

The American Sokol Merit Award has been offered to members and/or the youth of members since 1975 and is funded by the American Sokol Leaders Fund. This award is administered by the National Educational Committee and the committee will be accepting applications for the 2022 Merit Awards as of January 1, 2022.

Eligible students are those who are planning or continuing a full time (at least 12 hours per semester or equivalent) course program in an accredited two-year or four-year college/university or trade school. The amount to be awarded is \$1,000.00 per student. There are no merit award renewals. Applicants may apply for any year of their studies, not just freshman year.

The selections are made by the American Sokol Educational Committee and then approved by the American Sokol Executive Board. The committee will consider the following criteria in selecting the candidates for their recommendation to the Executive Board:

**Cultural and Educational Activities:** Ethnic schools and activities, dance, theater, presentations to Sokol classes or other groups on Sokol history, traditions, or other topics.

**Unit participation:** unit membership, volunteerism, and community events to promote your Sokol unit at the local level.

**District and National Participation:** district and national activity in clinics, Slets, competitions, courses, committees, or other activities to promote your Sokol district and American Sokol.

**Board of Instructor or Program Participation at the unit level:** gym or dance class participation, gym or dance class instructor or assistant, participation in clinics, Slets, or competitions, and camps.

**Community and Extracurricular Activities:** Scouts, Civic organizations, service projects, and volunteer work

### Personal Essay

Overall Leadership/Letter of recommendation from either the Unit President, Unit Educational Director, Unit Physical Director, or Unit Dance Instructor.

Applications can be downloaded from the American Sokol web site.

[www.american-sokol.org](http://www.american-sokol.org).

*Completed application, essay, and letter of recommendation must be received by Ms. Sue Bares 2601 Dunbar Ave. The Villages, FL 32162 or emailed to [education@american-sokol.org](mailto:education@american-sokol.org) by May 1st of the application year 2022.*

Assistance with the application process can be obtained by contacting your district or unit educational director.

## Donations

**In gratitude of all the volunteers who keep the American Sokol active and vital.**

### Anonymous

#### Gateway to the Future

In memory of Marie Vachata from John & Meribeth Tooke

Vicki Bermudz, Andrea Scheirer, Arnold & Deborah Ziskovsky,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic,  
American Sokol Endowment Foundation

#### Future Sokol Leaders Fund

In memory of Rome Milan from Pete & Jean Dusek

In memory of Robert & Vera Barcal, Stanley & Rose Barcal, Mildred Barcal,  
and Jerry Zitko from Elaine Barcal Zitko and Jerry R. Zitko

Vicki Bermudz

#### 2021 Instructors School

Norma Zabka

## 2022 AMERICAN SOKOL FOUNDATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The Foundation Committee is announcing grants available from the following funds: Gateway to the Future and Unit Growth. In 2022 and 23, ASO Foundation will be administering the COVID-Sustainment grants. Both applications are available at the American Sokol website: [American-sokol.org](http://American-sokol.org), Backroom tab, Administrative selection, "admin" password. We are proud of the fact that since 2019 almost every Sokol unit, and some Sokol Executive Board committees have utilized and/or been awarded a grant through the American Sokol Foundation.

Think about how to utilize these grants for new, existing programs, repairs, member retention or to seek new members, or addressing COVID Sustainment for your unit. Questions? Write [foundation@american-sokol.org](mailto:foundation@american-sokol.org)