

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD IT'S ALL ABOUT FRATERNALISM



The question that I get asked most often is "What makes KSKJ Life different from other insurance or financial organizations?" The answer is simple—it's "fraternalism." Without our fraternal activities, we

are no different than any of the other institutions providing similar financial services. It is fraternalism that makes us "special."

On July 10, 2017, the National Board of Directors approved a referendum ballot initiative with a motion to change the Fraternal Board to a Fraternal Committee with separate governance guidelines, and to make all appropriate bylaw and governance changes.

As the next step in the process, we recently held a referendum vote with the delegates from the last KSKJ Life National Convention. **A total of 115 ballots were distributed, with 96 returned. Ninety-four (94) voted in favor, with one against and one returned with no selection made.** Seventeen (17) Board of Director ballots were distributed, with 16 returned. Fifteen (15) voted in favor, and one was returned unmarked. Ninety-eight (98) delegate ballots were distributed, of which 80 were returned, with 79 voting in favor, and one against.

This is a strategic step in strengthening and improving our current fraternal commitments. Over four years ago, we restructured the national board to separate the Financial and Fraternal functions of our society. It was a necessary and insightful initiative that positioned us for the current events of today. KSKJ Life has long been a leader in predicting

and preparing our organization to meet future needs. Some other Fraternal Benefit societies that have failed to act in anticipation of new regulatory requirements are only now facing this challenge. It is reassuring to hear that some of our current board members have been contacted by other societies for leadership advice as they struggle meeting this initiative.

The new structure of the Fraternal Committee will greatly improve KSKJ Life's ability to represent our membership equitably. As future fraternal services are developed, there will be more flexibility to focus on the suitability of the amenities provided to the regions and service areas. As the preferences and desires of our members change, we want to be agile to make the needs of the local members and lodges our primary focus. One size doesn't fit all. This committee is a better mechanism to ensure that the most appropriate fraternal services are offered and provided to our members.

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*Continued from front cover*

Over the next few months, the process to develop the structure of the new Fraternal Committee will take place. At our next National Board of Directors meeting, we will begin laying out the timeline, parameters and specific requirements for the new committee. For the time being, we anticipate that the Fraternal Committee will remain the same as the previous Fraternal Board. Our goal is to have everything prepared to roll out in advance of the 2018 National Convention.

Thank you to the delegates and board members for your action in establishing this innovative system of deploying fraternal service to our membership. It is gratifying to know that we all continue to work together in solidarity for the benefit of all of our members and to keep KSKJ Life strong and vibrant for generations to come.

It is a momentous day for KSKJ Life and another step in keeping our "special" status!

*Rudolph Krasovec*

*Chair, KSKJ Life National Board of Directors*



*Marcus Chamernik, Jim Petric, Gary Petric, Bernie Chamernik, and Brett Chamernik get ready to tee it up at the KSKJ Life Golf tournament*



*Doug Deram, David Deram, and Keith Barnett keep an eye on the chip shot of young Mason Barnett*

## KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

To say the fourth annual KSKJ Life National Golf Tournament was a success would be, in my opinion, quite the understatement. You see, the day was about so much more than just golf. To me, it was the epitome of true fraternalism - social and charitable - all day long.

Blessed with sunny skies and a challenging breeze, 116 golfers (of various skill levels) flocked to Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan, Ill. on June 25. The golfers were treated to a huge Sunday brunch, followed by a 1 p.m. shot gun start.

While the participants were mainly golfers from Illinois and Wisconsin, KSKJ Life lodges, members, and friends from all around the country made their presence known through our "Hole Sponsor" initiative. Many supporters made a \$50 charitable donation to the KSKJ Life Scholarship Fund, and a 20" x 30" sign displaying their information was then strategically placed throughout the course. I'm happy to say that our sponsors broke another record this year, with 41 generous donors contributing to the cause.

Out on the course, there were a few contests and even a raffle to raise money for a local veteran's group, the Midwest Veteran's Closet. The Veteran's Closet is a non-profit charity that is taking the lead in impacting veteran's lives by providing free clothing, household items, furniture, food pantry, housing as available, employment assistance, and dignity, to veterans. Golfers were also asked to bring gently used men's clothing and new men's underwear. Mary Carmody, president of the Veteran's Closet was overwhelmed as she collected just under 500 items from us, ranging from suits, all the way down to socks and underwear. We also presented the Veteran's Closet the proceeds from the on-course contests and raffle (which totaled \$1040), and a \$100 Charitable Giving award from KSKJ Life (\$50 each from Lodges #53 and #79). Mary Carmody recently sent a thank you note in which she said "Thank you SO much for your sLOVENian LOVE for our heroes...Thank you for sharing our mission....we're in this together."

The Midwest Veteran's Closet was selected not only for the outstanding work they do in the community for our returning veterans, but also as a tribute to the

late Tom Deram. Tom, a lifelong member of St. Mary Lodge #79 and a U.S. Army veteran, passed away on April 1 of this year. Many donations to both the Veteran's Closet and to the KSKJ Life Scholarship Fund were made in Tom's memory.

Back in the club house, there was a little more fundraising for the KSKJ Life Scholarship Fund through our prize raffle and auction. When the day was over, the proceeds from the raffle, auction, skins competition (no skins were won, golfers voted to donate the money) and the hole sponsorship brought in \$3975 for the KSKJ Life Scholarship Fund.

This annual event goes far beyond the money raised for our scholarship fund. More importantly, it demonstrates the true meaning of giving - reaching beyond ourselves and helping those who can't always help themselves, like veterans who have now returned home and need our assistance.

A huge thank you to everyone who generously supported this tournament - from the golfers, to the committee, to the many St. Joseph Lodge #53 and St. Mary Lodge #79 volunteers, and to our awesome donors. What can I say? Raising over \$5,000 for charity doesn't just happen by chance. It takes the selfless acts of kindness and giving that were ever-present throughout this event.

True fraternalism all day long!

SAVE THE DATE -

KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018. WAUKEGAN, IL.

Hope to see you next year!

*MaryLou Stefanick*  
*National Director of Athletics*

**CHECK OUT MORE PHOTOS**





## 2017 HOLE SPONSOR LIST

LODGES	
Immaculate Conception Society 104	Robert McKay & Julie Zabukovec*
Joliet KSKJ Lodges	Matthew and Dorothy Miholic
Knights of St. Florian Lodge #44	Rudy Pugel Family
St. Anne Lodge #170	Ray Zak and Ron Zak*
St. John the Evangelist Lodge #65	
BUSINESSES	
St. Joseph Lodge #7	Bradley Funeral Home
St. Joseph Lodge #53	D Pollack Glass
St. Joseph Lodge #146	Lake County Movers*
St. Mary Lodge #79	Marvelous Mouse Travels
St. Veronica Lodge #115	Sackman & Son Financial Services*
IN MEMORY OF...	
BOARD MEMBERS	
Ron Dolence Sr. by Kelly Glabowicz	Danny Golob
Derams' Duffers by David Gutantes*	Joseph Hocevar
Edward Govekar Sr. by Therese M Govekar*	Phil Hrvatin
Gene Klainsek by Harold & Georgette Vota	Theresa Krampac
Diane Ptasienski by Greg Ptasienski	Rudy Krasovec
Sherry Wagner by MaryLou Stefanick	
Our Dad & "Grandpa T" Tom Deram by Danielle & Keith Barnett*	Dan Mihelich
Our "Forever Friend" by David Gutantes*	Ashley Mikulan
FRIENDS	
Christensen Family*	Pat Slapnick*
Hammergren & Marolt Family	MaryLou Stefanick*
The Jesenovec Sisters*	Michael Vidmar
Lance Johnson & Family*	*DONATION WAS MADE IN MEMORY OF THOMAS DERAM



*A member makes a clothing donation to the Midwest Veteran's Closet*



*Scorekeepers Lance Johnson and Glen Christensen present KSKJ Life National Athletic Director MaryLou Stefanick with a \$580.00 donation, compliments of the skins contest*



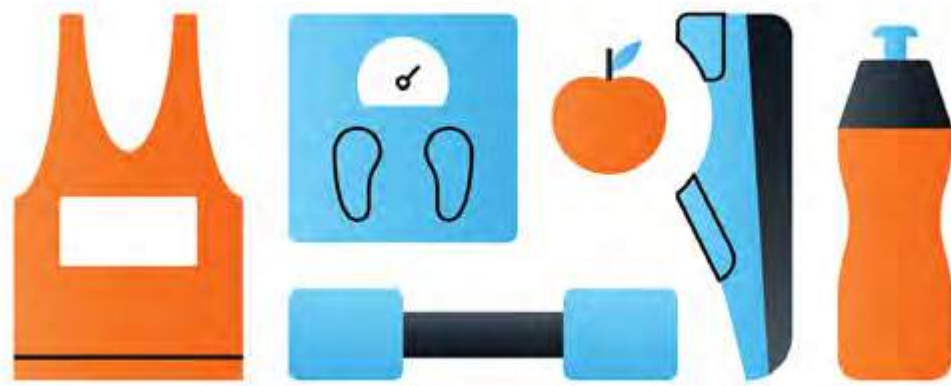
*Jim Dennor, Kerry Biegay, Jim McCormick, and Joe Grampo enjoying the day at the KSKJ Life Golf Tournament*



*The team of Jim Grom, Linda (Grom) Willcox, Ed Grom, and Mike Dieck (not pictured) take home the 1st place honors at the 2017 KSKJ Life Golf Tournament.*



*KSKJ Life National Athletic Director MaryLou Stefanick presents the last place team with Driving Range certificates, to hone their skills for next year*



## STEPPING UP 2017 45 DAYS TO A BETTER YOU

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 15

Get ready for this year's Stepping Up Program! We are excited for you to make a commitment to "step up" to the 45-day challenge of creating a better you!

This year, our goal is to reach even more members who are committed to improving their overall health by getting active – whether that means taking the stairs versus the elevator, going on a 20-minute walk with your co-workers, taking an evening bike ride with your family or even cutting the grass. Every activity counts! We want to be a part of your activity and encourage you to share your photos with us.

Two random winners will be selected to receive a Ninja blender based on shared activity via the website and photos tagged/shared on social media. Don't forget to tag your photos using #KSKJLIFE and #STEPPINGUP so we can be a part of your activity!

Throughout this 45-day program, we will highlight members all over the country and share their activity on our website and on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

In addition, for every registered participant and for

every shared activity, the Home Office will donate \$1 to this year's charity, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. So get active and share often!! Also, for any member who participates in a JDRF sponsored event, \$25 will be donated (per team). You can learn more about this organization and check out upcoming events by visiting [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org).

Join us on the journey to a healthy lifestyle!

*MaryLou Stefanick*  
National Athletics Director

## UPCOMING MATCHING FUNDS EVENTS

Numerous KSKJ Life Lodges are planning Matching Funds events for this fall. Here is a list of events happening in September and October:

Date	Lodge	Type of Event	Location of Event	Beneficiary
9/10	1 & 170	Dinner and Raffle	Slovenian Cultural Center, Lemont, IL	All in for Ethan - helping kids with GAN
9/10	52	Slovenian Dinner	Slovenian National Home, Indianapolis, IN	St. Mary's Child Center
9/17	171	Dancing & Ethnic Foods	The GND Rec Pavilion, Gary New-Duluth, MN	The Singing Slovenes
9/23	150	Reverse Raffle, Food & Music	Holy Name Church, Cleveland, OH	Saint Vincent de Paul Society
10/1	29	5k walk	Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL	JDRF
10/7	2	5k walk	Rock Run Forest Preserve, Joliet, IL	Alzheimer's Association of Will County
10/25	226	Food & Music	Slovenian National Home, Cleveland, OH	Slovenian National Home

## SAVE THE DATE! YALC

**Attention youth members ages  
18-25:**

The KSKJ Life Young Adult Leadership Conference will take place August 7-9, 2018 at the Loews Chicago-O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois (preceding the National Convention). We will begin accepting applications in early 2018. Look for more information to come on our website and in *The Voice*.



## CHARITABLE GIVING - JOLIET LODGES

Thanks to the combined efforts of the Joliet Lodges (#2, #29, #108 and #143), dozens of children will be ready for school with supplies—from pencils to backpacks. The Joliet Lodges held a school supply drive at the Splash Station event on July 23. In addition, Lodge #29 held their own school supply drive during their Lodge Steak Fry on July 28.

All items were donated to MorningStar Mission's Jump on the Bus Program. Since 1909, MorningStar Mission has served men, women, children and entire families in Joliet and Will County in Illinois, by providing food, clothing and shelter for the homeless.

In addition to the school supplies, MorningStar was also presented with two \$50 Charitable Giving checks – one from the Joliet Area Lodges and one from Lodge #29.



*Representatives from the Joliet Lodges present school supplies to MorningStar Mission's Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa Wainwright. Left to Right: KSKJ Life board member Mike Vidmar, Lodge #29 member Katie Starasinich, Lisa Wainwright and Lodge #29 member Krista Starasinich.*



*Lisa Wainwright of MorningStar Mission (center) accepts an SUV load of school supplies that were collected at Lodge #29's recent steak fry. Presenting her with the supplies are Kathy Lovati (left) and Judy Corum (right).*



## DO YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING *THE VOICE*?

Your name is currently on our mailing list to receive *The Voice*. If you wish to continue receiving the paper version of *The Voice*, please visit [kskjlife.com/voice](http://kskjlife.com/voice) and fill out the required form by November 30, 2017. **Failure to respond will result in your name being removed from the mailing list.**

## APPLY NOW!

### 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](http://kskjlife.com/grants)**



## SEPTEMBER IS LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

# It's Time to Get Financially Fit

**F**itness is a key to success—on and off the racetrack. For me, it's a lifestyle that starts with taking care of the one body I've got. But fitness extends to all parts of your life, including your finances.

An important part of financial fitness is having a plan that includes life insurance. My parents prioritized getting it, even though they didn't have a lot, and so did I when I started my career.

Life insurance isn't something you spend time thinking about, but consider all the bills you have to pay monthly. They wouldn't just magically go away if something happened to you. How would your family get by?

If you've procrastinated getting coverage because you don't know where to start, ask for help—that's what I did.

Having life insurance is a great way to get financially fit. Now go and get it done!

**—DANICA PATRICK**

*professional race car driver and spokesperson  
for Life Insurance Awareness Month*



Life Happens does not endorse any insurance company, product or advisor. Danica Patrick is the national spokesperson for Life Insurance Awareness Month 2017, and her services were retained by Life Happens. © Life Happens 2017. All rights reserved.



## 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.

### JULY & AUGUST 2017

**Judy Gault** - Lodge #52, Wabash, IN  
**Karen J. Skelton**- Lodge #52, Evansville, IN  
**Shirley Settle**- Lodge #25, Dayton, OH  
**Dmitriy Gantyuk**- Lodge #236, Willow Springs, MO  
**Emilia Godler**- Lodge #25, Cleveland, OH  
**Adolf Tomc**- Lodge #169, Killbuck, OH  
**Dorothy A. Kostelec**- Lodge #42, Harrisburg, PA  
**John Mikus Jr.** - Lodge #153, Cleveland, OH  
**Patricia Paulford**- Lodge #59, Naperville, IL  
**Edwin Grosel**- Lodge #169, Euclid, OH  
**Ernestine J. Boisits**- Lodge #65, Oak Creek, WI  
**Fred W. Marentic** - Lodge #2, Winter Haven, FL  
**Charles C. Hounsell**- Lodge #52, Orleans, IN  
**David A. Guyot**- Lodge #20, Northville, MI  
**Ethel R. Wuennemann**- Lodge #148, Fairfield, CT  
**William J. Kern**- Lodge #226, Euclid, OH  
**Richard Horzen**- Lodge #253, Calimiesa, CA  
**Sylvester M. Wright**- Lodge #20, Detroit, MI  
**Edward Bittorf**- Lodge #74, Beloit, WI  
**William O. Clemons**- Lodge #143, Alsey, IL  
**Judith M. Pinnell**- Lodge #20, Allen, MI  
**Justin J. Perttu**- Lodge #196, Chanhassen, MN  
**Milan Stavec**- Lodge #146, N. Royalton, OH  
**Patrick Krall**- Lodge #169, Willoughby, OH  
**Anna K O'Connor**- Lodge #50, Cheswick, PA  
**Elizabeth J. Yeray**- Lodge #144, Milwaukee, WI  
**Kenneth E. Mullen**- Lodge #108, Grandview, IN  
**Deborah K. Strandberg**- Lodge #20, Muskegon, MI  
**Vekoslava Krepfl**- Lodge #169, Colorado Springs, CO  
**Angeline J. Want**- Lodge #169, Painesville, OH  
**Irene Hannula**- Lodge #196, Virginia, MN  
**Wilma S. Flaherty**- Lodge #136, Maple Grove, MN  
**John F. Kozlevcar**- Lodge #42, Southhampton, PA

**Richard F. Hansmann**- Lodge #197, Little Falls, MN  
**Robert J. Moore**- Lodge #621, Salem, IN  
**Namon R. Daniels**- Lodge #110, Canton, OH  
**Michael P. Simpson**- Lodge #20, Camden, MI  
**Judita Prelog**- Lodge #300, Kew Gardens, NY  
**Dale Vandenberg**- Lodge #20, Saranac, MI  
**Beatrice J. Carlisle**- Lodge #52, Indianapolis, IN  
**Dorothy D. Godwin**- Lodge #219, Troy, OH  
**George A. Bohr**- Lodge #42, Pine Grove, PA  
**Frances Klaus**- Lodge #169, Banning, CA  
**Anthony J. Kranitz**- Lodge #69, Great Falls, MT  
**Benjamin R. Gosar**- Lodge #136, Chili, WI  
**Thelma S. Ethridge**- Lodge #624, Bailey, MS  
**Yee Her**- Lodge #612, Brooklyn Center, MN  
**Linda L. Gonzalez** - Lodge #53, Elgin, IL  
**Sally J. Daugherty**- Lodge #52, Leo, IN  
**Connie M. Kleckner**- Lodge #153, Mifflinburg, PA  
**Shirley A. Vanatta**- Lodge #52, Franklin, IN  
**John W. Richards**- Lodge #108, Wilmington, IL  
**John M. Perme Jr.**- Lodge #52, Indianapolis, IN  
**James R. Kumar**- Lodge #7, Denver, CO  
**Kathleen A. Debevic**- Lodge #53, Waukegan, IL  
**Lawrence A. Nekic**- Brook Park, OH  
**Charlotte M. Stanley-Jowers**- Lodge #150, Medina, OH  
**William J. Ozbolt**- Lodge #110, Wadsworth, OH  
**Vincent G. Judnick**- Lodge #236, Lafayette, CA  
**William Johnson**- Lodge #50, Lebanon, PA  
**Doris Clearence**- Lodge #612, Bloomington, MN  
**Ernest Ambrosh**- Lodge #196, Gilbert, MN  
**Joyce Bregar**- Lodge #7, Pueblo, CO  
**Frances Grahek**- Lodge #59, Ely, MN  
**Rose C. Volk**- Lodge #143, Peru, IL

## IN MEMORY OF

**Justin Perttu**- Chanhassen, MN - Lodge #196  
KSKJ Life Lodge #196 - \$10.00

**Wilma Martincic**- Canonsburg, PA - Lodge #153  
Jack and Gemma Filip- \$25.00

**Mary Ann Shinsky**- North Chicago, IL - Lodge #79  
KSKJ Life Lodge #79- \$100.00

## KSKJ VOICE

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

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## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

### REGION 1

PENNSYLVANIA, CONNECTICUT AND D.C.

### REGIONAL NEWS

#### SLOVENE DAY PICNIC

The American Slovene Day picnic took place on July 30 in Cheswick, Pennsylvania. It was the 75th anniversary of the gathering of Slovenes and friends. There was beautiful weather, great music, delicious food and sweet treats.



*Lodge #50 member Frank Vinski enjoying the picnic*



*Lodge #153 member Joanne Mals was the winner of some wine from Slovenia.*



*Lodge #50 member and host of the Slovenian Radio program, Sharon Ujcich works the raffle table*



*A great time was had by the large crowd that attended the picnic*

### LODGE #42

STEELTON, PA

#### LODGE UPDATE



ST ALOYSIUS LODGE #42

BACKYARD BARBEQUE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

1:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

MENU CONSISTS OF LAMB OR HALF CHICKEN DINNER

WITH ONE HOT SIDE AND ONE COLD SIDE

COST: \$12.00 IN ADVANCE

\$15.00 AT THE DOOR

HOT SIDES: CABBAGE & NOODLES, MAC & CHEESE, OR BAKED BEANS

COLD SIDES: POTATO SALAD, HUNKY POTATO SALAD, OR COLE SLAW

ADDITIONAL SIDES: \$1.50

DESSERTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE AT THE ST ALOYSIUS CLUB OR BY CALLING

ANNE HUBLER @ (717) 756-4889

B. J. KROVIC @ (717) 460-8716

If you are interested in donating baked goods, please contact Tyna Muza at (717) 608-5596

CUT-OFF FOR TICKETS SALES IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

### LODGE #50

PITTSBURGH, PA

#### LODGE UPDATE

I believe the correct phrase is "Happy Fall, Y'all," but given Lodge #50 is in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I think it would be appropriate to say "Happy Fall, Yinz!" It is hard to believe that summer has flown

by and fall is already here. I guess it's time to go pumpkin picking and grab a pumpkin spice latte at Starbucks.

On Sunday, August 6, Lodge #50 held their annual summer picnic at Middle Road Community Park. We couldn't have asked for more perfect weather for our Luau-themed picnic. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie, playing cornhole and enjoying the weather. We chose to have our meal catered from Scullo's Catering and Ashley Mikulan, our Regional 1 Director, sponsored an ice cream social, which was a nice way to end the evening.

We recognized our Lodge Persons of the Year at our picnic. Lodge #50's 2017 Persons of the Year went to Regis and Cheryl Visconti. Rege and Cheryl are always at our meetings and events, both willing to help set up or clean up. If you need something to be looked into or picked up, Rege and Cheryl are there to do it. Most recently, Rege and Cheryl volunteered to sit at our KSKJ Life table at the Slovene Radio Program's 75th Anniversary Picnic.

We will be holding meetings in September, October and November to plan our last 2 upcoming events this year. Lodge #50 will be turning 118 years old this year and we will also have our annual Christmas Party. Please keep an eye out in The Voice, Facebook and emails for further information regarding these two events.

As always, please keep an eye out for emails and updates on our Lodge #50 Facebook page. If you know someone who doesn't have computer access, please be so kind to pass along the word to them on what we are up to. 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!



*Members enjoying the picnic*



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



*Ashley Mikulan transforms the picnic pavilion into a festive event space*



*Bob Lokar with daughter Natalie Schimmer and her newborn daughter Brianna*



*Lodge Persons of the Year Cheryl and Rege Visconti*

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The following is a local write-up on one of our members who was in the Pittsburgh Senior Community Magazine.



*Lenny Garlicki*

Lawrenceville native Leonard Garlicki, 83, is fondly known as the "Lawrenceville Legend."

Though singing was not his formal career before he retired in 1996, he has sung the National Anthem at Lawrenceville's Arsenal Park for the past 40 years during the annual Fourth of July celebration....A member of the Holy Family Church Choir, the folks at his church thought that he would be perfect for this role, so he accepted the "job" with no pay.

Fluent in Polish, Lenny also sings often at weddings and funerals. "Mr. Garlicki sang in Polish at my grandmother's funeral and it made her passing easier," says one local woman.

Lenny worked many years at Armour Meat Packaging and after they went out of business, he became a painter for Allegheny County. He and his wife, Margaret, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary in October.

### REGION 2

CLEVELAND AREA

### REGIONAL NEWS

#### MATCHING FUNDS

A Matching Funds check totaling \$2,000 from KSKJ Life was recently presented to Joseph House of Cleveland Inc. (JHCI). It included \$1,000 each for KSKJ Life Lodges St. Vitus #25 and Christ the King #226. The matched funds were a result of the successfully concluded Palm Sunday 2017 benefit dinner which was held on April 9. The

primary mission of JHCI is to resettle individuals to Cleveland, Ohio in cooperation with (Cleveland) Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services. Its secondary mission is to provide clothing for incoming immigrants as well as neighborhood residents in need of clothing. Over 500 dinners were served due to the generosity of over 70 volunteers. Volunteers included parishioners from St. Vitus Parish, Joseph House staff and board members, members from KSKJ Life Lodge #25 St. Vitus and Christ The King Lodge #226, members from AMLA St. Anne Lodge #4, and local students from St. Edward, Lake Catholic, St. Joseph Academy, and VASJ High Schools. We are also grateful to St. Joseph Lodge #169 for its support on this event.



*Maggie DiPenti, board member, Joseph House of Cleveland, Inc., Stane Kuhar, member, Christ The King Lodge #226, Michelle O'Donnell, director operations, JHCI, Stacy Dever, Catholic Charities Migration & Refugee Services, and Joseph Hocesvar, president, St. Vitus Lodge #25.*

Michelle O'Donnell, director of operations, JHCI, gave a final report on this benefit event at the Aug. 11, 2017 JHCI board meeting. In summary: \$16,081 in net funds was raised by many generous donors. From June 2016 to July 2017 JHCI has been able to serve 819 neighborhood individuals through its clothing distribution, a corporal work of mercy, plus 196 immigrants who have come to Cleveland. Thus, a total of 1,015 people have been assisted. Numerous donations since April 2017 have also been received, including one from a priest in PA. Other donors have provided quality clothing to continue the clothing distribution of JHCI.



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Net funds raised will be used for two purposes. The first \$10,000 is for ongoing operational needs of JHCI such as pay for utilities. The remainder of funds will be used to expand and renovate a retail store for clothing distribution. The retail store unit will have approximately 1,600 square feet. This expansion will enable most of the clothing to be inventoried and provided on one ground level compared with its current tight space as well as significantly reduce the storage of excess clothing in a basement area.

In addition to the \$6,081 raised at the Palm Sunday benefit event for the renovation portion, JHCI itself will contribute up to \$3,500 for this task. The renovation work will consist of upgrading electrical, heating/cooling, and plumbing, including an area of approximately 100 square feet for a simple restroom. Any old items that will need to be discarded from this current retail store will be placed in a dumpster(s) and then removed. Installation of new studs, drywall, insulation, and replacement of suspended ceiling tiles will occur. The current projected cost is between \$15,000-\$16,000 if no "surprises" occur. Between \$5,000-\$6,000 still needs to be raised to finish the task for a simple but dignified place for clothing distribution. The work is scheduled to begin mid-to-late autumn 2017.

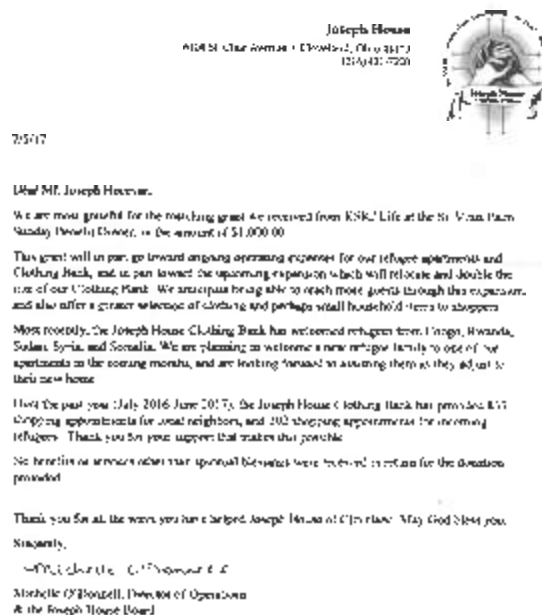
Individuals, businesses, organizations, or private/public foundations who desire to contribute to JHCI regarding the renovation work described above may forward a contribution to: Joseph House of Cleveland Inc, Attn: Michelle O'Donnell, Director, 6102 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. Michelle may be contacted at 216-431-7200 or via email at [josephhouseofcleveland@gmail.com](mailto:josephhouseofcleveland@gmail.com). Volunteers are welcome for the clothing distribution. Contact Michelle O'Donnell. All additional financial donations will be graciously received. If time and weather permit, you may also call Michelle for a tour of a recently completed apartment.

JHCI has an award letter from the IRS verifying its status as a legitimate 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under IRS guidelines. The resettlement and clothing distribution corporal works of mercy are housed in a commercial building owned by St. Vitus Parish Endowment Trust. Four of six apartments, one retail store front and one brick garage have been renovated from 2011 to date for the mission of JHCI. JHCI works with four Catholic parishes: Divine

Word, Immaculate Conception, St. Paul Croatian, and St. Vitus Parishes. Over \$80,000 has been invested since 2011 to enable JHCI to continue its corporal works of mercy for others.

The purpose of JHCI is the same as it was for many immigrants that have come to the U.S. the past 200+ years: a new place to call home and a fresh start with many challenges. It is a place that welcomes people to have new opportunities as well as new responsibilities. It is work, but work that is done with joy and in peace.

*S. Kuhar  
Member Lodge #226*



### PORKY PIG TOURNAMENT

On Saturday, August 5, at the old Nike Site in Parma (which is now called James Day Park), the 6th annual Porky Pig Softball Tournament took place at 8 a.m. and was sponsored by Lodge #150 St. Anne's. First, St. Anne's ordered the best weather you could have for a softball tournament—and everything got better after that. The Porky Pig Tournament has become a favorite for the participants, and you can tell because they keep coming back year after year. This year, there were 7 teams, and next year the number of teams will probably be cut at 8. So if you want to enter a team, start finding ball players now. This is probably the only open tournament where all ages can play in the area. There were a number of grandfathers playing with grandkids, women, high school students as well as a number of participants in their 70s.

When participants showed up to register, Lodge #150 had donuts and coffee for the early birds. The first games started at about 9 a.m., and at about noon there was a break for lunch. There was just a tremendous amount of food such as Slovenian sausages, pulled pork, hot dogs, a taco bar and bologna sandwiches. During dinner, there was a consolation game followed by a championship game between Tim Klodnick's family team and Anthony Trazka's co-ed team after dinner. Other teams in the tournament included Joe Snyder's family team, Andrea Javor's Lodge #150 team, Charlie Cash's team from Ashtabula, Guy Selinka's team from Parma, and Gabe Gabriele's team from the Greater Cleveland Senior Softball and Huff-n-Puffers. Klodnick's team won the tournament with an 8-3 win.

I cannot tell you enough how hard Kris Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Greg Snyder, Vicki Javor, Tony Peskar, Elaine Peskar and Dave Javor worked to get everything ready - bringing all the food, all the utensils and condiments, helping with sign-ins, cleaning up and more. Everything seemed to go smoothly. Ron Zak was borrowed from Lodge #226 to help organize the tournament itself.

What's the next KSKJ Life event?

The Lodge #226 Christ the King Dinner Dance on Saturday, October 14 starting at 6 p.m. at the Slovenian Home on St. Clair Avenue. For \$60 for individuals or \$80 per couple, you get a home-style cooked Slovenian dinner and the chance to win \$3,000. Does it get any better?

*Tim Klodnick  
Lodge #226*



*The Klodnick family championship team along with KSKJ Life National Athletics Director MaryLou Stefanick and Lodge #150 President Tony Peskar.*



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



*The Traska co-ed team with the Klodnick family team*



*The hard-working Lodge #150 workers*

### SLOVENIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

The past few years and decades have seen both positive and negative aspects of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, a natural park located in Rockefeller Park in the city of Cleveland. The Cleveland Cultural Cultural Gardens are but one of many such parks in northeast Ohio. Except this park has some unique characteristics. It is situated on two hundred fifty four acres with a brook and ravine going from the end of the St. Clair Avenue neighborhood, into the Glenville neighborhood; and then all the way to University Circle where a number of museums and institutions such as Case Western Reserve University are located. This is approximately two miles of a park setting in an urban area.

The land was donated to the city of Cleveland by industrialist John D. Rockefeller in 1896. Then renowned landscape architect Ernest W. Bowditch was hired to create the layout of this park. But it was not until 1916 when the "Shakespeare Garden" was built that the idea of multiple "cultural" set of gardens would begin to take shape. This idea gradually came about due to the massive influx of immigrants from Eastern, Central and Western Europe that would have Cleveland's population reach nearly 1.0 million at this time period.

A "federation" of cultural gardens was then brought

into reality with the establishment of the really first such cultural garden, that being the Hebrew Garden. The Shakespeare Garden then became the British Garden, and presto, many more such gardens followed.

The current Slovenian Cultural Garden grew out of the former "Yugoslav" Garden with the collapse of the Communist regime in former Yugoslavia that occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Both the Croatian and Serbian communities, however, decided to exit responsibility for this former garden, leaving only the Slovenian community to take on the responsibility of this garden.

But through the 1980s and into the 1990s the Slovenian Cultural Garden was a mess along with a number of other like gardens. Vandalism had occurred for a number of years. Neglect was evident. There was simply a general negative attitude toward the cultural gardens.

A number of the nationality communities, however, saw an opportunity to make anew these gardens. Slowly but surely many have been or are in the process of being revived. In addition, a number of new gardens are now in the process of being constructed such as the Russian and Vietnamese gardens. And the Croatian and Serbian communities now have their own unique cultural gardens.

For the Slovenian Cultural Garden the first step was restoring damaged or stolen busts. The first such bust installed and dedicated was that of Bishop I.F. Baraga, a Slovenian missionary who established the diocese of Marquette in Upper Michigan. This dedication occurred in 2005 during one of the annual Baraga Days held in Cleveland (i.e., held last in 1998, 2005 and 2015 in Cleveland). This was followed by restoration or new busts of Ivan Cankar (author and short story writer), Rev. Simon Gregoric (priest poet) and Ivan Zorman, local Cleveland poet and composer. But much work, however, is still needed to be corrected.

I can gladly report that as of August 2017, there is steady but consistent progress at the Slovenian Cultural Garden. Much of the original sandstone masonry that was in dire need of repair is starting to be fixed. Eleven of the water feature curbing stones are now in the process of being repaired or replaced, along with sandstone patio around the water feature. There was also a total power scrub

of all stone has with installation of polymeric sand and joint work to be completed before the end of August 2017.

The last total pruning and shrub work occurred nearly 20 or so years ago. This work was completed in early August 2017 including the removal of two over sized juniper plants that now resembled more a tree than a shrub.

Electrical concerns that have been neglected the past 20+ years are now being addressed. PVC conduit piping is being installed both in and around and toward the Zorman and Bp Baraga busts. This involves a bit of trench work. This work should be completed by August 27, 2107, just in time for the annual One World Day. There will also be installation of two electrical perma-posts that will for the first time since the 1930s enable use of outlets for heating devices, power equipment or a speaker booth.

Water and the retaining walls have been an ongoing problem. Simply put, there has not been working spigot or outlet in the past five to 10 years to enable good watering of plants, shrubs, bushes or other greenery. The waterline to the fountain has also been non-existent for the past 10 or more years. A working spigot is to be installed onsite as well as repair the drain line and to install a raiser that should enable the fountain to be filled with a working spitter. The retaining walls work will be addressed in the future but that is a task that will need to be assisted by the city of Cleveland as the repair of these walls occurred under the administration of the former Mayor of Cleveland, Michael White. It should be noted however that it was Mayor White who pushed forward to revive and restore the cultural gardens including providing funds and man-power; and not another mayor of Cleveland: there was a lot of talk with no or little action before or since then.

The resin covering of the bust of Ivan Zorman will also be repaired and restored in a dignified manner.

The cost of these repairs is at \$49,750. Funding for these repairs was provided by the Republic of Slovenia. The remaining repair work will more likely than not cost at least the same amount.

The cultural gardens are a real jewel for all in northeast Ohio. It is a tranquil site that you can now walk, run, bike or simply enjoy during the week or weekends. The Doan Creek running on the backside



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

of the cultural gardens is also in the process of being addressed to relieve or minimize flooding as well as handling of run off or storm water.

*Stane Kuhar*

*(Writer's Note: Written in memory of the late Larry Hocevar. For many years, volunteers, including members of KSKJ Life, have had an annual "cleaning" and maintenance day to clear out old debris left from the winter at the cultural garden; and also at Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue where Christ the King Lodge #226 has been greatly involved in an annual "clean-up" day. The clean-up this year was essentially performed by four St. Vitus parishioners prior to contracting the major tree, shrub and other cleaning out: Jonathan Celestina, Matt Dolinar, Nick Filipovic, and yours truly. Of the four, two are members of Christ the King Lodge #226. More fraternalism at work! The rain-out in May 2017 precluded a normal annual clean-up.*

*Attached photos provided by Phil Hrvatin, KSKJ Life Board Member and member of St Joseph Lodge #169. Phil is also an officer of the Slovenian Cultural Garden. Photos are of employees of Bremec performing mainly masonry repair work, circa August 2017.)*



### LODGE #25

CLEVELAND, OH

St. Vitus KSKJ Life Lodge #25 participated in the Join Hands Day program on May 26-27. We went out to both Calvary Cemetery and All Souls Cemetery to decorate graves of veterans with American flags, and also placed a flower on the graves of St. Vitus CWV Post #1655 members. The following members of Lodge #25 participated: Joe Hocevar, John Kirk, Tom Kirk, John Kromar, Ed Kromar, Marty Tominc and John Turek. Other KSKJ Life members who participated were Clara Abriani and Ray Yartz from Christ the King KSKJ Life Lodge #226. Tom Kirk also went to All Saints, Holy Cross and Western Reserve National Cemeteries on May 25. Our group from St. Vitus CWV Post #1655 decorated over a thousand graves over the three days.



*Left to Right: Tom Kirk, John Kirk, Joe Hocevar, Marty Tominc and John Turek*



*A view of Calvary Cemetery after Lodge #25 volunteers placed flags*

### LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

#### LODGE UPDATE

Lodge #219 members and guests will meet Sunday, Sep. 10 at 11 a.m. for the Corporal Communion Mass at Sts. Robert and William Catholic Church in Euclid, Ohio. Each year, we honor our deceased members with a mass followed by a luncheon. This year we will meet after mass at Applebee's Restaurant on Willowgrove Rd. in Willoughby, Ohio. Joanne Ash is receiving reservations at \$5 per person by mail at 7709 Joseph St. Kirtland, OH 44094.

Our Join Hands Clothing Drive will end September 10; those with donations please bring them to the restaurant parking lot where Roberta Underwood will collect them.

Dave Hamlin, residential manager of Nevaeh Ridge, was presented with a \$100 check by Joanne Ash and Loretta Brown. The group held a raffle to raise this money for our Christmas project.



*Loretta Brown and Joanne Ash present a check to Dave Hamlin of Nevaeh Ridge*

There will be no October meeting; the next meeting is November 12 at 1 p.m. in the Gateway Community ROOM IN EUCLID, OH.

### LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

#### 4-LODGE PICNIC

Lodges #150, #146, #63 and #226 held their annual Four-Lodge Picnic in July. Following are a few more pictures of this wonderful event.



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



### ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

KSKJ Life Lodge #226 Golf Outing was held on Saturday, July 29, 2017 at St. Bernard's Golf Club. This was a two-man scramble divided up into three groups based on handicaps: Group "C" was won by Dan Orzech and Derek Deptowitz; group "B" by Reba Simnarski and Matt Simnarski; and Group "A" had a tie between Tim Klodnick, Terry Bennett and Alec & Greg Clack with 67's. Long drives, pin shots and long putts were won by Bill Urban, Reba Sinarski, Patty Rawlins, Tom Rawlins, Greg Specht and Randy Zak. Four individuals (Greg Specht, Chris Hasting, Terry Bennett and Ron Zak) made it to the 50-50 putting contest, which will be split with the scholarship fund. Ron Zak went home with a pocket full of cash after being the first to make the putt after 4 rounds.



*Left to Right – Greg Specht, Chris Hasting, Terry Bennett and Ron Zak at the 50/50 putting contest*

### SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Lodge #226 was delighted to participate in Lodge #150's St. Anne's Porky Pig Softball Tournament, August 5, at the old Nike Site in Parma, which is now called James Day Park. Please see the full write-up under "Region 2 – Regional News" in this paper.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Our September Lodge Meeting will be held on September 10 at noon at the Slovenian National Home in the Kenik Annex (also known as the bar room).

Lodge #226 Christ the King Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, October 14. Starting at 6 p.m. at the Slovenian Home on St. Clair Avenue, the prices are \$60 single or \$80 per couple. Join us for a home-style cooked Slovenian dinner and the chance to win \$3,000!

Our Annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 3 at the Slovenian National Home. Invitations will be mailed to youth members of Lodge #226 in late October. Parents: please make sure to return the RSVP card even if your child cannot attend so we can plan accordingly.

### REGION 3

CLEVELAND, OHIO

### LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

### LODGE UPDATE

By the time you are reading this, students should

be back in school. There is still time remaining for the KSKJ Life Educational Grant Program. Check the website [www.kskjlife.com](http://www.kskjlife.com) for information and important dates.

Our hayride has been confirmed. It should be a great day, full of activity for all ages. We have selected a package that includes a bonfire so that we can have s'mores and hotdogs on the fire. Due to this, we are asking for RSVPs. It will be on Sunday, September 24, starting at 2 p.m. Ramseyer Farms is located at 4000 Ramseyer Lane, Wooster, Ohio. Along with the hayride participants can enjoy all the activities that the farm has to offer, which includes a corn maze, a slide and many other activities.

Due to scheduling, our meeting and putt-putt will be reported on next month.

Hope to see you at the hayride.

*Josie Kmet*

*Secretary/Treasurer Lodge #146*

### LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

### LODGE UPDATE

Our September meeting is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 7 at Independence Branch of the Cuyahoga Public Library, 6361 Selig Dr. Independence, OH 44131. All Lodge #150 members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Just a reminder: In order to be eligible for consideration as a Lodge #150 delegate to the 2018 KSKJ Life National Convention, you must attend four Lodge #150 meetings during 2017.

### PORKY PIG SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT AND PIG ROAST

Seven teams competed in this year's tournament which was attended by more than 130 people.

Congratulations to the defending champions, the Klodnick's, who were victorious over Sonny Day; managed by Anthony Trzaska. Team Snyder came back strong to win the consolation bracket. Thank you to all who participated.

Congratulations on a successful event and a huge thank you to the Lodge #150 members who worked very hard in presenting this event: Vicky & David



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Javor, Liz & Luke and soon-to-be member Kris Jones, Elaine & Tony Peskar, and Greg Snyder. Grill Master Dave Javor ensured that the Slovenian sausages were grilled to perfection! Special thank you to Lodge #226 members Chuck Potenga and Ray & Ron Zak who assisted; especially Ron, who ran the softball portion of the tournament.

It was great to see the Josephine (Honey) and Joe (Beb) Snyder family out in full force. It was especially nice that Joe was able to attend this event prior to his scheduled hospital procedure the following week.

We were honored to have our National Director of Athletics, MaryLou Stefanick, attend. Thank you, Marylou!

Following are some photos from the day's events.



### OUR TOWN AND ALL-AROUND TOWN BOOKS FUNDRAISER

Lodge #150 will sell Our Town and All-Around Town Books again this year. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit Lodge #150 Youth Programs and Development. The cost of the books will remain the same as last year at \$28. To order books and/or for additional information contact Tony Peskar at [tonypeskar@juno.com](mailto:tonypeskar@juno.com) (email) or 440-915-8312 (telephone).

### 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](http://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 [ksklife150@gmail.com](mailto:ksklife150@gmail.com).

### SAVE THE DATES

September 23 - Poor Man's Raffle Matching Funds Event to benefit Pope John Paul II Ozanam Ctr. \$1,000 Grand Prize! Location is Harem Hall at Holy Name parish at 6 p.m. Cost of \$20 admits two, BYOB. Contact Lodge Officers for tickets and/or additional information.

October 29 – Kids Halloween Party & Bowling.

*Lodge #150 Voice Reporters  
Tony & Elaine Peskar*

## REGION 4

JOLIET AREA

## REGIONAL NEWS

The Joliet Area lodges recently held their Annual Splash Station waterpark event on July 23. A burst of thunderstorms came through the area minutes before the event was to begin, but the sun quickly came out and gave way to the most beautiful rainbow. Over 100 members and guests came out to enjoy an evening at the waterpark. Dozens of school supplies were donated for MorningStar Mission's Jump on the Bus program (see page 5). Thank you to everyone who took part in this event and donated supplies.



*Antonlina Zitko enjoying the water sprayers.*



*Lodge 143 member Lena Baltz passes out goodie bags to the youth members.*



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



*National Athletics Director MaryLou Stefanick announces the names of the winners of the coveted KSKJ Life fidget spinners.*



*A beautiful evening sky over the water park*

### LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

#### LODGE UPDATE

St. Joseph Lodge #2 Matching Funds Event (2017 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Will County) will take place at the Rock Run Forest Preserve, 3395 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60431 on Oct. 7, 2017. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. Ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Please contact Zachary Pucel, Lydia Marquardt or Sylvia Churnovic for more information.

Did you know we have a Facebook page? Please like us at KSKJ Life St. Joseph Lodge #2.

### LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

#### LODGE UPDATE

A big thank you to all for helping out in any way at the Lodge #29 Steak Fry held on July 28. Whether you shopped, prepared, served, cleaned-up, baked and/or came to the event, the officers extend our appreciation. A total of 115 members/guests enjoyed dinner and a beautiful summer evening together. Paul Darin was the lucky winner of the 50-50 raffle held that night. Judy Corum was pleasantly surprised to find that she was named as our Lodge Person of the Year for 2017. Congratulations, Judy!



*President Ken Velasquez presents 2017 Lodge Person of the Year Award to Judy Corum*

A bean bag tournament was held with the results as follows: Kids first place, Joey Breneman and Alex Sanchez, and second place, Eli & Olivia Zelinski. Adults first place, Cameron Velasquez and Rob Darin, and second place, Mike Darin and Ray Soliman. We even had an impromptu "pass the lime" game going on in the kitchen.



*Members of the Ramsak/Colman Family enjoying their steak dinner*



*The kitchen helpers (left to right) : Mike Breneman, Bob and Olivia Zelinski*



*The ladies posing and patiently waiting for their steaks*

We just ask and our members always rise to the challenge! There was an overflowing table of school supplies collected for the area's needy children and donated to the Jump On The Bus program at MorningStar Mission. (See photo on page 5.)

Our Matching Funds Event this year will be working at the JDRF One Walk (for a World Without Type 1 Diabetes) to be held at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills on Sunday, October 1. Check-in is at 8:30 a.m. and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to walk or donate go to [walk.jdrf.org](http://walk.jdrf.org), click on donate and enter "KSKJ Team 29" Our team captain is Ken Velasquez at [kskjlodge29@gmail.com](mailto:kskjlodge29@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Next lodge meeting will take place on October 1 at 1 p.m. at St. Joe's Park. Don't forget during the month of October we will also be collecting items to fill the Stockings for Soldiers.

This month includes the celebration of Labor Day and the return of autumn!

*Karen (Ramsak) Colman  
Reporter*



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

### LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

#### LODGE UPDATE

Greetings and salutations from St. Genevieve Lodge #108, my friends. Although it has been only a few months since my last article, here are a few announcements.

Members: Please be aware there will be no September meeting. We will resume our meetings in October.

Our lodge leaders for 2017 for St. Genevieve Lodge #108 are as follows: MaryAnn McGinnis, 5 years of service, Mary Kay Demick, 25 years of service and Mary Mihelich, 45 years of service. They will be honored at our October meeting, which is on Sunday, October 1 at 1 p.m. in Ferdinand Hall. We will have pizza that day after the meeting.

Also, at our November meeting, we will be honoring our Lodge Person of the Year, MaryAnn McGinnis. The meeting will be held on Sunday, November 5 at 1 p.m. in Ferdinand Hall.

Our lodge Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 3 at Al's Steakhouse. Watch for more details in upcoming issues of The Voice.

Until next time – Have a great day.

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

### LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our next meeting will take place on September 14 at 7 p.m. Location TBD.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Stay Connected! “Like” our Facebook page! [www.facebook.com/kskj143](http://www.facebook.com/kskj143)

#### MATCHING FUNDS THANK YOU

Following is a letter that was received from the CEO of Camp Kesem, the beneficiary of our Matching Funds Event that took place in April.



### REGION 5

CHICAGO AND INDIANAPOLIS

### LODGE #1

CHICAGO, IL

#### LODGE UPDATE

Approximately 30 members from Lodge #1 attended our Summer Outdoor Social event. The children enjoyed fishing, and the teens and adults enjoyed the bag games and the paddle boating. Many thanks to Donna and Tom McNally for offering their home at Lake DeBoer for lunch preparation in their kitchen and restroom access. We really appreciated that. It was a very good-weather day. All enjoyed the day and would like to have another outing. See you next time.



Reminder: Our next lodge meeting will take place on Sunday, September 10 at 11 a.m. at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont (14252 Main Street, Lemont). Our Matching Funds dinner will take place afterwards at 12:30 p.m., also at the Center. This year's dinner and raffle will benefit All In For Ethan, Inc. The goal for All In For Ethan, Inc. is to contribute to research to find a cure for Giant Axonal Neuropathy (GAN). Reservation letters and raffle books were mailed out the weekend of August 5 and 6. If you did not send in your reservation, please call Joanne at 773-247-3606

*Joanne Sierzega  
Lodge Reporter*



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

### LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

#### LODGE UPDATE

It is hard for me to believe that summer is already coming to a close. As I write this, there is a football game playing in the background. One good thing with football comes Lodge #44's Annual Bocce Tournament! There has been an update on the date and place for this year's tournament. We will kick off the tournament on Saturday, September 23 at 11:30 a.m. at O'Hara's Tavern, 3541 E. 106th St. Chicago, IL 60617. Come out and take on the current Bocchetti Cup victors. To guarantee your team's spot, please contact Jim Rossi, Jr. at 219-902-0230.

Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Party, which again will be at the Hammond Marina. Come join us on December 2 for some food and dancing. We will also celebrate our 50-Year Members and Lodge Person of the Year. More information to follow. During our last meeting, we were supposed to have a blessing of the harbor at the Calumet Yacht Club. Unfortunately, this was not able to happen. This has been rescheduled for our next meeting at the club, in April 2018. We were still able to celebrate Lodge #44's 120th Anniversary!



*Lodge #44 members enjoying the anniversary celebration*



*Happy Anniversary Lodge #44!*

The casino trip is still in the works for this fall, as well as talks for other great and new events for our lodge. Come and find out what we are talking about at our next meeting on Oct. 1, 2017 at the rectory of Saint George Parish, 9546 S. Ewing Avenue Chicago, IL 60617.

*Angela Rossi*

### REGION 6

NE ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN

### LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

#### LODGE UPDATE

I'm sure all of you are wondering the same thing I am: Where has the summer gone? It's already September and fall will be here soon.

Activity in our lodge has been still for the summer, but coming soon is the 17th Annual Ed Bregant Memorial Golf Outing. The date is Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017, with the first tee time at 9 a.m. The place is MeKwon Golf Course. You can golf 18 holes, 9 holes, or just join us for the dinner, so get your foursomes together and join in on the fun. Call Jim Stoltmann for more information at 414-699-1106.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us at St. John's Rectory meeting room. We'd love to see you.

If you want to enjoy a pleasant afternoon, why not come out to Triglav Park for their Annual Wine Festival (Vinska Trgatev). Enjoy delicious food and drink, but don't steal the grapes! The date is Sunday, September 17.

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

*Mici Bregant*

### LODGE #79

WAUKEGAN, IL

#### IN MEMORY

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our longtime member and Lodge Officer, Mary Ann Shinsky, who passed away on June 21 surrounded

by her loving family. Mary Ann was born on July 26, 1935 in Waukegan, Illinois and was a lifelong area resident. She served St. Mary as a Lodge Auditor since 2010, and last November she received a Lodge Leader Award for her 5 years of service. She will be missed by all those who knew her and loved her. Rest in peace, Mary Ann.

### LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

#### LODGE UPDATE

Mary of Perpetual Help Lodge #136 will be celebrating our Lodge Person of the Year and 50-Year Members on Sept. 10, 2017 at Holy Family Parish Center Willard. We will start with a potluck lunch at noon. This year, we will honor Gene Rakovec as Lodge Person of the Year. Gene has been a member of Lodge #136 since birth and has held numerous offices in our lodge such as President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Auditor. He currently holds the position of Recording Secretary. Gene is always there to help with any event, whether it is our Hunting Fishing Jamboree, our Christmas Party, Join Hands Day or our Matching Funds Events. You will always find a welcoming smile on his face and a heartfelt "hello."

He has been married to Lonna Rakovec (our Financial Secretary) for 39 years and they raised 4 children; Jessie, Jeremiah, Melinda and Matthew. They have 2 grandchildren: Zachary and Lela. He has raised his children to be proud of their Slovenian Heritage and their KSKJ Life Lodge #136, with all of them holding offices in the lodge at one time or another. Please come and join us for this celebration.



*Lodge #136 Person of the Year Gene Rakovec*

## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

We have a bake sale on October 28 before and after 4 p.m. mass. It will be at the Holy Family Parish Center. Come and look over the poticas, strudels and other delights. We are asking our local lodge members to supply a treat for the bake sale.

We also have some sad news to report. Many of you remember Donna Gosar Handke as she was our previous Financial Secretary for many, many years. Her husband, Lyron Handke, passed away on July 4. Also, one of our lodge members, Ben Gosar (son of Val Gosar, grandson of Donna Handke), aged 24, passed away on July 8 from a vehicle accident. We would like to give our deepest sympathies to Donna Handke, Val Gosar and the entire Gosar Family. Stay strong, as they are in God's hands.

*Lonna Rakovec  
Financial Secretary*

### REGION 7

MINNESOTA AND MICHIGAN

### LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

#### LODGE UPDATE

St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 recently honored its 2017 Person of the Year, Ann Menart. The award dinner was held on Monday, August 7 at the Buffalo House Restaurant in Duluth, MN. Congratulations, Ann!



*Congratulations Ann, Person of the Year. Presenting the Certificate to Ann is Lodge President, Frank B. Bucar, and other officers are Mary White, Sharon Bucar, Frank Bucar, and Joe Jagunich.*



*Honoring Ann for "Person of the Year" for St. Elizabeth's Lodge #171. Members all gather for a photo with Ann at the Buffalo House in Duluth, MN.*

Lodge #171 also held a Bean Bag Tournament in August. A good time was had by all.



*Bean Bag Champs for 2017, Joe Jagunich and Mark Spehar, holding their 1st Place Prizes of cans of beans, as they defeated the Karl Oberstar team from 2016.*



*Group photo of the cheering section of the 2017 Bean Bag Tournament*

### REGION 8

COLORADO, KANSAS, MONTANA, CALIFORNIA

### LODGE #115

KANSAS CITY, KS

#### LODGE UPDATE

On a beautiful summer Friday evening (August 4, 2017), members and guests of St. Veronica Lodge #115 in Kansas City, Kansas celebrated the 110th Anniversary of the Lodge's founding. Approximately 65 members and guests gathered at Mgrs. Mejak's Hall to share in this historic event. Everyone enjoyed good food, drinks and fellowship!

Also, during the event, a Matching Funds raffle was held to benefit the Holy Family Catholic Church Building fund. A big thank you goes out to those individuals who donated prizes/gifts in making our raffle a success.

Very special thanks to Julie Schneller and Monica Racki who planned and coordinated this lodge event! In addition, thanks to those members who helped during the event to make the evening special.

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



*Janet and John Hart (left) pose for a picture with Patty Horton (Lodge Recording Secretary) and husband Tom*



## LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Lodge members and guests discussing the evening's events



St. Veronica Lodge Officers (left) Joanne Ohmes (Vice President), Cyndi Hanson (Head Auditor) and Daniel Keller (Fraternal Activity Coordinator) share with Lodge Member Jeanne Cline how the KSKJ Life Matching Funds program works



St. Veronica Lodge members and guests' talk over how exciting it is to win a raffle prize.



Long time St. Veronica Lodge members having a good time at the 110th Anniversary party!



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KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 2017-09-LI-V