Save the Bees!
On the Cover…

In this issue, we discuss beekeepers, bees, and their importance to our livelihood. See "Today’s Fraternal" on page 5 and special articles on pages 11 - 13.
President’s Piece

CSA Continues to Make Positive Gains

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to all. Finally, it looks like spring is here, and we’ve made it past the cold part of the year... always a great time.

As promised a few months ago, I am reporting on CSA Fraternal Life’s 2018 Financials. I’m happy to pass along that we’ve had yet another positive year on our way to continued growth and security.

CSA posted a gain from Operations of approximately $240,000 in 2018, which was a significant increase from 2017’s $50,000 gain. This continues the positive path that we’ve been on these past 7 years since our current management team has been in place.

Our Surplus increased to $3,616,000, which is the largest it has been in nearly a decade, and our Capital increased to $4,161,000, which also passes recent high marks.

As I wrote of in past articles, CSA recently revised our Bylaws to upgrade our Governance standards, in addition to just completing our State of Illinois Insurance Audit with a clean bill of health.

Not only are we on a positive path in the financial area, where you can know that your insurance and investment needs are safe and secure, but we also remain active with our peer groups.

CSA is an active member in the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA), our Fraternal Society Trade Association, and recently became a member of the Life Insurance Council (LIC). The LIC is a group of small to medium-sized insurance companies, both in the Fraternal and non-Fraternal world. Being a part of these groups helps us stay current and up-to-date with the regulatory, marketing, and operational goings on in the insurance industry.

CSA continues to offer a wide array of insurance products that can help you and your family cover the costs that occur when we lose a loved one. We also continue to offer very competitive annuity products, with rates that compete favorably with any other carrier out there. I encourage you to contact us if you have any questions. Of course we also have our Fraternal programs, such as our Scholarship Program, our matching funds program “CSA Serves”, and our many other social and community programs that are second to none.

With all of this said, CSA Fraternal Life is in a good place, and yet there’s so much more for us to do in the future. We have a wonderful heritage, being a 165-year old entity, and we plan on not only keeping that heritage alive, but continuing the growth and tradition into the years ahead.

Thank you again for your support, and until next month...

Fraternally,

John J. Kielczewski, CLU, FLMI
President
CSA Fraternal Life

Like us on Facebook
Calendar of Events

April 2019
Junior Bowl-o-Rama Month
Various locations.

Sunday, April 7, 2019
District Council No. 12 Bowl-o-Rama
Suburbanite Bowl, Westmont, Illinois
Bowling starts at 1:00 p.m.

May 3 - May 5, 2019
72nd Annual National Bowling Congress Tournament
Suburbanite Bowl, Westmont, Illinois
See pages 16 - 17

Saturday, May 4, 2019
Join Hands Day
Various locations.
More details to come.

Saturday, May 11, 2019
District Council No. 12 Join Hands Day
Bohemian National Cemetery
5255 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60630
Meet at the Gate House at 9:00 a.m.
Please bring gloves and any tools you find suitable.
Wear your blue CSA shirt!
*PLEASE NOTE: This event date differs from the national Join Hands Day date.

Friday – Sunday, August 2–4, 2019
CSA 83rd Annual Get-Together
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
See page 5.

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Czech Festival 2019
American-Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri
Czech food, pastries, pivo, music, and more.
See Facebook page for details.
Bees – If They Go Extinct, We Go Extinct

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Are you the type of person that sees bees as pesky little black and yellow beings? Do you scoff at the sight of them and swat them when they come near? Not so fast! Most bees mean you no harm! As you’ll read in the articles ahead, most avoid confrontational situations and will only sting in an emergency.

Sometimes as I’m sitting near a flower garden, I’ll think to myself, “Where would we be without bees?” As far as important species go, they are at the top of the list. They are critical pollinators, pollinating about 70 out of 100 crop species that feed 90% of the world. Honey bees are responsible for $30 billion a year in crops.

Without bees, we could lose all of the plants that bees pollinate, all of the animals that eat those plants, and so on up the food chain. Which means, a world without bees could struggle to sustain the global human population of 7 billion. Our supermarkets would have half the amount of fruit and vegetables!

Unfortunately, we’re losing our bees at an alarming rate. Reasons include the loss of flower meadows, predatory mites and other parasites, the change in the climate, and the increasing use of chemicals and pesticides. So the next time you see one buzzing around, instead of cursing his existence, thank him for his service to humanity.

I have a few messages to relay from our members.

Donna Tesmer writes:

“Thank you for publishing Terry’s story in the February Journal. I thought you would enjoy seeing him reading his own article, and boy, was he impressed with being on the centerfold. Haha!” Thank you, Donna! We were so pleased to see Terry’s progression. What a resilient person he is!

I also have some news to share from our 2019 Get-Together Committee:

“Greetings! It’s time to Ride in the Bohemian Alps at the 83rd Get-Together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The mixed bag of Iowa weather we’ve been dealing with – snow, high winds, tall drifts, rain, cold, and more snow – has put the Committee behind in getting together, but plans are in the making. We look forward to seeing you in Cedar Rapids from August 2-4, 2019!

We will be staying at the beautiful Marriott Hotel, starting with our Service Project and then to the Hospitality Suite for good food, drinks, and fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters. We will take a ride in the Bohemian Alps to Lodge Karel Jonas No. 279 in Vining, Ipwa for supper and the start of our Miss National CSA Contest, and then back to Cedar Rapids to finish off the fun-filled weekend. Watch for more information about our 83rd Get-Together in the next issue of the Journal and in your mail.”

Well, that’s all for now. I can’t wait to see who our judge chooses as winners of the Photo Contest, the results of our Junior Bowl-o-Rama attendees, and other upcoming Fraternal events.

Fraternally,
Amanda S. Lovell
Fraternal Director
alovell@csalife.com

All the members of the Board of Directors met Friday, March 1 after they had participated in committee meetings the evening before.

Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell reported that CSA’s presence on social media grows every month. The awards for the Lodge Recognition Program will be in the mail soon. Congratulations to all who participated – you are living up to our fraternal motto, “Volunteering – it’s what we do.”

The State of Illinois has completed the CSA audit after 12 weeks of being in the office, going over the financial and operations sides of the company. There were minor recommendations, most of which have been implemented. There is an additional committee on reinsurance, consisting of one board member, an officer, and two staff members. The Executive Development Committee is now known as the Strategic Development Committee. The Risk Governance Committee had been formed over two years ago to address the changes in federal and state regulations regarding insurance companies. After the 2014 Convention, the Asset Management Committee was changed to the Audit Committee, as per state regulations. There were no changes to the Fraternal Committee’s duties.

You have probably been aware of the threats to companies from “dark web” attacks. Our IT Director Nick Kosmas has continued the “phishing campaign” for security. He implements either monthly or bi-monthly campaigns. Our phishing prone rate is 4%, compared to a 35% prone rate for other insurance companies our size. This and other steps have been taken to ensure that your information is secure.

The next meeting will be quite full. The Board will be reviewing and updating our policies. We will also have our vendors scheduled for presentations.

In celebration of the 165th Anniversary of CSA Fraternal Life, we are offering $165 off the first-year premium on new policies. Contact the Home Office for further details. What a great start for a younger person to insure their future.

As a reminder, our new annuities are offering a 4.5% interest for the first year. Guaranteed rate is 2%, but we have not gone below 3%. This is a solid way to invest in the oldest fraternal benefit society in the country.

The Board will meet again on May 17–18, 2019. Please contact your Director with any concerns.

Fraternally,
Irma Drahota Farrell
Chairman
Brothers and Sisters,

The winter weather finally seems to have abated! This winter, however, seemed to drag on a bit more than the last several years. Perhaps I’ve been watching too much weather television where every storm seems to get reported as an end-of-days event.

Each spring, we plant a flower garden on the south side of our house and we add a few more perennials, so that at some point we can just let it take care of itself. Our neighbor who lives just south of our place likes to keep bee hives. We enjoy watching the big lumbering bumble bees throughout the summer buzzing around our garden. It indicates that we have a healthy, safe place for them to gather pollen to take back to their hive.

We can draw a comparison of the healthy hive and our healthy fraternal benefit society. The lodges elect leaders and delegates to ensure that their own lodges and the Home Office are running to benefit our members. The Board is elected to oversee and make sure that each region is properly represented. The Home Office is there to handle business operations. Like a healthy bee hive, CSA continues to thrive and grow due to proper care and management of the Society.

As President Kielczewski reports in his article, CSA had a solid year in 2018 and we anticipate continued steady predictable growth across our Operations in 2019. The Fraternal Committee, along with Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell, have a robust list of fraternal offerings for 2019. If you happen to be a member in District Council No. 12, remember to attend the annual Join Hands Day at the Bohemian National Cemetery on May 11. Many Czech celebrations are planned during the days of winter in order for people to have something to look forward to. The Get-Together Committee is busy planning event activities for this August. Heather and I are certainly ready to enjoy the warmer weather and celebrations ahead.

As the bees start buzzing around your gardens this spring and summer after laying dormant all winter, find out what events your Lodges may be planning, and attend some of the cultural events in your area. Enjoy the warm weather and appreciate it. Do not forget the Get-Together in August. We will be enjoying the sights and sounds of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Czech and Slovak museum located along the river is worth a visit as well. The ethnic history in the area is apparent throughout. If you find an event you really like, please share it with the Home Office. We’d love to post it on our Facebook page.

Fraternally,

Matthew A. Koski
Executive Secretary/COO/CRO
Greetings fellow brothers and sisters,

Happy spring! I am so excited we have finally reached this part of the year. It’s my favorite season! This past month has been very busy for my school life. Even though Chicago has been having nice, sunny weather these past couple of weeks, most of my time has been spent indoors. I have been spending a lot of time at the library, especially.

My midterms were in mid-March, so it was time for me to hit the books big time and finish some last minute papers. After midterms were finished, the School of Nursing was given a beautiful White Coat Ceremony that I was fortunate enough to be a part of. The White Coat Ceremony signifies a rite of passage for medical students, and was created by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993. During the ceremony, a white coat is placed on each student’s shoulders by a nursing professor, and the Hippocratic Oath is recited, which signifies their entrance into the medical profession. It was a beautiful ceremony in which I got to share with my fellow classmates and professors.

After what seemed like endless amounts of papers and studying were done, I was finally able to go on spring break. Unfortunately for me, I did not have the opportunity to travel outside of Chicago for my spring break, since all my friends had a different spring break week. Instead, I spent the whole week taking advantage of my free time by working and finishing the book, *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros.

School will be over in a couple of weeks, which is pretty frightening considering how much I have to get done, but definitely more exciting knowing that summer is almost here. I hope everyone is having an exciting April!

Best,

Sister Cassandra Stone
Miss National CSA 2018-2019
Around the Czech Republic
with the T. G. Masaryk Czech School

Take a unique guided tour of the old country!

Whether you are revisiting your favorite memories, or discovering the sights for the first time, don’t miss this fifth annual trip combining the classics of Czech tourism with a variety of sites off the beaten path. Learn about Czech history and enjoy the country’s rich cultural heritage!

The tour price is $2,450 per person, not including the airfare. Estimated airfare per person is $1,200. The final cost will vary based on the number of participants.

For more information, including a detailed tour schedule, accommodation details and registration form, visit: www.czechschoolchicago.org or contact Klára Moldová at klara@czechschoolchicago.org 773-543-9255.

Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 1, 2019.
## 2019 CSA Fraternal Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Home Office closed for New Year’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>CSA Scholarship Application Available (website)</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - 2018 Lodge Recognition Program submissions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - 2018 President Report forms due in Home Office</strong></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Home Office closed for President’s Day</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Bowl-o-Rama Entries</strong></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Photo Contest Entries</strong></td>
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<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - CSA Scholarship Applications and Transcripts</strong></td>
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<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Lodge Financial &amp; Election forms due in Home Office</strong></td>
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<td>April</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Join Hands Day</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline - Bowl-o-Rama Scores</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Miss CSA Application</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Application</strong></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Miss CSA Photos</strong></td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Home Office closed for July 4th Holiday</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline - Kropik Scholarship Application</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Deadline - Recipient Information Form for CSA Scholarship</strong></td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>83rd Annual Get-Together, Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>Home Office closed for Labor Day</td>
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<td>October</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal</strong></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Columbus Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>28, 29</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td><strong>Deadline - CSA SERVES Matching Funds Requests</strong></td>
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<td>24, 25</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday</td>
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***Deadline for Journal articles – 12th of every PRIOR month***
(for example: your article for January should be submitted by December 12, etc.)
Bee Facts and Myths

There are approximately 25,000 species of bees worldwide, 4,000 of which live in the United States. Some bees, such as honey bees and bumble bees, live in social colonies but most are solitary. Bees play a large ecological role and are important to many processes in nature. Despite their prevalence, there are many misconceptions about bees and their stings. Knowing these few basic bee facts should dispel the myths and help you better understand bees and how to appreciate and respect them.

Can all bees sting?
Not all bees can sting. For example, male bees cannot sting. The stinger, or sting, is a modified egg-laying device, therefore only females have them. However, despite having a stinger, the females of many bee species actually won’t sting. Bees tend to sting to defend their nest, so most bees won’t attack unless they are provoked or feel threatened. So, let the bees be!

Can honey bees sting their victim repeatedly?
Honey bee workers can sting other insects repeatedly. However, the barbs in their stingers get caught in the skin of animals, especially thick-skinned mammals such as humans. Removal of the stinger is fatal to the bee, so it dies afterward.

Are bee stings always dangerous, or even fatal?
If you’re not allergic to bee stings, the average person can tolerate 10 stings per one pound of body weight. Most adults can tolerate more than 1,000 stings. For children, 500 stings may be fatal.

Consult your doctor if you have questions or concerns about bee stings. Although bee stings can be deadly to people who are allergic to them, fatal bee stings are very rare. From 1999 to 2007, the Centers for Disease Control reported 509 deaths from wasps, hornets or bees stings, and less than 1% of children and 3% of adults are prone to anaphylaxis, the often deadly allergic reaction some experience in response to a sting.

Are wasps and bees the same?
Although wasps belong to the same order of insects, they are not bees. Bees are vegetarians, collecting pollen and nectar for their young. Wasps are carnivores, and some species can be very aggressive, especially if you disturb their nests. Bees are usually non-aggressive, with the exception of Africanized bees, a species not commonly found in the United States.

Are the people who are allergic to wasp stings also allergic to bee stings?
Bees produce different toxins than wasp stings. Therefore, someone may be allergic to bee stings but not wasp stings, or vice versa.

Can bee stings be used to cure arthritis symptoms?
There isn’t enough scientific evidence to support this claim, though bee venom has been given as a shot for rheumatoid arthritis, nerve pain (neuralgia), multiple sclerosis (MS), swollen tendons (tendonitis), and conditions such as fibromyalitis and enthesitis. For those people who are allergic, venom immunotherapy has been offered in order to desensitize the severity of the reaction of future stings.

Do all bees produce honey?
Less than 5% of bee species make honey. Only honey bees and stingless bees produce enough honey to make it worth harvesting. Though, bumble bee hives may have a small amount (one to two teaspoons). Bumble bees are annual, not perennial, so they don’t need to produce a lot of honey to survive the winter.

Do most bees live in hives?
Only social bees live in hives. Ten percent of bee species are social, and only a small percentage of them build hives. Most bees are solitary, living in individual nests, tunneled in the soil or in tree trunks.

Are bees hard workers?
Honey bees, bumble bees, and stingless bee worker bees (females) work very hard. However, many males don’t do any work inside the nest. Also, females of the solitary bee species may only work for a couple weeks.

Do adult bees live a long time?
Solitary bees live only a few weeks, just long enough to mate, build nests, and produce offspring. Honey and bumble bee workers and males live about six weeks. The workers spend half of their time working on the hive and the other half foraging for pollen and nectar. The queens live longer. Bumble bee queens can live up to one year, and honey bee queens can live up to four years.


Beekeeping is Buzzing About in the Czech Republic

Czechs have a reputation as beer-lovers, but not everyone knows that they are extremely fond of honey. In fact, the Czech Republic has one of the highest numbers of beekeepers in the world, and many of them are located right in the center of Prague.

The pollen season is about to be in full swing. It begins in the spring, usually at the end of March or the beginning of April, and progresses forward into the summer months. Now, while it may be annoying for those who suffer from pollen allergies, the beekeepers and their bees are rejoicing. The Czech Beekeepers’ Association (as of June 2015) registers around 53,000 beekeepers in the country, with around 600 of them in Prague. According to the association, their numbers gradually keep growing.

“Beekeeping in the Czech Republic has had a long tradition. The number of beekeepers and bee colonies per one square meter is one of the highest, perhaps even the highest, in Europe. What is typical for Czech beekeeping is that we mostly consider it a hobby. Czech beekeepers have around ten bee colonies on average. They keep them for pleasure, to make honey for themselves and their families.” – Dalibor Titěra, Head of the Research at the Czech Beekeeping Institute. (Pictured on the right.)

According to Mr. Titěra, there have always been beekeepers in Prague, usually keeping their hives in one of the city’s many gardening colonies. Though in recent years, beekeeping in the city has become a bit trendy, and you can find them even in the very center of the capital on the roofs of shopping centers, as well as on people’s terraces and balconies. InterContinental Prague, a luxury hotel, offers its guests honey produced by its own bees who live in hives on the hotel’s roof. Bee colonies also buzz along the runway of Prague’s Václav Havel Airport.

Even though Prague is known for having fairly high levels of air pollution, Dalibor Titěra assures that it definitely doesn’t affect the quality of local honey. Not only are plants able to protect their reproductive organs, bees can also filter out the dirt.

Bees are quite low maintenance and there are no special requirements or limitations for their breeding. According to Mr. Titěra, a hive can be placed almost anywhere. Perhaps you don’t want to disturb your neighbors with (what you see as) your little “buzzy” friends. The Czech Beekeepers’ Association breeds a subspecies of the western honey bee called “včela kraňská”, which is very gentle and non-aggressive, as long as it isn’t crossbred with a different species.

So, the next time you find yourself abroad, consider picking up a jar of honey or visiting one of the many beekeeping spots inside the city center.


This cake is butter, nut, and honey heaven, both filled and covered with a rich butter cream caramel. This is truly a traditional Czech dessert and relatively easy to make!

**Cake:**
3 3/4 cups flour  
1 3/4 cups icing sugar  
3/4 cup unsalted butter  
1 egg  
1 1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
6 tablespoons honey  
4 tablespoons cream  
1 teaspoon cocoa powder

In a double boiler, mix (at room temperature or warmer) the butter, sugar, egg, honey, and cream with a hand mixer for about 5 minutes. In a separate bowl mix the flour, baking soda, and cocoa powder. Then mix the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients, cover with plastic wrap, and let sit for about 10 minutes. At this point it should be a sturdy cookie dough consistency and you should be able to roll it out onto parchment paper without it sticking. If too sticky, let it sit another 5-10 minutes or use a little bit of flour.

On parchment paper, draw an 8 inch circle. Then roll out approximately 3/4 to 1 cup of dough into a circle onto the paper. Roll out 8 same sized circles and bake each one for 6 to 7 minutes at 350°. Once they are baked, set aside and cool on wire rack. These can be baked ahead of time and kept in the fridge for up to a week, or freeze them for up to a month. Please note: the amount of dough will not be exact for the cookies, so bake the extra amount and later grind it up with nuts to coat the outside of the completed cake.

**Caramel Cream:**
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
3/4 cup (generous) of unsalted butter  
1/2 cup roughly chopped walnuts or pecans

To make the cream you must first boil the can of sweetened condensed milk for 3 hours in the can. The timing for this is not exact, but the longer you boil, the darker the caramel becomes. After about 3 hours, it will come out a rich caramel color. Do not open until several hours later when the can has cooled sufficiently. You may boil it the day before you want to use it. This process caramelizes the milk. You can boil several of these, as they will keep for as long as the canned milk would. Once you have the caramelized milk, blend 1 can with the butter until creamy. This will be used between the layers and to coat the cake.

**Secret Ingredient:**
1 1/2 tablespoons of sugar  
2/3 cup of water  
1/4 cup of rum (or more depending on taste)

Mix the rum, sugar and water in a bowl and reserve.

**Assembly:**
Layer the cookies by laying the first one on a plate, brush the rum water on the top of the cookie, then cover with cream and sprinkle with the chopped nuts. Brush both sides of the second and subsequent cookies with the rum water and cover with the caramel butter and nuts until all the cookies have been layered.

Cover the whole cake with the caramel cream and then with the cake/cookie crumbs and nuts. Place in the fridge for a least 4 hours or overnight to set and to allow the cream to soak into the cookies. This ensures that it isn’t crunchy. Once the cream soaks into the cake and it has had a chance to sit, it will remain moist for over a week in the fridge, even if uncovered.

Isn’t it a good feeling to know that we survived another cold, brutal winter? Now we are looking forward to warm, sunny days, April showers, and May flowers. April is a lovely month, with everything coming alive again. The grass is green, the spring flowers are blossoming, and the newborn baby animals are running about. Our national past-time, baseball, has returned and is ready for our enjoyment.

What goes on this month? Of course, there’s April Fools’ Day on April 1. Back on April 1, 1946, an Alaskan earthquake triggered a tsunami that struck Hawaii, killing over 100 and injuring thousands.

Throughout this month there are many religious days, with Palm Sunday occurring on April 14, Good Friday and Passover beginning on April 19, and Easter being celebrated on April 21. Did you know that JFK began his political career in April 1946 by opening his campaign to run as a representative of the U.S. House from Massachusetts?

Many of our early 2019 meetings were held at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant. We found it easier to conduct our meeting after enjoying a pleasant, authentic Czech dinner. We held our Installation of Officers on March 28 and began planning for the year ahead. On April 25, we will have our Lodge Recognition Awards ceremony. All delegates, lodge officers, and friends are invited to attend this special meeting.

Looking ahead into May, we will hold our Join Hands Day activity at the Bohemian National Cemetery on May 11. This will coincide with the Mother’s Day Celebration, occurring the next day on May 12. CSA workers should wear appropriate work clothes, gloves, etc. Try to arrive at the Gate House at 9:00 a.m.

May 27 is Memorial Day. Many of our CSA lodge members, Sokol groups, and friends plan to attend this memorial to celebrate our beloved veterans, both deceased and living. Plan to attend and show your appreciation of all our service men and women.

Fraternally,
Ed Slavik

Meetings Enjoyed After Czech Dinner

District Council No. 12 of Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana

THE COLUMBIARUM RESTORATION PROJECT
Keeping History Alive

Situated in an aging but peaceful setting on Chicago’s north-west side is the historic Bohemian National Cemetery (BNC). BNC’s sculptured monuments, graves, niches, family mausoleums, water tower, columbarium, and other historic buildings are well known to more than five generations of many local ethnic Czechs and Slovaks.

Much like CSA’s fraternal emphasis, BNC is organized and overseen by delegate organizations representing numerous Czechoslovak cultural groups and associations, including several Chicago-area CSA Fraternal Lodges. From working man to successful banker and industrialist; from “pauper to prince”; interred there since 1877 are more than 100,000 primarily Czech and Slovak individuals and families who brought their special contribution and heritage to the area.

Chicago’s BNC, while one of the largest, is not the only “Bohemian Cemetery”. Indeed, where large and small settlements of Czechs and Slovaks settled throughout the U.S., a Bohemian Cemetery often evolved. Unfortunately, dwindling interest and resources threaten these century-old cemeteries and the priceless heritage they represent.

Fortunately in the Chicago area, Friends of BNC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2004 to promote the historical significance, enhance the beauty, and preserve the artistic heritage of this cemetery. Currently and for the next several years, Friends of BNC is sponsoring an ambitious Columbarium Restoration Project to restore the 1913 Renaissance Revival building. If you are interested in learning about this project and the building itself, as well as some of the fascinating features of Bohemian National Cemetery, please visit www.friendsofbnc.org. The friends of BNC website also contains info on the donor wall recognition plates available to individual, families, groups or lodges contributing to the restoration project. You may also feel free to contact me for more info.

Fraternally,
Chuck Michalek
Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77
BNCA Trustee
michalekchas@aol.com

Keeping History and Heritage Alive at Chicago’s Bohemian National Cemetery
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.

Eligibility: 5 – 17 year olds

APPLICATION FOR ENTRY IN THE CSA BOWL-O-RAMA

Bowler’s Name: __________________________ Date of Birth: __________/________/________

Email Address: __________________________

Bowler’s Address: __________________________

City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________

Lodge Name: __________________________ Lodge No.: __________________________

Phone No.: __________________________ Alternative Phone No.: __________________________

Check one box:  □ Boy  □ Girl

Needs bumpers?  □ Yes  □ No

Bowling with:  □ Lodge  □ District

□ Independently

Return completed form by March 22, 2019 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 bowlers need only bowl 2 games

Submit bowling scores to the CSA Home Office by: May 31, 2019

For more information, email alovell@csalife.com or call (800) LIFE-CSA.
72nd Annual National Bowling Congress Tournament

PLEASE READ ALL RULES APPEARING ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM AND COMPLETE BLANKS ACCORDINGLY. ATTACH A CHECK TO COVER ALL BOWLERS HEREON.

COMBINATION ENTRY BLANK
(Men Only) (Women Only) (Mixed)
Competition Restricted To Once In Each Event

Entries Close at Midnight, April 7, 2019

72nd ANNUAL BOWLING CONGRESS
CSA FRATERNAL LIFE
Sponsored under Moral Support Sanction of USBC
(With High Score Protection)

SUBURBANITE BOWL
201 W. Ogden Avenue
Westmont, IL 60559
(630) 968-2200

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019
12:30 PM AND
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019
9:00 AM

ENTRY FEES: Teams $60.00 Doubles $30.00
Singles $15.00 All Events $2.00
For all CSA Member Teams

A duplicate copy of this entry blank must be sent to:
CSA FRATERNAL LIFE
2050 Flames Road, Suite 70
P.O. Box 249
Lombard, IL 60148

MARK “X” IN THE ALL EVENTS COLUMN IF FEES FOR SAME IS PAID.

TEAM CONTEST (Enter members in the order they are to bowl)
Name of Team
City State

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN HANDICAP SECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>CSA Certificate No.</th>
<th>Lodge No.</th>
<th>Full Name of Bowler</th>
<th>Threes Ave</th>
<th>Handicap</th>
<th>All Events</th>
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DOUBLES CONTEST (Enter names of partners in the order they are to bowl)

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<th>No</th>
<th>Player 1</th>
<th>Player 2</th>
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SINGLES CONTEST (Enter in same order as for Doubles)

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Note: This Entry Form accompanied by Entry Fees must be mailed to: Richard Nowaczynski
3145 Hillside Lane
Darien, IL 60561
(630) 910-9917

Email: r.nowaczynski@comcast.net

PRIZE RATIO: Not less than 1 for 3 in Each Event Approximately. All Prize fees will be returned 100%. USBC Rules on reporting incorrect averages applies to all bowlers and will be strictly enforced.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Athletic Division DC #12
(NO CASH PLEASE)
This year teams can include up to two non members guests
Also include copy of bowling sheet with averages for 2018-2019 season

Name
Address
City St Zip
Phone no
RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE 72ND CSA BOWLING CONGRESS

ELIGIBILITY: Any member of CSA [or] normal life, 16 years of age or older, whose certificate is in effect prior to January 1, 2019 shall be eligible, if applicable premiums are paid in full up to the month of March preceding the Tournament. Under 18 years of age, bowlers must have Parental Consent in accordance with USBC rules. Also up to 2 non members guests per team will be allowed.

A member shall forfeit any prize money earned if it shall be determined subsequent to the conclusion of the Tournament that the premiums were not fully paid in accordance with the foregoing provision. Team and Doubles partner will also be penalized.

Any combination of members of several or various lodges, whether or not bowling in regularly constituted CSA Leagues, are eligible to enter in the Team Events, provided that teams so entered not in a regularly constituted CSA League or Leagues, shall have a Team Average not exceeding $84.

In the Doubles Events, any combinations of members are eligible whether or not they are members of the same lodge. There will be no limit as to their combined average.

There will be no limits in the Singles Events or for All Events.

HANDICAP: All CSA Bowling Tournaments shall be conducted only on a handicap basis in all events with handicap to be designated as follows:

TEAM EVENTS: 90% of the difference between the total of the individual bowler’s average and 250.

DOUBLES AND SINGLES: 90% of the difference between the individual bowler’s average and 250.

All handicaps are to be computed on a per game basis.

OFFICIAL AVERAGES: Averages to be used shall be the individual’s highest average for the current 2018-2019 season, provided at least twenty-two (21) games have been bowled. All averages shall be taken as of February 1, 2019.

If the bowler has no established average for the current 2018-2019 season, use the most recent game average for the previous years (2016-2018), provided that not less than twenty-one (21) games were bowled. If the bowler compiled multiple such averages in the most recent season, calculate the highest such average.

If the bowler has no established average for the current 2018-2019 season, no established average for any of the 2016-2018 seasons, but has bowled in the three previous National CSA Bowling Congresses (2015-2018), use the average of all games bowled in the three Congresses.

If the bowler has not established average for the current 2018-2019 season and has not established average for any of the 2015-2018 seasons, and has not bowled in the three previous National CSA Bowling Congresses, use a scratch average of 130 for women and 160 for men.

ALLIANCE: The Tournament Committee shall assign Alliaces, with care taken to avoid duplication of lanes bowled upon for any individual or team.

TARDY PLAYERS: Tardy players shall start in frame being bowled when they are ready to commence bowling, with zero scores being given for each frame missed.

ENTRIES CLOSE: All entries shall close at midnight April 7, 2019.

TEAM CAPTAINS: PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED BELOW IS PROPERLY AND COMPLETELY REPORTED. GIVE FULL AND CORRECT NAME OF BOWLER. PLEASE PRINT.

BOWLERS

1. Name:
Address:
City State Zip
USBC NUMBER:

2. Name:
Address:
City State Zip
USBC NUMBER:

3. Name:
Address:
City State Zip
USBC NUMBER:

NAME OF LEAGUE IN WHICH HIGHEST AVERAGE WAS HELD

League
Secretary
Address:
City State Zip

League
Secretary
Address:
City State Zip

League
Secretary
Address:
City State Zip
Meet the Member

Ed Slavik: The Gift of Giving

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora, No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – Following our meeting in January 2019, we discussed the idea that our attending members certainly have had a moment or event in our lives that we like to remember, whether fondly or otherwise. We decided it would be very interesting and entertaining to share these moments with each other following our official meeting. Some of us – as you might imagine – grunted, while others thought it was a good idea.

So we each chose a month, wrote it on a piece of paper, and selected from out of a hat. The first to reveal a lasting, memorable event in his life for the month of February was our Secretary Ed Slavik. Because of the dangerous icy situation at our meeting place, however, we did not have a February meeting. Therefore, Ed Slavik was interviewed by phone. Because our meeting is frequently beyond the deadline date for submission to the Journal, our submissions will be delayed by two months.

Most of you know Ed Slavik and his accordion, but did you know that he has been playing and singing since he was a child? Ed is Czech and grew up in what is now known as the Little Village area of Chicago, which at the time was a Bohemian neighborhood. Ed was uninhibited, and as a child, he would travel to his accordion lessons, all the way on 26th and Springfield. He was about 10 years old and did this for five years.

Then, when Ed was around 12 or 13, he auditioned for the favorite and long forgotten Morris B. Sachs Amateur Hour. The Sachs program was long considered the “daddy” of all amateur hours. It had already been heard on radio for 15 years when it came to TV in 1950.

Musicians, jugglers, acrobats, singers, comedians and, of course, accordion players took the stage. Some were hoping to “hit the big time,” others were just there for the thrill, and some were all about the prizes. Ed competed and played the “Barbara Polka,” which is a popular Czech tune and one of his favorites. His performance was seen on TV and heard on radio but, unfortunately, he did not win. However, he came home having a “wonderful experience,” a record of his performance, and a beautiful new watch. The fact that Ed did not win the Sachs Amateur Hour did not discourage him. In fact, the experience just made him more eager to compete again.

Ed went on to audition for the Rubin’s Stars of Tomorrow. Nowadays, not much information is available on the internet about this talent show. I found that it was a radio show on WGN radio during the 50s and starred Benny Rubin, who was a character actor at the time and played in Gunsmoke, I Dream of Jeannie, The Jack Benny Program, The Tender Trap, and many others. It is my understanding that the show was really in search of individuals that Rubin deemed talented, and made movie clips during the performances. Selected short clips were then sent to Columbia for review and the performer was then considered for possible stardom. Again, this was quite an experience for Ed. However, he did not win, but he did come in at second place!

Ed has the “gift of giving.” He continues to play his accordion and conduct singalongs. He volunteers during the Cultural Division of District Council No. 12 Christmas Party every year, brings Christmas song sheets for everyone, and we all get to sing along to those beautiful tunes. Ed and his sister Dolores travel to retirement and nursing homes; Ed playing and singing and Dolores distributing trinkets to the audience.

Recently Ed has traveled to the Claire Oaks Retirement Center and many other groups, such as his Senior Center, other nursing homes, and church functions. Ed has even been invited to perform at White Fence Farm for the 60th Jubilee of Sister Josita, who is affiliated with the Claire Oaks Retirement Center. Ed continues to perform and make people happy.

I remember a time when Ed and his sister Dolores came to the St. Matthew Center for Health to visit my mom. It was her 96th birthday. She was really surprised to see residents of the home gathered together and singing. We sang “Happy Birthday” to my mom and then sang tunes from long ago. In the following days, whenever I visited my mom, I was approached by residents telling me what a good time they had and loved the fact that they could sing songs they actually knew!

Fraternally,
Elaine Tejcek
Lodge Happenings

Avalanche Alert in the Colorado Rockies!

Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado – Record snowfall has been reported in the Rockies – 400 inches in Ouray! Roads have been closed by avalanches! Roofs caved in! Nine people have been reported dead so far (as of March 12). Cars have been buried on I-70 in the mountains. Flatlanders are cancelling their skiing reservations at the resorts. Here in Denver, we’ve had moderate snowfall, but the worst is predicted. Stay tuned! That’s the weather report from Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs. Luckily, many of us haven’t skied in years!

In other more cheerful news... hurray, we did it again! President Irma Farrell announced that once more, we have won the Platinum Award! Longtime member and artist Barbara Tobiska celebrated her 95th birthday on March 2. The lodge gave her cards at our Thursday meeting. We didn’t have cake, but instead popcorn, as it was our annual Bingo Day. We played four games, the last one being Blackout. Well, Irma Wolf won the first game and received $5, Mary Campe won $5 during the second, then Irma also won the third game and the Blackout of $20! Needless to say, she went home to Evergreen smiling all the way!

Jack Strunc was awarded book money from the lodge for his last semester at Creighton University in Omaha. He has been on the Dean’s List for all three years, majoring in Accounting and playing shortstop in baseball. He has also been nominated for Scholar Athlete of the Year! Way to go, Jack! I’m a proud grandmother.

Mary Lou Bennington sailed to the Hawaiian Islands last month and toured five of them. Wonderful! Janet Farrar was off hiking again, someplace exotic. Pat Kenning and grandson Peter Campe cruised to Cuba from Miami Beach for a cultural tour, including a side trip to Havana and two other ports aboard the Viking Star, a perfectly lovely ship. Happy memories are being made!

We hope you had a fun St. Patrick’s Day and happy Easter blessings to you all, too.

Until next time,
Sis. Pat Kenning

Food Pantry Packing and Other Big Plans

Lodge Pingree No. 366, Dearborn Heights, Michigan – Happy New Year, Sisters and Brothers. I know that may seem a little late, but I haven’t written an article since last year! We had our meeting a week early in March and swore in our 2019 Officers. For those who don’t know us, left to right are Secretary Marie Palmer, Vice President Dale Giacchina, Guide/Sentry Jerry Vimr, and President/Treasurer Jeff Teichman. We all thank our members for your trust and support.

We have many things planned for the year ahead. We are continuing our food pantry packing and distributing at His Church Anglican. We are also hosting the 72nd Annual Bowling Congress on April 7 (there will be a brief meeting after the luncheon). We also plan on attending a Detroit Tiger game this summer, and hosting several Lodge meetings at restaurants. The Lodge covers the costs!

Please help us by attending the meetings and offering suggestions to help us reach our expectations. We meet the third Wednesday of the month. Hope to see you soon! Nazdar!

Fraternally yours,
Jeff Teichman
Lodge Happenings

Still Recycling

Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Happy New Year 2019 to all of our Brothers and Sisters near and far. We wish you an eventful year full of the best of health and good luck. Looking back over the past year, our lodge was able to accomplish many projects that we are proud of. Every year we are saddened from losing wonderful members. This past year was no different, as we send our sympathy to those family members who have been left behind.

Our lodge has had many fun activities that we hope you’ve had a chance to be a part of. Our regular monthly meetings welcome all of you with perhaps a speaker, good food, fellowship, and activities to take part in. Be a regular member so you won’t miss out on some fun times.

We are still involved in recycling, which helps all: pop tabs, eye glasses, greeting card covers, and amber medicine bottles. Monthly, we collect money for our veterans to help supply necessary items for their food pantry and to buy food certificates or gas. We received a nice thank-you letter from the Veteran’s Commission telling us how much our contributions have helped them this past year. We will continue this project this year.

On October 7, several of our members joined together for the Especially for You Race Against Breast Cancer Walk. Lodge Prokop Velky and the Fairfax State Savings Bank sponsor many people involved in this race, which attracts thousands of walkers and runners each year. Christmas is always a busy time, with the annual Christmas party for our youth members, the winter swim event at Bender Pool, and the gift bags that we assemble and give out to each student.

Our Annual Christmas Party held on December 7 was enjoyed by many members, where we had a delicious catered meal and door prizes. The celebration was complete with wine and appetizers and beautifully decorated tables, thanks to President Vern Rompot and his committee. A donation was collected for the Veteran’s Christmas to help those in need.

Again this year, we were able to make Christmas a little brighter for the residents at the Hiawatha Care Center. Three accordion players entertained us with memorable, classic tunes. More than 80 residents were happy to have Santa greet them. He even went to individual rooms to meet with those who were not able to get out to the dining area. Santa (played by CSA member Chuck Nejdl) does a wonderful job. He makes everyone happy, especially when he gives out goodie bags with items donated by members and local stores. Each resident received a Christmas bucket filled with homemade cookies made by our lodge members. This is always a hit! We are ready for Christmas 2019, with over eight Christmas socks bought for this occasion. We will need helpers to fill these socks and make the delicious cookies that they will be waiting for.

As you can see, there are many exciting projects that we have going on and we need as many hands as possible to make the year successful. We thank all of you who helped us this past year. Remember, we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Hus Memorial Presbyterian Church at 2808 Schaeffer Dr. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa with a potluck and fellowship.

Because of the difficult winter weather, we had to cancel the January and February meetings. Our March meeting was held at a local restaurant because the church parking lot was icy. Thirty people were in attendance, and it was great seeing everyone.

Our 2019 Prokop Velky Officers were installed by Director Tom Ledvina: President Vern Rompot, Vice President Joe Konecny, Secretary Dorothy Ditch, and Treasurer Marj Nejdl. We’re in good hands. We’ll see you at our upcoming meeting on May 1.

Irene Hamous won the March membership drawing and she selected to give her winnings to the Boy Scouts of America and the Sokol Cedar Rapids Group. Thanks, Irene.

Secretary Dorothy Ditch brought up a great suggestion for all of us. We all need to review our insurance policies to make sure our beneficiaries are current. If not, please make sure updates are made. Make sure your address and contact information are current. Great advice, Dorothy!

Call her at 319-848-4983 if you need more information. Our lodge wishes all of you a wonderful Easter and spring... once it finally comes.

Fraternally,
Barbara Edmunds
How to Make Homemade Caps

Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois  
– Our March meeting was called to order by President Jerry Gaydusek, and all other officers were present. We welcomed Lodge Brookfield No. 475 members President Barb Deig, Jerry Silhan, and Kim Silhan, as well as Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell.

We received correspondence from Tabor Hills and a thank-you note from Jean Waring’s two grandsons, Blake and Brenden, for our Valentine gifts. Mom, Christy Albert, was kind enough to send the lodge a nice letter stating that Grandma Jean had recently celebrated her 90th birthday and was thrilled about the mention in the Journal.

President Jerry reported that the names on the Donor Wall in the Columbarium at Bohemian National were being installed. Repairs continue with major work completed on the roads.

District Council No. 12 will install officers on March 28 at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant. A family style dinner will be served. Members were reminded of dates for the Bowl-o-Rama, National Bowling Congress, and Join Hands Day. A date for the next Cultural Division Meeting is pending.

New business consisted of a presentation by Joann Nekolny and Gerri Romanelli on Hope’s Front Door, a charitable organization located in DuPage County. Both Joann and Gerri spoke to officers there regarding what kind of volunteer work our lodge could do. At this time, we will collect toiletries and assemble a basket of items for their use at our April 15 meeting. All sorts of travel size hygiene products are welcome.

Lyn Burton discussed the annual Global Festival held in Bartlett, Illinois on June 22. Lodge members decided to set up a table with pamphlets and giveaways to familiarize non-members of the benefits of CSA membership. Also discussed was the purchase of underwear for underprivileged children in the Bartlett school system. We figured that part of our raffle proceeds could be used for this purchase.

After our meeting adjourned, Kim Silhan of Lodge Brookfield No. 475 gave a wonderful presentation on how she makes hundreds of winter hats for adults, as well as caps for newborn babies and stillborns. These homemade caps are donated to various hospitals and shelters in the area. Kim brought a sample of different size looms and gave us a demonstration on the makings of the hats. Her husband Jerry told us that on a recent road trip vacation, Kim sat in the back of the car with their dog and made hats the whole way to their destination. Kim passed around a hat in the making, and we were all trying to figure out how the work was completed. Her next challenge will be to make baby booties and socks. We thoroughly enjoyed Kim’s demonstration and came away with an increased appreciation for the hard work she puts into every cap. Thank you, Kim and Jerry!

Refreshments and our monthly raffle followed. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 15. Join us if you can!

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli
Welcome Jean Miadich

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Bedford, Ohio – On a very cold 29 degree sunny day we had our February meeting with seven members present. We welcomed Jean Miadich, who attended the first of many more meetings. She said she enjoyed the meeting and the lunch we had. She is also looking forward to going on the Bus Trip.

President Mary Ann Toncar gave the Treasurer’s Report as Diane DiBianca was absent because she was in Chicago for a Board Meeting. She also discussed Join Hands Day; ours will be May 11 at 9 a.m. at the DTJ. Members brought Easter baskets (to be judged then raffled off to the seniors at the center) and candy on March 28. Mary Ann then went over the Lodge Recognition Program packet.

“Happy Birthday” was sung to me, and the 50/50 was won by Donna Stepka and Jean. We had a nicely spiced, hot (temperature) chili for lunch, which was welcome because it was so chilly (ha-ha) outside. As always, Mary Ann made a very tasty dessert - yellow cake with cherries!

Our next meetings will be: April 25, May 23, June 26 - Bus Trip, July TBA for Picnic, August 22, September 26, October 24, November 11, and December 12, location TBA. Meetings are held at the Maple Heights Senior Center. Come to a meeting, enjoy a nice lunch for $1.50, and reconnect with your Lodge members. Jean surely has!

Fraternally,
Annette Reichman

Valentine Thank-You Notes

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, North Riverside, Illinois – I’m ready for Spring. At our meeting, Frank Michalek mentioned how well Tabor Hills’ rating is with the State of Illinois. They are in the process of adding another addition. We concluded our meeting and went to a local restaurant to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Two of our junior members were present, Frank and Benny Sabalus.

We received some Valentine thank-you notes from our junior members. The first one is from Grace Vomacka. She loves to receive our Valentine in the mail. It brings a smile to her face. Grace is a Junior in high school studying hard, but having fun, too. This year, she will be in her school’s musical. Jake Balitewicz thanks us and was very ecstatic when he received it in the mail. Jake is 12 years old and in the seventh grade. He enjoys swimming with the local team. Katerina Balitewicz thanked us for the card and money. Katerina is nine years old and in the fourth grade. She loves gymnastics. A thank-you from Hailey Tordai was also received. She is in the fifth grade and on the swim team. Tyler Tordai is in the sixth grade and also on the swim team. Daniel Tordai is in the eighth grade and on the wrestling team and just won his first match. He can’t wait until high school!

Fraternally,
Mary Ellen Janda

April Anniversaries

April 8
Anita and Garry Scheuing
Lodge Free State No. 428

April 29
Helen Elizabeth Prager and Jerome Martin Gaydusek
Lodge DuPage/Edison No. 409
Lodge Happenings

Annual Flea Market and Farm Consignment Auction

Lodge Karel Jonas No. 279, Vining, Iowa – Our lodge had its Annual Testicle Festival (aka T-Fest) on the first Friday of February. We have been doing this for many years now. Every year it’s amazing to see all the people who attend, with some making the trip every year! They wouldn’t miss it. We served over 650 people with the help of our members and friends in our area. A big “thank you” goes out to them all. We couldn’t do this without everyone’s help.

We have so much fun getting ready for that day. It starts on Wednesday night, getting everything ready. Then on Friday morning, bright and early at 8 a.m., we prepare for the crowd. We start serving at 5:00 p.m., but that doesn’t stop the people from coming in at 4:00 and wanting to eat!

We were so happy to see Miss National CSA Cassandra Stone, as well as President John Kielczewski, Secretary/COO Matt Koski, Heather Koski, Underwriter Anna Trush, and Sales Manager Julie Souza from the Home Office. Thank you so much for coming down and helping.

Now that we are done with that, we are working on our 42nd Annual Flea Market and the 46th Annual Farm Consignment Auction, both to be held on April 7, 2019. Find the event on the CSA Fraternal Life Facebook page. It’s held on just one day only, but it takes two weeks to prepare for it and two weeks after to clean up. This year we are wishing for warm weather with no snow or rain... but it is Iowa, of course. For this event, too, we get a lot of help from our members and friends, so if you’re looking for something to do, come join us for the day!

Sincerely,
Sis. Loretta Ledvina

So Proud to Receive the Platinum Award!

Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri – Spring is finally here and it comes with plans being made for activities that all our members can enjoy!

We were so excited to receive the Platinum Star in the 2018 Lodge Recognition Program. Our members put in a lot of hard work to reach this level, and a big thank you goes out to everyone who had a hand in making this possible. We’ve received an award every year since the program began, and we’re proud to continue that streak.

At our March meeting, it was decided that we’ll support Honor Flights for this year’s CSA Serves project. We were impressed by their presentation at last year’s Get-Together, and taking part in a welcome-home ceremony last fall (including our friend Lou Matustik) made it an easy decision. We’ll hold at least one of our regular Bake Sales this year for their benefit, and we’re looking into other volunteer opportunities to get us more involved.

A very loud round of applause goes to Lodge Washington member Derik Scott, who made it to the final round of NBC’s “The Titan Games” last month. He was featured in February’s Journal issue. Derik’s impressive levels of strength, determination, and just plain guts were exciting to watch and we congratulate him on a job very well done. We know his parents Dana and Kevin and the whole Scott/Ulmer family are incredibly proud.

Jenny and I were part of group that welcomed Honorary Consul Sharon Valasek from Kansas City and guests from Czech TV, who were in town to see what we in St. Louis are doing to maintain and promote our Czech heritage. We were, of course, proud to explain that St. Louis is where CSA and the American Sokol movement began, to talk about our annual Czech Festival, and to display some of the archives at our American-Czech Educational Center. Thanks to a Convention donation last summer, the ACEC was able to purchase more storage items to help protect this important history.

We expect to have a few bowlers take part in next month’s National Bowling Congress. We continue to work toward the success of our Lodge and of CSA!

Fraternally,
Deborah Zeman

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April 2019 — CSA Journal — 23
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Spring and Easter are around the corner! Today was sunny, the birds were chirping, and it was an (almost) warm day. What a nice change of weather!

Twelve members attended our March meeting. A very yummy lunch was provided by Carole Cirillo and Norma Rosoletti. Thank you, ladies!

Our 50/50 raffle was won by Elmer Soos and Camille Shima. We sang “Happy Birthday” to Tony Genco, as his birthday was actually on the day of the meeting.

Our Junior Bowl-o-Rama is in a couple of weeks. Twenty-six children are signed up to bowl and 30 parents and friends will also attend. This will be the biggest Bowl-o-Rama we have had in a long time. It should be a great time for the children and those watching. We hear our member, Janet Mix, will be there cheering them on!

Another member, Joan Sapp, bowled with us today! Yeah, Joanie!

We received a nice thank-you note from the Home Office for our pill bottle donations. We continue to raise money for our charities through our raffles and cash donations from our members.

Some of our members agreed to attend our District Council meetings this year. They are Judy and Tony Genco, June Karecki, Camille and Freddie Shima, Karen Buzek, and Jan Russell. Thank you, members, for your service.

We are looking forward to seeing Jan Russell at our next month’s meeting, as she will coming back from Florida!

Hope you all have a blessed Easter.

Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco

Our members are excited to head into summer with April being a busy month. Keep up-to-date with us by following our Facebook page, Lodge Groveton. Whether it is looking at pictures, connecting with other members, or just browsing around, we would be happy to add you to our list.

March held a very special event that I personally am happy to write about. Lodge Groveton would like to send a special birthday wish to its youngest member, Jourdyn Forrester. Jourdyn turned 1 year old on Thursday, March 14, 2019 and spent the day in grand fashion. Jourdyn, accompanied by her brother Wyatt and parents Dana and Gary, spent the day at the Pittsburgh Children’s Museum and then the evening eating a delicious Olive Garden dinner. From her first Get-Together in Chicago last August to attending monthly meetings and events, Jourdyn has brought many special moments to her fellow Lodge Groveton members. Happy first of many more special birthday celebrations, Jourdyn.

Well, that is all for now. If you are ever in the area, feel free to stop by the local Eat-N-Park the first Wednesday of every month and join us for our meetings. We look forward to communicating with our fellow Brothers and Sisters soon. Until next time, enjoy the beginning of the summer season.

Fraternally,
Bro. Gary Forrester

Happy Birthday to Our Youngest Member
Lodge Happenings

Polar Plunge

Lodge Harrison Hus Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois – We’re now in our fourth month of 2019. Where has all the time gone?

At our lodge’s March meeting, the temperature was 13 degrees and reaching negative temperatures at nighttime. However, our faithful members came out, and all I can say is “thanks.”

March is a month for us to celebrate birthdays. Roy Zitny had a special one. He celebrated his 90th and Vlasta brought him a very nice cake. On the day of our meeting, held on March 4, it was the 165th birthday of CSA Fraternal Life. I talked about our history, from the founding in St. Louis, to the merger of the societies in 1932, and how we became CSA. It was also a holiday in Illinois – Casimir Pulaski Day and the birthday of the city of Chicago. Also, the last day of the month, March 31, was my birthday.

Members were informed of the District Council No. 12 meeting to be held on April 25, where the Lodge Recognition Awards will be presented. Also, the Join Hands Day event will be held at the Bohemian National Cemetery on May 11, the Memorial Day celebration will be on May 27, the Lidice presentation will occur in June, and the Czechoslovak American Congress festival will be on July 28 (now at a new location). Our April meeting will be a spring luncheon, and June 3 is Parents and Flowers Day, as well as our memorial program.

Our member Kevin Dvorsky participated in a Polar Plunge, a charitable event held during the winter where participants enter a body of water despite the low temperature. The event raised $350 for the Special Olympics.

At this time, I would like to introduce our newest, youngest member – fourth generation member, at that – Stanley Summers, who is the grandson of Keith and Collette Clayton. Collette was our Lodge Secretary up until the family relocated. Collette’s father was Paul Komarec of Lodge Garfield and was also a Sales Representative for CSA.

Wishing all a warm spring and good planting.

Fraternally,
Ken Dvorsky

Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen A Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – Easter Greetings! By the time you receive your Journal, that rabbit might have come and gone. Nevertheless, we all hope that you got some “yummies” in your basket!

At our March meeting, we discussed our upcoming Junior Bowl-o-Rama. We are eagerly anticipating the event and will be sure to share all of the details with you next month. The meeting was hosted by the Lovell family and our meal consisted of sloppy joes, baked potatoes, corn, salad, and chocolate cake with ice cream and hot fudge sauce. After our business meeting was conducted, we further discussed many of our world’s problems. I can’t tell you that we solved any of them, but a very strong and passionate group we sure are!

Some of our members will be contributing to the Annual Dumpling, Sauerkraut, and Pork Dinner hosted by the Dillonvale Presbyterian Church. Members will be donating bakery and needed supplies along with working towards setting up, serving the meals, and cleaning up. This yearly event is one that we really look forward to supporting!

Several members recently attended the Buckeye Local High School’s Production of Roald Dahl’s, “Willy Wonka”. Our youth member, Elijah Lovell, was cast in the roles of Mike Teavee and Mr. Bucket. Elijah is pictured with some fellow thespians who were also in the play. We all enjoyed the show and wish the students much success in their future theater productions.

Until next month, enjoy the springtime!

Fraternally,
Wendy Kurtz Lovell
Greetings from Lodge Missouri No. 1. We were proud and pleased to receive the Platinum Lodge Recognition Award at our Annual Installation of Officers. Kudos to our membership for making it happen.

We held our annual Used Book Fair this month to recycle some of the books that have been donated to the Center over time. We also held a BUNCO Social with our March meeting. We taught a few BUNCO newbies how the game is played and we all had a good time.

We also had a couple of our members give a presentation on the Czech Republic to Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri Troop #1530. The girls were eager to learn all about it. After the presentation, and with the loan of a few items, they prepared a presentation of their own on the Czech Republic for use at their International Thinking Day. The girls were eager to learn and offered poppyseed muffins and egg coloring to the visitors who stopped by their booth. It was a great way for us to offer some community outreach and their booth was very well received.

Sincerely,
Marla Breidenbach

Lodge Missouri No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri – I have a story I’ve been wanting to share. It was August 2016, and the St. Louis Blues were sponsoring a hockey clinic that took place on three consecutive Wednesdays. Each Wednesday would have a different set of Blues coaches. I was invited by the Blues because I coach high school hockey in St. Louis. As normal, I had in my possession several hockey pucks, hoping they would be signed by the coaches of the St. Louis Blues. As I sat down, at a table towards the front, I noticed a young girl in her early twenties sitting at the table directly behind me. My male chauvinism kicked in, and in my mind, I was wondering what this girl was doing at this hockey clinic. Does she even know the difference between a hockey puck and a baseball? So, I struck up a conversation with her.

She said her name was Nicole Hensley and that she was from the Denver area. She was going to school at Lindenwood University, which is in the St. Louis area. She was a goalie for the Lindenwood Lions Women’s Ice Hockey Team. She said she was training for the 2018 Winter Olympics. Well, I had a spare puck so I asked her to sign it, saying, “Maybe this will be worth something someday when you’re famous.” She laughed and willingly signed the puck, but was notably bashful from her sudden celebrity status. On the third and last Wednesday, I bid her farewell and good luck.

So, guess what happened? Nicole Hensley won the gold medal as a member of the United States Women’s Ice Hockey Team at the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea. Nicole now plays for the Buffalo Beauts in a Women’s Professional League. She still trains in St. Louis though, so hopefully our paths will cross again.

Sincerely,
Mike Wolf

BUNCO

Lodge Missouri No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri – Greetings from Lodge Missouri No. 1. We were proud and pleased to receive the Platinum Lodge Recognition Award at our Annual Installation of Officers. Kudos to our membership for making it happen.

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Until next time,
Marla Breidenbach
Lodge Svetlo No. 277, Caldwell, Texas – We’ve been busy! On Valentine’s Day, our lodge joined forces with the New Tabor SPJST Lodge and youth group to visit the Burleson St. Joseph Health Manor and the Copperas Hollow Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. There, we presented all the residents with a Valentine’s Day surprise – gift bags filled with bananas, raisins, and a homemade card. These bags were passed out to over 150 residents.

Sis. Susan Skrabanek made the gift labels, and lodge members Betty Suehs, Carol Petty, Shirley Vavra, Carolyn Doonan, and Albert Joe Surovik helped assemble the bags and distributed them to the residents.

If you would like more information about our lodge or would like to join us at one of our meetings, please call 979-272-3440 or 979-820-2218.

Until next time,
Susan Skrabanek

Betty Suehs and Carol Petty passing out bags.

Lodge members and youth members of SPJST Lodge #17 New Tabor passing out bags.

Like us on Facebook
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 _________

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. —Nelson Mandela

CSA Fraternal Life
In New York Czechoslovak Society of America

www.csalife.com

2050 Finley Rd. Ste. 70, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148 • Phone: 630-472-0500 • Fax: 630-472-1100
Lodge Happenings

Best Buddies Friendship Walk

Lodge R.T. Crane Jr. No. 7, North Riverside, Illinois – Winter has been brutal here in the Chicago suburbs this year. We had to cancel our January lodge meeting due to the nasty cold. This meant our Installation of Officers was pushed to our February meeting. We were grateful for Bro. Cary Mentzer who attended our meeting to conduct the installation. He also gave us some updates on the plans for the Czechoslovak Heritage Museum at their new Cicero location.

Our lodge has decided to participate in the Best Buddies Friendship Walk again this year. The walk will be held at Soldier Field and raises awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We really enjoyed this uplifting event last year and look forward to attending again on April 14.

Our March meeting brought about our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner with a dessert of Green River Floats. We have begun planning for the 2019 Lodge Recognition Program and can’t wait for lots of volunteering and socializing in the year to come!

Fraternally,
Alix Wilt

Scholarship Fund Report

February 10, 2019 - March 10, 2019

IN MEMORY OF GEORGIANA SVEC
Peter C. Widrlechner
Irene G. Widrlechner

TO CONTINUE CSA’S TRADITION OF ASSISTING YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION
Lodge Century of Progress/Bilá Hora No. 231

IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS
Lodge Virginia No. 230

CSA SERVES DONATION MATCH
Lodge Virginia No. 230
Lodge Century of Progress/Bilá Hora No. 231

TOTAL DONATIONS $350.00
### In Memoriam

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**Gerald** was a beloved husband of the late Leetha Besselman and former husband of Nancy Besselman (deceased); devoted father of Kimberly (Rick) Keyes; Mark (Robin) Besselman of Shepherd, Montana; John (Trisha) Besselman of St. Marys, Georgia; and Kerry (Chris) Davis (deceased). He was a loving grandfather of Laura, Jennifer, Justin, Jason, Melissa, Breanna, Samantha, Johnie, Max, Ashley, and Jacob. A special thanks goes out to his treasured friend, Ellie MacKay.

Longtime fraternal member **Bro. Dave Mayville** passed away on December 30, 2018. A memorial service was held at Lodge Independence Liberty Bell No. 408 in his honor. Lodge Independence Liberty Bell sends condolences to the friends and family of Dave. He will truly be missed.

**Sis. Irene Rak** passed away on February 28 at the age of 93. She was the wife of the late Joseph Rak, mother of Pam Rak and Tina Bobbish, grandmother of Andy (Alicia) Bobbish and Angela (Joseph) Schuester, and the great-grandmother of two. Irene was a member and past President of CSA Lodge Washington No. 30, member of Sokol St. Louis, and one of the ACEC Quilters. She was a bowler with the CSA Mixed League, and a dedicated and hard worker at the ACEC for many, many years. Lodge Washington No. 30 extends their deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372 member **Bro. Gerald A. Besselman**, age 84, was born on March 28, 1934 in Sewickley, Pennsylvania and passed away in Mayfield Heights on March 1, 2019. He was a Korean Conflict Army veteran.
Lodge Happenings

Honoring Members’ Accomplishments

Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Lombard, Illinois – Congratulations to Carter Hamrin, who was among a select group of students at Oak Forest High School recently honored by the District Board of Education for outstanding achievements. Carter was one of 45 students from his school so honored, specifically for his success in tennis, advancing to the Illinois state competition last year. We were proud of you then, Carter, and we’re happy again to share this news of your special recognition by the District. Well done!

We are also proud of our lodge members who remain so actively involved in Sokol. Three of our dedicated lodge members were recently honored for their years of Sokol membership: Missy Dropka, 35 years; Pat Satek, 45 years; and Mil Mentzer, 80 years. Their combined 160 years of commitment to the Sokol organization are nothing short of spectacular! CSA and Sokol have a long history of strong connections, including many members in common. Congrats to all three of you for continuing this tradition.

You may be wondering why I haven’t announced a spring social gathering, as is usual for our lodge. We are just a bit behind this year, following the rough winter months, but plans are now underway. We hope to have either a dinner meeting or a luncheon this summer – before our annual lodge picnic. (Be sure to save the date for that picnic; it is scheduled for Sunday, August 18!) I should have details about a dinner/ luncheon by the next Journal deadline, so check back next month – we are hoping for a great turn-out!

Hope to see you soon,
Jean Hemzáček Laukant
hemzacek.j@gmail.com/630-279-7894

Like us on Facebook

Carter Hamrin

APRIL 2019 — CSA JOURNAL — 31
Lodge Happenings

Delegates Meeting

Lodge Sokol Plzen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois – On February 25, 2019, the T.G. Masaryk Czech School and Building Corporations held their Delegates meeting, in which elections were held for the Board of both corporations. The T.G. Masaryk Delegates are also members of Czech organizations who support – or meet – at the building, located at 5701 W. 22nd Place, Cicero, Illinois. Delegate members also come from five different CSA Lodges in total, including: Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231, Yankee-Jungmann No. 077, Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Sokol Plzen No. 434, and Friendship No. 066. Wow!

Elections were held, and Andrew Bultas of Lodge Sokol Plzen No. 434 was elected President; Roberta Kulik of Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231 was elected Secretary; and Ken Dvorsky of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378 was elected Head of the Audit Committee. Klára Moldová, Director of Education and Administration of the Czech Teachers at the T.G. Masaryk Czech School, was elected Vice President and husband Vojtech Molda, Delegate from the T.G. Masaryk Building Corporation, was elected Treasurer.

Fraternally,
Andrew Bultas

Koláčky-Making Lessons

Lodge Sionilli No. 170, Brookfield, Illinois – Our February meeting was held at Bro. John Pritasil’s house, where he taught us how to make koláčky using his mother’s recipe. He recently mastered the art of baking this delicious treat over the holidays and shared his expertise with all of us! The pastries were delicious and the company was even better. We always have a blast socializing at our meetings together.

On March 16, we volunteered at Operation Support Our Troops America. At our January lodge meeting, we decided to donate $50 worth of items to OSOTA that could be used in the care packages for soldiers.

We went out for a lunch meeting afterwards at Bavarian Lodge, which was delicious as always. We hope to see many more new faces in the upcoming months. We love to try new things and new people would make them even better!

Fraternally,
Alix Wilt
THE COST OF COLLEGE IS RISING!
Would you like the chance to win $2,000?

Compete in the Miss National CSA Contest in Cedar Rapids this summer from August 2-4, 2019. You’ll receive a $150 spending allowance just for participating. Invite your family members! They will receive one hotel room for that weekend to watch you participate. To apply, go to www.csalife.com. Email Amanda for more information at alovell@csalife.com.

We look forward to meeting you!
Just Kids
Spring Flowers
T F P Z K C E Y T P L I R I S
M I U I A S X B S E E Y C N B
U S P L L X U H O O Z S Z R E
L A I L M U T D P N A N V K J
I L T P U N T A R I H A Z P N
B L L P I P K H D E H P J U T
H R T C R S E F Q S C B I Y A
J H A Q N I I H E U T S E Y Z
Y Y K O P Y M X T X I H C E C
H Z N U W U Y R I N W I C U E
D A F F O D I L O C I R U F Q
A E L A Z A S D U S O K E K E
K E X J B W J U V C E W C R G
M B Z X Y Q M V U H O I A A V
V Z P N S U G S P L P Y O W J

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
duben.............................................................April (du-ben)
včely.................................................................bees (včel-y)
včelař/včelařka.............................bee keeper (male/female)
(vče-lař) (vče-lař-ka)
med..............................................................honey (med)
včelařství...........................................bee-keeping (vče-lař-ství)
Flowers that attract bees:
slunečnice.....................................sunflower (slu-neč-ni-ce)
máta......................................................mint (má-ta)
zlatobýl..............................................goldenrod (zla-to-býl)
astra........................................................aster (as-tra)
maková květina..............................poppy (ma-ko-vá kvě-tin-a)

Like us on Facebook
Would you like the chance to win TWO thousand DOLLARS?

CEDAR RAPIDS

June 14th

Application Deadline

Contact Amanda at alovell@csalife.com for more information.