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YEAR CXII
 ISSUE 5

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

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Save the dates and join in the excitement of
Slovenefest
 38TH ANNUAL
July 12-14, 2019

hosted by the
SNPJ Recreation Center
 270 Martin Road • Enon Valley, PA 16120
 Phone: 724-336-5180 • Toll-Free: 1-877-767-5732
 e-mail: snpj@snjrec.com • online schedule: www.slovenefest.com

Non-stop polka entertainment starting at noon each day
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 and featuring the
63rd Miss SNPJ Pageant

FEATURED IN
Pittsburgh
Magazine
 AS ONE OF THE
"TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN JULY"

And the winner is...

The \$100 winner of the first quarter drawing in the 2019 SNPJ Recommender Program:

**Josephine Candela
 Lodge 576, Cleveland**

Congratulations, and thank you for participating!

briefly

Home Office closed for Memorial Day holiday

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Normal office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Tuesday, May 28. We wish all SNPJ members and friends a safe and happy Memorial Day.

Lodge 371 sets cemetery cleanup date for May 25

CLE ELUM, Wash. — The members of SNPJ Lodge 371 will conduct their spring meeting Saturday, May 25, at the Laurel Hill Cemetery in Cle Elum starting at 11 a.m. Immediately following the meeting, we will clean up the Lodge cemetery area. Lunch will be provided, and all members are urged to attend. For more information contact Ken Kladnik at (509) 929-0896.
KEN KLADNIK
 Lodge 371 President

Take the bus to the CAL Gorjup Golf Open

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Are you golfing in the CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open? If so, leave the driving to us! A bus will depart the SNPJ Recreation Center May 25 at 6 a.m. The cost will depend on the number of riders, but we're estimating \$30 per person. We need to confirm our numbers early, so call Sara Taylor at (724) 344-0461 to reserve your seat today!
KEVIN RICHARDS
 SNPJ Fraternal Director

Have you recommended a new member lately?

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Take advantage of SNPJ's Recommender Program which offers members an enhanced benefit for encouraging family, children, friends and acquaintances to join SNPJ. The recommender will receive \$10 for each valid referral, and every valid referral earns the recommender one entry in the quarterly drawing for a chance to win \$100. See page 13 for the Recommender coupon or pay a visit to the SNPJ website, www.snpj.org, to complete an online Recommender form and get a head start on your reward.

Your pageant donations support SNPJ tradition

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is currently accepting donations. There are numerous costs associated with the pageant, and your donations, both large and small, are truly appreciated to help defray those costs. Please make checks payable to SNPJ, noting Miss SNPJ Pageant on the memo line, and mail your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, Att'n. Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are June 3 and July 1. All material must be received by Wednesday, May 15, for the June 3 issue, and by Wednesday, June 19, for the July 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, www.snpj.org.



The members of Yukon, Pa., Lodge 729 and the local community participated in the fifth annual Yukon Cleanup on April 6, collecting more than 180 bags of garbage and other items of trash.

A cleaner community, thanks to the efforts of Lodge 729 members

by JOANN KRANCE
 Lodge 729 Secretary/Treasurer

YUKON, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 729 organized their fifth annual Yukon Cleanup on Saturday, April 6. The members of Lodge 729 were joined by the Yukon Fire Department, who had a squad truck going through town to patrol the streets for the safety of our volunteers. The Yukon Lions Club and Max Environmental were also represented.

Special thanks to Maughans for donating a huge dumpster for the bags; to Max Environmental for disposing of the tires and electronics that were collected; and to Charles Baker, representing the Yukon Lions Club, who said a prayer for the safety of all volunteers before the cleanup began.

This event was part of the Great American Cleanup of PA. Trash bags, reflective vests and gloves were provided by PennDOT. Our group of 48 volunteers collected 183 bags of garbage, 130 tires, 10 televisions, a microwave and a mattress.

After the successful cleanup, we enjoyed pizza, salad and refreshments, all of which were provided by Lodge 729. It was heartwarming to see so many people volunteer their time to "spruce up" our community.

Heritage Center ready to host annual Family Fun Day event

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
 SNPJ Heritage Center Committee

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — At their March meeting, the SNPJ National Board elected Heritage Center Committee members to a new four-year term. There are six returning members, Tracey Belle (138), Patty Candela (576), Joan Gaspersic (138), Sue Mals (138), Ed Robich (31) and Kathy Paulenich (776). We will also be welcoming two new members to the committee, Mary Jo Hartman (138) and Dawn Williams-Zabicki (41). We all look forward to meeting you when you stop in our museum and gift shop on a Saturday this summer.

Three of our Heritage Center Committee members, Tracey Belle, Patty Candela and Ed Robich, will be attending the EU Open House at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, May 11. This is a wonderful event, with the European Union embassies open that day to welcome people to experience the culture of their countries.

SEE HERITAGE CENTER
 ON PAGE 2

Don't miss your chance to attend Senior Week

by KEVIN RICHARDS
 SNPJ Fraternal Director

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Who's ready for Senior Week 2019?

This year's program will run from Sunday, Aug. 18, until Saturday, Aug. 24. While the meal service will finish with breakfast on Friday morning, you'll be able to stay in your cabin and enjoy all of the Friday evening fun at the SNPJ Recreation Center. You can stay Saturday evening as well, for an additional fee. Please remember that the kitchen in the Gostilna is open on the weekends so you can purchase food, and there will be live entertainment on Friday evening.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Senior Week, think of it as a summer camp for adults. We'll have arts and crafts, balina and bean bag toss tournaments, picnics and hayrides planned for you, or you could just hang out at the cabins and enjoy the friendship of fellow SNPJ members. And, of course, there's always time to visit the pool. You'll enjoy three meals each day, along with a few happy hours in the Gostilna thrown in, many times featuring live entertainment.

The Senior Week registration fee for SNPJ members is \$155 per person; the non-member fee is \$230 per person. There is also an additional lodging fee based on the type of cabin you choose to stay in. A two-bedroom Upper Cabin (numbers 3-24) is \$300 for the week. A two-bedroom Lower Cabin is \$230 for the week. A one-bedroom Lower Cabin is \$120 for the week. If you'd like to stay in the newly renovated Cabins 1 or 2, the fee is \$525 for the week. These lodging fees are constant, regardless of whether one person or six people stay in the cabin.

Naturally, if you are staying in your RV in the Trailer Court, there is no lodging fee.

Your registration form and a \$25 cabin deposit (if you didn't pay it when you checked

SEE SENIOR WEEK
 ON PAGE 14



follow SNPJ on **Facebook!**

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Region 6: Fred Mlakar - 13592 On-
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Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732
website: www.snpjrec.com
e-mail: snpj@snpjrec.com

Have something for Up-and-Coming?

Lodge/Organization _____
Type of Event _____
Site _____
If a concert or dance, who is performing? _____
Date _____
Time _____
Who to contact _____
Phone () _____

Complete and return to:
PROSVETA
247 W. Allegheny Road
Imperial, PA 15126-9774
e-mail: prosveta@snpj.com

National Bowl rolling into the Rec Center

by RICK GORJUP (158)
Tournament Secretary

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — It's not too late to enter the SNPJ National Tournament. Call me, Rick Gorjup, at (440) 354-5001, if you're interested in participating!

The 2019 SNPJ National Bowling Tournament, co-sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 576 and the Cleveland Athletic League (CAL), will be held at the SNPJ Recreation Center the weekend of May 4-5. Bowling will take place at Colonial Lanes in New Castle, Pa.; all social activities will take place at the Recreation Center.

SNPJ District 4 Athletic Director and CAL President Rick Gorjup is serving as tournament secretary. Doubles and singles events will be bowled starting at 11 a.m. on Satur-

day, May 4; team competition will take place on Sunday, May 5, again starting at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, a bus will be available to transport bowlers between Colonial Lanes and the SNPJ Recreation Center. Please e-mail Rick Gorjup at rgorjup1221@gmail.com to reserve your seat on the bus. The cost of the bus ride this year is only \$5 (flat rate) and will be collected when you board the bus, which will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Friday night entertainment will feature "Joe Cheetah's Game Show Junkies," so plan to attend and have some fun! That weekend is also the Kentucky Derby race, so wear your favorite hat and watch the race in the Gostilna on Saturday

evening. Prizes and drink specials will be offered. The entertainment for the evening will feature the KTB Band performing from 8 p.m. until midnight.

Cabins are still available for the tournament weekend. Phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 to reserve a cabin today. Food will be available for purchase throughout the weekend.

A block of rooms has also been secured at the Hampton Inn in New Castle. The special rate for this SNPJ tournament is \$105 plus tax per night. Phone (724) 656-0000 and mention the SNPJ bowling tournament to receive these rates.

We look forward to welcoming all of our bowlers to the Recreation Center!



In April, SNPJ Lodge 355 and club members worked diligently to give the Fairport Slovenian Club a good spring cleaning.

Fairport Slovenian Club shines following a spring cleaning at the hands of volunteers

by LEE JACKOPIN
Lodge 355 Secretary

FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio — A thank you to Mother Nature for a nice spring day on Saturday, April 13, the date of the 13th annual spring cleaning of our fraternal home, the Fairport Slovenian Club. Thank you as well to the Lodge and club members who participated in this work party.

This spring work involved picking up leaves that had accumulated along fences, hedges, buildings, and in the flowerbeds and balina courts; removing weeds; re-distributing piles of stones that the snowplows had made in the parking area; washing and scrubbing the walls of the clubroom and entrance hallway; and cleaning the cupboards in the kitchen.

The work was interrupted - reluctantly, to some - to get a group photograph or a coffee and doughnut. After the work was complete, everyone enjoyed a snack of sausages, chips, cookies and beverages provided by the Lodge and club, plus some talking and socializing.

Volunteer workers from Lodge 355 included Ron Bush, Lee Jackopin, Joe and Dottie (Hervatin) Prezioso, Christine and Rebecca, Jim and Kevin Regnier, Jim Reho, Frank Sajin, Frank Sajin Jr. and Christine Lah, and Roger and Mimi (Hervatin) Widmar. The club volunteers were Ron Champa, Jan Cox, Dennis Hite, Mike and Nancy Maruschak, Lois Melin, Bob Patrick, and Jim Turk.

Fairport Lodge 355 extends a hearty thank you to these volunteers who came out to help, even though everyone has spring work to do at home and is busy with family and other activities.

The bottom line is that this work party had everyone pitching-in to do whatever they were able to do while having a fun time of camaraderie and fraternalism. Lodge 355 members in particular had an opportunity to support our fraternal home. Most of the charter members of the Fairport Slovenian Club were members of Lodge 355, and Andy Hervatin, the longtime secretary of Lodge 355, served as the first president of the Fairport Slovenian Club.

SNPJ Heritage Center hosting Family Fun Day event in June

HERITAGE CENTER
FROM PAGE 1

If you are in the area, stop in to see the Heritage Center traveling museum.

Activities begin at the SNPJ Recreation Center on Sunday, May 26, during the Brew & Bean Fest. Several Heritage Committee members will be helping at this event, so look for our tent at the upper pavilion on top of

the hill. Our gift shop will be open on this day for a 50-percent-off sale; so, ladies, be sure to stop in between the hours of 1 and 5 p.m. The gentlemen are welcome too!

Our kickoff to summer, Family Fun Day, will be held Saturday, June 22, at the Heritage Pavilion near the red barn. We will feature a true family polka band, the Ron Likovic Band

from Cleveland. Ron and his son TJ are featured on their button boxes - and can they play! Those of you who like button box music will enjoy the sounds of this band. Ron's older son, RJ, plays drums and completes this family band.

This is a free-admission dance, compliments of the SNPJ Heritage Center. The band will perform from

3:30 to 7:30 p.m. We're working on some family games, so we'll keep you informed.

On June 21, the night prior to Family Fun Day, the Heritage Center Committee will host a wine and cheese reception from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by entertainment in the Gostilna featuring the Mahoning Valley Button Box Club from 7:30 to 9:30.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- MAY 4-5.....SNPJ National Bowling Tournament at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For additional information contact Fraternal Director Kevin Richards at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144 or e-mail krichards@snpj.com.
- MAY 4California's Golden Valley Lodge 745 Wine Tasting and Luncheon at the Pescatore Vineyard and Winery, Newcastle, Calif., on the Placer County Wine Trail; 1 p.m. Admission includes wine tasting, appetizers, salad, entree and dessert. Cost is \$20 for SNPJ members, \$25 for non-members. Contact Joe Mlakar at (916) 380-7722 or e-mail loskadolina@surewest.net for additional information.
- MAY 5Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643 dance at Rolling Mills Bar & Grill (formerly Kuzman's Lounge), 1025 S. State St. Rt. 422, Girard; 3-7 p.m. Music by the Frank Stanger Band. For additional information contact Ray Kovac (330) 824-2154.
- MAY 11.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 hosting the Mark Davis Band in the clubroom from 8-11 p.m. SASC members and guests welcome; admission is free.
- MAY 19SNPJ Region 2 No-Tap Bowling Tournament hosted by Region 2 Vice President Jim Curl at the Sygan Lodge 6 Bowling Center. Entry fee of \$21 per person includes bowling and prize money. Bowling starts at 2 p.m.; food will be available at no cost to bowlers.
- MAY 19Pancake & Sausage Breakfast at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio. Breakfast served 9 a.m. until noon. Adult meals \$7; meals for children age 10 and under \$3.
- MAY 21Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 hosting a night of Family Feud in the clubroom starting at 7 p.m. Bring your team for this fun event or join a randomly assigned team.
- MAY 25CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For more information contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001.
- MAY 25Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 hosts musician Gary Prisby for an evening of acoustic rock and blues, 8-11 p.m.
- MAY 25-26...Memorial Day weekend dances hosted by SNPJ Lodge 723 at the Fontana, Calif., Slovene Hall. Music by Polka Power California 2-6 p.m. both days. For more information contact Frank Rote at (909) 987-8714
- MAY 26Brew & Bean Festival at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For details contact the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- JUNE 8Western Pa./Lodge 138 Golf Tournament at Rolling Green Golf Course, Eighty-Four, Pa.; 1 p.m. shotgun start. Evening entertainment at the Lodge 138 Clubroom featuring Ron Likovic & Friends, 6-10 p.m.
- JUNE 14-16 ...SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and additional event information, contact SNPJ Fraternal Director Kevin Richards at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144 or e-mail krichards@snpj.com.
- JUNE 22SNPJ Heritage Center Family Fun Day dance at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.; music by the Ron Likovic Band 3:30-7:30 p.m. Wine & cheese reception Friday, June 21, on the SNPJ Heritage Center patio 6:30-7:30 p.m. For information contact the SNPJ Recreation Center at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- JUNE 23..... Euclid, Ohio, Lodge 158 "Dr. Seuss" picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio; 1-8 p.m. Music provided by the Don Wojtila Orchestra. For additional information contact Gary Smrdel by calling (440) 655-7592.
- JUNE 30.....Westmoreland Co. Federation Pretty In Pink fund-raiser at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa.; 2-6 p.m. Music by The Polka Classics. Food and refreshments will be available. For more information contact Lois Denning by calling (412) 554-7404.
- JULY 6 Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 hosts Klancknik & Friends at the Lodge hall. Music performed from 6-10 p.m.
- JULY 12-14..... The 38th Slovenefest and the 63rd Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For details contact the Recreation Center at 1-877-767-5732 or snpj@snpjrec.com. For pageant information, contact Fraternal Director Kevin Richards at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144 or krichards@snpj.com.
- JULY 20 The 25th Annual Lodge 138 Duck Race and Picnic at the Lodge 138 Hall, Strabane, Pa., beginning at 4 p.m. Entertainment featuring Karl Lukitsch & Autobahn starting at 6 p.m.

Lodge 53 will honor mothers and fathers at June luncheon

by PAULINE BARBISH
Lodge 53 President

CLEVELAND — V Boj Lodge 53 is rolling out the red carpet for LODGE MEMBERS who are mothers and fathers. We are combining Mother's Day and Father's Day during our luncheon celebration. You read that correctly: a luncheon in your honor.

The luncheon will be held Sunday, June 2, at Vittorio's Buon Appetito, 29664 Euclid Ave. in Wickliffe, Ohio, starting promptly at 1 p.m.

Seating is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For particulars or to make your reservation, contact Pauline Barbish at (440) 944-9139.

Lodge 142 Farm picnic set for July 21

by CAROL BACNIK
Lodge 142 President

CLEVELAND — Mark your calendar for the Cleveland Lodge 142 summer picnic scheduled Sunday, July 21. This annual event will take place at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio.

Come out, rain or shine, and enjoy an afternoon of polka music by the Wayne Tomsic Band. Bring the family for a picnic and a meal of Slovenian sausage, roast beef and hot dogs with a variety of other food options. Join others for a game of balina or bean bag toss while connecting with new and old friends.

Every year we have special prize drawings. If you'd like to donate to our drawings, or if have any questions about our Lodge or SNPJ membership, contact me or Lodge 142 Secretary Chris Bacnik at SNPJLodge142@gmail.com.

Look for our picnic update in the June *Prosveta* issue.

Slovene National Benefit Society National Board Minutes

Meeting held March 29, 2019, at the SNPJ Home Office, Imperial, Pa.

Friday, March 29: Afternoon Session

The meeting is called to order at 12:50 p.m. by President Joseph C. EVANISH with 15 National Board members and one Young Adult Representative present.

President EVANISH asked all to rise to extend their fraternal greetings. The Board remains standing as President EVANISH installs all Board members. Roll call is taken.

President EVANISH welcomes everyone to the National Board meeting. He states for the minutes that a Board education seminar was held from 9 to 11 a.m. at SNPJ Lodge 106. The presenter was attorney Todd Martin who spoke about "Trends in the Fraternal System," "The Developing Role of the Board of Directors," "Pennsylvania Solvency Legislation" and "Enterprise Risk Management."

President EVANISH, with no objections, appoints Bro. Fred MLAKAR and Sis. Justina RIGLER as vice chairs.

The Board rises for a moment of silence for all deceased members since the last meeting, and particularly for late former Board members Bro. Frank Bregar, Bro. Louis Novak and Bro. William Tehovnik.

A motion is made by Bro. Richard HERVOL, second by Bro. Ken ANDERSON, that the time of sessions be from 12:50 to 5 p.m. today. Motion approved.

A motion is made by Sis. RIGLER, second by Bro. ANDERSON, to approve the Order of Business as presented. Motion approved.

A letter is read from a Convention delegate under correspondence which will be discussed under Unfinished Business.

President EVANISH points out that the Society actuary, Joseph Steimla, and Society auditors Leo Hannah and Sara Beauseigneur are present.

A motion is made by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. Roger C. CLIFFORD, to ratify the Board minutes previously approved by e-mail from the Aug. 12, 2018, Board meeting and the Jan. 28, 2019, Board conference call. Motion approved.

Bro. Stan J. REPOS introduces the firm of H2R, the Society auditors, to the Board for a presentation. Bro. REPOS reports that the Audit Committee has engaged them for another four years.

Leo Hannah thanks the Audit Committee for retaining them again and introduces auditor Sara Beauseigneur, who works on the Society audits with Mr. Hannah.

Mr. Hannah reviews the financial statement with the Board, states that the auditors gave a clean opinion, explained that Society operations are funded with the spread on what we earn versus what we pay out in interest, stated reserves increased approximately \$125,000, explains the Interest Maintenance Reserve and the Asset Valuation Reserve for the new Board members, and remarked on the good job done by bringing the Recreation Center expenses down.

National President's Report March 2019

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters. Welcome to our semiannual National Board meeting as we report and discuss the operation of our fraternal organization. We look forward to a positive and informative meeting with a valuable exchange of ideas for the benefit of the Society.

Retiring National Board member Bro. Frank Bregar was recognized for his service to the Society during the SNPJ Convention in August. Sadly, Bro. Bregar passed away on Dec. 19, 2018. He served two terms as Region 1 Vice President from 2011-2018. He was also a delegate to a number of Conventions, including the 1970 Convention which was also held at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

The Society was sad to hear of the passing of former National Board member Bro. Lou Novak on Feb. 1, 2019. Bro. Novak served on the National Board from 2007-2018 as a member of the Supervisory/Audit Committee. He served as a delegate to a number of Conventions and was a very active leader in the Cleveland area, including at the SNPJ Farm.

Convention

The Society's 31st Quadrennial Convention, held Aug. 13, 2018, took place at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. A total of 151 delegates and National Board members participated in the proceedings which were completed in one day.

The delegates are to be commended for being an important part of the national legislative body of our fraternal benefit society. The body carried out the responsibility of amending and approving the bylaws of the SNPJ, as well as electing the National Board that will serve our Society for the next four-year period.

The Convention officers included Chairman Bro. Joseph C. Evanish, and Vice Chairs Sis. Tina Rigler and Bro. Fred Mlakar. The most demanding job during the Convention was that of the recording secretary, Sis. Karen Pintar, who did a commendable job.

Our Society's key consultants addressed the delegation. These included Abigail S. Clare, vice president and client service manager with Wellington Management, the firm who serves as SNPJ's asset manager; consulting actuary Joseph Steimla; and Leo Hannah, CPA and partner with H2R, the Society's independent auditing firm.

All officer and board reports were presented and accepted. The Convention committees did an exceptional job preparing and presenting their reports to the Convention. We appreciate the work of the tally committees and those who took care of the microphones. We were able to successfully consolidate some of the Convention officer and committee positions for cost-effective purposes.

The Executive Committee and Home Office staff worked diligently preparing all that was necessary for an organized and efficient Convention. Delegates were provided with the information necessary to perform the task of the Convention. I thank officers National Secretary Karen Pintar and National Treasurer Bob Lawrence for their hard work to ensure that the arrangements were successful.

We also thank the Home Office staff for their help preparing all the necessary materials for the delegation. The successful efforts of Executive Assistant Kathy Brown, Office Manager Ruth Wright and staff member Lori Mickle, who also set up and staffed our onsite Convention office, were greatly appreciated. IT Manager Terry Champ and Fraternal Director Kevin Richards helped to provide technical support.

There is a significant amount of work that goes into preparing for a Convention, and Sis. Pintar led the organizational efforts of most of it. There were travel, lodging and food service arrangements. Our SNPJ shuttle drivers, Frank Wright and Kevin Richards, did a great job taking care of our delegates.

Our SNPJ Recreation Center staff and management, who include Director Tim Jergel, Sue Krispinsky, Jeff Wisneski and Sue Zarella, did a commendable job preparing the facility for the Convention.

The Sunday reception by the pool was a great success. This was a Margaritaville theme with décor and food prepared by Jones Catering. David Jones and his staff did a fabulous job. Patty C and the Guys provided the musical entertainment for a fun evening.

The delegation is to be commended for taking part in this important governance process and in making decisions that will be beneficial to the future success and sustainability of the SNPJ. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and participation in making the 31st National Convention a success.

Marketing

For the year 2018, the Society issued 381 policies with a face amount of \$5,077,810. The total life insurance in force is \$250,775,342. There were 247 new members enrolled during the year, compared to 297 the previous year. First-year annualized life premium was down compared to the previous year. Annuity premium was \$7,309,199 in 2018, compared to \$5,130,736 in 2019.

For 2019, the Lodge Bonus Program introduces an incentive for Lodges to enroll new members. For every 10 new members enrolled, the Lodge will receive a \$100 bonus.

The Recommender Program continues to provide a \$10 incentive for a member to refer people for SNPJ membership. There is also a chance for recommenders to win \$100 in a quarterly drawing.

SNPJ National Sales Director David Ely has been actively recruiting new agents throughout this period. He continues to meet with a number of our existing agents, as well as with a number of potential agents and agencies. David has also attended some of our festivals, fraternal programs and Lodge events. Some new marketing materials have been created for use by agents. Several new producers were added during the year.

The Sales and Marketing Department continues to promote sales and provide support for our producers and members. Marketing Assistant Denise Herron continues to produce the insurance column in *PROSVETA*. She provides important support to the sales director, agents and members, as well as handles Home Office sales.

In the fall of 2018, plans were developed for the 115th anniversary direct mail offer which will be introduced in 2019. It is our practice to offer a discounted first-year premium for each five-year anniversary. A 5-Pay Life policy is being offered for youth members up to age 17, a 15-Pay Life policy is offered to members ages 18-59, and a Whole Life policy is offered to members ages 60-80. The annuity rates were increased in November with adjustments to the conversion program rates as well.

Fraternal Department

Fraternal Director Bro. Kevin Richards oversees the Fraternal Department, which encompasses our fraternal, youth and athletic programs. The Fraternal Department had many activities take place during the last six months of 2018. The promotion of our programs is done through our publications, websites, Facebook, e-mails and periodic mailings.

The activity portion of the Lodge Bonus Program continued in 2018. Lodges that sponsor and report on at least four activities, one of which is a community service or charitable benefit project, are designated as a Gold Activity Lodge and received a \$300 reward. Lodges that sponsor and report on at least two activities are designated as a Silver Activity Lodge and received a \$200 reward.

Congratulations to the following Lodges for earning the Gold Level for Activity in 2018, thus earning a reward of \$300: Lodge 1, Chicago; Lodge 2, LaSalle, Ill.; Lodge 6, Sygan, Pa.; Lodge 8, Cicero, Ill.; Lodge 34, Indianapolis; Lodge 53, Cleveland; Lodge 106, Imperial, Pa.; Lodge 138, Strabane, Pa.; Lodge 207, Butte, Mont.; Lodge 218, Denver; Lodge 223, Greensburg, Pa.; Lodge 225, Girard, Kan.; Lodge 355, Fairpoint Harbor, Ohio; Lodge 358, West Point, Ohio; Lodge 449, Cicero, Ill.; Lodge 559, Chicago; Lodge 604, Cleveland; Lodge 721, Aliquippa, Pa.; Lodge 729, Yukon, Pa.; Lodge 745, Grass Valley, Calif.; Lodge 776, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.

Congratulations to the following Lodges for earning the Silver Level for Activity in 2018, thus earning a reward of \$200: Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa.; Lodge 564, Detroit; Lodge 689, Helper, Utah; Lodge 715, Universal, Pa. All Lodges will receive a Lodge Activity Reporting Form in the fall of 2019, to be completed and returned by Jan. 15, 2020.

Slovenefest took place July 13-15 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. We thank everybody who assisted the Fraternal Department to host the children's entertainment during the weekend. It was very well received.

The Miss SNPJ Pageant was held during Slovenefest weekend with seven contestants. Elizabeth Smrdel, a member of SNPJ Lodge 158 in Euclid, Ohio, was crowned Miss SNPJ 2019. She also tied for Miss SNPJ Activity 2019. Kristina Hartman (138) was awarded runner-up to Miss SNPJ 2019 and also tied for Miss SNPJ Activity 2019. Erin Gee (257) was awarded Miss SNPJ Talent 2019. Alyssa Urban (715) was awarded runner-up to Miss SNPJ Activity 2019 and runner-up to Miss Talent 2019. The 2019 Miss SNPJ Fraternalism honor went to Katie Jo Raspotnik (41). All 18- to 28-year-old female members will receive a brochure in the mail inviting them to enter this coming year's Miss SNPJ Pageant.

The Fraternal Department completed its 12th year of sponsoring local fraternal activities in the different regions of SNPJ. During the last six months of 2018, two regional fraternal activities took place. Region 3 Vice President Linda Gorjup served as hostess during the Slovene Heritage Night at the Lake County Captains baseball game on Monday, Aug. 20. Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel had the honor of throwing out the first pitch. She introduced Don Srnick (158) as the new Region 3 Vice President. On Aug. 25, members from SNPJ Region 5 attended the Lipizzaner horse performance at Tempel Farms in Oak Mill Creek, Ill. Region 5 Vice President Tina Rigler served as hostess for this event.

Fraternal Director Kevin Richards worked out of the SNPJ Recreation Center during Family Week and Senior Week in July and August, overseeing and managing the daily activities of these two groups.

National SNPJ Days were held at the SNPJ Recreation Center during Labor Day weekend. Everyone who participated in the tournaments and all of the activities during the weekend contributed to this being a successful weekend.

The SNPJ Home Office once again served as a drop-off location for the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program during the holiday season. Several boxes of toys for children in the Ohio and Pennsylvania areas were donated.

We appreciate the commitment of all SNPJ youth directors. Listed below are the nine SNPJ Youth Circles, the Lodge or Federation sponsor, and the name of the current Circle director as of December 2018:

Circle 2 is sponsored by the Cleveland Federation of Lodges. The director is Kathleen Trebets.

Circle 7 is sponsored by Lodge 643, Girard, Ohio. The directors are Kurt Seifert and Kandace Kocjan.

Circle 19 is sponsored by Lodge 138, Strabane, Pa. The director is Margaret Cadez.

Circle 29 is sponsored by the Detroit Federation of Lodges. The director is Shelly Volpe.

Circle 36 is sponsored by Lodge 6, Sygan, Pa. The director is Bryn Snow.

Circle 57 is sponsored by Lodge 603, Samsula, Fla. The director is Cindy Griswold.

Circle 104 is sponsored by Lodge 786, Orange County, Calif. The director is Christine Udovch Gottdank.

Circle 106 is sponsored by Lodge 106, Imperial, Pa. The directors are Shelly Botwright and Christie Dorste.

Circle 107 is sponsored by Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa. The director is Megan Sinan.

The 2018 Youth Roundup was a weekend program, held July 27-29. There were 14 campers and four adult counselors participating.

The 2018 TEL (Teens Experience Leadership) Workshop was held during the weekend of Youth Roundup, July 27-29, with five participants. They helped with the activities for the Youth Roundup campers.

The SNPJ National Athletic Board met on the Friday evening of National SNPJ Days weekend. We thank all of the athletic directors for helping with the tournaments during National SNPJ Days.

The 2018 National Golf Tournament was played during National SNPJ Days weekend at Black Hawk Golf Course with a shotgun start. There were 12 men's teams, 49 individual men, and five individual women competing, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$714.

The 2018 National Balina Tournament was held during National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center. There were nine men's teams and nine women's teams competing, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$504.

The 2018 National Beanbag Toss Tournament was held during National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center. There were 29 co-ed teams and three women's teams competing, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$448.

The 2018 SNPJ Fall Classic Bowling Tournament was sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial, Pa., Oct. 13-14. There were nine men's teams, 17 men's doubles, 34 men's singles, four women's teams, five women's doubles and 11 women's singles competing, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$822.

The 2018 Family Twosome Bowling Tournament was held during November with the results completed in December. There were 42 doubles teams submitting entries this year. All champions received a trophy from the Fraternal Department.

All of these fraternal and athletic programs, along with local Lodge and Federation events, help keep our members active and interested in the SNPJ. Most importantly, this helps to maintain the fraternal nature and spirit of our organization. This is all part of our fraternal package. Gratitude goes to everyone, including our participating members, who help make all of our fraternal programs possible and successful.

SNPJ continues to maintain a good relationship with Slovenia and its diplomatic offices in the United States. We continue to extend invitations to our major events. I keep in communication with Ambassador Stanislav Vidovic, Consul General Andrej Rode and Honorary Consul Petra Mitchell.

A new initiative to promote Slovenian cuisine in the United States was introduced by Slovenian American Business Association (SABA) President Jurček Zmauc, who arranged a visit of Slovenian gostilna chefs. I was happy to help coordinate a dinner event that the SNPJ Heritage Committee hosted at the Imperial SNPJ Lodge 106 Hall in September. Stan Repos and Kevin Richards were generous in receiving the event at the hall. SNPJ Heritage Committee member Tracey Belle (138) took the lead to manage a successful dinner event. The chef was great, and the food delicious.

Publications

Our SNPJ publications, *PROSVETA* and *The Voice of Youth*, are managed by Editor Jay Sedmak with the help of Associate Editor Kim Winters. They continue to work hard at producing quality publications for our membership. We appreciate the contributions from our SNPJ scribes who promote and report on SNPJ activities and events in their areas.

During the fall, Editor Sedmak designed and completed the annual Miss SNPJ calendar. Other work included pageant programs and signage. Follow-up projects related to the Convention were completed, including the new bylaws booklet and the Convention Proceedings and Reports booklet.

He and Kim also provide design-related support to the Marketing Department, Fraternal Department and SNPJ Recreation Center. This includes brochures, flyers and advertisements when needed. A number of these items were produced during this period.

There are five websites that continue to be maintained by Jay, with help from Kim. Our main SNPJ website is the last of the five to be updated to a responsive design platform. Our staff continues to work with our web vendor to complete this process, which includes composition and content editing. Facebook promotions were conducted for events held during this period.

Fraternal Industry

The Society stays in tune with the fraternal industry through a network of local, state and national trade affiliates. This includes Executive Committee participation in the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP), the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance (PFA) and the American Fraternal Alliance (the Alliance).

The executive officers continue to be active in the FSGP and regularly attend the luncheon meetings that are held throughout the fall, winter and spring. National Secretary Karen Pintar serves as secretary of the FSGP. The FSGP meetings include representatives of several fraternal headquarters or having a presence in Western Pennsylvania.

I served a one-year term as president of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance which was completed at the end of the annual meeting in October when the new president was installed. My responsibility

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

was to chair all board meetings, most of which were by conference call. I also worked with the secretary/treasurer to plan the annual meeting, which involved arranging speakers and topics pertinent to our industry for the day-and-a-half meeting/seminar. It was a well attended meeting with informative speakers, including the Pennsylvania deputy insurance commissioner who gave regulatory updates. The final Alliance annual meeting took place in September. There were a number of topics presented through speakers and workshops. The new Alliance operating model will go into effect Jan. 1, 2019. The staff was essentially reduced from approximately 10 employees to two, who are the two executive team members. Handling administrative and others services will be association management company partner NAMIC Services Corporation.

This transition has been two years in the making, with the Alliance board and senior executive team fully engaged in the planning, design and implementation of an operating model that enhances the organization's ability to meet members' most pressing advocacy, education, information and networking needs, and strengthens its ability to be a sustainable and independent voice for the fraternal community.

While there will no longer be an "Annual Alliance Meeting," there will be other meetings conducted on an annual basis. These include the "Executive Summit," which will be moved from the spring to September, and a spring "Symposium." The Alliance is also creating a political action committee, for which it will need to do some fund-raising.

Conclusion

In October, SNPJ Executive Assistant Kathy Brown retired from the Society's employment. In her years serving the Society and the executive officers, she provided excellent support. Kathy always handled her duties, as well as additional projects, with great efficiency and professionalism. We greatly appreciate the job that she did for the SNPJ and will miss her.

Our new executive assistant, Peggy Cushman, joined our team in October and spent some time training with Kathy. Peggy has done well picking up the duties and responsibilities of the position and is doing an excellent job for us.

The Society is fortunate to have an experienced COO and CFO. National Secretary/COO Karen Pintar and National Treasurer/CFO Robert Lawrence continue to do an excellent job for the SNPJ. They are well respected in the industry, and I am happy to work with them.

The Home Office management and staff are a dedicated group of people who work hard for the Society supporting our membership on both the business and fraternal sides. We also appreciate the dedication of our Lodge officers for their contribution to the success of the Society.

We look forward to beginning this term in a positive fashion. Congratulations to all National Board members upon being elected to serve for the next four-year term. May our discussion and decisions provide for a strong and positive atmosphere for the good of our SNPJ. Fraternaly,

JOSEPH C. EVANISH, FLMI
National President/CEO

National President's Report

President EVANISH highlights some items in his report: expenses cut for the Convention, states sales are up for the first quarter of 2019 compared to last year, 35 members so far have taken advantage of the 115th anniversary offer, annuity premium and member numbers are up as well.

Discussion by Sis. RIGLER and Sis. Tracey ANDERSON on *The Voice of Youth*; and by Sis. ANDERSON, Sis. RIGLER and Bro. Don SRNICK on Lodge awards.

Motion by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. Jim CURL, to approve the report. Motion approved.

National Secretary's Report for the period ended Dec. 31, 2018

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters, and welcome to the semiannual meeting of the SNPJ National Board.

The following report relates to the activities and business conducted through the office of the National Secretary for the period July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018. Additional information is included, where appropriate, concerning the year 2018.

SNPJ Home Office Personnel

As of the end of December 2018, we continue to employ 15 full-time employees, which includes the Executive Committee. In addition, we employ two part-time employees throughout the year, and one additional part-time employee during the spring and summer.

During this six-month period our executive assistant, Sis. Kathy Brown, decided to retire after eight years of employment with the SNPJ. Sis. Brown was a valuable asset to our committee, and we certainly thank her for the excellent job she did during her time here.

In September 2018 we hired Sis. Peggy Cushman to replace Sis. Brown in the executive assistant position. Sis. Cushman has an excellent background of experience in this type of position, and we look forward to working with her.

Insurance Administration

The employees in this area continue to handle the day-to-day operations of a life insurance and annuity company. They also provide necessary information regarding membership to our Lodge secretaries and agents, and address members' questions and concerns.

They continue to update job processes, as well as document any additions or changes to the Risk Management procedure.

This area was also a great deal of help with the preparation and mailing of materials for the Quadrennial Convention held during this period.

Information Technology

This area continues to maintain all of the computer hardware and software at the SNPJ Home Office, as well as at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

IT Manager Bro. Terry Champ continues to provide useful programs to both our Executive Committee and our Marketing Department.

Bro. Champ has been working on upgrading the current insurance administration software to a newer version. We continue to research the options for the agent/member access to policy information as the current access method provided by the insurance administration software provider has become outdated and obsolete. Bro. Champ has been contacting companies for these options.

We are also reviewing our options for Windows server upgrades, an upgrade of the AS400, new firewalls, and vendors for the Penetration/Vulnerability testing.

Bro. Champ, along with Bro. Kevin Richards, was also very valuable for coordinating the recording devices from a vendor for the Quadrennial Convention.

Lodges and Lodge Secretaries Lodges

As of Dec. 31, 2018, we have 81 Lodges. There were two transfers that occurred or were finalized in the last six months of the year. SNPJ Lodge 617, Washington, Pa., members were transferred to Lodges 138, 603 and 782, depending on their request or proximity to a Lodge. There were approximately 20 adult members and seven youth members who were transferred. Lodge 626, Barberton, Ohio, members were transferred to a multiple of other Lodges as near as possible to their place of residence. There were approximately 242 adult members and 27 youth members in this Lodge at the time of transfer.

We thank all of the officers of these former Lodges for their work and dedication to the Lodges over the years. It does seem to get more difficult each year to get members to attend meetings, as well as to get members to accept officer positions once the current officers decide to retire. The inability to reach a quorum to hold a meeting is most often the reason for Lodge transfers.

I've also assisted a couple of our Lodges in the last few months with some difficulties they were having, and I'm happy to report that they are now in a good position to move forward. They have built strong committees of officers and are dedicated to continuing their Lodges.

Since the last time that I listed any Lodge statistics in my report, there has been a slight shift in the Lodges with the most membership. This is in large part due to mergers and/or transfers of Lodges into each other.

At the end of 2018, the 10 largest Lodges in the SNPJ based on membership are:

Lodge	City/State	Members	Insurance in Force
138	Strabane, Pa.	2,325	\$20,527,468
6	Sygan, Pa.	1,984	\$21,775,026
158	Euclid, Ohio	1,368	\$11,590,134
584	Milwaukee	1,239	\$11,600,064
106	Imperial, Pa.	1,231	\$14,223,964
715	Universal, Pa.	1,074	\$11,823,495
87	Herminie, Pa.	730	\$4,191,688
254	Bon Air, Pa.	712	\$3,591,271
576	Cleveland	658	\$5,386,750
749	Johnstown, Pa.	630	\$3,760,350

Membership

Membership Count

On Dec. 31, 2018, the active membership of the Society is:

Adult	29,122
Youth	2,315
Total	31,437

Membership declined for the year 2018 by 801 members.

Membership Statistics

Members as of Jan. 1, 2018	32,238
Increase by:	
New Members	247
Reinstated	10
Total Increase	257
Decrease by:	
Deaths	530
Cash Surrenders	239
Expired	82
Canceled	74
Lapse	77
Matured	29
Suspended Pending Maturity	16
Suspended Pending Death Claim	11
Total Decrease	1,058
Members as of Dec. 31, 2018	31,437

Insurance In Force

Life Insurance

As of Dec. 31, 2018, we have 34,539 policies in force, representing \$250,775,026 of insurance in force.

Policies as of Jan. 1, 2018	35,435
Increase:	
Issued and Paid	235
Reinstatement	20
Total Increase	255
Decrease:	
Deaths	591
Expired	87
Canceled	39
Matured	63
Lapse	93
Surrender	278
Total Decrease	1,151
Policies as of Dec. 31, 2018	34,539

Annuities

As of Dec. 31, 2018, we have 4,182 annuity policies with a fund value of \$149,522,254.

Policies as of Jan. 1, 2018	4,253
Increase:	
Issued and Paid	151
Total Increase	151
Decrease:	
Deaths	98
Cancel After Issue	5
Matured	2
Surrendered	117
Total Decrease	222
Policies as of Dec. 31, 2018	4,182

Accident & Health

Policies as of Jan. 1, 2018	3,909
Increase:	
Reinstatement	11
Total Increase	11
Decrease:	
Canceled	142
Expired	151
Death Claims	131
Total Decrease	424
Policies as of Dec. 31, 2018	3,496

Convention 2018

Well, of course, the biggest event of the last six months of the year was the 31st Quadrennial Convention held at the SNPJ Recreation Center Aug. 12-13, 2018.

There were 138 delegates elected by Lodges, of whom one was determined ineligible and two were unable to attend with no alternate. There were 151 eligible voting delegates at the Convention, includ-

ing the 16 members of the SNPJ National Board. There were also two Young Adult Representatives present, who were elected by the Young Adult Conference, with a voice but no vote.

Delegates were given the option of staying at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, Ohio, or at the SNPJ Recreation Center for the duration of the Convention. There were 21 cabins occupied at the SNPJ Recreation and 71 hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn in Boardman. In addition, there were 30 delegates who stayed in their trailers on site and two delegates who made use of an RV hook-up, and 14 local delegates who drove back and forth from their homes.

We had beautiful weather on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 12, for the welcome "Margaritaville" party. Our Recreation Center staff, along with our Recreation Center caterer, David Jones of Jones Creations, did a fabulous job decorating the pool area for this festive event. Again, a wonderful job was done on the food by David Jones and on the music provided by Patty C and the Guys. It appeared that all delegates in attendance enjoyed a pre-Convention celebration of fraternalism.

The delegates to the Convention did their jobs to determine the bylaws and resolutions that will govern the Society for the next four years, as well as elect the National Board that will lead the Society for this next four-year period. We thank all of the delegates, the Convention committees for their work prior to and during the Convention, and the National Board; as well as the microphone people and the Home Office staff who assisted the Executive Committee during the course of the Convention.

Following the Convention, the minutes were sent to all delegates for their review. A few changes were submitted to the Home Office, and the local delegates met Sept. 21, 2018, to review the changes submitted. The final version of the Convention minutes was approved on that date.

Once these minutes were approved, I began the processing of filing the amended bylaws in all states in which we are licensed. The first filing is with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department since their certification is needed in order to file in other states. At the end of the year, all states have approved the amended bylaws, and the new bylaws books for the period 2019-2022 have been printed and distributed.

Fraternal Activities

Slovene National Benefit Society

During this six-month period I participated in a number of fraternal activities and programs.

Of course, July brought Slovenefest to the SNPJ Recreation Center, and I continue to serve on the Slovenefest Committee, as well as the Miss SNPJ Pageant Committee. Congratulations to Miss SNPJ 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel (158) on being crowned queen, and to all of the young ladies who won awards and participated in the pageant. It's always a fun and fraternal weekend with these young contestants.

My husband and I continue to spend many summer weekends at our trailer at the SNPJ Recreation Center, participating in the events and enjoying many friendships made at camp.

The National SNPJ Days celebration in September brought a good many of our members to the Recreation Center to participate in the golf, balina and bean bag tournaments. I ran the women's bracket of the National Balina Tournament, then assisted with the men's balina tournament the following day. These tournaments would not be a success without the help of a number of members who volunteer their time to assist with balina and bean bags, and we certainly thank them for their help.

A bit later in the month, we were happy to be able to attend the SNPJ Recreation Center Wine & Sausage Festival in September, which has really been attracting large crowds over the last several years. Our office manager, Sis. Ruth Wright, continues to coordinate the vendors who display in the crafters area, and this portion of the festival has also grown to be quite successful.

In October, SNPJ Lodge 106 hosted the Fall Classic Bowling Tournament, and I was able to visit with our members at the bowling alleys.

I also continue to serve as president of SNPJ Bratsvo Lodge 6 in Sygan, Pa., and as member of the board of directors of the Sygan American Slovene Club, which runs the business portion of the club.

Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh

I continue to serve as secretary of this organization and organize and attend the five luncheons held, as well as the annual Christmas party.

The luncheons provide information from various speakers on topics relative to fraternal life insurance and annuity companies. The organization also continues to support a number of charitable organizations in the form of donations, and a large fund-raiser is held each year for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance

The annual meeting was held in Meadowlands, Pa., in October 2018, and this year I served as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. President Evanish was the president of this organization and planned the speakers for the event. There were a number of interesting and informational topics such as "Highlights of the Tax Cuts and Job Act," "Key Investment Risk Mitigation Strategies for Insurers," and "Compliance with the Suitability Rules," as well as a presentation by Deputy Insurance Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department Joseph DiMemmo.

American Fraternal Alliance

The Alliance held the last annual meeting in September of this year, and our Executive Committee was in attendance. The keynote speakers for the event were excellent, and there were a variety of topics presented that provided great information for our Society.

The Alliance is moving in a different direction for providing workshops and seminars, and we will still have the opportunity to attend these educational events.

Conclusion

Well, Convention years are always very busy and hectic, but I thought that we had a very productive and successful 31st Convention. A huge thank you to the Home Office staff who assisted with the preparations, and an additional thanks to our staff who were on site at the Convention to help. Sis. Kathy Brown did a great job in preparation for the Convention and assisting at the Convention, as well as all the work she has done to assist our committee over the years. We thank her for the years that she devoted to SNPJ, and we will certainly miss her but wish her all the best in her retirement.

We welcome Sis. Peggy Cushman to her position as executive assistant to our Executive Committee and look forward to working with her in the years to come.

Much thanks to President Evanish and Bro. Lawrence who are true professionals and dedicated fraternalists; their dedication and commitment to their positions set a great example. Congratulations to President Evanish, who ran a very efficient and effective Convention while serving as the Convention chairman.

Sadly, we lost two true fraternalists and former National Board

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

members since the Convention. Bro. Frank Bregar, who served as Region 1 Vice President and retired at the Convention, passed away after an illness. I am glad that we were able to honor Bro. Bregar in a small way at that Convention, as his devotion and dedication to the SNPJ was very clear. He was certainly one of the kindest men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Our other loss was Bro. Lou Novak, who served on the Audit Committee. Bro. Novak passed away suddenly and will be missed by many. He, too, was a devoted SNPJ member who worked tirelessly for a number of SNPJ/Slovenian organizations and always had a smile, a kind word and a wonderful sense of humor. They both will be missed.

I look forward to working with the newly-elected National Board to reach decisions and exchange ideas for the betterment of our Society. Fraternaly,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

National Secretary's Report

Sis. Karen PINTAR highlights some items in her report regarding the IT Department and upgrade of the computer system, and the upcoming April 1, 2019, merger which will make Lodge 584 in Milwaukee the third largest Lodge in the SNPJ in terms of membership.

Motion by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. HERVOL, to approve the report. Motion approved.

National Treasurer's Report
March 2019

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters.

The Society experienced a \$461,328 profit from operations before refunds and capital gains and losses in 2018. While assets remained flat from 2017, with a slight decrease of 0.01 percent, surplus increased six percent. With an increase in market yields during the second half of 2018, the Society experienced a decrease in annuity premium, which was the main reason for assets remaining flat from 2017. Assets decreased \$31,079, or 0.01 percent, from \$212,106,028 at year-end 2017 to \$212,074,949 at year-end 2018. There were no significant changes to the Society's asset allocations during the year. Fixed income securities and cash totaling \$205,220,694 represent 97.9 percent of the Society's total invested assets. Real estate holdings of the Home Office and the SNPJ Recreation Center total \$2,224,049, representing 1.1 percent of invested assets. The remaining 1.1 percent of invested assets is comprised of certificate loans, mortgages and other invested assets.

Net income for the year, after refunds and after realized capital gains and losses, was a gain of \$200,852. Surplus increased \$403,990 from year-end 2017, totaling \$7,453,601 as of Dec. 31, 2018. Gross income for the year totaled \$16,202,932, a decrease of \$2,871,897, or 15 percent, from 2017. The decrease in gross income was due to a decrease in annuity considerations. Premiums on life policies decreased \$108,521, or 6.4 percent. The decrease was due to a \$115,348 decrease in Single Premium Life sales from the prior year. Annuity considerations decreased 29 percent, or \$2,178,462, from \$7,309,199 in 2017 to \$5,130,736 in 2018. As short-term yields increased, investors had more options to invest in safe vehicles while realizing a modest return. This had an impact on the amount of new annuity considerations received during 2018.

Gross investment income decreased \$587,364, or 5.7 percent, from the prior year, and net investment income decreased 6.1 percent from 2017 to 2018. The decrease was due to absence of the income realized in 2017 from a gas lease agreement at the Society's Recreation Center in the amount of \$410,609. The asset portfolio continued to experience a high volume of principal paydowns from structured securities and bond maturities in 2018 which were reinvested at lower yields than the original investment. The reinvestment at lower yields reduces the excess interest earned over the amounts promised to our members in the forms of life insurance cash values and annuity interest crediting rates. A reduction in excess interest also reduces the amount of cash available to cover general and fraternal expenses, taxes and fees, and refunds. Several measures of action that have been taken over the past four years continued to show a decrease in general and fraternal expenses. For the year 2018, general and fraternal expenses decreased \$47,052, or 2.2 percent, from 2017.

Insurance and annuity benefit claims increased 3.4 percent from 2017 to 2018. Mortality expense increased 13 percent in 2018 from 2017. Death benefit payments on life insurance increased \$129,883, or 7.5 percent, from 2017 to \$1,873,170, while cash surrenders on life policies increased 14 percent from 2017. Total annuity payments of cash surrenders and death payments remained flat from the previous year, with the total amount paid of \$10,776,927 in 2018.

Following are financial statements and investment transactions for the period.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. LAWRENCE
National Treasurer/CFO

The following investments were purchased from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018:

BONDS AND OTHER INVESTMENTS:

Name & Description	Coupon Rate	Cost	Par Value	Purchase Date	Due Date
Bank of America Corp	3.248%	\$374,620	\$400,000	08/13/2018	10/21/2027
Chubb Corp	6.000	364,968	300,000	09/18/2018	05/11/2037
Conagra Brands Inc	5.300	258,916	260,000	10/15/2018	11/01/2038
Conagra Brands Inc	5.300	263,421	265,000	10/16/2018	11/01/2038
DowDuPont Inc	5.319	625,000	625,000	11/14/2018	11/15/2038
Duke Realty Corp	4.000	643,019	650,000	09/04/2018	09/15/2028
Fifth Third Bank Ohio	3.950	425,000	425,000	07/23/2018	07/28/2025
Nordea Bank AB	3.750	424,426	425,000	08/22/2018	08/30/2023
Ochsner Clinic Foundation	5.897	470,116	400,000	10/11/2018	05/15/2045
ONE Gas Inc	4.500	618,200	625,000	11/01/2018	11/01/2048
Southern CA Edison	6.000	25,736	22,000	07/19/2018	01/15/2034
Southern CA Edison	3.900	90,691	99,000	07/19/2018	12/01/2041
Southern CA Edison	3.900	9,162	10,000	07/19/2018	12/01/2041
Southern CA Edison	3.700	54,882	55,000	07/30/2018	08/01/2025
Toyota Motor Corp	3.419	650,000	650,000	07/10/2018	07/20/2023
Boston University	4.061	625,000	625,000	08/15/2018	10/01/2048
University of Chicago	4.003	700,000	700,000	09/06/2018	10/01/2053
Mortgages Granted		0	0	2018	
Total New Purchases 7-1-18 through 12-31-18		\$6,623,157	\$6,536,000		

The following investments were disposed of from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018:

BONDS AND OTHER INVESTMENTS:

Name & Description	Coupon Rate	Consideration	Par Value	Book Value	Date Paid
American Honda Finance	7.625%	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	10/01/2018
Associates Corp No. America	6.950	710,000	710,000	710,000	11/01/2018
Canadian National Railway	5.550	202,781	200,000	199,855	08/30/2018
Caterpillar Fin Serv Crp	7.050	500,000	500,000	500,000	10/01/2018
Compushare	6.340	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	07/29/2018
Continental Resource	5.000	116,917	115,000	116,321	08/16/2018
CVS Drug	8.353	6,910	6,910	13,460	12/10/2018
Heineken	6.340	700,000	700,000	700,000	08/14/2018
Nabors Industries Inc	9.250	258,529	250,000	250,000	07/06/2018

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Name & Description	Coupon Rate	Consideration	Par Value	Book Value	Date Paid
National City Bank	4.250	500,000	500,000	500,000	07/01/2018
Nat'l Retail Properties	5.500	493,272	465,000	462,811	10/19/2018
Old Dominion Elec	5.676	11,459	11,459	11,459	12/01/2018
San Bernardino CA	6.020	30,000	30,000	30,000	08/01/2018
Southaven Combined TVA	3.846	27,956	27,956	55,384	08/15/2018
Wagner College NY	6.916	100,000	100,000	104,383	07/02/2018
Waterbury CT GO Pension	7.089	25,000	25,000	25,000	12/01/2018
Mortgage/Asset Backed Principal Paydowns	Various	210,128	258,535	210,104	2018
Gov't Agency Principal Paydowns	Various	1,516,015	1,477,032	1,515,683	2018
Mortgage Payments	Various	19,711	19,711	19,711	2018
Total Disposed of 7-1-18 through 12-31-18		\$6,928,678	\$6,896,603	\$6,924,172	

SEE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES
ON PAGE 7**National Treasurer's Report**

Bro. Bob LAWRENCE highlights some items in his report, stating that surplus is up \$404,000, assets were flat from 2017 to 2018, annuity considerations were down in 2018, and net income was \$200,852.

Motion by Bro. ANDERSON, second by Sis. ANDERSON, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Finance Committee Report
July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018

Fraternal greetings and welcome to the semiannual National Board meeting, Brothers and Sisters of the Slovene National Benefit Society.

The Finance Committee continues to follow the Rules of Procedure approved by this Board to promote an efficient investment and monitoring of our Society's funds. Our bond maturity distribution at Dec. 31, 2018, compared to Dec. 31, 2017, was as follows, along with a listing of the SNPJ portfolio by investment category:

	Dec. 31, 2018		Dec. 31, 2017	
Less than 1 Year	\$12,623,460	6.2%	\$12,366,139	6.0%
1 to 10 years	87,881,285	43.0%	86,763,369	42.3%
10 to 20 years	53,568,133	26.2%	57,193,129	27.9%
Over 20 years	50,406,590	24.6%	48,746,877	23.8%
Total Bonds	\$204,479,468	100.0%	\$205,069,514	100.0%

	Market	Statement	Percent of Total	Yield
Corporate Bonds	\$126,059,996	\$127,352,971	60.70%	4.79%
Taxable Municipal	42,138,262	39,804,321	18.97%	4.77%
Agency CMBS	14,744,808	14,789,390	7.05%	3.64%
Commercial MBS	12,813,828	12,680,921	6.04%	3.78%
Agency CMOs	4,688,079	4,470,331	2.13%	4.57%
Non-Agency CMOs	1,428,681	1,436,196	0.68%	5.73%
Agency Passthroughs	1,142,910	1,113,244	0.53%	3.80%
U.S. Agency	979,179	955,565	0.46%	5.96%
Asset Backed Securities	1,941,530	1,936,528	0.92%	3.95%
Total Bonds	205,937,273	204,479,468	97.51%	4.64%
Common Stock	17,462	17,462	0.01%	2.40%
Other Assets	1,253,511	1,219,523	0.58%	5.77%
Mortgages	267,506	267,506	0.13%	2.70%
Real Estate	2,224,049	2,224,049	1.06%	4.05%
Cash & Certificate Loans	1,497,441	1,497,441	0.71%	3.27%
Total Invested Assets	\$211,197,243	\$209,705,450	100.00%	4.62%

*Any difference in totals is due to rounding.

Portfolio Risk Analysis

Date	Duration	Avg. Rating	Book Yield	Market Yield
Dec. 2013	6.22	A+	5.11	3.72
Dec. 2014	6.57	A+	4.95	3.15
Dec. 2015	7.64	A+	4.86	3.75
Dec. 2016	8.33	A	4.82	3.75
Dec. 2017	8.48	A	4.75	3.51
Dec. 2018	8.11	A	4.64	4.18

Wellington Management Company, LLP, continues to monitor the portfolio and manage the assets within the guidelines set forth by the Finance Committee and approved by the National Board. The committee continues to work with the asset manager to determine appropriate risk measures for the portfolio with the goal of optimizing the portfolio yield while maintaining a high-quality portfolio and matching the Society's liability cash flow needs. The ongoing low interest rate environment continues to make it very challenging when trying to cover current contract guarantees without taking on excessive amounts of risk.

During the second half of the year, both short-term and long-term yields increased as spreads over Treasuries widened out across all sectors. The benchmark 10-year Treasury rates decreased from 2.87 percent at the end of June to 2.69 percent at year-end 2018. The book yield on the portfolio is 4.64 percent as of Dec. 31.

As a result of an increase in market yields, the value of the portfolio decreased \$3.2 million during the second half of 2018. The effective duration of the portfolio as of year-end is 8.11 years.

Investment yields on purchases made in the second half of 2018 averaged 4.31 percent. Purchases comprised of corporate bonds. These investments had an 18-year average life with an average S&P credit quality of "A."

Attached is a record of transactions for the period of July 1 to Dec. 31, 2018.

SNPJ FINANCE COMMITTEE

ROGER C. CLIFFORD, Chairman
JOSEPH C. EVANISH, Committee Member
KEN ANDERSON, Committee Member
RICHARD HERVOL, Committee Member
ROBERT J. LAWRENCE, Committee Member

The following is a record of the transactions for the second half of 2018:

PURCHASES:

Cost	Description	Yield	Coupon Rate	Due Date
\$374,620	Bank of America Corp	4.080%	3.248%	10/21/2027
625,000	Boston University	4.060	4.061	10/01/2048
364,968	Chubb Corp	4.300	6.000	05/11/2037
258,916	Conagra Brands Inc	5.330	5.300	11/01/2038
263,421	Conagra Brands Inc	5.350	5.300	11/01/2038
625,000	DowDuPont Inc	5.320	5.319	11/15/2038
643,019	Duke Realty Corp	4.130	4.000	09/15/2028
425,000	Fifth Third Bank Ohio	3.950	3.950	07/28/2025
424,426	Nordea Bank AB	3.780	3.750	08/30/2023
470,116	Ochsner Clinic Foundation	4.720	5.897	05/15/2045
618,200	ONE Gas Inc	4.570	4.500	11/01/2048
25,736	Southern CA Edison	4.470	6.000	01/15/2034
99,853	Southern CA Edison	4.480	3.900	12/01/2041
54,882	Southern CA Edison	3.740	3.700	08/01/2025
650,000	Toyota Motor Corp	3.420	3.419	07/20/2023
700,000	University of Chicago	4.000	4.003	10/01/2053
6,623,157	Total Securities Purchased			
0	New Mortgages Granted			
\$6,623,157	Total Purchases			

REDEMPTIONS:

Consideration	Description	Gain/(Loss)	Coupon Rate	Date Paid
\$500,000	American Honda Finance	\$-	7.625%	10/01/2018
710,000	Associates Corp No. America	-	6.950	11/01/2018
6,910	CVS Drug	-	8.353	12/10/2018
202,781	Canadian National Railway	2,926	5.550	08/30/2018
500,000	Caterpillar Fin Serv Crp	-	7.050	10/01/2018
1,000,000	Compushare	-	6.340	07/29/2018
116,917	Continental Resource	596	5.000	08/16/2018
700,000	Heineken	-	6.340	08/14/2018
258,529	Nabors Industries Inc	8,530	9.250	07/06/2018
500,000	National City Bank	-	4.250	07/01/2018
493,272	Nat'l Retail Properties	30,461	5.500	10/19/2018
11,459	Old Dominion Elec	-	5.676	12/01/2018
30,000	San Bernardino CA	-	6.020	08/01/2018
27,956	Southaven Combined TVA	-	3.846	08/15/2018
100,000	Wagner College NY	(4,383)	6.916	07/02/2018
25,000	Waterbury CT GO Pension	-	7.089	12/01/2018
210,128	CMO/Asset Backed Principal Receipts	262	Various	2018
1,516,015	Gov't Agency Principal Receipts	-	Various	2018
6,908,967	Total Securities Redeemed			
19,711	Principal Payments on Mortgages			
\$6,928,678	Total Redemptions	\$38,391		

Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Chairman Bro. CLIFFORD presents the report. He states that Wellington Management Company, the Society asset managers, gave their report this morning following the Board education session.

Amotion is made by Bro. MLAKAR, second by Bro. Ken ZAKRAYSEK, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Bro. CLIFFORD presents the Rules of Procedure and the Statement of Investment Policy to the Board. A motion is made by Sis. ANDERSON, second by Bro. CURL, to approve both. Motion approved.

President EVANISH introduces Society actuary Bro. Joseph STEIMLA, who reviewed the annuity and life premium numbers; investment income; stated that life reserves are based on formulas provided by the states and represent the present value of death benefit minus the present value of premiums we collect; talks about the expansion of the NAIC is requiring in the broadening of the bond categories that will affect RBC, as well as how RBC will be affected by the number of issuers in the portfolio, and that the more you have, the better the effect on the RBC. He speaks a bit on reinsurance and our retention level.

SNPJ Audit Committee Report
July-December 2018

Fraternal greetings, SNPJ

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Fraternal Department

The TEL Conference will not take place this year due to lack of participation. The project for the Young Adult Conference this year will be collecting items for the Ronald McDonald Houses. Youth Roundup is scheduled as usual for 2019, as are Family Week and Senior Week. Regional fraternal activities are in the planning stages.

In an effort to increase cabin rentals on off-weekends and invite participation and activity, an additional bean bag and balina tournament is being scheduled for this summer. Bro. Richards is communicating with various Lodges about scheduling their own events.

Information Technology

Research to upgrade the current insurance administration software is ongoing.

2018 Quadrennial Convention

The 2018 Quadrennial Convention was a success. The Audit Committee extends their gratitude to the Executive Committee, SNPJ Home Office staff and the many volunteers who contributed to that success. The 2022 Convention location is yet to be determined.

Conclusion

The Audit Committee extends its heartfelt thanks to the executives and Home Office staff for their assistance during our meetings. Their cooperation is instrumental in providing needed information and documentation, and is much appreciated.

Fraternally,

SNPJ AUDIT COMMITTEE
STAN J. REPOS, Chairman
VINCENT R. BASELJ
JOANNA L. BAKER

Audit Committee Report

Bro. REPOS presents the report of the Audit Committee. He states that this is a new Audit Committee, and he was elected chairman. He welcomes new Audit Committee member Sis. Joanna BAKER to the committee and welcomes Bro. Vincent (Babe) BASELJ back to the committee. He states that the RBC is 3.71; the committee was pleased with the year-end results at the Recreation Center.

Motion by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. CURL, to approve the report and endorse the engagement of H2R for the next four years.

Questions and discussion by Sis. RIGLER and Bro. SRNICK. Motion approved.

Scholarship Committee Report
March 2019

The following report covers the period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018. Payment for the second installment of the 2017-2018 academic year included 52 awards. This group encompassed 41 academic, three regular, and eight Joseph C. Umeck Jr. Activity scholarships.

Listed below are the names of the students who received awards during the last six months of 2018:

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
Darcy Bible	6	Jason Rigler	449
Clayton Norsworthy	6	Robert Rigler	449
Jordan Palmer	6	Alaina Norrito	518
Katie Jo Raspotnik	41	Anna Wysopal	559
Anthony Raimondo	53	Monica Passinaut	564
Adam Raggi	89	Olivia Bucciarelli	564
Carly Evnish	106	Lauren Sebusch	576
Benjamin Patosky	106	Bailey Phalen	584
Grace Hausenfleck	120	Carly Grant	584
Ian Hausenfleck	120	John Bolka	584
Alexis Keyes	138	Richard Marsh	584
Allison Jo Vogrig	138	Emily Velichka	604
Elizabeth Hartman	138	Garrett Yuko	604
Ian Brumbaugh	138	Nicole Delano	629
Jonathan Cadez	138	Theodore Klasnick	629
Jordan Mangione	138	Kurt Seifert II	643
Nicole Vehar	138	Michael Massucci	643
Robert Rockwell	138	Alyssa Urban	715
Elizabeth Smrdel	158	Brianna McCue	715
Izabella Lidrbauch	158	Kendall Couch	715
Deidra Yan	158	Trevor Urban	715
Eric Heatwole	174	Sarah Lutz	721
Amy Massack	216	Zachary Stedeford	721
Blake Schmidt	225	Madison Sinan	782
Hannah Morris	274	Jacob Fajnor	786
Teresa Yuhas	274	Ellen Koci	786

Scholarship Fund Donation & Award History

Years	Donations	Awards
1960-1979	\$75,448.09	\$146,797.81
1980-1999	\$595,765.01	\$1,185,150.00
2000-Present	\$1,234,949.23	\$897,810.00
Totals	\$1,906,162.33	\$2,229,757.81

Scholarship Fund Financial Report

Beginning Balance (as of July 1, 2018)	\$648,333.55
Donations	\$2,400.00
Investment & Other Income	\$8,431.79
Total Income	\$10,831.79
Awards	\$29,150.00
Investment & Other Expense	\$9,934.51
Total Expenses	\$39,084.51
Ending Balance (as of Dec. 31, 2018)	\$620,080.83

We continue to receive donations from our members as honors and memorials to their loved ones. We are most appreciative of all contributions, and extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this most worthy cause which benefits so many of our young adults.

SNPJ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
JOSEPH C. EVANISH, Chairman
KAREN A. PINTAR
ROBERT J. LAWRENCE

Scholarship Committee Report

President EVANISH presents the report. Motion by Bro. ANDERSON, second by Bro. HERVOL, to approve the report. Motion approved.

SNPJ Heritage Center Committee Report
March 2019

The SNPJ Heritage Center continues to host events during the course of the year to encourage SNPJ adult and youth membership to keep aware of the cultural heritage of our Society. We have a very fine committee of dedicated volunteers who seek to spread the word about our museum, library and many items on display that

provide a good look at the history and culture of Slovenia and SNPJ.

With the National Bowling Tournament held at the SNPJ Recreation Center in early May, we opened with a wine and cheese event paired with a gift shop clearance sale. We had a number of members join us and make purchases.

The second weekend of May, committee members Patty Candela, Tracey Belle, Ed Robich and Kathy Paulenich, along with Heritage Center volunteer/SNPJ member Frank Candela, attended the Slovenian Embassy Open House. Our traveling Heritage Center display was set up for over 3,000 visitors attending from all over the world. The group did a great job representing the SNPJ and the Heritage Center. Many contacts were made and we added a number of "likes" to our Facebook page, along with great exposure for the SNPJ. Patty performed, playing the button box in traditional Slovenian attire. We plan to attend again this year.

Committee members Kathy Paulenich, Joan Gaspersic, Megan Sinan, Maury Sinan and Kathleen Sinan served *pivo* for the annual Brew & Bean Festival over Memorial Day weekend. Once again, the event was a great success with all enjoying a beautiful day and some great brew and beans.

We kicked off the summer over the weekend of June 7-8, 2018, with our seventh annual Heritage Center Picnic and Dance held at the Heritage Pavilion. Committee members did a great job planning and implementing. The Frank Stanger Band did a wonderful job performing. There were crafts for the kids, and children in attendance received admission to the pool and mini-golf, paid for by the Heritage Center. Sarah and Kathy Loudon did a great job organizing the crafts, while youth members Madison Sinan and Mary Sinan helped with the children. Other additions to Heritage Weekend were the balina and bean bag tournaments; special thanks to Fraternal Director Kevin Richards for organizing. The Heritage Center provided refreshments for the participants.

Committee members Kathy Paulenich, Ed Robich and Tracey Belle attended the Simply Slovak Day in Youngstown, Ohio, with our traveling Heritage Center display and products for sale from the gift shop. This was the eighth year we have attended this event. A special call-out to Kathy Paulenich for her organization and follow-through on this great event.

We had a successful Slovenefest. Committee member Sarah Loudon designed another great T-shirt commemorating the annual event. We used our digital resource area to show DVDs and search for information on genealogy sites. The comfortable Resource Center was always filled with members and guests enjoying the many DVDs playing about Slovenia and reading our selection of books on the SNPJ and Slovenia. New items were added for sale, and we presented each of the Miss SNPJ Pageant contestants with a certificate for the gift shop. We brought back the Heritage Speaker Series. A special call-out to Seph Kumer and Tracey Belle for their organization of the event; it was well received.

The Heritage Center and the Roger J. Evnish Gift Shop and Resource Center were open during Family Week and Senior Week for our guests to explore and purchase souvenirs. For the seventh year, we hosted wine and cheese events with Slovenian wine and videos. We look forward to doing this again during Family Week and Senior Week in 2019.

Committee members Kathy Paulenich, Joan Gaspersic, Sue Mals, Tracey Belle and Ed Robich attended the Slovenian American Day Picnic. The traveling Heritage Center display was set up for all to view, and our attentive committee members were available to answer any questions.

We opened for Youth Roundup and TEL weekend. Participants had the opportunity to visit the museum and purchase items from the gift shop. We were happy to see the participation of young members in this great activity again.

On the Saturday of National SNPJ Days, the Heritage Center sponsored the KTB Band in the Gostilna. We once again sponsored the bands for the Sunday picnic; the Frank Stanger Band and the Joe Grkman Orchestra entertained all. We look forward to continuing our support of National SNPJ Days.

This year, the Heritage Center's Traveling Museum was asked to attend the Johnstown Slavic Festival. Committee members Kathy Paulenich and Ed Robich did a wonderful job representing the SNPJ Heritage Center.

We participated in the Wine & Sausage Festival at the Recreation Center. Committee members Kathy Paulenich, Tracey Belle and Maury Sinan enjoyed giving out samples of wine made from the grapes harvested on site. The wine was so well received that it took third place overall. This has been a great addition to events held at the Recreation Center, and we look forward to participating again.

This year, the Heritage Center sponsored a Slovenian dinner prepared by Gostilna chefs from Slovenia. It was a great success, and everyone enjoyed the dinner and wine. A call-out to committee member Tracey Belle for doing a great job organizing.

We closed the year by co-hosting the SNPJ Recreation Center/Heritage Center children's Christmas party. We again donated \$1,200 and the four crafts. Special thanks to committee members Ed Robich, Patty Candela and Maury Sinan for volunteering to help with the 130 plus children. A call-out to the Recreation Center staff for all their hard work preparing and organizing this very successful event, especially Sue Zarella and Sue Krispinsky. A call-out as well to Megan Sinan who came up with three great keepsake crafts, and to Santa Sinan who had a wonderful time meeting the children and giving them gifts.

We continue to generate sales via mail order throughout the year, in store during the summer months, and with our traveling display.

Special thanks to Kathy Paulenich for all the articles she has written for PROSVETA over the past year. She has done a great job keeping everyone informed about Heritage Center activities.

Facebook continues to be an important way of communicating to Slovenians and SNPJ members. With over 2,200 likes/followers, we have improved to a 4.9 rating vs. 4.7 in 2017. Social media will continue as an important way to promote the Heritage Center and other SNPJ events to friends locally and around the world.

The Heritage Center Committee should be commended for their work and effort in the success of the SNPJ Heritage Center. The Heritage Center Committee tries to develop events that encourage participation by both our youth and adult membership. We are working on a schedule of events for the summer season with Slovenian entertainment, along with outreach to other Slovenian heritage organizations. Respectfully submitted,

SNPJ HERITAGE CENTER COMMITTEE
MAURICE SINAN, Chairman
JOAN GASPERSIC, Secretary
KATHY PAULENICH, Treasurer
KATHY LOUDON
SARAH LOUDON
PATTY CANDELA
SEPH KUMER
TRACEY BELLE
MEGAN SINAN
SUSAN MALS
ED ROBICH

Heritage Center Committee Report

President EVANISH presents the report. Motion by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Sis. RIGLER, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 1 Vice President's Report: Bro. Frank Bregar

There is no report as Bro. Bregar passed away.

Region 2 Vice President's Report
July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the SNPJ National Board. During the last six-month period, in addition to serving as Region 2 Vice President, I am also the secretary/treasurer of SNPJ Lodge 6 in Sygan, Pa. I have been serving as a member of the SNPJ Recreation Center Committee for the past 15 years and had planned on retiring from this position. At the National Board meeting in August 2018, I was asked and appointed to an honorary member position on the Recreation Center Committee. I also continue to sell life insurance and annuities for the Society as a fraternal producer.

It is encouraging that the Lodges in Region 2, many of which have their own Lodge halls, were active and involved in many activities during this six-month period. Lodges in Region 2 host picnics and fraternal events, including the famous Duck Race sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 138 each July that attracts large crowds for a day of music, food, and duck racing. Lodges 6 and 138 have bowling centers that have nightly leagues. Lodge 138 also has balina leagues and frequent weekend entertainment, while Lodge 6 hosts dart leagues and bar bingo.

Lodge 106 has car cruises and also hosts frequent weekend entertainment, as well as bar bingo. Lodges 89 and 245 continue to host events in their halls, many Lodges in Region 2 held Christmas parties and/or dinners for their members, and many hosted youth Christmas parties. During this period, one of the halls in Region 2, owned by SNPJ Lodge 265, was sold and the money turned over to the Society.

In July, I was again on the Slovenefest Committee and participated in the program at the Miss SNPJ Pageant.

Of course, August 2018 brought the Quadrennial Convention to the SNPJ Recreation Center. I was once again elected to a four-year term on the National Board, and I thank all for the support I have received over the years in this position. There were 35 delegates representing Region 2 at this Convention.

In October, the Fall Classic Bowling Tournament was hosted by SNPJ Lodge 106 at Paradise Lanes with social activities held at the Lodge 106 Hall. There was a good turnout of bowlers representing Region 2.

In keeping with tradition, SNPJ Lodge 6 and the Sygan Sportmen's Club co-hosted the annual Turkey Dance in the Sunshine Room of Lodge 6. This event always draws a few hundred people for a night of fraternalism, good music and the opportunity to win a turkey.

At the end of the 2018 year, Region 2 had 120 new members, 87 adult and 33 youth members. Our total membership in Region 2 is 8,981, with 8,242 adult members and 739 youth members. There were five Lodges in Region 2 that earned a bonus of \$300 for Gold Level in Activity for 2018: Lodge 6, Sygan; Lodge 106, Imperial; Lodge 138, Strabane; Lodge 721, Aliquippa; and Lodge 776, Borough of SNPJ. One Region 2 Lodge earned \$200 for reaching the Silver Level of Activity, Lodge 31 in Sharon. Congratulations to all Lodges on their awards.

This concludes my report for this six-month period. I look forward to working with this National Board over the next four years to strengthen our Society.

Fraternally,

JAMES L. CURL
Region 2 Vice President

Region 2 Vice President's Report: Bro. James Curl

Motion by Bro. HERVOL, second by Sis. ANDERSON, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 3 Vice President's Report
for the period of July 1 to Dec. 31, 2018

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the SNPJ National Board. As of Dec. 31, 2018, Region 3 had 5,705 adult members and 537 youth, for a total of 6,242 members. This was a slight decrease in our numbers from my report on June 30, 2018. I currently belong to SNPJ Lodge 576 Spartans and hold the office of auditor. I am a representative to the Cleveland Federation and Cleveland Athletic League, where I have been the treasurer since 2010. On the national level, I currently hold the office of secretary for the Ohio Fraternal Alliance. I have an active Ohio insurance license, and I am an exclusive agent for SNPJ.

July is Slovenefest time, which means a new Miss SNPJ will be crowned. I am happy to report that Region 3 member Elizabeth Srmdel (158) was crowned Miss SNPJ 2019. She also won co-Miss Activity with Kristina Hartman (138). Another Region 3 gal, Erin Gee (257), was crowned Miss Talent. Also participating in the pageant from Region 3 where sisters Aleyna and Bridget Gee, both from Lodge 257. The weekend was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves.

On the local level, the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, was hopping every Sunday with the Cleveland Federation and Lodge 355 Fairport picnics in July. The picnics continued into August with Spartans Lodge 576 and the Cleveland Athletic League. My Region 3 event this year was the ever-popular Slovenian Heritage Night at the Lake County Captains game on Monday, Aug. 20. This year I gave every SNPJ member a \$2 ticket discount. We ended up with over 175 happy Slovenians that night. It was also dollar dog and beer night, which is a fan favorite.

On Aug. 12-13, 2018, SNPJ held its Convention at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Prior to this event, the National Board held its semiannual meeting. The Convention began with a Sunday night pool party. The decorations were beautiful, thanks to David Jones. The Monday meeting was completed in one day. Unfortunately, I did not retain my position as your Region 3 Vice President, and I wish the best of luck to Don Srnick who will be replacing me.

September began with National SNPJ Days with many Region 3 participants involved in the balina, golf and bean bag tournaments. On Sept. 12, the SNPJ Farm held its annual Sausage Festival. Well over 1,100 people showed up to sample the delicious Slovenian sausages. The Farm also continued with their Sunday picnics which included the Friends of the Farm and the Grape Festival.

On Oct. 8, Spartans Lodge 576 members volunteered for the St. Mary's Hot Meals program by cooking and serving around 100 meals. Fr. Kumse and Deacon Dan appreciate our time and effort helping out. The annual Polka Brunch, which is sponsored by the Farm Board, rounded out the last picnic on Oct 21. Finally, on Oct.

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Slovene National Benefit Society

Balance Sheet as of Dec. 31, 2018

	12/31/2018	12/31/2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Assets:			
Bonds	\$204,479,468	\$203,658,056	\$821,411
Common Stocks	17,462	17,809	(347)
Mortgage Loans	267,506	307,367	(39,860)
Real Estate	2,224,049	2,333,551	(109,502)
Cash and Short Term Investments	741,226	1,384,764	(643,537)
Certificate Loans	756,215	768,479	(12,264)
Other Invested Assets	1,219,523	1,223,453	(3,930)
Investment Income Due & Accrued	2,343,706	2,362,995	(19,289)
Premiums Due	25,794	22,758	3,035
Amounts Recoverable From Reinsurer	0	26,796	(26,796)
Total Admitted Assets	\$212,074,949	\$212,106,028	(\$31,079)
Liabilities:			
Reserve for Life & Annuity	\$198,900,763	\$198,776,095	\$124,668
Reserve for Sick & Operation	167,049	186,661	(19,612)
Liability for Deposit-type Contracts	418,335	370,808	47,527
Life Claims	247,035	244,017	3,018
Accident & Health Claims	18,971	20,346	(1,375)
Refund Payable	76,464	73,489	2,974
Premiums Received in Advance	52,216	57,571	(5,355)
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	1,031,636	1,263,592	(231,956)
Expenses Due & Accrued	350,277	456,388	(106,111)
Unearned Investment Income	15,248	15,408	(160)
Total Remittances & Items Not Allocated	1,788,087	1,776,034	12,053
Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR)	1,177,701	1,289,741	(112,040)
Write-In for Liabilities	377,566	526,267	(148,701)
Total Liabilities	204,621,348	205,056,417	(435,069)
Surplus	7,453,601	7,049,611	403,990
Total Liabilities & Surplus	\$212,074,949	\$212,106,028	(\$31,079)
Cash Flow:			
Cash in transit and in banks 12-31-17			\$1,384,764
Premiums Collected Net of Reinsurance		6,729,872	
Net Investment Income		9,643,948	
Proceeds from Investments Sold, Matured or Repaid		14,064,863	
Miscellaneous Income & Other Cash Provided		261,603	30,700,286
Total Receipts and in Bank			32,085,050
Benefit Payments		13,147,143	
Commissions & Expenses Paid		2,711,540	
Cost of Investments Acquired		15,414,015	
Refunds Paid		71,125	
Net Other Cash Applied		0	31,343,823
Cash in transit and in banks 12-31-18			\$741,226

Slovene National Benefit Society

Summary of Operations for the period ending Dec. 31, 2018

Description	2018	2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Life Premium	\$1,586,127	\$1,694,648	(\$108,521)
Annuity Considerations	5,130,736	7,309,199	(2,178,462)
Accident & Health Premiums	21,610	22,591	(981)
Total Premium & Annuity Considerations	6,738,474	9,026,438	(2,287,964)
Gross Investment Income	9,777,330	10,364,695	(587,364)
Investment Expense	(588,485)	(582,615)	(5,870)
Net Investment Income	9,188,846	9,782,079	(593,234)
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	237,290	242,975	(5,685)
Miscellaneous Income	38,323	23,337	14,985
Total Income	16,202,932	19,074,829	(2,871,897)
Death Benefits	1,873,170	1,743,287	129,883
Matured Endowments	74,448	89,489	(15,042)
Annuity Benefits	10,776,927	10,503,513	273,414
Operation, Accident & Health Benefits	24,467	28,799	(4,332)
Surrender Benefits	416,415	366,125	50,290
Interest on Certificate Fund	10,156	10,337	(180)
Increase in Life Reserves	420,275	601,909	(181,634)
Increase in Annuity Reserves	(295,607)	1,714,906	(2,010,513)
Increase in Health Reserves	(19,612)	(22,724)	3,112
Commissions	185,121	236,564	(51,443)
General & Fraternal Expenses	2,132,615	2,179,668	(47,052)
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees	143,019	144,196	(1,177)
Increase in Loading on Uncollected Premium	210	(191)	402
Aggregate Write-ins for Deductions	0	300,000	(300,000)
Total Expenses	15,741,604	17,895,877	(2,154,272)
Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds	461,328	1,178,953	(717,625)
Refunds to Members	74,100	71,785	2,315
Net Gain Before Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	387,228	1,107,168	(719,940)
Net Realized Capital Gain (Loss)	(186,376)	(34,048)	(152,329)
Net Income	\$200,852	\$1,073,120	(\$872,269)
Surplus Account:	12/31/18	12/31/17	
Surplus, Dec. 31, previous year	\$7,049,611	\$6,188,490	
Net Income From Operations	200,852	1,073,120	
Change in Net Unrealized Gains (Loss)	(60,347)	3,363	
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	151,445	(182,357)	
Change in Asset Valuation Reserve	112,040	(33,006)	
Net Change in Surplus for the Year	403,990	861,121	
Surplus as of Statement Date	\$7,453,601	\$7,049,611	

Slovene National Benefit Society

Detailed Financial Report for the period ending Dec. 31, 2018

Description	2018	2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Life Premiums			
First Year Premium	\$87,001	\$102,968	(\$15,967)
Renewal Premium	1,603,968	1,573,952	30,017
Single Premium	61,391	176,739	(115,348)
Refunds Applied to Paid-Up Additions	69,149	59,021	10,127
Less: Reinsurance Premiums Paid	(235,382)	(218,032)	(17,350)
Net Life Premiums	1,586,127	1,694,648	(108,521)
A & H Premiums			
Sick Benefit Premium	9,436	10,091	(655)
Operation and Hospital & Recup Premium	12,174	12,500	(326)
Total A & H Premiums	21,610	22,591	(980)
Annuity Considerations			
Annuity - First Year	3,834,510	6,203,363	(2,368,854)
Annuity - Renewal	1,216,226	725,835	490,391
Deposit Administration Contract	80,000	380,000	(300,000)
Total Annuity Considerations	5,130,736	7,309,199	(2,178,462)
Total Premiums & Annuity Considerations	6,738,474	9,026,438	(2,287,964)
Gross Investment Income			
Interest on Bonds	9,629,599	9,814,068	(184,468)
Dividends on Stock	384	362	23
Interest on Mortgage Loans	7,277	8,772	(1,495)
Interest on Cash and Short Term Investments	17,379	8,173	9,207
Income on Real Estate	90,500	501,110	(410,610)
Interest on Certificate Loans	32,191	32,211	(21)
Total Gross Investment Income	9,777,330	10,364,695	(587,364)
Less Investment Expense			
Home Office: Deprec., Insur., Tax, Utility & Other	144,571	130,930	13,641
Rec Center Depreciation & Real Estate Expenses	81,309	88,717	(7,409)
Management, Custodial, Banking & Other Fees	231,216	231,892	(676)
Salaries, Benefits & Board Travel - Investment	131,390	131,076	314
Total Investment Expense	588,485	582,615	5,870
Net Investment Income	9,188,846	9,782,079	(593,234)
Amortization of IMR	237,290	242,975	(5,685)
Total Aggregate Write-In for Misc. Income	38,323	23,337	14,985
Total Income	16,202,932	19,074,829	(2,871,897)
Death Benefits			
Death Claims	2,001,941	1,771,583	230,358
Reinsurance Recovered	(128,771)	(28,296)	(100,475)
Total Death Benefits	1,873,170	1,743,287	129,883
Total Matured Endowments	74,448	89,489	(15,042)
Annuity and Pension Benefits			
Pensions Paid	177,160	173,497	3,663
Annuity Benefits	10,599,767	10,330,016	269,751
Total Annuity and Pension Benefits	10,776,927	10,503,513	273,414
Operation, Accident & Health			
Sick Benefit Claims	10,281	11,084	(803)
Operation Claims	14,019	17,548	(3,529)
Waiver of Assessment	167	167	0
Total Operation, Accident & Health	24,467	28,799	(4,332)
Total Surrender Benefits	416,415	366,125	50,290
Interest on Certificate or Contract Fund	10,156	10,337	(180)

DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Description	2018	2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Increase in Reserve for Life, A&H & Annuities			
Change in Reserves - Life	420,275	601,909	(181,634)
Change in Reserves - Annuities	(295,607)	1,714,906	(2,010,513)
Change in Reserves - Accident & Health	(19,612)	(22,724)	3,112
Total Increase (Decrease) in Reserves	105,056	2,294,091	(2,189,035)
Commissions			
Life Commissions	113,506	131,680	(18,174)
Annuity Commissions	68,361	92,802	(24,441)
Campaign Awards	3,255	12,083	(8,828)
Total Commissions	185,121	236,564	(51,443)
General Insurance & Fraternal Expenses			
Rent	90,000	90,000	0
Salaries & Wages	856,926	830,177	26,748
Director/National Board Fees	27,900	27,900	0
Employee Benefits	309,312	278,991	30,320
Employee Education Expenses	1,270	1,533	(263)
Legal Fees and Expenses	12,075	12,411	(335)
Medical Examinations/Underwriting	7,853	9,201	(1,348)
Actuarial and Auditing Fees	141,385	146,335	(4,950)
Travel Expenses	43,269	52,760	(9,491)
Advertising/Promotional Items	12,781	17,623	(4,841)
Postage and Telephone	58,232	69,975	(11,743)
Office Supplies, Printing & Stationery	25,266	15,595	9,672
Computer Supplies, Equipment & Depreciation	151,695	147,647	4,048
Machine Service, Repairs & Rentals	14,077	13,311	766
Books and Periodicals	1,739	3,260	(1,520)
Bureau and Association Dues	1,791	12,845	(11,054)
Insurance and Surety Bonds	27,862	32,754	(4,892)
Sundry General	10,717	11,624	(908)
Donations - Charitable	3,250	1,645	1,605
Sales Department	1,915	2,057	(142)
Publication: PROSVETA	167,257	161,997	5,260
Quadrennial Convention	(10,717)	28,000	(38,717)
Athletics	23,475	22,850	625
Miss SNPJ Pageant and Travel	16,804	17,399	(595)
Youth/Young Adult Programming	25,503	14,391	11,111
Lodge and Secretary Awards	53,009	54,735	(1,726)
Fraternal Expense - Other	57,970	102,652	(44,682)
Total General and Fraternal Expenses	2,132,615	2,179,668	(47,052)
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees			
State Insurance Department Licenses and Fees	58,411	61,160	(2,749)
Employment Taxes	84,608	83,036	1,572
Total Insurance Taxes, Licenses and Fees	143,019	144,196	(1,177)
Aggregate Write-Ins for Deductions	210	299,809	(299,598)
Total Expenses	15,741,604	17,895,877	(2,154,272)
Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds	461,328	1,178,953	(717,625)
Refunds to Members			
Refunds Paid in Cash	8,286	8,553	(266)
Refunds Left to Accumulate at Interest	2,236	2,530	(294)
Refunds Applied to Paid-Up Additions	63,578	60,702	2,875
Total Refund to Members	74,100	71,785	2,315
Net Gain Before Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	387,228	1,107,168	(719,940)
Net Realized Capital Gains or (Losses)			
Gain on Disposal of Investment	23,340	136,736	(113,396)
Loss on Disposal of Investment	(204,382)	(63,328)	(141,054)
Amortization of IMR (Transfer to IMR)	(5,334)	(107,456)	102,122
Total Net Realized Capital Gain or (Loss)	(186,376)	(34,048)	(152,329)
Net Income	\$200,852	\$1,073,120	(\$872,269)

NATIONAL BOARD REPORTS
CONTINUE NEXT PAGE

REGION 3 VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

19-20, the Ohio Fraternal Alliance held their yearly meeting and banquet. Bro. Louis Novak (576) retained his seat as president for another year. I was retained as their secretary

November and December are months used for holiday Lodge parties and elections of Lodge officers. We reflect on the past year's successes and start to plan for next year's events.

I have enjoyed representing the members of Region 3 and will continue to promote and support the SNPJ in my travels.

Fraternally submitted,

LINDA GORJUP
Region 3 Vice President

Region 3 Vice President's Report: Sis. Linda Gorjup
Motion by Bro. ANDERSON, second by Bro. BASELJ, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 4 Vice President's Report

Fraternal greetings! This report covers the period from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018.

I would like to start by thanking the 31st Quadrennial Convention delegates for re-electing me to the National Board. I'm looking forward to serving another term as Region 4 Vice President, representing the Lodges in Florida, Indiana and Michigan. The Convention, held Aug. 13 at the SNPJ Recreation Center, was well organized and was completed in one day. I enjoyed meeting first-time delegates Bill Krzysnik and Mike Tehovnik from Melvindale, Mich., Lodge 518 and talking with other Region 4 delegates.

In October, I attended the Michigan Fraternal Alliance (MFA) annual conference in Mount Pleasant, Mich., along with Finance Committee member Ken Anderson, who continues to serve on the MFA board. I particularly enjoyed "The Essentials of Connection" seminar that included a lesson on networking, and learning more about Women's Life and other Michigan fraternal organizations.

Joe Annotti, CEO/President of the American Fraternal Alliance (the Alliance) gave the main address. He informed us that the Alliance is organizing a new political action committee, outsourcing administrative activities and downsizing significantly. Annotti asked the MFA to consider changing its mission to focus more on advocacy. He would like to see the MFA meet with Michigan lawmakers at least once every other year to ensure that our legislators understand the value of fraternal organizations so that they won't vote to take away their tax-exempt status. Currently, the MFA's mission is to provide education, fraternal involvement and networking, and to do a community outreach project for a local charity at the site of each annual convention.

Region 4 gained 15 new members in 2018 and ended the year with six Lodges, two Youth Circles and 2,070 active members. Congratulations to Indianapolis Lodge 34 and to Melvindale Lodge 518 for receiving Gold Level Activity awards, and to Detroit Lodge 564 for receiving a Silver Level Activity award.

The region's members continue to participate in many national and local SNPJ activities. Some of our members attended the Teens Experience Leadership Workshop, Slovenefest, Family Week, Senior Week and National SNPJ Days, and some participated in the national golf, balina, bean bag toss, SNPJ Fall Classic and Family Twosome Bowling tournaments. Local events included Lodge picnics, fundraisers, dinners, golf leagues and bowling leagues.

Unique Lodge and Youth Circle events included:

- Lodge 34, Indianapolis:
 - Luncheon with the Slovene Women's Union and a viewing of "Polka! The Movie" presented by Joe Valencic from Lodge 5 in Cleveland

- Lodge 518, Melvindale, Mich.:
 - Frank Tehovnik Memorial Balina Outing
 - Assembled holiday bags for a charity/needy adults
 - Hosted a Christmas party with polkas for residents of Forest View Assisted Living

- Lodge 564, Detroit:
 - Hosted annual Grape Dance
- Lodge 677, Detroit:
 - Participated in CROP Hunger Walk

- Youth Circle 29, Detroit:
 - Bowling, followed by annual Christmas party
- Lodge 603 and Youth Circle 57, Samsula, Fla.:
 - 4th of July parade with food, games and fireworks
 - Circle 57 trip to Disney Springs in Orlando, Fla.
 - Halloween party and spook house
 - Christmas program
 - Youth Circle 57 members sold poppies for veterans

Fraternally,

TRACEY L. ANDERSON
Region 4 Vice President

Region 4 Vice President's Report: Sis. Tracey Anderson
Motion by Sis. RIGLER, second by Bro. ANDERSON, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 5 Vice President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Executive Committee and National Board, fraternal greetings! The following is my report for the period of July 1 through Dec. 31, 2018.

I have attended Chicago District Federation meetings and all scheduled Lodge meetings.

On July 13, 14 and 15, 2018, I attended the Miss SNPJ Pageant and the 37th annual Slovenefest with family and friends from Lodges 2 and 449. It was a beautiful weekend and the weather was great. Congratulations to Miss SNPJ Elizabeth Smrdel (158), co-Miss Activity Kristina Hartman (138) and Elizabeth Smrdel (158), Miss Talent Erin Gee (257) and Miss Fraternalism Katie Jo Raspotnik (41). During the program on Sunday I had the honor of announcing the winners of Miss Activity. This year it was a tie, and we have two very active young ladies in our Society.

On Aug. 12 I attended the National Board meeting. All officers and committee reports were given and approved. Young Adult Representative Meredith Maresh (449) was also present and reported for the young adults. She informed the National Board of the service project and activities the young adults participated in over the weekend, and what they discussed at their conference.

On Aug. 13 I attended the National Convention and was selected as one of the vice chairmen for the Convention. During the Convention, I was re-elected as Region 5 Vice President. I would like to thank everyone for re-electing me to this position. It was a pleasure meet-

ing all of you at the Convention, and I look forward to the next four years of moving forward in the Society and hopefully growing our membership and continuing with the great fraternal benefits that we offer to both the youth and adults of our Society. I was glad to see so many young adults in attendance at this Convention who were elected by their Lodges.

Many SNPJ members from several area Lodges attended the annual Slovenian Catholic Center picnic held in Lemont, Ill., on Aug. 12, and the annual Honey Picnic on Aug. 26 which I was able to attend. Many area SNPJ young adults from Lodges 449 and 559 got together at these picnics; they hope more will join them next year.

The Chicago District Federation held its ninth annual dinner dance on Aug. 19. This event promotes a gathering of members from the area Lodges. Members were in attendance from Lodges 1, 8, 449 and 559. We were delighted to have Cecilia Dolgan (576) join us and sing some familiar tunes, accompanied by Vince Rigler (449) on the button box accordion.

We were also glad to have Miss SNPJ Elizabeth Smrdel in attendance with her parents and boyfriend. In addition to attending the dinner dance, Elizabeth was given a tour of downtown Chicago which included a tour of the NBC studios by Chicago Federation President Edward Dabrowski (449) and sightseeing with Region 5 Vice President Tina Rigler (449), Vince Rigler (449), and young adult Robert Rigler (449). Elizabeth and her family were also able to enjoy some Chicago pizza during their stay.

The Region 5 activity was held Aug. 25, during which members from Region 5 attended the Lipizzaner performance at Tempel Farms in Oak Mill Creek, Ill. The program consisted of eight individual performances set to music. Each performance demonstrated different Lipizzan horses and different styles.

On Nov. 10, members from the Chicago area joined members from the Milwaukee area attending the Slovenian Union of America Branch #43 *Martinovanje* (Slovenian St. Martin holiday) event to celebrate and bless the "best wine" in Franklin, Wis. Slovenian music was provided by Zadnja Kaplja.

Many SNPJ members attended the Slovenian Catholic Center 22nd anniversary on Nov. 11. The program featured the children from the Slomšek Slovenian School.

On Dec. 1, the Chicago District Federation of SNPJ Lodges held its annual Christmas party at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. I was the emcee, and with the assistance of Meredith Maresh both youth and adults played several games for prizes, took photos with Santa, and were treated to lunch and a gift.

On Dec. 7, I attended – along with Edward Dabrowski, Vince Rigler and Meredith Maresh – the International Tree and holiday celebration hosted by Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas in Chicago.

Congratulations to Lodges 1, 2, 8, 449 and 559 who reached the Gold Level for Activity in the 2018 SNPJ Lodge Bonus Program. I enjoy seeing all the many pictures and articles in *PROSVETA* informing us of the many different types of activities that are being held by the Lodges.

In Region 5 we had a total of 15 new members for the 2018 year, which is far less than last year. Congratulations to Lodges 1, 225, 449, 584 and 686 for attaining new members. I hope that more Lodges will be able to increase their membership this year.

This concludes my report for the past six months. I am looking forward to 2019 in moving forward with new ideas to bring in more members and building on the existing programs with more participants.

Fraternally,

JUSTINA M. RIGLER
Region 5 Vice President

Region 5 Vice President's Report: Sis. Justina Rigler
Motion by Sis. ANDERSON, second by Bro. CURL, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 6 Vice President's Report
July through December 2018

Fraternal greetings from Region 6. This report summarizes our achievements and activities for the second half of 2018.

Lodges 207 (Butte, Mont.), 218 (Denver) and 745 (Grass Valley, Calif.), all won Gold Level bonuses for activity. Helper, Utah, Lodge 689 achieved Silver.

The annual Utah Slovenian Day Picnic was held again in August at Washington Park in Price. The picnic is organized and staffed by Lodges 113, 689 and 757 to raise cash contributions for local charities and for the SNPJ Scholarship Fund, and to celebrate the Slovenian heritage.

Also in August, Butte Lodge 207 enjoyed a summer family picnic and accordion jam session. In October, the Lodge held a polka party at the local Elks Lodge facility.

Fontana, Calif., Lodge 723 celebrated Labor Day with their All-Accordion Festival, continued with regular dances in their Slovene Hall and with their tradition of collecting donations for Toys for Tots in December.

Golden Valley Lodge 745 had a Halloween costume party including games, costumes, contests and a movie; and in December hosted its seventh annual Christmas ice skating and pizza party. The Lodge also made a generous donation to a California wildfire relief fund.

Orange County, Calif., Lodge 786 celebrated Make a Difference Day by donating cash to Vocational Visions, which provides services to the handicapped. Youth Circle 104 enjoyed a poolside picnic in July and Family Twosome bowling in November. The Lodge and Youth Circle wrapped-up the year with a potluck Christmas party with live music.

The California Federation of Lodges dissolved in 2018, but its popular Grape Harvest Festival was again held in November, as a joint effort of Lodges 723 and 786, for the benefit of the SNPJ Scholarship Fund.

Finally, I am very grateful for the support of the delegates to the 31st Quadrennial Convention who saw fit to re-elect me to the position of Region 6 Vice President. I look forward to serving another term.

Fraternally,

FREDRICK J. MLAKAR
Region 6 Vice President

Region 6 Vice President's Report: Bro. Fred Mlakar
Motion by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. HERVOL, to approve the report. Motion approved.

SNPJ Recreation Center Committee Report
March 2019

This report covers the last six months of 2018. Director Tim Jergel continues to be in charge of the management team and staff at the SNPJ Recreation Center. The key members of the full-time staff include Operations Manager Sue Krispinsky, Maintenance Manager

Jeff Wisneski, and Susan Zarella. They, along with the part-time and seasonal staff, have done a great job operating our facility.

The financial improvement at the Recreation Center continues to be significant. The year 2018 performance was the best in many years, experiencing the lowest operational loss since 1974. We did better than our budgeted loss of \$75,000, with an actual loss of \$64,497, and improved more than \$50,000 over 2017. We are optimistic that this trend will continue for 2019.

Slovenefest, which took place in July, was successful and profitable for the SNPJ Recreation Center. However, the weather was not ideal on Saturday and Sunday which had a negative effect on attendance and admissions, as they were down for those days. We appreciate all of the hard work from volunteers and staff. Kathy Paulenich did a good job putting together the entertainment for the fest this year. Ruth Wright was very instrumental in coordinating and increasing the number of crafter vendors for the weekend. Slovenefest cannot be successful without the nearly 100 volunteers.

The SNPJ Convention was hosted at the Recreation Center in August. There were 151 delegates and National Board members who took part in the meeting. Several delegates stayed on site in the cabins and their trailers. The social and food events supporting the Convention went well. We thank the Recreation Center management and staff for doing a great job. David Jones and Jones Catering did an excellent job providing the necessary food for the group.

National SNPJ Days took place over Labor Day weekend. The annual picnic took place on Sunday as a free-admission event. The cost of the bands was covered by the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center. All national athletic events were successful throughout the weekend.

The SNPJ Recreation Center hosted a variety of entertainment on Friday nights throughout the season in the Gostilna. Bingo continued to be a popular activity on Saturday evenings in the Gostilna as well.

Operations Manager Sue Krispinsky continues to do a great job managing the wedding events. Jones Catering also does an excellent job providing quality food and service for weddings and fraternal events. There is an increasing demand for ceremony venues along with the receptions. The Heritage Pavilion is experiencing more bookings for weddings. The wedding business was very strong and experienced an increase over the previous year. Actually, 2018 was a record profit year for this function. Bookings are even stronger for 2019.

The pool and Tiki Bar had a better year than 2017. The weather was generally good for the summer, which helped with pool admissions. The Tiki Bar had a very good season and has proven to be a popular addition.

The Wine & Sausage Festival, which took place in September, proved to be another success this year. We thank Ruth Wright for spearheading the enhancement of crafters to the festival. Director Jergel and the staff, along with volunteers, did a good job with this event.

The following is a summary of the year-end financial report for the year 2018:

Total Revenue.....	\$1,108,800
Total Expenditures	\$1,173,297
Net Loss	(\$64,497)

A detailed financial report is attached. The 2019 budget is also included as an attachment.

We are very proud of our facility and property. The grounds look great and inviting. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of our beautiful SNPJ Recreation Center as we continue promoting our fraternal activities and programs.

SNPJ RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE

- JOSEPH C. EVANISH**, Committee Chairman
- DAVID CUSHMAN**
- JERRY R. HLEBAK**
- CATHY KALENITS**
- RONALD CADEZ**
- CHRIS PETKAUSKAS**
- AMY MAVRICH**
- JOSEPH JURICICH**, Honorary Member
- VINCENT BASELJ**, Honorary Member
- JIM CURL**, Honorary Member

SNPJ Recreation Center Financial Report
as of Dec. 31, 2018

	Revenue	Expense	Profit/(Loss)
Cabins	\$105,915	\$27,063	\$78,852
Dances	\$27,158	\$15,397	\$11,761
Dining Room	\$26,096	\$26,249	(\$153)
Gostilna	\$113,995	\$95,028	\$18,967
Tiki Bar	\$45,812	\$20,642	\$25,170
Pool	\$20,081	\$24,737	(\$4,656)
Slovenefest	\$102,281	\$56,604	\$45,677
Trailer Court	\$162,210	\$25,742	\$136,468
Wedding/Banquet	\$438,427	\$232,656	\$205,771
Misc. Revenue	\$66,825	\$9,843	\$56,982

Overhead Expenses			
Salary & Wages		\$272,110	
Utilities		\$98,160	
Real Estate Taxes		\$80,775	
Insurance		\$103,362	
Depreciation		\$938	
Maintenance		\$49,144	
Office & Administration		\$24,052	
Major Maintenance Projects		\$10,795	
Total Overhead Expenses			(\$639,336)
Totals	\$1,108,800	\$1,173,297	(\$64,497)

SNPJ Recreation Center 2019 Budget

	Revenue	Expense	Profit/(Loss)
Cabins	\$115,000	\$30,000	\$85,000
Dances	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Dining Room	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
Gostilna	\$115,000	\$95,000	\$20,000
Tiki Bar	\$50,000	\$22,000	\$28,000
Pool	\$20,000	\$25,000	(\$5,000)
Slovenefest	\$115,000	\$55,000	\$60,000
Trailer Court	\$160,000	\$25,000	\$135,000
Wedding/Banquet	\$500,000	\$260,000	\$240,000
Misc. Revenue	\$70,000	\$10,000	\$60,000

Overhead Expenses			
Salary & Wages		\$275,000	
Utilities		\$90,000	
Real Estate Taxes		\$81,000	
Insurance		\$115,000	
Depreciation		\$2,000	
Maintenance		\$50,000	
Office & Administration		\$25,000	
Major Maintenance Projects		\$15,000	
Total Overhead Expenses			(\$638,000)
Totals	\$1,205,000	\$1,220,000	(\$15,000)

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

SNPJ Recreation Center Committee Report

Motion by Bro. ANDERSON, second by Bro. HERVOL, to recess as the National Board and reconvene as the Recreation Center Board. Motion approved.

President EVANISH presents the report. He highlights some items, such as the wedding business is doing well; Slovenefest did well in spite of the weather; motel unit work will be completed in the fall; roof work needs done on the main building, the Recreation Center Committee appointed a committee from among themselves to work with Bro. Jergel and Bro. Wisneski to obtain bids.

Motion made by Bro. ANDERSON, second by Bro. HERVOL, to recess as the Recreation Center Board and reconvene as the National Board. Motion approved.

Motion to approve the report by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. ANDERSON. Motion approved.

President EVANISH discusses the feasibility of adding additional trailer pads for increased revenue to the Recreation Center. Discussion by Bro. BASELJ, Sis. ANDERSON and Bro. CURL. A motion is made by Bro. HERVOL, second by Sis. BAKER, to have the Recreation Center Committee look into the cost and feasibility of adding additional trailer pads. Motion approved.

Young Adult Representative's Report

Sis. Meredith Maresh reported that the planning for the Young Adult Conference is going well. The service project has been chosen as the Ronald McDonald House. This year the conference is a meeting year; there will be some presentations on financial planning, life insurance, etc., for the delegates. Sis. Maresh thanks the Board for allowing the Young Adults to have a voice at the National Board meetings.

Unfinished Business

Sis. PINTAR presents the proposals for the agent/member portal to the insurance administration system to allow agents and members to view their policies. She states that the Board had approved \$125,000 at the August 2018 meeting for this work to be done. The company that originally presented the plan has determined that it will not be able to complete the work, so Sis. PINTAR and IT Manager

Bro. Terry Champ obtained additional proposals.

A motion is made by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. HERVOL, to allocate an additional \$50,000 to this project for a total of \$175,000 for the new portal system. Motion approved.

A discussion is held on the member correspondence read earlier regarding the dispute on the amount of mileage paid for the Convention. Bro. LAWRENCE explained how the mileage was calculated and what the member was requesting. He stated that payment to the member was attempted twice with the mileage already adjusted once; however, the member continues to return the checks and has appealed to the Board. Discussion by Bro. CLIFFORD, Sis. PINTAR, Bro. BASELJ, Bro. SRNICK and Bro. HERVOL.

Motion is made by Sis. BAKER, second by Bro. HERVOL, to decline the member's request for payment for additional mileage to the Convention and uphold the decision of the Executive Committee. Motion approved. Bro. SRNICK wished to be recorded as "abstain."

Motion is made by Sis. ANDERSON, second by Bro. HERVOL, to go into executive session to discuss executive compensation. Motion approved. The Young Adult Representative and Executive Committee are excused.

The Board comes out of executive session on a motion by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. ANDERSON. Motion approved.

A motion is made by Sis. ANDERSON, second by Bro. MLAKAR, to raise the executives' compensation by two percent, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2019. Motion approved; the Executive Committee did not vote.

President EVANISH presents the candidates who applied for a position on the Heritage Center Committee. Motion is made by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. CLIFFORD, to elect all eight candidates. Motion approved. The following are elected to the Heritage Center Committee: Josephine "Patty" Candela (576), Tracey Belle (138), Dawn Williams-Zabicki (41), Mary Jo Hartman (138), Kathy Paulenich (776), Edward Robich (31), Susan Mals (138) and Joan Gaspersic (138).

President EVANISH states that the National Board must determine the dividend. A motion is made by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. HERVOL, that the dividends remain the same as they are

currently. Motion approved.

Bro. LAWRENCE explains to the Board how the 401(k) plan is set up, how the employee deferrals and matching contributions work, as well as the option for a discretionary contribution. Motion is made by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. HERVOL, that a three percent discretionary contribution be credited to the employees for 2018. Motion approved.

President EVANISH states that the Board usually determines the amount of per diem and salary paid to SNPJ National Athletic Directors after each Quadrennial Convention. For at least the last four years, the per diem has been equal to that of Regional Vice Presidents. Discussion is held by Bro. ANDERSON, Sis. ANDERSON, Bro. SRNICK, Sis. PINTAR and Sis. RIGLER.

A motion is made by Sis. BAKER, second by Bro. CLIFFORD, that the National Athletic Board be paid \$275 for the annual salary, with \$275 for attending the National Athletic Board meeting. Motion approved.

Sis. PINTAR presents the section of the Athletic Board rules that apply to financial aid to Lodges for the purchase of shirts for bowling leagues, etc., and amounts of money that have been spent on these purchases. Discussion about this by Bro. ANDERSON, Bro. BASELJ and Bro. LAWRENCE.

Motion is made by Bro. MLAKAR, second by Sis. BAKER, to discontinue the practice of financial aid for the purchase of shirts, etc., for bowling, golf, etc., for Lodges. Motion approved.

President EVANISH states that the National Board has the authority to choose the site of the 2022 Quadrennial Convention. Motion is made by Bro. REPOS, second by Sis. BAKER, that the 2022 Convention be held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Motion approved.

President EVANISH proposes the date of Sept. 20, 2019, for the next semiannual National Board meeting. Motion is made by Bro. HERVOL, second by Sis. RIGLER, that the National Board meeting be held on that date. Motion approved.

No further business to discuss. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. is made by Sis. ANDERSON, second by Bro. CURL. The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

KAREN A. PINTAR, FLMI, CCP, AIAA
National Secretary/COO

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES
CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES
CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN

Lodge 126 Farm picnic plays host to the 31st Beaverdale Reunion in June

by LEE JACKOPIN (355)
SNPJ Farm Board

KIRTLAND, Ohio — The 31st consecutive annual Beaverdale (Pa.) Reunion will be held Sunday, June 30, from 1 to 7 p.m. at the SNPJ Farm on Heath Road in Kirtland during the picnic hosted by SNPJ Lodge 126. The gate will open at 1 p.m. Lodge 126 will serve Slovenian dinners and sandwiches beginning at 2 p.m., with

polka music from 3 to 7 p.m.

Historically, the many people who moved from Pennsylvania to the Cleveland area started this reunion tradition sometime in the 1940s at their homes, farms and at Geauga Lake Park. The tradition stopped a couple of times over the years, but in 1989, several people (now deceased) re-started the Beaverdale Reunion and it has continued ever since. To

make it easy to remember, the annual Beaverdale Reunion is always held during the SNPJ Lodge picnic at the SNPJ Farm on the last Sunday of June.

Come on out and reunite with your friends and relatives from Pennsylvania. When you arrive, go to the reunion registration and records area located at the large Beaverdale/Dunlo Reunion banner. Sign in before spending the afternoon discussing events

and happenings, and renewing old acquaintances from the small towns in the coal mining region of Cambria County.

There will be a group picture at 4:30 p.m. as well as a moment of remembrance of our relatives and friends from Pennsylvania who are deceased or in poor health. It's worth noting that some second-generation members who were not born in Bea-

verdale or Cambria County participate in this reunion to continue the tradition in memory of their parents and grandparents.

Please pass the word to your relatives and friends about the Beaverdale Reunion. Although our numbers keep getting smaller, we continue to have a good and memorable time. For more information, contact Lee Jackopin at (440) 943-3170.

Annual summer picnic, autumn bus trip on the Spartans Lodge 576 agenda

by TONI THOMEY
Lodge 576

CLEVELAND — Hello, all Spartans members. We hope that you're enjoying the nicer weather and making plans for some fabulous summer activities.

It is with great sympathy that I report on more loss for our members and their families. A dear friend to Lodge 576, Pat Monteleone, passed away on March 23. Pat was the beloved wife of our former vice president, Joe Monteleone, and sister-in-law to member Dominic Monteleone.

Pat was always willing to help at our picnics and other events. She had a great sense of humor and was loved by all of us. Our deepest sympathies to Joe and the entire Monteleone family.

I would also like to share our condolences with Adam and Susan Dickinson on the loss of Adam's father. Susan Dickinson, my dear cousin, is a longtime member of Lodge 576 and was a member of Youth Circle 2. Adam is the son-in-law of our former president, Joe Novak, and former recording secretary Nancy Novak. Our

deepest sympathies to the entire Dickinson family.

On a personal level, my beloved father-in-law, George Thomey, passed away on April 14. His son, Charles Thomey, and grandchildren, Christian and Gabrielle Thomey, are very active in our Lodge.

Even though George wasn't an SNPJ member, he loved being part of our Slovenian traditions. I want to thank all of our members and friends who reached out to offer their condolences. Our prayers and best wishes to all members and their families during these

difficult times.

The first weekend of May, Spartans members, along with the Cleveland Athletic League, co-hosted the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament. Thank you to those who volunteered to make this such a great event, and congratulations to all of the winners!

Our next big event is the CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open, scheduled Saturday, May 25, at Rolling Green Golf Club in Huntsburg, Ohio. Several Spartans Lodge members have either volunteered their time or golfed in this event. Contact

Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001 for more details.

This year's picnic planning is well underway. Our picnic, "Polka Gone Country," featuring Patty C & The "Good Ol' Guys," will be held Sunday, Aug. 18, at the SNPJ Farm on Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio. The gates will open at 1 p.m., food will be served starting at 2, and the music will start at 3. We will be serving some delicious barbecued pulled chicken dinners, along with some of your favorite SNPJ Farm goodies.

You can also try your luck

in our 50/50 drawing, or walk away with some great gift baskets. Contact Karen Novak at (216) 965-3181 for ticket information. We could use a lot of volunteers to make this picnic a great success. As they say, many hands make less work!

We are also planning our annual bus trip for Saturday, Nov. 23. Stay tuned for more details and to reserve your spot on the bus.

The next Spartans Lodge meeting will be held Monday, June 17, beginning at 7 p.m. at Slovene Home for the Aged. We hope to see you all soon!

PROSVETA Crossword T.V. Classics (#0519) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- *It featured Mr. T
- Middle-earth dweller
- Slavic monarch
- Paparazzo's quest
- India's smallest state
- Haul with a tackle
- Raja's wife, pl.
- Address abbreviation
- *Bert's roommate
- *Gilligan's domain
- *Andy Griffith, e.g.
- *Alex P. Keaton accessory
- Coal miner's layer
- Part of overalls
- Give up
- World-wide
- *Fonzie's comeback: "Sit _____"
- On bottom of coffee mug
- Swelling
- "No problem!"
- Brown with a tinge of red
- Like an ear infection
- Server's request
- Like Gulf Stream
- Driver's road display?
- Complicated situations
- Air of allure, slang
- Popular sauce on Chinese food
- Louboutin's creation

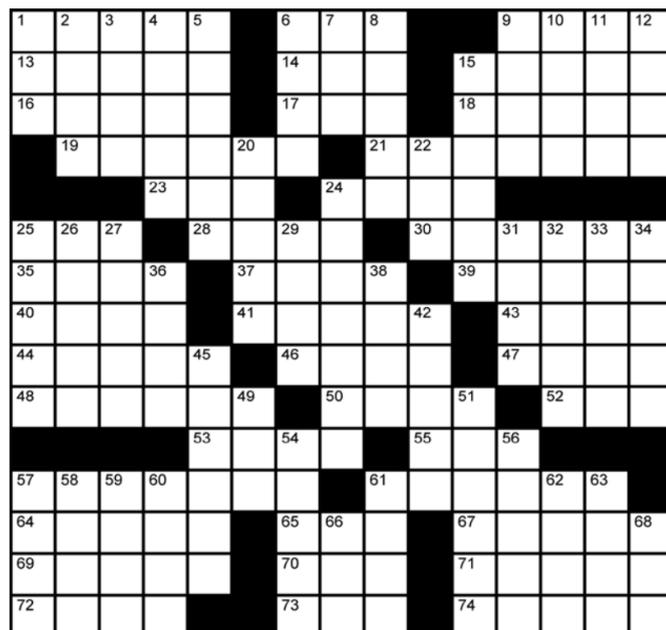
- Ford Explorer, e.g.
- *"Cheers" spin-off
- Characteristic to consider
- Cured item that's popular on bagels, pl.
- *"Doctor Who" broadcaster
- ____ Jane
- Audience's approval
- Charged particle
- Two under on one hole
- Increases or adds to
- Foot digit
- Chased up a tree

DOWN

- Credit card rate
- Bangkok native
- Ages and ages
- Not upright
- Tessaræ artwork
- "Goodness gracious!"
- Chop off
- Casper the Friendly Ghost's uncle
- Unit of pressure named after Torricelli
- Pueblo tribesman
- "Clueless" catch phrase
- Coral barrier
- "The Love Bug"
- Must-haves

- Take greedily
- Oozing
- *Kind of buddies
- Accustom
- They flock together?
- *He took over for Bob Barker
- O in b.o.
- Greek Bs
- Friend from Mexico
- *Cagney's partner
- Phil Mickelson's ball prop
- *"That ____" with Marlo Thomas
- Aggregate
- Withstand
- Female
- *Kermit, e.g.
- Galactic path
- Type of consonant
- Bolt
- *Third from the sun
- Car shaft
- Neptune's realm, pl.
- Teenager's woe
- Zoo room
- Bathroom flooring
- Fan's discontent
- *____ Flanders of "The Simpsons"

The solution to puzzle #0519 will run in the June 3 issue.



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SNPJ golf season launches with 55th CAL Open

by RICK GORJUP (158)
CAL President

CLEVELAND — Since the CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament is in its 55th season this year, you certainly won't want to miss out on a great day of fun and fraternalism. We have a great bunch of golfers, and with our CAL reps, friends and volunteers, this year's outing should be the best! The tournament is about 25 days away now, and we hope to have a record crowd.

This year's CAL Don Gorj-

up Open Golf Tournament will be played at Rolling Green Golf Course in Huntsburg, Ohio, on Saturday, May 25. We've scheduled a 9 a.m. shotgun start, and we ask that you arrive at the course by 8:15 a.m. for check-in at the pavilion. Here's where you'll pick up your goodie bags and scorecards before heading out onto the links.

Hot dogs and pivo will be available at the turn, and a great steak dinner will be waiting at the 19th hole. This

is always a fun day, meeting old friends and making new ones. And remember, the beer, pop and bottled water are free all day long!

The entry fee of \$80 for adult golfers (\$72 for youth) includes greens fee, cart, prizes, a goodie bag, dinner, and a sandwich/beverage at the turn. Your friendly hostesses will also be stationed on the course to provide some libations and a toast to Don. And since this is the 55th season for the tournament, we'll have

some extras to commemorate this big anniversary.

The party bus will again be transporting golfers from the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa.

Donations are coming in for our drawings, and we're planning a few surprises this year. See the entry form on page 14, then get in touch with your golf buddies and send in your entries today.

We hope to see you on a beautiful, sunny and warm Saturday, May 25.

Badger Jabber

by BOB SMOLE
Lodge 584

MILWAUKEE — SNPJ Jolly Allis Lodge 686 is officially now merged with SNPJ Badger Lodge 584. We are ecstatic to have this active Lodge join our Lodge. With the addition of their membership, Badger Lodge 584 is ranked the third largest Lodge in our Society with a total membership of approximately 1,466 adult and youth members.

I previously mentioned that this transaction was "bittersweet." Unfortunately, it was sad to see the very active Jolly Allis Lodge have to make the difficult decision to merge. Of course, it's "sweet" for the Badger Lodge which accepted these staunch members to form a hopefully stronger Milwaukee Slovenian SNPJ alliance.

Back in the 1950s, when the SNPJ was at its peak, membership totaled 71,760 adult and youth members. Milwaukee County had nine active SNPJ Lodges: six Lodges in Milwaukee (Lodge 16, Lodge 192, Lodge 234, Lodge 584, Lodge 747 and Lodge 764), two Lodges in West Allis (Lodge 104 and Lodge 686), and one Lodge in Cudahy (Lodge 520).

Jolly Allis Lodge 686 was organized on Sept. 16, 1929; held their first official meeting as an SNPJ Lodge on September 26, 1929; and was chartered on March 18, 1930. The charter members were Anna Yersin, Stephania Kodre, Anna Mliner, Vincent Podlogar, Frank Podlogar, John Podlogar, George Goronja, Jeanne Rezel, Pauline Schumrada and Helen Sindicic.

Jolly Allis was formed as an English-speaking SNPJ Lodge, as was Badger Lodge 584 in 1926. Prior to 1925, SNPJ Lodges were all made up of Slovenian-speaking members; hence, meetings were conducted in Slovenian. As younger members became more and more involved, they formed English-speaking Lodges to be able to participate without a language barrier.

Records show that Badger Lodge 584 was one of the English-speaking Lodges that helped the Jolly Allis Lodge organize. Badger Lodge members attended and helped them through their first meeting. The first officers of the Jolly Allis Lodge included President Vincent Podlogar, Vice President John Podlogar, Secretary Anna

Yersin, Treasurer Stephania Kodre and Recording Secretary Anna Mliner. The Jolly Allis Lodge held its second meeting at Bolskar Place, 469 51st Ave. I don't quite know where that is/was.

Numerous articles were published in PROSVETA by various officers of the Jolly Allis Lodge. One, written by President Vincent Podlogar, indicates that the Jolly Allis Lodge was organized with help from Lodge 104 and Badger Lodge 584. Another article, written by "C.U. There" in the Nov. 6, 1929, issue, promoted the Jolly Allis Lodge's first dance (held Nov. 23, 1929, at Labor Hall, 56th and National Avenues) and noted that "Martinssek" would provide the music.

One last bit of information: In October 1929, SNPJ Lodge 16 was listed as the third largest Lodge in the Society with a total of 839 adult and youth members. Today, 90 years later and with this merger completed, a Milwaukee SNPJ Lodge, Badger Lodge 584, again ranks as the third largest Lodge in the Society.

Let us all work together to make this merger a meaningful one and one that will move our SNPJ, our Slovenian heritage, member participation and endeavors forward to success.

The following verse, written by someone named "Breezy" from Milwaukee in honor of the Jolly Allis Lodge founding, was published in the Oct. 16, 1929, PROSVETA issue:

"Let's drink to West Allis and wish them success,
Here's hoping the Lodge will quickly progress.
The members have courage and plenty of pluck,
Brothers and Sisters, we wish you good luck."

These words of well wishes from "Breezy" are fitting today as we proceed forward, the Jolly Allis Lodge and the Badger Lodge, together as one.

The annual Fun-O-Leers nine-pin tap bowling social was held April 13 at the Lucky Lanes bowling alleys owned and operated by Badger Lodge 584 members Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Schweiger. Congratulations are extended to a father-and-son duo who were fortunate to have both rolled 300 games in the same game.

Bro. Jeff Mouthey and his 17-year-old son, SNPJ young adult member Tyler Mouthey, shared in this rare accomplishment, both rolling their 300 games in this

nine-pin tap event while bowling on the same team. How great is that? An unforgettable memory!

Our regular Badger Lodge 584 meeting took place Thursday, April 11, as scheduled. All officers were present, and the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read. The secretary/treasurer's reports were also read and accepted.

A moment of silence was observed for our recently deceased members: Bro. Robert Alpner, and Sisters Mary Josephine Russ, Judith L. Price and Marilyn Mary Kastelic. The Badger Lodge extends deepest sympathies to the families of these cherished deceased members. May they rest in peace.

A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50 to the SNPJ Young Adult Conference (YAC) for their community service project that will supply items to the Ronald McDonald House. The YAC is scheduled June 14-16.

A discussion was held regarding an additional YAC delegate who would be eligible to attend from the Badger Lodge due to the merger of the former Lodge 686. The increase in membership would allow for one additional young adult member to serve as a delegate to this year's event. Members were asked to contact any young adult member between the ages of 18 to 30.

The birthday song was sung to Brothers Jeff Mlaker and Rudy Papa who were celebrating April birthdays. Bro. Gerry Francis was the winner of the month's attendance award.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed, and the meeting was adjourned so that we could enjoy the available coffee and desserts.

Badger Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Bro. Jeff Mlaker will be moving effective May 1. His new address is 6403 W. Leroy Ave., Greenfield, WI 53220. His phone number remains the same, (414) 699-31564. If you have any questions about the Lodge, contact Secretary Mlaker at his new address.

The next Badger Lodge meeting will take place on the second Thursday of May, which will be Thursday, May 9, at the Mary Queen of Heaven gym, 2360 S. 106 St. in West Allis, Wis. The meetings start at 7 p.m.

AUTHOR'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Many thanks to various members of the SNPJ Home Office staff for their diligence assisting and supplying the statistics in this article. Much gratitude and appreciation are extended.

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
Feb. 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

The minutes from the Jan. 16, 2019, meeting were read and approved.

Most of the meeting was spent reviewing the health care proposals received from our broker for all employees' health care benefits.

Approved Sis. Pintar and Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel to attend Florida SNPJ Days sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 603.

Discussion held regarding rates received from reinsurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries May 2019

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
138	William M. Progar	603	Pauline Stajcer
559	Louise J. Pearce		

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
A01	Richard S. Bosetti	584	Lorraine M. Poklar
207	Anne F. Walker	614	William L. Perusek
449	John Kritzer	729	Anna M. Mazurek
581	Catherine M. Rooney		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Barbara J. Kuzma	584	William H. Susnik
8	Dorothy J. Lovell	584	Russell H. Ebbinger
53	Phillip A. Matish	715	Ludwig S. Zerjav
174	Eleanor R. Prah	721	Paulette J. Strang
576	William Lipold	723	Constance Yannacone
577	Sandra K. Holmes	723	Eleanor D. Hilland

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
8	Glenn E. Schultz	459	Nancy J. Rowe
33	Philip J. Jerman	476	William J. Stratton
87	Diane M. Dubovsky	518	Dolores A. Pirkovic
89	John A. Robertson	562	Francine Springer
106	Anthony M. Zupancic	562	Earlene R. Dawkins
138	Karen L. Beltz	564	James J. Hostnik
138	Linda L. Sasek	577	John R. Granato
158	William Semenchuk	577	Lorraine R. Angster
174	Robert C. Arch	584	Dennis Amic
218	Lillian R. Vigil	584	Barbara A. Demovsek
223	Betty Z. Gerle	584	Jeffrey M. Lensing
223	Rebecca Stinebiser	677	Judith A. West
225	Jerry M. Golob	749	Joseph L. Polantz
254	Keith F. Smith	771	Karen M. Musitano
274	William F. Cavender	776	Paula R. Landsberger
277	Kenneth A. Stoklosa		

The SNPJ Farm 2019 Dance Schedule

SNPJ Farm, 10946 Heath Road, Kirtland, Ohio
off Chardon Road (Route 6), three miles east of Route 306
For information phone (440) 256-3423 or (440) 461-6476

May 19	Pancake & Sausage Polka Brunch	9 to noon
May 27	Val's 25th Radio Anniversary Dance Fred Ziwich ISM & Rob DeBlander Band	1 to 7
June 16	SNPJ Farm Board Picnic Frank Moravcik Orchestra	3 to 7
June 23	Loyalites Lodge 158 Picnic Don Wojtila Band (Dr. Seuss theme)	3 to 7
June 30	Cleveland Lodge 126 Picnic (2019 Beaverdale Reunion)	3 to 7
July 4	Holiday Dance Del Sinchak and Ed Klancknik & Friends	1 to 7
July 7	Cleveland Federation Picnic	3 to 7
July 21	Mirni Raj Lodge 142 Picnic Wayne Tomsick Orchestra	3 to 7
Aug. 4	Utopians Lodge 604 Picnic Joey Tomsick Orchestra	3 to 7
Aug. 11	V-Boj Lodge 53 Picnic Jeff Pecon Orchestra	3 to 7
Aug. 18	Spartans Lodge 576 Picnic Patty C and The Good Ole Boys (Country western theme)	3 to 7
Aug. 25	CAL Spaghetti Dinner KTB Band	3 to 7
Sept. 2	Holiday Dance Eddie Rodick and Frank Stanger bands	1 to 7
Sept. 8	SNPJ Ladies Auxiliary Goulash & Polenta Dinner Jeff Pecon Orchestra	3 to 7
Sept. 11	Polka Hall of Fame Picnic Slovenian Sausage Festival	noon to 8
Sept. 15	Eddie Rodick: 50 Years of Music 1 to 8 Eddie Rodick, Don Wojtila, Frank Stanger, Klancknik & Friends, Ron Likovic	
Sept. 22	Friends of the Farm Picnic Frank Moravcik Band	3 to 7
Sept. 29	Slovenian Grape Festival Joey Tomsick Orchestra	2:45 to 7

Gates open at 1 p.m. Dinners served every Sunday starting at 2 p.m. Sunday music and dancing from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday picnic admission is \$8 per person. Rent the SNPJ Farm for your special functions. For additional information visit www.snpjfarmkirtland.com.

PROSVETA 2019 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2019

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2019

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MARCH 2019

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31						

APRIL 2019

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SEPTEMBER 2019

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OCTOBER 2019

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NOVEMBER 2019

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DECEMBER 2019

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29	30	31				

Publication dates are highlighted in black boxes; deadline dates are circled. The deadline for submissions is noon on the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted above or on the front page. Submissions may be mailed to PROSVETA, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126; faxed to (724) 695-1555; e-mailed to prosveta@snpj.com; or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, www.snpj.org.

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4.0% first-year <i>guarantee</i> rate for new money	3.5% first-year <i>guarantee</i> rate for new money
3.25% in years two through eight	3.0% in year two and after
3.0% in year nine and after	

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Slovene National Benefit Society

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10,000 trees planted to restore Slovenian forests

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In early April, some 10,000 trees were planted by more than 670 volunteers at several locations across Slovenia as part of a campaign launched last year by the state-owned SiDG forestry company to help Slovenian forests recover from several disasters in recent years.

This is the second year that 10,000 new trees were planted as part of the campaign, and the organizers hope this will become an annual event. In October 2018, some 400 volunteers took part, so this year's turnout was a pleasant surprise.

Students, teachers, employees from several Slovenian companies, and other volunteers planted spruce, larch, beech, cherry, pear and hazelnut trees in the forests around Kočevje, Ravnik pri Logatcu, Lovrenc na Pohorju and Postojna. The largest number of volunteers, 240, gathered in Kočevje.

Agriculture, Forestry and Food Minister Aleksandra Pivec joined the team in Lovrenc. "Such campaigns are a good way to raise awareness of the importance of forests," she said. The minister is particularly happy that many different institutions and generations joined the project. She would like forest owners to help rejuvenate the forests as well. "By rejuvenating the forests that have been damaged, we are helping the forests preserve their many roles which are crucial for our lives," said Zlatko Ficko, the director of SiDG.

The 2019 Rejuvenate the Forests project has been backed by the Agriculture Ministry, the National Forest Service, the Nature Conservation Institute, the Association of Slovenian Catholic Scouts, and the Scout Association of Slovenia. It is also a part of the annual Day For Change campaign organized by the Slovenian Philanthropy, encouraging people to stand up against discrimination and become volunteers for at least one day.

Slovenian forests suffered substantial damage in recent years. In February 2014 they were hit by an ice storm, which led to a bark beetle epidemic, while wind damage struck at the end of 2017. Over the past five years, more than 65 percent of Slovenian forests were damaged in natural disasters. Some 95 percent of the damaged forest will regenerate by itself, while in the remaining five percent of the area, tree planting will be required.

Since the 2014 ice storm, some 1.5 million trees have been planted on 600 hectares (1,480 acres) of privately-owned and state forests. In state-owned forests, 850,000 trees will be planted this year.

Slovenia home to first robot factory in Europe

KOČEVJE (STA) — Yaskawa, a Japanese robotics company, launched its new robot factory in Kočevje in early April, marking the first such facility to operate in Europe.

Test production at Yaskawa Europe Robotics, which will manufacture different types of robots, started at the end of January.

The new facility has almost 10,000 square meters (108,000 square feet) of usable premises. By 2023 the facility should employ some 200 workers and produce 6,000 industrial robots each year.

Having considered several possible locations, Yaskawa Electric Corporation eventually chose Slovenia for the site its first robot factory in Europe. The Slovenian government supported the investment, and construction work was launched in November 2017.

Yaskawa also plans to establish a research and development center in Kočevje to enhance cooperation with Slovenian universities and research institutes. Last year the company also announced plans to build another facility to manufacture robotic hand components.

Yaskawa's Slovenian-based facilities will cover roughly 75 percent of demand for Yaskawa products in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The April facility launch was attended by several Yaskawa senior business executives, as well as Slovenian Prime Minister Marian Šarec, Minister of Economic Development and Technology Zdravko Počivalšek, and European Transportation Commissioner Violeta Bulc.

Forestry students to train in state-owned forests

NOVO MESTO (STA) — Students attending an education center near Novo



Mesto will soon be able to practice a number of forestry skills in state-owned woods. An agreement to that effect was signed in mid-March by Slovenian State Forests (SiDG), the state-run firm that manages vast areas of state-owned forests, and the Grm Novo Mesto Center of Biotechnology and Tourism.

On an area covering 100 hectares (approximately 250 acres) of SiDG-managed woods near Novo Mesto, students studying forestry will learn harvesting and extraction techniques.

The agreement was signed for a period of five years with the option of extension. The Grm Novo Mesto Center of Biotechnology and Tourism will also be paid for the work done in the woods, in return for providing the public service of forestry education.

SiDG director Zlatko Ficko said this project would help the center cope with the consequences of a February fire, which destroyed some of its facilities. The damage was unofficially estimated at around 1.5 million euros (\$1.7 million).

Ficko also explained that apart from managing state-owned forests, his company had a number of other tasks to carry out, education among them. He said it was the wish of the SiDG for the center to help train additional staff for the forestry and wood-processing industries.

Grm Novo Mesto director Tone Hrovat said the woods in Jurka Vas are easily accessible and relatively safe, in addition to being located close to a main road, which is important in case of an emergency.

The Grm Novo Mesto center has an enrollment of 1,200 students, of whom some 300 are registered in forestry and agriculture courses. The center is also licensed to administer the national vocational qualifications for harvesting and extraction, with 30 to 50 individuals successfully completing the exam each year at the center.

Maribor U setting up a center for smart cities

MARIBOR (STA) — The University of Maribor will launch a Center for Smart Cities and Communities, a platform linking researchers, the corporate sector and local communities that strive to develop and adopt high-tech solutions for more effective urban management, and thus a higher quality of life.

"The university's fragmented knowledge about urban issues will be integrated and given new content," explained university representatives. They believe the new platform could assist city administrations and companies that are developing smart city devices and services, pushing the university to the forefront of the future sustainable development of cities, especially in eastern Slovenia.

Stressing that smart urban management has become a societal challenge, a point already acknowledged by many developed cities, the representatives indicated that the smart city concept included all key aspects of managing a city. These aspects include security, transportation management, logistics, sustainable spatial planning, water and energy supply, postal services, waste management, and local food supply.

Invasive plants turned into paper in Ljubljana

LJUBLJANA (STA) — As part of a three-year project called "Applause," the Ljubljana municipality has managed to process another non-native, invasive plant species into recycled paper. The municipality had successfully turned Japanese knotweed into paper in 2016, and this year 350 kilograms (approximately 770 pounds) of paper were manufactured using the flowering goldenrod plant.

According to the Pulp and Paper Institute, one of the project partners, paper made from Canadian goldenrod is lighter and smoother than the knotweed-based paper. The paper-making procedure also took longer since goldenrod has stringier fibers.

The Applause project addresses the problem of invasive, non-native plants in an innovative way. Since the removed plants are usually composted or burnt in Slovenia, this pilot project proves that the plants can, for instance, also be used for making paper on a semi-industrial scale. The project follows the principles

of zero waste and circular economy, according to representatives from the municipality.

Locals work to preserve Napoleon-era bridge

KANAL (STA) — The Napoleon's Bridge on the Ajba, a small river in the Soča Valley, has been neglected for many years, to the point that locals have decided to take action themselves and started renovating the historic site.

The bridge is one of several Slovenian bridges named after the French emperor, and the only one that remains in its original form. It was once a strategic crossing point in the times of the Republic of Venice, linking the valley with Veneto and serving as the farmers' pathway to the woods.

Napoleon and his troops supposedly passed through the area at the beginning of the 19th century, and the name stuck to honor the era of the Illyrian Provinces, the French autonomous province (1809-1814) that included modern-day Slovenia, Croatia, Gorizia and portions of Austria.

For years now the government has failed to maintain the bridge properly, and locals have tried to get the government to assist with the renovation. But having observed the bridge literally starting to crack due to erosion, water damage and general neglect, the local community finally decided to act on its own.

Workers secured the bridge to prevent the crack from spreading by erecting a special structure with the help of engineer Danilo Magajne and the local fire department. Magajne, who has experience planning stone bridge construction and renovation, said they would prefer to maintain the bridge's original structure. He has already devised a plan to strengthen and preserve it.

Representatives from the local unit of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage explained that the bridge was in such poor shape due to the fact that it hadn't been used for many years. They also urged the government to take measures to support the renovation.

Slovenians are tops in recreational marathons

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The largest study of global marathons has determined that Slovenians are the fastest recreational marathon runners worldwide. Between 2014 and 2017, Slovenian recreational runners, female as well as male, completed full marathons in three hours, 55 minutes, six seconds on average.

The Runnerclick website study surveyed 2.9 million recreational runners competing in 784 marathons held in 39 countries. Both Slovenian women and men turned out to be the best in their respective categories. The average time clocked by Slovenian women was four hours, 10 minutes, 10 seconds; while Slovenian men averaged three hours, 51 minutes, five seconds.

Ukrainian runners placed second in the study, almost three minutes behind Slovenians in terms of joint average time. The average time of all participants in the study was four hours, 26 minutes, 28 seconds.

The Ljubljana marathon, the major running event in Slovenia, proved to be one of the fastest marathons, taking sixth place with an average time of three hours, 54 minutes, 34 seconds.

Researchers collected the data on recreational runners by excluding all professional athletes and runners averaging less than two hours, 30 minutes, among men; and two hours, 45 minutes, among women. The study took into account only the runners' age, gender and nationality.

The results also show that the number of marathon runners has been decreasing slightly in recent years (by no more than three percent from 2014 through 2017). The Ljubljana marathon attracted fewer runners over the past two years as well.

These reduced numbers could be due to demographic changes, or the fact that some runners have been focusing on smaller, less competitive events. However, the number of female runners has increased a bit (to nearly 35 percent).

The most significant drop in numbers was noted among runners between the ages of 20-29 (by 12 percent), while runners between the ages of 40-49 (around 30 percent) participated in the majority of marathons.

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

Sis. MARGARET M. ZAKRAJSEK
• LODGE 721 •

ALIQUIPPA, Pa. — The members of Lodge 721 sadly report the Feb. 2, 2019, passing of Sis. Margaret Mayne Zakrajsek, 90, of Hopewell Twp., Pa., in Brighton Health and Rehab.

Sis. Zakrajsek was born Aug. 6, 1928, the daughter of the late William and Marie Davie. She was a graduate of Duff's Business School and worked various jobs. Before she retired, she worked the deli counter at Shop and Save.

A 64-year SNPJ member, she was also a member of Ohio United Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by her children, Nancy (Edward) German of Bonita Springs, Fla., Fred (Patricia) Zakrajsek of Hopewell Twp., Diane (Alan) Byers of Hopewell Twp., and Janice (Michael) Casper of Jackson, N.J.; six grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and two sisters-in-law, Marilyn Davie and Lois Davie, both of Hopewell Twp.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Fred, in 1982; brothers William and John Davie; and a sister, Pauline Muller.

A funeral service for Sis. Zakrajsek was held Feb. 8 in Huntsman Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Aliquippa, officiated by the Rev. Nick Marlatt. Interment followed in Sylvania Hills Memorial Park, Rochester, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 721 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Zakrajsek's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. STANLEY E. PIVIK
• LODGE 723 •

FONTANA, Calif. — The Pivik family and members of Lodge 723 sadly report the Feb. 15, 2019, passing of Bro. Stanley Ed Pivik, known by his large and loving family as "Uncle Stan," in Casper, Wyo.

Bro. Pivik was born Nov. 27, 1926, in Hudson, Wyo., a son of Joe H. Pivik and Mary Pivik. He was raised in Rock Springs, Wyo., and graduated from Rock Springs High School in 1944. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, served his tour of duty from 1944 to 1946, and was honorably discharged. Stan was honored to serve his country as a Navy seaman.

When he returned to Rock Springs after the war he took a job with Mountain Fuel, which eventually became Questar Corporation. His first and last job was with Questar, where he worked in construction for 42 years.

Bro. Pivik was a 74-year SNPJ member. He had traveled to Ribnica and Logatec, Slovenia, to connect with relatives and learn about his Slovenian heritage. He was proud of his Slovenian heritage, and proud to be from the great State of Wyoming.

He enjoyed attending and watching University of Wyoming Cowboys football and basketball games throughout his life, and made a memorable trip to New Orleans to cheer on the Cowboys in the Sugar Bowl. He also traveled to New York when the Cowboys made the finals of the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). He made many annual trips with extended family to a number of destinations.

There was nothing so important to Stan as his family, and he showed it constantly with his kindness and generosity.

He will be deeply missed by his sister, Pauline "Polly" Taubert; nephews Kurt Taubert, Louis (Kelly) Taubert, and Robert (Teresa) Taubert; nieces Carlene (Mark Parker) Taubert, Anita (Bob Turnbull) Taubert, Frieda Sue (Mike Huber) Taubert, Cindy (Tom) Cheney, and Pam (John Fantin) McGarvey; and many special great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death



Bro. STANLEY E. PIVIK (723)

by his parents; a sister, Arlene Pivik; and a brother, Joe Pivik.

A celebration of his life will be hosted later this spring.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 723 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Pivik's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. GEORGE A. HARBAUGH
• LODGE 106 •

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The members of Lodge 106 sadly report the Feb. 20, 2019, passing of Bro. George A. Harbaugh, 89, of Bulger, Pa.

Bro. Harbaugh served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He retired from Operating Engineers Local #66 as a heavy equipment operator.

In addition to his SNPJ membership, he was also a member of Lafayette Masonic Lodge #544 in Carnegie, Pa.; Scottish Rights and Chartiers Commandery #78 of the Knights Templar; Odd Fellows of Carnegie; and the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation.

He was the beloved husband of Jean Roedler Harbaugh; beloved father of Debbie Kowalik, Dennis Harbaugh, Timothy (Karen) Harbaugh, Mark Harbaugh, Ronald Harbaugh, and Betty (the late Sam) Donaldson; cherished grandfather of seven; adored great-grandfather of seven; brother of Charles (Joan) Harbaugh and Frank (Pam) Harbaugh; and uncle of numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service for Bro. Harbaugh was held Feb. 25 at Herrick Compassionate Funeral Service, Imperial. Interment followed in Robinson Church Cemetery, Bulger.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 106 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Bro. Harbaugh's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. JOSEPHINE ARKO
• LODGE 576 •

CLEVELAND — The Arko family and members of Lodge 576 sadly announce the March 4, 2019, passing of Sis. Josephine "Josie" Arko, 99, of Euclid, Ohio. She was an Honorary Member of Lodge 576, having outlived her SNPJ policy in August 2018.

Sis. Arko was born Nov. 28, 1919, in Cleveland, the youngest of five children born to John and Jenny Rutar.

She was always active in the Slovenian community, volunteering wherever needed. As a member of the SNPJ Trailer Court, she worked many of their events at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Josie was also an active member of SNPJ Spartans Lodge 576 and offered her time for their fund-raisers. She was a volunteer at Recher Hall, and was a member of the Euclid and Holmes Ave. pensioners clubs.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, Sis. Arko was a lifelong member of SUN, first with Branch 25 and later with Branch 50. She was also a member of AMLA St. Ann Lodge #4. She had a smile for everyone and was always fashionably dressed with hair neatly in place.

Josie was an excellent cook and prepared many Slovenian dishes. She was particularly known for her apple strudel, which she could whip-up in no time. She loved everything

Slovenian and loved to polka, even well into her 80's. She proudly passed many traditions on to her children.

Sis. Arko is survived by daughters Joanne (Larry) Carmical, Geraldine Beha and Arlene (Larry) Lessard, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 25 years, Frank Urbancic; her son, Dr. Frank R. Urbancic; and her husband, Thomas Arko.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Arko on March 9 at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Euclid, Ohio, where she was a member for 70 years. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 576 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Arko's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. MICHAEL STRHO
• LODGE 89 •

MIDWAY, Pa. — The members of Lodge 89 sadly report the March 13, 2019, passing of Bro. Michael Leonard Strho, 89, of Belleview, Fla., formerly of Burgettstown, Pa., in his home, surrounded by his loving wife and family. He was cared for in his final days by his wife, niece, and the wonderful staff at Kindred Hospice.

Bro. Strho, "Bucka" as he was known to family and friends, was born June 14, 1929, in Avella, Pa., a son of Michael and Anna Shubuck Strho. He was employed by Weirton Steel for 38 years. He was drafted into the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954 and spent most of his time in Germany with the Army Occupational Forces.

In addition to 69 years of SNPJ membership, he was also a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Belleview, the American Legion, and the Veterans Association.

On July 22, 1950, he married the former Marlene A. Resnik. They shared 68 years of marriage together.

He is survived by his loving wife, Marlene Resnik Strho; a sister, Catherine Strho Bertovich; a sister-in-law, Lorraine Resnik Billie; a niece, Carolyn Billie (Rick) Chynoweth, with whom he resided; and many nieces and nephews whom he loved dearly as his own children.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Pete

Strho; and a sister, Anna Strho Suhon.

A memorial service for Bro. Strho is planned in June at Bethel Cemetery, Avella.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 89 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Strho's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. JOSEPH KENCEC
• LODGE 265 •

SOUTHVIEW, Pa. — The members of Lodge 265 sadly report the March 13, 2019, passing of Bro. Joseph E. Kencec Sr., 88, of Hickory, Pa., in Canonsburg Hospital.

Bro. Kencec was born Nov. 2, 1930, in Herminie, Pa., a son of Nick and Angela Vozel Kencec. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving with the U.S. Army.

He worked for Consolidated Coal Co. at the Westland Mine and retired from the Bailey Mine in January 1993.

A 71-year SNPJ member, he was also a member of Chartiers Hill United Presbyterian Church, American Legion Post 902 in Houston, Pa., and Chartiers Township Senior Citizens. He enjoyed playing horseshoes and was a Pittsburgh sports fan.

On March 6, 1954, he married the former Marlene M. Liggitt, who survives. Also surviving are a daughter, Roxanne (Franklin) Dessify of Washington, Pa.; a son, Joseph E. (Lisa) Kencec Jr. of Houston, Pa.; five grandchildren, Michael and Nicole Dessify, Valerie (Eric) Hanson, and Joseph III and Thomas Kencec; two great-grandsons; two sisters, Wilma Munsky of Bethel Park, Pa., and Mary DeBlander of Strabane, Pa.; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Frank, Nick, Steve and John Kencec; and two sisters, Sophie Poklemba and Agnes Cook.

Services for Bro. Kencec were held March 16 at McIlvaine-Speakman Funeral Home, Ltd., Houston, officiated by the Rev. Peggy Shannon. Interment followed in Mt. Prospect Cemetery, Hickory. Full military rites were accorded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 191 Honor Guard.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 265 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Bro. Kencec's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SNPJ Lodge 689
Secretary/Treasurer

Lorraine Babcock
Helper, Utah



Jan. 26, 1930
May 27, 2018

Deeply missed & loved by Shelly, Dave & Gaye and families

In Loving Memory

W. Daniel Bearman
Dec. 11, 1935 — May 26, 1994

*Those we love remain with us,
for love itself lives on.
And cherished memories never fade
because a loved one's gone.
Those we love can never be
more than a thought apart,
for as long as there is a memory
they'll live on within our heart.*



Sadly missed by his wife Esther; daughter Susan (Jay) Sedmak; sons Fred (Brenda) and Dennis (Joyce); grandchildren Katie (Chris), Stephanie, Sam and Christine; and great-grandson Michael.
BRIDGEVILLE, PA

In loving remembrance of

Rose Cadez



B: JAN. 25, 1927
D: MAY 18, 2014

STRABANE, PA.
LODGE 138

Sons Jim, Ronald ("Buzz") & Jeffrey and their families.

DEATHS REPORTED
For the month of March 2019

LODGE NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY-STATE
A01 Joseph P. LeCerf Jr.	05-09-2018	Ambridge, Pa.
A01 Mary Schmidt	11-25-2000	Bronx, N.Y.
2 Eugene M. Jakse	01-30-2019	Peru, Ill.
3 Gary Drakler	02-17-2019	Johnstown, Pa.
5 Peter H. Roper	03-05-2019	Geneva, Ohio
6 LaVerne Hrvatin	02-01-2019	Bridgeville, Pa.
6 Gerald S. Kopach	01-23-2019	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6 Bruno DallaPiazza	01-07-2018	Oakdale, Pa.
6 Richard D. Mandus Jr.	03-03-2019	Oakdale, Pa.
6 Gretchen Zimmerman	03-02-2019	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6 Patricia A. Stromple	03-02-2019	Oakdale, Pa.
6 Raymond E. O'Korn	02-16-2019	Washington, Pa.
31 John F. Kralj	01-23-2019	Meadville, Pa.
34 Florence M. Bogdan	08-25-2018	Bethlehem, Pa.
41 Margaret Jenko	02-27-2019	Monroeville, Pa.
87 Samuel J. Yex	05-31-2018	West Newton, Pa.
87 Donald E. Podbesek	01-17-2019	Herminie, Pa.
87 Mary C. Fullerton	03-11-2013	Greensburg, Pa.
87 Edwin Anzur	03-07-2019	North Huntingdon, Pa.
106 Eugene P. Brinkley	02-03-2019	Annadale, Va.
106 George A. Harbaugh	02-20-2019	Bulger, Pa.
106 Michael Martinez	03-03-2019	Clinton, Pa.
106 Betty Vidmar	02-04-2019	Hopedale, Ohio
117 Janet M. Smearcheck	12-08-2018	Northfield, Ohio
126 Charles Penko	01-24-2019	Chardon, Ohio
138 John P. Flaherty Jr.	02-20-2019	Glenshaw, Pa.
138 Billie I. Reese	03-07-2019	New Cumberland, W.Va.
153 Margaret A. Loney	01-16-2019	Youngstown, Ohio
153 Josephine T. Rogel	12-27-2018	Alliance, Ohio
158 Steven P. Dornbusch	03-04-2019	Naples, Fla.
190 Frances M. Ritz	02-17-2019	Mocksville, N.C.
207 Eleanor G. Turk	01-18-2019	Helena, Mont.
218 Albert L. Grubestic	10-28-2018	Santa Fe, N.M.
218 Louis Popish	02-25-2019	Aspen, Colo.
223 George E. Kalp	02-22-2019	Greensburg, Pa.
225 Joseph Cizerle	03-05-2019	Arma, Kan.
265 Joseph Kencec	03-13-2019	Hickory, Pa.
459 Linda S. Derr	09-19-2018	Davison, Mich.
459 LaLene A. Pellens	02-20-2019	Davison, Mich.
518 Amelia Wilson	02-13-2019	Lincoln Park, Mich.
559 Joanne R. Kenig	01-21-2019	Westmont, Ill.
562 Patricia Smith	01-24-2019	Cincinnati, Ohio
577 Paul D. Lindvay	01-09-2019	Mesa, Ariz.
584 Dennis J. Stoyanoff	12-05-2011	Hermantown, Minn.
584 Mary J. Russ	01-12-2019	Virginia, Minn.
584 Robert J. Alpner	11-22-2018	Milwaukee, Wis.
584 Judith L. Price	01-23-2019	West Allis, Wis.
584 Marilyn M. Kastelic	11-28-2018	New Berlin, Wis.
584 John Seban	02-17-2017	Scottsdale, Ariz.
584 Ann M. Vickman	02-03-2019	Green Bay, Wis.
604 Josephine Pryatel	10-03-2015	Chagrin Falls, Ohio
643 Bernice J. Kren	03-02-2019	Girard, Ohio
689 Angelyn A. Cortese	12-28-2018	Price, Utah
715 Dorothy Komodina	12-30-2018	Santa Yabel, Calif.
721 George A. Buckley	02-03-2019	Industry, Pa.
721 Margaret M. Zakrajsek	02-02-2019	Aliquippa, Pa.
723 Carol Jean Brown	03-01-2019	Moab, Utah
723 Mary L. Ehrle	12-21-2018	Tulsa, Okla.
729 Helen M. Bennett	02-11-2019	Belle Vernon, Pa.
749 Irene Cebron	10-27-2018	Naugatuck, Conn.
770 Pamela M. Engle	02-10-2019	Enon Valley, Pa.
786 Kenneth A. Ercek	03-29-2018	Escondido, Calif.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

SNPJ Crossword
POP ICONS (#0419) solution

G	R	A	S	P		A	L	B		M	I	C	E			
R	A	I	T	A		C	A	R		C	A	N	O	E		
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

The annual meeting of members of the **SLOVENE HOME FOR THE AGED** will be held Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in the Laurich Room of The Slovene Home — Skilled Care and Rehabilitation 18621 Neff Road, Cleveland, OH 44119.

Registration: 4:00 p.m. — Meeting: 4:30 p.m.

*Members are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

*Members, as defined in the bylaws, are those individuals and organizations who have contributed a minimum of \$25 during the preceding year. For the May 14, 2019, meeting, this is the period from April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019.

Lodge 449 selects representatives to attend the Young Adult Conference

by TINA RIGLER
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer
CICERO, Ill. — Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 met March 10. President Edward Dabrowski conducted the meeting, at which Secretary/Treasurer Tina Rigler read all communications received from the Home Office and gave the financial report. All officers were present.
Auditors Justin Rigler, Elena Maresh and Robert Rigler had audited the financials of the Lodge, and the audit report was read by Justin Rigler. Secretary Tina Rigler reported that in

December she had attended Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas' holiday event featuring all the ethnic communities, along with Federation President Edward Dabrowski, Lodge President Vince Rigler and Lodge Vice President Meredith Maresh.
During the meeting, Lodge members nominated Meredith Maresh, Elena Maresh, Lucas Stimach, Shane Miller and Jason Rigler to attend the SNPJ Young Adult Conference (YAC) which will be held June 14-16. Meredith Maresh will be serving as the YAC chair-

person and will be conducting this year's conference.
Meredith also informed us that she has chosen the Ronald McDonald House Charities as this year's fund-raising project for the young adults. The Ronald McDonald House Charities has several locations throughout the United States to which donations can be made. More information on this project will be distributed to the Lodges in the coming months.
A Federation report was given by Tina Rigler, indicating that seven youth members were in attendance at the Chicago

Federation Christmas party. Meredith Maresh and Lanie Maresh helped out with the children's games. A discussion of the Memorial Day services, held at the end of May at Woodlawn Cemetery, is planned during the next Federation meeting.
A discussion was held regarding the successful Fannie May candy bar fund-raiser the Lodge held. Secretary Rigler read a letter received from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland regarding the Lodge donations that were delivered.



Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 members enjoyed a few games of card bingo at the conclusion of their March meeting.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed playing card bingo and winning prizes.
The next Lodge 449 meeting will be held June 16 starting at 1 p.m. at the Father's Day picnic held at the St. Mary's picnic grounds in Lemont, Ill.

Summer approaching, warm weather events return to Imperial Lodge 106

by KEVIN RICHARDS
SNPJ Lodge 106
IMPERIAL, Pa. — Greetings from SNPJ Lodge 106! Stop into our clubroom on the first Tuesday of each month to see bartender Shari and enjoy an evening of free jukebox. We're also continuing bar bingo on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Special early bird games start at 6:30 p.m.; the first regular games start at 7. Our kitchen is open during bar bingo.
Plan now to enter the upcoming Lodge 106 bean bag toss tournaments on Sunday, May 5, and Saturday, June 1. The entry fee for each tournament is \$5 per person. Play starts at 1 p.m.
Our next euchre tournament is planned for Sunday, May 12, starting

at 2 p.m. This euchre tournament will be the last one of the season.
The first Lodge 106 car cruise of the season will be held Sunday, May 19, starting at noon. Car cruise schedule magnets will be available for the first 50 cars. Musical entertainment will be provided by Cool Change. Food will be available for purchase, along with drinks, a 50/50 drawing and door prizes – all on our level, paved parking lot and in our air-conditioned clubroom. This event is open to the public, and bikes are always welcome.
Another "Seems Like Old Times" dance has been scheduled in the Imperial Room at Lodge 106 on Sunday, May 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. Our

kitchen will open at 5 p.m., offering a bountiful buffet. Admission is \$10 at the door. Enjoy the Wally Merriman Group for this ballroom-style dance.
Help us celebrate Bob Turcola's lifetime of dedication to Slovenian music on Sunday, June 2, from noon until 6 p.m. This 80th birthday celebration will feature the music of Turcola-Kravos, the Valencic brothers, KTB (Kim Skovenski, Terry Skovenski and Brian O'Boyle) and many more. Admission is \$10 at the door; a cash bar and our kitchen will be open.
We are giving away a set of PING golf clubs to benefit the 2019 Lodge 106 Memorial Golf Tournament. This set, valued at over \$1,800, includes

custom-fitted PING G400 golf clubs complete with a driver, 3-wood, hybrid, irons (4-PW), and bag. The winning number will be based on the July 4 Pennsylvania Lottery evening number. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased during regular business hours in the Lodge 106 clubroom, or from Club Board or tournament committee members.
Speaking of the Lodge 106 Memorial Golf Tournament, the outing will be played Sunday, Aug. 25, at Black Hawk Golf Course in Beaver Falls, Pa. The entry fee is \$60 per golfer and includes greens fee, door prizes and a picnic dinner in the Lodge 106 clubroom. Entry forms are available in the clubroom during regular busi-

ness hours. This will be a scramble tournament; you will play with your own foursome and competition teams will be selected by random draw.
Would you like to receive periodic e-mails from Lodge 106 about upcoming events and important announcements? If so, e-mail sn timer106@gmail.com and we'll add you to our list.
Keep track of all the activities going on at Lodge 106 by following SNPJ Lodge 106 and Imperial Room at SNPJ on Facebook, or by visiting the "Upcoming Events" page on our website, www.sn timerimperialpa.com. The complete Lodge 106 car cruise schedule, as well as the bean bag toss tournament schedule, can be found there.

May 15 the deadline for the Miss SNPJ Pageant early bird entry bonus

by KEVIN RICHARDS
SNPJ Fraternal Director
IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Fraternal Department is currently accepting entries for the 2019 Miss SNPJ Pageant. The pageant will take place July 12-14 at the SNPJ Recreation Center.
Contestants must be single females between the ages of 18 and 28 by July 12, 2019, and a member of SNPJ for at least three months at the time of the pageant. All young ladies who participate in the pageant will receive a \$50 participant award, and those who enter the pageant before May 15 will also receive an early bird bonus of \$50.

The 2019 Miss SNPJ Pageant entry form can be found on the "Miss SNPJ Pageant" page of our website, www.sn timer.org. The deadline to enter the pageant is June 12.
The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is currently accepting donations. Any donation, large or small, is truly appreciated and will be recognized in the pageant program. Checks can be made payable to "SNPJ" with "Miss SNPJ Pageant" noted on the memo line. Donations should be mailed to Slovene National Benefit Society, Attn: Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.



Young ladies planning to enter the 2019 Miss SNPJ Pageant have until May 15 to submit an early bird entry and receive a \$50 bonus.

information
at your fingertips

Looking for information on your SNPJ insurance and annuity policies? Log in to PolicyView on sn timer.org and follow the step-by-step instructions.

Important figures to consider...

29%... people who would purchase more life insurance if they were asked

62%... people who own coverage, but don't know what they have or why they have it

82%... people who are under-insured

If your coverage is over 5 years old, contact SNPJ for a policy review.

sn timer
1-800-843-7675

A CENTURY in the making

Proud of your SNPJ membership? Then you owe it to yourself to delve deeper into SNPJ history through the pages of *An Inspired Journey — The SNPJ Story: The First One Hundred Years of the Slovene National Benefit Society*.

This richly-illustrated chronicle of SNPJ history compiled and written by SNPJ Publications Editor Jay Sedmak is now available for purchase.

\$15.00 each — plus \$2.50 s/h add \$1 shipping for each additional copy ordered

RETURN THIS ORDER FORM TO
Slovene National Benefit Society
247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA 15126-9774

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Number of copies _____

Payment in full must accompany all orders. Make checks payable to SNPJ. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of January-March 2019

Verbick Fraternal Memorial Bowling Tournament..... \$516	Mary Lou Videgar (723), San Mateo, Calif. ... \$75 In memory of Shirley Osretkar	Robert J. & Rose Marie Lawrence (138), Strabane, Pa..... \$25 In memory of Louis Novak
SNPJ Lodge 786, Orange County, Calif., and SNPJ Lodge 723, Fontana, Calif. \$389.02 Proceeds from the 2018 Vinska Trgatev	Edward & Eleanor (721) Nemeth, Pittsburgh... \$50 In memory of Louis Koutoulakis	Robert J. & Rose Marie Lawrence (138), Strabane, Pa..... \$20 In memory of Michele Boarman
SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. \$200	SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. \$40 In memory of Anna Sensasak	Robert J. & Rose Marie Lawrence (138), Strabane, Pa..... \$20 In memory of Louis Koutoulakis
Frank J. Markelc (584), Milwaukee..... \$100	SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. \$40 In memory of John F. Kralj	Timothy V. & Joan A. Jurkowski, Milwaukee ... \$20 In memory of Robert J. Alpner
SNPJ Lodge 686, West Allis, Wis..... \$100 In memory of 2017 & 2018 deceased members	SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. \$30 In memory of Pauline (Kovacic) Korach	SNPJ Lodge 686, West Allis, Wis..... \$10 In memory of Kenneth Kasseckert
Slovene Speaking Federation of SNPJ Lodges of Western Pennsylvania..... \$100 In memory of Lou Koutoulakis	Mary K. & Timothy J. Donovan (584), Mukwonago, Wis. \$25 In memory of Robert J. Alpner	SNPJ Lodge 265, Southview, Pa. \$10 In memory of Elizabeth Domsic
Westmoreland Co. Federation..... \$100	SNPJ Lodge 721, Aliquippa, Pa. \$25	

SNPJ RECOMMENDER PROGRAM



The SNPJ Recommender Program provides an opportunity for adult members to encourage family, friends, children and acquaintances to join the Slovene National Benefit Society and take advantage of SNPJ's competitive products and numerous fraternal benefits. Not only will you be helping a friend and strengthening our Society, you'll also be receiving benefits yourself.

- Recommender Benefits**
- Receive \$10 for each valid referral submitted.
 - Every valid referral earns the recommender one chance in the Quarterly Drawing for an opportunity to win \$100.

By submitting one valid referral, you have the opportunity to earn a total of \$110 in cash prizes!

I would like to introduce

for SNPJ membership

Please contact: _____
(Parent or guardian if under age 18)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Indicate Preferred Agent _____
(Optional)

My Name: _____

My Lodge Number: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

e-mail _____

Each individual must be informed that an agent will contact him/her and the referral must have some interest in SNPJ in order for the recommender to be considered valid.

Complete this coupon and return to
Slovene National Benefit Society
Attn: Marketing Department
247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA 15126

Spring brings activities for Loyalties members

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158

EUCLID, Ohio — Spring has sprung and we hope you have been enjoying the nice weather, although here in Cleveland we've had some snow, even in April. With the warm weather comes a lot of opportunities for outdoor events, and our Loyalties have already begun to take advantage of it all.

Sue Srnick, Jan Smrdel, Diane Horabik, Anna Horabik, and Kim Skovenski ran in the "Spring in the Park" 5k for women. Sue and Don Srnick volunteered for the Cleveland Film Festival. This festival is a 12-day event that includes films of all genres, and this year was especially historic with a record 35 percent female directors, the highest in the United States. Keep up with the good work, everybody!

This past month we also participated in the Slo-Ish bowling tournament, which pits the Slovenians against the Irish for a day of fun with friends while they (hopefully) knock down some pins. This year's two pairs who had to fight for the title were Colleen Frank and Cody Cleary, and our very own Lodge 158 Vice President Greg Volpe and Daniella Volpe.

Unfortunately, those sneaky Irish beat the Slovenians by just a few pins. But fret not; we'll get them next year!

A big thank you to Colleen O'Malley Kuhn and Gina Volpe for putting the whole event together. We hope to see more of you rolling for the crown next year, so be on the lookout for the tournament an-

nouncement at the beginning of the year.

Next, we have some birthdays and some congratulations in order. First we have Nick Horabik's birthday on May 12. Nick is also graduating from Mentor High this year. Then we have Marianne Lorenzo, whose birthday is May 19. Marianne retired recently, so congratulations! Just know that all of us still in the workforce are very jealous.

Finally, we would like to extend a huge congratulations and best wishes to Daniel Elam and his girlfriend, Maja Pöschl, on their recent engagement. They haven't set a date yet, but we wish them the best of luck and many years of happiness together.

Speaking of birthdays and celebrations, did you know that SNPJ is having its 115th birthday this year? Did you also know that it would have been Theodor Geisel's 115th birthday as well? And just WHO is Theodor Geisel? Well, he is the creator of all the Whos in Whoville, and even Horton the Elephant, who first heard the Whos. That's right, he's Dr. Seuss!

So in celebration of both SNPJ, the organization we all love, and the iconic man behind all the rhymes from our childhood, this year's theme for the Loyalties picnic is Dr. Seuss!

Oh, the places we will go to make this the best picnic yet, including a fully-stocked menu (no roast beast, unfortu-

nately) with all of your summertime favorites. There will be lots of fun and games for the kids, as well as music provided by the Don Wojtila Orchestra that even the grouchiest of Grinches and green eggs and ham haters will love.

So mark the date, June 23, on your calendar, then be sure to hop on pop and bring him with you for an event that can only be compared to the annual Who-bilation. We hope to see you there!

The next Loyalties Lodge meeting will be held May 9 at Recher Hall, and we always love to see new faces. As always, we send our prayers to any and all ailing members and their families during this difficult time.



[Left to right] The Slovenian team of **DANIELLA VOLPE** and **GREG VOLPE** battled the Irish team of **CODY CLEARY** and **COLLEEN FRANK** for the title in the 2019 Slo-Ish Bowling Tournament in April. All four are Loyalties Lodge members.



Lodge 559 members held a food drive during their March 10 meeting, donating the collected goods to St. Cletus Church.

In 2019, meeting day changes for Lodge 559

by MELANIE MATIASEK
Lodge 559 Secretary

CHICAGO — The year kicked off with some changes for Lodge 559. We held our first meeting of 2019 at a new location on a new day of the week. We met Sunday, March 10, at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont, Ill., where members enjoyed lunch served by the Catholic Center. The luncheon was open to the public, so we had the opportunity to enjoy a large gathering of fellow Slovenian descendants.

The Catholic Center also hosted a Mass prior to the luncheon, and our Catholic members were able to attend. After lunch, we conducted business in the library. Members brought donations for our food drive, and we donated the goods to St. Cletus Church.

The members of Lodge 559

congratulate longtime Lodge 559 officer and former SNPJ National Secretary Sis. Grace Doerk on 70 years of membership in the SNPJ. Thank you, Grace, for everything you've done for our Lodge and this organization!

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, June 2, at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. We will hold another food drive, and this time the goods will be donated to Kolbe House. Thank you to Sis. Dawn Vidmar for making this suggestion and for joining us at our meeting.

If you would like to participate in our food drive but are unable to attend our next meeting, feel free to send a monetary donation to Lodge Secretary Melanie Matiassek, 1020 55th Place, Countryside, IL 60525.

Support the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — For many years, SNPJ members have enjoyed the unique and truly remarkable facility that is the SNPJ Recreation Center. The experiences and countless memories that have been made there are treasured by thousands. The Recreation Center is now more than 50 years old and, as with so many things, time, along with wear and tear, have taken their toll.

The large upper cabins, situated opposite the lake along Martin Road, are some of the first structures that were built on the property. Cabins #1 and #2 have already been completed. The budgeted cost to complete one cabin was \$28,000. There are a total of 24 large cabins and 12 motel units as part of this project. It will take a significant amount of capital to finish this project, and will likely take years to complete. The more donations we receive, the quicker we can complete the project. Since this is not a cultural or educational (scholarship) cause,

but rather, recreational in nature, contributions are not considered tax deductible.

We encourage Lodges, Federations, members, friends and other organizations to contribute. While we do offer "Club Level" recognition, all donations will be listed in *PROSVETA*.

Donors at the following Club Levels will receive their name on a plaque inside the corresponding cabin: Bronze Level, \$1,000; Silver Level, \$5,000; Gold Level, \$10,000; and Platinum Level, \$25,000.

Donation checks can be made payable to "SNPJ." Please indicate "Cabin Renovation" in the memo area. Provide your name and address, and the acknowledgment name and address if the donation is made in memory of someone.

Send your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!



Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the months of February & March 2019

SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League\$150 | Florence J. Webb (776), Auburn, Ind.\$100 | SNPJ Lodge 782, Glenshaw, Pa.\$50
SNPJ Lodge 3, Johnstown, Pa.\$100 | In memory of Frank & Mary Weeder | In memory of deceased members of Lodge 782

2019 SNPJ Western Pennsylvania/Lodge 138 Golf Tournament

Saturday, June 8, 2019
Shotgun start: 1 p.m.
Rolling Green Golf Course, Eighty Four, PA

Check Entry:
Men Women

Name	Lodge
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

The \$70 per person entry fee covers green fees, cart and prizes. The entry fee is non-refundable. Field limited to the first 72 entries. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
SNPJ Lodge 138, c/o Golf Tournament
269 Latimer Ave., Strabane, PA 15363
Phone: (724) 745-9860
Make checks payable to SNPJ Lodge #138
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 24, 2019

The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

2019 Wisconsin SNPJ Golf Outing

Tony Mlinar Sr. Memorial
June 15, 2019
at New Berlin Hills Golf Course, New Berlin, Wis.
Modified shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. • Team scramble

Name	Lodge	Phone or e-mail
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Team captain's name & e-mail: _____

The \$75 per person entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes and lunch. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Lucky Lanes
5014 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53220
Phone: (414) 543-7110 • e-mail: luckylanes13@yahoo.com
Make checks payable to **SNPJ Badger Lodge 584**
ENTRY DEADLINE IS JUNE 8, 2019

The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

SNPJ Recreation Center 2019 Fraternal Events Schedule

May 4-5	National Bowling Tournament
May 26	Recreation Center Brew & Bean Festival (Micro Brew & Chili Cookoff)
June 1	Balina & Bags Weekend
June 14-16	SNPJ Young Adult Conference
June 22	SNPJ Heritage Center Family Fun Day
July 12-14	SLOVENEFEEST 2019
July 26-28	Youth Roundup Weekend
July 28-Aug. 3	SNPJ Family Week
Aug. 18-24	SNPJ Senior Week
Aug. 30-Sept. 1	National SNPJ Days
Sept. 21	Recreation Center Wine & Sausage Fest

Check Entry:
Men Ladies Youth

Name	Lodge	Phone	Hdcp.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Contact name: _____
e-mail: _____

The \$80 entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes, dinner, and sandwich and beverage at the turn. Youth entry fee is \$72. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Rick Gorjup
7180 Kory Ct., Concord, OH 44077-2221
Phone: (440) 354-5001 [H] or (440) 773-3233 [C]
Make checks payable to
SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League (CAL)
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 19, 2019

The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

55th CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament

May 25, 2019
at Rolling Green Golf Course, Huntsburg, OH
9 a.m. Shotgun Start

Check Entry:
Men Ladies Youth

Name	Lodge	Phone	Hdcp.
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Contact name: _____
e-mail: _____

The \$80 entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes, dinner, and sandwich and beverage at the turn. Youth entry fee is \$72. Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Rick Gorjup
7180 Kory Ct., Concord, OH 44077-2221
Phone: (440) 354-5001 [H] or (440) 773-3233 [C]
Make checks payable to
SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League (CAL)
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 19, 2019

The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.