



*The mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.*

September 2017 | Volume 140 | Issue 7

## **Members of the Central District participated in the Annual O'Hare Plane Pull for Special Olympics on September 16, 2017**



**See the story on Page 6**

**Jean Hruby, Maria Vondrasek, Kim Elliott, Paige (Vachata) Seidel, Collin Jewett, Michael Gonzalez, Matt Carlozzi, Hallie Soulides, Matt Kocek, James Logan, Cole Heetel, Jake Heetel, Jim Heetel, John Bazata, Josh Suvetor, Chrissy Maskill, Bob Barcal, Dan Bajek, Joe Bajek & Matt Petkus. All led by Coach Joe Placek.**

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From the Editor...

The start of another Sokol season is here! Are you ready?!? Back in the gym, back in class, back in shape?!? Yeah, I need to work on that. Who's with me?!?

I'm so excited to announce the American Sokol Winter Slet will take place in the Chicagoland area December 29, 2017–January 1, 2018, including a New Year's Eve Bash! I hope everyone can attend. It's set to be an awesome event and weekend! More information is to come.

What y'all do for the summer? Send in your stories and pictures of Sokol activities and we'll be sure to give a shout out!

NAZDAR!



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## The Presidential Address

### *The Sokol Eye – Sokolským Okem*

Sokol Greetings to All! We are very excited to celebrate a couple of momentous events this October. Sokol New York will be celebrating their 150 years and we cannot be more proud of them and their contributions to the Sokol organization over the years. We are also celebrating 150 years of Sokol in Austria! The World Sokol Federation will meet during these events where plans for the 2018 Slet in Prague will be discussed. I am honored to be able to attend these historical events and look forward to sharing them with you in the next publication.

Here are some updates for you:

2018 Slet: Have you planned your trip with us yet? We have some new deadlines for your trip registration.

October 1st – Jalta Hotel in Prague – we cannot guarantee rooms after this date....

November 1st – Hotel Kampa/William & Hotel Panorama

November 1st – Pre-Slet Tour

December 1st - Post-Slet Tour (details out – week of October 1st)

February 15th – Full Day and Half Day Tours, Slet Spectator Ticket package.



Please call me or email me with any questions you may have – 708.420.7589, jeanhruby@american-sokol.org  
Information is on the American-Sokol.org website.

Most importantly – we have two great FUNDRAISERS for you to personally raise money for your trip! Yankee Candles & Driven Coffee (teas as well)! You are the seller and we deduct your profits from your trip! Perfect timing for holiday gifts. Not to mention – the Driven Coffee products will have our Sokol Logo on them. TO GET STARTED – go on the American-Sokol.org website and become a seller. Yankee Candle will be the first fundraiser, and the Driven Coffee will follow at the end of the month.

Hurricane Relief – Sokol Houston: The Executive Board has approved a matching Grant from American Sokol to assist Sokol Houston after Hurricane Harvey. They had major damage to their roof, the gym floor and equipment. Please see the details in this issue and consider helping our brothers and sisters get their gym back into shape. We are happy to report that Sokol Corpus Christi survived the storms.

Winter Slet will be so much fun ringing in the New Year with Sokols from all Districts. We hope to see you there. Thank you to the BOI Committee that jumped up to take on this event.

### **Final Thought:**

I experienced pulling a plane with the Central District this September. It was a powerful feeling to be part of a team of varying ages and abilities that together, grabbed a rope and pulled 180,000 lbs. This truly represented Sokol in many ways including the fact that we were raising money for Special Olympics giving back to our fitness community. Many teams had flashy coordinated outfits. But the Sokol team, as you would expect, humbly showed up in their own favorite Sokol shirt, and waited in long lines for shuttles – all for a 30-second pull of a plane. This Sokol Eye saw the Sokol mission come alive using our strong minds and bodies to make something happen. Thank you Joe Placek, (Tabor) for organizing this event. This is proof that we are stronger when we are working together! OneSokol!

Ať žije Sokol! ~ Long Live Sokol!

Nazdar! Jean Hruby, President



# The Sokol Educator

*from The National Education Committee*

## ***2017 Merit Award Winners***



### **Joseph Bajek**

When I younger, there was nothing that I looked forward to more than Sokol classes. Everything we did in practice; calisthenics, marching, gymnastics, pyramids, games and special numbers I enjoyed, these things made Sokol unique compared to other gymnastics organizations. I also participated in competitions of various events listed above and even track and field, this made me experience winning but more importantly losing. I originally began as a tot member, but Sokol kept me coming back year after year and now I am an active adult member and still going. Throughout the years, I have learned many different gymnastics routines, cals, special numbers etc.

but Sokol has also taught me other things that I will use for the rest of my life. It taught me commitment and leadership, two skills that greatly help me in life.

The first thing Sokol has helped me with is how to be committed. Like I mentioned earlier, I have been a member since tots' class. I then stayed with Sokol through first/second class boys, juniors and now I am in the adults class. It has been about 16 years of continuous membership and I plan on being a member my whole life. I use this same commitment for other things as well like school. I survived high school and decided to attend a community college, College of DuPage. I finished it with an Associate in Arts and now I am transferring to Northern Illinois University this fall majoring in Electrical Engineering. I show up to class every day and work promptly on homework assignments and studying for exams. I also use this commitment with my part time job, Jewel Osco. I have been working there for almost five years now despite there being a high turnover rate, and will stay there however long it takes. Sokol taught me to be committed and it helps me with school and work, which will ultimately prepare me for my full-time job.

Another skill that Sokol helped me with is leadership. Growing up I was always a quiet kid that would sit back and watch situations play out. It wasn't until I started attending the Kurz schools in the summer that I began taking leadership. By my Advanced and Advanced II years I took full leadership of my competition groups, and we even won most of the time. I now am the second class/junior boys' instructor for my unit and taught the children's/junior cals as well as the all-class special number/a special number that I wrote. I even coached full-time for the freshman boys' gymnastics team at Naperville North High School. I am a member of the Sokol Aspiring Leaders of Tomorrow (S.A.L.T.) group, in which we discuss various events, competitions and socials for any junior/adult member to keep them interested in Sokol. My older brother Dan and I also went to meet with Polish Falcons of America (PF A), they were having a leadership conference for young adults. We discussed possibly joining our two organizations together by attending each other's events and competitions. We decided that Sokol is welcome to join PFA's national camp which is a week full of fun activities in late July-August. I have made tremendous improvement in my leadership skills and I owe it all to Sokol.

Overall, Sokol has taught me many different valuable lessons but the two I use now and will use in the future are commitment and leadership. The commitment shows that I work hard and want to do whatever I am doing. The

leadership shows I can take charge and lead whenever and wherever I have the opportunity. These values Sokol taught me prepared me well for the future and the best part is I will only continue to improve on these skills and other skills as well. I am grateful to be a part of such a wonderful organization and am excited to see what future roles I will take part in for Sokol.

## Jessica Vierke

Sokol has helped me prepare for the future. I will use what I have learned through my experiences in Sokol to help others gain a sense of direction. Throughout my fourteen years in Sokol I have learned many things, but the biggest skill is leadership.

When I first started Sokol I always liked to follow people and be told what to do. Over the years I have gone to many camps and each year there was a little bit more expected of me as I got older. Before I knew it, I was back at Sokol Naperville Tyrs leading the whole gym in warm ups. Slowly but surely, Sokol has helped me gain confidence and leadership. I now feel very comfortable instructing and guiding other people both inside and outside the gym. This will be a very valuable skill for me in the future with anything I do. I plan to become a Physical Therapist after college and in this occupation, that skill will be very pertinent. As a therapist, my job will be to instruct people on how to do exercises.

Leadership may be one of the most obvious skills that I have learned, but it is not the only one. I have also learned how to communicate and make connections with many people from all over. I have made so many friends throughout my time in Sokol and they have become some of my best friends. These people skills will continue to be very important throughout college and through my career; whether it be with my coworkers or creating a relationship with my patients.

I have been in Sokol for a majority of my life and learned many things from my experiences. Sokol has shaped me into who I am today and those skills will carry with me throughout my whole life.



## Madelaine Stasa

In addition to influencing the unique dinners I have at my grandmother's house, my Czech culture has shaped and influenced my development as a well-rounded student. My Czech culture thrives here in St. Louis through an international organization, Sokol. Sokol was founded in Prague in 1862 when nationalism was growing throughout central Europe. Central to the Sokol movement is the principle that a healthy body and healthy mind will produce well-rounded citizens. Activities such as gymnastics, volleyball, and track and field would develop vibrant people. A healthy mind was cultivated through exposure to Czech music, traditional food, and the arts. The Sokol organization represented the future for a better world in central Europe.

Only three years later, the Sokol idea was transplanted to the New World. In 1865, Sokol expanded with the creation of a new unit in St. Louis, Missouri. Sokol created a community that became a safe haven for the Czech immigrants coming to the United States. Today, there are 35 Sokol units scattered throughout America. There are always meetings that unite these groups, but the most unique opportunity is National Camp. In 2010, I was fortunate enough to attend with 40 other Sokol teenager members who lived all over America. The bonds we created were from our culture. At the American Czech Educational Center there are dozens of

activities that I can participate in to learn more about my culture. I've attended a Czech speaking class, baked classic Czech desserts, and I've been able to wear a traditional Kroj dress. Learning about my ancestral roots enables me to have a deeper understanding of my family's cultural history. "You can't know where you are going unless you know where you have been." Learning about the adversities that my ancestors went through just to live here in America makes me more grateful about the opportunities I have today.

From the age of four until I turned 16, I attended Sokol Children's Camp for two weeks every summer. The camp is for anyone, but it still promotes the Czech culture. Every year, there is always the 'Czech night'. This means pork and dumplings and kolachy for everyone. A healthy body is promoted as we participate in exercises at dawn or the variety of sports we play throughout the day. Sokol Camp taught me discipline and respect. Our camping days were structured with the necessity of chores in the morning and with plenty of time for fun for the rest of the day. I developed leadership skills here by assuming more responsibilities, as I grew older. I led by example to the younger campers. The Sokol organization and these experiences have given me an insight into 150 years of tradition. My hopes and dreams are for this organization to thrive in the future and to continue encouraging people to keep the Czech traditions alive.

Sokol St. Louis has taught me that I must work hard to accomplish my goals. Growing up surrounded by dedicated members, I have seen what they must do to keep this organization running. I have learned that dedication and commitment is crucial for the reality of a future. I will use my knowledge from Sokol to lead in the world. When I go to nursing school, I will not give up on my peers or patients. I am committed to helping others succeed and live. I will be the one to volunteer my time to help someone if needed. If I do not take a stand, we may get nowhere. I strive to help others to the best of my capability. Sokol has taught me that my family may not always get along but if we work hard enough we will achieve our goal. I must be able to cooperate with people that have different opinions than I do but we all have the same goal in mind. Sokol has taught me to work for what I love and to never strive for less, and I plan to love my job of saving peoples' lives.

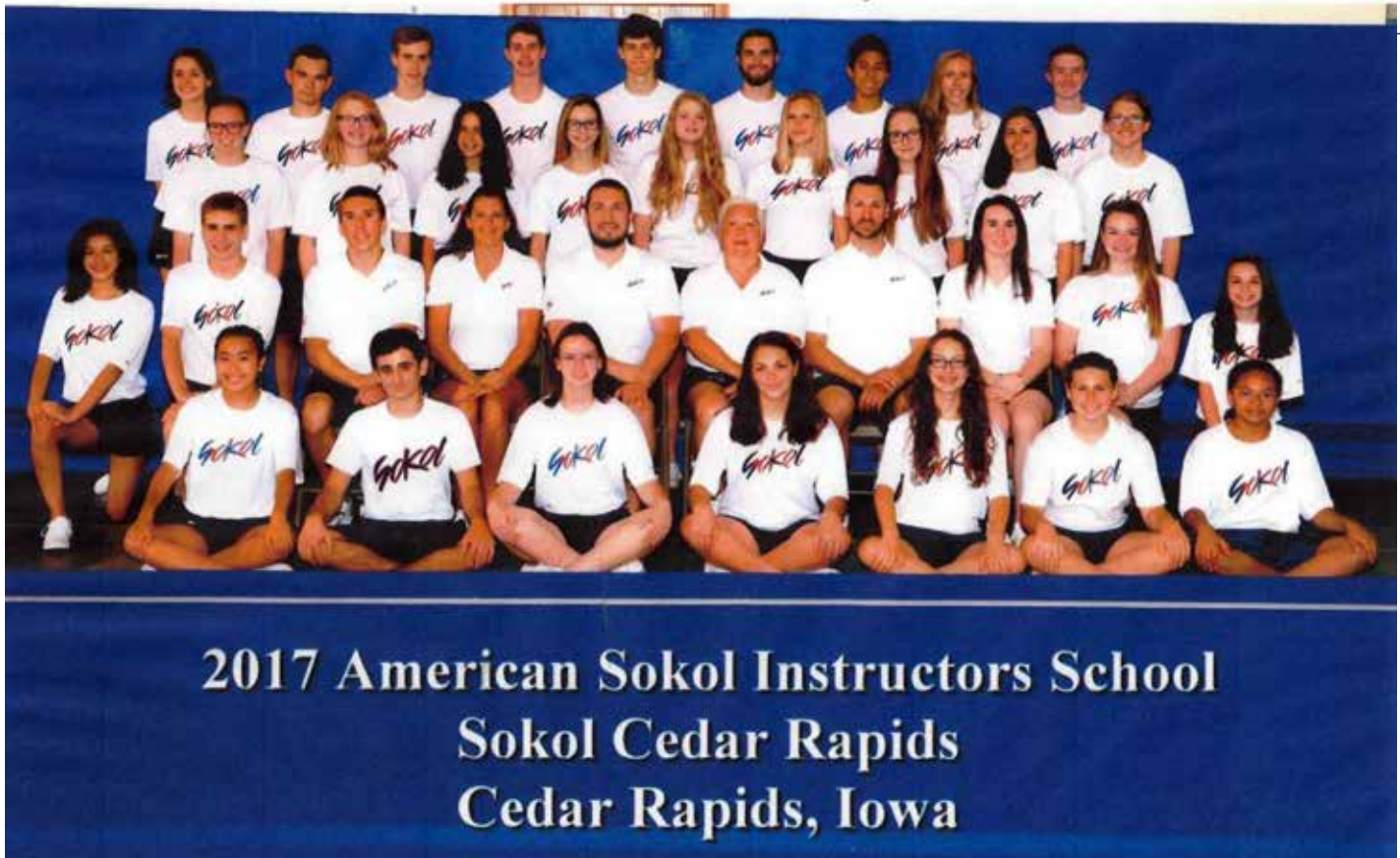


## Emerson Andelt

The Sokol organization has played a huge role in my life. I joined at the age of three and continued to be active even after I graduated high school. The team became a family and the gym, a second home. It was always a place where other outside worries didn't matter and I always knew what was expected of me. I hope I can help this program make the same impact on other young girls lives. My home gym is in Crete, NB and I am attending Wayne State College in Wayne, NB so it has been a bit of a challenge to participate throughout college. When I am home for the summer, I hope to be able to help with the floats for parades and continue to promote Sokol in this capacity. My sisters are still in Sokol and I will encourage them by attending meets when I can and sharing my love for Sokol with them! I have returned to the gym to be part of the senior tag team that competes at Nationals in Cedar Rapids, IA, and I intend to remain a Sokol member throughout my lifetime.

I will also take all the knowledge of my heritage with me through the rest of my life. My grandfather only spoke Czech until the age of three and I always hoped to know more about that culture. In fact my great grandmother was a part of the Sokol organization in 1932. One of the highlights of her life was traveling to Chicago for a national slet, just like I have traveled to many national slet. I am happy to be able to recognize the Czech National Anthem and to have spoken to some native Czechs, knowing that this culture is a part of who I am!

### *Congratulations to All the Winners!*



A total of 29 students from 9 American Sokol Units (representing 5 of the 6 Districts) as well as 4 students from DA Sokol and 3 students from Sokol USA attended this year's American Sokol National Instructors School. There were 6 students from Western District (from Sokols Cedar Rapids and Minnesota); 6 students from Central District (from Sokols Naperville Tyrs, Spirit and Tabor); 5 students from Northeastern District (all from Sokol Greater Cleveland); 3 students from Eastern District (all from Sokol NY); and 2 students from Southern District, (from Sokols KHB and Zizka/Dallas).

There were 10 Beginners, 7 Intermediates, 8 Advanced and 4 Advanced II students of which 10 were boys and 19 girls ranging in age from 13 to 17 years old. Interesting fact, this year's Adv II class was all girls. The last time we had an Adv II girl was in 2012!!

This year Sokol Cedar Rapids hosted the School. The last time a National Instructors School was held in the Western District was 2006. This is also the first time Sokol Cedar Rapids hosted a School in many, many years. This is also the first time a National School directly followed an American Sokol Slet since 1993! In fact this is the first time we managed to have a School in the same year as an American Sokol Slet since 2005! It was different and a little tough for students, staff and volunteers for the School to be held at the same facility immediately following the Slet. But it worked out fine and as always we were able to provide an awesome learning experience.

Once again the staff did an outstanding job! Many things that typically are handled by the host volunteers were handled by the staff. I certainly appreciate their going above and beyond. Most were returning staff from last year, including Bro. Todd Yatchyshyn from Sokol USA, Lodge Pen Argyl, who headed up Games, Dynamic Warm-ups, Nutrition, Conditioning, and Practice Teaching. Sis. Michelle Jirousek from Sokol Greater Cleveland, headed up Spotting & Progressions and Apparatus for all levels, Advanced Calisthenics and Female Judging; in addition to being School Nurse. Bro. Dan Bajek from Sokol Naperville Tyrs, taught Beginning Calisthenics, Intermediate Marching, Singing and many other classes. We also had an IT (or Instructor in Training) this year. Joe Bajek from Sokol Naperville Tyrs served that role. Besides learning the ins and outs from a staff member's perspective, Joe assisted with several classes as well as led the Special Number class and Group Competitions, along with Intermediate Cal and Advanced Marching. Besides my duties of School

Director, I also taught Sokol Lectures, Beginning Marching, Folk Dance and Rhythmics. Everyone helps out where needed and we work well together.

Sis. Jane Wise, from Sokol Greater Cleveland, performed the duties of School Registrar, which primarily takes place before the school begins. This year, the duties of the onsite School Secretary were handled by Sis. Alexandra Betik from Sokol KHB. She assisted in that role the previous year and knowing it would be hard to get a Cedar Rapids member to do this enormous job right after the Slet, we wisely brought in someone experienced. This was the first time in quite some time that we had the Secretary actually staying right at the hall. It was a big advantage.

Our kitchen was also handled differently this year. The kitchen was run by Brandi, an outside caterer, while several Unit people helped to serve and prepare meals. We especially would like to thank Allison Gerber for her assistance during the School.

The classes and curriculum continue to evolve innovatively and progressively in order to engage and excite the students at all levels and will surely benefit each unit where these students return to teach. Because of the expertise we had on our staff, students were able to take advantage of some different classes as well as our traditional ones.

Once again, we had certifications for all students. A free certification, which is an annual course, was given to students of all levels on Concussions developed by the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and taught by Sis. Mary. This included a video instruction, practice quizzes and a final exam which they all passed and received a certificate. Intermediates and Advanced students were certified in American Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED. Bro. Todd headed this course, which all passed and received a certificate and card as well. The Advanced students took the on line USAG U100 Course of Fundamentals of Gymnastic Instruction; while the Advanced II student took the on line USAG U200 Course – the Development Coaches Course: Sports Science. This covers L 1-4 athletes in areas of Nutrition, Psychology, Biomechanics and Injury Preventions. The students that took these USAG courses found them much like a review of things which they had learned at our school. It was a little more complicated this time, with so many students to get online and complete the course.

The first day we went to the Cedar Rapids Public Library, in order to get better online service, in a conference room. But they all passed and received a certificate as well.

We also continued with the Adopt a Class or Adopt a Student Promotion that was initiated a couple of years ago. Several individuals and Units donated to participate in this venture. The idea is to be able to raise funds to replenish the monies in the Future Sokol Leaders Fund, which helps to financially support the National School. We had 9 students adopted and 3 classes. This raised \$675 to return to the American Sokol FSLF. Thank goodness for Michael Barcal, most popular adoptee, with his family's donations! Thank you to all who support this effort.

The outings were very different this year and far from the traditional. The first Saturday of the Kurz we loaded up a truck to take gymnastics equipment to the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library located in Cedar Rapids. It was sort of a "working outing". We started off with lunch provided by the Museum and free admission to the many exhibits including "Twists and Turns – The Story of Sokol". Then the advanced students prepared to "teach" their practice teaching lesson to children (and some adults) that came to the free Movin' at the Museum-Basic Gymnastics sessions provided by the Museum and taught by our students. It was a great opportunity to partner with a like organization. Once the lessons were over and the truck loaded, we took a walk down onto the main street for some ice cream and refreshments. Then back to the Sokol Hall for dinner and evening sessions.

Our second outing had us celebrating the 4th of July a day early. We began spending the afternoon at an awesome community pool. Then able to have a cookout for our dinner sponsored by the Western District. And went to the local area for a water ski show and fireworks!! All seemed to enjoy the R & R time!

Our graduation program was presented on Saturday evening, preceded by a delicious pork dinner. We had

*continued on page 12*



# Remembering JJ Vencl

*submitted by Howie Wise, Sokol Greater Cleveland*

JJ Vencl brought his personal touch to so many aspects of Sokol over the years. JJ started as a Boy's class member moving up through the ranks to Men's. As a Junior, JJ was an active member of the Sokol Tyrs Junior Hobby club. JJ Vencl was a mainstay in Sokol Men's Class for many years – right up until this year.

Calisthenics – JJ was one of the quickest learners of any calisthenics numbers. He learned them so well that at times he even corrected the instructor. He would also learn multiple positions so that he could fill in

wherever he was most needed.

Pyramids – JJ was extremely adept at being the most stable pyramid base on the planet! He was an expert lifter, very strong holder and a most dependable platform.

Tug-of-War – JJ often recruited a District tug-of-war team for participation at National Slets. Not only did he recognize talent for this event, but also he served as the “base man” holding the end of the rope. Later years he graduated to “coaching” the teams to victory.

Volleyball – JJ possessed amazingly soft and adept hands as befits a volleyball setter. It was his inspiration that help lead our “manly men” to the championship at the Montreal Slet in 1988.

Clubroom – He took the role of beverage coordinator to heart and provided great service and beverages. Under his direction we were never at a loss for clubroom supplies, wherever we were.

Equipment Moving – a professional mover, JJ had a very good knack for it. He (and Corlett Movers) provided transport and storage services for Sokol whenever necessary.

Employer – Many of our former Juniors worked at Corlett, as a summer job. He always allowed Sokol kids to attend Sokol functions and family vacations.

Storage – Corlett became the home for many items that Sokol acquired over the years and not surprisingly, JJ knew exactly where everything was in the four-story warehouse.

Party Planner – You could always count on JJ to organize a great party, including when it was on the rooftop of the Corlett Warehouse to watch the July 4th fireworks.

Neighborhood – He was involved with the Slavic Village area, the Velodrome and the Main Gate organization. This gave JJ a myriad of network connections that he could count on when needed for Sokol.

Positions – JJ served on the Board of Directors of Sokol Tyrs, the Board of Directors and as President of Sokol Greater Cleveland, and as an officer on the Northeastern District Executive Board. He was always willing to take on any position when needed, including Convention delegate, Secretary, By-laws, whatever needed filling he would volunteer.

Other - He was an original work party member that renovated Bohemian National Hall.

In the 1970s he led the Potato Pancake cooking downtown on the Mall for the All Nations Festival. JJ managed the beer stand and organized all the help needed over the Labor Day Weekend at the Annual Plain Dealer Charities Oktoberfest. He was a part of the Cesky Den committee that celebrated Czech Day each year with Ceska Sin and DTJ organizations.

All in all, JJ was the epitome of a GREAT SOKOL and a GREAT PERSON. He possessed a sound mind in a sound body and was always ready and willing to lead and/or help with the tasks at hand with an organizational brilliance, kind words, empathetic manner and fun-loving style.

JJ – we will Greatly miss you.

## **Central District Team at 2017 O'Hare Plane Pull for Special Olympics**

*by Joe Placek & Julie Kaupert*

The morning of September 16, 2017 was the big tug-of-war at O'Hare Field. On one end of the rope was a United Parcel Service A300 cargo jet weighing about 195,000 pounds; on the other end 20 veteran Sokols weighing in at... considerably less.

The plane lost.

This was the ninth year the Special Olympics of Illinois hosted the Plane Pull. The event raised over \$130,000 total. The Central District team gave the Airbus a 12-foot ride in an official time of 16.41 seconds. Pretty much right in the middle of the pack. But I'm sure everybody will say the actual time was secondary to just DOING it.

We had several members taking pictures, what we hope to do is set up an on-line folder where they can post the pictures for everyone to see. Equally impressive, the District Team raised \$1,745 in donations for Special Olympics. This put us 19th of the 85 total teams in money raised. A great effort for a worthy cause.

A hearty Nazdar! goes to...

- The Sokol pullers who took the plane on a ride it won't forget
- Our great cheerleaders who enthusiastically urged on the team
- Everyone who generously donated to Special Olympics
- The team members who went out and raised donations in support of their effort

### **1. How did you first learn of the Special Olympics Plane Pull fundraiser?**

I belong to the Windy City Curling Club, and two years ago Windy City entered a team. It really sounded like fun and was so different and unusual that I signed up. Earlier this summer I remembered the plane pull and thought it would be a great idea for a Sokol entry.

### **2. Was this the first time you've captained a fundraising team for either inside or outside of Sokol?**

Yes, never organized a team for an event like this before.

### **3. Describe what was going through your mind during those 16.41 seconds.**

I didn't actually pull with the Sokol group. 21 people signed up and you could only have 20. Since I did the pull once before, rather gave a first-timer a chance. I was the reserve in case of a no-show. But cheering the team on was exciting too and I was able to give them a couple hints (since the rope is tied low to the nosewheel, have the shorter pullers towards the front). From what I remembered, getting the plane moving is the hard part, and at first you start having doubts that you can even budge it. But then the plane starts rolling and you're stepping back real quick. Now you know you got it and it's almost disappointing that you can't just keep pulling way beyond the 12 feet.

### **4. Would you have done anything differently during the process, now that it's over?**

Personally? Wear shorts. It was hot out there. Team wise, not really. I think we had a real good group with five Sokols represented: Chicagoland, Naperville, Spirit, Stickney, and Tabor. Ages ranged from about 10 to 61. Good mix of men and women. Very representative of Sokol.

### **5. What are you most proud of from this event?**

Central District raised \$1,755 for Special Olympics. The team understood they needed to go out and solicit donations and they came through. And we had a lot of support from families and friends. In fact there were almost enough cheerleaders for a second team. On the video you can clearly hear them yelling encouragement.

The team consisted of: Jean Hruby, Maria Vondrasek, Kim Elliott, Paige (Vachata) Seidel, Collin Jewett, Michael Gonzalez, Matt Carlozzi, Hallie Soulides, Matt Koczek, James Logan, Cole Heetel, Jake Heetel, Jim Heetel, John Bazata, Josh Suvetor, Chrissy Maskill, Bob Barcal, Dan Bajek, Joe Bajek & Matt Petkus. All led by Coach Joe Placek.



**SOKOLS ARE "GOING HOME" ...  
JOIN US FOR OUR TOURS AND  
SLET WEEK IN PRAGUE!  
CELEBRATE  
100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE FIRST CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

**REGISTER BY OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>!!!**

## TOURS

**PRE-SLET TOUR \$945 USD  
JUNE 24 - 30, 2018**

**Vienna, Budapest, Ergstom,  
Bratislava and Cejkovice  
Moravia!**

**Price Includes:** 6 nights in hotels, boat cruise on Danube River, breakfast, 6 dinners inc. 1 drink, 2 Moravian Wine Cellar tastings including one night of traditional cymbal music, *special souvenir package for Pre-Slet tour travelers only*, custom tour guide and transportation by bus.

**POST-SLET TOUR \$TBD  
JULY 8-12, 2018**

**Slovenia & Croatia - Seacoast!**

**Price Includes:** 4 nights in hotels, breakfast, dinners inc. 1 drink, custom tour guide and transportation by bus. Details and Price available Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Contact Info: Jean Hruby**  
jeanhruby@american-sokol.org

## PRAGUE WEEK & SLET



**XVI. VSESOKOLSKY SLET  
ONE WEEK IN PRAGUE  
JUNE 29/30-JULY 7, 2018**

Opening Ceremony and Parade through Prague  
Daily Stage Performances and the Historical Slet  
and Closing Ceremonies!

Participation and Ticket packages.

### HOTELS

Enjoy a week in Prague! Prices Vary  
Please see the [www.american-sokol.org](http://www.american-sokol.org)  
to select your hotel and optional tours.  
From \$475/person- Double Occupancy!

### Optional Experiences to Purchase:

- Walking tour of Prague
- Half Day Trips to: Pilsen /Pilsner Urquell Brewery, and Bohemia Glass Factory
- Full Day Trips to: Karlovy Vary and Cesky Krumlov
- Vltava Boat Cruise
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Party
- Pub Crawl

**DOWNLOAD Information and Registration at [American-Sokol.org](http://American-Sokol.org) !**

# *In Memorandum*

Dear Members & Friends of Sokol Baltimore,

It is with mixed emotions that I am reporting the passing of our long time President Michael Rokos, the morning of August 30, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. He was one of a kind and we will miss him.

Frank & Ann Huber

Sad news to pass along to our Sokol Family about the loss of one of our own, Sister Mary Anne Jerabek. Below is a message from Dianne Stasa. Mary Anne was a wonderfully gracious member of Sokol St. Louis and will be missed by many.

*From Dianne Stasa:*

With deep sadness, my beloved mother in law, Mary Anne Jerabek has passed away. Please pray for my family during this time. She was a most beautiful lady both inside and outside. The most generous person I've ever met and don't recall her ever telling anyone no! Heaven gain a beautiful angel and I am sure they are enjoying her delicious pastries.



Dear Sisters & Brothers,

I am so sorry to inform you that Helen Pelz, who would have become 102 next month, has passed on to a better place. She died on Saturday, September 16th. She is to be cremated. A memorial service will be held at the Bohemian National Cemetery in mid October. Details to follow.

With prayers for the family,

Frank and Huber

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*continued from page 8*

several spectators, mostly parents, family, friends and members from a variety of Sokol units both local and out of the district. As tradition, the students demonstrated many of the things and activities learned over the previous two weeks, most of which were choreographed by the students themselves. The graduation program was concluded with the presentation of diplomas and special awards. The Leadership Award is given to the one student from each school level that the staff feels were outstanding in this area. The Beginner Leadership Award went to Lili Glover from Lodge Farrell; the Intermediate Leadership Award went to Jaye Hartwig from Sokol Tabor; and the Advanced Leadership Award went to Julie Moran from DA Sokol.

Our 2017 Sokol Instructors School officially concluded with our final flag lowering and you could hear the resounding tradition of the three Sokol "Zdars!" ringing out loud and clear to conclude another successful Kurz. There was cake and socializing followed by the last night of social activities, pizza, packing and fun! It was a good time with many having a difficult time saying good-bye!

A tremendous thank you to the staff that did an outstanding job! I would also like to extend a big thanks to the helpers and volunteers and the awesome students and once again the American Sokol for continuing to support this important and worthwhile venture!!

NAZDAR!

Sister Mary Cushing, 2017 American Sokol School Director

# **The historical event is coming. Celebrations will involve up to 50,000 people in the Czech Republic**

September 21, 2017 19:01 - Prague

This Sunday, September 24, is the Slet Year officially starting. The main celebration will come on the beginning of summer 2018, with XVI. World Sokol Slet in Prague. The preparations are in full swing and the Czech Sokol community expects the whole project to be attended by up to fifty thousand people. "We want to include public in our event as well," says Petr Svoboda, Men and Women National Director of Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS)



*Hana Moučková, the President of the Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS)*

In 2018, the Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS) is preparing XVI. World Sokol Slet. The Slet is part of the celebrations to the 100th anniversary of the Independent Czechoslovakia establishment. Sokol Slets have been a national sports and cultural tradition since 1882. "The Sokol people have merit at the creation of the Czechoslovak republic." Hana Moučková, the President of Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS) was quoted at Thursday press conference. She also added: "Sokols were at the birth of the Czechoslovak legions in whose ranks they fought, and shortly after the establishment of Czechoslovakia, they defended its territorial integrity. Their legacy will be remembered and reminded at the Slet celebration. "

The Slet year was inaugurated by Slet relays which are held this week across the whole Czech Republic. The closing of the relay will be held on Sunday

September 24th at 6 pm, at Tyršův Dům (the headquarters of Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS) in Prague. "Several messengers will be send to collect information from the relays from individual Sokol units across the Czech Republic and they will come through various pathways all the way back to Prague. Messengers will get here on bicycle, they will float on the boat, or they will come on the historical trolley." said Petr Svoboda, Men and Women National Director of Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS)

He also added: "The main event of the Slet year will be the World Sokol Slet, which will take place the first week of July. However, various events will precede throughout the whole year. For example- we will have the district slets in various districts in the spring time, followed by the final region presentations."

## **They practice with Slovak brothers**

"The traditional Sokol Slet procession will go through historical center of Prague on July 1st, which will be followed by the official opening ceremony at the National Theater in the evening. During the whole Slet week, various sport competitions, theater or puppeteer shows from various Sokol unit ensembles, stage performances and exhibitions and all will take place. The whole Slet week will be finalized by performances of the big group dance and motion compositions (Prosna), the whole show is carrying well know expression, Slet- which will 5th and 6th of July." Was said by Mr. Svoboda.

There will be eleven compositions (Prosna), which will be performed by all age groups. The last composition will carry name Together. We rehearse this composition altogether with our Slovakian Sokol brothers and sisters. We want to demonstrate, that despite of the separation of Czechoslovak Republic, we still cooperate together." Was explained by President Moučková. As part of the Sokol week program, will be also held an event called "Gala", which will feature the best performances that Sokol has to offer. It will take place on July 3rd, 2018 at the O2 Arena in Holešovice, Prague. "You will be able to see not only performing Sokol Olympic sport representatives but also foreign guests." Said the Sokol Olympic sport representative and judo fighter Jaromír Ježek, who recently finished his career and became a coach.

Czech Sokol Organization (ČOS) is expecting up to fifty thousand participants at the Slet project. From which fifteen thousand participants from Czech Republic and other two thousand five hundred participants from abroad would perform in the Slet week in July.

"We would like to involve our public in this event as well. This 100th anniversary is everybody's anniversary; therefore, it is a good reason to come altogether, meet and celebrate." Was concluded by brother Svoboda.

Veronika Kramlová, Sport.cz, Czech newspaper Právo, Translated in English: Pavlina Reichlova



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Any questions contact Howie Maskill at [hmaskil22@yahoo.com](mailto:hmaskil22@yahoo.com)



## Mark your Calendar

### Events around the American Sokol

Get your event featured! Email [editor@american-sokol.org](mailto:editor@american-sokol.org)

## September

- September 5**     **Annual Golf Outing** — Sokol Detroit, Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center, Plymouth, MI
- September 16**   **Special Olympics Illinois Plane Pull Fundraiser** — Central District, O'Hare Airport, Chicago, IL
- September 16**   **Sokol San Francisco Fall Picnic** — Lake Chabot Park, Castro Valley, CA
- September 17**   **50-year Membership Celebration** — Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
- September 29**   **Czech Festival Gala Dinner** — Sokol San Francisco, Orinda, CA

## October

- October 7**        **Oktoberfest with Frank Moravcik** — Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
- October 8**        **Bike & Train in Cuyahoga Valley National Park** — Sokol Ceska Sin, Cleveland, OH
- October 8**        **Sokol Town of Lake Reunion Picnic** — Sokol Camp, Willow Springs, IL
- October 14**      **Haunted Walk & Hayride** — Sokol Camp, South Lyon, MI
- October 14**      **Walk for Health - Sibley Volcanic Preserve** — Sokol San Francisco
- October 14**      **Sokol New York 150th Anniversary** — Sokol New York, New York, NY
- October 14**      **Soup Cook-Off** — Sokol Ceska Sin, Cleveland, OH

## November

- November 5**     **Annual Czech Dinner Party Celebrating 50 Years** — Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights, MI
- November 11**   **Annual Holiday Fair** — Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

## December

- December 2**     **Sokol San Francisco Annual Meeting**
- December 2**     **Mikulasska** — Sokol Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
- December 29–**   **Winter Slet** — Greater Chicagoland Area, IL
- January 1, 2018**



### American Sokol Deadline

Send your submissions, articles, events and photos to [editor@american-sokol.org](mailto:editor@american-sokol.org) by the 1st of the month prior to the publication issue! For example, send items you want included in the October issue no later than September 1st.



## PERIODICAL

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