



A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE SPREADING SMILES WHILE JOINING HANDS



There's an old saying that "many hands make light work." This phrase rings true in the overwhelming responses we've received from the lodges who participated in Join Hands projects these past few months. Many lodges participated in a project in the spring, while a few more

are coordinating their projects for later in the summer. From placing American flags on veterans' graves in time for Memorial Day to packaging books for area schools, numerous KSKJ Life members of all ages took part in this yearly event. They joined in a day of not only service and volunteerism, but also camaraderie and friendship.

Volunteering is at the heart of who we are as a fraternal organization. Since 2010, our members have contributed over 80,000 volunteer hours to their local communities in a variety of ways, including serving at food pantries, homeless shelters, schools and churches—the list goes on and on. KSKJ Life's volunteerism spans over generations. The pictures from this year's Join Hands events show grandparents, children and grandchildren working side by side. Our members are leading by example for these younger generations. The benefits of bringing children along to volunteer events are wide-ranging—volunteering builds empathy, strengthens social bonds, improves self-esteem and, most importantly, makes you smile!

KSKJ Life would like to thank all of the lodges that coordinated, scheduled and participated in Join Hands events in their communities. This great tradition of philanthropy and charitable giving continues to unite our members and their local communities across the country. Let's continue to "join hands" and put smiles on everyone's faces.

See page 2 for a list of lodges who have already participated.



[Lodge #136. Additional photos of recent projects starting on page 3.](#)

LAUREN BALTZ
KSKJ Life Marketing Coordinator

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JOIN HANDS RECAP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF LODGES THAT PARTICIPATED IN JOIN HANDS EVENTS DURING THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY AND JUNE. A HANDFUL OF OTHER LODGES HAVE PLANNED AN EVENT IN LATE SUMMER/EARLY FALL. WE WILL PUBLISH THESE EVENTS AFTER THEY OCCUR.

St. Joseph Lodge #2 (Joliet, IL)

May 12

Sunny Hill Nursing Home – Lodge #2 planted flowers and visited with residents.

St. Joseph Lodge #7 (Pueblo, CO)

June 17

St. Joseph Hall – Lodge #7 did cleaning and small maintenance work.

St. Aloysius Lodge #42 (Steelton, PA)

May 20

Local cemeteries – Lodge #42 placed flags at graves for Memorial Day

Blessed Virgin Lodge #50 (Pittsburgh, PA)

May 22-24

Allegheny Cemetery – Lodge #50 placed flags at graves for Memorial Day

St. John the Evangelist Lodge #65

(Milwaukee, WI)

May 3

St. John's Rectory Meeting Room – Lodge #65 assembled boxes for the Jared Box Project

St. Joseph Lodge #69 (Pueblo, CO)

May 13

Mount Olivet Cemetery and High Cemetery – Lodge #69 cleaned gravesites of KSKJ members and friends/relatives. They also cleaned 3 miles of highways and ditches leading into Belt, MT

St. Mary Lodge #79 (Waukegan, IL)

April 8

Bernie's Book Bank in Lake Bluff, IL – Lodge #79 packaged books for local schools (3200 books total were packaged)

Immaculate Conception Lodge #104 (Pueblo, CO)

May 6

Roselawn Cemetery – Lodge #104 cleaned up the Slovenian section of the cemetery

St. Genevieve Lodge #108 (Joliet, IL)

May 20

St. Joseph Cemetery – Lodge #108 placed flags and a poppy wreath at the cemetery grotto

St. Veronica Lodge #115 (Kansas City, KS)

May 13

Holy Family Church – Lodge #115 did clean-up at the church grounds

Mary of Perpetual Help Lodge #136 (Willard, WI)

June 11

Settlers Park – Lodge #136 did clean-up at the park

St. John the Baptist Lodge #143 (Joliet, IL)

June 17

Feed My Starving Children – Lodge #143 packed boxes of dry food to be shipped to children in underprivileged countries.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Lodge #144

(Sheboygan, WI)

May 13, 2017

Greendale Cemetery – Lodge #144 cleaned the grounds at the cemetery

St. Anne Lodge #150 (Cleveland, OH)

May 12 and 13

Slovenian National Home (NASH) - Lodge #150 cleaned the grounds at the NASH

St. Joseph #169 (Cleveland, OH)

June 3

Slovenian Cultural Garden – Lodge #169 did raking, pruning and sweeping around the garden.

St. Anne Lodge #170 (Lemont, IL)

June 17

St. Mary's Friary – Lodge #170 cleaned the grotto area in preparation for Father's Day Mass

St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 (Duluth, MN)

May 6

Stowe Elementary School & St. Elizabeth Church – Lodge #171 cleaned the grounds at both locations

Blessed Virgin of Help Lodge #196 (Gilbert, MN)

May 25

St. Joseph's Catholic Church – Lodge #196 did yard clean-up, tree removal and prep for planting at the church.

St. Stephen Lodge #197 (St. Cloud, MN)

May 24

Place of Hope Homeless Shelter – Lodge #197 prepared and served dinner at the shelter

Christ the King #226 (Cleveland, OH)

May 13

American Slovenian Home – Lodge #226 weeded, planted flowers, cleaned and painted at the Home

KSKJ VOICE

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

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

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JOIN HANDS RECAP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)



Lodge #2



Lodge #7



Lodge #42



Lodge #50



Lodge #79



Lodge #104



Lodge #108



Lodge #115



Lodge #143



Lodge #144



Lodge #150



Lodge #169

JOIN HANDS RECAP (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)



Lodge #170



Lodge #171



Lodge #196



Lodge #197



Lodge #226

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.

MAY & JUNE 2017

Christine Gerich - Lodge #150, Shelby, OH

James F. Branisel - Lodge #25, Euclid, OH

John P. Battista - Lodge #44, Chicago, IL

Loretta M. Hebior - Lodge #79, N. Chicago, IL

Kay F. Adams - Lodge #226, Cleveland, OH

Joseph Dolenc - Lodge #196, Sagano, MN

Drago Androjna - Lodge #169, Euclid, OH

Betty J. Kearns - Lodge #52, Evansville, IN

Ann L. Washer - Lodge #108, Joliet, IL

Karen S. Scrivner - Lodge #115, Newton, KS

Sharon L. Gavett - Lodge #53, Waukegan, IL

Elizabeth M. Sever - Lodge #59, Virginia, MN

Darlene C. Smieja - Lodge #197, Little Falls, MN

Virginia F. Embry - Lodge #621, Salem, IN

Michael F. Butler - Lodge #153, Chester, PA

Carol A. Govek - Lodge #136, South Bend, IN

Joseph A. Kruzel - Lodge #197, Long Prairie, MN

Jack J. Hummel - Lodge #170, Lisle, IL

Arthur T. Progar - Lodge #144, Gig Harbor, WA

Jerome Fiefer - Lodge #143, Cookeville, TN

Angeline J. McDonald - Lodge #59, Chisholm, MN

Wanda L. Detalente - Lodge #623, Dawson

Springs, KY

George W. Bryant Jr. - Lodge #623,

Owensboro, KY

Ronald S. Kott - Lodge #20, Manistee, MI

Mary A. Dinger - Lodge #52, Lafayette, IN

Kenneth M. Young - Lodge #52, Greencastle, IN

ST. JOSEPH LODGE #2 RECEIVES AWARD

On Saturday, May 20, the Spirit of Community Caring Award was presented to St. Joseph Lodge #2 in Joliet, Illinois at Sunny Hill Nursing Home's Caring Hearts Gala. The lodge was honored for its Matching Funds Event in 2015 that raised money for the nursing home's "Music and Memories" program. The event raised more than \$5,000 to provide residents iPods and downloadable music to relieve their musical memories and provide relaxation and connection through the power of music. Lodge #2 has also coordinated their recent Join Hands events at Sunny Hill by planting flowers and visiting with residents. The evening's program booklet so eloquently summed up the lodge's involvement

by saying, "their goals of providing fellowship and caring for those in need come alive in our gardens each year!"

To their surprise that evening, the lodge was also presented the 2017 Community Partner of the Year award for IHCA (Illinois Health Care Association) for its involvement in raising funds for the Music and Memory Care Program.

Congratulations to the officers and members of Lodge #2!



Jodi Wartenberg accepts award on behalf of Lodge #2 from Karen Isberg Sorbero, Friends of Sunny Hill, Inc. board member.



Front row: Jodi Wartenberg, Lydia Marquardt, Lynn Miller, Darla Tomac, Sylvia Churnovic, Nancy Churnovic. Back row: Gregg Vershay, Anton Vershay, Darrell Marquardt, Mike Miller, John Churnovic, Rick Churnovic.

2017 LODGE ANNIVERSARIES		
Lodge	Age In 2017	Founded
Lodge #1	123 years	06.10.1894
Lodge #2	123 years	04.02.1894
Lodge #7	123 years	04.02.1894
Lodge #20	122 years	02.13.1895
Lodge #25	122 years	05.21.1895
Lodge #29	121 years	04.02.1896
Lodge #42	120 years	04.30.1897
Lodge #44	120 years	08.22.1897
Lodge #50	118 years	11.30.1899
Lodge #52	117 years	05.06.1900
Lodge #53	117 years	11.17.1900
Lodge #59	115 years	03.04.1902
Lodge #63	115 years	10.16.1902
Lodge #65	114 years	01.19.1903
Lodge #69	114 years	08.17.1903
Lodge #79	113 years	12.18.1904
Lodge #104	111 years	12.28.1906
Lodge #108	110 years	02.14.1907
Lodge #110	110 years	03.07.1907
Lodge #115	110 years	05.14.1907
Lodge #136	107 years	05.16.1910
Lodge #143	106 years	07.18.1911
Lodge #144	106 years	09.10.1911
Lodge #146	105 years	04.01.1912
Lodge #150	104 years	02.28.1913
Lodge #153	103 years	05.02.1914
Lodge #169	96 years	07.01.1921
Lodge #170	95 years	04.14.1922
Lodge #171	95 years	06.01.1922
Lodge #196	92 years	08.01.1925
Lodge #197	92 years	09.24.1925
Lodge #219	90 years	03.08.1927
Lodge #226	89 years	02.09.1928
Lodge #236	87 years	06.02.1930
Lodge #257	49 years	02.04.1968

IN MEMORY OF

John Battista- Chicago, IL - Lodge #44
Knights of St. Florian Lodge #44, \$10

Carol Slania- Santa Barbara, CA - Lodge #44
Knights of St. Florian Lodge #44, \$10

Paul Zlogar- Steelton, PA - Lodge #42
St. Aloysius Lodge #42, \$10

Evan Krammes- Dauphin, PA
St. Aloysius Lodge #42, \$10

Rose Pugel-Zuponic- S. Milwaukee, WI - Lodge #65
MaryLou Stefanick, \$20
Mary Chamernik, \$20

KSKJ LIFE RECOGNIZES 2016-2017 STUDENT ATHLETES

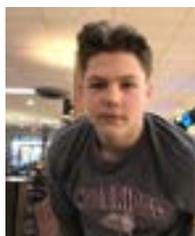
Congratulations to all the high school students who participated in this year's Student Athlete Recognition & Awards Program. Ten random winners were selected from the list, and each will receive a \$100 award from KSKJ Life.



ZOE ZAMORA
Walter Payton College Prep,
Sophomore
Lodge #1



STEPHANIE SCHMITT
Minooka Community High
School, Sophomore
Lodge #143



RYAN SHORT
Nordia High School,
Freshman
Lodge #63



JON OEBKER
St. Ignatius,
Junior
Lodge #150



SEBASTIAN TANNER
Greendale High School,
Junior
Lodge #65



TINA ROZMAN
Beaumont School,
Senior
Lodge #169



TARA DEVINE
Saint James Academy,
Freshman
Lodge #115



JACK ZAKELJ
West Geauga,
Sophomore
Lodge #226



BRIDGET BISHOP
Boylan Catholic High School,
Senior
Lodge #143



NICK ZAKELJ
Brecksville-Broadview Heights,
Senior
Lodge #226

STUDENT ATHLETE HONORABLE MENTIONS

Abigail Bartlett - Lodge #25
Gilmour Academy

Shaun Mikulan - Lodge #50
Hampton High School

Hannah Dick - Lodge #101
Berea Midpark

Kerry Anne Devine - Lodge #115
Saint James Academy

Erin Bishop - Lodge #143
Boylan Catholic High School

ABC BOWLING COMPETITION

Thank you to all of our youth members who participated in the 2016/2017 ABC Bowling Competition. Random winners have been chosen from each division: Bumper Bowling and Straight Bowling.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS:

- Julianna Bain – Lodge 2 – Bumper Bowling
- Alex Sanchez – Lodge 29 – Straight Bowling
- Daniel Hudak – Lodge 50 – Bumper Bowling
- Mason Bodame – Lodge 53 – Bumper Bowling
- Kameron Rojas-Schueneman – Lodge 53 – Straight Bowling
- Teigan Deram – Lodge 79 – Bumper Bowling
- Lexis Finch – Lodge 79 – Straight Bowling
- Lule Alijoski – Lodge 79 – Bumper Bowling
- Grace Markun – Lodge 143 – Bumper Bowling
- Kyle Rainey – Lodge 143 – Straight Bowling
- Sophie Sleyko – Lodge 143 – Bumper Bowling
- Camilo Bougher – Lodge 144 – Straight Bowling
- Jacob Thill – Lodge 144 – Straight Bowling
- Anja Bucar – Lodge 171 – Bumper Bowling
- Zach Pazdernik – Lodge 171 – Straight Bowling

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 1

PENNSYLVANIA, CONNECTICUT AND D.C.

REGIONAL NEWS

AMERICAN SLOVENE DAY

Pittsburgh – Whatever percentage of Slovenian blood you may have, American Slovene Day in Western Pennsylvania is a must this July 30! More than that, it's "Diamond Day," the 75th anniversary of the gathering of Slovenes and friends.

Be a part of this amazing milestone in the Slovene Community of Pittsburgh and bring your family to the picnic on Sunday, July 30 at the Syria Shriner's Picnic Pavilion in Cheswick, Penn.

This year is a new venue that will feature many tastes of Slovenia—from the savory to the sweet. Kranjsko Klobase, potica, krofe and Bled's famous Krem Šnita will be among the tempting lineup of offerings, as well as Krek's Burgers and Dogs' Slovene Day specialties. They always have a line waiting for juicy burgers, chicken concoctions and famous fries!

The Slovene Day bake sale will have tables brimming with treats made with lots of love by our ladies. Get ready for krem šnita, apple strudel, cobblers and krofe! For years, participants have baked for this day and we are so very grateful. We have the best bakers this side of Ljubljana!

Oh yes, there will be music at Slovene Day! Frank Stanger, his orchestra and Murski Val from Canada will be sharing the bandstand all afternoon starting at 1 p.m. Get those legs limbered, shoes polished, and dance the afternoon way.

We've planned a program that will include past presidents and audience participation. Prizes will be awarded with music giveaways for those with Slovene folk song skills.

Our Slovene fraternal, KSKJ Life – American Slovenian Catholic Union, will have a fraternal booth promoting their insurance, financial and social benefits. Stop by to talk to one of their representatives.

Great music, good food, sweet treats and friends all around – that's what has made American Slovene Day a success in the past. Bring your children,

grandchildren and spend the day with the Slovene Americans of Western Pennsylvania. There's a huge lawn and playground for the kids to enjoy.

The venue, Suria Shriner's Picnic Pavilion, is easily accessible from the Pennsylvania Turnpike Allegheny Valley Exit and Route 28. This pavilion is covered with picnic tables and seats more than 750 people. We invite you to get creative and decorate your picnic table in celebration!

Pridi, vidi in vzemi! Come, see & partake in the Diamond Jubilee. Reserve July 30 and be a part of our community here in Western Pennsylvania.

Vsi ste Dobrodošli! Everyone is welcome!

Sharon Ujcich, Lodge #50

LODGE #42

STEELTON, PA

LODGE UPDATE

St. Aloysius Lodge #42 held its Join Hands Day activity on Saturday, May 20. Rob Rafji, Jeff Dermes, Rich Dermes and Christine Iozza put flags on graves at all Steelton Cemeteries for Memorial Day. They did a great job! We would love to have more Lodge #42 members to participate next year.

Our Lady of Brezje celebration, also on May 20, took place at Prince of Peace Church with 4 p.m. mass. Our celebrant, Father Tom Rozman, brought his family for the mass, too. After mass, everyone was invited to the social hall for refreshments. Tyna Muza catered the social and, as usual, it was delicious. Thanks, Tyna! We were lucky to have Jeff Dermes and Henry Tamamini entertain with their accordions. Thank you, Jeff and Henry. Special thanks to everyone who helped to clean up afterwards.

Have a safe and happy summer.

Anne Hubler, Recording Secretary



Fr. Tom Rozman with members of Lodge 42 at the Our Lady of Brezje Mass



Jeff Dermes and Henry Tamamini entertain the crowd at the Our Lady of Brezje celebration

LODGE #50

PITTSBURGH, PA

LODGE UPDATE

It is hard to believe we are already into July. We're probably all scratching our heads thinking, "Where is this year going? We have so much to do and so little time!"

For Lodge #50's Join Hands Project, members placed a total of 1,000 flags on the graves of veterans at Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville, Penn. After leaving the cemetery, I think it is safe to assume that all of us had a kind-hearted, feel-good feeling. This tradition started two years ago and we want to keep it up. We're looking forward to having more members join us next year.



Bob Lokar, Jr. and Rege Visconti, Sr. placing flags

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Join Hands Day Crew

Mark your calendars! Our picnic will be on Sunday, August 6 at the Middle Road Community Park from 1 p.m. to dusk. The picnic and dessert will be catered so RSVPs are a must. Please RSVP no later than July 30 to Ashley at kskjlifeLodge50@yahoo.com or to Al (412-487-2492) or Bob (724-443-6830).

As always, please keep an eye out for emails and updates on the Lodge #50 Facebook page. If you know someone who doesn't have computer access, please pass along the word to them. If you have suggestions for an activity, please do not hesitate to reach out to Ashley Mikulan, our Fraternal Activities Coordinator. We love and welcome new ideas!

Ashley Mikulan

REGION 2

CLEVELAND AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

ST. VITUS PARISH SUMMER PICNIC

St. Vitus Parish will have its annual summer parish picnic on July 16, 2017 at Slovenska Pristava, a recreational facility located in Harpersfield, Ohio. There is no admission or parking charge this day. See below for directions. The picnic will begin with Mass at Noon. Father Joseph Boznar, pastor and KSKJ Life Lodge member, will be the celebrant. A delicious chicken or roast beef dinner will follow the Mass along with side dishes such as Slovenian style potatoes, lettuce, pastry, and coffee. Cost is \$15 adult and \$10 for a child 12 years or younger. The "Bobby Kravos Orchestra" will perform for your listening and dancing enjoyment after the dinner. In addition, there will be a local dance ensemble as part of the afternoon entertainment. Side food consisting

of Slovenian sausage (klobase), cevapcici (mixture of rolled lamb, veal and pork), french fries and hamburgers will be available after the dinner and throughout the remaining afternoon.

Other activities include open swimming (nominal fee for non-members of Pristava), 50/50 and Chinese raffles as well as bolinca playing (bocce courts). Net proceeds of this year's event will be used for capital improvement work on and around the parish such as tuck point mortar work on the bell towers and front church steps. There will not be a 10:30AM Mass in St. Vitus Church on 7/16/17 only due to the Noon Mass on Slovenska Pristava. All KSKJ members are cordially invited to attend this family fun orientated event in northeast Ohio!

Directions to Slovenska Pristava. Take I-90 East to the Geneva Exit/Route 534. Take Route 534 South to South River Road. Approx. 2 miles turn right on South River Road. Take South River Road approx. 1 mile to Brandt Road. Turn right, Slovenska Pristava is about ½ mile down the road.

S. Kuhar

LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Lodge #169 held its Join Hands Day event Saturday morning, June 3, after the original date was cancelled due to rain. About 15 members raked, swept, edged, clipped and pulled weeds, helping to beautify the Slovenian Cultural Garden at East Boulevard in Cleveland. It was great to have a few of our younger members working alongside us. We filled a dozen large trash bags and left the garden looking much better in just three hours.

On Sunday, June 11, a KSKJ Life Matching Funds check was presented to the Trinitarian Sisters at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Euclid. The matching donation of \$1,000 will help pay for repair of the convent steps, one of several necessary projects at the shrine.

On Memorial Day, the lodge sponsored a rest stop with refreshments during the annual bike ride to Pristava with St. Mary's pastor Father John Kumse. About 40 riders made the 45-mile trip from Cleveland, or stops a bit closer. A number of Lodge #169 members participated in the ride, too!

We won't have a monthly meeting in July or August. Our next meeting will be September 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue in Cleveland.

Stay healthy, safe and enjoy your summer with family and friends!

John Nemeč

Fraternal Activities Coordinator



John Nemeč of St. Joseph #169 presents a KSKJ Life Matching Funds check to Sr. Rochelle (left) and Sr. Phyllis Anne of Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

LODGE UPDATE

St. Christine Lodge #219 finalized plans for its Corporal Communion Mass and Luncheon on September 10 with 11 a.m. mass at St. Robert & William Catholic Church in Euclid, Ohio. The luncheon will follow at Applebee's on Maplegrove Rd. in Willoughby. Reservations are a must. Members can bring one guest. Please send your fee of \$5 for each reservation to Joanne Ash, 7709 Joseph St., Willoughby, OH 44094 by September 1, 2017.

There will not be any membership meetings in July or August.

Lodge #219 will be holding a clothing drive from July to September for its Join Hands Project. The chairwoman, Roberta Underwood, can be reached at 440-352-7787 (please leave a message!). There is a great need for clothing for men, women, children and infants. These items will be donated to The Cottage sponsored by The Christ Child Society of the Western Reserve, which is frequented by residents of Lake, Geauga and Cuyahoga counties.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

The lodge made a donation of \$100 to Nevaeh Ridge, a site in Mentor, Ohio, which houses young mothers and their children while they rehab from drug and alcohol addiction.

May all the lodge families have a safe and happy summer.

Elizabeth Kusar

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING LODGE MEETING & EVENT

4-Lodge Annual Picnic & Lodge Meeting on Sunday, July 9: Cleveland-based Lodges #63, 146, 150, and 226 will hold its annual family-fun picnic at Odd Fellows Park on Sunday, July 9. The picnic begins at noon, games begin at 1:30 p.m., and the Bossie's Best ice cream truck will arrive at 2 p.m. You don't want to miss the fun of door prizes, raffles and great food! The picnic is free for all Lodge #150, 146, 63, and 226 members and families. Non-member guests are \$5 per person. Please RSVP by July 2 to ensure we have enough food and beverages for everyone. Lodge #226 members please RSVP to Chuck Potenga at 440-582-5169 or cpotenga@wowway.com or Tim Klodnick at 440-526-6431 or tklodnick@cox.net

Also, please consider bringing a non-perishable donation for the St. Malachi Center. (Donations will be collected at the check-in table.) The wish list includes: tissues, Styrofoam plates, napkins, paper towels, trash bags, liquid soap, laundry and dishwashing detergent, toilet paper, one-gallon Ziploc bags, grocery store gift cards, applesauce, canned vegetables, canned soup, jams, cake mixes, canned chicken, vegetable oil, fruit juices, instant rice, pancake mix and syrup, coffee, boxed potatoes, deodorants, lip balm, and travel-size lotions. Cash donations are welcome also.

A short Lodge #226 meeting will be held at the picnic at 1:30 p.m. Scholarship applications for the Frank and Antonia Segal Scholarship Fund will be available at this meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO ODDFELLOWS FARM: Take I-271 from either the north or south to I-422 east toward Warren. Take 422 and get off at the Harper Rd./Cochrane Rd. exit. Go right toward Glenwillow.

Continue on Cochrane Rd. for three miles until you reach Austin Powder Rd. Take a right on Austin Powder Rd. As soon as you cross over the railroad tracks on Austin Powder Rd. there will be a road on the right that leads back toward the picnic area. The road will run parallel to the railroad tracks. There will be a KSKJ Life event sign posted at the entrance.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to me via email if you have news or photos to share (include the words Lodge #226 in the subject line). I am always looking for news to share on Facebook, too! My email is t1sinmentor@hotmail.com.

Tamara Zupancic

Lodge #226 Voice Reporter

REGION 3

CLEVELAND, OHIO

LODGE #110

CLEVELAND, OH

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

On May 7, Lodge #110 member Benjamin Coombs graduated from Columbia University with a B.A. in Economics and Mathematics.

Ben was a dean's list student and very active in international student activities. He was also in charge of his dormitory and captain of the Columbia rugby team, which was very successful in Ivy League competition. Ben will be working for Oliver Wyman Co. on Wall Street.

Ben is the grandson of Albert Kauslick, also a member of Lodge #110. Ben's parents Byron and Caroline Kauslick Coombs reside in London, England.



Benjamin Coombs

The Cleveland 4-Lodge Picnic is free* to Lodges 63, 146, 150, & 226 members and families. Non member guests are \$5.00 per person.

*Alcoholic beverages are an additional cost.

Door Prizes

Chinese Raffle Baskets

Family Fun Games

Bounce House

Bossie's Best Ice Cream

Please Bring a Donation for St. Malachi Center

- tissues
- styrofoam plates
- napkins • paper towels
- trash bags • liquid soap
- laundry & dish detergent
- toilet paper • Ziploc bags
- grocery store gift cards
- canned vegetables & soups
- applesauce • jams
- cake mixes • vegetable oil
- fruit juices • instant rice
- pancake mix & syrup
- coffee
- boxed potatoes
- deodorants
- chigsticks
- travel size lotions
- Cash donations are welcome!

Cleveland 4-Lodge Family Picnic

Sunday July 9 - 12:00 to 6:00 pm • Oddfellows Farm in Glenwillow

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

The graduation season was in full force in June, which means many graduation parties, too. Congratulations to the graduates and their families. The summer season will soon be upon us (or so we hope).

In June, Slovenia celebrated its 75th Independence Day, which is hard to believe happened in my lifetime. As always, the lodge celebrated with a putt-putt and ice cream.

Also in June, Rosemary Gulick, longtime member of Lodge #150, passed away. Rosemary was very active with Parma Schools as an elementary teacher and member of the Parma City School Board. Our condolences are with her family as they grieve for her.

Finally, the lodge presented a check for \$2,000 to St. Mary's Slovenian School. They will use the money to support the 8th grade trip to Slovenia. We hope they have a great time!



Chris and John Nemeč present a check to the principal of St. Mary's Slovenian School.

On July 9, the lodge will be having the annual 4 Lodge Picnic, which is always a great time. Most importantly, we will have our ice cream truck there. That itself is worth the price of admission.

Hope to see you around! Until next month!

*Josie Kmet
Secretary/Treasurer Lodge #146*

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled to be held during the 4-Lodge Picnic on July 9.

PORKY PIG SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT AND PIG ROAST

St. Anne's KSKJ Lodge #150 is sponsoring its 6th Annual Porky Pig Softball Tournament and Pig Roast on Saturday, August 5, 2017. The event will be located at James Day Park (Nike Site Park) in Parma, Ohio. The address is 11828 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, OH.



PORKY PIG INVITATIONAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT & PIG ROAST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2017

Location: James Day Park (Nike Site Park)
11828 West Pleasant Valley, Parma, OH

Times: 8:00 AM Team/Player Registration (coffee & pastries)
9:00 AM Games Start
Noon Lunch (food & beverages provided)

Cost: Team Registration Fee: \$10.00 per team
Players & Guests: \$5.00 Member / \$10.00 Non-Member
(includes pig roast & softball)

**** EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE ****

FOR TICKETS OR TEAM SIGN-UP:

Contact Tony Peskar
(440) 915-8312 -or- tonypeskar@juno.com



Registration starts at 8 a.m., games at 9 a.m., and the pig roast at noon (food and beverages provided). Cost is \$5 per member, \$10 per non-member, which includes the pig roast and softball. There will also be a \$10 team registration fee. This event is rain or shine! You do not have to play softball in order to enjoy the tasty pig roast—just come and have FUN. Everyone is welcome to attend! This is a great bargain for all and even better deal for KSKJ

Life members. To register a team or receive more information, please contact: Tony Peskar at 440-915-8312 or tonypeskar@juno.com

FOUR LODGE PICNIC JULY 9TH

The Cleveland Four Lodge Picnic will be held Sunday, July 9, at Oddfellows Farm in Glenwillow from noon to 6 p.m. The picnic is open to the members of Lodges #63, #146, #150, #226 and their families. You are welcome to bring a non-member guest at a cost of \$5 per person.

If you are planning to attend, please let the contact person from your lodge know before Sunday, July 2. We need an accurate count to make sure that we have enough food and beverages for all. The contact person for Lodge #150 members is: Elaine Peskar at 440-503-8312 or peskarelaine@juno.com.

Complete picnic information was published in the June issue of *The Voice*.

DIRECTIONS TO ODDFELLOWS FARM: Take I-271 from either the north or south to I-422 east toward Warren. Take I-422 and exit at the Harper Rd/Cochrane Rd exit. Go right toward Glenwillow. Continue on Cochrane Rd for three miles until you reach Austin Powder Rd. Take a right on Austin Powder Rd. As soon as you cross over the railroad tracks on Austin Powder Rd, there will be a road on the right that leads back toward the picnic area. The road will run parallel to the railroad tracks. There will be a KSKJ Life event sign posted at the entrance.

STUDENT ATHLETE AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Lodge #150 member Jon Oebker, a junior at St. Ignatius High School, for winning one of the KSKJ Life Student Athlete Awards. Keep up the good work, Jon!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Vicki and Dave Javor celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 6. Congratulations Vicki and Dave! The Javor family continues to be a dedicated volunteer group for KSKJ Life. Thank you for all that you do for us!

JOIN HANDS DAY

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Join Hands Day: Judy Grozdanik, Darell Hibjan, Dave Javor, Tony Mannion, Jim Meinke, Elaine & Tony

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Peskar, Lois Sever and Tom Strazar!

Two days of work included weed/debris removal from the Wire Cloth parking lot (which is used for overflow parking during larger events), the front and back of the NASH and the parking lots. Thank you for your hard work! The outside of the NASH looked terrific after!



Darrell Hibjan and Dave Javor



Tony Mannion, Dave Javor, Darrell Hibjan and Tony Peskar



Tony Peskar, Lois Sever and Judy Grozdanik



Tom Strazar and Lois Sever

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

Lodge #150 has a Facebook page to share lodge news, event calendar, photos and other information. Check us out at: www.facebook.com/KSKJ150. You do not have to be a Facebook member to view the page.

LODGE E-MAIL ADDRESS

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

SAVE THE DATE

August 19, Saint Lawrence Feast Day mass and dinner at Saint Mary's.

*Lodge #150 Voice Reporters
Tony & Elaine Peskar
440/2433-0312*

REGION 4

JOLIET AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

JOLIET KSKJ LIFE LODGES UPDATE

Greetings & salutations, my friends! The Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges will be on hiatus for the months of July and August to enjoy the summer. So without further ado, here is a recap of what happened at the June meeting.

On Tuesday, June 6 the Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges held their monthly meeting with nine members in attendance.

The lodge held the 200 raffle and the June winners were: Louis Derlinga and St. Genevieve Lodge #108. The July winners were: Philip Petrella and Ray Soliman. The August winners were: Pauline Mihelich and Hannah, Sarah, and Emma Markun. Congratulations to all of you.

As for new business, the Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges sponsored a hole at the National Golf Outing that was held in Waukegan, Illinois on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

For those who are interested, the Illinois Federation of KSKJ Life Lodges will hold their meeting on Sunday, July 16 at about 1 p.m. in Lemont.

The next Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5 at 7 p.m. at the Joliet Moose 300. Hope to see you there.

Since there is no further news to report, I'll sign off for now. Have a safe Fourth of July and I'll see you all in September.

*Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter
Joliet KSKJ Life Lodges*

REGIONAL NEWS - MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ray Koncar from Saint Francis Lodge #29 shared his talents (and polka music!) with others on May 31, 2017. Ray, of Joliet, Illinois, was traveling home from visiting his daughter, Margaret, in Austin, Texas. After only a little more than an hour into the 16-hour drive, Ray, his wife, Annette, and his daughter, Amy, encountered a traffic delay—an

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

accident in a construction zone on I-35 in Temple, Texas causing cars to come to a complete stop on the highway for what would be over two hours.

During this delay, Ray, who plays the button box in his polka band Ray Koncar and the Boys, decided to use his time to practice music. Ray stood outside the car (on the highway) during the delay and played polkas, waltzes, standards, and more in preparation for his upcoming band performance. His music attracted the attention of some fellow drivers stuck in the jam, who seemed to appreciate the unique and entertaining distraction. Ray was grateful that he could use this setback to play music, but what happened next was unexpected.

The next morning, KSKJ Home Office employee, April Sleyko, identified Ray in a Facebook post from SPJST, a Czech fraternal insurance organization in Texas. They were looking for the identification of the man who played the accordion on I-35 and, unknown to Ray, the news reported about it. The Temple Daily Telegram published "Accordion player helps motorists deal with I-35 wreck." After SPJST learned the identity of the accordion player, they interviewed Ray. WLOX news channel 25 in Waco, Texas also reported, "Meet the Interstate 35 'accordion man,'" which included a Skype interview with Ray that aired during the 10 p.m. news on Thursday, June 1.

Ray reported in an interview with SPJST, "It was a stressful situation, but what I did wasn't a big deal. I wanted to try to make things better. Plus, it was another opportunity to play the accordion – an opportunity to make people happy!" Ray's Slovenian heritage, talent, and passion for making



Ray Koncar and his button box on I-35 in Temple, TX. (Photo credit: Ken Roberts, Temple, TX)

music brought joy to the people of Texas during the unfortunate delay that morning. The power of a little polka music can go the distance, and it ended up connecting two communities over 1,000 miles apart.

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Let your patriotic hearts beat red, white & blue – Happy Fourth of July!

800-THE-KSKJ
KSKJLIFE.COM

JOIN US AT SPLASH STATION

SUNDAY, JULY 23 | 6:30 - 8:30 P.M. | 2780 CHANNAHON RD, JOLIET, IL

Celebrate summer with KSKJ Life at Splash Station Waterpark on Sunday, July 23 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. This is a free event for all KSKJ Life members. Guests are \$5. Concession stand will be available for the purchase of snacks.

In lieu of the free admission fee, KSKJ Life will be collecting the items below for more than 325 students in need this upcoming school year.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › PAPER TOWELS › WIDE-RULED, LOOSE-LEAF PAPER › COLLEGE-RULED, LOOSE-LEAF PAPER › NO. 2 PENCILS › TWO-POCKET FOLDERS WITH NO PRONGS › 1 ½ IN. BINDERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 2 IN. BINDERS › 3x5 POST IT NOTES › MULTIPLICATION / DIVISION FLASH CARDS › ADDITION / SUBTRACTION FLASH CARDS › RED PENS › KLEENEX › EXPO DRY ERASE MARKERS |
|--|--|

HOSTED BY KSKJ LIFE JOLIET AREA LODGES

The supplies collected benefits the Jump on the Bus Program through Morning Star Mission.

Questions? Please contact Krista or Katie at (815) 690-1294 or starasinichgirlskskj@gmail.com.
For more information, visit joliet splashstation.com/ste

WE CONNECT FOR LIFE | 1-800-THE-KSKJ | KSKJLIFE.COM

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Condolences and prayers are with the family and friends of member Frank Juricic, who passed away in late May. Deacon Frank served as the Spiritual Director of the lodge since 2016. He was an ordained Deacon of the Diocese of Joliet and served many parishes in the Joliet and Crest Hill areas. We will miss you, Deacon Frank. Thank you for the time you spent with us.

Please join Lodge #29 for the Lodge Steak Fry on Friday, July 28, at 5 p.m. at St. Joe's Park. This is the lodge's big summer member event. The dinner includes a grill-your-own-steak, baked potato, coleslaw, corn on the cob, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$10 per member and \$15 per non-member guest. Free hotdogs will be available for kids who do not purchase a steak. A reminder that desserts are always appreciated for the sweets table. We will also be collecting school supplies which will be donated to the area's needy children. Lastly, we'll have a bean bag tournament after dinner for anyone interested in playing – adult and kids alike.

Contact Judy Corum by July 15 at 815-725-3553 or jmcorum@ameritech.net to sign up and prepay. Checks can be mailed to Judy at 117 N. Reed Street, Joliet IL 60435.

*Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Reporter*

LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Hello everyone. Well, "spring has sprung" so they say. However, summer is just around the corner and time for baseball, picnics, parties and vacations for some people. As for myself, I need a vacation after these last four months. So without getting too much off track, here's what St. Genevieve Lodge #108 has been up to.

On Saturday, May 20th (Armed Forces Day), St. Genevieve Lodge #108 lodge officers gathered together at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery to hang a poppy wreath to honor all past, present and future veterans in their memory, as well as place 22 American flags in the grotto area.

The 22 American flags that were placed represented

the 22 names of veterans listed on the plaque who lost their lives.

Although it started out as a rainy and gloomy day, it turned out to be a sunny day. I want to thank all the Lodge Officers who came out and helped with this event. A big "thank you" goes out to Rick Cabay for the use of his ladder so that we could hang the wreath.

Additionally, there was a mass held for all of the living and deceased members of St. Genevieve Lodge #108 on Saturday, June 3. This event coincided with the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church. After the Mass, members of the lodge gathered for a social hour with sandwiches, dessert and other refreshments in Ferdinand Hall.

On Sunday, June 4, the lodge held its monthly meeting in Ferdinand Hall. Even though the meeting was shorter, business was conducted accordingly.

Congratulations to Mary Mihelich who won both the attendance award and the 50/50 raffle.

Members: Please be aware that there will be no meetings held in July, August or September. We will resume our meetings in October.

As for our next meeting, it will be Sunday, October 1, at 1 p.m. in Ferdinand Hall. We will have pizza after!

Before I sign off, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN RETURNS HOME

He is finally home – back in the town where he had grown up. I bet all of you are probably wondering whom I am talking about. Well, I would like to tell you about my uncle, Michael Galajdik.

Michael Galajdik grew up in Joliet, Illinois, however, the area was considered Lockport Township at that time. He was one of five children of Andrew and Mary Galajdik.

At the age of 19, my uncle served in the Civilian Conservation Corps from October 1935 to March 1940. Then in April 1940, my uncle, at the age of 24, enlisted in the Navy. He was assigned to the U.S.S. Oklahoma based in Honolulu, Oahu—Pearl Harbor to be exact. His rank was Fireman 1st Class.

While I was growing up I saw very few pictures of

my uncle. My mother really never talked about him that much. However, the one picture that stood out to me the most was the photo of him in a newspaper article, which talked about him being killed/missing in action. He was a very handsome chap in his sailor outfit. I bet he had a lot of girls eyeing him up back then.

As everyone remembers, on that Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked. My uncle was aboard the U.S.S. Oklahoma, which had capsized after being hit by torpedoes. His body was never identified or found, therefore, presumed missing in action or dead.

In 2011, a forensic genealogist had contacted my brothers, sisters and myself (Ann, Theresa, Michael, Joseph, George, Walter and myself). My brothers and sisters were contacted by telephone and I was contacted via email thru "Ancestry.com" since I have a family tree online. She had informed us that a mass grave of bones had been discovered and wanted us to submit a DNA sample since we were the surviving children of my mother, Anna (Galajdik) Sternisha. In my conversations with the genealogist, they only needed DNA from one male and one female. With that being said, my sister (Ann Mulvey) and my brother (George Sternisha) submitted their DNA. I submitted my DNA after my sister Ann passed away. It couldn't hurt to add my DNA to help with the identification process.



Mike Galajdik

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

After submitting the samples, we did not know how long it would take to identify our uncle's remains—we hoped it would be soon. In 2016, we were informed that there had been a positive identification of my uncle's remains. In March 2017, we met with The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) to review the procedure of bringing Michael's remains home, and what was involved with the identification process. After that meeting, my head was spinning - there was a lot of information to process.



Mike Galajdik's final resting place at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

So, after 76 years, my uncle's remains were recovered and identified thanks to dental records and DNA samples that my sister, my brother, and I submitted. On Friday, April 21, 2017, his remains were brought back from Hawaii. On Saturday, April 22, 2017, we held a funeral with full military honors for my uncle. His remains are now at home and interred (buried) at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. This brought closure to our family. I believe that my mother, my sister and my other siblings were there that day in spirit.

Now, in December, when I go out to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery to place my holiday

wreaths on my brother John's grave, it will be extra special to place one on my Uncle Mike's grave, too. He is home where he belongs. I no longer will have to go to the Missing in Action section, which was sometimes emotional for me. I can now go and visit his gravesite. As I have done in the past, I will continue to visit my brother and uncle on Memorial Day and place a flag at their gravesite. Who knows, I may just go for a visit when it's not a holiday.

And to those families in a similar situation I would like to tell you to never give up and keep the faith. It might take a few years but it will eventually happen. Never underestimate the power of DNA. I heard it can now be used to identify your nationality, too.

In closing, I would like to thank all the people who came out and showed their patriotism and support on the day of my uncle's funeral. It was truly appreciated.

*Pauline Mihelich –Lodge President
St. Genevieve Lodge #108, KSKJ Life*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

UPCOMING MEETINGS

There are no meetings scheduled for the months of July and August. Our next meeting will take place on September 14 at 7 p.m. Location TBD.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 23 – Summer Member Social hosted by Joliet Area Lodges. Splash Station, Joliet, IL 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a FREE member event! We will be collecting school supplies to benefit the Jump on the Bus Program through Morning Star Mission again this year.

September 23 – Oktoberfest/Chili Cook-Off and dry goods collection

November 5 – Member Appreciation Brunch

December 17 – Caroling and Coffee at Our Lady of Angels

JOIN HANDS DAY

Members of Lodge #143 volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora, Illinois on June 17 as

their Join Hands Project. Founded in 1987, Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Volunteers hand-pack the meals, which are donated to FMSC food partners around the world.



Join Hands Day highlights

Stay Connected! "Like" our Facebook page! www.facebook.com/kskj143

MATCHING FUNDS THANK YOU CAPTION

The following is a thank you note sent to Lodge #143 from Camp Kesem. A Matching Funds event was coordinated in April benefitting Camp Kesem.

Dear KSKJ Life,
Thank you so much for your generosity with your donation! It is people like you that helps us put on the best week of camp for over 90 campers! We are so thankful for you and hope to work with you in the future!

CK love,
Camp Kesem at
Saint Louis University

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 5

CHICAGO AND INDIANAPOLIS

LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Summer is in full swing and so is Lodge #44's activity planning! Speaking of full swing, tickets are still available for the White Sox outing. Friday, July 14 is 90s night on the South Side where the Sox will take on the Mariners. Pizza and chicken will be served at the American Legion, 10506 S Ewing Ave., Chicago, starting at 5:15 p.m. Busses will depart at 6 p.m. and first pitch is at 7:10 p.m. As with all Friday night games, we will enjoy fireworks after the game. Tickets are \$60 per person. Please contact James Rossi Jr. at 219-902-0230 if you are interested in attending.

The annual Bocce Tournament and Food Drive will take place Sunday, September 17 at Club 81 Too, 13157 S Avenue M, Chicago. Prices and times still are to be determined but we are taking reservations for teams. If you have your team together and would like to reserve your spot, contact James Rossi Jr. at 219-902-0230.

Stop by our next meeting as we discuss another possible casino trip and ideas for matching funds. Join us at the Calumet Yacht Club, 4025 E 102nd St., Chicago, on August 6. We will start with 9 a.m. mass at Saint George (9546 S Ewing Ave., Chicago) followed by breakfast and then our meeting. We will also be blessing the harbor. Bring the family for some fun in the sun and enjoy the beach, breakfast and company of fellow lodge members. Also, bring some fresh ideas for the rest of the year and any activities you wish to see next summer.

LODGE #52

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15 – Drive-In Night

Tibbs Drive-In is hosting us. For \$10 per person, you can see up to three first-run movies! Please plan to arrive early to ensure that we can park together.

Please contact Jennifer Velikan [317-636-0512, jvelikan@gmail.com] if you would like to attend; Jennifer can give you an idea of when to arrive and where to park.

July 29 – Pierogi Fest – Whiting, IN

New Event! We will be taking a bus, at \$35 per person, to attend the Pierogi Fest. Reservations are required. Please contact Marcia Bracik [317-501-5710; marcia660@aol.com] to reserve your spot.

August 12 – Indy Indians Game

Join us Saturday, August 12 at Victory Field. Tickets for lodge members are \$5 and \$13 for non-members. Contact Jennifer Velikan [317-636-0512, jvelikan@gmail.com] by August 4 if you would like to attend.

LODGE UPDATE

June proved to be a busy month here in Indy! The month began with our annual canoe trip—thanks to the adventurers who joined us on the Blue River. For this year's quest we even had a youngster, Claire Cuson, join us for her first canoe adventure. The water was a bit high, but moved quickly. We had a rough spot in one area with lots of fallen trees but Danny masterfully guided his canoe through the stray branches and rapids, leading his family to safety.

Our other three canoeists were not so lucky: Jennifer tipped over when one of the fallen trees grabbed her kayak, dragging it down to the depths of the riverbed. Luckily, lodge members aided her in righting her kayak and getting back on the water. Most importantly, the sandwiches stayed dry and lunch was a success! We rested at the halfway point, ate our dry sandwiches and shared past canoe trip stories.



Our paddlers taking a break for lunch. Claire is off to the side, chasing a frog

The real excitement came when Paul decided to stand in his kayak, like a paddleboard. He was successful for approximately 43 seconds, before tipping over! This time, the food did not stay so dry. We can attest that soggy Cheez-Its are not so delicious, but everyone had a blast! We hope to canoe again soon and enjoy another relaxing day on the river.

The Annual Slovenian Festival was also in June. We had a great turnout with some awesome bands. A special thanks to the Arachnids, who provided rock music for us. They're a band of young music students who play classic rock with a mix of their own original songs, too. The drummer is even a KSKJ Life member! Our Polka Jammers entertained the crowd as well, with their dueling accordions and catchy tunes. A special thank you to all who made the festival an awesome time! From face painting, to polka, to delicious food, to rock music, this year's fest was a memorable one!

St. Al's is taking a trip to the drive-in again this summer. On Saturday, July 15, join us for movies under the stars. For the low price of \$11 per person, you can see up to three first-run movies. "Spiderman" and "Wonder Woman" should be out, so prepare for adventure. You are welcome to bring your own food and drinks, or you may purchase from their fabulous snack bar. Please plan to arrive early to ensure that we can park together. Please contact Jennifer Velikan [317-636-0512, jvelikan@gmail.com] if you would like to attend; Jennifer can give you an idea of when to arrive and where to park.

In July, we are offering a new event. The Pierogi Festival takes place in Whiting, Indiana on Saturday, July 29. We will be taking a bus to attend the Fest. Cost is \$35 per person and reservations are required. Please contact Marcia Bracik [317-501-5710; marcia660@aol.com] to reserve your spot.

We will attend an Indianapolis Indians game again this year. Join us Saturday, August 12 at Victory Field. Tickets for lodge members are \$5 and tickets for non-members are \$13. Please contact Jennifer Velikan [317-636-0512, jvelikan@gmail.com] by August 4 if you would like to attend. Our Indians will take on the Buffalo Bisons. This is also DC Super Hero Night, featuring Batman & Robin, and the first 2,500 fans will receive a super hero cape.

Be sure to check our website, www.stals52.com for

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

our complete calendar of events and photos of past activities. You may also check the Upcoming Events Section in this article for contact information. Are you on Facebook? Make sure to like St. Aloysius, www.facebook.com/pages/KSKJ.

Nasvidenje!

Jennifer Velikan

REGION 6

NE ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN

LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Perhaps summer has finally arrived here in Milwaukee. I hope so!

As you read in last month's article, the Charlie Mouradian/Debbie Nowak 9-Pin Tap Tournament was a huge success. At our last meeting, we had the privilege of meeting Gena Orlando, a representative from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Gena told us about the organization and of some of the events coming up. Members of the Mouradian family, namely, Diane Mouradian, Don Nowak, Joel Mouradian and Danette Braun, presented the lodge's matching funds check. Gena emotionally extended her thanks on behalf of the AFSP.



Diane Mouradian, Don Nowak, Danette Braun & Joel Mouradian presented a check for \$3,341 to Gena Orlando from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in honor of Debbie Nowak. The money was raised at the Mouradian 9-Pin Bowling Matching Funds Event on April 30.

Attention College Students: Lodge #65 Educational Grant Forms are now available. Please call Agnes Lobacz at 414-321-9779 for a form. Applications are available to all college members for the 2017-2018 semester and must be returned by August 30, 2017.

Welcome to Don Nowak who volunteered to be part of the educational grant committee along with Agnes Lobacz, Chairperson and Jan Gehm.

The KSKJ Life National Convention is only one year away. If you are considering being a delegate you must have attended four meetings during 2017. Are you interested?

The Slovenian Arts Council is offering a free bus ride to Old Mill Creek, Illinois to see the Tempel Lipizzans. Tickets for the performance are \$22-\$32 at the door or \$17-\$22 if ordered online (www.tempelfarms.com). The date is Sunday, July 23, 2017, and the bus will leave the Hales Corners Park and Ride (located between Layton and Edgerton on the east side of Hwy. 100) at 10 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m. For further information and to reserve your seat on the bus call Helen Frohna at 262-821-5295. Food will be available for purchase at the farm.

The Ed Bregant Memorial Golf Outing will take place on October 1, 2017, at MeeKwon Golf Course. Please save the date and join us for a day of fun. All details have not been finalized so watch this paper or call Jim Stoltmann at 262-699-1106.

The lodge sends condolences to the family of Lillian Staut, the family of Leo Shuster and the family of Ann Pizzo. May they rest in peace.

Greetings to all of our sick and shut ins. Have a safe and happy summer.

Nasvidenja.

Mici Bregant

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Greetings from Willard!

Mary of Perpetual Help Lodge #136 had its Join Hands Event on June 11. We finished the clean-up and laying of mulch in the Settler's Park at Willard, which was started over a week prior. It is always rewarding to help keep our world beautiful, both

locally and globally. We can all beautify our world a little at a time.

Our first Matching Funds Event was a success! The Sweet Adelines of Wisconsin profited \$1,340, not including the \$1,000 matching funds provided by KSKJ Life. Bethany Gosar, our second auditor and member of the Sweet Adelines, received the check of \$1,000 from President Edward J. Bayuk.

Our second Matching Funds Event will be August 27. It will be a buffet style chicken/ham dinner, including



Edward Bayuk presents a check to Bethany Gosar, member of the Sweet Adelines and Lodge #136's second auditor

stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, coleslaw, corn, dinner rolls and desserts including potica. It will be co-sponsored by the PCCW of Holy Family Church in Willard, Wisconsin. It will start with a 9:30 a.m. Mass and include a raffle and prizes. First prize is a Bear X Crossbow, second prize is a 32" LED HD TV, third prize is a 6-quart pressure cooker and fourth prize is \$75. The tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. The drawing will be at 1 p.m. and you don't need to be there to win. More information on the event will be in August's issue of *The Voice*.

On Sunday, September 10, we will celebrate the Lodge Person of the Year (Gene Rakovec) and 50-Year members following a potluck lunch at noon. It will take place at Holy Family Parish Center in Willard, Wisconsin. Please join us.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

If you need any information on any items in the above article please contact Lonna Rakovec at 715-267-7105 or by email of genelonnarakovec@gmail.com

Have a great Fourth of July and be safe.

Lonna Rakovec, Financial Secretary and Reporter

REGION 7

MINNESOTA AND MICHIGAN

REGIONAL NEWS



Region 7 Director, Sharon Bucar, visits St. Stephen Lodge #197 during their May meeting. Pictured are: front – Sharon Bucar and Alice Supan; in back-Mike Retka, Jim Bisek, Frank Bucar, Dr. Marge Pryately and Joanna Pucel

LODGE #59

EVELETH, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Eveleth KSKJ Life Lodge #59 raised money with their recent fellowship breakfasts to purchase a new chalice for Resurrection Church. The breakfasts will resume again in the fall.



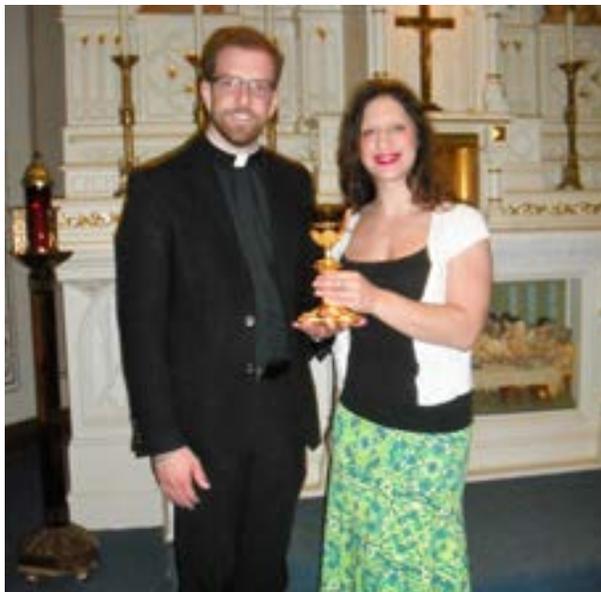
The kitchen crew



Toni Britton and her son, Davin prepare the orange juice



Evaline, Davin and Theo Britton ready to pour coffee at the fellowship breakfast.



Father Michael Garry is presented with the new chalice by Lodge #59 President Jennifer Menart

The summer picnic is planned for August 6 at the West Eveleth/Leonidas Community Building and Park. It will take place from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. and a picnic lunch and coffee, water and lemonade will be provided. There will also be games for the kids! Members can register by clicking "going" on the Facebook event page or by calling Connie Menart a week ahead of time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24th – 50-year dinner at noon at the DeLuxe Café in Eveleth.

October 8 – Minnesota KSKJ Life Federation Dinner at 1 p.m. at the Church.

December 10th – Christmas party at the Church.

Look for our event notifications and updates in the church bulletins, the newspaper and on our Facebook page.

Rosemary Mattson

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, July 28 - KSKJ Life MN Federation will sponsor a baseball game with the Duluth Huskies at the Wade Stadium, Duluth. Game time is 6 p.m. Please RSVP by Monday, July 24 to Sharon Bucar at 218-626-1928.

Monday, August 7- St. Elizabeth's Lodge #171 will celebrate its Person of the Year. Location is the Buffalo House, Duluth at 6 p.m.

Thursday, August 10th- Bean Bag Tournament for St. Elizabeth's Lodge #171. Members: Please bring potluck dish. Guests are most welcome. The lodge will provide Conies and refreshments. Location is Chambers Grove, Duluth at 5 p.m. For more information, please contact Frank B. Bucar at 218-733-3951.

Monday, September 11- St. Elizabeth's Lodge #171 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's social hall.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Lodge #171's



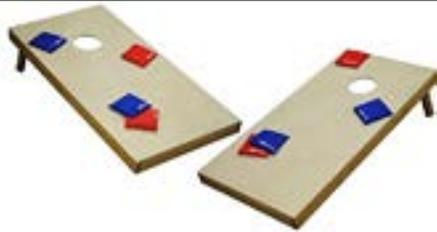
Thursday, August 10th at 5:00 pm

Chambers Grove

Please bring a potluck dish to share. The lodge will provide coney dogs and beverages.

RSVP by Monday, August 7th to bucarf@gmail.com

Rain or Shine



LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Lodge #196 held its spring clean-up of the church grounds at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert on May 25 for our Join Hands Day Event. They also planted flowers in the flower beds around the Church and they look beautiful.



Lodge #196 members, including Region 7 Director, Sharon Bucar (far left) stand in front of the flower bed they planted

On June 8, members had a dinner at a local restaurant honoring Yvonne Skrbec as our Person of the Year for 2017. Yvonne has held many positions on our Lodge Board and was very deserving of this honor.



Karl Oberstar, Jr. presents the 2017 Lodge Person of the Year award for Lodge #196 to Yvonne Skrbec



Lodge Person of the Year dinner

The lodge is also making plans to do a Youth Bowling Party sometime this year. Fraternal Activities Director, Ashley, is very excited about planning this event and hopes to provide other events for the youth of our lodge.

In the next report, I will write about our first Matching Funds Event. All of us at Lodge #196 wish you a happy and joyous summer.

*Karl Oberstar Jr.
President of Lodge #196*

LODGE #197

ST. CLOUD, MN

LODGE UPDATE

On May 24, members of St. Stephen Lodge #197 volunteered at the Place of Hope Homeless Shelter in St. Cloud, Minn. as part of their Join Hands Day

project. The group prepared and served dinner at the shelter.



Mike Retka, Marge Pryately and Jim Bisek are all netted up to begin serving dinner at Place of Hope Homeless Shelter, St. Cloud, Minn.



Jim, Marge and Mike hone their carving skills on freshly roasted chicken

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



The crew enjoys their own meal after serving at Place of Hope



Rudy Krasovec cleans the front of St. Joseph Hall as part of the lodge's Join Hands Day



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REGION 8

COLORADO, KANSAS, MONTANA, CALIFORNIA

LODGE #7

PUEBLO, CO

JOIN HANDS DAY

St. Joseph Lodge #7 held its Join Hands Day Event on June 17. It was a beautiful sunny day as our volunteers cleaned the grounds and did some small maintenance work at St. Joseph Hall. Thank you to all who participated.



COMING THIS SEPTEMBER: KSKJ LIFE EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

WHO

- KSKJ Life members who attend an eligible high school or college and meet the requirements

WHY

- KSKJ Life supports young adult members as they pursue education

WHAT

- One-time \$1,000 education grant

HOW

- Applications can be submitted online between September 1 - 30. Eligibility details on the KSKJ Life website

DETAILS AT [KSKJLIFE.COM/GRANTS](https://www.kskjlifecommunity.org/grants)



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY FROM KSKJ LIFE!

**KSKJ LIFE HAS PROUDLY SUPPORTED
COMMUNITIES SINCE 1894**

KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located
at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 2017-07-V



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