The cover features a photo by Susan Skrabanek, Lodge Svetlo No. 277, winner of this year's CSA Photo Contest. See other winning entries and honorable mentions on pages 19 - 26. Thanks to all who participated!
President’s Piece

Update on What’s Going On

Brothers and Sisters,

We’ve finally made it to the nice time of the year now that we’re in May, thankfully. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the nicer weather.

Here in the Home Office, things are well. Our Fraternal Department is working fast and furiously with the many programs and projects that we have going on. Recently, we finished up our Photo Contest, as well as our Junior Bowl-O-Rama. We’re now in the process of accepting applications for our CSA Annual Scholarship. And, of course, the Fraternal Department is also putting the final touches on the planning for the Get-Together events, such as our Miss National CSA Contest.

In addition, the Get-Together Committee is also working hard on additional final touches for the details of the Get-Together in Denver, Colorado, which will be held in early August. As I do every year, I highly encourage each and every one of you to make the trip to the Get-Together festivities. It’s the crown jewel of our social calendar, and never fails to be a great time. Thanks in advance to all those who are volunteering to help make the Get-Together happen. There’s a lot of work that goes into setting up an event such as this, so thank you again.

From an Operations standpoint, we’re also keeping busy. CSA Fraternal Life is in a good place both financially and fraternally. As I always preach, there always will be room for continued strengthening, as we increase our surplus by keeping our operations efficient, but rest assured that your Life Insurance and Annuity dollars with us are safe and secure.

From a Product standpoint, we continue to have a very competitive Fixed Annuity Product, which has a first year interest rate of 5 percent. Our Life Insurance portfolio also is worth looking at if you’re in the market. From smaller whole life policies to good-sized term policies, we have a number of options for you. If you have an interest in any of these options, your local CSA agent, or our Sales staff in the Home Office can assist you with your needs.

As always, thank you for your support over the years. We are here to assist the membership in any way that you need. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Fraternally,

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

John J. Kielczewski
President

CSA 2022 Financial Results

csalife.com/aboutcsa/csafinancialconditions

All members are encouraged to review the financial conditions and contact the Home Office with questions.
Upcoming Events/ Fraternal Calendar

May 6
Join Hands Day

May 29
Home Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 31
Deadline for Bowl-O-Rama Scores

June 11
Deadline for Miss CSA Application & Photos

June 11
Deadline for Fraternalist of the Year Applications

July 2
Deadline for Kropik Scholarship Applications

July 2
Recipient Information Form for CSA Scholarship

August 4 - 6
86th CSA Annual Get-Together in Denver, Colorado

September 4
Home Office Closed for Labor Day

October 9
Home Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples’ (Columbus) Day

October 13
Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal

November 23, 24
Home Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 1
Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Request

December 25
Home Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

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
Matthew Koski, Secretary/Treasurer

National Directors
Tom Ledvina
Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota
Ken Dvorsky and Cary Mentzer
Northern Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin
Irma Farrell
California, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas
Diane DiBianca
Northern Ohio and Michigan
Connie Wolf
Missouri and Southern Illinois
Terry Placek
Southeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania
Carol Tranter
Florida, Maryland, Virginia, D.C., Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey
Paul Vavrasek
New York State and Connecticut

Home Office Hours
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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Postmaster: send address changes to:
CSA Journal, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148.
Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Can you believe we are three months from the Denver Get-Together? It seems like just yesterday that I attended my first Get-Together and Convention. And, here we are again about to celebrate our heritage and everything that makes Fraternal Benefit Societies great. I hope you have added Denver to your summer plans because the Get-Together Committee has an excellent weekend planned.

April was a busy month. It began with a Cedar Rapids trip to Marj Nejdl’s Egg Decorating Class. Heather Koski and I learned how to decorate eggs using the batik/wax resist method. I enjoyed taking this class. If you can participate in an egg decorating class, you should take advantage of the opportunity. I can’t wait to show my girls what I learned. Also, we used this class as another episode of “Cooking with Babi.” Make sure to check out our Facebook page. Obviously, this is not a recipe, but the class is another way to preserve our Czech heritage. If you have a recipe or craft that you want to share with the CSA family, please do not hesitate to contact me at kdeegan@csalife.com.

We will help you share your talent with the CSA members.

Also, in April, I had the pleasure of attending the Anton J. Cermak No. 099 lodge meeting and installing their 2023 officers. At the meeting, I filled in the group on our new Hope Starts with CSA program. Thank you for the invitation to your lodge meeting. It was a great meeting, everyone. Please get in touch with me if you would like me to explain the Lodge Recognition Program or talk about any of our initiatives.

This past month, I worked with the photo judge to finalize the winners of the 2023 Photo Contest. Our judge (see bio on page 19) had a daunting job picking the best photographs from an excellent pool of submissions. However, I am always pleasantly surprised to see how talented and creative our members are. I hope you enjoy viewing the winning photos. Thank you to everyone who submitted a picture.

The theme of the Journal this month was supposed to be sports. We at CSA appreciate athletes and their hard work to succeed, and we apologize that this issue was too full for themed articles. Our photo contest, lodge and agent listings, and many lodge reports filled our pages. What a great “problem” to have!

Make sure to head outside to enjoy the May flowers!

Until next time,
Kelly Deegan
Fraternal Programs Manager

Please send lodge articles to:

csajournaleditor@gmail.com
by the 12th of the month prior.
(You will receive a confirmation email.)

Please address all Fraternal inquiries to:

Kelly Deegan at kdeegan@csalife.com
1.800.543.3272 x 4307

Thank You

for participating in our most popular contest.

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It is nice to say it is May, finally. April in the Midwest brings crazy weather. You never know what each day will bring. One day you will have snow and the following day warm weather. This April was particularly unpredictable with a few significant storms, so the CSA Home Office hopes you made it safely through the month.

May marks the birth of Anton Joseph Cermak (Antonín Josef Čermák), born on May 9, 1873, in Kladno, Bohemia. Cermak became the mayor of Chicago in 1931 and spent much of his time as mayor dealing with local hardships due to the Great Depression. Cermak never forgot his home country. He was proud of his heritage and understood the political power of the various ethnic populations that comprised Chicago during that period. Regrettably, he was wounded during an assassination attempt on President elect Roosevelt’s motorcade in 1933, resulting in his death a few weeks later. Take a moment on May 9 to appreciate this great Czech!

The theme for the May Journal was to be sports, but we ran out of space due to the excellent articles provided by our lodges. The two leading sports in the Czech Republic are soccer (football there) and ice hockey. Czechs are passionate about sports; the country is home to many world-class athletes. Many of our CSA members are also members of Sokol. As a matter of fact, one our former board members, Adam Wilt, is the current president of American Sokol. The Sokol Movement, based on the principle of “a strong mind in a sound body,” was founded each year at the number of photo contest submissions and the quality of the pictures. It takes a lot of practice to become a skilled photographer. You have to have a good understanding of lighting, framing, and your camera’s settings. Congratulations to the winners!

You will also find more information regarding the 2023 Get-Together in Denver, Colorado. Friday night’s theme will be Denim and Diamonds. I look forward to seeing our members decked out in their flashiest jeans! Also, Nick Kosmas is putting together travel plans to Denver from Chicago via train. If you are interested, contact Nick at nkosmas@csalife.com. He will fill you in on the plans. We hope to see you there.

In closing, Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers!

Fraternally,
Matthew Koski
Executive Secretary/COO/CRO

Celebrating Cermak

in Prague in 1862. Today, the organization focuses on physical training in gymnastics and other athletics.

Along with braving the weather this past month, I traveled to Iowa with Fraternal Programs Manager Kelly Deegan and Heather, where they participated in Marj Nejdl’s Egg Decorating Class. The class was Marj’s Swan Song, and she shared that she is passing the teaching to her grandkids, Emily and Tom Nejdl. Emily was our 2021-2022 Miss CSA. Kelly and Heather enjoyed the class and want to continue pursuing this unique art form.

Also, Miss CSA 2023 and I, along with Heather, Julie Souza our Sales Manager, and agent Karen Montgomery, attended the April 2023 Czech Festival in St. Louis. The festivals in St. Louis always have fantastic music, food, and pivo, of course! If you have the opportunity to attend a festival at the American-Czech Educational Center, make a point to give it a try.

Please take a moment to enjoy the photos in this edition of the Journal. I am amazed by the number of photo contest submissions and the quality of the pictures. It takes a lot of practice to become a skilled photographer. You have to have a good understanding of lighting, framing, and your camera’s settings. Congratulations to the winners!

You will also find more information regarding the 2023 Get-Together in Denver, Colorado. Friday night’s theme will be Denim and Diamonds. I look forward to seeing our members decked out in their flashiest jeans! Also, Nick Kosmas is putting together travel plans to Denver from Chicago via train. If you are interested, contact Nick at nkosmas@csalife.com. He will fill you in on the plans. We hope to see you there.

In closing, Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers!

Fraternally,
Matthew Koski
Executive Secretary/COO/CRO

Getting Ready for the Get-Together...

Denim and Diamonds will be our Friday night theme at the Denver Get-Together. What does that mean, you ask? You can wear your best jeans, gemstone jewelry, sequins, and cocktail attire simultaneously. It means dressing up while still being comfortable. Gents, wear your most excellent jeans with a nice dress shirt and jacket. Ladies, wear a lovely dress with your jean jacket and sparkly jewelry. Don’t miss your chance to dazzle all the CSA members with glitz and sparkle. Let’s have fun with this theme!
Greetings everyone,

Here we are in the beautiful month of May. At the time I am writing this, it’s actually the day before Easter. My family usually gets together to have dinner and we are hosting this year, so my mom is busy preparing our home for guests and making food in the kitchen. Of course, I am here on stand-by in case anything needs to be taste tested. She can always count on me for that! I always looked forward to Easter because it’s right at the beginning of spring, when in the northeast, the blooms on the trees start to blossom, the grass gets greener, and the sun’s rays feel warmer. It’s an exciting time of year in anticipation for summer and long awaited after the cold winter months. Although, my sister’s boyfriend is from Texas, and he said it was 90 degrees there the other day so I do recognize that not everyone is experiencing the same spring conditions as I am! I think it’s amazing that our organization is composed of such a diverse community of people from all over the country. We are joined together by our heritage, traditions, and values of service and commitment to one another; a community I am proud to be a part of.

As mentioned in my last article, I will be traveling to St. Louis in one week for the annual Spring Czech Festival. I am really looking forward to it. I’ve never been to St. Louis before so it should be a great experience. Speaking of experiences, my trip to Hilton Head, South Carolina over spring break was amazing. I had so much fun with my lacrosse team. We stayed at a resort on the island and rented bikes to get around. That’s how most of the locals travel there. I got to spend some time on the beach and even went swimming in the ocean, although it was a little chilly. The sun felt good and, of course, I got a little burnt. I was really fascinated by the wildlife in the area. There were lots of different water-bird species, some little lizards, and, of course, alligators! There was a pond outside of our condo we were staying in and a three-foot alligator was living in it. So, of course, us girls would sit outside on the porch and talk to it, watch it swim, and take pictures and videos. It didn’t really do much, which was probably a good thing! We biked to local shops and had fun exploring the area. One of my favorite memories was when us girls wanted ice cream and it was 8:30 at night. The local shop we wanted to go to closed at 9 and was about 20 minutes away in biking distance, so we had to hurry to get there in time. Now mind you, there are trails all over the island but they aren’t lit after you get away from the residential areas. So, we started off on our trek and quickly realized that it may not have been the best idea trying to bike in the dark but we were all determined to get our ice cream so we turned on our phone flashlights and set out in a caravan through the woods to get to the shop. We did eventually get there with two minutes to spare and all got our orders in. It turned out to be a beautiful night, the stars were shining, and we listened to music on the way back to our condo while laughing about how we were never going to bike through the woods in the dark again.

It may seem silly, but I’ve come to find that memories like these are what add to the value of life. It’s the little moments with those we care about that can make a good trip into a great one, build a lasting memory, and strengthen a life-long relationship. I will never forget that night or that trip. We didn’t really do anything too crazy but it was the joy of us being together, laughing, and having fun that made every moment of planning and preparation worth it. As I get older, the fondest things I tend to look back on are not always the big crazy events I have been fortunate to be part of, but rather, a collection of smaller, more intimate experiences with my closest friends and family. The time we share with others adds meaning to our lives. I hope that as the summer approaches, you all are able to take advantage of the experiences that come knocking at your door. You never know which one will become an unforgettable memory.

Fraternally,
Aubrey Suttelle
# 2023 CSA Get-Together

**Registration Form**

Please fill out and postmark by **June 30, 2023** to:

CSA Get-Together  
c/o Susan Skrabanek  
P.O. Box 517  
Caldwell, TX 77836  

**Phone:** (979) 272-3440 (office)  
(979)820-2218 (cell)  

**Email:** spjst@aol.com

**Adult Delegate/Guest - $140**  
**Youth Delegate or Guest - $100**  
**Central City/Blackhawk Casino Trip - $40 (includes $30 casino play)**

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***Make all checks payable to: CSA Fraternal Life***

Or pay by credit card @ csalife.com (choose epay) (fees applied)  
Be sure to document Get Together Registration in notes on payment form

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**PLEASE PRINT BELOW (ONE FORM PER PERSON)**

<table>
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| ADDRESS | |
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| CITY, STATE, ZIP | |
|-----------------| |

| PHONE | EMAIL | |
|-------|-------| |

| Is this your first CSA Get-Together? | |
|---------------------------------------| |

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

- Delegate: _______ ($140)  
  - Guest: _______ ($140)  
  - Youth Delegate or Guest (under 18): _______ ($100)  
  - **YOUTH’S AGE _______**  
  - Central City/Blackhawk Casino Trip: _______ $40

**TOTAL:** $__________  
PAID _______ CHECK _______ ONLINE

Please indicate if you have any special dietary needs. ____________________________

Are you: Driving _______  
Flying _______  
Train _______
If you are able to spend a few extra days before or after the Get-Together, you might be interested in taking in some of the surrounding area.

You can head south to Colorado Springs, which is best known for Garden of the Gods, a massive National Natural Landmark with biodiversity as it sprawls from the grasslands up into the mountains. With a playground like this, locals rarely need to travel far to find exactly what they’re looking for. It is also the home of the Air Force Academy and beautiful chapel.

There is also Pikes Peak. You can drive to the top (reservations required) or take a tour of the 14,000 foot mountain.

If you just want to relax, you can try the mineral springs at Manitou Springs, just outside Colorado Springs.

Heading north from Denver, you can follow along the beautiful Cache le Poudre River to Estes Park. It’s known as a base for the Rocky Mountain National Park, home to wildlife including elk and bears, plus miles of trails. The park’s Trail Ridge Road, highway to the sky, is a 48 mile drive from Estes Park to Granby that winds past craggy peaks, forests, and tundra reaching an altitude of 12,183 feet. Nearby are the wilderness areas of Roosevelt National Forest. The Estes Park Aerial Tramway connects the town to the summit of Prospect Mountain for views over the valley. And don’t forget the Stanley Hotel where the movie “The Shinning” was a filmed.

Driving west on Interstate I70, you will come to the Eisenhower/Johnson Tunnel which is the gateway to the Rockies. The tunnel is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. It traverses through the Continental Divide at an average elevation of 11,112 feet. When originally opened in the 1970s, the tunnel was not only the highest vehicular tunnel in the US, but at that time, it was also the highest in the world. When you get through the tunnel, you will have a beautiful vista of the Rockies and can go over to Vail, or further west, Glenwood Spring.

District Council No. 12 of Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana — After an agonizing period of pandemic problems and worries, our delegates met in the CSA Home Office conference room. A good turnout of over 20 delegates and friends attended this meeting on March 23. Two of our lodges were excused or unable to attend this renewal meeting. Ken Dvorsky, District Council No. 12 President, welcomed everyone back, and all attendees seemed to be upbeat and glad to be back again. CSA President John Kielczewski, Secretary/Treasurer Matt Koski, Fraternal Programs Manager Kelly Deegan, and local Sales Agent Mitch Jacobson, were there to meet and greet and offer advice.

The major part of the meeting was presenting the 2022 Lodge Recognition Program awards to the nine winning lodges. Lodge representatives accepting the awards gave a short resume of their charitable activities and pet projects.

The delegates decided that future meetings should be held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Remember that delegates, lodge officers, and interested lodge members are invited to attend these meetings.

Fraternally,
Edward Slavik, Vice President, D.C. No. 12

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado — Hello from Denver! Hurray! Three cheers and praise the Lord! Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432 is now the proud recipient of the Platinum Award from the Lodge Recognition Program! A year ago, we did not get anything, but thanks to the efforts of our small group, we made it to Platinum this year.

As you probably know, we have been looking for a comparable Czech restaurant in the Denver area since Golden Europe closed. So far, we have not had much success. But in April we went to Cracovia Restaurant in Westminster, Colorado. It is a Polish restaurant and lacked red cabbage, but was quite good. The décor was very elaborate with an ornate Polish bar with lots of selections, photographs, and colorful decorations that made it very appealing. It also had a gift shop which sold souvenirs and vodka. There was a wide variety of soups, with pickle soup being the most unique. In a recent Denver Post food section, the restaurant was featured and the pickle soup was highlighted. The article also included the fact that it was a small, fairly new restaurant. One of their featured menu items was the sampler platter which included three kinds of pierogi, cabbage roll, kielbasa sausage made from scratch, as well as delicious barbeque ribs. Most members ordered the Hunters Stew. There was also an ample selection of desserts.

Among the conversations during the meal, Sandy Doe said she could not do next month’s program because she was going to Hawaii for a few weeks, invited by a dear friend.

Irma’s two grandchildren, Kayleigh and Nolan, participated in the annual Bowl-O-Rama tournament.

My personal announcement is my fourth great-grandson, Kyler Maddox, named after his father’s favorite Chicago Cubs pitcher, was born February 16, 2023 in Arizona. I have not seen him yet but his parents will be visiting next month and I hope to hold him.

We are experiencing variable weather here in Colorado. One day we are sure spring is here and the next day snow is falling, but we feel Colorado is still the best!

Correction: The March Journal featured information on how some of our members joined CSA. Sandy Doe and her three siblings joined as children. Their father was Dr. Maresh. Our apologies for the previous misspelling of his name.

Fraternally yours,
Pat Kenning

Kayleigh and Nolan Daberkow had a great time at the Bowl-O-Rama.
Join Hands Day Coming

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio — It was a cloudy, slightly rainy, 50 degrees day for our meeting at the DTJ in Taborville, Ohio. Spring is trying to push winter out of the way, but winter isn’t going away without a fight!

Grayson, Kris and Bruce’s grandson, joined us for our meeting. We hope he comes back again.

We called Diane, who is still enjoying the warm weather in Florida, to get an update on the Bus Trip for June 21. She has called several places and is waiting to hear back.

Reminder, Join Hands Day will be at the DTJ on May 25.

Thank you, Mary Ann, for the baseball-themed snack of hot dogs, brats, baked beans, and the apple/banana bread pudding, and to Donna for the potato chips. As always, it was very tasty.

Congrats to the 50/50 winners: Mike, Donna (donated to the donation jar) and Mike, again! He donated it to the jar, too.

Our next meetings will be on May 25 (Join Hands Day), June 21 (the Bus Trip), July 27 (District Picnic), August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16, and December (TBA). Come to a meeting. We would love to see you! Reconnect with friends and have a tasty snack.

Fraternally,
Annette Reichman

Installation of Officers

Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois – Our April meeting was our spring lunch and installation of officers. Our guests were Andy Bultas, T.G. Masaryk President, and Matt Koski, COO of CSA. Our Secretary Norma Kmet talked about the D.C. No. 12 meeting she attended where lodges received the Lodge Recognition Program awards for 2022. It was interesting to hear what and how lodges work toward the annual Lodge Recognition Program. I presented the $500 to the lodge and showed all the work that is required.

We discussed the Denver Get-Together and talked about the possibility of riding Amtrack to Denver. We will have two delegates, three guests, and a Miss CSA contestant from our lodge. We thank Matt for installing officers and for his talk on CSA and then giving us the latest on phone scams.

Our meetings in May and June will be back at T.G. Masaryk at noon.

Fraternally, Ken Dvorsky

Sports Committee Meeting Coming Up!

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio — Our April meeting had 11 members attending. We had the honor of receiving our Platinum award from the Home Office! Congratulations to all of our members for all their hard work to achieve this award.

Carole, our half-time secretary, was unable to attend this meeting, so Karen Buzek took the minutes. Jan Russell, the other half-time secretary, will be heading up north for our May meeting.

Dolores Clark reported that there will be a Sports Committee meeting in the near future to discuss the bowling tournament in October. Our Wednesday morning bowling league has ended for the season. The bowling banquet was held on April 19.

We have decided on our charities for the year. They are DTJ Farm, a women’s shelter, and school supplies to Providence House.

We will discuss our participation in the Get-Together and the Lodge Recognition Program at next month’s meeting.

At our May meeting, we will be putting together gift baskets for upcoming raffles, thanks to Freddie Shima. In June, we will be going out to lunch for Mother’s and Father’s days. We will decide on the restaurant in May.

Sue met a lodge member who said she will attend our next meeting. We welcome all new members.

It is Freddie Shima’s birthday this month. We all sang “Happy Birthday” to her.

Freddie handed out scratch pads and candy and Karen Buzek made a delicious cake for our dessert this month. Thank you, Karen and Freddie.

Marsha and Tony won the 50/50 raffle. We played different types of bingo at this meeting. Everyone thought they were a lot of fun and there were lots of winners!

Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco
LODGE LISTING

CALIFORNIA
Golden Gate No. 252 – Meets first Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at homes of members. Pres.: Pat Mastalir, 1260 Swordfish St., Foster City, CA 94404. Sec’y.: Shelle Jones, 4112 Arezzo Pointe Ln., San Jose, CA 95120. Treas.: James Martinek, 5829 Corumba Ct., San Jose, CA 95120. Agent: Home Office

Los Angeles No. 458 – Holding lodge. Agent: Home Office

COLORADO

CONNECTICUT
Laurel No. 452 – Meets third or fourth Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at members’ homes; e-mail each month for information: Laurel452@msn.com. Sec’y.: Marion Varga, 699 Wormwood Hill Rd., Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268. Treas.: Stephen Varga, 6 Kodiac Dr., Windham, CT 06280. Agent: Home Office

FLORIDA
Slunce No. 374 – Meets the first Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at Lake in the Forest Resort & Google Hang Out, 19115 SE 44th St., Ocklawaha, FL 32179. Sec’y.: Bernadette Bleiker. Treas.: Inge Raha Govern. Same addresses where the meetings are held. Agent: Bernadette Bleiker


ILLINOIS
District Council No. 12 – Meets fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. except July, Aug., Dec., at CSA Home Office, 2050 Finley Rd., Lombard, IL 60148. Sec’y.: Helen E. Gaydusek, 816 Bonnie Brae Ln., Bolingbrook, IL 60440. Treas.: Gerri Romanelli, 9S224 Rosehill Ln., Downers Grove, IL 60516

R.T. Crane Jr. No. 007 – Meets fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at North Riverside Library, 2400 S. Des Plaines Ave., No. Riverside, IL 60564, or virtual. Sec’y.: Vera Wilt, 8014 W. 27th St., North Riverside, IL 60546. Treas.: Patricia Thompson, 7121 Wirth Dr., Darien, IL 60561. Agent: Mitchell A. Jacobson

Rovnost No. 053 – Meeting days vary, meeting places vary. Call Sec’y for date. Meetings begin at noon. Sec’y.: Chris Lanzel, 6608 Cochise, Indian Head Park, IL 60525. Treas.: Marvin Lanzel, 6608 Cochise, Indian Head Park, IL 60525. Agent: Joel Wordlaw, d/b/a Just Ins. & Fin. Serv.

Friendship No. 066 – Meets second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at McCook Bohemian Restaurant, 8300 Joliet Rd., McCook, IL 60525. Sec’y. & Treas.: George Ryczek, 2505 Oak Park Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402. Agent: Mitchell A. Jacobson

Yankee-Jungmann No. 077 – Meets second Friday of the month Sept. – June at 6:30 p.m. at CSA Home Office, 2050 Finley Rd., Lombard, IL 60148. Sec’y.: Cynthia Bueneman, 2229 Ericka, Broadview, IL 60155. Treas.: Eunice Semple, 2106 Sigwalt St., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. Agent: Mitchell A. Jacobson


Betsy Ross No. 151 – Meets quarterly at CSA Home Office, 2050 Finley Rd., Lombard, IL 60148. Contact Pres. Nick Kosmas at nkosmas@csalife.com for meeting date and times. Sec’y.: Anna Trush, 2050 Finley Ave., Lombard, IL 60148. Treas.: Nancy Reagan, 436 Turner Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Agent: Joel Wordlaw, d/b/a Just Ins. & Fin Serv.

Sionilli No. 170 – Meets every second Tuesday virtually. For link, contact President at schultzmatthew@gmail.com. Alternate meetings & activities, contact Sec’y: Vera A. Wilt, 8014 W. 27th St., No. Riverside, IL 60546. Treas.: Stanley Smolucha, 05718 Myrtle St., Winfield, IL 60190. Agent: Mitchell A. Jacobson


Young America No. 392 – Holding lodge. Agent: Joel Wordlaw, d/b/a Just Ins. & Fin Serv.

Estian No. 404 – Meets March, June, Sept., and Dec., at 1 p.m. at various restaurants named in Journal. Sec’y. & Treas.: Elizabeth Rich, 24 Lindenleaf Ln., Belleville, IL 62223. Agent: Masterly Mutual Ins. Service

DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409 – Meets second Monday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at CSA Home Office, 2050 Finley Rd. Ste. #70, Lombard, IL 60148. Sec’y.: Geraldine Romanelli, 9S224 Rosehill Ln., Downers Grove, IL 60516. Treas.: Helen E. Gaydusek, 816 Bonnie Brae Ln., Bolingbrook, IL 60440. Agent: Mitchell A. Jacobson

Sokol Pilsen No. 434 – Meets Sunday, as available, at 1:00 p.m. at the Malusa Home, 7944 W. Gregory St., Norwood Park Twp., IL 60650. To verify the meeting location for the month, call Pres. Andrew Bultas at 708-508-2350. Agent: Mitchell Jacobson

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ILLINOIS - Continued

INDIANA
Wayne Star No. 419 – Holding lodge. Agent: Helen Y. Smith

IOWA
District Council No. 14 – Meets first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, 1224 5th St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. Sec’y. & Treas.: Sue Mihal, 2520 Shawn Ct., NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

Prokop Velky No. 137 – Meets first Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at St. Wenceslaus Church, 1224 5th St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. No August meeting. Sec’y.: Dorothy Ditch, 9800 Spanish Rd., Ely, IA 52227. Treas.: Philip Nejdl, 5700 Kopecek Ln., Ely, IA 52227. Agent: Shelbie Williams

Karel Jonas No. 279 – Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., CSA Hall, 206 Main St., Vining, IA 52348. Sec’y. & Treas.: Janice Ledvina, 2940 “U” Ave., Elberon, IA 52225. Agent: Shelbie Williams Woods.

Jr. American Czechs No. 388 – Holding lodge. Agent: Shelbie Williams

KANSAS
Vesmir Lodge No. 273 – Holding lodge. All inquiries to Home Office. Agent: Home Office

MARYLAND
Freestate-Maryland No. 428 – Address all inquiries to Home Office. Agent: Home Office

MICHIGAN
District Council No. 11 – Meeting time and date TBD. Contact Sec’y.: Dorothy Trgina, 419 S. Main St., St. Louis, MI 48888, or call 989-681-5123 for meeting time and location. Treas.: Jeff Teichman, 7295 Frumin Ct., Westland, MI 48185

Saginaw Valley No. 214 – Meets first Thursday of the month at noon at Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Rd., Freeland, MI 48623. Sec’y. & Treas.: Patricia Holubik, 3145 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603. Agent: Home Office

Pingree No. 366 – Meets third Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at Sokol Detroit Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Hts., MI 48127. Sec’y.: Marie Palmer, 4428 Vassar St., Dearborn Hts., MI. Treas.: Jeffrey Teichman, 7295 W. Frumin Ct., Westland, MI 48185. Agent: Bernadette Bleiker

Independence-Liberty Bell No. 408 – Meets first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., CSA Hall, 1404 Michigan Ave., St. Louis, MI 48880. Sec’y.: Betty Cowles, 1753 Monroe Rd., St. Louis, MI 48880. Treas.: Barbara Trgina, 1231 E. Cheesman Rd., St. Louis, MI 48880. Agent: Timothy Schafer

Central Star No. 411 – Meets varying dates at 1:00 p.m. at the Junction Restaurant, 4136 Peet Rd (M-52), Chesaning, MI 48616. Sec’y.: Loeta Hersch, 2240 E. North Ridge Rd., Chesaning, MI 48616. Treas.: Joan Yaklin, 7887 N. Vernon, New Lothrop, MI 48460. Agent: Home Office

Swartz Creek No. 459 – Meets on a Sunday determined monthly at various locations or held at the home of the President, 6310 E. M-21, Corunna, MI 48817. Sec’y. & Treas.: Shirley A. Vasicek, 6310 E. M-21, Corunna, MI 48817. Agent: Timothy M. Schafer

MINNESOTA
Minnesota No. 210 – Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Pizza Ranch Meeting Rm., Broadway St., Owatonna, MN 55060. Sec’y.: Carol Rypka, 2944 Rose St., Owatonna, MN 55060. Treas.: Barb Demars, 6325 SW 62nd Ave., Owatonna, MN 55060. Agent: Home Office

MISSOURI
District Council No. 13 – Meets fourth Wednesday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. at American-Czech Educational Center, 4690 Lansdowne, St. Louis, MO 63116. Sec’y.: Marla Breidenbach, 4937 Trailside Ct., St. Louis, MO 63128.

Washington No. 030 – Meets second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at American-Czech Educational Center, 4690 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116. Sec’y.: Connie Wolf, 10343 Jade Forest Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123. Treas.: Michael Wolf, 10343 Jade Forest Dr., St. Louis, MO 63123. Agent: Merleys Mutual Ins. Service

Spirit of St. Louis No. 157 – Meets second Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at American-Czech Educational Center, 4690 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, MO 63116. Sec’y.: Gail Petelik, 3841 Upton, St. Louis, MO 63116. Treas.: Karen Ditz, 1970 Telford Dr., St. Louis, MO 63125. Agent: Merleys Mutual Ins. Service

NEBRASKA
Omaha/Holding Lodge No. 295 – All inquiries to Home Office. Agent: Home Office

NEW JERSEY
Bratri Od Sazavy No. 211 – Meets first Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at Little Ferry Public Library, 239 Liberty St., Little Ferry, NJ 07643. Sec’y.: Dolores Choteborsky, 347 Highland Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011 Treas.: John W. Sadvary, 23 Coppa Rd., Woodland Park, NJ 07643. Agent: Shelbie Williams

NEW YORK
District Council No. 2 – Meets first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. at the St. Jacobus Lutheran Church, 72-01 43rd Ave., Woodside, NY 11377. Sec’y. & Treas.: John Kustka, 66-07 51 Road, Woodside, NY 11377.

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NEW YORK - Continued

America No. 155 - Meets third Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at the home of John Pastore, 47-08 162nd St., Flushing, NY 11358. Sec’y: Linda Pastore, 47-08 162nd St., Flushing, NY 11358. Treas.: John Pastore, 47-08 162nd St., Flushing, NY 11358. Agent: Joseph J. Montalbano

Mt. Pleasant No. 316 – Holding lodge. Agent: Joseph J. Montalbano


Albany No. 429 – Address all inquiries to Home Office. Agent: Joseph Montalbano

Empire State No. 448 – Meets third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Vavrasek House, 34 Mary Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845. Sec’y.: Karen K. Vasiczek, 2315 State Rd. #352, Elmira, NY 14903. Treas.: Lee Vavrasek, 98 Mary Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845. Agent: Joseph J. Montalbano

Endicott No. 450 – Holding lodge. Agent: Martin Senzon

Nassau No. 469 – Meets quarterly at rotating locations in Garden City, NY 11530. Sec’y. & Treas.: Gary Stuber, 26 Briarcliff Dr., Merrick, NY 11566. Agent: Joseph Montalbano

OHIO

District Council No. 9 – November meeting at United Pres. Church at 12:30 p.m. on the third Sunday. In February, May, and August at Pizza Hut, St. Clairsville. Contact Sec’y. for current meeting information. Sec’y.: Marriann Ebright, 2674 S. Rt. 152, Dillonvale, OH 44137. Treas.: James Belanus, 72077 Treadway Rd., Martins Ferry, OH 44035.

District Council No. 10 – Meets first Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at Garfield Heights Library in April and Sept., located at 5409 Turney Rd., Garfield Hts., OH 44125, and the Parma Snow Library in June and in December, located at 2121 Snow Rd. Sec’y.: Annette Reichman, 241 May Ave., Northfield, OH 44067. Treas.: John Weiss, 55 Privet Ln., Northfield, OH 44067

Benjamin Franklin No. 002 – Meets third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Inn Between Bar & Grill, 6864 Ridge Rd., No. Royalton, OH 44138. Sec’y.: Victoria Zidlicky, 7670 Cherrywood Ln., Seven Hills, OH 44131. Treas.: Ken Burdzinski, 1711 Cherry Ln., Seven Hills, OH 44131. Agent: Robert Hope

Kruh Osvojnych Zen a Panu No. 121 – Meets second Sunday of the month at Dillonvale Presbyterian, 52 Liberty St., Dillonvale, OH 44317. Sec’y.: Marian Ebright, 2674 S. Rt. 152, Dillonvale, OH 44317. Treas.: Gary Lovell, 96 County Rd. 152A, Dillonvale, OH 44317. **Call to verify time and place 740-769-7511. Agent: Richard G. Simpson

Cleveland Chapter No. 219 – Meets second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at Ceska Sin Sokol Hall, 4314 Clark Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102. Sec’y.: Caroline Cirillo, 315 A E. Legend 14 — www.csalife.com - MAY 2023
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<td>John A. Weinmann</td>
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<td>Susan D. Skrabanek</td>
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Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois — District Council No. 12 held a meeting in April where representatives from nine local lodges presented their accomplishments towards last year’s Lodge Recognition Program. It was an excellent opportunity to hear what others had done and to exchange ideas for potential activities in the current year. This was the first District Council meeting held since the onset of the pandemic. Remarkably, all lodges present achieved Platinum status for their efforts in 2022. Many thanks to Kelly Deegan for administration of this worthwhile program, which certainly encourages all lodges to be more active than they otherwise might have been. Thanks also to Nick Kosmas, who served as official photographer.

Lodge Brookfield meets at CSA Home Office on the second Tuesday of the month at noon. Guests are always welcome.

Fraternally,
Kim Silhan

Lodge Sokol Pilsen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois — March and April were very productive for Lodge Sokol Pilsen. President Bultas welcomed two new additions to his family - a great granddaughter, Sloan Lewis, was born on December 28, 2022. Then on April 2, 2023, President Bultas received news that a great grandson named Julian Tabor was born. So within less than six months, Lodge President Bultas had two great-grandchildren born. It was a great occasion for both the lodge and the President.

On March 23, Lodge Sokol Pilsen No. 434 was presented with the Platinum Lodge Recognition Award at the District Council No. 12 meeting. A check for $500.00 was also presented and accepted by President Bultas for the lodge.

Matthew Bultas celebrated his 40th birthday this year and a surprise birthday party was held for him. The lodge has a lot to celebrate with two new great-grandchildren born, a Platinum Award won, and a surprise birthday party.

Andy Bultas
Photo Contest 2023
On the cover is the “Best of Contest” winner in the 2023 Photo Contest.

Congratulations to Susan Skrabanek
Lodge Svetlo No. 277!

Thanks to ALL members
who participated

Kevin Breidenbach	1	Francis Riopell	170	Linda Burton	409
Maria Breidenbach	1	Rebecca Schneider	170	Patti Burton	409
Marla Breidenbach	1	Robert Valenta	170	Lisa Cassai	409
Ryan Breidenbach	1	Jacqueline Jeffrey	210	Kelly Keelk	409
Frank Castulik	1	Audrey Schroth	210	Sofia Mahmoud	409
Maureen Castulik	1	Laurie Hoppe-Ringer	211	Michelle Murray	409
Donna Courte	1
Carla Strnad	1
Candice Zidlicky	2
Kathy Kasten	4
Tammy Lewicki	4
Christy Parthenakis	4
Terry Placek	4
Krystle Roosa	4
Allicia Smrha	7
Joan Smrha	7
Richard Smrha	7
Pat Thompson	7
Christine Vittoe	7
Karen Ditz	30
Deborah Zeman	30
Jennifer Zeman	30
George Formanek	53
Glen Jedlicka	53
John Curin	66
Lee Vavrasek	74
Alice Dory	77
Mary Ellen Janda	77
Margaret Jansinski	77
Eunice Semple	77
Linda Vilimek	77
Maribeth Wronkiewicz

......................77
Dorothy Jancea	99
Shelly Dulesky-Kurtz

......................121
Elijah Lovell	121
Gary Lovell	121
Wendy Lovell	121
Nick Kosmas	151
Elaine Kamkowskii	170

......................211
Jasmin Russo

......................411
Michael Albrecht	422
Leanne Martin	422
Georgiana Rebkahn	422
Jennifer Daberkow	432
Irma Farrell	432
Marcia Bjorvand	448
Janet Hansen	448
Allison Keeton	452
Kirsten Varga	452
Stephen Varga	452
Agnes Zabik	452
Melody Kwan	459
Elaine Donoghue	469
Joyce Nemec	475
Jerry Silhan	475
Marisa Spano	475
Mary Spano	475
Michelina Spano	475
Mike Spano	475

Thanks to Haley Delgado

This year’s judge, Haley Delgado, is an artist from Illinois. Ms. Delgado attended Western Illinois University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Art. There, she practiced various art mediums, such as drawing, painting, and printing. She works with children with social-emotional needs at the School of Expressive Arts and Learning in Yorkville, Illinois. Ms. Delgado enjoys spending time with her family and friends and expressing her creativity through art and design.

Thank you so much for your time and effort in judging the CSA Photo Contest! We appreciate your help!
Photo Contest 2023
First Place Winners

Animal - Robert Valenta
Lodge Sionilli
No. 170

People - Sofia Mahmoud
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison
No. 409
Photo Contest 2023
First Place Winners

Photographer’s Choice
Jan Russell
Lodge Cleveland Chapter
No. 219

Nature -
David DiBianca
Lodge Paramount Southgate
No. 372

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Photo Contest 2023
Second Place Winners

Animal -
Maureen Castulik
Lodge Missouri
No. 1

Nature -
Blake Wilson
Lodge Paramount/Southgate
No. 372
Photo Contest 2023
Second Place Winners

People -
Michelle Murray
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/
Edison No. 409

Photographer’s Choice -
Dale Burton
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison
No. 409
Photo Contest 2023
Third Place Winners

Animal -
Alice Dory
Lodge Yankee-Jungmann
No. 77

Nature -
George Formanek
Lodge Rovnost
No. 53
Photo Contest 2023
Third Place Winners

People -
Pam Dvorsky
Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378

Photographer’s Choice -
Kurtis Russell
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219
Photo Contest 2023
Honorable Mention

Leanne Martin
Lodge Queensdale No. 422

Paul Vavrasek
Lodge Empire State No. 448

Jennifer Daberkow
Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432

Jasmin Russo
Lodge Bratri od Sazavy No. 211

David DiBianca
Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372

Marla Breidenbach
Lodge Missouri No. 1
Like us on Facebook

Lodge Happenings

Making Memories in Italy

Lodge Sionilli No. 170, Brookfield, Illinois — During the month of May, we celebrate Mother’s Day and Memorial Day. Remember to show love and honor to all mothers, grandmothers, and mothers-to-be. We also remember and give thanks to the many soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for our freedoms.

Our most recent business meeting was held on Thursday, March 16. We met at Paisan’s Pizzeria, located in Brookfield, where we had a most enjoyable and delicious pizza dinner. We look forward to our future merger with Lodge R.T. Crane Jr. and Lodge Rovnost. Our President Matthew Schultz informed us that we had earned the Gold Award this past year and that he would be representing us at the District meeting where he would be accepting our award.

Stan and Pat Smolucha, along with Brendan, Sara, and Callahan Franklin, just returned from a two week vacation in Italy. They traveled to visit Mike and Joy Smolucha who live in Vicenza, Italy. Major Mike Smolucha is presently serving our country in the U.S. Army. Some of the highlights of their trip were: hiking in the foothills of the Dolomite Mountains; exploring the WW1 tunnels and caves; traveling from Vicenza to Rome, Venice, Parma, and Assiago; taking an Italian cooking class; and touring the parmigiano reggiano and prosciutto factories. It is very rare that military families are able to spend this much time together. They were fortunate to have many incredible meals and to make amazing memories together as a family!

Ben Gruskovak is a juvenile member of Lodge Sionilli who lives with his family in Sycamore. He just celebrated his 10th birthday. We want to wish Ben a very happy birthday, and hope that all his birthday wishes come true!

We volunteered on Saturday, April 15 at Operation Support our Troops America from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., where we packed Comfort and Care Packages for deployed troops.

Fraternally,
Pat Smolucha
(s.smolucha@sbcglobal.net)
meeting on a sunny Easter Monday was called to order by President Linda Burton at 11:15 a.m. with the Pledge. Thirteen members were present plus guests Bella Deegan, Matt Koski, Nick Kosmas, and Molly May.

After the usual business of the meeting, Bros. Matt and Nick joined us to introduce new hire Molly May and summarize her duties. Molly’s mom, Sis. Sally Kelly, has been on staff with CSA for many years. We are delighted to have another family member on board.

Sis. Helen Gaydusek reported that our juvenile members had been sent an Easter greeting with a gift of $5.00. Checks were sent to our charities: Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, West Suburban Community Food Pantry, Community Crisis Center of Elgin, and CSA Scholarship’s Fund. With the CSA Serves matching program, we know our donations will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

Members agreed to hold a Bake-Off for our May meeting at the Home Office and to have a Bean Bag Toss Competition.

Sis. Lisa Cassai and Sis. Helene Schaefer reminded members about the Tabor Hills Spring Luncheon and Delegate meeting. Tabor Hills is looking for new volunteers to assist residents and keep this facility vital. Sis. Lisa attended the Spring Luncheon on April 15 and represented our lodge as a delegate.

Sis. Helene also is an active volunteer at PAWS Chicago. Twenty dogs are waiting to find a happy home. Helene reported PAWS is asking for various supplies, food, and other necessary items for these pups.

Sis. Kelly Deegan reported on her first egg decorating class held under the tutelage of master craftswoman, our own Sis. Marj Nejdl of Lodge Prokop Velky. Kelly did her best to learn this process and was so impressed with the beautiful painted eggs being produced.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at noon at CSA’s Home Office.

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli
Lodge Happenings

Bravo to Our Bowlers!

Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio — Isn’t it amazing how being around young people seems to make you feel younger? Our members realized that, once again this year, during our recent Bowl-O-Rama, which was held at St. Clair Lanes in St. Clairsville, Ohio. We had two designated bowlers who were participating in the event. However, we weren’t short on bowlers this year! Bowl-O-Rama participants Skyler and Christopher Ebright (cousins) were joined by their fathers, Rusty and Chris Ebright, along with guests Alyssa Dailey and Brad Anderson, as well as family members, Bailey Ebright and Gary Lovell.

Our bowling “team” delighted us with their antics and abilities. While true that most of the members in our group only bowl socially, the competition factor was very much present that day. With a few beverages consumed by the dads, and some side-wagers by the teens, the group managed to give another stellar performance! Bravo! As you can see by the pictures, a good time was had by all!

Several members and guests were able to come out and support the bowlers. These friends included: Mariann and Chuck Ebright, Paula Brown, Chris Bauknecht, Bonnie and Jack Snider, Wendy Lovell, and Elijah Lovell via Facetime. Our cheering section was in rare form as we yelled, clapped, and even did a few dance moves. We really did our share to show them all some love! The Ebright boys both received gift cards at the completion of the bowling, courtesy of Lodge No. 121. The boys and other youngsters in attendance each received a goodie bag, too.

We celebrated the completion of the bowling with a pizza luncheon along with some fresh fruit and bakery. The Holubeck brothers, CSA members and owners of the alley, were generous in providing our drinks as well as our bowling experience. We are truly grateful for all the kindness they have shown to our group through the years!

At the time of this writing, our April meeting had not taken place. We are looking forward to helping our local American Legion and their Auxiliary Unit with their Memorial Day Celebration as part of our Join Hands Day Project. More information will follow in next month’s issue. We are also donating service hours at our churches. Socially, some members recently attended musicals at two of our local high schools including “Aladdin,” performed at Buckeye Local High School, and “Les Miserables,” performed at Steubenville City Schools.

We donated a monetary gift to St. Clair Lanes in honor of all the help and dedication the owners give to the young people of CSA and all those in our local area. The Holubeck brothers are very generous with the young people in our valley!

We would like to recognize and give thanks to all our military personnel both past and present. We honor you and remember with gratitude those who are no longer with us, including our dearly departed CSA brothers and sisters. We hope that your Memorial Day will be filled with happiness, family, and warm memories. Remember to check on someone you love today.

Fondly,
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell
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Carol Ann Trcalek Petty left this world after a perfect day of goodbyes with all those she loved, and danced into Bud’s arms on Friday, March 24, 2023.

Carol Ann, 67, was born in Bryan, Texas, on September 3, 1955, to Willie Trcalek and Gladys Masar Trcalek Hejl. Carol grew up in the New Tabor Brethren Church community where she was active in the New Tabor Brethren Church, the BYF, and the New Tabor SPJST youth club. She graduated from Caldwell High School in 1974. Carol married the love of her life, Bud Petty, on May 5, 1979, at New Tabor Brethren Church with their reception held at New Tabor Hall. They made their home on Trcalek family land where they raised their three children and lived until her death.

Carol worked as the J.P. #3 clerk for many years until her retirement in 2010. She was currently serving as President of RVOS Lodge #9, a position she had held since 1980. Carol was also the current Secretary of CSA Lodge Svetlo No. 277, serving in this position since 2014. She also served as the hall manager for New Tabor Hall for several years. She was a member of New Tabor Brethren Church Lodge #17 New Tabor SPJST, CSA Lodge Svetlo No. 277, and RVOS Lodge #9.

Carol enjoyed her many trips to Louisiana and Las Vegas, playing dominoes at the Texan, playing in SPJST Tarok tournaments, and playing Bunco with her group of friends. She enjoyed baking, canning, cooking, making homemade noodles, and gardening, but her biggest joy and the light of her life was loving her grandbabies. She also enjoyed going to the many community fundraisers and donating and purchasing items to help support others, especially the youth of our community. Carol had the honor of sponsoring Thatcher’s soccer and basketball team this year and was so tickled to have their jerseys read, “Thatcher’s Grandmas Team” on them. She also loved working in the beer ticket booth at the Burleson County Fair.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, George (Bud) Petty; her parents, Willie H. Trcalek and Gladys Masar Trcalek Hejl; and her stepfather, Daniel (Rusty) Hejl.

She is survived by her three children, Mica (Michael) McFarlane, Marshall ( Roxanne) Petty, and Mabrey Petty; her seven grandchildren, Tyler (Mariah) Sandner, Joshawa and Hunter Petty, and Tabor, Maylee, Millison, and Thacher Dowell; as well as her great-granddaughter, Sawyer Sandner. She is also survived by her three sisters and their spouses, Betty (Donnie) Suehs, Susan (Gary) Skrabanek, and Donna (Bruce) Jones. Other survivors include her nephews, Kyle (Mikaela) Skrabanek (her godson) and Logan Jones; her nieces, Holly (Ralph) Narro, Mindy (Michael) Bammel, Lacy Jones and Lindsey Collins; her great-nephew, Dillon Narro (Savanna); and great-nieces Macy Narro and Madelynn Bammel. Carol was so excited about her newest great niece due in August, Lydia Skrabanek. We will forever cherish her, as well as the love and memories we share.

Lodge Happenings

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – Our meeting convened at 12:14 p.m. on March 8, 2023. Secretary and Treasurer reports were accepted as presented. The Secretary read several thank-you notes received, including one from the T.G. Masaryk School. At this point, motions were called for several donations. Donations were approved for several disaster relief organizations including Doctors without Borders and the USO.

Roberta Kulik reported on a School Board meeting held on January 15, 2023. It seems that the Masaryk School building has sustained water leakage damage. Their Board is to take the subject up this month along with a discussion of the installation and updating of some new, necessary safety features. Also, Superintendent Moldova reported that the school will offer summer classes this year. She continued to say that there was a successful Book Bazaar and that a fund raiser will be developed for a new laser printer.

There has been some discussion to continue online classes. In addition, superintendent Moldova wishes to offer online workshops, consisting of two 60-minute classes, to teachers at no cost. Teachers expressing interest include the countries of Canada and New Zealand.

Because 2023 will mark the 150th birthday of Anton Cermak, there will be activities to celebrate the occasion of his birth on May 6, 1873. Among other things, the school children will attend an outing to the Bohemian National Cemetery to visit the mausoleum containing his remains on May 9, 2023.

The American-Czech Educational Center (ACEC) in St. Louis, Missouri, home to four lodges and a Sokol in St. Louis, notified the Home Office that the ACEC building had some critical expenditures including necessary water and sewer repairs in 2022. A raffle for help was developed (Velky Raffle) to offset the expenses for repairs. Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora voted to help with a donation.

It was reported that there will be a District No. 12 meeting after several months passing with no meetings. Lodge members were notified of the 86th Annual Get-Together, scheduled for August 4-6 in Denver, Colorado. Information is to be sent to the Lodge Secretary and more information will be published in the Journal.

Fraternally,
Elaine Tejcek

Fraternal
Well Wishes

Violet Krystof
Lodge Century of Progress/ Bila Hora No. 231

Dave Kus
Lodge Benjamin Franklin
No. 2

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Lodge Happenings

Busy Spring for Lodge Members

Lodge Missouri No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri — The weather is finally turning warm and Lodge Missouri members have had a busy Spring. Lodge members came together with District Council members to put on the Annual CSA Bunny Brunch for the youth members of the American-Czech Educational Center. The pictures make the effort that is put into the event all worth it. The smiles and adoration for the Easter Bunny are evident by those pictured. Members also attended and worked the Sokol Adult Easter Egg Hunt at Sokol Camp. It is a great event and the Easter Bunny even made an appearance.

Members have begun to restock My Little Libraries in the vicinity of the American-Czech Educational Center with used books, a great community service for readers of all ages. We are also collecting aluminum tabs to add to the collection at our Center. We look forward to attending, working, and visiting with friends at the American-Czech Educational Center’s Czech Festival which is back in full swing, our first one since the pandemic. Our hopes are for a great, well-attended event, complete with Czech food, pastry, music, and fun.

Until next time,
Marla Breidenbach

Oh! And One More Thing. . .

Lodge Missouri No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri — Some of you might remember the article I wrote approximately a year ago about the nurse I had when I had my second knee replacement. It was determined through our conversations that I had coached him when he was in a program called “learn-to-play hockey.” I was the director and coach of kids between 3 and 8 years old to introduce them to the game of hockey. I had about 45 kids with only their first name taped on the front of their helmet. My nurse, Matt, and my son, Alex, were in that program.

Fast forward about two months ago, I came upon a box of “stuff” that was memorabilia that my son had collected over the years. I gave him the box and he took it home. About a week later, he sent me a picture of the early 1990s learn-to-play roster that was in the box and it had a name on it that I was not familiar with then but I am now. That name was “Pat Maroon.” Pat Maroon grew up in Oakville, suburb of St. Louis, and played hockey there. He made it to the National Hockey League (NHL) and played for the St. Louis Blues where he won his first Stanley Cup in 2019. The following year, he was traded to the Tampa Bay Lightning where he won the Stanley Cup the next two years in a row. Yes, he won the Stanley Cup, the top prize in hockey, three years in a row. And, if you are wondering if I am taking full responsibility for Pat Maroon’s early hockey development and him being where he is today in the NHL, the answer is a resounding “YES!”

Fraternally,
Mike Wolf
Lodge Missouri No. 001

Colby Breidenbach
Benjamin Schuster

Until next time,
Marla Breidenbach
Lodge Franklin is Alive and Well!

Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio — It’s been several months with no word from Lodge Franklin, but I can assure you all, we are alive and well and meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at Zig’s Pub & Grill at the Quarry Square Shopping Center. Some of our members have still been stricken with that dastardly COVID. Hope all are feeling 100% by the time this Journal goes to press!

We were happy to welcome Kaleigh, Suzanne, and John Lambert back to one of our meetings and Maddy, Holly, and Ron Worst to yet another.

Our officers remain steadfast and vigilant with Scott Krecow holding the President’s gavel, I maintain the Vice-Presidency and Scribe, Vicki Zidlicky continues as Recording Secretary, and Treasurer Ken Burdzinski keeps the finances safe and current. There was some discussion about contracting the prestigious accounting firm of “Dewey, Cheetham and Howe” for the yearly audit. It was decided too costly, so our in-house auditors, Mike Cernosky and I, found the books to be in good order!

Last year’s late donations included the Ann George Food Pantry (formerly the Parma Heights Food Pantry), the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, and the CSA Scholarship Fund. Holiday greetings were sent to our members and friends through John Sabol’s “New Czech Voice of Cleveland” radio program for last Christmas and for Easter of this year.

One of our young bucks, Jimmy Zidlicky, keeps up with the styles and is known for his fancy foot wardrobe. The local paparazzi caught him sporting the pair of socks (pictured above) in honor of our lodge’s namesake!

Fraternal Regards,
Jeff Zidlicky

Gathering – Virtually or In-Person – Keeps us Going!

Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Brookfield, Illinois — Our virtual meetings have been so important to keeping us connected despite geographic distance, bad weather, health struggles, and more. Still, there’s nothing quite like being together in person! That’s just one of the reasons that we were so happy to gather together for our annual pizza party early in April. Those in attendance included multi-generations of some lodge families, with food from Home Run Inn providing a tasty feast, while our lodge friendships provided the fun and food for our souls. You can see the smiling faces: I with my daughter, Amanda; Beth Hemzacek, Anna Ramirez, Cary Mentzer, Pat Satek, and Missy, Michael, and Kamila Dropka (the latter was camera-shy!).

We plan to have more such gatherings this year, and hope to include more members of our lodge family. Perhaps lovely Spring weather and the promise of summer (it’s just around the corner!) will entice you to come out to join us?

Please remember: if you ever are interested but need a ride or if you want me to keep you informed about the details, all you have to do is let me know. Call or email; I’ll make sure that we can include you! And if you’re not able to join us, I hope that you still will stay connected with us in any way you can. This is a good time to remind you about our lodge Facebook page: search for “Lodge Woodrow Wilson #377 of CSA” or reach out to me and request an invitation.

Fraternally,
Jean Hemzácék Laukant
Lodge Happenings

Celebrations!
Lodge Groveton No. 4, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania — Happy Spring! We hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine and warm weather! Our members are happy to report that Lodge Groveton has received the Platinum Award for the 2022 Lodge Recognition Program. This is the 31st time overall that we have achieved this award. Special thanks to Terry Placek for organizing and submitting all our documentation for the program!

We celebrated two birthdays at our April meeting. Vince Shulin turned 90 years old on April 5. Terilyn Bichler celebrated her birthday on April 1. The lodge celebrated with cake at the meeting. We hope Terilyn and Vince had great days and that the year ahead is full of many blessings!

On April 22, Lodge Groveton participated in Robinson Township’s Clean-up Day as part of the Join Hands Day Project. Look out for next month’s Journal to see details and photos of the event. As a reminder, Lodge Groveton meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at Groveton Fire Hall. If anyone is interested in more information, please contact Terry Placek at: tfpplace@verizon.net.

Fraternally,
Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich

How We Attained Platinum
Lodge Yankee-Jungman No. 77, Lombard, Illinois — Our lodge had its last Zoom meeting in March. Thanks to Chuck Janda for organizing these for us.

The District Council had its Lodge Recognition night at the Home Office last month. Our lodge won Platinum! Cindy Bueneman accepted the award and spoke of how we attained Platinum. One of our larger projects was planning the service project for the Get-Together last August. We gathered 50 backpacks and attendees stuffed them with many school supplies. Aida Gatch from the Holy Guardian Parish and Food Pantry distributed these to grade school students. Last May, some of our members helped clean up Lidice Park in Crest Hill, Illinois. It is the location of a monument remembering the victims of the June 10, 1942 massacre in the Czech Republic village of Lidice.

We received some thank-you notes from our juvenile members for their Valentine and monetary gift. Ben Kuzniar sent thanks and said it will be put to good use. We also heard from the Tordai kids who we have watched grow over the years. All three of them are now in high school. Hailey (bottom left) is a freshman and continues to ride horses and get good grades. Tyler (bottom center) is a sophomore and enjoys hunting, but is not really into sports. Daniel (bottom right) is a senior and just finished four years of wrestling. He will be attending the University of Northwestern Ohio in the fall, studying high performance motor sports. After college, he plans to continue farming and being an engine builder.

Don’t forget to remember the moms in your life on Mother’s Day. Happy Mother’s Day!

Fraternally,
Mary Ellen Janda
Smile and Say, “Cheese”

Czech to English

Květen..........................................................May (kvě-ten)
Jaro.................................................................spring (ja-ro)
Dobrý čas na sport.....good time to play sports (dob-řy čas na sport)
Tenisový kurt.........................tennis court (te-nis-ový kurt)
Volejbal..............................................volleyball (vo-lej-bal)
Lapací rukavice.........................catcher’s mitt (lu-pa-ci ruk-a-vi-ce)
Baseballový diamant/domáci deska...baseball diamond/home plate (bas-eb-all-ový di-a-mant/do-má-ci des-ka)
Fotbalový helmut.........football helmut (fot-bal-ov-ý hel-mut)
Hokejový brankář...........ice hockey goalie (ho-kej-ov-ý bran-kář)
Brusle..............................................ice skates (brus-le)

American	Farmers	Mascarpone
Asiago	Feta	Mozzarella
Blue	Gorgonzola	Muenster
Brie	Gouda	Parmesan
Cheddar	Gruyere	Provolone
Colby	Havarti	Ricotta
Cotija	Limburger	Swiss
Wait! What?

You are a CSA member between 18 & 25 years of age and you haven’t applied to be part of the National Miss CSA Contest in Denver, Colorado?

HURRY!
There is still time...

Visit csalife.com for eligibility and details!