



KSKJ VOICE



**THE SPIRIT
OF SLOVENIA**

**A LOOK BACK
ON 125 YEARS**

**SUPPORTING
SOLDIERS:
BOXER
BRIGADE**

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



CELEBRATING **125** YEARS **KSKJLIFE**

We're celebrating KSKJ Life's 125th Anniversary all year long – and we want to hear from you!

In honor of our 125th Anniversary, we'd like to feature members and families that have been with KSKJ Life over the years.

What does KSKJ mean to you? What memories do you have of attending KSKJ events? Do you have a photo of yourself at a KSKJ event? We'd love to hear from you!

Please email fraternal@kskjlife.com with your name and your history with KSKJ Life, or visit kskjlife.com to fill out the online submission page. Letters and photographs can also be mailed to the home office.

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

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IN THIS ISSUE

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS CAMPAIGN

Page 3-4

THE SPIRIT OF SLOVENIA

Page 8

125TH ANNIVERSARY

Page 6

LODGE NEWS

Page 11

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL!



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A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE
SUPPORTING SOLDIERS CAMPAIGN RE-CAP



With heartfelt gratitude, we want to thank all our wonderful members who participated in this year's Supporting Soldiers Campaign: The Boxer Brigade. The Supporting Soldiers Campaign was created in 2015 as an effort to show our support and appreciation towards the active and retired military and their families. Each December, we

choose a charitable organization whose mission is to assist our brave American soldiers. Items are then selected to collect at their holiday parties.

This year, the military-based charity selected was Midwest Veterans Closet. Based in North Chicago, IL, Midwest Veterans Closet is a not-for-profit organization taking the lead in impacting Veterans Lives by providing life's basic needs to enlistees, families, and Veterans – such as clothing, household items, shoes and boots, linens, books, music and movie CD's/DVD's, and food from our Food and Nutrition Resource Center.

Based on the current needs of Midwest Veterans Closet, we asked for help collecting undergarments for male veterans, such as boxers, briefs, socks, long underwear and undershirts. And wow did our members deliver! A total of 20 lodges, plus the Home Office, collected over 1,050 packages /items of undergarments at their holiday parties. For each lodge that participated, the Home Office donated \$50 to Midwest Veterans Closet (for a total of \$1,000). Direct member donations received were an incredible \$2,016, which the Home Office matched. A total of \$5,032 was presented to this very deserving charity.

MaryLou Stefanick, National Board Member and Financial Secretary of Lodge #79, shared a touching story with us recently, further proving the incredible impact of our members' philanthropic actions. "Veterans Closet President and Lodge #79 member Mary Carmody was at our lodge Christmas Party, and ended up taking all of our donations with her at the end of the day. The very next day, a young wounded disabled vet came in for assistance and just touched Mary's heart. She asked him what he needed and how she could help him out. He shyly asked for new underwear, and if possible some socks.

Mary hadn't even unloaded our donations yet, and here was this guy in need of the exact items we collected. She told me he was brought to tears when she gave him a generous supply."

In addition to the donations for Midwest Veterans Closet, lodges were given a new option this season of donating their collected items to a local charity of their choice that supports veterans. Many of our lodges opted into some variation of this method, such as raising funds for Midwest Veterans Closet but donating the undergarments to a non-profit organization in their area. This new feature ensures that the Supporting Soldiers campaign aids veterans on both a local and national level. Other charities our lodges donated to included Wounded Warriors Foundation PA, American Legion Post 572 in Parma, OH, Veterans Community Project in Kansas City, MO and Veterans of Foreign War Post 553 in Strabane, PA.

Thank you to the lodges who also organized collection drives at your Christmas parties to benefit your local community organizations. The kindness and generosity from our members continue to be quite the inspiration. Another military-based charity will be selected for our Supporting Soldiers Campaign next Christmas season. Suggestions are welcome if you have a military-based charity in mind. Please email fraternal@kskjlife.com with your recommendation.

Fraternally,
Cathi Davis

Number of Items/Packages Collected	Over 1,050
Member Donations for MVC	\$2,016
Home Office Contribution	\$3,016
Total Amount for MVC	\$5,032
Total Amount Raised for Veterans Since 2015	\$11,387

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS: BOXER BRIGADE CAMPAIGN RECAP

Below are photos received from some of the lodges who participated in this year's Supporting Soldiers Campaign. A heartfelt thank you to all the lodges who collected items and/or raised funds for The Boxer Brigade!



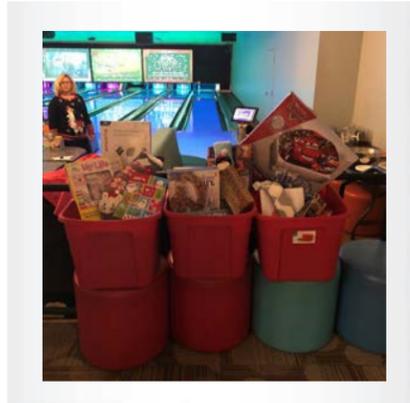
Lodge 143



Lodge 79



Lodge 226



Lodge 50



Lodges 63, 146, 150



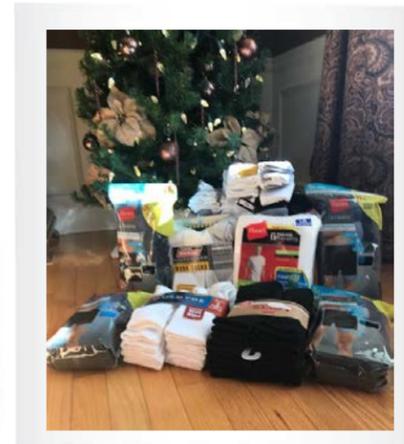
Lodge 219



Lodge 171



Lodge 1



Lodge 115

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KRISTA STARASINICH SHARES HER JOURNEY IN FAITH

Krista Starasinich is a member of St. Francis de Sales Lodge #29. She attended both the 2016 and 2018 Young Adult Leadership Conferences and interned at the KSKJ Life National Convention in Rosemont, IL this past August. Krista has remained dedicated to helping others and growing in her faith, most recently by attending a 5-day fellowship for young adults.

During the first week of January, I had the blessing to attend FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) biennial SEEK conference held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. FOCUS is a Catholic outreach to colleges and universities whose mission is to teach and equip students to share the gospel with the world. While SEEK is mostly geared towards college students, it is open to anyone who is looking for further faith formation. The 5-day conference consisted of exploring the theme, "Encounter Something More". We started each day with daily Mass and then had the opportunity to attend talks given by world renown Catholic speakers. Some of the most anticipated events included a night of praise & worship with Eucharistic adoration and a concert featuring musician Matt Maher and the band NEEDTOBREATHE.

Going into SEEK, I tried not to have any expectations. I prayed to be open and vulnerable to what He wanted me to experience. It gave me time to quiet my life and hear what the Lord was saying to me. I heard some incredible talks, met two of my favorite speakers, ran into some friends, and got to jam out at an amazing concert. While these are some unforgettable memories, none of it compares to the feelings I experienced when me and nearly 18,000 of my brothers and sisters were in the presence of Jesus Himself. He showered me with so much truth and grace, and I am completely overwhelmed by His love. If you need reassurance from God, ask Him. He speaks through repetition and I can truly testify to that after my time at SEEK. He sees you. He knows you. He loves you. Let His peace wash over you and make you new. It's truly the most beautiful and freeing feeling.



I encountered so much more than I could've ever imagined. Being surrounded by 18,000 young people on fire for Christ and His Church reminded me that no matter where God has called us or what season of life we are in, there is always a common connection to be made. If I had to choose my biggest takeaway from this life-changing experience, it would be that true love and pure joy can only come from our Father in Heaven. What a wonderful thing it is to rest in His truth and experience lasting peace. The Lord is always full of gracious surprises and His loving mercy is never ending. It was a truly beautiful and inspiring start to the new year, and I can't wait to see the continuous fruits of His work.

*In Christ,
Krista Starasinich
Lodge #29*

CELEBRATING **125** YEARS **KSKJ LIFE**

A LOOK BACK...HOME OFFICE STAFF

AS PART OF OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS, WE'RE TAKING A LOOK BACK ON THE HISTORY OF KSKJ LIFE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. LOOK HOW THE HOME OFFICE STAFF HAS GROWN!



Home Office Staff 1937



Home Office Staff in the early 1940's



Home Office Staff in the mid 1960's



Home Office Staff 1983



Home Office Staff Today

A MESSAGE OF LOVE



Greetings to KSKJ members and your families. As new year begins, I have this thought about God's love for us...Remember Jimmy Piersall who played for the White Sox? He began playing for the Boston Red Sox in the early 1950's. In his book he writes about his rookie year when he had a nervous breakdown and was committed to a mental hospital. During that trying year, his wife Mary was constantly at his side...loving, encouraging, helping him. Commenting on her touching fidelity, Albert Cylwicky observes. "Mary's fidelity to Jim is a reflection of God's fidelity to us. God never stops loving us and reminds us that we can love Him in return by loving our neighbor, those who need love, those who are hungry, thirsty and feeling abandoned. Thanks for all the love you show others as faith-filled KSKJ members.

*Fr. Richard Gielow
KSKJ Life National Spiritual Director*

GREGORJEVO: SLOVENIAN VALENTINE'S DAY

Ever wondered how other countries celebrate Valentine's Day? Unlike other countries, Valentine's Day celebration in Slovenia is not about romance and candy hearts. Celebrated on March 12th, which according to the old calendar was the first day of spring, Gregorjevo is the Slovenian lovers' day—the equivalent of St. Valentine's Day. There's a romantic saying that Gregorjevo is the day "when birds get married". Old legend says that on St. Gregory's day, the first bird (a symbol of love) that a girl will see in the sky will tell her who she will marry someday. There's even a special tradition in the Tržič town where children and adults make Gregory's lights and little houses on rafts which they, later on, put into the river for the flow to carry. This ritual comes from the times long ago when cobblers and tailors used to work house by house. With the beginning of the spring, they stopped using candles and were able to work by daylight. To celebrate it they used to clean their workshops and place all the shreds into the small baskets. Then they lit those baskets and put them into the stream Tržič Bistrica. So today, little houses came into the place of baskets, but still this ritual symbolizes throwing the light away and welcoming the spring. Nowadays, people put all kinds of boats in the river, making it quite a lovely sight to to watch all the craftwork floating in the water. [rove.me]



A lit house boat floating down Tržič Bistrica during Gregorjevo. Photo credit: Darja; itinari.com



A crowd gathers on Gregorjevo to float their boats down the river. Photo credit: delo.si

THE SPIRIT OF SLOVENIA

For years, the Bucar family of St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 in Duluth, MN have traveled to Slovenia each summer to spend time with family, connect with their heritage and enjoy all the wonder and excitement that the beautiful European country has to offer. “We never intended to become ‘tour guides,’” Frank Bucar explained. “But when our friends listened to our stories and saw our pictures from the trips they became very intrigued and it just went from there! This past summer there was a total of 41 of us who went on the trip.”



The group, consisting of other KSKJ members and friends, gets ready to disembark on their adventure!

Frank and his family do make for great tour guides in Slovenia. Frank was born in a refugee camp in Austria during the mid-twentieth century when his family fled to Yugoslavia. He is very familiar with the historical sites in the area that normal tourists might not know about and loves to teach others about the history of Slovenia as well as new attractions.



A beautiful rainbow in Frank Bucar's birthplace city: Spittal, Austria

Once the group arrives in Slovenia, they typically settle in a cozy bed and breakfast just outside the capital city Ljubljana (which translates to “The Loved One”), near the Alps. Apart from spending time with local relatives, the group will generally stick together for the duration of their stay. For those who want to venture outside of Slovenia, it’s easy to do – Austria, Hungary, Italy and Croatia all border the country.



The Bucar family with friends in Slovenia

Frank admits he is not a “big city person” and prefers to mingle with the natives and take in the beautiful scenery. Some of his favorite things to do is visit the local churches, cemeteries, lakes and wineries (fun fact – there is a vineyard or winery for every 70 people in Slovenia!). Frank, a talented musician who plays in the band “The Singing Slovenes”, is also especially enamored by the music scene in Slovenia. “The music rejuvenates me - every time I go over there I have to get my fix,” Frank recalled. “They have really retained the heritage and roots of Slovenian music, each generation. It’s fun, upbeat, folksy – even the young people get really into it.”

Another must-see site by Frank includes hiking on Mount Vogel (pictured on the front cover). Those interested in the journey can take a cable car up the mountain, and if brave enough, have the option of paragliding back down. Paragliding from Vogel is considered to be the most beautiful flight in all of Slovenia, with marvelous views over Lake Bohinj, Julian Alps and Mount Triglav.

Looking to plan a trip to Slovenia? According to Frank, his favorite time of year to visit is during the months of June, July or August.

“In my opinion, summer is the ideal time to take a trip to Slovenia,” said Frank. “There’s so many festivals and concerts and everything is in bloom. A lot of people don’t know this, but there actually are palm trees in Slovenia!” Palm trees can in fact be seen close to the Adriatic Sea and in the Alps. The climate in Slovenia is considered continental, with cold winters and warm summers, but at the coastal areas there is pleasant submediterranean climate. The Slovenian coast isn’t well known for its beaches, but one coastal town called Portorož has its very own man-made beach – a must-see for beach goers in the summer.



A cable car going up Mount Vogel. Photo: lifeadventures.si

From beautiful churches and museums to lakes and tall mountains, there’s truly something magical about Slovenia and the people who live there.

Understanding Required Minimum Distributions

If you have an IRA with KSKJ Life and will be at least 70½ years of age in 2019, you should have received your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) letter recently in the mail. This letter informs you of the amount of the 2019 RMD.

So what is an RMD?

You generally have to start taking withdrawals from your IRA, SEP IRA or retirement plan account when you reach age 70½. Roth IRAs do not require withdrawals until after the death of the owner. Your RMD is the minimum amount you must withdraw from your account each year. Your 2019 RMD is calculated based on the value of your account as of 12/31/18. (*Information source: IRS website)

ASEF FELLOWSHIPS IN SLOVENIA

The American Slovenian Education Foundation (ASEF) is currently accepting applications for fellowships in Slovenia. Full-time students enrolled in a higher education institution can apply for a 10-week summer visit to a Slovenian university, research institution or a company in the area of their study/expertise. The ASEF fellowship program provides financial and educational support, allowing fellows to focus on their academic and professional development. Fellows build lasting relationships with Slovenia. The purpose of the fellowship is to strengthen exchange between Slovenia and the rest of the world with the objective of giving talented students world-wide, preferably of Slovenian heritage, the ability to visit Slovenia while also gaining professional/academic experience.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.asef.net/visiting-slovenia. Application deadline is March 1, 2019.





The ScriptSave® WellRx Prescription Savings Program can reduce the cost of your pet's prescription medications. **Savings average 54%**, and, in some cases, can be 80% or more,* on brand name and generic medications.

- No enrollment fee and no limits on usage
- Everyone in your household can use the same card, including humans
- Accepted at all Martin's Pharmacies

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Q. Can I get my pet's prescriptions filled at the same pharmacy I use for my own prescriptions?**
- A. Yes, with some exceptions. Many pet medications are the same as those prescribed for humans and most pharmacies** will fill your pet prescription for a "human equivalent" medication.
- Q. How can I save on the cost of my pet's prescriptions ?**
- A. Ask your veterinarian to write your pet's prescription for the medication's human equivalent. Then fill the prescription at your favorite participating pharmacy using your ScriptSave WellRx Card and save!
- Q. Can all my pet's prescriptions be filled at my retail pharmacy?**
- A. There are some medications that can only be dispensed through a veterinary clinic. However, many pet prescriptions can be filled at a retail pharmacy, including medications for thyroid, arthritis, pain, ear or eye conditions, and antibiotics. Contact your local pharmacy to see if they carry your pet's medications.

GET YOUR CARD AND START SAVING TODAY:

Website: Visit www.kskjlife.com

- Under Membership click on Member Benefits
- Scroll down to *ScriptSave WellRx* and click on the provided link

App: Download *ScriptSave WellRx* from Apple Store or Google Play...it's free!

- When asked for a Group Number or Invite Code, enter **215**

Need more Information?
We're here to help:

1-800-407-8156

DISCOUNT ONLY – NOT INSURANCE. Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. The range of the discounts will vary depending on the pharmacy or provider chosen and services rendered. This program does not make payments directly to pharmacies or providers. Members are required to pay for all health care services. You may cancel your registration at any time or file a complaint by contacting Customer Care. This program is administered by Medical Security Card Company, LLC of Tucson, AZ. *Based on 2018 national program savings data. All prescription drug are eligible for savings. **At time of printing, the policy at Walmart Pharmacies was NOT to fill human equivalent medications for pet-related prescriptions. For more details about participating pharmacies, please contact ScriptSave WellRx Customer Care at 1-800-407-8156.



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.

DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| Lodge #2 - Charles Jaksich, Louisville, NE | Lodge #44 - Carolyn J. Wilkinson, Decatur, IL | Lodge #143 - Mary Rozman, Joliet, IL |
| Lodge #2 - Louise F. Rade, Joliet, IL | Lodge #50 - Nello Ditommaso, Aliquippa, PA | Lodge #146 - Mary A. Biegacki, Warren, OH |
| Lodge #2 - Lorin L. Schab, Orland Hills, IL | Lodge #50 - Mary Jane Glabicki, Pittsburgh, PA | Lodge #150 - Clara J. Kuznik, Parma, OH |
| Lodge #7 - Eileen Erjavec, Pueblo, CO | Lodge #50 - Robert Goyak, Slippery Rock, PA | Lodge #150 - Scott Sekerak, Chagrin Falls, OH |
| Lodge #7 - Adolph Lauriski, Canon City, CO | Lodge #52 - Everett F. Bagley, Plymouth, IN | Lodge #153 - Joseph R. Banish, Pittsburgh, PA |
| Lodge #7 - Ruth A. Nicklin, Brighton, CO | Lodge #52 - Robert C. Hinga, New Haven, IN | Lodge #169 - Janice P. Ketner, Leipsic, OH |
| Lodge #20 - Dawn R. Lake, Branch, MI | Lodge #52 - Virginia L. Johnson, Indianapolis, IN | Lodge #169 - Mary Mohar, Wickliffe, OH |
| Lodge #20 - Christopher Mewbourn, Ironwood, MI | Lodge #52 - Carmen M. Summers, Paoli, IN | Lodge #169 - Geraldine Todaro, Canton, OH |
| Lodge #20 - Rose A. Monroe, Pittsford, MI | Lodge #59 - Mary E. Klun, Eden Prairie, MN | Lodge #170 - Mildred Ziino, West Covina, CA |
| Lodge #20 - Carl D. Thomas, Grand Ledge, MI | Lodge #59 - Margaret M. Perpruner, Hibbing, MN | Lodge #171 - Ralph J. Mrak, Duluth, MN |
| Lodge #20 - Helen M. Verbos, Ironwood, MI | Lodge #63 - Mary Jane Stark, Parma, OH | Lodge #236 - Bernadine Madronich, San Francisco, CA |
| Lodge #20 - David J. Warren, Canton, MI | Lodge #65 - Kay E. Kohlmann, Muskego, WI | Lodge #300 - Magdalen Brennan, St. Louis, MO |
| Lodge #25 - Janet L. Mosley, Dayton, OH | Lodge #74 - Timothy E. Berg, Decatur, IL | Lodge #300 - Vincent Pavlic, Smithtown, NY |
| Lodge #25 - Barbara E. Shepherd, Dayton, OH | Lodge #74 - Betty L. Bristol, Moline, IL | Lodge #623 - Gary D. Portwood, Richmond, KY |
| Lodge #42 - Arthur J. Chubb, York Haven, PA | Lodge #74 - Fernando A. Olivares, Chicago, IL | Lodge #624 - Mary E. Brogan, Mansfield, OH |
| Lodge #42 - Natalie J. Cibort, Steelton, PA | Lodge #79 - Juanita M. Sandahl, Gurnee, IL | Lodge #624 - Richard L. Campbell Sr., Moss Point, MS |
| Lodge #42 - Roseann M. Lenart, Greenville, PA | Lodge #110 - Kenneth B. Taylor, Zanesville, OH | Lodge #624 - John M. Schaefer, Biloxi, MS |
| Lodge #42 - Hubert T. Rozman, Mechanicsburg, PA | Lodge #110 - Anthony W. Trenta, Norton, OH | Lodge #624 - Rita M. Weathersby, Mendenhall, MS |
| Lodge #42 - Alan R. Thompson York, PA | Lodge #115 - Cheryl A. Hiebert, Wichita, KS | |
| Lodge #44 - Evangeline Hasselberger, Rhinelander, WI | Lodge #115 - Steve C. Kramer, Topeka, KS | |

STEPPING UP



The **Stepping Up Program** will be returning this summer! Look for more details coming soon on the KSKJ Life website and in upcoming issues of The Voice.

IN MEMORY OF

- Juanita Sandahl - Lodge #79**
Mary Chamernik - \$50.00
MaryLou Stefanick - \$50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grampovnik - \$25.00
- Deceased Members of Lodge #79**
Lodge #79 - \$100.00
- Florence Kowaleski - Lodge #42**
Lodge #42 - \$10.00
- Anne Vukmanic - Lodge #42**
Lodge #42 - \$10.00
- John F. Botchie Sr. - Lodge #42**
Lodge #42 - \$10.00
- Natalie Jo Cibort - Lodge #42**
Lodge #42 - \$10.00

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

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

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS FEDERATION

MEETING DATE

A date has been set for next Illinois Federation meeting: Friday, March 22nd. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Slovenian Catholic Center Lemont.

Mike Vidmar

COMBINED JOLIET LODGES

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

Hi everyone,

Just a reminder that the combined Joliet Lodges will have their meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 starting at 7:00pm, T&C Lanes. As always, all Joliet KSKJ members are welcome to attend.

Also, if your lodge has not sold all their raffle tickets for the Youth/Sports Fund, please do so now. At the March meeting, we will pull the winning names for the months of January, February and March. Going forward at each quarterly meeting, we will pull the winning names for the appropriate months, since we will now be meeting on a quarterly basis.

As an added reminder, this is our only fundraiser that we do for the combined Joliet KSKJ Lodges. Your cooperation would be very appreciative.

Until next time.

Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter

MARIJA POMAGAJ MASS

Save the date for the Marija Pomagaj Mass at St Joe's for Joliet Lodges: Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Mike Vidmar

LODGE #1

CHICAGO, IL

ST. STEPHEN LODGE 1 AND ST. ANNE LODGE 170 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Seventy-nine attended the annual party (39 adults from Lodge 1 and 24 from Lodge 170) and 16 children from Lodge 1. Thank you to Luba Novak and her kitchen crew for a delicious lunch of soup, salad, beef stew and polenta, Slovenian sausage and hot dogs. Our thanks to the buffet servers (Lodge 1 officers and youth members), to Don G. Sierzega for providing his annual platter of assorted homemade cookies for dessert and to those who brought potica.

Thanks go to Santa (Pat Sierzega), Mia Wagner for playing Drummer Boy on the saxophone, the Michau/Neetz/Richter/Roskos cousins for singing Jingle Bells and Vince Rigler for entertaining us with many selections on the accordion.

Lodge President Dawn Zamora presented a 10-year Lodge Leader Award certificate to Tom McNally.



Santa delighted the children at the Christmas party

Michelle Whalen, 50-year member from Lodge 1, did not attend the party so her certificate and pen/pencil set were mailed to her.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Many nice door prizes were distributed. Thank you to Irene Sierzega, Joanne Sierzega, Theresa Krampac and the home office for their donations.

We regret, if through oversight, someone's name has been omitted from the thank you list. Please know that volunteering your time, donating baked goods and items for door prizes, buffet-serving and clean-up is very much appreciated. It takes many volunteers to have a successful event and we thank each one of you, whatever your part, for the success of this party.



Lodge 1 and Lodge 170 members enjoyed themselves at the annual joint lodge Christmas party



Dakota Zamora and Tom McNally with their recognition awards

With gratitude, we thank all who donated to the Supporting Soldiers Campaign. 51 packages of undergarments and socks and \$285.00 in monetary donations were received at the party and were sent to Midwest Veterans Closet. God's blessings to you

for your generosity and caring about our soldiers and veterans.

Happy and healthy New Year to all.



2019 Lodge 1 Officers: Patrick J. Sierzega, Fraternal Activities Coordinator/Fraternal Advisory Committee member; Joanne Sierzega, Financial secretary/Treasurer; Dawn Zamora, President/Recording secretary; Rev. Bradley Zamora, Spiritual Advisor

Joanne Sierzega

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

The 36th Annual Christmas Luncheon was held on January 6th at 176 West Elegant Banquet Hall with 79 members/guests in attendance. A short informational meeting was followed by installation of officers. The food was very good, the entertainment excellent and a great beginning to 2019. Eddie Karosa, Jr. provided an afternoon of music and entertainment and many people were out on the dance floor or doing the "chicken dance" in their seats. Our very own Lodge #29 Sales Representative Kathy Lovati provided everyone with a pair of smartphone KSKJ Life gloves, chap stick and fridge magnet. Thanks Kathy!

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



L-R - Colton and Rheagan Boucher, Antolini Zitko, Olivia and Eli Zelinski receiving their Santa gifts.



Debbie & Bob Zelinski at Holiday Party



Georgette & Harold Vota sharing a dance at the Holiday Party

Congratulations to 50-year Lodge members – Michael Ganster, Andrew Gerl, Janet Gerl, Robert Mandel, Thomas Piskur, Richard Sargent, Joseph Simunovich and Eleanor Teague.

Everyone has their own favorite chili recipe. Why not enter it in the Lodge contest? It's always fun to taste all the entries and try to win the coveted trophy for the year. The Annual Chili Cook-Off and meeting will be on Sunday, March 3, 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Park.

Join us at a meeting or at one of our events to get the latest Lodge news. Like us and follow us on Facebook: KSKJ St. Francis de Sales Lodge #29.

Winter has decided to make its return so stay warm in the meantime. Happy Valentine's Day this month too!



Sally Boettcher & Louie Schmidberger tearing up the dance floor



A table of members enjoying the party

Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Reporter

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #53

WAUKEGAN, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Despite the snowy weather, our Lodge officers were installed at our January 13th meeting. All incumbent officers were reelected to serve in 2019 along with our newly elected auditor, Kelsey Glabowicz. Plans for lodge activities in 2019 include a fall bus trip for lodge members to Miller Park in Milwaukee for a Cubs vs. Brewers game in addition to other family activities for the summer. More information will follow as we confirm dates and event information.

February 16th will be the date for the reigning Basketball champs of St. Joe's to return to the Waukegan Basketball tournament to be held at the Field House. Come on out to support the teams (and have a laugh or two, or a groan or two!).

A reminder to RSVP to Sue Dolence (847-662-0908) or Vicki Drinka (847-244-8949) for the Annual 50 Year Member /Lodge Leaders Luncheon on March 10th. Primo Restaurant in Gurnee is the site for the Brunch meeting which will start at 11:00 AM. Reservations will be accepted no later than March 4th. Member cost will be \$10 per person; guests are welcome at a cost of \$20 per person. We look forward to seeing you there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10th- Annual Lodge Leaders and 50-year Member Brunch Meeting at 11:00 a.m. at Primo Restaurant - Gurnee IL

April 14 - Regular Meeting - 9:15 a.m. at Bertrand Lanes

May - NO Meeting

May peace be with you all,

Victoria Drinka
Secretary

LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

Happy Valentine's Day!

On Thursday, December 13, 2018, Alan Mihelich presented the Guardian Angel Community Center (Groundwork Services) with our collection of can goods and other staples, as well as a monetary donation that we had collected at our annual lodge Christmas party. This year we had collected can goods worth about \$250.00 and a monetary donation of \$300.00. As always, they are very appreciative of our generosity.



Alan Mihelich, Financial Secretary, presented the Guardian Angel Community Center with can goods & other staples along with a monetary donation.

Also, members of St. Genevieve Lodge #108 had participated once again in the Wreaths Across America program of volunteering their services to help lay/place holiday wreaths on the gravesites of veterans at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery that was held on Saturday, December 15, 2018. The following members were there to help: Renee Herbst, Rita Bottomley, Beverly Hann, Alan Mihelich and Pauline Mihelich. Thank you all for volunteering your time and service.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

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. Check-in at 12:30pm – Skating from 1:00pm to 2:30pm – Pizza & Pop from 2:30 to 3:45pm in conference room. Postcards will be sent.

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

That's it for now.



A field of veterans gravesites adorned with holiday wreaths

*Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

NEWS UPDATE

Despite the heartbreaking Chicago Bears playoff loss later that day, members from St. John the Baptist Lodge 143 gathered for some fun and fraternalism on January 6th at their annual Christmas Party. Bowling and pizza provided the right balance for an enjoyable event. Over 30 adult and youth members took part in the afternoon festivities at Crest Hill Lanes. Members were generous as well with donations to the Supporting Soldiers Campaign. A lodge meeting

took place after lunch which included the Installation of the 2019 Lodge Officers and an acknowledgement to our 50-year members.



The bowling alley was filled with Bears fans that afternoon, as evidenced by this group of youth members.



Molly Mravle and Sophie Sleyko are all smiles at the Christmas Party.



Youth members anxiously await the outcome of their teammate's throw. Could it be a strike?!

*Lauren Baltz
Voice Reporter*

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

MINNESOTA

LODGE #59

EVELETH, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Eveleth's Lodge #59 had a busy meeting on Sunday, January 6. Lodge member of the year Amy Erjavec Brazerol received her certificate from Activity Coordinator Heidi Coldagelli and son Reno Coldagelli. The auditors, Gloria Leseman, Frank Erjavec, and Dawn Barchus did their audit under the watchful eyes of Tony and Connie Menart.



Lodge #59 member Rosemary Mattson, who is also on the Quad City Food Shelf advisory board, presents the Charitable Giving check to Karl Oberstar, Jr., Food Shelf Coordinator, Lodge #196 member. Our lodges are huge supporters of the Quad City Food Shelf.

Rosemary Mattson

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

ANNUAL SLEIGH RIDE

Our annual Sleigh Ride will occur on Sunday, February 17th, from 1-3:00PM at Countryside Rides (4488 West Lismore Road). There is no charge for members and \$8.00 for non-members. Please call Frank Bucar at 218-626-1928 or e-mail bucarf@gmail.com by Tuesday, February 12th if you would like to join in the fun. Dress warm and bring a dish to share during our social time. Coney's hot dogs, hot chocolate, and apple cider will be provided. Come out and join the fun!



L-R: Lodge #59 Person of the Year Amy Erjavec, Reno Coldagelli, Heidi Coldagelli

UPCOMING EVENTS

Other activities planned are the next meeting will be February 2, after Saturday 4:00PM Mass. The MN Federation dinner is coming up February 3rd at

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Join Lodge 171 members for the annual Sleigh Ride on Feb 17th!



KSKJ Members gather for a group photo at Lodge 171's recent Christmas Party



Youth members were enthusiastic as they received gifts from Santa at the annual lodge Christmas party

Know someone who might like to be a part of KSKJ? Give Sharon Bucar a call at 218-626-1928 or E-mail to: sharonmbucar@gmail.com.

Frank Bucar

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

2019 LODGE OFFICERS

Blessed Virgin of Help Lodge #196 recently held their 2019 Lodge Officer Elections and the following pictured members were elected: Bob Finc (#3 Auditor), Katherine Trampusch (Membership Committee Chair), Rocco Leoni (#1 Auditor), Marianne Nanti (#2 Auditor), Le Schutte (Seargent-at-Arms), Stacy Oberstar (Fraternal Activities Coordinator), Leo Skrbec (Vice President), Yvonne Skrbec (Financial Secretary/ Treasurer/Recording Secretary), and Karl Oberstar Jr. (President).



Karl Oberstar Jr.

OHIO

OHIO AREA NEWS

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES AT ST. VITUS PARISH

David Petrovic will be the guest speaker on Feb. 3, 2019, Sunday, in the lower church hall of St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 after the 9:00AM Mass in St. Vitus Church.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #25

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING MEETINGS

New Year greetings to one and all. This just a brief note to advise you of our February meeting which will be held on Sunday, February 10th. It will just be a regular meeting. Our 50-year honoree dinner, as per our change at our annual meeting, will be on Sunday, March 10th at 12:00PM (noon) in the school auditorium. Reservations are required; please call me by March 4th at 216-531-0230. This is a must as we have to advise our cooks the final head count.

John C. Turek

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

NEWS UPDATE

Here's hoping that all of you have had a joyous and healthy start to the New Year! Now, all we need to do is get through winter in Cleveland and all will be good. We enjoyed a wonderful Browns season - they showed the most life in God only knows how many years. I think we finally found us a quarterback, too. The Cavs, sadly, are another story. The Indians will hopefully start to show some life soon.

We presented the check to Fr. Douglas Brown, pastor of Mary Queen of Peace Parish. We held a Matching Funds benefit for the school in October. He was very grateful for the matching donation, as was the parish secretary. Again, he thanked us for the money.

This month we are planning and selling squares for the Big Game Party (AFC vs NFC) held on February 3rd. The tickets and board are currently fairly open. Tickets are \$25 and entitle the buyer to watch the game at St. Mary of the Assumption's school cafeteria. They have a big screen TV, and we provide hot food and beverages. A good time is usually had - depending on the game, of course.

David is a 25-year-old actor, singer, national speaker, and teacher.

David graduated cum laude from Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio, Class of 2015, with a Bachelor of Art degree in Middle Childhood Education. David graduated from, respectively, Julie Billiard School, Lake Catholic High School and Notre Dame College. He completed a graduate certificate in theology from St. Joseph's College in Maine, May 2018. In August 2018 he was hired as a full-time junior high religion teacher at St. Ignatius of Antioch School, Cleveland, Ohio. David powered through struggles and bullying despite having autism and Tourette's. His focus is to inform and enlighten others about the realities and potentials of those with autism and differences. David reveals his faith journey to fulfillment with life lessons for all. David and his mother, Sandy Petrovic (nee Avsec), co-wrote a book entitled "Expect A Miracle: A Mother/Son Asperger Journey of Determination and Triumph."

There will be pastry, coffee and juice provided in the lower church hall after the 9:00AM Mass. David will speak after the 9:00AM Mass in the lower church hall. Parking is available directly across the street from St. Vitus Church. A book sale and signing will conclude at the end of David's presentation with discounted price of \$20, tax included. Payment is by cash or check only.

David's presentation is sponsored by St. Vitus Parish, St. Vitus Alumni, St. Anne Lodge #4 AMLA, St. Vitus KSKJ Lodge #25, Christ The King KSKJ Lodge #226, and Slovenian Women Union of America Scholarship Foundation. David is the son of Frank and Sandy Petrovic and the brother of Steve and Craig Petrovic and reside in Mentor, Ohio. Note: See attached flyer in pdf file format with photo of David Petrovic. There is no admission charge but free will offerings will be accepted. Net funds raised will then be donated to Julie Billiard School. A great opportunity for elementary, high school and college aged students to have the opportunity to listen and learn from a young person. Bring family and friends!

Stane Kuhar

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

To start the month of February off right, we will have a meet and greet at Quaker Steak and Lube on Canal Road, Valley View, OH. This will be the meeting where we pull the numbers for the squares and finalize menu options. Hope to see you around!



Andrew Kmet and Josie Kmet present the Matching Funds check to Fr. Douglas Brown

Josie Kmet

LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

NEWS UPDATE

The St. Mary's Parish Fall Festival, which was a Matching Funds event for our lodge as well as St. Anne #150, was a wonderful day and a nice fundraiser for the parish. Dozens of our members worked in preparation for the event and at the festival,

while many more of our members, parishioners and friends supported by attending.

Our Christmas party on December 9 was another very nice fraternal event for the kids and adults. After playing and singing of Christmas carols, we had fun with guessing games, door prizes from the lodge and Home Office, and Santa Claus. The food was delicious, and the company was the best.

At our annual meeting we re-elected our current slate of officers, who will be sworn in at our January 17 meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue. We'll also have meetings in March, June, September, November, and December, as we have scaled back the meeting schedule. All members are welcome.

Our Balinca League is planning a move to the NEO Sports Plant, 20001 Euclid Avenue, with the short season beginning in early February, probably on Mondays. Let me know if you'd like to join us; we always have a great time.

Our St. Joseph Day Communion Breakfast will be Sunday, March 17, at St. Mary's in Collinwood, with Mass at 10 a.m. and breakfast following in the parish hall. All members welcome!

Best wishes for health, wealth and true happiness in 2019 to all our members and friends!

John Nemeč
Fraternal Activities Coordinator



The St. Joseph #169 Clarinet Quartet joins the young singers at the lodge Christmas Party at St. Mary's on December 9.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

JANUARY LODGE MEETING

The officers elected in December were officially sworn into their positions during our January Meeting and Adult New Year's Party. Other business discussed was our calendar of events for 2019 and ensuring our members are aware of Lodge happenings.



Our Adult New Year's Party followed the meeting. Many thanks to all who brought a dish--the food was excellent-- and to those who brought prizes for our raffle. It was a wonderfully fun time!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

Mar 29 - 5:30 PM (The NASH) Lodge Meeting and Fish Fry

May 4 - 10:00 AM (Slovenian National Home) Join Hands Day and Lodge Meeting

May 10 - 6:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Night at the Races

Jun 2 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

July 20 - 10:00 AM (St. Bernard Golf Course) Dave Koprowski Memorial Golf Outing

Aug 31 - 7:00 PM (Lake County Captains Stadium) Lake County Captains Game. Join us in the Officers

Club for a night of baseball and fireworks. Christ the King Lodge Members: \$9.00. \$35.00 for non-member guests. Evening includes an all-you-can-eat menu of burgers, hot dogs, sides, chips, and cookies. Please contact Chuck Potenga (cpotenga@wowway.com or 440-582-5169) for additional details and to RSVP. (Maximum number: 50 people.)

Sept 1 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

Oct 6 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

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

Nov 24 - 10:00 AM (St. Vitus Church) Mass following by Christ the King Celebration Dinner

Dec 1 - 10:00 AM (Slovenian National Home) Lodge Meeting

Dec 1 - 12:00 PM (Slovenian National Home) Youth Christmas Party

We hope your 2019 is off to a great start and look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Lodge 226 event!

Tamara Zupancic

WISCONSIN

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Greetings from Willard

Mary of Perpetual Help #136 has a couple changes in Officers. The current Officers are President Edward Bayuk, Vice President and Membership Chairperson- Joanne Trunkel, Financial Secretary and Voice reporter- Lonna Rakovec, Fraternal Activities Director- Bethany Gosar, Treasurer- Melinda Deavers, Recording Secretary- Gene Rakovec, Auditors: Jeremiah Rakovec, Robert Trunkel and Edward Perko.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our first Matching Funds will be February 9, 2019. It is a steak feed co-sponsored by the Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors and will benefit the Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors. The Steak feed will be at the Neillsville Legion starting at 5:00pm. Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. This proceeds will benefit the disabled of all ages in the area. Please come and join us.

For our members the Hunting and Fishing Jamboree will be March 10, 2019 starting with a pot-luck lunch at noon. There will be prizes for the largest Fish (adults only game fish and children both game and rough fish), Buck, Doe, Bear, Turkey, Goose and Ducks. If you have not already registered your 2018 Hunting and Fishing game, please do so by calling Robert Trunkel at 715-267-7264 or email him at jobobt@tds.net. We will play bingo and there will be door prizes. All members and families are invited.

*Lonna Rakovec - Financial Secretary
genelonna@hotmail.com, 715-267-7105*

LODGE #144

SHEBOYGAN, WI

UPCOMING EVENTS

On March 2nd, the lodge will have our Family Bowling Event at Maple Lanes. It will begin at 2:00PM. Young and old are invited to come and join in the fun. Not a bowler? Come anyway and join the KSKJ Life members. After the bowling is completed, refreshments will be served. If you will be bowling, please call Tammy Miller at 452-2342 to let her know you will be coming.

On May 18th, we will be doing our Join Hands Day Project. Each year, we clean up Greendale Cemetery to get it ready for Memorial Day. Work begins at 9:00 AM. We need as much help as we can get so that we can finish the job as soon as possible.

I realize that Saturday can be hectic, but we would appreciate your help. Bring any garden equipment that you have.

On September 8th, will be holding our Annual Dinner and Fellowship event. As soon as all the details are in place, flyers will be sent out and it will be in the Voice. Mark your calendars for that date.

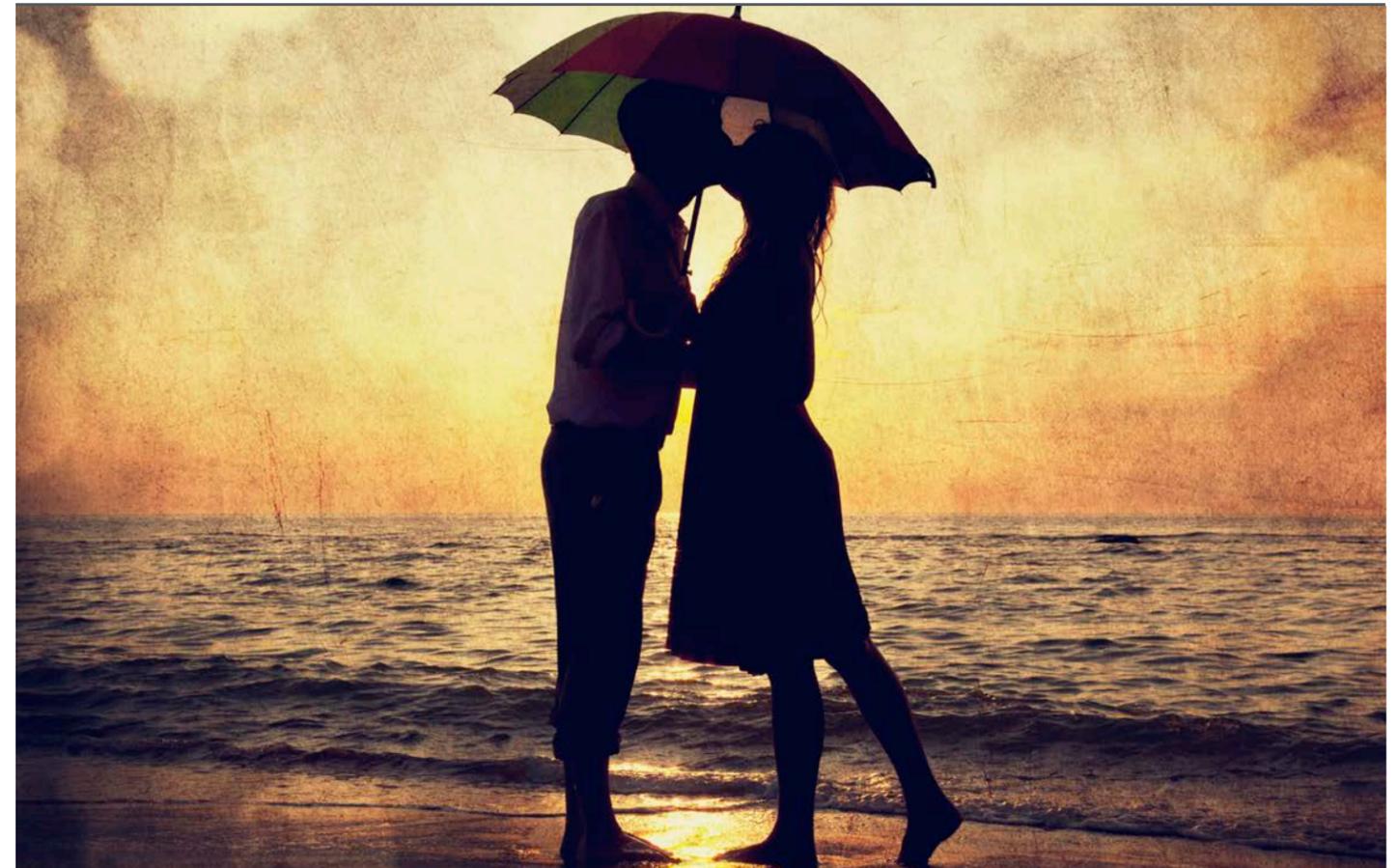
Speaking of the Annual Dinner, each year we give out Financial Aid Awards to members attending College / University or a Technical School. Applications will go out by April 1st. If for some reason you do not receive one, please contact Pat Slapnick at 458-1469. The Awards will be given out on that date.

*Pat Slapnick
President and Voice Reporter*

OTHER NEWS & NOTES

SEND IN YOUR LODGE UPDATE

Remember to send in all lodge news and events to voice@kskjlife.com by the second Friday of each month. Additionally, feel free to submit feature articles of interest for consideration.



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Looking for the perfect gift this Valentine's Day? When flowers and chocolates can only go so far, show how much you care with a gift to protect your loved ones.



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