



# Journal

October 2024





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Journey Center  
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## On the Cover

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77 member Chuck Michalek (second from right) is a member and trustee on the board of the Bohemian National Cemetery. Recently, he and another member of the BNC welcomed the Honorable Miloslav Stašek (pictured center), who is the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, to the United States. See full article on page 24.

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# President's Piece

## Keeping Busy as Fall Approaches

*Brothers and Sisters,*

Hello to everyone out there. I hope all is well as we move further into autumn.

Here at the Home Office, we're keeping busy, as always. In addition to the normal day-to-day business, a handful of staff members have been out and about at events – conferences, seminars, lodge/district meetings, visiting agents, and attending festivals. This time of year, although tiring at times, is very exciting as we are able to see members, meet with colleagues, meet new people, and, hopefully, mix in some fun as well.

From a business/governance perspective, we're preparing for our November Board Meeting. As always, whether it's a Board member, or a staff member here at the office, if you

have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to any of us.

From a Fraternal standpoint, our National Miss CSA, Delaney Schretter, has also been traveling a bit. She, along with Fraternal Manager Kelly Deegan, recently attended the Czech Kolache Fest in Caldwell, Texas. That's always a fun event with hundreds attending, even with that crazy Texas heat.

Delaney will be at a handful of events throughout CSA land in the months ahead, so keep an eye out for her!

That's about it for now, kind of a short and sweet article this month. I'll have more for you all as we head into the holidays in the months ahead.

Until next month...



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

A central graphic with a banner at the top that says "DONATE". Below the banner, the text reads: "Have you considered a donation to the *Scholarship Fund* as one of your CSA Serves choices?". The graphic is surrounded by several icons: an open book on the left, a money bag with a dollar sign on the right, a graduation cap at the bottom right, and a tree diagram with three people icons at the bottom left. The "CSA serves" logo is at the bottom center, featuring a circular arrangement of hands holding the text.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15, 2024

Deadline for veteran's names to be submitted to *the Journal*.

Email names to [csajournaleditor@gmail.com](mailto:csajournaleditor@gmail.com).

October 19 & 20, 2024

Ohio/Penn Bowling Tournament

The Meadows Casino/Bowling Lanes, Pittsburgh Area

December 2, 2024

Deadline for CSA Serves Matching Funds requests

January 31, 2025

Deadline for 2024 Lodge Recognition Program submissions

*Save the date*

*August 1st, 2nd, 3rd 2025*



*Come Rock On in Chambers, Ohio*



## CSA Journal

Volume 137 No. 9 October 2024



*A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership"*

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

# Today's Fraternal

## Kolache Eating Contest



*Greetings Brothers and Sisters,*  
Well, it is still summer in Caldwell, Texas. Delaney had her first experience as Miss National CSA at the Annual Kolache Festival with Lodge Svetlo No. 277. It was 100 degrees at 11 a.m., which was an experience itself. Everyone at the festival was so excited to congratulate and welcome Delaney. The kolache eating contest was impressive, as usual. Two kolaches in 1 minute and 2 seconds without drinking water was pretty amazing; I couldn't do it.

We enjoyed walking around, talking to people, and seeing all the exciting things in the booths. Thank you to Susan and Lodge No. 277 for the invite.

While in Texas, we enjoyed some

cute little restaurants. Delaney visited with Maxx David, Junior Mr. SPJST (pictured); Vanessa Riha, Junior Miss SPJST; Londyn Castareda, Little Miss SPJST (granddaughter of Lodge No. 277 President Patsy Story); and Miss Kolache Festival, Olivia Supak. They were fun. Junior Mr. SPJST and Junior Miss SPJST recommended we visit Buc-ees, a nearby popular gas station. It was an exciting place to visit. I even brought my daughter home a Buc-ees



costume. I may have to bribe her to take it off so I can wash it. Delaney is a pleasure, and I can't wait to have her on other adventures.

As fall approaches, we are updating forms and calendars for 2025 programs. Please watch for updates on these, which will be sent out at the end of the year.

Colder months are not far behind, and shelters and programs will need more items and volunteers. Please keep in touch with your local shelters. Please continue to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to see what opportunities we may share.

I hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween! Please remember the contest for decorating the Home Office.

*Fraternally,  
Kelly Deegan*

*Fraternal Programs Manager*

### Journal Themes for 2024

November - Honoring Those Who Have Served (Names due 10/15)  
December - Lodge Recognition Program  
January 2025 - Day of the Establishment of the Slovak Republic

#### **Please send lodge articles to:**

csajournaleditor@gmail.com  
by the 12th of the month prior.

*(You will receive a confirmation email.)*

#### **Please address all Fraternal inquiries to:**

Kelly Deegan at  
kdeegan@csalife.com  
1.800.543.3272 x 4307

# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

## VOTING!

*Greetings brothers and sisters,*

Fall is upon us with the weather getting cooler, leaves will start to turn colors, kids are back in school, and I have to leave early in the morning, so I do not get stuck behind the school bus going through our neighborhood.

Also, Presidential and local elections are just around the corner. Political mail, text messages, and e-mails are increasing by the day as we get closer to November. Voting is one of the greatest privileges of being an American citizen. Depending on where you live, early voting may have already started. My parents registered to vote right away after we became citizens in July 1972. Both my brother and I registered to vote when we turned 18.

If you are not registered, learn what you must do to register in your State, or if you are registered to vote, check that your local Election Board has your correct information. Remember to exercise your right to vote!

We thank Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377 for inviting us to their August meeting and picnic. We got to meet some members we had not met before. We had a great time, even though it was hot and windy!

I am looking forward to attending several fraternal events this fall as well as a couple of LIC Committee meetings.

Until next month, have a great fall!

*Fraternally,  
Nick V. Kosmas  
Secretary / Treasurer*



## CSA Fraternal Life 2024-2025 Fraternal Calendar

2024	October	14 <b>15</b>	Home Office closed for Indigenous Peoples' (Columbus) Day <b>Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal</b>
	November	23,24	Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
	December	<b>2</b> 25	<b>Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Requests</b> Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday
2025	January	1 <b>31</b>	Home Office closed for New Year's Day <b>Deadline - 2024 Lodge Recognition Program submissions</b>
	February	<b>1</b>	<b>Deadline - 2024 President's Report forms due in Home Office</b>

\*\*\* Deadline for Journal articles - 13th of every PRIOR month \*\*\*  
(for example: your article for February should be submitted by January 13, etc.)

# Miss National CSA

## Lost ID Leads to Lucky Experience

*Greetings, brothers and sisters,*

Since my last article, so much has happened for me, and I'm beyond excited to share it with you all! I'm living in Kalamazoo now, in the thick of schoolwork, studying Communication Arts and Film and Digital Media at Western Michigan University.

Since moving in, I have been in a constant state of gratitude and happiness. This experience has been everything I've wanted and more. The campus is beautiful and I can't wait to see it when all the leaves begin to turn orange and yellow. There are endless opportunities for social connections as well as career-focused and skill-building activities, and I am so proud to call myself a Bronco.

Some things that have kept me busy lately (other than studying) include playing pool with my friends at the student center, volunteering at the radio station on campus (stay tuned for updates about my first radio show!), participating in many clubs such as the ASL Club, Bronco Studios (the film club), the theatre club, and more!

I had one of the coolest experiences recently and it all started with me losing my school ID. I got back to my dorm building, which is a mile away from the main campus and all of my classes, when I realized I didn't have my ID with me. On the walk back, I was planning my route of retracing my steps. Of course, that day was one that my friends and I had been to so many buildings. I had been to the library, five academic buildings, a study room, and the dining hall. Luckily, I got an email from my film professor saying that she had found my ID! I met her in the room she specified in her email and thanked her profusely, telling her she didn't know how much time and stress she saved me.

Now that I felt I had my head back on straight, I was able to take in my surroundings and I realized we were standing in a media lab. There were backdrops hanging over the neon green-screen walls, a full lighting grid on the

ceiling, and every piece of equipment a film nerd could hope for! I commented on the room, which prompted my professor to take me on a tour of the other studios in the building. I saw an audio lab for recording voiceovers, podcasts, and the like. I saw the media library where you could rent cameras, books, lights, and boom microphones. She also showed me the computer lab, with computers that came preloaded with editing software for high quality filmmaking. All the while, she's telling me her life story, how she got into filmmaking, how she became a professor, and even how her family history led her to Michigan.

Maybe I am just completely geeking out over film equipment, but I like to think that what made the experience so exciting was the connection I was able to make with my professor. Her class has 90 students in it, so the fact I was able to learn more about her story and make a connection with her for my future as a filmmaker and a student is something I feel truly grateful for.

This school has provided me with so many opportunities and friendships that I cannot wait to nurture and grow. I feel



so lucky to call this school mine.

This is just the beginning for me, so come next month, I'll have many more updates both personally and CSA-related. Watch for my update on my visit to Texas for the Kolache Festival (pictured here)! This was such an exciting opportunity, and I am looking forward to all the other CSA events this year!

*Until then!*

*Fraternally,*

*Delaney Schretter,*

*Miss National CSA 2024-2025*



# Get Your Rock on in 2025 at the 88th Annual Get-Together in Cleveland, Ohio



Are you ready to get your rock on in 2025 at the 88th Annual Get-Together in Cleveland, Ohio? It has been said that Cleveland is the birthplace of rock, starting as early as 1950. Allen Freed was a disc jockey for radio station WJW. The music he was playing was gaining popularity.

In March of 1952, the first rock and roll concert was hosted by Allen Freed called the Moondog Coronation Ball. Due to unruly ticket holders, the concert ended up being canceled.

In 1955, Cleveland's Brooklyn High School hosted The King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley. Elvis Presley's significant impact on popularizing rock and roll music through his unique style and charisma led to this title.

In 1966, The Beatles rolled into Cleveland, playing at Public Hall. Once again, due to unruly ticket holders, this concert was cut short, and the Beatles were banned from playing in Cleveland ever again.

Rolling on to 1973, another popular radio station, WMMS, was playing whatever they wanted to, and they featured up-and-coming artists. Cleveland has helped many artists along in their careers by hosting "Coffee Break Concerts."

In 1980, the World Series of Rock concert was held at Cleveland Stadium. Bob Seger was the head artist. This time, the ticket holders were mellowed, and the concert took place.

It's was in 1986 that Cleveland was chosen to be home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened in 1995.

As we head into the year 2000, many exhibits opened at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. Many of the exhibits travelled to other museums after closing in Cleveland.

That's all for now...

Plans are being worked on for a fun, fraternal, rock and roll weekend. Just an FYI, make sure you look through your closets and drawers for your favorite concert or band T-shirt, and put it aside.

*Fraternally,  
Diane DiBianca*



# Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence

In autumn of 1918, the Austro-Hungarian monarchy was collapsing. As one of his Fourteen Points, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson demanded for the empire's nationalities to have the "freest opportunity to autonomous development." On October 14, 1918, Foreign Minister Baron István Burián von Rajecz asked for an armistice based on the Fourteen Points. In an apparent attempt to demonstrate his good faith, Emperor Charles I issued a proclamation two days later that would have significantly altered the structure of the Austrian half of the monarchy. Imperial Austria was to be transformed into a federal union composed of four parts: German, Czech, South Slav, and Ukrainian (Galicia would be allowed to secede). Each was to be governed by a national council that would negotiate the future of the empire with Vienna, and Trieste was to receive a special status.

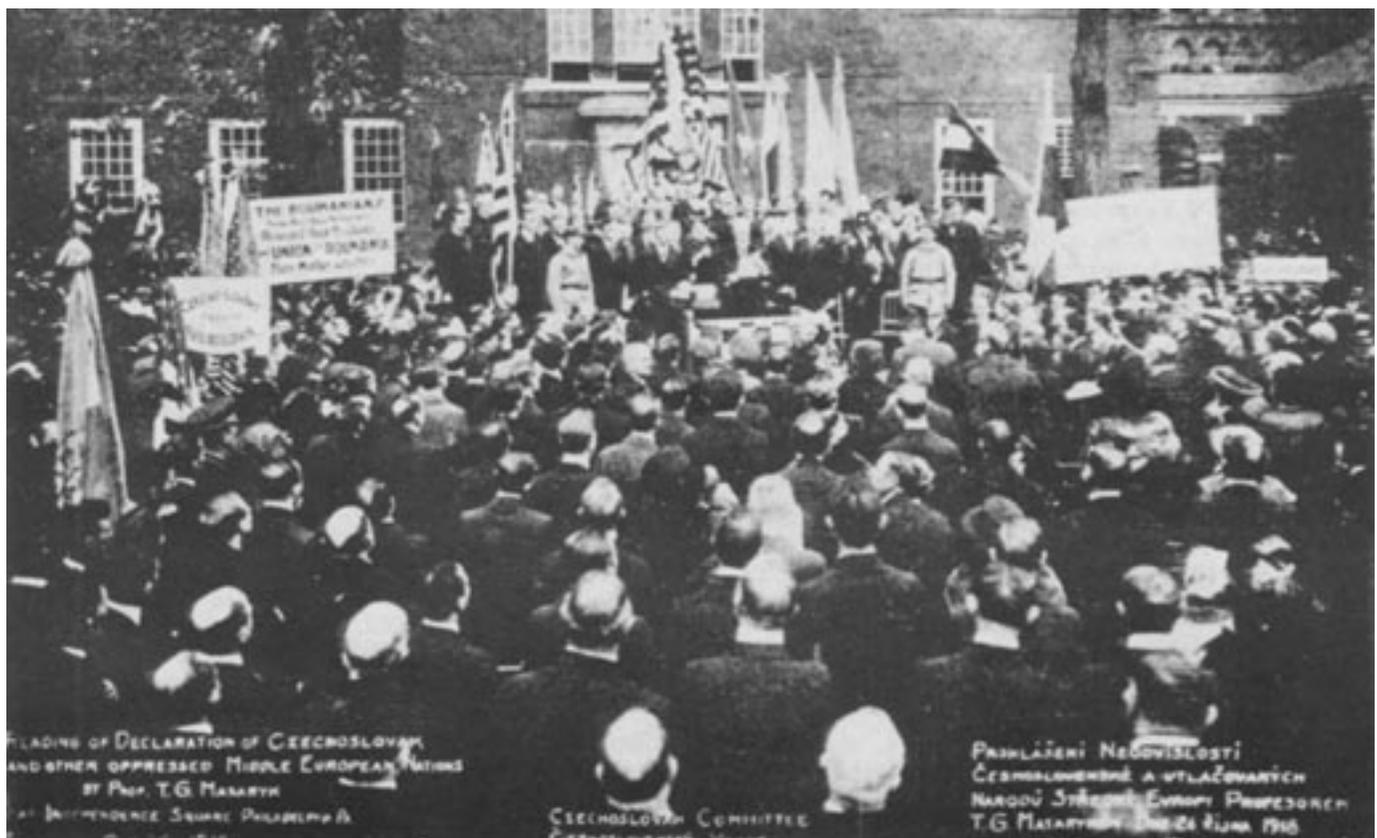
However, on the same day, a Czecho-Slovak provisional government joined the Allies. The provisional government had begun drafting a declaration of independence on October 13 and completed the task on October 16. The document was drafted by Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and American sculptor Gutzon Borglum (Borglum hosted future soldiers of a Czecho-Slovak army on his farm in Stamford, Connecticut.) On October 17, Masaryk presented it to the US government and Wilson. It was published in Paris on October 18, 1918, with

authorship attributed to Masaryk.

On the same day, US Secretary of State Robert Lansing replied that the Allies were now committed to the causes of the Czechs, Slovaks, and South Slavs. Therefore, he said that autonomy for the nationalities, the tenth of the Fourteen Points, was no longer enough and the US could no longer deal on the basis of the Fourteen Points. The Lansing note was, in effect, the death sentence of Austria-Hungary. The national councils had already begun acting, more or less, as provisional governments of independent countries. With defeat in the war imminent after the Italian offensive in the Battle of Vittorio Veneto on October 24, Czech politicians peacefully took over command in Prague on October 28, which was later declared the birthday of Czechoslovakia, and followed up in other major cities over the next few days. On October 30, the Slovaks followed with the Martin Declaration, and the Austro-Hungarian state was dissolved the next day.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechoslovak\\_declaration\\_of\\_independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czechoslovak_declaration_of_independence)

*Photo below by unknown author.*



# Final Update on T.G. Masaryk Yard Transformation Fundraiser

*Dear friends of the Masaryk School,*

fundraising goal of \$18,000!

garden upgrades, and professional landscape architect work. And, guess what? Our amazing donors—along with some surprises along the way—stepped up to make it happen. In total, our community contributed an astounding \$21,219!

Thanks to the incredible generosity and support from our community, we are thrilled to announce that we have officially reached—and surpassed—our

In our last update, we extended the fundraiser to cover the remaining \$6,105 needed to transform our outdoor space with a new shed, a beautiful pergola,



# Final Update on T.G. Masaryk Yard Transformation Fundraiser

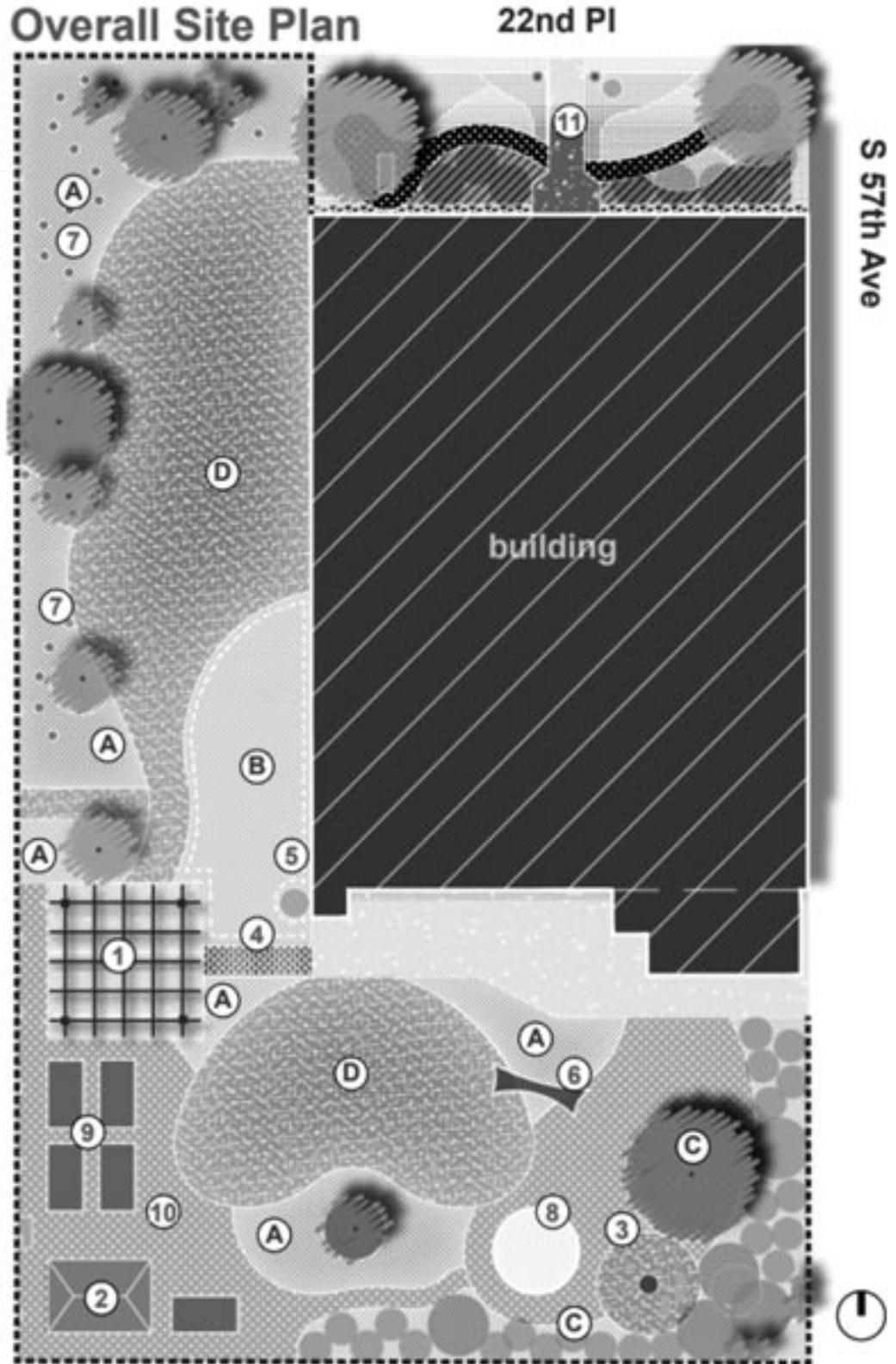
This time, we would like to shine a special spotlight on an anonymous donor who sent in a generous check in the amount of \$10,000! Unlike the “Santa” we’ve mentioned before, this time, we genuinely don’t know who this amazing benefactor is. If you’re reading this, we would love to thank you personally—please get in touch with us!

To everyone who helped us “plant the seeds” of this transformation, your generosity has truly helped our garden dreams bloom. “Lettuce” thank you all for helping us grow!

Recently, we bid a fond farewell to our old shed, which had served us well for many years. The necessity of taking it down was initiated by our youngest superintendent, Tomášek, who took the first swings with his hammer. The task was then completed by our dedicated volunteer and student of Czech language, Jacob Dvořák. Our teacher, Kristýna Horáčková, worked alongside Jacob and was preparing the school garden to be moved. All the while, they were guarded by our beloved school dog, Garýček, who kept a watchful eye on the team.

We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of Jacob and Kristýna. Thanks to their efforts, the shed is now gone, making way for a new tools storage, pergola, and a flourishing new garden space!

*Klára Moldová*



Pictured above is a peek into a design showcasing the landscape architect’s work, providing a sneak preview of the exciting changes ahead!

# Spooky Season SNACKS

## Pop up scary sweet Halloween treats

### FAMILY FEATURES

**S**caring up a good time this Halloween starts with spooky costumes, ghoulish decor and treats you can share with your favorite ghosts and goblins. For an extra haunting twist, skip the store-bought candies and break out your cauldron for tempting homemade sweets.

You can celebrate the seed-to-snack simplicity of one of fall's favorite snacks – popcorn – with crunchy desserts that pair perfectly with your favorite spooky traditions. Popcorn's smell, taste and versatility help it enhance Halloween as a budget-friendly solution for ghostly gatherings.

Embrace the taste of autumn – pumpkin spice – with a snack that allows you to indulge throughout the season. These White Chocolate and Pumpkin Pie Spice Popcorn Bites offer warm flavor without the scare. Simply pour melted pumpkin pie spice-seasoned chocolate over popped popcorn, toss with toffee bits and sea salt then break into bite-sized chunks for a seasonal sweet that's perfect for celebrating National Popcorn Poppin' Month.

Visit [Popcorn.org](http://Popcorn.org) to find more Halloween-inspired snacks.

### White Chocolate and Pumpkin Pie Spice Popcorn Bites

Servings: 12

- 12 cups unsalted, unbuttered popped popcorn
- 3 cups chopped white chocolate or white chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon light olive oil
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 cup toffee bits
- 1 teaspoon flaked sea salt, crushed

Line large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper or wax paper. Place popcorn in large mixing bowl.

In microwave-safe bowl, combine white chocolate, olive oil and pumpkin pie spice; microwave on medium 2-3 minutes, or until melted and smooth, stirring after each minute.

Pour melted white chocolate mixture over popcorn; add toffee bits and toss to combine. Transfer to prepared baking sheet, spreading to edges of pan; sprinkle sea salt over top.

Let cool; refrigerate 1-2 hours, or until set. Break into chunks for serving.

**Tip:** Homemade pumpkin pie spice can be made by combining 3 parts ground cinnamon with 1 part ground nutmeg, 1 part allspice and 1 part ginger.



White Chocolate and Pumpkin Pie Spice Popcorn Bites

# Spiced Pumpkin Bars

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 4 eggs
- 15 oz can of pumpkin
- 1 2/3 cups sugar
- 1 cup cooking oil
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans (optional)
- 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups powdered sugar (sifted)
- Pecan halves (optional)

1. In a medium bowl stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt; set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl beat together eggs, pumpkin, sugar, and oil on medium speed. Add the flour mixture; beat until well combined. If desired, stir in chopped pecans.
3. Spread batter into an ungreased 15x10x1-inch baking pan.
4. Bake in a 350° F oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until the center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack.
5. In a medium mixing bowl beat together cream cheese, butter, and vanilla until fluffy. Gradually add sifted powdered sugar, beating until smooth.
6. Frost pumpkin bars. If desired, top with pecan halves. Cut into squares. Store, covered, in refrigerator up to 3 days.

*Recipe adapted from Better Homes and Gardens.  
Source: Culinary.net*

## Go for a Ghoulish Snack Bar

Encourage a little devious creativity this Halloween with a popcorn bar (char-boo-terie board) that features everyone's favorites. Start with enough freshly popped popcorn to feed all your little zombies and vampires then add seasonal favorites like candy corn, chocolate candies, individually wrapped treats, dried fruit, nuts and beyond.

To pop popcorn on a stovetop, cover the bottom of a 3- to 4-quart pan with a thin layer of vegetable oil (don't use butter, it will burn). Place 3 kernels of popcorn in the pan, cover with a loose lid that allows steam to escape and heat. When the kernels pop, pour in enough popcorn to cover the bottom of the pan, one kernel deep, then cover the pan and shake to evenly spread the oil. When the popping begins to slow to a few seconds apart, remove the pan from the stovetop. The heated oil will still pop the remaining kernels.



# A Go-To Sweet Potato Side

(Family Features) Sweet potatoes seem to scream “fall,” especially this roasted version that pairs well with a wide variety of family favorites like fried chicken. It can be your go-to recipe when comfort cravings call for a savory (not sweet) side.

Roasted Sweet Potatoes  
Servings: 4

2 large sweet potatoes, washed and cubed  
1/2 tablespoon garlic powder  
1/2 tablespoon onion powder  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
oil, for drizzling  
2 tablespoons butter

Heat oven to 425 degrees.

In a bowl, mix cubed sweet potatoes with garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper, to taste. Drizzle with oil; mix well.

Place sweet potatoes in a baking dish and bake 30 minutes. Remove from oven and spoon butter over sweet potatoes, mixing well.

Note: If using small sweet potatoes, use four (one per serving).

*Pair your favorite fall meal with more side dish inspiration from Culinary.net. Recipe courtesy of “Cookin’ Savvy.”*



## Save Your Pumpkin Seeds and Make a Delicious Snack

(Culinary.net) Don’t throw out your seeds after this year’s pumpkin carving. This healthy snack is easy to make at home and a fun project to get the kids involved.

Plus, this versatile Roasted Pumpkin Seeds recipe can be modified with any of your favorite seasonings or spices.

### Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

Water  
1 1/2 cups raw pumpkin seeds  
2 teaspoons sea salt, plus additional for seasoning (optional)  
2 teaspoons salted butter, melted  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon paprika

In pot over high heat, bring water to boil. Add pumpkin seeds and 2 teaspoons salt; boil 15 minutes. Drain water and spread seeds evenly on paper towels to dry.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line baking sheet with foil or parchment paper.

In medium bowl, toss seeds and butter until coated well. Sprinkle with garlic powder, paprika, and additional salt, if desired. Spread seeds evenly on baking sheet.

Bake 25-30 minutes, or until golden brown and lightly toasted. Stir every 10 minutes.

*Visit Culinary.net to find more quick, simple snacks.*

# Five Tips to Encourage Picky Eaters

(Culinary.net) Feeding an entire family can be difficult enough on its own with busy evenings full of hustle and bustle. One additional factor that can cause even more headaches is dealing with a picky eater, especially a child whose preferred menu ranges from hot dogs to candy.

If you're looking to widen the palate of your picky eater (or eaters), consider these tips to start down a path toward a more expansive slate of family meals.

## Start Slow

Loading up your little ones' plates with steamed veggies and sauteed fish may be a surefire way to send them to the pantry for a less nutritious snack. Instead, try combining personal favorites with small portions of foods you'd like to introduce, such as chicken nuggets alongside green beans or topping pizza with black olives.

## Don't Force It

While it can be frustrating to constantly hear "no" to fruits and veggies, forcing them upon children may turn them away for good. In addition, a struggle over eating certain foods may create a constant sense of frustration around mealtime, which may only decrease a child's desire to expand his or her horizons.

## Create a Fun Experience

Remember not every meal has to include something new. On occasion, mix up mealtime by serving your children's favorites, even if it's as simple as a hamburger or as creative as breakfast for dinner.

## Bring Your Sidekicks to the Store

Introducing your children to the place your family's food comes from may help them feel more comfortable with new flavors. Plus, by letting them in on the shopping process, you can have some help choosing foods they're more likely to be willing to try.

## Let Children Help Cook

Much like choosing their own ingredients increases the likelihood they'll try something new, perhaps becoming part of the cooking process can help children see how a meal comes together. It doesn't have to be a gourmet experience – simply seasoning roasted asparagus with salt and olive oil, for example, can introduce your up-and-coming chefs to the kitchen while helping make the cooking (and eating) process a fun adventure.

*For more food tips and kid-friendly recipes, visit [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net).*

*Photo courtesy of Getty Images*



# A Tailgating Game Plan: Seven Steps to a Successful Game Day Gathering

(eLivingtoday.com) Across the country, game day traditions include the activity that takes place before the actual game: tailgating. Just like most get-togethers, though, a successful tailgate takes planning and preparation.

Consider these tips to ensure your tailgate scores well with your friends and family.

**1. Get a group together.** Before any real planning can take place, it's important to ensure you have friends and family willing to gather around the grill outside the stadium gates. Pick a game and run the idea by anyone you think would like to join you well ahead of time so everyone can get tickets and commit to arriving at the venue together.

**2. Decide on a menu.** While many tailgating foods are tried and true classics – like burgers, brats, chili, chicken wings, and nachos – it's still important to work with your group to establish a menu that offers something for everyone. Shoot for items that can be prepared either the night before or cooked in less than 30 minutes to keep it quick and easy. Create a signup sheet to avoid duplicate menu items, and don't forget drinks – both alcoholic and non – and goodies for any kids who might be tagging along.

**3. Pack the night before.** Once everyone knows what to bring, cook what you can in advance and load things you'll need such as coolers, a grill, lawn chairs, a pop-up tent, tables, plates, napkins, utensils, condiments, trash bags, charcoal or propane, sunscreen, lighters and lighter fluid, bug spray, and party games in your vehicle the night before.

**4. Arrive early.** Getting to the parking lot early – many stadiums open lots four hours before game time – allows you to maximize the time spent together and can also make it easier to coordinate multiple parking spots together, if necessary.

**5. Set up equipment.** Shortly after arriving, set up any equipment such as tents, lawn chairs, and, probably most importantly, the grill. Getting everything set up quickly and the grill going early will leave you better positioned to start cooking when your entire group arrives so you can head into the stadium with plenty of time to account for any walking distance and lines at the gates.

**6. Enjoy the atmosphere.** Outside of maybe the food, the atmosphere of your tailgate is the most important part. Bring a Bluetooth speaker and games like cornhole or ladder toss and enjoy the party with your fellow sports fans. Decorating your cars or tent in your team's colors can also add to the festive spirit.

**7. Clean up.** Make sure you leave enough time before the game to clean up and store everything securely back in your vehicle before heading in. While this is undoubtedly the least fun aspect of the pregame festivities, it beats worrying about your gear getting trampled while you're inside or having to clean up while traffic is leaving the lot.

*Find more tips and ideas for throwing a pre-game party at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).*

*Photo courtesy of Getty Images*



# Stay Ahead of Medicare Fraudsters

(Family Features) Every day, criminals target older Americans with one goal – to steal their Medicare numbers and other protected health information. To fraudsters, this information is just as valuable as credit card information. These criminals steal Medicare numbers and unlawfully bill Medicare for medical services that were never provided to the patient or overbill for provided services.

When criminals commit fraud, and falsely bill Medicare, people's medical records may become inaccurate and they can suffer delayed or even be denied care. In the end, Medicare fraud costs taxpayers billions of dollars every year. Each dollar lost to fraud takes away resources intended for people with Medicare.

## Protect Yourself

Fraudsters are getting creative and new scams are continually emerging. The best thing you can do is beware of people who contact you for your Medicare number or other personal information. You may be contacted by phone, text, or email by someone posing as a Medicare representative, a health care provider, or even a medical equipment company. If someone you don't know asks for your Medicare number, hang up or delete the message – this is a scam.

Consider these tips to help protect yourself against Medicare fraud and stay one step ahead of fraudsters:

- Guard your Medicare card just like your Social Security card and credit card.
- Only share your Medicare information with your trusted health care providers.
- Be skeptical of free gifts, free medical services, discount packages, or any offer that sounds too good to be true.
- Always check your Medicare claims statements to make sure they are accurate. Call 1-800-MEDICARE if you suspect you or Medicare has been billed for a service you did not receive.

## Watch Out for Medicare Hospice Fraud

Beware of scammers offering older Americans in-home perks, like free cooking, cleaning, and home health services, while they are unknowingly being signed up for hospice services. The scammers then unlawfully bill Medicare for these services in your name.

Criminals are using every avenue they can to sign you up including door-to-door visits, false advertising, phone, text, and email. Hospice care is for people who are terminally ill and only you and your doctor can make this serious decision if you need end-of-life care.



Remember this advice to avoid hospice scams:

- Your doctor is the only one who can certify you're terminally ill (with a life expectancy of 6 months or less). If you are not terminally ill, you should not receive hospice care.
- Never accept perks or gifts in return for signing up for hospice services.
- Medicare will never provide "free" services like housekeeping.
- Be suspicious if someone offers you free services like housekeeping or cooking in return for your Medicare number.
- Medicare will never come to your home.

## Report Medicare Fraud

Reporting Medicare fraud protects you and millions of other people with Medicare and those with disabilities. If you or someone you know has experienced Medicare fraud or suspect an offer you've received is a scam, report it as soon as possible. You will never be in trouble for reporting fraud.

To learn more, visit [Medicare.gov/fraud](https://www.medicare.gov/fraud). To report potential fraud, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

*Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.*

*Photo courtesy of Shutterstock*

# RSV Vaccines

## What older adults need to know...

(Family Features) Even though cooler days may seem far off, now is the best time to plan ahead for a healthy winter. One common respiratory illness, respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms, but it can be severe and even deadly for older people.

“As we grow older, our immune systems do not work as well and we are more likely to have chronic conditions, which means we are at increased risk of getting very sick from common viruses as we age,” said Alison Barkoff, who leads the Administration for Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. “Getting vaccinated is the best protection against fall respiratory viruses like RSV. It can help keep symptoms mild and help keep people out of the hospital.”

Here’s what older Americans need to know about RSV and vaccines this fall, according to the “Risk Less. Do More” public education campaign.

Prevention is key. The Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone 75 years and older get an RSV vaccine. Also, people between 60-74 should get vaccinated if they have conditions such as heart or lung disease, diabetes, obesity, or a weakened immune system. The vaccine cuts the risk of hospitalization from RSV by at least half.

People living in nursing homes, assisted living, or other long-term care facilities are at even higher risk. There are many people living together in these facilities who have medical conditions that make them more likely to get very sick. While vaccines may not always stop infection, they can prevent severe illness. So, vaccination is very important for residents of long-term care facilities.

RSV vaccines are available. Three RSV vaccines have been approved for older adults by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. You only need a single dose that you can get at any time of the year, but getting the vaccine in the early fall offers the best protection for the late fall and winter, when RSV usually

peaks. Getting the vaccine early gives your immune system enough time to build up protection.

RSV vaccines are the best protection. The RSV vaccines have gone through extensive testing. Last year, more than 20 million older adults were vaccinated safely. Mild side effects, such as pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site sometimes happen, but they usually go away on their own in a few days. Serious allergic reactions from RSV vaccines are rare.

Prevention is the best option. Respiratory virus vaccines, including RSV vaccines, can help protect older adults from serious illness.

Talk to your doctor and visit [cdc.gov/RSV](https://cdc.gov/RSV) to learn more.

*Photo courtesy of Shutterstock*

*Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services*



# District Council

## Election of Officers

**District Council No. 10, Northern Ohio** – The District Council No. 10 quarterly meeting was held in early September. We talked a little bit about the 2025 Get-Together. Committees were formed, and they will have meetings through the year.

There will be about four teams participating in the Ohio/Penn Bowling

Tournament. It was decided to hold off having a Pin Party in 2025, and we will combine 2025 and 2026.

Election of Officers was held, and once again President/Vice President will be Diane DiBianca, Secretary/Treasurer will be Annette Reichman, and Maryann Toncar will be the Guide.

Christmas Lunch will be held on December 5 at 11:00 at Rumus, 12841

State Rd., North Royalton. Please join us for some fraternal celebration.

Birthdays and anniversaries were announced. The next meeting will be a short one before the Christmas Lunch. After we adjourned, we socialized with coffee and cinnamon rolls.

Happy Fall, everyone!

*Fraternally,  
Diane DiBianca*

## Scholarship Fund Donation Form

**With the price of higher education rapidly increasing, scholarships continue to be an important fraternal benefit. The CSA Scholarship Fund assists young adults, not only with their education, but with their professional goals. We appreciate your generous donations and your continued support!**

*Fill and send this form with donation. Please make checks payable to CSA Fraternal Life Scholarship Fund.*

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For the general Scholarship Fund or  In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement of contribution to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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



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# LODGE HAPPENINGS

## “A Night at the Races”

**Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio** – Our meeting was held at the DTJ in Taborville, Ohio on very pleasant 63 degree, no humidity day, with members Mary Ann Toncar; Kris and Bruce Marek; Diane, Marie, and Chelsea DiBianca; Donna Stepka; Johnny Weiss; and me in attendance.



Bruce gave a Thank-a-Driver gift card to Remond from Hillcrest Food Service, Danny from Wine & Beer Imports, and Max from Cavalier Distributing.

We are sponsoring a race and a horse for the Giddy Up Go at “A Night at the Races” at the DTJ. We’re looking forward to being in the winner’s circle!

Congratulations to our 50/50 winners: Mary Ann, Chelsea (won twice!), Kris, and Diane. Johnny’s winning streak has ended, for now.

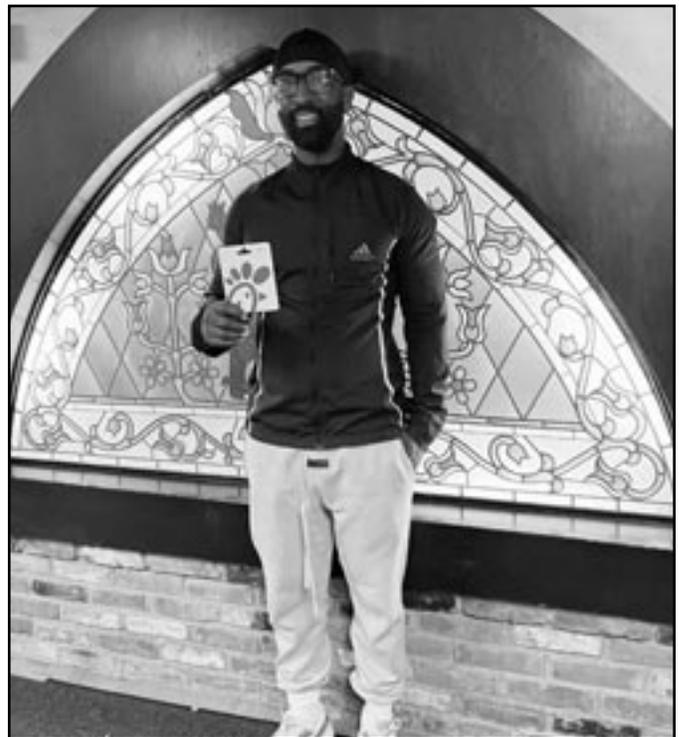
Thanks to Grill Master Bruce for doing a fine job on the steaks, and to everybody who brought the rest of the delicious food and desserts for our Steak Roast in honor of Mike Wallett.

A reminder: The Ohio/Penn Bowling Tournament will be held on October 19 and 20, 2024, at the Meadows Casino. Lodges and districts should have received an information packet from Terry Placek.

At the DTJ, enjoy a “A Night at the Races” on October 12, and Chicken and/or Duck Dinners on October 6 and November 3. Come to and support these events; you are sure to have fun. For more information, call Bruce or Kris Marek at 440-543-8494.

Our next meetings for 2024 will be: October 24, November 21, and December 19. Come to a meeting, have a tasty snack, and reconnect with friends. We would love to see you!

*Fraternally,  
Annette Reichman*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Supporting Ronald McDonald House

**Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora, No. 231, Cicero, Illinois** – We have now come into Fall. Turning back the clock – it takes about a week to get used to “falling back” after losing an hour of sleep. Chilly temperatures – bone chilling – come in January and February. Don’t forget the rain, sleet, and snow of winter, too. It is time to go to your living room, sit on the floor, quietly cross your legs, and put your hands on your knees with the palms turned up to the ceiling. Now, meditate! I hate to get caught up in all this dreariness. But, happily we have Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year to look forward to. It is known to be a festive, but busy time of the year, where there’s no time to think about the weather. We might have to meditate through the next two seasons.

Anyway, on with our report. Our lodge met at T.G. Masaryk School on August 14, 2024. After the opening of the meeting, the members accepted the Secretary’s minutes. They also accepted the Treasurer’s statement that the bank had not yet closed its books for the month of July, possibly because of glitches in the system. Therefore, no report was given. We learned that District Council No. 12 and T.G. Masaryk board meetings had not yet been scheduled. Ken Dvorsky gave a brief summary of activities held during the Annual Get-Together.

We heard from Maryann Slavik, who lives in Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico, Maryann continues her volunteer work teaching English to children as reported in the April 2024 issue of *the Journal*. Additionally, she has expanded her work and now also enjoys teaching at a summer camp for seniors. Altogether, she has volunteered over 30 hours to teach English.

During the meeting, the membership voted to donate a monetary amount to the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Belen Bello was thanked for her contribution of 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds of aluminum tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Bello

works for the Clyde Park District at the Manor Building in Cicero, which is where Roberta Kulik teaches dancing. Roberta reports that Belen is very supportive and a great help to her. Roberta presented the package to Dolores Klejko, Lodge President, for presentation to the Ronald McDonald House in November, 2024. (See photo.)

Our meetings take place on the sec-

ond Wednesday of the month at noon. We invite you, our members, to join us and welcome your input. Please join us at the T.G. Masaryk School, 5701 W. 22nd Place, Cicero, Illinois. For more information, contact Ed Slavik at 708-423-5267.

*Fraternally,  
Elaine Tejcek*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### Wonderful Road Trip

**Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado** – In August, Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs' meeting was held at the Garramone's Restaurant in Lakewood, Colorado. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch of pizza and Italian food. We were very informal and just sat around visiting. It was a lovely, hot August day in colorful Colorado, and much cooler in the restaurant.

There was lot of conversation about the CSA Get-Together in Nashville,

Tennessee. Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs was well represented by Irma Farrell, Janet Farrar, and the Payer family. Irma met her sister there and they had a wonderful time. They came early and stayed late to see the sights and just have fun with each other.

Janet Farrar loves road trips. The 2024 CSA Get-Together gave her a great reason for another road trip. She had never been to Nashville. She loves to camp at state and national parks on her

travels. She had a wonderful, fun weekend sharing her Czech and Slovak heritage and discovering some American heritage. She visited the Oz Museum in Kansas, eight state parks, six Civil War battlefields, Andrew Jackson's estate, Belle Meade estate, Elvis' birthplace in Tupelo, Graceland, and Harry Truman's birthplace.

Cassidy Payer was a Miss CSA contestant. The Payer clan came to share in the event with her. Cassidy's sister Kristin Payer was Miss CSA for one year. Grandma Vera Payer was there to see her second granddaughter in the contest. She was not selected this year but said she would try again next year. Good luck.

The September lodge meeting was held at the home of John and Irma Farrell. It is always fun to have a potluck and share our food with each other. Mary Camp led us through trivia of the 1960s. You would think we would all get the right answers. No, we all missed a lot of them.

*Fraternally,*

*Maryellen Hruska Vialpando*



Members of Mile-Hi Czechs enjoy the annual potluck luncheon.



Irma Farrell and her sister Ann Nordin enjoy a libation on the General Jackson Showboat in Nashville.



Irma Farrell wins the trivia contest at the annual potluck luncheon. Thanks to Mary Campe for organizing the contest on 1960's television.

## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Sneak Peek of ACEC Culture Club Presentation

**Lodge Missouri No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri** – At our September meeting, members present went over our Lodge Recognition activities to date to ensure we are on track for this year.

We were treated to a sneak peek of the presentation that Sister Mary Ann Sulz had prepared to present at an upcoming American-Czech Educational Center's Czech Cultural Club. She prepared a display of antique buttons found in our archives. Many of the buttons were from the old costumes

once worn in stage plays. She provided her research on their age and the possible value of the buttons.

We celebrated a big birthday for our Regional Director, Sister Connie Wolf. Then those present enjoyed several rounds of Left, Center, Right for fabulous prizes. Happy Fall, Y'all!

*Until next time,  
Marla Breidenbach*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# BNC Welcomed the Honorable Miloslav Stašek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, Lombard, Illinois – Celebrating Labor



Day, children back to school, shorter days, and gardening coming to an end, means a change of seasons. Fall is just a few days away, so it is time for our lodge to start meeting again after a summer break.

During the summer, two of our lodge members attended the CSA Get-Together in Nashville: Brother Frank Michalek and his daughter Jodi Otwirk. They drove to the hotel on

Friday and made it to the hospitality suite where they met many other Get-Together attendees. Later that evening, they checked out Broadway to enjoy the night in Music City.

On Saturday, they packaged items for the Second Harvest Food Bank. CSA collected non-perishable items for the service project. After that they, boarded the General Jackson Showboat and were served a great lunch and enjoyed a show. That evening, they attended the formal dinner where the new Miss CSA was named.

Lodge member Chuck Michalek is a member and trustee on the board of the Bohemian National Cemetery. Recently, he and another member of the BNC welcomed the Honorable Miloslav Stašek, who is the Ambassador of the Czech Republic, to the United States. On this trip, he had mentioned he wanted to see the Bohemian National Cemetery. The Ambassador was joined by staff from the Czech Consulate General Office in Chicago.

Wishing everyone a Happy Halloween! It's hard to watch your sugar intake on the bewitching night!

*Fraternally,  
Mary Ellen Janda*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Journey Center for Safety and Healing

**Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio** – Our meeting was held at the Parma Heights Library on September 10, 2024. We had 12 members and visitors/members from Lodge Paramount/Southgate attend our meeting. We had a representative from our charity come and talk to us about her organization. Her organization is called Journey Center for Safety and Healing. It is an organization that supports those impacted by domestic violence and child abuse. Right now, the main shelter houses around 44 women and children, with stays up to three months. They offer a 24-hour helpline, emergency shelter, safe and sound supervised visitation center, trauma therapy, support groups, prevention and education, professional trainings, and much more. This is a very worthwhile organization. It is sad that there is so much violence in homes today for this organization to be needed. We gave our speaker a cash donation for the Journey Center.

In our regular meeting, we discussed that a Chili Cook-off will be held at Ceska Sin Sokol on Clark Avenue on October 12. It is also “Night at the Races” event at the DTJ facility. Our

lodge has bought two horses to race: Guardian and Rocky.

September 25 was the pork or chicken dinner at Ceska Sin Sokol Hall. On September 17, there was a Get-Together meeting at the Bedford Library to discuss plans.

On December 5, there will be the District Christmas Party at Luma’s in North Royalton at 11 a.m. All lodge members are invited. Please call Diane DiBianca at 216-392-9074 to let her know if you are attending. All lodge members are welcome.

We have four teams from the area that are going to the Ohio/Penn Tournament in October. It should be a good time.

We were all treated to pizza, salad from Carole, Czech sandwiches from Kris Marek, and a delicious dessert from Marsha. Thank you, girls!

Karen and Elmer won our 50/50 raffle. We all sang “Happy Birthday” to Diane DiBianca.

At our next meeting, October 8, Jan Russell will show slides of her trip to the Galapagos and the giant turtles.

Judy Genco is back as Scribe. A big thank you goes to Jan Russell for sub-

mitting the last *Journal* article.

Have a great fall season.

*Fraternally Yours,  
Judy (Sevcik) Genco  
Scribe*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### Wonderful Wedding

**Lodge Sokol Pilsen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois** – On August 10, 2024, Lodge Sokol Pilsen held a short meeting before attending Vice President Frank Francis and his wife Mary Lou's granddaughter's wedding. We talked about the future activities of the lodge.

Then, we all attended the wedding

reception of Michelle Diatte and Daniel Gaddini, and all had a good time. Frank and Mary Lou, their daughter Carla and her husband Mark, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Gaddini were all very pleased with the wedding reception and how well it went. Everyone who attended had a great time.

The couple was married at St. Eugene Parish in Chicago and the wedding reception was held at the Eaglewood Resort in Itasca.

*Fraternally,  
Andy Bultas*

### Perfect Picnic & More Merriment

**Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Brookfield, Illinois** – Our end-of-summer picnic is an annual tradition that celebrates our members and their participation in last year's Lodge Recognition Program. It's an opportunity to enjoy a late-summer outing together, to share

tasty food, and simply to spend time with each other. This year's gathering included 10 members, two guests, and also a couple of four-legged friends (see our FB page!), all together on a beautiful day in the park.

Hard to believe, but soon the end of

the year will be upon us, bringing other traditions to the forefront. We already completed our craft project this year: hand-made holiday ornaments to brighten an assisted-living residence. November is time for officer elections, as we also plan our final charitable contributions of the year, coordinate our holiday toy/gift drive, and look forward to December's holiday party.

The holiday party will be at our last meeting of the year on December: 6 den svätého Mikuláše! We hope you'll come out with us to celebrate Mikuláš, Christmas, and the holiday season, including the end of 2024 and the soon-to-be-new-year, with our traditional potluck gathering. As with our regular lodge meetings, the festivities will take place at the CSA Home Office that evening. Want to be part of any of these activities but need more information? Need a ride to be able to join us? Please just give a call!

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



Lodge picnic with friends Nick and Lisa Kosmas from the Home Office and Lodge Betsy Ross

## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Interesting and Unusual Items in the Archives

**Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri** – It's Fall already! Our August meeting (and ice cream social) included a full report on the Get-Together weekend by Gail Petelik, who had plenty of stories about all their adventures in Nashville.

Congratulations to our new Miss CSA, Delaney Schretter of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield. We wish you a memorable year ahead and we hope to welcome you to St. Louis during your reign.

Now that summer has ended, the new season means more activities for our lodge members. We're looking forward

to our combined social with members of Lodge Missouri in November, plus our annual Bake Sale on November 3, to benefit the Veterans Community Project. Contact me for more information on either event.

The September session of the Czech Cultural Club at our American-Czech Center focused on some of the interesting and unusual items that have been found in our archives. For over ten years now, Mary Ann Sulz, Marcella Milcic, and I have been continuing the work which started when we first moved into the Center in 1965. Among our discoveries we shared are a book from the 1850s, signed by Czech journalist Vojta Náprstek; a photo of the Sokol St. Louis men's team that competed in a Slet in Chicago in the 1870s; and a program book from Czech Day at the World's Fair in August of 1904; along with the book commemorating the 50th Anniversary Celebration of CSPS that same weekend.

During World War II, the Grand Lodge of Missouri and Southern Illinois created a poster showing all the CSA members, by lodge, who were in the ser-

vice at that time. There is also a banner that was called a "Blue (or Gold) Star Banner," with stars indicating the 106 local members under arms and the two who were killed in action. Both are part of our archives.

We still spend one day a week among the photos, lodge minute books, and memorabilia, occasionally coming across another interesting item showing the very long history of Czech life in the St. Louis area. Many thanks to everyone who came out for the presentation.

**Baby News:** It's a girl for Jordan and Rachel (Meyer) Roe. Vivyan Mae was born on August 9, and first-time grandparents Beverly and Scott Meyer are thrilled with the new addition.

Sean and Jenna Bartlow are first-time parents to baby boy Séamus William Bartlow, born on August 15. Grandparents Mary (Eichner) and Bill Bartlow are excited to welcome little Shay to the family. Congratulations to everyone!

Happy Halloween!

*Fraternally,  
Deborah Zeman*



# Scholarship Fund Report

August 10 - September 10, 2024

**IN MEMORY OF HELENKA GAYDUSEK**

Ken Dvorsky

**IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA HOPE**

Lodge Liberty Bell No. 408

**IN MEMORY OF LORELEI RUTHERFORD**

Lodge Liberty Bell No. 408

**IN MEMORY OF MARY H. ANDERSON**

Lodge Liberty Bell No. 408

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

The Holecek Family Foundation

**Total Donations**

**\$1,250.00**

## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### Pin Party, House of Thrills, and Anniversaries

**Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02 Seven Hills, Ohio** – This past June, District Council No. 10 held a Pin Party at DTJ Taborville in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Members attaining 75 or 50 years in CSA membership received an invitation to attend. In our lodge, Paul

Mizerak, Victor Ptak, and Eugene Zizka were invited for their 75-Year Pins. Our 50-Year celebrants include Debra Jezek, Dawn Knauss, Frank Krob, Joseph Sykora, George Sevcik, and Dorothy Walker. Joseph Sykora was the only one able to attend from our group. There

was a bit of confusion whether Joe was actually a member of Lodge Franklin. He thought otherwise. I can assure everyone that Joe is listed on our roster and we are quite proud to have him as a lodge brother! Congratulations to the inductees of 2024!

The Seven Hills house of thrills will again be the home court for the Lodge Franklin bowling team. At this printing, the team will be well into their season, captained by Ken “T-Burd” Burdzinski. We wish the keglers a successful season and hope they bring home the trophy!

As we chit-chatted following the meeting’s conclusion, there was a realization that August is quite the month for wedding anniversaries. Vicki and Jim Zidlicky celebrated 59 years on the 14th. Nancy and Jeff Zidlicky were married on the 16th and are into their 49th year of wedded bliss. Candice and Ryan Wallace are still on an extended honeymoon and celebrated seven years on August 19th. The newlyweds, with five years, or the “wood anniversary,” are Allyson and Scott Krecow on the 17th of August. Kudos and best wishes to these exemplary couples!

*Fraternal regards and  
enjoy the fall colors,  
Jeff Zidlicky*



# LODGE HAPPENINGS

## Summer Concert Series

### Lodge Lincoln No. 7, Berwyn, Illinois

– It sounds like the Get-Together in Nashville, Tennessee was a huge success this year. Congratulations to our newly crowned Miss National CSA Delaney Schretter and to Chuck Michalek for being chosen as the Fraternalist of the Year! Lodge Lincoln would like to commend the planning committee for all the hard work and effort that was put into carrying on tradition and making the GTG so enjoyable for the attendees!

In August, we had our business meeting in Winfield at the home of Stan and Pat Smolucha. They hosted a cookout which was moved indoors to keep us cool, due to the extreme heat on that Sunday afternoon. Stan grilled his famous ribeye steaks while Pat made her requested broccoli salad, garden fresh tomato/cucumber salad, and relishes. Bob Valenta's wife, Doretta, brought a delicious pasta salad. The mozzarella and tomato skewers that Vera Wilt made completed the meal. For dessert, we enjoyed kolacky that Pat Thompson brought, scrumptious chocolate dipped strawberries made by Catherine "Kitty" Hartzel, and John Pritasil brought delicious blueberry squares!

Matthew Schultz called the meeting to order, and it began with the Pledge of

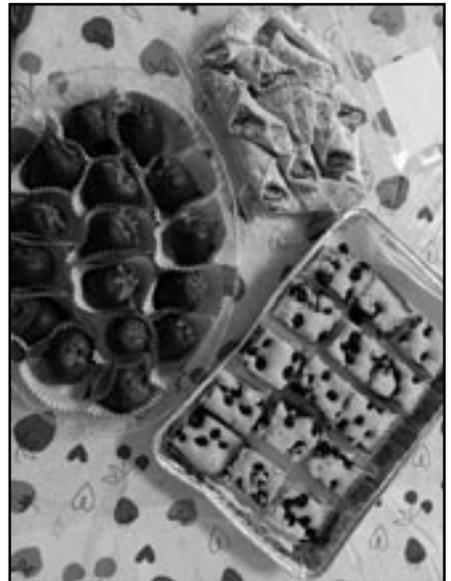
Allegiance. We discussed the combining and opening of our bank account as a single lodge, and scheduled our meetings and activities for the remainder of this year.

After we concluded our meeting, some of us drove to Cantigny to attend the Summer Concert Series. The concert was held in the shady picnic area close to the parking lot. Luckily, there was a cool breeze during the concert. Simple Men and Southern Nights entertained us with music from the 70s and also had a set as a tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd. It was relaxing and enjoyable listening to the familiar tunes.

We will not be meeting in person in September and November, but look forward to our next meeting on Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of John Pritasil, 606 Robinhood Lane, LaGrange Park, Illinois. We look forward to John's apple cider donuts and seeing his home decorated for Halloween! The Hospoda will be held on October 19 at Sokol Spirit. In December we plan to meet on Sunday, December 8 for a holiday get together. We hope you can join us!

*Fraternally,  
Pat Smolucha*

*s.smolucha@sbcglobal.net*



## *In Memoriam*

Claim	Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Death	Age
55728	Bourisaw, Timothy D.	001	IMPERIAL, MO	07/22/2024	42
55727	Rakaczky, Joseph A.	004	ORLANDO, FL	07/28/2024	66
55737	Kotewicz, Edward	004	PITTSBURGH, PA	03/15/2021	83
55735	Synek, Frank	030	BALLWIN, MO	06/19/2024	81
55741	Lundberg, Lorraine A.	077	CHICAGO, IL	03/05/2024	77
55730	Smith, Josh	099	CHICAGO, IL	04/06/2024	86
55716	Crawford, Frances L.	121	DILLONVALE, OH	06/26/2024	81
55725	Schindler, Joyce E.	137	FAIRFIELD, IA	08/09/2024	83
55744	Netolicky, Charles E.	137	CEDAR RAPIDS, IA	08/17/2024	93
55742	Perry, Ena	211	JERSEY CITY, NJ	08/28/2024	84
55734	Blabolil, Wayne A.	219	PARMA, OH	05/14/2024	76
55736	Vesely, Frances M.	230	GLEN ALLEN, VA	02/11/2024	91
55719	Nerada, Zdenek	231	BERWYN, IL	08/13/2024	86
55732	Kepka, Alan G.	231	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	04/21/2024	81
55722	Padyjasek, Patricia F.	310	SHADYSIDE, OH	04/19/2024	87
55739	Ritter, Nancy K.	366	BRIGHTON, MI	08/24/2024	71
55740	Ritter, Nancy Kovar	366	BRIGHTON, MI	08/24/2024	71
55721	Maretka, Kenneth N.	372	HIRAM, OH	07/01/2024	86
55714	Heger, Thomas	378	SAN ANTONIO, TX	01/31/2024	80
55731	Kanine, Goldie L.	408	SAINT LOUIS, MI	08/08/2024	96
55718	Gaydusek, Helen E.	409	BOLINGBROOK, IL	07/31/2024	82
55723	Brdicka, Rita A.	409	ROCKFORD, IL	07/05/2024	94
55724	Brdicka, Rita A.	409	MACHESNEY PARK, IL	07/05/2024	94
55720	Kopansky, Donna	450	WINTER GARDEN, FL	07/16/2024	94
55743	Hunt, Mary A.	450	ROCHESTER, NY	07/03/2024	83
55726	Becker, Lawrence	452	WILLINGTON, CT	03/19/2024	101
55733	Zelenka, Robert	458	GRANADA HILLS, CA	07/20/2024	64
55729	Willis Jr., John	463	VAIRICO, FL	07/15/2024	83
55738	Groff, Mary M.	479	DUCK KEY, FL	08/02/2024	78
55715	Russo, Joanne D.	481	RALEIGH, NC	07/26/2024	80

## *In Memoriam*

The death of **Helen Guydusek** was recognized by Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231 through prayer, remembering her great ability organizing many of the CSA

events. Members also acknowledged her work assisting in proofreading, editing, and correcting the “Lodge Happenings” and other articles in *the Journal*.



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Election of Officers – It’s That Time Again!

**Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No 121, Dillonvale, Ohio** – Hey, there. Are you feeling bored? Tired? Need a new challenge to keep things fresh? How about joining your fellow lodge brothers and sisters for our annual Election of Officers meeting? We will meet on Sunday, November 10, at The Golden Chopsticks Restaurant in Wheeling, West Virginia, at 1:00 p.m. We would love it if you could attend as we are eager for new friends to come and join us! We would welcome your participation and any ideas for upcoming lodge activities that you would like to share. Please notify Lodge Secretary, Mariann Ebright, at 740-733-8158 if you will be attending so the reservation can be adjusted. We hope to see you there!

We had our September meeting at Abbey’s Lounge in Wheeling, West Virginia. Topics of discussion included

## Music and More

**Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa** – Our lodge sponsored the final band concert of the summer for the Czech Plus Band. It was held at the Kosek Stage in the Czech Village. There is always toe tapping, hand clapping, and singing along to the polkas and waltzes. Everyone enjoyed the final

a reminder of the upcoming Bowling Congress to be held in Pittsburgh during October 19-20; a reminder of the 2025 GTG to be held in Cleveland, Ohio the weekend of August 1-3; the upcoming Election of Officers to be held in November; and an accounting of volunteer hours completed at our local churches. Members have been busy serving as greeters, ushers, church organist, choir members, deacons, and elders. Some have cooked for funeral luncheons, provided music for funeral masses, and provided services for military funerals. Sister Lovell also donated items (on behalf of CSA Lodge No. 121) and worked for her school’s Open House, and her school district’s Annual Back to School Bash.

We would like to send greetings to our fellow lodge members: Betty Paolucci, Jean and Dennis Stock, and Sandy Skatula. We think of you often!

concert of the year.

Fall is right around the corner and with that comes cleaning up leaves, final lawn mowings, and flower bed cleanups.

Our lodge is busy putting together the Christmas party for lodge members, the kids’ Christmas activity, and a ser-

vice project. The end of the year is approaching fast as well as all the festivities that go along with it.

Stay happy and healthy, everyone. We care about all of you!

Believe it or not, at the time this article was being written (early September), the leaves were already starting to fall. Perhaps they were dropping early due to the especially hot, dry summer—or maybe an early winter is coming. Be ready, friends—you never know what Mother Nature has in store for us! Take some time to enjoy the season, however brief it may be. Hot cocoa, s’mores, apple pie, and pumpkin spice “anything” might be just what you need to welcome autumn back to your doorstep. Have fun! Remember to check on someone you love today.

*Fondly,*

*Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell*

*Fraternally yours,*

*Rai Ann Stratton*

*Secretary*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

### Donations Made

**Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois** – We are back in the routine now that the summer is past. Our members enjoyed spending time catching up on family stories in Nashville. Keith Dvorsky spent two weeks camping and taking pictures in Alaska of brown bears, moose, and all kinds of sea creatures.

At our September meeting, we celebrated two birthdays: Gladys Zemanek, 91, and Andy Bultas, 89. Gladys treated us with homemade kolacky and pizza. We talked, and discussed the GTG. I showed pictures of our new Miss CSA Delaney Schretter and the contest.

We made donations this month to the Salvation Army and CSA Scholarship.

*Fraternally,  
Ken Dvorsky*

### *Fraternal Well Wishes*

**Dolores Clark**

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

**Jean Hendershot**

Lodge Bellaire No. 310

**Jean Placek**

Lodge Groveton No. 4

**Mary Ann Roberts**

Lodge Belmont No. 250

**John “Jack” Snider**

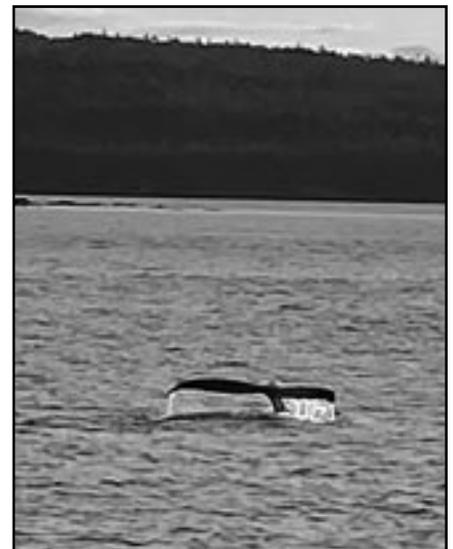
Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121

### Sailing Members Spot Humpback Whales



**Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois** – Late summer or early fall is a super time of year to go on a cruise. That is exactly what Dan Wenzler did recently. Sailing north from Seattle, his ship proceeded through the Puget Sound, viewing ice-capped mountains and remote islands dotted with gigantic Douglas fir trees beyond Mount Ranier. They continued to several destinations in Alaska before stopping at Vancouver on the return trip. The passengers were thrilled to spot a number of humpback whales and experience the enormous glaciers along the way. What a spectacular trip!

*Fraternally,  
Kimberly Silhan*



## LODGE HAPPENINGS

# Even with a Loss, Members Enjoyed the Game

**Lodge Groveton No. 4, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania** – Oh my gourdness, it's autumn! We hope you enjoyed the final days of summer and make the most of fall activities. There is always something to look forward to when the seasons change.

On August 18, numerous lodge members attended a Pittsburgh Pirates Game. The Pirates may have lost to the Seattle Mariners, but all had fun. The kiddos even received a plush Grover!

Lodge Groveton meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month at Groveton Firehall. There is food and refreshments at each meeting, as well as

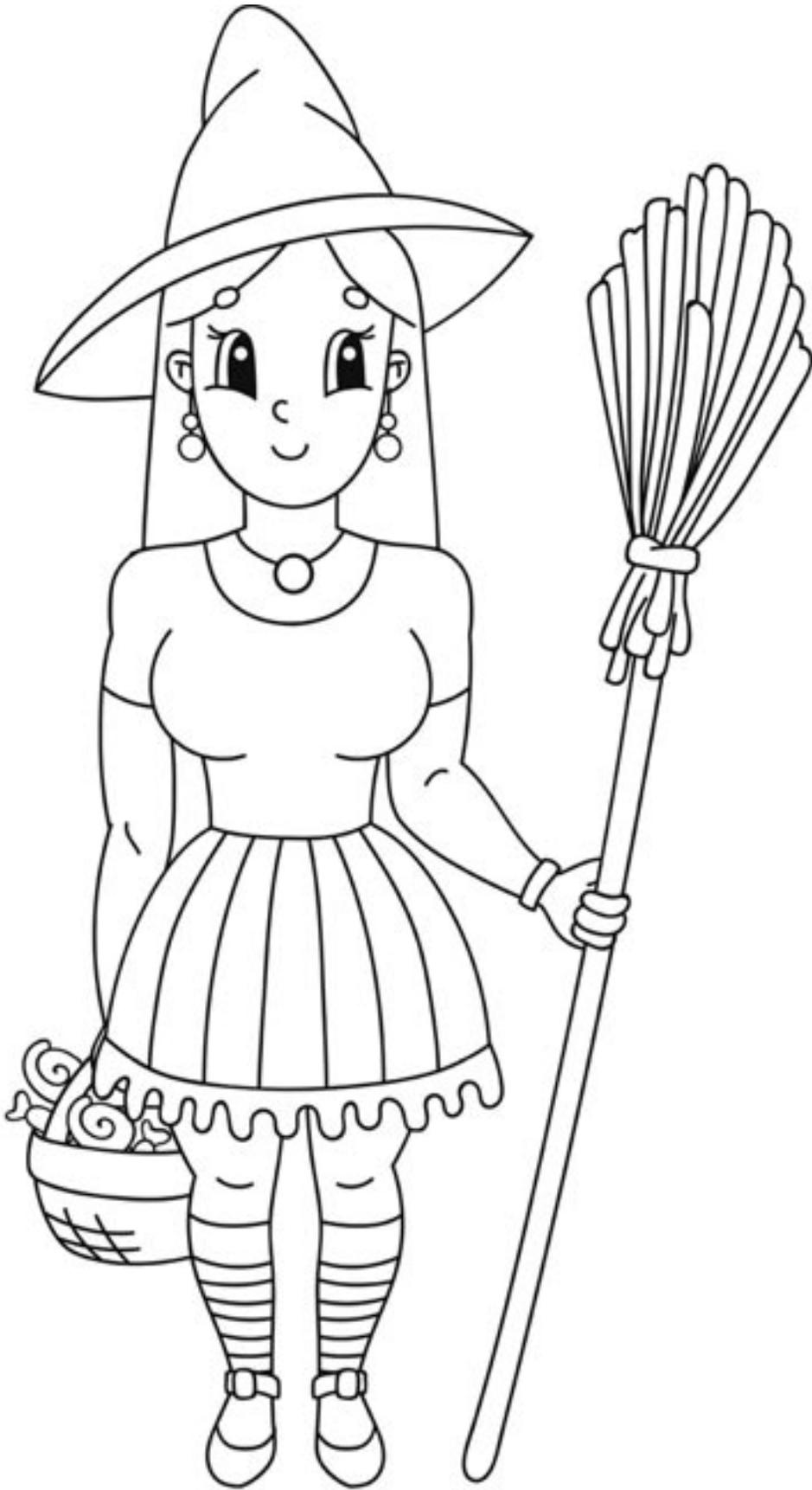
an attendance drawing with a monetary prize.

The Ohio/Penn Bowling Tournament will take place on October 19 and 20 at the Meadows Racetrack and Casino.

Happy Halloween! We hope it's fa-boo-lous!

*Fraternally,  
Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich*







# 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](mailto:CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com)

## Czech to English

Říjen.....	October (Ří-jen)
Duch.....	Spirit (duch)
Pověra.....	superstition (po-vě-ra)
Mít strach.....	to be afraid (mít starch)
Strašidelný.....	spooky (stra-ši-del-ný)
Očarovat.....	witchcraft (o-čar-o-vat)
Strašidelný biograf.....	scary/creepy movie (stra-ši-del-ný bio-graf)
Tykev.....	pumpkin (ty-kev)



**The November *Journal* will honor all CSA members who have served our country.**

**If you or a member you know is, or has been, in the military, please email:**

**[csajournaleditor@gmail.com](mailto:csajournaleditor@gmail.com)  
by October 15**

**to have their name included in the November issue featuring veterans.**

