

american **SOKOL**

Volume CXXI, Number VII

SEPTEMBER 1999

XIII All-Sokol Slet (Festival) in Prague *Days of Sport and Culture*

We are pleased to invite you most cordially to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, with its unique cultural heritage and a rich contemporary life.

The XIII All-Sokol Slet will be held June 26 to July 2. You can witness the all-nation gymnastic, sport, cultural and social event, which will culminate at Rosicky Stadium in Prague-Strahov. The festival will be organized by the Czech Sokol Organization, SOKOL, one of the largest and oldest sport organizations, founded in 1862.

On Friday evening, June 30, there will be a festive opening of the Slet at the National Theater. The traditional joyous parade of all Slet participants through the historical district of Prague would start in the morning on July 2 and the festivities will be closed in the afternoon by a get-together with the creators of the Slet and celebrities of public and social life.

It will be a festival of all Sokols, coming from Europe, America and Australia, joined by thousands of Czech Sokols. The major part of the XIII All-Sokol Slet will introduce performances of 25,000 gymnasts of all age categories. Musical calisthenics compositions will be performed by 1700 gymnasts at one time. Elsewhere in Prague will be opened an exhibition showing the rich history of Sokol and the renowned works of art dedicated to Sokol.

All-Sokol Slets gained the world reputation and were the picture of the Czech society. The mission is expressed by Slet of good will and hope, the belief in the future of the Czech nation.

For further inquiries, please contact:

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From Your Editor...

It's September – back to school, BACK TO SOKOL! Here's my yearly reminder to sign up for class at your local unit and while you're at it, why not convince a friend to join you! You know it's great, share the benefits. I'm excited about the new calendar the ASO will have for sale soon. It's going to be beautiful! See page 4 for more information and be ready to place your order when the time comes. They'll sell quickly.

NA ZDAR!

Sis. Patricia Satek
46 Northgate Road
Riverside, IL 60546-1639

CALENDAR of EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

26 Sokol Milwaukee Old World
Wisconsin
24 Sokol Stickney Bunco

OCTOBER

10 Sokol Town of Lake Camp
Reunion (See Pg. 8)
17 Sokol Milwaukee Recognition
Dinner (Sokolice 100th
Anniversary)
21 Sokol Detroit Rummage Sale
22 Sokol Stickney Pork Dinner
25 Central District Track & Field
29-30 Sokol Brookfield Rummage Sale
29-31 District Directors' Conference

NOVEMBER

6-7 Central District Annual
Meeting
18-20 Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair
25 THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER

11 Sokol Stickney Spaghetti
Dinner
13 Sokol Milwaukee Holiday
Luncheon

**ASO CONVENTION
APRIL 27-30, 2000
OMAHA, NEBRASKA**

**XIII ALL-SOKOL SLET
JUNE 26-JULY 2, 2000
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**

THOUGHT STARTERS

from Bro. Jerry Milan, A.S.O. Educational Director

*"How much better is it to weep at joy
than to joy at weeping!"*

~ WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Our Sokol Credo

To build a healthy and beautiful human body; to cultivate a harmonious and total person; to develop firm character, a well-rounded disposition and a love of truth and justice; to produce strong, lovely and honorable people; that is the goal of a Sokol education.

Good Czechs Don't Bounce

This essay, written by my daughter, Jana, about a typical Czech immigrant family has in mind the plight of American Sokol to preserve Czech and Slovak heritage. After all, who else but Sokol brought with them the ideas of Miroslav Tyrš' gymnastics with slogans like "Ve Zdravem Tele Zdravy Duch" and many others? They proudly organized yearly Slets all over the world, something no other country has ever achieved. Who else but Sokolky bring to the tables famous knedlíky, kolache, jitrnice, wearing beautiful Moravian costumes? And how about musicians playing Czech polkas, waltzes and Sokol marches? Yes, we should be grateful to all Sokols, from the earliest pioneers all the way to present members who, guided by Tyrš' slogan "Ni zisk, ni slavu," have done so much to maintain the Czech and Slovak culture. Sokols everywhere, keep up the great work!

*~ Submitted by Bro. Jaromir Mejta,
Sokol Detroit*

Good Czechs Don't Bounce

By Jana Jaromira (Mejta) Blue

My parents, Czech immigrants to the U.S., have lived in the same house for over 20 years. In the same back-road neighborhood where people borrow eggs from one another, share neighborhood gossip over the fence and sometimes still leave their cars and doors unlocked. It's the same house that my father built when he first started his construction business thirty years ago.

In a culture where styles change seemingly every day, communication occurs in a millisecond via the internet and the average family moves once every two to three years due to job transfers, the fact that my parents have remained in the

very same house they built for their family three decades ago says something about their sense of tradition and need for stability in an ever changing society.

When my parents came to this country, they brought their Czech culture with them. Not in any of the suitcases they carried, for they didn't bring many material possessions with them. Rather, it is in their hearts and souls... their very blood. My father immigrated from Czechoslovakia in the 1950's and waited another decade to marry... enjoying his single life in the States, but making sure he "got a goo Czech girl" for a wife by traveling to Prague in the summers until he spotted his "catch." When my mother was finally able to join her new husband after one year of waiting for the necessary paperwork to go through the Communist red tape, the Czech couple lived in Detroit a while before settling into a quiet, suburban town to raise their family. And in this house they stayed.

The house is solidly constructed; white brick held together with mortar and cement - able to weather the changes of time and come out still standing strong. In a way, it is a metaphor of my parents, and of all immigrant people who have left all that they know to make a new life in a foreign land. It takes a strong people to uproot their lives. to transplant themselves to a new

place while keeping their culture alive. My parents are this kind of strong people; they have transplanted themselves so far away from the place they once called "home," yet have kept their culture and heritage alive and flourishing despite the obstacles and challenges they have met here over the course of time.

As their first child, I always felt like I was 100% Czech... a "Czech girl" growing up in the United States. That is how strong the Czech culture and its influence was in my home. There was a certain pride associated with that, and though at times I felt different from the other kids in my class because of it, I wouldn't have changed that for anything. I loved that my mother was able to stay home with me and my sister, sacrificing many things to raise us while my father worked. She cooked and baked in the Czech tradition, making sure our meals were always hot, fresh and delicious. Still, she found time to sew most of our clothes and teach us to read and write Czech in her "spare" time. We took great pride in keeping the Czech language alive in our home, taking care to speak Czech when my family was together so we wouldn't "forget."

My father worked from morning to night building his construction business. He was able to ensure that we had enough resources to

Continued on Page 9.

Coming Soon! A Great Holiday Gift!
American Sokol Organization
Year 2000 Calendar

featuring **14** full-color gymnastic/Sokol illustrations by renowned Czech artist **MILAN MED**, each on a 4x6" postcard.
Calendar Size: 12x7.5"

Postcards are easily removed for mailing, framing, saving!

Only \$10.00 Each

Special incentive packages to Units ordering lots of 50.

Call the ASO Office,
708-795-6671.

Available in November.

*By Sis. Joan Curran
ASO Membership Chairman*

Take a bunch of kids from Friday evening to Sunday noon.

Mold them, teach them, create them into something meaningful.

Is this a state of the art creation? A cyberspace miracle?

Actually, it's a Sokol Skills and Progressions Clinic, where the students work very hard for three days in order to graduate on Sunday.

We salute those instructors for their ability to create these clinics, for being there with the gymnasts and for their energy and ingenuity. They are Tyrs' legacy.

NA ZDAR!

MEMORIAL DAY 1999

Juniors and members of Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky (Berwyn, IL) participate annually in Memorial Day Services at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago. Pictured L to R are Bro. Tom Pajer, Sis. Pat Satek, Sis. Kandi Ondrovic, Jr. Girl Allison Lickteig, Jr. Boy Doug Gilbert and Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky President, Bro. Bernie Babka. The Juniors of Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky held a dance and gym sleepover for all Central District Juniors the night



before the services. They woke up early to perform a flag raising ceremony in front of their gym and then boarded a bus for transportation to the cemetery. Juniors from Sokol Chicagoland also took part.

Sokol Cedar Rapids mourns the loss of this dedicated 71-year member. Following is the Sokol portion of his eulogy.

This afternoon, we, the members of the Sokol family need to pause and memorialize one of our brothers; a brother whose labors and achievements make most of us stand in awe. Joe's accomplishments are as follows: Gymnastic Practitioner, Head Gymnastic Instructor, Director of Men's Physical Staff, President of the Unit, Director of Sokol Summer Camp, Board of Trustees Member, Member of Beseda Dance Troupe, Editor of our In-House Publication, Attended every District and National Slet since his entry into the Unit, Delegate to numerous National Conventions.

I'm certain when he came to our gymnasium 70 odd years ago he never expected to become so immersed in the movement. From practicing the gymnastics he progressed to teaching small boys classes, ultimately becoming the principal instructor of the men's and youth classes and has held the post of Men's Physical Director longer than any individual in the unit's history. He has been instrumental in exposing more young men and boys to gymnastic than any single man in our long history. At one time or another, every youth of Czech origin was treated to his expertise and instruction. Gymnastics, however, is a vigorous discipline and only a few continued to practice it as it was instituted by our founders, but countless youths used it as a springboard to other sports. In his capacity as instructor and role model, it was inevitable that he served as counselor for the young and confidant for the mature.

During this period he has held every important post in the unit and has been involved in every principle decision making policy and participated in every fundraising drive without which we would have ceased to exist. To further illustrate his versatility, he was not adverse to rolling up his sleeves and getting involved in every major repair project for our 90-year-old building. In short, Sokol became a way of life for this individual, a balanced life - one in

which the physical, mental, cultural and community service each received their portion.

Joe was to continue his involvement in gymnastics to a very advanced age - he continued his apparatus work and hand balanced until he neared eighty. Those of us who were privileged to work out with him were aware of his chronic shoulder problem which, in typical Sokol fashion, was "always improving," "getting better" and never slowed him up. He never complained and was eternally optimistic.

The German poet Goethe was reported to have penned the following as a lament regarding the human condition and aging: "You set our feet on this life's road, You watch our guilty erring courses, Then leave us bowed beneath our load, For earth its every debt enforces."

And, while it's true the sight dims, the strength fades and the memory slows, but for the Sokol the spirit remains indomitable. The last few years were challenging for Joe; he continued to work until a very advanced age. As the work load diminished, he was to become a frequent figure on the avenue. Those of us who had previously worked out with him were deeply saddened by this phase of his life. While his pace became a little slower, he continued to walk erect, with dignity - like the old Sokol he remained all his days.

Almost as a rebuttal to the poet Goethe, the strains of a Sokol marching song come to mind - pronunciation is difficult without a fluency in the tongue and something is lost in the translating, but the essence is as follows: Forward, onward we march and if the path be dark and foreboding, I will be fearless, because I am a Sokol. Onward, ever onward, higher - still higher, the summit is in sight.

Joe's passing came peacefully and without trauma and as the Sokol march suggests, he was serene and fearless. We, the survivors, his Sokol brothers and sisters, hope the summit was in sight.

Na Zdar, Joe!

~Submitted by Bro. Dick Petrzalek

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

PURPOSE: *To train and education young people to assure able administrators, the best of idealistic instructors and educational directors for Sokol Units and Districts.*

In Memory of Karen Vondra

From Ethel & Joe Rus\$15.00 From Charles & Frances Malina\$10.00

In Memory of Vera Barcal

From Mildred Barcal\$50.00 From Helen Barcal Vahldick Family\$30.00

From Emil & Pat Barcal Family\$50.00 From Stan & Rose Barcal Family\$75.00

From Charles & Frances Malina\$10.00 From Ethel & Joe Rus\$15.00

In Memory of Lad Voris from Elsie & Alice Khol\$25.00

In Memory of Paul Gilbert from Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky\$25.00

In Honor of Martha Novy from Martin Freehauf\$25.00

In Honor of Martha Novy from Zdenka Macich Freehauf\$25.00

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Robert Drake from the Drake Family\$100.00

MUSEUM, LIBRARY & ARCHIVES FUND

In Memory of Vera Barcal from Louis & Barbara Goldman\$100.00

Alphonse Mucha Museum and Travels with the Milans

ASO Educational Director, Bro. Jerry Milan and his wife, Sis. Henrietta, Sokol Ft. Worth, traveled 3 weeks to Milan and Florence-Italy, Novigrad-Croatia and Prague, Cerna Hora and Kunovice-Czech Republic. They visited relatives in the Czech Republic and Croatia and met

Czech artist Milan Med and 1988 Olympic Cyclist Josef Regec.

In Prague, their one day at the Alphonse Mucha Museum was a wonderful event of visiting with the curator, viewing old videos of Mucha's models, learning some Czech history and a lot of art information, with plenty of time to view each piece of art.

While viewing a particular 1912 Mucha Sokol Slet poster (shown below), Lesli knew "there had to be a Sokol emblem somewhere." After some searching, she found it hidden in the arched area at the top, readable on the left side and reversed on the right for a symmetrical design. As they stood there discussing the discovery, they caused an audience of about 8-10 interested by-standers and were able to explain and spread the word about Sokol!



L to R: Jerry & Henrietta Milan, Annette Schabowski, Talia & Lesli Milan

Returning home to Texas, they met up with Henrietta's sister, ASO Library & Archives Director, Sis. Annette Schabowski, Sokol Tabor, who was visiting her daughter in Ft. Worth. Together with Jerry & Henrietta's daughter-in-law, Sis. Lesli Milan and granddaughter Talia, they drove to the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma to see the traveling U.S.A. Mucha exhibit.





AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST



Editor: Chuck Kalat -- 2401 Bluebonnet Dr., Richardson, Texas 75082

World Sokol Federation Board of Instructors Meeting

The following is from a report on the WSF Board of Instructors Meeting held at the Sokol USA Slet, June 26, 1999 in Cleveland, Ohio provided by Bro. Bob Liptak, D.A.Sokol:

Fitness Skills Competition

Sis. Zitna presented the COS proposal for the skills competitions to be held during the XIII Slet in Prague at the end of June.

- a. Swimming
- b. Athletics (track & field)
 Running & Long jump
- c. Rope climbing
- d. Gymnastics (optionals to be governed by each country's national federation rules).

Two Junior Boys and two Junior Girls (i.e. the winners of the skills competitions of each organization) would compete in the finals in Prague and then participate in a two week camping program after the Slet.

After much discussion, it was felt that the logistics of conducting competitions to determine winners in the United States, Canada, and Europe would be too difficult and that the important aspect of the proposal was the opportunity for the youth of all the organizations to interact during the camp. Therefore, a motion was made that each organization would choose, using its own criteria, two Junior Boys and two Junior Girls to attend the camping program after the Prague Slet. One instructor per organization would accompany their juniors for the camping trip, but COS instructors would be in charge. The COS and WSF would bear the cost of the camping program, each organization would be responsible for the cost of transportation. Motion carried.

Discussion of XIII Slet

The weekend of June 24-25, 2000 will be for sports. The week of the Slet, June 26-30, 2000 will include competitions in track and field events, gymnastics, rope climbing and swimming. Rehearsals will be on Friday, June 30. Sis Zitna (COS) pointed out that while the Strahov Stadium has 16,000 markers, the Rozicky Stadium has only 1,728 markers. Performances are scheduled for: Saturday afternoon, July 1, Saturday evening, July 1 (no young children will participate), and Sunday afternoon July 2. It is expected that due to the limited field space in the stadium, a different group of gymnasts will perform at each time period. For example, because there are so many more women than men, one performance of the Loyal Guard calisthenics may include women only. All rehearsals will not be in the Slet stadium. The official opening of the XIII Slet will be at the National Theater on Friday evening June 30. The Gala Praha, a gymnast type event will also be held on Friday Evening. The Slet Parade will begin on Sunday morning, July 2 at 10:00 A.M. from the Vaclavske Namesti and it will follow the same route as the parade in 1994.

A discussion was held regarding the current system of rotating the chair of the WSF BOI to the organization which will be hosting the next Slet. The COS was asked if it would accept the chairmanship. They agreed, but it was felt that the current system gears the program of the WSF BOI only to the Slets. The membership was asked to submit their proposals for the election of officers to Sokol USA (Sis Walko) by December 1, 1999. All agreed.

The date of the next meeting was set for July 3, 2000 at 9:00 A.M. in Prague.

Resources Contributing to the success of Gymnastics Businesses in the USA

-- A Resource-Based View

Public attention of gymnastics during the latter third of this century has marked an astounding increase in gymnastics clubs and their enrollment throughout the United States. As we approach the twenty-first century, gymnastics clubs in the U.S. must find new ways to operate successfully if they are to flourish in the new millennium.

Many gymnastics clubs already have expanded program offerings to provide facilities which cater to entire families' needs, providing such activities as gymnastics, kinder gym, cheerleading, dance, swimming, self defense, indoor climbing, adult fitness, sport camps, day camps, and many more. As they continue to evolve, gymnastics clubs have become more akin to small businesses than their forebearers. With ever increasing competition from other small service-oriented sport businesses such as dance studios, self defense clubs, and swimming clubs, gymnastics club owners and managers are having to utilize a business perspective in order to maintain viability. Gymnastics clubs are becoming gymnastics businesses and gymnastics club members (gymnasts) are now being referred to as customers or clients, and maintaining their satisfaction in order to retain their membership has become paramount to club survival.

Although gymnastics clubs continue to develop as small service-oriented sport business operations in order to survive in the new millennium, many owners and managers continue to see themselves more as a club than a business. But we must understand that in order to survive in the gymnastics business we must operate as a business. The irony that many gymnastics club owners face is at the core of the ultimate reason for failure in most gymnastics clubs: the fact that although many gymnastics practitioners are good coaches, many do not possess the necessary business acumen to treat and run their gymnastics club as a business.

Review of Literature

No research was found which looked at factors contributing to the success of gymnastics businesses. Within the small service-oriented sport business sector, specifically gymnastics clubs, dance studios, self defense clubs, and swimming clubs, there has been no theoretically based

research which would help explain those factors contributing to their success.

A look to the field of business, in particular the area of entrepreneurship, provides one with an emerging theory of business, whose strategic management focus is on sustained competitive advantage. This new focus, Resource-Based Theory, provides a foundation for explaining factors which contribute to sustained financial profit for both corporate and small business strategy because the fundamental goal of resource-based theory is to increase business profits. Businesses achieve increased financial profit by sustaining a competitive advantage through resources which are: valuable, rare, imperfectly imitable, and nonsubstitutable. In Gymnastics business these resource types can be defined as:

1. Financial: money assets, fungible financial stocks.
2. Physical: tangible property, i.e., facility, equipment, location, amenities.
3. Human: knowledge of coaching staff, training, and experience of owner/manager and his/her team of coaches and staff.
4. Technological: gymnastics aids, i.e., computers and computer software, training aids, technical equipment.
5. Reputational: perceptions of the local community (both parents and gymnasts) towards the gymnastics business.
6. Organizational: gymnastics club's structure, weekly/monthly programming, organizational structure.

Therefore, resource-based theory appears to serve as a theoretical underpinning which helps explain the resources that contribute to the financial success of small service-oriented sport businesses.

Gymnastics clubs in the U.S. today must have the ability to operate as small businesses in an ever increasing competitive service-oriented market. If they are to survive and prosper, they must seize the opportunity that social change is bringing. Being able to diversify by gaining an understanding of those factors which will contribute to their financial success is paramount.

Resources

Current gymnastics business owners and managers believed that the human and reputational resources were the most important resources contributing to the success of their gymnastics businesses. They ranked the human and reputational resource types 1st and 2nd out of the six different resource types.

A Resource-Based View - continued

Their top five individual resources were also HUMAN and REPUTATIONAL. Specifically, reputation for quality, professionalism, and customer service; knowledgeable coaching staff; reputation for safety; reputation as an educational / recreational gymnastics club; and staff training, combined to provide the greatest source of success for gymnastic businesses, according to the current owners and managers.

Recommendations

- ♦ Don't pay so much attention to your competition. Rather, look within your own gymnastics business to identify those resources that make you unique. If those resources are so rare and valuable that other organizations would have difficulty imitating them, you may have an advantage over your competition. Once you identify these resources, market them. This is what gives you a unique reputation
- ♦ Pay particular attention to hiring and retaining the right coaching staff. They are your front line and a big part of the key to the success of your gymnastics business.
- ♦ Do not overlook your financial resources. If starting out, make sure you have developed a solid business plan. This will provide a road map for your business as well as getting the attention of would-be investors.
- ♦ Pay attention to the location and condition of the facility you use. Remember, saving money on monthly rent/mortgage may not be beneficial if your location attracts few clients or your operating and utility expenses are astronomical due to the age or inadequacy of the facility for gymnastics instruction.
- ♦ If you do not already have one, draft a **mission statement**, and create a **logo** which visually represents this mission. This will give your gymnastics business direction as well as keeping you and your staff focused.
- ♦ Membership in and attendance at meetings of business-related organizations such as: Chamber of Commerce; Small Business Association; American Business Association and USA Gymnastics Member Club program, are excellent resources which should be tapped in order to foster professional support and development.

Excerpts from a national research study conducted by Dr. Stuart Mc Mahon (formerly of Temple University). as reported in the August, 1999 Technique published by USA Gymnastics.

XXIII Sokol USA Slet Sokolfest Cleveland '99

Team Event Results

Womens Volleyball (12 Teams)

1. Sokol Canada
2. ASO Greater Cleveland #1
3. ASO Chicagoland #1

Mens Volleyball (11 teams)

1. ASO Chicagoland
2. ASO Greater Cleveland #2
3. ASO Berwyn-Slavsky #1

Womens 3-on-3 Basketball (6 Teams)

1. ASO Chicagoland
2. ASO Detroit
3. ASO Greater Cleveland

Mens 3-on-3 Basketball (14 Teams)

1. ASO New York
2. USA Lodge #306 Chicago
3. ASO Greater Cleveland

Slet Program Relay Race

1. American Sokol
2. D.A. Sokol
3. Sokol USA
4. Sokol Canada

Wilderness Camp Adventure

Two Junior Boys, two Junior Girls and an instructor from the American Sokol will have the opportunity to interact with Juniors from the other World Sokol Federation Member Sokol Organizations while attending a 2 week Wilderness Camp in the Czech Republic following the Prague 2000 Slet. Details on requirements and selection process will be available soon.

Interested?

Interesting Statistics from the Gymnastic Business Study

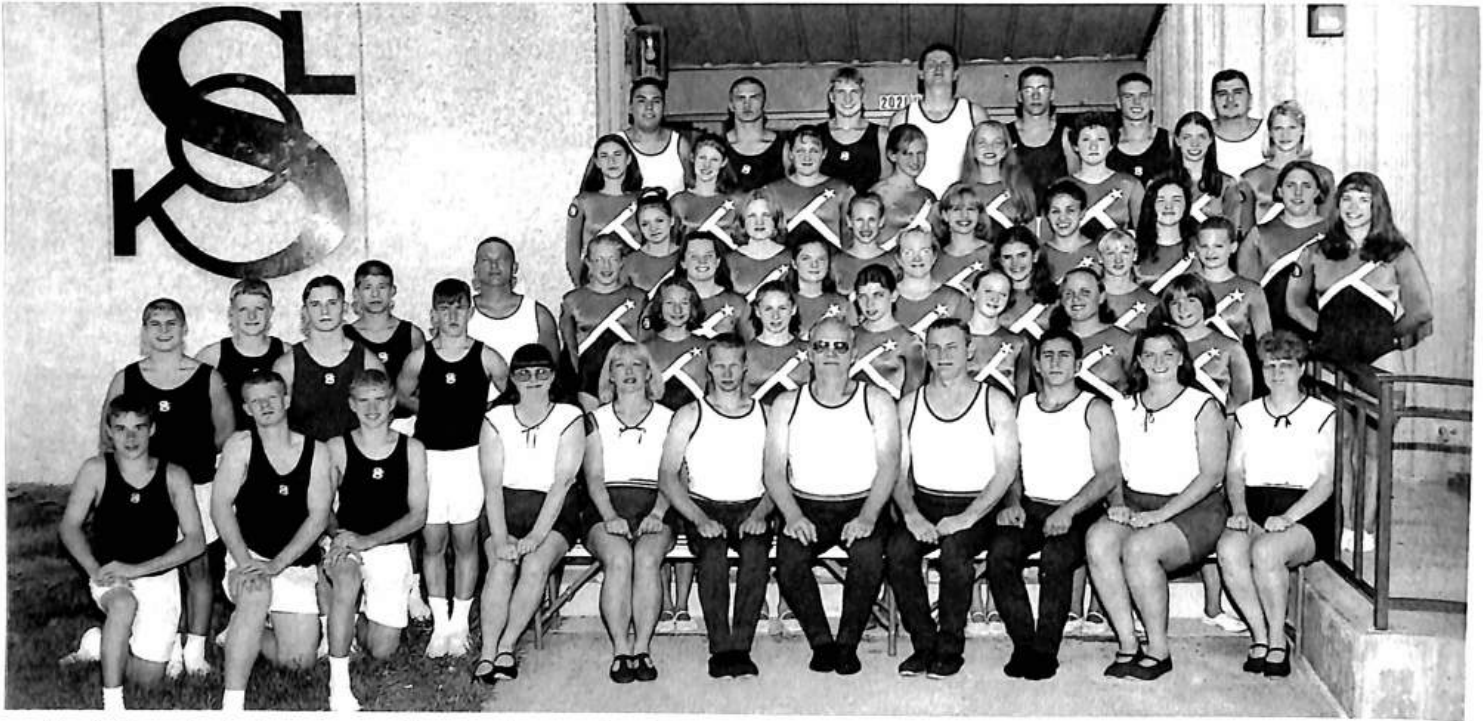
Of the 337 Gymnastics Clubs responding to the survey:

- ♦ 51% grossed* \$100,000 - \$499,999
- ♦ 29% grossed* less that \$99,999
- ♦ 15% grossed* \$500,000 - \$1,000,000
- ♦ 5% grossed* \$1,000,000+

* before taxes

Technique 8/99

**1999 American Sokol National Instructors School
July 19 - August 2 - Sokol South Omaha - Western District**



Forty-five students representing fourteen units of the American Sokol and DA Sokol attended this years instructors school held at Sokol South Omaha. The school levels broke down to twelve beginners, seventeen intermediate, and eleven advanced with five students returning for a fourth year of training in the Tyrns system of Physical Education. The staff immediately put their heads together and attempted to vary the curriculum for these five, 2nd year advanced students. although, the curriculum changes were experimental in fourth year curriculum developed for students seeking a fourth year experience. The success of an instructors school ultimately depends on the teaching staff. Test scores, enthusiasm during classes, and the quality of work produced by each student indicates the concern and dedication each staff member brings to the school. Our school also owes its success this year to the presence of Sister Jan Kalat (National Director of Women). Her kind words and great Sokol enthusiasm reflected on everyone. Over fifty spectators attended the graduation banquet and program. This allowed the students to perform the compositions they had created during the two weeks with even greater vigor than usual!. As the flag was lowered for the last time we ended our two weeks together with three sokol Zdar's!!! Each unit who sent students to this years school should be very proud of these young Sokols! Allow them to work and flourish in your gymnasiums. Nazdar! Vojmir Benak School Director

Advanced II Students: Alison Kool - Sokol So. Omaha, Joseph Kucera - Sokol Naperville, Karen Kucera - Sokol Naperville, Blair Panackia - Sokol Detroit, Gretchen VencI - Sokol Gr. Cleveland; **Advanced Students:** Robert Kucera - Sokol Naperville, Stephanie Langer - Sokol KHB, Katerine Ludvik - D.A. Sokol, Michelle Mercer - Sokol KHB, Maria Pinizzotto - Sokol Gr. Cleveland, Jody Steinman - Sokol Ft. Worth, Jon Kovar-Tooke - Sokol Brookfield, LeAnn Vance - Sokol South Omaha, Amber Winkley - Sokol Gr. Cleveland, Mike Wise - Sokol Gr. Cleveland, Steven Wise - Sokol Gr. Cleveland; **Intermediate Students** ; Jason Barber - Sokol So. Omaha, Jonathan Boyd - Sokol KHB, Angeli Delcarlo - Sokol Naperville, Stacey Domzalski - Sokol Chicagoland, Kevin Fitzpatrick - Sokol Gr. Cleveland, Jasmine Isom - Sokol KHB, Victoria Kathrein - Sokol Tabor, Anne Kocek - Sokol Chicagoland, Veronica Kool - Sokol So. Omaha, John McBride - Sokol KHB, Brooke Masek - Sokol So. Omaha, Angelica Puchala - Sokol Ber/Slav, Hiedi Sanders - Sokol Brookfield, Carissa SkrivaneK - Sokol Minnesota, Kevin Wheet - Sokol Stickney, Marc Wheet - Sokol Stickney, Heidi VencI - Sokol Gr. Cleveland; **Beginner Students:** David Aguirre - Sokol Brookfield, Christina Carter - Sokol Corpus Christi, Katerine Kavan - Sokol Gr. Cleveland, Virginia Kocsek - Sokol Chicagoland, A.J. Marinez Jr. - Sokol Corpus Christi, Miquel Martinez - Sokol Corpus Christi, Sherry Nigro - Sokol Omaha, Jennifer Polk - Sokol Brookfield, Shannon O'Lseary - Sokol Minnesota, Karla Pinzzotto - Sokol Gr. Cleveland, Emilee Ritter - Sokol Detroit, Laura Scott - Sokol Detroit; **Staff:** Bud Benak - School Director, Jessica Burns - Sokol KHB, Bob Liptak - DA Sokol, Jan Kalat - ASO National Director of Women, Buddy Benak - Sokol So. Omaha, Bro. Peter Lattanzio - DA Sokol, Mary Panackia - Sokol Detroit, Sandy Benak - Secretary

MEMORIAM 🍷 Bro. Frank Laznovsky

Bro. Frank A. Laznovsky, a 64 year member of Sokol Karel Havlicek Borovsky, Ennis, Texas, passed away in Ennis on the 7th of July. Following are excerpts from the eulogy presented by Bro. Robert (Bob) Podhrasky, 1st Vice-President of the Southern District, American Sokol Organization.

We gather today to pay our respects to Frank Laznovsky, husband, father, grandfather, friend, community leader. As we mourn the loss of a great friend, and offer comfort to those close to him, let us take some time to celebrate the life of an outstanding person.

Frank Anton Laznovsky was born September 22, 1908 in Hnidousy, Bohemia. His family traveled to the United States on the ship, the Frankfurt, and landed in Galveston in 1911. After a year in Wagoner, Oklahoma and a year in Bremond, Texas, the family moved to the predominately Czech community of Telico just east of Ennis, and later settled in the nearby community of Creechville.

Frank was an athlete, playing baseball and basketball at school as well as being a Sokol gymnast. Of the many things he learned as a child, the challenges of a new life in a new country taught him a most important lesson -- that hard work and determination were the keys to success.

Frank's future bride, Mary Trojacek, grew up on a farm nearby. On November 5, 1932 they traveled to Durant, Oklahoma to be married. They lived on the Laznovsky family farm for two years and then they rented a house and land in the Ensign community before purchasing their farm in the Oak Grove community, just south of Ennis. Frank lived and farmed there for his remaining 61 years. They were fortunate, soon after they were married, Mary won \$50 at the movie theater, enough to purchase a team of mules and then they qualified for a special government loan to buy their farm for \$80 per acre. The rest was hard work.

Frank's Czech heritage was important to him. Throughout his life he served as a leader in the

local Czech community. Frank was an active member of Sokol Karel Havlicek Borovsky for 64 years, where he held several offices and served as hall manager for many of those years. He served as treasurer of SPJST Lodge 135 for 51 years and was a member of WFLA Lodge 402 for more than 50 years. He served as treasurer of RVOS Lodge 135 for 35 years and was Vice-president of Sokol Southern District for one year.

Frank was a family man. He enjoyed farming and 4-H with his son and often traveled to Sokol Slets and fraternal activities with his son and daughter. He taught his children the Czech language and learned the English language with them. He had the special privilege of living near his children all of his life. He had the pleasure of watching his granddaughters, who he cherished, grow to adulthood.

Frank had many fine qualities. He was proud of his Czech Heritage, but was even more proud to be a citizen of the United States. Frank was everyone's friend. He always had a smile on his face and a positive attitude. Some called him Mr. Frank, some called him grandpa. He would always stop what he was doing, smile and offer a warm greeting when he saw you. He was a person whose generosity and good deeds not only helped others, but also set an example to his children and friends -- to get involved, to take responsibility, and to make a difference.

He is survived by his daughter Sylvia, son Larry, daughter-in-law Lillian, and granddaughters Lisa and Lori, who unfortunately are away in Sweden attending an international Gymnaestrada event. Anyone who knew Frank will believe that he is in heaven looking down with a smile on his face, saying to them -- don't worry about me, you are doing great things, represent us well.

To brother Frank I wish to offer one last Sokol salute -- NAZDAR!

ANNUAL SOKOL TOWN OF LAKE CAMP REUNION

Sunday - 11:00 A.M.
October 10, 1999

At the former camp site at 103rd & Willow Springs Road (Drive into the Forestry Dept. entrance on the east side of Willow Springs.) Bring your own beverage. Meat will be provided by Sokol Town of Lake. Join in our Fall outing and bring photographs and memories.

Call Annette Schabowski 708-788-3695 or Mildred Mentzer 773-779-1272 if you plan on attending so we may provide adequately.

AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION XVII GENERAL CONVENTION

APRIL 27-30, 2000

Pre-Convention committees will meet April 25-26, 2000.
Housing at Harveys Casino Hotel • 1 Harveys Blvd. • Council Bluffs, IA. Meetings and sessions at Sokol Omaha • 13th & Martha Streets • Omaha, NE.

Details will be sent to all ASO Districts and Units.

GUEST SPEAKER

Šis. Barbara Lundeen, Sokol Fresno (formerly Šlavkovsky Sokol 1927-39)

The Future of the American Sokol

Miroslav Tyrs was a true visionary to realize the need to restore the spirit of the Czech people who had suffered under the Hapsburg Empire for over 300 years. Since Tyrs was an expert on human physiology, he was fully aware of the potential to develop strong physical bodies which in turn would produce healthy minds, according to the Greek model.

As our American Sokol Organization is weakening and could slowly die, we need to ask the question "What would Tyrs do?" if he were with us to direct us to the next millennium. We can speculate that Tyrs would

consider the whole situation, which includes our close relationship with our adopted country, which also needs help healthwise.

Today, our American Sokols are asking how we can compete in physical exercise as there are plenty of facilities and programs available for such. I firmly believe we can by doing a better job while expanding our vision by combining Western and Eastern methods, including those of our American Indians in the "Quest of Total Health," while leaning toward the total well-being from cradle to grave. We might be a

relatively small group, but so were the Czech Legionnaires fighting against the Austrian Hungarian Empire.

There was a precedent to reach, but beyond physical fitness training in CSR around 1938 when a select group of us received special training in case of German invasion.

Instead of competing in order to solve our problem, let's unite across the nation in conducting brainstorming sessions, to assist in the rejuvenation of the American Sokol Organization and hopefully assist our adopted nation as well.

Good Czechs *(continued)*

live comfortably on, while still affording trips to the "old country" nearly every summer. This really kept our excitement for "our" culture and language alive and we wrote letters enthusiastically to our cousins, whose lives seemed so very different from ours. And they were, yet we always felt very close to them. When it was time to leave communist Czechoslovakia at the end of another summer of special, joyful memories made there, we sobbed at the airport gates every time. We were leaving the people and the culture we loved... and yet we brought a huge part of it with us, in our hearts.

The house where we grew up has been host to many Czech gatherings and parties that would go on into the night and be so spirited that when they were through, even the neighbors could hum a few bars of the waltzes and Czech polkas that were played. It was there that the Czech music, food and drink flowed freely; songs were sung, stories and Czech fellowship shared. These were good times

for my parents... the gatherings a symbol of Czech fellowship and fun, a time to unite with their friends and celebrate the country and culture they loved; remembering that no matter where they were, they were still Czechs at heart.

The house seems much quieter now, with the boisterous parties a thing of the past. There are still small, friendly gatherings that keep Czech friendships and fellowship alive, yet the fast pace of the present times serves to space them out so that they are now fewer and farther between. My parents' house has a new decor, yet the interior of the home has remained the same in spirit. Brightly colored plates adorn my mother's kitchen walls and she still makes cooking and baking Czech delicacies a priority amid her successful real estate career. The house is filled with reminders of our family heritage... Czech pictures, books, music, videos... and my father still relaxes on the couch after a good day's work by reading and listening to Czech music.

Our small family has also changed over the years. My parents have an "American" son-in-law and soon the pitter-patter of little feet will be heard running up and down the stairs as our baby discovers and explores her grandparents' world. I hope that she will discover the hidden treasure within our family walls; that no matter where we are, the legacy and love of the Czech culture remains firmly planted in our hearts.

I give credit and honor to my parents today. Their many struggles as a transplanted people have proven fruitful after all; the Czech culture they brought with them is being passed on to younger generations... from a loving, strong foundation on to young, tender blossoms. With much nurturing, love and care, they will grow to keep the tradition alive, thankful for the beautiful heritage that has been passed on to them. In this great smorgasbord that is the American culture, my parents have built a firm foundation of love for their home country: which stands strong today.

~ LIBRARY RECOMMENDATIONS ~

Thanks to Sis. Maureen Janda, Sokol Detroit, for suggesting these books:

Prague in Black and Gold by Peter Demetz (Hill & Wang 1997)

The Coasts of Bohemia, A Czech History by Derek Saylor (Princeton University Press 1998)

American Sokol Organization Quarterly Financial Report

April, May, June 1999

Submitted by Bro. John Satek, Financial Secretary

RECEIPTS

Dues/Penalties	\$19,938.09
TGM Dues	55.00
Subscriber	50.00
Resale Jewelry/Membership Pins	398.00
Educational Booklets	45.00
BOI Skills/Ribbons/Tapes/Manuals	123.70
Donation	136.80
Postage	43.17
Seals	60.00
Copies/Labels	34.86
COS T-Shirts/Pins	100.00
Repay Merit Award	350.00
ASO Souvenirs	58.00
Flag Waver	5.00
Permit Postage from Central District	340.06
Repay Airfare Bro. Kala to Los Angeles	428.00
Czech Band	520.00
Uniform Dept. Salaries (Mar., Apr., May)	892.09
Uniform Dept. FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	157.88
Uniform Dept. FWT Tax (Mar., Apr., May)	30.00
Uniform Dept. IWT Tax (Mar., Apr., May)	30.96
Cap Stud	2.00
Uniform Dept. Phone/Fax	86.27
Uniform Dept. Rent (Apr., May, June)	1,035.00
TOTAL	\$24,919.88

DISBURSEMENTS

Administrative Dept.

Salaries (Apr., May, June)	\$2,778.65
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	470.49
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	63.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	70.65
Ameritech/AT&T	396.65
Com Ed	163.58
CPA (Apr., May, June)	570.00
Petty Cash, Postage	182.75
Insurances	957.00
Office Supplies	176.96
Janitor/Supplies	81.20
WinStar Internet OnLine Packrat	70.00
WinStar Domain	50.00
Network Solutions	35.00
Computer Instruction Book	25.95
Travel Paul Lebloch	613.34
Airfare Fred Kala Los Angeles	428.00
CACC Renewal	50.00
Transfer to new CD	5,000.00
Rent (May, June, July)	3,231.00
TOTAL	\$15,414.22

Education

Salary (Apr., May, June)	\$227.03
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	46.49
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	15.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	8.60
TOTAL	\$297.12

Board of Instructors

Salaries (Apr., May, June)	\$1,667.82
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	286.44
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	45.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	54.10
Ameritech/AT&T	356.55
Audio/Video Tapes	24.77
ASO Instructor School Omaha Advance	2,000.00
USAG Coaches Congress J.Kalat	200.00
Editor "Gymnast" (Apr./May, June)	60.00
TOTAL	\$4,694.68

Publication

Salaries (Mailing)	\$137.07
FICA/Medicare	62.20
FWT	10.00
IWT 1st Quarter	11.76
Printing (Apr./May)	1,364.92
Advance Postage/Address Changes	4,067.30
Training - Post Office	20.00
Editor (Apr./May, Jun.)	300.00
TOTAL	\$5,973.25

Uniform Department

Salaries (Apr., May, June)	\$830.44
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	157.91
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	30.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	27.85
Ameritech/AT&T	78.49
Office Supplies	31.58
Rent (May, June, July)	1,035.00
TOTAL	\$2,191.27

Miscellaneous

Print Czech Band Ticket	\$47.50
Czech Band Hall Rental	379.00
Subscription Czech Center	13.00
COS Slet 2000 T-Shirts	28.00
Central District Postage	169.96
Central District Supplies	4.88
Sokol USA Slet Ad	150.00
CGSI 2-Yr. Subscription	35.00
Donation Transfer to Foundation Fund	100.00
TOTAL	\$927.34

Balance Brought Forward/Checking	\$19,196.28
Receipts	+ \$24,919.88
	\$44,116.16
Disbursements	- \$29,497.88
	\$14,618.28
CPA Adjustment (January)	46.34
BALANCE CHECKING 6/30/99	\$14,571.94

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