“Ever since World War I, superior force is no longer measured in terms of men or horses, but in the means to wreak destruction.”

—Saul David, Historian
On the Cover...
Title of painting on the cover: “British and German Soldiers Arm-in-Arm Exchanging Headgear: A Christmas Truce Between Opposing Trenches”

– Taken from the Illustrated London News of January 9, 1915.

Most statisticians agree that World War I was one of the bloodiest wars in human history. The number of military and civilian casualties are testament to that fact. WWI statistics are featured in this issue.

President’s Piece

The Holiday Season
(Among Other Things)

Brothers and Sisters,

With the calendar turning to November, as always… I hope everyone is well. This month brings a number of things to CSA, as well as in general.

Of course, the holiday season gets kicked off in earnest with Veterans Day on the 11th. I know I’m a broken record at times…but Veterans Day is always special. With a number of my relatives either serving now or having served in different branches of the military over the years, November 11 is a special day on the calendar. And, yes it’s also my daughter’s birthday! So, Happy Birthday to Marianna, who is 20 this year….crazy how quickly 20 years has gone! Thank you to all of the vets out there, and I hope you enjoy the extra “thanks” on the 11th as well. And probably my favorite holiday…Thanksgiving is right around the corner as well. Most of our family is usually able to get together on Thanksgiving, so that’s also very special.

From a personal standpoint, this time of year has kind of evolved to my CSA Fall Travel Season. As I wrote of last month, a few of us recently returned from the AFA National Meeting. As I write this, I’ll be heading out to the Upstate New York area to visit with our members out there. From there, on to Pittsburgh to meet with members, as well as attend the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International’s bi-annual conference. Matt Koski and Amanda Lovell from our staff will also be at the Pittsburgh event. CSA has had the privilege of being a sponsor of the CGSI for a number of years. It’s always an interesting event, and something new is learned every time.

There also will be travels to Texas to meet with some of our re-insurance and investment business partners, as well as Virginia to meet with members, and the St. Louis area to attend a holiday party or two. One of those events coincides with the St. Louis Czech Beer Fest, which has been coordinated over the years by CSA’s very own Maria Breidenbach. Maria, as we know, is our current Fraternalist of the Year. It’ll be nice to see the crew down there as well.

Back at home in the Chicago area, there will be a number of events that will get going, from cultural events, to Sokol events, to both CSA related, and non-CSA related holiday events.

I hope to catch up with as many of our fellow members as possible in the months ahead. If we don’t cross paths in the near future…happy holiday season to you and your family, and, hopefully, we’ll meet up sooner than later.

As always, we’ll be working our tails off keeping your assets at CSA safe and secure here in Lombard. Give us a call, or drop us a note if you need anything.

John J. Kielczewski, CLU, FLMI
President, CSA Fraternal Life
Calendar of Events

Saturday, November 4, 2017
SCARCE Pumpkin Smash
9:00 a.m. to noon

Saturday, November 11, 2017
Czech Festival
American-Czech Center
4690 Lansdowne Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri
Czech food, Czech beer, Czech music, booths and games, and a special performance by the dancers from the United Moravian Societies of Chicago.
For more information, call 314-752-8168, or check out our Facebook page.

Saturday, November 25, 2017
Christmas Around the World
Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Illinois
www.msichicago.org

Sunday, November 26, 2017
D.C. 12 Fraternal Family Holiday Party
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Safari Land, Villa Park, Illinois
(See details on page 18.)

Sunday, December 3, 2017
D.C. No. 12 Cultural Division Christmas Party
Crystal Sky Banquets, Doors open at 12, dinner at 1 p.m.
50 and 75-year pins handed out to those present.
Raffle will be held; Cultural Division cookbooks for sale.
RSVP with your Lodge Secretary – $25
Or call Caroline Johnston at 708-387-9423

Sunday, December 3, 2017
D.C. No. 9 Holiday Luncheon
Dillonvale Presbyterian Church Social Hall
Hosted by Lodge 121; Lunch at 2 p.m.
Call Wendy for more details: 740-769-7511.

Saturday, December 9, 2017
Great St. Louis Czech Beer Festival 2017
American Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, Missouri
Visit http://acecstl.org/beerfest for more info.

Saturday, December 23, 2017
Lodge Slunce Christmas Party and Brunch
Lake in the Forest Black Bear RV Resort
Starting at 9 a.m.
Bring your favorite holiday dish and swimsuit.
All are invited. RSVP with Bernie Bleiker by December 15.

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
James Kovac, Treasurer

National Directors
Tom Ledvina
Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota
Ken Dvorsky and Adam Wilt
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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Happy fall, everyone.

The holidays are right around the corner. By the time you receive this magazine issue, we will either be preparing for or recovering from our Thanksgiving feasts. In my family, this is always an exciting time. My parents and brother, who are from Ohio, are able to spend the weekend with me in Chicago. It’s always a treat, as they are not city-savvy. We get to explore together, and I am able to show them all of my favorite spots within the city. We usually have to de-stress mom, but she relaxes eventually. One of our traditions is going to Bohemian Crystal Restaurant for dinner. It’s much easier than trying to cook an entire Thanksgiving meal in my tiny, one-bedroom apartment (wink).

In this issue, we’ll discuss and showcase the facts and various events from WWI. This war sometimes gets overshadowed by WWII, but it was just as devastating. On the cover, you will see a painting of soldiers getting along and enjoying themselves near a tiny Christmas tree. Yes, I know that it is not Christmas yet, but this image is an important part of history!

This image depicts the “Christmas Truce of 1914”. On December 7, 1914, Pope Benedict XV suggested there be a temporary hiatus of the war for the celebration of Christmas. Although the warring countries refused to create any official cease-fire, on Christmas, the soldiers in the trenches declared their own unofficial truce. German and British troops sang carols to each other across the line. Some soldiers called out “Merry Christmas” in their enemies’ native tongues. It was first seen as a trick, but unarmed soldiers shook hands, exchanged presents, ate food together, and played games.

The “Christmas Truce of 1914” came just five months after the outbreak of war in Europe. It was one of the last examples of the outdated concept of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated. Future attempts at holiday ceasefires were squashed by officers’ threats of disciplinary action, however it served as heartening proof, although brief, that beneath the brutality of war, humanity among soldiers still remains.

This Thanksgiving, I wish you a happy and healthy weekend with loved ones. Relax a little, and enjoy the time you have together.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month... so goes the line marking armistice between the Allies and Germany. With the passing of each year, our connection to the period seems to diminish further. Even in the mid-1980s in high school, my history classes emphasized many aspects of the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World War II. We would typically skim over World War I for the most part. The past five years that I have been with CSA have pointed out how important an era it was to the people of Central Europe, especially those working to form Czechoslovakia (First Republic).

During this same period, and to the great relief of the Home Office, military losses were lighter than anticipated. However, no one saw the 1918-19 Spanish Flu epidemic coming. Loss of life within our ranks was extreme, particularly for those lodges located in urban centers. Claims reached such a state that towards the end of 1918, monthly assessments were doubled. Fortunately, the epidemic relented during the following year, allowing claims to come back into line. The experience confirmed just how valuable membership was as both members and non-members witnessed families being helped through a difficult time.

That membership is just as valuable today as it was 100 years ago. Plan for the best, but be prepared for the worst. As long as planning is on my mind, I would encourage you to attend a lodge meeting if you haven’t lately. November is the month that Lodge Officers are elected, as well as delegates to next year’s Quadrennial Convention. Many lodges will see an increase in the number of delegates allotted. Why not take an active hand in the future of your society?

So this fall on Veterans Day, take a moment to think about those who have fought long and hard for our freedoms, and the families that have had to make sacrifices. Thank a veteran. As George S. Patton said, “It is foolish to mourn the men who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived.”

Fraternally,
Matthew Koski
Secretary, COO, CRO

Meet the Agent
Robert (Bob) Hope
Mayfield, OH
Telephone: (440) 343-1256
Email: hope1652@aol.com
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219
Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372

Bob’s insurance career began in 1980, nearly 37 years ago after he graduated from Ohio University with a degree in Business Administration. For the last four years, he has served as President of the Board of Directors for the USO of Northern Ohio. He and his wife, Marylynn, have been married for 41 years and have three children and six grandchildren.

In his spare time, Bob runs golf tournaments for former pro athletes such as Bernie Kosar and Don Cockroft. He encourages anyone in the Cleveland area to contact him regarding their existing policies and/or new product questions.

Bob is pictured with his late uncle, Bob Hope, whom he was named after.
Hello Brothers and Sisters,

The past few weeks have been a bit hectic. After a 30-plus hour drive from Iowa to California, I’m back at school and ready for an exciting year! While that means homework is starting to pick up, I’m having a great time as I dive into my prospective double majors of Economics and Communication.

I’m also enjoying spending time with my friends and getting reoriented with my sorority—Alpha Phi.

This quarter, I also decided to challenge myself and take a few classes outside of my comfort zone. This includes a class centered around social dancing, where I am learning a variety of techniques and forms of the waltz, swing, salsa, and even how to tango! Unfortunately, the class does not offer instruction on polka. However, I’ve discovered that a few clubs on campus include the dance in their performances!

In October, I was lucky enough to receive a visit from my younger brother, Carter. He had never been out to visit me at school, and was excited to travel to the Bay Area for a weekend. Carter is currently a sophomore in high school, which means he is beginning to think about the college process himself. His trip to Stanford helped to get him thinking about what he wants and doesn’t want in a school. For example, he told me he’d like to be on a campus that is more centered on walking and biking, rather than driving—a characteristic of Stanford.

Carter’s visit was more than just a pleasant distraction from a crazy school schedule: it encouraged me to view my college experience from an outsider’s eyes. Oftentimes, I think it’s easy to get wrapped up in an experience and in the process forget to be thankful for the opportunities in our lives. My time at Stanford has been a constant learning process, but it is an opportunity that I am so lucky to be able to experience. Hearing Carter’s reflections on the campus, classes, and people of Stanford helped me to take a step back and be grateful for my chance to be a part of this community.

As we approach the holiday of Thanksgiving, I’d like to encourage you all to take a step back and reflect on the opportunities—both good and bad—in your lives. In addition, I hope you’ll all think about something that I have learned time and time again during my college career: the importance of embracing failure as an opportunity for learning and growth. Sometimes the opportunities we end up being the most grateful for are the things that in the beginning didn’t feel like opportunities at all.

Happy November!

Sydney Rieckhoff
Miss National CSA 2017-2018
The Advent of Chemical Weapons

Because trench warfare resulted in long stretches of combat deadlock, chemical weaponry was used to spur activity. Germany’s first use of chemical weapons came in 1915 at the Battle of Ypres in Belgium during World War I. The weapon was chlorine gas, which cleared sections of soldiers from the front lines. Ultimately 500,000 opposing troops were victims. Chlorine gas burns the throat and causes asphyxiation (like smoke in a house fire).

The Germans’ next weapon of choice was mustard gas introduced in 1917. They outfitted artillery shells and grenades with the gas and fired it in the vicinity of their target. After several exposures, mustard gas eventually was known as Hot Stuff or HS and later, just H. By the end of WWI, chemical weapons killed 100,000 people and earned the well-deserved title of Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMDs.

The lethal power of mustard gas is not easily recognized. At first you may not know anything is wrong, then you begin to smell it. In WWI, soldiers had a hard time detecting a gas attack but noticed a smell. This smell quickly dissipated leaving victims to assume the gas was gone. This disappearing act made mustard gas dangerous to victims and desirable to their enemy. Because the odor disappeared quickly, soldiers were in danger when walking through fields which were the site of attacks a day or two earlier.

Mustard gas is a blister agent appearing yellow with a mustard like smell. It may come in the form of vapor, solid, or liquid. Blister agents sneak up on victims. Suddenly an unsuspecting victim has skin damage and internal damage to the membranes in the nose and throat. It destroys DNA, cells, and liquefies tissues. On a scale of one to ten, scientists give mustard gas a solid seven for its lethal qualities.

Although lethal, mustard gas does not kill quickly. Fatalities usually occur as a result of broncho-pneumonia. In WWI, about 2% of all casualties who wore a respirator died from their injuries, compared to a 50% death rate of those exposed without a respirator.


As a result of military action, 950,000 civilians died. Disease and famine claimed another 6 million lives.

A Path to Citizenship?

During World War I, aliens (immigrants) serving in the United States military did not gain (automatic) citizenship through service alone. The naturalization of these soldiers was accomplished following certain provisions of nationality (and immigration) law which facilitated the naturalization of members of U.S. armed forces. Under these provisions, the Declaration of Intention step would be waived and/or the residency requirement reduced. Many soldiers were able to file petitions for citizenship and were naturalized the same day.

Documentation and completed paperwork were key for a speedy naturalization process. Soldiers needed to complete a petition which had to be filed with the appropriate court. Another copy of the petition was filed with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) which holds duplicate forms for all naturalizations granted after 1906. The expedited process for naturalization could have been performed in a Federal, State, or local court having jurisdiction over the soldier’s military base, or a judge who may have held “naturalization court” at the military base.

World War I saw the extensive use of trench warfare on both sides of combat. Originally this system was developed in the 17th century by a French military engineer, Sebastien LePrestre de Vauban. Trench warfare remained an insignificant part of combat readiness until bigger and better weapons forced both sides to make use of trenches during battle.

Trench warfare reached its highest development and use on the Western Front during World War I. Forces comprised of millions of men facing each other in trenches from Belgium through France and onto Switzerland. With the introduction of the machine gun and rapid fire artillery pieces, soldiers were forced to “hunker down” amidst bullets and shells flying through the air. Seeking the shelter of a trench was key to survival.

A typical trench system during World War I consisted of two or more trench lines running parallel to each other in a zigzag line. This formation minimized casualties and made it harder for enemy fire to reach its target. Trenches were not just used to protect soldiers while in combat. During World War I, the French and British incorporated trenches for various reasons:

**Dressing Stations** – Trenches were used to immediately care for the seriously wounded. On the Western Front, more than 92% of the wounded men – who later were evacuated to British medical units – survived.

**Shelters** – Trenches provided protection not only from enemy fire, but bad weather as well.

**Firing Trench** – This 7-foot deep ditch at the front line provided cover for the more exposed troops. Its zigzag formation minimized casualties and damage by incoming shells.

**Support Trench** – This trench was dug 200-500 yards behind the main line to act as a second line of defense.

**Reserve Trench** – Several hundred feet behind the Support Trench, these reserve trenches stored food and supplies and offered a little comfort to those destined for the Front.

**Communication Trenches** – Connecting the entire network of trenches, a string of communication trenches enabled information to travel quickly. This kept the troops supplied, with casualties and reinforcements on the move.

Courage and resolve coupled with military intelligence resulted in the majority of British and French soldiers, who fought so valiantly on the Western Front, returning home to their loved ones.

The Lafayette Escadrille

While Europe was engaged in what would become known as World War I, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson pledged to keep America out of the war. American citizens, politicians, and newspapers debated the wisdom of this decision. Young men were anxious to get into the fight, but Wilson stood firm in his resolve to remain neutral.

Because there was no effort to make-ready the American military forces for war, volunteers were forced to travel to France or Britain to enlist in the fight. Initially, these young men offered their services in the French Foreign Legion or in ambulance services. Two years before America would officially enter the war (after the sinking of the Lusitania), a group of men representing a hodge-podge of Americans-intellectuals, drifters, a lawyer from New York, a newspaper correspondent from Boston, and a black boxer from Alabama – among others – traveled to Europe to volunteer and be trained for combat. Many of these men came from wealthy families and attended Ivy League schools. In fact, the first American casualty of World War I is thought to be Edward Mandell Stone, son of a Chicago Industrialist.

From 1914 and on, men increasingly enlisted with the French Air Service (the U.S. had now agreed to allow citizens to volunteer for military service abroad). Before long, it was suggested a squad (or “escadrille” in French) would be formed for active service on the Western Front. The French Government agreed, and in April of 1916, Escadrille Americaine (known as N124) was sent to the front line in France. Because the U.S. was still officially neutral, the name of the squad was changed to Lafayette Escadrille after General Lafayette, a friend of George Washington and a hero of the American Revolution.

N-124 was commanded by a Frenchman, Georges Thenault, and was composed of seven American pilots. Its first flight mission took place in May of 1916 with their first “kill” recorded five days later. Victor Chapman, a Harvard graduate, was the Escadrille’s first casualty. With the Escadrille’s success came increased fame. Consequently, greater numbers of American volunteers sought service with N-124. These applicants did not always gain entry to N-124, but 200 men did pass through the French Air Service training program.

After America’s formal entry into the war, the Escadrille was passed into American hands in February of 1918. These “volunteers” were credited with downing 199 German planes and suffered a total of 19 wounded, 45 captured, 11 dead of illness or accident, and 51 killed in action.


The Doughboys of WWI

Have you ever wondered why soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I were called doughboys? If so, you are not alone. There really is no definitive answer to this question, however, there are a few theories and much speculation.

One explanation is that the term dates back to the American/Mexican War of 1846. American soldiers made long treks over dusty ground and were covered in the dust of the adobe soil. These soldiers were first called “adobes” which morphed in “dobies” which then eventually became “doughboys”. Another theory, according to “War Slang” by American journalist Paul Dickson and lexicographer (a person who compiles dictionaries) H. L. Mencken, was that the nickname could be traced way back to when Continental army soldiers kept the piping on their uniforms white by covering it with clay. However when it rained, the clay turned into a blobby mess which in turn caused the name “doughboy.”

Some experts believe this moniker is as old as the Civil War or maybe much older. General George Custer’s widow wrote a book shortly after the Civil War claiming the name was a result of the round buttons, which looked like doughnuts, on the soldiers’ uniforms. Another explanation is that the term originated during the Peninsular War (1807-1814) when some of Lord Wellington’s soldiers named a spot Dough Boy Hill because of the difficulty in making bread there.

Another common nickname during World War I was “poilu” which means “hairy one” in French. At the time, French soldiers favored beards and mustaches. A popular slang for a British soldier was “Tommy” which stood for Tommy Atkins, a generic British name similar to John Doe in America.

The last American doughboy, Frank Buckles, died in 2011 at the age of 110. He had enlisted in the Army at age 16 in 1917, four months after the United States entered the war. He drove military vehicles in France. One of the 4.7 million Americans who served in World War I, Buckles is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.


Japan and Greece suffered the lowest casualties, 300 and 500 respectively.
CSA Honors Veterans

Aurelio Abarca
Gayland Abbott
Richard Abbott
Alex Akulik
Frank J. Albrecht
Henry A. Albrecht
Arthur Lee Aldridge
Joseph James Aldridge
Samuel Aldridge
Ralph Allen
Bruce Alt
Henry Ancinec
Joseph Andricosky
Charles Antos
Donald Antos
George Antos
Jerry Antos
Theodore Apel
Joseph Arnold
Anthony P. Bajena
Frank Balaja
David Balentine
James Baley
Donald Balson
Fred Balson
Richard Balvin
Scott Balvin
Michael Banchak
Jeff Banes
Alan Bardoun
Chuck Bares
Karel Bares
Frank Bares, Jr.
John Barker
William Barnett
Donald Barta
Joseph C. Barta
Frank Bartal
Jerry Bartosek
Charles Bartosh
Joseph Bartosh
Emil Basl, Jr.
Carlyle Lee Batha
Frank Batha
Frank M. Batha, Jr.
Hynek Batka
Hope Bauer
James Baxter
Joseph Becca
Donald Becker
George Beevar
Jan Bednar
Anton Bejcek
John A. Belavek
Salvatore Belfiore
George Belica
Milada Belohlavek
James Benes
Frank Benesh
Richard Benes
Jerry Beran
Jerry Beran, Jr.
Raymond Beran
Joseph Beranek
Rudolph Beranek
John Best, Jr.
Robert C. Bethel
Charles A. Bezdek
Charles D. Bezdek
Gary Bickham, Sr.
Frank Bihlmayer
Charles Bily
James Bithell
William Blabolil
Charles Blachtecki
Emil Blahovec
A.W. Blankenbach
Robert Bobzien
Arnir Bohm
Joseph Bolek
Michael Bongner
Charles L. Borcsany
Frank Borcsany
Laddie Bosak
George Boucek
Glennon Bourisaw
James Boxa
Cindy Braun
Jerry Braun
Robert Braun
Jerry Brdicka
Donald Breidenbach
Bernard Broucek
Raymond Broucek
Robert Brown
Tony Bubenicek
Arthur Buccigrossi, Jr.
Arthur Buccigrossi, Sr.
Albert Buchta
Jason Bugliari
Martin Bujaky
Morgan Bulman
Andy Bultas
William Bures
Leon Burkett
Wilbert Burkhammer
Dale J. Burton
Peter A. Caram
Jerry Castulik
Joseph Castulik
Joseph C. Castulik
Joseph J. Castulik
Marshall Ceconello
Albert Cecka
George Ceithaml
Charles Censky
George F. Cepak
Elsa Cermak
Fred Cermak
Michael Cermak
Walter Cernik
Jared Cernosky
Elmer Cerny
Joseph Cerny
Joseph J. Cerny
Louis Cerny
Charles Cervenka
Edward Cervenka
Jim Cervenka
John F. Cervenka
Josef Chlubna
M.A. Chludil
Miroslav Chmela
Joe Chocola
Adolph Choura
Charles Choura
Frank Choura
Lawrence J. Chrastka
Dennis Chrisman
Jerry Chvatal
Laddie Chvatal
Edward J. Chvosta
Richard Chylisky
Frank Cibulka
Walter Cich
James Cichra
George Cicovsky
Erwin F. Cihak
George Cihla
Joseph Cihla
Joseph Cihla
Albert E. Ciniubik
Robert Ciniubik
Robert L. Ciniubik
James Cizak
Adolph Cizek, Jr.
James Cizek
Fred Cizek
Johnie Cmach
Karel Cmach
Gregory Cowles
Lee Cowles
Milos Alyn Crowell
James Cuda
Ronald R. Culey
Charles Cupita
Jan Karel Cupita
Jerry Cvarovsky
John Cvarovsky
Joseph Cvarovsky
Chester Czarsinski
John J. Dana
Anton J. Danek
Antonin Danek
Edward Danek
James Danek
Tony Danhelka
Edward Davis
Michael A. DeBias
Charles Dedera
Eugene Dembowski
Gerald DePatie
Adam Devalk
Neal Devalk
Harvey Devorak
Delbert Ditch
Stanley Ditch
Milan Divina
Joseph Dobias
Joseph Dobry
Harry Dohnal
Timothy Dominik
William Dominik
John Dorsek
Anthony Dorsek, Jr.
James Doyle
Elmo Drilling
Joseph Drlík
Harry Duewell
Blanche Duffey
James Duffey
Frances Dvorak
Joseph J. Dvorak
Richard Dvorak
William Dvorak
Kevin Dvorsky
Michael Dvorsky

9.7 million soldiers died in WWI.

The country with the most military deaths was Germany.
CSA Honors Veterans

Kenneth Easha
Charles Ebright
Josef Eckert
Frank Edmunds
George Eisenstein
Stanley Eisner
Fred Engeltalher
David Eppinger
Milton Fajnor
Samuel Fajnor
Andrew H. Faltynek
Otto Faltynek
Robert Faltynek
Russ Farrar
Tony Feck
Felix Feitel
Rick Fenby
Jerry Fiema
Joseph Filipek
Frank Filous
Raymond Filous
E. L. Fimbinger
George Fisher
Kenneth L. Fisher
Joseph Florian
Edwin Frana
Robert Friedel
Charles Friscia
Frank Frohlich
Emil Fronek
Arthur Gall
Jerome Gaydusek
John Brian Gaydusek
John F. Gaydusek
Harry Geerling
Brian Gerwitz
Robert Gerwitz
Raymond Gogolin
Lawrence Gotthard
Ronald Gould
Keith Graf
Stephen Grega
Jack Griffin
Frank Guzak
J.E. Hakko
Anton Hajek
Carl Hajek
Edward Hajek
Irvin Hajek
Ronald J. Halcarz
Otto Haller
Dale Hamilton
Donald Hamous
Jerry J. Hanacek
Steve Hancko
James F. Haney
Rockford G. Hanken
Emil Hanzal
George Hanzel
Milton Harris
Edward Hartl
Ray Hausch
Donald Hauser
Edward Havlik
Fred Heindl
Gerald Heindl
Jeremy Heindl
Joseph Heindl
Keith Heindl
Alan R. Helisek
Jerry S. Helisek
John S. Helisek
Anton Hemzacek
Edwin Hemzacek
Raymond Hemzacek
Frank Henry
James Herda
Ludwig Herink
Phil Hermanek
Philip Hermansen
Charles Hersch
William J. Hersch
Joseph Hii
Frank Hladky
Raymond Hlavacek
Richard Hlavarek
Rudolf Hlavaty
Joseph Hobl
Emil Hock
Russell Holdych
Charles Holada
Harold Holdych (below)
Russell Holdych
Emil Holecheck
John Holman
James Holoubek
Joseph Holoubek
Oliver Holsinger
Emil R. Holub
Joseph Holub, Jr.
Anthony Holubik
Jerry Holubik
John Holubik
Steven Holubik
Thomas Holubik
Victor Holubik
John Honus
Patrick Hoover
Tom Horky
George Hornak
Robert Hornak
Robert R. Horesovsky
Ted Hosnedle
Charles Hosticka
Frank Hosticka
John Howe, Sr.
Dennis Hrabak
James Hrasky
Jim Hrasky
Donald Hrebec
Charles Hrilal
Anton Hruby
Albert Hrudka
Frank Thomas Hruska
James Hruska
Emil Hurtik
Louis Hurtik, Jr.
Miro Hurych
James Husa
Jerry Husa
Joseph Husa
Kenneth Hylsky
Mark Hylsky
Norbert Hylsky
Thomas Hylsky
Mary Ann Inga
Ernest Irmler
Louis Irmler
Joseph Ivan
Frank Jancura
Tony Jandacek
Lester Janes
Andrew Janik
Frank Janik
Pavel Janik
Edward Joseph Janca
Frank Janosik
Miro Janosik
Otto Janoushaver
Charles Jarasek
Edward Jedlicka
Frank Jedlovec, Jr.
Frank Jedlovec, Sr.
Lewis Jegla
Terry L. Jelenek
Ed Jelinek
Jerry Jelinek
Roy Jensen
Charles D. Jerabek
Stephen Jerabek
Charles Jetensky
Frank Jetensky
Jerry Jetensky
Frank Jezek
Rudolph Jezek
Edward Jindra
George J. Jindra
Louis J. Jiricek
Charles C. Jirik
Jerome Johnston
Jerry A. Jones
Robert Julek
Otto Kaderabek
Alois Lewis Kadlec
Walter Wesley Kadlec
Glen E. Kaemmerer, Jr.
Oldrich Kala
Frank Kalivoda
Leonard Kalivoda
Vaclav Kalivoda
James Kantor
Kevin Kantor
Kenneth Kaplan
Edward Karasek
Edward A. Karasek
Blanche A. Kasparik
Joseph Kassly, Jr.
Jerry Kavan
John Kay
Frank Kebrle
James H. Kellmann
Russell Kelly
Russell Kesl
Herb Kirian
Joseph Kirian
Theodore Kish
Norman Klamert
Emil Klecka
Richard Klecka
Emil Klejko
Daniel Klepac
Walter Klepac
John M. Kmet
Charles Knapton
George Knedlhans
John Knedlhans
Marlin Knight, Sr.
Frank Kocian
George Kocian

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Russia had the highest death toll of WWI with 3.8 million military and civilians.

About 3,000 American soldiers are still listed as MIA in World War I.
CSA Honors Veterans

Josef Nachtman
John Nagy
Samuel Nagy
Leonard Navratil
Lorraine Nayder
Thomas Nayder
Frank Neadly
Louis Nedved
ladimer Nekl
Bohumil George (Bob) Nekolny
Edward Joseph Nekolny
George Bohumil Nekolny
John Nekolny
Miles Edward Nekolny
Darrell Wayne Netolicky
Frank John Netolicky, Jr.
Frank Netolicky, Sr.
Warren Keith Netolicky
Robert Newcomer
James W. Nikl
Vlaseimil Nohejl
Joseph Norris
Alfred Novacek
Dale Novak
Frank Novak
Joe Novak
Louis Novak
Murray Novak
Jerry Novotny
Myron Nudera
Frank Oblak
Joseph Ondra
Allan Onl
Frank Oplatek
Marcus (Pat) Pace
Allison Paddock
Milan Paddock
Paul Palcsak
Arthur Palecek
Pete L. Palek
Martin Palla
Frank Pallick
William Parizek
Rudolph Patopasty
Joseph Pavka
Ralph Pavlik
Ervin Pazdera
H.T. Pazdernik
Jerry Pech
Anthony Pekarek
Charles Pekarek
George Pekarek
Karel Pekarek
Richard Pekarek
Joseph Perosovich
Emil Perout
Ray Pesek
Robert Pesek
Rudy Pesek
William Pesek
John Peterkovitch
Allan Peterson
Joseph C. Petrik
John Petro
Donald W. Petrosky
Joseph D. Petrosky
John Piader
George M. Picha
Joseph Picha
Milton Picha
Joseph Pichert
Donald Pichner
Ladd Pilous
Ladie Pilous
Rudolph M. Piskule
Louis J. Pivonka
Charles Piza
Adolph Placek
Anton Plachy
Charles Platecky
Josef Player
Edward Plomer
Harold Plomer
Rudy Pohanka
Thomas Pohanka
John Polasek
Milton Polehna
Stanley Polnicky
Keith W. Porter
Frank Posta
Lloyd Posta
Jan Prazek
Russell Vlad Prech
James Precosky
Robert Prible
Frank Pros
Richard Prusha
Joseph Psenicka
Robert (Bohumil “Red”) Ptacek
Donald Pulkrab
Steve F. Pultorak
Franklin A. Puncochar
Antonin Rada
Edward Rada
Frank Raidl
Henry Rak
Joseph Rak
Barry R. Randle
Aldrich Ratay
Otto Regentik
Fred Reigel
James Reigel
Norbert Reiman
Ron Renaud
John Rendl
Frank Rericha
Shawn Rericha
Frank Rezny
Jerry Rhia
Joseph Richter
Joseph Richter, Sr.
Edward Ridl
Marvin Rigel
Paul Riha
Raymond Riha
Annette Rinaldi-Reichman
George Rohler
Vern Rompot
Benjamin Rott
Charles Rubuikan
John (Alex) Rudd-Yaklin
Albert Rus
Joseph Rus
Jan Russell
William Rustic
Stanley Ruzicha
George Ruzicka
Charles Rybnikar
Anton Ryjacek
Helen Ryznar
Edward J. Sabados
James Safranek
Dennis Sailer
George Salaba
Robert Salay
Tony Sapa
Anthony Santavy
Raymond Sasseeen
Donald Sauer
John Scheffel
Milton Scheffel
Henry Schmit
Charles Schultz
Jerry Schultz
Frank Schoiber
Peter Scoutelas
Stanley Sebek
Joseph Sedlak
Rudolph Seibert
Henry Seidel
Stanley Semerad
Thomas Sep
Donald Serapiglia
Frank Sevcik
George Sevcik
Frank Seymour
John Seymour
James Shikner, Jr.
Andrew Shost
Stanley Shost
Frank Shourek
Frank Shramek
Stephen Shulin
Vince Shulin
Edward Shumbera
Albert Sikora
John Silhan
Joseph Silhavy
Charles Simecek
Jaroslav Simecek
Milo Simecek
Stanley Simek
Tony Simek
Charles Simonovic
George Simonovic
Karel Simonovic
Michael Simonovic
E. M. Simunek
Emil Simunek
F. Simunek
Frank Simunek
Ulrich A. Sinkora,
Frank Siroy
Alice Skala
Adolph William Skalak
Carl Skalak
Joseph William Skalak
Frank Skaryd
LaVerne Skaryd
George J. Skoumal, Jr.
Jack L. Skoumal
Robert Skoumal
William J. Skoumal, Jr.
Mildred Skudrna
Allen R. Skyler

250,000 British soldiers suffered a partial or full amputation as a result of the war.
CSA Honors Veterans

Frank Sladek
William Sladky
Charles A. Slanina
Ed Slavik
Robert Slavik
Josef Slezingr
Edward Smahay
Jerry Smahay
Jerry Smahay, Jr.
Anthony Smazenka
Tony Smazenka
George Smazik
Joseph Smazik
Milton Smazik
Joseph Smejik
Rudolph Smidl
Robert Smira
Jack Smith
Edward Smola
Jim Smolucha
Michael Smolucha
Frank Smrcek
Charles Smunt
Robert Smunt
Mildred Smutny-Skudrna
Charles E. Snyders
Frank Sobkowiak
Frank Sobkowiak, Sr.
Josef Solarik
Joseph Soldat
Jim Sommer
Elmer Soos
Dennis Sopko
Jerry Souta
Jerry T. Souta
George Spala
Robert L. Spatenka
Laddie Srahola
Stanley Sramek
Milan Stasa
George Stecha
Adolph Stehno
Henry Stehno
James Stejskal
Karel Stekl
Frank Sternes
Frank Stetina
Emil Stetkar
Frank Stetkar
Alfred Stewart
Rudolph Stika
Rudy Stika
John Stock
Jerry Stodola
John Storcel
Walt Strach
John Straka
George Stransky
Joseph Stransky
John Stribrny, Jr.
John Stribrny, Sr.
Jerry Strnad
James Strobl
Jerry Strobl
Vlad (Walter) Suchy
Frank Suda
Terry Sula
Ralph Sulek
Ralph Surowiec
Charles Svatek
Frank Svaty
Stanley Svaty
Allen Svehla
George Svejda
Edward Svitil
Arthur Svoboda
Artur E. Svoboda
Carl Svoboda
Edward Svoboda
Frank Svoboda
George Svoboda
Josef Svoboda
Karel Svoboda
Laddie Svoboda
Norman Svoboda
Walter Svoboda
William Svoboda
Ruth Swanson
Edward Swgunsk
George Sykora
Jaroslav Syptak
Henry Szost
Robert Szost
Walter Szost
William Tary
Herbert Temple
Barbara Thomas
Evelyn Tichy
Frank Tichy II
Joseph Tichy
Robert Tichy
Rudolph Tichy
Vil Tichy
Karel Tittl, Jr.
Zane Tittle
Frank Tomaskovic
Joseph Tomaskovic
Lloyd Tomcal
Chad Tomes
John J. Toncar
Theodore Townsend
Harold Trejbal
Joseph Trejbal
Robert Trejbal
George M. Tresnak
Oliver J. Tresnak
Tom L. Tresnak
Charles Trmka
Frank Trmka, Jr.
Frank Turek
James Turek
James Uhlik
Clarence Ulman
Norman Ulrich
Henry Vajener
Charles Valek
George Valek
Jiri Valek
Charles Valestin, Sr.
John Valusek
Ladd Valusek
Milo Vanek
Vlad Vanek
Robert Vanicek
Ross Varceli
Alexander Varga, Jr.
Peter Vasecek
Stanley Vasecek
Jerry Vasko
Walter Vaverka
Donald Anthony Vavra
Joseph Vavrasek
Lee Vavrasek
Paul Vavrasek
Beri Yavrin
James Vejsicky
Jerome Velky
Frank Versnick
Henry Versnick
Edward A. Vesely
Edward C. Vesely
Ernest V. Vesely
Joseph Vesely
George Vetovich
Russell Vetovich
Frank Veverka
Richard L. Veverka
Paul Vican
Jim Vimr
John Vimr
Laddie Vitek
Charles Vitous
Jerry Vitovsky
Thomas Vitovsky
James Vitter
Rudolph Vitter
Joseph Vlasak
Frank Vleek
Elmer Vodacak
D. J. Vodrazka
Charles Vokrakca
Jerry Vokracka
Joseph Vokracka
Raoul Vonderau
Charles Vondracek
Frank Vondracek
Frank Vondrak
Anton (Tony) Vopenka
Josephine Mary Vsetula
Emil Vydareny
Jerry Vyskoceil
James Vyslysel
Jerry Vyslysel
George Vytacil
Louie Vyvijal

U.S. Military losses were 320,500 deaths with 204,000 wounded.

George V. Yeck
CSA Honors Veterans

Robert E. Watzl  Wayne Wolf  Jerry Zajic  John Zboril
John C. Weiss  William Wolf  Jerry Zajic  Charles Zdenek
Vincent Wenzien  James Wozniak  Rudy Zak  Josef Zelenka
Benjamin Wencel  George V. Yeck  John Zaloudek  William Zelenka
Donald Wencel  Tony Yeck  John Zaloudek  William R. (Bill) Zelenka
Robert L. Wencel  Al Yedlicka  Jerry Zamrzel  Anton Norbert Zeman
Elizabeth White  Andy Yedlicka  Woodrow Zamrzel  Jerry Zeman
Don Whitenach  Frank J. Yurka  Steve Zarski  Zdenek Sidney Zeman
Joseph Wimmer  George E. Yurka  Joseph Zaruba  Emil J. Zemanek
Joseph Windsor  John R. Yurka  Charles Zastresek  Louis Zembalis
Robert Wisneskey  Joseph E. Yurka  Milan Zavadny  George Zidlicky
Edward Wolf  George Yuska  Charles Zavora  John Zitek
Emil (Sonny) Wolf, Jr.  Roman Zach  Joseph Zavora  Raymond Zitek
Francis Wolf  Adolph Zahradka, Sr.  Charles Zboril  John Zitney
Otto Wolf  James Zahradnicek  Frank Zboril  Charles Zavora

American Women in World War I

“Women at work during the First World War” by Horace Nicholls

For centuries, women have been involved in war, even in combat. They followed armies, tended to the sick, provided food and water to troops, and made themselves indispensable in many ways. Military strategists and advisers have claimed that armies would not have functioned as well (or even at all) without the service of women.

Women quickly became involved in World War I. Along with assuming traditional roles as in previous conflicts, their roles in World War I were significantly different. This time, the women’s war effort was highly organized as thousands of women across the country formed or joined various groups to assist the troops. Many of these groups were organized even before America’s official entry into the war. These groups were structured, focused, and effective; so much so that they earned the respect and support from their fellow citizens. A primary mission of these groups was to not only aid soldiers, but to provide relief to those in war-torn countries in Europe. Millions of Europeans were dying of starvation or disease.

Another feature of this relief effort was that a different class of women was involved. Previously most of the women were from the working class or poor. But during the “Great War,” women from all classes served in various capacities. Upper class (wealthy) women were the primary founders and organizers of many groups; they had the time and money to do so. Middle or lower class women participated in these groups, but were more than likely to serve as nurses with the military or replace men in their jobs as they went off to war. For the first time in history, women of all social strata were serving the war in some capacity.

To promote their mission and enhance their credibility, women donned uniforms for the first time. The addition of a uniform was significant; women were taken seriously and their efforts enjoyed increased support. Many women viewed their wartime assistance as a path to full citizenship, i.e. the right to vote (women were not granted suffrage until 1920). Uniforms confirmed their credentials as citizens engaged in wartime service. During World War I, for the first time in history, women were attached to the military and government agencies. Uniforms were key to this new rank of service. Women served in the Navy, Marines, and Army Nurse Corps. In France, the “Hello Girls” served as long-distance operators for the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

World War I was undoubtedly a watershed event for female military service in the United States and elsewhere. However, one can’t forget the women in every walk of life who saw their husbands and sons go off to war, those women in Europe whose homes and towns were ravaged by the conflict, and those women in media and the arts who lent their talent in supporting the ideals we were fighting for - freedom, virtue and victory. Women worldwide contributed to the hard won victory of World War I and their dedication and service should be applauded.


The Dogfights of World War I

A “dogfight” may not mean what you think it does. The earliest definition of dogfight meant an aerial battle between two or more aircraft. Not long after the invention of the aircraft, World War I erupted. No other war up to this time saw combat in the air. Coupled with air combat was the need to develop weapons to be used while flying. The first fighter planes of WWI were equipped with machine guns attached to the top of the plane’s wing. These early planes had only two seats. The man in the rear controlled the guns. Dogfights were very difficult; not only did the pilot have to fly the aircraft, but had to listen to the directions of the gunner to keep the enemy in sight.

The first dogfight is believed to have taken place in August of 1914 when Lieut. Norman Spratt, flying a Sopwith Tabloid, forced down a German plane. This was an amazing feat considering his Sopwith was not armed! One of Britain’s ace pilots was Louis Strange who devised a safety strap system so it was possible for the gunner to stand up and fire around, over the top, and behind the plane. His gunner soon brought down enemy aircraft over the Western Front. By the next year, all British aircraft were equipped with the safety harness. Guns and grenades were utilized.

Capt. Lanoe Hawker was awarded the first Victoria Cross for air combat. Flying a single seater armed with a single-shot carbine mounted on the fuselage, he downed three German aircraft. What was so remarkable was that the enemy planes had machine guns! The French flyer, Roland Garros, added deflector plates to the propeller blades. These small pieces of steel were able to divert bullets that struck the blades. This added protection enabled a pilot in a single-seater to successfully fire a machine gun.

The Germans also were busy. Using a synchronized machine gun system developed by Dutch designer, Anton Fokker, they destroyed 17 Allied aircraft. German pilots Immelmann and Boelcke were killed in 1916, but not before Boelcke claimed 40 more victims. A German pilot with more than eight kills became known as a “Flying Ace.” Not long after, using this same synchronized machine gun system, British and French pilots became Flying Aces as well.

Another dogfight tactic was developed by British Major Mick Mannock who was the leading Flying Ace with 73 victories. His tactic was to dive on a target out of the sun. This lessened the target pilot’s reaction time to avoid being hit. Later, pilots fixed mirrors near guns which reflected sun back into the eyes of a target pilot. Another tactic was using cloud cover. A pilot would attack an enemy and then quickly return to the safety of the clouds. There was little time to seek and destroy the enemy; a pilot had less than 60 seconds for an attack. They had to make careful and deliberate use of weapons and ammunition.

Almost all of the pilots in air combat during World War I were under the age of 25. As the casualties mounted, by 1918, pilots were between the ages of 18 and 21. Many pilots had only 30 hours of air training. Dogfight training was held at the Front by more experienced pilots.

CSA Honors Russell Holdych

Russell Holdych has been an 86-year member of CSA and a graduate of Morton High School in Cicero, Illinois in 1943. After basic training in the U.S. Army, in World War II, he served in General George S. Patton’s third Army. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and The European Theatre of Operations Medal with three major battle scars. He was proud of the Normandy Medal of Liberty from the French Government for participation in the D-Day invasion with four other military awards.

He was also honored with inclusion in the National Purple Heart Hall “Roll of Honor” in New York State when the Museum was established in November 2006. He was inducted with one of the first groups. His military history is part of the permanent record at the Hall.

While carrying a 30-pound radio and a seven-pound rifle, he also carried food supplies plus sleeping gear. Amputation from trench foot was common because of the wet conditions. Soldiers received a fresh pair of socks daily.

He is a member of the VFW and the Military Order of the Purple Heart where he served as Finance Officer for Chapter 601 from 2005-2010.

General Patton commended the Division in which Holdych served for “courage, skill, endurance, and determination, but also sound tactical judgement coupled with an insatiable desire to close with the enemy.”
CSA District Council #12 & Fraternal Family Division

Family Holiday Party

Rides/Games, Pizza lunch, & Pictures with Santa!

Sunday, November 26, 2017
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

SAFARI LAND
Indoor Amusement Park
701 W. North Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

IMPORTANT NOTE
All participants MUST wear socks and closed-toe shoes!

Reservation Deadline
Tuesday, November 21

Three ways to RSVP - Choose Your Preferred Way!
1) Email names/ages to awilt.csalife@gmail.com
2) Call Adam with names/ages at 708-804-4400
3) Mail bottom of this flyer prior to 11/17/17 to: Adam Wilt, 223 S. Princeton Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181

Checks Payable to: CSA Fraternal Family Division (may be submitted at the party)

Members’ Lodge Name & Number

Children (Ages 0-17) FREE!

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Adults (Ages 18+) $5 EACH
District Council

Can You Believe It? It’s November!

District Council No. 12, Northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana – The eleventh month of the year is a very interesting time. The weather has become much cooler and it seems like we are ready for a lot of cloudy, cold, and rainy days.

Some special days are on the way. Will Rogers Day (Oklahoma) is celebrated on November 4, Election Day is held on the 8, and Veteran’s Day is the 11 (formerly called Armistice Day, recalling the end of WWI on November 4, 1918). The Discovery of Puerto Rico by Columbus occurred on November 19, 1493 during his second voyage to the New World. On October 3, 1789, George Washington first proclaimed that Thanksgiving would be a special time to give thanks to the Lord. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation making the fourth Thursday of the month an official U.S. holiday.

Lodges in District Council No. 12 conduct their election of officers this month. At this time, we will also be electing lodge delegates and alternates to the 2018 CSA Convention.

Some very enjoyable fun times are approaching, too! The Fraternal Family Division will hold its annual free Christmas Party for our youngsters (ages 1-17) on Sunday, November 29. See details on page 18 of this Journal issue. The Cultural Division’s Christmas Social will be held on Sunday, December 3. Make your plans early and remember that 50 and 75-year members will be honored guests at this banquet.

Enjoy the days ahead, and stay happy and healthy!

Fraternally,

Ed Slavik
Voting for New Officers

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Fall weather is having a hard time arriving in Cleveland, Ohio. One day it’s 92 degrees and the next day it’s 60! We’re all wishing for cooler, less humid, weather.

Again, tragedy has struck in these United States. The unbalanced man in Las Vegas shot and killed 58 people at a music concert and injured hundreds more. My husband and I personally know a young lady who was at the concert and, luckily, was not hurt. She is shaken up, just as many other people who were there. Her parents flew out there to comfort her. I pray these tragedies end.

Our October meeting was attended by 16 members. A delicious lunch was provided by Betty Svaty and Marlette Heryak. Marlette made a beautiful sunflower centerpiece and informed us about sunflowers and Maria’s garden, a sunflower garden in honor of a little girl who died of cancer. Thank you, ladies.

We sang happy birthday to Camille Shima (a young 92 year old) and Janet Mix. Camille, Janet Russell, and Janet Mix gave all of the members some yummy chocolates as a treat. Judy Genco and Karen Buzek won the 50/50 raffle and we had many fun games of bingo with a lot of winners.

We will be voting for new officers at our November meeting. Please try and attend. If you would like to be nominated for an office, please attend the meeting and let us know.

Nine people from Cleveland attended the bowling tournament in Washington, Pennsylvania at the Meadows Casino and Bowling Facility. We all had a good time!

The National Bowling Tournament will be held in Detroit, Michigan, the first week of May next year. More details to come.

Our “Soup Cook-off” fund raiser was a hit. There were about 18 different soups to sample, side dishes, and desserts. There was a costume contest, a trivia contest, music, side boards, etc. It was a fun event!

Our Pin Party will be held on Sunday, December 10 at St. Michael’s Party Center in Broadview Heights. Those members who attended eight or more meetings are free, those members who attended less than eight meetings are $15.00, those members who have not attended a meeting will be charged $20.00 and non-members and guests are $30.00. We have two members who will receive their 75-year pin and five members who will receive their 50-year pin. Please contact June Karecki at 216-941-6969 for tickets. We’re sure we will have a great event!

Our half-time secretary, Jan Russell, gave a lovely presentation about how a typical Czech Christmas season was celebrated. She played us four Christmas songs sung in Czech and told us that the Christmas season started on December 6 and ended on January 6. Jan’s parents, Zdenk and Evelyn Prazak, did the Cleveland area Czech radio show every Sunday morning for 50 years. What a lovely contribution to the Cleveland Czech community.

Jan is moving back to Florida next month for the winter. We will miss her dearly. June Karecki will resume her secretarial duties, along with being our treasurer. Thank you, Jan and June.

Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco
Lodge Happenings

Bottle Tops to Build a Bench

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – At our September meeting, we learned that we will no longer need to save plastic bottle tops for St. Mary’s Grade School. They now have enough plastic tops to create a bench. This project was a great way to teach the school children the value of recycling.

Also at this meeting we learned that the Bohemian National Cemetery turned 140 years old on October 29. To celebrate the occasion, they rang the Gate House Bell located at the entrance.

We held our October 11 meeting at Sis. Violet Krystof’s home. After lunch, we had a fun time playing bingo.

Just to let you know that the District Council No. 12 Cultural Division’s Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 3 at Crystal Sky Banquets in McCook, Illinois. You will have to be present at this event to receive your 50 or 75-year CSA member pin.

My sister, Kathleen Riha, told me about a nice walking tour she had at the Bohemian National Cemetery on September 17. Some of the highlights of the tour were seeing the Crematory Building erected in 1913 and the Cermak Family Mausoleum. There are about 15 historical points of interest at the Bohemian National Cemetery.

We wish you a happy fall.

Fraternally,
Loretta Paulus

“And Then There Were None”

Lodge R.T. Crane No. 7, North Riverside, Illinois – Lodge Crane has been busy and we have lots of fun happenings to share! At the beginning of October, we volunteered for Housing Forward to serve meals to the homeless. Jim Thompson and Adam Wilt made two large pots of soup, as always. Vera Wilt, Jim and Pat Thompson, Mary Lee, and a friend all served the soup, sandwiches, and cookies to the needy. Charmaine Thorfeldt and Dawn Jensen also donated homemade items to the dinner.

June and Helene Novalich and Vera Wilt went to see the show, “And Then There Were None,” performed by the North Riverside Players. They had a great time and encourage everyone to check out the shows put on in the North Riverside Community in the future.

At our October meeting, we made lap tie-blankets to be donated to Cantata Assisted Living. We also had our first ever “Soup Competition,” in which members brought their favorite homemade soup and the group voted on a winner. Stay tuned to next month’s article for the announcement of our Soup Champion! A few of our members also joined Lodge Sionilli and volunteered at Operation Support Our Troops America by filling care packages to be sent to soldiers overseas.

We look forward to our annual meeting in November as well as our Christmas Party on December 14 at Bohemian Crystal. Please contact Vera Wilt at verawilt@aol.com if you would like more information about the holiday party!

Fraternally,
Alix Wilt

Happy Anniversary

November 9
Rick Nociti and Meri Danek
Lodge Central Star No. 411

November 19
Dorothy and Stan Ditch
Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137

November 23, 1957
Lois M. Brejcha and Leroy Reed
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

Fraternal Well Wishes

Wayal Abarca
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

Jane Cibulka
Lodge Pingree No. 366

Helen Martanovic
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

Marj Nejdl
Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com

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Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Bedford, Ohio – After the business of the September meeting was completed, we had special guests Bruce and Kris Marek and their grandson Greyson. They gave a very nice presentation of their trip to Czechoslovakia.

For the October meeting, our lodge treated the Maple Heights Senior Center seniors to a lunch of Mr. Chicken, and the entertainment was provided by Greg Priscura.

Fraternally,
Annette Reichman (for Fran Weiss)

The 2018 CSA Quadrennial Convention

Your lodge should have received an information packet from the Home Office. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns.
**Lodge Happenings**

**Planning for the Annual Christmas Party**

**Lodge Estlian No. 404, Fairview Heights, Illinois** – The Lodge Estlian meeting was held on Sunday, October 1 at Longhorn Steakhouse. Members enjoyed dinners that ranged from shrimp, steak, salmon, and chicken. The fried green tomatoes appetizer was fantastic! It was a nice group and everyone enjoyed the conversation and catching up.

Congratulations to Roger Beran on his new home. Roger is moving to a lake in Glen Carbon, Illinois. We are all jealous of him being able to enjoy fishing from his backyard. Congratulations, Roger. In addition, Jason Haney has moved back home with Sandy Haney. Welcome home, Jason.

Please note that our annual Christmas party will be at the Caseyville Township Center on Bunkum Road on Sunday, December 3. There will be a paddle auction and cake walk. In addition, we will be honoring 50-year and 75-year members who will be receiving a recognition pin. Please note that you must be present to receive your pin. Michael Kupinski is taking reservations at this time and we hope to have an initial count by our next meeting, November 5. Non-members will be $15 per person for dinner.

Congratulations to Lydia Braun for receiving a $1,250 scholarship award from CSA. Good luck on your education and career.

Michael Kupinski updated everyone that his firm escaped significant damage from hurricane Irma, but power was out for over a week. Luckily, everything is back to normal already.

Lodge members enjoyed their trip on October 29 to Hermann, Missouri, the wine country. The city hosts an annual Octoberfest with German music, food and wine at the local wineries. Lodge members’ train tickets were paid for, with non-member tickets $35 per person. We look forward to updating everyone with pictures in the next article.

If there are questions about planned trips or for reservations for the Christmas party, please feel free to call Michael Kupinski at 754-367-6453.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kupinski

**Food Needed**

**Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, North Riverside, Illinois** – In October, our Lodge held a Halloween Costume contest with prizes.

One of our members, Andrew Venetti, received a $2,000 scholarship from CSA. He is in his last year at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Best of luck in your Senior year.

We extend warmest wishes to Raymond Riha and his wife Cathy, current members, who will be attending our Lodge meetings. Please welcome them.

Election of Officers will be held at our November meeting. Anyone who is a current member can run for an office.

We ask members to bring canned goods for the Saint Barbara’s food pantry.

Remember, November 11 is Veterans Day. Thank you to all of the men and women who fought for our country. Many of them still experience painful memories and injuries from their time of service.

Thanksgiving is November 23. All of us should be thankful for what we have obtained living in America. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Fraternally,

Mary Ellen Janda

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**Conversation on Czech Language**

**Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois** – During our October meeting, we celebrated Columbus Day and the start of fall. Of course, we ate well. We discussed the annual Christmas Party which will be on December 9 at Czech Plaza Restaurant. Members, please let me know if you will be there.

We discussed the Cultural Division District Council No. 12 Holiday Party on December 3, and it looks like we may have eight people attending so far. We talked about the TG Masaryk Czech School and the large number of students. Can you believe a discussion of Czech language was initiated by Charlie Valestin and joined by Emil Zemanek? Then, all of our Czech speakers joined in. We had a very interesting and entertaining conversation.

We will not be meeting at the TG Masaryk Czech School in December. The next meeting will be January 8, 2018, so please watch the weather and contact me for details at 708-442-8513.

Until next time,

Ken Dvorsky

---

**Meet the Member**

Do you know a CSA member who deserves recognition? Are they active in the community; do they volunteer often or donate money to charitable organizations? Send us their photo, a brief description of who they are and what they do, and we will publish them in the Journal.
Crafty Group

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – Who can deny that the ladies of Lodge Brookfield are a crafty group? It is one thing to knit baby booties, but the real trick is knowing how to make a pair that matches. At our August meeting, Dolores Chiappetta taught us some of her knitting secrets. We also continued working on blankets for the Still Missed Support Program at Hinsdale Hospital.

In the past, Lodge Brookfield has had extremely good luck choosing the days for our annual garage sale fundraiser. This year was no exception. The last Friday and Saturday of September were both spectacular early autumn days without a cloud in the sky. This was the best attended garage sale in our lodge’s history, perhaps due in part to the pleasantly mild weather. We would like to thank Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield for their generous donations and also thank the members of the other lodges who stopped by to wish us well.

As always, members and guests are invited to attend our meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the CSA Home Office in Lombard. You can find us on Facebook by searching for Lodge Brookfield #475.

Fraternally,
Kimberly Silhan

Early Reminder for 46th Annual Bowling Social

Lodge Pingree No. 366, Dearborn Heights, Michigan – Greetings members! A special thank you to all our Veterans who have and who are still serving our country. I hope you all had a great Veterans Day!

We held our election of officers at our monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 8 at 12:30 p.m. at the Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights. Congratulations to all the electees. Hope you will continue to lead our lodge to the same success we have strived for in the past.

We have continued to fill and distribute food baskets for the needy at Trinity Church of Livonia, Michigan and at His Church Anglican, also in Livonia. Members who help are: Marie (and Gary) Palmer, Jerry Vimr, Dale Giacchina, John Vimr, and myself, Jeff Teichman. We welcome any other members who would like to help. You can get the dates at our meetings.

An early reminder: Lodge Pingree will be hosting the 46th Annual Bowling Social on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Bowling starts at 11 a.m. at Town & Country Lanes on Wayne Road in Westland, Michigan. A luncheon, at the same location, will follow. Anyone wanting to attend only the luncheon is welcome!

We are also hosting the 68th CSA Bowling Congress on May 4 to 6, 2018. Details will be sent out and published in the Journal at a later date. Hope to see all of you there!

Please join us Wednesday, December 13 for our holiday meeting, and have a hot lunch with us! We will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Sokol Cultural Center. Last, but not least, I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Fraternally,
Jeff Teichman
Lodge Happenings

Perfect Day for Czech American Picnic

Lodge Rovnost No. 53, Indian Head Park, Illinois – The Czech American Congress Picnic weather was perfect. The people there seemed to enjoy themselves. CSA had a booth and Cultural Division was at the booth selling cook books. Matt tried to help us sell them. Joyce Nemec from our lodge was busy selling bakery at the bakery booth and I understand that booth was a big success. In the picture is Matt Koski (from the Home Office), Ken Johnston, our Vice President, and Caroline Johnston, our treasurer from Lodge Rovnost No. 53.

Our lodge was busy with Kurt Nelson flipping pancakes at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. We received a bronze award this year and trying harder for next year’s award.

We held a lodge picnic at the Lanzel’s in August and had a great time and good food as always.

We will be losing a meeting member, Carol Endre, who just moved to Savanna, Illinois and she will be receiving her 75-year member pin in advance. We will miss you.

During the summer, Marvin and Chris went to Bath, England to visit their daughter and her husband. They visited much of the countryside, which we saw pictures of at our last meeting.

Fraternally,
Caroline Johnston

Celebrations

Lodge Sokol Plzen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois – On September 17, our lodge held a meeting. Everyone was pleased with Jenny Jaros’ representation as our lodge’s queen candidate at the CSA Get-Together at Austin, Texas this past August. Although Jenny didn’t win, we were all proud of her for her participating.

During the meeting, we held a little celebration for Andrew Bultas’ birthday and for Frank and Mary Lou Francis’ 58th wedding anniversary. Both occasions were on September 19.

We are happy to announce that all of our college students have returned to their universities. Greg Jaros began his college career at DePaul University this year. The younger children also started in their respective grammar and middle schools. We also have quite a few members who returned to the classrooms this year, however not as students, but as teachers. Two of these teachers are Matthew Bultas and Sheila Kraft, who are special education teachers.

Fraternally,
Matthew Bultas

Pictured, top right - Frank and Mary Lou Francis and their grandchildren at their 58th wedding anniversary.

Pictured, bottom right - Jenny Jaros as a child and now as a 21 year old.

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri - Our October meeting was “Make a Blanket” night, which included finishing several fleece blankets to benefit Project Linus. We trimmed, cut fringe, and tied knots to create a lot of warmth for children in hospitals in the St. Louis area. We were joined by members of Lodge Missouri to get most of the work done, and we thank them for lending a hand and for the interesting game they provided. We always enjoy socializing together, and we’re looking forward to doing the same in November.

There was a lot of discussion about upcoming events hosted by the Lodge, and we are encouraging all our members to keep an eye out for details in the next issue of the American-Czech Center News. We think everyone will find something to take part in (all ages included) and we hope to see folks come out for the fun.

Until next time, here’s wishing you and yours a joyous Thanksgiving!

Fraternally,
Deborah Zeman

Lodge Benvenn Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio – An early morning rain gave way to clearing and then sunshine on Saturday, August 19, 2017. A 1:00 p.m. mass was held at St. Anthony of Padua for the nuptials of Candice Zidlicky and Ryan Wallace. The bride looked radiant and the groom most handsome, as was the bridal party of four couples and a ring bearer, who carried a small suitcase and held the title of “ring security.” The reception, with 160 in attendance, was held at the Holy Spirit Party Center, which also has a Parma, Ohio location. Following the formal introductions, everyone sat down for a family style dinner that left no one hungry. A cheesecake/ice cream bar and a candy table kept guests snacking as they waited for their chance at the photo booth. The groom even had a special micro brew available on tap for all the imbibers. Music Therapy kept the dance floor full as the crowd stayed late and the party went into overtime. Best wishes to the new Mr. and Mrs. Wallace! Candice is the daughter of Nancy and Jeff Zidlicky.

Belated congratulations to Terri and Dan Krecow on the latest blessing into their lives. On June 14, 2017, a baby girl, 21 inches long and tipping the scale at 8 lbs 9 oz, introduced herself to mom and dad for the first time. Preslie is quite the little princess now, and may one day run for our CSA queen. Our President Scott Krecow is very proud of his newfound uncleship and has a full array of photos, which he can quickly pull up!

Hopefully, the reports will be positive from the Meadows Lanes as our contingent of keglers participated in the Ohio/Penn tournament on October 7 and 8 in Washington, Pennsylvania.

The CSA National tourney held in Cleveland, Ohio this past May, found Team Franklin champions in four-person team competition. Having the hot hand was lead off Ken Burdzinski, followed by Bill Daglow, Dan Krecow and anchored with steady Eddie Juzkiewicz. Ken and Bill also took top honors in doubles. Dave Kus and his partner finished fourth in doubles with Dan and Ed still in the money at eighth place. Men’s All Events finished with Ken and Ed in second and third place respectively. You’ve done us proud, fellas!

Upon closing, the lodge wishes all our members and friends a wonderful Thanksgiving and a reminder that the November meeting will include our election of officers for 2018. We would appreciate your attendance on Monday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. The lower party room of the Inn Between Bar & Grill, 8684 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio is our meeting location. See you there!

Fraternal regards,
Jeff Zidlicky
LodgeFranklinScribe@gmail.com
Sandy Kenyon hosted our last meeting at her home in the hills bordering San Jose. The house is situated in a beautiful setting along a fairway of the Almaden Golf and Country Club. As a special treat, she served her famous barbecued chicken and ribs for lunch. We left that afternoon with full tummies and smiles on our face.

During the business portion of the meeting, final plans were made to attend the Second Annual Czech Heritage Hockey Game. The game was held at SAP Center in San Jose scheduled in early November between the San Jose Sharks and the Vancouver Canucks. Event program leader Linda Janourova explained tickets were set-aside in a special section and the price included a Czech-Sharks beanie to commemorate the night, and a chance to win one of several spots to sit on the Sharks bench or in the penalty box during the game warm-ups.

Our lodge approved a revised membership policy to encourage current members to bring in new people. A small financial incentive will be given to any member who brings in a new member. The incentive will be paid out over the first five meetings the new member attends.

We were happy to see that the Czechoslovak Heritage Museum has found a new home in Cicero, Illinois, and hope they are successful in raising enough money to pay for acquisition and remodel. Lodge Golden Gate supports the efforts of John Kielczewski, Jean Laukant, Cary Mentzer, and the rest of the Museum Board. We hope you will join us in sending them a donation.

After lunch, our lodge members spent the afternoon assembling pillows for hospice and cancer patients. We sat on the back patio stuffing poly-fill into pillows then stitching up the pillow opening. All the while, we watched golfers on the country club fairway pass by beyond Sandy Kenyon’s rear fence. The pillows were later delivered to Pathways Healthcare where Volunteer Services Coordinator, Evey Vallacqua, thanked us for the “special gifts”.

Lodge Golden Gate’s Christmas meeting will be held in Foster City on December 1. We are planning a white elephant exchange and collecting new unwrapped toys for the Marine Corp Toys 4 Tots program. If you would like to join us, please contact our secretary, Shelle at (408) 528-9434 or email me at csalodge252@yahoo.com.

Fraternally,
Walt Strach
Homecoming Queen

Lodge Slunce No. 374, Ocklawaha, Florida – The young people from Lodge Slunce are doing great things! Most recently, one of our members and youth delegate, Florence Schreiner, earned the title of “Homecoming Queen” at her school – Trinity Catholic in Ocala, Florida. Not only is Florence a young woman who is kind and well-loved by her peers who voted for her, but she cares about her future, her education, her faith, her heritage, and has compassion for everyone she meets. We are so proud of her. (And we hope she runs for Miss CSA in the future!)

Florence is a wonderful example of the youth who are representing our Lodge. Lodge Slunce is mostly made up of younger members, but while they are young, they are not lacking in pride for their future and their heritage. The Fraternal aspect of CSA really hits home in this lodge. Whether it’s spending months in a third-world country organizing and caring for the marginalized, raising money for water wells in Uganda, or feeding the homeless in our own city, our youth are always trying to find ways to help others and bring the world together.

Now, we know our lodge isn’t the only one with youth who are giving back and getting involved. We love seeing all of the pictures in the Journal and online about the good deeds the youth are doing. Please, share more with us in the Journal about your youth accomplishments. It is always so inspiring and life-giving.

You are in our thoughts and prayers; we love you, our sisters and brothers.

Fraternally,
Inge Govern, Lodge Treasurer
Angela Schreiner, Lodge President

Scholarship Fund Report

September 10, 2017 through October 10, 2017

IN MEMORY OF ADOLPH PLACEK
George & Vera Sova

IN MEMORY OF DARLENE HAMMER
Lodge Brookfield No. 475

TO CONTINUE CSA’S TRADITION OF ASSISTING YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION
Geraldine & John Stiber
Marie D. Nersesian

TOTAL DONATIONS $ 190.00
Welcome New Agent - Chad Smely

Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Fall is here in Cedar Rapids and our lodge members are off to a fast start. The October 4 meeting had 30 members in attendance. Two members, Loretta Ledvina and Janice Ledvina, are members of Lodge Karel Jonas No. 279 in Vining, Iowa. A new Prokop Velky member, Leo Rigel – formerly from Lodge Jr. American Czechs No. 388 – joined us for this meeting. For this meeting, all who wanted to join us for a contest of the best casserole could bring their favorite dish. We had a wonderful group of great dishes to choose from, which made it hard to choose the best. There was a three-way tie between Rae Ann Stratton, Peg Zach, and Vern Rompot. Congratulations to these three “family” member winners. The food was all delicious and very filling, with all the other dishes brought by our members.

Dorothy Ditch reported that Prokop Velky’s new CSA Agent is Chad Smely. Call Dorothy if you need his telephone number.

Thousands and thousands of people joined our lodge members on the 27th Annual Especially For You Race Against Breast Cancer on October 1. We thank the Fairfax State Savings Bank in Iowa and our lodge members for sponsoring our members during this wonderful fundraiser.

Wednesday, December 6 will be our members’ Christmas Party at St. Wenceslaus Church basement at 6:00 p.m. The address is 1224 5th St. SE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Reservations are needed, so please call Vern Rompot.

Another Christmas party that we can all help with is the party for the Hiawatha Care Center on December 12. Mr. and Mrs. Santa need your help in filling Christmas bags for 100 residents at the Center with donations of shampoo, body lotion, cookies, and money to buy other items. Lodge Prokop Velky will have a Christmas wreath for the Czech Heritage Foundation’s fundraiser at the Old World Market Celebration at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library on December 2 and 3. Susan Melvin will make the wreath, and other members are invited to donate a wreath or swag to this great event.

Congratulations to Prokop Velky’s candidate for CSA Fraternalist of the Year for 2016-2017, Peg Zach. She is a very active member of CSA and her community. Peg was presented with a certificate from the CSA’s Home Office by Lodge President Vern Rompot.

For our CSA SERVES project, we are still donating items and certificates for the Veteran’s Pantry here in Cedar Rapids. With our help, they are able to help hundreds of veterans each year. We passed around a hat and collected money to buy items for their pantry, which should help during the holidays. We will have another collection at the November meeting and at our December Christmas Party. Happy holidays to all of our CSA friends near and far.

Fraternally,
Barbara Edmunds
Lodge Sionilli No. 170, Brookfield, Illinois – Our members are feeling very energized after our first service project at Operation Support Our Troops-America. On October 14, we drove through the stormy weather to visit OSOT-America’s warehouse in Lisle, Illinois. We were given a tour and some brief instructions and then started working away. We packed 84 care packages to be sent to soldiers overseas. The boxes included toiletries, peanut butter and jelly, crackers, candy, playing cards, cereal, batteries, letters and so much more. We had fun ‘playing Tetris’ with each box to make sure no space went unfilled. Check out the picture of what the inside of one of the boxes looks like – filled to the max! This makes for more exciting boxes for the soldiers to open as well as easier shipping with less movement of items in travel. Lodge Sionilli members in attendance were John Pritasil, Stan and Pat Smolucha, Vera and Alix Wilt, and Robert and Doretta Valenta. We spent about four hours volunteering and were happy to also be joined by CSA Executive Secretary Matthew Koski and Heather Koski as well as Jim and Pat Thompson from Lodge Crane. After we finished packing items, we went out for a well-earned lunch at The Bavarian Lodge. We ate delicious German fare and held our November lodge meeting.

We look forward to our annual meeting on November 16, 2017 at 7 p.m. at Sokol Spirit (this is a correction from the October Journal Article). We will order pizza and everyone plans to bring some beverages and/or desserts to share.

Fraternally,
Alix Wilt
Crafting Corks into Charming Cherubs

Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Lombard, Illinois – October’s craft night was so much fun! Although several regular meeting attendees were not able to join us, the small group present was able to create 50 adorable angel ornaments. Each angel exhibits its own, individual personality – thanks to “wing fashion designers” Elaine Hemzacek and Missy Dropka, “eye-and-smile design engineer” Ray Hemzacek, and “angel-assemblers” Anna Ramirez, Mary Ann Satek, Beth Hemzacek, Pat Satek, and guest Amanda Lovell (and me, too!). Special thanks to Pat Satek for suggesting this fun project, and thanks also to Anna, Beth, and Elaine for the donated wine corks. The finished ornaments will be donated to brighten the holidays for residents of a nearby assisted living/care facility, and I’m certain that these angel smiles will bring big smiles to the recipients!

Don’t forget: it’s toy drive time at our December monthly meeting! We hope to top our toy/gift donations from last year, which support members of the nearby community who struggle to make the holidays joyful for their children. We welcome new, unwrapped gift items suitable for infants through teens: toys, games, books, warm winter wear, and other items. To celebrate the generosity of our lodge members, we also host our annual holiday potluck that evening. The entrée will be supplied, and we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share. Come and join us – ready for a fun evening!

Remember: if you need a ride to the meeting, or want to arrange a pick-up for contributions, just let me know.

Fraternally,
Jean Hemzáček Laukant
hemzacek.j@gmail.com
630-279-7894

Pictured top, right - A sample of our smiling angel ornaments
Pictured middle - Elaine and Missy show off their “designer” wings
Pictured bottom, right - Anna, Amanda, and Ray share craft night fun!

Like us on Facebook
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Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77 held a memorial for members Edward Sirovy, Carolee Michalek and Marilyn Michalek before their September meeting with family and friends recalling memories of good times with them.

Lodge Washington No. 30 and the entire St. Louis Czech community is mourning the loss of Sis. Mary-Anne Jerabeck on September 26. Mary-Anne was our nominee for Fraternalist of the Year in 2015 based on her hard work, dedication, and devotion to all the organizations she was involved with. She used her excellent baking skills to benefit the Lodge, the Festivals at the American-Czech Educational Center, Sokol St. Louis, and St. John Nepomuk, donating items for bake sales and pastry booths, and holding cooking demonstrations. Mary-Anne was an active member of Sokol here and in Detroit, organizing a children’s singing group for the 150th Anniversary celebration of American Sokol and serving as head cook for Sokol’s children’s camp during the summer. She was on the Czech School Board and was the children’s teacher for several years, and was a member of the Friday Night Singers at the ACEC and the Beseda Dance Group. Mary-Anne was the wife of the late Stephen Jerabeck and the late David Stasa. She is survived by children Matt, Veronica, and Renata and their spouses, nine grandchildren, and many friends and other family members in St. Louis, as well as in Michigan and Canada. She will be missed.

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Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – Our lodge is excited to report that we have completed our first CSA Serves Project! On Saturday, October 7, we attended our town’s second annual Fall Festival. The festival included: food, crafts, games for children, vendors, a flower sale, and a chili “cook-off.” For a small donation to the town’s toy fund (which enables them to purchase gifts for children in need), we were able to set up an informational display highlighting CSA products and fraternal activities. Thanks to the Home Office, we proudly displayed the CSA banner and offered some useful CSA items to patrons who visited our table. Children were thrilled with coloring books and colored pencils, while adults took delight in items such as spatulas, measuring spoons, and drawstring bags to name a few. This was a great opportunity to educate our community as to what CSA has to offer! We were able to distribute many informational materials, but more importantly, the public got to associate some faces and personalities with the name of CSA. We showed up with our CSA shirts and received many compliments on our display. We wish to thank the Home Office for the promotional items, pamphlets, business cards, and other materials. We also wish to thank our town of Dillonvale for encouraging our participation in the event.

We did have one CSA member participate in the Chili “Cook-Off.” My brother, Brad Kurtz, entered his prize chili topped off with Mexican cream. While he didn’t win this year, his fans were there in full force. He loves to cook... especially barbeque! Our family always enjoys his cookouts and we never leave hungry! We do disagree on which one of us makes the better “dumplings and sauerkraut!” He thinks he does and I know that I do! It’s funny...we both learned how to make it from our mother, but he tells everyone that she “changed” the recipe when she gave it to me so his would always taste better! He’s a real winner!

Sixteen years ago, a very special boy stole my heart. Today, he calls me, “Mom,” and I call him, “Son.” That boy is now a young man who recently celebrated his birthday on November 13. Your father and I wish you much happiness, Elijah! We hope your sixteenth year is the best yet!

In closing, we would like to thank our veterans for their service to our country. It is because of your selflessness that we can continue to celebrate holidays such as Thanksgiving in total freedom.

In all things... be thankful,
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell
Czech to English

Listopad..............................................................November (lis-to-pad)
Vojáci..........................................................soldiers (voj-á-ci)
Vojsko..........................................................troops (vojs-ko)
Vysloužilec...................................................veteran (vy-slou-žil-ec)
Vojenské cvičení..............................................maneuver (voj-en-ské cvi-če-ní)
Den Díkůvzdání..............................Thanksgiving Day (Den Dík-uvz-dání)
Krocán...........................................................turkey (kro-cán)
Nádívka............................................................stuffing (ná-div-ka)
Vomáčka..........................................................gravy (vo-máč-ka)
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