

JANUARY 2019



**EXCITING
NEW VOICE
FORMAT**

**HONORING
TONY MRAVLE SR.**

**HURRICANE
RELIEF**

WELCOME 2019!

Photo: Members of Lodge #196



KSKJ VOICE

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

KSKJ LIFE HONORS TONY MRAVLE SR.

Page 5

MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE

Page 6

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Page 9

LODGE NEWS

Page 9

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THE KSKJ LIFE VOICE

A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE WELCOMING 2019



This is a special year for all of us at KSKJ Life! On April 2nd we will officially celebrate our 125th anniversary. Founded in 1894 by Slovenian immigrants to help the widows and orphans of those who died working in the mines and steel mills, our organization continues to live this mission by providing excellent financial products that help families when

they need it most.

It is incredible to consider that this mission began before Henry Ford invented the first automobile, or the Wright brothers the airplane; before penicillin, Social Security and Medicare; nearly a century before the country of Slovenia became independent and was established as a country. While the world around us has evolved and changed dramatically, our core commitments to our members have remained steadfast.

Our products are the most important benefit we offer to members, and we maintain a constant process to evaluate and update our suite of products to provide flexibility and options that our members need. I encourage all of you to reach out to your KSKJ Life agent or the home office to review the insurance coverages, retirement and savings plans for you and your loved ones. Our professional agents and staff love KSKJ Life and our mission, enjoy serving our members, and are eager to help you!

In addition to our products, we offer a number of other benefits to our members, including:

- PerkSpot, a discount purchasing program
- American Hearing Benefits, a discount program for hearing aids
- ScriptSave, a prescription savings program
- Educational Grant Program for college and private high school students

There are also a host of social, charitable and volunteer activities offered throughout the year, both for members that can meet in person with each other through our lodge system and also remotely for those that don't live near a lodge. Take advantage of everything that KSKJ Life has to

offer you and your family!

As part of our 125th Anniversary year celebrations, we have a number of things planned:

Our membership campaign that began at the 2018 National Convention continues all year. Please let us help secure your family's financial future and engage all of your loved ones in our great organization by purchasing a life insurance or annuity product for them.

We will be reaching out to lodges to generate ideas for local and/or regional anniversary events.

- The expanded Matching Funds program has been extended by the Board of Directors into 2019. Lodges may hold charitable events for up to a \$2000 matching grant per event, \$4000 total for 2019.
- The Cultural Grant Program has been extended by the Board of Directors in 2019. Lodges may receive a cultural grant for hosting or participating in a cultural event or activity that shares the cultural heritage of our members with a maximum grant of \$1,000 total for 2019.
- We are planning on producing an anniversary book that will include information and highlights from our lodges, as well as historical information and pictures. There are a few anniversary books that have been published during our history, and we will be drawing from those and meeting with lodges this year to produce this newest iteration.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, our home office staff, and our agent sales force, best wishes to all of you for a blessed, successful and prosperous new year!

Fraternally,
Tony Mravle, CEO

KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL BOARD NEWS

The KSKJ Life Home Office welcomed the National Board of Directors on Friday, November 30th in Joliet, IL. The Board of Directors held their first in person quarterly meeting as a newly elected board since the KSKJ Life National Convention this past August. While at the Home Office, the board hosted a brief town hall meeting with the KSKJ Life staff and was able to introduce themselves and answer questions. During the meeting, the board was also available to join the staff in honoring Tony Mravle, Sr. for his years of leadership at KSKJ Life as well as attend local lodge Christmas parties.



The KSKJ Life National Board of Directors at the town hall meeting with the home office staff.



Julie Schneller and MaryLou Stefanick making wishes to Santa Claus at the Joliet Lodges Christmas Party.



L-R: Tony Menart, Connie Menart and Phil Hrvatin showing their Christmas spirit.

KSKJ LIFE HONORS TONY MRAVLE SR.

This past November, KSKJ Life recognized Tony Mravle, Sr. for his 46 years of loyal service and leadership, including 17 years as Chief Executive Officer. Tony Sr. began working for KSKJ Life as Treasurer in 1972. Over the years he grew with the company, holding several leadership roles before transitioning into CEO in 1999. During his leadership as CEO, KSKJ Life has grown tremendously in membership as well as assets, from close to \$50 million in 2002 to over \$500 million to date.

As CEO, Tony Sr. led the society through a sustained period of significant development by executing key strategies for product expansion and asset growth. Among the highlights are KSKJ Life's development of a strong independent agent distribution channel, expansion into new states, successful new releases of fixed annuities, Medicare Supplement and final expense products. Tony's contributions to KSKJ Life across the organization – financially, fraternally, operations, staff development and more – cannot be overstated.

To the benefit of KSKJ Life, Tony Sr. will continue to serve in his role as Investment Manager. He has a considerable legacy, and enough cannot be said for his inspiring leadership over the years. KSKJ Life honors his past achievements and are grateful for his continued guidance.



Tony Mravle, Sr. looks on as Chair of the Board Rudy Krasovec and CEO Tony Mravle, Jr. unveil a plaque created in his honor.



Home Office staff gathered to watch the unveiling of Tony Sr.'s commemorative plaque.



The KSKJ Life National Board of Directors had the opportunity this fall to recognize and thank Tony Mravle, Sr. for his years of service.



L-R: Rudy Krasovec, Judy Mravle, Tony Mravle, Sr., Tony Mravle, Jr., Jen Mravle.

MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE LODGE #50 AND THE SEASON OF GIVING

Gratitude. According to the dictionary, Gratitude is a noun and means the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciate for and to return kindness. Not that everyone needed to have a quick vocabulary lesson, but gratitude is something I wish more people used, especially in today's society when everyone tends to only think of themselves.

For this year's KSKJ Life Lodge 50's Matching Funds project, we teamed up with the Best of Batch Foundation for their annual Batch-A-Toys Toy Drive, matching the value of the toys received. For those who are not from Pittsburgh, the Best of Batch Foundation was founded in 1999 by retired Pittsburgh Steelers back-up quarterback Charlie Batch.

The Batch Foundation is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the lives of children and families in distressed communities by building character, self-esteem, and appreciation for education. Currently serving southwestern Pennsylvania, Best of the Batch Foundation does good works, such as scholarships to college-bound students and a yearly back to school BatchPack book bag distribution to kids and teachers. Best of the Batch also offers programming that couple sports with learning—such as the seven-week summer basketball camp where participating boys and girls attend study halls where they read and discuss pre-selected books.

Four years ago, Lodge 50 did our first ever toy collection as a way to give back to our local community during the Holiday Season. Our first collection was with the Best of Batch Foundation, which our Fraternal Activities Coordinator heard Charlie Batch talk about on a local radio station. The following years we chose a few other organizations for our holiday toy collections and upon delivering the collections we didn't receive any gratitude for what we were doing for them. At our fall meeting, the motion was made that we go back to doing our Toy Drive collection for the Best of Batch Foundation as they have been the only organization truly grateful for what we have done and collected. We are pleased to announce that we will be collecting our annual Christmas Toy Drive for the Best of Batch Foundation for as long as they will accept us. When I dropped off the toys collected at the Best of Batch Foundation headquarters, I was greeted with a warm hug and a tour of their facilities.



Lodge 50 members collected school supplies for the Best of the Batch Foundation this holiday season.



The Best of the Batch Foundation was very grateful for all the donations!

I had the privilege to meet Charlie Batch when I dropped off the toys and had the chance to talk to him more about their Batch-A-Toys Toy Drive. Charlie was extremely transparent with me describing every detail of the process, all the way down to working with the school guidance counselors to choosing worthy children and families, to the wrapping parties, and to the Christmas Eve delivery where Charlie hand delivers the gifts to all 151 families. The school guidance counselors help the Batch Foundation determine what toys that the children would like and what necessities the families could use. Every family receives a comforter, towels, silverware, dish set, and pots and pans along with the toys for the children.

Continued from page 6

Charlie told me a story that brought tears to my eyes. Shortly after Christmas, he received a thank you card from a little boy who was more appreciative of having a spoon so he could eat his milk and cereal in the mornings for breakfast over having something to play with. That story made me think about my own life and how privileged I am to have grown up with the lifestyle I was raised.

I cannot be more thankful to our members and officers of Lodge 50 who donated \$760.00 worth of toys that will be matched as our 2018 Matching Funds project. It is a nice feeling knowing that we did something good to help those who are way less fortunate than most of us in our local community of Pittsburgh during the Holiday Season. Next year Lodge 50 is looking forward to helping the Best of Batch Foundation wrap presents and help pack up the U-Haul truck for delivering the gifts for the families.

As a New Year's Resolution for 2019, I am challenging each KSKJ Life lodge to think outside the box and find a way to do something special to give back to your own local community especially during the holiday season whether it be your own toy drive or volunteering at your local soup kitchen feeding the homeless. I think we have a lot to learn and a lot to be thankful for especially during the Holiday Season.

Wishing everyone in the KSKJ Life community a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Mikulan, Fraternal Activities Coordinator*



Lodge 50 exhibiting the holiday spirit of giving.

HURRICANE RELIEF RECAP

"For it is in giving, that we receive" - Francis of Assisi Because of the generous spirit of our members, agents, families and friends, the total donations collected from our Hurricane Relief Campaign amounted to \$2,885.00. This amount was matched by KSKJ Life, so each charity – Habitat for Humanity and The Salvation Army - received \$2,885.00. Your generosity helps the chosen charities to continue with the ongoing relief efforts in communities affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael as well as the recent California wildfires. Efforts include distributing food, water and clothing to survivors as well as assistance in rebuilding, repairing and restoring disaster-affected neighborhoods.

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!



A North Carolina home flooded by Hurricane Florence. Photo: Andrew Craft/Fayetteville Observer via AP



A beachfront neighborhood decimated by Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, FL. Photo: Scott Olson/Getty Images.



Devastation from the Camp Fire in San Francisco. Photo: Josh Edelson, AFP/Getty Images

ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOU BUSY ALL WINTER LONG

Don't let the cold weather keep you from enjoying your wintertime! Make the most of the season with one of these fun activity ideas from PerkSpot that you can do with your loved ones all winter long.



Activities by Yourself

Sometimes, it's nice to have a quiet night by yourself, but you don't have to forget your loved ones to do so! Take a night to knock out all of your post-holiday cards so you can send warm thank you notes to all of the special someones in your life. You can purchase your cards at the store, design them online, or have fun with some DIY. Get yourself in the spirit and pop some popcorn, make some hot cocoa and queue up a fun music playlist.

Activities with Friends

Sometimes the holiday season can be so hectic there just isn't time to see everyone that you would like. Now is a great time to bring all your friends together and host a giant game night! Order a pizza or host a potluck and ask your friends to each bring their favorite game. Charades is a classic game to get everyone joining in on the fun!

Activities with Your Partner

Nothing says romance like a fun ice skating date night! Grab your mittens, lace up your ice skates, and hit the rink with your significant other this winter. Even if you're not professional figure skaters, a change of pace is always fun. You can laugh off the bumps and bruises afterward while you warm up with some eggnog or a good meal at one of your favorite restaurants.

If you're living in a warmer climate, that doesn't mean you can't get in on the fun! There are loads of indoor ice skating rinks that will have you in the winter spirit in no time.

Activities with Kids

Grab the sugar, flour, and icing, and let's have a bake-a-thon! All you have to do is find some great recipes online and stock up on ingredients and you've created an awesome day that your children won't forget. Maybe you can even turn it into an annual tradition! For extra fun, find some crazy-shaped cookie cutters, cool sprinkles, and other edible adornments for the cookies and let the kids go to town. The clean-up might take a little longer, but the memories will be worth it.

With a little imagination, there's plenty of activities to keep busy with this winter. Be sure to check your PerkSpot member rewards often for new and exciting deals!

Welcome to Your KSKJ Life Perks Program!

Exclusive Discounts from Your Favorite Brands 30,000 National and Local Offers Designed for Your Device of Choice

Start by signing up or logging in at kskjlife.perkspot.com

Access at work, home, or on the go and browse thousands of discounts!

Keep an eye out for new featured discounts in your weekly email.

Get Started Today! kskjlife.perkspot.com

KSKJ LIFE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY



KSKJ Life started in 1894 by offering security for families at a time when life insurance and financial products weren't easily accessible. The immigrants of Slovenia who sought refuge in America, turned to KSKJ Life for a solution to help protect their loved ones while integrating into their communities. 125 years later, KSKJ Life remains true to its rich heritage and core values. We continue to advocate for members, their families and the communities we serve.

Thank you to our members, current and past board members who have been part of this journey and who have impacted our local communities through community outreach projects and events.

*What's next? In 2019, we'll continue to celebrate this milestone by introducing our **125th Anniversary Membership Campaign** and will promote events in your area hosted by local lodges.*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

SHOULD LIFE INSURANCE BE ON YOUR LIST?

It's that time again. You need to figure out what your New Year's resolutions will be. Which leads to the question - what does a New Year's resolution mean to you?

For many people, the New Year signifies a fresh start. The beginning of the year is a great opportunity to reconnect with loved ones, catch up on housework, and focus on healthy eating and workout goals.

And there's no time like the start of a New Year to reflect on your financial situation. In fact, nearly one-third of Americans plan to make a money resolution for 2019, according to a Fidelity Investments survey. Related, more people than ever are also focusing on taking the necessary steps to make sure they're safeguarding themselves and their loved ones in the years to come.

One of the most important choices you can make to protect your family's financial future is to make sure you have enough life insurance coverage. Now is a great time to take a fresh look and examine the options out there that could make things easier for yourself and those closest to you.

The 2018 Insurance Barometer Study, from Life Happens and LIMRA, also tells us that:

- 90 percent of people believe that a family's primary wage earner needs life insurance



Wishing you a joyous 2019 with the hope that you will have many blessings in the year to come!
From all of us at KSKJ Life, have a very happy New Year!

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.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

Lodge #20 - Kimberly Smith, Detroit, MI

Lodge #29 - Waveney W. Naraine, Kalona, IA

Lodge #42 - Mary B. Evans, Lake City, PA

Lodge #42 - Susan E. Jenkins, Dover, PA

Lodge #42 - Elizabeth A. Healy, New Freedom, PA

Lodge #42 - Anne M. Vukmanic, Steelton, PA

Lodge #44 - Alfred Buchanan, Decatur, IL

Lodge #50 - Sylvester Bosilovich, Pittsburgh, PA

Lodge #50 - Raymond Mekic, Blairstown, PA

Lodge #50 - Mary L. Riley, Du Bois, PA

Lodge #52 - Virginia L. Johnson, Indianapolis, IN

Lodge #52 - Thomas E. Legg, Indianapolis, IN

Lodge #52 - Randy J. Moore, Union City, IN

Lodge #65 - Frances Koceja, Wausau, WI

Lodge #108 - Robert A. Stasko, Shorewood, IL

Lodge #110 - Juanita G. Spada, Union Town, OH

Lodge #115 - Kevin Bolend, Tonganoxie, KS

Lodge #115 - Deloris M. Massey, Wichita, KS

Lodge #136 - Donna I. Martens, Junction City, WI

Lodge #143 - Mary G. Johnson, Streamwood, IL

Lodge #146 - Dolores Taylor, Parma Heights, OH

Lodge #148 - Anton A. Lukman, Fairfield, CT

Lodge #153 - Richard Debreest, Philadelphia, PA

Lodge #170 - Victor Raya Nava, Chicago, IL

Lodge #226 - Michael T. Foye, Fairview Park, OH

Lodge #226 - Donald H. Kinney, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

Lodge #620 - Bernard T. Walczyk, Beckley, WV

Lodge #622 - Marion L. Dunkelberger, Des Moines, IA

Lodge #623 - Roy L. Hazel Sr., Morganfield, KY

Lodge #625 - Margaret O. Cooper, Kingsport, TN

Lodge #625 - William T. Garrett, Knoxville, TN

Lodge #625 - Robert J. Miller, Tullahoma, TN

IN MEMORY OF

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS

We have already seen such generosity from our members this holiday season through their contributions to this year's Supporting Soldiers Campaign. KSKJ Life lodges are collecting undergarments for male veterans at Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago. There is still time to get involved—suggested donations include boxers, briefs, undershirts, socks and long underwear and can be sent to:

Midwest Veterans Closet
2323 Green Bay Rd.
North Chicago, IL 60064

Or simply submit a picture of your lodge donating the goods to a local charity that supports veterans by 1/13/2019 and KSKJ Life will donate \$50 to Midwest Veterans Closet on behalf of your lodge. Monetary donations will also be graciously accepted and will be matched per dollar (maximum \$100 per member) up to \$5,000.

THANK YOU ALL!

Kathleen Guinn

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grampovnik - \$20.00

Fred Shusterich - Lodge #196

Patty & Joe Skofich - \$50.00

Mary Ann Novak - \$40.00

KSKJ Lodge #196 - \$10.00

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

New look! To help make it easier to locate your local news, Lodge News is now organized by U.S. states.

CALIFORNIA

LODGE #236

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Hello and Merry Christmas!

Our lodge enjoyed a wonderful Santa party and we thank Home Office for the mittens and lip balm!



Heartfelt thanks to the Lehane family for setting up the party and to Peter Pecavar for donating such a delicious lunch.

Our 2019 officers pictured from left to right are John Pecavar, Mary Lehane, Frank Pecavar, Jessica Lehane and Jozi Plut.



From our lodge to yours, Vesel Bozicne Praznike in Srecno Novo Leto!

Diana Fir Gremett

COMBINED JOLIET LODGES

ILLINOIS

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

Happy New Year everyone!

On Tuesday, December 4th, the combined Joliet Lodges held their final meeting for 2018 at T&C Bowling Lanes. Members from Lodge #2, Lodge #29, and Lodge #108 were in attendance.

Congratulations go out to the following people: Lydia Marquardt and Louis Derlinga. They were the lucky winners of the Youth/Sports Fund Raffle for December. As we have done previously, we will mail Louis' winnings to his sister Terry.

At December 4th meeting nominations and election of officers for 2019 were held. The new officers are as follows: Chris Zitko – President; Becky Velasquez – Vice President; Treasurer – Alan Mihelich; Recording Secretary/Reporter – Pauline Mihelich; Auditors – Mike Vidmar and Mike Miller; and Lynn Miller as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Members, please be advised that the combined Joliet Lodges will start to have quarterly meetings beginning in March 2019.

Mike Vidmar reported on the Illinois Federation meeting that was held on Friday, November 30th in the Cultural Center in Lemont. The winners of the Illinois Federation Raffle were as follows: 1st Prize – Mary K. George, 2nd Prize – St. Stephens Lodge #1, and 3rd Prize – St. Genevieve Lodge #108. Congratulations to all of you.

With no other news to report about, the next meeting of the combined Joliet Lodges will not be held until March 5, 2019 at T&C Lanes – more information will be available in the next issue of the Voice.

Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

2019 LODGE OFFICERS

St. Joseph Lodge 2 elected their 2019 officers:

- President - Dan Mihelich
- Vice President - Mike Miller
- Financial Secretary - Zachary Pucel
- Recording Secretary - Lynn Miller
- Fraternal Activities Coordinator - Diana Tyda
- Asst Fraternal Activities Coordinator - Sylvia Churnovic
- Auditors - Ken Mihelich & John Churnovic
- Sergeant at Arms - Charlie O'Neil
- Spiritual Advisor - Fr. Tim Andres

Incoming officers will be sworn in at our January 6th meeting at St. Joseph's Park Legion Room. The lodge will vote on the 2019 calendar of events. The lodge also named Diana Tyda as Lodge 2 Person of the Year for her tireless efforts organizing and managing all our events. Thank you Diana!

Zachary Pucel

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

See you at the Holiday Party on Sunday, January 6, at 176 West Banquet Facility, 1100 NE Frontage Road in Joliet beginning at noon with cocktails. We will have a meeting at 12:30 followed by buffet at 1:00 p.m. Call Judy Corum at 815-725-3553 or jmcorum@ameritech.net with any questions. Collecting items of men's underwear, undershirts, socks and long underwear for Midwest Veterans Closet.

Welcome to new members Randy Halsne and Elizabeth Starasinich.

Our 2019 officers:

- Ken Velasquez – President/Membership Chair
- Kathy Lovati – VP/Membership Chair
- Judy Corum – Financial Secretary
- Karen Colman – Recording Secretary & Reporter/Communications
- Becky Velasquez – Fraternal Activities Director
- Doug McKenna – Sgt. at Arms
- Paul Boettcher, Nick Vidmar, Bob Zelinski – Auditors



L-R: Ken Velasquez, Rudy Krasovec & Julie Schneller presenting "It's about Time" Award to recognize Ken for his service on the National Board



Lodge 29 members present 2018 Matching Funds
L-R: Becky Velasquez, Kathy Lovati, Valerie Pastwa (Guardian Angel Rep), Hayley & Ken Velasquez

Our Chili Cook-Off and meeting will be on Sunday, March 3, 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Park.

On behalf of all officers we wish you peace, health and happiness in the New Year!

Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Reporter

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I would like to start off by wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year! We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and was able to spend time with those you love and remember those who are watching from above. This year, Lodge 44 was able to spend some time the ballpark, yacht club, basketball court, and bocce court just to name a few. Joyce Bozetti was named Person of the Year and we celebrated two 50-year members. There are new activities coming for this year so be on the lookout.

2018's Christmas party was an extremely eventful night! There was Bingo, food, dancing, door prizes and even a visit from the big guy himself who brought gifts for all the children in attendance.

Moving forward, Lodge 44 will see a few changes with its board members. We would like to say a huge "Thank you!" to Betty K. and Mary Jane Strus who will be stepping down after years of dedication on our board. Looking forward to this year, the board members are as follow:

President, George Bozetti; Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Bozetti; Fraternal Activities Coordinator, James Rossi Jr.; Lodge Membership Committee/Communications Officer, Angela Rossi; Recording Secretary, Bob Oberman; Auditor, Jan Oberman, Lodge Support, Mary Franko.



Lodge #44 kids excited to see Santa Claus



Lodge #44 2018 board members

Please join us for our next meeting, Sunday, January 6th after 9:00 am Mass in the Saint George rectory, 9546 S Ewing Avenue, Chicago, IL 60617. As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact George (708-334-5434) or myself (219-718-7599).

Angela Rossi

LODGE #53

WAUKEGAN, IL

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Carnival Family Christmas party hosted by our lodge and St. Mary's was enjoyed by all who attended! Our special guests (the kids!) enjoyed making ornaments, frosting cookies and winning all sorts of nifty prizes in the game gallery! Families and kids took advantage of the photo corner to take pictures complete with Christmas props! And of course, Santa popped in to visit and deliver gift bags filled with goodies galore! Thank you to all our members who donated to the Supporting Soldiers Christmas drive to benefit the Midwest Veterans Closet. The two lodges collected socks, undergarments and gloves. There were 244 articles of clothing collected!

The installation of officers elected for the 2019 year will be held at our January meeting held on January 13th. Congratulations and welcome to Kelsey Glabowicz who will join our re-elected officers of the Lodge. We look forward to the new year and invite our members to come and get involved with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE for March 10th- Our lodge will hold-

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

the Annual Lodge Leaders and 50-year Member Luncheon. We invite you to join us for brunch and fellowship at Primo's restaurant in Gurnee, IL. The meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by brunch. The cost for members is \$10 per person and \$20 for guests. Call for details or to RSVP to Sue Dolence at (847)662-0908 or to myself at (847)244-8949.

January 13th - Regular Meeting - Installation of 2019 Officers- 9:15 a.m.- Bertrand Lanes, Waukegan

February 10th – Regular Meeting – 9:15 a.m. Bertrand Lanes, Waukegan

March 10th- Annual Lodge Leaders and 50-year Members Luncheon 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Primo's Restaurant, Gurnee, IL

Happy 2019 to all, wishing you peace on earth and in our hearts.

Victoria Drinka

LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On Sunday, December 2, 2018, St. Genevieve Lodge #108 once again had a fabulous Christmas party, which was held at Al's Steakhouse with 19 lodge members and 3 guests in attendance. Everyone had a great time. A fine luncheon was served.

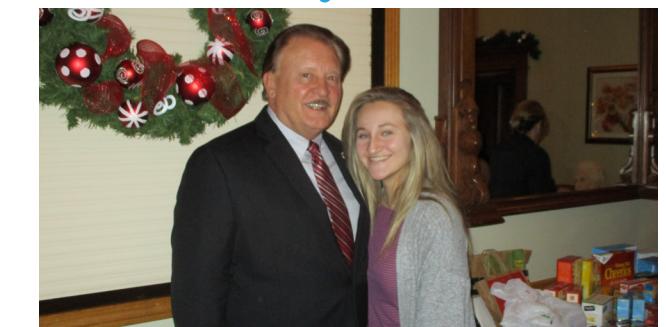
This year St. Genevieve Lodge #108 had three members with 50-years of continuous membership. They are as follows: Margaret M. Lakota, Rita M. Berglund and Nicolle Lee.

Nominations & elections of officers for 2019 were held. Congratulations to the following elected officers: Pauline Mihelich, President; Alan Mihelich, Financial Secretary; Catherine Kramer, Recording Secretary; Maryann McGinnis, Fraternal Activities Coordinator; Marla Lustik, 1st Auditor; and Judy Thiesen, 3rd Auditor and Eileen Plese, Sergeant-at-Arms. After the elections were over, Rudy Krasovec (Chair of the KSKJ Life Board of Directors) did the

honors of swearing the officers in. Thank you Rudy for doing so. As we have done in previous years, St. Genevieve Lodge #108 collects can goods and makes a monetary donation to the Guardian Angel Community Services –Groundwork Services. This year we had collected can goods worth about \$250.00 and a monetary donation of \$300. A big thank you goes out to all the members who brought can goods or made a monetary donation at the Christmas party. Without your generosity, we could not have done this. Thank you.



L to R - Margaret M. Lakota & Rita M. Berglund (50-Year Members) holding their Certificates of Recognition.



L to R - Rudy Krasovec and Catherine McGinnis (High School Educational Grant Winner)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, February 3rd: Lodge meeting at 1:00PM in Ferdinand Hall.

Sunday, February 10th: Annual ice skating & pizza party at Inwood Ice Arena. Postcards will be sent.

Sunday, March 3rd: Lodge meeting at 1:00PM in Ferdinand Hall.

That's it for now. Have a safe and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Mihelich - Lodge President

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our 2019 Lodge Officers:

President – Julia Markun
Financial Secretary – Amy Koncar
Fraternal Activities Coordinator – Margaret Marmonti
Vice President and Auditor – John Koncar
Treasurer – Annette Koncar
Voice Reporter – Lauren Baltz
Communications Officer – April Sleyko

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear" - Buddy the Elf.

...And that's exactly what members from Lodge #143 did on December 15th at Our Lady of Angels Nursing Home in Joliet, IL. Residents enjoyed listening to carols while they snacked on candy cane treats that were passed out by the youth members. Many thanks to Stan Markun for organizing this festive event.



Members of Lodge 143 sing Christmas carols for the residents of Our Lady of Angels Nursing Home



Youth members Molly Mravle and Sophie Sleyko pass out treats to the OLA residents

LODGE #143

LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Save the date! The Lodge 143 Annual Christmas Party and Member recognition event is scheduled for Sunday, January 6, 2019 at Crest Hill Lanes (905 Theodore St., Crest Hill) from 11am to 1pm. All ages welcome! Open bowling (includes shoe rental), pizza and soda included. This is a free event for members. Cost for non-members is \$5. We will be collecting items for the Supporting Soldiers Campaign at our party.

Happy New Year to all of our Members!

Lauren Baltz
Voice Reporter

MINNESOTA

LODGE #59

EVELETH, MN

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Eveleth KSKJ Lodge #59 had their annual meeting and Christmas party at Resurrection Church hall on December 9th. There was a white ballot and all of the officers were re-elected for the coming year - President Jennifer Menart, vice president Ron Erjavec, recording secretary Amy Brazerol, financial secretary Connie Menart, Youth and Adult Events Coordinator Heidi Coldajelli, Voice reporter Rosemary Mattson, auditors Gloria Leseman, Frank Erjavec. Dawn Barchus brought Christmas cards for the veterans in the veterans hospital to be signed by those present. This was a good reminder that everyone is not as fortunate as we are and some served the country so we can enjoy our freedoms. It was a well-received project. Bingo was played, door prizes were given out, and Santa Claus (or his helper) made an appearance! A fun time was had by all!

Our Giving Tree has many many gifts under it and we will distribute those next weekend.

Rosemary Mattson

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Santa Claus with all the Lodge #59 kids!



Bob Mavec and Evaline Britton sign cards for vets.

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

NEWS UPDATE

KSKJ Life Lodge #171 recently held their annual lodge Christmas Party and Election of Officers for 2019. Santa Claus made a special appearance, delighting the children. Lodge members brought canned goods and clothing for Families in Need, as well as donated to the collection for the Midwest Veterans Closet. Thank you to all who attended and donated!

Frank Bucar



Youth members pictured with food and clothing for Families in Need



Congratulations to the following officers for 2019:
Frank Bucar, Fraternal Activities Coordinator, Joe Jagunich, Recording Secretary, Mark Spehar, Auditor, Mary Beth Strand, Auditor, Mary Spehar White, President, Sharon Bucar, Secretary/Treasurer, and Frank B. Bucar, Vice-President.

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

NEWS UPDATE

On Sunday, December 9th we held our annual Youth and Adult Activity Christmas Party at 12:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Father Kausek Hall. Approximately 35 people were in attendance. We enjoyed a great dinner catered by Mary Skerjance and her Angels (Ladies of the Church who also do catering for funerals at our Parish). We enjoyed a very delicious Pork dinner with all the fixings and dessert... The group spent some time visiting with other members who they haven't seen for a while, bringing out that Christmas Spirit. Santa Claus stopped by to give presents to all the boys and girls, and door prizes were drawn and distributed out by the boys and girls to all the winners. This year we also honored Patricia Purkat with a 50-year lodge member certificate. A year-end report of the Lodge activities was reported by President Oberstar and then we reconvened a Recessed December 4th lodge business meeting with the purpose of electing Officers for 2019, the only official business on the agenda. We elected were Karl Oberstar Jr. (President), Leo Skrebec (Vice President), Yvonne Skrebec (Financial Secretary/Treasurer), Yvonne Skrebec (Recording Secretary), Rocco Leoni, Marianne Nanti, and Bob Finc (Auditors), Fraternal Activities Coordinator, Stacy Oberstar.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

We wish to thank outgoing 2018 Officer Ashley Theien, (Fraternal Activities Coordinator), for her service to the Lodge. This year we also lost a long time member of our Lodge and who held the Office of President for several years, Mr. Fred Shusterich. We at Gilbert KSKJ Lodge # 196 send our condolences to Fred's Family. Fred will surely be missed at our business meetings and annual Christmas Parties, as well as his service to our Lodge.



Yvonne Skrbec and Le Shutte presenting Food Shelf Coordinator/Lodge President Karl Oberstar a \$65 check at the 2018 Christmas party.

Included once again at this year's Christmas Party was a FEED THE HUNGRY campaign in which members were asked to bring non-perishable food items to the party.



Leo Skrbec, Tom Prosen and Rocco Leoni singing Christmas carols.

This was a very successful venture since we collected \$65 and 25 lbs of non-perishable food. Food Shelf collection was brought to the Quad City Food Shelf located right here in our city of Gilbert. Thanks to all who made this possible. At the close of the Christmas Party we all joined in singing of a few Christmas Carols led by Leo Skrbec, Rocco Leoni, and Tom Prosen. Once again it is safe to say that a wonderful

time was had by all.

Karl Oberstar Jr. (President)

MONTANA LODGE #69

GREAT FALLS, MT

LODGE UPDATE

St Joseph Lodge #69 of Belt, MT recently elected their 2019 Lodge Officers: President Holden Maki, Financial Secretary/Treasurer George Wood, Activities Director Joe Aline, Sergeant of Arms John Wood, Lodge Membership Barbara Hawes, Recording Secretary Carolyn Wood, Auditor Ed Wood, Vice President Paxton Maki and Auditor Terry Aline. Congratulations to all and thank you for your continued service!

George Wood



Lodge 69 enjoy some fraternalism while bowling. Members also brought canned goods to the 4th quarter meeting to be delivered to the Great Falls food bank.

OHIO LODGE #25

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Merry Christmas and New Year greeting to all. We had our annual meeting Sunday, December 9th

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

and the following officers were elected: Joe Hocevar President & Lodge Membership Chair, Brian Fabo VP & Fraternal Activities Director, John Turek Financial Secretary, Mary Kay Prawdzik Treasurer, Martin Turek, John and Ralph Prawdzik, Auditors, and Fr. Joseph Bozner Spiritual Director. At the meeting it was decided to for go our January meeting and have it on the SECOND Sunday in February and to move our annual dinner for 50-year honorees to March 10th at 12:00pm (noon) - this was because of the weather in February. Please remember to call with reservations and how many will attend. Deadline is March 4th; call me at 216-531-0230 for reservations. For the meeting there were 13 members in attendance. Following the meeting we held our Christmas social. 37 member attended, and there was plenty of food and beverages for all.

John Turek

LODGE #63

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Our annual meeting and Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 2; the existing slate of officers was voted to serve for another year. Thanks to all who attended.



2019 Lodge #63 Officers: Katie Kawczynski, Brigid Farone, Jean Marincic, Jim Marincic, (back row) Lisa Kostura, Deanne Short and Catherine Matonis.

Our Matching Funds event was a huge success with over \$8,000 being raised for The Littlest Heroes. Littlest Heroes is a nonprofit organization that exists to positively impact the lives of children living with cancer.

The Matching Funds check was presented to Littlest Heroes by our own Ryan Short a cancer survivor himself.



Matching Funds check presentation: Jean Marincic, Amber Toth, John Kozesky (Both from Littlest Heroes), Ryan Short and Deanne Short.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 28, 6:30pm at the Slovenian National Home 3563 East 80th Street Cleveland; dinner will be served.

Jean Marincic

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The busy holiday season is upon us. I hope everyone has taken the time to do the things that truly make you happy - friends and family traditions, not just things that are done because they have always been done. Enjoy the reason for the season.

On Sunday, December 2nd, we had our election of officers. All current officers have been re-elected to their office. In addition, we also had Mark Kocin step up to take on a position. This was a pleasant surprise, but most welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will have dinner at Harry's on January 11th at 6:30 pm. This is our new member and elected officers. Harry's is located at 5665 Independence Rd., Independence, OH. Hope you can join us. It will be an opportunity to buy a Square (one of our Matching Funds) for the Super Bowl party.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting after that will be Friday, February 1st. This is when we plan to do the draw for our fully sold out board. We will also plan our 50 year member dinner and other spring/summer activities. Sunday, February 3rd will be the watch party. This will be held at St. Mary's school auditorium on Holmes Avenue. Details to follow.



Santa's stash of presents.



Kids pose for a picture with Santa Claus

That is all for future events. Now to recap past events.

Sunday, December 2nd our lodge hosted the Christmas party. The Slovenian home was decorated with the Polar Express theme. All the children there seemed to enjoy their visit and the party. As in past years, we were joined by Lodges 63 and 150. It was a fun time that included a visit from Santa, bowling, and good food. There was much fellowship and bowling fun. We had a 50/50 raffle to benefit the American Legion Post 572 in Parma, Ohio and collected underwear and socks for the veterans. A big thank you to Lodge #150 member Lisa Kostura who arranged all this for us - it is always nice to sort of know who will be getting your donations.

Hope to see you around!

Josie Kmet

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

NEWS UPDATE

St. Anne's Lodge #150 would like to wish all of our KSKJ Life members and their families a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

At our December 2nd meeting, we held nominations and election of officers for 2019. Congratulations to: President / Recording Secretary / Voice Reporter - Elaine Peskar

Vice President / Fraternal Activities Coordinator - Greg Snyder

Financial Secretary / Treasurer - Liz Jones

Auditors - Mary Cox, Linda Smigla, Susanna Hughey

Sergeant at Arms - Rick Smigla

Spiritual Advisor - Susanna Hughey

Social Media Coordinator - Mary Cox

Membership Committee - All Officers (Chairman- Elaine Peskar)

We would like to thank all of the KSKJ Life members and guests who attended our Christmas Party at the Slovenian National Home (The Nash). It was heart warming to see the faces of the children light up when they saw Santa. It was a fun event bringing together the members of Lodges #150, #63 and #146.

A special thank you to everyone who brought items or gave a monetary donation to the Supporting Soldiers Campaign. The Boxer Brigade donations from Lodges #150, #63 and #146 were given locally to American Legion Post 572, Parma, Ohio. They were very appreciative of our remembrance and kindness to the Veterans.

Our next Lodge #150 meeting and induction of new officers will be held on Monday, January 14th at 6:30pm at Olympia Sweet Treats & Grill at 11606 Pearl Road, Strongsville. Please join us for our meeting and refreshments.

May the Lord bless you and watch over you in 2019.

Elaine Peskar

LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

LODGE ELECTIONS

KSKJ Lodge 219 members re-elected Loretta Brown as President of the lodge along with Mary Urbanic, Vice President, Roberta Underwood, Secretary Elizabeth Kusar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Joanne Ash, Fraternal Activities Coordinator and Mary Cook, head Auditor for 2019, during the annual meeting on December 9th. Our lodge collected 12 packages of undergarments for the Support the Troops project along with monetary donations. The packages of clothing were given to Wade Park Veterans Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. They will distribute them to the veterans, a new practice. We made a donation of \$50.00 to the home office to support the troops with the Boxer Brigade project, \$150 gift to the KSKJ scholarship fund and \$100 dollar donation to "EDWINS", a 501(c)3 nonprofit Leadership and Restaurant Institute that provides skills to formerly incarcerated adults in the hospitality industry and provides them with a support network for successful re-entry. EDWINS is the dream and work of a lifetime of Brandon Chrostousky, who opened a French restaurant in Shaker Square. EDWINS is where his students are trained and operate the business.

Sunday, January 13 is the date for our next business meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Gateway Manor, Gateway Drive, Euclid Ohio. Please try to attend a meeting, we serve refreshments and you could win a door prize!

Elizabeth Kusar



Lodge 219 members having fun at the Christmas party

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Our celebration of Christ the King Sunday was a very nice event with approximately 80 people, including guests from other lodges, attended the traditional Slovenian lunch. Many thanks to Erika Kurbos and all those who assisted in the preparations for this very special day. Using Christ the King Sunday as another opportunity to get the whole family together, the Zak family took a moment after the celebration to have a family picture taken.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

Our Annual Youth Christmas Party was a wonderful success. New this year were games for older kids and a "photo booth." We had so much fun with all the kids playing games, enjoying the Family Cake Walk, and receiving gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Youth Committee Co-Chairs, Beth Paskey and Tamara Zupancic planned the day, but it was those elves (listed below) working their magic who really made the day extra special. David Sanders was a huge help in decorating the hall. Grace Paskey welcomed everyone at the Check-In Table. Diane McClusky led the children in Christmas carols and even got a few of them to perform karaoke Christmas-style. Hunter Zupancic took over as the official event photographer and captured many images from the day.

Rounding out our list of gratitude, we extend a sincere thank you to our Lodge Board for providing pizza and sandwiches and to those Lodge members who brought desserts to share, cakes for the Cake Walk, and donations for the Supporting Soldiers campaign.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Additional pictures from the day can be found on our Facebook page at facebook.com/kskjcleveland226 or search for "KSKJ Cleveland Lodge #226". We publish event info, share KSKJ Life updates, post pictures and engage with members. Please follow our page!

DECEMBER LODGE MEETING

Just prior to our Youth Christmas Party, our lodge held its December meeting and election of officers. Elected were: Ray Zak - President, Chuck Potenga - Vice President, Erika Kurbos - Financial Secretary, Diane McClusky - Recording Secretary, and Bill Urban, David Sanders, and Carmen Federico - Auditors.

MATCHING FUNDS

Chuck Potenga and Tim Klodnick presented a matching funds check to Tony Mannion of the E 80th Slovenian Home in the amount of \$2,000.00.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 6 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home). Lodge Meeting and Installation of Officers. Immediately following our January lodge meeting, we will hold our Adult New Year's Party. We ask that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Jan 19 - Basketball Open Gym Opening Day (St. Michael's Gym). Open Gym runs for 5 weeks. Contact Ron Zak (ronzak@cox.net or 216-215-2163) for more information.

Feb 3 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home). Lodge Meeting

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

WISCONSIN LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

LODGE ELECTIONS

I hope all had a Very Merry Christmas and from our lodge to your lodge, I send best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Election of officers was held at our December meeting. All officers remain the same: President, Rudy Pugel, Vice President, Tom Gorenc, Recording Secretary, Agnes Lobacz, Financial Secretary. Diane Mouradian, 'Auditors, Pat Pugel and Andrea Ostrowski, and Sgt. of Arms, Steve Morzy. Congratulations!

We had a nice turn out for our Christmas Party on December 8th. Many thanks to all who had a hand in making this event so enjoyable. The children had a great time and listened attentively as Andrea read them a Christmas Story, and they welcomed Santa with a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells. The photo booth was a special feature that many took advantage of. Many thanks to all who baked or made appetizers. Many hands made short work of the necessary chores that had to be done before and after the party. Thank you to ALL. It was a total surprise when I was given special recognition and a gift by the officers for my 40 plus years of serving this lodge I can honestly say that I enjoyed these years and God willing I will be able to be a dedicated member years of serving this lodge I can honestly say that I enjoyed these years and God willing I will be able to be a dedicated member. Thank you. Nasvidenje,

Mici Bregant

LODGE #144

SHEBOYGAN, WI

NEWS UPDATE

By the time you read this article it will already be 2019. I hope you had a nice Holiday Season and are raring to make this year a very successful one. On December 2nd juvenile members and adults had

an afternoon of fun at the Blue Harbor Resort. They had a chance to enjoy the swimming and other water activities. Pizza was served after swimming fun.

The Lodge Annual Meeting was held on December 9 after 19 people enjoyed an Early Christmas Breakfast. We decided to try something new to see if we could get more people to attend. A pre-selected menu was selected and as far as I know, nobody left hungry. We voted to continue with this idea next year. Election of Officers took place with the following being our 2019 slate for the coming year: President & Voice Reporter - Patricia Slapnick; VP - James Noordyk; Recording Secretary & Fraternal Advisory Coordinator- Marian Burch; Financial Sec. /Treasurer - Tammy Miller; Co-Coordinator - Paige Fenske; Auditors - Diane Udovich and Morgan Fenske. It was nice to see not only 2 members stepping up and accepting an office, but both are young adults. Paige and Morgan, we welcome you. I want to thank Ken Miller for several years as being Athletic Director. I am sure we will still see him at events.



2019 Officers-Front Row: Pat Slapnick, Diane Udovich. Back Row: Tammy Miller, Marian Burch, Paige Fenske, Morgan Fenske. Not Pictured: James Noordyk

UPCOMING EVENTS "MARK YOUR CALENDARS"

Jan 20th: With unpredictable weather rather than having to cancel the meeting at the last minute, we decided to hold a tele-conference. Why not join us! Call Pat Slapnick at 920-458-1469 and she will give you all the information you need to call in. It's really easy. March – an exact date has not been set yet, but it usually is held on the 1st or 2nd Saturday. We will have our Family Bowling Event at Maple Lanes. To RSVP call Tammy Miller at 920-452-2342.

May 18th – is our lodge Join Hands Day Project and meeting. We usually begin at 9:00am cleaning at Greendale Cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.

Pat Slapnick

KSJK LIFE HOME OFFICE

2439 Glenwood Avenue

Joliet, IL 60435

Gift cards, sweaters and smartphones can only go so far in life. In 2019, make your resolution to give something outside the (gift) box – something that's timeless, affordable and practical...

Take care of everyone on your shopping list with a gift that lasts a lifetime and beyond.



- Spouse
- Children
- Grandchildren
- Yourself

Need help finding the perfect gift?

Contact the KSKJ Life
Home Office
844.407.9242

