



Journal

May 2025





Excited About Our Youth Page 21



Cans, Cans, and More Cans Page 23

On the Cover

Secretary/Treasurer Nick Kosmas and his wife Lisa spent three days in Prague before going on a seven-day river (wine) cruise on the Danube River from Vilshofen to Budapest. See details and more photos on page 6.



Easter Bunny Visits ACEC Page 26

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President's Piece

BetterLife Merger - Final Vote Report

Brothers and Sisters,

Here we are. We've finally made it to springtime. There's a lot of things to look forward to, whether it's nice days outside, or CSA-related events!

To update you on where we stand on the proposed merger with BetterLife, as I reported in last month's article, CSA Delegates from the 2022 Convention recently approved the proposed merger. All the votes have been tallied and certified by our Secretary / Treasurer.

To give you a final report...

In early February, Delegates to the 2022 CSA Convention were mailed a ballot with instructions on how to cast their "yes" or "no" vote regarding the proposed merger between CSA Fraternal Life and BetterLife.

Per Illinois Law, the supreme governing body must adopt a resolution (by 2/3 majority) giving approval to the merger pursuant to the Merger Agreement. In lieu of a Special Convention, Section 4 of Article VIII of the CSA Bylaws permits CSA to address any action required by the Convention Delegates by a mail bal-

lot.

The details of the vote are as follows:

Eighty (80) ballots were mailed. Seventy-two (72) ballots were returned. Sixty-six (66) were deemed valid, four (4) ballots were spoiled, two (2) ballots were postmarked after the return due date. Seven (7) ballots were not returned, and one (1) delegate passed away prior to the deadline for submission of a ballot.

The final vote total was sixty-one (61) votes in favor of the adoption of the merger approval resolution and five (5) votes against adoption of the resolution.

The final percentage of approval is seventy-seven percent (77%), which exceeds the required percentage of two-thirds (2/3) of all the Delegates of the Supreme Governing Body.

With this, CSA Fraternal Life and BetterLife will continue to seek regulatory approval from various State Insurance jurisdictions to complete the merger. We expect this process to take weeks to months, with an anticipated closing date of the merger at



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

some point later in 2025.

We will continue to communicate with you to update you on news as it occurs.

Thanks again for your support.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3, 2025
Join Hands Day

May 26, 2025
Home Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 26, 2025
Memorial Day Service
Bohemian National Cemetery
See page 16 for details.

June 6, 2025 - DEADLINE
Miss CSA Application and Photos

June 6, 2025 - DEADLINE
Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Due

July 2, 2025 - DEADLINE
Kropik Scholarship Application

July 2, 2025 - DEADLINE
Recipient Information Form for CSA Scholarship

July 4, 2025
Home Office Closed for 4th of July

August 1 - 3, 2025
88th Annual Get-Together
Cleveland, Ohio

September 1, 2025
Home Office Closed for Labor Day

September 26, 2025 - DEADLINE
Photo Contest Entries

Journal Themes for 2025

June - Flag Day

July/August - Czech and Slovak Festivals

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

*All articles are due on the 13th of the month prior
to the publication date.*

CSA Journal

Volume 138 No. 5 May 2025



A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership"

UREDNÍ ORGÁN JEDNOTY ČESKOSLOVENSKÝCH SPOLKŮ V AMERICĚ

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CSA MISSION STATEMENT

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

CSA Leadership

National Officers

John J. Kielczewski, *President*

Nick Kosmas, *Secretary/Treasurer*

National Directors

Tom Ledvina

Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota

Ken Dvorsky and Cary Mentzer

Northern Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

Irma Farrell

California, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas

Diane DiBianca

Northern Ohio and Michigan

Connie Wolf

Missouri and Southern Illinois

Terry Placek

Southeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania

Carol Tranter

Florida, Maryland, Virginia, D.C.,

Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Paul Vavrsek

New York State and Connecticut

Home Office Hours

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

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

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Today's Fraternal

Looking Ahead: Exciting Spring Updates and Upcoming Events

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who dedicated their time to submit the Lodge Financial and Election Reports. Your commitment is the backbone of our organization, and we are grateful for your efforts as we look forward to an exciting season ahead.

Our plans for the 2025 Get-Together in Cleveland are shaping up to be truly memorable! We can't wait to see so many of you there, reconnecting, sharing stories, and celebrating all that makes our community special. Your presence will make these moments even more special.

As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming event, we urge you not to overlook the opportunity to nominate for the Fraternalist of the Year. This is an excellent chance to acknowledge those consistently demonstrating exceptional service and spirit.

We are also still accepting applications for the Miss National CSA Contest. The deadline is June, so please encourage any eligible daughters, granddaughters, or nieces interested to submit their applications soon. This tradition continues to be a transformative and empowering experience for many young women in our organization. The application is available at csalife.com.

On March 27, we held a District Council Meeting, where we proudly presented the LRP Awards. Congratulations

to all the recipients on their well-deserved recognition!

In addition, we had the pleasure of visiting Lodge CH Harrison/Jan Hus/Garfield No. 378 for their Officer Installation Ceremony. Molly May, Nick Kosmas, and I enjoyed visiting with the lodge members. Nick concluded the afternoon by installing their new officers—congratulations to all!

Another highlight this spring was our trip to the BetterLife Home Office in Madison. It was an excellent opportunity to meet the new team members who will support us in the future. We are deeply grateful for their support and are excited for future collaboration.

April began with the Lodge DuPage Pioneers Edison No. 409 meeting, which included Lodge Brookfield No. 475 and Betsy Ross No. 151 members. They hosted a fun jigsaw puzzle competition, a raffle with lunch, and baked treats. Congratulations to Barb Deig and Stephen Carico on coming in first place. It was much more difficult than you would think. Kim and Jerry Silhan won the raffle prize of a wine bottle jigsaw puzzle. Hopefully, they will let us know how long it took to finish.

We hope everyone enjoyed a joyful Easter. To all the wonderful moms in our CSA family, we send our warmest wishes for a very happy Mothers's Day!



*Fraternally,
Kelly Deegan
Fraternal Programs Manager
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409*



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 at
kdeegan@csalife.com
1.800.543.3272 x 4307

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

SPRING HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!

Greetings, brothers and sisters,

We hope you had a lovely Easter holiday. Lisa and I got to spend time with family. Life has been busy from a work and personal standpoint.

As you know, our delegates overwhelmingly approved of the merger



with BetterLife. Now, the regulatory approval process by the states has started. The CSA staff visited the BetterLife Office in Madison. It was nice to meet the BetterLife team in person. The CSA staff has been meeting virtually with the BetterLife Team to start the merger/integration process. These meetings will keep us busy.

I performed the Officer Installation for Lodge No. 378, C.H. Harrison/Jan Hus/Garfield. The members of Lodge No. 378 had a nice discussion over lunch. Kelly Deegan and Molly May also attended.

We had fun at the Lodge No. 409 DuPage Pioneers/Edison Jigsaw Puzzle Contest and lunch. Lisa and I finished in a respectable second place.

I want to thank both lodges for the invitations.

Lisa and I celebrated our 35th wed-



ding anniversary a little early. In March, we spent three days in Prague before going on a seven-day river (wine) cruise on the Danube River from Vilshofen to Budapest. We had a great time, lots of walking, and great food (beer and wine). Prague Castle, touring Old and New Towns, the Charles Bridge, and the Astronomical Clock were all impressive. The castles and towns along the river were beautiful. We loved the rich and long history of all the places we visited. I've included a few pictures from our trip: St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Astronomical Clock, Charles, and St. Vitus. The stalls at the Vienna Easter Market had some lovely decorated eggs. We had a hard time choosing, so we bought four! It will be hard to decide which photo to submit for the photo contest!

Mother's Day is on May 11, right around the corner. We wish all moms a great Mother's Day with their families.

*Fraternally,
Nick V. Kosmas
Secretary / Treasurer*



Miss National CSA

“Scene 1A, Take 1, Marker”

Greetings brothers and sisters,

The school year is winding down and the weather is warming up! This month has been one of the most exhausting, but rewarding. I'll spare you the details about finals and tell you all of the exciting projects I've been a part of recently!

This month, I was cast in two student short films at WMU, which was so validating and exciting for me. Lately, I had been wondering if I was still any good at acting because I hadn't practiced in some time, but getting cast in two pretty large projects really boosted my confidence! Not to mention, these productions had a full crew, which was much different than most of the other projects I had been involved in. It felt like being on a real set. Before every take, the director would yell, “quiet on set!” and then ask, “audio?” and the boom operator would say, “speeding.” Then, the director would ask, “camera?” and the camera operator would say, “recording.” Then, they would position the marker in front of the lens, say, “Scene 1A, take 1, marker,” and clap the board, before calling, “action!”

I learned a lot from just watching and experiencing the filming process. My poor sisters are going to be forced into being my crew when I start making short films at home over the summer!

*Until next time,
Delaney Schretter*



Join Hands Day May 3, 2025

Join Hands Day is the first Saturday in May. It is a national volunteer day and annual event sponsored by the American Fraternal Alliance.

The day was launched by what was then called America's Fraternal Benefit Societies in 2000, in partnership with Points of Light Foundation. It is meant to have a focus not just on volunteering, but also on developing youth and adult relationships.

For the first two years of Join Hands Day, organizations were asked to register their Join Hands Day projects via the official web site. In some years, a certain number of groups were chosen to receive a cash award for the beneficiary of their project or another cause and a physical award, and were recognized at the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA) annual conference. It was not always on the first Saturday in May;

the 2001 day was held on June 16.

Organizers of Join Hands Day offer participants ideas for group volunteering events that can bring adults and youth together in community service, such as repairing bicycles to give disadvantaged children and teaching bicycle maintenance, collecting chairs of various shapes and sizes to paint and then auction for a worthy cause, or repairing gravestones and improve landscaping in a cemetery and documenting historic grave sites.

Look in this *Journal* and next month's issue for lodge involvement with Join Hands Day.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Join_Hands_Day#:~:text=Join%20Hands%20Day%20is%20the,by%20the%20American%20Fraternal%20Alliance.



Volunteering: It's What We Do!





Did You
Dream of
Being a
Princess?

Take a chance
at being our
Queen!

Join us 8/1 - 8/3
in Cleveland
for the
Miss CSA
Contest at the
GTG.

Application
available at
csalife.com



ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?

To clarify the 88th Annual Get-Together registration form, the \$150 includes the hospitality room, dinner for both nights, and brunch on Sunday.

Those planning to come to a dinner only (Friday or Saturday) or only Sunday Brunch will be charged per event.

The \$159 hotel room rate includes breakfast.

If you have further questions, please reach out to:

Jan Russell
janrussell2@gmail.com

Annette Reichman
soxblue2000@yahoo.com,

or

Diane DiBianca
ddibianca.csalife@gmail.com.

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



2025 CSA FRATERNAL LIFE
GET-TOGETHER
REGISTRATION FORM

CSA Get-Together
c/o Diane DiBianca
213 Best St
Bedford, OH 44146

PLEASE FILL OUT AND POSTMARK BY JUNE 1ST, 2025 TO:

PHONE: 216-392-9074

EMAIL: ddibianca.csalife@gmail.com

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

DISTRICT COUNCIL #10 CSA

(Please write "Get-Together Registration" in the notes on payment form.)

PLEASE PRINT BELOW:

One form per guest

NAME: LODGE (if applicable)

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

PHONE: EMAIL::

IS THIS YOUR FIRST CSA GET-TOGETHER?

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ROCK SONG?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

MEMBER (\$150) GUEST (\$150)

YOUTH MEMBER OR GUEST UNDER 18 (\$125) YOUTH AGE:

DINNER ONLY FRIDAY (\$30) SAT. (\$60) SUNDAY (\$60)

SATURDAY DINNER: (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE)

BRAISED SHORT RIB LAKE ERIE WALLEYE VEGETABLE STRUDEL

DAY TRIP (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE)

ROCK HALL MUSEUM (\$30) AGES 6 -12 (\$20)

GOOD TIME III LUNCH CRUISE (\$55) AGES 5 -12 (\$45)

TOTAL (\$) PAID: CHECK #

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

HANDICAPPED: YES NO: DIETARY NEEDS:

DRIVING FLYING OTHER



CSA Get-Together 2025



ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?



AUGUST 1st, 2nd, 3rd

**Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Cleveland Downtown
1111 Lakeside Ave.E
Cleveland, Ohio 44114**

Room rates start at \$159/night +tax,
includes breakfast.

Parking available in the attached garage
for \$30/day.

(Some free meter/street parking
available Sat. & Sun)

BOOK YOUR ROOM:

Call 1-800-445-8667 code CSA

link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clelsdt->

[csa-0dd1e9fc-a165-47c5-a792-fd305fa8be61/](https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clelsdt-csa-0dd1e9fc-a165-47c5-a792-fd305fa8be61/)



88th 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

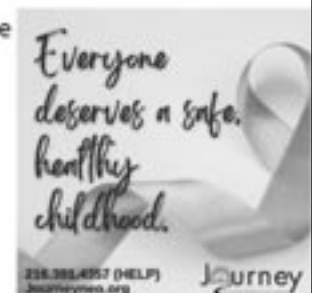
- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue

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 4, 2025
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



TRIP #1

ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME



Experience Hands On, Immersive Exhibitions on Your Favorite Artists at The Rock Hall. The Rock Hall is a Tribute to the Music of Our Lives and a One of a Kind Experience.



A Must Visit Museum

Styles: Rock & Roll, Pop & Rock, Indie Rock & Roll, Reggae, Memphis Soul, Classic Rock & Roll, Hip Hop, Funk, Bluegrass & Rock, Country Rock.

Rock Hall Visitors can enjoy the cafe on level 1. choose from a variety of menu items freshly prepared in the cafe or from the grab-and-go station with salad, wraps, and snacks. You'll also find a select number of tap beers and wines available at the custom bar.



TRIP #2

GOODTIME III

"CLEVELAND'S LARGEST EXCURSION SHIP"

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1958

Narrated Luncheon Cruise 2025



GOODTIME III LUNCH MENU

Boarding 11 AM

Lunch served on ship, dockside at 11:00 AM

Cruising 12PM (Noon) - 2:00 PM

(Served on China w / Silverware)

House baked Focaccia Bread with butter

Chicken Piccata with creamy lemon caper sauce (GF)

Roasted Smashed redskin potatoes

with fresh herbs (GF DF)

Buttered whole top baby carrots (GF)

Fruit Cup

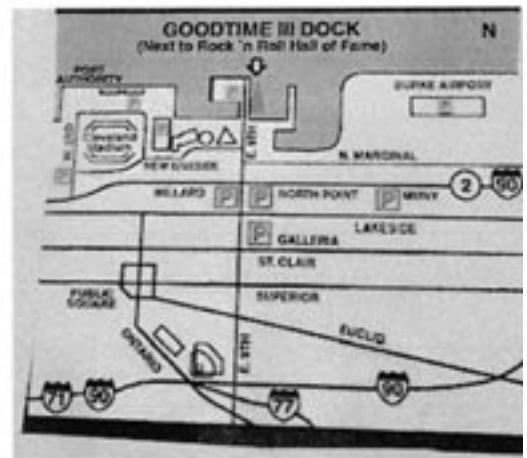
House baked Cookie assortment

***vegan option available upon request**

Adults \$55

Children Ages 5-12 ~ \$45

**The Goodtime III is a
SMOKE - FREE and
VAPE - FREE vessel**



Bohemian National Cemetery Association
and
Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

invite you to join us at the cemetery on Memorial Day to honor
the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country



Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 26, 2025 -- 5255 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago

- | | |
|------|--|
| 9:00 | Assemble at the gatehouse at the cemetery's main entrance |
| 9:15 | Flag raising ceremony at the World Wars I and II Memorial |
| 9:30 | Service in Ceremony Hall in the crematorium/columbarium building |

followed by refreshments in the gatehouse
and a walking tour of BNC's military monuments led by
Chuck Betzold, United States Air Force veteran and BNCA trustee

Bohemian National Cemetery -- 148 years of dedicated service
Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

773-539-8442



Fraternal Calendar

May	3	Join Hands Day
	26	Home Office Closed for Memorial Day
June	6	Deadline - Miss CSA Application and Photos
	27	Deadline - Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Application
July	2	Deadline - Kropik Scholarship Application
	2	Deadline- Receipt information form for CSA Scholarship
	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	Deadline - Photo Contest Entries
	26	Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Entries
October	13	Home Office closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus) Day
	15	Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal
	31	Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Scores
November	27-28	Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
December	1	Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Request
	24-25	Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday

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



District Council

LRP Awards and Merger Updates

District Council No. 12, Northern Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin – Our first quarterly meeting of 2025 was March 27 in the Heritage Room at the CSA Home Office.

The evening was two-fold; first to pass out the LRP Awards to the lodges, and second to discuss the upcoming merger. We were fortunate to have John K. to discuss and answer questions. John gave a history of the reasons for the merger and the current status. Delegates were told that the vote to merge was successful and thanked all for their cooperation.

Also attending was Fraternal Programs Manager Kelly Deegan who prepared all the lodge awards. Thanks, Kelly. Awards were passed out and a



group picture was taken.

Mitch Jacobsen, the top CSA sales agent, was at the meeting. Mitch greeted the delegates and talked about his 18 years with CSA and what he sees for our future.

We discussed the GTG where Jerry Silhan will be our delegate, and we took a full-page ad.

*Fraternally,
Ken Dvorsky*

Scholarship Fund Report



March 10, 2025 – April 10, 2025

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

Holecek Charitable Foundation

IN MEMORY OF LARRY B. SMITH

Lodge Independence Liberty Bell

IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS

Lodge Empire State

IN MEMORY OF CONNIE HOPPE BOWERS

Lodge Svetlo

IN MEMORY OF AARON CRISPIN

Lodge Independence Liberty Bell

Total Donations:

\$1,700.00

LODGE HAPPENINGS

“An Artful Illustrated Report”

Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado – March 6, 2025, was the yearly Bingo night for the lodge. We met. Reports were given. We discussed the merger. We played Bingo. Everyone won.

April 3, 2025, was a lodge monthly meeting. The CSA Home Office had better batten down their print of Alphonse Mucha! Lodge President Irma Farrell loves it and would like to take it back to the Mile High City in her suitcase!

Irma Farrell has spent a lifetime studying and collecting the work of this Czech artist. After providing a sumptuous feast of Papa John’s pizza and a rich salad with special dressing from Omaha, she gave an informative and illustrated report for Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs on one of our most famous Czech artists. The assembled ears and appetites and hearts belonging to Dot and Ron Fox, Mary Campe, Sandra Maresh Doe, and Ed Maresh soaked up her enthusiasm and her appreciation. This reporter can only articulate the highlights.

Born July 24, 1860, Alphonse Maria Mucha became a familiar Czech painter, illustrator, and graphic artist to many Czechs, Moravians, and Slovaks, both in Europe and in the United States. He was the oldest of six children, and all had a first name beginning with “A.” The family had only modest money: his father worked as a court usher; his mother was a miller’s daughter.

Because he showed an early talent for drawing, someone in his community gave young Alphonse a gift of paper. At that time, paper was a luxury item. Beyond drawing, he had a talent for music, and, growing up in a time of strong Czech nationalism, he also maintained an intense religious spirit and practice.

A period of experimentation followed him in his work after he moved to Vienna in 1880. He found work as an apprentice set painter for the theatres and he experimented in photography. Later the experiments found results in his paintings. He also had a look at the work of Hans Makart who painted portraits and murals. When a fire turned to ash the theatre in which he was working, he took his limited funds and bought a ticket North, as far as the money would go. There, in the Court Belasi, he painted murals and portraits!

In 1855, Count Belasi facilitated formal training for Mucha by enrolling him at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts and providing fees, board, and room. Because of local hostilities to foreign students, the pair moved to

Paris, although the Count decided to quit paying for Mucha in 1889. Mucha was then thirty years old. Was he alone and without support? No!

A Slavic community sheltered him, and Mucha noticed artist Ludek Marold made a living illustrating magazines. Mucha broke in with a splash: he illustrated a novel by the popular French author, Guy de Maupassant. He gained a living making illustrations. He bought a tabletop organ called a harmonium and he bought his first camera. He used the camera to compose his drawings. Further Paul Gauguin had arrived from Tahiti, and Mucha and he shared a studio in 1894. August Strindberg stopped by and fueled Mucha’s interest in religious philosophy and mysticism.

The year 1894 also provided an encounter of seismic proportions when he began work with French actress Sara Bernhardt. The firm which printed her posters ordered a new poster for Bernhardt; she was so pleased with it, she ordered 4,000 copies in 1895 and 1896 and further gave both Mucha and the printer a six year contract! After that, Mucha’s graphic work peaked in advertising and he also began successful series printing such as “The Seasons,” portraits of women as decorative items to show the seasons. The arts review *La Plume* printed more series work, numbering over 100.

Soon the art world paid attention to Mucha. Deschamps included his work in an 1896 exhibition. *La Plume* made a special edition of his work and he became an international star. He applied to The Paris Universal Exposition of 1900 to make work for the Pavilion of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His experience in theatre contributed to his construction of large paintings for a short period of time.

Mucha wanted, too, to speak in art for all Slavic history. Unable to depict the sufferings of the Slavic people as “too dark” for the screening committee of The Paris Universal Exposition, he designed a future vision where Catholic, Orthodox Christians, and Muslims cohabited happily together. This vision was accepted. Further, he was busy making jewelry, statuettes, and restaurant menus at the exposition.

Even though he was widely known from his work with Sara Bernhardt, Mucha arrived in New York in 1904 with letters of recommendation. He introduced himself to Pan Slavic organizations and made portraits and lectures. At one such meeting, he met Charles Richard Crane who supported almost all things Slavic. Crane wanted a por-



trait of his daughter in “Slavic style,” and agreed with Mucha that a series of paintings on Slavic history was exactly the right project to support. In 1910, Crane funded The Slavic Epic project, and Mucha finished the large works between 1912 and 1926. In 1928, the men donated the work to the city of Prague in time for the 10 year celebration of Czechoslovakia’s establishment as a nation. Mucha was a nationalist at the end of his life, as he was in the beginning. History “turned” as Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939. Mucha’s nationalism and freemason leanings said “arrest and interrogate me” to the German Reich. And it did. He was not well at that time, contracted pneumonia and died July 14, 1939. He was 79; a month later World War II began.

People of Slavic heritage can travel to Prague where the Prague National Gallery displays The Slavic Epic and many Mucha works. In addition, The Mucha Museum opened there in 1998. If any CSA members are near the Home Office in Lombard, Illinois, they can go and see the Mucha print that Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs’ President Irma Farrell wants to put in her suitcase, if she has not been successful at nabbing it.

The persons of Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs learned much of Mucha, they thanked President Irma Farrell for her devoted work, and they looked forward to the next meeting where the topic will be “Dvorak in Spillville, Iowa.”

*Fraternally,
Sandra Maresh Doe*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Preparing to Assemble Raffle Baskets

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Snow on the ground the morning this was written, and cold, cold, cold, here in the Cleveland area. It is our baseball team's first home game of the season. It will be more comfortable to watch it on TV. We had our meeting at the Parma Heights Library at 10:30 a.m. on April 8, 2025. Ten members were in attendance.

It was announced that we won the Platinum Award – good going, lodge members, and thanks to the Home Office.

On April 22, we had our in-person Get-Together meeting at the Snow Road Library at 6 p.m. On May 1, the District meeting will be held at the Bedford Library at 10 a.m.

We received clarification regarding the application for the

Get-Together. The \$150.00 registration fee includes all three meals. And, we asked that donations requested for our charity, Journey, be put in *the Journal* along with an explanation of what and who Journey serves. Please see page 13.

After our meeting and lunch, we had some fun times playing different card games, etc. Our birthday girl, Freddie Shima, won the game Skipbo. It was the first time that she played that game – beginner's luck! We sang "Happy Birthday" to Freddie. Freddie even won a part of our 50/50 raffle, along with Carole.

Next month, we will be assembling raffle baskets for the DTJ organization.

Hopefully, our Spring will warm up soon. Flowers are blooming and birds are singing, so they need the warm weather, too.

*Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco
Scribe*



Joan Sapp makes these ponchos to donate.

LODGE HAPPENINGS

“May”jorly Excited About Our Youth”

Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – Happy May and springtime greetings to all! We are so happy to finally be getting settled into consistent warmer weather! Summer is approaching and our members can’t wait!

This is always such a busy and exciting month with the celebrations of Mother’s Day, graduations, Memorial Day, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. In addition, Lodge No. 121 is also supporting our society’s Join Hands Day project this month. “Busy” doesn’t begin to describe all the action and events.

We met in April on Palm Sunday. We discussed the approval by the convention delegation to move forward in the proposed merger with BetterLife Insurance. We noted some questions and concerns for discussion with Brother Director, Terry Placek at his next visit.

Members donated food items and drinks to the recent Family Fellowship Dinner held at the Dillonvale Presbyterian Church at the end of March. We also voted to donate funds to the American Legion Post #525 and their Auxiliary Unit to help defray costs associated with the upcoming Memorial Day

Program at Knight Rider Park. These donations were given in fulfillment of our Join Hands Day project. Several members plan to attend the event.

We would like to give updates on some of our youth members. First, Christopher Ebright will graduate from Jefferson County Vocational School/Buckeye Local High School later this month. During his senior year, he played on the Buckeye Local Panther football team. In March, he participated in the 2025 Skills USA Ohio State Championships in Columbus with other students from the JVS School. His future plans are undecided at the moment, and we can’t wait to see what is in store for him! Skyler Ebright is attending Ohio University Eastern and is majoring in Exercise Physiology. He continues to keep up with his studies while also holding a part-time job at Menard’s home store. Bailey Ebright is a sophomore nursing student at Ohio University Eastern currently doing clinicals at WVU Wheeling Hospital. She also works in the Cardiac Step-Down Unit as an IMC Patient Care Technician at WVU Weirton Medical Center. Lastly, Elijah Lovell will be wrapping up his fifth year on campus at Ohio Northern

University, his teaching assistant position, and employment as a Pharmacy Intern at Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine, Ohio. This summer, he will begin 30-day pharmacy rotations to meet the year six requirements for his PharmD. We are so happy for all our youth, but I guess they’re young adults, now! When did that happen? We were blessed to watch these “children” grow up in our lodge. We send best wishes to all our young adult members!

In closing, we want to wish all the ladies a Happy Mother’s Day! We send special thanks to our past and present members of the armed services for their devotion to the safety of our country. We will honor and remember you on Memorial Day and throughout the years! We would also like to congratulate all 2025 graduates! Congratulations! We hope these occasions will help us usher in a beautiful, fun, and relaxing summer! Remember to check on someone you love today.

*Sending some sunshine,
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Lodge Earns Platinum Award

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – As a result of our level of activities, we were rewarded with a Platinum Award for 2024. Thus far, it is already turning out to be another busy year for the lodge.

We held an Installation of Officers ceremony for 2025 conducted by CSA Board Member Kenneth Dvorsky. Lodge



Brookfield members recently attended a presentation of the Riverside Township Radio Players. Their old-time radio shows are held on the fourth Friday of the month from September through May at the Riverside Township Hall. Admission is free.

In March, several Lodge Brookfield members partnered with Lodge Lincoln No. 7 in a volunteer event at Operation Support Our Troops in Lisle, Illinois. This organization collects donations from various sources and forwards them to our military troops stationed overseas. Twenty-two huge skids of hard candy were donated by a local candy company. We unpacked many, many boxes but could not manage to get through them all in just one Saturday. We certainly have never seen so many Sweet Tarts, Lemonheads, and Jelly Bellies in our entire lives. Phew!

At our recent March lodge meeting, we celebrated the 60th wedding anniversary of Fred and Dolores Chiappetta. Their beautiful family got together for a memorable party at a local restaurant. Dolores was a long-time CSA Home Office employee and has been very active in lodge events for years. Congratulations, Fred and Dolores!

As a rule, we conduct our meetings 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

Can, Cans, and More Cans!

Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Lodge members had the opportunity to de-tab 24 bags of cans.

Sokol Cedar Rapids received a truck-load of bags of cans and bottles for a donation. Seven of us from Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137 asked if we could help.

Thank you to our volunteers and to Sokol for allowing us take on the task of getting the tabs off the cans for our lodge donation to the Ronald McDonald house in Iowa City, Iowa. The money they receive from these tabs helps families that have sick children in the hospital with gas, meals, and other items while staying there.

After a few hours and 24 large bags of cans, we had two Ziplock bags of tabs to donate.

Thank you to Sokol and our volunteers for allowing our lodge to do this.

*Fraternally yours,
Rai Ann Stratton*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Volunteering at Operation Support Our Troops

Lodge Lincoln No. 7, Berwyn, Illinois – Saturday, March 22, was a busy day for Lodge Lincoln members! We began by volunteering at Operation Support our Troops America's (OSOT) warehouse in Lisle, Illinois. Our job was to break down gift boxes of candy, remove the contents, and sort the candy packages, to be shipped to our service members in the near future. It was nice to have Lodge Brookfield members, Jerry



and Kim Silhan, join us in our volunteering efforts at OSOT. After a full morning of volunteering, we met at Bavarian Lodge, in Lisle, for a delicious ethnic meal and business meeting. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Christine Lanzel in the absence of the president. Our Secretary, Vera Wilt, read the correspondence letter that we received from the Guardian Corps of America for our monetary donation. The Treasurer's Report was read by Stan Smolucha and approved. A few questions came up in regard to our merger with BetterLife which we hope to answer in the future.

Jim and Pat Thompson informed us that they sold their old house and have moved into their new home in Carillon which is in Plainfield, Illinois. We wish them much happiness in their new home!

Congratulations to Amy Smolucha and her husband Tony on the birth of

their second son, George Stanley, on March 5. Their son Arthur is excited to be a big brother and has been so helpful with baby George. Grandparents Stan and Pat Smolucha are overjoyed to have a precious new grandson in the family!

There will be no meeting in May, but please remember those special mothers in your life and make sure they are celebrated in a special way on Mother's Day! Also, remember to fly your flag on Memorial Day and to honor and remember all those soldiers and their families who paid the ultimate price for our country and its freedoms.

Our June meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us at Irish Times Restaurant for dinner and a fun time. The restaurant is located at 8869 Burlington Ave., in Brookfield, Illinois.

Fraternally,

Pat Smolucha

s.smolucha@sbcglobal.net



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Chuck Michalek Surprised with 75-Year Pin

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, Lombard, Illinois – April was a very busy month for our lodge. At our meeting, Brother Ken Dvorsky installed our officers for 2025: President Mary Ellen Janda, Vice-President / Sentry Margaret Jasinski, Secretary Cindy Bueneman, and Treasurer Eunice Semple.

We surprised Brother Chuck Michalek with his CSA 75-Year membership pin. Brother Ken Dvorsky had the honor of presenting Chuck's pin. Loretta Paulus from Lodge Century of Progress / Bila Hora No. 231 was our guest for the evening.

The meeting ended with members picking an Easter plaque with eggs, baskets, and bunnies to color. Member Kathy Riha handed out bunny ears to everyone for Easter and we had fun handing out Easter goodie bags to members.

Thanks to Cindy for bringing cheese, salami, crackers, grapes, and strawberries to snack on along with kolacky that Ken brings to every meeting.

CSA Lodge Recognition was held at the Home Office on

March 27. Once again, our lodge received the highest award, Platinum. A big thank-you to all our lodge members for their hard work that made this achievement possible. Also, a special thank-you to Cindy for her record keeping of our lodge activities that help us reach the top.

Finally, our lodge donated over 300 bottles to the Home Office.

I hope everyone is having a great spring!

*Fraternally,
Mary Ellen Janda*



Ramping Up Our Involvement

Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri – Activities are picking up here, and we're ramping up our involvement after a long winter.

The archive team at the American-Czech Center had the pleasure of working with several honors students from the University of Missouri – St. Louis on a project focusing on the Czech community here. Mary Ann Sulz, Marcella Milcic, and I were interviewed about the history of our Center and how we relocated from our National Hall (built in 1889) to our current location in 1966. We told them about our Czech School over the years, plus a bit of the history of CSA and American Sokol and how they were both founded in St. Louis. Another group of students is doing the same research at St. John Nepomuk Chapel, and all of their work will result in connections to more information and some improvements to our online presence. We hope to hear that they all got A's on

the project.

District Council No. 13 held its annual Bunny Brunch in April, with several young members of CSA and Sokol and other friends enjoying breakfast, craft projects, games, an Easter egg hunt, and a visit with the Easter Bunny himself. There was candy galore along with prizes for the bucket toss game, and everyone picked out a stuffed bunny, including one that was almost as big as the youngster who selected it! The kids had a great time, especially when taking turns whacking the piñata and then scrambling to fill their bags with more treats. Many thanks to the District Council for sponsoring the event – it was great fun!

At our last meeting, we decided what to support for this year's CSA Serves project. After much discussion, we agreed that we'll put our volunteer efforts to benefit our own American-Czech Center. Since long before we moved into this building, lodges and members have worked very hard to promote all the events and activities our organizations sponsor, and it seemed fitting that we continue that support, especially with our 60th Anniversary coming up next year. And remember that our Annual Bake Sale takes place on September 7 instead of later in the year. More details to come.

Congratulations to Anna Ryals on getting her first set of wheels – the four-wheel kind, that is – in her favorite shade of blue. Her family surprised her with this special gift and as you can tell from the photo, she was really excited. Here's wishing you safe travels ahead!

Happy spring, everyone!

*Fraternally,
Deborah Zeman*



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



www.csalife.com



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LODGE HAPPENINGS

Get Your Tickets to the Tigers Game

Lodge Pingree No. 366, Dearborn Heights, Michigan – Greetings, Sisters and Brothers. By now the weather has warmed up and we are preparing for the heat of summer! I got some news from Marie Palmer regarding Larry Cibulka, one of the offspring of the late Jane and Frank (Cibby) Cibulka. The year 2024 was filled with fond memories for Larry Cibulka as he spent time with family over Labor Day weekend. While out

fishing, he caught a large bass but being kind-hearted, he threw it back. Then on a hunting trip to Montana in November, he was fortunate enough to shoot a bull elk that has provided many meals over the course of several months. Congratulations, Larry!

Marie Palmer and I have had many wonderful memories as well but they'll have to wait for next month's article.

Over the last several months, CSA

and Sokol members have continued to meet on the third Wednesday and have prepared a variety of treats including pecan pies in April. May is yet to be determined. Summer break occurs June through August.

Looking forward to warmer temperatures so we can enjoy the beautiful flowers and green trees that Spring brings forth.

I have tickets for the Detroit Tigers game on Monday, July 28 against the Arizona Diamondbacks. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket for non-members and \$10.00 for Pingree members. I'm holding 20 tickets, of which 16 are handicap accessible. Contact me with questions and/or reservations.

Once again, Pingree No. 366 donates time at the Food Pantry every third Saturday of the month. We gather at H.I.S. Church Anglican on Six Mile Rd., just west of Farmington Rd. We start getting ready at 9:00 a.m. and are done by 11:30 a.m., with a very brief meeting immediately after. Please join us if you can!

*Fraternally yours,
Jeff Teichman*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Yes, There is Still a Lodge Harrison!

Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois – Greetings to all. Yes, there is still a Lodge Harrison and I apologize for not writing for so long.

In the past months, our members have been traveling to some very exotic and interesting locales. Kyle Dvorsky and his wife Krystin took a two-week trip to Ecuador, to see the Galapagos Islands. Once there, they saw the giant Iguanas and giant tortoises, swam with the sea lions, and enjoyed the birding. And to close out the trip, they celebrated crossing the Equator, which brought

back visions to Mike of his early Navy days.

Mike and Pam Dvorsky spent three weeks visiting Norway and Sweden. With a combination of transportation, trains, planes, snowmachines, boats, dogsled, and reindeer, they toured the north. Seeing the Aurora Borealis Northern Lights had to be a highlight of the trip. The trip concluded with Pam visiting the town in Sweden where her family came from.

Our April spring luncheon was installation of our officers. I asked Nick

Kosmas to perform the installation, which he did well. I invited Kelly, the Fraternal Programs Manager, and Molly, the Marketing and HR Manager, to meet the members.

We discussed the GTG and took a half-page ad. The lodge thanks Delaney Schretter for the excellent job she is doing as Miss CSA.

We will be back at TGM on May 5.

*Fraternally,
Ken Dvorsky*



In Memoriam

Claim	Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Death	Age
55946	Pinter, John R.	001	ST. LOUIS, MO	12/20/2024	90
55947	Hughes, Deborah E.	007	SKOKIE, IL	03/06/2025	72
55967	Pecka, Christine M.	007	CREST HILL, IL	03/26/2025	74
55979	Lanzel, Marvin G.	007	INDIAN HEAD PARK, IL	02/01/2025	80
55937	Beiersdorff, Diane M.	013	ASHLAND, WI	07/31/2024	81
55977	Jansky, Louis J.	013	APPLETON, WI	07/17/2024	98
55959	Hutchinson, Alan F.	030		10/20/2014	93
55983	Vokracka, Charles R.	030	ST. LOUIS, MO	03/13/2025	97
55944	Schindler, Rebekah E.	121	LIBERTY CENTER, OH	05/29/2024	77
55984	Crawford, Frances L.	121	DILLONVALE, OH	06/26/2024	82
55961	Ware, Hattie M.	137	CEDAR RAPIDS, IA	02/11/2025	73
55964	Nejdl, Marjorie A.	137	ELY, IA	03/10/2025	88
55978	Hamous, Donald A.	137	CEDAR RAPIDS, IA	11/03/2021	94
55941	Sanders, Ora L.	181	ROCKFORD, IL	12/15/2024	82
55960	White, Tommie L.	181	ROCK ISLAND, IL	03/11/2025	67
55956	Tatyrek, Alfred F.	211	MAPLEWOOD, NJ	03/28/2021	95
55963	Garvin, Marjorie	211	TRENTON, NJ	03/16/2025	93
55973	Mabie, Charlene	211	BRICK, NJ	03/19/2025	75
55972	Nemecek, Edward J.	219	LORAIN, OH	10/08/2024	90
55981	Krakora, Ronald J.	219	PENSACOLA, FL	02/12/2025	89
55949	Cizek, Joseph A.	230	GLEN ALLEN, VA	02/10/2025	91
55942	Nicklas, Robert L.	231	VALPARAISO, IN	02/26/2025	80
55950	Zusack, Marilee G.	251	BELLAIRE, OH	09/30/2022	93
55938	Sabo, Catherine V.	310	CANAL WINCHESTER, OH	03/01/2025	81
55954	Paul, Harry E.	310	MIAMI, FL	05/30/2005	72
55976	Frantz, Angeline E.	310	TOANO, VA	08/09/2024	94
55951	Krobusek, Drew	372	CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH	03/01/2025	62
55980	McKee, Sandra P.	378	DARIEN, IL	03/20/2025	75
55936	Crispin, Aaron T.	408	ALMA, MI	05/09/2024	53
55957	Sells, Jason L.	409	SHELBYVILLE, IN	11/15/2021	52
55986	Banky, Irene L.	409	SPRING, TX	02/13/2025	88
55958	Losee, Arnela B.	419	SYRACUSE, IN	03/24/2021	87
55952	Tretter, Marjorie E.	432	WESTMINSTER, CO	12/23/2023	77
55982	Claypool, Cindy E.	432	LAKWOOD, CO	09/07/2022	65
55975	Yadlowsky, Joseph M.	448	FORT COLLINS, CO	03/07/2025	83
55962	Turnbull, Elaine	458	HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA	02/23/2025	94
55943	Heiss, Barbara	463	FORT MYERS, FL	02/16/2025	87
55955	Robinson, Lorenzo	463	WEST PALM BEACH, FL	09/11/2014	78
55971	Campbell, Kenneth	463	RIVIERA BEACH, FL	01/15/2023	85
55965	Kavanaugh, Vera	469	BOHEMIA, NY	01/20/2021	89
55940	Karlovsy, Frank	479	WALNUTPORT, PA	02/25/2025	78
55948	Becker, Pauline A.	479	SOUTHAMPTON, PA	02/21/2025	95
55935	Varhola, John H.	481	TOMS RIVER, NJ	03/04/2025	80
55966	Delguercio, Anthony M.	481	BARNEGAT, NJ	02/27/2025	79

In Memoriam

Elmer Soos, age 94, passed peacefully on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Elmer was surrounded at East Park Nursing Home by his best friend, June Karecki and daughters, Barb Dragony and Cindy Soos, Kathy Setliff, and son Matt Soos, along with two granddaughters, Alexis Flower and Brianna Soos.

He leaves behind a total of eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Elmer was a proud veteran of the Korean War and worked 45 faithful years at American Greetings.

He was a member of Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219 for 68 years. The last 10 years, he was the Guide who

got everyone at the lodge meetings signed in for attendance.

Elmer enjoyed bowling very much and bowled with the original CSA bowlers, then called Sr. bowlers, for 19 years. He will be missed.

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory of Stanley W. Papuga

April 29, 1944 – December 14, 2024

Born on April 29, 1944, in the heart of Philadelphia, Stanley W. Papuga entered the world during a time of global uncertainty but was wrapped in the warmth of family love. One of the earliest photos of Stan shows him swaddled in bunting, held proudly by his older brother Walt, who was dressed in his Army uniform just before heading off to serve in Europe during World War II.

Stan's early years unfolded in the close-knit Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia, where his father operated two small butcher shops. His parents, Nora and Walter, were Polish immigrants who met, fell in love, and married after arriving in America. Together, they built a home filled with love, tradition, and resilience.

That resilience was tested when tragedy struck early in Stan's life—his mother, Nora, passed away when he was just 12 years old. In the face of that loss, Stan's sister Alina and her husband John moved into the family home, offering both care and guidance. Their presence helped shape the man Stan would become, passing down a love of golf and an unwavering respect for women as equals—values he carried with him throughout his life.

Stan was a dynamic and gifted athlete. He played football and basketball and competed in the Golden Gloves boxing tournament, winning his match in Philadelphia before bowing out in New York. His drive and discipline extended beyond the field and into the classroom, eventually taking him to the University of Miami, where he played basketball alongside the legendary Rick Barry.

It was at the University of Miami that Stan met the love of his life, Candy Kropik. Her support and encouragement became the foundation of a lifelong partnership. With her by his side, Stan shifted from engineering to business and later pursued law at the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Stan went on to pass the bar in both Illinois and Florida, maintaining mem-

bership in both state bar associations for over 50 years. His legal career began on LaSalle Street in Chicago, where he worked with Candy's father. Together, they co-founded Kropik, Papuga & Shaw, Ltd.—a practice built on trust, professionalism, and dedication.

Outside the courtroom, Stan was deeply involved in his community. He served as an attorney for CSA Fraternal Life and was an active member of Lodge Sokol Pilsen No. 434, a cultural and social organization that saw a post-WWII revival. He also dedicated 12 years to the University of Miami's Board of Directors, where he connected with many, including the wife of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, a fellow board member.

Stan's passion for golf wasn't just a pastime—it became a way to give back. He organized summer golf events to raise scholarship funds for the University of Miami. He invited notable alumni like NFL Hall of Famer Ted

Hendricks (Candy's classmate and friend) and broadcaster Greg Olsen, formerly of the Chicago Bears.

He was especially proud to become a member of the Hole-in-One Club at Oak Brook—a personal achievement that mirrored the many quiet victories of his life.

But above all, Stan considered his family his greatest accomplishment. He and Candy had five beautiful, talented grandchildren who brought him immeasurable joy. He lit up in their presence, and they, in turn, adored him.

Stan Papuga lived with integrity, kindness, humor, and an enduring devotion to the people and values that mattered most. His story is one of perseverance, love, and legacy—a life that touched many and will continue to echo through the lives of all who knew and loved him.



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Member Roberta Kulik Receives Gift from First Lady Eva Pavlova During 2024 Visit

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – Well, we have managed to get through New Year’s Day, Ground Hog Day, Valentine’s Day, President’s Day, and St. Patrick’s Day. At this writing, Easter, Mother’s Day, and Father’s Day are days to look forward to. Then, a quarter of our year has passed with more to look forward to, I think? And so, each month we look forward to the monthly meeting of our lodge.

Our lodge met on April 8, 2025 at the T.G. Masaryk School in Cicero, Illinois. The usual formalities with reports from the Secretary and Treasurer and the representatives of various activities related to CSA were discussed and accepted. We did, however, want to let our membership know that once again our lodge has won the Platinum Award.

It is an award from CSA recognizing member volunteer activities and lodge donations made for the year. Organizations included in our delibera-

tions included school supplies and a monetary contribution to the T.G. Masaryk School, contributions to the Lidice Memorial, the Salvation Army, Honor Flights, and others. Also, a discussion around the upcoming Get-Together produced an agreement to purchase a half-page ad in the Program Booklet.

I would like to recognize Roberta Kulik, our Treasurer. I received a Christmas card from her which I promptly set aside for use in the future, only recently, to find it again. It included a summary of family events for the year 2024. Without going through the entire active year, I selected certain events for which she should be acknowledged.

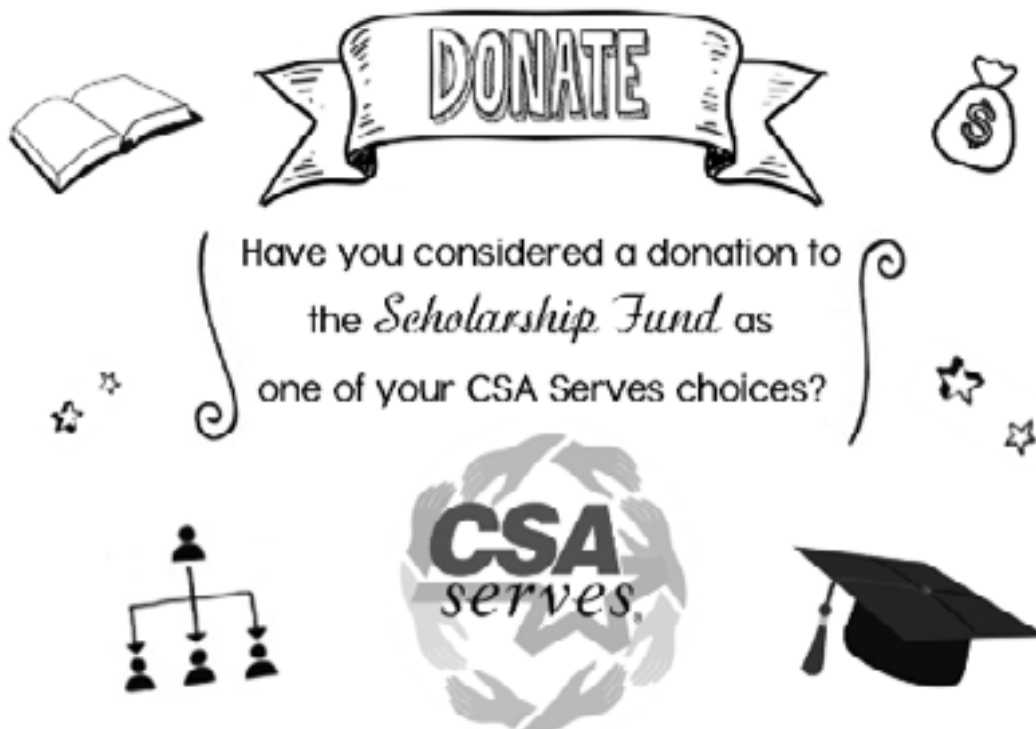
Roberta is Secretary of the Board of the T.G. Masaryk School and in September of 2024 the First Lady Eva Pavlova paid a visit to the school. There were 11 representatives to greet her—six teachers, three board members, and

two students—for a Tea. She presented Roberta with a scarf from St. Vitus Cathedral in the Czech Republic.

On October 10, 1959, Father Daniel Sullivan joined Roberta and Bob in Holy Matrimony and gave them a blessing following the ceremony: “May you live to see your children’s children.” Roberta thinks the blessing worked! And according to her card, she has five daughters, 15 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren with another coming this Spring. You go, girl!

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. 22nd Place, Cicero, Illinois. For more information, contact Ed Slavik at 708-423-5267.

*Fraternally,
Elaine Tejcek*



LODGE HAPPENINGS

Many Lodges Join the Fun

Lodge DuPage Pioneers No. 409, Westmont, Illinois – Twenty members from Lodges DuPage Pioneers, Brookfield, Betsy Ross, Harrison/Hus/Garfield, and Lincoln came together at our April meeting for pizza, puzzles, and prizes.

After a very short business meeting, our President Linda Burton announced that Lodge DuPage Pioneers achieved a Platinum Award for 2024's Lodge Recognition Program. Members worked diligently to assure criteria were met for the award and were thrilled with the award.

Sis. Linda then read a congratulatory letter to Sis. Judy Wozniak on her 75 years of CSA membership, and was awarded the much coveted 75-Year Pin. Sis. Judy was active in many of the social aspects of CSA membership including the Czech plays and tap and ballet performances. She continues to be a faithful lodge member, attending

meetings, and volunteering her services when needed. Congratulations, Judy!

Members then enjoyed a pizza and soda lunch while discussing Easter and vacation plans.

Following lunch, Sis. Annmarie Antos organized our first ever Puzzle Contest. Members were asked to form teams of two. Each team selected a 100-piece puzzle. Contest rules dictated a one-hour time limit to assemble the puzzle. Prizes would be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Sis. Linda was the official time keeper. Members went to work with lots of comments about completing the task. The winners were: 1st place - Barb Deig and Steven, 2nd Place - Nick and Lisa Kosmas, and 3rd Place - Lisa Cassai and Gerri Romanelli. Prizes were awarded and some members kept their puzzle. Everyone agreed it was a fun event that kept us busy and engaged.

Our raffle prize, courtesy of Sis. Lisa

Cassai, consisted of two bottles of wine – white and red – with appropriate wine glasses, and a 1,000-piece puzzle depicting shelves of wine bottles. Lucky winner was Bro. Jerry Silhan from Lodge Brookfield.

Thanks to Annmarie for donating the puzzles and homemade Easter candy bags for all to enjoy and bring home. Thanks to all who brought desserts and goodies to share: Kelly Deegan, Lisa Cassai, Ken Dvorsky, Jim and Judy Wozniak, Linda and Dale Burton, and Gerri Romanelli. And a final thank-you to all who helped set-up and clean-up. Teamwork always makes it easier!

Our May meeting will be collecting and assembling bags of toiletries and other needed personal items for those at the Elgin Crisis Center.

*Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli*







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

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 E S I G U D S A G N
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 A O H O L S M O I T
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 I O I N O R L A T I
 R O L T N P D N H A
 R L S S U D D R G R
 U F D I S A U O I N
 H A W O N S P T L O

Czech to English

Den Spojení Rukou

Join Hands Day

Šťastný Den Matek

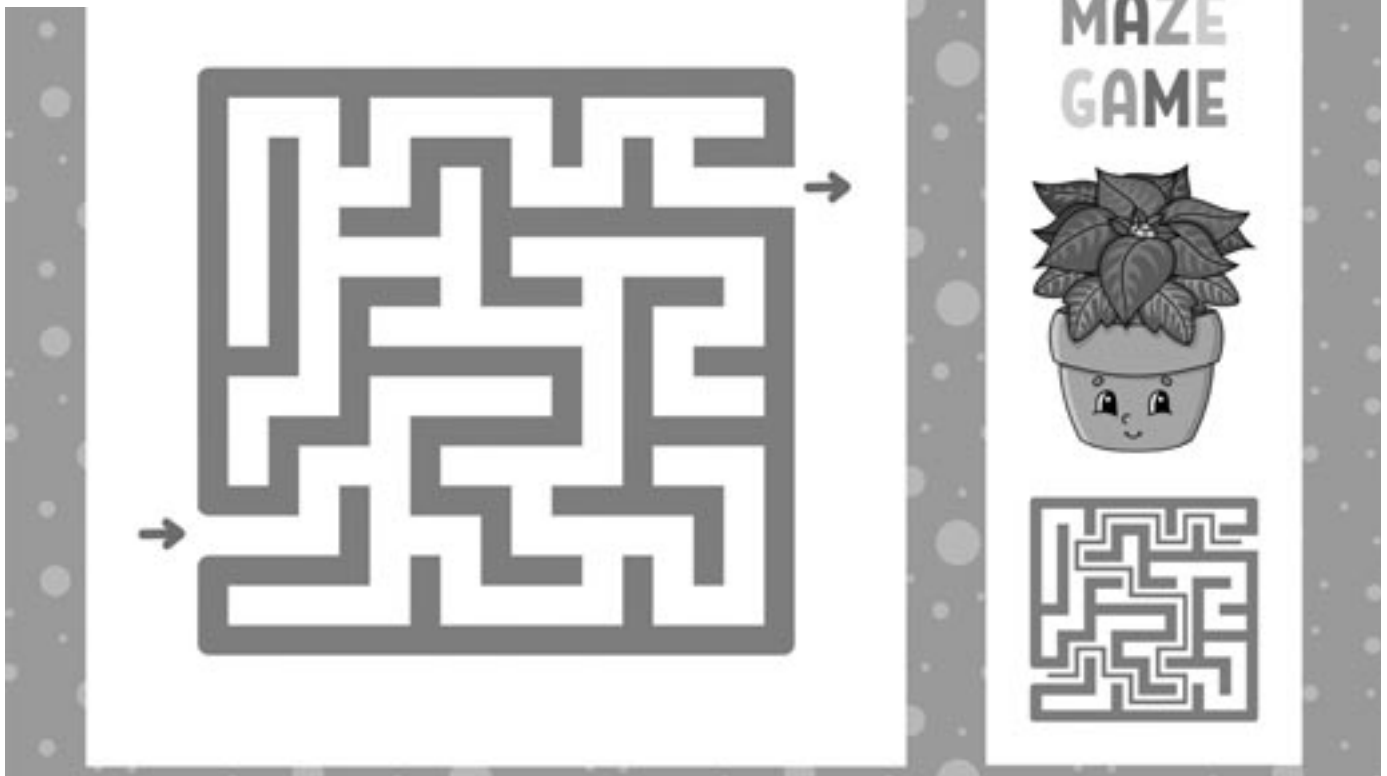
Happy Mother's Day

Pamětní Den

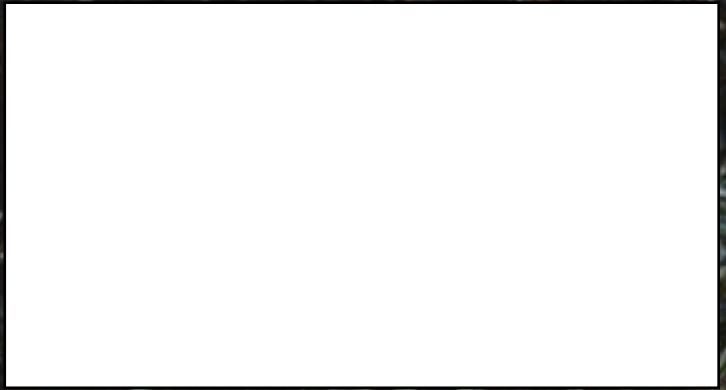
Memorial Day

WORD LIST

STORM	FLOOD	CLOUD
LIGHTNING	TORNADO	HURRICANE
SUN	RAIN	SNOW
HAIL	RAINBOW	PUDDLE



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