



LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION



Happy New Year! From all of us at KSKJ Life, best wishes to you and your loved ones for a healthy and prosperous 2018. We are excited about a number of initiatives and goals we have set for ourselves, the most important being our National Convention

in August of this year just outside of Chicago, IL.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit organization, we hold a national convention every four years where we discuss and make decisions regarding the governance of our organization. Some of the most important things we do are elect our national board of directors, review our official bylaws for any updates or revisions, and provide training and education to our delegates regarding fraternal and financial operations.

Our home office team and the board of directors began preparing for this event a year and a half ago, and of course planning time is increasing as we get closer to the event. We have a wonderful hotel and location selected and the agenda is beginning to take shape. There is information about the Convention and required deadlines published in this edition of The Voice that will continue to be shared throughout the spring issues. This information will also be communicated ongoingly to lodge officers.

A significant process for lodges is the election of delegates to the convention. As was communicated repeatedly last year, those members wishing to be eligible to serve as delegates had to fulfill a number of requirements, one of which was attending a minimum number of lodge meetings in 2017. Lodges will be sent a list of those members who are eligible to run as delegates, and elections will need to be

held in March or April per the official bylaws.

We encourage those members who are considering running for a delegate position, and those voting for delegates, to think about the role and responsibilities for delegates before making their decisions. This is a leadership position for our organization, and delegates will be counted upon to actively participate in training sessions, discussions and decisions regarding how to best protect and promote KSKJ Life to serve all of our members—and to position us for another 125 years of growth and prosperity to ensure we take care of many generations to come. Delegates should represent their lodge well, be eager to work with others, willing to consider and discuss new ideas, and excited to contribute to this great organization.

We're looking forward to gathering everyone together once again for fellowship, education, and leadership. Again, best wishes and God's blessings to you and your loved ones in the days and months ahead!

Tony Mravle Jr, CIO

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39TH KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL CONVENTION



IMPORTANT DATES

For more information, please visit our website at www.kskjlife.com

Mid-January	-All information relating to convention will be available on the website, including viewable board application and guidelines. For general questions, please call (844) 407-9242.
March 1st	-Board application available for submission. (Details on website). Lodges can start elections for its delegates at a regular or a special meeting.** Notice of meeting should be published in The Voice. -Deadline to submit photos for Fraternal Video Project.
April 30th	-Last day to hold delegate election**
May 1st	-Deadline to submit Advertisement for National Convention book.
May 11th	-Last day to submit proposed amendments to KSKJ Life Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, and resolutions involving questions and proposals of an actuarial nature. Must be received or postmarked by May 11th.
June 1st	-Deadline for Young Adult Leadership Application. Applications available online via convention tab or activities tab.
June 10th	-Deadline to submit board application. To request application, please submit request via online. -Deadline to submit all other resolutions or proposed amendments to KSKJ Life Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, which are not of actuarial nature.
August 7-9th	-Young Adult Leadership Conference – Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL
August 9-11th	-KSKJ Life National Convention – Loews Chicago O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL

***within 5 days after election, secretaries of local lodges shall certify to Home Office names and addresses of all elected delegates and alternates.*

A LOOK BACK...

As we look forward to our 39th National Convention in August of this year, we thought we would take a look back at some previous conventions in our 124 year-old history....

The year was 1898. William McKinley was president and the U.S. Congress declared war on Spain on April 25. It was also the year of the 5th KSKJ Life Convention in Pueblo, Colorado.

A Mass offered by His Excellency, Msgr. Matz, bishop of Denver, began the convention. The opening session was chaired by Bishop Jacob Trobec and greetings were extended to delegates by General Vicar J. F. Buh and Rev. Math Savs. President Anton Nemanich then took over the chairmanship. Father Savs was chosen as recording secretary of the convention. The convention roster consisted of seven executive officers and 33 delegates.

Members chosen as auditors were: M.J. Kraker, Joseph Golob, John Habjan, M.B. Vertin, Stephen Rebrovich, John Globokar, F.G. Tassotti and John Kriznik.

Named to the Executive Committee were: Joseph Gorishek, Math Agnich and John Zmajich.

Messrs. Vertin, Zmajich and Kraker also helped to complete the Financial Committee.

In the order of business, mortuary benefits for members' wives were increased to \$300. Members' insurance and assessments remained as in the past. A reserve fund was begun and each member was to give 50 cents toward its maintenance in the next two years. Chicago, IL was designated as the convention city in 1900.



A SPIRIT OF GIVING - MATCHING FUNDS UPDATE

LODGES #7 AND #104 – PUEBLO, CO

St. Joseph's Lodge #7 and Immaculate Conception Lodge #104 sponsored a matching funds event with St. John Neumann Catholic School (SJNCS) on September 21, 2017 that was held in conjunction with the school's 40th Anniversary. The Matching Funds event was held in a determined effort to raise funds to provide new technology for the school. This consisted of new computers and additional smart technology for each classroom. Over \$2,100 was raised plus the \$1,000 Matching Funds amount from KSKJ Life.



Photographed are those in attendance at the check presentation at St John Neumann Catholic School (SJNCS). The photo included the 4th Grade Class, Bill and Joyce Kocman, Lucille Zabukovic, Mike Orazem, and Danny Golob from Lodge 7 and Norma Becco from Lodge 104, Ms. Joyce Anderson (Principle SJNCS) and Father Selvakumar for St. Francis Parish (Celebrated Mass).

LODGE #50 – PITTSBURGH, PA

KSKJ Life Lodge #50 teamed up with Penn State Behrend Baseball for their 6th annual haircut drive for Grady's Decision as their 2nd Matching Funds Event. Grady's Decision is run by a Penn State Behrend Baseball alumnus. Grady's Decision was created to present a glimpse of God's love to families experiencing premature births as well as those families with children needing specialized medical attention. They serve as a beacon of hope through encouragement, gifts and acts of kindness. Grady's Decision provides an avenue for people to donate and assist these family members during a difficult and emotional time. Assistance is case-managed based on need. Grady's Decision can assist with parking costs, food, housing near hospitals and transportation needs. Ultimately, Grady's Decision meets the needs of families whether they be financial, emotional or spiritual.

Behrend Baseball members voluntarily get haircuts on the stage in the local student union café. Students make a donation to cut members of the baseball team's hair. There are no expenses from the baseball team or the school for this event. Everything is purely donated for this worthy cause. This year, Behrend Baseball had donations totaling over \$2,215.00 (plus the \$1,000 matched KSKJ Life amount) which is a new record for them and Grady's Decision.



The Baseball team ready for their haircuts/shaves. Lodge #50 member Shaun Mikulan is 3rd from left in front row.



Post shaves

LODGE #63- CLEVELAND, OH

Lodge #63 sponsored a Night at the Races event on December 1, 2017 where the community came together to raise funds for the Greater Cleveland Peace Officers Memorial Society to honor their fallen men and women in uniform. Net proceeds raised totaled nearly \$9,000!



Jim Marincic and Deanne Short help guests with their side board purchases.



Kathy Mannion and Jean Marincic sell basket raffle tickets.

KSKJ LIFE RECIPE CORNER

St. Aloysius Lodge #52 in Indianapolis, IN will once again be hosting its annual "St. Al's Sausage Feast" on January 20. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this popular event that includes a fabulous sausage dinner and live polka music and dancing. It is also a Matching Funds event that will benefit Gigi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center.

Paul Barbarich, a long-time KSKJ Life member and Lodge #52's 2016 Lodge Person of the Year, has helped coordinate this event for many years. Paul has been very kind to share his family's famous Smoked Sausage recipe with all of us. Thank you, Paul!



Paul Barbarich

SMOKED SAUSAGE RECIPE

Requirements:

- Good sausage grinder/stuffer machine
- Bevy of family and trusted friends to stuff and tie
- Smokehouse with supply of apple wood

Ingredients:

- 1 pound peeled garlic
- 3 gallons of water
- 1.5 hanks of natural casings
- 120 pounds of Boston Butts
- 2.5 cups salt
- 1.25 cups coarsely ground black pepper



Prepare garlic water - grind garlic and place in cheesecloth or cloth from an old pillow case. In large pot, cook garlic with approximately 3 gallons of water. For the large quantity of water, I usually let the pot cook robustly for at least 2-3 hours. Once cooked - let cool or refrigerate. Best if made the day prior to stuffing.

Casings - clean all casings one additional time by running water through each. Separate for later use.

Meat mix - coarsely grind all Boston Butt meat. Once ground, evenly mix in salt and pepper and garlic water. When well mixed and adequately moistened with garlic water, everything is in order to stuff, tie, and hang. For this quantity of meat, the actual water used is approximately between 2 and 3 gallons.

With cotton twine, tie off foot long portions of stuffed casing in to sausage rings. Once complete, each ring will find its way on a smokehouse stick where it will await smoking. Stuff, tie, hang, and repeat until meat mix is all gone. This amount yields about 250 rings of sausage after several hours.

Smoking - The next step is variable in duration depending on many weather-related factors. Hang sausage in smokehouse and proceed with smoking. I only use apple wood. This process will take 12-14 hours. This is a 12-14 hour battle to maintain a smoky fire, and repositioning links on their smokehouse sticks so no link is smoked too little or too much. When all links are similar in smokiness and dryness, it is time to stop smoking.

St. Al's 20th Anniversary Sausage Feast

January 20, 2018
Dinners start at 5:30

Lodge Person of the Year Announcement! Fun, family, friends and food for everyone!

Presented by:
ST. ALOYSIUS • KSKJ LODGE #52
Proudly serving the Slovenian community for 118 years!

Slovenian National Home
2717 West 10th street, Indianapolis

Sausage Dinner Choose locally made Fresh or Smoked sausage, or Azman's Blood sausage from Cleveland, OH Your choice of sausage with sauerkraut, potatoes, bread, etc.	Music & Dancing Live Polka Music The return of Trio Veseljaki to our Feast!	Pre-Paid Reservations Only \$20.00 per Adult Dinner \$3.00 per Child Dinner (ages 12 & under)
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Be certain to send your check made payable to **St. Aloysius Lodge #52 KSKJ**.
Watch St. Al's Facebook page (search for KSKJ#52 on Facebook) for more details as the date draws near!

RESERVATIONS
Please contact one of the following for reservations and info:

Joe Luzar (317) 299-3266	Rick Brodnik (317) 292-3505 rick.brodnik74@gmail.com	Paul Barbarich (317) 858-0484 barbaricp@aol.com
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This year, the lodge's "matching funds event" recipient will be **Gigi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center**
(For a profit up to \$1000 - the home office will match the local lodge's donation.)

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST LODGE #65 CELEBRATES 115 YEARS

St. John the Evangelist Lodge #65 (Milwaukee, WI) was organized January 19, 1903 and admitted to KSKJ that same day. Its charter members were: Joseph Blazic, Frank Sustersic, Martin Fabjan, John Mole, Frank Skocjan, Anton Mogolich, Frank Stiglitz, Joseph Francic, Anton Hren, Frank Remec, Martin Rajer, John Govek, Anton Zupancic, Valentine Medle, John Komlanc and Ferdinand Sustersic.

The lodge's first officers were: Joseph Blazic, president; John Mole, secretary; and Frank Sustersic, lodge representative.

1972 was a year in which several Milwaukee lodges merged with #65 including: Mary Help of Christians Lodge #164, St. Anne Lodge #173 and Knights and Ladies of Baraga #237.

When lodge #65 celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003, a special note of thanks was given to the many people who helped the lodge grow including John Oblak, Paul Maierle, Iggy Gorenc, John Champa, John Hren, John Lesatz, Steve Hoynik, Joseph Luzar, John Bentz, Don Lobacz, Richard Kraemer and Marty Gregorich.

Congratulations to Lodge #65. Here's to many more years!

DO YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING *THE VOICE*?

In the fall of 2017, we asked readers to fill out a short form online if you wished to continue to receive the paper version of *The Voice*. We understand that some members do not have access to computers, so we have decided to extend our deadline through March 31, 2018, and are allowing you to call into our main phone line to let us know you would like to remain on our subscriber list.

Please call (800) 843-5755 and press "6."

****If you have already called in previously or filled out the online form, there is no need to call again. Your name has already been recorded. Thank you!***

2018 LODGE ANNIVERSARIES

Lodge	Age In 2018	Founded
Lodge #1	124 years	06.10.1894
Lodge #2	124 years	04.02.1894
Lodge #7	124 years	04.02.1894
Lodge #20	123 years	02.13.1895
Lodge #25	123 years	05.21.1895
Lodge #29	122 years	04.02.1896
Lodge #42	121 years	04.30.1897
Lodge #44	121 years	08.22.1897
Lodge #50	119 years	11.30.1899
Lodge #52	118 years	05.06.1900
Lodge #53	118 years	11.17.1900
Lodge #59	116 years	03.04.1902
Lodge #63	116 years	10.16.1902
Lodge #65	115 years	01.19.1903
Lodge #69	115 years	08.17.1903
Lodge #79	114 years	12.18.1904
Lodge #104	112 years	12.28.1906
Lodge #108	111 years	02.14.1907
Lodge #110	111 years	03.07.1907
Lodge #115	111 years	05.14.1907
Lodge #136	108 years	05.16.1910
Lodge #143	107 years	07.18.1911
Lodge #144	107 years	09.10.1911
Lodge #146	106 years	04.01.1912
Lodge #150	105 years	02.28.1913
Lodge #153	104 years	05.02.1914
Lodge #169	97 years	07.01.1921
Lodge #170	96 years	04.14.1922
Lodge #171	96 years	06.01.1922
Lodge #196	93 years	08.01.1925
Lodge #197	93 years	09.24.1925
Lodge #219	91 years	03.08.1927
Lodge #226	90 years	02.09.1928
Lodge #236	88 years	06.02.1930
Lodge #257	50 years	02.04.1968

KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL BOARD NEWS

KSKJ Life National Board Members and National Athletic Director joined in the festivities at the Joliet Lodges Christmas Party on December 2. The National Board was in town for their quarterly meeting in Joliet, IL.



*Seated left to right: MaryLou Stefanick and Julie Schneller.
Standing left to right: Danny Golob, Dan Mihelich, Mike Vidmar,
Rudy Krasovec, Phil Hrvatin, Bob Lokar, Jr. and Tony Menart.*

KSKJ Life National Board Member, Bob Lokar, Jr., was recently voted in as the 2nd Vice President of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh board. Congratulations, Bob!



FSGP Officers pictured left to right: Larry Golofski (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association), Michele King (Loyal Christian Benefit Association), Tim Kuzma (Polish Falcons of America), Karen Pintar (Slovene National Benefit Society), Bob Lokar, Jr. (KSKJ Life), Joann Blackwell (ISDA Fraternal Association).

KSKJ VOICE

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

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

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To change address or name, or for matters concerning membership, please contact the KSKJ Life Home Office.

This publication is also available electronically at kskjlife.com.

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS

Thank you to all those who participated in our Snacks for Soldiers campaign. Please remember to send a photo of your collected items along with your charitable giving award form to fraternal@kskjlife.com. Collected monetary donations can be sent to the home office attn: Supporting Soldiers. The deadline for submissions is January 15. Photos and a full re-cap of campaign will be published in February's issue of *The Voice*.

"STEPPING UP" UPDATE

"Stepping Up with KSKJ Life" paid off in more ways than one for Eileen Plese of St. Genevieve #108 in Joliet and David Bradley of St. Mary #79 in Waukegan. Eileen and Dave were the two lucky winners from the recent 45-day program challenge. Presenting them with their Nutri Ninja 2-in-1 blender is KSKJ Life National Athletic Director MaryLou Stefanick.



David Bradley



Eileen Plese

STUDENT ATHLETE RECOGNITION & AWARD PROGRAM

The Student Athlete recognition and award program, which began in the fall of 2008, is back again for the 2017-2018 school year. The program, which is designed to recognize our young adult members who work hard on the field and even harder in the classroom, is open to all students, both high school and college, aged up to 25 years old. Visit kskjlife.com/membership/athletics to enter in your information. Registration closes May 15, 2018. Fifteen random winners will be selected from the list of student athletes, and each winner will receive a \$100 educational award.

ABC BOWLING

The ABC, Alternative Bowling Competition is back for its fifth year. KSKJ Life has sponsored Bowling Tournaments for our adult members for several decades now, but this one is just for our youth members. Here is your opportunity to participate in a national event, right in your own hometown – you don't need to live close to a lodge to be part of this competition! Bowl at your convenience, either with family members, friends, or as a lodge event! **Just go bowling!**

Like last year, the competition is open to all youth members. There are two divisions, straight bowling and bumper bowling. **The contest is now running through the end of April.** Random winners from each division will be selected at the end of the ABC.

ABC – Easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to the bowling center of your choice.
2. Bowl either straight bowling or bumper bowling.
3. After bowling, visit kskjlife.com/membership/athletics and enter your information. You can bowl as many games during this time period as you like, but only submit your information one time.

Winners from each division will be randomly selected at the end of the tournament, based on the number of participants. Results will be posted on the website and in *The Voice*.

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.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2017

Lodge #1- Margaret White- Chicago, IL

Lodge #25- Lawrence A. Nekic- Brook Park, OH

Lodge #25- Velber L. Gosser - Massillon, OH

Lodge #42- John R. Gross -New Cumberland, PA

Lodge #42 -Michael V. Gentile- York, PA

Lodge #50- Joseph W. Kuzio - Allison Park, PA

Lodge #50- Gerard Boselowitz - Mars, PA

Lodge #52- Linda S. Albright - Newburgh, IN

Lodge #52- John C. Hancock - Anderson, IN

Lodge #52- John J. Powell - Brownsburg, IN

Lodge #52- Kenneth E. Fields - Evansville, IN

Lodge #53- Carl D. Donovan - Sterling, IL

Lodge #53- Geraldine Marqui - Zion, IL

Lodge #53 - Johnnie M. Dozier - East Moline, IL

Lodge #59- Janet C. Grahek - Saint Cloud, MN

Lodge #59- Mallory M. Norrell - Meadowlands, MN

Lodge #59- Dawn C. Volkert - Mendota Heights, MN

Lodge #63- Dolores Kaczmariski - Cleveland, OH

Lodge #63- Ferdinand Krecic - Cleveland, OH

Lodge #63- Earl P. Blankenship - Cleveland, OH

Lodge #79- Dolores J. Broge - Freeport, IL

Lodge #79- John D. Daniels - Racine, WI

Lodge #79- Nicholas J. Fosco - Park Ridge, IL

Lodge #148- Michael J. Steina - Torrington, CT

Lodge #150- Nevin F. Numbers - Loudonville, OH

Lodge #153- Alan M. Kern - Daphne, AL

Lodge #153- Joanne M. Herb - Harford, PA

Lodge #170- Vladimir Grah - Burbank, IL

Lodge #226- John E. Bango - Clyde, OH

Lodge #236- Robert G. Hahn - Lakeside, CA

IN MEMORY OF

Ray Staskewich - Waukegan, IL

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grampovnik, \$25

Marcy (Pancar) Sovacool - Barberton, OH

Lodge #110, M. Dolores Trenta, \$25

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A MESSAGE FROM KSKJ LIFE'S SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Greetings and wishes for a 2018 filled with many blessings. Christmas must be over with all these college football games on every day. All these bowl games will end with the big bowl game on Superbowl Sunday. Hope you have time to enjoy other things as well as football.

The New Year will probably bring new resolutions, new ideas for the future, new plans and new hopes. That is always uplifting, and my prayer for you is that those dreams will become a reality in 2018.

As you prepare for all these new ventures, make sure that there is always a place for the Lord in the middle of them. This past Christmas you placed a lot of emphasis on Jesus, and rightly so.

Now the challenge before you is to continue reserving

the front row seat for HIM. He promises peace, joy and happiness if you have room for HIM. When Mary and Joseph tried to find a suitable place for his birth, they were told "There's no room in the inn."

With the grace of God, I am sure you will always have room for HIM. Praise God for that. Let HIM know there's room as you reserve the front row seats for you and your family at His house on Sundays. May the God of Peace, Love, Truth and Justice be with you throughout all of 2018.

Fr. Richard Gielow C.M.

KSKJ Life Spiritual Advisor

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 1

PENNSYLVANIA, CONNECTICUT AND DC

LODGE #42

STEELTON, PA

LODGE UPDATE

St. Aloysius Lodge #42 in Steelton, PA held its children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in Hershey, PA. What a great place to go! Christmas lights were everywhere. This year we took the children on a trolley ride thru the Sweet Lights, which is like a trip through the woods. The trolley took us on the back roads past the Hershey Hotel so we could see decorated homes before we went through the Sweet Lights. While riding through the woods, the conductor passed out Hershey chocolate candies. There were a lot of Disney characters and different rides in the park. Christmas Music was playing during the ride which made it truly a beautiful adventure. Before going on the ride, participants received food vouchers so they could get something to eat. We did not want the children to be hungry! Pictures were taken by Babs Gallagher, who we have decided to make our regular photographer as she always does a great job. Thank you, Babs! A special "thank you" also goes to Ron Graves for handling all the tickets for the trolley and the food vouchers. I don't know what I would do without Ron. I am sure the adults enjoyed the ride as much as the kids. Thank you to anyone who lent a helping hand with this event. I only wish that more children would participate in these events.

From all the Lodge #42 officers, we wish you a blessed new year.

Submitted by Anne Hubler

Recording Secretary



Declan Gallagher (grandson of Babs and Bob Gallagher) and Kayla Atanasoff (granddaughter of John Atanasoff and daughter of Kristen Atanasoff) tell Santa their Christmas wishes.



Members of Lodge #42 choose the perfect spot for a holiday photo



Lodge members enjoying their time at the Christmas party

REGION 2

CLEVELAND AREA

LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

The St. Joseph Lodge #169 Christmas party on December 10 helped get us into the spirit of the season. The well-attended event featured a musical program by lodge members, beginning with our own clarinet quartet of Marty Marsic, Phil Hrvatin, Michael Tomc and John Nemeč.

Michael and his young brother Thomas Tomc then debuted as a clarinet duet with a couple well-performed Christmas songs of their own—and Thomas added a solo on electric guitar. Tina Rozman again performed a few songs on her violin for the members. It's so good to see our young members as they develop their musical talents!

Lodge officers Marty, Phil and John then switched over to saxophones and finished off with a few more Christmas songs. This was followed by the traditional sing-along with our junior members on stage joined by the members in the hall. Thanks to Michael Tomc for accompanying the singing on the piano.

Santa arrived just in time with gifts for the kids and greetings for all. Then, as guessing game and door prize winners claimed the prizes donated by the lodge, the Home Office and Phil Hrvatin, everyone enjoyed Slovenian smoked sausage, sauerkraut, pizza and cookies. Thanks to the Nemeč ladies and others who volunteered in the kitchen. Thanks also to the members in attendance for their donations to the St. Mary's food pantry and the Snacks for Soldiers program.



The children entertaining guests with the Christmas carol sing-along.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



The Christmas Party guests were entertained by many musicians including Tina Rozman (on stage with violin).



Michael and Thomas Tomc – clarinet duet



Santa with the kitchen crew.



"Honestly Santa, I've been a good boy – I'd really like that Selmer Model 33 bass clarinet" – Marty Marsic



Generous party guests donated items for the St. Mary's Food Pantry as well as the Snacks for Soldiers campaign.

Our first meeting of the new year will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 18, at the Collinwood Slovenian Home, 15810 Holmes Ave. If you can't make it, stay up to date by checking our facebook page, St. Joseph KSKJ Life Lodge: 169.

Anyone who would like to join our winter balinca league (eight Thursdays beginning late January), contact me soon at janeznemec@aol.com or 216-541-7243.

SLOVENIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

Members and officers of Lodge #169 were recently acknowledged for their volunteerism and support of the recent restoration and repair work at the Slovenian Cultural Garden.

Slovenian Cultural Garden

2017 was a transformative year for the Slovenian Cultural Garden. We completed repairs to the historic, original brick building and have been able to open it to the community. This doesn't happen without generous and diverse able support and effort.

Thank you to the Society of Friends, Philip Hrovat, Sara Jakić, Robert Jakić, Ana Petrović, Martina Šturm, and Cheryl Vardi. A special thanks to the People of Slovenia, KSKJ Life Lodge #169 and AMAS for their generous support.



The officers wish all our members a healthy, safe and happy 2018 filled with blessings!

John Nemeec

LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

LODGE UPDATE

Loretta Brown was re-elected to serve as president of KSKJ Life St. Christine Lodge #219 during our business meeting on Sunday, December 10 at the Villa Croatia Center in Eastlake, Ohio. Others re-elected to office for 2018 were: Mary Urbanic, Vice President; Roberta Underwood, Recording Secretary; Elizabeth Kusar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Joanne Ash, Fraternal Activities Director, and Mary Cooke, Head Auditor. Each officer was sworn into office by Mary Strbec.

The spirit of Christmas giving made a special appearance at the meeting and Christmas Party as members filled the table with 28 pounds of fruit bars, candy, crackers, games, boxes of cards and beef jerky for our Snacks for Soldiers project. We also made a monetary donation for this cause that was sent to the home office. The giving did not stop there - many wrapped packages were donated for our raffle, and then the fun began trying to match numbers for the gifts. We use the money for our Christmas projects, like Supporting Soldiers. Each person in attendance was given a goodie bag of candy and a gift. The three little children who attended were given a stuffed animal. We all had

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

a delicious family style meal making it a special holiday.

Members were given a special invitation to attend our meetings and join in to provide new input to our lodge. We serve refreshments and have door prizes. Our next meeting will be January 14 at 1 p.m. in Gateway Manor Community room 4 Gateway, Euclid, Ohio. There will not be a February meeting. Then we will meet again on March 11, 2018.

*Elizabeth Kusar
Financial Secretary & Treasurer*



Party guests were very generous with their donations of snacks for the Supporting Soldiers Campaign



Two of our youngest guests had a delightful time visiting with all the other party guests



Our 2018 Lodge Officers

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

We've all heard the expression, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Truly the holiday season is one of the most wonderful times of the year for Christ the King Lodge #226!

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY CELEBRATION

We kick off the holidays with our celebration of Christ the King Sunday, just a few days after the family celebrations of Thanksgiving Day. This year's Christ the King Celebration, which was held on November 26, was extra special as we celebrated our lodge's 90th year in existence. 85 people, including guests from some other nearby lodges, attended the traditional Slovenian lunch. Honored as our Lodge Leader award recipient during the event was Rev. Joseph Boznar, pastor at St. Vitus Church, for his continued support of our lodge. His spiritual guidance is so important to our lodge. Congratulations also to Stan Kuhar, Christ the King's Lodge Person of the Year!



Our lodge officers that were recognized at this event included:

Ray Zak - President
Charles Potenga - Vice-President
Financial Secretary - Erika Kurbos
Recording Secretary - Diane McClusky
Auditors - William Urban, Carmen Frederico, Edward Klodnick
Fraternal Activities Coordinator - Ron Zak
Voice Reporter & Co-Chair Youth Activities - Tamara Zupancic
Youth Activities Co-Chair - Beth Ann Hlabse-Paskey
Communications Officer - Randy Zak
Sergeant at Arms - Ray Yartz
Lodge Membership Committee - Rosemarie Zupancic, Tim Klodnick, Clara Abriani
Spiritual Advisor - Rev. Joseph Boznar
Fraternal Committee Member Region Two - Joe Hocevar

Our lodge scholarship winners of the Antonia and Frank Segal Scholarship Fund that were honored are: Emma Kurbos-Cooper, Kyle Pleskovic, Amanda Zakelj, Anja Kurbos-Cooper, Grace Paskey, Rachel Stankiewicz, Nicole Sweet, Jacob Stankiewicz, Nick Zakelj -- Congratulations!

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our next celebration took place just one week later and drew a much younger crowd and that was because it was our Annual Youth Christmas Party. We had so much fun with all the kids creating crafty masterpieces, playing games, enjoying the Family Cake Walk, and receiving gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Claus! We collected \$103.25 in loose change (with some people donating more) for the Supporting Soldiers campaign. The lodge also donated \$100 towards this campaign, which will be matched by the Home Office. Youth Committee Co-Chairs, Beth Paskey and Tamara Zupancic, planned the day but it was those elves (listed below) working their magic who really made the day extra special.

David Sanders was the first to arrive and start decorating the hall. He also assisted by organizing the other volunteers and keeping the events moving along.

Brian Paskey also helped with the activities but has a new career as our official Master of Ceremonies. Brian assisted Santa by calling out each child's name when it was time to receive gifts and gave the final announcements for the day.

Diane McClusky, with the voice of an angel, led the children in Christmas carols and even got a few of them to perform solos of their favorite songs. We could have continuing singing for several minutes more if we hadn't heard the ringing of Santa's bells in the hallway. Next year, we plan to add some instruments and allow more time, as the children loved this part of the day.

We had several elf volunteers to help manage the games and craft activities including: Grace Hozjan, Carson Klodnick, Cassidy Klodnick, Grace Paskey, Rachel Petrey, Katie Mullen and Hunter Zupancic.

Rounding out our list of thank you's, we extend a sincere thanks to our Lodge Board for providing pizza and sandwiches and to those lodge members who brought desserts to share, cakes for the Cake Walk, and donations for the Snacks for Soldiers campaign. If we failed to mention anyone by name, please know that we truly appreciate all your efforts and any omission was completely accidental.

A video from the day can be found on our Facebook page at facebook.com/kskjcleland226 or search for "KSKJ Life Cleveland Lodge #226". We publish event info, share KSKJ Life updates, post pictures and engage with members. Please follow our page!



A young member tells Santa what he would like for Christmas



Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by for a visit to the delight of all the children.

DECEMBER LODGE MEETING

Just prior to our Youth Christmas Party, our lodge held its December meeting and election of officers. During the meeting, Ray Zak reminded everyone that beginning in January our lodge meetings will be held the first Sunday of each month, unless there is another event during the month and then we can combine the meeting and the event.

Fraternal Activities: Chuck Potenga mentioned that the November Casino trip was a great time and 43 people attended. The next trip is planned for the spring. Also, we are looking to charter a boat on September 8, 2018 to island hop from Cleveland to Kelley's Island to Put-in-Bay and back to Cleveland.

In order to make the event a success, we need approximately 150 people to commit. If this sounds like an event you would enjoy, please send Chuck a quick note cpotenga@wowway.com.

Scholarship Committee: Congratulations to the nine students who were selected by our Scholarship Committee to receive our lodge's Frank and Antonia Segal Scholarship. Each of the students received the maximum amount for the scholarship. Recipients include: Anja Kurbos-Cooper, Ema Kurbos-Cooper, Grace Paskey, Kyle Pleskovic, Jacob Stankiewicz, Rachel Stankiewicz, Nicole Sweet, and Nick Zakelj.

During the meeting, we elected our 2018 Leadership team: Ray Zak - President, Chuck Potenga - Vice President, Erika Kurbos - Financial Secretary, and Diane McClusky - Recording Secretary, Ron Zak - Fraternal Activities, David Sanders, Carmen Frederico, and Bill Urban - Auditors.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Jan 7 - 12:00 p.m. (Slovenian National Home). Immediately following our January lodge meeting, we will hold our Adult New Year's Party. We ask that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Feb 23 - 5:30 p.m. (Slovenian National Home Club Room). Lodge Meeting and Fish Fry

Mar TBD - 5:30 p.m. (The NASH). Lodge Meeting, Fish Fry, and Family Bowling

Apr 8 - 12:00 p.m. (Slovenian National Home)

May 5 - 10:00 a.m. (Slovenian National Home). Join Hands Day and Lodge Meeting

Jun 3 - 12:00 a.m. (Slovenian National Home)

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of Lodge #226, condolences are extended to the Pleskovic Family on the passing of Melinda Pleskovic. Our hearts and prayers are with the family.

May you and your family find joy and prosperity in the New Year!

Tamara Zupancic and Tim Klodnick

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 3

CLEVELAND AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

Lodges #63, #146 and #150 joined together for their annual Christmas Party on December 3. A great time was had by all and a special guest visited with the children....Santa Claus!



Santa with the children from lodges #63, #146 and #150

LODGE #63

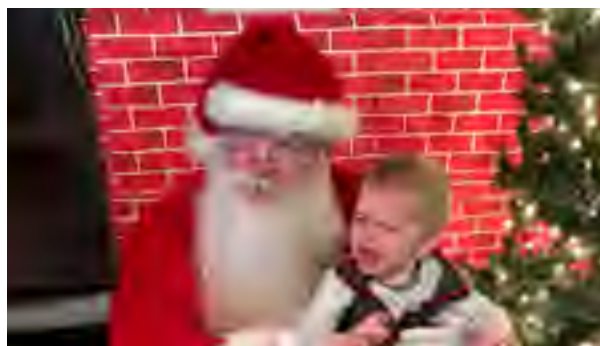
CLEVELAND AREA

LODGE UPDATE

Busy, busy, busy — that’s what this time of year is all about. The month started with the Matching Funds event with the Greater Cleveland Police Memorial Society. Approximately 250 people attended a Night at the Races to benefit renovation to the Memorial, which is in downtown Cleveland (see photos on page 3) . It was a great turnout for a great cause. Sunday, December 3 was our annual meeting and children’s Christmas party. See photos below.



Not everyone likes the man in red. Frank Sedmak is one who doesn't.



...Liam Galbreth doesn't care for him either.

Your newly elected officers are as follows: Jim Marincic, President; Jean Marincic, Financial Secretary; Brigid Farone, Recording Secretary; Judy Sedmak and Lisa Kostura, Auditors; Deanne Short and Cathy Matonis, Membership Committee; Brenna Marincic and Sarah Kawczynski, Youth and Athletic Activities Coordinators; Katie Kawczynski, Spiritual Director; and Joe Snyder and Frank Sadar, Honorary Board Members. All officers will be installed at the January 29, 2018 meeting.

Please watch *The Voice* and our Facebook page for upcoming events.

We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

*Submitted by:
Jean Marincic*

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 12 - New member dinner at Harry's Steakhouse, 5664 Brecksville Rd., Independence, Ohio. We will gather at 6 pm. Please RSVP so that we can have the right sized area.

Friday, February 2 - Meeting and drawing of numbers for squares

Sunday, February 4 - Big game KSKJ Life Matching Funds party

Sunday, March 18 - 50-year member dinner and the 106th Lodge Anniversary.

LODGE UPDATE

On December 4, we had the 3-lodge Christmas party at the Slovenian Home. This year it was a little different. The bar area is undergoing renovation, so we were all in the lanes for food and fellowship. Santa was there, and we had plenty of kids and people young-at-heart visiting with him. There were also door prizes for the adults. It was a fun time. I do look forward to seeing the bar area once the renovations are done.

Before the meeting, we had our election of officers. Once again, there were no new nominations and the current board members were voted in. At the meeting, we also started planning the first quarter of our events. We will be having our annual NFC vs AFC big game watch party at St. Mary's as we have in year's past.

To begin the year, as mentioned in my last article, we will have our new member dinner at Harry's. This will be on Friday, January 12 at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence. We will gather at 6 pm.

On Friday, February 2 we will have a meeting at Quaker Steak and Lube. This will be our meeting night and a planning meeting for Sunday's big game party. We will be drawing the numbers for the squares that we are currently selling. This is our annual Matching Funds benefit.

Sunday, February 4 will be the Super Bowl watch party - NFC vs AFC. For sure we will not be watching the Browns play for a title.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

AFC VS NFC

Event Description Heading
The Big Game (aka Super Bowl) will be on the large screen TV. Doors will open at 5:30 pm. Refreshments available immediately, food served @ 6 pm. Payouts are after each quarter.
Squares are for sale and available for \$25 each. Get yours now before they sell out! See John Nemec (216-541-7243), Josie Kmet (216) 267-4866, or Chris Kocin (440-357-9353 for your square.
This is a matching fund event sponsored by St Joseph Lodge #146 and its parent organization, KSKJLife - a non-profit fraternal benefit organization. www.kskjlife.com (800) 843-5755



Big Game Watch Party

St. Mary's School Cafeteria
15519 Holmes Ave
Cleveland, OH 44110

Food, Fun and Prizes!

Game @ 6:30 pm

Doors open @ 5:30 pm

Proceeds to benefit St. Mary's Food Pantry

KSKJLIFE LODGE #146
6621 Ivy Ln.
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130
216-267-4866

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

We will have our 50-year member dinner on Sunday, March 18. More details to follow. Time and location to be determined. Watch next month for details.

Hope everyone remembered the reason for the season. Belated Merry Christmas to all, and best wishes for a happy, healthy new year.

Josie Kmet
Secretary/Treasurer

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING MEETING

Our next Lodge #150 Meeting will take place on Monday January 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Independence Police Department (Meeting Room), 6800 Brecksville Rd., Independence, Ohio 44131. Enter in the front doors of city hall by the flagpole and proceed to the meeting room. All Lodge #150 members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Light refreshments will be served. We will be planning our meeting and event schedules for the year and we will be looking for recommendations for Matching Funds events.

LODGE PERSON OF THE YEAR

Lodge #150 recognized Vicki & David Javor for their vast contributions to our lodge and the Slovenian Community.

Vicki is the immediate past President of lodge #150 and her skilled leadership guided us through a very difficult transition period during her tenure. While Vicki is stepping aside for a short period of time, we appreciate all that she has done for our lodge, KSKJ Life and the various events. She and her husband David have spearheaded the Porky Pig Tournament the past several years and can always be counted on to be at the NASH for Join Hands Day to help make the area presentable for the Mother's Day Mass/Brunch. (David is the son of Newburg's own Joanne "Debelak" Javor, who grew up on E 82 St. Joanne has done a great job of enrolling her children and grandchildren in KSKJ Life. Joanne is a great baker too. Thank you, Joanne!).

Vicki & David seem to always be attending events for the various lodges, supporting fundraisers and work events. Their children Andrea and David Jr. are as active members as they can be given the constraints of their work schedules.

This recognition has been long overdue. Congratulations, Vicki and David!



Lodge Persons of the Year Vicki and David Javor.



Left to right: David Jr., Vicki, David and Joanne Javor, Tony Peskar and Greg Snyder. David's mother, Joanne, presented the certificate to Vicki and David. Their son, David Jr., was also there for the presentation.

2018 OFFICERS:

Our officers for 2018 are:

President: Tony Peskar

Vice President: Greg Snyder

Financial Sec/Treas: Liz Jones

Recording Sec: Elaine Peskar

Fraternal Activities Coordinator: Greg Snyder

Membership Com: L Jones, E Peskar, T Peskar & G Snyder

Communications: E & T Peskar

Auditors: Mary Cox, Susanna Hughey & Linda Smigla

We are still looking for members for the various committees. Attend a meeting, get a feel for things and determine where you may be best suited to contribute to Lodge #150. Anyone interested in participating may reach out to us by message and/or attend one of our lodge meetings. Thank you all that attended our annual meeting.

ED GRANT WINNERS

Congratulations to Madison Dabrowski (Bowling Green State University) & Emily Kuznik (Baldwin Wallace University) each a recipient of a \$1,000 KSKJ Life Educational Grant. Great job, ladies!

MATCHING FUNDS

In addition to the Matching Funds of \$1,000 from KSKJ Life, Holy Name '57 classmates raised an additional \$1,050 for a total of \$2,050 donated to the Holy Name '57 Scholarship Fund. A KSKJ Life name plate will be added to the plaque at the entrance of Holy Name High School.



Tony Peskar presents a Matching Funds check to Colleen Corrigan Day, '88 Director of Constituent Relations at Holy Name High School.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Tony Peskar points to where "KSKJ Life" will be engraved on the plaque.



ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thank you to all that attended and a very special thank you to Lodge #63, who coordinated this year's event. Jeannie Marincic and crew cannot be topped! Thank you!

VOICE NEWSPAPER

If you wish to continue to receive a copy of The Voice through the US Mail you must notify the home office. If you are unable to do that you may let us know and we will process the request for you.

ALTERNATIVE BOWLING TOURNAMENT (ABC)

We are planning to have an Alternative Bowling Tournament event at the NASH this spring. We are still gathering information before planning the event. Please contact Tony Peskar for additional information.

"SNACKS FOR SOLDIERS" CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all that participated in this years "Snacks For Soldiers" campaign. Our lodge contributed \$100 plus additional contributions from members. Thank you for your generous support!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Christ the King Lodge #226 on your 90th Anniversary. This lodge may be the most active lodge in the Cleveland Region. Elaine & I represented Lodge #150 at the 90th Anniversary Luncheon at St Vitus. As usual, everything was well run and of high quality. During the proceedings I reflected back on how I became active in KSKJ Life. First, Mrs. Josephine Winter encouraged me to participate in the KSKJ Life youth basketball tournament in the mid 1950's. I organized a team and entered the tournament. It was there that everything changed and I became more involved in KSKJ Life. Two men, Ray Zak and John Zup, nurtured my growth and development and soon I was participating in all sports: bowling, softball, basketball, etc. with the "guys" from St Vitus of Christ the King Lodge. (It was here that I discovered that John and I were first cousins.)

I met many other wonderful people along the way: Ljube, Nemanich, Joker, Yartz, Smole just to name a few. What a wonderful group of Slovenian men. I owe a debt of gratitude to Ray and John for getting me on the right path and encouraging me to participate on teams with players I did not know as little as a year earlier. Soon I was one of the guys. Thank you Ray and John, and KSKJ Life I should thank you too! While it is likely there were others involved, from my perspective it was Ray & John who built a solid foundation for growth in membership and had the foresight to hold fundraisers to help defray the costs of the various excursions to out of state events. To this day, 40+ years later, lodge #226 still holds a large annual 50/50 raffle. Newer members have become very actively involved with this event. Congratulations #226 on a job well done!

YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 8th Young Adult Leadership Conference will be held in Chicago, IL preceding the National

Convention in August 2018. Check *The Voice* in the coming months for more information.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK

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

LODGE E-MAIL ADDRESS

The lodge #150 e-mail address for Financial Secretary, Liz Jones is: kskjlife150@gmail.com

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

God Bless America!!!

Tony & Elaine Peskar

REGION 4

JOLIET AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

COMBINED JOLIET LODGES, KSKJ LIFE

Happy New Year, everyone.

On Tuesday, December 5, the combined Joliet Lodges held their final meeting for 2017 at T&C Bowling Lanes. Members from Lodge #2, Lodge #29, and Lodge #108 were in attendance.

Congratulations go out to the following: St. Genevieve Lodge #108 and Chris Pucel. They were the lucky winners of the "200" raffle for December.

Nominations and election of officers for 2018 were held at this meeting. The new officers are as follows: Chris Zitko – President; Becky Velasquez – Vice President; Treasurer – Alan Mihelich; Recording Secretary/Reporter – Pauline Mihelich; Auditors – Mike Vidmar and Maryann McGinnis; and Louis Derlinga as the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mike Vidmar reported on the Illinois Federation meeting that was held on Friday, November 17 in the Cultural Center in Lemont.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

The winners of the Illinois Federation Raffle were as follows: 1st Prize – Ivan Buh, 2nd Prize – Dan Mihelich, and 3rd Prize – St. Genevieve Lodge #108. Congratulations to all of you.

The following are some photos from our annual Joliet Lodges Christmas Party which was held on December 2 at Haunted Trails in Joliet.



Rudy Krasovec stops by the check in table



Tony and Connie Menart view the items at the raffle table.



Joliet members are all smiles at the Christmas Party.

With no other news to report about, the next meeting of the combined Joliet Lodges will not be held until February 6, 2018. More information will be available in the next issue of *The Voice*.

Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter

LODGE #2

JOLIET, IL

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 7, 2018 – Installation of Officers

March 18, 2018 – Brunch Meeting (Honor 50-Year Members and Elect 2018 National Convention Delegates)

June 7 & September 18, 2018 – Happy Hour social dates

December 2, 2018 – Election of Officers

2018 LODGE OFFICERS

The following members were elected as the 2018 Lodge Officers. Congratulations!

President: Dan Mihelich

Financial Secretary: Zachary Pucel

Fraternal Activities Coordinator: Diana Tyda

Lodge Membership Committee Chair: Zachary Pucel

Recording Secretary: Julia Pucel

Auditor: Ken Mihelich

Spiritual Advisor: Father Tim Andres

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Welcome to new members – Colton Brennan, Margaret Knapp, Carol Kodrick, Jermaine Lewis, David and Janet Phillips and Brianna Schiemer.

Our 2018 officers are:

Ken Velasquez – President/Membership Chair

Kathy Lovati – VP

Judy Corum – Financial Secretary

Karen Colman – Recording Secretary/Reporter/

Communications

Becky Velasquez – Fraternal Activities Director

Louie Derlinga – Sgt. at Arms

Bob Zelinski, Paul Boettcher, Nicholas Vidmar – Auditors

Deacon Doug Starasinich – Spiritual Director

Three officers of lodge #29 were recognized for their years of service as lodge officers. Those honored were Ken Velasquez, Louis Derlinga and Karen Coleman.



Left to right: Ken Velasquez, Louie Derlinga and Karen Colman receiving 2017 Lodge Leader Awards.

See you at the Holiday Party on Sunday, January 7, at 176 West Banquet Facility, 1100 NE Frontage Road in Joliet beginning at noon with cocktails. We will have a meeting at 12:30 p.m. followed by buffet at 1 p.m. Call Judy Corum at 815-725-3553 or jmcorum@ameritech.net with any questions.

Chili Cook-Off and meeting will be on Sunday, March 4, 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Park.

On behalf of all the officers, our wish to you is for peace, health and happiness in the new year.

Karen (Ramsak) Colman, Reporter

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #108

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Happy New Year!

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, St. Genevieve Lodge #108 once again had a fabulous Christmas party, which was held at Al's Steakhouse with 20 lodge members and 2 guests in attendance. Everyone had a great time. A fine luncheon was served.

This year St. Genevieve Lodge #108 had three members with 50-years of continuous membership. They are Karen T. Bossinger, Madeline F. Golobitsh, and Patricia A. Martinez. However, none of them were in attendance.

Nominations & elections of officers for 2018 were held. Believe it or not all officers were retained for another year of hard work. However, there was one change to the board. Congratulations to the following elected officers: Pauline Mihelich, President; Chuck Kramer, Vice-President; Alan Mihelich, Financial Secretary; Catherine Kramer, Recording Secretary; Maryann McGinnis, Fraternal Activities Coordinator; Judy Hann, 1st Auditor; Mary Lee Strahanoski, 2nd Auditor; Mary Kay Demick, 3rd Auditor and Eileen Plese, Sergeant-at-Arms. After the elections were over, Rudy Krasovec (Chair of the KSKJ Life National Board of Directors) did the honors of swearing the officers in. Thank you, Rudy, for doing so.

I want to say thank you to Grace Strahanoski (one of our youth members) who was on hand to help with the distribution of the door prizes and pulling out the lucky winners.

As we have done in previous years, St. Genevieve Lodge #108 collects canned goods and makes a monetary donation to the Guardian Angel Community Services – Groundwork Services. This year we had canned goods worth about \$250 and a monetary donation of \$200. A big thank you goes out to all the members who brought canned goods or made a monetary donation at the Christmas party. Without your generosity, we could not have done this. Thank you.

Before I forget, on Sunday, February 11, 2018 our lodge will be sponsoring another ice skating and pizza event for the youth, which will be held at the Joliet Park District Ice Arena starting about 1 p.m.

Also, our next lodge meeting will held on Sunday, February 4 at 1 p.m. in Ferdinand Hall.

Once again, have a safe and prosperous new year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Mihelich
Lodge President*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Lodge #143 held its Annual Meeting on Thursday November 30 in which KSKJ Life Chair of the Board Rudy Krasovec attended. Congratulations to the following members who were voted in as Lodge #143's Officers for 2018:

President – Julia Markun

Financial Secretary – April Sleyko

Fraternal Activities Coordinator – Margaret Koncar

Fraternal Activities Co-Coordinator – Annette Koncar

Lodge Membership Chair – Lauren Baltz

Auditor – John Koncar

Vice President – Tony Mravle, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENT

St. John the Baptist Lodge #143's Christmas Party will be held on January 6, 2018 at Crest Hill Lanes in Crest Hill, IL. See flyer in next column for more details. Hope to see you there!



REGION 5

CHICAGO AND INDIANAPOLIS

LODGE #44

S. CHICAGO, IL

If you are anything like me, you can't believe 2017 is over. Last year, I shared my major resolution, and I will ask you all again to join me in making this resolution this new year. The past few years I have taken it easy on myself with New Year's Resolutions, to make it easier to stick with them. If you know me, I don't have the personal motivation to sacrifice sleep to go to a gym. I've stopped trying to convince myself of things otherwise. So my resolution has simply been to try and be a better human being - more open, kind and loving to everyone around me. It is a simple resolution, but on some days I find it a hard one to follow through with. Our world today is one full of anger and violence, and some days it is easy to feed into that. I would like to challenge everyone this year to add one more resolution to your list. Try to be a better human being. Shine a little light in this dark world of ours. You already have a head start

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

on most people with the events and activities put together by your lodge. I urge you to participate. If you already participate, maybe join the committee to plan something. We can all do our part to make the world a more loving and peaceful place.

Another year has come and gone and so has another Lodge #44 Christmas Party! Thank you to everyone who came out for our meeting and to celebrate the year. It was a wonderful time of food, singing, dancing and, of course, a visit from the man in red! Also, thank you to the members of Women's Slovenian Union who joined us. We held our final meeting of the year and discussed the board for next year. We honored our Person of the Year, James Rossi Jr. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!

Next year we are only going to have four meetings with a lot of behind the scenes action, so hopefully each lodge member can attend at least one. Our first meeting will be held March 4. Location and time is yet to be determined so be sure to read my updates for all events and mark your calendars now to join us that Sunday afternoon.

Finally, we hope everyone had a merry Christmas and our wish is a happy and healthy new year for you all! God Bless.

Angela Rossi



James Rossi, Jr. (left) receives the Lodge Person of the Year award from lodge #44 president George Bozzetti.



Santa Claus made a visit to the delight of all the children who attended.



Transportation to and from the party was provided for our guests who no longer drive.

LODGE #52

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20 – Mark your calendars for our Annual Sausage Feast at the Slovenian National Home! This is our most popular event! You get your choice of fresh, smoked, or blood sausage complete with ethnic Slovenian sides! RESERVATIONS must be made in advance. Please contact Paul Barbarich [317-858-0484; barbaricp@aol.com] or Rick Brodnik [317-292-3505; rick.brodnik74@gmail.com] before it's too late! (*See flyer on page 4 for more details)

LODGE UPDATE

Hello Indianapolis! Cooler weather is moving in and winter is upon us! In normal KSKJ Life fashion, we welcomed winter with our annual Christmas parties! Our Children's Christmas Party was held at the

Slovenian National Home. Thanks to Youth Director Jaymie McDougal and all who helped to make this party amazing! Our younger members were able to play several games, from decorating ornaments to struggling with saran wrap uncovering hidden toys! We were lucky enough to have several adults join us for the festivities. A late lunch/early dinner was provided for all in attendance—it was an amazing taco bar complete with all the fixin's. Once again, Santa was even able to make it during his busiest time of year. Every youngster was able to meet and visit with old St. Nick! Special thank you to Kemp Photography, who provided each family with printed photos of their child(ren) with Santa. So kind of you.

Following the excitement of the children's party, the following day we had our Adult Christmas party and year-end elections. We met at the Slovenian National Home for a pitch-in luncheon. The lodge provided delicious chicken and our amazing attendees brought accompanying dishes and desserts. Once again we elected to donate to the priests of Lamont, the Slovenian National Home, Sacred Heart, and at our previous meeting, St. Malachy.



Youth Director Jaymie McDougal, lodge member Genita Brodnik, and Athletic Director Ed Cottingim pay close attention to events for the past year at the Annual Meeting.



Lodge President Angie Cuson and Treasurer Rick Brodnik review the treasurer's report for the members in attendance.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

On Christmas morning, the Slovenian Choir sang Christmas songs before and during the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Malachy. The nativity scene from Holy Trinity was on display for Christmas Mass.

January is approaching, and so is our Annual Sausage Feast on January 20 at the Slovenian National Home. You will get your choice of locally made fresh or smoked, or award-winning Azman's blood sausage (shipped from Cleveland) complete with ethnic Slovenian sides (sauerkraut, potatoes, bread). Desserts and beverages will also be available. RESERVATIONS are required. Please contact Rick Brodnik [317-292-3505; rick.brodnik74@gmail.com] or Paul Barbarich [317-858-0484; barbaricp@aol.com] before it is too late. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under. This is our Matching Funds event; all proceeds will benefit Gigi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center.

As usual, be sure to like St. Aloysius on Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/KSKJ.

Nasvidenje!
Jennifer Velikan

JOIN HANDS DAY

Officers and members of St. Aloysius Lodge #52 recently participated in a Join Hands event for the Million Meal Movement. This humanitarian hunger relief organization uses the process of packing meals to encourage volunteerism in children and adults. The meals are then delivered to Indiana Food Banks.



Jaymie McDougal and Ed Cottingim



Tom Bracik, Betsy Walker and Angie Cuson



Angie Cuson with the lodge #52 officers in background

REGION 6

NE ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

LODGE #65

MILWAUKEE, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Greetings to all:

We are collaborating with the George Washington Bay View Post 180 for our Matching Funds Event, which will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Motion Plus Lanes located at 3620 East Carpenter Ave. in Cudahy, Wisconsin. The event is a 9 Pin No Tap Tournament and there will be cash prizes, food, and raffles available. The cost is \$25 per person.

Proceeds will go to the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. This is a worthy cause and fun time for you. Please call Andrea Ostrowski for more information or reservations or to volunteer your help. Remember, this is a KSKJ Life event and our members are encouraged to participate. Andrea will tell you how you can help. Please call her at 414-704-1701. If you are unable to bowl, come to the lanes and enjoy the fun.

The coaches agreed that Joe Morzy should once again receive the Heart of Greendale Panther Award. This award is given to the athlete who demonstrates being a team player, leadership and putting the team before himself. Congratulations, Joe! Keep up the good work. We're proud of you!

The Holiday Folk Fair was held in Milwaukee on November 17, 18 and 19, and the Slovenians were well-represented. This year the cultural display was co-sponsored by the Triglav Cultural Society, USPEH, and the Slovenian Arts Program. The theme was "Welcome." The Slovenian scene was a kitchen displaying Slovenian Foods, a musician and Mt. Triglav pictured through the window. The exhibit took first place in the Artistic Presentation. Many thanks to all the people who helped make our Slovenian Community proud.



The Slovenian Scene at the Holiday Folk Fair.

On behalf of the officers and members, we wish you a belated, but Merry Christmas and a happy and blessed new year.

Nasvidenje
Mici Bregant

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Happy New Year from Willard!

Mary of Perpetual Help Lodge #136 had the Election of Officers for 2018 on December 10, 2017. The Officers remained the same with President- Edward Bayuk, Vice President- Edward Perko, Financial Secretary- Lonna Rakovec, Activities Director -Joanne Trunkel, Treasurer- Melinda Deavers, Recording Secretary- Gene Rakovec, Auditors -Jeremiah Rakovec, Robert Trunkel and Bethany Gosar.

We followed our Annual Meeting with a potluck lunch and Christmas Party. Even though the Packers were playing, Santa found time to make an appearance and hand out bags of goodies. Everyone who attended had a great time. We collected "Snacks for Soldiers," which was still open at the time of this article. We also collected food for the Greenwood Food Pantry. It was a huge success with a local business, "Gross Motors," matching every item. What a wonderful feeling to make a difference in someone's Christmas!

Please remember to register your 2017 game for our Hunting and Fishing Jamboree by calling Robert Trunkel at 715-267-7264. We would appreciate pictures of your deer (both buck and doe), bear, turkey, duck, geese and fish. Don't worry if you didn't take any pictures. We have many members in other states, so register your game that you got in your state. You do not need to be present to win your prize for the biggest game. All you have to be is a member of Lodge #136. Children can register game or rough fish, but adults can only register game fish. The date for the Hunting and Fishing Jamboree is tentatively set for March 11 with the possibility of April 8. We will put the date in February's *Voice*. It will be held in Holy Family Parish Center, Willard, Wisconsin.

If anyone would like to join our lodge or put your children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren in the lodge, just contact Lonna Rakovec at 715-267-7105 or email genelonna@hotmail.com. Lonna will put

you in touch with an agent .

We hope you had a joyous Christmas and a happy new year.

Lonna Rakovec

Financial Secretary



Youth members from #136 take part in some Christmas caroling.



Ed Bayuk, president, displays the items that were collected for the Snacks for Soldiers campaign.

REGION 7

MINNESOTA AND MICHIGAN

LODGE #59

EVELETH, MN

LODGE UPDATE

We are pleased to announce our newly elected officers for 2018: President, Jennifer Menart; VP, Ron Erjavec; Financial Sec., Connie Menart; Treasurer, Theresa LaVigne; Recording Secretary, Amy Brazerol; Communications Officer/Voice Reporter, Rosemary Mattson; Fraternal Activities Coordinator, Heidi Coldagelli; Lodge Membership Committee Chair, Tony Menart; Auditors, Gloria Leseman, Frank Erjavec, Dawn Barchus; Sergeant at Arms,

Robert Mavec; Techie, handles all computer work and help with lodge communications, Amy Brazerol; and Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Emmon Boland.



2018 Lodge #59 Officers



Lodge Person of the Year, Bob Mavec (left), receives his certificate from Tony Menart..



Santa with all the children at our Christmas party.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Lodge #171 recently held its Annual Christmas party, complete with a visit from Santa! During the event, 50-year members Polly and John Stojevich were honored and the 2018 Lodge Officers were recognized.



Santa visits youth members of Lodge #171. The children greeted Santa as accordionist Joe Jagunich played "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."



50 year members recognized at Lodge #171's Christmas Party. Seated in front; Polly and John Stojevich were recognized as 50-year members. Standing; Frank B. Bucar, Mark Spehar, and Frank and Sharon Bucar and Mary Spehar White.



2018 Officers: Frank B. Bucar, Vice President; Mark Spehar, Auditor; Joe Jagunich, Recording Secretary; Frank Bucar, Sgt. At Arms. In front: Marybeth Strand, Auditor; Mary Spehar White, President and Sharon Bucar, Secretary/Treasurer.

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

Correction: In our last article, it was reported that Lodge #196 meets the second Tuesday of each month. This information was incorrect. Our lodge actually meets the FIRST Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert (downstairs in the Catechism classroom). From all of Lodge #196's officers, have a happy new year.

REGION 8

COLORADO, KANSAS, MONTANA & CALIFORNIA

LODGE #7

PUEBLO, CO

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 8 – Monthly Local Lodge Meeting in St. Joseph's Hall at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Over the past two months, two of KSKJ Life St. Joseph's Lodge #7 members, Bernice Krasovec and Eileen Krasovec-Perez, have been honored in the city of Pueblo for their amazing achievements and dedication.

On November 4, 2017, Bernice Krasovec was honored for her dedication to Pueblo's Slovenian Community at the Annual Slovenian Heritage Dinner at St. Mary's Church. It was through the leadership of Father Blane that Bernice, as PTA president, took charge as both herself and those she enlisted from St. Mary's School worked diligently to ensure that the Slovenian dinner was a success. To no surprise, the dinner was a hit and has since remained a tradition of St. Mary's Church. To the younger generation that has now taken over the dinner, each of the women believe that Bernice was an integral part of this tradition and it is through that dedication and continued organization of this event that they believe Bernice deserved to be honored.



Friends and family of Bernice came and celebrated in her honor at the Annual Slovenian Heritage Dinner. Pictured (left to right): Reverend Richard Gielow, C.M., Kathy Chrisman, Bernice Krasovec, Eileen Krasovec-Perez and Rudy Krasovec.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

On November 15, 2017, Eileen Krasovec-Perez was honored and inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame for her amazing performance as a Central Wildcat gymnast back in 1978. That year, not only had the Central Wildcats taken the state championship, Eileen won the state all-around gymnastics title while competing with two cracked heels. There was nothing that could stop her from making history as Eileen is the first and only Pueblo freshman to have won an all-around state gymnastics title. While her gymnastics career was cut short due to a severe knee injury her senior year, Eileen continued to give back to the sport for quite some time as both a coach and a choreographer for Central High School and the University of Southern Colorado, now known as Colorado State University-Pueblo.



Rudy Krasovec and Eileen Krasovec-Perez pictured at the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame dinner.

We would like to congratulate both Bernice and Eileen, as these two honors are both rightly deserved.

MATCHING FUNDS

On December 4, 2017, St. Joseph's Lodge #7 in collaboration with Lodge #104 sponsored a matching funds event with St. Francis Xavier Parish in an effort to raise funds to construct a new bell tower for the parish. The old bell had recently been torn down due to repairs of a leaking roof and was located on the old parish, which has now become a school. Members of the parish are now raising funds in an effort to relocate the bell tower to the renovated parish.



Will Golob of Lodge #7 helps out during the recent Matching Funds event.



Left to Right: Dave Styduhar (St. Francis), Mike Orazem (Lodge 7), Norma Becco (Lodge 104) and Nadine Styduhar-Cracium (St. Francis) at the recent Matching Funds Event.

LODGE UPDATE

St. Joseph's Lodge #7 met for its Annual Meeting on December 10, 2017, where it held the installation of officers for 2018. We would like to congratulate the newly elected and appointed officers for this year.

President – Rudy Krasovec

Vice President – Richard Zabukovic Jr.

Financial Secretary – Danny Golob

Treasurer – Eileen Krasovec - Perez

Recording Secretary – Judy Chandler

Auditors – Lucille Zabukovic, Joe Zorc and Renee Zakavec

Fraternal Activities Coordinator – Megan Gregorich

Assistant Fraternal Activities Coordinator – Jonathan Jesik

Corresponding Secretary/Voice Reporter – Angela Perez

Honorary Corresponding Secretary – Bernice Krasovec

Spiritual Director – Reverend Richard Gielow, C.M.

Sergeant of Arms – Vince Perez

Membership Committee – Jeanette Jensen, Josephine Martellaro, Bill Kocman, Reverend Richard Gielow, C.M., Jonathan Jesik, Danny Golob and Angela Perez

Building Committee – Ken Jesik, Rudy Krasovec and Joe Zorc



Left to Right: (back row) Lucille Zabukovic, Judy Chandler, Renee Zakavec, Jonathan Jesik, Reverend Richard Gielow, C.M., Joe Zorc and Angela Perez (first row) Eileen Krasovec-Perez, Rudy Krasovec, Danny Golob and Richard Zabukovic Jr.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Thank you to all the individuals who served as officers in 2017. We appreciate all of your hard work and dedicated service you have shown to St. Joseph's Lodge #7.

LODGE #236

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Happy New Year! On December 3, St. Francis members enjoyed a delightful visit from Santa along with much laughter and a wonderful lunch. Thanks to the Home Office for the ear warmers that some of our members (pictured to the right) couldn't wait to try on. It was such a joy to hear the earnest pleas for specific gifts that Santa could bring to our younger members. We enjoyed singing Christmas carols together and concluded with Sveta Noc. May this new year be filled with much health and happiness.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diana Fir Gremett*



OTHER NEWS & NOTES

SEND IN YOUR LODGE UPDATE

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



**May 2018 be filled with love, laughter,
brightness and hope**

From all of us at KSKJ Life, we wish you a Happy New Year!



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