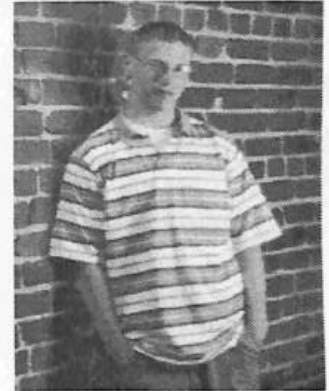


American Sokol



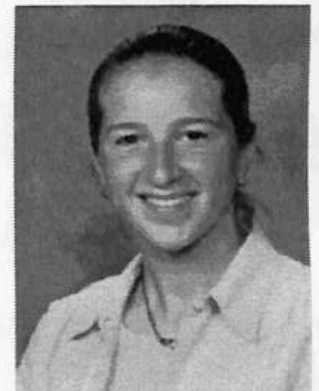
Greg Duane Weyers
Sokolice Crete
Western District



Bohumir (Bo) Benak
Sokol South Omaha
Western District



Kristine Ohlman
Sokol St Louis
Central District



Maria Breidenbach
Sokol St Louis
Central District

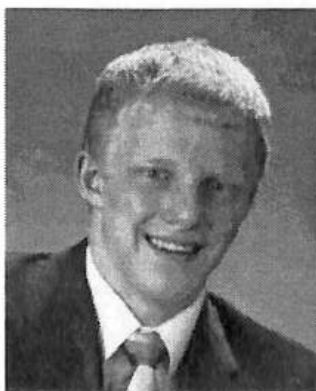


Kelley Panackia
Sokol Detroit
Northeastern District

Congratulations 2005 Merit Award Recipients



Angela Damarico
Sokol Baltimore
Eastern District



Andrew Dalton
Sokol South Omaha
Western District

American Sokol

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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.

Library, Archives & Museum Curator:
Annette Schabowski

From your Editor ...

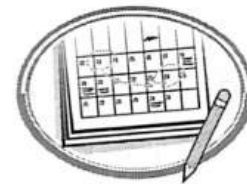
Hello everyone! My name is Nancy Imbrone and I am proud, excited, and privileged to be working on this great communication tool for American Sokol.

My Sokol days began over ten years ago with my children joining Sokol Minnesota's Taneční Mládež (dancing youth). Funny, my "editor" days began with my girls starting school and my becoming active with the PTA.

Many of you already know how to get your articles and information to me, but if you don't – please send items to:

Nancy Imbrone
2809 Matilda Street
Roseville, MN 55113

Editor@American-Sokol.org



Calendar of Events

AUGUST

Saturdays	Sokol Camp Club Room Party – Sokol Detroit
13	Endowment Fund Celebrity Golf Outing – Sokol Detroit
14	Sokol Camp Booya Pine City, MN – Sokol Minnesota
28	Sokol Milwaukee Picnic Whitnall Park
19-28	Sokol Camp – Sokol Washington

SEPTEMBER

3	Grape Festival/Oktoberfest – Sokol Detroit
9 & 10	Czech & Slovak Festival – Sokol Minnesota
17	Picnic at Lake Chabot – Sokol San Francisco

OCTOBER

21	Independence Dinner/Dance – Sokol San Francisco
28	Czechoslovakia Independence Day 1918 – celebrated in CR
22	Rummage Sale Extravaganza – Sokol Detroit

F Y I

This summer and fall, the Corning Museum of Glass is featuring the largest exhibition of "Czech Glass" ever shown in the United States. Three related exhibitions provide an overview of the development of glass and glass design in this region, from the 19th century to present day. The museum is located in Corning, New York. For more information visit

www.cmog.org

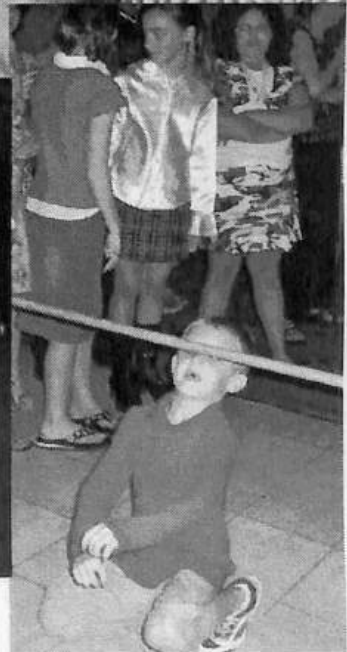
Our Sokol Credo

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.

Sisters and Brothers,

The **XXI American Sokol Slet** is now history and many fond memories exist. Those of you that were not able to attend will be reading reports and seeing pictures of the many activities of this great event. My congratulations and thanks go out to the Slet Committee and all the volunteers that worked together to make this event a success. I would also like to thank all our guest Sokol organizations' representatives and participants for attending. In our 140th year we have celebrated in many ways, this Slet will be one of the highlights.

Nazdar!
Larry Laznovsky
President American Sokol





May 22, 2005
TNT Members – Past & Present Honored



June 12, 2005
Central District shared Sokol
St. Louis' 140th Anniversary at their
camp. We had a wonderful time
and wish them many more.



June 4, 2005
Tot Haley Roszak
Sokol Naperville
LaGrange, IL pet parade



May 22, 2005
Central Dist. Sokol Day
Spook & Julie Halik were
presented a dedication to
their hard working Sokol
parents



At the Slet
Tot Abby Baker goes for a ride!



The Sokol Educator

Sis. EllenJeanne Schnabl, Educational Director

S stupendous, sanguine, sparkling

L laudable, legendary, a legacy

E exciting, extraordinary

T timeless, terrific

I seem to have run out of adjectives - but this is just what our XXI American Sokol Slet is all about -- seeing long-time friends and making new friends and acquaintances, working hard, long hours and feeling great!

You members and participants came with great expectations and undoubtedly left with a sense of fulfillment after going to the many events, whether competitions, socials, banquet, trolley tour, or the culmination of the Slet festivities on Saturday evening.

PASS THE WORD!

Do take these memories home with you and begin anew by opening your doors and arms to new ideas and, yes, to new members of all ages who will add life and resources to our Sokol ranks.

PASS THE WORD!

Tell everyone you know about **SOKOL**: It's a great family-oriented organization with a long, colorful history of achievements; it's not only a gymnastic organization but has a healthful environment where children can feel safe while learning and making life-long friends. Adults will find camaraderie like no other.

PASS THE WORD!

NAZDAR!

EllenJeanne Schnabl

P.S.: There are still some Units which have not put me on their mailing lists for your newsletters. Please do so and we can all share many of your very interesting items. Address is:

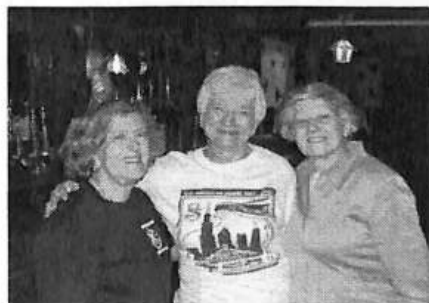
2326 Point Lane, Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538.

PASS THE WORD!



The American Sokol Slet Program that was broadcast by CATV Herald is now on the internet. Please visit [Hwww.catvherald.com](http://www.catvherald.com)

Thank You to Jan Honner and CATV Herald for this coverage!



Sokol sisters Ellie Babka, Irene Mergl (Sr. Instructor and VP of NY) and Anci Slavik



Senior Calisthenics Workshop held at Sokol New York April 2-3, 2005.

XVIII ASO CONVENTION – APRIL 18 – 24, 2005

When the planning committee began working over two years ago we wanted this to be a memorable convention. We chose the Embassy Suites Hotel for a number of reasons, but foremost it offered a large common area in its atrium where delegates could meet and talk with each other informally. You could walk out of your room and see the delegates congregating in the atrium. Another key feature was the complimentary cooked to order breakfast offered by the hotel. After the first day the cook was greeting us with "Nazdar" and "Dobre Den". The Ice Breaker social and the Gala Banquet also added to the memories of this convention.

I want to thank one final time the members of the Convention Planning Committee. They are: Denny Baca, Dolly Baca, Georgia Jencik, Daniel Jirousek, Sandy Hayden, Gloria Srsen, J J Vencl, Howie Wise and Jane Wise. I would also add my thanks to all the other members of Sokol Greater Cleveland for helping make this convention a successful endeavor. Over 75 SGC members helped in many ways to make this an enjoyable week for the delegates. When you have players like this on your team it's easy to manage. They all did their job which made my job as chairman much easier.

Thank you and Nazdar! Roger Martanovic

The following commentary contains edited excerpts from articles that have appeared in the Sokol Greater Cleveland Newsletter published since the convention. Details regarding specific issues discussed and decided at the convention should be referred to District and Unit delegates who attended the convention and have received minutes from all sessions.

The sun was shining and the temperature was in the mid 70's on Monday, April 18th as the delegates to the XVIII American Sokol Convention began arriving at the Embassy Suites in Independence. These early arrivals were members of the National Board of Instructors and the By-laws committee. The delegates were greeted at the hotel by members of Sokol Greater Cleveland.

The SGC convention planning committee had its final pre-convention meeting in the evening working through last minute details. All were nervously anticipating the activities of the next six days.

On Tuesday morning the National BOI began its meeting. In addition to the 17 authorized convention delegates, the two national secretaries and other non-delegate members were also present for the meeting. The meeting lasted for two days with the agenda including reports of past activities, proposed by-laws changes impacting the BOI, Youth Camp, election of 2005-2010 National Directors, American Sokol Programs, Development Conferences, Uniforms, Future of Sokol and the 2005 American Sokol Slet. Before concluding their business the BOI discussed the 2006 COS Prague Slet, the 2007 Sokol USA Slet, the Sokol Awards programs and the proposed BOI budget for 2005 through 2010.

Also meeting on Tuesday, the By-laws committee continued their pre-convention review of the proposed by-laws changes and prepared for the presentation of these proposed changes to the general convention. They also continued preparing on Wednesday.

Members of SGC continued to "Meet and Greet" delegates arriving on both Tuesday and Wednesday. The Education Committee met all day Wednesday and the Board of Governors also met on Wednesday afternoon.

On Wednesday evening the delegates attended the Ice Breaker Social at Sokol Greater Cleveland. The social accomplished just what the committee had hoped. It served as a gathering of Sokols from across the United States where

they could interact with each other on an informal basis before beginning the formal convention process the next morning.

The general convention sessions began on Thursday morning. The delegates were seated after having their credentials validated. They received their convention materials that included convention reports and also many miscellaneous "goody bag" items that were gathered and placed in their portfolios by SGC. There were 96 delegates representing the six Districts and 34 of the 35 Units. Brother Larry Laznovsky opened the XVIII American Sokol Convention. Following the Anthems and the Pledge of Allegiance Br. Peter Sikora of Sokol Greater Cleveland greeted the delegates with a very inspirational opening address explaining his involvement in Sokol from his childhood and what Sokol has meant to him though out his life. There were few dry eyes in the room. Sister Mary Cushing, president of the Northeastern District welcomed the delegates also.

The Thursday morning general session continued with the election of the Convention Chairman, Vice Chairman and parliamentarian. The convention rules and procedures, voting procedures and agenda were adopted. The Chicago Metropolitan area was selected to be the home of the ASO headquarters for the next five years. We were actually ahead of schedule at this time so the Youth Committee Presentation was moved up in the proceedings and finished by lunch.

The afternoon session was called to order. At this time the daily weather briefings began. The delegates were informed that the high temperatures that they enjoyed during the early part of the week were coming to an end and we might even see a trace of snow on the weekend. Committee room assignments were made and the convention was recessed so that the committees could meet for the purpose of reviewing their activities and more importantly to determine our path into the future. Following is a list of the convention committees: Board of Appeals, Board of Governors, Board of Instructors, By-laws, Credentials, Education, Finance, Foundation, Membership, Nominating, Public Relations, Publication, Resolutions, and Youth.

The Friday morning session was called to order promptly at 8:00 AM by Br. Mickey Dalton the convention chairman. The meeting began with a review of the reports from the Executive Board members from the last five years. These reports had been distributed to the delegates with their convention materials. Executive Board members responded to questions. After the morning coffee break the By-laws committee began the review of the proposed by-laws changes and continued until the lunch break.

The afternoon session began with the selection of the 2009 Slet site. Two districts, (Northeastern and Southern) expressed an interest in hosting the Slet. After discussion and a vote by the delegates the Southern Districts invitation was accepted. The host city will be Ft. Worth.

The Western District offered to host the 2010 convention in Las Vegas. The delegates voted to accept the Western Districts invitation.

The daily weather briefing stated that although it was raining presently it could possibly change to snow by Saturday.

The By-laws committee continued until 2:00 PM when the convention was recessed. Committee work continued until 4:00 PM when committees adjourned so that the delegates could get ready for the evenings "Gala Banquet".

The ASO Convention Banquet was a truly memorable, and most likely historical event during which the attendees were privileged and honored to welcome His Excellency, Martin Palous, Ambassador from the Czech Republic to the United States. Other esteemed guests were Ohio's Senator Brother George Voinovich and Cleveland's Mayor Jane Campbell who also had special words for us. Following performances by the Sokol Greater Cleveland Singers, the High Voltage team and the Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Folk Dancers, the evening continued with dancing to a ten piece Czech Brass Band. The crowd of over 200 included the convention delegates, Sokol members and other guests.

The convention resumed on Saturday morning promptly at 8:30 AM. The By-laws committee began the day with a continuation of the proposed by-laws changes. The same process was followed as on Friday. Each proposed change was discussed and a hand vote of the delegates was taken to determine if there was a persuasive majority in favor of the change. The final vote to adopt all the proposed changes

would occur on Sunday morning. The by-laws committee continued with the review of proposed changes after committee time and lunch. Br. Baca gave the daily weather briefing and stated that it was not snowing but instead it was sleeting, the difference being that you can't play in or shovel sleet, as you can snow.

The reports of the convention committees commenced. After a short break the evening session began with the Finance committee presenting the proposed budget for the next five years. After discussion the budget was approved for the next five years.

The nominating committee presented the nominations for the Executive Board for the next five years. The newly elected officer's names appeared in the June issue of "American Sokol". In addition, Br. Chuck Kalat and Sis. Barb Vondra were both re-elected by the BOI as men's and women's national physical directors earlier in the week.

The Saturday session ended at 9:00 PM.

The delegates reconvened early on Sunday morning at 8:00 AM. The daily weather briefing announced that it was really snowing and that the delegates were lucky enough to have enjoyed a Cleveland meteorological year in just six days.

The first order of business was to recognize members of National significance who passed away during the last five years. Greetings were also read from other Sokol organizations. The by-laws committee completed their presentation of the proposed by-laws changes and the changes were ratified by the delegates. The BOI made a number of presentations. Honorary membership was bestowed upon Sister Jackie Korim. Brother Frank Michalek was nominated by the BOI for the position of Honorary National Physical Director.

The new Executive Board was installed. The convention was adjourned at 9:47 AM.

The delegates made their way home on a snowy, snowy Sunday in late April with temperatures in the low 30's. It was noted that this is the first ASO convention that anyone could remember where it had snowed.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, two Sokol sisters took to the fashion show catwalk at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio as participants in the college's 2nd International Fashion Show. Sister Heidi Venc (daughter of Sister Nada Venc and Brother J.J. Venc, and granddaughter of Sister Gloria Srsen, who provided the Bohemian Kroje) represented the Czech Republic. Sister Marjorie Juba modeled a Slovak kroje belonging to Sister Betty Hosticka. Sokol Greater Cleveland can be very proud of their two sisters.



Brother Jerry Elzner Receives 2005 Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award

Br. Jerry Elzner, Sokol Corpus Christi, has been honored with the 2005 Jan Masaryk Gratias Agit Award from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The Award Presentation was held June 23, 2005, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague. Br. Elzner was able to take someone with him and he chose Brother Jerry Sijansky to escort him. As many of you know, Br. Elzner has consistently spent his time promoting the Czech culture here in the United States and he never ceases in enthusiasm to pass on all of his knowledge to us here in the American Sokol. We are proud that one of our members was represented in getting this high award.

Excerpt from Radio Prague [28-06-2005] By Ian Willoughby

The Gratias Agit awards are presented by the foreign ministry; Minister Cyril Svoboda explains how recipients are chosen.

"It's a little complicated, but we are trying to find representatives of a large range of human activities, and representatives of many countries. It's very difficult because many people are promoting the good name of the Czech Republic, but that's the choice."

This year 15 individuals were selected, while there were four group awards. One recipient who unfortunately could not make it to Thursday's ceremony at Prague's stately Cernin Palace was the poet Viktor Fischl, who is almost 93 and now lives in Israel. But the venue was fitting: Mr. Fischl was a close collaborator of Jan Masaryk, foreign minister in

the Czechoslovak government in exile during World War II. Indeed the reception after the ceremony was held on a terrace opposite the window from which Jan Masaryk met his death.

Several of this year's laureates are getting on in years, such as Jerry Elzner, who was born in 1925, on a farm in Texas. His parents, who were from south Moravia and apparently never learned English, emigrated there in 1904; the state was a popular destination for Czechs moving to the US. Mr. Elzner is very active in Czech expatriate circles in the Lone Star State.

"I do a lot of work in schools, in various clubs. October is Czech Heritage Month and we have 254 counties and every county judge gets a notice to proclaim Czech heritage month, as do 15 bishops and 34 representatives in Washington. We have a lot of Czech organizations in Texas, and I think of all the United States we have the most lodges, and just about every week there'll be a dance, a festival, 'muzika', something about Czechs somewhere in Texas."

Jerry Elzner is clearly proud to have been awarded the Gratias Agit, and recalls his surprise when he was first notified about it.

"The Czech Embassy in Washington called me and I said, are you making a joke? They said, no, you're one of the awardees. I said, me?! And I started crying, I cried all day. I couldn't believe it. It's like a Nobel Peace Prize! And I said, my goodness!"

"I live on the Mexican border and there are mostly Mexicans there. They don't know what the Czechs are, so I teach them - jak se mas, kolace, pivo."



Br. Elzner & Br. Sijansky visited Sokol Prerov on July 2. They saw a training of a Czech popular game floorball and the latest reconstructions of the hall.

Photo by Jaroslav Skopal
Sokol Prerov



Br. Jerry Elzner
Sokol Corpus Christi

AMERICAN SOKOL GYMNAST

Kandi Pajer - 117 Oakland Grove Elmhurst, IL 60126
kandipajer@american-sokol.org

Merit Scholarship Award

These are the essays of the Merit Scholarship Award Recipients. They are asked to write about what Sokol means to them. Does it mean the same to you?

WHAT SOKOL MEANS TO ME

By Bo (Bohumir) Benak
Sokol South Omaha - Western District

When I think about Sokol the first thing that comes to mind is fitness. Not only the physical fitness, but the mental fitness. Through my years as an athlete, Sokol has trained me both physically and mentally. Sokol has put me on the right track to a strong, healthy lifestyle. Also, Sokol is an exploration tool. Sokol helps me get out into the world and meet many new people and see many new things. Sokol has played the role of preparing me mentally, physically, and socially for the world today.

Through my years of being a gymnast at Sokol South Omaha, I have been going through extensive mental and physical training. Sokol has made me a strong, healthy young man. I believe that because the sport of gymnastics takes such great mind concentration, my school work and academics thrive. I'm an excellent student and an all-around individual when it comes to using my brain. Because I am challenged in Sokol, I can challenge myself in other areas of my life which makes me become a better person. I always strive for perfection. I believe if it wasn't for participating in Sokol and gymnastics, I would be some weak little person in mind and body.

Sokol has helped me explore the world. I have gotten to go to many places of the world because of Sokol. I have been to all the different Sokol Slets in all the different cities here in the United States. I have also gone to the Czech Republic and many other countries in Europe for Sokol related activities. I can not even count all the different cities, states, and countries I have been to. Without Sokol I probably would have never left the state of Nebraska. I love the enjoyment I get when I can tell my friends all the different places I have been because of Sokol. Also has created me into a social machine. I can not believe the amount of friends I have. I have more friends through Sokol who live in other parts of the country than I do in Nebraska. What I can not believe is that I keep meeting new people at every Sokol activity. The number of friendships I have made through Sokol is unreal. Many of these friendships are long-lasting and unique. Every time we meet with our Sokol friends it is like we all live together and see each other everyday but really, many times we have not seen each other in a year or more. Sokol friends are the best friends anyone can have. Nothing beats a good Sokol friend.

Sokol is a great place. It provides a shelter for people. I know personally Sokol has kept me off the streets and it has kept others off the street as well. It gives lives to people who may have not had one. Sokol has kept me and others in touch with our Czech heritage. That is probably the most important thing we as Sokols can do is stay in touch with our heritage. Sokol has made me into the physically and mentally fit person that I am today. Sokol has given me a life. Without Sokol I would be very shy. Sokol broke me out of that shell and because of that I have numerous amounts of friends and have been to many different places. Being a part of Sokol has created what I am today and continuing to be in Sokol can only make me a better all-around individual.



By Maria Breidenbach
Sokol St Louis - Central District

My freshman year of college. I joined Phi Mu Fraternity, a social sorority on my campus. As a member of this organization over the last two years, I have developed a strong passion for my fraternity. Last semester, I was elected Membership Director, so I am now in charge of coordinating the chapter's involvement in Recruitment. As part of my officer training I attended a National Leadership Conference with executive members from chapters across the country. As part of our workshops, we discussed why we all had so much invested in Phi Mu. It was during that weekend that I recalled how much Phi Mu is like Sokol.

Phi Mu is based on three ideals, ideals that all of her members strive to uphold—just as Sokol is built on the foundation of "Strong Mind. Strong Body." There are Phi Mu chapters all across the country. Going to this conference allowed me to meet so many different people. People that all share the same ideals I do. The relationship that you feel with a Phi Mu you have never met before is identical to what you feel when you meet a Sokol Member from another unit. You don't have to have a clue who the other person is, but you know that this person stands for the same things that you do. It's an understood bond.

My fraternity is preparing me for the future in so many ways. I've become a strong leader in my chapter, knowing that my sisters look up to me for direction and guidance. I have to be confident in the decisions that I make, because I am an officer. The purpose of recruitment is to find women to carry on the ideals and traditions of our fraternity. Without these new members, our fraternity would die. Just as with Sokol, we have to continue to share the ideals of our organization with new members or we will perish.

So it's almost ironic I've left my unit in St. Louis and moved to Indiana, where there isn't a Sokol around for miles. The only time that I can really contribute to Sokol is during the summer when I'm home. But it is now, when I can't be as involved as I would like to be, that I've actually discovered Sokol's deeper meaning to me. Just as I want to continue to work with my fraternity as an alumnae member, I can't wait to come back to Sokol and work to strengthen our unit and our national organization.



By Andrew Dalton
Sokol South Omaha - Western District

Simply put, whenever Sokol comes to mind, so does the word "family". I believe that anyone who has ever tried to explain Sokol to a non-Sokol will agree with me that it is quite the task. First off I begin with the gymnastics and physical fitness part, but I always end up explaining that the only reason I have stuck with it all these years is because, since I was very young, Sokol has been my second family. I have friends and mentors of all ages at Sokol South Omaha, in the Western District, and all over the United States. The feeling I get when I walk into the first day of Instructor's School or the Opening Ceremonies of a Slet is one that cannot be repeated in any other way. Seeing friends that I have not seen for a year or more and connecting like it was just last week we were together makes it even more amazing. Also, the mere fact that I can travel to multiple cities and states in the United States and have someone to stay with is something to boast about. The friendships I have made through Sokol cannot be replaced anywhere else. The truth is I would not be the same person I am today if it were not for Sokol. Sokol has helped mold me physically, mentally and socially. I'm not quite sure how to explain this except to simply state that Sokol is by far the best thing I have encountered thus far or will ever encounter in my life.



By Angela Damarico
Sokol Baltimore - Eastern District

Sokol to me is more than just a gymnastics organization or club, but a lifetime full of friends and memories. I started Sokol Gymnastics when I was six years old. Twelve years later here I am still involved in the program. When I walked into the gym for the first time I remember exactly how I felt. I was both very excited and intimidated by the huge gym and equipment. I wasn't sure how good I would be at the sport and I had no idea what to expect. As time flew by I grew older and realized Sokol would be my home away from home and that there was much more to Sokol than just the gymnastics aspects.

Sokol to me is not only about the gymnastics, but the many wonderful friends, coaches, and memories I have made along the way. I have had some of the best memories of my life at the gym. Exhibition after exhibition would be

performed at places such as the Baltimore Blast soccer games and both the Essex Community College Ethnic and the Czech and Slovak Heritage festivals. My favorite memories that I will never forget are going to the competitions in Barrville and New York City.

Besides the memories that I have made, I have met the absolute best people in my life. These include my coaches and teammates. My coaches, Annette Conlon and Carrie Baker, have made me into the gymnast and individual that I am today. They both have pushed me to do my best not only in gymnastics, but other parts of my life. My coaches encouraged me to keep going when I wanted to give up or I was scared. They gave me the confidence to perform my skills with confidence and land them with a smile on my face. They also pushed me to do well academically and made sure my grades were kept acceptable.

Carrie had been my coach since I was six. She has watched me grow up to be the person that I am today. She has seen the changes in my attitude and how I handle things with confidence. I can honestly say that the friends I have made will be the ones that will be there for me forever. My friends, Stephanie, Kelly, and David have stayed true since the time we began gymnastics around the age of six. Being one of the younger gymnasts, they never let me get too discouraged and always encouraged me to keep going.

Sokol has taught me many essential skills in life. The most important are leadership, patience, and responsibility. These skills have become very important both while teaching gymnastics and in everyday life. When I began coaching at fifteen I learned leadership by accepting responsibilities of class leader. In order to coach little children you must have patience and take responsibility for your actions. When I coach gymnastics, I find it funny that the things I were told when I was little are the same things that I tell the children that I coach today. I've learned that it is important that I maintain a positive attitude while coaching gymnasts. I must be alert at all times or someone could get hurt. These are some of the skills that I have learned while growing up at Sokol and that I am now able to share with others.

It is amazing that joining a program like Sokol could make such an impact on my life. I do not know what I would have done if my parents had not enrolled me in this program. Sokol has been one of the best things I have been involved with as a gymnast and person. One day when I become a mother, I would like my children to be able to experience the same positive things that I have experienced and continue to experience at Sokol.



By Kristine Ohlman
Sokol St Louis - Central District

To me, Sokol is a place to escape your hectic life and simply enjoy yourself. Ever since I was three years old, I have been a Sokol gymnast. I would anxiously wait gym nights, excited to see my friends.

My entire life, I have had the same Sokol friends. Even though my friends haven't always been around, I know that if I would ever need them, they would be there. They are more like family than friends. Family never fades away.

Gymnastics has kept me healthy throughout my life. Upon learning more about gymnastics at Instructor's School, I met many unique people. We all had one thing in common; Sokol played an important role in our lives. It's so awesome to talk to people from different units and see how things are done differently. We've exchanged ideas and styles of the way to run things. Till this day I have kept in touch with those special ones who have made an impact on my life and I will never forget them.

Soon I grew to become the young woman I am today. I feel blessed to be able to teach my First Class Girls the same things I was taught, that impacted my life so much. Discipline plays a huge role (As all other instructors would know who teach Tots, First, or Second Classes). As the year goes on I watch these girls grow so much. They grow mentally, physically, and emotionally. I feel honored to have such a huge role in shaping their lives. They put the biggest smiles on my face. My girls inspire me so much.

Basically Sokol to me is a place to escape our busy life and be with people who you love and cherish, knowing someone who lives five hundred miles away will always be there, being with family, and living life to its fullest.



By Kelley Panackia
Sokol Detroit - Northeastern District

All my life I have been involved with Sokol. At the young age of three I began taking the tots class. As I grew older I became more and more involved with gymnastics whether it was training, competing, or teaching. In doing this I made many friends, traveled to exciting places, and learned many valuable lessons. To me, Sokol is a family that helped me to be the person I am today.

Growing up within Sokol provided me with many positive role models or even just other gymnasts that pushed me to be better. People like this were always around and were there if I needed help of any sort. There was always someone older for me to talk to or ask advice.

One of the best parts of Sokol is the family unit. Since my entire family is involved with Sokol I feel it has brought us closer together. Even our family vacations were usually Sokol related whether it was for slets, district, or unit competitions.

Sokol has given me the privilege of meeting and keeping many friends. Not just in the Detroit area, but in the many places that I have competed in or traveled to. I've made life long friends in places that most people may never even go so far as visit. I have even had the opportunity to make friends from other countries. This fall I will be moving to Chicago to attend school and it is because of Sokol that I will have friends there and a club to go to and be involved with; a family to be part of.

Sokol is not just an athletic club, but a community, a family that I am lucky to be a part of.



By Greg Duane Weyers
Sokolice Crete - Western District

Sokol means more to me than anything else in my life. I have met some of the most interesting people and many of my very best friends in Sokol. I have learned so much there. Not just the physical, but also the history of Sokols. Being a Sokol gymnast and instructor sets me apart from others my age. This is a commitment for me, a Life lone commitment. I'm committed to the organization, its members, my physical well being and all the friends I have met there. Someday, I hope to pass on the many things that I have learned through Sokols, possibly to my own children. I character to my Sokol experiences. I am proud of who I am and of the Sokol organization. NAZDAR.



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

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Support our Sokol Soldiers:

AIRMAN 1st CLASS JONATHAN BOYD
Member Sokol Karel Havlicek
Borovsky - Ennis, Texas



Bro. Boyd became a Sokol gymnast at an early age. He attended several Sokol instructor courses, and participated in district and national Slets. He taught boys classes. When he comes home on leave, he always comes to the gym to work out and to visit the boys' class. He lends a helping hand!

Jonathan attended school in Ennis and graduated in 2000. He then went to Navarro College, in Corsicana and became a certified firefighter. He joined the US Air Force on Sept. 1, 2003, and graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, in San Antonio, TX, on Oct. 17. He then attended fire fighting school at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, TX. He's now stationed in Columbus, MS. During his time in the Air Force he has been recognized as both Airman of the Month and of the Year. He's in the Honor Guard and has become a certified EMT. He is also a volunteer firefighter in Mississippi. His enlistment is for four years.

Jonathan comes from a devoted Sokol family. He is the son of Randy Boyd and Sis. Tracy Kelley. His grandparents are Bro. Harrell and Sis. Bernice Hamilton; great-grandparents are the late Bro. Charlie and Sis. Anastazia (Stazie) Jurcik. His great-great grandfather, Alois Jurcik, was a Charter member of Sokol Karel Havlicek Borovsky and its first president.

Charlie Jurcik, his great grandfather was president for two years and Director of Men for four years; in addition, Bro. Charlie and Sis. Anastazia served as dues chairpersons; his grandparents, Bro. Harrell and Sis. Bernice were all active in teaching classes. Sis. Bernice served as District treasurer for many years. Both continue to work in other aspects of Sokol. Bro. Jonathan's mother was a Sokol gymnast and taught little girls classes.

Bro. Jonathan is a special young man. He is admired and loved by all. We wish him luck and look forward to his return to the Ennis area.



In Memoriam

*It is with great sorrow
we recognize the passing of some
long-time Sokol members.*

Libbie Kutcher passed away quietly on July 23, 2005. Libbie was a member of American Sokol Los Angeles since 1940 and is the sister of Evelyn Riha and aunt of members Frank and Jim Riha. Her final resting place will be next to her husband at Forest Lawn, Glendale.

Bozene M. Drozda Bo came from a Sokol family. Her family came to America in 1911, and Bo eventually joined Sokol Omaha. She began her involvement at the age of five. Her two sisters, Libbie and Drahomira, and brother Ladd Storch were all active Sokols. Bo became the first English writing secretary of Sokolice Omaha, after the merging of their two units, Sokolky Tyrs and Sokolky Omaha.



In 1960 Bo was elected as Women's Director of the Western Dist. and held that position over 20 years. During that time, she organized and conducted five District Instructor courses. In 1968 she was Slet Chairman of the Western District Slet, which was hosted by Sokol Omaha and Co-Chairman of the 1976 Western District Slet Bicentennial; after which, on the very same afternoon, she flew to Czechoslovakia with a Sokol tour and attended the Sokols Abroad Slet held in Zurich, Switzerland on July 4, 1976 - America's 200th Birthday.

2005 CHICAGO AREA SLET RAFFLE REPORT

I want to thank all the Units and Districts for your generous donations of beautiful baskets or gift certificates. Without your participation, the Chicagoland 2005 Slet raffle would not have been successful. Also, thank you to all the people who so generously purchased the raffle tickets.

A great big Nazdar to the following people who volunteered their time to sell the raffle tickets at the various venues: Morton West High School, Double Tree Hotel, Arabian Knights and at the Carlisle. Thank you to:

Sister Doris Barda, Sister Mary Bubenecek, Sister Linda Fillipello, Sister Gale Hollinger, Sister Mildred Homolka, my husband Richard and son Ronald Husak, Sister Lisa Kotynch, Brother George and Sister Vlasta Kulhanek, Brother George and Sister Nancy Lacina, Sister Aloise Lynch, Sister Vera Roknic, Brother Kenna Seda, Sister Noreen Slott, Brother Leo Slovacek, and Sister Mildred Wostratsky.



**Sister Valentine Husak
and the Raffle Display**

Gratefully,
Sister Valentine Husak - Raffle Chairman

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4	Sokol Milwaukee	Holiday Folk Fair International	Georgia Jencik	Sokol Gr.Cleveland
5	Sokol New York	Time Life Legends of Rock & Roll	Anna Slavik	Sokol New York
6	Sokol Spirit - Women	Pamper Me	Kiley Baca	Sokol Gr.Cleveland
7	Sokol Spirit	Family Fun Time	Talia Milan	Fort Worth
8	Sokol Spirit - Co Ed Class	Breakfast in Bed	Jean Dusek	Sokol Gr.Cleveland
9	Sokol Stickney	Chicago Sports Basket	Greg Mack	Sokol Crete
10	Sokol Stickney	Starbucks Basket	Sally Bukovsky	Sokol Chicagoland
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15	Sokol Spirit Men's Club	Fishing Theme	Greg Mack	Sokol Crete
16	ASO Souvenir Comm.	2005 Slet Souvenirs	Irene Hedderman	Sokol Spirit
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21	Sokol Cleveland	Rock & Roll Hall of Fame	Nicki Kulhanek	Sokolice Tabor
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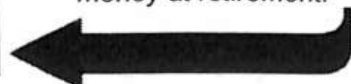
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