Miss National CSA
Hunter Rae Yurkovich
Lodge Groveton #4
Coraopolis, PA
On the Cover

Congratulations to our new Miss National CSA 2019-2020 Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich of Lodge Groveton No. 4 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.
President’s Piece

Start Preparing for Next Year!

Brothers and Sisters,

I’m always excited to write my September article in the Journal, as I get to report on our annual CSA Get-Together.

Well, our members from Iowa who organized the event this year truly did not disappoint! It was a wonderful few days in the “Bohemian Alps.” Thank you to the Get-Together Committee, especially the co-chairs, Loretta Ledvina and Dorothy Ditch. It couldn’t have gone any better.

The 83rd Annual Get-Together began on Friday, August 2 with our annual Service Project, in which we helped stuff backpacks for the charitable organization known as Project Night Night. Later, as people continued to arrive in Cedar Rapids, everyone gathered in the Hospitality Suite to say hello to other GTG attendees. That evening’s events were a little unique this year, as everyone boarded buses for a 40-minute ride to Vining, Iowa, where we had dinner and watched our 2019 Miss National CSA Contest. The event was held at the CSA Hall in Vining, which is a 105-year-old building right in the center of town. It’s a very cool place.

On Saturday morning, the attendees listened to a speaker who gave us a number of tips to keep us protected from fraud, because unfortunately, we all have to be aware of the “bad guys” out there who attempt to steal our identity. In the afternoon, the group was able to head to downtown Cedar Rapids to see the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, as well as the Czech Village and NewBo area.

In addition to a dinner and live music on Saturday night, of course, the excitement of the evening was the unveiling of our Fraternalist of the Year and our Miss National CSA. Congratulations to Anna Ramirez, who was named our Fraternalist of the Year. What a much deserved award for Anna, who is a lifelong member of CSA and a member of Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377. Also, congratulations to Hunter Yurkovich of Lodge Groveton No. 4, who was named Miss National CSA for 2019-2020. Also a well-deserved award for Hunter.

Once again, our contestants, Marilyn Stone of Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Erin Murgas of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, and, of course, Hunter, are all very impressive young ladies. Thank you to all of them for competing for the honor, and we look forward to seeing all of you at future CSA events and Get-Togethers.

The events of the weekend wrapped up on Sunday morning with a brunch, then came the closing gavel of a great weekend.

So, now you all can start preparing for next year – our 84th Annual Get-Together. It will be hosted by our Florida lodges and will be held in Clearwater Beach during July 31 – Aug 2, 2020. You’re not going to want to miss it!

I hope you all enjoy the end of the summer.

Until next time,

Fraternally,

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

Like us on Facebook
Calendar of Events

Friday, September 20, 2019
BrewNost 2019
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
1400 Inspiration Pl. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Food pairings with beer, wine, cider, and spirits.
Tickets: www.NCSML.org/BrewNost

Saturday, September 28, 2019
96th St. Wenceslaus Day Celebration
Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
There will be a Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes at 4 p.m.,
followed by a traditional Czech dinner, music, and cash bar.
Dinner tickets are by advance-reservation only.
The deadline is 9/6. For information: 216-641-2829

Saturday, September 28, 2019
80th Moravian Day Welcoming Dance
Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th Street, Lemont, Illinois
7 p.m.– 1 a.m.: Food, drinks, raffle, and live music.
www.unitedmoraviansocieties.com

Sunday, September 29, 2019
80th Moravian Day with Holy Mass;
Folklore Program with Singers and Dancers
Lithuanian World Center, 14911 127th Street, Lemont, Illinois
Doors open at 11 a.m.; main program begins at 2 p.m.
Czech food, beer, and wine available.
www.unitedmoraviansocieties.org

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Czech Festival 2019
American-Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, Missouri
Czech food, pastries, pivo, music, and more.
See Facebook page for details.

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival
Prince George County Regional Heritage Center
6404 Courthouse Rd., Prince George, Virginia
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Free admission, food, dancing, games,
exhibits, and music.
For information: 804-863-0212; pghistory@aol.com;
www.princegeorgehistoricalsociety.org

Sunday, October 27, 2019
Sokol Sunday Dinners
Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
Served from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
$14.00 – chicken paprikash, coffee, tea, and dessert.
RSVP with Olga Nemecek: 216-447-0264
www.sokolgreatercleveland.org

*All Journal articles are due the 12th of the month prior to publication
(Ex: Articles for January would be due December 12.)
Hello, Brothers and Sisters,

July and August are always a little crazy here at the CSA Home Office. For months we prepare for the Miss National CSA Contest held at the Get-Together, then before you know it, the weekend has come and gone. Immediately after, we only have a week to prepare for this September Journal issue. No naps for the Fraternal Department!

This year, all three Miss CSA Contestants competed for a second or third time, so we are very grateful that they have put so much trust in our organization and leadership. I’m also very thankful that the family members could attend and watch them compete. A big congratulations goes out to Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich for taking home the title of Miss National CSA for 2019-2020. Also, Hunter, congratulations on winning your third Miss Congeniality award! The other girls must really appreciate you, and I look forward to working with you this year.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Sis. Cassandra Stone for being a great Miss CSA this past year. This wonderful young lady has been so present and responsive, always attending CSA events whenever she could. Cassandra, thank you for making my job so easy... and even more enjoyable! You and your family have been a blessing. I am sure they are so proud of Cassandra and Sis. Marilyn, who also competed in this year’s Miss CSA Contest. Last, but never least, a thank you goes out to Sis. Erin Murgas for taking the time out of her busy schedule to compete as well.

Congratulations to Sis. Anna Ramirez from Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, our Fraternalist of the Year, for her good works in 2018-2019. You can read more about Anna on page 16. We had four nominees this year, and all were very active members, all deserving of this prestigious award. I hope you will keep in touch with us, because I want to hear more about all of your activity in CSA! Remember, FOTY candidates who have not taken home the prize can still be nominated next year.

To the Papuga family: thank you kindly for once again offering the Charles T. Kropik Scholarship. This scholarship was awarded to Sis. Emily Nejdl of Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137. She gave an impressive application to us, detailing her active involvement in CSA since her youth.

One of my favorite parts of the CSA Get-Together is the Service Project. This year, members supplied many, many comfort items and backpacks for Project Night Night, a worthwhile organization that helps children in need. The spread was impressive, and I am always so proud of our members.

I also can’t say “thank you” enough to my partner-in-crime, Cynthia Hall, who not only helps me produce this magazine every month, but also takes hundreds of photos throughout the entire Get-Together weekend. She is a huge asset to us and plays a big part in the CSA Fraternal Life family. What would we do without you?

In closing, “September” means that we are approaching my favorite season – autumn! I will also be celebrating my birthday this year. Another year closer to 30! (Should I have said that out loud?) What do people always say... “Wrinkles only indicate where the smiles have been”...? Well, I know I was definitely smiling in August.

What are you looking forward to this month?

Fraternally,

Amanda S. Lovell
Fraternal Director
alovell@csalife.com
August 2019 Board Report

Congratulations to everyone from the Lodges of District No. 14 who worked on the Get-Together in Cedar Rapids. What a great success, with wonderful food, delightful entertainment, and beautiful weather. Such fun to see old friends and meet new ones. Congratulations also to Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich on being crowned 2019 Miss CSA and best wishes for our retiring Miss CSA, Sis. Cassandra Stone. Finally, thanks to Sis. Amanda Lovell and those associated with the Fraternal Department for all the efforts in facilitating a successful Get-Together.

The Board of Directors had an abbreviated meeting the Thursday before the Get-Together. Chad Hoes and Trevor Rupe from our investment advisor Parkway Advisors explained that the portfolio ended the quarter with a book yield of 4.87%, mainly due to the treasury yields going down since the Federal Reserve has cut rates. The portfolio remains solid with a 73/27 mix of NAIC 1s to NAIC 2s. Their goal is to “maintain the book yield in this low interest rate environment as much as possible while not assuming unnecessary risks for CSA by purchasing high credit quality securities.” Parkway will also be doing our investment accounting for the third quarter and into the future.

Personal information security is always in the forefront at CSA and Bro. Matt Koski reported that the IT Director Bro. Nick Kosmas schedules monthly phishing tests. In the past 11 tests since the May Board meeting, our average phishing prone rate is 0%, compared to 15.5% for small insurance companies. Also, no outside vendor has access to our server, for additional security.

Bro. John Kieczewski reported an increase in our surplus from $3,416 million at the end of the second quarter to $3,745 million at the end of July.

It was reported that the Czechoslovak Heritage Museum formally received their tax exemption from Cook County and is now clear of any future obligations. They hope to be approved by the City of Cicero for their occupancy at the city’s August meeting.

At the November meeting, the Board will be updating company policies and also finalize the changes to our Strategic Plan. We will also be meeting with our actuary, Joe Steimla.

The November meeting will be held on the 15th. Please let your Director know of any concerns.

Fraternally,
Irma Drahota Farrell

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.

Meet the Member
Brothers and Sisters,
This year’s 83rd Get-Together has come and gone. My wife Heather and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The event went above and beyond expectations. Each day was paced with just the right amount of activity. Midwest hospitality in alive and well in Iowa. Thank you to the Get-Together Committee and everyone involved for hosting such a successful weekend.

Friday began bright and early with the Service Project. This year, Project Night Night was selected. We assembled backpacks filled with blankets, flashlights, socks, books, and a stuffed animal, along with toiletry items for children in need. The donations of stuffed animals, books, and blankets from our members were impressive, to say the least. Following the Service Project, we assembled in the Hospitality Suite and were greeted by an overwhelming quantity of refreshments and the annual tradition of the Šunky pig and pin. I cannot imagine that anyone left hungry. Later, we boarded buses to head to Vining, Iowa to the CSA Hall where we had a wonderful pork chop dinner, along with the competition portion of the Miss CSA Contest. It is great to see one of our original CSPS-CSA Halls still being used and so well-maintained after a century of use.

Saturday started out with a guest speaker talking about the dangers of fraud and identity theft. Then, we all headed for downtown Cedar Rapids to tour the area and visit the Czech Museum. The museum was definitely worth the visit. Saturday evening was held at the Marriott Hotel. We celebrated our new Fraternalist of the Year, Anna Ramirez. Congratulations to Kropik Scholarship winner, Emily Nejdl. To cap off the evening, we crowned the new Miss CSA and Miss Congeniality, Hunter Yurkovich. Congrats to all of the contestants and winners! We then enjoyed the sounds of Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchman.

We had a great brunch and enjoyed the sounds of a bluegrass band Sunday morning. Committees offered their reports, and both Lodge Slunce No. 374 and Lodge St. Petersburg No. 463 put in their bids for the 2020 Get-Together, as announced by Bro. Gary Stupka.

Thanks again to the local Iowan lodges for all of the work and time that was put into another successful Get-Together.

Fraternally,
Matthew A. Koski

Message from the Secretary
Thank You, Local Iowan Lodges!

American Sokol Library and Archives is Now Online!

The American Sokol Library and Archives has been in existence since June 1976, though we have just recently begun to place items from the collection onto our website. Through the forethought and dedication of many Sokol members, American Sokol has a significant collection of books, flags, posters, sheet music, photos, letters, Slet memorabilia, and other historical artifacts. Through the efforts of Sis. Annette Schabowski and many volunteers, the library was card cataloged and a listing of many items was made. The collection was boxed and moved twice with some things being stored in Cleveland, Ohio until the items were finally moved to the current location at 9126 Ogden Ave. in Brookfield, Illinois. It has grown, along with the continued support of members' donations of items and money.

Recently, with the acquisition of funding from the Czech Consulate and American Sokol Foundation, a computer with Past Perfect Online software was purchased and a part-time clerk and curator was hired in 2017. Juliann Barcal has been cataloguing and digitizing the collection for the past two years. At the March 26, 2019 meeting, the Executive Board, based on the recommendation of the National Education Committee, approved and accepted the Past Perfect Online setup special with a one-year hosting fee of $450 to be paid from the Education budget.

The National Education Committee of American Sokol is proud to announce that we are now beginning to upload some of this catalogued and digitized collection. To view items that have been posted, log in to the website: https://americansokol.pastperfectonline.com. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to give me a call or text using my number listed below.

Best regards,
Sue Bares
National Educational Director of American Sokol
(734) 455-5828
Hello Brothers and Sisters,

My name is Hunter Rae Yurkovich, and I am beyond excited to be this year’s Miss CSA. I am from Lodge Groveton No. 4, and I have lived just outside of Pittsburgh my entire life.

I hope everyone who attended the 83rd Annual Get-Together had a wonderful time in Iowa’s “Bohemian Alps.” The Get-Together weekend is one of my favorites because I am able to mingle with Miss CSA Contestants, reconnect with members, and explore new places! This year’s event in Cedar Rapids did not disappoint. I enjoyed walking around Czech Village and the National Czech and Slovak Museum. The other contestants and I even stopped at Almost Famous Popcorn Company for some delicious ice cream and bags of popcorn!

This fall, I will be starting my senior year of nursing school at Carlow University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On campus, I am a Future Nurse Educator, which gives me the opportunity to be a peer tutor for students enrolled in Anatomy and Physiology. I am also on the Leadership Board for Carlow’s Love Your Melon (LYM) Campus Crew. LYM is an apparel brand dedicated to the fight against pediatric cancer. As a campus crew, we raise awareness for childhood cancer and represent the brand through promotional events with our non-profit partners. I, as well as other members on the Leadership Board, am already gearing up for recruitment and Childhood Cancer Awareness month, which happens to be September! The color gold is used to represent the resiliency of childhood cancer patients, so I encourage everyone to “be bold and go gold” for childhood cancer awareness this month!

In August, I had the opportunity to attend the District Council No. 9 meeting where I was able to see familiar and new faces! Thank you to everyone at the meeting for being so welcoming and kind! I enjoyed being able to talk and share stories with you all.

This month, I will be attending the 35th Annual Kolache Festival in Caldwell, Texas. I loved Austin, so I am very excited to return to Texas to see CSA members and experience Czech festivities. I look forward to visiting many of you throughout the year, and I cannot express how grateful I am to be this year’s Miss CSA.

Fraternally,

Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich
The Get-Together Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to Project Night Night. We were so pleased with the outcome. When the guys delivered the backpacks, they were so overwhelmed.

I would like to thank the Get-Together Committee for all of their hard work and for everyone who donated items and food.

We would also like to thank everyone who came to the Get-Together. We hope everyone had a good time. It was nice seeing you all.

Loretta Ledvina
83rd Annual Get-Together - Saturday
83rd Annual Get-Together - Miss CSA Contest
83rd Annual Get-Together - Miss CSA Contestants

**Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich**

A member of Lodge Groveton No. 4, Hunter is 21 years old and resides in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

Her parents, Patricia and Chester, are CSA members as well. Hunter is 5’4” tall with brown hair and green eyes. She is a CSA Scholarship recipient and has participated in two previous Miss CSA Contests, where she was voted Miss Congeniality twice among her peers. She takes classes at Carlow University where she is pursuing a degree in Nursing. Hunter attends monthly lodge meetings and volunteers actively with other members. She was awarded the 2018 Kropik Scholarship and participated in the 2018 Quadrennial Convention. Her future goal is to be a traveling pediatric nurse, as well as travel internationally for leisure. Eventually, she plans to return to school for her master’s degree in Nursing or in Education so she can teach. She currently works at UPMC Children’s Hospital in Pittsburgh.

**Sis. Erin Murgas**

Erin is a member of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378. She is 19 years old and is from Oswego, Illinois.

She is 5’4” tall, and has black hair and brown eyes. She is currently attending Eastern Illinois University, pursuing a Bachelor's in Music Performance – Composition Concentration. In the future, Erin would like to work as a composer and performer of musical theatre and opera. She currently works at County Market in Charleston, Illinois, as well as in the Eastern Illinois University World Language Lab. Erin is the older of two children. She was born in Beihai, China and was adopted at the age of 11 months. She has Czechoslovak roots on her father’s side. Erin is a CSA Scholarship recipient and this was her second time competing in the Miss CSA Contest.

**Sis. Marilyn Stone**

A member of Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Marilyn is 23 years old and resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Marilyn is 5’1” tall with brown hair and brown eyes. She participated in two prior Miss CSA Contests. She has attended Christmas parties hosted by her lodge and District Council. She has her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Marilyn was the Vice President of her Student Nursing Association and was a Saint Xavier University tour guide. She currently works at Mercy Hospital and Medical Center as a Registered Nurse (ICU/CCU). Her future goals include becoming a nursing educator and a clinical instructor for nursing students, as well as obtaining her CCRN certification and her MSN. In her free time, she enjoys dancing, scrapbooking, shopping, working, traveling, and spending time with loved ones. Marilyn continues to stay active, celebrating her heritage and family history.
Having started in 1985, this is the 34th year we honor a CSA member who has gone above and beyond with their time and efforts from 2018 to 2019.

On Saturday evening, August 3, 2019, Sis. Anna Ramirez of Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, was named the Fraternalist of the Year from 2018-2019 at the Get-Together banquet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Our Fraternalist is a long-time member and has remained active in both her Lodge and District level. Anna attends lodge meetings regularly, attends fraternal events such as Join Hands Day, the Lidice Commemoration Day service in Crest Hill, Sokol Spirit Trivia Nights, and summertime Czech picnics. She contributed generously to the lodge Holiday Toy Drive for children in need, the Share Food Share Love food pantry, and the lodge holiday craft night, where the trinkets are donated to the Tabor Hills retirement community. She also volunteers for Northern Illinois Greater Food Depository, Feed My Starving Children, and Mutual Ground, a domestic violence victim’s shelter. Additionally, she regularly contributes to the lodge’s social media presence by documenting lodge activities on the group’s Facebook page, including photographs of CSA events attended.

Anna has joined the Czech Genealogy Society and the Bohemian Garden Club. She knows the importance of combining attendance of both youth and adults at events, enriching experiences for all. She recently made a generous contribution to St. Baldrick’s for curing childhood cancers. Recently, this member invited young newlyweds to their lodge team at Sokol Spirit’s trivia night to allow some healthy interaction, and to supplement the chances of winning with the addition of younger brain cells and memories!

I would like to share an excerpt from our judge: “I have chosen this winner because she understands the importance of keeping your Czech culture alive by not only getting involved with various different events but by encouraging the younger generations to get involved, too. Anna has embraced the realm of social media, as well as contemporary games to attract our youth to be more involved in different activities. This member shows generosity in various ways from volunteering, to making donations, to demonstrating the true spirit of what a fraternal organization stands for: helping one another in a time of need.”

In conclusion, Anna has truly learned the importance of volunteering, giving back, and using her talents to benefit others. We wish her great success in 2019!

Respectfully,
Amanda Lovell

The nomination applications for Fraternalist of the Year were sent to Valeria Buchholz, the Webinar Project Leader at Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is also the former Marketing and Communications Specialist at Catholic Financial Life.

The nominations were anonymous; no names were given. Taking this duty very seriously, she used a rating and point system to select our Fraternalist of the Year and we are grateful for her due diligence and careful consideration.
83rd Annual Get-Together - Fraternalist of the Year Nominees

Sis. Marla Breidenbach
Lodge Missouri No. 1

Sis. Anna Ramirez
Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377

Sis. Rai Ann Stratton
Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137

Bro. John Weiss
Lodge Paramount Southgate No. 372

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Successful Picnic in the Park

District Council No. 10, Northern Ohio – The District Council No. 10 Picnic at Hemlock Park in Bedford Reservation was a great success! There were more members this year than last, including some members who haven’t been to meetings in a while. All had a great time chatting and catching up with each other. Mary Ann Toncar provided the guessing games and Jan Dembowski brought the always popular Bingo.

Everybody enjoyed the hamburgers and hot dogs grilled to perfection by Grill Master Diane DiBianca who tried to avoid the smoke but it kept following her. Side dishes included several macaroni salads, broccoli salad, assorted chips, and Tony Genco’s famous baked beans. There was also a vast assortment of tasty deserts. Thanks to all of the members who brought all of the delicious food.

As the picnic ended, Mary Ann presided over a Memorial Service for Helen Martonovic.

Have you checked your beneficiary on your policy lately? Please make sure you check and update it if needed.

The District Christmas Party/Pin Party will be at The Clubhouse in Parma.

Fraternally,
Annette Reichman
District Council No. 9, Region C –
The members of District Council No. 9 held their quarterly meeting on Sunday, August 11. The highlight of the meeting turned out to be a visit from our newly crowned Miss CSA, Hunter Yurkovich of Lodge Groveton No. 4 from Pennsylvania. Thanks to Brother Director, Terry Placek, and his family, Hunter made the trip to see us. She explained that it was her first official visit as Miss CSA and we were extremely honored to have her in attendance. Thanks so much, Hunter! We hope to see you again real soon!

Four members from our area made the trip to the GTG in Cedar Rapids, Iowa this summer including: Peggy and Joe Goclan, and Wendy and Gary Lovell. A great time was had by all and as you can see by the picture, “Grandpa Joe” had fun pushing the Ledvina grandchildren around on the luggage cart! The kiddos were having fun, too! It’s always heartwarming to see the generations coming together to celebrate our heritage! Many thanks to the members of the GTG Committee for getting us all together again in your beautiful part of the country!

Back to our meeting…We were gifted with extra treats in addition to our pizza luncheon as President Peggy brought her homemade Friendship Bread to share and Jeanie Placek showed up with a special Chex Mix appetizer along with a homemade cake with icing. All of these “extras” were greatly appreciated and left all of us feeling very satisfied! Thanks, ladies! We would also like to thank Brother Placek for giving each member in attendance a personal-sized bottle of Sangria. You know us all so well…we do enjoy our spirits!

Last, but certainly not least, another highlight of our meeting was visiting with Brother Vince Schulin from Lodge Groveton No. 4. It was so nice to see you, Vince! It was fun to share stories of past CSA events enjoyed with our dear-departed family members. After all, that’s what binds us all together—those beautiful memories of the past and the new memories we are continually making.

Until next time,
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell
District Council

September Has a Lot Going for It!

District Council No. 12 of Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana – September – the eighth month of the year – has arrived! Traditionally, this is the time when the youngsters would go back to school. Lately, many schools have been starting in early August due to air-conditioning improvements. September has a lot going for it. To begin, there’s Labor Day on September 2 (a time when we honor all of our hard-working men and women). This month, Sandwich, Illinois hosts the 132nd Sandwich County Fair from September 4-8. This is the oldest Illinois County Fair, and it started in 1888. It has everything: agricultural producers, animals, farm machines, plants and flowers, canning of foods, hobby collections, carnival rides, entertainers, bands, musicians, and more. You can even ride on a large steam engine that travels around the park.

On September 11, we have Patriots Day. Oh, how well we remember 9/11. Autumn begins on September 23. Remember to attend our District Council fall meeting on September 26 at 6:30 p.m. All delegates, lodge officers, and guests are always welcome to attend these meetings at the CSA Home Office.

The 83rd Annual Get-Together at Cedar Rapids was a lot of fun. We thank our iowan friends for doing a fantastic job. Over 25 of our lodge members and friends within District Council No. 12 attended. We had the pleasure of visiting with old friends and making new ones. The Hospitality Suite had all kinds of foods, meats, pastries, snacks, and beverages. The Friday evening meal was held at the CSA Hall, a large community building in Vining, Iowa. All enjoyed the farm-raised food that was served. The Saturday evening banquet was held at the Cedar Rapids Marriott and was top notch!

We have a new Miss CSA for this year. Congratulations to Hunter Yurkovich of Lodge Groveton No. 4. She was also nominated by her peers as Miss Congeniality. Our congratulations go out to her and the two lovely young ladies who competed with her, Erin Murgas and Marilyn Stone. All three girls were kind, knowledgeable, and talented.

Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen provided the Saturday entertainment. We had lots of good cheer, singing, dancing, etc. At the Sunday brunch, the Riverboat Ramblers entertained us with a fine array of bluegrass music, including “The Beer Barrel Polka.” Needless to say, we had a wonderful time. A big, big thank you goes out to all of the Cedar Rapids organizers, workers, and our dear fraternal friends who made this all possible.

Fraternally,

Ed Slavik

Lodge Happenings

A Baseball Star

Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151, Cicero, Illinois – For those who do not know me, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Anna Trush and I am the Senior Underwriter at CSA Fraternal Life and a new member of the Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151. I was not born into or married into CSA’s big fraternal family, but since I joined CSA Fraternal Life three years ago, my role from an Underwriter has expanded into the Fraternal Department as well.

The weekend of August 1-4 was a special treat and was made possible when I was invited to join CSA’s big family at the Annual Get-Together hosted in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I was given an opportunity to work with our Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell, our editor Cynthia Hall, and the Miss CSA Contestants and Miss CSA 2018-2019, all four beautiful and talented young ladies. Each girl has expressed natural passion to serve diligently within our fraternal community and were a delight to work with.

I met many longtime members and their families who not only know how to have a good time, but show continued support for our organization. CSA continues to be in good hands, and we love to see our members continue to be interactive and supportive. Together we can make CSA Fraternal Life even stronger, better, and we can have fun doing it! After all, that’s what fraternalism is all about!

We have some exciting lodge news to share! We have a budding baseball star. Bro. Derek Lenert of Falls Church, Virginia participated in a tournament in Cooperstown, New York with his Virginia Copperheads Baseball Team. Derek hit two home runs and got a double in the same game. Congrats to Derek for a job well done.

Fraternally,

Anna Trush and Nancy Reagan
**Jr. Bowl-O-Rama Scores**

**Boy’s Division #1, 2019 Bowl-o-Rama, Ages 5 to 7**

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<td>Andrew Howe</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
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<td>Tyson Ehrenbein</td>
<td>Paramount/Southgate No. 372</td>
<td>244</td>
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<td>Finn Michalek</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 377</td>
<td>173</td>
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</table>

**Boy’s Division #2, 2019 Bowl-o-Rama, Ages 8 to 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge Name and Number</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Dean</td>
<td>Golden Gate No. 252</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>1st Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler Sullivan</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Ehrenbein</td>
<td>Paramount/Southgate No. 372</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Helfrich</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>267</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karel Kuttler</td>
<td>Brookfield No. 475</td>
<td>262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Corrigan</td>
<td>Paramount/Southgate No. 372</td>
<td>243</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Howe</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>238</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frankie Saballus</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connor Michalek</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Macak</td>
<td>Cermak No. 99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyatt Szopinski</td>
<td>Prokop Velky No. 137</td>
<td>186</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Goodwin</td>
<td>Laurel No. 452</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mason Varga</td>
<td>Laurel No. 452</td>
<td>152</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trevor Michalek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lincoln Hamrin</td>
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<td>Gerrett Szopinski</td>
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**Boy’s Division #3, 2019 Bowl-o-Rama, Ages 12-14**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge Name and Number</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skyler Ebright</td>
<td>Kruh Os Zen a Panu No. 121</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary DeValk</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Dean</td>
<td>Golden Gate No. 252</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Troy Graveen</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
<td>220</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Ebright</td>
<td>Kruh Os Zen a Panu No. 121</td>
<td>126</td>
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**Boy’s Division #4, 2019 Bowl-o-Rama, Ages 15-17**

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<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Reed Sullivan</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elijah Lovell</td>
<td>Kruh Os Zen a Panu No. 121</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter Hamrin</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blake DeValk</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>294</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Allen</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
<td>291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathon Varga</td>
<td>Laurel No. 452</td>
<td>286</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter Rieckhoff</td>
<td>Prokop Velky No. 137</td>
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### Girl's Division #1, 2019 Bowl-O-Rama, Ages 5-7

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grace Helfrich</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>1st place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison Bichler</td>
<td>Groveton No. 004</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Graveen</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veronica Q. Rypka</td>
<td>Minnesota No. 210</td>
<td>192</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan Hugley</td>
<td>Minnesota No. 210</td>
<td>162</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haze Hugley</td>
<td>Minnesota No. 210</td>
<td>144</td>
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### Girl's Division #2, 2019 Bowl-O-Rama, Ages 8 to 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge Name and Number</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abigail Helfrich</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>1st place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savannah J. Demars</td>
<td>Minnesota No. 210</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josie Schretter</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myah Morgan</td>
<td>Prokop Velky No. 137</td>
<td>209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autumn Cervantes</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>207</td>
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<td>Chloe Michalek</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
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<td>Faylyn Franks</td>
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<td>Aubrey Cervantes</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annabella Ryalls</td>
<td>Washington No. 30</td>
<td>157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Szopinski</td>
<td>Prokop Velky No. 137</td>
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### Girl's Division #3, 2019 Bowl-O-Rama, Ages 12 to 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge Name and Number</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jadalyn Hanson</td>
<td>DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micheline Spano</td>
<td>Brookfield No. 475</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Goodwin</td>
<td>Laurel No. 452</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bailey Ebright</td>
<td>Kruh Os. Zen a Panu No. 121</td>
<td>236</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaney Schretter</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>229</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily DeValk</td>
<td>Woodrow Wilson No. 377</td>
<td>212</td>
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</table>

### Girl's Division #4, 2019 Bowl-O-Rama, Ages 15 to 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Lodge Name and Number</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mia Allen</td>
<td>Yankee-Jungmann No. 77</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>1st place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwen Schretter</td>
<td>Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marisa Spano</td>
<td>Brookfield No. 475</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>3rd place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Emrich</td>
<td>Prokop Velky No. 137</td>
<td>146</td>
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</tr>
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### 2019 CSA Fraternal Calendar

- **September 2**: Home Office closed for Labor Day
- **October 12**: Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal
- **October 14**: Home Office closed for Columbus Day
- **November 28, 29**: Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- **December 1**: Deadline - CSA SERVES Matching Funds Requests
  
  **December 24, 25**: Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday
- **January 1**: Home Office closed for New Year’s Day
- **February 1**: Deadline - 2019 President Report forms due in Home Office
Lodge Happenings

Wedding Bells and the Eiffel Tower

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, North Riverside, Illinois – Summer has finally hit us in the Midwest. The cold and rain in June has left and in July we experienced record high temperatures and high humidity.

I received word from member Chuck Michalek that his grand niece, Rachel Vernetti, who lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee was awarded a CSA Scholarship. Rachel was named Valedictorian of her graduating class. To achieve this, she belonged to the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Lacrosse Team, Marching Band, Technology Student Association, and much more. She will be enrolled as an Engineering student at the University of Alabama.

In May, Lodge members Eunice Semple and her daughter Margaret visited family in Michigan. Pictured are Margaret Jasinski and her namesake (our newest Lodge member) Margaret McDonald, born in February.

We received a note that our Miss CSA Contestant from last year, Josephine Budilovsky, was married on March 17 to Andrew Dubsy. Something special incorporated in the wedding was an Eiffel Tower cake, since they got engaged in Paris at the Eiffel Tower. They are currently residing in Batavia, Illinois.

Fraternally,
Mary Ellen Janda

Congratulations to the Happy Couple

The wedding of Allison Paddock, Lodge Estonian No. 404, and Benjamin Chavez was held in Colorado in August. Family and friends from all across the U.S. gathered for the beautiful ceremony in picturesque Boulder Canyon. Allison is the daughter of Barbara Paddock and the granddaughter of Yarmilla Zaruba. The newlyweds, who reside in Colorado Springs, are both Captains in the U.S. Air Force. Here’s wishing you a lifetime of happiness together!

Pictured left are Allison and Benjamin Chavez with Barb and Dave Spencer.
Fun-Filled Summer

Lodge Sionilli No. 170, Brookfield, Illinois – Another fun filled summer is in the books! We began the summer with our June meeting held at Irish Times in Brookfield. We always love holding meetings on their patio with some food, drinks, and good laughs. We met in July at the Czech American Congress Picnic. We were happy to see many friendly faces and had 12 people gathered from our lodge throughout the day. That’s the most we’ve had from our lodge together in a long time! We hope the momentum continues as we plan many more fun outings in the future. We were also very happy to see Miss National CSA 2018-2019, Cassandra Stone, at one of the last events of her reign. Thanks for posing with us for a picture, Cassandra. It’s been a pleasure getting to know you over this past year!

We would like to congratulate Alix Wilt of Lodge Sionilli and Lodge Crane on her marriage to Ken Fron Jr. of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield. You can find a picture of the couple on their wedding day in this month’s article from Lodge Crane on page 25.

We have enjoyed many outings with the members of Lodge Crane over the past few years. Our groups blend together nicely and their members wouldn’t be caught missing out on the fun we always have! You can join in on the fun, too! Please be on the lookout for upcoming events or contact our secretary Vera Wilt (verawilt@aol.com) to get more information on what fun things we have planned!

Fraternally,
Alix Fron

Baby Shower

Lodge Sokol Plzen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois – On June 22, our lodge meeting was brief, as it then turned into a Baby Shower for Bro. Matthew Bultas and his wife Christina. The meeting and shower were held at Maggiano’s Italian Restaurant in Oak Brook, Illinois. It started at 11:00 a.m. It was a brunch at which about 40 people attended. Matt and Christina received many great gifts for the baby. This is the couple’s first child, and our lodge is looking forward to this new member.

During our July 21 meeting, the membership discussed the Get-Together in Cedar Rapids. Stan Papuga and Andy Bultas were delegates and Candy Pupuga was an alternate. Stan and Candy decided to drive, whereas Andy took the coach bus that brought CSA members to Cedar Rapids from the CSA Home Office.

A discussion was also held regarding the Czech American Congress Festival Picnic that was held at the Summit, Illinois Park District on July 29. Andy Bultas of our lodge and Ken Dvorsky of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378 set up the tents that represented CSA Fraternal Life, the T.G. Masaryk Czech School, and the Czech Counsel of Chicago. We encouraged our members to go to the picnic and enjoy the Czech food and displays. The lodge also voted to send a $100 check to the T.G. Masaryk Czech School for their roof’s fundraiser. As a group, we went through the photographs of Mike and Michelle Mulusas’ wedding, which many of us had attended.

Fraternally,
Matthew Bultas and Andy Bultas
Lodge Happenings

Proud to Announce New Members

Lodge Karel Jonas No. 279, Elberon, Iowa – We are proud to announce the induction of our newest lodge member, Bro. Leon Joseph Ledvina, son of Tyler and Kaitlyn Ledvina. He is the grandson of Director Tom Ledvina and wife Loretta Ledvina. Leon is 4 months old. Other members, Claire and Carver Ledvina, came to welcome him to the lodge, and their parents are Travis and Nicole Ledvina. Stella Reicher, daughter of Tonya and Jason Reicher, was also in attendance. Our entire family warmly welcomes our newest addition.

Fraternally,
Sis. Loretta Ledvina

A Summer of Celebrations

R. T. Crane Jr. No. 7, North Riverside, Illinois – Summer has come and gone and we have had a lot to celebrate! In June, we used our award money from the Lodge Recognition Program to host a steak dinner for our active members. We are proud to have won the Platinum Award again, continuing our tradition of winning the highest award possible every single year since the program began. Thanks to Sis. Vera Wilt for hosting us at her home for this meeting and grilling the delicious steaks.

On July 6, Alix Wilt of Lodge Crane and Lodge Sionilli married Ken Fron Jr. of Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield. The ceremony was performed at Mater Christi Church in North Riverside, Illinois followed by a reception at Carriage Greens Golf Club in Darien, Illinois. Alix and Ken planned a honey moon to New Orleans for a weekend then a week-long Caribbean cruise after their wedding. When it came time to travel, they were nervous to find out that Hurricane Barry was headed for New Orleans at the same time they were! With a non-refundable cruise, they had no choice but to fly straight into the storm. Luckily, Barry was downgraded to a Tropical Storm in New Orleans and, with the exception of many places closed during the day on Saturday, they still enjoyed much of the city with no lines! They boarded their cruise at the end of the weekend and visited Key West Florida, Freeport Bahamas, and Nassau Bahamas. Congratulations, Alix and Ken!

We ended July by grilling and serving corn at the Czech American Congress Picnic. It was a very hot day and, unfortunately, we did not sell out of corn for the first time in many years. That won’t stop us though. We promise to be back next year with delicious corn again!

Since we’ve got weddings on the brain, we’ll leave you with this joke: Did you hear about the two cell phones that got married?... The reception was terrific!

Fraternally,
Alix Fron

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
So Much to Celebrate

Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio – Perfect summer weather was a great draw for the ten members in attendance at the Inn Between for July’s lodge pow wow. Guest Ryan Wallace would not be denied the accompaniment of the lodge’s wing eating team as he celebrated his birthday with us.

We received a thank you letter from the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland for a mid-year cash donation, which joined our contribution of 16 pounds of aluminum tabs at the yearly Pull-Tab Palooza held in late May. My wife Nan and I (pictured above) were again privileged to deliver Lodge Franklin’s collection of tabs, which put us at 70 pounds for the past four years. I would like to extend a thank you to our members and lodge friends whom diligently save these tabs all year long for such a great cause!

We also had a special guest in Nicole Zidlicky (pictured below), who is our new local CSA sales representative. Nicole introduced herself to the members who she has not met and encouraged everyone to contact her about policy updates and any of the products CSA can provide for financial well-being. Nicole can be reached at:

(216) 253-2123 or NicoleRomito1@gmail.com.

Nicole is married to Jimmy and the daughter-in-law of Vicki and Jim Zidlicky. Welcome to the tribe!

Congratulations to Debbie Veverka Malinowski and her husband Frank on becoming first time grandparents. A healthy baby girl named Stella Francis (pictured above) was born on June 12, 2019 at 10:27 a.m. to parents Jamie and Jeff Beven. Baby Stella tipped the scale at seven pounds, 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches long for all our statistical minded readers.

Best wishes to Denise Veverka Gillombardo as her daughter Valerie Ann was wed to Mr. David Hendrickson on June 15, 2019. Saint Columbkille’s 1:30 p.m. mass included a bridal party of 14 and Denise’s eight-week-old granddaughter, Vivian, as the youngest flower girl in recent memory! A lavish reception followed at 6:00 p.m. at The Astrodome of Parma. There was continuous food, drinks, and dancing until midnight. Of course, no wedding would be complete without Denise’s signature chair dance with daughters Val and Meg to the tune of “It’s Raining Men.” That’s a sight to behold! Our best to Val and David! (Pictured above with Denise.)

Congratulations are also in order to Corey and Jen Zidlicky on the birth of their first child, Chelsey Marie (pictured below). It was 3:29 a.m. on June 17 when baby Chelsey decided to hold a meet and greet for mom, dad and the maternity staff of Fairview Hospital. She weighed in at seven pounds, nine ounces and was 19 inches in length. I must admit, Nan and I are quite proud to be grandparents of this little blessing.

Lodge Franklin will hold meetings at the Inn Between, 8684 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio on September 16, October 21, and the all-important election of officers meeting on November 18. Come join us!

Fraternal Regards, Jeff Zidlicky
LodgeFranklinScribe@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook

SEPTEMBER 2019 — CSA JOURNAL — 27

Lodge Happenings

Our Lodge is #1 in Fraternalism!

Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Lombard, Illinois – Our lodge is #1 in fraternalism. Well, maybe that’s a tiny exaggeration. After all, we know how hard all the lodges work on their fraternal activities – it’s great to be part of such an active parent organization. However, we do lay claim to the 2018-19 CSA Fraternalist of the Year, Anna Ramirez, and that is definitely something to brag about! You may already have read about Anna elsewhere in this issue, but let me just add how incredibly proud it makes us to call her “one of ours.” This is true not only because of this year’s award, but because of everything that she contributes all the time: her smile, positive energy, enthusiasm, generous spirit, and her unique ideas for “fun and games” at our events.

By the time you read this column, we will have celebrated the accomplishments of our whole lodge from the last year, at our Annual Recognition Picnic. You can be sure that we celebrate with a special nod to all that Anna has done, to keep our members connected via Facebook, to support other organizations and community members, and to contribute to our monthly efforts and to our special projects.

Coming up fast are some other special meetings and activities. Won’t you please join us, either in person or with other ways, to contribute? Our October meeting will once again be craft night. This annual tradition brings out the creativity in all of us, as we produce holiday ornaments to share with those in an assisted living situation. November is election time for lodge officers: a time to thank those who have already served, and time to think about the year ahead. Through November to early December, we will have our toy drive. Perhaps you can keep this in mind already – watch for sales on toys, games, books, and other gifts for youngsters, from toddlers to teens. Even if you are unable to join our meetings in person, there are ways to contribute – just contact me to ask! Finally, December means holiday celebration at our lodge meeting, with a potluck and other festivities – good times ahead!

We hope to see you for our special activities; but please at least keep in touch, and let us know what’s new with you.

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

September Anniversaries

September 4
Tammy and Mickey Lewicki
Lodge Groveton No. 4

September 17
Mariann (Kurtz) and Charles Ebright
Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121
Dillonvale, Ohio

September 25
Mary Ellen Riha and Charles Janda
Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77

Would you like your anniversary recognized?
Send your names, anniversary date and Lodge name and number to csajournaleditor@gmail.com

Busy Members

Lodge Rovnost No. 53, Cicero, Illinois – May was a very busy for our lodge members. Kurt Nelson was busy flipping pancakes for the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast, which was very successful. Then, Chris Lanzel was very busy getting orders for the St. John’s Church Plant Sale, and Marvin Lanzel, Caroline Johnston, Kurt Nelson, and Karen Nelson helped out for two days. On Saturday, May 9, Marvin Lanzel, Caroline Johnston, and Kenneth Johnston were busy cleaning for Join Hands Day at the Bohemian National Cemetery. The weather was great and the rain held off until we were done.

We want to congratulate Alex (Lanzel) Schulz for winning the 1st place prize in the CSA Photo Contest. She also won 2nd and 3rd place with her various pictures in the Journal. What an honor! Alex lives with her family and has a great opportunity to see the beautiful countryside, therefore, she can take some fascinating award-winning photographs.

Finally, I want to congratulate Arianna Woodman, as she just graduated from Naperville Central High School. Her parents Matthew and Julie Woodman, her brother Zachary Woodman, her grandmother Caroline Johnston, and her uncle Kenneth Johnston are all very proud of her.

Fraternally,
Caroline Johnston


Like us on Facebook

SEPTEMBER 2019 — CSA JOURNAL — 27
Lodge Happenings

Ohio Amish Wedding

Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Vice President Lyn Burton called the July meeting to order at 6 p.m., followed by the Pledge and the accepted minutes.

Matt Koski and Amanda Lovell briefly discussed the Get-Together travel arrangements, Service Project, and Miss CSA Contest.

Gerri Romanelli presented an ethnic report on Ohio Amish Wedding Traditions. Following was a Q&A with members, which resulted in a lively discussion.

Dale and Lyn Burton celebrated their birthdays by visiting historic Saugatuck, Michigan and staying in a lovely 100-year-old cottage. A five-minute walk to town offered fun at local shops, terrific food, and live entertainment. Good weather prompted a sunny cruise on the Kalamazoo River and onto magnificent Lake Michigan.

It’s been a busy summer for the Jon and Jen Nekolny family. Daughter Jillian won a 1st Place Platinum Award in Contemporary Dance and 1st Place Junior Novice Solo Division at the Legacy National Dance Championship. Son Jackson was chosen as a Bana Football All Star who will represent his team at an All-Star game. Mother Jen spent 24 days in Europe on a “Fund for Teachers Fellowship” studying refugees and their acclamation and acceptance in new countries.

Congratulations to Phil Arnone and Karole Gaydusek on their new granddaughter, Giovanna Arnone, born on July 19 and weighing in at six pounds 10 ounces. Proud parents are P.J. and Adrienne Arnone.

Birthday greetings go out to Lyn Burton and Lillie Nemec and “Best Wishes” are to be sent to Jerry, Helen, and Karole Gaydusek, Helene Schaefer, and Lillie Nemec.

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli

Tables Full of Supplies!

Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Vice President Lyn Burton called the August meeting to order at the 83rd Annual Get-Together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Pledge was said and Minutes were waived.

Members discussed Get-Together activities and the Service Project called Project Night Night, where stuffed animals were collected to comfort children in need. All thought it was a good cause and well attended. Friday evening, members were bussed to Vining, Iowa to have dinner at CSA’s historic hall. A delicious dinner of pork chops, dumplings, and sauerkraut was enjoyed. Following dinner, the Miss CSA contest was held. Three contestants vied for the title. They delivered an interesting and informative program and answered questions from the three judges. Contestants were discussed and everyone voted for their favorite.

The Miss CSA Contest’s coronation was held after the Saturday evening’s banquet. Congratulations to our newly crowned Miss CSA, Hunter Yurkovich of Lodge Groveton No. 4, who was also voted Miss Congeniality. We also congratulate Fraternalist of the Year Anna Ramirez from Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377!

The last item discussed regarded our September meeting and plans for a day trip to the historic Naper Settlement in Naperville, Illinois. Our next meeting will be at the CSA Home Office on September 16.

Back home, Gerri Romanelli and Joann Nekolny delivered bags of school supplies and toiletries to the charity, Hope’s Front Door. Working with many volunteers and organizations, they were able to amass tables full of needed supplies and personal items. Hundreds of families were expected to stock up on supplies for their children and family members.

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli

Scholarship Fund Donation Form

With the price of higher education 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 in 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

28 — www.csalife.com - SEPTEMBER 2019
Kropik Scholarship Award

Kropik Scholarship Winner
Sis. Emily Nejdl
Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137

- Attends Iowa State University
- Has attended the Bowl-o-Rama and local lodge swimming parties at Bender Pool
- Has packed backpacks for students in need and has brought stuffed animals to care centers
- Participated with her lodge at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's Christmas celebrations
- Has received lodge support during her opportunity to live abroad with a host family in the Czech Republic

Scholarship Fund Report

May 10, 2019 - August 10, 2019

IN MEMORY OF HELEN MAKEŠ
Abercrombi & Kent USA, LLC
Maureen & John Small
Rosemarie J. Přitasil
John Přitasil
Judith Cekanor
Carrie L. & Timothy Wiggins
Machinery Systems Inc.
Valerie A. & Brian E. Hofman
Kathy Renner
Allison Lauer
Cindy Erato
Marian Obrien-Frigo
Betty Porter
Donna & William Lopez
Lorraine Markvart
Jacqui Snyder

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY VISLISEL & ROBERT STOLBA
Lodge Prokop Velký No. 137

IN HONOR OF ALL 2019 GRADUATES FROM LODGE NO. 121
Lodge Kruh Osvojených Žen a Pánů No. 121

IN MEMORY OF HELEN MARTANOVIĆ
Betty Cernohorsky
Beth & Nick Virzi
Sandy & Andy Bucher
Karen Buzek
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

IN MEMORY OF BETTY J. SVATY
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219
Diane & Richard Sula

TOTAL DONATIONS $1,925.00

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Catch Up at the Next Get-Together

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – It certainly has been a busy summer and the time has flown by much too quickly! At our April meeting, Jerry Silhan presented a book report on “Princess Libuše of Prague and her Praguematic Insights” by Susan M. Cox. Princess Libuše is the legendary founder of Prague who, with her husband, founded the Přemyslid dynasty which ruled Bohemia beginning around the year 873 AD. Prague, or Praha (Práh) means “threshold” in the Czech language.

On April 25, Lodge Brookfield received another Platinum Award in the Lodge Recognition Program. Our recognition coordinator, Kevin Pileggi, delivered an inspiring report to members of District Council No. 12.

Super bowler Jim Kovac, along with Jerry and Kimberly Silhan, competed in the CSA National Bowling Get-Together at Suburbanite Bowl in Westmont on May 4 and 5. Great fun!

Our members again participated in Join Hands Day at Chicago’s Bohemian National Cemetery on May 11. This time, we cleaned the little windows in the columbarium. On Memorial Day, Jerry dusted off his old trumpet to play “Taps” at ceremonies for both the cemetery and the Odd Fellows.

No doubt the highlight of the entire summer was the Get-Together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in August. The organizers did a truly spectacular job and everyone had a marvelous time. For the service project, we loaded backpacks with goodies for a local children’s charity.

Friday’s banquet was held in a well-maintained old hall in Vining, Iowa, a town of only about 50 people. Believe me, there really are Bohemian Alps in Central Iowa!

The Saturday speaker gave us an interesting presentation about how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. Afterwards, we visited the National Czech and Slovak Museum and even had some time for shopping in the NewBo district of downtown Cedar Rapids. Music at the Saturday banquet was provided by Barefoot Becky & the Ivanhoe Dutchmen. We learned some tips at the correspondent meeting on Sunday morning. And at the closing session, we were treated to brunch and toe-tapping bluegrass music by the Riverboat Ramblers.

Granted that CSA Get-Togethers are a great opportunity to catch up with fraternal friends from all across the country, it also strikes me that these events do feel quite a bit like family reunions, since we are all members of the extended CSA family. Lodge Brookfield is very proud of our 2018-19 Miss CSA Cassandra Stone, and our candidate in the 2019-20 competition, Marilyn Stone. These two sisters belong to a truly remarkable family. We wish them all the best in their futures!

Finally, let us extend congratulations to Miss CSA for 2019-20, Hunter Yurkovich. Lodge Brookfield meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. See you there!

Fraternally,
Kimberly Silhan
History of BNC

The June lodge meeting featured pictures and history of the Bohemian National Cemetery arising from Bro. Bill Strejc and Bro. Scott Cramer’s participation in the annual Join Hands Day spring cleanup. The cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places and has sculptures by Albin Polasek, formerly head of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Sculpture Department.

Bro. Dale Novak also discussed the implications of quantum computing and its potential impact on internet security. New faces and ideas are always welcome; join us at a meeting!

Fraternally,
Charles Courtney

Congratulations to Jessica Fowler

Lodge Estlian No. 404, Fairview Heights, Illinois – Our lodge is pleased to announce that Miss Jessica Fowler of Lodge Estlian No. 404, our former Miss CSA Contestant, was married on May 4, 2019. She married her high school sweetheart, Michael Campbell. They honeymooned in various wonderful cities in Europe, tasted fantastic food, and enjoyed a European cruise.

Jessica is a Registered Nurse MSN and joins her grandma and great-grandma (who were former nurses) and her mom (current nurse) in the medical field. Jessica is currently furthering her education in the medical field. Michael is an industrious young man who owns his own business. The couple now live in Collinsville, Illinois and have one puppy named Maia and a cat named Edgar. We wish the two of them a long and happy life.

Fraternally,
Sis. Sandra Haney
Lodge Groveton No. 4, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania – Hello again fellow CSA Brothers and Sisters. As summer winds down and fall readies to make its way in, CSA Lodge Groveton members reflect on how fortunate we were to partake in many outings together. From bowling tournaments to Lodge dinners and from volunteer projects to the annual Get-Together, we at Lodge Groveton were truly blessed with many memorable experiences.

This Summer, a group of five CSA members, three adults and two youths, took part in an event that was very close to my heart. My son Wyatt and a small gathering of other families were invited to a semi-pro baseball game played by the Washington Wild-Things. The event was hosted by the Autism Open Society of Pittsburgh, which my son Wyatt is fortunate to be a part of. Families were treated to tickets, a delicious food layout, and a fun night out at the ball game where those with Autism could let loose and just have a good time. Surrounded by loved ones and friends, Wyatt truly had one of the most fun nights in his young life.

Speaking of having a truly memorable night, Lodge Groveton is proud to call our very own Hunter Yurkovich, Miss National CSA. Hunter ran against some very deserving young ladies and was able to take home a well-deserved Queen Crown along with yet another Miss Congeniality award. Hunter is no stranger to being recognized in the CSA Journal as she is always being rewarded for her many amazing accomplishments. Hunter is a bright young lady who is going to be a valuable component in the future of CSA and will surely shine in whatever she does.

Just because the summer is almost over does not mean Lodge Groveton will go into hibernation. We will be participating in the Heart Walk in October, the Ohio/Penn Bowling Tournament in October, a World Vision volunteer project, as well as our monthly meetings, which will now be held at the Groveton Fire Hall. Feel free to join us or stop by our Facebook page, Lodge Groveton, and see at what we are doing next. Until next time, enjoy the changing season and take care.

Fraternally,
Bro. Gary Forrester
Lodge Laurel No. 452, Storrs-Mansfield, Connecticut – We are very proud of our recent graduates. Former scholarship winner, Michael Varga, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. Many of his family members attended the graduation ceremony for the senior members of the college baseball team. The following day, we attended the senior home game of the team. Michael is now playing baseball on a team in Belgium and expects to play winter ball on an Australian Team. He is excited and appreciative for these opportunities. Michael’s brother, Jonathan, also a scholarship winner this year, graduated as Valedictorian of his class from Ellis Technical High School in Danielson, Connecticut. Jonathan plans to attend UCONN this fall in their MEM (Manufacturing, Engineering, Management) program. He also just returned from a month long adventure in North Cascades National Park in Washington State doing mountain and glacier climbing. He is an adventurous young man. We look forward to Jonathan sharing his experiences at a future Lodge meeting. We congratulate Michael, Jonathan, and all of our Lodge Laurel graduates.

On July 21, we held our Annual Picnic. Due to the extreme hot weather that weekend, we changed our venue from the park to a lovely air-conditioned home. We thank Sister Rachael Macht and her husband, Jeremiah, and Brother Bob Zaicek and his wife, Gail, for their last minute hospitality. E-mails were sent to all local members advising them of the change. The food kept much better inside and was absolutely delicious. Lodge members sincerely appreciated not having to sit out in the sweltering heat.

In addition to our regular picnic fare, we had a smorgasbord of tomato dishes, as we also held our Annual Competition this day. The pictures show some of the eight entries we had, each one different. The voting was difficult, especially the taste testing, as they all were so good. The entries included tomato aspic, tomato bread pudding, tomato cake and more. Three winners are pictured holding their prizes: Gail Zaicek won the Tastiest Category with her Phylo Baked Tomato dish; Agnes Zabic won the Most Visually Appealing Category with her Tomato Caprese; and Margare Varga won the Most Creative Category with her Bloom and Poppers. We all enjoyed these dishes along with the birthday ice cream cake celebrating our July and August birthdays.

We held a short meeting, discussing our upcoming events and future activities. We still have a couple of concerts to look forward to and Ashford’s Family Day, where we will have a display. We are looking for an outside speaker and someone from the Lodge to give us a presentation on an aspect of Czech/Slovak culture or traditions. If you have any suggestions, please contact the Lodge secretary at laurel452@msn.com.

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Fraternally,
Marion Varga
Lodge Kruh Osvojenych
Zen A Panu No. 121,
Dillonvale, Ohio – There’s much to be said about country folk and, being one myself, I always feel pride when people say we are hard workers. Along with being hard workers, I think this year’s GTG Committee members and helpers also earned the special designation of being inviting hosts and hostesses as well as great fraternalists! This year’s Get-Together proved to be another successful one packed full of fun, fraternalism, and great friends!

First of all, if you’ve never been to Iowa, you need to go and experience it! It boasts a beautiful countryside with miles upon miles of corn, beans, and farms—truly God’s country! The people of Iowa are also very friendly and inviting. Get-Together Chairperson, Loretta Ledvina, Co-Chairperson, Dorothy Ditch, along with Janice, Vernon, and the entire committee truly extended a “Bohemian Alps” welcome to all delegates and guests attending our 83rd annual meeting. Thank you, friends!

Highlights of this year’s trip included: the Project Night Night Service Project, a fully-stocked hospitality room, an awesome dinner with drinks included at the historic CSA Hall in Vining, Iowa (Thank you for sharing this facility with us!) followed by another enjoyable Miss CSA Queen Contest, a visit to the Czech Museum, Czech Village, and NewBo Market, a banquet dinner in the hotel followed by the crowning of our new queen, an informative presentation by the AARP Fraud Watch Network, a delicious departing brunch; and, did I forget to mention, all those assorted raffles and money drawings? Whew! Our Iowa brothers and sisters made sure that there was something there for everyone!

My husband, Gary, and I would like to thank Brother Tom Ledvina for transporting us to the Czech Village along with Sister Kathy Placek of Lodge Groveton No. 4. You certainly “went the distance” and gave us all a nice history of the city pointing out various landmarks and points of interest. We all enjoyed our ride in that big red truck! Thanks again!

We also enjoyed visiting the Almost Famous Popcorn Company owned by the Rieckhoff family. Their daughter, Sydney, was a past Miss CSA. Your products really “popped” with our family as we enjoyed the carmel corn in our CSA goodie bags so much, we went straight to your store in the village and purchased several bags to take home! Best wishes for the continued success of your business!

We send congratulations to two beautiful young ladies, Marilyn Stone and Erin Murgas who were participants in this year’s queen contest. We also send congratulations to Hunter Yurkovich, our newly crowned Miss CSA (who also received the designation of Miss Congeneality). These very accomplished young women gave all of us a beautiful contest to enjoy this year. To us, you are all winners!

Emily Nejdl was the recipient of the Kropik Scholarship and Anna Ramirez was declared the Fraternalist of the Year. We congratulate both of you on these accomplishments!

Regarding lodge news, our combined Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day Dinner was held at Naples Spaghetti House in Steubenville, and our July meeting was held at J.P.’s Saloon in Unionvale. Both events yielded full bellies and a great time visiting with each other! We were especially happy to have the Clarks and the Calhouns visiting with us at our July meeting. We hope you can visit with us again in the future. You are always welcome!

Fraternally,
Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell

Many Thanks to Our Iowa Brothers and Sisters
Lodge Happenings

Excellent Annual Bus Trip

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Bedford, Ohio – We had a very brief meeting before the bus left on June 26 for the Annual Bus Trip. This time, we went to the Rivers Casino in Pennsylvania. As always, it was a great success. The bus was full and everybody said they had a great time! Thanks to: Diane DiBianca for arranging the trip and providing libations and Jello shots; Mary Ann Toncar for the fantastic pizzelles and assorted chocolate goodies; Jan Dembowski for the tasty peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies; Linda Vopat for the breakfast danish and OJ; Betty C for the assorted chips; Annette Reichman for wine; Donna and Terry Tesmer for Bloody Mary’s; Lodge No. 372 for assorted libations and pop; Virgina Dvorak for the candy; and Gail for the brownies. President John K. and Sales Manager Julie S. came all the way from Chicago to support our fundraiser. Julie Souza from the Home Office passed out the CSA goodie bags. The games of chance started on the ride to the casino. There was a $5 and $1 bag, 50/50 raffle, and the ever popular horse race (#3 Miss Piggy won by three lengths!). Another 50/50 was done on the way home. Congrats to all the winners on the bus and those who came home with cash from the casino. Thanks also to the bus driver, Andre, who got us to the casino and back to the Levins parking lot safely.

We attended Cleveland Chapter’s meeting before the District Picnic at Hemlock Park in Bedford Reservation, then had a brief meeting after.

President Mary Ann presided over a Memorial Service for Helen Martonovic as the picnic ended. Everybody had a great time at the picnic; there was good food and great deserts. We also enjoyed the presentation by Donna Tesmer about her recent trip to the Danube River Cruise with a stop in Prague.

Have you checked your beneficiary on your policy lately? Please make sure you check and update it if needed.

Next meetings are September 26, October 24, November 21, and December 12 (location TBA). Meetings are held at the Maple Heights Senior Center. Come to a meeting and for $1.50 you can also have a nice lunch and reconnect/connect with your fellow Lodge members!

Fraternally,
Annette Reichman

P.S. Excellent Annual Bus Trip
Lodge Happenings

Beverly’s Birthdays

Lodge Christa No, 479, North Huntington, Pennsylvania – We have been quite busy at Lodge Christa No. 479. Our most recent fundraiser was for the nonprofit organization, Beverly’s Birthdays. It was chosen as our yearly project. Our most recent fundraising effort occurred at the First Annual Greensburg Ethnic Food Festival in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Fraternally,
Jeremy Olwell

Pictured left to right are Lodge members Susie Olwell, Marion McFeely, and Pam Kennedy.

Member Travels!

Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri – Congratulations to Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich on being named Miss National CSA! We hope you have a marvelous year as “royalty.” We thank the Get-Together Committee in Cedar Rapids, home of the first CSA Get-Together, for making this year’s event enjoyable for all in attendance.

Members of our Lodge were at St. Louis–Lambert International Airport in June to welcome home a group of area veterans after their Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. We had flags and signs and a good vantage point to await their arrival, and we had a very pleasant surprise – the folks in front of us were fellow CSA members Libby (Cich) Rich, her sister Barb Cioni, and Barb’s husband Joe, all of Lodge Estlian No. 404. Turns out Libby’s father-in-law Jerry Rich was one of those veterans on the special trip. He was escorted by his son Scott, and according to Libby, he enjoyed himself immensely with the others who served our country so faithfully. We are so proud to support Honor Flight for this year’s CSA Serves Project, and we hope to raise enough money with our volunteer hours and our fall Bake Sale to pay for an escort’s trip on a future flight.

We had some western travelers in our midst recently. Karen and Craig Vokracka took a cruise to Alaska after a couple of days in Seattle. They had a great time and said the views were spectacular, the glaciers were awesome, and the whales were everywhere.

Deborah and Jenny Zeman traveled to Colorado in August, where they joined other family members at their cousin’s wedding in Boulder. They also did some sight-seeing in the area and enjoyed libations at the Bohemian Biergarten near Pearl Street Mall, complete with Pilsner, Czechvar, and Becherovka.

Hope to see a fantastic crowd at the ACEC Czech Festival on October 19!

Fraternally,
Deborah Zeman
Lodge Happenings

Library is New Meeting Place

Lodge Bratri od Sazavy No. 211, Little Ferry, New Jersey – The July lodge meeting was held in the Little Ferry Public Library. American Sokol Little Ferry is selling the building where we have met for decades, so we can no longer meet there. Our new place to meet will be the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m.

There was no meeting in August.

We discussed the possibility of having some of our members at Little Ferry’s 125th Anniversary Celebration. Our Holiday Party is set for December 4 at Bella Napoli.

We were pleased to have Little Ferry Reference Librarian Cynthia Garrigue Makai as our guest speaker. If her middle name sounds familiar, it should. Her aunt was Charlotte Garrigue. Charlotte married Thomas Masaryk. According to Cynthia, Thomas loved Charlotte so much he took her last name as his middle name, hence Thomas Garrigue Masaryk. Cynthia also told us that Thomas’s granddaughter, Charlotta Kotik, lives and works in New York City.

Bro. Frank Zabransky and Sis. Carol Tranter attended the Get-Together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Frank found a piano and entertained us all. Carol Tranter put in a bid from Region B to hold the 2021 Get-Together in Williamsburg, Virginia. It was a great Get-Together!

The next meeting will be September 4 at the Little Ferry Public Library. We will not have a December meeting.

Fraternally,
Carol Tranter

WOW!

Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois – Well we have returned from the annual Get-Together in Cedar Rapids and our review is “WOW,” what a weekend we had. Congratulations to District Council No. 14 for hosting us. A thank you goes out to Loretta Ledvina and her crew for making us feel good and welcome. Thanks to Director Tom Ledvina for greeting us with the Šunky pig and pins... and pivo!

The trip to the Bohemian Alps was an eye opener for me because I never knew there were those kinds of hills in Iowa. The CSA Hall was amazing (built in 1913). The stage curtains were interesting, filled with the logos of Bohemian merchants. This must have been the way the original Get-Togethers were held in our old Czech halls.

Congratulations to the new Miss CSA, Hunter Yurkovich, and thank you to Cassandra Stone for representing CSA well in the past year. I want to thank Erin Murgas for representing our lodge in the Miss CSA Contest and we all wish her continued success at Eastern Illinois University.

An update on lodge members over the summer: Mike and Pam Dvorsky have been busy traveling and visiting Kevin in North Dakota. They recently participated in an orienteering meet in Canada. The Czech American Congress Festival Picnic was this summer, and members Emil and Gladys Zemanek were there, along with myself.

All members are welcome to our meetings on the first Monday of the month at noon at the T.G. Masaryk Czech School. Please call me at (708) 442-8513 to confirm the meeting.

Fraternally,
Ken Dvorsky

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Many Joyful Events!

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – So many joyful events have happened to our Lodge members! One of the first is the graduation of Megan Soos. She is the daughter of our sister, Cindy Soos, and the granddaughter of June Karecki and Elmer Soos. Megan graduated from Tri-C in May with an Associate's Degree in diagnostic cardiac sonography with Magna Cum Laude honors and also with honors from Lambda Nu National Honor Society for the Radiologic and Imaging Sciences - Ohio Eta Chi Chapter. She also passed her boards before graduation and is now an official Registered Diagnostic Cardiac Medical Sonographer – RDCS. We are so proud of this young lady. She already has a job and is doing great!

On July 24, we had a lovely picnic hosted by our District Council in Bedford, Ohio at the Hemlock Picnic Area with lots of food, games, and camaraderie! We even had some of our inactive members show up! We hope they continue to come to our meetings and events. Thanks to Diane DiBianca for her hamburger and hot dog cooking skills! We had a short meeting at the picnic area and sang “Happy Birthday” to our July birthday people, Elmer Soos and Judy Genco.

Another wonderful July event took place on July 27! Tony and Judy Genco’s daughter, Lisa Marie, got married to Matt Fisher! It was a beautiful warm, sunny day. The ceremony took place outside of the wedding venue and was officiated by her brother, (Tony and Judy’s son), Tony. Three of their granddaughters were the flower girls, Lisa’s sister, Allison, was Matron of Honor and everything turned out great.

Our bowling teams have been formed and the first day of bowling was August 28 at Yorktown Lanes. It should be a good season!

The 59th Ohio/Penn Bowling Tournament will take place on October 12 and 13 at the Meadow Race Track, Casino and Bowling Complex. Contact Dusty Clark at 330-273-7316 if you are interested in attending this tournament.

Our next Pork or Chicken Dinners are on September 25 and October 23. Call Don Kotlan at 216-228-0027 for reservations.

Our fundraiser, the “Crock Pot” cook-off, is on October 5. Please contact Jan Russell at 440-829-0798 for information.

Camille (in her 90s) and her daughter, Freddie Shima, participated in a group canoe ride. Camille loved it.

Until next month, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco
Lodge Happenings

Real School Bell is Retirement Gift Remembered

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora, No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – Lodge members met in June and July, 2019. The Minutes and Treasurer’s Report were approved for both meetings. In the month of June, members of our lodge attended the Lidice Memorial and were impressed with the festivities including a talk about the survivors in both English and Czech given by three children of the T.G. Masaryk School. Children of the school also wrote letters to two of the survivors and they received responses from the survivors. Our lodge also received a Platinum Award. It was the 25th award first received in 1991.

Reports were given by Roberta Kulik on the state of the Masaryk School and the Masaryk Building. The Czech Council in Chicago considers the T.G. Masaryk School to be the Czech Center in Chicago. The Czech Ministry of Education and the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague have jointly agreed on a grant each given separately to be presented to the school. It is said to be the largest grant awarded for this purpose. The School continues to become more popular with the addition of summer school and additional classes scheduled for the Fall.

The Masaryk School has been suffering from major leaks and has started a fundraiser for the repair of the roof. Word has gone out to all members for contributions and your donation is tax deductible. There are two ways to contribute: (1) Checks with the code RAIN DROPS on the memo line can be sent to: T.G. Masaryk School, 5701 W. 22nd Place, Cicero, IL, 60804, or (2) Online credit card contributions can be sent to: https://www.paypal.me/MasarykCzechSchool.

Other announcements include a 50% contribution from CSA to St. Barbara’s Kitchen for food contributed by our Lodge. Zachary Cuda of our Lodge was the recipient of the $3,000 scholarship. Congratulations, Zachary!

With regard to the Get-Together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, because of the absence of Helen Gaydusek, her responsibilities were taken over by Delores Klejko of Lodge No. 231.

Once again, we are looking into the life of Ed Slavik in our continuing rhetoric describing a memorable moment or time. Ed recalls some of the times he had during his 32 years of teaching grammar school. Ed received his Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees from DePaul University with credentials to teach high school and college courses. Because of the environment at the time, the only position available to him was to teach 6th grade at the Henry Ford School (now Ridge Central School II) in Chicago Ridge. Because of various school closures, Ed had to take positions at a variety of schools, including the Ridge School on Ridgeland and Ridge Lawn School, so called because it was on the boundary of Chicago Ridge and Oak Lawn. He was recognized by many. For example, he received an award for being the “World’s Greatest 5th Grade Teacher” from the PTA at Ridge School and a CCD recognition from St. Albert Grade School. Ed has a good remembrance of his days while teaching. He has retained most, if not all, of the photos of his classes. He still has the lamp awarded him by the 5th grade class, and for his retirement he received a real, old fashioned, school bell which he rang during his presentation here during this meeting.

Fraternally,
Elaine Tejcek

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SEPTEMBER 2019 — CSA JOURNAL — 39
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In Memoriam

Sis. Mary Ellen Danek of New Haven Township, Michigan, age 96, passed away on Friday, July 12, 2019. She was an active member of Lodge Central Star No. 411. She was born in Brady Township on March 28, 1923, the daughter of Henry and Anna (Stickel) Jones. She was a resident of New Haven Twp. for over 73 years. Mary Ellen was a graduate of Owosso High School. She was united in marriage to Anton J. “Tony” Danek in 1946. He preceded her in death on May 2, 2012.

Mrs. Danek worked for Chesaning Union Schools as a High School Secretary for 14 years. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church of Chesaning. She loved to sing and was a former gymnast, avid cyclist, and amateur photographer. He won several awards from the CSA Photo Contest throughout the years. Fishing, boating, cross-country skiing, and gardening were among the other hobbies he enjoyed. He was also passionate about his cars. He took pride in their upkeep and enjoyed taking many road trips, near and far over the years. He especially loved his Corvettes, of which he owned several from 1984-2006.

Those left to mourn her death include her daughter, son, son-in-law, Diane Danek of Canton; son-in-law, Jan and Cheryl Peters of Manitou Beach; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and other loving family and friends. Those who have also passed away include her son, Tom Danek (2008); daughter, Patricia Peters (2009), a brother, and two sisters.

Bro. Richard “Dick” Micsovsky passed away on June 13, 2019. He was a longtime member of D.A. Sokol Gymnastics, Winfield and CSA Lodge Queensdale No. 422. An engineer by trade, he was also a gymnast, avid cyclist, and amateur photographer. He won several awards from the CSA Photo Contest throughout the years.

The family would like to thank Lodge Queensdale No. 422 for the scholarship donation in his name.

Submitted by
Karen A. Micsovsky

Joseph J. Richter of Caledonia Township, Michigan, formerly of Chesaning, age 92, passed away Tuesday evening, July 16, 2019, at The Meadows of Owosso. He was an active member of Lodge Central Star No. 411 as the Lodge Guide and a member of the Lodge Auditing Committee. He was born in Flint on July 30, 1926, the son of the late Joseph T. and Elizabeth (Bedrava) Richter. Joseph J. has been a resident of Chesaning for 90 years. He was a proud, Honorably Discharged Army WWII Veteran, having achieved the rank of Sergeant. He was united in marriage to Marion J. Vondrasek and she preceded him in death in 1968. He was later united in marriage to Betty Blattel and she preceded him in death on 2001.

Mr. Richter was a longtime member of St. Peter Parish Catholic Church of Chesaning. He was a GM retiree, having worked on the assembly line, and also owned and worked his farm. For eight years, he was part owner of Chesaning Farm and Chemical. Joe was one of the oldest members of the Chesaning Conservation Club and a member of Knights of Columbus, V.F.W., and the American Legion. He was an active sportsman, especially bowling and fishing, and he loved Polka dancing.

Those left to cherish his memory include his five children, Shirley (Jim) McNier of Atlanta, Michigan, Diane (Sam) Scime of Virginia, JoAnn (Mark) Maisner of Fowlerville, Jeannie (Fred) Honey of Florida, and Joe (Candi) Richter of Ohio; 13 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by a great-grandson, Nick.
They moved to a house in Pomona in a tranquil woodsy setting, which was their haven. Jerry loved nature and the myriad wildlife that lived or passed through the property. He was committed to the green preservation party of the town, for which he did pro bono design work.

Jerry enjoyed traveling and hiked in many of the National Parks, both in the U.S. and Western Canada. Alaska was one of the high points of his U.S. travels. Friendly and easygoing, Jerry easily connected with strangers through his sense of humor. Always a joker with a wry sense of humor and sometimes a rascal, he lived up to his childhood nickname, Mr. Personality! He is survived by his wife Virginia Puzon, daughter Sarah Madole, granddaughter Alexandra Madole, sisters in law Julianne Puzon and Veronica Robertson, nephew Jarrett Stefl, as well as cousins.

Submitted by Virginia Puzon

James Theodore Yaklin, age 80, of Lodge Central Star No. 411, peacefully passed away at his home surrounded by family on Saturday, June 29, 2019. Jim was born on May 13, 1939, in Owosso, Michigan, to Theodore and Ellen (Flynn) Yaklin. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Joan (Pochly) Yaklin. He was a wonderful and dedicated father to James John (Denise) Yaklin. A loving grandfather to Alex (fiancé Laura Taylor), Victoria, and Grace Yaklin.

James was a dedicated husband, proud father and grandfather, hard-worker, and lifelong farmer. Known as Jim, Dad, and Pepa to the grandchildren, he always affectionately greeted everyone with “How you doing?” or “Hello there!” together with a big smile. He was also a person who always found a way to say “yes”, helping all those who were lucky enough to come into his life.

Mom and Dad did everything together. Even when Dad traveled for GM and union business, Mom always rode along for support. Mom rode shotgun and crocheted scrubbies without missing a stitch, and they would stop along the way and shop for antiques and look at farm equipment. After retirement, they spent every February in Orlando, Florida, visiting with old friends and, of course, making new ones. At home, after breakfast, they would go outside and start working in the yard or around the farm, and perhaps after a short break for “dinner” at noon, they would stay outside until dark. For several years, Dad was also the substitute mailman for New Lothrop. Mom would sort the mail to allow him to get some rest, then she would drive and Dad would fill the mailboxes.

As a father and grandfather, he was determined that Jimmy and the grandkids would have every opportunity possible. From accordion lessons to sports, band, and college, he wanted the best for each of them. Jimmy played the trumpet, and there wasn’t a Mike Jurecka Orchestra polka performance that he missed. Jim regularly worked second shift, so when Jimmy was in college in Flint, he would leave work at lunch time so he and Jimmy could eat and spend time together. Just like his father before him, and now his son, James was both a farmer and worked for General Motors. He started out after marriage helping others farm, until he could save money to first rent then buy some land and equipment of his own. His wife and son still don’t know when he found any time to rest, seemingly working around the clock.

After retirement, he would still receive numerous phone calls regarding union business on a daily basis. Untold surviving spouses would call him to seek guidance for obtaining benefits, and he would guide them with the utmost patience. Those that followed him in union leadership roles would call him for insight and coaching. Following him in a management role at GM, Jimmy was amazed at how many GM executives would go out of their way to tell him that Jim was “the best and fairest” union representative they had ever worked with. He understood that while representing the rank and file, it was also his responsibility to make sure the company would remain successful. He innately knew how to ensure a “win/win” solution.

Jim will be dearly missed by his sisters Mary Ellen Wendling and Elaine (Ron) Krupp, and his brothers Thomas (Andrea) Yaklin and Michael Yaklin. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Rosemary and brother-in-law George Wendling. Jim also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

As husband, dad, grandpa and pepa, he will forever remain in our hearts. We, as your family, will miss you but find some comfort knowing how much love you gave us all and rely on the memories that we made along the way. You will always walk beside each of us.
Send Just Kids your stories, riddles, etc.

Mail: Just Kids, c/o the CSA Journal,
P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148
Email to: CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com

Czech to English

září............................................................September (zá-ří)
štola začíná.........................school begins (ško-la za-čí-ná)
knihy.............................................................books (kni-hy)
domácí práce...........................homework (do-má-ci práce)
batoh........................................................backpack (ba-toh)
učitel.................................................male teacher (uč-i-tel)
učitelka.....................................female teacher (uč-i-tel-ka)
student.............................................male student (stu-dent)
studentka.................................female student (stu-dent-ka)
studentská kolej.....student dormitory (stu-dent-ská ko-lej)
učit se........................................................to learn (u-čit se)
učenec......................................................scholar (u-če-nec)
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