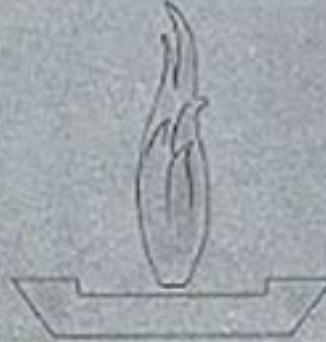




# Journal

July/August 2025



IN MEMORY OF LIDICE  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
WHOSE CITIZENS  
PERISHED BY NAZI  
BRUTALITY  
JUNE 10, 1942

LEST WE FORGET  
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL



EMS Provider of the Year



FF/PM Chris  
Laukant



EMS Provider of the Year  
Page 17



Collecting Medicine Bottles  
Page 24

## On the Cover

The Lidice massacre destroyed the village of Lidice in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, which is now a part of the Czech Republic, in June 1942 on orders from Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. It has gained historical attention as one of the most documented instances of German war crimes during the Second World War, particularly given the deliberate killing of children. The cover features a Lidice monument in Crest Hill, Illinois. Read more about the commemoration ceremony on page 28 and throughout this issue.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lidice\\_massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lidice_massacre)



Sprucing Up DTJ  
for Join Hands  
Day  
Page 21

## *In this issue*

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# President's Piece

## The 2025 Get-Together is Upon Us!

*Brothers and Sisters,*

It's summertime as we move into July, and that means that our Annual Get-Together isn't too far behind. This year, the 88th Annual Get-Together will be in Cleveland, Ohio on the weekend of August 1 – 3, 2025.

I know that the Get-Together committee has been working hard on planning out the events. As usual, the Get-Together begins with a registration and a hospitality reception, and concludes with a Sunday brunch. In between, we'll have a couple of dinners, we'll help with a volunteer event, and go on a riverboat outing, or the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, for those of you interested in that. On that Saturday, of course, we'll find out who our Fraternalist of the Year is along with the coronation of our 2025 National Miss CSA. There's still time to register, so if you're interested, do so now!

This Get-Together will also mark the 13th Anniversary of me having the honor of being your President. Being a part of our historic society is wonderful, and having the honor of being the President of CSA is truly humbling. With our impending merger with BetterLife only weeks away from being finalized, Chris Campbell, CEO of BetterLife, will also be attending the Get-Together as a guest. I know he's looking forward to seeing how CSA can party!

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Cleveland in a few weeks.

Until next time,

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



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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fraternalist of the Year Nominations – DUE NOW**

See pages 12 - 15

**July 2, 2025 – DEADLINE**

**Kropik Scholarship Application**

See page 31

**July 2, 2025 – DEADLINE**

**Recipient Information Form for CSA Scholarship**

**July 4, 2025**

**Home Office Closed for 4th of July**

**August 1 - 3, 2025**

**CSA Fraternal Life's 88th Annual Get-Together**

Cleveland, Ohio

See pages 8 and 9

**September 1, 2025**

**Home Office Closed for Labor Day**

**September 26, 2025 – DEADLINE**

**Photo Contest Entries**

See page 19

**September 26, 2025 – DEADLINE**

**Bowl-O-Rama Entries**

See page 22

## Journal Themes for 2025

**September** – Recap of the Annual Get-Together

**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. 7 July/August 2025**



**A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership"**

UREDNÍ ORGÁN JEDNOTY ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH SPOLKŮ V AMERICĚ

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**Website: [www.csalife.com](http://www.csalife.com)**

**Editor: Cynthia Hall, [CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com](mailto:CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com)**

## 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.

### **CSA Journal (ISSN 0195-9050)**

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**Postmaster:** send address changes to:

**CSA Journal, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148.**

# Today's Fraternal

## Get Ready to Get-Together!

*Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,*

Cleveland has been pouring their heart and soul into making this year's Get-Together a truly unforgettable experience for all. Their meticulous planning and unwavering dedication are bound to make it a standout event—we can't wait to share this excitement with you!

It's not too late to make your mark! The Fraternalist of the Year nomination is a chance for you to recognize the outstanding contributions of a fellow member. Nomination forms are readily available on the CSA website, on pages 12 - 15 in this issue, or you can reach out to me and I'll be more than happy to assist.

We are also still accepting applications for the Kropik Scholarship. Application forms are also available online on the CSA website or see page 31 of this magazine.

Don't miss out on these great opportunities.

Mark your calendars! The beloved Photo Contest is just around the corner in September, and we can't wait to see your submissions. Please ensure that you submit your photos by the September 26 deadline.

Photos can be from either 2024 or 2025, so start looking through your favorites! It's always a joy to see the moments our members have captured throughout the year. See page 19 for details.

Along with your Photo Contest submissions, Bowl-O-Rama entries are due by September 26. The deadline applies only to entry forms—you'll still have time afterward to submit your scores. Keep track of your scores during the event and submit them by the extended deadline. An entry form is available on page 22 and at [csalife.com](http://csalife.com).

We're looking forward to receiving your photos and scores—it's always exciting to see the fun and friendly competition from our bowlers!



I hope all the fathers had a great Father's Day, and a happy 4th was had by all the families. Can't wait to see everyone. Have a great summer!

*Fraternally,  
Kelly Deegan*

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



**JOIN US IN  
CLEVELAND  
OHIO**

**FOR OUR 88TH ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER  
AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025**

**Visit [CSALife.com](http://CSALife.com) for details.**

# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

## CLEVELAND GET-TOGETHER

*Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,*

I hope all the dads had a great Father's Day!

We like going to the 4th of July festivals and firework shows. Since I'm writing this before the 4th, I hope we have nice weather and no rain so we can enjoy a fireworks show.

Summer festival season is upon us. Lisa and I try to attend as many local community and church festivals as we can to support local businesses. So far, we've attended one church and music festival. Last year, Lisa and I attended the Obzinky (Harvest Festival) in Cleveland. We are going to try to attend

again this year.

The Cleveland Get-Together committee is working hard planning an exciting event. We can't decide if we will go to the Rock and Roll Hall or the boat trip. We have been to the Rock and Roll Hall several times and will probably skip that outing to go on the boat trip. Lisa and I are looking forward to seeing you there! It's going to be a fun weekend!

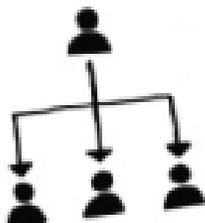
On June 11, the CSA staff spent the day at the BetterLife Office in Madison, Wisconsin. We had two sessions. In the morning, we had a business session (business results for the quarter were reviewed, as well as the status of the merger). We had a professional devel-

opment session after lunch. We enjoyed a team building activity with the BetterLife staff at Vitense Golf. This gave both staffs a chance to socialize and get to know each other a little. Everyone had a good time!

*Fraternally,  
Nick V. Kosmas  
Secretary / Treasurer*



Have you considered a donation to  
the *Scholarship Fund* as  
one of your CSA Serves choices?



# Miss National CSA

## It's Starting to Feel Like Summer!

*Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,*

It's finally starting to feel like summer! I have been very busy so far, but I'll always find some time to lay out in the sun with a book. I've been reading *The Seven Sisters* series and I'm on book five, *The Moon Sister*. They are historical fiction books and they are very interesting stories. I'd recommend them!

I'm almost finished with my summer class, Digital Media Planning and Operations, and I am excited to be done! It was a very intensive class and it took up a lot of my time, but I learned so much and I got 100% on every assignment so far! I'm hoping to keep my streak going into this final exam, too.

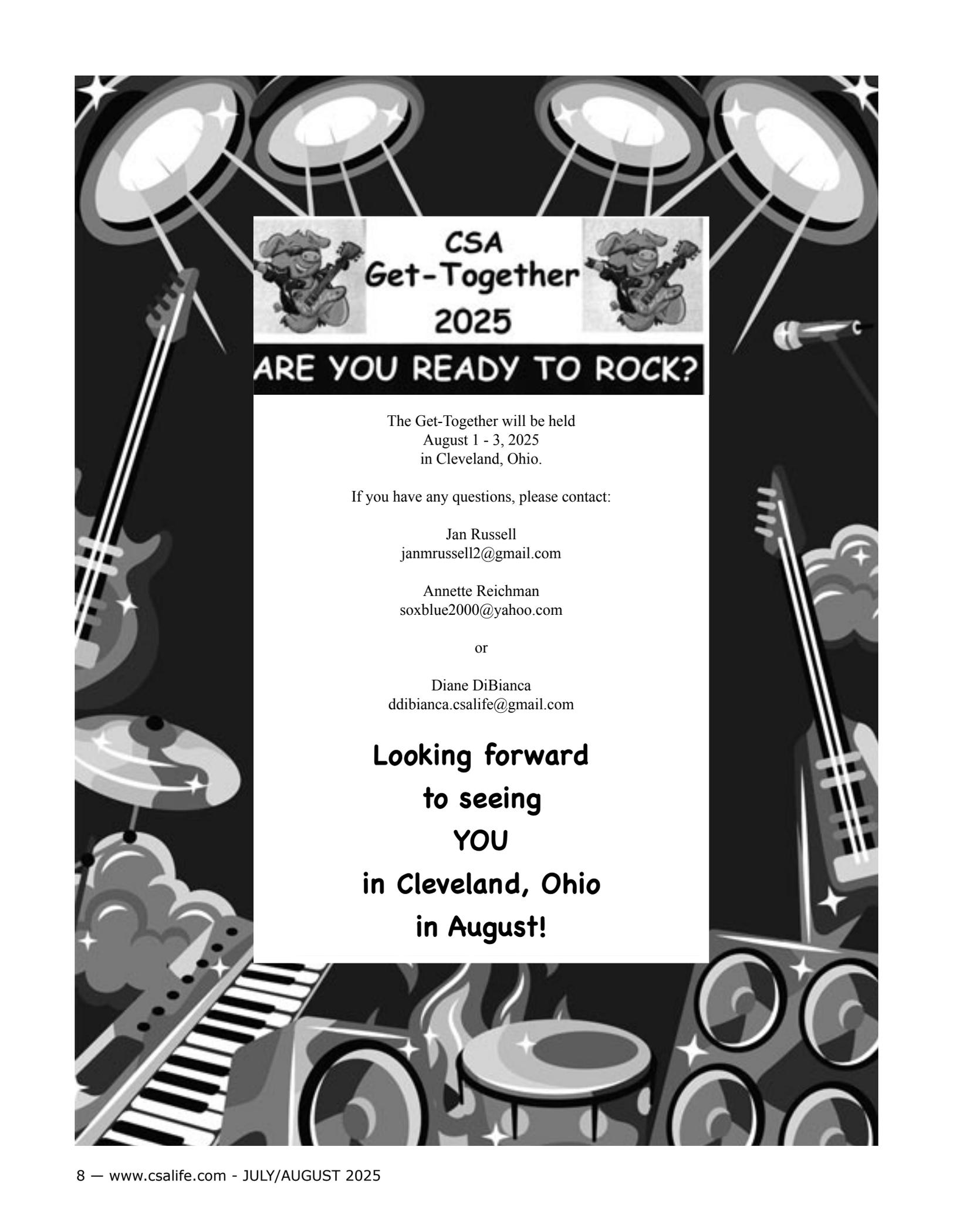
I have been working at Nautical Bowls in Naperville while I'm home as a marketing intern this summer. I've mostly been managing the social media accounts and running events outside of the storefront. When my manager was out of town, camping with his son, I was acting manager! Don't worry, I didn't let the power get to my head.

Recently, Jo, my little sister, and I worked a swim meet, selling bowls and handing out coupons. It was such a hot day and setting up the tent was a challenge, but it all worked out and we ended up having a lot of fun. Those events are always fun because there's a bunch of little kids who come up and ask us silly questions. One little boy just stared at me for a while before laughing and walking away.

Once my summer class is over, I am going to try to make it a priority to go out and write more. I haven't had much time to do anything creative in a while and I miss it! I used to go to a coffee shop and work on a script when I was at school, but I stopped doing that once I got home. It was always such a fun way for me to relax and feel productive, so I'm going to try to get back into the habit of that!

*Fraternally,  
Delaney Schretter*





**CSA  
Get-Together  
2025**

**ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?**

The Get-Together will be held  
August 1 - 3, 2025  
in Cleveland, Ohio.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jan Russell  
[janmrussell2@gmail.com](mailto:janmrussell2@gmail.com)

Annette Reichman  
[soxblue2000@yahoo.com](mailto:soxblue2000@yahoo.com)

or

Diane DiBianca  
[ddibianca.csalife@gmail.com](mailto:ddibianca.csalife@gmail.com)

**Looking forward  
to seeing  
YOU  
in Cleveland, Ohio  
in August!**



# 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Get-Together Service Project



**Journey Center for Safety and Healing**

**Our Project this year is to work with Journey Center to gather non-perishable items from their Wish List. In addition to the items listed, you can go to their Amazon wish list**

## ***DONATION WISH LIST***

Gift cards: Target, Walmart, Giant Eagle, Home Depot, Costco, Michaels, fast food, restaurant & Visa

### Used cell phones

### Baby Items

- Baby Wipes
- Baby Crib Sheets (new)
- Pack-n-play Sheets
- Diapers size 4, 5, & 6
- Pull-ups – all sizes
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Body Wash
- Diaper Bags
- Sippy Cups (new)
- Bibs (new)

### Cleaning Supplies

- Dish Soap
- Hand Soap Dispensers
- Clorox Cleaning Wipes
- Laundry Detergent

### Household Items (New)

- Bowls
- Cups
- Forks, spoons, knives
- Glasses (no coffee mugs)
- Plates
- Pots/pans
- Tote bags (large)

### Toiletries

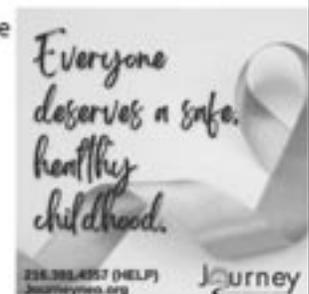
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue

### Personal Care Items

- Body Lotion
- Body Soap
- Brushes - Hard bristle
- Deodorant
- Towels & Wash Cloths (new)
- Specific Diverse Hair Products:
  - Instant Control Edge & Braid Gel Max
  - Creme of Nature shampoo, conditioner, edge control
  - Shea Moisture shampoo, conditioner, curl enhancing smoothie
  - Pantene(for natural hair) shampoo, conditioner
  - Hask shampoo, conditioner
  - OGX shampoo, conditioner
  - Maui Moisture shampoo, conditioner
  - Perfect Results shampoo, conditioner, grease
  - Salon Pro hair food/grease
- Wide tooth combs

**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 2**  
9 AM IN THE LOBBY  
GATHER DONATIONS TO  
DELIVER TO DROP SITE  
Wear your blue CSA shirt  
for a photo op!!!

[www.journeyneo.org/donate](http://www.journeyneo.org/donate)



## Folklore Festivals

Multiple folklore shows and festivals are organized in the Czech Republic throughout the year. There are many held in the United States as well. They are a display of rich Czech traditions and folklore. At the festivals, various folklore groups demonstrate the heritage of their country. The performers are presented in traditional costumes particular to different regions of the Czech Republic. They perform folk dances, tra-

ditional folk songs, and play musical instruments. Many festivals are not only demonstrations of music and dances, but also show traditional cuisine and crafts.

Included here is a sample of just a few festivals.

The biggest and most famous international folklore festivals is **“Moonlight in Prague,”** held traditionally once per

year in July.

Since 1808, **“The Ride of the Kings”** (Jízda králů) is a festival that is celebrated in Spring, at the Pentecost, in Moravia, the south-east of the Czech Republic. Until World War II, the Ride was an integral part of the Feast of Pentecost, but has since become largely a social event. The ceremony begins with a religious service and the approval of the Mayor, followed by the preparation of the costumes and decorations for the horses and riders. These are made by the women of the villages, according to traditional colors and designs unique to each place.

The Ride itself is performed by 15 to 25 young men. They are preceded and followed by singers and an honor guard wearing unsheathed swords to protect the “King,” typically a 10 to 15 year old boy, whose face is partially covered, holding a rose in his mouth. The King and his groomsmen are dressed in feminine costumes, while all the other riders wear masculine clothing. After riding through the village for a few hours, sometimes exchanging witticisms with the crowd, the participants return home. Then, later in the evening, they meet at the “King’s House” for music and dancing.

The festival takes place in the region historically known as Moravian Slovakia. It is celebrated annually in the village of Vlčnov (pop. 3,000), every three years in Hluk (pop. 4,400), every two years in Kunovice (pop. 5,500), and occasionally in Skoronice (pop. 550) as part of another festival called the “Slovácký rok” (Slovak Year).

**Strážnice**, another unique folklore festival, presents traditional Czech folklore with folklore groups from all over the world visiting the town to show their own traditions.



*Photo by Jialiang Gao*

## Folklore Festivals



The Bohemian city Strakonice holds an annual **Bagpipe Festival** that attracts the locals, as well as foreign tourists. The festival is a parade and a meeting place of Czech and international bag-

pipe players. The town's bagpipe tradition refers to the famous work of Josef Kajetán Tyl Strakonický dudák ("The Bagpiper of Strakonice"). The festival has been held since 1967 and is one of

the most important folklore festivals in the world.

The manifestation of Slovak folklore culture is the "Východná" Folklore Festival. It is the oldest and largest nationwide festival with international participation, which takes place in Východná annually. Slovakia is usually represented by many groups but mainly by SEUK (Slovenský ľudový umelecký kolektív—Slovak folk art collective). SEUK is the largest Slovak folk art group, trying to preserve the folklore tradition.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech\\_folk\\_lore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_folk_lore)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ride\\_of\\_the\\_Kings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ride_of_the_Kings)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strakonice>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovakia>



*Photo from Hontianska parÁjda 2003 (Hont Parade) - folklore festival in Slovakia*



Fraternalist of the Year

**DUE NOW**

October 30, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It's not too late to nominate your Fraternalist of the Year. Who do you think is the one person in your lodge who has given the most of their time, talent, and skill to make your lodge activities – CSA SERVES, Join Hands Day, and social affairs – a great success from 2024 to 2025? Who is that one member you can always count on to go the distance and never lets you down? You know that person, and that's the one you should be nominating! *If one of your members has been nominated in the past but has not won, don't hesitate to nominate them again!\**

The application – **including a recent photo of the nominee** – should be submitted to the Home Office and postmarked **no later than JUNE 27th**. If in attendance, this award will be presented to the winner at this year's Get-Together at the Saturday evening banquet. Our Fraternalist of the Year receives a plaque and is given the opportunity to have CSA make a \$100.00 donation in their name to their favorite charitable organization! In addition, the winner's Get-Together accommodations (two-night stay) and Saturday night banquet ticket will be paid for by CSA!

To honor our nominees, their accomplishments will be summarized in *the Journal*, and each will be recognized with a certificate and letter.

So, please put on your thinking caps and nominate the most deserving person from your lodge. Don't be modest; we want to hear some boasting about this member's accomplishments. **To repeat, a past nominee (who did not win) can be nominated again.** An officer of the lodge should fill out the application. What a great surprise it will be for the winner. Remember, each lodge can only submit one Fraternalist of the Year nomination. Thank you, and best of luck to your deserving members.

Fraternally,

Kelly Deegan  
Fraternal Programs Manager  
[kdeegan@csalife.com](mailto:kdeegan@csalife.com)

2050 Finley Road Suite 70, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148 · 800-LIFE-CSA

CSAFOTYAPP10302024

**Fraternalist of the Year**









# Fraternal Calendar

July	2	<b>Deadline - Kropik Scholarship Application</b>
	2	<b>Deadline- Receipt information form for CSA Scholarship</b>
	4	Home office closed for 4th of July
August	1-3	88th Annual Get-Together in Cleveland Ohio
September	1	Home Office closed for Labor Day
	26	<b>Deadline - Photo Contest Entries</b>
	26	<b>Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Entries</b>
October	13	Home Office closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus) Day
	15	<b>Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal</b>
	31	<b>Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Scores</b>
November	27-28	Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
December	1	<b>Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Request</b>
	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.

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## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Excellence in Montana; Kicks on Route 66

**Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Brookfield, Illinois** – Apologies for the recent radio silence! My attention has been demanded elsewhere, and, therefore, keeping in touch here has unfortunately taken a backseat. But I do have some fun things to share this month, so here goes.

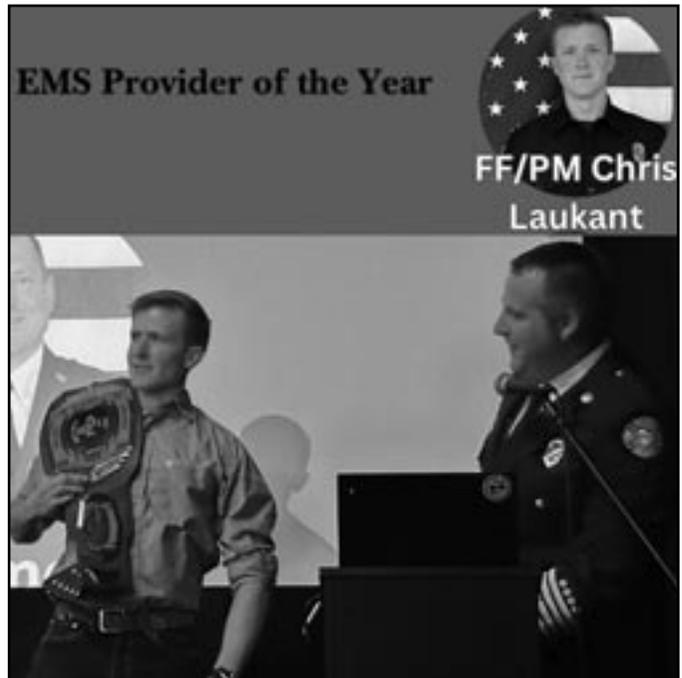
Big Sky Fire Department (Big Sky, Montana) held their annual Employee Recognition last month, and three members of the Department were particularly recognized for their outstanding service. Among them, Chris Laukant, Firefighter/Paramedic, was named “EMS Provider of the Year”! As you can imagine, the job of a first responder is challenging and very demanding, and it’s clear from this recognition that Chris consistently rises to the challenge with a commitment to excellence and professionalism. To say that his family (including yours truly) is bursting with pride is quite the understatement. Kudos to Chris for a job so well done!

Our lodge met for a special luncheon at Dell Rhea’s Chicken Basket in Willowbrook, Illinois. The Chicken Basket has been a long-standing landmark on historic Route 66 since 1946. This restaurant was inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame in 1992, and in the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. Eleven lodge members lived up to the iconic restaurant’s tagline: “Get your chicks on Route 66” – enjoying a fun time together and eating the outstanding food, surrounded by the abundant Route 66 memorabilia.

As always, please reach out to share any volunteer activities so we can include you in our member reports, and let us know also if there’s any way the lodge can support your

efforts. Don’t forget to also share other news/photos for other members to enjoy!

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



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### “Dvorak in Spillville”

**Lodge Mile Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado** – After a brief business meeting facilitated by Lodge President Irma Farrell, the assembled members marked a moment of silence for missing and departed members of the lodge.

Next, members participated in a mental transporting to Spillville, Iowa for a study of “Dvorak in Spillville,” facilitated by Sister Sandra Maresh Doe. Sister Doe used her laptop to do the transporting.

First, members saw an overview of the famous composer, Antonin Dvorak. In an engaging cartoon presentation, members saw that Dvorak (born in 1841 in the Czech Republic) was the eldest of 14 children; that he failed to become a butcher like his father; that he learned piano, organ, and the violin from his local school master; that he was able to make a living as a music maker and as a composer; and that he became famous in Europe for his symphonies, operas, and other works. Many of his works incor-

porated the folk music of his homelands.

At 50 years of age, he was invited to New York’s Conservatory of Music, and he went! In New York, Dvorak met H.T. Burleigh, a singer and composer, who introduced him to spirituals of African Americans, captured from their homelands and “forced to work as slaves.” Dvorak drew inspiration from the spirituals and their sounds found their way into some of his music. One of his students, Josef Kovarik, persuaded the famed composer to visit his Czech speaking hometown of Spillville for his summer vacation in 1893 instead of returning to Bohemia. As they were watching the “Class Notes,” members heard excellent sounds of Dvorak as it accompanied the narration. The Notes concluded saying, Dvorak is credited for teaching Americans not to look to Europe for musical themes and sounds, but to listen to what is already here.

Members paused to listen to “Goin’ Home,” sung by Paul Robeson.

Then they hopped into “Dvorak in Iowa,” presented by Iowa Public Television. Watching this video, members learned that Dvorak incorporated the sounds of the Turkey River and birds into his music. In Spillville (pop. 350), Dvorak incorporated his daily routine as if he was in Bohemia: get up early, go for a walk in the woods, and play the organ at St. Wenceslas Church.

Members finished their tour of Spillville listening to narration and local tales about “The Master” by visiting “Spillville Then and Now.” The members delighted in the sounds of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and narration from many local voices, and the topics ranged from noodle making to kolache eating to views of the Turkey River. All in all, it was simply wonderful, beyond words to describe (highly recommended).

*Fraternally,  
Sandra Maresh Doe*





**GIVE US  
YOUR BEST  
SHOT!**



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.

CSAPOCNSTI0292024



**www.CSALIFE.com**

## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Memorial Services Attended

**Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois** – On Memorial Day, some of our Lodge 378 members attended services at Bohemian National

Cemetery. The program started at the Gatehouse and went on to an outdoor flag ceremony at the World War I and World War II Memorial. Members of the

U.S. Armed Forces led us to the ceremony hall at the Columbarium.

The program started with the Pledge of Allegiance and playing the national anthems of the United States of America, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic, which most of us were able to sing. This was followed by a poetic recitation by the T.G. Masaryk Czech School students. Then, we all sang the U.S. Armed Forces songs.

We all listened to our guest speaker Brigadier General Martin Sikora, Czech Defense, Military, Naval, and Air Attache. Closing remarks and the retiring of colors left us with time for our lodge to present the Masaryk Czech School with a \$2,000 check to help them take care of children from the Czech Republic that they brought here to participate in the Lidice Memorial Services at Crest Hill on June 8. The Masaryk School has taken over organization of this important memorial and we are grateful to them.

Ken Dvorsky and Norma were at the recent Lidice Memorial held on Sunday, June 8. On a sunny Sunday, the Czech community met for the annual commemoration of Lidice at Crest Hill. Many CSA members and longtime attendees were there to support this event. The highlight of the morning was the participation of students from the Ota Pavel Elementary School in Bustehrad. Speakers were Jakub Uteseny, Consul General; Vacclav Bartak, Principal of Ota Pavel; and representatives of Crest Hill, Mayor Ray Soloman and Alderman Tina Oberlin. The MC was Irena Cajkova, teacher at the Masaryk Czech School.

The UMS Singers presented songs appropriate for the day and sang the national anthems.

Attending were Ken Dvorsky, Norma Kmet, Andy Bultas, and picture taker Cindy Bueneman.

Have a good day, dobrý den.

*Ken Dvorsky  
Norma Kmet,  
Secretary*



Pictured are Ken, Norma, Andy Bultas, and students from the Czech Republic who participated in the Memorial.

# LODGE HAPPENINGS

## Sprucing Up DTJ for Join Hands Day

**Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio** – It was a chilly, rainy day at the DTJ in Taborville, Ohio, for our meeting on May 22.

Diane informed us that the bus is full for our trip to the Rivers Casino; she went over what everyone was to bring.

Everybody brought in their food donations for VFW Post 6768, who will give them to the Emergency Assistance Center in Northfield, Ohio. I took the donations to the Post on May 24. We filled the barrel!

Our little crew got busy sprucing up the inside of the DTJ for Join Hands Day. Unfortunately the flowers did not get planted, but they were enjoying the rain! They were planted on May 24.

We are supporting the functions at the DTJ, and encourage everyone in the area to do the same. They have several Chicken or Duck Dinners. July 13 is the 102nd Cesky Den (Czech Day). August 10 is the 91st Obzinky (Harvest Festival). October 11 is “A Night at the

Races”. For the full calendar go to: <https://www.dtjtaborville.com/events.htm>.

Remember to save the date, August 1-3, for the Get-Together 2025! Remember to have your favorite band or concert T-shirt when you come!

Congratulations to our lucky 50/50 winners: Bruce, Donna, and Kris.

Thank you, Bruce, for firing up the grill and cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs for our lunch. We enjoyed them with potato salad, chips, and dill pickle potato chips from Donna. Dessert was

refreshing watermelon.

Our next meetings for 2025 will be: July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 20, and December 18, our Christmas luncheon. Come to a meeting, have a tasty snack, and reconnect with friends. We would love to see you!

*Fraternally,  
Annette Reichman*



# 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 at a later date. Watch *the Journal* for details.

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

## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### Parade and Join Hands

**Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa** – On May 17, Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137 participated in the Houby Days Parade in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We had several members on the float and the young members were walking alongside it, handing out candy. It was a windy, chilly day, but thankfully some people brought some blankets to cover our legs, and no rain showed up. This parade is held every year during the celebration and travels through the Czech Village.

On May 23, we held our Join Hands Day at the Czech National Cemetery. Members put up flagpoles and flags

throughout the cemetery, and did some clean up. Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to help.

The Czech National Cemetery held their Memorial Day Service. There were quite a few lodge members who attended. There was coffee and kolaches for fellowship in the Avacentre after the program. Thank you to Matt Linn and the Brosh Chapel for the use of their building.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

*Fraternally yours,  
Rai Ann Stratton  
Secretary*



*Happy 4th of July!*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### Christmas in July Celebration



**Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois** – When we first spread the word that we are collecting used medicine bottles for recycling, we never anticipated the enthusiastic response from family, friends, and neighbors. Many of the donations were made anonymously so we don't even know whom to thank for them. Often, bags of medicine bottles suddenly seem to appear on the front porch without any acknowledgement of the source. Many thanks to whomever left them!

At our June lodge meeting, we decided to try out a new game. July 18 is the date for our "Christmas in July" celebration and we were looking for possible new, fun activities. We played Left-Right-Center, a game that combines three special dice, a few poker chips, and a little luck. Joyce Nemece was the winner, but everyone who tried it had fun.

Finally, Fred Chiappetta, our Lodge Brookfield fishing expert, amazed us all with a picture of a 6 pound bass he caught last month in a local reservoir. We guessed at first that it must have been a whale, but Fred said it was a fairly routine catch for him.

Fishermen sometimes have been known to gain a reputation for tall tales but when we asked about any unusual occurrences he has experienced through the years, Fred told us about one that got away. Once he hooked a fish but unfortunately the line broke. Several months later, Fred hooked and landed the exact same fish. This time the lure was still embedded in the fish's mouth and Fred was able to recover his lure. We believe him!

Lodge Brookfield meetings are held at noon on the second Tuesday of each month at CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. Members and guests are welcome.

*Fraternally,  
Kimberly Silhan*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Broadway Concert, High Achievements

**Lodge Laurel No. 452, Ashford, Connecticut** – We had a busy time this spring with all the adult members of Lodge Laurel No. 452. Our own Brother Larry Goodwin led the Broadway Chorus annual concert group at The Windham Theater in Willimantic, Connecticut. The concert featured arrangements from “The Secret Garden,” “Jekyll and Hyde,” and Neil Diamond’s “Beautiful Noise.” The chorus has about 35 members including Sisters Jill Goodwin and Marion Varga from our lodge. Many other lodge members showed their support and attended this fabulous concert.

The Goodwin family also celebrated at the end of April, when Brother Andy Goodwin was inducted into the inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame at Windham High School. One of 14 legendary coaches and athletes, Brother Andy was selected for his participation in wrestling. He was the only four-time Class L state champion and two-time New England wrestling champion in school history. He helped Windham to the 1992 New England championship and three straight Class L titles (1991-93). Further, he was a 1993 All-American and finished with a career record of 165-7 before going on to earn All-American honors twice at Springfield College.

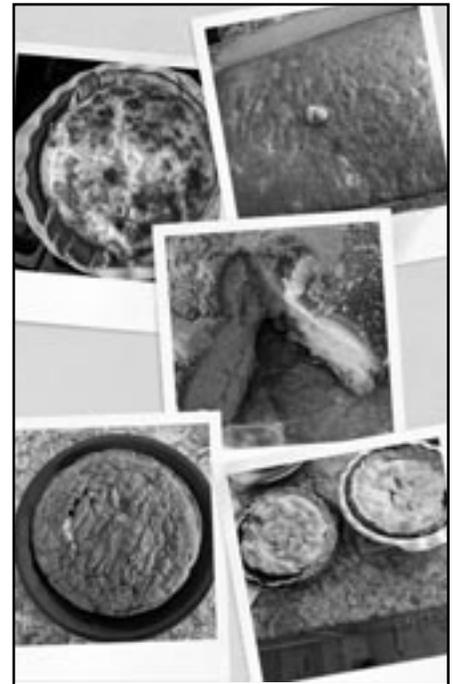
We had more excitement when Sister Gail Zaicek was one of five finalists in the Home Cook division of “A Taste of

Home Best Chef Competition.” Chef Carla Hall presented the 2025 Favorite Chef competition which supports the James Beard Foundation. Sister Gail found the contest in *A Taste of Home* magazine. She entered the competition under the Home Cook category. It is a national public vote driven competition. She certainly is a great home cook. She smokes our meat for our summer picnic, and bakes for meetings: apple crisp, cheesecake, and pineapple upside down cake, to name a few. One of our CSA Serves benefactors, Windham Tolland 4H Camp, receives Gail’s baking for all of their bake sales as well as food for our Join Hands workday with them. All members enjoy Gail’s cooking at our lodge events and name her our favorite chef!

Finally, Sister Laura Varga Knowlton was recently named Teacher of the Year for Charles Barnum Discovery Magnet School in Groton, Connecticut. Sister Laura is known to spend many hours at home prepping for her classroom. Laura teaches special education elementary students at this school. Sister Laura was recognized at a recent Board of Education meeting.

Stay tuned next month for more school news from our younger members.

*Fraternally,  
Margaret and Marion Varga*



# LODGE HAPPENINGS

## Summer Joys

**Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio** – Greetings to all! I hope this article finds you enjoying summer and many of its delights such as: bathing in the sunshine; eating watermelon, corn on the cob, or ice cream; going to the beach; or taking some long walks. Whatever your favorite summer indulgence is... enjoy it!

Our group met back in June at The Yard in Dennison, Ohio, which was a new venue for us. We were joined by the Placeks of Lodge Groveton No. 4 and were thankful that they could be in attendance. The restaurant was rather loud and busy on the day we met, which made conducting our business meeting challenging. However, we didn't have much in the way of new business to discuss, but we sure had fun visiting and getting caught up with each other!

Members continue to transport each other to meetings, volunteer in their churches (cleaning, cooking, ushering, singing, providing music, etc.), help neighbors (offering rides as needed, sending food, visiting with them, etc.), and provide support for community events on behalf of CSA Fraternal Life Lodge No. 121. We also try to bring along guests to our meetings when possible. Last month, Chuck Swartz and his sister, Jane Lee Swartz, were guests of Wendy and Gary Lovell. The Swartz's father and Wendy's grandmother, were first cousins. Through the years, the families have remained close and they enjoy spending time together.

We recently attended the Memorial Day Programs at West Elementary School, Dillonvale Knight Rider Park, and

Dillonvale Presbyterian Church. This was in fulfillment of our Join Hands Day Service Project. Sister Lovell helped pack sack lunches for the event at the park. Brother Ebright was a participant in Post #529's firing squad while Sister Ebright helped with the auxiliary.

Recently, Skyler Ebright and his friend, Carson Basich, helped Sister Lovell with a project at the school where she teaches. Due to the addition of a special program (including an autism unit and sensory room) coming next school year, some of the classrooms had to be moved to accommodate for them. With Sister Lovell's classroom being one of the rooms that had to be reassigned, her 35+ years of teaching materials and supplies had to move with her. Skyler and Carson generously agreed to move all the materials to her new classroom. Those boys must have made 30 or more trips up and down three flights of stairs. They did it all with smiles on their faces, too! Friends, who says you can't depend on the young people in our world today? Thanks again to those young men for all their hard work!

Hopefully, as we move through summer, the many joys of the season will be ever present for you and those you love. If you can, take time to relax and soak in that sunshine—after all, 10 minutes a day between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. will be enough to give you your daily supply of Vitamin D!

Remember to check on someone you love today.

*Summer joys to you and yours,  
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell*



# LODGE HAPPENINGS

## Somber Service

**Lodge Yankee Jungmann No. 77, Lombard, Illinois** – Our lodge celebrated Mother’s and Father’s Day with a dinner at Simon’s Restaurant. There were nine members in attendance and our appetites were filled with all the choices on the menu. Afterwards, members discussed their plans for the summer.

Several of our lodge members attended the somber service at Lidice Memorial Park in Crest Hill, Illinois. The event was organized by T.G. Masaryk School this year. American Sokol Color Guard presented colors. Members of the United Moravian Singers sang the Czech and United States National Anthems. Consul General of the Czech Republic as well as Mayor Raymond Solimon, and Alderman Tina Oberlin of Crest Hill gave remarks. The most poignant part of the presentations were speeches by Vaclav Bartak, Principal of Ota Pavel Elementary School in Bustehrad. The school is the same school the children of Lidice would have attended. Nine students from the school traveled from the Czech Republic to attend the ceremony and each gave a presentation representing the words of children of the Lidice massacre. It was a very moving cere-

mony and, in light of the fighting and loss of life happening in the world today, we must never forget or allow history to be repeated.

On May 26, lodge members attended the Memorial Day Service at Bohemian National Cemetery. The program began at the Gatehouse where members assembled and marched to the World War I and II monument for a welcome and Flag Raising. U.S. Armed Forces Color Guard then led the Procession to Ceremony Hall in the Columbarium. We were led in song by Jack Miuccio as attendees sang the songs of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces with those who served being asked to stand and be recognized. Brigadier General Martin Sikora, Czech Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attache, was the guest speaker. We were proud to attend this ceremony to honor those who bravely served and continue to serve our country.

Seven members from our lodge will attend the Get-Together in Ohio: Chuck Michalek, Cindy Bueneman, Ken Dvorsky, Frank Michalek with his daughter Jodi, and Mary Ellen Janda and her son Chuck.

I would like to thank Ken for delivering pop tabs from Lodge Harrison No. 378 and Lodge Brookfield No. 475.

Thanks to these lodges and others, I now have six huge containers of pop tabs to put towards our goal of two million.

The lodge wishes everyone a happy Fourth of July and a joyful summer!

*Fraternally,  
Mary Ellen Janda*



# LODGE HAPPENINGS

## Steak Cookout Coming

**Lodge Lincoln No. 7, Berwyn, Illinois** – June has been a busy month for Lodge Lincoln members! Lodge members participated in a cultural/historic event. The annual commemoration of the Nazi destruction of the town of Lidice, Czechoslovakia on June 10, 1942, took place on Sunday, June 8. Fourteen

members, even our youngest, were in attendance for the commemoration at Lidice Memorial Park in Crest Hill, Illinois. Students from the T.G. Masaryk Czech School led the Pledge of Allegiance, wreath presentations were made, and the United Moravian Societies Singers sang several musical selections. Students from the Ota Pavel Elementary School, Bustehrad, Czech Republic, along with their Vice Principal, were also in the program. They presented a beautiful poem, “The Children of Lidice,” which was read by the students. Speakers at the memorial were the Alderman and Mayor of Crest Hill, and the Consul General of the Czech Republic. The colors were presented and retired by the American Sokol Guard. It was a very moving program. Afterwards, attendees were able to mingle, stroll through the beautiful rose garden, and enjoy some light refreshments.

We later met at White Fence Farm for a luncheon provided by our lodge. The restaurant has been around for over 100 years and is still serving their simple menu of superior food in their 12 dining rooms. Guests are entertained by games, grandfather clocks, a collec-

tion of chickens, dolls, and an antique car museum. There is even a pasture area to pet, feed, or take photos with Alpacas, mini goats, chickens, and cows.

Vice President Chris Lanzel traveled to Mettmann, Germany to visit and vacation with her daughter Alex and husband Johann and their two children. She had a very enjoyable time hiking and sightseeing for two weeks in Germany with family!

The June business meeting was held in Brookfield at the Irish Times Restaurant on Wednesday, June 11. Gift cards were purchased at an earlier date and were used to pay for our dinner that night. After enjoying dinner, President Matthew Schultz called the meeting to order. Correspondences were read by Secretary Vera Wilt and a motion was made to purchase a page in the Get-Together program booklet, and raffle tickets. The treasurer’s report was read by Stan Smolucha and approved. Future meeting dates were planned and put on our calendars.

On August 17 at 12:30 p.m., we will meet at Stan and Pat Smolucha’s home for a steak cookout and business meeting. Their address is 0S718 Myrtle Street, Winfield, Illinois. Members will bring side salads and desserts.

On September 10 at 6:00 p.m., we will meet at the home of Chris Lanzel. Her address is 110 Brewster Lane Unit 25, LaGrange Park, Illinois (at Plymouth Place).

Have a wonderful summer and an enjoyable time at the Get-Together! Safe travels!

*Fraternally,  
Pat Smolucha*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# The Children of Lidice

**Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora, No. 231, Cicero, Illinois** – Members of our lodge had an abbreviated meeting at PJ Klem’s Restaurant on June 11. Some considerations were approved and/or passed and others were tabled for future discussion. We were celebrating Father’s and Mother’s Days while enjoying lunch. We also welcomed Maryann Slavik of Puerto Rico who was visiting her brother Ed Slavik and sister Dolores Klejko.

Speaking of Maryann, as per the last lodge article, Maryann did pass along a photo of the Casa Juan Bosco group. If you recall, she not only volunteers with the children but also helps with transportation. You’ll find Maryann pictured in the lower right hand corner of the accompanying photo. Keep up the good work, Maryann!

Ed Slavik, Nita Natkowski, Dolores Klejko, and Maryann Slavik attended the “Commemoration of Lidice” program in Crest Hill, Illinois on June 8, 2025 in Lidice Memorial Park. They enjoyed the program and remarked about the presentation, “The Children of Lidice,” made by Vice President Silva Vinklova and the students from the Ota

Pavel Elementary School, in Bustehrad, Czech Republic. They also cited the music of the United Moravian Societies Singers.

Our meetings are generally held at the T.G. Masaryk School on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. We invite you, our members, to join us and

welcome your input. Please join us at the school at 5701 W. 22 Place, Cicero, Illinois. For more information, contact Ed Slavik at 708 423-5267.

*Fraternally,  
Elaine Tejcek*



Pictured at the restaurant are from left to right: Ken Dvorsky, Elaine Tejcek, Dolores Klejko, Nita Natkowski, Maryann Slavik, Loretta Paulus, Ed Slavik, and Roberta Kulik.



## *In Memoriam*

<b>Claim</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Lodge</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Age</b>
56034	Vickery, Kenneth D.	001	BONNE TERRE, MO	09/01/2024	90
56047	Nepesa, Lois J.	004	ANTIOCH, TN	04/20/2025	96
56049	Klimas, Arlene B.	077	NORTH RIVERSIDE, IL	05/12/2025	90
56032	Cirkl, Cynthia J.	210	ST. PAUL, MN	07/15/2024	79
56033	Emr, Evelyn G.	211	ITHACA, NY	03/23/2025	99
56030	Soos, Elmer	219	BROOK PARK, OH	03/06/2025	94
56056	Rodriguez, Patricia L.	219	GAHANNA, OH	05/06/2025	70
56041	Gardner, Elaine E.	277	HOUSTON, TX	02/03/2017	95
56042	Korba, Robert W.	277	BARTONVILLE, TX	03/10/2015	81
56037	Dvorak, Libbie	279	CHELSEA, IA	04/28/2025	95
56040	Ruzicka, Ruth	366	LIVONIA, MI	02/23/2021	97
56055	Sandusky, Rich F.	366	HOWELL, MI	03/25/2025	78
56045	Slavik, Emil J.	372	CONTINENTAL, OH	08/02/2024	84
56051	Colander, David M.	377	OAK LAWN, IL	05/18/2025	44
56053	Colander, David M.	377	CHICAGO, IL	05/18/2025	44
56031	Dee, Linda	404	FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS, IL	04/22/2025	73
56038	Joseph, Noel	422	BROOKLYN, NY	05/15/2025	77
56054	Rommel, Charles J.	428	ELLCOTT CITY, MD	03/20/2025	91
56043	Stockwell, Leslie R.	448	FORT EDWARD, NY	03/29/2025	86
56058	Stockwell, Margaret E.	448	FORT EDWARD, NY	01/16/2025	93
56036	Lombardi, Joseph J.	481	PORT MONMOUTH, NJ	04/16/2025	91
56039	Bleecker, Bruce	481	TEANECK, NJ	10/02/2024	81
56044	Holly, Willie	481	JERSEY CITY, NJ	05/19/2025	69
56048	Porter, Flossie D.	481	EAST ORANGE, NJ	04/16/2025	85
56052	Phillips, Jean	481	BOOTHWYN, PA	10/24/2024	87
56035	Jirack, Rena M.	484	MEMPHIS, TN	06/12/2024	86





## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Wonderful Bus Trip to Rivers Casino

**Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio** – Our meeting was held at the Longhorn Restaurant on June 10, 2025. We always go out to eat in June to celebrate Mother’s and Father’s days. We celebrated June Karecki and Jan Russell’s birthdays by singing “Happy Birthday” to them. Jan brought delicious birthday cupcakes for dessert. Thank you, Jan.

Our meeting was followed by a delicious lunch. Freddie Shima, President, reminded everyone about our July meeting/picnic at Sylvia Lorincz’s home. Everyone volunteered to bring some-

thing for the picnic.

She also reminded everyone that in August we are to meet at the library and bring supplies to donate to the Providence House. We will also make baskets for the DTJ facility’s event. Freddie will again bring all the supplies for the baskets.

On Wednesday, June 11, many of us took a bus trip to the Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that was sponsored by Lodge Paramount/Southgate. It was such a fun trip! Lodge Paramount/Southgate filled our time on the bus with food, drinks, games, etc.

They do such a wonderful job. Thanks to many of their members for all their hard work.

Many of our members are preparing for our Get-Together in August.

Summer weather is creeping up to Cleveland. We hope you all have a wonderful summer.

*Fraternally yours,  
Judy (Sevcik) Genco*

## Scholarship Fund Report



*May 10, 2025 – June 10, 2025*

**IN MEMORY OF DIANE WALLACE**  
Lodge Brookfield No. 475

**IN MEMORY OF LORRAINE KRAFT**  
Lodge Brookfield No. 475

**IN MEMORY OF ELMER SOOS**  
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

**IN MEMORY OF ANNE MARIE MICHALEK**  
Lodge Virginia No. 230

**IN SUPPORT OF THE “THANK A DRIVER”  
PROGRAM**  
Lodge Brookfield No. 475

**Total Donations: \$260**

# 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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# AT THE BEACH!

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 C F B L I Z C L S A V S S E J A R I C L  
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## WORD LIST

SUN	PELICAN	WAVES
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CRAB	FISH	TIDE

# 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

**Uvidíme se v Ohio**

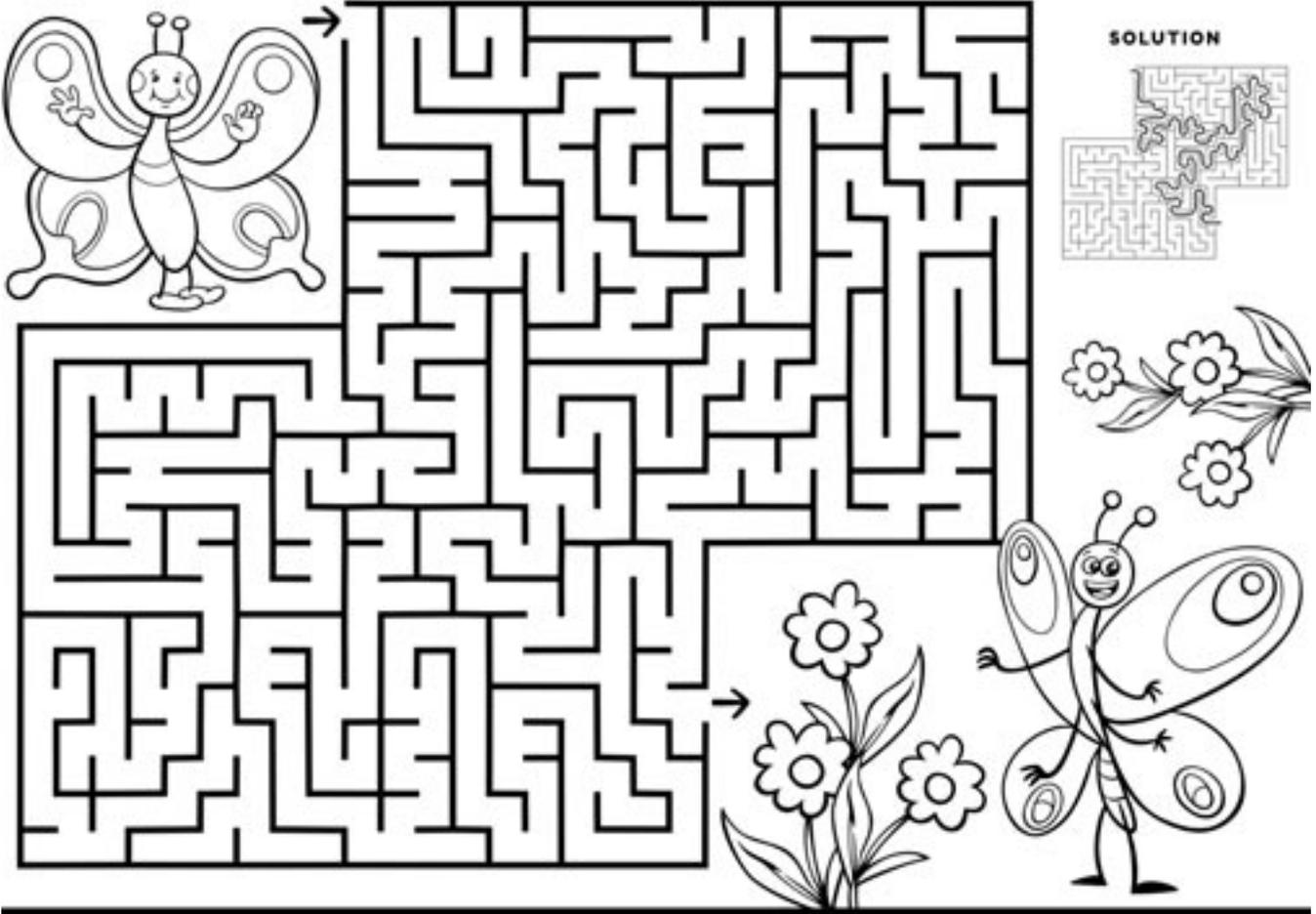
*See you in Ohio*

**Korunujme naši královnu**

*Let's crown our queen*

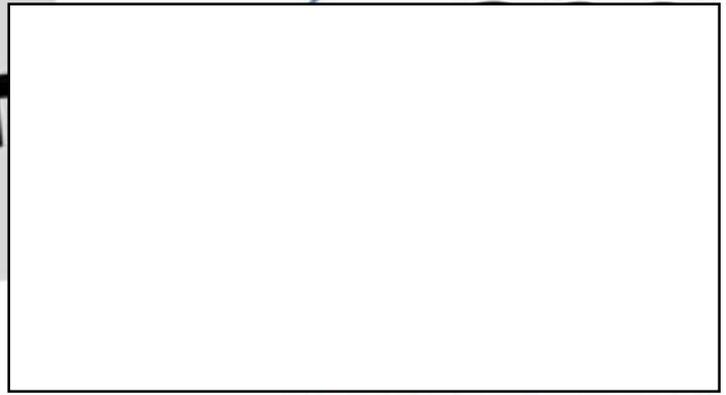
**Cestovat bezpečně**

*Travel safely*





**GIVE US  
YOUR BEST  
SHOT!**



**2025  
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