

CSA Eternal Life
The Program

Journal

September 2025





Pill Bottle Donation Page 28



Member Frank Michalek Receives Prestigious Award Page 29

On the Cover

This month's cover features:

Sis. Cassidy Payer
Miss National CSA 2025-2026
Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432



Bike Ride to Benefit Veterans Page 24

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President's Piece

Successful Get-Together!

Brothers and Sisters,

Here we are in September which, of course, is the *Journal* issue that we report on how our Annual Get-Together went. As always, it was a great time – a successful event put on by the Cleveland GTG committee.

This year was a little different in that, with our pending merger coming up, we had two additional guests at the GTG. Chris Campbell and Angel Thomas, both from BetterLife, were kind enough to join us for the weekend's festivities. I know they both enjoyed getting to see how we at CSA can put on a party!

The 88th Annual Get-Together kicked off with a Friday afternoon registration and hospitality suite. That evening, all attendees headed over to the Bohemian Hall in Cleveland, a century old, beautiful building. At the Hall, in addition to hearing from me, the attendees heard from Chris Campbell.

Later, our Miss CSA Contest commenced with a "Past, Present, and Future" theme.

On Saturday morning, the GTG attendees gathered to conduct our service project. Later, many attendees attended a river cruise, while others visited the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

In addition to dinner and live music on Saturday night, of course, the excitement of the evening was the unveiling of our Fraternalist of the Year and our Miss National CSA. Congratulations to Annmarie Antos, who was named our Fraternalist of the Year, a much-deserved award for Annmarie, who is a lifelong member of CSA from the Chicago area. See details on page 14.

Congratulations to Cassidy Payer of Lodge Mile Hi Czechs, who was named National Miss CSA for 2025-2026. I

know Cassidy will represent CSA very well in the year ahead.

The events of the weekend wrapped up on Sunday morning with brunch and a promise to see everyone again at the 89th Get-Together next year in 2026.

*Until next month,
Fraternally,
John J. Kielczewski, CLU, FLMI
President/CEO
CSA Fraternal Life*



**John J. Kielczewski
CLU, FLMI, President**



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 1, 2025

Home Office Closed for Labor Day

September 26, 2025 – DEADLINE

Photo Contest Entries

See page 9.

September 26, 2025 – DEADLINE

Bowl-O-Rama Entries

See page 34.

October 13, 2025

Home Office Closed for Indigenous People's/Columbus Day

October 15, 2025 – DEADLINE

Submit Veterans Names for November *Journal*

October 15, 2025 – DEADLINE

Submit Bowl-O-Rama Scores

November 27-28, 2025

Home Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1, 2025 – DEADLINE

CSA Matching Funds Requests

December 24-25, 2025

Home Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Journal Themes for 2025

October – Photo Contest Winners

November – Honoring Those Who Have Served and Bowl-O-Rama

December – Lodge Recognition Program

Please send lodge articles to:

csajournaleditor@gmail.com by the 13th of the month prior.

(You will receive a confirmation email.)

Please address all Fraternal inquiries to:

Kelly Deegan
kdeegan@csalife.com
1.800.543.3272 x 4307

CSA Journal

Volume 138 No. 8 September 2025



A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership"

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CSA MISSION STATEMENT

CSA Fraternal Life is a fraternal benefit Society that provides families with financial security while promoting community involvement with volunteerism.

CSA Leadership

National Officers

John J. Kielczewski, President

Nick Kosmas, Secretary/Treasurer

National Directors

Tom Ledvina

Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota

Ken Dvorsky and Cary Mentzer

Northern Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

Irma Farrell

California, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas

Diane DiBianca

Northern Ohio and Michigan

Connie Wolf

Missouri and Southern Illinois

Terry Placek

Southeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania

Carol Tranter

Florida, Maryland, Virginia, D.C.,

Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Paul Vavrasek

New York State and Connecticut

Home Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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Today's Fraternal

Reflections of a Memorable Weekend: The 2025 CSA Get-Together

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

What an incredible weekend we had at the 2025 CSA Get-Together! The memories are still fresh in my mind, filled with heartfelt stories and joyful reunions. This year's theme, "Past, Present, and Future," really drove home what makes CSA so special.

We kicked off the weekend with a touching presentation featuring a panel of former Miss National CSA Queens: Susan Garofalo, April Marek-Ehrenbeit, Courtney Ou Sollisch, and Jessica Decker-Bailey. Instead of the usual pageant format, we got to hear personal stories from each Queen about how her experiences with CSA shaped her life. It was a powerful reminder of our shared experiences and their lasting impact.

A highlight of the weekend was crowning Cassidy Payer from Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432 as Miss National CSA 2025–26. The panel's thoughtful questions helped everyone get to know her better, and it's clear that CSA has a bright future ahead.

Jessica Decker-Bailey's rendition of the "National Anthem" during the opening ceremony was another unforgettable moment. I think everyone was blown

away by how amazing her voice is—it truly set a stunning tone for the weekend.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the Get-Together Committee and volunteers (pictured below). Their hard work and attention to detail truly made everything run smoothly, and we're so grateful for the energy they poured into making the event a success.

We were also fortunate to have special guests Angel Thomas and Chris Campbell from BetterLife join us. Angel stepped in wherever needed, and her kindness really stood out. Chris shared his admiration for CSA's legacy and his excitement for the future, reminding us of the importance of honoring our past while looking ahead.

Reflecting on the weekend, it felt like a perfect snapshot of CSA's journey—where we've been, where we are, and where we're headed. From reconnecting with old friends to welcoming new faces, it was a time to celebrate our CSA family.

Looking ahead, don't forget that the CSA Photo Contest and Bowl-O-Rama are coming up soon! Please ensure that



you submit your entries by September 26. These traditions are a fun way to stay connected and showcase your creativity.

As summer winds down, I hope you're savoring every last bit of sunshine—and for those who can't wait for fall, it's just around the corner!

*Fraternally,
Kelly Deegan*

*Fraternal Programs Manager
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409*



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

ROCKIN' GOOD TIME AT THE GET-TOGETHER

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

We had a great time at the Cleveland Get-Together. Lisa and I have visited Cleveland many times.



We send a big thank-you to the Cleveland Get-Together Committee. They did a fantastic job! Friday evening dinner at the Bohemian National Hall was delicious. The volunteers did a great job cooking and serving a wonderful meal! The DJ played members' favorite songs after dinner!

For the Saturday morning service project, we collected donated items for the Journey Center for Safety and Healing. Then, members had a choice of two tours, which were scheduled for the afternoon. One was to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and the second was a narrated sightseeing cruise on the Goodtime III. Lisa and I went on the cruise since we had a chance to visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame before the Get-Together.

It was great seeing old friends from previous Get-Togethers and making new friends.

Some pictures from the Get-Together have been posted to Facebook. More

photos are available on the CSA Flickr account: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCqzjR>.

Looking forward to next year's Get-Together in (location TBA).

On August 10, Lisa and I attended the Obzinky Harvest Festival at DTJ. Like last year, the food was great, the beer was cold, and the kolache were tasty! I had a fun time passing out candy to the kids (young and old) on the parade route.

This will be my last *Journal* article. Starting in October, Dudley Simmons, Chief Distribution Officer – BetterLife Insurance, will be writing articles for the *Journal*.

Fraternally,
Nick V. Kosmas
Secretary / Treasurer



Miss National CSA

Looking Forward to Attending Many Events!

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

I am thrilled to have this opportunity. When competing for Miss CSA last year in Nashville, I was excited to return the following year, as I knew right away that this was something I wanted to be more involved in. When I met Delaney in Nashville, I was blown away by how she carried herself and was able to speak to anyone with no hesitation; she was truly an inspiration for what it took to be Miss CSA.

This past year, I began taking college classes and completed my first year in a biology degree program. These classes have provided me with a deeper understanding of the medical field and have sparked my interest in various areas including pediatrics, dermatology, and ENT. The medical field has always interested me because the information is so valuable, not only in the job field but also outside of it. I am eagerly looking forward to starting my second year of classes and can't wait to share more about the opportunities and experiences that come along with it.

Besides attending school this past year, I have spent a significant amount of time with friends and have become closer to people who make me a better person. My friendships are something I value highly, and I have some of the best friends and family who also serve as my number one supporters. I have spent a lot of time focusing on myself and essential relationships around me. Being from Colorado, I am in the mountains almost any chance I get. This past year, I went fishing, hiking, and camping a lot, and even caught my biggest fish yet, which was 32 inches and 10 pounds.

I am thrilled at the prospect of traveling and having the opportunity to see many new places and experiences. I am especially looking forward to meeting many new, amazing people. I have some of my best times when I attend a CSA lodge event,

and I'm excited to experience other lodges. After hearing about how much fun the past queens had during their reigns, I am already thinking about all the festivals and events I want to attend, as I will try to be at as many as possible!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in the Cleveland Get-Together. Your efforts and the warm welcome you extended to me and all the participants made it a truly uplifting weekend. I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from this community.

Fraternally,

Cassidy Payer

Miss National CSA 2025-2026



Important Announcement:

What the CSA and BetterLife Merger Means for You

As CSA merges with BetterLife, our shared mission of community, culture, and support grows even stronger. Below are answers to members' questions to help guide you through this exciting transition.

Lodge & Community Activities

Lodge Halls:

No changes—same names, signage, and purpose.

Lodge/Group Funding:

Continues unchanged to support your community work.

Bank Accounts:

No changes to accounts, signers, or tax IDs. Some banks may request name updates; we'll assist if needed.

Programs & Publications

CSA Journal:

Continues with the same engaging, member-focused content.

Scholarships:

Still available and fully supported.

Contests & Events:

- Photo Contest
- Miss CSA Pageant
- Fraternalist of the Year
- Bowl-O-Rama

Will all continue.

Lodge Recognition:

Program stays the same through next year.

Leadership & Member Voice

Board of Directors:

Terry Placek joins BetterLife's Board. CSA Board members are invited to the Member Advisory Board (MAB), which

helps shape future programs.

Voting Rights:

Members 16+ may vote in board elections. Next election: 2026.

Member Benefits

All CSA benefits continue for one year, including:

- Scholarships
- Lodge/Group Funding
- Miss CSA Pageant
- CSA Get-Together
- Fraternalist of the Year
- Photo Contest
- Lodge Recognition Program

New Shared Benefits for CSA and BetterLife Members:

- Bowl-O-Rama
- Discount Programs
- BetterLife Hardship Benefits
- Lifeline Screening Discounts

betterlifeins.com/member-benefits

State-Specific Information

New York Members:

Existing policies will continue to be serviced. Member support remains in place.

California Members:

Will become part of GBU Life, a trusted fraternal organization. Visit gbu.org.

Why Merge?

This merger enhances our capacity to serve members, expand programs, and support cultural traditions across communities, especially in rural areas. Together, we'll do more.

Need More Info?

For the full list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit:

csafraternallife.org
betterlifeins.com

We're grateful for your continued membership and excited about this next chapter—together.

Stay Connected:

Events & Community:


Join BetterLife Connect for events and news:
connect.betterlifeins.com

CSA Events:

Call 630-472-0500 for details.

Follow Us:

 betterlifeins.com

 Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn: @betterlifeins



GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!

2025 PHOTO CONTEST

Submitted photograph(s) must be taken By a CSA member in the year 2024 or 2025. No professional or studio photos will be considered, as this is an amateur contest.

Participants may send only one (1) submission max, per each of the 4 categories. A member will also only be allowed to win up to two categories max.

You may submit any size photo (up to 8X10), unmounted, in black and white or color. The photo must be submitted as is; no retouching or digital editing.

Send photos to:

Kelly Deegan
kdeegan@csalife.com

2050 Finley Road
Attn: Fraternal Dept.
P.O. Box 249
Lombard, IL 60148



Best of Contest: \$250

Prize for Each Category:

1st Place: \$125

2nd Place: \$75

3rd Place: \$50

Photo submission Categories

Animals

Nature

People

**Photographers Choice
(Objects or subjects of interest)**

Youth:

1st Place : \$125

2nd Place: \$75

3rd Place: \$50

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 26, 2025.

Digital images must be sent electronically or printed traditionally on photo paper; print-outs on computer paper will not be accepted. If mailing your photo, include your name, lodge name and number, age, full address, phone number, type of camera used, and submission category. If the photo includes specific scenery, please give the location. Do not write on the back of the photos.

CSAPOCNST10292024



www.CSALIFE.com

CSA 88th Annual Get-Together Recap

District Council No. 10, Northern Ohio and Michigan – Just like that, it's over in a blink of an eye. After a whole year of planning, the 88th Annual CSA Get-Together is in the past. Memories have been etched in everyone's mind who was in attendance. The abundance of "thank you" and "great job" remarks from our fraternal brothers and sisters were truly and whole-heartily appreciated. I believe we succeeded with our theme of "Rock on Cleveland." We thank all those who came from the bottom of our hearts; without you there would be no Get-Together.

District Council No. 10 has some pretty amazing people. We worked so well together, and made a fantastic team!

For those of you who missed it, included is a summary of the weekend.

Upon arriving, members and guests were welcomed at registration, and given a light snack and a swag bag, while enjoying the Hospitality Room.

Next, we welcomed everyone to the Bohemian National Hall. I'm sure many in attendance were in awe. The architecture was a sight to see. Pork, dumpling, and kraut dinner was served, followed

by an address from President John Kielczewski. He then introduced CEO of BetterLife, Chris Campbell. The "Past, Present, and Future" were talked about. Promises were made that our history and traditions will remain.

The Past, Present, and Future Queens presentation took place next. Sis. Susan Florian Garofalo, Miss CSA 1973 – 74, was the Master of Ceremony. Joining her on stage as past queens were Sis. April Marek Ehrenbeit, 1996 – 97; Sis. Courtney Ou Sollisch, 2013 – 14; and Sis. Jessica Decker Bailey, 2023-24 – all members of District Council No. 10. Of course, the then present Miss CSA, Sis. Delaney Schretter, patiently awaited in the wings. Questions were asked to Sis. Cassidy Payer regarding past, present and future goals. It was a nice way to get to know the future Miss CSA. Cassidy was the only young lady that was willing and able to run, and we thought, who are we to hold her back from that title and crown. She is well-worthy of the title, as she has been a member since the day she was born. She is involved in her lodge and looking to continue the annual traditions.

The entire evening was laid back, and no nerves or anxiety were had. Everyone rocked the night away to DJ

Bo Richards.

The service project took place Saturday morning, followed by trips to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame or the Goodtime III luncheon cruise.

Saturday night was the crowning of Miss CSA 2025-26. Before we could crown our new queen, Delaney gave her farewell speech and highlights of her past year. Cassidy was then escorted to the stage by her proud father, Bro. Peter Payer, while her grandmother, Sis. Vera Payer, smiled with pride as her beautiful granddaughter accepted her sash and crown. The night ended with excellent entertainment by Patrick Lynch and the Jazz Guys. Dancers certainly did have a grand time.

Sunday morning, a presentation from the Journey Center was conducted. They were very thankful for all the items that were collected and they were presented with a donation of \$5,000 from VFW Post #6768, Northfield, Ohio.

If you missed it, there were many laughs, memories, new friends made, old friendships renewed, and fraternalism at its best was achieved.

Fraternally,

Diane DiBianca

District Council No. 10 President



CSA 88th Annual Get-Together Recap - Friday



CSA 88th Annual Get-Together Recap - Saturday



CSA 88th Annual Get-Together Recap - Sunday



For more photos, visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCqzJR>

Fraternalist of the Year



Sis. Annmarie Cervenka Antos
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison
No. 409

From just five months old, **Sis Annmarie Antos** has been a devoted member of Lodge DuPage Pioneers No. 409, growing up immersed in CSA Fraternal Life alongside her siblings under the guidance of her parents. A Northern Illinois University graduate and longtime special education teacher, she brought her passion for Czech culture into the classroom through events like “Christmas Around the World.”

For 36 years, Annmarie has served as Lodge Vice President and Ways & Means Committee member, spearheading beloved events such as the Annual Penny Social, hallway crafts for kids, and behind-the-scenes support for Christmas plays. A lifelong volunteer, she has contributed to Camp Sokol, Ronald McDonald House, People’s Resource Center, and many more.

Proud Cub Scout leader, photo contest winner, and 40-year delegate to Tabor Hills Senior Living, Annmarie exemplifies CSA’s ideals of fraternity, harmony, and equality through her unwavering generosity, creativity, and community spirit.

Congratulations, Annmarie!

Fraternalist of the Year Nominees



Karen Ditz
Lodge Washington
No. 30



Karen has been Lodge Treasurer since 2016 and serves on the ACEC Board. She’s always first to volunteer — from organizing Bingo nights to learning to bake for the annual sale.

She stepped up as ACEC Rental Manager six years ago, boosting income and training others, all while working full-time. Karen also helps at Czech festivals, drives members to appointments, and involves her whole family in CSA.

We’re proud to recognize Karen’s incredible dedication and leadership!

Stephen Carico
Judge

The nominations for Fraternalist of the Year were sent to Mr. Stephen Carico. Stephen completed his marketing internship at the CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. In just over a year, he has quickly come to understand and appreciate the dedication to service that defines fraternal work within CSA.

Currently a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Stephen is actively involved in university-led fundraisers,

charitable initiatives, and community service projects. Outside of school, he volunteers his time at Feed My Starving Children, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to helping those in need.

Stephen was honored to serve as a judge for this year’s CSA Fraternalist of the Year. The Fraternalist of the Year nominations were given anonymously. Taking this duty very seriously, Stephen used a rating and point system to select our Fraternalist of the Year, and we are grateful for his careful consideration.

Fraternalist of the Year Nominees



Freddie Shima
Lodge Cleveland Chapter
No. 219

Freddie is the embodiment of fraternalism—kind, generous, and deeply devoted to others. A retired teacher of 34 years, she now volunteers at the zoo, sharing her love of animals and educating visitors.

She gives freely of her time, supports her lodge, cares for friends, and lovingly cared for her mother, Camille, a long-time CSA member. Freddie's compassion and dedication make her truly deserving of this honor. She is a gem.



Kris Marek
Lodge Paramount/Southgate
No. 372

Kris is a dedicated community volunteer and leader. She serves as secretary of her lodge and actively helps plan both lodge and district events, including hospitality and annual celebrations. Kris volunteers with the Local Women's Civic Organization and the Czech Club, D.T.J., where she is head instructor for toddler gymnastics and a key organizer of cultural events, fundraisers, and traditional baking. She mentors new instructors, coordinates volunteers, and supports numerous causes—all while being a devoted grandmother and advocate for preserving Czech heritage.



Vera Wilt
Lodge Lincoln
No. 7

Vera is the spirit of CSA. She volunteers endlessly, leads with heart, and keeps our traditions alive through her work and Czech translations. Without her, Lodge Lincoln and others wouldn't exist. She's the spark in every CSA event—sweet as koláčky, strong as slivovitz, and a true inspiration.

District Council

Think About Christmas Party Locations

District Council No. 10, Northern Ohio and Michigan – The July meeting was held at the Parma/Snow Library, in Parma, Ohio, and was called to order by President Diane DiBianca with 11 members: Diane DiBianca, Mary Ann Toncar, Freddie Shima, Johnny Weiss, Jan Russell, Bruce Marek, Donna Stepka, Judy and Tony Genco, Sue Garofalo, and Annette Reichman present.

May Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were read and approved. Diane read her report of the CSA happenings in Chicago.

Diane reported that plans for the GTG were going smoothly. District Council No. 10 purchased raffle tickets to the GTG and sponsored drink tickets.

We had an organizational meeting on August 6, and bowling started at the end of August.

Members were asked to think about potential locations for the Christmas Party.

Birthdays were acknowledged: Jan celebrated in June, Kris in July, and Judy and Marsha in August.

Our next meeting will be September 4 at the Bedford Library at 10:00 a.m.

Freddie won the 50/50 and she said, pick again. Sue won and said, thank you, Freddie!

Thank you, Mary Ann, for the chocolate chip cookies.

*Respectfully submitted,
Annette Reichman*

Fraternal Well Wishes

Danny Gorman
Lodge Cleveland Chapter
No. 219



Fraternal Calendar

September	1	Home Office closed for Labor Day
	26	Deadline - Photo Contest Entries
	26	Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Entries
October	13	Home Office closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus) Day
	15	Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal
	31	Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Scores
November	27-28	Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
December	1	Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Request
	24-25	Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday

****Deadline for articles - 13th of every PRIOR month; ex: articles for February Journal should be submitted by January 13th.**



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Installation, Donations, and So Much More!

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Wow, a lot has happened since my last *Journal* article. Our lodge met at the Parma Heights Library on August 12, 2025. We had 13 members in attendance. The weather was hot, hot, hot in the Cleveland area.

Our July meeting was held at Sylvia Lorinz's home. What a gracious hostess and lovely home. Thirteen people attended. At this meeting, we installed Carole as half time Secretary and Sylvia as Sentry/Guide. Tony Genco did the honors.

After a short meeting, we had a delicious lunch. Sylvia provided hot dogs and drinks and everyone else contributed food items. It was a lovely afternoon.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Judy and Joanie for their July birthdays. The 50/50 raffle was won by Tony and Kathy.

At our District meeting on July 3, we focused our attention on our upcoming

Get-Together. Many wonderful people worked very hard to put together the Get-Together. More on it later.

Our organizational bowling meeting was on August 6. We have 20 three-person teams. Every year, we seem to grow larger. Our actual first bowling was on August 20.

At our August meeting, Jan Russell gave a re-cap of the Get-Together events. We got very good reviews from people attending. It seems everyone enjoyed themselves. Friday was check-in, drinks and food in the hospitality room, and a wonderful dinner at the beautiful Bohemian National Hall. There were side boards, Sunky pins, and shots being sold; a backdrop for picture taking; and wonderful music by a DJ.

Saturday morning started out with a free breakfast (for those staying in the hotel); our service project, a gathering of donated items for the Journey Center (home for abused women, men and children); and a group picture taken with our blue CSA shirts on.

After that, some people went on the Goodtime III, some went to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, some went to the zoo, and some went to area museums and other great Cleveland attractions.

Saturday night was a nice dinner at the hotel. Miss CSA was crowned, the Fraternalist of the Year was chosen, the Kropik Scholarship was given out, and raffle ticket winners were announced. We had a live band with a fabulous singer who got people up and dancing.

Sunday was our brunch, our speaker from the Journey Center, and closing ceremonies. It was a great weekend.

At our August meeting, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Marsha and our member, Dolores. Marsha provided a yummy dessert. Our 50/50 raffle was won by Joanie and Freddie.

After the meeting, we put together raffle baskets for DTJ events. Thank you, Freddie, for providing the baskets and items that went in them. All the members brought in school supplies and clothing for the Providence House (home for abused/neglected children). There were over \$1,000 worth of items that we gave to this charity. Good work, members!

In September, we will have two people giving us a talk on their trip to Thailand and other places. We have invited Lodge Paramount/Southgate to attend. We will have pizza, salad, drinks, and dessert.

In October, we will have "Decorate Your Lunch Bag for Halloween" contest. In November, we will relax and play Bingo. We will also choose a place for our December Christmas Party.

Whew! I think that's all. Attached are pictures from my last article and this article.

Have a great summer and fall everyone!

*Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

“Christmas in July”

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – Our “Christmas in July” celebration was great fun. We welcomed guests from Lodge DuPage Pioneers along with CSA District Council No. 12 Director Ken Dvorsky. Everyone shared some light refreshments, created their own unique Christmas ornaments from cookie cutters, played a holiday game, and came away with a nominal prize. Best of all, nobody had to worry about snow, bad weather, or winter traffic.

The 88th Annual Get-Together in Cleveland, Ohio, was well-worth attending thanks to the outstanding efforts of

the GTG committee and the Home Office staff. It was wonderful to catch up with many dear friends whom we haven’t seen in a year.

The Friday banquet was held in a beautiful old Sokol Hall in Cleveland that had been lovingly restored. A large portion of the building was dedicated to a museum showcasing interesting relics from past Sokol events. We heard from three former Miss National CSA winners. They spoke of their reigns and what they have been doing since. Their experiences certainly resulted in many positive influences on each of them.

Our Saturday morning volunteer project was to benefit the Journey Center for Safety and Healing to end domestic violence. Then, some people opted to take the excursion to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and others took the Lake Erie boat cruise. We opted out of both of these and instead visited the

Cleveland Zoo, where we hadn’t visited since 1996.

At the Saturday banquet, we honored outgoing Miss National CSA Delaney Schretter, and welcomed Miss CSA for 2025-26, Cassidy Payer. No doubt, all *CSA Journal* readers are looking forward to reading Cassidy’s future articles in upcoming issues. CSA President John Kielczewski addressed the group as did Chris Campbell of BetterLife.

We attended Sunday brunch and heard a speaker from the Journey Center for Safety and Healing before wishing safe travels to the other attendees.

Lodge Brookfield holds meetings at noon on the second Tuesday of each month at the CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. As always, we welcome members and guests.

*Fraternally,
Kimberly Silhan*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Elvis is in the Building

Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – On Thursday, August 7, Lodge Prokop Velky members enjoyed a day bus trip to the Circa 21 Theater in Rock Island, Illinois. We were entertained by an Elvis impersonator and enjoyed a lunch and show.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but everyone told me they thoroughly enjoyed the show.

I hope that everyone had a great time at the Get-Together this year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer because Fall will be upon us soon.

*Fraternally yours,
Rai Ann Stratton*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

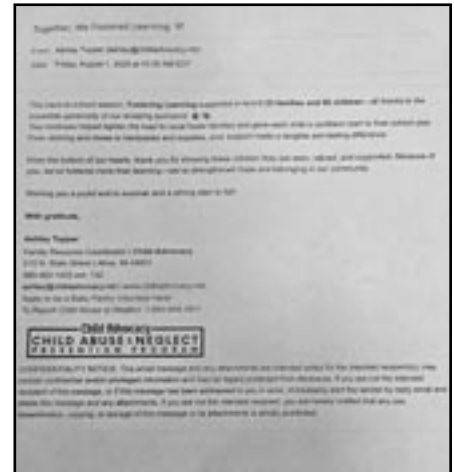
Supporting Fostering Learning Program

Lodge Independence Liberty Bell No. 408, St. Louis, Michigan – Greetings. We celebrated Rich McClintic's 80th birthday on June 21, 2025.

In July, we supported eight kids through Child Advocacy's Fostering Learning program. We bought them school supplies they needed including coats, backpacks, notebooks, pencils, and other items.

We still do euchre once a month, usually on a Saturday but sometimes on a Friday. All are welcome!

Wishing you all the best!
Teresa Butcher



Best Dressed at Seven Hills House of Thrills

Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio – As the summer of 2025 reaches a conclusion, it's time to touch base with the past goings on of Lodge Franklin.

In June, we welcomed back Dave Kus, accompanied by his daughter, Holly. It was great to see them both and look forward to their attendance in the future.

A generous donation was given to the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, for which we have already received their thanks.

The lodge took out a half-page greeting in the souvenir program for this

year's Cleveland Get-Together. We contributed four gift cards toward the service project, the Journey Center for Safety and Healing. In an appeal from District Council No. 10, an extra donation was made to the cause. The membership also purchased the raffle tickets, which were sent with the packet.

When team captain Ken Burdzinski was called on for a bowling report, he referred back to President Scott Krecow.

"It's over," Scott mumbled with bowed head. Their seventh place finish was not what was hoped for. However, the lodge voted to purchase the team new shirts for the upcoming season as

the old ones are at least nine years old. They should be the best dressed at the Seven Hills House of Thrills!

The City of Seven Hills also rolled out the red carpet for brother Jim Zidlicky, putting out a Happy 80th Birthday sign on the corner of Broadview and Hillside Roads during the weekend of June 14. He also received a birthday card from Mayor Biasiotta's office. Happy Birthday, Big Jim, ...and many more!

Come join us for the next meeting on September 22 at Mama Romitos Pub & Pizzeria in picturesque North Royalton, Ohio.

Fraternally,
Jeff Zidlicky



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Ice Cream Social and Meat Bingo

Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri – It's been another whirlwind summer filled with vacations, activities, and heat (after all, it is St. Louis, you know), and we're looking forward to more things to do with the lodge and with our American-Czech Center.

Gail and Lynne Petelik attended the Get-Together in Cleveland, so our August meeting included Gail's report from the weekend, complete with stories about the trip and the visits with old friends and a few new ones. We thank her for making the drive there and representing us. We also congratulate the new Miss National CSA, Cassidy Payer, and hope to see her in St. Louis during her reign. Gail also shared the special booklet on Miss CSA Contestants through the years – it brought back lots of memories and it was fun to pick out many of the young ladies in our District who participated. There have been lots!

The meeting was followed by our traditional Ice Cream Social, handled by Jenny Zeman. We've been celebrating summer with this treat for many years, and we appreciate Jenny's work preparing everything.

It was a great night again at the ACEC for the ever-popular Meat Bingo in June. Ten lodge members were among the other CSA and Sokol members and friends on hand to try their luck at winning prizes of hot dogs, burgers, sausages, barbecue sauces, and the St. Louis tradition, pork steaks. (In case you're wondering, they're known as pork shoulder blade steaks in other parts of the country.) The evening included ten rounds of different Bingo games and finished with a cover all. Imagine our excitement when the person who called "Bingo" on that last game was Karen Ditz! Karen's prize was impres-

sive – ribs, bacon, burgers, pork steaks, a multi-use cooler, and grilling tools. We're sure her whole family will enjoy her winnings! Thank you to the organizers – we enjoyed it!

As for vacations, Karen Ditz, Bobby Ditz, Jr., and Anna Ryals joined other family members in Memphis, just in time for the Fourth of July. Anna and mom Ericka Ryals then headed up to Michigan for more family fun.

Hope everyone has a great autumn!

*Fraternally,
Deborah Zeman*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Donation to VFW and GTG Goodie Bags Made

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio – It was a bright, sunny day for our Bus Trip to the Rivers Casino in June. Spirits were high when the bus took off for our gambling adventure. Everyone was chatting and eagerly waiting for the bus games to begin. Snacks and beverages were being handed out and the \$1 and \$5 bags were going around. Next, we had a 50/50 drawing, then the highlight of the bus ride, the Horse Race! Mary Ann called out the horse's names: #1, Coco; #2, Waldo; #3, Skip; #4, Chip; #5, Elmo; and #6, Cookie. People enthusiastically placed their bets on the board as the horses arrived at the starting gate. Then, they were off! Coco shot out of the gate and stayed in the lead through the turn with Elmo right behind. It became a battle between Coco and Elmo

in the last furlong with Elmo winning by a nose!

We arrived at the Rivers Casino just after the payouts were made. It didn't seem like two hours had gone by!

Congratulations to all the winners on the bus, especially to first timer Lynn who won the \$1 Bag and the 50/50, and to those who came back with some of the casino's money!

Mary Ann thanked Diane for arranging the trip and providing Jell-O shots and beverages; Bruce and Kris for the chips; Annette and Nancy for the wine; and Michelle, Suzan, Chelsea, Maria, and Annette for helping hand out goodies and doing the gambling games. Thank you, Mary Ann, for all of the delectable chocolates, pizzelles, and Jell-O shots.

Our July meeting was at the DTJ in Taborville. We had our usual band of members: Mary Ann, Diane, Johnny, Donna, me, Kris, Bruce, and their grandson Grayson, also a CSA member. We also had two guests from Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219 - Judy and Tony Genco!

The food we collected for VFW Post

6768 to give to the Emergency Assistance Center in Northfield, Ohio, was delivered to the Post. They said thank-you for all of the donations.

Diane has been keeping us informed about our LRP progress. We are on the way to the Platinum Award.

Our Get-Together 2025 Team worked feverishly to make this year's GTG the best yet! After we had our snack, we all assembled the Goodie Bags for the GTG.

Judy and Tony invited us to listen to their speaker at their meeting on September 9.

Please support these DTJ events. You are sure to have fun! September 14 is the DTJ Clambake, October 5 is the Chicken or Duck Dinner, October 11 is A Night at the Races, and November is the Chicken or Duck Dinner. All dinners require reservations. Please call Kris Marek at (440) 543-8494 or The Hall at (440) 543-5051.

Thank you, Johnny, for the tasty sandwiches, potato salad, chips, and Tuxedo Bar cake for our snack.

Our next meetings for 2025 will be: September 25, October 23, November 18, and December 19 is our Christmas luncheon. Come to a meeting, have a tasty snack, and reconnect with friends. We would love to see you!

*Fraternally,
Annette Reichman*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Partying with Lodge Brookfield

Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Our July meeting was brief. Officers and members recited the Pledge followed by abbreviated minutes of our June meeting. The Treasurer's Report was waived. We wished President Linda Burton a "Happy Birthday" and the meeting was adjourned. We proceeded to join Lodge Brookfield for their "Christmas in July" party.

Lodge Brookfield members, along with DuPage Pioneers and Home Office staff, enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch of sandwiches, pickles, fruit, cake, Christmas cookies, and beverages.

Brookfield President Barbara Deig distributed Ziploc bags of Christmas crafts

and cards. Guests cut, pasted, and produced holiday ornaments and greeting cards for friends and family.

Once crafts were proudly displayed, Barb arranged seating, gave everyone a wrapped gift, and the game began. A funny Christmas story required us to move our wrapped gift left, right, or across whenever the word was mentioned. It was a fast game which kept us on our toes and forced us to pay close attention to the

story. At the end, we opened the gift that landed in front of us. Barb gave each of us a few word search puzzles with a holiday theme and thanked everyone for coming.

Thanks so much to Lodge Brookfield for their hospitality, lunch, crafts, prizes, and, most of all, their great fraternal spirit.

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli



Donation to Mercy Chefs for Texas Relief

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – Welcome to the hottest year in the history of reported, measured weather. We hope everyone is finding a cooling place. Our meeting was cool on July 9, 2025, since we met at the T.G. Masaryk School. The air conditioning was working.

The usual business protocols were approved at which time we went into discussions regarding charitable donations, in particular, the floods in Texas. I'm sure most of us have seen all the volunteer efforts being conducted on TV. Roberta Kulik took the effort one step further. She saw, as I did, and many of you did, I'm sure, the effort to establish a disaster relief base of operations in Texas which includes supplying meals to victims, volunteers, and first responders. The TV report showed some of the food being served such as BBQ ribs. Wow! The name of the group is Mercy Chefs.

Mercy Chefs is a 501c3 organization founded in 2006 in the aftermath of

Hurricane Katrina. The organization provides quality meals during natural disasters and national emergencies. It partners with existing ministries with food service in underserved communities around the country. Since its founding, Mercy Chefs has served over 30 million meals. For more information, visit mercychefs.com. Our lodge made a nice donation at its meeting.

In addition, significant donations were made to the USO for their 249-year Anniversary Celebration. We also made donations to the Masaryk School and the Salvation Army, and we gave Guardian Angel Food Pantry seven full bags of groceries and a cash donation.

Some recognition was given to the Lidice Commemoration. Since, as reported in the July/August issue of *the Journal*, several of our members attended the commemoration and, in particular, they were impressed with the Czech teenagers who spoke about the Nazi occupation and re-education.

Roberta Kulik also had some family happy days to report. On January 4, Megan Welk became engaged to Jared Boucher. Megan is the daughter of Suzanne and Robert Welk and Suzanne is a daughter of Roberta Kulik. Megan (pictured) resides in Henderson, Tennessee.

Our meetings are generally held at the T.G. Masaryk School located at 5701 W. 22nd Place, Cicero, Illinois. For more information, contact Ed Slavik at 708 423-5267.

Fraternally,
Elaine Tejcek



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Getting Together and Riding for Highground

Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Brookfield, Illinois – Several members attended this year's Get-Together in Cleveland, and they report that it was a great time! Cary Mentzer, Missy Dropka, Anna Ramirez, and Ken Dvorsky all proudly represented our lodge by participating in this year's festivities. They enjoyed not only the official activities of the GTG, but also touring the sights and attractions of the Cleveland area, including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, "The Christmas Story" house and museum, Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Cultural Center, and Rockefeller Park Cultural Gardens. A jam-packed weekend, to be

sure!

We are proud again to support Joan Cervenka's annual participation in the "Heroes Ride" Bike Tour. This is the major fund-raising event for Highground Veterans Memorial Park in Neillsville, Wisconsin. The event was designed in memory of the original founder of the Park, Tom Miller, who rode his bike all around Wisconsin to raise awareness and funds to develop a special place for veterans. Joanie and the rest of the "Northern Route" crew rode from Hayward, Wisconsin, 170 miles over three days. This year, as riders gathered at the park on day three, Joan was featured in an interview for WEAU TV News coverage, as she

spoke about the ride's significance for Highground as well as its personal significance for her. "The emphasis on the care and health of the veterans is what has kept me riding for over 30 years," Joan told the reporter.

We are so proud of you, Joanie, for all you do, and we are so very happy to continue our support for this worthy cause!

As always, please let me know about your volunteer activities and fun news, and share photos. Other members enjoy knowing what you're up to!

Fraternally,

*Jean Hemzáček Laukant
hemzacek.j@gmail.com
630-915-9745*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Graduates, Awards, Youth Activities, & Picnic

Lodge Laurel No. 452, Ashford, Connecticut – Our youth have been working and studying hard. We had several graduates from three different grade levels. Grace Macht graduated eighth grade from Mansfield Middle School. She received a Visual Arts Award and the Civic Responsibility Award, based on citizenship, strength of character, and respect. She also received recognition for her activities in the Library Club, the Mural Club, and the Color Guard. Grace will be attending E. O. Smith High School as a freshman next year.

Mason Varga graduated as a Salutatorian of his class from Windham Regional Technical High School. He received the Windham PFO Salutatorian, The Willimantic Fire Fighters, and the Precision Machining Shop awards as well as scholarships from the Rotary Club Dollars for Scholars, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, the Windham Center Fire Department, of which he is a member, and CSA Fraternal Life. He will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University next year in the Honors Program and will be studying

Criminology.

Kaylie Goodwin graduated Summa Cum Laude from Ithaca College in New York. Kaylie received the All-American Collegiate Gymnastics Award for the championship academic team. She was also inducted into Sigma Phi Omega, an academic and professional society with a focus on gerontology. Kaylie will be attending UCONN next year in the Master's program studying audiology.

Ashley Goodwin will be a Junior at Penn State. She is studying Health and Nursing.

Emily Goodwin will be a Senior next year at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. She is studying Nutrition, planning to be a Dietitian.

Brock Goodwin will be a Junior at Springfield College in Massachusetts. He is studying to be a Physician's Assistant. He is also a star left-handed pitcher on the baseball team.

Our younger youth have also been busy and working hard. Eli Macht will be going into sixth grade at Mansfield Middle School. Eli keeps busy with Boy Scouts and is a star soccer player.

Ryan Goodwin will be a Senior in high school. He is a star hockey player

and also plays soccer and lacrosse.

Our lodge held its Annual Picnic on July 13 at the home of Brother Bob and Sister Gail Zaicek. Gail smoked pork for us. We had all the usual picnic fare, with Bob cooking the hot dogs and hamburgers. Members brought salads, side dishes, and desserts, including a birthday cake for our hostess! Plenty of delicious food and a great time was had by all!

Looking forward to a beautiful Fall!

*Fraternally,
Marion Varga*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

BetterLife Board Member Attends Meeting

Lodge Groveton No. 4, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania – It's hard to believe another summer has come and gone. We hope everyone enjoyed their summer and took advantage of their much-needed staycation or vacation. Our lodge finished the season with a trip to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates play the Colorado Rockies at PNC Park. Stay tuned for the next *Journal* to see pictures of the event!

The June and July meetings had 14 and 17 members in attendance. Our July

meeting had a special guest or two. Maria Schepis, from BetterLife's Board of Directors, joined us alongside her husband, Jim. She spoke briefly about the merger with BetterLife.

Our meeting concluded with youth members playing a bucket game. Jourdyn ended up winning the coveted prize, which was a rubber chicken. There was no August meeting due to the Get-Together.

Our lodge had some representation at the 88th Get-Together in Cleveland,

Ohio, with four adult and two youth members in attendance. We were able to donate \$75 to the Service Project. Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 Kropik Scholarship, Fraternalist of the Year, and the Miss National CSA Contest. Best wishes to outgoing Miss CSA Delaney Schretter of Lodge No. 378! Lastly, thank you to the GTG Committee for all the hard work that goes into planning this busy weekend.

Fraternally,
Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich



Join Us at the Food Pantry

Lodge Pingree No. 366, Dearborn Heights, Michigan – Nazdar, Sisters and Brothers. I hope everyone's summer has been super! It's been very warm in my neck of the woods.

As both a CSA and Sokol member, I enjoyed the Sokol Fourth of July picnic and the Sokol Fest on July 19 and 20 with both organizations!

Once again, I'm asking you to join us at the Food Pantry on the third Saturday of every month. We start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 11:00 a.m. We have a very brief meeting immediately afterwards. It doesn't hurt a bit!

If you have any news to report, please contact me at 734-751-8013.

Fraternally yours,
Jeff Teichman

Remembering the Past



Mr. and Mrs. Hynek Dolansky are pictured here. Hynek was a CSA lodge treasurer in the 1940s. He told his three sons, "Whatever career you choose in life, do it to the best of your ability."

Fraternally yours,
Otakar (Otto) Dolansky,
Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377
(almost a 90-year member of CSA)



Pictured here are two important ladies in my Bohemian life: my mother Henrietta and my grandmother Anna. I'm sure they would both exclaim, all the way from heaven, a big Ahoy and Nazdar to all members.

Fraternally yours,
Anna Nalc Ramirez
Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377
(CSA member for over 50 years)

**This is a re-print of an ad from the GTG booklet due to an error in size.*

Scholarship Fund Donation Form

With the price of higher education rapidly increasing, scholarships continue to be an important fraternal benefit. The CSA Scholarship Fund assists young adults, not only with their education, but with their professional goals. We appreciate your generous donations and your continued support!

Fill and send this form with donation. Please make checks payable to CSA Fraternal Life Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____

☐ For the general Scholarship Fund or ☐ In Memory of _____

Send acknowledgement of contribution to _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

“ We were delighted to donate \$5,000 from our t-shirt and mug sales to the CSA Scholarship Fund! ”
— the 83rd Annual CSA Get-Together Committee



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LODGE HAPPENINGS

Placeks, Pill Bottles, Pop Tabs, and Prizes

Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – You may be wondering why Placeks, pill bottles, pop tabs, and prizes are the title of this month's article. Well, simply put, those were the highlights of our August lodge meeting which was held at the Dillonvale Presbyterian Church Social Hall. Joining us for our meeting were the Placeks from Lodge Groveton No. 4 in Pennsylvania. Brother Director, Terry Placek, along with his wife, Kathy, and mother, Jean, spent the afternoon with us. Members were happy to turn in their collections of pill bottles and pop tabs to Brother Placek. Since our members were not able to attend this year's Get-Together due to health issues, inability to travel, and family commitments, Terry was happy to give us many of the weekend's highlights. We wish to extend our congratulations to the big winners including Miss CSA, Fraternalist of the Year, and the winner of the Kropik Scholarship. We are grateful for each of you and your service to our society.

Jean Placek gave us all an added treat with her delicious homemade cabbage rolls. They were a perfect addition to our chicken dinner! At the conclusion of our meeting, we also enjoyed desserts including cheesecake, apple

pie, and hot fudge cake sundaes, which were the unanimous favorite among our little group.

All members received a special prize for attending the meeting. The prizes were numbered and each brother or sister picked a number from a bowl and won that corresponding prize. There was an opportunity to trade prizes, however, all members kept their original prizes which included many items to help get us ready for fall such as tablecloths, placemats, blankets, pillows, wine, hot chocolate mixes, and more.

Our recent donations included money sent to St. Joseph's Catholic

Church and Dillonvale Presbyterian Church. We also donated to the CSA Scholarship Fund.

Members recently participated in a church cleanup day and we continue to transport each other to lodge meetings and community events.

Best wishes to all of you as we prepare to welcome Fall! Have a great school year!

*Fraternally,
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Member Frank Michalek Receives Award

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, Lombard, Illinois – I hope everyone is enjoying the summer! It's hard to believe it is almost over and children are already heading back to school.

We were looking forward to the Get-Together for months and now it is history. Seven members from our lodge attended this year: Jodi Otwirk, Frank Michalek, Chuck Michalek, Ken Dvorsky, Cindy Bueneman, Mary Ellen Janda, and Chuck Janda.

On Friday, we checked in around 2:00 and went to the hospitality room. Everyone received a swag bag that had a blue insulated bag with lunch along with many trinkets and snacks from the Cleveland area. My son and I had some time to explore the city afterwards. We found the "World's Largest Chandelier" and the "World's Largest Rubber Stamp," which were interesting to see.



That evening, we had a delicious roast pork dinner with dumplings and zeli. The Old Bohemian National Hall hosted the event. Their museum had pictures and artifacts from as far back as the 1800s. I found a large group photo of a choir that had two members with my last name, "Janda". I wonder if they might be related?

Saturday, we had our service project and then it was off to the day's events. My son and I decided on the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The hall has six levels in total; one area had all the inductees from the beginning to 2025. There were so many exhibits to see and just not enough time!

We had dinner at the hotel that evening. Several past Miss CSAs told us about their time and experiences when they were crowned.

Sunday, we had brunch and a speaker from the Journey Center. The colors were retired and the 88th Annual Get-Together was adjourned.

We all had a great weekend and want to thank everyone behind the

scenes who made it happen.

Several of our lodge members attended the Sokol Slet gathering in June which consisted of a week-long schedule of competition activities, tours to local places, and an awards banquet which culminated in a large outdoor exhibition at Hinsdale South High School. Participants traveled to the Chicago area from all over the U.S., along with several hundred visitors from the Czech Republic.

Lodge member Frank Michalek received a prestigious award at the banquet which honored his decades of participation and service to the Sokol organization as competitor, instructor, National Director, and one of the founding members of Sokol Chicagoland. Frank received numerous awards and trophies during his years at Sokol. Lodge Yankee-Jungmann is proud to have him as a long-time lodge member.

Make the most of the final days of summer, fall is right around the corner.

*Fraternally,
Mary Ellen Janda*



In Memoriam

Claim	Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Death	Age
56115	Freemal, John A.	002	WILLOWICK, OH	05/07/2025	87
56093	Laundry, Melburn E.	007	LAKE FOREST, IL	09/21/2018	94
56117	McCarthy, Russell D.	007	NAPERVILLE, IL	04/08/2025	93
56073	Buettner, Tracy A.	030	MOSCOW MILLS, MO	12/21/2023	60
56095	Campbell, David J.	121	YOUNGSTOWN, OH	06/25/2025	60
56070	Manzueta, Carlos	155	YONKERS, NY	06/17/2025	70
56105	Stewart, Denvor	155	LAS VEGAS, NV	07/02/2025	82
56100	Bickham, Camille	157	ST. LOUIS, MO	03/18/2025	99
56078	Sadvary, John W.	211	WOODLAND PARK, NJ	04/30/2025	97
56087	Oliver, Jerome	211	ELIZABETH, NJ	05/31/2025	77
56119	Eierdam, Richard T.	219	AVON, OH	04/16/2025	68
56074	Ludvik, William J.	231	WAVERLY, IA	02/18/2025	85
56081	Chorvat, Lillian K.	231	WESTCHESTER, IL	07/14/2024	98
56099	Myers, Linda J.	252	LEBANON, MO	06/14/2025	75
56104	Hamel, Victor J.	252	TUCSON, AZ	05/02/2025	81
56110	Sembach, Patricia A.	252	PHOENIX, AZ	04/28/2025	90
56061	Surovik, Winifred A.	277	COLLEGE STATION, TX	06/15/2025	78
56106	Vansa, Eugene S.	277	WALLISVILLE, TX	05/01/2025	91
56075	Funches, Darlene M.	302	CHICAGO, IL	06/25/2025	71
56077	Robertson, Jacqueline Yvette	302	CHICAGO, IL	06/10/2025	60
56098	Monahan, Leah M.	310	BELLAIRE, OH	06/08/2025	88
56072	Smith, Janet L.	366	SAGINAW, MI	05/14/2025	84
56102	Weber, Barbara E.	366	MONROE, MI	04/01/2025	85
56088	Yurkiewicz, June B.	372	AVON, OH	07/06/2025	85
56059	Krug, Louise P.	377	ORO VALLEY, AZ	04/23/2025	95
56064	Lankas, Lucile J.	377	TAYLORSVILLE, NC	06/12/2025	94
56083	Stanek, Lawrence E.	377	PALOS HEIGHTS, IL	01/22/2025	103
56107	Vacha, Charles H.	377	APACHE JUNCTION, AZ	02/06/2025	83
56068	Castey, Titus	378	CHICAGO, IL	05/07/2025	63
56090	Sanicki, Bradley J.	378	CHICAGO, IL	05/27/2025	74
56092	Blum, Zdenka	378	BARTLETT, IL	06/12/2025	90
56120	Puncochar, Thalia	378	EAGLE RIVER, WI	07/16/2025	96
56065	Cahnovsky, Thomas A.	404	BELLEVILLE, IL	06/08/2025	68
56067	Cowles, Betty G.	408	ST. LOUIS, MI	05/10/2025	80
56118	Rada, Robert J.	409	DOWNERS GROVE, IL	07/15/2025	84
56069	Burianek, Richard G.	419	NORTH JUDSON, IN	04/16/2025	90
56063	Sposta, Anna M.	422	PORT CHESTER, NY	04/06/2025	86
56094	Felli, Joyce	422	EDGEWATER, NJ	07/24/2025	79
56112	Hejduk Sr., Ronald R.	428	BEL AIR, MD	12/11/2024	69
56096	Banchak, Kenneth	432	NEW PORT RICHEY, FL	06/07/2025	81
56066	Bates, Michael	448	ROCHESTER, NY	01/28/2025	64
56084	Brower, Emily H.	448	SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY	07/09/2025	96
56091	Johnson, Ardesta	448	CATONSVILLE, MD	07/23/2025	80
56097	Denson, Mattie	448	ROCHESTER, NY	06/16/2025	73
56101	Vlasak, Frances M.	448	VESTAL, NY	06/24/2025	93
56111	Robinson, Jimmie	448	DALLAS, NC	07/06/2025	88
56076	Martin, Rebecca	452	OXFORD, CT	02/22/2025	71
56060	Lacue, Sandra Kay	463	LAUD LAKES, FL	05/16/2025	65
56071	Balsanek, Lois	463	NEW PORT RICHEY, FL	05/02/2025	76
56089	Szollosoy, Frank	463	ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL	06/12/2025	93
56082	Boucher, Ludmila	469	BRIGHTWATERS, NY	05/27/2025	102
56080	Levinson, Richard L.	475	VERNON HILLS, IL	01/06/2025	86
56062	McNeill, Clair	481	PLAINFIELD, NJ	06/02/2025	82
56079	Daniels, Joseph W.	481	LINDENWOLD, NJ	11/09/2024	79

In Memoriam

Claim	Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Death	Age
56086	Oliver, Jerome	481	ELIZABETH, NJ	05/31/2025	71
56109	Kerliehs, Ruth F.	484	BETHEL, CT	11/18/2020	91
56116	Givens, Ralph B.	484	PHILADELPHIA, PA	07/17/2025	88

In Memoriam

Lodge Independence Liberty Bell No. 408, St. Louis, Michigan, lost their sister **Betty Cowles**, on May 10, 2025. She was an active member for many years. She also served as Lodge Secretary for many years. She will be deeply missed.

Mil will remain in our hearts and our memories as part of our dear lodge family, and she will be very much missed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jean Hemzácěk Laukant*

Mildred Mentzer, nee Sika, age 102, of North Riverside and formerly of Mt. Greenwood, Illinois, was the beloved wife of the late Curtis J Mentzer; loving and devoted mother of Milissa “Missy” (the late Carl) Dropka and Cary Mentzer; fiercely proud grandmother of Michael (Christiana) Dropka and Raymond Mentzer; adoring great-grandmother of Kamila Dropka and Lukáš Dropka; sister of the late Bess (the late Frank) Oplatek; special aunt of Linda (John) Stock; and aunt and great aunt of many nieces and nephews.

As many of her family and friends can attest to, Mil was a meticulous housekeeper, a fantastic cook, a fabulous baker, and a perfectionist at sewing and mending. All laundry was “sprinkled” and ironed - even Curt’s handkerchiefs, underwear, and t-shirts. Mil was often the designated secretary as she was a very competent stenographer, taking verbatim notes. At home, she either wrote “lists” in shorthand or in the Czech language so no one had a clue of what was written.

Mil was a life-long member of CSA Lodge Woodrow Wilson (89 years) and also of American Sokol – Sokol Town of Lake and Sokol Spirit (86 years). Mil’s lodge friends will always remember her as an active lodge participant, well into her 90s. She served for years on Wilson’s Degree Staff and as Lodge Secretary; she added her talents and humor to lodge dances and shows, she happily contributed to annual craft and service projects, and she always, always contributed her famous, tasty baked goods to any gathering.



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Kropik Scholarship Winner



The Kropik Scholarship is a \$1,000 grant given in memory of Charles T. Kropik, CSA's former Vice President and General Counsel. This scholarship was originally established by the law firm of Kropik, Papuga & Shaw to honor Mr. Kropik's legacy and contributions.

Sadly, we mark the passing of Stan Papuga this past winter. In recognition of his dedication and support, the scholarship will now be awarded in memory of both Charles T. Kropik and Stan Papuga.

This year's recipient of the Kropik Scholarship is Sis. Delaney Schretter. Delaney is a dedicated and high-achiev-

ing student who exemplifies the values this scholarship was created to honor—integrity, commitment, and service. Her academic excellence and strong character make her a fitting recipient of an award given in memory of Charles T. Kropik and Stan Papuga, two individuals who left a lasting impact through their leadership and generosity.

Thank you to Candy Papuga and her family for the generous scholarship and their ongoing commitment to supporting youth participation in CSA. Their dedication continues to make a meaningful difference.

Scholarship Fund Report



June 10, 2025 - August 10, 2025

IN MEMORY OF MILDRED MENTZER

Matthew Mentzer and the Hoelzer Family
Kelly and David Davidson
Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377

TO CONTINUE CZECH HERITAGE AND CSA'S TRADITION OF ASSISTING OUR YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR EDUCATION

Lodge Queensdale No. 422
Lodge Cermak No. 99
A Proud Czech

IN MEMORY OF STAN PAPUGA

District Council No. 12

IN MEMORY OF BETTY COWLES

Lodge Independence-Liberty Bell No. 408

IN MEMORY OF DECEASED LODGE MEMBERS

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372

IN MEMORY OF THE RAPANT FAMILY

Lodge Empire State No. 448

IN MEMORY OF ANASTASIA M. CURIN

Lodge Friendship No. 66

Total Donations:

\$1,810.00

CSA Scholarship Recipients



Jackson Nekolny
Lodge DuPage Pioneers Edison
No. 409

CSA's Top Scholar



Jillian Nekolny
Lodge DuPage Pioneers Edison
No. 409



Kian Rezek
Lodge Los Angeles
No. 458



Clare Ruska
Lodge Lincoln
No. 007



Brenden Tucker
Lodge Spirit of St. Louis
No. 157



Mason Varga
Lodge Laurel
No. 452

Bowl-O-Rama



Many lodges or districts hold group events with scorekeepers and refreshments, but any eligible member can compete regardless if you live far from a lodge. The only requirement is that the child bowls three (3) games under the supervision of an adult who can verify the scores.

Guests are welcome to attend. All bowlers receive a souvenir from the event, but only CSA members are eligible for prizes for their scores. Each participant competes against members of the same gender and age group. This is a scratch tournament

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY IN THE CSA BOWL-O-RAMA

Bowler's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Email: _____

Bowlers Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Lodge Name: _____ Lodge Number: _____

Phone Number: _____ Alternative Phone Number: _____

Check one box: Boy ☐
 Girl ☐

Needs Bumpers? Yes ☐
 No ☐

Bowling with: Lodge ☐
 District ☐
 Independent ☐

Return completed form by September 26 to:

CSA Fraternal Life
2050 Finley Road, Suite 70
Attn: Fraternal Department
Lombard, IL 60148

Age Groups (age as of event)

Ages 5-7 Division 1

Ages 8-11 Division 2

Ages 12-14 Division 3

Ages 15-17 Division 4

*Division 1 only need to bowl 2 games

Scores will be due to the Home Office on October 15, 2025. Watch *the Journal* for details.

For more information, email kdeegan@csalife.com or call
(800) LIFE-CSA

BACK 2 SCHOOL

S D C C P R A R M L O S O L I Y A D C O R V Q E E
O N B S C L A S S R O O M S C N S D R P A N E U M
S W N P A L R E M L O O S V E S R C A E M R U L E
I O G E W M O T H T F E O T E A K W E E I O F A P
P M N O S T U D E N T B O E P O D Z C I J D S R N
C R K S O R C E L P G O N T O B R S E R L M T E T
N E I E R R N P S E S R N B M O A A O T S C E D B
B S L O E O I H Y M S S E H S P R T E N X O Y O O
D Y R D P B Q E V F M T L T O P O A A O E W U J T
N O L N A O A E M F O R I U E O C Y K Y L A R A O
M O O N P E F A R N E M C L E H A R L E W R T N E
F S Y H R W E E I C K R N P E R A S E R R A P I T
U O E N E H L L O B Y N E R C L S X A V D O T F C
O O O N S A E O Y A P A P C H O A O R N B S L G L
T T S M T O C Y F R B E B J L O T F G O K Y E E T

WORD LIST

Teacher	Student	Pencil
Class room	Notebook	Crayons
Folder	Eraser	Paper

Just Kids

Send Just Kids your stories, riddles, etc.

Mail: Just Kids, c/o the CSA Journal,

P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148

Email to: CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com

Czech to English

Zpátky do školy

Back to school

Udělejte si domácí úkol

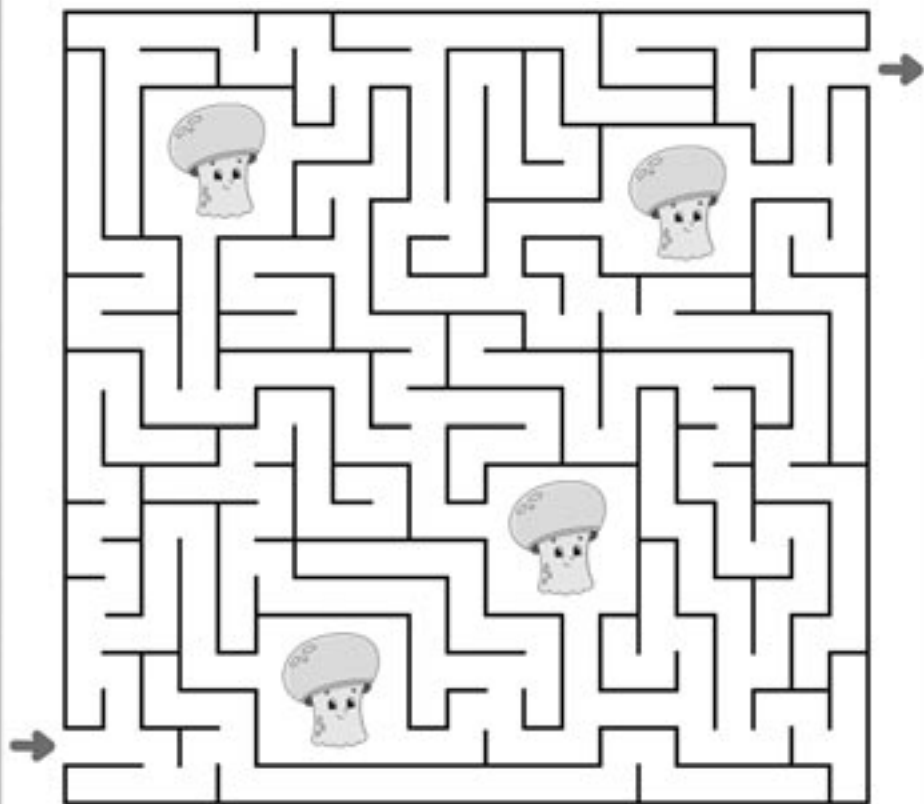
Do your homework

Získejte nové přátele

Make new friends

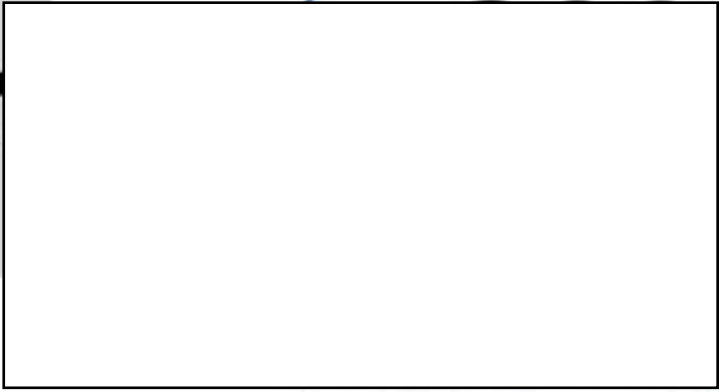


Mushroom Maze





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YOUR BEST
SHOT!**



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