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A MESSAGE FROM KSKJ LIFE'S CHAIR, NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KSKJ LIFE 39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION



For 124 Years, representative delegates from throughout the country have been coming together at KSKJ Life national conventions to set the course and future direction of our Fraternal Benefit Society. The 39th National Convention was recently held in Chicago

interns and runners during meetings.

The beginning of the National Convention is always a very solemn event, with the traditional opening prayer followed by the young adult leaders processing into the convention hall carrying flags from each of the states where we do business. After placing them at the podium, the American flag and Slovenian flags are then followed with the playing of the National Anthems of both countries. It is quite a moving affair.



Nicholas Marsic of Lodge #169 did the honors of carrying in the Slovenian flag at the opening session.

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and did just that. Delegates elected by their local lodges made changes and updates to the By-laws, voted on several resolutions, shared numerous recommendations from the standing committees, and elected a new Board of Directors to lead KSKJ Life for the next 4 years.

This convention was preceded by the Young Adult Leadership Conference (YALC). Andrea Ostrowski, KSKJ Life National Activities Director, led a brilliant group of enthusiastic young individuals on a journey of preparation for future leadership in KSKJ. An unplanned guest from the Republic of Slovenia, Tone Slak, who just weeks earlier retired from his post in Brussels at the Slovenian Mission to NATO, spoke to the YALC about his work and the state of the international situation in Slovenian and Europe. He stopped at the hotel to visit as he was touring the USA. Tone, who served as a Slovenian diplomat for many years, is a good friend and a cousin to former astronaut Dr. Ron Sega.

A highlight from the YALC was the fundraiser they chose to do as a part of their leadership conference. Using celebration pictures as one of the ways to raise funds from the delegates, they made over a \$1,000 that was matched with an additional \$1,000 from KSKJ Life. Those proceeds were donated to a local charity. Following their event, the young leaders attended the convention and assisted as

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KSKJ LIFE 39TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

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As part of the opening ceremonies, it is customary for the largest lodge in KSKJ Life to present the "Golden Gavel" to be used during the proceedings. For the first time in many conventions, a different lodge had that honor. Bob Lokar, President of lodge #50 Blessed Virgin in Pennsylvania, presented the gravel for use at this convention.

John Vidmar, Honorary Consul for Illinois for the Republic of Slovenia, welcomed the delegation and shared greetings from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia and Ambassador Stanislav Vidovic and from Consulate General, Andrej Gregor Rode. Also, greetings were read from Honorary Consul of Slovenian in Pennsylvania, Petra Bracko Mitchell. Phil Hrvatin, Vice Chair read several other greetings received from Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois; Mayor Brad Stephens from the Village of Rosemont; Pat McGuire, Illinois State Senator and Lawrence "Larry" M. Walsh, Jr. Illinois State Representative.

Part of being prepared to make decisions that impact our fraternal society is knowing important and key facts about the business. To ensure the delegation understood the issues, several guest speakers made special presentations. Starting out the first morning session, Father Richard Gielow C.M., our Spiritual Advisor, and his twin brother priest, Father Robert Gielow C.M., did a presentation on mission and tradition. Paul Kaiser, the Director of Agent Sales at KSKJ Life, reviewed KSKJ Life products and how they fulfill our mission. Kathy Lovati, Manager of Agent Sales, introduced the 125th Anniversary "Friends and Family Campaign" that they are launching. Joe Annotti, President and CEO of the American Fraternal Alliance AFA, provided a very comprehensive overview of the Fraternal industry and new branding initiatives. Brad Simanek, our Actuarial Consultant with Griffith, Ballard and Company did a presentation on financial stability and industry benchmarks. He talked about, "How do we make money and where does it go?" Closing out the presentations, Chris Nowotarski, our Attorney and convention parliamentarian, discussed regulatory compliance and governance. These are some very knowledgeable leaders in the field of fraternalism and a definite asset for KSKJ Life to have access to these top professionals.

We introduced some innovative changes to the convention that have not been done previously. The seating for this convention was done by birth dates, which was a new and totally different approach

designed to encourage delegates to become more acquainted with others from various areas of our membership. In the past, everyone sat together by lodges, where they rarely had the opportunity to meet others outside their own circles. This idea was well received, and the delegate feedback showed they supported the change. As a result, we did have to sing "Happy Birthday" more than once!



KSKJ Life Attorney and convention parliamentarian Chris Nowotarski discussed regulatory compliance and governance during his presentation.

Gizmo Questions were introduced at this convention as a way for delegates to give immediate feedback to relevant questions. Like being in the audience at "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," the delegates were asked questions at various times throughout the convention. Using their cell phones, they were able to see the immediate results on the convention screens. Delegates responded to a variety of issues regarding membership, our official newspaper "The Voice," lodge participation, etc. The compilation of these survey results will be used by the newly seated Board of Directors to update and develop our strategic initiatives.

When meetings were not in session, delegates and guests had a nice selection of items of interest to view. Pictures that captured yesterday have a specific way of enhancing an event when members and history are featured.



A historical collection of Slovenian culture was displayed during the convention.

In one of the convention ballrooms, there was a History Room where lodges brought their pictures and stories for display to share with others. Equally as exciting were the four videos unveiled for the first time at the convention that feature pictures depicting Fraternal events all around KSKJ. The video titles are: Family and Fun, History and Spirituality, Participation and Commitment, and Charity. Soon they will be available on our KSKJ Life website. We were also fortunate to have the very impressive display from St. Cloud: "Farmers, Miners and Refugees: Slovenian Immigration in Minnesota since 1855."



Blessed Virgin Lodge #50's impressive History Room display.

A convention would not be complete without a good dose of polka music. "Ray Koncar and the Boys" were the featured entertainers for the Thursday night social. Dancing and singing were special moments shared by all. The Valencic brothers, Frank and Darryl, joined in with their Button Boxes. They even played a few ad hoc gigs later for those passionate delegates. Our own Phil Hrvatin was also there with his trusty horn. There was no shortage of entertainment.



Bob Vicich of Lodge #29 and his granddaughter Olivia Zelinski were all smiles twirling around the dance floor at the opening night reception.

There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into putting on a happening like this. The logistics, negotiations with hotels, speakers, presenters, transportation, and just overall coordination of

2018 CONVENTION CEO RECAP

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such a large event are significant efforts requiring skill and focus. The staff at the Home Office is to be commended for their diligence and dedication to making this such a successful event. The National Board members are also appreciated for stepping up to the plate and leading the committees and various sessions. Thank you to everyone who made this such an exceptional experience for our delegates. What a great team effort!

Overall, the Chicago convention was a great success. It helps that our performance for the past four years, both financially and fraternally, have been exemplary. We often hear former delegates talk about some of their favorites conventions. They say some were best because of the location, others because of the special activities, and some because of the business that was accomplished. Regardless of the reason, this convention will go down in the books as being one of the all-time best.

Rudolph Krasovec

Chair, KSKJ Life National Board of Directors



Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to share that our 39th National Convention was an exciting and impactful success. Held August 9-11, 2018 in Chicago, IL, our delegates had the opportunity to participate in several micro-workshops and hear from several speakers.

The fraternal and financial operational topics ranged from mission and tradition, the fraternal system, to compliance and regulations. Based on feedback we received, our delegates were very engaged and energized to learn so much about our organization, as well as about our sustained and strategic success.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board of Directors! In addition to several board members retaining their previous positions, we have a few changes. Dan Mihelich will now be serving as the Chair of the Finance Committee, and MaryLou Stefanick has been added as an at-large member.

Taking office on October 1, 2018, the KSKJ Life Board of Directors will be:

Chair: Rudolph Krasovec, Jr.

Vice-Chair: Phil Hrvatin

Chair, Audit Committee: Tony Menart

Chair, Finance Committee: Dan Mihelich

At-Large Members:

Daniel Golob

Robert Lokar, Jr

Julie Schneller

MaryLou Stefanick

Chief Executive Officer*: Tony Mravle

(*Not elected - appointed by the Board)

The Board will assign at-large members to either the Audit or Finance Committee at a meeting this fall. I want to acknowledge Mike Vidmar as he steps down from National Board service. Mike is a true fraternalist and has served KSKJ Life for many years on the local and national levels. Many thanks to him for his past service and leadership, as well as for his continued contributions to us at the local level. Mike is a true fraternalist and has served KSKJ Life for many years on the local and national levels. Many thanks to him for his past service and leadership, as well as for his continued contributions to us at the local level.

Many thanks to everyone – delegates, committee chairs, board of directors, home office staff, young adult leadership conference participants, and members of the former fraternal board for all of your collaboration, hard work, and enthusiasm. The combined contributions of everyone made for a fantastic weekend! I am confident that all of us left the convention energized with a sense of accomplishment and pride in our organization, and a renewed sense of purpose and vision in our roles as leaders.

I want to especially thank Rudy Krasovec: Chair of the Board, Stuart Buchanan: Chief Operations Officer, Brian Sharp: Vice President of Enterprise Information Systems, Lauren Baltz: Marketing Coordinator, Cathi Davis: Fraternal Communications Coordinator, Casey Naseem: Junior Solutions Analyst, Lynn Schmitt: Manager of Human Resources and Building Operations, Chris Nowotarski: Legal Counsel, and Steve Jacobs and Lori Socki from Really Great

Meetings for the incredible amount of time and effort they have spent over the past several months in support of this convention.

I want to acknowledge in a special way April Sleyko, Director of Marketing and Fraternal Services, for her outstanding dedication and leadership in preparation for this convention. She has consistently worked after hours, late into the evenings, early in the mornings, and over weekends, many times at the expense of her family and personal life, to stay in communication with everyone and to overcome challenges to ensure that we have a great convention. The success of our convention is heavily influenced by the significant contributions of all these dedicated leaders.

An additional note of thanks also to Andrea Ostrowski and April Sleyko for coordinating another successful Young Adult Leadership Conference. Since this program was started by Julie Schneller in 2005, we have continued to experience increased levels of interest, participation, and leadership from our young adult members. We greatly appreciate the support of this program from our lodge leaders and are excited to see so many graduates of this program serving as delegates at this Convention.

It truly takes a strong team working together to achieve what KSKJ Life has accomplished, and I am grateful to all of you for our incredible continued success.

- An accomplished and visionary Board of Directors
- Forward-thinking delegates and lodge leaders committed to making a difference for our members and local communities
- An innovative, professional, and experienced leadership team with over 100 years of combined experience
- Caring, hard-working, and capable home office staff
- Highly-skilled and dedicated vendor partners
- Respected and valued general agents and professional sales agent force

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

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It is only by continuing to work together, each of us doing our part, that we will foster enduring success for the future.

As an organization that is almost 125 years old, we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. We are caretakers of a vision that started long ago, and we have a responsibility and opportunity together to make sure that KSKJ Life is alive and well for years to come to fulfill the promise we make every time a new member purchases an insurance product from us.

My best wishes, gratitude, and prayers to everyone for continued fraternal success in the years ahead.

*Fraternally,
Tony Mravle, CEO*

KSKJ Life held its 39th National Convention August 9-11th in Chicago, IL where delegates from around the country came together to vote on items that pertain to the business of the organization as well as elect the members of the National Board of Directors who will hold their positions for the next four years beginning on October 1, 2018.

These board members will be counted on to lead our organization into a bright and exciting future. They carry much personal and professional responsibility as they perform their duties, and we are grateful for their leadership, dedication and service to KSKJ Life. We are looking forward to working with and supporting them.



Standing (left to right): Anthony Menart (Chair, Audit Committee), Daniel Mihelich (Chair, Finance Committee), Rudolph Krasovec (Chair of the Board), Tony Mravle (CEO), Robert J. Lokar, Jr. (At-Large Member)

Seated (left to right): Daniel Golob (At-Large Member), MaryLou Stefanick (At-Large Member), Rev. Richard W. Gielow (Spiritual Advisor), Julie Schneller (At-Large Member), Philip Hrvatin (Vice Chair)



Chair of the Board Rudy Krasovec kicks off the opening session of the convention



Father Richard Gielow and Father Robert Gielow lead the Friday speaker and leadership development sessions



Ray Koncar & The Boys put on a great show during the opening session reception

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS



The Former Fraternal Board with the National Board of Directors and KSKJ Life CEO Tony Mravle at the 2018 National Convention.

In 2017 the delegates for the 2014 National Convention passed a referendum to change the Fraternal Board to a Fraternal Committee. During the 2018 National Convention, we acknowledged these former Fraternal Board members and the enthusiastic support each one provided to KSKJ Life: MaryLou Stefanick, Andrea Ostrowski, Ashley Mikulan, Joseph Hocevar, Gregory Snyder (not present), Theresa Krampac, Patricia Slapnick and Sharon Bucar (not present).

At the same time, we acknowledged Michael Vidmar, who is retiring from the National Board of Directors after 22 years of faithful service.

We thank you all for your time, commitment, and dedicated service to KSKJ Life throughout the years.



A panoramic view of the 2018 KSKJ Life National Convention opening session

All photos will be available on the KSKJ website!

YALC RECAP

2018 YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



On August 7-9, our 8th KSKJ Life Young Adult Leadership Conference (YALC) was held at the Loews Hotel in Chicago, IL. Participants arrived on Tuesday afternoon, and we started with introductions and ice breaker activities. Next, we had the pleasure of listening to Shane Green, Executive Vice President of Old Plank Trail Community Bank speak. He spoke about perseverance and overcoming challenges. He shared his career path, the struggles of losing his twin brother to brain cancer, and how he will continue to keep his memory alive. He finished with a very beneficial Q&A session. His words were inspiring, and we were very lucky to have him join us.

That evening, we enjoyed dinner at Park Tavern where the young adults were presented with a “Selfie Challenge.” They had a list of 20 different selfies they had to take. They successfully completed the challenge in the entertainment district near our hotel. It came with many laughs and wonderful memories in the form of pictures.

On Wednesday, we began our day by having breakfast with the KSKJ Life board. Our first session was about defining leadership and finding “Lollipop Moments” in our lives, and telling people when they present us with these moments by expressing our gratitude for them. Our second session of the day was about “Finding our own Personal Brand.” We were fortunate to have Shannon Rutherford, Sr. Career Advisor at DeVry University, join us for a webinar on things like creating a resume, the interview process, making a good impression, and other useful tools for setting us apart from others. Next, Stu Buchanan, Chief Operations Officer of KSKJ Life, came to give a brief overview of KSKJ Life products. He provided the young adults with a very good insight into how important it is to have life insurance.

Delegates began pouring in on Thursday, and the young adults were right there to help with registration, especially by getting the Poll Everywhere app downloaded on phones and iPads. It was used to answer poll questions throughout the duration of the convention. During the opening ceremony, they were right in the middle of the action holding an American flag, Slovenian flag, and the state flags. We were thrilled that ALL the YALC participants stayed to work as interns during the convention. We also had two young adults that were delegates. Thursday was a very memorable night for all in attendance! The young adults hosted a 50/50 raffle and a fun photo booth with Chicago and Slovenia themed props to keep guests entertained, but more importantly to raise money for the Chicagoland Ronald McDonald House. We raised \$1,068! The Home Office matched \$1,000, bringing our grand total to \$2,068! Our charity project was very well received, and we exceeded our expectations! Thank you to everyone for your amazing generosity!

On Friday and Saturday, the young adults successfully continued their roles as interns, making an excellent impression on the delegates. They learned a great deal about the history of our organization, how it is operated, and where we are headed in the future. All our young adults agreed that they are very likely to attend the next YALC. This was a fantastic group to work and we are pleased to know we now have each other’s friendship. This conference was fraternalism at its finest. We learned so much of what KSKJ Life has to offer. We hope that you will join us in 2020 for a one-of-a-kind, remarkable experience!

Andrea Ostrowski
National Activities Director



YALC Charity Photo Booth. Back row left to right: Adam Leseman, Melissa Starasinich, Kody Zamora, Niko Marsic, Tom Fitzsimmons,. Front row left to right: Krista Starasinich, Viki Plut, Katie Starasinich, and Megan Mihalic



It's fun to stay at the YALC

YALC RECAP

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AT THE 2018 YALC



This summer, August 7-9th at the Loews Hotel O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois, the biennial Young Adult Leadership Conference took place. This year's conference (similar to every YALC every other year) was attached to the KSKJ Life National Convention, which most of us YALC participants had the opportunity to intern for as well. At the conference itself, different sessions that we partook in throughout the day covered personal branding, professional development, an introduction to life insurance, a community service project, and round table style session where discussions on how to get younger people more involved with KSKJ took place.

Personally, this was my first experience with the Young Adult Leadership Conference. I loved meeting different young adults from across the country, developing my professional brand, being involved with KSKJ Life on an adult level, and giving back to the community that hosted us. This year for the service project we ran a photo booth and a 50/50 raffle at the convention welcome cocktail party and ended up raising over \$2,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities! Overall, I had a great first experience and I look forward to the next one!

When I was asked to write on the conference, I reached out for quotes from the other YALC participants in order to fully illustrate how amazing this event is. Krista Starasinich, fellow lodge #29 member and Joliet resident, remarked that: "Being a part of this year's YALC and Convention really gave me a better understanding of what KSKJ Life is all about- faith, community, and service is how I'd sum it up. The conference has equipped me with many interpersonal skills that are helping me to grow in leadership alongside fellow young adults. It's exciting to be able to come back and actually integrate what I've learned into both my work and social life. YALC offers the unique opportunity to learn about KSKJ Life and our Slovenian heritage, meet new friends from around the country, and to experience personal growth. I'm very grateful that this is something KSKJ Life offers and I'd encourage anyone within the age range to participate in the future!" Additionally, another fellow Joliet resident and lodge #29 member Katie Starasinich stated that: "Attending the YALC and National Convention gave me an experience I will not forget. I've been blessed to meet and build friendships with each person in our group of nine young adults. We bonded from sharing our heritage and the similarities within our lodges, even though we come from different cities throughout the United States. At the convention, the presentations and the personal conversations gave me new things to think about. How KSKJ was in the past, is now, and will be in the future. I was inspired by the past YALC participants that came back as delegates. Plus, I loved snapping photos at the cocktail party and seeing everyone having a great time! KSKJ Life is just a big family! One of my favorite parts of the experience was exploring Chicago! I loved making memories and I really enjoyed everyone's company. Overall, this YALC & convention has been one of the most fun, personal, and influential events that I have been a part of!"

If you could not tell how amazing this opportunity was before, you certainly can after these written testimonies! We highly recommend you apply for the next one, in a city that is yet to be determined! Be prepared to have a lot of fun, become an improved individual, and also meet a lot of incredible people!

Melissa Aharrah
Lodge #29



YALC participants Katie and Krista Starasinich present a check to the Chicagoland Ronald McDonald House for \$2,068 raised from the young adults' service project.



Young adults rock their blue KSKJ shirts on the last day of YALC

ASEF DIRECTOR VISITS THE KSKJ LIFE HOME OFFICE

The KSKJ Life home office was pleased to welcome Dr. Dejan Valentinčič, the Director of the Institute ASEF (American Slovenian Education Foundation), and Lara Miklavc, during their trip to the U.S. from Slovenia. Dejan is also an assistant professor of law and researcher at the Graduate School of Governmental and European Studies in Slovenia. Most of his research is focused on Slovenians abroad. They also visited D.C., Cleveland, and Joliet while in the States in July.



Left to right, Tony Mravle, Dr. Dejan Valentinčič, Lara Miklavc, Mike Vidmar.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY GROSEL, FORMER KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Henry S. Grosel, former National President of KSKJ Life (1983–1990) and Athletic Director (1967–1982) passed away Sunday, August 5, 2018 at the age of 92. He was the beloved husband of Anne (nee Pierce), loving father of Roberta "Bobbi" Gibbons (John–deceased), Henry "Hank" (Pat), Mark (Mary), Lori McCarthy and Kirk (Alicia), and special friend of Susan B. Grosel. He was also a dear grandfather of 10 and great grandfather of 4, loving brother of Charles (Pat–deceased) and the late William, Edwin, and Alice Mihelcic. He was the retired Principal of Moses Cleaveland School and WWII Army Veteran.



KSKJ VOICE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KSKJ LIFE,
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MEMBERS

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IN MEMORY OF

Louis (Louie) Derlinga - Lodge #29, Rockdale, IL
MaryLou Stefanick, \$20.00

KSKJ LIFE NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

...AND SO MUCH MORE

Under bright sunny skies on a warm Saturday afternoon in June, the 5th annual KSKJ Life Golf Tournament teed off in Waukegan, IL. The event, which had 20 foursomes participate, was another success story both on and off the course.

To fully capture what the National Golf Tournament has meant, I need to take you back to 2013 when the idea was originally presented to the Board of Directors, asking them to financially support a National Golf Tournament for our 120th anniversary in 2014. My vision for the tournament would not only be a fun, athletic event, but also an opportunity to raise funds for our National Scholarship Program. Thanks to our generous members, lodges, and businesses, we raised over \$4,220.00 for the Scholarship Fund at that first tournament.

With this success, the National Golf Tournament was officially added to our Fraternal Calendar. In 2015, when KSKJ Life introduced the Charitable Giving Award, we took this tournament to the next level by adding a charitable element, asking golfers to bring granola bars to the course. That year, the golf tournament raised \$2,390.00 for the Scholarship Fund, and over 500 granola bars were collected and given to the Holy Family food pantry and used at children's summer programs.

The 2016 Golf Tournament followed suit. Keeping the community in mind, golfers were encouraged to bring boxes of instant oatmeal to the course for the St. Anastasia Food Pantry for distribution to children who often go to school without breakfast. Thanks to our generous golfers, we also raised \$3,280.00 for the Scholarship Fund.

The 2017 tournament was our biggest turnout and our biggest success story thus far. For the first time, we reached our capacity with 120 very generous golfers. At the end of the day, we raised \$3,975.00 for the Scholarship Fund, raised over \$1,000.00 for the Midwest Veterans Closet through contests on the course, and also collected nearly 500 new and gently used clothing items for them.

About 8 weeks ago, we completed our 5th KSKJ Life National Golf Tournament, and the good news continued. With a focus on Charitable Giving, we reached out to our friends at the Midwest Veterans Closet, asking how we could help them out. Their response was simple: "meals in a can". Sadly, many of the veterans do not have the means to cook for themselves, so the stews, chilis, chunky soups, etc. would be a great help to many. Thanks to our very generous supporters, over 225 meals were collected and \$200.00 in cash donations was collected. Through the tournament's fundraising efforts, we also raised \$3,500.00 for the KSKJ Scholarship Fund.

After chairing this tournament for the last 5 years, I have learned a lot about our KSKJ people:

- 1) THEY LIKE TO PLAY GOLF – (over 450 golfers have participated in this event)
- 2) THEY ARE EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE OF OUR MISSION – (over 2,000 items for various local charities have been donated)
- 3) THEY ARE EXTREMELY GENEROUS –(almost 150 members, friends, lodges, businesses, etc. from across the U.S. have acted as hole sponsors, and the \$17,365.00 raised has provided \$1,000 Educational Grants to 17 of our students.)

To call our annual event a "Golf Tournament" is only telling part of the story. As you can see, it is so much more – it's social, it's charity, it's community, and it's fraternal—all under one big golf umbrella. Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers from St. Joseph #53 and St. Mary #79 that serve as the host city. Each year they graciously step forward to do one of the many tasks involved in running an event like this. "Teamwork makes the dream work!"

SAVE THE DATE – The 2019 event is scheduled for Saturday, June 22 at the Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan, IL. Even if you're not a golfer, there are plenty of ways to take part!

Year	Amount Raised	Charitable Giving	Beneficiary
2014	\$4,220.00		
2015*	\$2,390.00	-Collected over 500 granola bars -\$100.00 Charitable Giving Award	Holy Family Food Pantry
2016	\$3,280.00	-Collected nearly 500 items of new and used clothing -\$100.00 Charitable Giving Award	St. Anastasia Food Pantry
2017	\$3,975.00	-Collected nearly 500 items of new and used clothing -\$100.00 Charitable Giving Award -Additional \$1,040.00 was raised through contests on the course	Midwest Veterans Closet
2018	\$3,500.00	-Collected over 225 "Meals in a Can" -\$200.00 direct donations -\$10.00 Charitable Giving Award	Midwest Veterans Closet
Total	\$17,365.00		

*First Year of the KSKJ Life Charitable Giving Award



Photos continued on next page.

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 2018

Lodge #001 - Edward Harrington, Skokie, IL
Lodge #001 - Otis N. Mannie, Markham, IL
Lodge #020 - Mary Grochocki, Redford, MI
Lodge #020 - Lora L. Montney, Hart, MI
Lodge #020 - Philip D. Qail, Fort Meyers, FL
Lodge #020 - Gerald L. Shankle, Kalkasa, MI
Lodge #020 - Chester E. Smith, Greenville, MI
Lodge #020 - Janice K. Welch
Lodge #020 - Anna K. Ilc, Eulicid, OH
Lodge #025 - Steven Nemec Jr., Twinsburg, OH
Lodge #042 - Rita D. Dietrich, Canonsburg, PA
Lodge #044 - Jacquelym R. Bruketa, Lincoln, IL
Lodge #050 - Mildred K. Behun, Munhall, PA
Lodge #050 - Mary Domencic, Turtle Creek, PA
Lodge #050 - Mary A Robinson, Bethlehem, PA
Lodge #050 - Paula M. Semencar, Verona, PA

Lodge #052 - Joseph A. Banich Sr., indianapolis, IN
Lodge #052 - Laszlo Bartz, Newburgh, IN
Lodge #059 - Roman J. Reichensperger, Ely, MN
Lodge #074 - Robert E. Braden, Maora, IL
Lodge #079 - Mary E. Barnes, Kenosha, WI
Lodge #104 - Mary L. Stanko, Aurora, CO
Lodge #110 - Charles Hete, Barberton, OH
Lodge #110 - Penny L. Pierce, Akron, OH
Lodge #115 - Rosalie Wolf, Kansas City, KS
Lodge #136 - Richard D. Eastman, Onalaska, WI
Lodge #143 - Ronals E. Picher, Peoria, IL
Lodge #143 - Marie Vodisek, W. Peoria, IL
Lodge #146 - Irene C. Hovever, Parma, OH
Lodge #146 - John M. Hrovat, Seven Hills, OH
Lodge #146 - Linda J. Mickelson, Madison, OH
Lodge #150 - Barbara A. Hoovler, Orville, OH

Lodge #150 - William M. Pillow, Howard, OH
Lodge #153 - Mary Ann Harrison, Eighty-Four, PA
Lodge #197 - Patricia M. Mengelkoch, Brooklyn Park, MN
Lodge #226 - Mary Louise Shepard, Mentor, OH
Lodge #226 - Ivanka Vidmar, Cleveland, OH
Lodge #226 - Kay Quisno, Oak Harbor, OH
Lodge #236 - Barbara A. Pechaver, Aptos, CA
Lodge #620 - Don G. Cary, Sun City, AZ
Lodge #623 - William L. Belt, Salem, KY



The team of Mark Metzger, Mark McNulty, Deb Machak, and Jim Fischer finished with an impressive 10 under par to capture top honors.



Hole sponsor signs could be seen throughout the golf course thanks to our generous hole sponsors. This initiative alone brought in \$1,750 for the Scholarship Fund.



National Athletic Director MaryLou Stefanick proudly presents the proceeds from the National Golf Tournament to KSKJ Life CEO Tony Mravle and Director, Marketing & Fraternal Services April Sleyko. Through hole sponsorships and raffles, \$4,000 was raised for the KSKJ Life Scholarship Fund.



Joliet KSKJ members Chuck Keltz, Kathy Lovati, and Mel Keltz added secret weapon Kathy Govekar of Waukegan (second from left) to their foursome this year.

MaryLou Stefanick

Continued from the previous page.



COMING THIS MONTH: KSKJ LIFE EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

WHO

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

WHY

- KSKJ Life supports young adult members as they pursue education

WHAT

- One-time \$1,000 education grant

HOW

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

DETAILS AT [KSKJLIFE.COM/GRANTS](https://kskjlife.com/grants)

SEPTEMBER IS LIFE INSURANCE MONTH

DO THAT NEXT GOOD THING

There have been so many changes in my life recently, including leaving racing. But I know I want to keep challenging myself to grow personally and professionally on my life's journey.

"Because I have life insurance, I know everyone will be taken care of."

I've come to realize that the best things in life are free. And the best way to feel free is to be free of burden. That's where life insurance comes in. It's part of being prepared for anything. Because I have life insurance, I know everyone will be taken care of if something happens.

So many aspects of life are about doing the next good thing, and so the next good thing to do on your journey to financial fitness is to get life insurance.

—Danica Patrick

professional athlete, entrepreneur and spokesperson for Life Insurance Awareness Month



**LIFE
HAPPENS.**
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

REGION 1

PENNSYLVANIA, CONNECTICUT, AND D.C.

REGION 2

CLEVELAND AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

CELEBRATE SLOVENIAN COOKING IN AMERICA! EUCLID LIBRARY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH!

Cooking links us to our ethnic heritage, our family, our childhood, our own neighborhood, and our country. Slovenian-American communities prepare unique, traditional recipes that reveal much about their heritage. Learn how Slovenians in the U.S. celebrate their culture through age-old dishes (and inventive new ones) at Euclid Public Library, Wednesday, September 5th, at 7:00 pm. Writer and historian Joe Valencic, President of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, reveals how tasty Slovenian favorites, like sausages, sauerkraut, and pastries, are winning new fans and finding their places on local menus. Recipes will be provided so you can try them at home.

Admission is free. You're welcome to share your own favorite Slovenian and hybrid recipes. Euclid Public Library is located at 631 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio, next to the Polka Hall of Fame. For more information, call the Hall of Fame at (216) 261-FAME or the Euclid Public Library at (216) 261-5300, or email www.euclidlibrary.org.



Slovenians in America celebrate their heritage with food specialties, such as potica nut roll. Learn about Slovenian-American cuisine from writer and historian Joe Valencic at Euclid Public Library,

Wednesday, September 5, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., in Euclid, Ohio.

Joe Valencic

Lodge #25 President of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame

WINE FESTIVAL AT SLOVENSKA PRISTAVA

The Pristava Board is inviting members and friends to the annual Wine Festival on Saturday, September 8th starting at 4:00 pm. Music will be provided by Alpine Sextet from 5:00 on. The kitchen will be open with traditional foods including čevapčići.

The bar will offer all your favorite beverages and spirits. A couple of Harpersfield wineries will introduce their own wines.

We are kindly asking members to bring some desserts. Non-member entrance fee is \$5.00.

See you there.

Milan Ribic

CELEBRATE WITH ST. VITUS PARISH ON SEPT. 30, 2018: 125TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE & DEDICATION OF JOSEPH HOUSE OF CLEVELAND INC

St. Vitus Parish, established as the first American Slovenian Roman Catholic parish in the state of Ohio and diocese of Cleveland, will officially observe its 125th Year Anniversary Jubilee on Sunday, September 30, 2018 with a Solemn Mass at 11:00 am with The Most reverend Nelson Perez, Bishop, diocese of Cleveland, as the principal celebrant and homilist.



St. Vitus Parish

St. Vitus Parish was established in August 1893.

The Mass will be in St. Vitus Church, 6019 Lausche Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. A banquet will immediately follow at Slovenian National Home, 6417 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. Cost for the banquet is \$50 per person. Tables of eight-to-ten may be reserved. Mr. Dick Russ will be the principal guest speaker at the banquet. KSKJ Lodges St. Vitus #25 and Christ The King #226 have been associated and affiliated with St Vitus for many decades.*

Prior to the Solemn Mass, Bishop Perez will bless and dedicate the newly remodeled Joseph House of Cleveland Inc., at 6108 St. Clair Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103. Blessing and dedication will occur at 9:30 am. Joseph House is 100 feet from St. Vitus Church.



Volunteers help set up the clothing distribution ministry

JHCI now has 2,135 square feet of space to serve the expanding clothing needs for any immigrant in northeast Ohio, as well as residents in and around the St. Clair Avenue neighborhood. Joseph House has two primary missions: resettle incoming immigrants to Cleveland, Ohio, and a clothing distribution ministry. Over 113 refugees have been resettled and 1,300 refugees and 1,200 neighborhood residents have been served by the clothing distribution ministry (which is by appointment only). Remodeling occurred from November 2017 to May 2018. The remodeling cost was \$44,000, with an additional \$15,000 provided in labor or materials, and another \$10,000 for the operating needs of Joseph House. Joseph House has three city and one suburban Catholic parishes involved in these corporal works of mercy: Immaculate Conception, St. Paul Croatian, St. Vitus, and Divine

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Word (Kirtland). Michelle O'Donnell is director of operations for JHCI. JHCI may be contacted by email at josephhouseofcleveland@gmail.com or by telephone at (216) 431-7200. The JHCI website can be found at www.josephhouseofcleveland.org. JHCI is a bona fide 501 c 3. Check donations may be sent to: Joseph House of Cleveland Inc, 6108 St. Clair Ave., Clev., OH. 44103, attn: M. O'Donnell.



Joseph House of Cleveland, Inc. Clothing Distribution Center

St. Vitus Parish was established in August 1893 by 23-year-old founding pastor, Rev. Vitus Hribar. The parish has had six pastors since 1893 with Rev. Joseph Boznar as the sixth and current pastor, serving since 1979. There are 650 registered parish households serving 1,015 people, with parishioners from Cleveland, Cuyahoga, and Lake Counties. The church edifice is a Byzantine-Lombard design with twin bell towers raising 110 feet and yellow Falston exterior brick. The original Holtkamp church pipe organ, with 1,500 pipes, was totally restored in 2009, along with the installation of a "Veterans Memorial Monument," to commemorate the 750 + parishioners who served during WWII, with 40 Veterans lost in action. The parish has senior ministry, food bank pantry, hot meal program, and Saturday Language School as part of its ministries, in addition to collaborating with JHCI. The parish operates a scholarship program that promotes Catholic education, grades K-to-16, to registered parish households with over \$2 million in grants disbursed since 1989. The parish initiated and constructed St. Vitus Village, a \$6 million independent senior living facility, across the street from the church in 2000 through its development corporation. The parish has and continues to lease its school and auditorium

buildings since 2003 to St. Martin de Porres High School.

For banquet tickets or any other information on these historic events on SEPTEMBER 30, 2018, contact the parish rectory at (216) 361-1444 or via email at skuhar@hotmail.com. The parish website is www.saintvitus.org. All AMLA members are invited to participate in these historic events in the broader American Slovenian communities in northeast Ohio.

*Writer Note: St. Vitus #25 and Christ The King #226 provided great leadership and support along with the KSKJ Matching Fund Program to have this remodeling project for Joseph House become a reality. KSKJ members Erika and Ann Kurboš, Joseph Hocesvar, John Turek, Chuck Potenga, Ron and Ray Zak, Josie Manfreda, Linda Plecnik, Kosir and Stankewicz family members, and Marge and Stane Kuhar were active participants during the seven months of remodeling work. Another great show of fraternalism of KSKJ Life in action.

Stane Kuhar

2018 KSKJ PORKY PIG SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The seventh annual KSKJ Porky Pig Open Softball tournament was held Saturday, August 4, in Parma, Ohio. Each team played three games in the morning and then ate barbecue Porky Pig. The food was just fantastic. Lodge #150 did an outstanding job in the preparation of the food. I play in a lot of softball tournaments, and this Porky Pig tournament is by far the best. Participating teams included Lodge #226 (Klodnick's), Lodge #63 (Snyder's), the Greater Cleveland Senior Softball All-Stars, and the Huff-n-Puffers All-Stars. The teams were very competitive. Lodge #226 was made up of KSKJ Life members McKenna Klodnick, Spencer Klodnick, Sutton Klodnick, Kent Klodnick, Keith Klodnick, Jake Stankiewicz, Drew Stankiewicz, Patrick Stankiewicz, Tim Klodnick, and Bruce Pleskovic, along with Eric Sperli, Jim Gipper, and Bob Zukerman. They defeated the Greater Cleveland Senior Softball All-Stars 8-5 in the championship game! More teams are more than welcome to enter. The event is held on the first Sunday in August each year, and the facilities are great. This year the team entrance fee

was \$10; non-members \$10 each, and members free.

*Tim Klodnick
Lodge #226*



Porky Pig Softball Runner Ups: Greater Cleveland Senior Softball All-Stars (Team Steel Yard)



LODGE #169

CLEVELAND, OH

LODGE UPDATE

On July 22, we had a Matching Funds event, which was the MZA Catholic Mission Aid picnic at Slovenska Pristava. A nice crowd of supporters came out on a beautiful Sunday to raise funds for Slovenian missionaries who dedicate their lives to helping the poor around the world.

After Mass, celebrated by Fr. Joseph Boznar of St. Vitus Church, we enjoyed the delicious dinner prepared by Julie Zalar and her crew. There was

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

socializing, balinca, swimming, and the Veseli Godci provided an afternoon of live Slovenian music.

Quite a few of the volunteers in the kitchen, the bar, and in the band were KSKJ Life members. Numerous donations were made by individuals to the MZA.

August 9-11, our delegates attended the KSKJ Life National Convention in Chicago. You can read about the highlights in this and the next issue of the Voice.



The Veseli Godci provided the polkas and waltzes at Lodge 169's Matching Funds picnic with MZA – Catholic Mission Aid annual picnic.



Donated bakery was a hit at the MZA picnic in Harpersfield, Ohio.



Emil Knez and Bob Stepec oversaw beverage operations at the MZA picnic.

Our next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on September 20th, at the Collinwood Slovenian Home on Holmes Avenue. All members are welcome.

Best wishes to our students returning to school!

John Nemec
Fraternal Activities Coordinator

LODGE #219

EUCLID, OH

CLOTHING DRIVE

KSKJ Life Lodge #219's annual summer clothing drive is coming to an end, so please bring all your items to our Sunday, September 9th meeting at 1:00 pm in the Gateway Manor Community Room in Euclid, OH. Roberta Underwood, Chairman, will collect the clothing and distribute it to the Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Items to put on your calendars for future events: October there will be no meeting. November 11th we will have a business meeting. Please have your reservations and payment for the Christmas Luncheon ready at this time. December 9th we will have a business meeting, election of officers, and our Christmas Party. More information will be disclosed soon. Refreshments will be served and door prizes handed out.

Elizabeth Kusar

LODGE #226

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING MATCHING FUNDS EVENT

On Sunday, October 28th, Christ the King lodge #226 will be holding our second Matching Funds event of 2018. It will be held for the East 80th Slovenian National Home (The Nash). Proceeds will be used to replace the front doors, as well as for some necessary repairs. The event will be a combination clambake, steak roast, and Cleveland Browns tailgate party. They will be playing the Pittsburgh Steelers at 1:00 pm. The tailgate will begin at 11:00 am, and food will be served from 12:30-2:00 pm.

Activities will include corn hole, football toss, and the beer slide. There will be a big screen for viewing. If you are just coming for the tailgate, it will be \$10 for admission.

The cost of either the clambake or the steak roast will be \$30. Reservations are a must to make sure you don't miss out on a great meal. Contact Tony Mannion at (440) 591-0868 to reserve your spot. A la carte food items will also be available (homemades, cabbage and noodles, pierogis and hot dogs) so even if you are not a fan of clams or steak, there will be something for you.

This has always been a fun event to attend, even with the Browns record recently. Come out and have some fun on a fall day and help the Nash at the same time. Hope to see you there.

Chuck Potenga
Vice President

REGION 3

CLEVELAND AREA

LODGE #146

CLEVELAND, OH

IN MEMORY OF

A few days before I left for the convention, I got a call from one of our members - Mrs. Frances Hocevar. I have talked to her many times over the years but had never met her. This time, her news was sad: her husband, Charles, has passed away on August 3rd. I was saddened, but then as we talked, I realized he had a long, long life. Charles was 95 when he died this year, but had been married to Frances for 69 years (69!!). Together, they had three children: Gregory, Mary Ellen, and Mark. He was a beloved grandfather of four, and a great-grandfather of four. After working for 44 years as a tool and die maker and leader at Cleveland Graphite Bronze (Clevite), he retired. The wake was at Fortuna Funeral Home on Brecksville Road, with the Mass of Christian Burial held at St. Martin of Tours Church on August 10, 2018. One thing that Mrs. Hocevar mentioned is that Charles was kind and very much

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

a people person that everyone loved. We extend our condolences and hope that the family finds comfort through our thoughts and prayers during their time of mourning.

TRIP TO SLOVENIA

Last month I mentioned how my niece and I went to Slovenia to visit and explore. This month, I found a picture to share of our relatives spending time together at an outdoor patio. I am in the back (orange shirt) and my niece is on the right in the white sweatshirt. We had finished bowling and were waiting for our pizza order to arrive. It was really a memorable trip.



Josie Kmet and her niece spending time with family in Slovenia.

CONVENTION

The early part of this month was spent at the National Convention in Chicago. The home office did a fantastic job coordinating the meeting. Everything went smoothly and efficiently. The timeline was followed, and a lot of information was shared regarding KSKJ Life. The same weekend we were in town for the convention, the Indians were playing the White Sox. I was shocked that I could not watch the game on TV, nor could I figure out how to listen/watch the game on my phone!



Chris Kocin (left) and Darryl Valencic (right) jammed out with Ray Koncar & The Boys at the 2018 KSKJ Life Convention.

While it was nice to learn about KSKJ Life and hear about its past and future plans, the people are what really make KSKJ Life. It was very inspiring to see the "younger" delegates that have taken a leadership role in their lodges. The Young Adult Leadership Conference was just before the convention, and they assisted in the smooth running of the convention. They paraded the flags in for the US, Slovenia, and all the states that sent delegates. As always, the young adults did a charity project. This time, they did a 50/50 raffle for the Ronald McDonald House. The part that I thought showed ingenuity was the way they priced the tickets: they were \$1 each, or a wingspan for \$20, and you could pick the person for your wingspan. I took them up on the provided wingspan, got my money's worth on tickets, and still managed to lose. But, the money went to a good cause and while they were selling tickets, they also had a photo booth set up. Music was provided by Ray Koncar, and at one point they allowed all musicians in the crowd to play. Of course, our Chris Kocin had to join them. It really sounded good, if you ask me. There was dancing and fellowship and appetizers—a true Slovenian get together!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The date for our hayride is Sunday, September 23rd. We will again be at Ramseyer Farms in Wooster. If you did not go last year, you missed out on a fun-filled afternoon. There was something for everyone there, young and old alike. For those that don't remember, last year's hayride did not include a bonfire due to the weather being unseasonably hot! They do have food available for purchase. Once again, we will meet at the door. Plan on arriving around 2:00 pm or so, and your admission will be paid for by the lodge!

One of the changes recently made is the increase in money and events for Matching Funds. Our second Matching Funds event will be a Night at the Races. It will be held on Saturday, October 6th at Mary Queen of Peace. It will be in the Parish Center. The races will benefit the scholarship fund. Mary Queen of Peace Church is located at 4423 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio. It is in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of

Cleveland. It should be a fun night for attendees! You can buy a horse for \$15 (and name it while you're at it). Admission is \$15 if purchased beforehand or \$20 at the door. Admission includes food and pop/beer.

Our next meeting is Friday, September 7th at Quaker Steak and Lube on Canal Road in Valley View. We will meet there at 6:00 pm. You can place your orders for horses and admission tickets to the event. We will also have further details on the hayride. (See our flyer on page 17.)

*Submitted by
Josie Kmet*

LODGE #150

CLEVELAND, OH

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Please join us on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm for a short meeting and some delicious treats at Olympia Sweet Treats & Grill on Pearl Road in Strongsville. Everyone is welcome!

LODGE UPDATE

A big thank you to our Lodge #150 members and families for all their hard work at our 7th Annual Porky Pig Softball Tournament and Pig Roast held on August 4th. It was a huge success! We put five-year-old Luke Jones in charge of the weather, and he did an amazing job and gave us a beautiful day! Everyone had a great time!

In addition to our mouthwatering BBQ pulled pork with all the fixings, we would like to thank our Grillmaster, David Javor, for his culinary skills in grilling the Slovenian sausages, bologna, and hot dogs. They were delicious. A special thank you to Tim Klodnick and Ron Zak of Lodge #226 for all their help and hard work in coordinating the softball tournament. GREAT JOB!

Team Klodnick, made up of Lodge #226 members, defeated the Greater Cleveland Senior Softball All-Stars (Team Steel Yard) in an exciting championship game by a score of 8-5. Congratulations Team Klodnick and to all the teams that participated this year!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018



NIGHT AT THE RACES

Event Description Heading

The Night at the Races is a joint event by Mary Queen of Peace PTU and KSKJ Life Lodge #146. It features races on a screen for viewing and wagering. Horses can be bought and names for \$15 each. Admission is \$15 in advance (\$20 at the door). Admission includes beverage (beer/pop) and food.

Horses must be purchased no later than September 25th so the program can be printed. Contact Mary Queen of Peace @216-749-2323 for further details.

This is a matching fund event sponsored by KSKJLife.



Night at the Races

Mary Queen of Peace
Parish Center

4423 Pearl Rd.

Cleveland, OH 44109

**Food, Fun and
Prizes!**

**Doors open @ 6:00
pm**

10 Races

**Proceeds to
benefit Mary
Queen of Peace
Scholarship Fund**

KSKJLIFE LODGE #146

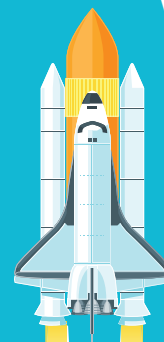
6621 Ivy Ln.
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

216-267-4866



Lodge 146 and Joe Jagunich Lodge 171 at the National Convention

SOAR TO A HIGHER RATE WITH KSKJ LIFE'S 5-YEAR ROCKET ANNUITY¹



UP TO
3.45%
APY²

- Up to 13% free withdrawal after first year
- Nursing home waiver available
- RMD friendly

FEATURES:

- Guaranteed fixed interest rate for 5 years
- Available ages 0-90
- \$5,000 minimum deposit / \$500,000 maximum deposit (per person, per calendar year – single premium deposit only)

Contact your agent or call 855-332-8809 today!

1. A 5-year single deposit deferred contract with a guaranteed interest rate for five (5) years; after which the current renewal rate will apply. After 1st year, the owner may withdraw up to 13% of the accumulated value each contract year, while surrender charges may apply for annual withdrawals beyond this amount for the first 5 years of this contract. RMDs will be permitted. Deposit limits exist.
2. Advertised rate available for a limited time only and subject to change. Not FDIC insured. Not available in all states. Early withdrawals, and those made prior to age 59 1/2, may be subject to IRS penalty. We are not tax advisors – please contact a tax professional. KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 2018-09-LI-V

KSKJLIFE
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LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

CHARITABLE GIVING AWARD

Lodge #150 would especially like to thank those who attended Porky Pig for their generous monetary donations. Donations will be given to the St. Mary's Food Bank, in memory of Tony Peskar, our past President and longtime member. We collected \$250, plus we will receive an additional \$50 donation from the KSKJ Life Home Office, as part of the KSKJ Life Charitable Giving Award Program. We are most appreciative for all the people it will help.



Tony Peskar (in spirit) and Luke Jones collecting donations to the St. Mary's Food Bank at Porky Pig as part of the KSKJ Life Charitable Giving Award.



Team Klodnick, 2018 Porky Pig KSKJ Softball Tournament Champions



Porky Pig Lodge #150 Members

Front row - Luke Jones, Liz Jones, Suzanna Hughey, Vicki Javor, David Javor, Elaine Peskar

Back row - Linda Smigla, Rick Smigla, Greg Snyder, Kris Jones

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Delegates Liz Jones and Elaine Peskar reported that they worked hard and did their very best representing Lodge #150 at the KSKJ Life 39th National in August. They enjoyed meeting and socializing with the other delegates from around the country. It was a good convention.

EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

The KSKJ Life College Educational Grant Program will start open enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year. From September 1-30, 2018, only online submissions will be accepted through the KSKJ Life website. It is open to all members who meet the requirements. For more information and to apply, please visit www.kskjlife.com/grants or call the Home Office at (800) 843-5755

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13 - Lodge #226 Christ the King Dinner Dance at the Slovenian National Home on St. Clair Avenue at 6:00 pm

October 28 - Clambake/Tailgate at The NASH

December 2 - KSKJ #150 Annual Children's Christmas Party at The NASH

*Elaine Peskar
President/Recording Secretary*

More news in the next article. Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day.

*Pauline Mihelich
Recording Secretary/Reporter
Joliet KSKJ Lodges*

LODGE #29

JOLIET, IL

LODGE STEAK FRY

Oh, what a night—approximately 106 members and guests attended the Lodge Steak Fry on July 27th. The dessert and school supply donation tables were heaping. Our members are the best! Thank you to all officers who helped prepare, serve, and clean up together with our youth members Hayley and Cameron Velasquez, their friend Shane Franzen, and Hailey Vicic.



Here's the beef - Sisters Kathy Lovati and Judy Corum at Lodge Steak Fry

Congratulations to our very own President, Ken Velasquez, on being awarded the 2018 Lodge Person of the Year.



REGION 4

JOLIET AREA

REGIONAL NEWS

COMBINED JOLIET KSKJ LODGES

Happy Labor Day friends!

Just want to remind everyone that the next meeting of the Joliet Lodges will be held on Tuesday, September 4, at 7:00 pm at T&C Lanes. All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

Thanks goes to Hailey Vicic for organizing our donation table for school supplies.



Rich (Ace) Duval and his friend grilling their dinner.

A 50/50 raffle was held with Emily Soliman Morris, the lucky winner of \$206. Bean bag winners were 1st place: Cameron Velasquez and Ron Antos, 2nd place: Mario Medved and Randy Vicic, 3rd place: Nick Chavez and Cheryl Sanchez, and 4th place: Ray Soliman and Emily Morris.



Emily Morris and her Dad, Ray Soliman, win the consolation prize for 4th place.

LODGE MEETING

The next Lodge meeting will be Sunday, October 7, at 1:00 pm. at St. Joseph Park. Our 2018 Matching Funds will be helping and participating in Guardian Angel Home's 5K Walk/Run to end domestic violence in our communities, to be held at the Shorewood Towne Center on Saturday, October 13. Race begins at 9:30 am. Check out their website at gacsprograms.org/dvam for registration fee and details. The kids' Halloween Party is being planned, so keep that in mind for the last weekend

in October. Further information to come.

IN MEMORY OF

It is with great sadness that I would like to mention the passing of an officer and member of our lodge, Louis E. Derlinga. Louie was known by many throughout KSKJ over the years. He recently received his 50-year membership recognition in the lodge and 5-year officer service award. You could count on Louie to help at all our activities, whether it be working for the community or running a game at the kids' Halloween Party. He loved participating in the bowling tournaments, either home or away. When we would ask how he bowled, the answer was always "fabulous." Louie was the special ray of sunshine in our lives, as I'm sure he was in his family. or me, there will be sadness when I look to my left from taking minutes at the head table and Louie will not be in his usual seat for the lodge meeting. Our sympathy and prayers to Louie's family and may God keep him in His tender care.

*Karen (Ramsak) Colman
Reporter*

LODGE #143

JOLIET, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Thanks to delegates Amy Koncar, Annette Koncar, Julia Markun and John Koncar for representing Lodge #143 at the 39th National Convention. We're excited to hear their re-cap at our next meeting!



Lodge 143 Delegates (left to right): Amy Koncar, Annette Koncar, Julia Markun and John Koncar

MEMBER UPDATE

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Margaret (Koncar) Marmonti who were married on July 28th in Joliet, IL. Margaret is the Fraternal Activities Coordinator for Lodge 143. Wishing you both many years of happiness!



Michael and Margaret Marmonti

Lauren Baltz

REGION 5

CHICAGO & INDIANAPOLIS AREA

LODGE #52

INDIANAPOLIS, IN

LODGE UPDATE

We've had even more exciting activities in our local lodge! Our Annual Night at the Drive-In was this past month. We enjoyed Hotel Transylvania 3! Our group even met former Indiana Fever star Tully Bevilaqua! All who attended had a great time, enjoying a wonderful movie under the stars!

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



We had a great group for our Night at the Drive-In. Luckily we were able to get this photo before the sunset!

Our lodge will attend an Indianapolis Indians game again this year! Join us Saturday, September 1st at Victory Field! Tickets for lodge members are \$5, and tickets for non-members are \$15. Please contact Jennifer Velikan at (317) 636-0512 or jvelikan@gmail.com if you would like to attend! Our Indians will take on the Louisville Bats; this is the last home game for the tribe. There will be fireworks at the end of the game and giveaways throughout the evening. Don't miss this fun night to cheer for our team and enjoy America's pastime with fellow lodge members!

Coming up September 23th is our annual Taste of Slovenia Dinner! Our very own Katie Poole and Betsy Walker will again cook us something delicious! Please consider joining us for this tasty tradition!

Our Youth Director Jaymie McDougal is joining the Slovenian National Home for a children and adult Halloween Party on Friday, October 26. Be sure to join us at the Nash for crafts, games, costume contests, dinner, and more! We will have a fantastic dinner with lots of Halloween goodies and spooky treats! Be sure to come in costume for your chance to win a prize! The party will begin at 6:30 pm and last into the evening!

Also coming up is our Annual Balinca Tourney and Chili Fest - stay tuned for dates on these! Be sure to check our website at www.stals52.com for our complete calendar of events and photos of past activities. You may also check the calendar of events section in this paper for contact information. Be sure to like St. Aloysius on Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/KSKJ; we're posting events and photos regularly so if you're on Facebook be sure to check our page!

facebook.com/pages/KSKJ; we're posting events and photos regularly so if you're on Facebook be sure to check our page!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 1st: Indy Indians Game at Victory Field. Watch the Indians take on the Louisville Bats, game starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets for KSKJ Members \$5, non-members \$15. Contact Jennifer Velikan to reserve your tickets! P: (317) 636-0512 or E: jvelikan@gmail.com.

September 23rd: Taste of Slovenia Dinner at Slovenian National Home. Our very own Katie Poole and Betsy Walker will again cook us something delicious! Contact person: Jennifer Velikan. P: (317) 636-0512 or E: jvelikan@gmail.com.

October 26th: Halloween Party at Slovenian National Home. Crafts, games, costume contest, dinner, and more! Be sure to come in costume for your chance to win a prize!

Nasvidenje!

Jennifer Velikan

REGION 6

NE ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN

LODGE #53

WAUKEGAN, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Thank you to our delegates who attended the National Convention in August. Gail Pasiewicz, Dana Lainio, Amber Bodame, and myself participated in several committees. We were encouraged by "the state of the organization" reports and gained great insights from the conference guest speaker presentations. We also gained some ideas that we hope to implement in the future to attract more attendees to our meetings. To that end, the November meeting which will be held on the 9th will feature a short "info-session" at the end of the meeting. The topic will be Beneficiary IRA's and if you are interested in this topic, please plan on attending this meeting!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE for October 27th - our lodge will be volunteering for a 2-hour session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville, IL from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Please consider giving your time to make a difference right here in our local community. To reserve a spot on our KSKJ Life team for the day, contact Dana at (847) 826-2598 for information or sign up via email to dana.klemm@gmail.com.

September 2018 - Reminder: NO Meeting this month

October 14th - Regular Meeting - 9:15 am at Bertrand Lanes

October 27th - Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Date

November 9th - Regular Meeting - 9:15 am plus info-session

Vicki Drinka

St. Joseph Lodge No. 53

Waukegan, IL (847) 244-8949

LODGE #79

WAUKEGAN, IL

LODGE UPDATE

Ari Degrande of St. Mary Lodge #79 in Waukegan was one of the winners of the recent ABC (Alternative Bowling Competition). All winners received a KSKJ Life beach towel, just in time for the dog days of summer!

MaryLou Stefanick



Ari Degrande

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS

LODGE #136

WILLARD, WI

LODGE UPDATE

Greetings from Willard! Mary of Perpetual Help Lodge #136 had two delegates attend the National Convention in Chicago from August 9-11th: Gene Rakovec and Lonna Rakovec. There was much business to attend to this year, along with making new friends. Any lodge that put up a display of their lodge's history was awarded \$100. We put up a board with copies of old pictures of Lodge #136 and Lodge #174 before the merger. There was also a video put together by the National Activities Director, featuring pictures of each lodge's history showing fraternalism at its finest. At some point, you will be able to view this online at the KSKJ Life website.

Our September meeting will be held on September 9, 2018 at Holy Family Parish Center at 10:30 am with a potluck lunch following at noon. After the meal, we will celebrate our Lodge Person of the Year: Melinda (Rakovec) Deavers. Melinda has been Treasurer for many years now, and before that she was Recording Secretary. Normally, we would also celebrate our 50-year members at the same time, but this year we have none that have earned that distinction. Please come and help Melinda celebrate this honor. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Lonna Rakovec,
Financial Secretary and Voice Reporter

REGION 7

MINNESOTA AND MICHIGAN

LODGE #171

DULUTH, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Is there anything more enjoyable than pizza on a train? St. Elizabeth Lodge #171 had a terrific time during their recent Pizza Train Activity in Duluth, MN.



All Aboard!" the Conductor shouts as the KSKJers await boarding of the Pizza Train at the Depot in Duluth, MN.



KSKJ Members Pat and Kathy Snidarich, pictured in front with other members joining them, celebrated their "50th Wedding Anniversary" aboard the Pizza Train.

UPCOMING EVENT

The "Ethnic Days, Music from the Alps to the Adriatic" event will be held on Sunday, September 16th at the GND Performance Pavilion in Gary-New Duluth. This cultural occasion will feature delicious food and great music, including The Singing Slovenes. The KSKJ Home Office provided a Cultural Grant for the upcoming ethnic event.



Rolling the apple strudel and getting ready for the big "Ethnic Days" event are KSKJ Members, Frannie Morris, Frank Bucar, and Lynn Stoyanoff.

Frank Bucar,
Vice President

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Ethnic Days

"Music from the Alps to the Adriatic"

**At the GND Rec. Pavilion
801 – 101st Ave. W.**

**The "Singing Slovenes"
With Special Guest and Button Box
Sensation Directly from Slovenia,**

"Gašper Krek"

**"Sam Miletich Tamburica
Ensemble"**

Featuring Klezmer and Gypsy Music

**Kolo Dancing & Ethnic Foods
Čevapčiči & Koshar's Slovenian Sausage**

Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018

Noon - 5:00 p.m.

www.singingslovenes.com

LODGE #196

GILBERT, MN

LODGE UPDATE

Since my last report, our lodge held our second Matching Funds Event for 2018. We partnered with St. Joseph's Catholic (our home for lodge meetings) for their July 21st Church Fundraising Festivities. A Duke Skorich Barbeque was held, along with a few musical entertainment groups and outdoor games to play. One of these groups was the "Singing Slovenes" of Duluth. This group is made up of many KSKJ Life members from the Duluth KSKJ lodge. Many of our lodge members assisted in a variety of outside assignments servicing a nice crowd of people who attended this event. Fundraising was needed to fund some major renovations the church is in need off, both inside and outside. A nice amount of \$5,400 was raised with another \$2,000 coming with our Matching Fund Contribution. Thank you to all our members who assisted in this event, and also to our members who came out and attended!



Bob Finc Leo and Yvonne Skrbec helping out at second Matching Funds event with the Church.



Mike Menart and Bob Finc setting up for the Matching Funds Event.



Yvonne Skrbec, Rocco Leoni, and Karl Oberstar Jr. were our lodge delegates who attended the National KSKJ Life Convention in Chicago. We are anxious to hear their convention report at our next lodge meeting in September.

LOCAL LODGE NEWS & EVENTS



Bob Finc and Tom Prosen set up the inside of the church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be hosting a MN KSKJ Federation event to be held on September 22nd here at our Gilbert Community Center. The theme for this event is, "An Iron Range Evening, Slovenian Style." We intend to have many Slovenian food entrees to choose from, along with musical entertainment by the Singing Slovenes of Duluth. We will also have a button box musician from Slovenia here also, Gasper Krek. Gasper will be here representing our cultural Slovenian portion of our event. Gasper is quite a button box musician, so if you are in the area, please stop by—you will be glad that you did.

*Karl Oberstar Jr.
President*

REGION 8

COLORADO, MONTANA, KANSAS, CALIFORNIA

LODGE #69

BELT, MT

115TH ANNIVERSARY

St Joseph Lodge #69 of Belt, MT celebrated their 115th anniversary August 18, 2018. After attending Saturday evening Mass, the group gathered at the Bar S supper club in Great Falls, MT. Our current lodge members included 3rd, 4th & 5th generation descendants of our original lodge members. After conducting our meeting, the evening was spent sharing, visiting, and enjoying a fine meal.

*George Wood
Financial Secretary & Treasurer*



St. Joseph Lodge #69 celebrating their 115th anniversary in Great Falls, MT.

LODGE #115

KANSAS CITY, KS

CONVENTION

St Veronica Lodge #115, Kansas City, KS would like to congratulate our very own Julie Schneller on being re-elected to the KSKJ Life National Board At-Large position during the 39th National Convention in Chicago, IL. Way to go Julie! We are so proud of you. Julie currently serves as the Financial Secretary for our lodge.

A special acknowledgement goes to Cyndi Hanson, who was recognized as a past Young Adult Leadership Conference participant and a first-time delegate at the National Convention. Cyndi was also chosen to serve on the By-Laws Committee and was a participant on a panel discussion during the convention. Cyndi currently serves as the Head Auditor for our lodge. Nice job Cyndi!

A special thanks also goes out to Joanne Ohmes (Lodge Vice President), Patty Horton (Recording Secretary), Cyndi Hanson, and Chuck Racki for representing St. Veronica Lodge as delegates at the KSKJ Life National Convention and serving on various convention committees.

*Chuck Racki
President, St. Veronica Lodge*

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.



COVERAGE FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY



Meet the Lopez Family

The Lopez family is gearing up for another busy school year filled with soccer practices, dance recitals and plenty of family game nights. Although coordinating everyone's schedules might be a challenge, finding the right life insurance policy is simple, thanks to KSKJ Life. From whole life products to final expense plans, the Lopez family can choose the right coverage to fit each member's life stage. And because KSKJ Life has supported members, families and communities since 1894, the Lopez family can plan any life event knowing they're backed by an organization they can trust.

Learn more about how KSKJ Life can help protect your family.

1-800-THE-KSKJ | kskjlife.com

KSKJ Life, American Slovenian Catholic Union, is an Illinois fraternal benefit society located at 2439 Glenwood Ave., Joliet, IL 60435. 2018-09-LI-V