

CZECH AND SLOVAK

Sokol



MINNESOTA

Providing fitness and community
for individuals and families
through physical, educational,
cultural, and social programs

SLOVO

February 2022
vol. 45 no. 2

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



Saturday

March 12 **2022**

Curbside

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN

C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Please place your Curbside order by contacting:
food@sokolmn.org or call/text: 952-941-0426

MENU

Cabbage roll
(*plnená kapusta*),
dilled green beans
(*kôprová zelená fazuľka*),
pickled beets (*nakladaná repa*),
filled dumplings (*pirohy*),
dumplings w/cabbage
(*halušky s kapustou*),
caraway rye bread
(*rascový ražný chlieb*),
and dessert. **\$20**

PAYMENT

Prepaid dinner orders must
be received by March 10, 2022 via:
PayPal: www.sokolmn.org/cc/
or *check: payable and mailed to
Sokol Minnesota (*attn: Slovak Dinner*)
383 Michigan St.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
*Call/text to reserve your dinner first
before mailing in your check.
Allow 2 weeks for check delivery.

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Dave Stepan

Šťastný nový rok! (Happy New Year)!

In my fourth year as president, I ask myself where did the time go? As an extrovert, I was hoping to get to talk to all of you at a dinner or other event, but those 'events' turned into 'curbside' or 'virtual.' Although I'm excited for 2022, I am also apprehensive as this COVID pandemic does not want to go away, but lingers in new forms. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is continuing with all the State of Minnesota guidelines for keeping socially distant and masking up at indoor gatherings at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

I'm very excited that we have new members on the Board of Directors. Taking over the role of Vice President from Ed Hamernik is Cinnamon Whaley. Thank you, Ed, for your long service in that and other Board roles and continuing as Gaming Manager, and welcome Cinnamon! Moving from Member at Large to Sergeant at Arms is Blanka Brichta, taking over from Tom Aubrecht. Thank you, Tom, for your long service on the Board and for continuing your work with the *Slovo*. Joining the Board as new Member at Large is Fred Simon of New Prague. Welcome aboard, Fred! Last, but definitely not least, is my daughter, Brittany Stepan, who is our new Publicity Director; thank you for taking on this big responsibility.

In November we had a visit from current and former University of Minnesota Fulbright scholars from the Czech Republic. Two of our visitors, Vít Procházka and Eva Janebová, are from Palacký University in Olomouc. See the article on page 5. I am looking forward to our Minnesota Czech community having a working, cooperative effort on a variety of fronts with Palacký University. The current Fulbright scholar from Czech Republic is Jan Šiška, from Charles University in Prague.

Sokol Minnesota continues to work with the other Czech and Slovak organizations in Minnesota. These include our friends in the Czech Honorary Consul's office (M. L. Kucera), Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*škola*), the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC), Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI), the Rusin Association of Minnesota, Montgomery Area Community Club, Czech Heritage Club of New Prague, the Bechyn Czech Festival, and other friends throughout the state. Sokol Minnesota is unique in that we have our historic C.S.P.S. Hall. We strive to continue to have the Hall be a welcoming gathering place for all of our Czech and Slovak friends, and a place where you may regularly hear Czech or Slovak spoken.

I recently read in the American Association of Retired People (AARP) magazine (yes, I'm now a member) an article by Mad Money's Jim Kramer. He stated "I think that people have to be mindful that nothing works unless they're in good health. So, sacrifice everything first to be in good health. Everything." My family and I spent this past Christmas in Moab, Utah, exploring the magnificent and awesome Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Deadhorse Park. After seeing these parks by both car and foot, I can agree that health rises above wealth.

I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Nazdar!



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2021 BOD (Board of Directors)

President

Dave Stepan

Vice President

Cinnamon Whaley

Recording Secretary

Denise Stibal

Corresponding Secretary

Glynis Grostephan

Treasurer

Don Haselbauer

Financial Secretary

Steve Ernest

Sergeant at Arms

Blanka Brichta

Members at Large

Markéta Pálková
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Budget and Finance Committee

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Activities Director

Jean Draheim

Educational Director

Patricia Slaber

Publicity Director

Brittany Stepan

Board of Instructors

Mary Cahill,
Women's Physical Director
Jason Brozovich,
Men's Physical Director

Building and Property Trustees Committee

Bob Kotek, Chair

Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik, Chair

Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of Events:
www.sokolmn.org

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults.

Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus e-addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at

www.sokolmn.org or
www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Children's Holiday Party

By Louise Wessinger

Our annual Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Children's Holiday Party was held on December 3, 2021. The *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční* Teens dancers were able to perform for family and friends amid the pandemic protocols of face masks and hand sanitizer. The weather was good and the night was starry. The C.S.P.S. Hall had been decorated for the holiday season by the adult dancers. Dawn Bulera's crew had the chairs and stage ready for the show. Richard Sargent had the sound equipment and microphones in good order. And *Svatý Mikuláš*' helper, Glynis Grostephan, had the goodie bags ready for all the good children.

The dancers arrived wearing their *kroje*. Most of them had arranged to have a new one, because, since their last performance, at the holiday party in 2019, they had grown! Sokol Minnesota President, Dave Stepan, welcomed everyone. The Sokol Singers, with Don Haselbauer at the piano, led the singing of many Czech and Slovak *koledy* (Christmas carols). Children and teens were seated with

their parents this year for singing. Everyone enjoyed this chance to sing together.

The children and teens took turns showing off the dances they had learned and relearned this year. I was truly proud of their performances, as we had only six practices in which to get ready. Following a short intermission, which allowed the children to change from their *kroje* into their holiday clothes, they performed the "Candy Cane Dance," which they had begged to do. The dance is a tradition since 2004!

It was then time for our special visitors to arrive. As we sang "Silent Night," we heard a little bell ring. *Svatý Mikuláš* (St. Nicholas), *anděl* (angel), and *čert* (devil) appeared. *Svatý Mikuláš* asked the children if they had been good and had them promise to be good until next year! The *anděl* had them sign "The Good Book." The crazy *čert* gave the children rotten veggies and told them to be mischievous!

Thank you to Jason Brozovich and Darnell and Dave Stepan for helping to make this a magical evening.



Svatý Mikuláš, anděl, and čert



Taneční Mládež dancing



Don Haselbauer led the singing at the piano



Glynis Grostephan prepared the *Svatý Mikuláš* bags with holiday activities and candy



Čert in action, tempting the children



Anděl and a boy with *The Good Book*



Taneční Teens performing

Slovak and Czech Holiday Traditions

By Izabela Carlson

Every December, my family follows several Slovak traditions. To start, we celebrate *meniny* (name days), the day associated with your name in the calendar. A typical gift is a box of chocolates (*bonboniera*). There is a saying related to my mom's name day on December 4: "*Barbora ťahá sane do dvora,*" or "Barbora pulls a sled into the yard." Through long-term observation, Slovak people associated this day with a big enough snowfall to last through the winter. My name day is on the somewhat boring December 9.

December Právnice		December Právnice	
29	Pondelok Pionieri	6	Pondelok Pionieri
30	Utorok Utorok	7	Utorok Utorok
1	Streda Streda	8	Streda Streda
2	Štvrtok Štvrtok	9	Štvrtok Štvrtok
3	Piatok Piatok	10	Piatok Piatok
4	Sobota Sobota	11	Sobota Sobota
5	Nedeľa Nedeľa	12	Nedeľa Nedeľa

A Name Day Calendar

On December 6, there is *Mikuláš*. The night before, children clean up their boots and put them on the windowsill. The next morning, they find them stuffed with fruits, nuts, and sweets.



Svätý Mikuláš, anjel, and čert

On top of our family traditions, my family and I are lucky enough to live near Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall, where every year there are Christmas celebrations. Our youth folk dance groups, *Taneční Mládež*

and *Taneční Teens*, perform for our families on the Friday nearest to *Mikuláš* (December 3 this year). Sokol Minnesota's *Svätý Mikuláš, čert, and anjel* (Saint Nicholas, devil, and angel), come and visit as well. Children have to promise to be good for the whole year and sign their names in *anjel's* book; they can then receive a treat from *Mikuláš*. But beware, *čert* has a book of his own, and he will tempt you.

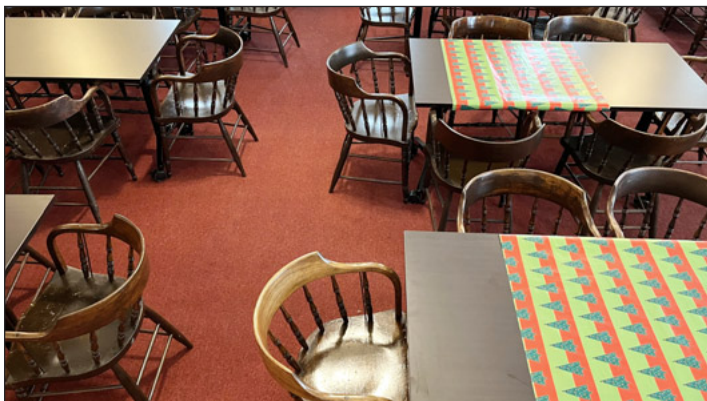


SlovCzech joined by young musicians

On the following Saturday, the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities organizes a celebration for the wider community. The highlights include a potluck and the singing of Christmas carols, *koledy*, along with a live band. Children from the School usually prepare a short program and the parents prepare food and sweets. The band, SlovCzech, welcomes aspiring young musicians by offering an opportunity to practice and perform Czech and Slovak Christmas carols along with them. Over the years, the band has been joined by players of the trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, violin, and other instruments. Many thanks to Petr Bachan and Jozef Klobušník, the founding members of SlovCzech, for this opportunity, and thank you to Sokol Minnesota for keeping Slovak and Czech traditions alive in the melting pot of America.

Škola Students' Wish for New Tables Comes True By Jitka Sebek

It might have been the magic of two *Svatý Mikuláš* evenings, the power of a collective children's wish, or a couple of truly hardworking Santa's helpers, but dreams came true at the C.S.P.S. Hall during the Christmas season. Students of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*škola*) wished for new tables for the third-floor meeting room, wrote letters to *Ježíšek* (Baby Jesus, a gift-giving equivalent to Santa Claus), and placed them in an envelope on a third-floor window. The tables are ready for a spring semester of happy learning. *Děkujeme, Ježíšku!* Thank you, Santa!



The wish for new tables was granted



Clockwise from top left: an old table top, envelope addressed to *Ježíšek*, one of the wishes for new tables

Visitors from Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic



L-R: Fred Simon, Czech Heritage Club, New Prague; Tom Kojetin, Bechyn Czech Festival; Renáta Tichá, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center; Jan Šiška, Czech Fulbright scholar, University of Minnesota (2021-22); Eva Janebova, Honorary Scholar in 2005, the first Mestenhauer Fellow at the University of Minnesota (2018) and current lead of a European Project in partnership with UMN's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and Global Programs and Strategy Alliance (GPS Alliance); Professor Vít Procházka, Vice-Rector for Communications at Palacký University, a Fulbright Scholar in Haemato-oncology at UMN (2016); Joan Sedlacek; Dave Stepan, Sokol Minnesota President. Not pictured: M. L. Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul, who took this picture, and Jitka Sebek, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities.

Representatives from Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, toured Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall on November 28. The tour was led by Sokol Minnesota's historian Joan Sedlacek. After the tour, everyone enjoyed a refreshing beer, brewed especially for the Czech & Slovak Festival by Waldmann Brewery. Palacký University Olomouc is the oldest university in Moravia (1573) and the second-oldest in the Czech Republic. The university wants to establish relationships with American universities and Czech-related organizations.

Fall Curbside *Koláče* Bake Sale

By Co-chairs: Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek

During the Fall Curbside *Koláče* Bake Sale on November 20, Judy Gavin, Glynis Grostephan, Doreen McKenney, and Joan Sedlacek handed out 46 orders totaling 120 dozen *koláče*.

Sokol Minnesota *koláče* bakers and baggers were Tom Aubrecht, Jean Draheim, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Ann and Ken Janda, Pam Langworthy, Doreen McKenney, Richard Sargent, Joan Sedlacek, Jean Hall Sykora, Joyce Tesarek (who also donated lunch), and Louise Wessinger.

Thank you to Bob Kostichka, who donated 25 bags of his delicious homemade caramel corn, which is always a favorite and sells out quickly!



Three trays of *koláče* baked and 39 more to go.

***Koláče* will be available for sale again at the Spring *Koláče* Bake Sale on April 10, 2022.**

**Place your pre-paid order by March 30:
text/call: 952-941-0426,
email food@sokolmn.org, or online at
www.sokolmn.org/curbside-cuisine/**



Denny and Karen Vinar of Northfield, Minnesota, with some of the 25 dozen *koláče* they purchased to give to their gift shop customers at the Northfield Winterfest on December 9.

Happy New Year from Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics!

Our third 10-week session starts the week of February 21. Classes have been at or near capacity, but please contact us at fitness@sokolmn.org for information and class availability.

We hope to see you in 2022! - Sokol Minnesota Gym Team

Sokol Camp Seeking Skilled Woodcarver



The Minnesota Sokol Camp is looking for a woodcarver for a project at the Sokol Camp in Pine City, Minnesota. We would like to have a Sokol falcon carved into the ash tree which stands alongside the main entrance to the camp lodge building. The tree is two feet in diameter with a workable height of six to seven feet.

While working on the project, sleeping in a lodge room can be scheduled.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss this project in further detail, please contact:

Raymond Vanyo, President
Minnesota Sokol Camp Association
651-253-2531
rayrayvanyo@msn.com

Gift Shop Was Open on Small Business Saturday

The Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop was open on Small Business Saturday, November 27.

Thank you to those of you who came in the store to "Shop Small." While visiting with shoppers, it was interesting to find that the majority of them heard about the shop being open from Sokol Minnesota's E-blast.

To receive E-blasts with the latest news for Sokol Minnesota and friends, send your email address to publicity@sokolmn.org



For Sokol's Latest News!

Join the E-blast List

22nd Annual Masopust (Czech Mardi Gras) on Sunday, February 27, 2022

We are very excited to once again celebrate in-person after a 2021 virtual party on KCHK Radio.

All are invited, Czech and non-Czech, to join the fun in celebrating the 22nd Annual Masopust (Czech Mardi Gras) on Sunday, February 27, 2022.

Please note that we are in a new location this year, the Revival on Main, located in Historic Downtown Montgomery at 213 First Street South.

In the Masopust tradition, costumes are encouraged but not required; prizes will be awarded.

The doors open at 11:30 a.m., with the celebration beginning at 12 noon and running to 5 p.m.

Music will be provided by George's Concertina Band. Bring your dancing shoes and your favorite dancing partner! The afternoon will feature performances by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Plenty of Czech food will be available, along with a cash bar.

We will have a Masopust skit in which the Mayor grants permission to party as the villagers say "good-bye to meat" for the Lenten season. Be sure to check out the Silent Auction between 12:30 and 4:15 p.m. that funds future celebrations. The 2022 Masopust King will be crowned and an honorary membership to the Czech Heritage Club will be presented to the new King. Following the coronation, the Montgomery Lion's will award a scholarship to the 2021 King.

We are honored to have Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota attending as our special guest.

Kick-off to 22nd Annual

MASOPUST

THE CZECH MARDI GRAS
Sunday February 27, 2022

 213 1ST STREET SOUTH
MONTGOMERY, MN

12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Doors Open at 11:30 AM
Adults - \$5, Children under age 15 - Free

COSTUME BALL PRIZES AWARDED
(COSTUMES ENCOURAGED)

Music by  **Silent Auction 12:30 - 4:15**

Also during the afternoon
King Coronation Costume Contest
Czech food Available 11:30 AM to 4:15 PM
including Pork & Dumplings

Featuring
ST. PAUL CZECH AND SLOVAK FOLK DANCERS

Thank you Sponsors!!!

For more information or any questions, please contact Jim Mladek at 507-364-5659.

Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting Highlights

By Denise Stibal

The Annual Meeting of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota was called to order on November 19, 2021, at 7 p.m. by President Dave Stepan.

A moment of silence was held for members and those with a connection to Sokol Minnesota who passed away during recent years: Judy Aubrecht, Lois Cahill, Stan Chromy, Father Clay from St. Stanislaus Church, Evelyn Holman, Alton Krikava, Ken McCormick, Al Milgrom, Dorothy Sladek, Georgiana Sobola, and Walter Vavrosky.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were reviewed and motion carried to approve.

The Nominating Committee (Louise Wessinger, Dave Stepan, Steve Ernest, Joyce Tesarek, and Blanka Brichta) made its report. Half of the board was up for re-election and agreed to serve another term: Jason Brozovich, Men's Physical Director; Jean Draheim, Activities Director; Ed Hamernik, Gaming; Don Haselbauer, Treasurer; Norm Petrik, Membership Director; and Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary.

New board members were elected for the following positions: Vice President: Cinnamon Whaley; Sergeant at Arms: Blanka Brichta; Publicity Director: Brittany Stepan; and Member at Large: Fred Simon. Dave Stepan will continue as President. Louis Wessinger presided over the ceremony to install the new officers.

The nominees for Western District representatives were: Mary Cahill, Joan Sedlacek, M. L. Kucera, Jason Brozovich, and Courtney Benson. The motion was approved to accept them. The National Convention will be in June 2022, in Ennis, Texas. Our three delegates will be M. L. Kucera, Joan Sedlacek, and Dave Stepan (alternate).

Activities Chair Jean Draheim gave her report. Being COVID aware, we have had an active and energetic year through the creativity of our members and volunteers. Many activities were moved to the outdoors or curbside for takeout meals. Classes and meetings have been held online and will continue to be virtual through the spring of 2022. Food events in the spring and after will be held, either curbside or in person. In 2022, we will celebrate the 140th anniversary of our Sokol unit, the 135th anniversary of the C.S.P.S. Hall, and the 60th anniversary of our associated organization, the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Please reach out to Jean if you can volunteer to help with anniversary celebration planning. A special thank you goes out to all Sokol Minnesota members, event chairs, teachers, volunteers, guests, sister organizations, and renters for continuing to support Sokol Minnesota and our activities.

Joyce Tesarek reported for Treasurer Dan Haselbauer on our year-end balances. The United States Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan of \$7,807 was forgiven because the criteria were met and will be turned into a grant.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest reported we have 313 members. At the beginning of the year 2021, we had 253 because of some non-renewals. Breakdown of membership: 21 Honorary, 109 Senior, 82 Couple, and 101 Individual. Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek presented a review of the Profit and Loss Statement. We received generous donations and grants from individuals and local and state governments, as well as from the Czech Government.

Please inform Dave of other grant opportunities. Chuck Draheim recommended the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits as a source of information about grants.

Building and Property Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek gave his report. Many projects were completed in 2021, including replacement of west side doors, insulation of the steam pipe in the basement, installation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED device) in the second-floor dining room, a new railing on the third-floor balcony, and a new water fountain with bottle filler on the second floor. A replacement freezer and an additional refrigerator were purchased for more capacity. Also installed were Sokol-branded outdoor bike racks and pallet racks in the ramp area to organize storage.

Projects for 2022 include installation of a new fire alarm and enhanced security system, restoration of the C.S.P.S. sign on the exterior of the building, replacement of windows along Western Avenue, update and enhance bar capabilities, repair basement floor, and installation of exhaust fans and ductwork for all restrooms. The committee will continue to work to enhance storage throughout the building.

Gaming Committee Chair Ed Hamernik reported the total Gaming contribution for the calendar year 2021 is \$70,000.

Board of Instructors Directors Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich noted class sizes are at or near capacity, with smaller classes due to COVID. Policies continuing are masks required, distancing as able, one parent required in the gym, and electrostatic cleaning. There is a waitlist for most classes. Instructors are utilizing new equipment from Omaha, and are working on ways to better store and access equipment. We are unsure of whether there will be any District or National competitions in 2022, but we will likely hold an "in-house" demonstration for families pending health restrictions. Some of the Junior Instructors are graduating this year. A virtual Instructors School was held last summer.

President Dave Stepan gave his report. Dave extended a "Thank You" to Board Members and all involved in Sokol Minnesota. He noted it was especially nice to get our youth even more involved this year.

New Business: There may be a Board Breakout Session in January. AED training should be scheduled for events coordinator Dawn Bulera as well as dance and gymnastics participants.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Highlights of the November 2021 Sokol Minnesota Board Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The Board of Directors virtual meeting was called to order at 6:15 on November 19 by President Dave Stepan.

Denise Stibal reported on the Rental Committee activities. The committee met on November 3 and sent a request to the Budget and Finance Committee to request a separate account for Dawn Bulera to pay the assistants that help her set up and clean up the Rental Events. Motion carried to set up an account with an opening balance of \$600, with balance and deposits to be reviewed as checks are written. It was suggested also to have an Excel spreadsheet prepared to track employees' payments. Motion also carried to designate Parajito as the

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February 2022 *Slovo* 7

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preferred caterer for rental events. This benefits Sokol Minnesota financially and would be more convenient since they are on site. A discussion regarding Dawn Bulera’s salary followed and it was decided the Budget and Finance Committee will discuss it at its December meeting.

Glynis Grostephan, Corresponding Secretary, reported on Donations: \$66 from the Curbside Cuisine events; these were pre-paid orders that people decided to let us keep as a donation since the event was canceled. General Fund donations for the month: \$1,111.70. Glynis also reported on the Youth Link Project, Trunks and Treats, which was a success.

Pat Slaber, Education Chair, noted fall classes will be wrapping up in December and spring classes will start in January; online for all language classes.

Financial Secretary Steve Ernest reported on new applications

and noted our total membership is 313. The membership committee may review dues regarding senior rates and other concerns.

Joyce Tesarek, Board of Budget and Finance Chair, reported the restaurant is current on all expenses and has contributed an additional \$800 per month toward rent, utilities, and all expenses for 2021.

Building and Properties Committee Chair, Bob Kotek, noted shelving was installed downstairs and the third bike rack has been installed in front of the building.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik reported on the December budget; motion carried to approve.

Motion Carried to transfer \$15,000 from Gaming to the General Fund by November 30. Total Gaming Profit Year to Date is \$70,000.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Highlights of the December 2021 Sokol Minnesota Board Meeting

By Denise Stibal

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors virtual meeting was called to order on December 16, 2021, by President Dave Stepan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, birthday greetings were extended to Mary Cahill, and *Narodil Se Kristus Pan* was sung with video accompaniment by Karel Gott.

The 2020 Annual Meeting and November 2021 BOD meeting minutes were reviewed and motions carried to approve as amended.

Markéta Pálková noted that the *Svatý Mikuláš* Party for the children on Saturday, December 4, was a success.

Publicity was discussed. Richard Sargent is doing the E-Blasts, which currently go to members and friends of Sokol Minnesota.

Denise Stibal reported for the Rental Committee. Gary Zweber, Chair, met with Dawn Bulera and Eclectic Culinary Concepts Catering (Parajito restaurant) to finalize beverage pricing. The new contract for the catering company was reviewed, and it was noted that some language needs to be changed slightly before approval. Gary will send the contract back with the requested changes and the amended contract will be sent out for approval via an online vote.

Corresponding Secretary, Glynis Grostephan reported on donations received in November: Legacy: \$2,041, General Fund: \$4,121, Total: \$6,162. We also received some “In Kind” donations including books, a gymnastics uniform and a Slovak Flag.

Education Chair Pat Slaber noted language class registration is open for the January term. New tables for the third floor have been purchased and will be delivered. Discussion was held on disposal of the old tables; possibilities included placing them on “Marketplace” or offering them to Sokol Minnesota members.

Activities Director Jean Draheim started the discussion on 2022 events. Due to COVID safety concerns, it was voted to

hold the Flavors of Slovakia dinner as a curbside event, and have the Spring Bake Sale either curbside or in the parking lot. Czech National Day is October 28, 2022.

Don Haselbauer presented the Treasurer’s Report; motion carried to approve.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek reported that our line of credit with Cherokee Bank was approved.

Board of Instructors Director Mary Cahill reported that classes are now in the second week of the second 10-week session. Participants are wearing masks and distancing themselves for safety.

Building and Property Trustees Committee chair Bob Kotek reported that a contract has been signed for the replacement fire alarm system and work has begun. Bob met with Parajito’s security company and will get a bid on cameras to cover the parking lot. Dave Stepan and Bob added more steam pipe insulation. Bob will be meeting with Pelco to discuss bringing the fire escape

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Have You Renewed Your Sokol Minnesota Membership?

By Steve Ernest

Thank You, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members, for being part of our community! Your membership dollars not only support our activities and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, but also connect us with national and international programs. Your participation in our events and activities, in person or in spirit, is invaluable.

Sokol Minnesota's annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Sokol Minnesota Membership renewal/update letters were sent in December for the 2022 calendar year.

If you did not receive yours, please contact us at membership@sokolmn.org or the address below.

If you have not yet renewed, please do so now to stay connected to all our activities and to keep receiving the *Slovo* newsletter. We plan for 2022 to be another exciting year of activities in a variety of formats!

Member renewal rates for 2022 remain at \$50 per individual or \$90 per couple.

Renewal rates for members over age 65: \$40 per individual or \$80 per couple.

Membership renewal, as well as updating your contact or interest information, can be done easily online at www.sokolmn.org/mysokolmembership or send membership renewal checks made out to

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Mail to **Membership, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 4716 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407**

Curling at the Frogtown Curling Club Friday, February 25, 6-9 p.m.

This fun sporting event, organized by Sokol Minnesota President Dave Stepan, is open to members and friends ages 14 and over, of all abilities.

The Frogtown Curling Club is in Saint Paul at 743 Western Avenue North, near Como Avenue.

Space is limited. Reservations are due by February 18. Text or call 651-210-0401 or email: activities@sokolmn.org
Fee: \$45 per player. No fee for non-playing observers.

Proof of vaccination and masks are required for entry.



Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members By Steve Ernest

Four new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota October Board of Directors meeting:

Jozef and Erika Kovac of Plymouth, with interests in youth dance, gymnastics, cultural events, music, theater, dinners, dances, language, festivals.

Tom and Ann Schroeder of Saint Paul, with interests in cultural events, film, music, dinners, dances, history, genealogy, festivals, marketing and community relations

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Going away this winter?

Do not forget about the *Slovo*! Let us know your winter address. Or, you can change your subscription to receive the *Slovo* (in color) via email.

Contact: slovo@sokolmn.org

We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter. We want to be sure you receive it!

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up to date and installing cement in the basement main room near the elevator lobby.

Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik reported on the January budget; motion carried to approve. Gaming transferred \$15,000 to the General Fund in November. Motion carried to approve the November Gaming report.

President's Report: Dave Stepan and others met with Vít Procházka, Vice-Rector for Communications at Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic, which is offering to assist Sokol Minnesota in several areas including: upgrading our website, language support, archivist, and Sokol Minnesota anniversary celebrations. A Zoom meeting will be held in January, Dave will send information to the Board.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training for Sokol Minnesota staff will be held in February.

Evelyn Holman Obituary

Evelyn P. "Babi" Holman died September 30, 2021, in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. She was born October 28, 1926, in Chicago, Illinois to František and Louise (Cipra) Pavlíček. Evelyn was a Sokol member since 1952, originally through Sokol Slavsky in Chicago. For Evelyn's obituary from the Chicago Tribune see: <https://tinyurl.com/EvelynHolman>

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Glynis Grostephan

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates your donations supporting Sokol programs and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.

LEGACY FUND:

Under \$99: Anonymous (four); Sherry McCrank. Mary and Dennis Cahill for Youth Award Endowment Fund. **Charles Draheim; Barbara and Harold Davidson; Kathleen Miller; and Markéta Pálková** for Campaign for Refrigerator/ Freezer.

\$100 - \$499: Anonymous (one); Patricia Hampl; M. L. Kucera to honor the volunteer work of Doreen McKenney and Joan Sedlacek; **Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities** from *Svatý Mikuláš* Event. **Pat and Don Andrie; Libby Imbrone; James Kahout; and Marjorie Norling** for Campaign for Refrigerator/ Freezer.

\$500 - \$999: Joyce Tesarek and Norm Petrik for Youth Award Endowment Fund.

GENERAL FUND:

Under \$99: Anonymous (one); Geneva Adams; Lillian Bednar; Barborka and Daren Carlson; Ann Marie Cordes; Mary Edel-Joyce; Joyce Ehmke; Colleen Gengler; Martina Gurgel; Linda Havir; Winona and Gary Havir; Kevin Hurbanis; Charles Kalvoda; Darla Kolb; Jan and Mike Roers; Jitka and Michael Sebek; David Sladek; Pam Snopl; Gretchen and Marshall Toman; Mary Ann Tumasmith; Raymond Vanyo; Janice Vazquez; Rose Vesely; Louise Wessinger; Sharon and Ken Wyberg; and James Zdrzil; Sharon Karas from Fall Bake Sale; and **Kathleen Philipp** for Taneční Mládež Dancers.

\$100 - \$499: Geraldine Dooley; Kay Edquist; Marlene Hinshaw; Ann and Ken Janda; Bob Kostichka; Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent; Susan Lindoo and Michael Wolesky; John Palka; Kimberly Romine; Lucy Brudnak and Stephen Rose; Cheryl Nelson Theuninck; and Richard Verner.

\$500 - \$999: Cynthia Coulter.

\$1000 - \$4999: Katie and Don Haselbauer; Sue and Dave Martin; Clifford C. and Virginia Sorensen Grant through the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation.

In-Kind Donations: Judy Droubie: 1920s Gymnastics Suit and Shoes; **Gigi Yau:** Czech Dictionaries/Language Translation Booklets.

Legacy Fund: \$ 2,945

General Fund: \$ 8,216

TOTAL: \$ 11,161

A Brief History of the Czech Lands to 2004 by Petr Čornej and Jiří Pokorný, translation by Anna Bryson. Práh Press: Prague, 2003, 96 pages. Available at libraries, bookstores, and the Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop.

At 96 pages, this short, dense book offers an overview of the Czech lands from prehistoric to modern times. It is a long series of concise, informative abstracts that focus on historical highlights including numerous rulers, battles, political and religious machinations, art, music, and writings. With few other comprehensive history books to rival it, *A Brief History of the Czech Lands to 2004* deserves accolades despite its shortcomings.

Although I learned a lot from the details and analysis in this book, the brevity of it often left me wanting more information. For example, only a little more than one page was devoted to King Charles IV (1346-1378), who was credited with so many accomplishments, a few being the first ruler of Bohemia to become King of the Romans and Holy Roman Emperor, building Prague's New Town, establishing the first university in Eastern Europe, reconstructing the Royal Palace at Prague Castle, raising the Stone Bridge (now known as the Charles Bridge) and the Castle of Karlštejn, and elevating Bohemia's power and culture.

I sometimes disagreed with the authors about what constituted memorable moments in Czech history. Two instances come to mind. When discussing Nazi atrocities, the authors mentioned the murders of Jews but not of handicapped people, intellectuals, and Roma. Also, in the aftermath of the spring 1942 assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, acting governor of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, by Czech resistance operatives, the retaliatory destruction of the villages of Lidice and Ležáky by Nazis is mentioned but not the 1,500 or so estimated to have been killed in Prague.

The authors whetted my appetite to read more about the conquest of the Czech lands by the Celtic Boii tribe in the Third-First Century AD (responsible for the Latinized name Bohemia), the Přemysl line of rulers, the differences between royal towns and serf towns and the everyday lives

of their residents, the effects of the major epidemic of Black Plague that hit the Kingdom of Bohemia in 1380, and the Czech National Revival, to name a few topics.

Čornej and Pokorný write in a clear and detailed style, as in this sample: "The post-war Czechoslovak Republic was not renewed in the form in which it had existed before September 1938. By an agreement between the ČSR and the USSR on the 29th June 1945, Sub-Carpathian Ukraine was

annexed to the USSR as Subcarpathian Ukraine. The official justification for this change was the result of a plebiscite which the USSR had staged."

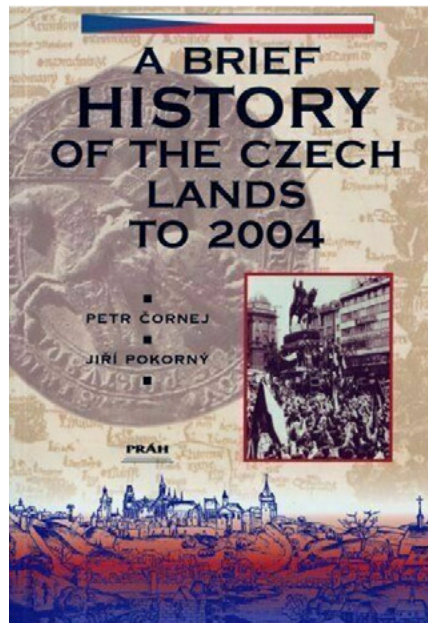
A Brief History has been translated into several languages and is widely used by Czech embassies and in foreign university classes. It can be read through or used as a reference. The authors are two leading Czech historians, Petr Čornej and Jiří Pokorný. Petr Čornej specializes in the history of the late Middle Ages, especially the Hussite movement. He taught history at Charles University and at the Josef Škvorecký Literary Academy and works at the Hussite Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague.

Although *A Brief History* includes maps, illustrations, and photos, it would also be better served with an introduction, table of contents, index, and information about the authors. A bibliography could point readers to sources of fuller narratives, such as the 750-page *A History of the Czech Lands*, edited by Jaroslav Pánek and Oldřich Tůma.

Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures book discussion group. Literary Ventures is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic.

For more information, go to www.cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join us for a discussion of
*Stop Dubček! The Story of a Man
who Defied Power: A Documentary Novel*
by Jozef Banáš at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 19.



**2022 marks the 140th anniversary
of the founding of our Sokol Unit, the 135th anniversary of the C.S.P.S. Hall,
and the 60th anniversary of the founding of our sister organization,
the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.**

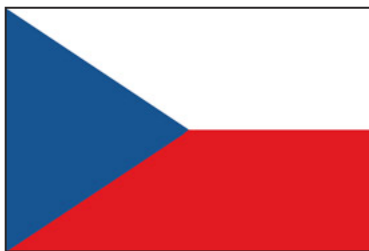
**For information that celebrates these important events,
check the Slovo, Facebook, Instagram, and our E-blasts.**

**Czech
Honorary
Consul
News**

February 2022

In its *2021 Year in Review* article, the *Montgomery Messenger* featured a picture of Jan Kubišta's visit to Czech Country Minnesota on June 17 at the top of the front page of its December 30, 2021, issue. The listing of June events on page 10 stated "**Dignitary from the Czech Republic visits.** Traditions are valuable and being upheld in Montgomery and New Prague, according to a dignitary from the Czech Republic. 'The tradition and the history here are wonderful. Traditions are valuable and being upheld in Montgomery and New Prague,' said Deputy Consul of the Czech Republic in Chicago, Jan Kubišta." When Kubišta learned he was a 2021 headliner, he replied, "I'm really honored that I was remembered in the *Montgomery Messenger*."

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities joined various Czech Schools Abroad and other Czech organizations from around the world to be part of the **Best Christmas Carol competition from Radio Prague International.** Our *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities* performed the Moravian carol *Pásli ovce Valaši* in Sokol Minnesota's parking lot on a chilly December 4 at its annual *Svatý Mikuláš* party and placed fourth out of ten in this international competition. Kudos!
<https://english.radio.cz/vote-best-christmas-carol-sent-czech-expat-communities-abroad-8737324>



I was recently asked **how to dispose of an old Czech flag.** Ondřej Pometlo, the current Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago provided this information. The procedure for the destruction of national flags in Czechia is not regulated by any generally binding legal regulation. Regarding the physical destruction of the flag, from a vexillological point of view, the destruction of the unusable flag can best be recommended by burning the flag with dignity. If the liquidator does not

have this option, then the flag can be cut into parts or torn apart, ideally so that it is not clear that it was a flag and then these parts can be disposed of as normal waste. An unusable flag is not thrown as a whole into municipal or other waste, it would be an undignified handling of the flag! Significant specimens of flags are not disposed of, but stored in museums.

Source: <https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/statni-symboly-ceske-republiky.aspx>

If a flag can be seen as a "significant specimen," it can be sent to the National Museum in Prague. The Consulate in Chicago can help with this.



CORRECTION: This photo from my December column is reprinted here with the correct names of all those in the picture. (L-R) Vi Chromy, Gary Pikal, James Simon, Dolly Kabes, George Mikiska, M. L. Kucera, and Father Michael Skluzacek.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul
651-238-0447
minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz OR mlkucera@outlook.com

Slovo Publication Information and Committee

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Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

To receive your *Slovo* in color via email instead of the black and white mail version, contact slovo@sokolmn.org.

A subscription to the *Slovo* is available for \$15 annually.

For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a \$15 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and mail to *Slovo* at the above address.

The *Slovo* staff welcomes submissions. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org. The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month.

Advertising in the *Slovo* is available. Please email slovo@sokolmn.org for information on due dates and rates.

Moving or temporarily away: Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the *Slovo*. The *Slovo* is bulk mailed and non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the Post Office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and they are billed to us at the first-class mail rate.

For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

Member volunteer *Slovo* staff: Co-Managing Editors: Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek. Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht. Production Layout: Mary Kucera.

Regular Contributors: Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Glynis Grostephan, M. L. Kucera, Norm Petrik, Dave Stepan, and Denise Stibal. Photographers: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek. Collages: Martina Gurgel. Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney (page 1).

Mailing and email Lists: Penny Tesarek and Tom Tesarek.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M. L. Kucera, and Jitka Sebek.

Additional contributors this issue: Izabella Carlson, Jean Draheim and Spring Postcard team, Gymnastics Team, Steve Ernest, Jean Keogh, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Ray Vanyo, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs or illustrations this issue (not already noted) provided by: Barborka Carlson, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Dáša Rosenthal, Jitka Sebek, and Gwen Willems.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND

To keep us all safe from COVID-19, many income-generating events are on hold. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate a donation to Sokol.

Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or email: finance@sokolmn.org *Thank you!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

To help refinish the C.S.P.S. Hall floors, I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

I would like my gift designated: in memory or in honor of:

Make checks payable to **Sokol Minnesota**
Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line
Mail to **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund**
Attn: Treasurer

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org *Thank You!*



CZECH AND SLOVAK



383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
651-290-0542



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Latest News!

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publicity@sokolmn.org

For status of events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at
www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2022



Spring 2022 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • 651-290-0542

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota continues to modify its schedule to keep members, volunteers, and guests safe during the pandemic. We adhere to guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Website: sokolmn.org; Instagram: [@sokolminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota) or Facebook: [facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

Curling at the Frogtown Curling Club Friday, February 25, 6-9 p.m.

This fun sporting event is open to folks of all abilities. Ages 14+. Fee: \$45 per player. (Non-playing observers, no fee)

Reservations due by February 18. Space is limited. Text/call: 651-210-0401 or email: activities@sokolmn.org
Proof of vaccination required for entry into the building.

Curbside Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Saturday, March 12, curbside pickup: 9 a.m.-noon
Cabbage roll, *pirohy*, *halušky* (cabbage, bacon, and dumplings), dilled green beans, beets, caraway rye bread, and dessert \$20
Place your pre-paid* dinner order by March 10.
Text/call: 952-941-0426 or food@sokolmn.org

Curbside Spring Koláče Bake Sale

Saturday, April 9, curbside pickup: 9 a.m.-noon
Koláč (apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, prune, raspberry) \$1 each
Place your pre-paid* order by March 30.
Text/call: 952-941-0426 or food@sokolmn.org

Czech-Slovak Family Velikonoce/Velká noc (Easter) Event, Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Celebrate with hands-on spring traditions (10 a.m.), puppet play & learn about Czech marionettes (11 a.m.), potluck lunch (noon), find out about Czech immigrants in the U.S. (1 p.m.). In English. All are welcome! Presentations funded by Czech and Slovak Cultural Center.

Outdoor Craft and Flea Market Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Shop local, shop small, for new and used treasures. Food. C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot. Vendors reserve by May 6. Text/call: 651-210-0401 or activities@sokolmn.org

3rd Annual Sokol Summer Mushroom Hunt Sunday, May 22, 1-4 p.m. (subject to weather)

Expert guide. Secret metro location. Get on the list! \$5 members (\$10 non-members) activities@sokolmn.org

24th Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp, June 13-17

For ages 6 to 14 years. Ethnic crafts and cooking, Czech language, gymnastics, and more. Early bird registration by May 1.

Final registration by June 1. Info: sokolmn.org

Members/Volunteers Outdoor Picnic

Sunday, June 26, 1-4 p.m. at a local park TBD. Members and volunteers are the heart of Sokol Minnesota. Join together with food, festivities, and fun. Watch E-blasts for details. Contact: activities@sokolmn.org

33rd Czech & Slovak Festival Sunday, September 25, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Music, folk dancers, gymnastics, vendors, silent auction, ethnic food, Czech beer and wine, children's games. Volunteer: 612-232-2993 or events@sokolmn.org



* To pay your prepaid dinner online: www.sokolmn.org/cc or call before mailing your check (allow 2 weeks for check delivery) to Sokol Minnesota by the event cutoff date: 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102