

american SOKOL

Volume CXXV, Number 1

JANUARY 2003

NEW AMERICAN SOKOL UNIFORMS NOW ON SALE!

Here is a rendition of the newly designed American Sokol uniforms. A uniform committee was established and submitted designs were reviewed and discussed and tweaked and discussed again and again. After many months, a finalized plan was established and implemented. Samples were reviewed and more discussions and revisions were made. This was by no means an easy task! But finally, we have stylish new uniforms to take us into the future. Congrats to the entire Uniform Committee for a job well done! The general concept of the new design was conceived by Sis. Patricia Satek. The script word Sokol was submitted for consideration by Sokol Detroit. *ORDER YOURS TODAY!!*



Illustration is representative only. Actual uniforms are slightly different. Color is not accurate above.

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

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From Your Editor...

Welcome to 2003! It is sure to be full of surprises, sadness, happiness and hope. Make the most of every day! The biggest Sokol happening of the year is sure to be the XXIV Sokol USA Sokolfest in July in Valparaiso, Indiana. Don't miss it or any of the many Sokol events taking place weekly.

NA ZDAR!

Sis. Patricia Satek

46 Northgate Road ~ Riverside, IL 60546-1639

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY

12 Sokol Little Ferry Holiday Party
17 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
25 Sokol Ceska Sin Winter Exhibition
26 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky Super Bowl
Tailgate Party
31-2/2 Sokol Ceska Sin Ski Trip

FEBRUARY

8 Sokol Brookfield Spaghetti Dinner
9 Sokol Milwaukee Jaternice Dinner
16 Sokol Stickney Pancake Breakfast
21 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
22 Sokol Greater Cleveland Winter
Exhibition 6:30 p.m.
22 Sokol KHB Annual 10K Giveaway
23 Sokol Milwaukee Czech Professor
Reception

MARCH

1 Sokol Brookfield Exhibition
8 Sokol Milwaukee Bowling
Tournament
8 Sokol Baltimore Costume Ball,
Dinner & Dance 410.877.0534

MARCH

8 Sokol Tabor Exhibition
8 Sokol Greater Cleveland Night
at the Races
14 Sokol Naperville Exhibition
15 Sokol Stickney Exhibition
21 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
21 Sokol Chicagoland Exhibition
22 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky Exhibition

APRIL

5 Lodge 306 Sokol USA Exhibition
6 Central District Special Number
Competition
13 Sokol KHB Membership Dinner,
Awards and Exhibition
18 Sokol Greater Cleveland Fish Fry
26 Sokol St. Louis Exhibition

XXIV SOKOL USA SOKOLFEST
July 2-6, 2003 • Valparaiso, Indiana

THOUGHT STARTERS

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

*"Americans have more time-saving devices and less
time than any other group of people in the world."*
~ DUNCAN CALDWELL

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.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

To continue my report that was in the last publication...

In September, the American Sokol was well represented at the Masaryk Memorial Statue unveiling in Washington, D.C. Part of the event included folk dancing by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers, of which many are members of Sokol Minnesota and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Panecni Mladez. Sokol Baltimore also presented an impressive hand balancing demonstration. Many thanks to our members that represented us at this historic occasion.

My wife, Lil, and I had the pleasure of attending Sokol Stickney's 75th Anniversary on October 5 and Sokol Omaha's 125th Anniversary on October 6. Both events were very nice. Lil and I enjoyed visiting with the members of both units. Thanks for the great hospitality and congratulations! On October 12, Bro. Paul Lebloch, President of the World Sokol Federation (member of Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky), represented the American Sokol at the WSF meeting held in Bratislava. Thanks for the great job Brother Paul! In October I attended the District Directors' Conference/Director Development Conference hosted by Sokol Greater Cleveland. At the same time, an Educational and Membership Conference was held. ALL the meetings proved very fruitful. The workshops held on Saturday and Sunday were very impressive. Our own members gave most of the presentations. The level of competence was great. It was very impressive to see the wealth of knowledge and talent the presenters shared.

After attending the Southern District Annual Meeting in Yukon, Oklahoma on November 2, Lil and I drove to Omaha to attend Sokolice South Omaha's 100th Anniversary. A wonderful time was had. Thanks and congratulations!

On November 23, the District Presidents and Executive Board Members that make up the Board of Governors (BOG) met for its annual meeting at our national office location in Oak Brook, Illinois. First on the agenda was a presentation by CSA Fraternal Life President William Strejc, Vice-President Deborah Zeman and Marketing Director Ed Jelinek. They shared information about an insurance plan directed at American Sokol youth members. The BOG later accepted their offer based (contingent) on the decision of individual units as to their desire to participate. Some of our units have close ties to other Fraternal groups and may not be interested. The District Presidents are responsible to find out about interest in their districts.

Following that discussion, presentations were delivered by Bro. Tom Pajer - Youth Membership, Bro. Sash Dumanovic - Selling Sokol and Bro. Allan Cushing - Strategic Planning. These presentations were very enlightening for the BOG. Later in the meeting, after the report of the Travelling Instructor/Organizer Committee was accepted, the committee's name was changed to the Strategic Planning Committee. This committee is striving to develop a plan to carry us into the future.

The District Presidents (all six were present) gave reports of District activities. Other issues discussed were membership applications, uniforms and seals. Also, to simplify the editing, printing and mailing of the publication, it was decided to move the printing back to the Chicagoland area in a few months, when practical.

Bro. Lebloch shared information with the BOG concerning the WSF meeting.

I continue to be impressed by the creativeness, drive and effectiveness of our BOG, Executive Board and our Board of Instructors. I look forward to working with this group and our membership to meet challenges of the future.

NA ZDAR! Larry Laznovsky, President, American Sokol

Report of Educational/Membership Meeting

AMERICAN SOKOL

October 18-20, 2002

American Sokol officers present were: Bro. Larry Laznovsky, President; Sis. Joan Sedlacek, Educational Director; Sis. Sylvia Laznovsky, Membership Director.

Representing the Districts: Central - Sis. Mary Newsom, Membership Director; Eastern - Sis. Audrey Benda, Educational Director (rep. Membership also). (Three representatives from Sokol New York also attended a portion of meeting.) Northeastern - Sis. Dorothy Cummings, Educational Director; Sis. Sally McGown, representing Membership; Pacific - Not represented; Southern - Sis. Sylvia Laznovsky, Educational Director (rep. Membership also); Note: Bro. Steinman, Membership Director, was present for the sessions on Sat. and Sun.; Western - Sis. Joan Sedlacek (representing Educational and Membership).

Since this was the first such meeting, attendees were limited to the District representatives. In those cases where there was not an incumbent in one of the positions, or if there was and they were not able to attend, we made contact with the District President and encouraged that someone be appointed to attend.

Those that were not able to attend missed an excellent opportunity to share the tremendous Sokol knowledge that the District Directors possess. All are dedicated to their volunteer positions and reflect their dedication to their organization. They are all involved in Sokol work in their units, their districts, in addition to their responsibility to the National Organization. In addition they have personal responsibilities.

We thank the directors for their cooperation and their willingness to share their ideas. We were impressed with their understanding and courtesy. All were willing to listen to each other's ideas. All were interested in trying new ideas. We all gained a better understanding of the fact that although something that worked for some of us for years, for

various reasons might not work in another unit because of their location, facility, etc. We also gained a better understanding of how we might take each other's ideas and adapt them to work for us.

Attendees had an opportunity to speak freely in bringing forth their ideas. Many ideas for fund raising were presented. We also thank the American Sokol Board of Instructors for allowing us to be a part of their conference on Saturday and Sunday. They presented an excellent cadre of speakers with an understanding of Sokol. The topics covered were very beneficial to anyone involved in Sokol work. It was great to see so many attendees from our younger generation participating as presenters and attendees.

Notes of some of the highlights of our meeting follow below. District report highlights are shown.

Brief discussions were held on areas of interest. Topics were placed on an agenda to be covered later in the meeting.

Northeastern District: Tour companies in the Cleveland area have Sokol Greater Cleveland's building on their list and many tours are directed to the facility. They also make dumplings and sell to other groups for dinners. Their facility lends itself to rentals to the public (several at one time). Educational talks with children and parents are held. Sis. Cummings uses a "Red Book" in her educational program with their children's classes. Materials are placed in their books. **Sokol Detroit** has a cabaret where members dress in kroje, present customs as audience participation, and a dinner and dance.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Sokol Baltimore is involved in the Czech Heritage Association. They participate in many ethnic fairs. Their tumblers go many places. Conduct weekend clinic education each year. Lots of TV and radio coverage. Pass out flyers. Reactivating their membership committee.

Continued on Page 8.

Sokol Milwaukee Offers Sokol Pins for Sale

Sokol Milwaukee has a 3/8"x1/2" Sokol emblem, artistically crafted in 24K gold-plate with a single post clutch back, for sale. You can wear it proudly as a lapel pin or as a tie tack and it is a great gift item or special recognition award. Each pin is \$21.00, plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. Orders should be sent directly to sokol/Sokolice Milwaukee, with check payable to the same, at the following address:



Bro. Jerome Zelenka, Sr.
10012 West Vera Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53224

Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. Questions should be directed to Bro Zelenka at 414-335-8121. Please do not send orders to the American Sokol National Office.

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 Teryn Naughton from Raydeen & John Naughton		\$25.00	
In Memory of Marie S. Vitak from Sokol Curtis Bay, Baltimore		\$25.00	
In Memory of Anton & Eleanor Ryva, Jr. from Elsie Cerny		\$25.00	
In Memory of George Vytlačil			
From Scott Stribny & Family	\$100.00	From Jo & Milt Pleva, Anna Staroba	\$75.00
From Carl, Milissa & Michael Dropka	\$25.00	From Sokol Town of Lake	\$25.00
From George & Jackie Kourim	\$25.00	From Sophie Tamason	\$25.00
From Laddie & Martha Lizak	\$10.00		
In Memory of Jerry Hruska			
From Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kozeluh	\$50.00	From Sokol Chicagoland	\$25.00

MEMORIAM Sis. Annie Regmund

Sokol Corpus Christi mourns the loss of Sis. Annie Regmund, age 84.

Annie was born in 1918 in Bryan, Texas. She was a retired bookkeeper at a Corpus Christi bank. She was a member of SPJST Fraternal Life, a lifetime member of Sokol Corpus Christi and a charter member of the Women's Circle of Corpus Christi.

As a dedicated member of Sokol Corpus Christi for 68 years, Annie began her Sokol involvement at the age of 12 and was admitted for membership in 1934. In 1935 she attended the mid-National Slet in Cleveland, Ohio, followed by a month-long instructors course in Cleveland. Sis. Annie became Director of Women at Sokol Corpus Christi in 1937 and held that position until 1955. Later, she served as kitchen chairman, financial secretary and performed in all the Czech plays (Divadlo) held at Sokol.

Sis. Annie was active in Sokol until her health no longer permitted. She took her director's job seriously and was devoted. Her girls' team took top place at district Slets, resounding her pride, dedication and loyalty - she loved the girls and loved teaching them. She will be missed at Sokol Corpus Christi.

Respectfully submitted by Jerry Sijansky, Vice-President, Sokol Corpus Christi

To all National Sokol Organizations of the World Sokol Federation

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We have just learned with profound sorrow of the death of Bro. Vratislav Svaton, Director of the World Sokol Federation and Director of Men of the Czech Sokol Organization. Bro. Svaton passed away on December 17, 2002 after a long severe illness. He will be very much missed by everyone who knew him.

Vratislav Zbuzek
Vice-President, World Sokol Federation

American Sokol YOUTH PROGRAM Activities and Information



Check out these youth activities and share them with the young Sokols that you know!

The winners and pictures of the Coloring Contest will be in February newsletter.

We had a RECORD number of entries in the Christmas Coloring Contest this year. All kids who turned over their creations will be receiving a prize for participating. Winners have been chosen and will be announced in the next SOKOOL newsletter.

PEN PAL PROGRESS

We received MANY requests for pen pals for this year's program. We are going to try to accommodate everyone's requests for the type of pal they want. Pen Pal information will be sent directly to the person requesting the Pal. Pen Pal participants will receive pre-labeled envelopes to make the job of sending to their pal even easier.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES WILL BE UPON US IN NO TIME

We are excited this year to get the chance to put together some great youth programs for 3 summer events! We will try to do things for the 2003 Slet in Valparaiso, the National Camp, and the Instructor's course. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see the youth committee do at these events, please let us know. Also, keep in mind that all youth members have a passport to commemorate their time as a youth member. If a stamp is made for an event that your Unit or District is running and if kids are reminded, they will bring their passports so that they can get it stamped for that event.

COMING NEXT ISSUE - YOUTH MEMBER STATISTICS

Check out how many kids are actually in our Sokol program from around the nation!

If you want more information about Youth Activities or have ideas for programs we can do this year or in the future, you can contact your district youth ambassador or call or e-mail Tom Pajer at 630-833-6916 or tompajer@american-sokol.org.

Please encourage the SO-KOOL kids that you know to read their newsletters and participate in the contests and other programs. We give out some really cool prizes.

NA ZDARI!

The American Sokol Youth Committee



American Sokol Gymnast



Kandi Ondrovic
822 S. Madison Ave.
LaGrange, Il. 60525

Happy New Year!

There were so many great things that happened in 2002.
We should remember them to bring the New Year in right!

Central District Boys Track & Field Meet October 26, 2002 – Morton College

Here are the top three all around winners in each age group.
Congratulations boys!

AGES 5 & 6 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Points
1	Frankie Kocimski	Brookfield	55
2	Jacob Tisdale	Ceska Sin	38
3	Kevin Green	Ceska Sin	36

AGE 7 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Points
1	David Swon	Brookfield	60
2	Daniel Kadlec	Naperville	45
3	Sean Leahy	Berwyn-Slavsky	37

AGE 8 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Score
1	Rich Golz	Chicagoland	62
2	Lee Walby	Berwyn-Slavsky	58
3	Kevin Soneson	Ceska Sin	54

AGE 9 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Score
1	David Ruffin	Tabor	70
2	Matt Sanders	Brookfield	60
3	Josh Javar	Ceska Sin	57

AGE 10 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Score
1	Billy Ritzenthaler	Tabor	97
2	Richard Uresti	Stickney	66
3	Ken Kalynchuk	Ceska Sin	61

AGE 11 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Score
1	David Ilavsky	Naperville	74
1	Christian Stanko	Tabor	74
3	Joe Swon	Brookfield	72

AGES 12 & 13 ALL AROUND RESULTS

Place	Name	Unit	Score
1	Kyle Halverson	Brookfield	85
2	Brian Javor	Ceska Sin	75
3	Samuel Shelton	Stickney	70

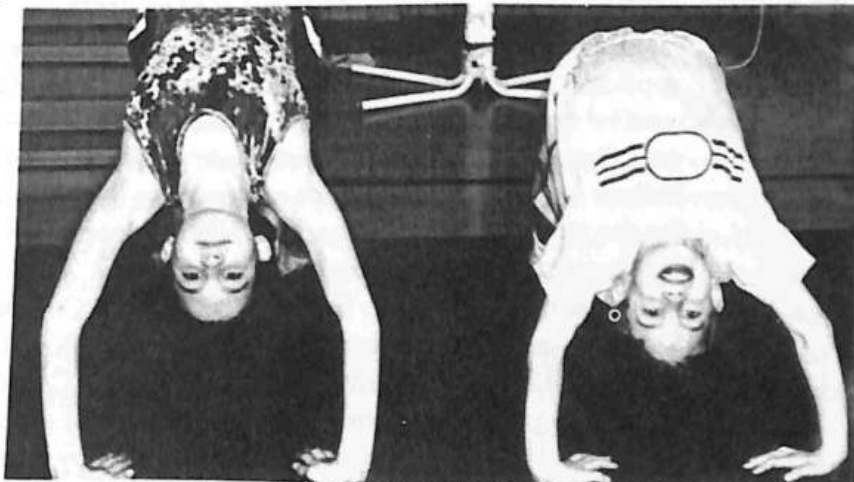
National Gymnastics Day Celebration

There were three gyms in the Central District that helped promote Sokol on August 24, 2002, National Gymnastics Day. The gyms received a cash prize of \$100 from the Central District for their efforts. Sokol Fort Worth, Sokol Stickney and Sokol Tabor were the units that had activities and fun for National Gymnastics Day.

Sokol Fort Worth had a "Fair of Fun". They had an inflatable slide, and inflatable obstacle course, as well as a bounce house. There was body art, face painting, and a snow cone stand. They held gymnastics registration that helped bring in new members. They also had a few vendors where gymnasts and parents alike could buy various gifts for themselves or friends. The cheerleading and gymnastics classes performed and two bands played. They plan on doing it again next year.



Sokol Tabor held an open house. They sent fliers out with their registration info and told everyone to bring a friend. They had three sessions: 9:00-10:00 gymnastics (ages 3-9); 10:15-11:15 gymnastics (ages 10-18); and 11:30-12:30 volleyball (ages 13+). For the gymnastic portions they had five stations and put the gymnasts in five groups. The groups rotated every 10 minutes. They had uneven bars, rings, low beam, tumbling strip, and rhythmic ribbon (yes, even the boys did ribbon and enjoyed it). Each station had a coach to supervise and spot. For volleyball they warmed up in groups and then had two exciting games. Each session ended by the attendees getting bottled water. They also passed out registration info and the juniors held a fundraiser selling patriotic key chains.



Sokol Stickney held pre-registration for all classes. They had their activities at Haley Park in Stickney from 11:00 to 2:00 in the afternoon. They had mats set up and a mini horizontal bar so participants could tumble and swing. There was also basketball and volleyball. They also brought a parachute and played new games one of the juniors learned at instructors course. Their goal was to get information out on everything Sokol has to offer.



It sounds to me like National Gymnastics Day was a hit. More gyms should participate next year. If not to help get information out on Sokol, just to have some fun!
 These were just some of the competition results and activities from 2002!

2003 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 2003 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 Board of Instructors and the American Sokol 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 by 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, 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 THN MAY 1, 2003.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1, 2003.

MASARYK MEMORIAL DEDICATION

On Wednesday morning, September 18, after picking up 48 Cleveland Czechs and four from Detroit, our bus was on its way to Washington, D.C. Shortly after, goodies were being passed around: kolacky, little donuts, and then prasky and rye bread brought by Millie and John Prohaska, which were then washed down with Slivovice and Becherovka, brought by the two Franks, Hosticka and Pliska.

After eight hours, we arrived in the DC area, and poor Sue, our bus driver, had to manipulate that big bus around one way streets amid heavy traffic into parking spaces. We marveled at her. After a quick supper, we got back on the bus for an evening tour of the many of DC's lighted monuments: Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, the Capitol and the four walls of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. The walls depict scenes of Roosevelt in a wheelchair, a citizen listening to the President's fireside chat, men standing in an unemployment line, the president seated with his dog, Fala, and then finally Mrs. Roosevelt.

Back to our hotel at 10:30 p.m. and everyone was bushed. In the morning, after breakfast, back on the bus for a tour of the capitol, but unfortunately the rotunda was closed to visitors. We then drove and saw the White House from a distance and stopped at the Vietnam Memorial and its latest addition of the nurses. We then

had lunch and some viewed the Korean War Memorial, also an impressive sight. We made a brief stop to see the Awakening, an unusual sculpture arising out of the ground located on the opposite side of the Potomac River.

Next, back on the bus for our drive to the site of the Masaryk Park and Statue at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and 22nd Street NW along Embassy Row. The streets had been roped off and a stage set up. The U.S. Navy Band played all three anthems: the Czech first, Slovak second and United States last, after which Mr. Milton Cerny, President of the American Friends of the Czech Republic welcomed all. The dignitaries present, all of whom spoke, were President Vaclav Havel, former President of the Slovak Republic Michal Kovac, Honorable Madeleine Albright, Reverend Michael Rokos and Ambassador to the Czech Republic Craig Stapleton. Charlotta Kotic, great-granddaughter of President Masaryk was present to cut the ribbon to unveil the statue.

For a little background information; President Masaryk was the first President of Czechoslovakia. He stands in history as the best embodiment of the close and lasting ties between the United States and the Czech and Slovak peoples. He taught at major American universities and traveled widely in the U.S. He

married an American woman, Charlotte Garrigue and took her name as part of his own. He maintained a personal relationship with President Wilson and wrote the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence in America. His blueprint for Czechoslovakia was inspired by American ideals and therefore, Czechoslovakia became a model democracy.

The Masaryk Memorial was authorized and signed into law by President Bush on November 5, 2001. The statue was sculpted in 1937, the year of Masaryk's death, and housed in the National Gallery in Prague. It was cast in bronze in 1968, but has never been publicly displayed in Czechoslovakia or the Czech Republic.

After the dedication and unveiling ceremonies, we went back to the hotel to prepare for the evening's festivities: The Gala and Awards Dinner and Memorial Reception at the World Bank. The Czech and Slovak Heritage Singers from Baltimore greeted approximately 500 guests at the atrium of the World Bank with folk songs. Wine flowed and fruit, crackers and cheeses were plenty. Again, there were welcoming remarks by dignitaries Cerny, Havel, Kovac, Albright and others. Entertainment by Czech and Slovak dancers from St. Paul, Minnesota and tumbling gymnasts from Sokol Baltimore. Closing entertainment was the

Continued on Page 10.

Educational/Membership Meeting *(continued)*

Sokol Little Ferry publishes a regular newsletter, works with CSA. Are no longer in a Czech neighborhood. **Sokol New York** is doing well. Large number of tots. Mothers take small groups. Offer ballet, basketball, and young adult classes. Members donations of food for dinners. **Sokols Belcamp, Curtis Bay, and Philadelphia** are still meeting. **Sokol Washington** has many cultural activities, Czech dinners, volleyball tournaments. They co-sponsor concerts, take ski trips and canoe trips and invite non-members.

CENTRAL DISTRICT: They attract interest of adults with activities such as co-ed dodge ball followed by enjoying pizza. Adults also have basketball and volleyball followed by socializing. They are doing a prior members survey. Minutes and information is e-mailed to college students. Some of the units are setting up bulletin boards with pictures of current activities as well as older pictures which reflect the "older" people as gymnasts. Competitions are held for older senior gymnasts, with no bars or vault, using low beam with mats, marching, and calisthenics.

WESTERN DISTRICT: **Sokol Minnesota** hosts an annual Culture Camp which includes dancing, crafts, etc. They also have a very active senior group which meets weekly for exercise, singing, and volleyball. They have received a grant for library re-organization. **Sokol Cedar Rapids** members volunteer at the National Czech and Slovak museum. They make dumplings for sale; teach Special Olympians; participate in local festivals. They have a regular newsletter. **Sokol South Omaha.** They hold a Vecirek free to members; Easter Egg Hunt; Christmas Party and picnic for members, families and gymnasts. They give scholarships and education awards; have a library and museum; have free pop and beer before and after meetings and dinners (Sokol) and desserts (Sokolice) after meeting. Sokolice have Mother's Day dinner and program. American flags are placed on deceased members' graves. Have a Sokol South Omaha Czech Festival. Publish a regular newsletter.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT: The units work together in participating in the annual Heritage Day at the State Fair of Texas. Some of the common activities they have are: annual exhibitions within their units, participation in activities within their Czech communities, rentals to the public, and participation in local parades and festivals. **Sokol Corpus Christi** hosted the 2002 American Sokol Instructors course. They continue to grow and have an excellent gym program. **Sokol Ft. Worth** has a senior class that is very active. They also have volleyball and archery. The unit held an event on National Gymnastic Day attracting many potential members. One of their highlights in their annual Spaghetti Dinner. **Sokol Zizka, Dallas** has now included cheerleading and karate in its program. Sokol Houston has karate in addition to gymnastics. They also hold Czech lessons and have a very active cultural program. **Sokol KHB, Ennis,** has included in the programs it offers — gymnastics by levels of ability, cheerleading, and twirling. During the summer months swimming lessons are available. The Convention Visitors Bureau in Ennis has the Sokol and Czech Museum on its web-site. Visitors are directed to the facility. They have two bake sales a year and sell kolaches to the public. They gave an annual 10K Giveaway attracting many. **Sokol West** offers gymnastics, cheerleading, and power tumbling. They include parent participation in many of their fun activities such as balloon races, contests, etc. All units require parent membership for participation in their programs.

PACIFIC DISTRICT: Representatives were not able to attend.

Additional activities that have been successful in many units: Chinese auction - members donate items, tickets sold with people putting their ticket in can of choice and drawings held; Sausage, sauerkraut, and tea meal; Penny suppers — parents can work on committees during class. At the supper, a penny is charged for each spoonful.

Continued on Page 9.

Educational/Membership Meeting *(continued)*

What can we do about declining membership and units?

Making Sokol known and Attracting New Members.

Ideas to retain the members we have, i.e. more social activities involving all members.

These topics were discussed in length. Bro. Laznovsky talked about the loss of members and units and that we must figure how to increase our membership. He spoke of the Executive Board's current efforts to raise funds to establish a program patterned after the organizer/travelling instructor program that had existed in the past. A committee is working on this. Some funds have been secured.

It has been said that Sokol is one of the best-kept secrets. We must make ourselves known in order to attract potential members. Involvement with other Czech organizations in our community and other ethnic organizations is recommended. Our units should get involved in heritage events and festivals. They should see that Sokol is a part of these activities. If Sokol is not asked, Sokol should offer. Education of potential members is as important as educating they members we now have and need to keep. Some ideas shared.

In today's society, many activities via for the time of our children and adults. In some areas we have not only baseball and soccer to compete with, but other gymnastic groups. We must make people want to join Sokol. How do we do that? We make them aware of what we do and what we offer. We must offer what the people want! Classes in karate and cheerleading are popular in many areas. Many Sokol units have added these activities to their programs. Some children like to just tumble, instead of doing all gymnastic events. Offer a tumbling class. Once you have these people in the gym you can "work" on their interest in gymnastics.

In units that do not already require the parents of gymnasts to be members, parents are potential members. Make them aware of membership and what it involves. Talks at parent meetings can encourage prospective members. Show the

parents that Sokol is more than just gymnastics, cheer, tumbling, etc. It offers something for everyone. Stress family values. There appears to be a noticeable increase in units that are now requiring parent membership. Some have added some qualifications that work for them, i. e. a waiting period before consideration, etc.

We should focus on both new members and former members. Invite them to something non-threatening, i.e. no work. Pass out Sokol brochures or information sheets to visitors. Give them tours of your building, including the museum. Several unit have a "business card" with their name, address, and calendar of activities — dances, dinners, etc. Show a map of where other Sokols are. Have a special event having various stations that explain the many areas of Sokol involvement and what it offers. Consider a parents' night where parents could try simple apparatus movements. A "bring your family" night could be where the parents and grandchildren could come and go through class with them.

Newsletters being sent to units should be sent to the attention of someone that will use them. Many go to the Sokol in general and disappear. Make sure your college students get the unit newsletter.

The American Sokol Youth Membership program should be in effect in all units. Parents should be aware of what the program is about. Instructors should know what the children are receiving so that they can promote involvement in contests, etc.

In preparing this summary, it is even more evident to us that this meeting was successful and will be of help to us all.

NA ZDAR!

Joan Sedlacek
American Sokol Educational Director

Sylvia Laznovsky
American Sokol Membership Director

Masaryk Memorial Dedication *(continued)*

Columbia Pro Cantare Chamber Singers, singing President Masaryk's favorite songs, "Tece Voda, Tece," and "Ach Synku, Synku."

The daylong celebration concluded with a gala and awards dinner in the Gallery of the World Bank for 250 guests, given by the American Friends of the Czech Republic, and emceed by Sam Donaldson. Besides the above dignitaries, also present was Eugene Cernan, astronaut, also of Czech descent; and Jiri Koliba, the present Mayor of Hodonin, the birthplace of President Masaryk. The evening raised \$875,000 for the Memorial and programs to clean up Prague and other areas from the devastating floods that engulfed the country in August.

Those who did not attend the

above festivities went to dinner on the Waterfront and then to the Iwo Jima Memorial.

Friday morning we boarded our bus for a drive to the Czech and Slovak Embassies. At the Czech Embassy, Jakub Skalnic welcomed everyone. Czech beer flowed and kolacky and goulash were served. There was much mingling among the guests; American and Czech born. Then over to the Slovak Embassy where the dessert table was laden with bublanina, cream puffs, tiramisu and other pastries. The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers danced beautifully at both Embassies, outdoors and indoors. The young dancers, aged 5 to 17, were especially entertaining.

The balance of the day was spent touring Arlington Cemetery. Our

first chance to relax was after dinner and to pack and prepare to leave DC the following morning. On our way leaving DC, we stopped to admire the grounds of the National Cathedral, as we arrived before it opened for tours.

Many thanks to Henry Nemecek for making all the arrangements for this memorable, pleasurable trip.

*Sis. Elsie Kralik,
Sokol Greater Cleveland*

Submitted by Sis. Anci Huber, Vice-President of Sokol Baltimore, who says: "Sokol Greater Cleveland had a very nice article in their newsletter in reference to the Masaryk Memorial Dedication, 9/19/02. Sis. Kralik did an excellent job covering the activities and I am sure Sokol members throughout the U.S. would appreciate reading the article."



Czechs worth mentioning:

Illinois Treasurer Judy Baar-Topinka and former Secretary of State, the Honorable Madeleine Albright at the Masaryk Memorial Dedication in Washington, D.C.



PLEASE NOTE

The illustration on the cover of the November/December issue belongs to CSA Fraternal Life. Proper credit was not given. We apologize for the oversight.

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