



Sokol Detroit News

Since 1875

A Non-Profit Organization

2017

Issue 119

50 Year Celebration of The Sokol Center

By Renata Greene

It's not too often that I have the opportunity to speak about the history of Sokol Detroit. I thought I would take this time to review that history briefly and mention some of the names that were founding members of our organization.

I have used some of the histories which were written by members of previous executive boards - The first one that I found was written by Br. Frank Neuberg – secretary in 1938. He regretted to say that all of the history of the 19th century was not saved to the present or at that time the 20th century. Many of the other histories did not have authors names attached to them so I thank them in anonymity.

The oldest Unit was TJ Sokol Detroit founded on Nov. 6th 1875. They built their hall in 1878 at St. Antoine and Erskine, near the present medical center. Since 1870 most of the early Czech settlers were located on the East Side of Detroit and had formed fraternal organizations, Budivoj was one of them and in 1881 Sokol Detroit became Sokol Budivoj after a merger with that fraternal organization. One of the founding members was Joseph Kejci and his grandson John, living in New Jersey has recently been in touch looking for additional family history.

In 1889, some members who lived on the West Side of Detroit decided to break away from Sokol Budivoj and start a new unit Sokol Podlipny so that they would not have to walk an hour on Sunday to meet and practice. They built their first hall on Tillman and Ash. Much of the building was done by the members since money was tight. The names that stand out from this list are Krejci again and Vaclav Brabec. In 1892 this Unit was also the first to establish a women's circle and female gym classes known as the Womens Division of Sokol Podlipny. This was to become the independent unit Sokolice Detroit which joined the American Sokol in 1920.

The third Unit Sokol Palacky was formed in 1909 also on the west side and utilized the Polish Sokol Hall for their activities– they were part of District Fuegner-Trys rather than the National Sokol Unity which the other 2 Units belonged to. The names that might sound familiar to some of you are: Kavan, Anchinec, Svoboda, Eisner, Newberg and Domansky. In 1913 Palacky helped to form the Unit Sokol Nova Vlast or “new country” in Traverse City, Michigan. They were very active with the Polish, Yugoslav and Slovak Units locally and Nationally.

Continued on page 2...

In the meantime, Sokol Podlipny was finding their home on Tillman and Ash to be too small so they purchased property on the corner of Tillman and Butternut and 10 years later in 1914 started building the Bohemian National Hall to honor their 25th Anniversary. In 1916 Sokol Palacky and Podlipny merged and in 1917, Sokol Budivoj joined, selling their hall on the East Side and putting the proceeds toward the new hall's debt. The new Unit was called T.J. Sokol Detroit. My grandfather Frank Pliska was the first gymnastic instructor of this new Unit. 1917 was also the time of the merger between the National Sokol Union and District Fuegner-Trys with the new name of American Sokol Union, now just American Sokol.

In 1934 Sokol Detroit, with the guidance of Joseph Svoboda and through monies borrowed from members, purchased the property on Sandy Bottom Lake for \$2500. Some of the members who lent money during this depression and will be familiar to many of you are Eisenstein, Hurych, Huvar, Kocis, Literak, Turchan, Zboril, Sis. Newberg and many more who's names belong to history. Will the relatives of those mentioned please stand in memory of their families.

Sokol Detroit enjoyed many activities in the Bohemian National Hall. Many of our parents met and married there and many of us enjoyed our childhood in that building, but things change. Men came back from the war, married, moved to the outskirts of Detroit and bought cars which became the mode of transportation. The old hall had no parking and although it was on a main public transportation route, the people no longer were. In 1954 a committee was formed to investigate moving to another location. In 1962 the old hall was sold and in 1964 this property in Dearborn Hgts was purchased. In 1967 this building was completed. Six years later after much work and many fundraising events and donations the mortgage was paid off.

The Czech community and Sokol Units were forming for 42 years before they merged. Sokol Detroit's previous home was active for 48 years and now here we are 50 years later! We are fortunate to have with us Victor Hurych, the president who guided the Unit in 1967 when the hall was dedicated. Many can say the same things about this hall as was said about the previous hall. Parents married in this building and many enjoyed their childhood cavorting on the dance floor and taking gym classes in this room. Over the years many of you have enjoyed the Czech Dinner Party with your families and now the Ethnic Festival is held here. We still bake and make dumplings and the Czech sausage Jitrnice. Maybe your parents worked or enjoyed Monday night Bingo but again our society has changed. Our membership has moved even further out of the area. Now we serve the children of the community we find ourselves in. There are questions for the future and we will continue to face that future with the optimism that our forefathers had. We remember and honor them as is befitting an organization that will be 142 years old tomorrow Nov. 6th.

Thank you and a Sokol Nazdar!

Renata Zboril Greene, Pres. Sokol Detroit

From Gorton Greene,

Donations made to the Endowment fund:

- \$2500. from Doug and Sandy Mily
- \$2000. from Nick and Joan Spiroff in memory of Parents Suzanna and Louis Wimmer

FOR CARL FIORDELIS:

- Tom & Carrie Tuskey \$50
- Allen & Mary Cushing \$25
- Gorton & Renata Greene \$50

FOR VERA LISKA:

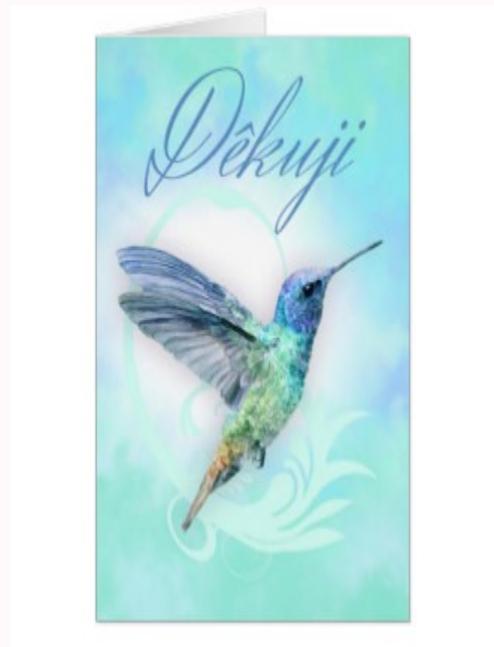
- Gorton & Renata Greene \$50

FOR MARTY GABRIEL:

- Gorton & Renata Greene \$50

FOR HELEN SEIDEL:

- Gorton & Renata Greene \$50



GYMNASTICS

Bring your kids, neighbors, grandkids, & check out SOKOL gym today!

Lots of information on the website:

<http://sokolgymnastics.weebly.com/>

We are hiring Preschool, Gymnastics & Tumbling Coaches! Please send your resume to sokoldetroitgymnastics@gmail.com or bring it into the gym.

Tribute to Sokol Detroit Veterans

By Sue Bares

We want to recognize the current Sokol members that have served in our Armed Forces.

Frank Kalivoda enlisted in the Army in 1946. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder in Missouri and was also stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He was on active duty for one and a half years and three years in the enlisted reserve. He served in the Overseas Occupational Forces in Japan and was discharged as a Buck Sergeant.

Jim Kalivoda was drafted in 1951 and served for two years in the Army Infantry. His basic training was at Camp Carson, Colorado. He was a member of the Cadre for marching and physical training. Jim attributed this assignment to his experience in Sokol. He attended both Demolition School and Leadership School. He was assigned to Fort Bennington, Georgia and trained Officer candidates in the assembly and maintenance of weaponry. He was on the Post's swimming team as a diver and he was also on the baseball team.

John Vimr and his brother Jim enlisted at the same time in the Marine Corps. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton. He served from 1956-1962, with two years of active duty and four years in the enlisted reserve. He credited his Sokol gymnastics experience for developing his strength and endurance that enabled him to compete with Marines much bigger than him.

Mike Schlott Sr. served in the Navy from 1962 through 1966. During this time he completed two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Doug Mily entered the Navy on October 24, 1967 and was discharged on August 1, 1971. He completed his basic training in Norfolk, VA. The first ship he was assigned to was the USS Norfolk DL1, a light cruiser. Then he was assigned to the USS Waldon DD699, which was an older ship commissioned during WWII. The third ship he was assigned to was the USS Ricketts DD5, which was a missile destroyer. His tours of duty took him around the world once and around the Mediterranean twice. He was a second machinist working on the maintenance of the ship's engines.

Skip Sikora joined the Navy in 1968. He completed basic training on a destroyer escort on Lake Michigan in Chicago, Illinois. He then went to SeaBee builder training in Port Huenme, CA for 14 weeks. He was then shipped to Treasure Island in San Francisco where he awaited his order for deployment. After waiting 8 weeks he was assigned to MCB 26 (Mobile Construction Battalion) NAVFAC San Nicholas Island in the Pacific where he reached the rank of E5 builder classification. He completed his active duty there in November 1970. Once stateside he spent the next three years, two weeks a year based in Biloxi Mississippi for hurricane repair and further training. His military commitment was fulfilled in 1976 and he was released with an Honorable discharge.



Join Petr Peska on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. at the Sokol Cultural Center Club Room!

Email Petr if you have questions: ptrpeska@gmail.com

Frank Kominek Jr. served in the Army from 1969-1971. Later he enlisted in the Navy and served for ten and one half years. He was stationed in Germany and Japan and also sailed on a frigate in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. These assignments spanned the years 1977-1981 and again from 1984-1990. Upon leaving the Navy, he worked with the Merchant Marines sailing for the Department of Defense for a number of years.

John Wheeler entered active duty in the Navy in January 1973, transferred to the USNR in May 1978, transferred to the Fleet Reserve April 2002 and retired in February 2015. His primary job was Missile and Gun Fire control. He trained at Great Lakes, Illinois, Mare Island, California, and Dam Neck, Virginia earning him three job codes for the Tartar Missile System. He was assigned to the USS Mitscher DDG35 (was ship's rescue swimmer) and the USS Joseph Hewes FF1078 and patrolled the Atlantic, Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Black Sea. While at

Great Lakes, he was a team captain for the base riot squad, which led to his secondary job in the Navy Security Force. Later he trained and received the Security Specialist job code. From 1986 on, he was assigned to ships in the Pacific. He was an ammunition and explosive handler at Seal Beach, California during Desert Storm.

Dave Bares entered the Air Force as a second lieutenant on June 1, 1994. He graduated from the US Air Force Academy. He was assigned to numerous bases in the United States. These included Los Angeles Air Force Base, Pensacola Naval Base for navigator training, Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport, LA, Fort Belvoir Army Base in Fairfax, VA, Minot Air Force Base in Minot, ND, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, OH. While in the service he received a Masters in Computer Engineering and a Masters in Cyber Operations. He served several tours overseas and flew missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. He also conducted several Search & Rescue missions based in Afghanistan. After serving twenty years, he retired in September 2014 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

I was informed that Bob Rembo was in the service., but I wasn't able to contact him.

Note: I apologize if I have missed any other members who have served. These are the individuals that I was made aware of by fellow Sokols. I would be happy to note your service if you contact me. (Sue Bares)

Happy Veteran's Day – November 11th

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday Season

from the Sokol Detroit Executive Board

Vesele Vanoce a Stasny Novy Rok!

(Merry Christmas and Happy New Year)

Sokol Detroit UPC Meeting Minutes – October 12th, 2017

Unit/Executive Board notes

Annual elections renewed Alex Novacek and added Scott Brandon, Bruce Singley, and Joe Dunlap to the UPC

Correspondence

Discussed coverage and future options regarding Sokol Detroit's three insurance policies

Center garbage service provider (Synergy) being bought by a new company (Republic Services)

Meeting minutes circulated and approved

Treasurer report approved as submitted

Unit plans on applying for grant from Eisenstein Foundation to offset Center stove/ovens costs

Camp garbage bill fluctuations attributed to 'catch up' payments after transition from previous to new service provider

Center report

Recent unit activities include gym and Czech language classes and yiternitza sausage making

Neighboring apartment complex installed downspout drain pipes from carport gutters

Camp report

Camp clean-up scheduled for Sunday, 10/15 – unfortunately forecasted weather is rain/storms

Camp closure (shutoff water, WiFi, weekly trash service, etc.) planned for the following week

Reconfirmed policy of locked gate during Camp off-season – will send email blast reiterating

Old business

Continued discussion about de-cluttering Camp woods, shoreline, and other areas

Alex provide information note/status update regarding N.E. District teleconference capability

No new business

Next meeting is Thursday, November 16th, at 7pm via conference call. December meeting TBD

Sokol Detroit Donations

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address (receipt will be sent electronically):

In "Memory" or "Honor" of: _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

Please mail to:

Scholarship Fund Donations:

Bruce Singley
150 S. Silvery Lane
Dearborn, MI 48124

Endowment Fund Donations:

Gorton Greene
7325 Cold Spring Ln.
W. Bloomfield, MI 48322

Building Fund and Camp Donations:

Ann Marie Hurych
13433 Mulberry Trail
Taylor, MI 48180

Sokol Detroit Unit Meeting Highlights

November 7, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm by President, Sr. Renata Greene with 10 members present. A moment a silence was held for Sr. Vera Liska, Br. Carl Fiordelis, and Br. Marty Gabriel. Members reported ill included Br. Rod St. Thomas and Br. Alex Novacek.

Application for Membership: Sr. Carol Brandon presented an application for membership for Eugene Novacek. He is being sponsored by Sr. Jerry & Br. Jim Kalivoda. Membership approved sending application on to Membership Committee for interviewing.

Bills: Sr. Greene submitted a bill for the district directors conference as well as bills for supplies for the Czech dinner party.

Correspondence: Newsletters received from Sokol Greater Cleveland, Sokol Spirit, Sokol St. Louis, Sokol USA times, the Czech Catholic Union, and Sokol Sydney. Open enrollment announcement received for Sokol Spirit Falcon Key Club. A thank you note was received from the National American Sokol Board of Instructors for our hosting of the Saturday night dinner for the District Directors Conference.

Report of Officers:

President: Sr. Greene reported that the unit has received a grant from the Eisenstein Foundation, that she delivered the eulogy for Br. Fiordelis, and gave a history of Sokol Detroit at the dinner party.

1st Vice President: Sr. Brandon reported that the Brandon Family enjoyed attending the Czech Dinner Party.

2nd Vice President: Br. Singley had no report.

Treasurer: Sr. Ann Marie Hurych reported on the bank balances.

Financial Secretary: Sr. Kirsten Conley was excused, but Sr. Hurych reported that the 3rd quarter report was received. Dues letters will be going out next month via email.

BOI: Sr. Sharon Stanek provided the BOI report.

Educational: Sr. Diana Balint read Sr. Bares report which honored our living Sokol Detroit veterans

UPC: No UPC member was present, but membership talked about the new stoves and proposed work at the camp for next year.

Donations: Sr. Hurych reported that donations have been received in memory of Sr. Helen Seidel, Sr. Evelyn Fergle, Sr. Vera Liska, and Br. Carl Fiordelis. The complete list will be in the newsletter.

Unfinished Business: The Hayride and Haunted Walk was successful despite rainy weather with around 200 attendees.

No minutes to approve.

New Business: Br. Eric Singley would like to do a couple of clubroom nights over the winter – maybe once a month. Discussion of what to have and when to have it, probably starting after the holidays.

Library: Sr. Balint reported that Br. John Borovsky donated materials to the library. Letter sent to Czech Catholics in Cleveland regarding information requested about Czech churches in the Detroit area. Thanks to Sr. Kalivoda for suggesting going into the wooden cupboard upstairs which revealed many interesting documents that everyone enjoyed looking at during the recent dinner party. Sr. Balint has been in contact with the librarian in Cedar Rapids who said the ASO is looking to put together a national archive and they are happy to take any Sokol materials we may want to send their way.

Br. Frank Turchan asked about using the hall for a football banquet on behalf of Br. Veach. Sr. Greene will bring the topic up with Br. Novacek since we no longer do outside rentals and Br. Turchan will get more information from Br. Veach. Br. Turchan is also checking with a Polish Dance Group that might want to rent our hall for a practice facility.

Sr. Stanek is looking for a 42" wide (would take a 36") 3 drawer lateral file cabinet – used would be fine. She would like to use it for storage as well as a sign-in desk. Br. Turchan recommended she check the University of Michigan Property Disposition website.

Br. Turchan made a service call on the stove – he feels there is possibly no gas regulator.

Sr. Balint suggested a potluck before the December meeting which the membership agreed was a good idea. Dinner at 6 – meeting at 7.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm. Next meeting is Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sr. Carol Brandon
Secretary Pro-Tem

Sokol Detroit Monthly Unit Meetings @ 7:00 @ Sokol Hall

- Tuesday, December 5 6:00 Potluck before Unit meeting



Address or email changes?

Please notify Kirsten Conely
by phone @ 734-459-3321 or
by email @ kas0968@aol.com

Visit us @ SokolDetroit.com

Find us on Facebook @ [Sokol Detroit & Sokol Camp](#)

SOKOL - Detroit Unit

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Sokol Camp

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South Lyon, MI 48178

Submit information for publication by the 15th of each month to:

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Financial Secretary:	Kirsten Conely	734.459.3321
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Donations:	Carrie Tuskey	248.893.7295
Sunshine Contact:	Helen Turchan	313.565.4816
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BOI:	Lynn Conrad, Martin Eisenstein	
Budget and Finance:	Bill O'Reilly, Eric Singley, Victor Hurych	
Festival Chairperson	Jim Mack	586.924.9233
Bylaws:	Maryann Fiordelis	
Educational:	Susan Bares	
Endowment Fund:	Gorton Green	
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Property Committee:	Alex Novacek	
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Scholarship:	Bruce Singley & Deb Scott	
Cottage Owners:	Mike Schlott	
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	1344 Nightingale, Dearborn, MI	48128
Gymnastics Coach:	Sharon	313.585.8671

Sokol Detroit
23600 W. Warren
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

“ The Mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.”

-A non-profit Organization

