

american **SOKOL**

Volume CXXIII, Number I

JANUARY 2001



The American Sokol Archives will soon be displayed in the Czechoslovak Society of America Museum in Oak Brook, IL. Plan a visit! This photo illustrates a very small part of our collection.

American Sokol
(ISSN 003-1259)

is published bimonthly
except monthly in Jan, Feb,
Mar, Jun, Sep, and Oct by
American Sokol

122 West 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523-1557
for \$8 per year. Periodicals
postage paid at Oak Brook, IL
and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to American Sokol,
122 West 22nd St.
Oak Brook, IL 60523-1557.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Larry Laznovsky	Bohus Bata
Gary Masek	Barbara Lundeen
Mary Cushing	BOI Representative
Marie Vachata	Mary Steinman-Hargiss
Mickey Dalton	Rhonda Liska

EXECUTIVE BOARD A.S.O.

Larry Laznovsky	<i>President</i>
Gary Masek	<i>I Vice-President</i>
Roger Martanovic	<i>II Vice-President</i>
Rhonda Liska	<i>Secretary</i>
Valentine Husak	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mary Steinman-Hargiss	<i>Financial Secretary</i>
Barbara Barnes	<i>Director of Women</i>
Chuck Kalat	<i>Director of Men</i>
Joan Sedlacek	<i>Educational Director</i>
Sash Dumanovic	<i>Public Relations</i>
Sylvia Laznovsky	<i>Membership</i>
Patricia Satek	<i>Editor</i>
Joyce Tesarek	<i>Foundation</i>
Rich Smetana	<i>Board Member</i>
Janet Kalat	<i>Board Member</i>
Jerry Milan	<i>Board Member</i>
Bob Kucera	<i>Alternate</i>
Bohus Bata	<i>Alternate</i>
Nancy Borvansky	<i>Alternate</i>
Bob Podhrasky	<i>By-Laws</i>

A.S.O. Executive Board meets every 4th Tuesday
(except July/August), 7:30 P.M.

A.S.O. Board of Instructors meets every 2nd
Wednesday (except July/August), 7:30 P.M.

From Your Editor...

I don't know about where you live, but here we're buried under a few feet of snow and it's cold often gloomy. On the brighter side, the snow is beautiful and you can follow the tracks of rabbits and squirrels across your lawn. You can find a list of great Sokol activities on the calendar of events below; a sure-fire cure for cabin fever! Hey, we're on the web! Check out www.american-sokol.org and navigate to the American Sokol publication.

NA ZDAR!

Sis. Patricia Satek

46 Northgate Road
Riverside, IL 60546-1639

CALENDAR
of EVENTS

FEBRUARY

24 Sokol Grtr. Cleveland Exhibition
24 Sokol Minnesota Sibrinky Dance
25 Sokol Stickney Pancake Breakfast

MARCH

3 Sokol Greater Cleveland BOI
Night at the Races, 8 P.M.
11 Sokol New York Exhibition
11 Sokol Grtr. Cleveland Jr. Club
Pancake Breakfast
16 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
17 Sokol Stickney Exhibition
24 Sokol Brookfield Exhibition
25 American Sokol Little Ferry
Lasagna Luncheon
25 Sokol Minnesota Slovak Dinner

APRIL

1 Sokol Stickney Pork Dinner
7 Sokol Grtr. Cleveland Bake Sale
7 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky Exhibition
8 Sokol Minnesota Spring Fling
20 Sokol Grtr. Cleveland Fish Fry
21 Sokol Ceska Sin Swiss Meet
22 Sokol Minnesota Pancake Bkfst.
28 Sokol Ceska Sin 25th Anniversary
Dinner & Dance
28 United Sokols of the East
Gymnastic Competition
29 Am. Sokol Little Ferry Exhibition

XX AMERICAN SOKOL SLET
JUNE 27-JULY 1, 2001
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

THOUGHT STARTERS

from Sis. Joan Sedlacek, A.S.O. Educational Director

*"The noisiest drum
has nothing in it but air."*

~ ENGLISH PROVERB

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.

MEMBER INSIGHT

By Sis. Sylvia Laznovsky
ASO Membership Chairman

As we embark on a New Year, one of the goals of our organization must be to increase members. Action taken at the American Sokol Convention in Omaha in April provided us with incentives to grow.

Since most Districts should have already had their annual meetings and election of officers, I have requested the names and addresses of the Membership Chairman in each District. I would like to maintain contact with them and provide an avenue for us to share information. I also want to assure that everyone has the material they need to understand the changes made during the convention. And, also important, that they in turn can assure that the unit membership persons have a clear understanding of our by-laws.

I feel there are so many excellent ideas available among our dedicated membership. Their input should be valuable when we consider who we should approach for membership in our unit. What has worked for one unit, or district, may also work for others. We must share these ideas. We must sell the benefits of the wonderful organization we have. We must share ideas and help each other grow! We must also be able to retain the membership we have.

Many of our Sokol communities also have organizations such as CSA lodges, WFLA lodges, SPJST lodges, cultural societies, etc., that share our efforts to preserve our heritage. In many areas, these groups gather together to sponsor community-wide festivals and other activities. They work closely together in preserving the heritage of our ancestors and would be excellent candidates for Sokol membership. Many already are, but how about the many that are not. They might be waiting to be asked. They should be approached. Sokol membership should not be limited to those involved in the gymnastic programs. We must develop something for all of our members.

We should work with all of the facets of our unit and find the best way to present the "Sokol Message," whether it be in the public relations, educational or membership areas of our work. All of these areas relate very closely.

Have a great new year and send me your ideas!

Na Zdar!

Our History - The Sokol Organization In America

From the Archives, by Bro. Stanley Barcal, March 1984

Prior to 1865, when our first Sokol Unit was founded in St. Louis, Missouri, the United States was going through some very exciting and difficult times. Gold was discovered in California in 1849, the Civil War (between North and South) was being fought. Some of the western states were not a part of the union, as yet, but were

still part of the territories.

At the same time, many European countries were experiencing a depression and continued loss of their few remaining freedoms. The people looked to America for a new start and a better future for their children. So they came by the

thousands, some with only the clothes on their backs, but with hope and determination to build a new life. With them, they brought something this young nation needed, their skills and abilities, plus a desire to work and build a future.

Continued on Page 4.

XX AMERICAN SOKOL SLET PROGRAM BOOK

Ad space may be secured in the XX Sokol Slet Souvenir Program Book at the following rates:

Full Page (8-1/2x11") _____	\$ 175.00	Benefactor _____	\$ 30.00
1/2 Page _____	\$ 90.00	Sponsor _____	\$ 20.00
1/4 Page _____	\$ 60.00	Patron _____	\$ 10.00
1/8 Page _____	\$ 35.00	Well Wishes _____	\$ 5.00
Inside Cover _____	\$ 225.00	Back Cover _____	\$ 325.00

Benefactor and Sponsor ads ONLY can be "In Memoriam," if so desired.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Telephone _____

Make check payable to: **ASO 2001 SLET**
 Mail to: F. R. Turchan
 134 Berkley
 Dearborn, MI 48124



DEADLINE FOR COPY: MAY 14, 2001

Our History - The Sokol Organization In America *(Continued from Page 3.)*

The Czech and Slovak people were among this throng who entered through Ellis Island in New York after a long journey, most in steerage, the cheapest means of transportation. Many settled in New York, while others made their way to the cities in the midwest. They were mostly young people, many alone and some with their families, eager to work. By 1865, there were entire communities of Czech people in all major cities throughout America. Because of the language barrier and being very poor, it was natural for them to form their own communities where they were able to help each other get started in their

adopted homeland. This enabled them to communicate and enjoy the customs of the country they left behind.

Shortly after the Civil War, on February 14, 1865 in St. Louis, Missouri, a group of Czech men organized the first Sokol unit in the United States, where they started gym classes for men and boys. By 1878, there were 13 Sokol units in the United States scattered throughout the major cities from New York to Chicago. They worked independently and with their own interpretation of the Sokol movement, which was developed and started in Prague, Czechoslovakia in 1862 by Dr.

Miroslav Tyrš.

Sokol New York being the largest and most progressive with 160 members, saw the need to unite into one national organization. They felt by all working together as one, the Tyrš system could be utilized in their gym classes and one set of rules and by-laws would strengthen the Sokol movement.

Due to the efforts of Sokol New York, delegates from 10 of the 13 units met in Chicago on September 11, 1878 and on September 15 they agreed on a name and officially organized the National Sokol Unity (Narodni

Continued on Page 5.

MEMORIAM Sis. Emilie Ruzicka

The last Sokol leader active in the grand years of the American Sokol Organization, known throughout the Sokol world as Emilie, passed away peacefully on December 23, 2000. She was 95 years old. Born into a Czech-American family in Chicago, Sis. Emilie was predestined to be part of the most fashionable and progressive movement, American Sokol. From the age of five, when she first entered a Sokol gym hall, to her last day, Sokol was the most important word of her vocabulary.

Her long and illustrious Sokol career began at Sokol Havlicek-Tyrs in Chicago, where she attended the children's and junior classes and became a member in 1922. In 1947, she transferred to Sokol Chicago, where she continued her Sokol activities. Throughout her long and fruitful life she held just about all Sokol offices, from the unit directorship to the most important position as a Director of Women of the American Sokol from 1945 to 1955. Later she was elected to the position of organizer of new units. Sokol Miami was one of the units she helped to establish and where she served her last office, as unit president. With the American Sokol team she was sent to the All Sokol Slet in Prague in 1926 and since then missed only one Slet, in 1948, when our organization refused to participate for the communist government. Sis. Emilie taught in many instructors' courses. There must be thousands of Sokol women who had the pleasure to be her students. Since 1945 until 1995 there wasn't any convention that would not have Sis. Ruzicka among its delegates. When the 2000 Omaha convention came around, she realized that her over 70 years of Sokol service was coming to an end.

As a good Sokol she involved herself in the Chicago Czech life. Sis. Emilie was a charter member of the Czechoslovak National Council of America, where she served in many functions.

With the demise of such an outstanding Sokol leader we come to the end of a great American Sokol era. Sis. Emilie not only participated in these Slets with thousands of Sokols before some 25,000 spectators, but with her leadership she organized many such events. In her last days she must have been thinking of all those Sokol leaders with whom she forged a strong bond that created a pinnacle of Sokolism in the United States. Sis. Emilie has earned the admiration and respect of our entire Sokol family and the Czechoslovak community.

May she rest in peace.

Compiled from information submitted by Vladislav Slavik, Ann Basta and Stan Barcal.

Our History - The Sokol Organization In America *(Continued from Page 4.)*

Jednota Sokolska) with a set of By-Laws and rules to follow. The purpose, to promote the Sokol movement in America through gymnastics. The official language was Czech, which was used in all gym classes, meetings and socially. They also kept alive the heritage, customs and culture they were so proud of, but had left behind in the land of their birth. While keeping alive their Czech heritage, they felt a great loyalty and respect for the flag of their

adopted homeland, which they displayed proudly.

The first Sokol units which banded together to create the National Sokol Unity were: Sokol New York , Sokol Detroit, Sokol Blesk (Baltimore), Sokol Cedar Rapids, Sokol Cleveland, Sokol Kewaunee, Sokol Czech American (Chicago), Sokol Chicago and Sokol In Cedar Rapids. There was a total membership of 528 and a

decision was made to have a monthly publication called Sokol Americky (American Sokol), creating a main line of communication between the members. The first issue was published January 10, 1879 by Bro. Gust. B. Risel The National Headquarters was in Chicago at 436 S. Canal St. (now home of Union Station and missed by the Chicago Fire). The first President was Bro. J.B. Belohradsky.

THE AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

requests the pleasure of your company at a banquet in celebration of our

XX AMERICAN SOKOL SLET

on

Friday, June 30, 2001

to be held at the Holiday Inn Ballroom, Dearborn, Michigan

Reception ~ 6:30 p.m.

(Cash Bar)

Dinner ~ 7:30 p.m.

Program and Dancing Following

After-Five Attire Please

Banquet tickets are \$55.⁰⁰ per person ~ Tables of 8 (eight) persons each are available.

Table assignment/tickets may be picked up at the entrance

Na Zdar! Slet Banquet Committee

Please fill out and detach the reservation form below and mail to:

Sis. Carolyn Sabados, 43911 Orleans Ct., Canton, MI 48187

If you have questions you may call at: 734-453-1692 after 5:30 p.m.



MENU PREFERENCE:*

Prime Rib
of Beef

Grilled
Chicken

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Sokol Unit /Organization _____

Number of Tickets _____ at \$55.⁰⁰ Each

Total \$ _____ (Check payable to: ASO 2001 Slet ~ ENCLOSED)

DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2001

** If you are reserving for others, please make sure that you have included their name and menu preference. Thank you.*



AMERICAN SOKOL
GYMNAST

EDITOR: Sash Dumanovic • 2419 Scoville • Berwyn, IL 60402



Prague Slet Relay Race

What can I say about the race in Prague? Well, I think that this was the closest feeling of being in the Olympics that any of us will ever experience. The race I am referring to is the 4x100 meter relay race, which was held during the Saturday evening performance of the Sokol Slet. The team (all from Sokol Greater Cleveland) consisted of Charlie Beckerman as anchor leg, Mark Beckerman who ran third, Tony Bartik who was second, and myself, Tim Krachko, who led off. We were superbly trained by J.J. Vencel ... the morning of the race. The small track next to the stadium served as our practice grounds. While we were practicing, we were trying to eye-up the competition, which gave us hope. Going into the race, we were all nervous, but felt confident that we would just do our best and that was all we could hope for.

Prior to our race, the race officials split us up into two groups, the first two runners and the last two runners of each team to take them to opposite sides of the field. There were teams from all over, representing Sokol. We were the team that represented American Sokol. While we waited, the officials made sure our names were spelled right and the correct people were competing. They explained the commands to each lead off runner, myself in particular because my understanding of the language is deficient. As we walked out onto the track, I was filled with nervousness and excitement. I am no stranger to big time races, but with the stadium filled to capacity and the illumination of the lights, the rush of emotion was just overwhelming. Even J.J. commented that he was excited while waiting for the race to begin. Over the loud speakers came the introduction of the teams and the names of the lead off runners.

As cheers came hurling down from the fans, the commands "ready-set" were announced, and then the gun. I was off. Before I could tell what was happening, I was handing off to Tony. Now I was a spectator and all I could do was cheer for our team. I was yelling as loud as I could as Tony raced down the backstretch and handed off to Mark. While screaming for Mark, I ran back across the field to the finish. Mark then handed off to Charlie. Charlie bolted down the home stretch to the finish line, coming in third. It was over, just as fast as it had begun.

It was a great honor for each one of us to have the opportunity to compete in that setting. The next race, American Sokol will win!

Tim Krachko
Sokol Greater Cleveland

Visit us at **WWW.AMERICAN-SOKOL.ORG**



Unit, District and National Directors get together for a group photo at the National Directors' Conference. Bottom row, front and center, our National Directors, Sis. Barbara Barnes and Bro. Chuck Kalat led a very valuable and productive conference.



All of the District Directors take a short break from the Friday meeting at the 2001 Directors' Conference. As always, the District Directors came prepared to present reports and answer questions about their District activities.

2001 District Directors' Conference Highlights

The weekend Directors Conference began on Friday, January 12th with a meeting covering such topics at the 2001 National Slet in Detroit, new National BOI programs, and Youth Membership. The Director Development portion of the conference began on Saturday morning at Sokol Brookfield.

Some of the development sessions included "What's Our Job As Directors?," Team Gym & General Gymnastics, an open forum to share ideas or address concerns as a group, and a session on the common questions and benefits of National Instructors' School. The Conference schedule allowed someone to choose between a live, interactive group session or a video session with a presenter. The videos shown are from the Patti Komara series with topics including "Advertising and Promoting Your Gym" and "Why Students Quit."

The Conference was full of activity and it was a great start to openly discuss some of our concerns with possible solutions. There were a few sessions during the conference that facilitated some good discussion and were issues shared by all of us. "Involving Parents" was presented by Sis. Ellie Babka and confirmed that all units, in time, may find themselves becoming only a temporary sitter for the children if we are unable to develop a program and some activities that will bring our student's parents closer to Sokol. Taking some time to get to know the parents and their children by someone talking to them during classes, providing a small place with a group leader could allow interested parents to take class time to stretch or do some light calisthenics themselves, and allowing parents to see firsthand the greatness Sokol can offer are a handful of things that will be essential to the future of Sokol.

On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, clinics were conducted on the Slet Calisthenics. The authors were present to answer questions, to show the drill by video and/or demonstrate the drill, and give technical assistance to those attending.

One other topic that was most showed plenty of interest in was "How to attract, teach, and keep juniors", moderated by Bros. Howie Wise, Bud Benak, Sr., and Tom Pajer, and Sis. Pat Satek. It was understood that the lives of Juniors are usually very busy and Sokol has much competition for the a Junior's time. A golden rule for a junior instructor is to become involved as much as possible in the lives of their Juniors. If a student plays another sport, then bring that up in conversation. Becoming

interested in their goals, relationships, and in them especially, is a quality of a good instructor. It was also stressed by the moderators that it is very helpful to do things outside of the normal class routine with the Juniors such as giving them the opportunity to conduct their own fundraiser. The adult should be close, but allow the Juniors to run the show. Playing volleyball, going bowling, indoor rock climbing, ice skating, seeing a movie, or going to the beach to enjoy the day also help create group bonding and in turn strengthen the in class Junior program.

Many thanks go directly to our National Directors, Sis. Barbara Barnes and Bro. Chuck Kalat for their tireless efforts to make this Conference enjoyable and productive. Thanks to Sokol Brookfield for the use of their gym and cooperation over the weekend, to the Berwyn-Slavsky Juniors who were able to come out and demonstrate the Junior drill, to all the presenters who did a wonderful job with their sessions, and to the national office staff, the National BOI, the District and Unit Directors, and conference attendees for their hard work and contributions.

Sokol Resource List

At the 2000 American Sokol National Convention, the Convention Board of Instructors came to the conclusion that, although it would certainly be beneficial to have the Traveling Instructor, it was not likely or feasible financially that such a position would be instituted in the near future.

In order to fill the information resource gap of not having a Traveling Instructor to assist units with training, program development, etc., the American Sokol National Board of Instructors has compiled a list of volunteer "Resource People". The volunteers listed have expertise in various aspects of the Sokol system and programs and are willing to make themselves available to assist units in need of help with particular problems, situations, etc.

Calisthenics Instruction, Stunting and Acrobatics, Folk Dancing, Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastic Instruction, Marching, General Gymnastics activities, and Volleyball are some of the various areas the list offers human and technical resources for.

The list is being distributed to unit and district directors at the present time. Also being distributed is a list of the National BOI Coordinators for the various national programs and activities available through the National BOI. If you or someone you may know has an area of expertise and would agree to being added to the resource list, please forward recommendations to the National BOI Secretary at aso@american-sokol.org or (630) 368-0771. Updates will be distributed via the Directors Newsletter.

If there is an area where we may not have a resource for, please bring that to the attention of your unit and district directors. Any areas beneficial to the fulfillment of Sokol ideals will most certainly be looked at and decided upon for the improvement of American Sokol, its units, and members.

2001 MERIT AWARD

Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee and the Board of Instructors, the delegates of the XII American Sokol Convention, held in Detroit in June, 1975 approved Merit Awards to be paid from the Sokol Future Leaders Fund. The Merit Award Committee is now accepting applications for the 2001 Merit Awards from students who are planning a course or program in an accredited two-year or four-year college or who are already participating in such a course of study. The application process begins with the submission of the form below to obtain application forms and instructions.

The amount to be awarded is \$500 to two students per year per district, which has under 1500 members, and an additional two students per year per district which has over 1500 members. Unallocated District awards become awards at large, open to any qualifying applicant regardless of district. The award is good for one year. An individual may receive only one award, and no renewal is available. Applicants may be entering any year (not just 1st year) of appropriate studies.

Failure to submit a transcript of grades to the American Sokol Merit Award committee for the year of the award and/or failure to complete the year's course of study will result in a request for repayment of the award.

The selections are made by the Merit Award Committee and approved by the American Sokol Organization Board of Instructors and the American Sokol Organization Executive Board. The following points will be considered by the Merit Award Committee in selecting the candidates:

1. Regular attendance in Sokol classes for at least three years prior to this application. Juniors may be included but must become adult Sokol members at age 17.
2. Successful completion of Sokol Instructor School(s)-Unit, District, and/or National.
3. Teaching or assisting experience in Sokol gym classes.
4. Service to Sokol-Unit, District, and/or National Organization
5. Recommendation of the Physical Director of Sokol Unit.
6. Recommendation of the District Physical Director

Although physical education study will not be a criteria, more consideration will be given to those training in the physical education field.

Merit Award Committee

Barb Barnes, Chuck Kalat, Barb Kucera, Bob Kucera, Nancy Pajeau, Eva Balas (Chairman)

Merit Award Committee, c/o American Sokol, 122 West 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523

I desire to make application for the **American Sokol Merit Award**.
Please mail an application form and other application materials to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

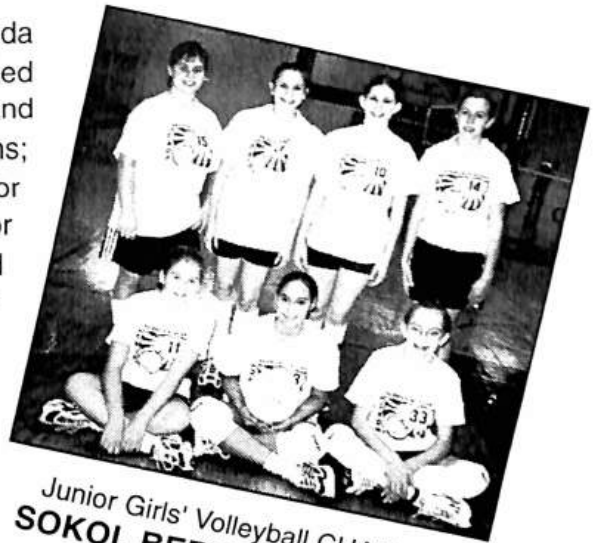
My age is _____ years. I am a member of Sokol _____

APPLICATION REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2001.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2001.

CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWS!

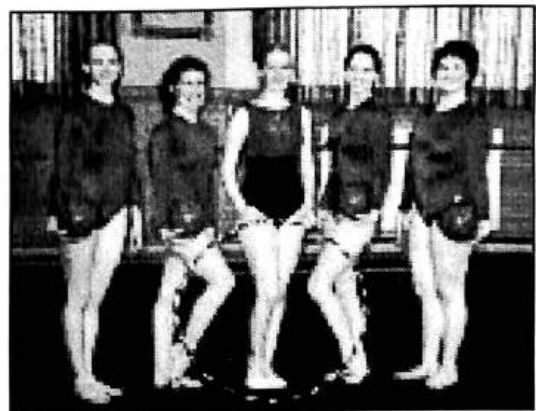
Central District Directors, Bro. Bob Kucera and Sis. Lynda Bazata, led the way for a fun-filled fall/winter season packed with Sokol activity. In October, 1st and 2nd Class Boys and Girls participated in separate **TRACK & FIELD** competitions; November saw the start of **VOLLEYBALL** tournaments for Men, Women and Juniors; in December, the Women, Junior Girls and 2nd Class Girls competed in **RHYTHMICS** and Boys, Junior Boys and Men participated in a one-day **GYMNASTIC SKILLS** testing. Way to go Central District!



Junior Girls' Volleyball CHAMPS
SOKOL BERWYN-SLAVSKY



Women's Volleyball CHAMPS
SOKOL CHICAGOLAND



Rhythmic Competitors from
SOKOL CHICAGOLAND



2nd Place - Women's Volleyball
SOKOL BERWYN-SLAVSKY

Photos supplied by Sis. Anny Moravec and Sis. MaryEllen Newsom, Sokol Chicagoland.

american **SOKOL** Flag Waver!

The American Sokol Organization gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations in direct support of the American Sokol Publication. **NA ZDAR!**

Lucille (Kalat) Goetz - \$10.00

See Page 11 for information on how you, too, can become an AMERICAN SOKOL FLAG WAVER!

NEWS FROM SOKOL PREROV

CZECH REPUBLIC

On November 25, 2000, Sokol Prerov (Czech Republic), sister Sokol of Sokol Corpus Christi, TX, unveiled a memorial tablet to former president of the Middle Moravia-Kratochvil Sokol District, Bro. Rudolf Lukastik. Rudolf Lukastik (1894-1997) helped to organize the Czechoslovak Army in France and England under President Edvard Benes during the Second World War. Bro. Lukastik was later kept by communists after 1948.

PHOTO 1 shows the memorial tablet being unveiled by former District Women's Director, Sis. Lida Chytilova.

PHOTO 2 shows District Vice-President Blazena Sonska speaking about Bro. Lukastik's history.

150 people, including Mayor Jindrich Valouch, took part at this celebration.

*Submitted by Jaroslav Skopal
President of Sokol Prerov
Czech Republic*

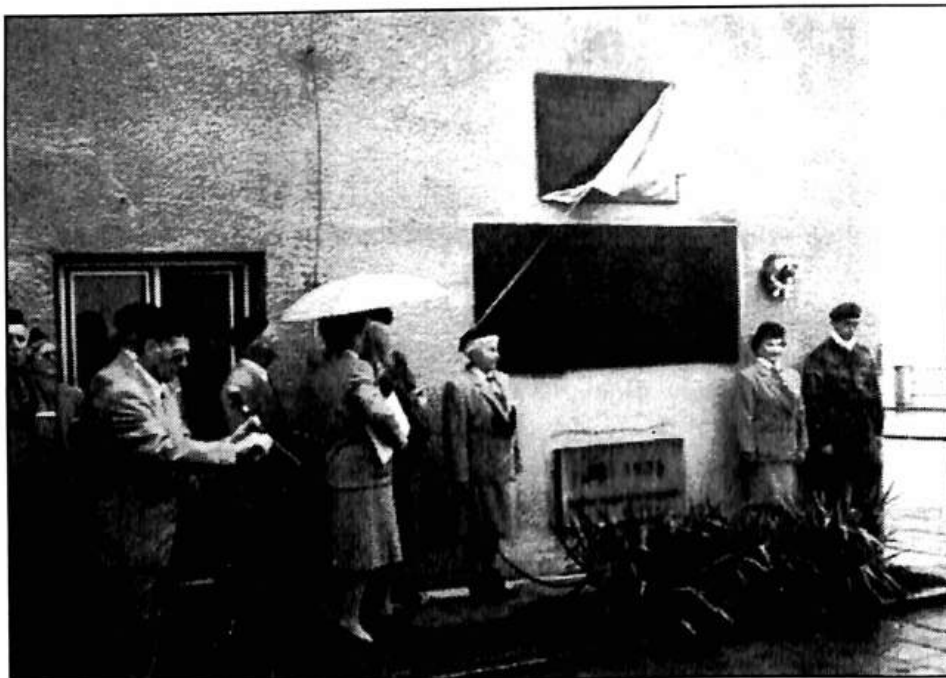


PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

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 John Onderka from Sokol Rip\$100.00
In Honor of Robert & Vivian Smunt's 50th Anniversary from Anton Smunt\$25.00

WORLD SOKOL FEDERATION

“What is the World Sokol Federation?” is a question we hear in many Sokol circles. Is it a supreme Sokol institution that governs all national organizations all over the world? Certainly not. All national Sokol organizations, such as American Sokol Organization, are independent, self governing bodies subservient to no one. Then, what is the purpose of this Federation?

Historically, World Sokol Federation is a successor of a Slav Sokol Federation (Svaz slovanskeho Sokolstva). That Federation embraced all national organizations within the Hapsburg Empire. It was formed during the V All Sokol Slet in 1905 not to supercede the national Sokol organizations but rather unite them under one central umbrella. United in a strong alliance and speaking with one voice on behalf of well over one million of Sokols, the Austrian Government, was forced, however unwillingly, to recognize the Slav Sokol Federation.

The official purpose of the Federation was to support each other, disseminate information, and organize common affairs. Unofficially and secretly it supported the efforts of Slav patriots to liberate themselves off the Hapsburg yoke. Obviously, the Czech Sokol Union was the

strong pillar supporting other Sokols through instructors and educational courses, sending traveling instructors and helping financially.

Between the two World Wars the Federation became the most powerful civic movement in Europe, numerically surpassing the Boys Scouts. When Hitler occupied Czechoslovakia and later all of, Sokol organizations were forcefully disbanded together with the Federation. All Sokol leaders were executed in Nazi concentration camps. The loss of these leaders weakened the Sokol movement in Europe to such an extent that it was not able to withstand the Communist assault on basic human liberties after the war. In the three-year period after the war ended the Communists gradually destroyed all Sokol organizations in Eastern Europe.

It wasn't until the summer of 1990 that Sokol leaders of the American Sokol Organization, Sokol na Slovensku and Ceska obec sokolska met during the Sokol Get Together in Praha and discussed the possible renewal of Sokol Federation. In the next three years their representatives met several times to prepare the Constitution and By-Laws. Finally in the Fall of 1993 the official delegates of American Sokol,

Sokol USA, Sokol na Slovensku, Sokol Abroad and Ceska obec sokolska met in Tyrs' House in Praha to charter the World Sokol Federation (Svetova obec sokolska). It proclaimed that the purpose of the World Sokol Federation is to unite all national Sokol organizations under one common umbrella without compromising the independence of each member organization, to inform each other about various activities that may benefit other organizations and to foster an exchange of national and other publications, to organize and possibly fund instructors' and educational courses, summer camps for the benefit of all members, to encourage visit each other's national Slets to publish a Newsletter (Zpravodaj) which pages would be available to all national organizations, to administer the above activities the By-Laws of the Federation, the national organizations form an Executive Board (Rada), consisting of two members from each organization who on their Annual Meeting will elect their officers. The annual meeting will be held every two years (which was last year changed to three years).

As soon as the Federation was formed DA Sokol, Slovenian

Continued on Page 10.

World Sokol Federation *(continued)*

Sokol, Australian Sokol, and Polish Sokol asked for and were brotherly accepted. Canadian Sokol applied for membership and was gladly accepted last year. The application of Sokol Serbia is going through the election process. Should it be approved, the Federation will consist of eleven national organizations. Despite the cultural and lingual differences, the Federation is doing surprisingly well, even if it is still in early stages of development.

Interestingly, while Western Sokol organizations struggle to keep their membership and activities, organizations in Eastern Europe

are reporting substantial increases in the same categories. It would seem that sports and games are the most significant additions, bringing with them youth and enthusiasm. These organizations are introducing into their Sokol program new trends while still adhering to the old Sokol traditions. Obviously, Sokol found its way into a general life style of Eastern and Central Europe and is accepted as important part of social environment.

While it is difficult to hold any kind of Sokol activity for organizations spread all over the world, the Federation organized an

instructor course in 1994 and 1996, international summer camp in 2000 and is preparing another one after the Detroit Slet. A high level course for Sokol leaders, instructors and directors is being planned either in 2003 or 2004. Yet, the present leadership of the Federation is aware of its shortcomings, especially in the area of communications. It hopes that at the next election meeting in 2003 it will be able to pass on the reins of the Federation to a younger Sokol generation to lead us into the 21st century.

Na Zdar!

What is Sokol to me?

... by Bro. Jody Steinman, Sokol Ft. Worth

I am proud to say that I am a "Sokol." People say that Sokol means "falcon," but to me, Sokol means families coming together, brothers working with sisters and children feeling that they are a part of something that will leave a lasting impression for the rest of there lives. Sokol is not a "falcon." Sokol is not a "building" up the street. SOKOL is every one of you that come, drill, socialize, teach, learn and help to build the best organization I would ever hope to be a part of. The Sokol Organization is known around the world for many people working together. When you look on to a field of 10,000 people working together you see a very beautiful thing. Would it look the same if there were only one person on the field? Only we, people working together as a "unit," can make something for all to enjoy; it is not a one-man job. We are "Sokol Fort Worth" a "UNIT" and we should be proud of what we have united to make. As I sit and think of all the things I have done for Sokol, I realize that I do it for all of you. What is important is what we, every one of us do together, knowing that we ARE a part of what happens at Sokol. Na Zdar!

Vist us
on the web!

**WWW.
AMERICAN
-SOKOL
.ORG**



AMERICAN SOKOL

Change of Address

This clip-out coupon is positioned so that your mailing label appears on the back. If your mailing address has changed, use a pencil to carefully mark an X through the OLD mailing label. Complete the change of address form below and mail to:

AMERICAN SOKOL
6424 W. Cermak Road
Berwyn, IL 60402-2386

Sokol

Name

NEW!
Address

City

State

Zip

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS,
MEMBERSHIP PINS & KITS, ETC.**

**MEMBERSHIP PINS AND
NEW MEMBER INFORMATION KIT**

- Membership Kit
- Plain Pin (No Year)
- 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50-Year Pins
- 55 Years & Over Citation of Merit

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

- "Sokol and the Sokol Ideal"
- "Our Task, Aim and Goal"
- "Dr. Josef Scheiner"
- "Highlights of Czech History"
- A.S.O. 125th Anniversary Book
- "American Sokol Sings" Songbook
- Gymnastic Activities w/Hand Apparatus
- Sokol Gymnastics Manual
- Unit ID Ribbons

BOARD OF INSTRUCTORS

- Director's Newsletter Subscription
- Unit Directors' Handbook
- District Directors' Handbook
- Girls'/Boys' Skills Program Materials
 - Large Packet (25 Participants)
 - Small Packet (12 Participants)
- Skills Program Videotape
- Tots' Skills Program Materials
 - Large Packet (25 Participants)
 - Small Packet (12 Participants)
- Separate Cards, Patches, Bars and Ribbons Also Available

For information on all items, contact:
AMERICAN SOKOL
630-368-0771

YES! I want to be an ...
american
SOKOL *Flag Waver!*

Publish my name in one issue to acknowledge my donation in support of the American Sokol magazine.

- Your Donation
- \$5-\$9.99 Donation - Single Line Listing of Donor Name Only
- \$10-\$14.99 Donation - Single Line Boxed Name Only
- \$15-\$19.99 Donation - 2-3 Line Boxed Acknowledgement
- \$20 or More Donation - 4-5 Line Boxed Acknowledgement

1st Line - NAME ONLY _____

2nd Line - (if Applicable) _____

3rd Line - (if Applicable) _____

4th Line - (if Applicable) _____

5th Line - (if Applicable) _____

CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
American Sokol Organization
FLAG WAYER
6424 W. Cermak Road
Berwyn, IL 60402

Listing will appear in next available issue after donation is received and will be shown in ONE ISSUE ONLY.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN SOKOL!
NAZDARI!

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!



**2001 SLET
SOUVENIRS
NOW AVAILABLE!**
Call for Info 630-368-0771

Keep fit! Have fun! Join Sokol!

BOHEMIAN NATIONAL CEMETERY

of Chicago

Founded in 1877 for persons of all ethnic origins.

Memorials for Purchase at Competitive Prices

	FROM
•Cremation Niches	\$ 250.00
•Single Lots	\$ 500.00
•Masaryk Mausoleum Single Crypts	\$1500.00

Please call us for more information. Or come and visit our historic cemetery, which is accessible from the Kennedy Expressway – either the Pulaski Road or Austin Avenue exits.



773.539.8442

Bohemian National Cemetery Association

5255 N. Pulaski Road • Chicago, IL 60630

*Listen to beautiful Czech and Slovak music
every Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M.
Radio Station WCEV 1450 AM*

UNIGLOBE

Cihak Travel, Inc.

7222 W. Cermak Road
Suite 300
N. Riverside, IL 60546-1456
708-447-6400
FAX 708-447-6815
1-800-426-8826

Call for airline, hotel and tour
reservations worldwide.

Exclusive U.S. and Canadian
agent for Prague Suites,
the hotel alternative.

UNIGLOBE

WE WILL CHANGE
THE WAY YOU TRAVEL.

Provide \$5,000

of life insurance for yourself,
your children or your grandchildren.



Call 1-800-LIFE-CSA today!

*Pay as little as \$390.⁰⁰ once.

*One time premium of \$390 provides \$5,000 of insurance for a newborn under age 1 year. Other rates and amounts are available. Rates effective as of 2/1/99. Subject to change without notice.

WEBER TRAVEL AGENCY



Complete Worldwide Professional Travel Service

SPECIALIZING IN TRAVEL TO CZECH REPUBLIC
SINCE 1958

6805 West Cermak Road • Berwyn, IL 60402
Tel. 708-749-1333 • FAX 708-749-1350



wfla
western fraternal life association
1900 First Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
(319) 363-2653 • (800) 535-5472 • Fax (319) 363-8806