

AUGUST 2019



KSKJ VOICE

JOIN HANDS RECAP

125TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS



Photo: Vice Chair of National Board
Phil H. at the Soldiers' and Sailors'
monument in Cleveland.



Our 125th Anniversary Celebration is this month!

Look for a full recap in an upcoming issue of the Voice

KSKJ VOICE

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

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CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL!



A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE
WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



School bells are ringing loud and clear; vacation is over, school is here!

Later this month students of all ages will be welcomed back to school. Preschools, elementary schools, high schools, trade schools, community colleges and universities will open their doors for the 2019-2020 school season.

Parents of college students will most likely be focused on moving their child in the dorms and making sure they have an adequate meal plan, so they don't have to use their "emergency funds" for multiple late-night pizza runs. Life insurance is not something parents tend to think about at this time...but it should be.

According to cnbc.com, the share of student loan borrowers owing at least \$50,000 has more than tripled in the past decade, from 5% to 16% (2017 report). Students will sometimes take out private student loans without giving any thought to what would happen if he or she passed away before the loan was repaid. Many private student loans require a co-signer, and parents typically step into that role. This means if the student is unable to pay back the loans (such as in the event of death), the parent is required to pay them back.

If you are suddenly responsible for a \$50,000 private student loan and have to take over payments, you could find yourself struggling to make the payments and keep up with saving for retirement and managing your own financial responsibilities.

A parent who co-signs on a child's private student loan should consider a term life insurance policy on that child. A KSKJ Life term life policy is a good idea for the following reasons:

- It is an affordable form of life insurance, especially if the insured is young and healthy.

- You can choose from either a 10, 20- or 30-year term - a great fit for individuals looking to protect their families over a specific period of time.
Face amounts and premiums are flexible, allowing you to customize a policy that is right for you and your family.

This September, KSKJ Life will be participating in Life Insurance Awareness Month (LIAM), a national awareness campaign that the nonprofit organization Life Happens created and has coordinated for the past 15 years. It brings attention to the importance of life insurance. The spokesperson for this year's campaign is Brooke Shields. Brooke is an actress, model, author and designer, but most importantly, a mother. As a mom of two teen girls, she's fiercely protective of them and their future. And her message rings true, especially in this back-to-school season: "Protecting my family financially means everything to me. That's why I have life insurance, and you should too."

Lauren Baltz
Marketing Coordinator

JOIN HANDS RECAP

Each Spring, KSKJ Life members across the nation come together to “join hands” and make a difference in their communities through charitable projects that connect youths and adults. The following is a list of lodges that participated in a Join Hands event during the months of April, May and June. Several other lodges have planned an event in late summer/early fall. These events will be published after they occur.

Lodge #1 - St. Stephen (Chicago, IL) and Lodge #170 - St. Anne (Lemont, IL): Washed 79 windows at the St. Mary's Retreat House in Lemont.

Lodge #2 - St. Joseph (Joliet, IL): Weeding and planting flower beds at Sunny Hill Nursing Home.

Lodge #50 - Blessed Virgin (Pittsburgh, PA) : Placing Flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville, PA.

Lodge #59 – Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Eveleth, MN): Cleaned up children's graves at the Eveleth Cemetery.

Lodge #63 – St. Lawrence (Cleveland, OH): Prepped flower beds and planted annuals at the Slovenian Cultural Gardens in Cleveland.

Lodge #65 – St. John the Evangelist (Milwaukee, WI): Assembled and donated 31 "Birthday Bags" for children at Project Concern.

Lodge #69 - St. Joseph (Great Falls, MT): Cleaned over local 50 gravesites of deceased lodge members, relatives and friends.

Lodge #79 - St. Mary (Waukegan, IL): Cleaned up and gardened around the Midwest Veterans Closet headquarters.

Lodge #108 - St. Joseph (Joliet, IL): Placed 28 American Flags in the Grotto area of St. Joseph Cemetery and hung up a poppy wreath to honor the veterans that had lost their lives.

Lodge #136 - Mary of Perpetual Help (Willard, WI): Put flags on the graves of service men and women for Memorial Day at the Holy Family Cemetery.

Lodge #143 - St. John the Baptist (Joliet, IL): Packed boxes of food for the underprivileged at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL.

Lodge #144 - Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Sheboygan, WI): Cleaned up the grounds around Greendale Cemetery in Sheboygan.

Lodge #153 - St. Jerome (Strabane, PA): Prepped food at the Miraculous Medal Church in Meadow Lands and distributed to the local food pantry.

Lodge #169 - St. Joseph (Cleveland, OH): Volunteer cleanup at the historic Soldier's & Sailor's Monument located at Public Square in Cleveland.

Lodge #171 - St. Elizabeth (Duluth, MN) : Cleaned the grounds around Stowe Elementary School & St. Elizabeth's Church in Duluth.

Lodge #196 – Blessed Virgin of Help (Gilbert, MN): Planted flowers, groomed the lawn and swept up the winter sand off the long sidewalk in front of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Lodge #197 – St. Stephen (St. Cloud, MN): Picking up and cleaned in and around the Catholic Charities Building.

Lodge #226 – Christ the King (Cleveland, OH): Cleaned up the grounds, gardened at the Slovenian National Home in Cleveland.

Thank you to all those who participated in a Join Hands project this spring!



JOINHANDSDAY
it starts with us



Lodge #65



Lodge #171



Lodge #153



Lodges #1 & 170



Lodge #136



Lodge #197



Lodge #143



Lodge #59



Lodge #196



Lodge #2



Lodge #144



Lodge #63



Lodge #50



Lodge #169



Lodge #108



Lodge #69

WAUKEGAN LODGES GOLF TOURNAMENT

MORE THAN JUST A GOLF OUTING

St. Joseph #53 and St. Mary #79 of Waukegan hosted their annual golf outing on Saturday June 22 at the Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan. Ninety-six golfers gathered on a warm sunny breezy afternoon, for a little competition, a little fun, and a little charity along the way. In an effort to support the community, golfers were notified in advance that we would once again be collecting "meals-in-a-can" for the Midwest Veterans Closet in North Chicago. Sadly, many of our veterans and active military do not have the means to cook for themselves, so the stews, chilis, chunky soups, etc are a great help to them. In total, 326 meals were collected, along with \$120.00 in cash donations. These amounts, along with a \$100.00 Charitable Giving award from KSKJ Life were presented to a very appreciative MVC President and Lodge 79 member, Mary Carmody.

But the charity doesn't end there. Back by popular demand, we reached out to our local members and friends, asking them if they would care to sponsor a hole, with proceeds going to the KSKJ Life Educational Grant Fund. Our generous members responded, raising enough money (\$1100.00) to fully pay for one Grant this coming school year. Thank you so much.

After an enjoyable day on the course, everyone headed to the clubhouse for dinner, prizes, and raffles. After checking and double checking the team scores, the winners were announced. The skilled team of Hank Govekar, Jim Grom, Tony Degrande, and Art Degrande finished with the lowest team score, 10 under par. Impressive!

This year, the par 3- 17th hole was dedicated to the memory of lifelong KSKJ member Andy Grom, who passed away last fall. Through donations received from Andy's family, the men's and women's closest to the pin contest was funded. In fitting fashion, the first time winner of this contest on the men's side was none other than Andy's nephew and Godson, Adam VanTilburg. Capturing the women's honor was Debbie Slater. The gift card awards were presented by Wendy Grom, who shared Andy's love of KSKJ with all of us.

On behalf of the Waukegan lodges, we would like to again thank our friends from Joliet and Milwaukee who came out and played in our event. We hope you enjoyed yourselves. It was also an honor to have with us KSKJ Life Chair of the Board, Rudy Krasovec, who spoke about our rich 125 year history, and the opportunities that lie ahead. Thank you for joining us. You're always welcomed in Waukegan, Rudy!

Thank you to the many volunteers that donated and worked so hard behind the scenes to put this event on – Registration: Lori and Dennis. Raffles: Sue, Debbie, Dawn, Albina, and Mimi. Hole Sponsor signs: Vicki. Cart Snacks: Gail, Bernie C. Scoring: Lance, Glenn, John J, Bob C. Treasurer: Hank – couldn't have done it without any of you.

Planning for the 2020 event has already begun. Won't you join us?

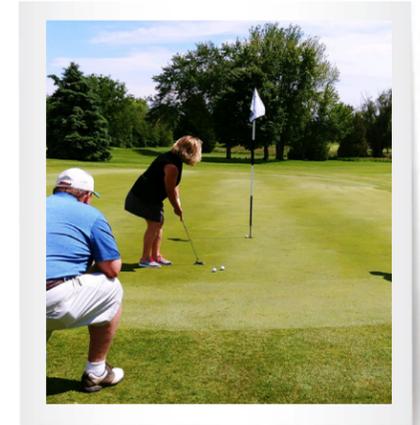
MaryLou Stefanick
KSKJ Life National Board Member & Lodge 79 Financial Secretary

WAUKEGAN LODGES GOLF TOURNAMENT

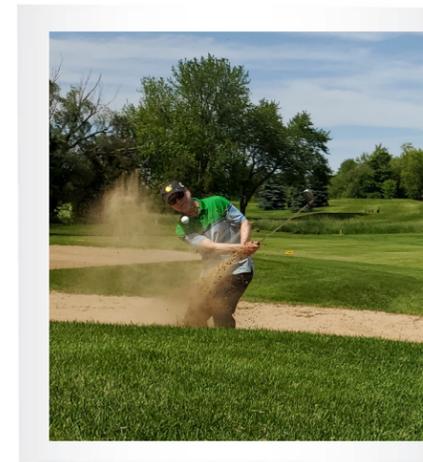
MORE THAN JUST A GOLF OUTING



Midwest Veterans Closet volunteers were grateful to receive "Meals in a Can", donated by the golfers attending the Waukegan Lodges Golf Outing on June 22.



Dawn Deason gets ready to sink her birdie putt.



Hitting out of the trap.....no problem.



Retired U.S. Navy veteran and volunteer Terry Devanie, St. Joseph #53 Lodge Secretary Vicki Drinka, Midwest Veterans Closet President Mary Carmody, and St. Mary #79 Lodge Secretary MaryLou Stefanick present a \$100.00 "Charitable Giving" Award check on behalf of KSKJ Life. Over 325 meals-in-a-can were collected at the June golf outing.



Dana Lainio with her parents Mark and Michele Klemm and her cousin Kelsey Glabowicz pose with the hole sponsor sign honoring their late father / grandfather, Ron Dolence Sr.



St. Mary #79 Fraternal Activity Coordinator Lori Mivshek with her team of Adam Boness, and Vicki and Brad Howard at the Waukegan Lodges Golf Outing.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA AND ARMED FORCES DAY

On Thursday, 20 June 2019, the Slovenian Embassy in Washington with the Ambassador Stanislav Vidovič and the Defense Attaché Colonel Mojca Pešec hosted a reception to mark National Day and Armed Forces Day. The guest of honor at the event was the Congressman of the Slovene heritage Paul Gosar. The event was attended by over 250 guests, including representatives of the National Security Council, the State Department, Pentagon, and other branches of the US Administration, members of NGOs, ambassadors, as well Slovenian community local to Washington DC. KSKJ Life was represented at the event by Chair of the National Board Rudy Krasovec, who attended the event to show support for this special occasion.



KSKJ Life Board Chair, Rudy Krasovec, (left) is greeted at the entrance to the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Stanislav Vidovič and Mrs. Ljiljana Vidovič who were hosting the event.



Rudy Krasovec is pictured with Brigadier General Gregory T. White, Director of Joint Staff-Colorado; Colorado National Guard-Joint Force Headquarters. Pilots from the Republic of Slovenia train in Centennial Colorado as part of Joint agreement between the US and Slovenia. General White was attending the event in conjunction with the Armed Forces Day of the Republic Of Slovenia.

*Rudy Krasovec
Chair of the National Board of KSKJ Life*

28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

The Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Andrej G. Rode, City of Cleveland Mayor, Frank G. Jackson, and Councilman, Michael D. Polensek, hosted a celebration commemorating Slovenian Statehood Day at Cleveland City Hall on Thursday, June 13th.

Phil Hrvatin, Vice Chair of the National Board of Directors, represented KSKJ Life at the event, among other members of the Cleveland-Slovenian community. A special visit was made by the Slovenian Ambassador to the United States, Stanislav Vidovič. Joe Valencic served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.



*L-R: Willoughby Hills Councilman John Plecnik, Joe Valencic master of ceremonies, Phil Hrvatin KSKJ Vice Chairman, Andrej Rode Consul General Republic of Slovenia, Mike Polensek Councilman City of Cleveland, Frank Jackson Mayor City of Cleveland, Stanislav Vidovič Ambassador Republic of Slovenia, Kenny Yuko Ohio State Senator
Photo credit: Ruggero Fatica - City of Cleveland Photographic Bureau*

Phil Hrvatin

Vice Chair of the National Board of Directors



KSKJ LIFE MEMBER BENEFIT
HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM RETURNS THIS FALL

Who ALL KSKJ Life members who attend an eligible High School or College and meet the requirements

What ONE-Time \$1,000 Educational Grant

How Applications and Eligibility @ www.kskjlife.com/grants

When Enrollment September 1-30, 2019

Past Educational Grant Recipient Rachel M. from Derby, CT

Supporting young adult members as they pursue education



Save the Date

YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Chicago, IL
June 2020



KSKJ LIFE 125TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBER STORIES

ANDREA OSTROWSKI, KSKJ LIFE MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND LODGE #65 OFFICER, SHARES HER KSKJ STORY

I can honestly say that I would not be here without KSKJ Life.

Over 47 years ago, my parents, Rudy Pugel from Milwaukee and (then) Pat Jerina from Waukegan, met at a KSKJ Basketball Tournament in Cleveland. A little over a year later, in May of 1973, they married and chose Wisconsin as their home. They went on to have three children, my older brother, Mark, me in the middle, and then my younger sister, Christa. Growing up as members of St. John's #65, we attended many KSKJ Life events. My favorite events were the basketball & bowling tournaments. These events gave my siblings and I an opportunity to meet people from all over the Midwest. The strong bonds we formed resulted in traveling to see friends even outside of KSKJ events. We became extremely close with John Churnovic from Joliet along with his whole family. We traveled to Joliet and they came to Milwaukee for many birthdays, graduations, 4th of July celebrations, and sometimes "just because." His daughter Diana & I are still best friends to this very day.



Andrea and Diana in 1992 (top) and present day (bottom).

When we were about 16, Diana and I met 2 friends from Cleveland - Dan Orzech and Derek Deptowicz - while at a Bowling Tournament in Waukegan. We were introduced to their siblings and friends and many other lifelong friendships were formed. Diana and I stood up in each other's' weddings. Several Cleveland friends traveled all the way to Milwaukee to attend my college graduation party and my wedding. Many friendships were formed with people from Milwaukee, Waukegan, Joliet, Indianapolis, Cleveland, and Steelton because of the Basketball and Bowling tournaments.



Andrea Ostrowski, Dan Orzech, Derek Deptowicz, Jon Orzech and Diana Tyda in 1995.

In 2014, I was encouraged to run for the National Activities Director position as part of the Fraternal Board. Before deciding to run, the most memorable advice I received was from my grandmother, Fran Jerina of Waukegan, IL whose words served as a turning point in my KSKJ leadership career. Just days after her funeral, I boarded a plane to the 2014 National Convention which was held in Orlando, FL and officially ran (and won!) the position of National Activities Director. During my term from 2014-2018, I learned more about the operations of KSKJ Life as well as the financial landscape which helps drive fraternal initiatives, programs and member benefits.

After my term ended in 2018, I continue to serve and support members in a new role at the home office.

2019 ASEF FELLOWS

The American Slovenian Education Foundation (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 word-wide, preferably of Slovenian heritage, the ability to visit Slovenia while also gaining professional/academic experience.

Below are KSKJ Life members who were awarded a fellowship to Slovenia in 2019 (travel dates are built around their schedules and take place between June and September). Congratulations 2019 Fellows!

As Member Engagement Coordinator, my goal is to continue working with members and support fraternalism and promote KSKJ Life as this organization has done so much for me and my family.



2019 in Cleveland: Derek Deptowicz, Danielle Churnovic, Andrea Ostrowski, Dan Orzech and Christa Kerber.

My advice to you is to GET INVOLVED and don't be afraid to travel! Become active in your local lodge activities; participate in National programs and initiatives; invite your friends and family to join with you or encourage those you love to stay connected. There are many upcoming events to meet people both near and far and you never know – you just may meet your future spouse or new best friend! Either way, you'll connect with fellow KSKJ Life members who will become lifelong friends.

This is my KSKJ Story.

*Andrea Ostrowski
Member Engagement Coordinator
Lodge #65*



Thomas Fitzsimmons
Lodge #257

Thomas Fitzsimmons is a visual communicator with a passion for multimedia. Thomas will be interning at Studio Siposh doing video production and working alongside filmmakers and aerial cinematographers. Thomas has studied communication and graphic design and plans to attain a master's degree in Theology in the future at the Pontifical Atheneum of Sant Anselmo in Rome.



Tina Rozman
Lodge #169

Tina Rozman is currently entering her third year at the University of Cincinnati. She is studying nursing and is also a cadet in the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). She is at the top of her ROTC class and has been on the academic Dean's List each semester of college. Tina is a member of the National Society of Pershing Rifles, Student Nurse Association, and multiple volunteer organizations.



Rachel Krevh
Lodge #169

Rachel Krevh graduates from Xavier University in May, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. She will be attending Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in the fall, to begin to pursue her career as a physician. Rachel has done prior research at Xavier University about the oxidative mechanism of Copper Amine Oxidases, and at University of Cincinnati's National Science Foundation research program, where she studied the anti-fouling properties of carbon nanotube-fiber electrodes.

LODGE #115 CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

ST. VERONICA LODGE #115 HELD A MATCHING FUNDS EVENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR 125TH CELEBRATION THIS PAST JUNE

On the evening of June 29, 2019, St. Veronica Lodge #115 celebrated the 125th Anniversary of KSKJ Life by hosting a Slovenian Wine Tasting and 50/50 raffle Matching Funds Event. This special matching funds event benefited the Police Athletic League of Kansas City, Kansas was a huge success! The Police Athletic League's purpose is to connect kids, cops and community.

Approximately 160 St. Veronica Lodge members and guests enjoyed tasting 7 different Slovenian wines along with traditional polish sausage sandwiches, old-fashioned potato salad and cole slaw. The best part of the meal was the home-made apple strudels and the other Slovenian desserts that were served.

We also appreciated April Sleyko and Cathi Davis from the KSKJ Life home office for attending our matching funds event. A big thank you goes out to all the Lodge Officers who helped make this event so successful. A special thanks goes to Julie Schneller, Monica Racki and Patty Horton for all their coordination and hard work!

*Chuck Racki
President, St. Veronica Lodge #115*



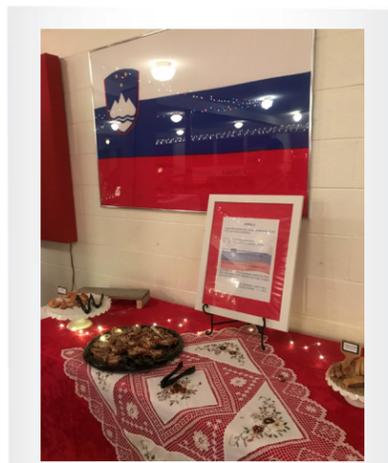
St. Veronica Lodge members did a great job preparing and running the event: L-R Monica Racki, Patricia Horton, Joanne Ohmes, Julie Schneller, Chuck Racki.



Polka music filled the air during St. Veronica Lodge's Matching Funds event to celebrate KSKJ Life's 125th birthday.



St. Veronica Lodge members and guests enjoyed fellowship, good food and drink during our KSKJ Life 125th Anniversary Matching Funds Event.



The lovely dessert table included poticas, apple strudels, and other delicious Slovenian sweets.

MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE

MINNESOTA LODGES 196 & 197 EACH HELD MATCHING FUNDS EVENTS THIS SPRING



Yvonne Skrbec, Marianne Nanti, and Le Schutte were a big help in setting up the event space before the Spring Gala fundraiser.

Blessed Virgin of Help Lodge #196 held our First Matching Funds Event for 2019 on Friday, May 3rd, partnering with Marquette Catholic School's Home and School Association of Virginia, Minnesota. We assisted them with their Annual Spring Gala which is the School's largest fundraiser. All money raised will go towards purchasing new playground equipment for the School. We are planning to present a Matching Funds Check of \$2,000 to the School in the upcoming weeks or at our next Lodge meeting in September. It is safe to say that the Spring Gala event was a huge success! Thank you to all the folks who came out and supported this very special event and to Yvonne Skrbec, Marianne Nanti, and Le Schutte representing our Lodge at the event.

*Submitted by
Karl Oberstar, Jr.*



Pictured from left to right: Trudi Amundson (Executive director of SFMC), Paul Kaiser (KSKJ Life Home Office), Michael Retka, Eugene Retka, Robyn Gray (SFMC), & Janet Retka.

St. Stephen Lodge #197 presented a Matching Funds check for \$1,000 to St. Francis Music Center in Little Falls, MN on June 25th. The money will be used for financial aid for students. St. Francis Music Center is a ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN. Their mission of is to provide high quality arts education to the local rural population. The Music Center promotes artistic growth among all people in our communities; encourages lifelong involvement in the arts and to this end provides a place where students at all levels of ability can come together to learn about and experience the arts.

Members worked at a Pasta Dinner fundraiser April 6th, 2019.

*Submitted by
Michael Retka*

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.

JUNE & JULY 2019

- Lodge #07 - Buddy M. Morisset Jr., Fort Collins, CO
- Lodge #20 - Wesley D. Alspaugh, Cassopolis, MI
- Lodge #20 - Phil Matthews Jr., Kentwood, MI
- Lodge #20 - William L. Stewart, Grand Rapids, MI
- Lodge #25 - Barbara A. Thompson, Canton, OH
- Lodge #29 - Leonard B. Bastian, Freeport, IL
- Lodge #42 - Edward G. Behrmann, Larksville, PA
- Lodge #42 - Anna M. Carson, Lewistown, PA
- Lodge #42 - Alfred Smith, Philadelphia, PA
- Lodge #50 - Gary L. Eckert, Fairview, PA
- Lodge #50 - Stephen Hezir, Allison Park, PA
- Lodge #52 - Nancy K. Glover, Evansville, IN
- Lodge #52 - Kerry D. Swope, Kokomo, IN
- Lodge #63 - Sally A. Logar, Grafton, OH
- Lodge #74 - Roger D. Hansen, Sheffield, IL
- Lodge #79 - Thomas J. Chack, Salem, WI
- Lodge #79 - Charles T. Holland Sr., East Moline, IL
- Lodge #108 - Craig Nowels, Hazel Crest, IL

- Lodge #108 - Melody A. Morris, Sterling, IL
- Lodge #110 - Billy L. Morris, Akron, OH
- Lodge #115 - Marie A. Viscek, Kansas City, KS
- Lodge #146 - Carroll D. Forbes, Greenville, OH
- Lodge #148 - Janet H. Powell, Bristol, CT
- Lodge #150 - Bernard R. Hipp, Norwalk, OH
- Lodge #148 - Nancy M. Boyles, Torrington, CT
- Lodge #150 - Viola J. Kilgore, Wakeman, OH
- Lodge #169 - Mildred Penharth, Mentor, OH
- Lodge #170 - Richard T. Vleck, Western Springs, IL
- Lodge #226 - Ronald K. Emmons, Springfield, OH
- Lodge #226 - Dianne L. Jenkins, North Fairfield, OH
- Lodge #236 - Zivka Kelcher, Pinedale, CA
- Lodge #300 - Michael J. Hoceva, Rye Brook, NY
- Lodge #620 - Gary Bitton, Phoenix, AZ
- Lodge #620 - Richard A. Boatright, Mesa, AZ
- Lodge #620 - Juan Mecillas, Mesa, AZ
- Lodge #625 - Donald R. Pedigo, Maryville, TN

6 Life Stages that Trigger the Need for Life Insurance

- 1)  Married or getting married
- 2)  A parent or about to become one
- 3)  A homeowner
- 4)  Changing jobs
- 5)  Retired or planning for retirement
- 6)  Single



IN MEMORY

Mary A. Senkinc Urbancic - Lodge #153

- Cheryl & Victor Massack - \$25.00
- Jim & Karen Simonini - \$50.00
- Florence Senkinc - \$50.00
- Neil & Melissa McNally - \$100.00



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NEW MERCHANTS

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LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

COLORADO

LODGE #7

PUEBLO, CO

KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL LODGE PERSON OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED.

Officers and local Lodge leaders held a recognition dinner at the Pueblo Country Club to honor St. Joseph Lodge #7 Person of the Year and KSKJ Life 2018 National Lodge Person, Jeanette Jensen.



Pictured presenting Jeanette Jensen Lodge #7 Fraternal Coordinator the Official Certificate and a bouquet of roses (L to R): Danny Golob, Lodge #7 Financial Secretary & National Board member; Jeanette Jensen; Rudy Krasovec, Lodge #7 President & Chair of the KSKJ Life National Board; Fr. Richard Gielow C.M. National Spiritual Advisor; and National Board member, MaryLou Stefanick.



National Board member MaryLou Stefanick addresses the group of Lodge Leaders attending the National Lodge Person of the Year recognition dinner in Pueblo, CO.

*Submitted by,
Rudy Krasovec*

ILLINOIS

LODGE #1

CHICAGO, IL

ST. STEPHEN LODGE # 1 - ANNUAL YOUTH/FAMILY FISHING DAY

Eighteen members attended our annual Youth/Family Fishing Day event this year. As you can see in the pictures, there were some good "catches". The weather was quite sunny and hot.



Lodge 1 members take a break from fishing to take a group photo.



Hoping for a catch!

Many thanks to Donna and Tom McNally for the ice cream treat and for offering their home at Lake DeBoer for refreshment preparation in their kitchen, for

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Several members of Lodge #2 met at St. Joe's Park to welcome lodge members, Carrie, Angelina, Sophia and Olivia Santiago from Marana, AZ. The Santiagos are spending their summer vacation traveling. They traveled to Spain and France before visiting with family in Joliet.

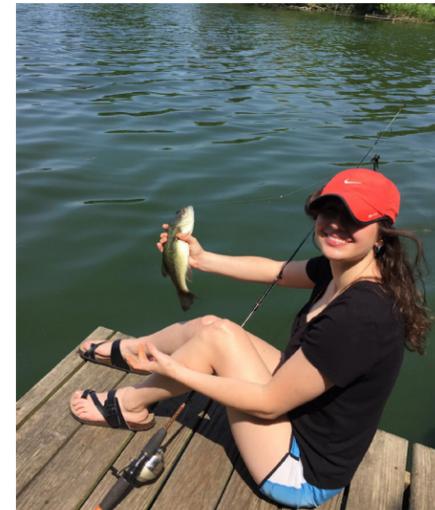


Lodge #2 members welcoming the Santiago Family in St. Joe's Park.

swimming in the pool and for restroom access. Thank you to Don G. Sierzega for baking. The banana cakes were delicious! We thank Wayne Wagner for preparing fishing poles for the day.



Don Sierzega hits the jackpot!



It was a very successful fishing trip - there were plenty of fish to go around.

Thank you to Pat Sierzega, our Fraternal Activities Coordinator, for printing the flyers, buying the bait, helping youth with the fishing poles and the paddle boat and taking pictures. We all had a good time.

*Joanne Sierzega
Lodge Reporter*

UPCOMING MEETING

Lodge #2 invites all of our adult members to join us for our next meeting. We will socialize with a wine tasting event on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 1:00 at St. Joe's Park Legion room. Bring your favorite bottle of wine and an appetizer to share. Please RSVP to Diana (815) 557-7325 or Sylvia (815) 353-1161.

*Submitted by,
Lynn Miller*

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

BOCCE TOURNAMENT

As a reminder, Lodge 44's annual Bocce tournament will be Saturday, September 14th at O'Hara's Tavern (3541 E 106th St, Chicago, IL 60617). There are a few slots left for teams, so get yours together and contact George Bozzetti (708-334-5434) or James Rossi Jr (219-902-0230) to secure your spot. First roll will be at 11:00 am with our next meeting taking place before the tournament at 10:00 am. Join us for coffee, conversation and planning. Lunch will also be provided after the new champion is crowned.

Angela Rossi

LODGE #53

WAUKEGAN, IL

WAUKEGAN LODGES GOLF OUTING

Our lodge along with St. Mary's presented a bonus check to the Midwest Veteran's Closet on the hottest day of the year! This was a Charitable Giving Award from the Regional Golf Outing held in June in Waukegan. It was a beautiful day for golf, fraternalism and tradition. Our members came through with generous donations of Meals in Can to help supplement the food pantry for the veterans. God Bless all who serve in our armed forces and God Bless the USA.

CUBS GAME OUTING

Last call to get on the bus! Go Cubs Go! Get your spot now for a Cubs Vs. Brewers night game on Saturday, September 7th at Miller Park. Our lodge will be sponsoring a bus trip that will include food, drink and tickets for the price of \$75 per member. RSVP to Sue

Dolence for available tickets. The cost to nonmembers will be \$95. Sue can be reached at 847-662-0908.

UPCOMING MEETING

Please join us at our next meeting on Sunday, August 18th. Following meetings will occur on the second Sunday of October, November and December at 9:15 a.m. There is NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. Enjoy the rest of summer.

Peace,

Victoria Drinka, Secretary

LODGE #79

WAUKEGAN, IL

LODGE PERSON OF THE YEAR

In a room filled with friends and family, Lance Johnson of St. Mary #79 was humbled as he was awarded the 2018 "Lodge Person of the Year" award at the recent Waukegan Lodges Golf Outing.

Lance, his wife Debbie, and their sons Ryan, Steven, and Brett are all active members of lodge 79, beginning in the late 1980's. Since joining KSKJ, Lance has participated in many lodge events - locally, regionally, and nationally. He represented St. Mary's/St. Joseph's in many basketball and softball tournaments, and has played in a number of our golf outings, where he serves as one of the "unofficial" scorekeepers.

When the KSKJ National Basketball Tournament officially ended in 2015, Lance and some of his teammates approached the Waukegan Lodge Officers, asking them to consider continuing the annual tradition, but more on a local level. The Lodge officers supported the idea, and He and his teammates continue to run the event each February.

In the community, He is active with the Zion High School Booster Club, raising money for the booster club and for scholarships. He also plays in the annual Waukegan Police vs. Waukegan Fire Charity Basketball game, benefiting the Waukegan based Special Recreation Services of Northern Lake County and the Waukegan

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

High School Booster Club. He has spent many years coaching local youth soccer, basketball, and baseball. Lance is a supporter of Out of the Darkness Suicide Awareness, North Central College, and Augustana College Athletic Associations.



Lance Johnson (4th from left) proudly receives the St. Mary #79 Lodge Person of the Year plaque. Surrounding him are past honorees Hank Govekar (2011), Kathy Govekar (2010), Albina Opeka (2013), Lance, Debbie Slater (2016), Mary Chamernik (2008), MaryLou Stefanick (2006), and Teri Govekar (2007).

Based on these reasons, it's not too hard to figure out why Lance Johnson was unanimously selected as our Lodge Person of the Year. Thank you Lance for what you do for our Lodge and for our community.

MaryLou Stefanick

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

JOIN HANDS

Members and friends of Lodge 143 "joined hands" on June 29th to pack food at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, IL. Working with other groups that afternoon, a total of 104 boxes of food were packed – which amounts to 22,464 meals for underprivileged people in Haiti and Mexico. Thank you to all who participated!

MATCHING FUNDS

Officers and members of Lodge #143 recently had the honor of presenting a Matching Funds check to Karen

Marino, the beneficiary from a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser held in March.



Lodge #143 members packed food boxes dedicated to people in need in Haiti and Mexico.



Members and friends of all ages came together to join hands for Feed My Starving Children.



Matching Funds check presentation. L-R: Annette Koncar, Amy Koncar, Karen Marino, Lynn Schmitt, April Sleyko, Lauren Baltz.

Lauren Baltz
Voice Reporter

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

INDIANA

LODGE #52

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

BALINCA TOURNAMENT

This past month we had our annual Balinca Tourney! It ended up raining the ENTIRE day... We still met at Blind Owl Brewery for lunch. Too bad the rains poured down as we had several willing competitors including the Fons, Velikans, Watson, Cusons, Walkers, and McDougals! A few of us went back the following Saturday and played balinca, with breezy weather and ample shade. Hopefully we can have a successful tourney again next year, without rain... Team Taylor had excellent strategies of knocking closer balls out of the way. This proved effective in most cases. Team Velikan held them off as Jim has mastered the curve ball, hooking his balls around obstacles to gain the coveted, closest position! Blind Owl was quite accommodating, bringing us food and beverages courtside!



Despite the rain, our teams still came for the tourney and enjoyed a nice lunch together, discussing balinca strategies!

UPCOMING EVENTS

As summer starts to wind up, be sure to attend our Slovenski Festival on August 10! Held at our very own National Home. Surrounding streets will be blocked for cultural events and live music. From 2-8pm, join us for an afternoon of Slovenian culture, food, and drink. Polka music will be provided by our own Indianapolis Polka Band. There will be fun for kids (big and small), a raffle, dancing, vendors, and more! This event joins all the local Slovenian groups together (KSKJ, Slovenian National Home, SNPJ, Slovenian Cultural Society, etc.) to celebrate our heritage.

Be sure to check our website, www.stals52.com for our complete calendar of events and photos of past activities. You may also check the Calendar of Events section in this paper for contact information. Are you on Facebook? Make sure to like St. Aloysius, www.facebook.com/pages/KSKJ/ We're posting events and photos regularly so if you're on Facebook be sure to check our page!

Nasvidenje!

Jennifer Velikan

MINNESOTA

LODGE #59

EVELETH, MN

JOIN HANDS PROJECT

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Lodge #59 held its Join Hands project on June 13th, cleaning up the children's graves section of the Eveleth Cemetery. We had a crew of 8 workers - Ron Erjavec, Tony and Connie Menart, Reno & Lily and Heidi Coldagelli, Gloria Leseman and Rosemary Mattson. The group went out for some much deserved pizza afterwards.

The highlight of the clean up was Lily finding a grave stone the grass had grown over, she pulled the grass off,

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

BEANBAG TOURNAMENT

St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 held a Bean Bag Tourney and Annual Picnic at Chambers Grove in Duluth, MN on June 27th.

her mom Heidi swept, brother Reno used the trimmer and the final picture was an uncovered grave stone!



L-R: Ron Erjavec, Connie Menart and Rosemary Mattson.



Lily and Heidi Coldagelli uncovering a hidden grave.



A well deserved meal was enjoyed by the volunteers.

Rosemary Mattson



"Smiles for the camera" Youth members Anja, Maija, Peter, Brian, and Viviana pose for the picture.



Another successful Bean Bag Tourney and Picnic! Pictured are St. Elizabeth's Lodge #171 members and guests.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Congratulations to the Ringers from the Range! Pictured are Karl & Darrell, our champs for 2019 and hailing from Gilbert, MN.

*Frank Bucar
Lodge #171 Fraternal Activities Coordinator*



L-R: Bob Finc, Rocco Leoni, Karl Oberstar Jr., Katherine Trampusch, Le Schutte, Yvonne Skrbec, and Stacy Oberstar.

We also groomed the lawn at the Church and swept up the winter sand off the long sidewalk in front of the Church. Thank you to all Lodge members for helping in this years Lodge Join Hands Day.



Bob Finc cleaning the Ten Commandments Sign.



Yvonne Skrbec planting flowers.

Karl Oberstar Jr., President of Lodge #196

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

LODGE UPDATE

We held our First Matching Funds Event for 2019 on Friday May 3rd, partnering with Marquette Catholic School's Home and School Association of Virginia, Minnesota - it was a great success. See page 7 for the full write-up.

We held our 2019 "Person of the Year" banquet on June 5th at a local Restaurant. Approximately 12 members were present to Honor Lodge Member Le Schutte with a Certification of Appreciation for Le's service to our Lodge for so many years in all of our community service efforts. We also had a very delicious dinner and cake to help honor Le. Also, Le's daughter Erica Hodnik came up from Duluth to join in celebration with her Mother Le Schutte. Thank You Erica.

We also held our 2019 Join Hands Event on Monday June 18th. What we did for our Join Hands Day was to help Lodge member Yvonne Skrbec plant flowers in the St. Joseph's Catholic Church flower beds.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

OHIO LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

What a difference a month makes. The rains are less frequent now and the sun has made more appearances. The hot and steamy weather will be here soon, so please keep a close watch on older relatives and neighbors to make sure they are okay during these heat waves.

Students will be returning to school in the coming weeks. Keep praying for the students as they return to their studies or begin studies at a new level.

It was a strange July without the 4-lodge picnic. I did go to the Slovenian day at Slovenska Pristava with a friend of mine. It was a nice event, with a lot of work put on for the different festivities.

Our lodge did not have much going on in June. Our meeting and putt-putt were cancelled due to not having a quorum. We hope to get back on track with a few activities later this fall/summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The first item is a fundraising bike ride with Lodge #150 on July 20th. The highlight of the ride is the change to ride the outfield track at Progressive Field.

We will have a meet and greet at Quaker Steak and Lube on Friday, August 30th. Quaker Steak and Lube is located on Canal Road in Valley View, OH.

At the end of September (date to be determined) we will have our annual hay ride. We are reviewing our options for the location and the date. That will be decided at our August meeting.

Our annual Christmas party will be December 1. We have received a confirmation from Santa that he has carved out time to come listen to the children. It will be at the Slovenian Home on E. 80th.

The final note of business is that we will be starting a lodge newsletter. This will come out quarterly. This will be sent via email. The first issue will be coming

out this fall. If you do not see it, please contact me at in4mativ1@hotmail.com and I will be sure to add you to the mailing list.

See you around!

Josie Kmet

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPCOMING EVENTS

Enjoy your last month of summer. Back to school is just around the corner!

Please mark your calendars with these upcoming fun events:

- August 3 - KSKJ Lodge 150's 8th Annual Porky Pig Softball Tournament & BBQ at James Day Park, Parma
- August 10 - Feast of St. Lawrence, 5pm mass/dinner at St. Mary's Church on Holmes Ave.
- August 31 - Lake County Captains baseball game, Lodge 226 (a few tickets are still available)
- September 21 - St. Mary's Church clambake
- October 27 - The Nash clambake/Browns tailgate (Slovenian National Home, East 80th)
- November 16 - The Nash 100th Anniversary Dinner/Dance
- November 24 - St. Mary's Church Fall Festival and polka mass
- December 1 - KSKJ Lodges 150, 146 and 63 children's Christmas party at The Nash

Thank you to all who participated in or donated to the VeloSano Bike Ride Fundraiser. It was a Matching Funds Event for Lodge 150 to support cancer research at Cleveland Clinic.

For more information, please contact Elaine Peskar at 440-503-8312 or kskjlife150@gmail.com.

Elaine Peskar

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

We have a Matching Funds event Sunday, August 11. The Collinwood Slovenian Home is celebrating a century of existence with a dinner catered by Joe Tavcar. If you'd like to come (we have a lodge #169 table), contact me ASAP. The indoor/outdoor event will feature live music, a Chinese auction, historical displays, and more. Doors open at 1:30 PM. Dinner tickets are also available by calling the Home at 216-681-6649.

JOIN HANDS EVENT

On June 29 we had about a dozen people participate in our Join Hands Day project by cleaning the interior museum (and some exterior work) at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Public Square in Cleveland. This magnificent reminder of the valor and patriotism of the Civil War veterans from Cuyahoga County continues to provide a strong historical message to our area residents. The monument looked spiffier for the extra visitors who came to town for the MLB All-Star Game festivities a week later.



St. Joseph Lodge #169 members inside the museum in Cleveland.



John Nemeč helped Abraham Lincoln clean up at the Lodge 169 Join Hands Day service event.

Our next lodge meeting is Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 PM at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue. Join us!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Kres Slovenian folklore performance at the St. Clair Slovenian Home on August 10 and the St. Mary's annual parish picnic at Slovenska Pristava on August 18, as well as the Sorrowful Mother Shrine pilgrimage on August 25, where Fr. John Kumse will be celebrating the Mass this year; that's always a beautiful day, and there's a bus from St. Mary's and St. Vitus.

Enjoy your last full month of summer. Do something new, preferably outside, and always be safe!

John Nemeč



Charlotte Sill was happy to join hands with a broom at the Soldier's and Sailors' Monument cleanup sponsored by St. Joseph #169.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

WISCONSIN

LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As you read in the last issue of the Voice, we will have our own Family Picnic to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of KSKJ. This event will be held at the home of Rudy and Pat Pugel. Please refer to our Facebook Page: @stjohns65. If you are not on Facebook, perhaps you can contact another #65 member who IS on Facebook to get more information.

KSKJ FAMILY PICNIC
 You're invited to a picnic to celebrate 125 years of fun & fraternalism!
 Who: Milwaukee & Waukegan Lodges (65, 53, & 79)
 When: Sunday, August 18th
 Time: Noon-?
 Where: The Pugel's 82.04 W. Stone Creek Circle Caledonia, WI 53108
 What to bring: A dish to pass (brats, burgers, & hot dogs + beverages will be provided), lawn chair, and a swimming suit & towel if you would like to swim!
 Please RSVP by August 11th to let us know how many people and what food item you'll be bringing.
 Andrea Ostrowski: Text or call: 414-704-1701
 Email: ampugel@aol.com or via Facebook Messenger.
 Volleyball, Basketball, Yard Games, Swimming
FUN FOR ALL AGES!

It's not too early to think about getting a foursome together for the 19th Ed Bregant Memorial Golf Outing. The date is Sunday, October 13, 2019 at Mee-Kwon Golf Course. Please call Jim Stoltmann for more details and make your reservations 414-699-1106.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Congratulations and Best Wishes are extended to Becky and Nick Wainio who were married on June 22, 2019. Becky is the daughter of Jim and Kathy Kaye.

Congratulations to Sydney Halstead who graduated from Wauwatosa East High School where she played soccer on the school's team. Sydney was named Player of the Year in the Greater Milwaukee Metro Conference and was selected to play in the All State Game in Wisconsin, she also won many other awards. She will attend the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse where she will play soccer and pursue a career in the medical field. Sydney is the daughter of Lilly and Andy Halstead.

SCHOLARSHIP

If you will be attending college in the fall and you would like to apply for an Educational Grant from our lodge, please contact Agnes Lobacz for an application. The dead line for returning this form is August 31, 2019. 1-414-321-9779.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Greetings to all of our sick and shut ins. Nasvidenje.

Mici Bregant

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

Greetings from Willard:

Mary of Perpetual Help #136 put Flags on the graves of our service men and women for Memorial Day at the Holy Family Cemetery for our Join Hands Project.

We also held our second Matching Funds Event in June. It was a rummage sale co-sponsored with the Willard Historical Society. It was a great success raising \$2,558.37. The proceeds will be used to maintain the Settler's Park in Willard. Many people found their treasures, some also won by bidding on their items at the Silent Auction.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Lodge #136 Join Hands L-R: Robert Trunkel, Joane Trunkel, Edward Bayuk and Diane Perko.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next event is the "Lodge Person of the Year" on September 8, 2019 at the Holy Family Parish Center at Willard. It will start with a potluck lunch at noon followed by the presentation of the award. This year Jeremiah Rakovec, our first Auditor, will receive this honor.

Then in October we will have our bake sale with Poticas, Apple Strudel and much more. Look for the date and time in the September issue of the Voice.

If you have any questions about what our lodge does contact Lonna Rakovec at 715-267-7105 or email genelonna@hotmail.com.

Respectfully,

*Lonna Rakovec
Voice reporter and Financial Secretary*



Matching Funds Rummage sale. Pictured are Edward Bayuk and Diane Perko.



Edward Bayuk, Diane Perko and Edward Perko preparing for the rummage sale.

LODGE #144

SHEBOYGAN, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Last call for making reservations our Annual Dinner and Fellowship! KSKJ Life is also celebrating the 125th Anniversary since the organization was founded. This year we celebrate 108 years since Lodge #144 was organized. That is something to celebrate also. Lodges are asked to celebrate this in conjunction with any of their events. We have decided that our lodge will celebrate it at the September 8th event. We will honor all of those in attendance that have reached their own milestone of 50 or 75 years in the organization. We would like to see a large number of members present. The cost is \$5.00 per person. The lodge will pay the remainder of the cost from the treasury. Reservations and payment must be in NO LATER THAN AUGUST 28TH and sent to Paige Fenske: 73 Lincoln Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081. If for some reason you have made your reservation and have to cancel, please call Pat Slapnick at 458-1469 NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 5th.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Once the amount attending is given to the cater we must pay for that entire amount. No shows are included.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Any member who just graduated from High School this past June and will be enrolled in a College / University you are eligible to apply for the KSKJ Life College Educational Grant. Also, members entering a private High School can also apply for a Grant. Information for both Grants will be on the KSKJ Life web site, kskjlife.com. Criteria for both are available on that site.

I realize that this is only summer, but we just want to make you aware that on December 1st the Annual Christmas Family Day will be held. Again, it will be held at Blue Harbor Resort. Young and old are invited to attend. You can watch the younger members enjoy the Water Park. Course everyone is welcome to join in the fun. More details as they become complete.

Then on December 8th we will be having our Annual Meeting. We will again have a breakfast after the 9 AM Mass. The event is being held at Fountain Park Restaurant. It will be free to all members and \$5.00 for non-members who are guests of members. Reservations can be made by calling Pat Slapnick at 458-1469. If you have a non-member also attending, please send payment to Pat Fenske 73 Lincoln Ave. Sheboygan, WI 53083. We will be ordering off of a pre-selected menu. All reservations must be made by December 1st. It would be nice if we had more attending than usual. Get in the Holiday spirit!

*Pat Slapnick
President / Voice Reporter*

OTHER NEWS & NOTES

SEND IN YOUR LODGE UPDATES

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.

Frozen Berry & Yogurt Swirls

These simple but fun and healthy frozen yogurt pops are a great treat to make with kids - or for yourself - this summer to beat the heat!



Frozen Berry & Yogurt Swirls Recipe photo by Taste of Home

Total Time - Prep: 15 min + freezing
Makes 10 pops

Ingredients

- 10 plastic or paper cups (3 ounces each)
- 2-3/4 cups fat-free honey Greek yogurt
- 1 cup mixed fresh berries
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 10 wooden pop sticks

Instructions

Fill each cup with about 1/4 cup yogurt. Place berries, water and sugar in a food processor; pulse until berries are finely chopped. Spoon 1-1/2 tablespoons berry mixture into each cup. Stir gently with a pop stick to swirl. Top cups with foil; insert pop sticks through foil. Freeze until firm.

For Frozen Clementine & Yogurt Swirls: Substitute 1 cup seeded clementine segments (about 5 medium) and 1/4 cup orange juice for berries, water and sugar; proceed as directed.

Found on Taste of Home. Originally published as Fruit & Yogurt Swirl Freezer Pops in Frozen Desserts 2014

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