



KSKJ VOICE

**PHILANTHROPY
CORNER**

**MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**

**SLOVENIAN
DIGNITARIES VISIT
PUEBLO, CO**

**125TH ANNIVERSARY
RECAP**



The Linden
of friendship, love and loyalty. Please
this Linden leaf as a thank you for
celebrating our 125th Anniversary.

Photo: A KSKJ Life anniversary Linden tree ornament photographed with the Slovenian and American flags.



Thank you to all those who attended our 125th Anniversary Celebration on August 17th in Joliet, Illinois!

Event photos can be viewed on Pages 6-7 of this issue.

KSKJ VOICE

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

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A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE

CELEBRATING KSKJ LIFE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY



In April, KSKJ Life officially became 125 years young. During the following months, there have been celebrations happening all around the KSKJ Life community. On August 17th we held our official celebration in Joliet, home of our great Fraternal Benefit Society. The events began with mass at St. Joseph Church, one of the first Slovenian churches in Joliet. Father Richard Gielow CM, our Spiritual leader, was the celebrant. Mass was con-celebrated by Father Metod Ogorevc from the Slovenian Catholic Center and Fr. Tim Andres, pastor of St. Joseph's Church. The beautiful celebration was enhanced by the "Zbor Spendov Singing Group" thanks to John Vidmar, Honorary Slovene Consul for Illinois and Mike Vidmar, former National Board member. Following mass, those attending were invited to visit the St. Joseph Museum with curators Ray and Annette Koncar from Lodge #143.

The celebration then moved to the Joliet Historical Museum where tours were provided. A dynamic 125th KSKJ Life Anniversary video that was produced by Andrea Ostrowski was shown.

The formal program included comments by the Board Chair and CEO Tony Mravle. A Certificate of Recognition was read from the Illinois House of Representatives that was sent by 86th District Representative Larry Walsh, Jr. State Senator Pat McGuire from Illinois District 43 spoke and made a presentation. Alenka Jerak, Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia, provided remarks and presented an official document to KSKJ Life from the country of Slovenia recognizing this great milestone.

Entertainment included a performance by "Slovenska Mladinska Skupina Marelja Dance Troupe" followed by Music and Dancing by "Ray Koncar and the Boys."

A good time was had by all!

Grateful appreciation goes out to the Home Office team of Lauren Baltz, Cathi Davis, Christy Kelly and April Sleyko for organizing and coordinating this very successful event.

Below are some of my thoughts that I shared at the celebration about the vibrant history of KSKJ Life:

"Dreams are the fool's ideas of yesterday, that are commonplace today." Credited with that quote was Melvin Jones, who was born in 1879 and was the founder of the Lions Club International.

He very easily could have been talking about KSKJ Life.

In 1891, a young Slovenian Missionary priest, Fr. Francis Sustercic, came to America to serve the Slovenians in the community of Joliet, Illinois. Inspired by Monsignor Joseph Buh, who published the "American Slovenian," Father Sustercic had a dream of bringing together Slovenian immigrants from around the United States to form a common bond.

When the immigrants came to America from Eastern Europe, the Austrian Empire, and more precisely from the area of Yugoslavia known as Slovenia, they went wherever there was work; usually in steel mills, smelters, and mines. They settled in various cities in Illinois, Michigan, Montana, Minnesota, Colorado, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kansas. The work was hard and dangerous and there was no protection for the workers.

Fr. Francis Sustercic shared this dream with the new immigrants to America and convinced the representatives from most of these communities that his great vision to form one Fraternal Society would strengthen the ties of his fellow immigrants by offering material assistance and protection, as well as spiritual guidance. "In Unity there is Strength" or "V Sloji Je Moc!"

In 1894 his dream and vision came to fruition when 10 independent groups from across the country came together to establish the Grand Carnolian Slovenian Catholic Union or the KSKJ, Kranjska Slovenska Katoliška Jednota. Now we are KSKJ Life, the American Slovenian Catholic Union. Three of those original 10 groups are still in existence. They are St. Stephen Lodge # 1 in Chicago, St Joseph Lodge #2 in Joliet and St. Joseph Lodge #7 in Pueblo, CO.

Today, 125 years later KSKJ Life is celebrating the results of that dream and the great vision of a humble missionary priest.

Why was Joliet, Illinois initially chosen to be the home for KSKJ? In Marianne Wolf's book "Images of America Joliet" she identified, that in 1891, there were 73 Slovenian families living in Joliet, mostly between the Des Plaines River and Ruby Street.

Continued on next page

A MESSAGE FROM THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE CELEBRATING KSKJ LIFE'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Continued from page 3

In the early 1900's, Slovenians in Joliet operated 19 salons, 5 dry goods and grocery stores, 3 meat markets, 1 funeral parlor and 1 cigar manufacturer. In 1899 the first Slovenian newspaper in America "Amerikanski Slovenec" moved to Joliet, Illinois. Also, in 1904, the first Slovenian physician in the United States opened his office in Joliet. Quite a remarkable early presence of Slovenes in Joliet and the perfect place for our Home Office!

Over the years KSKJ Life continued to grow, and like most businesses of longevity, we experienced the roller coaster that is life; living through wars, depressions, prohibition and the continual challenges of this world. Yet through all this KSKJ Life not only survived, it thrived.

In 2014, KSKJ Life held our National Convention at Walt Disney World in Florida. We were told about an interesting anecdote that happened when Disney World first opened. It took many years to build Disney World and during that time Walt Disney passed away. At the Grand Opening, a group of VIPs' were touring the park. A visitor made a comment to one of the Disney executives doing the tour about what a marvelous place it was, and that it was a shame that Walt Disney never got to see it. The Disney executive replied, "Walt Disney did see it; that's why it's here."

I wonder if Fr. Francis Sustercic, the young missionary priest and our founders of KSKJ Life saw what we would look like today. Those pioneers were all great dreamers and true to their inspiration, they were never less than their dreams.

A famous President once said that "History is made by the Dreamers, not the Doubters."

Today is a great time in the history of KSKJ Life as we celebrate 125 years of our successful survival. So many great people made this year possible and to all of them, we will be forever grateful.

Thank you to all our KSKJ Life members and many friends as we celebrate this great milestone in our long journey!

Rudolph Krasovec

Chair, KSKJ Life National Board of Directors



Just a remark or two about KSKJ Life's 125th anniversary celebration.

If you are a member of KSKJ Life, you should be proud of your organization. The celebration was presented with professionalism, history, emotion and pride. Compliments to the staff for all the preparation and expertise

in presenting our members and guests with an evening to remember and be proud of.

As you begin enjoying the fall season, you probably are exposed to another football season, high school, college and the NFL...Hope your teams are successful and no player seriously injured. In the midst of all your excitement, hopefully there will always be a place for the Lord in your daily endeavors. When you attend Church on the weekend, a thank you to the Lord will express your gratitude for all the blessings you have received.

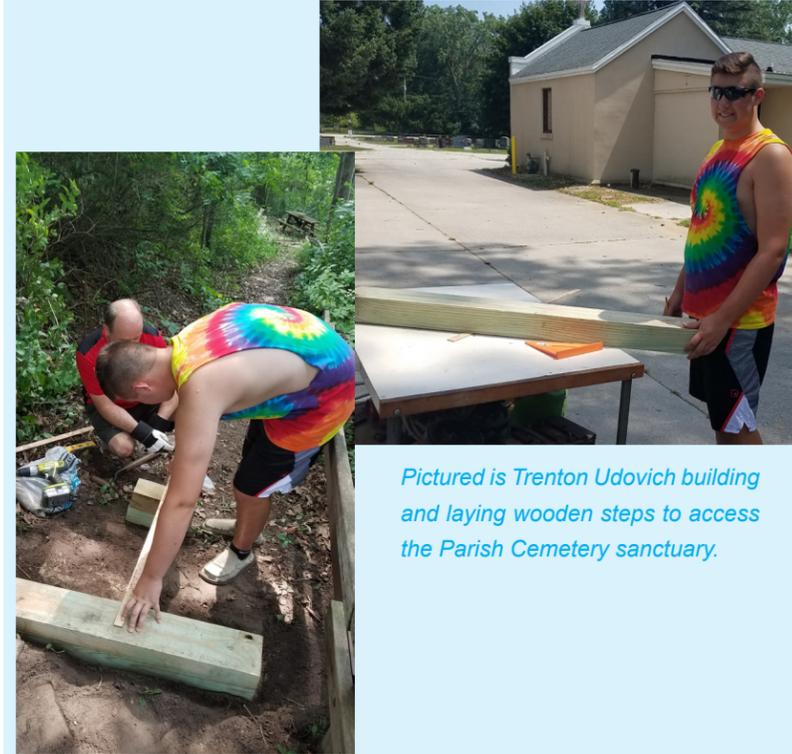
We continue to pray for the hurricane victims, hoping the season of hurricanes won't bring too much pain and sorrow to those in the path of these storms.

As your spiritual advisor please know you are remembered in my prayers. I feel honored to be part of KSKJ Life. Thanks for that privilege. Have a safe, holy, peaceful Fall.

Reverend Richard Gielow
KSKJ Life Spiritual Advisor

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

TRENTON UDOVICH IS A MEMBER OF SHEBOYGAN, WI LODGE #144



Pictured is Trenton Udovich building and laying wooden steps to access the Parish Cemetery sanctuary.

Trenton Udovich, member of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Lodge #144, recently started his Eagle Scout project at the Parish Cemetery in Sheboygan, WI. Eagle is the highest rank in scouting and this project is the last requirement for Trenton to reach that elite level. Trenton always helped his lodge during their Join Hands Day Project of cleaning up at the Parish Cemetery in preparation of Memorial Day. He made the realization that the sanctuary down by the river was not easily accessible, so Trenton began constructing steps to put down on the grade. At this time, the project is nearing completion. Another part of the project was to raise funds, so he reached out to the parish and many others to help fund the project. Lodge #144 was a donor to this worthwhile project. Way to go, Trenton!

*Submitted by,
Pat Slapnick, Lodge #144 President*

Do you know someone like Trenton who is dedicated to helping others and always lends a hand to their community? Consider nominating them for the KSKJ Life Service Award!

KSKJ LIFE



2019 KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

KSKJ Life is now accepting online nominations for the 2019 KSKJ Life National Service Award from October 1 through December 31. Any KSKJ Life member (age 13 and older) who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to service and volunteerism in his/her community can be nominated. The person submitting the nomination must be a member as well. The honoree will be chosen in January 2020, and KSKJ Life will make a \$250 donation to the charity of his/her choice. Visit kskjlife.com for more information and to make a nomination.

Thank you for celebrating KSKJ Life's 125th Anniversary with us!



PHILANTHROPY CORNER

CLEVELAND, OH LODGES #25 AND #226 HELD A SUCCESSFUL JOINT MATCHING FUNDS EVENT THIS YEAR TO PROMOTE LITERACY AND CULTURE

Earlier this year, St. Vitus KSKJ Life Lodge #25 and Christ the King KSKJ Life Lodge #226 held a Matching Funds event promoting local efforts for literacy and Slovenian culture. This year, Lodge #25 supported The Friends of the Slovenian National Home that supports the Slovenian Nation Home on St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. Its purpose is to give financial support for the upkeep of the building and hall. Lodge #226 supported the Slovenian Cultural Association, which also supports the publication of the Slovenian American Times. Combined with the Matching Funds grant, a total of \$11,544.12 was raised to be split between the two organizations. These funds were raised at the St. Vitus Palm Sunday Dinner.



Lodge #226 officers present the KSKJ Matching Funds check to Martina Jakomin, an officer of the Slovenian American Cultural Association. Raymond Zak, Lodge #226 President; Martina Jakomin; Ronald Zak, Fraternal Activities Coordinator; and Charles Potenga, Vice-President.

Submitted by,
Joe Hocevar, Lodge #25 President



Lodge #25 officers present the Matching Funds check to Sharon Lenarcic, Vice-President of The Friends of the Slovenian National Home, Inc. Robert Hopkins, President of the St. Clair Slovenian National Home; Joseph Hocevar, President of Lodge #25; Sharon Lenarcic; and John Turek, Financial Secretary of Lodge #25.



SUPPORTING SOLDIERS

RETURNS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The Supporting Soldier Campaign was created in 2015 as an effort to show our organization's support and gratitude towards the active military, veterans and their families. Each holiday season, we collect items and raise funds for a charitable organization whose mission is to assist our brave military.

Look for more details in the November voice issue and on our website kskjlife.com.



SLOVENIAN DELEGATION VISITS PUEBLO COMMUNITY

A delegation of Slovenian dignitaries made a short visit to Pueblo on August 19 as part of their visit to Colorado to attend a National Guard convention in Denver, Colorado. The 15 visitors made a spectacular entrance to the city arriving in 3 Black Hawk Helicopters following an early morning visit to the High-Altitude Training center in Eagle Colorado. His Excellency Karl Erjavec, Slovenia's Minister of Defense led the delegation that included the new Chief of Defense, General Alenka Ermenc (the only female head of military in NATO). Slovenian Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Stanislav Vidovic, Mr. Uros Krek, Deputy Secretary General/National Security Advisor to the President, as well as several other members of the Slovenian military. Also arriving with them was Major General Michael Low, The Adjutant General of Colorado and Major Edward Kim, Bilateral Affairs Officer at the US Embassy in Ljubljana.



A Black Hawk takes off as people cheer their support during the Slovenian dignitaries visit.

A luncheon with traditional local Slovenian cuisine was provided including Klobasi and Potica. Before eating, Reverend Michael Chrisman from St. Theresa Church did the blessing in Slovenian and English. Lunch was followed by formal presentation from Mayor Gradisar, Major General Michael Low, PCC President Dr. Patty Erjavec, Rudy Krasovec, Chair of KSKJ Life (who also was the Master of Ceremonies) and Slovenian Minister of Defense Karl Erjavec.



A group picture was taken during the visit by the Slovenian Delegation, In the center of the picture are KSKJ Life CEO, Tony Mravle and Board Chair, Rudy Krasovec. Toward the end is National Board member Dan Golob.

The helicopters landed on Valdez field at Pueblo Community College and were immediately greeted by a host of enthusiasts including Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar and Jan, PCC President Dr. Patty Erjavec, Ray and daughter Amanda, Tony Mravle, Danny, Lisa and Will Golob, Bishop Stephen Berg, Rev. Michael Chrisman. Renee Zakavec, Eileen Krasovec-Perez, Norma Becco and Al, Mike Orazem, Diane Slaten, Marian Pechek, Tony and Judy Wodishek, Bill and Joyce Kocman, Stan Erjavec, Judy Chandler, Donald Anzlovar, Ray Aguilera, Kurt Perse and a host of other local Slovenians, KSKJ Members and friends.



Minister of Defense Karl Erjavec (left) and Pueblo Mayor Nick Gradisar (right) plant a Linden tree in front of the Gorsich Technology Center. The Linden Tree is the official tree of Slovenia.

Following lunch, the delegation toured the campus including the Technology Learning Labs hosted by instructor Tom Jagunich and then they visited the Gorsich Technology Center (named after a generous Slovenian American benefactor, Fred Gorsich).

Continued on next page

Continued from page 9

In front of the Gorsich Center the visit was concluded with the delegation and Minister Erjavec planting a Linden tree and dedicating it as the official tree of Slovenia.

Overall, the visit was an impressive opportunity for Pueblo Slovenians to show case our community and the great contribution made by the early Slovenes to Colorado.

Below is the Address made by Minister Erjavec during his visit:

"Dear Mayor Gradisar, fellow Slovenians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad to have this opportunity to visit you here in Pueblo, one of the towns with the biggest Slovenian communities in the United States. The first day of my visit here in Colorado has been marked with Slovenian colors. This morning, I had the opportunity to inaugurate a hayrack, kozolec, in Centennial, as a symbol of our friendship and cooperation with the Colorado National Guard.

Although Slovenia is bilaterally cooperating with Colorado for just 25 years, Slovenians have left a mark on Colorado for well over a century. You are living proof of it. Slovenian-Americans are crucial for Slovenia's relations with the United States, as you are connecting our two cultures in business, politics and culture.

At the same time, I would like to express my gratitude to the people of Colorado, who have so graciously accepted Slovenians in their communities so many years ago and continue to do so.

Seeing you all here today, I am very proud to see how well the Slovenian community is thriving in the United States. It is very heart-warming to see you are keeping the traditions of your ancestors alive. You are very important to Slovenia, as you are ambassadors of our culture abroad.

Thank you for your warm welcome, generous hospitality, and for making me feel at home.

Najilepsa hvala!"

*Submitted by,
Rudolph Krasovec
Chair, KSKJ Life National Board of Directors*

12 BEST U.S. CITIES FOR RETIREMENT

Thinking about moving in retirement? You're not alone. About two-thirds of retirees plan to relocate or already have, according to a recent survey by Merrill Lynch and Age Wave. Whether your retirement is years away or right around the corner, it's great to start planning ahead now and boost your retirement funds by finding the locations where your dollars will go the farthest. WalletHub has just released the 2019 Top 12 Best US Cities for Retirement based on 4 factors: affordability, activities, quality of life and health care. Take a look at this year's top picks below:

1. Orlando, FL
2. Tampa, FL
3. Scottsdale, AZ
4. Charleston, SC
5. Miami, FL
6. Denver, CO
7. Fort Lauderdale, FL
8. Cape Coral, FL
9. Minneapolis, MN
10. Cheyenne, WY
11. New Orleans, LA
12. Pembroke Pines, FL

Looking for ways to maximize your retirement? Let KSKJ Life show you how you can use the living benefit of a cash value life insurance policy!

Here are some of the benefits while are you living:

- Guaranteed growth
- Unique tax advantages
- Flexible funds to use during retirement
- Long-term care
- College savings
- Financial asset

For more information, contact your KSKJ Life agent today or visit our website kskjlife.com.

CHANGES TO THE KSKJ VOICE PUBLICATION

Beginning in 2020, The Voice publication is intended to transition into a bi-annual, high-level national news publication. The traditional Lodge News section will no longer be included in this publication as lodges continue to expand local communication utilizing different mediums for events and meetings. Lodge meeting and event details, as well as other lodge news, will come directly from the local lodge to ensure timely and accurate information, although lodge and member highlights will still be a part of the 2020 publication.

The home office will distribute a monthly e-newsletter and will continue to publish local lodge events on our website as well as on the Activities page on Facebook (@kskjactivities).

To receive the monthly e-newsletter, please contact the fraternal department at fraternal@kskjlife.com or submit your request on our website. (Note: must have valid email address).

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.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2019

Lodge #02 - Eugene F. Brinkman, Lapeer, MI

Lodge #02 - Bernard R. Vidmar, Bozman, MT

Lodge #20 - Claudies Garrison, Lansing, MI

Lodge #25 - Marie Kotar, Wickliffe, OH

Lodge #29 - Carol M. Debretto, Joliet, IL

Lodge #29 - Elmer C. Starasinich, Joliet, IL

Lodge #42 - Anna Marie Hylan, Harrisburg, PA

Lodge #42 - Sara L. Roland, Quarryville, PA

Lodge #50 - Mary Kuzio, Allison Park, PA

Lodge #50 - Doris McGraw, Burgettstown, PA

Lodge #52 - Roberta K. Capozzi, Auburn, IN

Lodge #52 - Roy L. Edwards, Martinsville, IN

Lodge #59 - Steve Hilar, Eveleth, MN

Lodge #63 - Anthony Blatnik, Dubuque, IA

Lodge #63 - Sandra Y. Lusk, West Lafayette, OH

Lodge #63 - Mildred F. Wolf, Brecksville, OH

Lodge #65 - Erwin P. Krolnik, New Berlin, WI

Lodge #69 - Evelyn A. Hekkel, Anaconda, MT

Lodge #74 - James W. Davis, Chicago, IL

Lodge #104 - Mark K. Pierson, Pueblo, CO

Lodge #108 - Frances J. Hewlett, Joliet, IL

Lodge #115 - Carolyn V. Boldridge, Atchison, KS

Lodge #115 - Bruce J. Lingenfelter, Wichita, KS

Lodge #148 - Deborah Pellagrino, Naugatuck, CT

Lodge #150 - Patricia A. O'Brien, Canfield, OH

Lodge #153 - Richard Demsher, Houston, PA

Lodge #153 - Roger Hoey, Milton, PA

Lodge #153 - Mary Macejko, Strabane, PA

Lodge #170 - Archie Hegwood, Chicago, IL

Lodge #170 - Duke F. Wildey, Carpentersville, IL

Lodge #226 - Lillian A. Hlabse, Chardon, OH

Lodge #236 - Patricia L. Bauder, Santee, CA

Lodge #236 - Terry Delfin Jr., Montclair, CA

Lodge #236 - Mario E. Martinez, Chino, CA

Lodge #236 - Margaret C. Schmidl, Huntington Beach, CA

Lodge #603 - Gwendolyn N. Grim, Montpelier, OH

Lodge #620 - Manuel T. Chavez, Laveen, AZ

Lodge #620 - Richard W. Thomas, Mayer, AZ

Lodge #622 - Allison K. Schoonover, McCausland, IA

Lodge #623 - Judy A. Brown, Henderson, KY

Lodge #623 - George R. Moore, Henderson, KY

Lodge #623 - Betty M. Pheanis, Mount Vernon, KY

IN MEMORY

Lillian Hlabse: Lodge #226 - James & Kim Saywell - \$500.00

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

COLORADO

LODGE #7

PUEBLO, CO

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5 – PDI Harvest Walk: All are welcome to join! The Harvest Walk will take place at the Pueblo Riverwalk.

October 26 – Halloween Carnival: Join us for our first Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 26, 2019 at St. Joseph's Hall on 917 East "B" Street, where we will have bingo, a crazy auction, a costume contest, a Trick or Treat Street, games and fun! All for a small entrance fee. All ages are welcome, both young and young at heart! The carnival will be from 12PM – 4PM with the Trick or Treat Street to be held from 3PM to 4PM. Catering will be provided by Coop's Route 50 Diner.

Follow us on Facebook (@stjosephslodge7) and stay up-to-date on all Lodge #7's events happening throughout the year!

Submitted by Angie Perez

ILLINOIS

LODGE #1

CHICAGO, IL

ST. STEPHEN LODGE 1 AND ST. ANNE LODGE 170 MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

The fundraising event was for the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois. The buffet/dinner was very well attended, about 130 guests in all.

Thank you to each and every one of you that attended the dinner, participated in the 50/50 raffle, brought baked goods and purchased bakery plates. Many of you have supported our Matching Funds events for years and we are very grateful.

Thank you to Karl and Maria Zorjan and the kitchen crew

for the delicious food, to the table and buffet servers, the set-up and clean-up volunteers, the dishwasher -- Lodge 1: Joanne and Patrick Sierzega, Dawn, Kody and Marty Zamora; Lodge 170: Fanika Gorsic, Ana Hozjan, Barbara and Theresa Krampac, Ivanka, John and Milena Zerdin.

50/50 raffle winners: Teresa Meyer and Maria Oplanic. Both donated their winnings to the Federation of the Blind. Thank you.

Our gratitude to all, whatever your part, for this successful fundraiser.



Members and guests enjoy a lovely meal at the Matching Funds event to benefit the National Federation of the Blind of Illinois.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to KSKJ Life...Colton John Bogan! We welcome you and look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party and many other events in the future. Colton is the grandson of member Sophie McCauley and the brother of member Aubree Bogan.



Sweet baby Colton is the newest member of Lodge #1.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

ST. STEPHEN LODGE ANNIVERSARY EVENT

St. Stephen Lodge 1 will hold our 125th Anniversary Event on Sunday, October 20, 2019. Mass starts at 11 a.m. at the Slovenian Catholic Mission. A 3-entree dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m.

Prepaid reservations are required and due by Monday, October 7th. Please call Joanne Sierzega at 773-247-3606. Adults: \$30.00 per person. Children under 12: \$15.00 per child.

Submitted by Joanne Sierzega

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

LODGE HALLOWEEN PARTY

Join us and bring the kids aged 0-12 in costume to the Lodge Halloween Party on Saturday, October 26.

See full party details below.



ALL KSKJ LIFE YOUTH MEMBERS AGES 0-12 ARE INVITED TO THE ST. FRANCIS LODGE NO. 29 HALLOWEEN PARTY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CROATIAN CULTURAL CLUB 1503 Clement Street, Joliet
Come in costume and have a fun time with games & entertainment by Dave's Reptile Show Kids will receive a hot dog, chips, drink & dessert Adult food tickets \$2.00
RSVP to Judy Corum 815-725-3553 by October 19 with number of children & adults attending

Sponsored by St. Francis Lodge #29

We will also be collecting items or monetary donations for Stockings for Soldiers that day. Items such as candy canes, gum, beef jerky or slim jims, hot chocolate,

single serving candy or cookie packages, zip lock bags, lip balm, moisturizer, hand wipes, dental floss, AA & AAA batteries, playing cards or card games, puzzle books and socks would be perfect to stuff the stockings for those who serve our country.

Please come to our last meeting of 2019 and election of officers for 2020 on Sunday, December 1, 1:00 p.m. at St. Joe's Park.

Happy Fall to y'all!

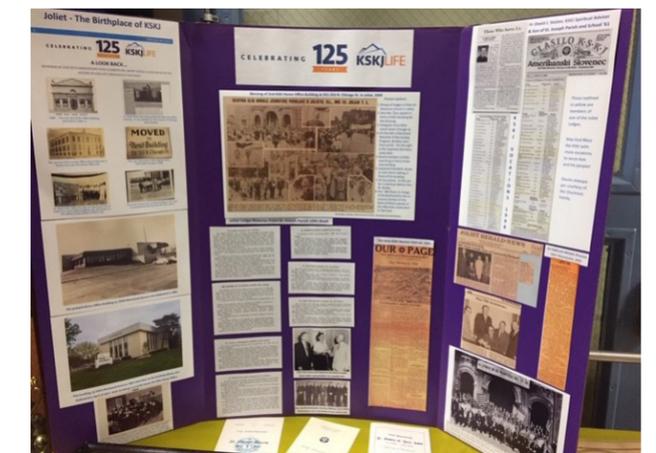
*Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Reporter*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL EVENT

If you had the opportunity to attend KSKJ Life's National Event on August 17th in Joliet and visit the St. Joseph's Museum between Mass and the event itself, you may have noticed a special KSKJ Life display in the main hallway. Lodge 143 members Ray and Annette Koncar, who are the curators of the museum, graciously assembled this special display. It tells the history of the Joliet Home Office buildings and includes actual newspaper clippings from celebrations such as KSKJ Day in 1948 which honored those KSKJ members who served their country in World Wars 1 and 2.



Special display "Joliet – The Birthplace of KSKJ" assembled by Ray and Annette Koncar.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Once guests made their way through the St. Joe's museum, Ray Koncar then made his way over to the Joliet Historical Museum where he provided the musical entertainment for the evening with his band, Ray Koncar and the Boys.



Newspaper clipping advertising KSKJ Day in 1948.

Thanks Annette and Ray for helping to make KSKJ Life's National Event that more special!

Submitted by Lauren Baltz

breakfast for October 27th in the Church Hall after 8:30 a.m. Mass. On November 3rd, and also December 1st, we will have our regular monthly meetings after 8:30 a.m. Mass.

LODGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Christmas Party will be on December 15th at 1:00 p.m. On that day we hope to organize and distribute the gifts we collect from our Giving Tree, which will be in the Church throughout Advent.

Submitted by Rosemary Mattson

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

LODGE TRIP UP NORTH

Several members of St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 enjoyed a trip up north to Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Falls, Canada this summer. The Singing Slovenes delighted local crowds with their musical performances at various churches and picnics.

Submitted by Frank Bucar



The Singing Slovenes, mostly made up of Lodge #171 Members, provided their musical ministry of the Polka Mass at "St. Gregory the Great Slovenian Church" in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

LODGE UPDATE

Eveleth Lodge #59 held their regular meeting on Sunday, Sept. 8th, as we recuperated from the Iron Range Evening Slovenian Style that we participated in on Friday night. We set our schedule for the rest of this year. We will honor our 50-year members on September 29th with a breakfast at 10 a.m. at Perkins. Our next monthly meeting will be October 6, after 8:30 a.m. Mass. We will host the Minnesota Federation of KSKJ Lodges quarterly meeting at Resurrection Church on October 13th at 1 p.m. We are planning our next fellowship

MINNESOTA LODGE #59

EVELETH, MN

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Our trumpet player decided to take a little rest in the middle of our performance in Lipa Park.



Some of the St. Joseph Lodge 69 members at the meeting on Sept. 8, 2019

Submitted by George Wood



The Singing Slovenes performing for a picnic at Lipa Park, Ontario, Canada, after the Polka Mass at "St. Gregory the Great Slovenian Church", in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

MONTANA LODGE #69

GREAT FALLS, MT

LODGE UPDATE

St. Joseph Lodge #69 held our 3rd quarter meeting on September 8, 2019 in the Giant Springs State Park. Gathering also included walking, running or biking the Rivers Edge Trail prior to the meeting. After the meeting the members and guests concluded with a picnic. The Lodge furnished chicken & beverages while the members brought salads. It was great getting everyone together.

OHIO LODGE #25

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Greetings, hope everyone had a nice summer. Now it's time to look for the white flies to come.

Just a brief note we will have our regular monthly meeting November 10th at 11:30 a.m. in the Village social room. We are asking for all to make an effort to attend as we are looking for some new ideas that you may have.

Also make a note that our annual meeting and election of officers will take place on December 8th at 1:00 p.m. in the church basement. If there is anyone interested in holding office, please come forth. All are welcome to attend.

John C. Turek

LODGE #63

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING LODGE MEETINGS

The remaining meetings for this year are: Monday, September 23 (4th Monday) and October 28, at the Slovenian National Home (3563 East 80th Cleveland 44105). Hope to see everyone there.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

There will also be a November meeting, which will be a call-in meeting on Monday 25. Our annual meeting/Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 1 at 12:00 p.m. The party will follow at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovenian Home and Lanes on East 80th Street.

As always if you have any questions please feel free to contact me 440-781-3075.

Submitted by Jean Marincic

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATES

We have had almost a week of cooler weather in late August. That means summer is coming to an end. Each season has its own pluses and minuses, but the downside of fall is that winter follows. Not many of us enjoy all that cold weather.

Our first newsletter went out to all the emails I have for our members. If you did not get it, please email me at in4mativ1@hotmail.com. I will send you the first edition and make sure that you are on the list for future ones as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 29th, we will embrace fall with our annual hayride. The hayride will be at Ramseyer Farms in Wooster. The hayride will be our group activity, all other activities will be on your own. They have 3 corn mazes to work your way through, as well as a petting farm and a slide. It is fun for all ages. Come join us for this fun day in the outdoors. The hayride is free to all KSKJ Life members, \$10 for non-members.

Our next Lodge meeting will be Friday, November 15. It will be held at Quaker Steak and Lube on Canal Road in Valley View. Meet there at 6 pm.

Sunday, December 1 is our annual Christmas party and the Election of officers/lodge meeting. Meeting starts at 12:15 p.m. Christmas party from 1 – 3:00 p.m. Santa Claus will visit. Gifts will be given to all KSKJ Life children

(up to 16). Food, bowling, and fun for all!

That is all I have for now. Hope to see you around!

Josie Kmet

Secretary/Treasurer for Lodge 146

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATES

With summer a memory and fall now upon us, we all wonder how the year flew by so fast. Nominations for St. Anne's Lodge #150 officers for 2020 will be taken at our November meeting. Please contact Elaine Peskar at 440-503-8312 or kskjlife150@gmail.com if you are interested in a position or would like to nominate another member. Election of officers will be held at our December 1st meeting at Noon, prior to the Christmas Party at The Nash.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 27 - Slovenian National Home on East 80th, Annual Clambake/Browns Tailgate from 1-8pm. Doors open at 1pm. Music by Joe Novak & Friends from 1 to 4:30pm. Clambake dinners will be served between 3 - 4:30pm. Browns vs Patriots kickoff is at 4:30pm. This will be a Lodge #150 Matching Funds Event to help benefit The Nash.
- November 16 - Slovenian National Home, East 80th, Dinner/Dance celebrating 100th Year Anniversary
- November 24 - St. Mary's Church Fall Festival, starting at 1pm, following the Polka Mass at Noon. St. Mary's is located on Holmes Avenue in Collinwood.
- December 1 - KSKJ Life Annual Christmas Party at The Nash from 1-3pm. There will be a visit from Santa, refreshments, bowling and gifts for KSKJ Life children members (up to age 16). Details for sign up to follow.

*Submitted by
Elaine Peskar*

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

WISCONSIN

LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

125TH ANNIVERSARY FAMILY PICNIC

Many thanks to Rudy and Pat Pugel for hosting Lodge 65's recent Family Picnic commemorating the 125th Anniversary of KSKJ Life. It was a lovely day and all who attended had a great time.



The Lodge Family Picnic was held this summer in conjunction with KSKJ Life's 125th anniversary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

There is still time to get your foursomes together for the 19th Annual Ed Bregant Golf Outing, which will be held on Sunday, October 13, at MeKwon Golf Course. Please call Jim Stoltmann to make your reservations (414-699-1106).

At our October meeting (October 2), we will present four Educational Grants to four deserving college students: Jake Halstead, Sydney Halstead, Josef Nelson, and Tanner Sebastian. Jake will be attending the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, Sydney the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Josef the University of Colorado, and Tanner the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. Best wishes for success to all of you.

What are our past recipients of our Grants doing? We'd

like to hear from you. Please share your experiences with us by e mailing Agnes Lobacz at dlobacz@wi.rr.com.

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of Lilly Gorenc, who passed away on August 11. Her entire family are members of St. Johns. She leaves behind her loving husband, Frank, daughters, Kim (Mike) Sebastian, Lilly (Andy) Halstead, Maxx (Bobby Hinners) and son Mark Gorenc. Her seven grandchildren will miss their grandma very much.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 7, 2019. That's the date of our Annual Christmas Party. It will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall from noon to 3:00 PM.

Our next meeting is October 2, 2019, in the Rectory Meeting Room of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Nasvidenje,

Mici Bregant

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

LODGE UPDATES

Greetings from Willard!cMary of Perpetual Help Lodge #136 celebrated our Lodge Person of the Year on Sept ember 8, 2019. Jeremiah Rakovec our #1 Lodge Auditor was named LPOY for 2019. Jeremiah was given a certificate and gift card. We also honored our Lodge Officers: Pres. Ed Bayuk, VP Joanne Trunkel, Fin. Sec. Lonna Rakovec, Act. Dir. Bethany Gosar, Treas. Melinda Deavers, Rec. Sec. Gene Rakovec, Auditors Jeremiah Rakovec, Bob Trunkel, and Edward Perko.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Saturday, October 26, 2019 our lodge will hold a bake sale before and after 4pm Mass at Holy Family Parish in Willard WI. Members please bring your items that day.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



President Edward J. Bayuk presenting the Lodge Person of the Year to Jeremiah Rakovec.

We plan on celebrating our 50 year member Val Gosar and Lodge Leaders Lonna Rakovec, Joanne Trunkel and Melinda Deavers on November 10, 2019.

We have a meeting that day at 10:30 at Holy Family Parish Center Willard and then at noon we have a potluck lunch followed by our celebration. Please plan to attend.

Our Annual Christmas Party is December 8th at Holy Family Parish Center starting with a potluck lunch.



Officers in attendance honored: Lonna Rakovec, Fin. Sec., Gene Rakovec Rec. Sec., Edward Bayuk President, Robert Trunkel- Auditor, in back Jeremiah Rakovec, Auditor, Melinda Deavers, Treasurer and Bethany Gosar, Act. Dir.

Any questions, please contact Lonna Rakovec at 715-267-7105 or email genelonna@hotmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by
Lonna Rakovec, Fin. Secretary and Voice reporter

LODGE #144

SHEBOYGAN, WI

LODGE UPDATES

WOW! Where has the summer gone to. It just seemed that we started planning our Annual Dinner and it is now history. On September 8th, we celebrated our Lodge #144's 108th Anniversary with the KSKJ Life 125th Anniversary. All those that were present had a nice time. We welcomed Amy Koncar from Lodge #143 in Joliet. She accepted a job at Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Hospital and were pleased that she accepted our invitation to attend the dinner. A big THANK YOU goes out to our new Adult Activities Director, Paige Fenske, for organizing this event. Great job Paige!



Amy Koncar (third from right) from Lodge #143 joined a few of our young adults at the dinner.

We had three 50-year members, but none of them were able to attend. Congratulations go to Francine Servas, Judith Kasabuske and Sharon Brunnbaue. We also honored those members who had reached their 50-year or 75-year milestone previously. We had 11 that were honored for 50 years, and 5 were honored for 75 years. That was a total of over 925 years in KSKJ Life! Each honoree was given a small token of appreciation.

Each year the lodge also awards Financial Aid to members who are attending college/universities. This year we had 2 recipients: Amanda Henschel and Julia Ammons. Congratulations Amanda and Julia.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Pictured are those who attended the dinner that celebrated their 50th or 75 year milestone in KSKJ Life.



Lodge #144 Financial Aid recipients: Amanda Henschel on the left and Julia Ammons on the right.

Just a heads up, Pat Slapnick made those in attendance aware of the change in the publication of the Voice as of January 1st. She said that as of 2020 the Voice will be published semi-annually instead of a monthly publication. The traditional Lodge news section will NO LONGER be included in this publication. How do you want our lodge to best communicate with YOU, the members? This topic was briefly discussed at the meeting prior to our dinner. We need your help! I would like to hear from EACH OF YOU. Please either e-mail me your thoughts at patricias717@charter.com or send me your thoughts at 1902 Havenwood Ct. Sheboygan, WI 53081.

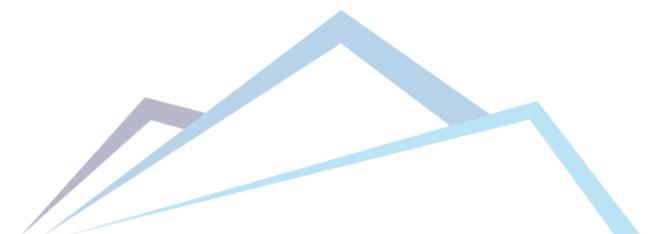
Could we have your e-mail address so that you would receive a Newsletter via e-mail?

UPCOMING EVENTS

In my last article, I said that it was summer yet but I wanted to make you aware of important dates. Well now that we are into fall, mark your calendars for these two dates. On December 1st the Annual Christmas Family Day will be held. This year 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. It will begin at 2:00PM. Please call Tammy Miller if you plan to attend at 920-452-3422.

Then on December 8th we will be having our Early Christmas Breakfast. A very important meeting will follow. Many important decisions must be made so I hope we will have a good attendance. The breakfast is scheduled after the 8:30 AM Mass at SS. Cyril's. Please note the time change since my last article. 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 Paige 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!!

Submitted by,
Pat Slapnick
President/Voice Reporter



KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE

2439 Glenwood Avenue

Joliet, IL 60435



PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST WITH A KSKJ LIFE WHOLE LIFE POLICY

Anna is a busy mom of two. Whether she's volunteering for her son's Parent Teacher Association, coaching her daughter's soccer team or helping her aging parents with housework, Anna is always managing a packed schedule. As both her children and parents get older, Anna knows that busier times are yet to come. But she knows she is prepared for whatever life throws her way because she purchased Whole Life policies from KSKJ Life for herself and her family members.

KSKJ Life offers a variety of Whole Life products to fit your family's needs. To learn more about our products, visit kskjlife.com/products or contact your local agent.

KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 9.2019.V.