



FOR CHRISTMAS, GIVE A PRICELESS GIFT, YOUR TIME!



The holidays are the one time of year when we increase our “in-person” social contacts and make more effort to see family and friends. In these days of social media, it’s so much quicker and easier to send a tweet or text and then we move on. Limited personal inconvenience

or having to spend time is usually put off until the holidays. The rest of the year, we are just too busy!

Life has become so fast as the “information age” has come upon us. We communicate more now than any other time in history. Tweets and texting are so timely that sometimes the news arrives faster than it is happening. People have never been more informed, if they want to be. Yet the question is whether the true message is getting across.

Many years ago, I had the privilege of seeing Mother Theresa in person. It was a life intensifying experience. Something she shared has since stayed in the forefront of my mind. Mother Theresa said, “The greatest poverty in the world today is loneliness.” As I have thought about it, this seems to be truer now more than ever. As the holidays approach, we see so many with no one in their lives. For others, social media has replaced that emptiness, but there is still that longing for person-to-person contact.

Where do we find that needed personal contact? Attendance at church is always highest during the holidays. We have the best turnout at our lodge’s annual meetings. Our Children’s Christmas parties are always well attended. It’s just the time to get

together and fulfill that needed craving for personal contact and fraternalism. Visiting family, friends and those in nursing homes is an important part of life that we should not put off. Remember the infamous words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “It is never too soon to do a kindness, for you never know how soon it will be too late!”

So, now is the time to get out and enjoy those many opportunities to visit others. Participating in your Annual Lodge meeting or Christmas party and going to any of the many other events can make this time of the year feel more special. We always feel good when we give gifts at Christmas, but giving your personal time will make the gift “priceless.”

On behalf of the KSKJ Life Board of Directors and Home Office staff, we extend to all our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rudolph Krasovec

Chair, KSKJ Life National Board of Directors

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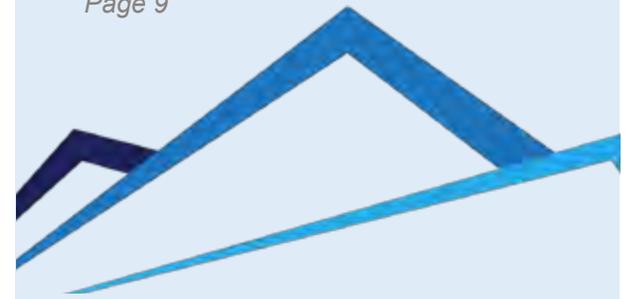
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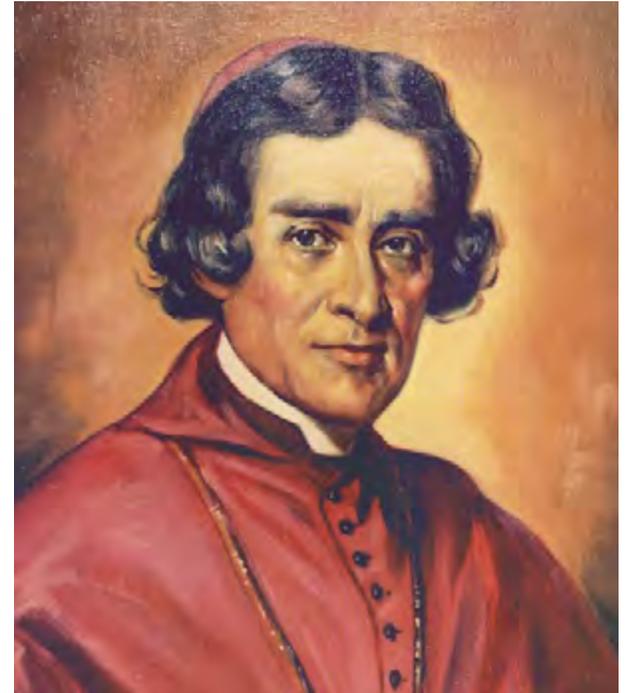


BISHOP BARAGA EDUCATIONAL CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The mission of the Bishop Baraga Association (located in Marquette, MI) is to promote the life and labor of Venerable Frederic Baraga, who was a Slovenian missionary who came to the United States in 1830. In an effort to further that mission and preserve the home where Bishop Baraga spent his last years, the BBA is creating the Baraga Educational Center. The center will be located in the Baraga house at 615 S. Fourth St. in Marquette, MI.

The BBA has recently started a capital campaign for the development of this Educational Center. The association is committed to creating a place that will become a pilgrimage destination—to preserve the artifacts used by Bishop Baraga during his ministry. KSKJ Life has recognized the importance of this campaign and has made a commitment to this project.

If you would like to learn more about the Bishop Baraga Association and/or make a donation to the Baraga Educational Center Campaign, please visit www.fredericbaraga.org or call (906) 227-9117.



PRESERVING SLOVENIAN HISTORY

The KSKJ Life Home Office was visited in early October by two representatives from the National Archives of Slovenia. The purpose of the visit was to review and inventory historical records and artifacts such as old lodge meeting journals, early copies of the “Glasilo” newspaper, photos, etc. They also visited the Slovenian Union of America’s museum and St. Mary’s Retreat House (Lemont) while in town.



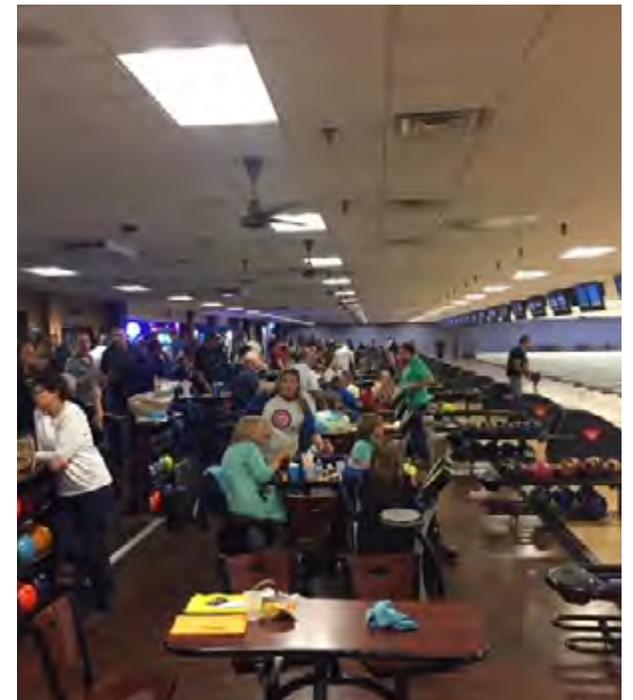
Left to right: Maja Povalej (National Archives of Slovenia), Alenka Starman (National Archives of Slovenia), Dr. John Vidmar (Honorary Consulate for the Republic of Slovenia), Ivanka Markun (KSKJ Life Home Office IT employee), Tony Mravle, Jr. (KSKJ Life CIO) and Tony Mravle, Sr. (KSKJ Life CEO)

MIDWEST BOWLING TOURNEY

Thanks to everyone who attended the Midwest Regional Bowling Tournament that was held November 4-5 in Joliet, IL at Town & Country Lanes. It was a weekend filled with fellowship and fun!



St. Mary Lodge #79, Waukegan – Front row: Dawn Deason, Julie Zabukovec, MaryLou Stefanick. Back row: Dennis Mivshek, Pat Deason-Biedron, Debbie Slater, Pam Cherry (KSKJ Life Home Office), Judy Derra



Dozens of members came out for the bowling tournament

STEPPING UP WITH KSKJ LIFE 2017 - "45 DAYS TO A BETTER YOU" WRAP UP

“Stepping up with KSKJ Life” may have officially ended on October 15, but for those of us that committed to the program again this year, we hope that the momentum gained during the 45-day challenge will help motivate us through the long cold winter months ahead.

This was the 6th year for the program, which began as a competitive walking program but now focuses more on overall good health through increased physical activity. In total, 50 participants ranging from grade school age to folks in their 80’s stepped up, got more active, and committed to taking better care of themselves.

At the end of the challenge, two lucky winners were randomly selected to receive a Ninja Master 2-in-1 blender. David Bradley, of St. Mary Lodge #79 – Waukegan, IL and Eileen Plese of St. Genevieve Loge #108 – Joliet, IL will each be able to create festive treats for their guests this Christmas season thanks to their new Ninja. In addition, 12 other random winners will receive a KSKJ Life t-shirt.

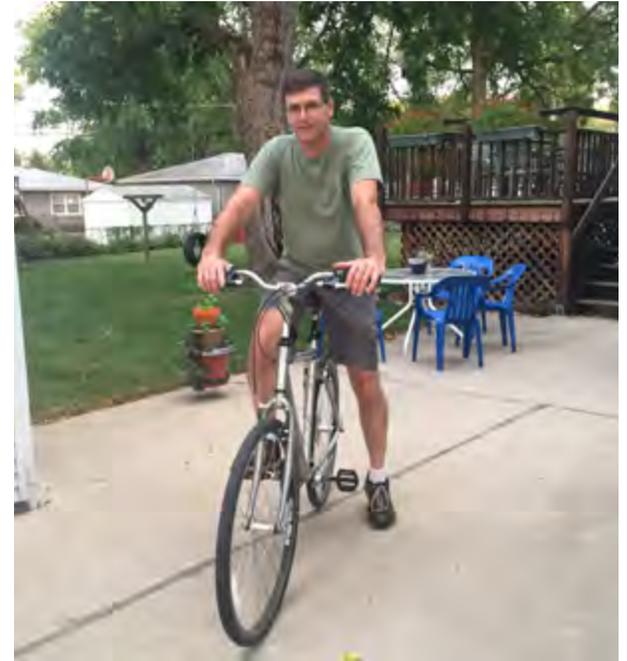
As previously communicated, the Home Office will donate \$1 for every registered participant and for every shared photo to JDRF - Juvenile

Diabetes Research Foundation. Thanks to member participation, \$102 will be donated to the chosen charity on behalf of KSKJ Life. Thank you to those who have participated, and good luck on your continued journey to a better you!

To view shared activity from the program, please go to our website at www.kskjlife.com/membership/athletics or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kskjlife

Happy Holidays!

*MaryLou Stefanick
National Athletic Director*



KSKJ LIFE SERVICE AWARD

Do you know a member who goes the “extra mile” when it comes to volunteering?

If so, please consider nominating him/her for the 2017 KSKJ Life Service Award. KSKJ Life will begin accepting online nominations for this award now through December 31. Any KSKJ Life member (age 13 and older) who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to service and volunteerism in his/her community can be nominated. The person submitting the nomination must be a KSKJ Life member as well. The honoree will be chosen in January 2018 and KSKJ Life will make a \$250 donation to the charity of his/her choice. Visit kskjlife.com and select “2017 Service Award” under Membership to complete a nomination.



IN MEMORY OF

James Salata - Gurnee, IL
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grampovnik - \$25.00

John R. Gross, Jr. - New Cumberland, PA
St. Aloysius Lodge #42 - \$10.00

Barbara L. Parsons - Enola, PA
St. Aloysius Lodge #42 - \$10.00

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017-2018 EDUCATIONAL GRANT WINNERS

HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS



Justine
Bichelmeyer
Lodge #115

*St. James
Academy*



John
McGinnis
Lodge #108

*Joliet Catholic
Academy*



Caroline
Oebker
Lodge #146

*Holy Name
High School*



Grace
Paskey
Lodge #226

*Lake Catholic
High School*



Kameron
Rojas-Schueneman
Lodge #53

*Loyola
Academy*



Benjamin
Stankewicz
Lodge #226

*St. Ignatius
High School*

KSKJ LIFE EDUCATIONAL GRANT

Thank you and congratulations to all of our member students who applied for the 2017-2018 KSKJ Life Educational Grant. We applaud you for your academic achievements and commitment to volunteerism and service.

COLLEGE WINNERS



Kayla
Bebla
Lodge #42
*Pennsylvania
State University*



Joseph
Bednarczyk
Lodge #42
*Penn State
University -
University Park*



Angelina
Carbone
Lodge #29
*Prairie State
College*



Gianna
Carbone
Lodge #29
*Oglethorpe
University*



Nicholas
Cevasco
Lodge #110
*The Ohio State
University*



Michael
Curran
Lodge #42
*University of
Scranton*



Madison
Dabrowski
Lodge #150
*Bowling Green
State University*



Mimi
Dahlin
Lodge #143
*Loyola
University
Chicago*



Emma
Dingbaum
Lodge #29
*University of St.
Thomas*



John
Dingbaum
Lodge #29
*University of
Wisconsin-
Milwaukee*



Carson
Fischer
Lodge #52
*University of
Tennessee*



Juliana
Fitzsimmons
Lodge #257
*The Catholic
University of
America*



Joseph
Francis
Lodge #44
*North Kent
College*



Alexandria
Garibaldi
Lodge #169
*West Chester
University*



Andre
Garibaldi
Lodge #169
*Sarah Lawrence
University*



Natalie
Godec
Lodge #7
*University
of Colorado
Boulder*



Michael
Griebel
Lodge #7
*University of
North Dakota*



Maggie
Hedrick
Lodge #7
*Colorado State
University -
Pueblo*



Richard
Hull
Lodge #2
*University of
Georgia*



Sarah
Jackley
Lodge #52
*Purdue
University*



Nicholas
Kambic
Lodge #42
*Indiana
University of
Pennsylvania*



Jessica
Kmet
Lodge #146
*Cleveland State
University*



Grace
Kocman
Lodge #7
*Montclair State
University*



Emily
Kuznik
Lodge #150
*Baldwin Wallace
University*



Jessica
Lisy
Lodge #226
*DePaul
University*



Andreja
Marsic
Lodge #169
*Lakeland
Community
College*



Katelyn
Paisier
Lodge #79
*Indiana
University*



Erika
Perlewitz
Lodge #146

Coe College



Bradley
Rahikainen
Lodge #196

College of St.
Scholastica



Alyssa
Rainey
Lodge #143

Illinois State
University



Mercedes
Rickwalt-Mahoney
Lodge #7

Colorado State
University - Pueblo



Jason
Rigler
Lodge #170

Robert Morris
University



Celeste
Sierzega
Lodge #1

Moraine Valley
College



Mark
Smathers
Lodge #226

University of
Pittsburgh



Jacob
Stankiewicz
Lodge #226

Ohio University



Rachel
Stankiewicz
Lodge #226

Ohio State University



Claire
Starsinic
Lodge #50

University of North
Carolina



Victoria
Starsinic
Lodge #42

West Virginia
University



Ariel
Stermer
Lodge #169

SNHU



Ian
Stermer
Lodge #169

Kent State University



Taylor
Stokes
Lodge #29

Joliet Junior College



Jonathan
Studer
Lodge #108

Saint Xavier
University



Eric
Wiseman
Lodge #2

University of
Wisconsin-Platteville



Amanda
Zakelj
Lodge #226

The Ohio State
University



Ryan
Zupec
Lodge #53

Illinois State
University

STUDENT ATHLETE RECOGNITION & AWARD PROGRAM

The Student Athlete recognition and award program, which began in the fall of 2008, is back again for the 2017-2018 school year. The program, which is designed to recognize our young adult members who work hard on the field and even harder in the classroom, is open to all students, both high school and college, aged up to 25 years old. Visit kskjlife.com/membership/athletics to enter in your information. Registration closes May 15, 2018. Fifteen random winners will be selected from the list of student athletes, and each winner will receive a \$100 educational award.

ABC BOWLING

The ABC, Alternative Bowling Competition will be back for its fifth year. KSKJ Life has sponsored Bowling Tournaments for our adult members for several decades now, but this one is just for our youth members. Here is your opportunity to participate in a national event, right in your own hometown – you don't need to live close to a lodge to be part of this competition! Bowl at your convenience, either with family members, friends, or as a lodge event! **Just go bowling!**

Like last year, the competition is open to all youth members. There are two divisions, straight bowling and bumper bowling. The contest will run from **December 1 through the end of April.** Random winners from each division will be selected at the end of the ABC.

ABC – Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to the bowling center of your choice.
2. Bowl either straight bowling or bumper bowling.
3. After bowling, visit kskjlife.com/membership/athletics and enter your information beginning on December 1. You can bowl as many games during this time period as you like, but only submit your information one time.

Winners from each division will be randomly selected at the end of the tournament, based on the number of participants. Results will be posted on the website and in *The Voice*.

MEMBER MEMORIAL

Our prayers go out to the families of our recently passed members. Claims have been paid and a donation to the KSKJ Life Educational Grant Fund has been made on behalf of each.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2017

- | | |
|---|--|
| Lodge #1 - Margaret Petrovic- La Grange Park, IL | Lodge #110 - Lloyd W. Willis- East Rochester, OH |
| Lodge #1 - Richard Masiulewicz- Aurora, IL | Lodge #115 - Frank A. Toplikar- Overland Park, KS |
| Lodge #7 - Angelina A. Thielke- Denver, CO | Lodge #115 - Daniel W. Creed- Wellington, KS |
| Lodge #7 - Ronald W. Ivan- Pueblo, CO | Lodge #136 - Anthony J. Debevec- Rush City, MN |
| Lodge #20 - Fred J. Weichner- Muskegon, MI | Lodge #144 - Elois Carter- Racine, WI |
| Lodge #20 - Jack Hughes- Grand Rapids, MI | Lodge #144 - Bernice A. Aleff- Sheboygan, WI |
| Lodge #29 - Joseph Malesich- Joliet, IL | Lodge #144 - Howard Nissen Sr. - New Berlin, WI |
| Lodge #42 - John R. Gross- New Cumberland, PA | Lodge #146 - Harold W. Lecy- Twinsburg, OH |
| Lodge #44 - Robert L. Crowder- Tucson, AZ | Lodge #153 - Mary L. Cuffee- Philadelphia, PA |
| Lodge #50 - Robert W. Winter- Pittsburgh, PA | Lodge #153 - Irene Popp- Canonsburg, PA |
| Lodge #50 - Stephen Yakopec- Cheswick, PA | Lodge #169 - Katarina Dreu- Toronto, Canada |
| Lodge #52 - Linda J. Renfro- Fort Wayne, IN | Lodge #196 - Ivanka Sesek- Gilbert, MN |
| Lodge #52 - Betty J. Lewis- Loogootee, IN | Lodge #197 - James L. Haukos- Watertown, SD |
| Lodge #52 - Linda Albright- Newburgh, IN | Lodge #219 - Stanislava Slak- Cleveland, OH |
| Lodge #59 - Rebecca M. Rice- Minneapolis, MN | Lodge #300 - Victoria C. Perry- New Brunswick, NJ |
| Lodge #63 - Kenneth P. Haggerty- North Olmsted, OH | Lodge #608 - Lydia Morales- La Habra, CA |
| Lodge #74 - James Hoffman- Beloit, WI | Lodge #620 - Michael J. Schone - Mesa, AZ |
| Lodge #79 - Dolores J. Broge- Freeport, IL | Lodge #624 - Joe W. Kaipoo- Ocean Springs, MS |
| Lodge #110 - Joseph J. Lukezic Jr. - Barberton, OH | |

KSKJ VOICE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KSKJ LIFE,
AMERICAN SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC UNION,
IN THE INTEREST OF ITS MEMBERS

The KSKJ Voice (ISSN 1524-4407) is published monthly by KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union (2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435). It is sent free of charge to KSKJ Life members and for \$20 a year to other subscribers. Periodicals postage paid in Joliet, IL and additional mailing offices.

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Managing Editor: Tony Mravle, Jr.

English articles for publication should be sent directly to voice@kskjlife.com.

Submission Deadline: 2nd Friday of each month.

To change address or name, or for matters concerning membership, please contact the KSKJ Life Home Office.

This publication is also available electronically at kskjlife.com.

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS 2017

This year's Supporting Soldiers Campaign will be "Snacks for Soldiers." In conjunction with upcoming lodge events and Christmas parties, we encourage lodges to participate in this mission to collect salty snacks, such as crackers, chips, sunflower seeds, beef jerky, nuts, etc. and card games, such as Uno and Skip-Bo for our soldiers.

In addition, any monetary donations will be matched per dollar (maximum \$100 per member) up to \$5,000 and given to this year's charitable organization, Support the Troops WI. Any donated funds can be mailed to the Home Office marked "Supporting Soldiers" and a one-time donation of the total collected funds will be delivered to Support the Troops.

Collected snacks and games can be shipped directly to the organization at: Support the Troops WI, 6087 Hwy 60, Hartford, WI 53027. If participating, Snacks for Soldiers/Charitable Giving Award Forms are due by no later than January 15, 2018 to the Home Office.

Supporting Soldiers promotional flyers and postcards for your shipped items can be found on our website under the Activities tab (www.kskjlife.com).



SUPPORT THE TROOPS WI
a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

#KSKJLIFE



FACEBOOK
KSKJ LIFE



TWITTER
@KSKJLIFE



INSTAGRAM
@KSKJLIFE

LODGE ANNUAL MEETINGS/ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The table below is a list of upcoming lodge annual meetings/election of officers. If you are interested in becoming more involved in your lodge, please consider attending its Annual Meeting when the election of officers takes place.

The following list contains information that was received from the lodges as of press time. Please contact your local lodge with any questions.

LODGE #	CITY, STATE	ELECTION DATE	TIME	LOCATION
#1	Chicago, IL	12/17/2017	11:00AM	Slovenian Cultural Center, Lemont, IL
#2	Joliet, IL	12/3/2017	1:00PM	St. Joe's Park
#7	Pueblo, CO	12/10/2017	10:30AM	St. Joseph Hall - Mass begins at 10:30am
#25	Cleveland, OH	12/10/2017	1:00PM	St. Vitus Church Basement
#29	Joliet, IL	12/3/2017	1:00PM	St. Joe's Park
#42	Steelton, PA	12/19/2017	6:00PM	St. Al's Hall
#44	S. Chicago, IL	12/2/2017	TBD	Hammond Marina
#50	Pittsburgh, PA	12/10/2017	12:00PM	Zone 28 Complex - 2525 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh, PA
#52	Indianapolis, IN	12/3/2017	1:00PM	Slovenian National Home
#53	Waukegan, IL	12/10/2017	9:15AM	Bertrand Lanes
#59	Eveleth, MN	12/10/2017	12:00PM	Resurrection Church
#63	Cleveland, OH	12/3/2017	12:00PM	Slovenian National Home - 3563 E. 80th St., Cleveland
#65	Milwaukee, WI	12/6/2017	6:30PM	St. John the Evangelist Rectory Meeting Room
#79	Waukegan, IL	12/17/2017	9:15AM	Anastasia's Restaurant - Fountain Square, Waukegan, IL
#108	Joliet, IL	12/3/2017	1:00PM	Al's Steak House - Jefferson St., Joliet, IL
#115	Kansas City, KS	12/12/2017	6:00PM	Shawnee Library meeting room
#136	Willard, WI	12/10/2017	10:30AM	Holy Family Church Parish Center
#143	Joliet, IL	11/30/2017	7:00PM	Joliet Public Libraray - Black Rd. Branch, Mtg Room E
#144	Sheboygan, WI	12/17/2017	10:00AM	SS Cyril & Methodius Church - Parish Hall
#146	Cleveland, OH	12/3/2017	12:15PM	Slovenian Home on E. 80th
#150	Cleveland, OH	12/3/2017	12:00PM	Slovenian National Home #2 (NASH)
#153	Strabane, PA	12/18/2017	7:00PM	KSKJ Hall, Strabane, PA
#169	Cleveland, OH	12/21/2017	6:30PM	Collinwood Slovenian Home (downstairs meeting room)
#171	Duluth, MN	11/6/2017	6:00PM	<i>Elections already took place</i>
#196	Gilbert, MN	12/10/2017	12:00PM	St. Joseph's Catholic Church-Father Kausek Hall
#219	Cleveland, OH	12/10/2017	12:00PM	Villa Croatia in Eastlake (in the atrium)
#226	Cleveland, OH	12/3/2017	10:00AM	Slovenian National Home, St. Claire Ave. (in basement)
#257	Washington, DC	12/3/2017	12:00PM	Slovenian Chapel of Our Lady of Brezje, located on the lower level of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

CONGRATULATIONS 2017 LODGE LEADERS

42 KSKJ Life Lodge Officers were recognized in 2017 for being a Lodge Leader. An officer is recognized as a Lodge Leader when he/she has been serving as an officer consecutively in 5-year increments. Thank you, Leaders for your continued dedication and service to KSKJ Life!

LODGE #	LODGE LEADER	CURRENT POSITION	YEARS	LODGE #	LODGE LEADER	CURRENT POSITION	YEARS
#1	Joanne Sierzega	Financial Secretary	40	#136	Gene Rakovec	Recording Secretary	20
#7	Megan Gregorich	Fraternal Activities Coord.	5	#136	Robert Trunkel	Auditor	25
#7	Eileen Krasovec-Perez	Treasurer	15	#144	Jeff Udovich	Auditor	20
#25	Kathleen Prawdzik	Communications/Voice Reporter	5	#144	Tammy Miller	Financial Secretary	5
#29	Ken Velasquez	President	10	#144	Jim Noordyk	Vice President	30
#29	Karen Colman	Recording Secretary/ Communications	10	#144	Marian Burich	Recording Secretary	20
#29	Louis Derlinga	Sergeant at Arms	5	#146	Lynn Powers	Vice President	5
#42	Anthony Flaynik	Lodge Membership Com. Chair	40	#153	Frank Valencic	President	5
#44	Angela Rossi	Communications/Voice Reporter	5	#153	Michael Rosselle	Fraternal Activities Coord.	5
#52	Jennifer Velikan	Vice President	15	#153	Joyce Iannarelli	Treasurer	5
#59	Gloria Leseman	Auditor	10	#153	Darlene Marcischak	Recording Secretary	15
#63	Brigid Farone	Recording Secretary	10	#153	Darryl Valencic	Vice President	5
#63	Judith Kawczynski Sedmak	Auditor	10	#170	Barbara Krampac	President	25
#69	Gerald Stinson	Auditor	10	#170	Franciska Gorsic	Vice President	10
#79	Fr. James Merold	Spiritual Director	15	#171	James Pogorelc	Lodge Membership Com. Co-Chair	15
#104	Marian Pechek	President	5	#196	Marianne Nanti	Auditor	5
#108	MaryAnn McGinnis	Fraternal Activities Coord.	5	#226	Fr. Joseph Boznar	Spiritual Director	25
#108	Mary Kay Demick	Auditor	25	#236	Jozi Plut	Fraternal Activities Coord.	15
#108	Mary Mihelich	Lodge Membership Com. Chair	45	#236	Diana Fir Gremett	Communications/Lodge Membership	20
#115	Monica Racki	Treasurer	15	#257	Anne Zorc	Fraternal Activities Coord.	20
#136	Edward Perko	Vice President	10	#257	Nika Kovacic	Auditor	10

HURRICANE RELIEF UPDATE

Because of the generous spirit of our members, families and friends, the total donations collected for the Hurricane Relief Campaign amounted to **\$12,331**. As we previously reported, this total donation amount will be matched by KSKJ Life, so each charity – Catholic Charities USA and The Salvation Army – will receive over \$12,000! From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!

“The greatest good is what we do for one another.” – Mother Theresa

2017 DISASTER RELIEF

FRATERNALS LEND A HELPING HAND

2017 has brought many terrible natural disasters like wildfires and hurricanes with the chance of more to come. There is work to be done and many of our fraternal members have stepped forward to help those in need.

FRATERNALS HAVE RAISED NEARLY

\$10,166,381

These monies were provided from by fraternal members in the United States to help relief efforts in the United States and abroad. The data collected represents contributions by the above and people devoted to disaster relief efforts as of 12/31/2017.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 1

PENNSYLVANIA, CONNECTICUT AND D.C.

LODGE #42

STEELTON, PA

LODGE UPDATE

St. Aloysius Lodge #42 held a one day adult/children bowling event on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at ABC Bowling Lanes. The weather and turnout were both great! Everyone was treated with pizza. There were 17 active members, including children, who came out to bowl. This is going to be a yearly activity with the lodge and we hope to see more members participate next year. Thanks to all who gave a helping hand at this event.



Youth and adult members alike took part in the bowling event held on November 4 th

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you are interested in joining in a lodge activity, please contact Anne Hubler at 717-756-4889 for more information.

The children's Christmas party will be December 2 at Hershey Park. We will enjoy a trolley ride through Sweet Lights.



Lodge 42 youth Halloween bowling fun

Our 2018 election of officers will take place at our meeting on December 19 at 6 p.m. at the lodge hall. Please plan on attending.

The adult Christmas party will be in January with date TBD.

May everyone have a happy and blessed Christmas.

*Submitted by,
Anne Hubler*

LODGE #50

PITTSBURGH, PA

LODGE UPDATE

Get ready to dust off those bowling balls and shoes for a fun afternoon of bowling! On Sunday December 10 from 12-3 p.m. we will be having our annual Christmas Party and Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest at Zone 28 Bowling in Harmerville, PA. This year, instead of collecting for a children's organization, we are going to be having a collection for our elderly in a local retirement home. The donations will be put into gift bags and then delivered to them, as sometimes they aren't visited during the holidays. Please keep an eye out in your email inbox and on our Facebook page for a listing of donation items that will be preferred. Please RSVP no later than Sunday December 3 for the Christmas Party to either Ashley (kskjlifelodge50@yahoo.com), Al Suhadolnik (412-487-2492) or Bob Lokar (724-443-6830).

*Ashley Mikulan
Fraternal Activities Coordinator*

LODGE #153

STRABANE, PA

We will hold our annual Adult/Children's Christmas Party at our lodge home at the corner of Alexander Avenue and Chartiers Street in Strabane on Sunday, December 3 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Cost is \$10 for non-members. Members are FREE. We would appreciate if everyone would bring a canned food item or any type of non-perishable item or paper product as we will once again hold the food drive. These items will be donated to the Canonsburg/Houston Food Pantry which serves the Strabane, Houston and Canonsburg areas. We have participated in this food drive at our annual Christmas Party for more than 10 years.

We will have food, door prizes, 50-50 raffle and entertainment by Frank and Darryl Valencic. Santa will also attend our party. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Also this holiday season, KSKJ Life lodges will be collecting snacks for care packages to be sent to deployed soldiers – and all donations make a difference! For every participating lodge, the Home Office will donate \$50 to Support the Troops on behalf of the lodge. Members can donate items such as: pretzels, beef jerky, granola bars, mixed nuts, trail mix, crackers, cookies, chips. They are also collecting card games like UNO, Skip-Bo, etc. Monetary donations will also be graciously accepted.

Holiday greetings to all of our sick and shut-in members and their families.

Vesele Bozic Praznike

Merry Christmas Holidays!

*Beverly J. Pleskovich Rosselle
Financial Secretary*

LODGE #257

WASHINGTON, DC

St. Nicholas will soon come again to children of all ages in the Washington area. The Bishop Baraga Society, Lodge #257 of KSKJ Life (American

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Slovenian Catholic Union), invites you, your family, and friends to join us at the 53rd annual Slovenian Saint Nicholas Celebration - slovensko Miklavževanje.

Place: North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway, Chevy Chase, Maryland, 20815. Enter basement hall from rear parking lot.

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017

Time: Doors open at 4 p.m. Program begins at 4:30 p.m.

Note: We will start one hour earlier this year.

Admission: Free to children under age 14, members of the Bishop Baraga Society, and other KSKJ Life lodges. A donation of \$3 is requested from others to help defray costs.

The evening's activities are planned as follows:

A seasonal program featuring musical performances and oral recitations by our children. If you wish to participate, please contact the Program Coordinator, Anne Zorc, at annezorc@gmail.com or 202-237-1440.

Saint Nicholas, in his bishop's robes and attended by angels, will distribute gifts to children who believe in him, who have been obedient to their parents and who have been kind to their friends and other members of their family. (In keeping with tradition, some devils also will be there, but St. Nicholas will protect us all.)



St. Nicholas

Slovenian foods, including traditional pastries and a buffet dinner of klobase with sauerkraut, as well as soft drinks and coffee, will be available for sale. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited by the policy of the North Chevy Chase Christian Church; therefore, they cannot be brought and will not be sold.

If you bring gifts for St. Nicholas to present to your children, please place them on the stage before 4:15 p.m. Also, St. Nicholas asks that you clearly label and organize your gifts, so that he may distribute them efficiently and in a reasonable amount of time. Families, please put all your gifts in one or two large bags or containers. Please label the bag with the family's name and the gifts with the recipient's first and last name. If there is more than one gift for the same recipient, please group them together into a single package. Should it be desired for St. Nicholas to convey any brief advice, compliment, encouragement, or even reprimand to a gift's recipient, please print or type a single note for them rather than separate messages with each gift. Attach the note loosely to the package. We ask that your extended family members and friends coordinate with you.

We would greatly appreciate donations of baked goods. Donors may request reimbursement for baking supplies by providing a simple invoice to Chris Bohince. Any individual who donates baked goods and is not a member of KSKJ Life will be admitted without charge.

Again this year, we will also collect items for the Little Sisters of the Poor, who serve the elderly poor and who have a house near the campus of the Catholic University of America in northeast Washington, D.C. These are the items they prefer: Body wash, lotion – fragrance free, Dove soap bars, toothpaste, fixodent, mouthwash, laundry soap, 9-volt batteries, coffee, jam or jelly, breakfast cereals. Whatever you can provide will be appreciated.

Conducting this celebration involves the need for investment of considerable effort by Society members and friends. "Aging" has reduced our numbers to the point where this may be the last year the event is held, unless new volunteers come forward and take responsibility. This year volunteers are needed to set up tables and chairs before the start, sell raffle tickets, sell baked goods, and help serve the meal.

We look forward to having you, your family, and friends celebrate part of our Slovenian heritage.

For more information contact: Chris Bohince, President, Telephone: 301-622- 2934 (home), 301-451-7845 (work until 5 pm), E-mail: chrisbohince@hotmail.com

REGION 2

CLEVELAND AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

CONCERT OF SACRED SONGS

St. Vitus Parish will have an all parish mass at 10 a.m. followed by a "Concert of Sacred Songs" on December 31, 2017 (Sunday) in St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. St. Vitus Christmas Choir consists of 50+ soprano, alto, tenor or bass singers who sing in English, Slovenian, Latin, and Italian. The choir is under the direction of John Srsen with principal organist, William Patrick. Accompanying the choir and organist will be string musicians consisting of I Violin, II Violin, Viola, Cello, and Trumpet. The concert will feature the restored Holtkamp church pipe organ consisting of 1,500 wooden and metal pipes, three manuals and 30 ranks.

St. Vitus Christmas Choir has been presenting "Concert of Sacred Songs" to the Greater Cleveland community since 1989. Compositions include but are not limited to "Hallelujah Chorus," "And The Glory," and "Glory To God" (composed by Handel), "Veselite se narodi (by Vavken-Kimovec), and Sveta Noc (version Sattner). The Concert of Sacred Songs is free admission with good will offerings accepted to continue the support of this and the parish choirs. A social and fellowship will immediately follow the Concert of Sacred Songs in the parish auditorium located by St. Vitus Church. Light food and refreshments will be provided as well as secured parking. A number of parishioners and choir members are also members of KSKJ Life including the Zitko, Zakelj, Celestina, Srsen, and Kuhar families.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

St. Vitus has 690 registered households with 1,050 parishioners. The parish operates a senior ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist needy individuals, monthly Food Bank and hot meal programs, delivery of food baskets and other items to shut-ins or senior individuals, St. Vitus Village (independent living for seniors), and a Saturday Language School. All KSKJ Life members are cordially invited to this family-centered event as well as a manner to appreciate and enjoy the Christmas holidays.

Directions to St. Vitus: One block south of East 61st Street and St. Clair Avenue. Accessible off the East 55th exit, I-90. Secured parking will be available across the street from the church and around the parish school and parish auditorium buildings. For more information contact the parish house at (216) 361-1444.

Submitted by

Stane Kuhar, member, Christ The King Lodge #226

LODGE #25

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Just a brief note and reminder that our St. Vitus Lodge #25 will be holding our annual meeting and election of officers for the upcoming year. Please try to attend. If you are interested in running for office, we cordially welcome you to come as well. The meeting is at 1 p.m. on Sunday December 10 in the church basement. Our Christmas party will follow at approximately 2 p.m. The future of our lodge depends on having our younger members step up and take the reins to continue.

John C. Turek

Secretary

LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

All our members are invited to our annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 10, at 3 p.m. in the parish auditorium at St. Mary's in Collinwood.

Enjoy the musical entertainment and take part in the Christmas sing-along, then stay for sausage, sauerkraut and pizza. Santa will be there with gifts for the kids and good cheer for all.

Our annual meeting with election of officers for 2018 will be on Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Ave. Join us!

The Slovenian School at St. Mary's will present a play, Miklavžev obisk (St. Nicholas' Visit), on Saturday, December 9 in St. Mary's parish auditorium. A number of the students and teachers are members of Lodge #169. The short play will be followed by St. Nicholas bringing gifts. Of course, food and beverages will be available.

The officers wish all of you a blessed, peaceful Christmas and a new year graced with good health and happiness.

John Nemeč

Fraternal Activities Coordinator

LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

LODGE UPDATE

St. Christine Lodge #219 members will meet Sunday, December 10 at noon for their 2018 election of officers in the atrium at Villa Croatia, Lake Shore Blvd. in Eastlake. At this time, we will collect sweet and salty treats, and take donations for KSKJ's "Supporting Soldiers" Christmas campaign. Our Christmas party will follow the meeting with lunch at 1 p.m. Reservations are a must (no later than Dec. 3), to Joanne Ash at 7709 Joseph St. Kirtland, Ohio 44094. Remember to bring wrapped gifts for our raffle. Proceeds will be used for our Christmas project.

Next meeting will be Sunday, January 4, 2018 at 1 p.m. in Gateway Manor, Euclid Ohio. Refreshments will be served. Come and see if you'll win a door prize.



Western Reserve Christ Child Society's "The Cottage" in Painesville was the recipient of seven boxes of donated clothing from Saint Christine's Lodge 219 KSKJ.

May all our lodge families have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and BLESSED NEW YEAR!

*Elizabeth Kusar
Financial Secretary*

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

By the time this issue reaches you, Lodge #226 will have held its Christ the King Sunday Celebration Luncheon where we honored George Voinovich, Jr., a 50-year member, Stan Kuhar, our lodge's nominee for the KSKJ Life Member of the Year Award, and celebrated our 90th anniversary!

And, by the time this issue reaches you, we will have held our annual Children's Christmas Party. This activity is a favorite and we know it will have been a success.

Pictures and details of all mentioned above will be published in the January 2018 issue of The Voice.

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with Lodge 226 news in between editions of KSKJ Life Voice. Our Facebook page can be found at facebook.com/kskjcleland226 or search for "KSKJ Cleveland Lodge #226". We publish event info, share KSKJ Life updates, post pictures and engage with members. With over 1,000 members, we are looking to reach our first milestone of 100 followers. You don't have to be a member of Lodge #226 to follow our page, it's open to all!

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beginning in 2018, our lodge will be moving the monthly meetings to the first Sunday of each month. Therefore, our first meeting of 2018 will be held on Sunday, January 7 at the Slovenian National Home. During this meeting, we will celebrate the New Year and install the 2018 Lodge Officers. Please consider bringing a dish to share as part of our New Year's celebration.

Our Activities Committee, aka Chuck Potenga, is looking for new events to engage members and would like your feedback. We are looking to charter a boat on September 8, 2018 to island hop from Cleveland to Kelley's Island to Put-in-Bay and back to Cleveland. In order to make the event a success, we need approximately 150 people to commit. If this sounds like an event you would enjoy, please let us know. Contact any of the Board officers or leave a comment on Facebook if interested.

As we reflect on the holiday season, we extend our gratitude for all the members who participate in Lodge events and meetings. As we prepare to greet 2018, we hope each of you are blessed with the sunshine of laughter, beams of energy, and the raindrops of happiness throughout the coming year!

REGION 3

CLEVELAND, OHIO

LODGE #63

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for our annual meeting and election of officers, Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 12 p.m. at the Slovenian National Home 3563 East 80th street Cleveland 44105. Our annual Children's Christmas Party is the same day at 1 p.m. All members under 16 are invited to come bowl, eat and visit with Santa (invitations will be sent to individuals with RSVP information).

Please join our lodge for a Matching Funds Event Night at the Races on Friday December 1, 2017 at the East Side Irish American Club benefitting the Greater Cleveland Policeman's Memorial

Foundation. Information can be found at www.policememorialsociety.org or by contacting Debbie Hastings at 216-408-9075.

The officers of Lodge #63 would like to wish all KSKJ Life members a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

Jean Marincic
Financial Secretary
440-781-3075

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

I don't know where the month of October went, but it came and gone without an article about our lodge. But, we have a good amount to report on for this month.

Our annual hayride was on September 24. Now, go figure - the end of August was rather chilly. I was just hoping it would be dry so we could enjoy the hayride and our bonfire. Low and behold, the day was like a mid-summer day. The sun was blazing. I think the temperature was close to 90 that day. And, we still had a great turnout (about 25 people). All had a great time. We got a group photo and everyone reported they had a great time. Kelly and I went down the giant slide. My brother and his sons went around the track a few times. The Summers enjoyed all the farm had to offer. Tim brought his family and they had smiles every time I saw them. The one thing we did not do was have the planned bonfire - it was just too hot! So, we didn't have the s'mores or hot dogs either, but that was made up for by the Life Flight Helicopter there.



In October, Lodge #226 had their annual Reverse Raffle and Dinner. I won a few years ago, but since then have come up empty. A good time was had by all who attended, even if they did not win.

In November, we will have our last meeting before the Christmas party. The annual Christmas party will be December 3, at the Slovenian Home on E. 80th. There will be Santa, great food and bowling for all who attend. The party will be from 1 - 3 p.m.

In January (most likely on the 12th), we will have our annual new members dinner. Date and location will be finalized at our December 3 meeting at 12:15 p.m. We will have our election of officers at that time.

Josie Kmet
Secretary/Treasurer

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING MEETING

Sunday, December 3 at 12 p.m. – This meeting will be held at the Slovenian National Home #2 (NASH) 3563 East 80th Street, Cleveland, OH 44105. We are in need of additional officers and committee members. During the December meeting we will hold the election of officers for 2018. All Lodge #150 members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 3, at the Slovenian National

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Home E. 80th ST. (NASH), from 1 to 3 p.m. Please RSVP with either Liz Jones at kskjlife150@gmail.com or Elaine Peskar at (440) 503-8312.

This year we will be collecting "Snacks for Soldiers." The organization is asking for salty snacks (crackers, nuts, chips, beef jerky, etc.) as well as card games (Uno, Skip-Bo). Monetary donations are welcome. The home office will match any monetary donation (maximum \$100 per member) up to a total of \$5,000.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Lodge #150 has a Facebook page to share lodge news, event calendar, photos and other information. Check us out at: www.facebook.com/KSKJ150.

You do not have to be a Facebook member to view the page.

LODGE E-MAIL ADDRESS

The Lodge #150 email address for Financial Secretary, Liz Jones is: kskjlife150@gmail.com



Tony and Elaine Peskar (seated) and Liz Jones (standing) work the check-in table at the lodge's recent Matching Funds event which was a clambake benefitting the Holy Name H.S. Scholarship Fund.

Best wishes for a joyous Christmas and happy and prosperous new year.

*Lodge #150 Voice Reporters
Tony & Elaine Peskar
(440) 243-0312*

REGION 4

JOLIET AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Very Reverend Thomas Paul, a long time member of KSKJ Life Lodge St. Genevieve #108, celebrated his 40th Anniversary of ordination on Sunday November 5, 2017 at Immaculate Conception Church in Elmhurst, IL, where he is pastor. He was ordained by Most Reverend Daniel Kucera at St. Joseph Church in Joliet, his home town, on November 5, 1977. He has been at several parishes throughout the Joliet Diocese - Parochial Vicar at four and Pastor at three others. He is the Dean of the Eastern DuPage Deanery as has served on many Diocese Committees over the years.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Rose (Vidmar) Paul.



Fr. Tom Paul, Lodge #108 member, with his cousins (lodge #29 members) Karen Columbo and her husband Mike (far left) and Mike Vidmar (right).

ILLINOIS FEDERATION



Celeste Sierzega receives her Illinois Federation student grant check from Mike Vidmar during the Federation's meeting on November 17th. Looking on is her grandmother, Joanne Sierzega, Federation Secretary.

JOLIET KSKJ LIFE LODGES

Merry Christmas my friends.

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017 the combined Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges held their monthly meeting at T&C Lanes with a total of 9 members present.

Congratulations to the following winners of the November "200" Raffle: Alec and Elaina Osburn and Lori Posch. December will be the last chance to win for 2017 – then we will do it all over again in 2018. And since I'm on the subject – the raffle tickets for 2018 are now for sale . See your local lodge officer for your purchase.

For those that will be attending the kids Christmas party on December 2 (Haunted Trails, Joliet 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.), we have decided that we will be collecting "Socks for Soldiers." Let's show our support at this time of the season by donating socks. Your cooperation will be appreciated tremendously.

Prior to the next meeting of the combined Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges, members will meet at 6 p.m. at T&C Lanes, to stuff Christmas cards that will be sent to the 80 and over KSKJ Life members this year. There will be pizza and pop for the members who show up to help with this project. The more people that show up to help, the faster this project gets done. Please be advised that we will be meeting in

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

the "Party Room."

Also, nominations and election of officers for the ensuing year (2018) will be held at our December meeting on Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m. at T&C Bowling Lanes.

The next Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7 p.m. at T&C Lanes in the Party Room. As always, all are welcome to attend.

On behalf of all the Joliet lodge officers, I wish you a Happy New Year.

*Submitted by,
Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter*

LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE

St. Joseph Lodge #2 participated in the Will County Walk to End Alzheimer's on October 8 in Joliet, IL. The total raised from Lodge #2 participants, including the matched funds from the Home Office was \$3,825. Thanks to all members who participated in this wonderful cause.



St. Joseph Lodge #2 President Zach Pucel presents a Matching Funds check to Lora Cummings from the Alzheimer's Association.

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

Approximately 30 kids with their parents and grandparents celebrated Halloween with us on October 28. It was great to see the costumes and

everyone having a great time playing games, having lunch and, of course, a visit by some Star Wars characters from a galaxy far, far away. Thank you to all who helped put this on for our youth. To view additional photos from our Halloween party, visit our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/stfrancis29



A great turnout for our Halloween Party



Eli Zelinski - A hotdog posing with a "real" hotdog.



Our officers with the Stars Wars characters.



Star Wars – the mini version



Our youth activities directors, Krista and Katie Starasinich.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

It's not too early to think about and plan on coming to the Holiday Party on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 176 West Banquet Facility, 1100 NE Frontage Road in Joliet beginning at noon with cocktails. Meeting at 12:30 p.m. followed by buffet at 1 p.m. The cost for members is \$15, guests \$20 and kids under 3 are free. RSVP and make arrangements to prepay to Judy Corum at 815-725-3553 or jmcorum@ameritech.net by December 20.

It's the most wonderful time of the year – Merry Christmas to all!

*Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Reporter*

LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, St. Genevieve Lodge #108 will hold its annual Christmas party at Al's Steak House, located at 1990 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, starting at 1 p.m.

Please contact me (Pauline Mihelich) at 815-521-9317 if you are planning to attend. Reservation deadline is November 27, 2017. The cost will be \$15.00. Members: please mail your payment prior to the Christmas party – we will not be collecting at the door. Checks are to be made payable to "St. Genevieve Lodge #108" and mailed to St. Genevieve Lodge #108 KSKJ Life, c/o Alan Mihelich, 1808 Waters Edge Drive, Minooka, IL 60447.

Once again, members are asked to bring a staple of canned goods, which will be donated to The Guardian Angel Home, for the battered women. Or, if you wish, a cash donation will be acceptable.

We will also be honoring members with 50-years of continuous membership with St. Genevieve Lodge #108 at the Christmas party.

As we have done in the past, will be holding nominations and election of officers for the coming year (2018).

*Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Mihelich
Lodge President*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2 – Joliet Area Lodges Christmas Party (Haunted Trails, Joliet)

December 17 – Caroling and Coffee at Our Lady of Angels Home (Joliet)

Stay Connected! "Like" our Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/kskj143

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lodge #143 member Tyler Schmitt graduated from the United States Air Force on November 2, 2017 at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX. He is currently at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS for the next five months for Air Traffic Controller training. He will then be stationed at another Air Force Base (location to be determined) where he will continue his schooling. Congratulations, Tyler and thank you for your service to our country!



Tyler Schmitt



Members of Tyler's proud family attended the graduation ceremony. (left to right): father Eric Schmitt, fiancé Alexis Zybak, Tyler, sister Stephanie Schmitt and mother Lynn Schmitt.

REGION 5

CHICAGO AND INDIANAPOLIS

LODGE #44

CHICAGO, IL

Join Lodge #44 for our annual Christmas Party. This year, it will be held again at the Hammond Marina. Stop in on December 2 for some food and dancing. We will have a short meeting before the festivities to recap the year and start to plan for 2018, which will include elections. Come make your voice heard with nominations and voting. Also, come with any ideas you want to see our lodge take part of this coming year. We will celebrate our 50-Year Members and Person of the Year this evening as well. We hope to see everyone there. For any questions or to RSVP, contact George Bozetti at (708) 334-5434.

LODGE #52

S. CHICAGO, IL

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2 - Join us for our Children's Christmas Party, location is to be determined. Please email

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

KSKJKIDS52@gmail.com for more information.

December 3 - Our Annual Adult Christmas Party and Annual Meeting will be at the Slovenian National Home at 1 p.m. This is a pitch-in, so please bring a covered dish. We are collecting food at this event also; please bring a nonperishable food item(s) to donate.

January 20 – Mark your calendars for our Annual Sausage Feast at the Slovenian National Home! This is our most popular event! You get your choice of fresh, smoked, or blood sausage complete with ethnic Slovenian sides! RESERVATIONS must be made in advance. Please contact Paul Barbarich [BARBARICp@aol.com] or Rick Brodnik [317-292-3505; rick.brodnik74@gmail.com] before it's too late!

LODGE UPDATE

Well, the cool weather is beginning to set in once again! It's time to get out the winter woolies, folks. We recently had our Annual Balinca Tournament. Due to the sale of the picnic grounds, we played at B's Po Boy restaurant in Fountain Square. The staff there is quite accommodating, having two balinca courts to double our fun and they provided the balls as well! We were able to sample their Cajun style food and appetizers while playing balinca. Be sure to join us next year as we will be returning to B's!



Jim Vellikan and Amanda Taylor made up a team in our Balinca Tourney. Both walking eagerly to begin their next round.

The beginning of our cool season became especially apparent at our Annual Chili Fest. Thankfully, Marcia made enough food for the Spartan Army (though there were only 300 of them) so no one left hungry! Marcia really outdid herself this year. We had hot chili complete with cheese, sour cream, crackers, and macaroni! Thanks to all who donated extra goodies such as mac & cheese, desserts, and chips! Also, thank you to the warm fire outside where we could roast hot dogs and make s'mores! It was almost a perfect evening, our bellies full of hot chili while sitting around a toasty warm fire.



Dan Cuson, Monty McDougal and Angie Cuson enjoying the atmosphere while watching the ball game on TV.

Our local bowling league is underway again this year! We meet at Western Bowl each Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. Be sure to contact Jennifer Velikan [jvelikan@gmail.com] if you'd like to join our league as a substitute bowler. We never seem to have dull night at bowling. Not a bowler? Feel free to join us as a spectator. We have a few members who come to watch already, so you'll be in good company!

We have a busy winter coming up! Join us Saturday, December 2 for the Kids' Christmas Party. It promises to be a fun day complete with games, food, surprises, and SANTA! Stay tuned for exact location. Please email KSKJKIDS52@gmail.com for more information. If attending, please bring a nonperishable food item(s) to donate.

Then, on Sunday December 3 we will have our Annual Adult Christmas Party and Annual Meeting. Be sure to join us at the National Home at 1 p.m. Come out to elect new officers, plan events, and vote on how our lodge chooses to donate its money! If you're thinking about becoming an officer, just

let us know! This is a pitch-in, so please bring a covered dish. We are collecting food at this event also; please bring a non-perishable food item(s) to donate.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Annual Sausage Feast on January 20th on your calendar. Dinner served from 5:30-7:30pm at the Slovenian National Home with live polka music provided upstairs through the night!

*Nasvidenje!
Jennifer Velikan*

REGION 6

NE ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN

LODGE #53

MILWAUKEE, WI

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting - December 10- 9:15 a.m. at Bertrand Lanes

Annual Lodge Christmas Party- December 10 at Bertrand Lanes

Installation Meeting- January 14, 2018 – 9:15 a.m. at Bertrand Lanes

LODGE UPDATES

Thank you to the thirteen members of our lodge that met up at the end of October to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville. We worked as part of a crew that morning to process over 5000 bags of individual meals that were designated for shipment to Haiti. The spirit of comradery among all the volunteers was evident throughout the shift; most importantly, it was humbling to learn about hunger worldwide.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



The Feed My Starving Children crew from Lodge 53.

Get into the holiday spirit on December 10 at our annual lodge Christmas party hosted with St. Mary's Lodge #79 at Bertrand Lanes in Waukegan. We will have a special display to gather your snack donations for the Supporting Soldiers campaign.

Shout out to our younger members! Thinking about getting more involved? We would love to have you at our meetings with your ideas and suggestions and volunteering; and even stepping up as a lodge officer! (Not to mention your obvious technical and social media expertise!) Announcement of the election of officers will be in the next edition of The Voice. Please join us in January for refreshments and fellowship!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Peace,
Victoria Drinka, Secretary*

LODGE #65

WILLARD, WI

LODGE MEETING

December 6, 2017 is the date of our next lodge meeting, and the place is St. John the Evangelist Rectory Meeting Room at 6:30 p.m.

This is an important meeting and there will be the election of officers. Many things must be discussed and we would like to have you there. With the National Convention in 2018, consideration for delegates must be discussed. If you want to attend and be a delegate, you must attend a certain number of meetings in 2017, as election will be held in the spring of 2018. Please make it a point to attend. Remember December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Greetings to all of our sick and shut ins. Stay well and stay warm.

*Nasvidenje,
Mici Bregant*

LODGE #136

SHEBOYGAN, WI

Greetings from Lodge #136

Mary of Perpetual Help #136 in Willard is having its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at 10:30 a.m. on December 10 with a noon potluck lunch and Christmas Party following at Holy Family Parish Center in Willard, WI. There will be door prizes, games to play with prizes, sing-alongs and then..... yes, that's right...Santa will make an appearance and pass out bags of fruit, nuts and candy! We hope you can join us.

Also on December 10 we will collect non-perishable food items for the Local "Feed the Hungry Campaign." There is a local business that will match every item and even deliver them to the Greenwood Food Pantry. Please be generous as there are many people that would not be able to have a Christmas meal or even have enough for their children to eat.

Also we are doing something for our Soldiers. This year we will collect snacks and card games. If you would like to do a monetary donation, it will be graciously accepted and will be matched up to \$100 per member in the "Supporting Soldiers Campaign." The money can be mailed to the home office marked "Supporting Soldiers" and it will be delivered to the charity. Examples of the snack foods could be pretzels, beef jerky, granola bars, mixed nuts, trail mix, crackers, cookies and chips. The card games could be UNO, Skip-Bo, Phase 10 and etc. Please be generous to our men and women that serve our country and protect us. They are away from their families at Christmas so we can be free to be with ours.

Merry Christmas to all of you from our little town of Willard and have a Happy New Year!

*Lonna Rakovec
Financial Secretary*

REGION 7

MINNESOTA AND MICHIGAN

LODGE #59

DULUTH, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Lodge #59 in Eveleth held a fellowship breakfast on Sunday, November 5, at Resurrection Church's Holy Family Hall. Breakfast pizza and fruit were served. This is our fundraiser to bring the parish together and to help with earmarked projects around the area.



Bob Mavec and Tony Menart setting up.



Jen Menart guarding the pizzas.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Breakfast assembly line.



Renee Christianson receives donation from Connie Menart



Reno Coldagelli ready with the tickets

After the breakfast, we had our meeting and planned our Christmas Party for December 10. The annual meeting with election of officers will be at 12 p.m. on Sunday December 10, with the party to follow. The party will feature Santa Claus, bingo and pizza and door prizes. We also selected our member of the year, and we will honor him at the Christmas party. Lastly, we voted to donate money to St. Michael's Care and Rehab Center's Bariatric Care Program.

LODGE #171

GILBERT, MN

Lodge #171 member Frank Bucar was a speaker at the St. Louis County Historical Society's program: Families in Flight: The Journey of Slovenian Children to Minnesota after World War II. Over 125 guests attended the program. Frank so eloquently spoke about his time in the internment camps in Austria and then his family's journey to America. Frank also wrote about his experiences in a story titled "This Is My Song."



Frank Bucar speaks about his family's time spent in the refugee camp in Austria



The Singing Slovenes entertained the audience at the event.

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

The Election of Officers for 2018 Lodge #196 will take place Sunday, December 10th, 2017 at 12 noon at St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Father Kausek Hall). There will be a brief business meeting solely for the election of 2018 Lodge Officers

Our Annual Fraternal Lodge Activities Christmas Party will take place on this day as well. Our "Feed the Hungry" Campaign is also scheduled with this event. Perishable food items or a monetary donation to the Quad City Food Shelf is being asked of members in attendance.

Our regular lodge meetings for 2018 will take place on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 5 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert, MN. (Catechism rooms in basement)

The June 2018 meeting will be the first Thursday of the month. There will be no meetings July or August 2018.

LODGE #197

ST. CLOUD, MN

Lodge #197 recently held a Matching Funds Event in conjunction with "Act-Oberfest" in St. Cloud Minnesota. "Act-Oberfest" is a variety show fundraiser for the youth activities program in the Diocese of St. Cloud. Eleven acts entertained the audience with songs, skits and comedy.



Jim Bernard, lodge 197 member, performs with the Ringsmuth Riders unicycle act.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 8

COLORADO, KANSAS, MONTANA, CALIFORNIA

LODGE #7

PUEBLO, CO

ANNUAL MEETING

Lodge #7's Annual Meeting will be Sunday December 10, 2017. The morning will begin with Mass, celebrated by the National KSKJ Life and Lodge #7 Spiritual Director Reverend Richard Gielow. Mass is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch then the Annual Meeting will convene.

HONORING RAY KOGOVSSEK



Rudy Krasovec, KSKJ Life National Board Chair delivers a speech in front of the Columbus Monument in Pueblo, Colorado during the inaugural New Columbus Day Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Ray Kogovsek, former Honorary Slovenian Counsel and retired US Congressman who recently passed away, was recognized for his diligent preservation of heritage and his respect for all cultures. Kogovsek was a KSKJ Life Lodge #7 member.

LODGE #115

KANSAS CITY, KS

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Veronica Lodge #115's annual meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2017, 6:00 pm at Shawnee Library meeting room.

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 16, 2017, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Hall.

For more information contact Julie Schneller at (816) 797-8623.



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KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 2017-12-C-V