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 ISSUE 10

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31st Convention highlights SNPJ progress

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
 SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Society's 31st Quadrennial Convention, held Aug. 13, 2018, took place at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the 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. A list of the newly-elected National Board members is below; their four-year term of office will begin

on Jan. 1, 2019.

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 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 that serves as the SNPJ 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. It was reported that the Society

has experienced consistent growth in assets and steady operational profits. SNPJ has sustained itself through the Great Depression and the global financial crisis.

The Society has not had a loss from operations before refunds and before realized gains and losses since 1988. Thus, net gains were experienced each of the past four years. Expenses were reduced nearly \$1 million over the past four-year period compared to the previous four-year period. In 2017, the loss at the SNPJ Recreation Center was the lowest since 1982.

Surplus increased 22 percent since 2013. Both asset-to-liability ratio and Risked Based Capital ratio improved since 2013. This all

SEE 31ST CONVENTION
 ON PAGE 10

briefly

Warren Lodge 321 has Oct. meeting on agenda

WARREN, Ohio — The members of Lodge 321 will meet Sunday, Oct. 14, starting at 2 p.m. at the home of Lodge Secretary Gail Frederick Church, 5276 Craig Ave. in Warren. For additional information phone (330) 847-8466.

GAIL CHURCH
 Lodge 321

W. Pa. Fed changing location of Oct. meeting

STRABANE, Pa. — The site of the Western Pa. Federation meeting, originally planned at Lodge 106 in Imperial, Pa., has been moved to the Lodge 138 Hall in Strabane. The meeting will be held Sunday, Oct. 14, starting at 4 p.m. Discussions will include the Funny Fund-raiser that will be held at Imperial Lodge 106 on Saturday, Nov. 3, as well as future events that the Federation may sponsor.

BRIAN PATOSKY (106)
 Federation Secretary

Westmoreland Co. Fed slates October meeting

GREENSBURG, Pa. — The Westmoreland County (Pa.) Federation will hold their fourth quarterly meeting Friday, Oct. 19, starting at 6:30 p.m. at Greensburg Lodge 223. All Federation members are invited. We will finish out the 2018 activities and discuss possible activities for 2019.

Thank you, and have a great end to 2018. Don't forget our oldies dance on Oct. 27 in Yukon, Pa., from 6 to 10 p.m.

MARYANN BEBAR (41)
 Federation President

Trunk-or-treat will benefit Youth Circle 19

STRABANE, Pa. — On Oct. 20, Youth Circle 19 is hosting its annual Halloween party at SNPJ Lodge 138! Trunk-or-treat will begin at 5 p.m. Participants will purchase a parking spot for \$10 and decorate their trunks to pass out Halloween candy. Proceeds from the parking spots will benefit Circle 19. The kids will trick-or-treat through the parking lot before attending the party that is sure to have them laughing 'til they're "coffin." We'll have games, crafts, snacks and a costume contest.

All children are invited to attend the trunk-or-treat and Halloween party. For children who are not a member of Circle 19, the cost of this event is \$5. If you'd like to reserve a parking spot for trunk-or-treat, or to RSVP for your child(ren), contact Circle Director Margaret Cadez at (724) 554-8509 or e-mail MCadez414@icloud.com by Oct. 17.

MARGARET CADEZ
 Lodge 138

West Park Home sold; shares must be claimed

CLEVELAND — The West Park Slovenian National Home at 4583 West 130th St. in Cleveland was sold in December 2017. Anyone with hall shares must turn them into Attorney Jeff Sheehan, 9507 Larnder Ave. #2, Cleveland, OH 44102. For information phone (216) 651-0438.

MARIE PIVIK
 Lodge 257 President

SNPJ National Board

Term Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2022

Executive Committee:

National President/CEO Joseph C. Evanish
 National Secretary/COO Karen A. Pintar
 National Treasurer/CFO Robert J. Lawrence



Finance Committee:

Roger C. Clifford
 Kenneth Anderson
 Rick Hervol

Audit Committee:

Stan Repos
 Vincent Baselj
 Joanna Baker

Regional Vice Presidents:

Ken Zakraysek, Region 1
 James L. Curl, Region 2
 Don Srnovrsnik, Region 3
 Tracey Anderson, Region 4
 Justina Rigler, Region 5
 Fred Mlakar, Region 6

PERIODICAL MATERIAL



SNPJ Region 3 members seated in section 112 at Classic Park, the home of the Lake County Captains, during Slovenian Heritage Night held Aug. 20. Section 112 was selected as the winning section for the night.

SNPJ Region 3 members pack the park for Slovenian Heritage Night

by LINDA GORJUP (576)
 Region 3 Vice President

CLEVELAND — Well, it was another one for the books. On Monday, Aug. 20, I hosted Slovenian Heritage Night at the Lake County Captains baseball game. SNPJ Fraternal Director Kevin Richards helped me throughout the night at our SNPJ table. The Captains played the West Michigan Whitecaps, fought long and hard for nine innings, and rallied in the ninth. But they couldn't bring home the win, losing 3-1.

The weather was perfect for a late summer ballgame, and everyone enjoyed the field's Monday night special of dollar dogs and beer. I'm thrilled to say that this was one of the best attended games for us. We had 152 paid members through the gates, and another 32 members with

pre-paid vouchers, giving us a grand total of 184! SNPJ members were treated to a \$2 discount on their tickets if pre-ordered through me. That's the sign of a true Slovenian: always trying to save a buck (or two in this case).

The night began at 5:30 p.m. with Patty Candela (576), Joe Strukel and T.J. Likovic (576) providing polka music for the crowd as they waited to enter the park. The gates opened at 6 p.m. and the music continued. At 6:30 I headed down to the field where I thanked the Captains organization for all their help throughout the last six years. I then introduced incoming SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Don Srnick (158), who announced that he will continue the Slovenian

SEE REGION 3 HERITAGE NIGHT
 ON PAGE 13

Tournament competition heats up at National Days

by KEVIN RICHARDS
 SNPJ Fraternal Director

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Fraternal Department and the SNPJ Recreation Center would like to thank everybody who joined us as we celebrated National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center during Labor Day Weekend.

The weekend kicked off Friday evening, Aug. 31, with a welcome party and open juke box in the Gostilna.

Saturday, Sept. 1, started early as our golfers arrived at Black Hawk Golf Course to compete in the 2018 SNPJ National SNPJ Golf Tournament. Congratulations to Ed Caggiano (770) for shooting a 69 to take the actual title in the men's

division, and to Sara Taylor (138) for taking the actual title in the women's division with a score of 97. A huge congratulations to Laurie Cadez (138) for her hole-in-one, and for winning a set of Calloway golf clubs in the process!

Thanks to District 3 Athletic Director John Pierog (776) for helping me with this golf tournament. Thanks also to Ron Tkach (138) and Jeff Cadez (138) for helping with the skins game. The Peoria holes selected were 1, 2, 8, 11, 17 and 18.

The women's division of the 2018 SNPJ National Balina Tournament was also played on Saturday. Congratulations to team "Scrambled Legs," consisting of Peggy Cushman (138),

Kristen Cushman (138), Karen Pintar (6) and Elaine Apanaites (158), for winning this tournament.

Thanks to National Secretary Karen Pintar for timing the balina games and making sure everything ran smoothly. Thanks as well to Peggy Cushman (138), Dan Bosek (564) and Alison Evanish (715) for keeping time during the games; and to Ken Pintar (6), Jack Zaman (142), Rowland Hudson (564) and Brian Spieler (782) for keeping the courts swept. These people were extremely helpful on both days of the tournament.

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THE DEADLINE

The next two PROSVETA issue dates are Nov. 1 and Dec. 3. All material must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 17, for the Nov. 1 issue, and by Wednesday, Nov. 14, for the Dec. 3 issue. If you are 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.

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SNPJ NATIONAL BOARD

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Joseph C. Evanish
NATIONAL SECRETARY
Karen A. Pintar
NATIONAL TREASURER
Robert J. Lawrence

Correspondence received at:
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Imperial, PA 15126-9774

Office hours are Monday -Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fridays 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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Robert Lawrence, Secretary
Joseph C. Evanish
Kenneth Anderson – 2400 Derby Road, Birmingham, MI 48009
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Audit Committee:

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e-mail: pwoodhcs@aol.com
Vincent Baselj – 1001 Grandview Ave., Apt. 903, Bridgeville, PA 15017
Louis J. Novak – 6308 Highland Rd., Highland Heights, OH 44143
Stan Repos – 1255 McCaslin Rd., Imperial, PA 15126

Regional Vice Presidents:

Frank Bregar, Region 1 – 896 Weatherwood Ln., Apt. 331, Greensburg, PA 15601
James L. Curl, Region 2 – 5033 Orchard St., Carnegie, PA 15106
Linda Gorjup, Region 3 – 712 Fiddlers Way, Painesville, OH 44077
Tracey Anderson, Region 4 – 1014 Edgewood Dr., Royal Oak, MI 48067
Justina Rigler, Region 5 – 1116 Berkley Lane, Lemont, IL 60439
Fred Mlakar, Region 6 – 13592 Onkayha Cir., Irvine, CA 92620

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(724) 336-5180 • fax (724) 336-6716
Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732
website: www.snpjrec.com
e-mail: snpj@snpjrec.com

No horsing around

SNPJ Region 5 members get insight on training as they visit Tempel Farms for Lipizzan performance

by TINA RIGLER (449)
Region 5 Vice President

CHICAGO—On Aug. 25, members from SNPJ Region 5 attended the Lipizzaner performance at Tempel Farms in Oak Mill Creek, Ill. The Tempel Lipizzans are celebrating 60 years, and the program consisted of eight individual performances set to music. Each performance demonstrated different Lipizzan horses and different styles.

The first performance began with the newest Tempel Lipizzan foals, which are born dark in color and will lighten with age. It's rare for a Lipizzan to remain dark brown or black.

The other performances consisted of the trained Lipizzans pulling a carriage, moving animatedly on straight lines, changing directions and tempo in three natural gaits: walk, trot and canter. They also performed in a group, which can be a challenge for a young stallion. Stallions are territorial by nature, so allowing another horse into their

space requires dedicated training.

The upper-level horse is trained according to the classical principles of dressage. The art of riding and training a horse classically develops obedience, flexibility and balance based upon the horse's natural abilities. It may take up to 10 years to reach the highest level of training. Lipizzans mature later than many horses and begin their training at 4 years old.

Other performances included trainers leading the horse by a short rein and a long rein. This is the only location in the United States where such a high-level, long rein can be observed. The performance requires great concentration and trust between the trainer and the horse.

Today, with numbers around 10,000 worldwide, the Lipizzan is considered an endangered domestic breed.

After the performance, we were allowed to visit the horses and trainers in the stable area, and take pictures.



[Above] SNPJ Region 5 members at Tempel Farms in Oak Mill Creek, Ill.



[Right] Riders and horses display their skills during one of several Lipizzan performances at Tempel Farms.



Melvindale, Mich., Lodge 518 members and friends gathered in August for the first balina outing played in honor of the late Bro. Frank Tehovnik.

Balina outing honors late Lodge 518 officer

by WILLIAM KRZISNIK
Lodge 518 President

MELVINDALE, Mich. — On Aug. 25, Melvindale Lodge 518 held the very first Frank Tehovnik Memorial Balina Outing at Palazzo di Bocce in Lake Orion, Mich.

At this well-attended event, members enjoyed indoor balina, food, beverages and friendship while honoring longtime Lodge 518 leader Frank Tehovnik. Frank's son Michael, Lodge 518 secretary/treasurer, displayed several photos and mementos from Bro. Tehovnik's SNPJ activities. The group reminisced about good times with Frank and other members.



The late Bro. Frank Tehovnik (518) in an undated photo.

Our scholarship recipient, Alaina Norrito, also attended the balina outing and discussed her upcoming college school year.



Teams at play on the court during the first Frank Tehovnik Memorial Balina Outing.

A special guest and a great turnout for CAL Farm picnic

by LINDA GORJUP (576)
Cleveland Athletic League

KIRTLAND, Ohio — On Sunday, Aug. 19, the Cleveland Athletic League (CAL) hosted its annual summer picnic at the SNPJ Farm on Heath Road in Kirtland. The crowds began to arrive around 1 p.m. and waited patiently for our kitchen to open at 2. There was a small issue with the krofe, but in the end the homemade Slovenian donuts turned out beautifully.

Members of the SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary were there to help throughout the day. We served up Dorothy's spaghetti and meatballs with a complimentary glass of wine, Slovenian sausage with kraut and Gerri's delicious Slovenian potatoes, and a new entrée to the picnic scene, barbecue western ribs with all the trimmings. We also served the following sandwiches all day: hot dogs, Slovenian sausage, roast beef and open-faced roast beef. The Ladies Auxiliary offered homemade loaves of krofe bread for sale as well, some

plain and some with raisins.

Thanks to Vida Zak, Marion Slejko, Bobbi Eilersich, June Slopnik, Anne Herpak, Lou Novak and "kitchen manager" Gerri Trebets. CAL reps also stepped in to help out. Thanks to Lee Jackopin, Sammi Likovic and Pauline Barbish. Of course, I can't forget our bartenders, so thanks to Rick Gorjup, Brad Stroth, Donna Sebusch, Ally Perdan and Chris Bacnik. Ally doubled up and served as our drawing ticket salesperson as well.

After dining, our guests danced the afternoon away to Ron Likovic & Friends. Ronny, Denny Bucar, Joshua Kay and R.J. Likovic played all the classics. Joining in were Tony Fortuna, T.J. Likovic and Lynn Dezelon.

We had a special guest arrive around 2:45 p.m. Skipper, the Lake County Captains mascot, stopped by to remind the crowd that the ballpark was hosting Slovenian Heritage Night the next night. A lot of guests had their picture taken with Skipper, and he even helped out in the kitchen!



Making a special visit to the Aug. 19 CAL picnic at the SNPJ Farm, Skipper, the Lake County Captains mascot, jumped right in to help the kitchen staff feed the hungry guests.

The crowd must have brought their appetites because at the end of the evening, we sold out of the spaghetti and meatballs and our western ribs. All in all, we had great weather,

great food, good pivo and vino, and great music. Thanks again to all who chipped in to help. Your volunteering is much appreciated; it's what allows us to hold our events every year.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- OCT. 12.....Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 "King of the Creek" Bowling Tournament at the Lodge 138 lanes; 8 p.m. Entry fee is \$30 per person. For additional information contact Lodge 138 by calling (724) 745-9860.
- OCT. 13.....Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 hosts Polka Classics in the Lodge 138 clubroom; 6-10 p.m. For additional information contact Lodge 138 at (724) 745-9860.
- OCT. 13-14..... SNPJ Fall Classic Bowling Tournament hosted by Imperial, Pa., Lodge 106. Bowling at Paradise Island Bowl; entertainment in the Lodge 106 clubroom. For details contact Fraternal Director Kevin Richards at 1-800-843-7675 ext. 144 or by e-mailing krichards@snpj.com.
- OCT. 21.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 Bowling Center no-tap tournament; 2 p.m. Registration is \$21 per person and includes bowling and prizes. Additional prizes for doubles at \$2 per person. Open to the first 48 bowlers. Sign up in the Lodge 6 clubroom. For additional information contact Lodge 6 at (412) 221-9862.
- OCT. 21.....Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 breakfast buffet; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. For details contact Lodge 138 at (724) 745-9860.
- OCT. 27.....Westmoreland Co. Federation oldies dance at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa.; 6-10 p.m. Entertainment by The Classics. Food and refreshments will be available.
- OCT. 27.....Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 adult Halloween party in the upstairs hall. Music by Stampede from 8 p.m.-midnight. Admission is \$5 with a costume, \$10 without. For details contact Lodge 138 at (724) 745-9860.
- NOV. 2.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and the SASC Halloween party in the Lodge 6 clubroom; 8 p.m. Prizes awarded for costumes in various categories. Music and games will be provided. For details contact Lodge 6 at (412) 221-9862.
- NOV. 3.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and SASC Bar Olympics in the Lodge 6 clubroom; 1:30 p.m. Competition includes two games of no-tap bowling, best of three in darts, and double elimination in bean bag toss. Sign up in the Lodge 6 clubroom. For details call Lodge 6 at (412) 221-9862.
- NOV. 9.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Sygan Sportsmen Turkey Dance & Raffle in the Sygan Sunshine Room. Doors open at 6 p.m. with music by the Karl Lukitsch Orchestra from 7-11. Tickets are \$1 in advance, \$5 at the door, and include a chance to win one of 50 turkeys. For details call Lodge 6 at (412) 221-9862.
- NOV. 11.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 Bowling Center no tap tournament; 2 p.m. Registration is \$21 per person and includes bowling and prizes. Open to the first 48 bowlers. Sign up in the Lodge 6 clubroom. For details contact Lodge 6 at (412) 221-9862.
- DEC. 2.....Westmoreland Co. Federation holiday dance in the Crystal Ballroom, Herminie, Pa.; 2-6 p.m. Music by The Polka Classics. Food and refreshments will be available.
- DEC. 14.....Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and SASC Christmas party in the Lodge 6 clubroom; 5 p.m. Open to all SASC members and guests. Music, darts, bar bingo and more. Food service begins at 5:30 p.m.; the club will provide three entrees and everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. For details contact Lodge 6 at (412) 221-9862.

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

Slovene National Benefit Society National Board Minutes

Meeting held Aug. 12, 2018, at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.

Sunday, Aug. 12: Morning Session

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Joseph C. EVANISH with 16 National Board members and one Young Adult Representative present.

President EVANISH welcomes Meredith Maresh, the Young Adult Representative to the National Board.

President EVANISH states that if there are no objections, the chair will appoint Sisters Tracey L. ANDERSON and Justina RIGLER to serve as vice chairs for this meeting. There are no objections.

President EVANISH requests that the board rise for a moment of silence for all deceased members since the last meeting.

A motion is made by Bro. Richard HERVOL, second by Sis. RIGLER, that the time of sessions be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Motion approved.

Bro. Roger C. CLIFFORD motions that the Order of Business be approved, second by Sis. Linda GORJUP. Motion approved.

President EVANISH welcomes guest Bro. Frank Gradisek of Lodge 87.

National President's Report August 2018

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

This is the year of the Society's 31st Quadrennial Convention, which will take place Aug. 12-13 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. This has been a busy period preparing for the Convention. Lodge delegate elections took place in March and April. The Convention committees were appointed thereafter. The Convention Bylaws/Resolutions Committee met at the Home Office on June 28 to do their pre-Convention work.

A board education presentation took place at our March National Board meeting. The Society's pension actuary firm of Dunbar, Bender and Zapf prepared the presentation. Firm representatives provided the board education on the funding of Defined Benefit Plans.

Marketing

For the first six-month period of 2018, the Society issued 203 policies with a life insurance face amount of \$2,883,702. The amount of life insurance in force is \$252,654,891. There were 130 new members enrolled during this period compared to 165 for the same period the previous year. Annuity premium was \$3,181,381 compared to \$3,864,550 for the same period in 2017.

While the Lodge Bonus Program was changed to focus more on the activity portion of the program, we continue to provide Lodges with new member goals based on the size of their Lodge. These goals were provided in January.

The Marketing Department, which includes National Sales Director David Ely and Marketing Assistant Denise Herron, continues to promote sales and provide support to our members and producers. Denise continues to do a great job writing the "We've Got You Covered" column in PROSVETA, as well as providing valuable support.

The incentive sales campaign for unrestricted producers for 2018 is a New York City trip. We continue to provide monthly sales drawings for applications received. New recruiting efforts were developed by David, focusing on the use of social media tools. A number of new agents have been recruited as a result during this period.

David continues to meet with existing agents as well as potential agents and agencies. He has managed the efforts to have a booth, table or presence at some of our events, including festivals. He has also conducted seminars.

Fraternal Department

Fraternal Director Kevin Richards oversees the Fraternal Department, which covers the fraternal programs, youth services, athletic programs, and the programs held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. During the first six months of 2018, many programs took place for our members.

Lodges received their new member goals for the SNPJ Lodge Bonus Program. They are no longer required to send in an Activity Planner; it is to be kept by the Lodge secretary to aid them through the planning process of their Lodge activities. Activity Report Forms will be mailed out in the September secretary mailing to all Lodges to report their completed activities.

Florida SNPJ Days were held March 2-3, sponsored by Lodge 603 in Samsula, Fla.

The first Regional Fraternal Activity held in 2018 was a no-tap bowling tournament hosted by Region 2 Vice President Jim Curl at the Sygan Lodge 6 bowling lanes on Sunday, May 20.

The second Regional Fraternal Activity held in 2018 was the SNPJ Night at the Detroit Tigers on Saturday, June 9, hosted by Region 4 Vice President Tracey Anderson.

The Fraternal Department joined forces with the Slovene Heritage Center for their Slovene Heritage Weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center by holding balina and beanbag toss tournaments during their picnic on Saturday, June 9. These are the tournaments that have previously been held during Fraternal Weekend.

At the beginning of the year, the Fraternal Department conducted a direct mailing for the Miss SNPJ Pageant brochure, which was mailed to all 18- to 28-year-old female members. This is done to promote pageant participation.

The Young Adult Conference was held June 15-17 at the SNPJ Recreation Center with 60 delegates in attendance. This year was a work weekend with a couple of projects conducted by the delegates. In addition to keeping our Adopt-a-Highway cleanup commitment on Route 108, the delegates also did a clean-up walk-through of the SNPJ Recreation Center grounds. The main project was assembling 68 tie-blankets to be distributed to patients receiving chemotherapy treatments. Delegates from all areas took blankets home to be distributed at cancer centers in their home towns. Thanks to all of our members, Lodges and Federations for donating fabric and money toward this project. Thanks to Darcy Bible (6) for serving as chairperson for this year's conference and for doing an outstanding job keeping everything interesting and worthwhile.

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

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 Maletta.

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 director is Shelly Botwright.

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

SNPJ athletics continue to be a very strong benefit of membership. There were many athletic activities that took place during the first six months of 2018.

The 2018 SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament was co-sponsored by Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138 Feb. 16-18. Bowling took place at both of these Lodge's bowling facilities. For the men, there were 20 teams, 45 doubles and 90 singles. For the women, there were 16 teams, 31 doubles and 61 singles. This resulted in a Society remuneration of \$2,682.

The 2018 SNPJ National Bowling Tournament was held May 5-6, sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 158 and held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Bowling took place at Colonial Lanes in New Castle, Pa. For the men, we had 12 teams, 26 doubles and 50 singles. For the women, we had five teams, 13 doubles and 25 singles. This resulted in a Society remuneration of \$1,533.

The National Athletic Board met during the National Bowling Tournament weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

The 2018 SNPJ CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open was played May 26 with 67 members (61 men and six women) participating, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$402.

The 2018 SNPJ Western PA Invitational Golf Tournament was played June 9. There were 29 men and two women participating in this tournament, resulting in a Society remuneration of \$186.

The Fraternal Department is very grateful for the hard work and dedication of the many members who volunteer and participate in our programs. It is through this commitment that our fraternal programs are so successful. We also thank the SNPJ Recreation Center management and staff for helping to make these programs so beneficial to our members.

Publications

Our Society publications, PROSVETA and *The Voice of Youth*, continue to be managed and produced by Editor Jay Sedmak and Associate Editor Kim Winters. They do a good job producing quality publications for our membership. We greatly appreciate our scribes' contributions promoting and reporting on SNPJ activities and events.

During this period, the Publications Department conducted promotional work for Slovenefest. This included work on the Slovenefest sponsor letters, completing the three-panel flyer, designing the boulevard and venue banners, keeping the Slovenefest website up-to-date, writing/designing Slovenefest press releases and advertisements, and e-mail blast composition. SNPJ's social media contact intensifies several weeks prior to Slovenefest as we share information and promote the annual festival on Facebook.

For the Miss SNPJ Pageant, the Publications staff designs the Miss SNPJ Pageant brochure, the big-screen graphics displayed during the pageant, the Miss SNPJ Pageant flyers that are distributed to those attending the pageant, and the titleholder announcement cards and envelopes.

The staff also designs materials for promoting sales and fraternal events. During this period much work was done on Convention materials, including the program booklet.

The SNPJ Recreation Center, Slovenian Heritage Center, Alpine Room, Slovenefest and SNPJ main website continue to be hosted and supported by 3Seed. Jay Sedmak oversees the sites with help from Associate Editor Kim Winters.

Slovenia

SNPJ continues to maintain a good relationship with the Consul General's office in Cleveland and the embassy in Washington, D.C. We also work closely with the Pennsylvania Honorary Consul in Pittsburgh, Petra Mitchell.

Once again, the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center hosted a display at the Slovenian embassy during the EU Embassy Open House. On Saturday, May 12, 2018, the Washington, D.C., embassies of the 28 EU member states (including Slovenia) opened their doors to the public for the ninth Annual EU Embassies' Open House Day. Members of the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center Committee presented the Heritage Center's traveling display at the event. Thousands of visitors attend each year.

President of the Slovenian American Business Association and former Consul General Jure Žmauc organized the visit of a group of Slovenian woodworking business representatives to the United States. We were happy to host the group at the Home Office on May 25. SNPJ Lodge 106 hosted a luncheon for this group.

Fraternal Industry

SNPJ keeps in touch with the fraternal industry through the network of local, state and national trade affiliates. The Executive Committee participates with the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP), Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance (PFA), and the American Fraternal Alliance (the Alliance).

The executive officers regularly attend the FSGP meetings, which include officers and representatives of the many fraternal societies located in Western Pennsylvania. National Secretary/COO Karen Pintar continues to serve as secretary of the FSGP.

The FSGP named our own Robert J. Lawrence, National Treasurer/CFO, as their 2018 Fraternalist of the Year. Each year, the FSGP selects a member who displays active leadership in promoting a fraternal spirit, and who has made valuable contributions to the fraternal community. Bob was honored by the FSGP at a banquet on Saturday, April 21, at Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, Pa.

I am currently serving as president of the PFA. The annual meeting will take place in October. PFA board meetings were conducted during this period. Plans are underway for putting together an informative and productive program.

In June, a meeting was arranged by Alliance President Joseph Annotti to meet new Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman

in Harrisburg, Pa. I attended the meeting with several officers of other fraternal societies. It was a good opportunity to introduce the commissioner to the Pennsylvania fraternal benefit societies.

In April I attended the annual Alliance Executive Summit which took place in Washington, D.C. Several member-society delegations met with congressional offices making sure they are well aware of the good works and value of fraternal benefit societies. Many topics were covered, including regulatory issues and industry updates.

Conclusion

I am very happy to be working with two knowledgeable and experienced executives. National Secretary/COO Karen Pintar and National Treasurer/CFO Robert Lawrence have decades of tenure. Their expertise and commitment to the Society are greatly appreciated and invaluable.

Executive Assistant Kathy Brown continues to do an excellent job for the officers. Her additional support in putting together the Convention materials over the last several months has been invaluable. She has also done an enormous amount of the preparation work for the Convention.

The SNPJ management and Home Office staff show that they are dedicated to the Society and committed to providing good service to our membership. This includes not only the insurance and sales departments, but also the publications and fraternal operations. Additionally, our Lodge officers are key to the Society's success, and we appreciate their dedication.

The dedication of our National Board to the Society is greatly appreciated. This has been important to the continued success of the SNPJ. A fraternal and professional approach helps to maintain the integrity and positive image of the Society while providing the best possible service to our members. May our decisions and actions be in the best interest and welfare of the SNPJ.

Fraternally,

JOSEPH C. EVANISH, FLMI
National President/CEO

National President's Report

President EVANISH highlights his report, stating that focus has been on the Quadrennial Convention; the sales director is recruiting agents, and the sales director has been visiting agents and held a seminar in the Johnstown, Pa., area.

Questions and discussion on the report by Sisters GORJUP, RIGLER, Phyllis M. WOOD and Karen A. PINTAR.

A motion is made by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. CLIFFORD, to approve the report. Motion approved.

National Secretary's Report for the period ended June 30, 2018

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters, and welcome to the semi-annual 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 of Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018.

SNPJ Home Office

Personnel

At the end of June 2018, we employ 15 full-time employees, including our Executive Committee, two permanent part-time employees, and one temporary part-time employee.

Insurance Administration

This department continues to handle the day-to-day operations of a life insurance and annuity company. They do an excellent job of providing customer service to our members and secretaries, as well as handle their daily job functions.

We continue to review and update our risk assessments as necessary and participate in education via seminars or workshops to enhance our job skills.

IT Department

This department continues to maintain all of the hardware and software at the SNPJ Home Office and SNPJ Recreation Center.

During this period we were able to perform another disaster recovery test working with insurance administration, accounting, and our National Secretary and National Treasurer. This test was performed at the SNPJ Lodge 106 Hall.

We also continue to monitor the risk assessments for this area and update them as necessary. We continue to work toward upgrading the insurance administration software.

Miscellaneous

The 990N forms were filed for all of the Lodges that have gross sales revenue under \$50,000 for the last calendar year by May 15, 2018, as required by the IRS. We also filed the 990N forms for the Federations that are under the group exemption of the Society.

We are still working toward adopting the new CSO tables, and will be working with our actuary after the Convention to develop new premium rates, etc., related to these new tables. New filings will be required in all states in which we sell our products.

We continue to comply with the states that require us to research individuals whose family or legal representative reaches out to insurance departments to determine if a life insurance policy exists for a deceased individual. There are thousands of these requests, and we are required to check each of these names against our database to determine if a policy exists. While this takes up a great deal of time, I have yet to find one individual for whom we had a life insurance policy.

Lodges and Lodge Secretaries

Lodges

At the end of June 2018, we have 83 Lodges. There was one Lodge merger completed in February 2018 of Lodge 781 merging into Lodge 257. There were a total of 93 members involved in this merger. We thank both Lodges for working together to accomplish this merger, and we thank Sis. Dorothy Grmek for her many years of service to Lodge 781. Thanks to the officers and members of Lodge 257 for welcoming these members into your Lodge.

There is currently a transfer of membership underway for those individuals in Lodge 626 who must be transferred to other Lodges near their residence. Lodge 626 was no longer able to hold meetings or elect officers, so it became necessary to transfer all members. Each member of Lodge 626 was sent a transfer form providing options of all of the Lodges in the area. Many of these have been returned;

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

however, a large portion of members have not responded. We will be working toward finding these members Lodges near them and then completing the transfer.

Lodge and Secretary Awards

The awards for completing all of the required forms and submitting them by the appropriate deadlines were paid out in April 2018.

Lodge Awards.....	\$30,205
Secretary Awards	\$22,654
Total.....	\$52,859

The Lodge award represents \$1 per member for each adult and youth member of the Lodge, while the secretary award represents 75 cents per member for each adult and youth member of the Lodge.

There were 77 Lodges and Lodge secretaries that were paid the awards. The others were either too far past the deadline to use the information and, therefore, were not paid, or they never submitted one or more of the reports at all. All of the Elections of Officers and Meeting Verification and Certification Forms were eventually submitted, even if they were late.

Membership

Membership Count

On June 30, 2018, the active membership of the Society is:

29,418 Adult
2,402 Youth
31,820 Total

There was a decrease of 418 members in the first six months of the year.

Membership Statistics

Members as of Jan. 1, 2018..... 32,238

Increase by:

New Members	130
Reinstatement	8
Total Increase	138

Decrease by:

Deaths	281
Cash Withdrawals.....	119
Expired	41
Canceled	35
Lapse	44
Matured	16
Suspended pending Death	8
Suspended pending Maturity.....	12
Total Decrease.....	(556)

Members as of June 30, 2018..... 31,820

Insurance in Force

Life Insurance

As of June 30, 2018, we have 34,975 policies representing \$252,654,891 insurance in force.

Policies as of Jan. 1, 2018..... 35,435

Increase:

Issued and Paid.....	118
Reinstatement	12
Total Increase	130

Decrease:

Deaths	313
Cash Withdrawals.....	139
Canceled	17
Expired	44
Matured	30
Lapse.....	47
Total Decrease.....	(590)

Policies as of June 30, 2018..... 34,975

Annuities

As of June 30, 2018, we have 4,229 annuity policies with an annuity fund value of \$150,977,040.

Policies as of Jan. 1, 2018..... 4,253

Increase:

Issued and Paid.....	85
Total Increase	85

Decrease:

Cancel after Issue.....	3
Deaths	58
Cash Withdrawals.....	48
Total Decrease.....	109

Policies as of June 30, 2018..... 4,229

Accident & Health

Policies as of Jan. 1, 2018..... 3,909

Increase:

Reinstatement	10
Total Increase	10

Decrease:

Deaths	75
Expired	71
Canceled	82
Total Decrease.....	(228)

Policies as of June 30, 2018..... 3,691

Convention 2018

So, a great deal of time has been spent this last six-month period finalizing all plans for the 31st Quadrennial Convention being held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Room reservations have been secured and made, meal plans have been finalized, flights have been booked and confirmed, and shuttles are being arranged. There will be 29 delegates traveling by air to the Pittsburgh airport.

Correspondence has been sent by e-mail this time to a majority of the delegates, with only about 35 delegates requiring communication by regular mail. This is a cost savings to the Society, and a much more efficient and expedient form of communication to our delegates.

The Convention committees have been chosen and approved by the National Board, and the Bylaws/Resolutions Committee met at the Home Office in June. The Compensation and Credentials committees will meet on Sunday, Aug. 12, at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

There are 136 delegates and 16 National Board members for a total of 152 voting delegates to the upcoming Convention.

Fraternal Activities

Slovene National Benefit Society

During this six-month period I have attended a number of our fraternal events.

The SNPJ Winter Classic was held in February by Lodges 6 and 138, and it was another very successful tournament with a large turnout of bowlers. I served on the committee that sponsors the event, and I believe that both Lodges were pleased with the results.

In March I was fortunate to travel to SNPJ Lodge 603 in Samsula, Fla., to visit with my Florida friends and members. It is a very nice event that is always a good time and an opportunity to visit with many of our members that I do not see regularly. Miss SNPJ 2018 Lauren Sebusch and her mother, Sis. Donna Sebusch, were on

hand for the event, and Lauren did a wonderful job representing the Society. Miss SNPJ and I spoke during the program, along with Bro. George Benedict, Sis. Ruth Benedict and Sis. Jeannette Humphrey. My husband Ken and I thank you, Lodge 603, for your kindness and outstanding hospitality during our visit. Much thanks to our friends and members from SNPJ Lodge 106, Butch and Wendy Kinney, for being our ride for the weekend.

In May I participated in and assisted with the Region 2 no tap tournament sponsored by Region 2 Vice President Bro. Jim Curl. The event was held at the Sygan Bowling Center with approximately 40 bowlers from Lodges 6, 138 and 715. Fraternal Director Kevin Richards was also on hand to grill the hamburgers and hot dogs for the hungry crowd. It was a very nice event with good participation.

Also during May, I attended the social events held at the SNPJ Recreation Center by SNPJ Lodge 158, the sponsors of the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament. There was definitely a good crowd in attendance for the entertainment for the weekend.

In June I spent several weekends at the SNPJ Recreation Center preparing for Slovenefest and recruiting volunteers to assist with that huge event. Thank you so much to all who agreed to volunteer their time for the weekend.

Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh

I continue to serve as secretary of this organization, and continue to arrange the luncheons for the group. The speakers for our luncheons provide a wealth of information on topics related to our various organizations.

The Fraternalist of the Year banquet, which I arrange each year, was held in April and honored our very own SNPJ National Treasurer/CFO Bob Lawrence. Congratulations again, Bob! Thanks to all of our SNPJ members, friends, and our Society actuary and his family who came out to honor Bob that evening.

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance

In April I attended the board meeting of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance and the legislative luncheon held the following day in Harrisburg, Pa. Each year FSGP members gather at Pennsylvania's capital to make sure our legislators are aware of the volunteer hours and acts of humanitarian and community service performed by Pennsylvania fraternal organizations. This is always well attended by both fraternal benefit societies and by our legislators.

Conclusion

As always, a huge thanks to our SNPJ Home Office staff and managers for all of the hard work and assistance you provide. A special thanks to our Executive Assistant Kathy Brown for all of her hard work for our committee, and for the extra effort resulting from the additional work in Convention years.

I look forward to seeing our delegates at the upcoming Convention, and I look forward to a productive and successful board meeting and Convention.

Fraternally,

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

National Secretary's Report

Sis. PINTAR highlights her report regarding the transfer of members from Lodge 626, states that much of her time was used in the planning and execution of the Quadrennial Convention, and states that a discussion regarding IT will be held under general business later in the meeting.

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

National Treasurer's Report
August 2018

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters.

During the first six months of 2018, assets increased \$1.1 million from year-end 2017 to total \$213,221,211 as of June 30, 2018. Fixed income securities and cash totaling \$206,154,693 represent 97.8 percent of the Society's total invested assets. Real estate holdings, including the Home Office and the SNPJ Recreation Center, represent 1.1 percent of invested assets. The remaining 1.1 percent of the Society's invested assets is comprised of certificate loans, mortgages and other invested assets.

Net income from operations before refunds and realized capital gains and losses was a gain of \$200,868 for the period ending June 30, 2018. Gross income for the period of \$8,640,577 is a decrease of \$1,191,594, or 12 percent, from the same period in 2017. The decrease is a result of a \$683,169 decrease in annuity considerations and a decrease in net investment income.

Net investment income decreased \$434,787, or 8.6 percent, from the same period in 2017. The decrease was due to the absence of the \$410,610 payment which the Society received in 2017 upon entering into a gas lease agreement for the SNPJ Recreation Center property. Investment income on the bond portfolio decreased \$18,387, or 0.4 percent. Investment expenses increased \$11,153, or 4.0 percent, compared to the same period in 2017.

The investment book yield on the portfolio continues to decline from 4.75 percent at year-end 2017 to 4.69 percent as of June 30, 2018. Due to the continued low interest rate environment, as new money is received and as cash rolls off the portfolio from securities maturing or from principal repayments on the mortgage-backed securities, the yields on reinvestment of those funds for purchases of high-quality fixed income securities are dramatically lower. Thus, investment income which supports contract obligations and general expenses continues to be restrained, presenting a financial challenge for the Society.

Overall benefit claims, in the amount of \$5.8 million, were flat from 2017 to 2018. Annuity benefit claims were flat, whereas death benefit payments decreased slightly, 3.4 percent for the period, a decrease of \$31,459 from the prior year to total \$895,000 as of June 30. General and fraternal expenses decreased 1.4 percent, or \$16,692, compared to the same period in 2017.

Surplus increased \$113,436 from year-end 2017 to \$7,163,047 as of June 30, 2018. The increase is due to the net income gain from operations in the amount of \$136,424 and a positive change in the asset valuation reserve, but is offset by the \$38,388 change in unrealized loss in the asset portfolio and due to the \$11,336 change in non-admitted assets.

Following are comparative financial statements and investment transactions for the period.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. LAWRENCE
National Treasurer/CFO

The following investments were purchased from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018:

BONDS AND OTHER INVESTMENTS:

Name & Description	Coupon Rate	Cost	Par Value	Purchase Date	Due Date
Baylor University TX	4.019%	\$305,000	\$305,000	02/08/2018	03/01/2038
BB&T Corporation	3.700	643,697	645,000	05/31/2018	06/05/2025
BLUEM 13-2A A1R	2.925	504,750	500,000	02/09/2018	10/22/2030
BNP Paribas SA	3.375	484,132	485,000	01/02/2018	01/09/2025
Brown-Forman corp	4.000	494,275	500,000	03/22/2018	04/15/2038
CA Sutter Health	3.695	647,251	650,000	03/27/2018	08/15/2028
ConocoPhillips	5.900	358,197	300,000	02/06/2018	10/15/2032
Equitable Res Inc	7.750	453,416	375,000	01/09/2018	07/15/2026
Fifth Third Bancorp	3.950	419,424	425,000	06/07/2018	03/14/2028
FNR 2017-75 PL	3.000	119,275	130,000	03/16/2018	09/25/2057
KeyCorp	4.100	420,963	425,000	06/07/2018	04/30/2028
Marsh & McLennan	5.875	809,263	650,000	02/06/2018	08/01/2033
Mid-America Apart LP	4.200	452,284	455,000	05/07/2018	06/15/2028
MMAF 2018-A A5	3.610	154,972	155,000	05/22/2018	03/10/2042
Orlando Health	3.777	80,000	80,000	01/30/2018	10/01/2028
Penske Truck Leasing	3.900	648,674	650,000	05/07/2018	02/01/2024
PSNH 2018-1 A3	3.814	125,997	126,000	05/01/2018	02/01/2035
SBAC 2018-1C	3.448	475,000	475,000	02/16/2018	03/15/2023
SNDPT 17-4A A1	2.865	435,456	432,000	02/26/2018	01/20/2031
Southern CA Edison	4.125	77,463	80,000	05/30/2018	03/01/2048
Wachovia Bank NA	6.600	681,370	500,000	02/06/2018	01/15/2038
Mortgages Granted		0	0	2018	
Total New Purchases 1-1-18 through 6-30-18		\$8,790,858	\$8,343,000		

The following investments were disposed of from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018:

BONDS AND OTHER INVESTMENTS:

Name & Description	Coupon Rate	Consideration	Par Value	Book Value	Date Paid
Abbott Laboratories	5.125%	\$366,000	\$366,000	\$365,823	03/22/2018
Bexar County Tex Hosp Dist	5.269	450,000	450,000	450,000	02/15/2018
Bridgeport CT Nat-RE	7.640	15,000	15,000	15,000	01/15/2018
Connecticut Light & Power	5.650	500,000	500,000	500,000	05/01/2018
Connecticut St	5.460	55,000	55,000	55,000	03/01/2018
CVS Drug	8.353	6,550	6,550	6,550	Various
General Electric Cap Corp	5.625	1,009,970	1,000,000	996,242	01/23/2018
Houston, TX	6.290	20,000	20,000	20,000	03/01/2018
John Deere Cap	5.350	220,000	220,000	220,000	04/03/2018
Medtronic Inc	4.450	687,404	665,000	664,905	04/27/2018
Nucor Corp	5.850	500,000	500,000	500,000	06/01/2018
Rogers Communications	6.800	304,623	300,000	300,021	04/13/2018
Southaven Combined TVA	3.846	27,428	27,428	27,428	02/15/2018
Southern Power Co	5.150	153,860	150,000	161,979	05/21/2018
Transocean Inc	7.450	211,087	220,000	234,861	Various
Union Pac Res Group	7.050	500,000	500,000	500,000	05/15/2018
Wachovia Corp	5.750	600,203	600,000	600,061	02/01/2018
Westvaco Corp	7.650	60,000	60,000	60,000	03/17/2018
Mortgage/Asset Backed Principal Paydowns	Various	222,330	233,251	224,047	2018
Gov't Agency Principal Paydowns	Various	1,275,107	1,314,090	1,275,439	2018
Mortgage Payments	Various	20,150	20,150	20,150	2018
Total Disposed of 1-1-18 through 6-30-18		\$7,204,710	\$7,222,469	\$7,197,506	

SEE FINANCIAL SUMMARIES
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National Treasurer's Report

Bro. Robert J. LAWRENCE highlights his report stating that assets are up approximately \$1.1 million, reserves are up \$1.3 million, and surplus is up \$113,000; states that Whole Life premium is up but Single Premium and annuity premium are down; gross investment income is down from last year as the gas lease was included in the previous year's income; general and fraternal expenses are down in the first six months; and the net income for the first six months was \$136,000.

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

Finance Committee Report
Jan. 1 through June 30, 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 June 30, 2018, compared to Dec. 31, 2017, was as follows, along with a listing of the SNPJ portfolio by investment category:

	June 30, 2018		Dec. 31, 2017	
Less than 1 Year	\$12,366,139	6.0%	\$12,155,715	6.0%
1 to 10 years	86,763,369	42.3%	86,138,023	42.3%
11 to 20 years	57,193,129	27.9%	53,077,280	26.1%
Over 20 years	48,746,877	23.8%	52,287,038	25.7%
Total Bonds	\$205,069,514	100.0%	\$203,658,056	100.0%

	Market	Statement	Percent of Total	Yield
Corporate Bonds	\$130,850,253	\$125,966,679	59.78%	4.88%
Taxable Municipal	42,929,452	40,025,520	18.99%	4.79%
Agency CMBS	15,708,761	15,930,519	7.56%	3.65%
Commercial MBS	12,899,947	12,702,212	6.03%	3.78%
Agency CMOs	4,947,857	4,756,628	2.26%	4.59%
Non-Agency CMOs	1,626,266	1,592,624	0.76%	5.75%
Agency Passthroughs	1,242,628	1,207,150	0.57%	3.80%
U.S. Agency	968,200	927,916	0.44%	5.96%
Asset Backed Securities	1,989,359	1,960,266	0.93%	

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

life with an average S&P credit quality of A-. Purchases comprised of corporate bonds, taxable municipal bonds, asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities.

As a result of an increase in short-term market yields, the market value of the portfolio decreased \$4.2 million during the first half of 2018. The effective duration of the portfolio decreased from 8.43 to 8.10 years. The decrease was a result of the asset manager purchasing shorter maturity securities as the front end of the yield curve rose dramatically while long-term yields remained flat with the yield curve flattening out over the past six months. Cash flow from the portfolio is positioned to meet projected cash flow needs.

Long-term rates stubbornly continue to remain low with market yields remaining at historically low levels across all sectors. The benchmark 10-year Treasury rates increased from 2.35 percent at year-end to 2.87 percent at the end of June. The book yield on the portfolio is 4.69 percent as of June 30.

Attached is a record of transactions for the period of Jan. 1 to June 30, 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 first half of 2018:

PURCHASES:

Cost	Description	Yield	Coupon Rate	Due Date
\$305,000	Baylor University TX	4.019%	4.019%	03/01/2038
643,697	BB&T Corporation	3.730	3.700	06/05/2025
504,750	BLUEM 13-2A A1R	2.780	2.925	10/22/2030
484,132	BNP Paribas SA	3.550	3.375	01/09/2025
494,275	Brown-Forman corp	4.080	4.000	04/15/2038
647,251	CA Sutter Health	3.750	3.695	08/15/2028
358,197	ConocoPhillips	4.130	5.900	10/15/2032
453,416	Equitable Res Inc	4.740	7.750	07/15/2026
419,424	Fifth Third Bancorp	4.110	3.950	03/14/2028
119,275	FNR 2017-75 PL	3.500	3.000	09/25/2057
420,963	KeyCorp	4.220	4.100	04/30/2028
809,263	Marsh & McLennan	3.770	5.875	08/01/2033
452,284	Mid-America Apart LP	4.270	4.200	06/15/2028
154,972	MMAF 2018-AA5	3.640	3.610	03/10/2042
80,000	Orlando Health	3.780	3.777	10/01/2028
648,674	Penske Truck Leasing	3.940	3.900	02/01/2024
125,997	PSNH 2018-1 A3	4.060	3.814	02/01/2035
475,000	SBAC 2018-1C	3.450	3.448	03/15/2023
435,456	SNDPT 17-4A A1	2.740	2.865	01/20/2031
77,463	Southern CA Edison	4.320	4.125	03/01/2048
681,370	Wachovia Bank NA	3.950	6.600	01/15/2038
8,790,858	Total Securities Purchased			
0	New Mortgages Granted			
\$8,790,858	Total Purchases			

REDEMPTIONS:

Consideration	Description	Gain/(Loss)	Coupon Rate	Date Paid
\$366,000	Abbott Laboratories	\$177	5.125%	03/22/2018
450,000	Bexar County Tex Hosp Dist	-	5.269	02/15/2018
5,000	Bridgeport CT Nat-RE	-	7.640	01/15/2018
500,000	Connecticut Light & Power	-	5.650	05/01/2018
55,000	Connecticut St	-	5.460	03/01/2018
6,550	CVS Drug	-	8.353	Various
1,009,970	General Electric Cap Corp	13,728	5.625	01/23/2018
20,000	Houston, TX	-	6.290	03/01/2018
220,000	John Deere Cap	-	5.350	04/03/2018
687,404	Medtronic Inc	22,499	4.450	04/27/2018
500,000	Nucor Corp	-	5.850	06/01/2018
304,623	Rogers Communications	4,601	6.800	04/13/2018
27,428	Southern Combined TVA	-	3.846	02/15/2018
153,860	Southern Power Co	(8,120)	5.150	05/21/2018
211,087	Transocean Inc	(23,774)	7.450	Various
500,000	Union Pac Res Group	-	7.050	05/15/2018
600,203	Wachovia Corp	142	5.750	02/01/2018
60,000	Westvaco Corp	-	7.650	03/17/2018
222,330	CMO/Asset Backed Principal Receipts	(1,955)	Various	2018
1,275,107	Gov't Agency Principal Receipts	-	Various	2018
7,184,561	Total Securities Redeemed			
20,150	Principal Payments on Mortgages			
\$7,204,710	Total Redemptions	\$7,299		

Finance Committee Report

Bro. CLIFFORD, chairman of the Finance Committee, presents the report. Questions and discussion on investment holdings by Sis. WOOD, Bro. CLIFFORD and Bro. LAWRENCE.

Motion by Sis. WOOD, second by Sis. GORJUP, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Audit Committee Report

January-June 2018

Date of Report: Aug. 12, 2018

Fraternal greetings, SNPJ Executive Committee, SNPJ National Board and SNPJ members.

The SNPJ Audit Committee met Aug. 7-8, 2018, for the regular semi-annual meeting with all committee members present.

The Audit Committee conducted its semiannual review which consisted of routine documentation reviews and interviews with the Executive Committee members and select managers.

Routine Oversight Report Reviews

The following were reviewed for the period January through June 2018:

- Random receipts/invoices and 100 percent of Executive Committee members, National Board members and professional consultants;
- Randomly selected checks over \$20,000 requiring three executive signatures
- National Board member Code of Ethics Statements.

The review demonstrated that all documents were in order.

Complaints/Grievances

During this period, a complaint that was received and investigated in the previous six-month period was resolved in favor of the complainant. No other complaints or grievances were received in this period.

Executive Committee Member Meetings

The Audit Committee met with the Executive Committee as a group and individually to discuss common topics, their biannual reports and other various topics specific to each executive.

SNPJ Finances

National Treasurer Bob Lawrence reviewed the SNPJ financial report with the Audit Committee. Assets and surplus were up for the first six months of 2018 as compared to year-end 2017. This is a slightly better financial position for the SNPJ. The low interest rate continues to be a challenge for SNPJ. Several questions were

asked by committee members and answered to our satisfaction.

SNPJ Recreation Center Finances

SNPJ Recreation Center finances for the first six months show a loss of \$67,000. This is much better than the same time last year; however, it is not good as related to the budget set for 2018 of -\$75,000. Slovenefest is expected to have a positive influence during the second half of the year. The Gostilna shows a loss for the first six months which may be offset by Slovenefest income. Cabin rentals, Trailer Court rents and wedding income show excellent revenue which offsets the losses, but still leaves a deficit for the first six months.

There are four more weddings booked in 2018 than in 2017, although net income of weddings is almost double compared to 2017. Other than the Wine & Sausage Fest in September, there are no additional income-producing events planned for the remaining months of 2018. There were no new income-producing events this year. Finances at the SNPJ Recreation Center remain a concern. Careful management of expenses and revenue is critical during the last six months of 2018.

The Audit Committee made a suggestion to remove fixed costs such as insurance, utilities, taxes, etc., from each of the cost centers, placing them on the general expense report.

Membership and Insurance

Membership continues to decline. In the first half of 2018 there were 130 new members enrolled in SNPJ. Members of both the Executive Committee and Audit Committee are disappointed in this number, especially since the loss of members in the same time period was 418. A discussion ensued with the Executive Committee; however, they did not have any conclusions or recommendations for increasing membership. The Audit Committee members made several suggestions to include different types of insurance plans, agent recruitment, marketing ideas, etc. The value of PPGAs versus other types of agents was discussed. Insurance plans will be reviewed for re-pricing in the next six months. New membership is vital and should be a high priority at this time as first-year premium is factored into the RBC.

National Convention

National Secretary Karen Pintar reported that all is in order for the upcoming National Convention to be held on Aug. 13, 2018. Significant cost savings have been achieved by holding the Convention at the SNPJ Recreation Center through lower travel costs and use of electronic communication. The Audit Committee looks forward to a successful Convention.

Enterprise Risk Management

National Secretary Pintar stated that there are no new regulations; however, policies continue to be updated to reflect actual processes.

Fraternal Activities

TEL and Youth Roundup were held this year on the same weekend. It is unfortunate that there was very poor participation for both activities. There were no mailings to parents about the events as previously suggested by the Audit Committee. It is suggested that this be done next year.

The Young Adult Conference was very well attended. The community service projects were excellent. Hats off to Darcy Bible who organized the service projects and, along with other young adults, used social media to encourage young adults to seek out their Lodge secretary and attend the conference.

Lodges

National Secretary Karen Pintar stated that there is one merger occurring due to the Lodge not being able to hold meetings. A question was asked about the two members of Lodge 800, and Sis. Pintar stated that they are both deceased and not transferable to a Lodge.

Information Technology

National Secretary Karen Pintar discussed a need to upgrade PolicyView to work with the Gias 3.5 system; however, the cost is extraordinary. Sis. Pintar and IT Manager Terry Champ have worked with Genelco to develop an alternative plan that will upgrade the software and meet the needs of SNPJ. This will be presented at the National Board meeting for approval. The Audit Committee supports the alternative software upgrade plan and applauds Sis. Pintar and Bro. Champ for seeking an alternative to a potentially expensive upgrade.

Conclusion

The Audit Committee members have worked well together during this term. Much has been accomplished with several recommendations to the National Board over the four years. The newly-elected Audit Committee should continue the high level of checks and balances established during this term. It is imperative that the Audit Committee closely monitor the finances of SNPJ and the SNPJ Recreation Center, and encourage implementation of strategies to improve membership. We wish the members of the next Audit Committee the best of luck.

The Audit Committee thanks the Executive Committee, management staff and SNPJ Home Office staff for their assistance in obtaining requested documents for our review, and providing overall support and hospitality. Their efficiency allowed us to complete our work and written report in a timely manner.

Fraternally,

SNPJ AUDIT COMMITTEE
PHYLIS M. WOOD, Chairwoman
VINCENT R. BASELJ
LOUIS J. NOVAK Sr.
STAN J. REPOS

Audit Committee Report

Sis. WOOD, chairwoman of the Audit Committee, presents the report.

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

Scholarship Committee Report

August 2018

The following report covers the period of Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018. Payment for the first installment of the 2017-2018 academic year included 49 awards. This group encompassed 39 Academic, three Regular, and seven Joseph C. Umeck Jr. Activity Scholarships.

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

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
Cole Norworthy	6	Ian Hausenfleck	120
Darcy Bible	6	Alexis Keyes	138
Jordan Palmer	6	Allison Jo Vogrig	138
Katie Jo Raspotnik	41	Elizabeth Hartman	138
Anthony Raimondo	53	Ian Brumbaugh	138
Adam Raggi	89	Jonathan Cadez	138
Benjamin Patosky	106	Jordan Mangione	138
Carly Evanish	106	Keeley Germovsek	138
Grace Hausenfleck	120	Robert Rockwell	138

Name	Lodge	Name	Lodge
Deidra Yan	158	Bailey Phalen	584
Elizabeth Smrdel	158	Carly Grant	584
Eric Heatwole	174	Richard Marsh	584
Blake Schmidt	225	Nicole Delano	629
Hannah Morris	274	Theodore Klasnick	629
Teresa Yuhas	274	Kurt Seifert II	643
Jason Rigler	449	Michael Massucci	643
Lucas Stimach	449	Joseph Penovich	689
Robert Rigler	449	Alyssa Urban	715
Alaina Norrito	518	Elisa Varlotta	715
Anna Wysopal	559	Trevor Urban	715
Daniel Volpe	564	Hannah Atkinson	719
Monica Passinault	564	Tristan Atkinson	719
Olivia Bucciarelli	564	Zachary Stedeford	721
Lauren Sebusch	576	Ellen Koci	786
		Jacob Fajnor	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	\$1,232,549.23	\$868,660.00
Totals	\$1,903,762.33	\$2,200,607.81

Scholarship Fund Financial Report

Beginning Balance (as of Jan. 1, 2018)\$664,868.70

Donations.....\$3,012.50

Investment & Other Income\$8,729.21

Total Income.....\$11,741.71

Awards\$19,200.00

Investment & Other Expense\$9,076.86

Total Expenses.....\$28,276.86

Ending Balance (as of June 30, 2018).....\$648,333.55

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

Scholarship Committee Report

President EVANISH presents the report. Questions by Sis. WOOD and Sis. RIGLER. Motion by Sis. ANDERSON, second by Sis. RIGLER, to approve the report. Motion approved.

Region 1 Vice President's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Executive Committee and National Board, this is my report for the first six months of 2018, January through June.

My activities remain limited by the disability resulting from the stroke I suffered in October 2016. The strength of my left leg has not significantly improved, and I still require the use of a walker to ambulate. The help and support I receive from my Brothers and Sisters at the events I attend is a testimony to the wonderful people involved in the SNPJ.

I did not attend the National Board meeting held in March 2018. However, I continue to make myself available to all the officers and members in Region 1. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Recreation Center.

I remain as secretary and treasurer of Lodge 87, and have been able to attend all the Lodge meetings. I continue to make the monthly secretary and treasurer reports. I also have been able to attend social gatherings of Lodge 87 as well as some private events held at the Crystal Ballroom in Herminie. I frequently collect admissions at the door for Lodge events and enjoy speaking to all my Brothers and Sisters. They have been very supportive and making sure I could safely attend the events.

As my disability has not improved much over the past six months, I regret that I will not be able to seek another term as Region 1 Vice President in August.

Fraternally,

FRANK BREGAR
Region 1 Vice President

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

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

Region 2 Vice President's Report

Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the SNPJ National Board. During this six-month period I continue to serve Region 2 as Regional Vice President. I remain secretary/treasurer of SNPJ Lodge 6, I continue to sell life insurance and annuities as a fraternal agent of the Society, and I also serve as a member of the SNPJ Recreation Center Committee.

Region 2 is very active and our members are involved in a variety of events throughout the region. In February, Lodges 6 and 138 co-hosted the SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament with bowling events, food and entertainment held at both Lodges throughout the weekend. This tournament continues to enjoy great participation in both the bowling events and the social events of the weekend.

In May I again hosted a Region 2 No-Tap Tournament which brought attendance of approximately 40 bowlers, with most from Lodges 6, 138 and 715. Our Fraternal Director, Kevin Richards, served as chef for the day, preparing hamburgers and hot dogs for our participants.

In June we had good participation from Region 2 at the Young Adult Conference held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Several of the Lodges in Region 2 also made donations to the YAC project of providing wraps to those individuals receiving chemotherapy. Sis. Darcy Bible (6) served as the YAC chairperson and representative to the National Board meetings during this past year.

During this six-month period, our Lodges in Region 2 continue to host dances, karaoke, bar bingo, card nights, dart leagues, balina and bowling leagues, car cruises, and a variety of other social events at their respective Lodge halls.

At the end of June 2018, there are 9,070 active members of Region 2 consisting of 8,305 adult members and 765 youth members. There

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Slovene National Benefit Society

Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2018

	06/30/2018	12/31/2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Assets:			
Bonds	\$205,069,514	\$203,658,056	\$1,411,458
Common Stocks	17,422	17,809	(388)
Mortgage Loans	287,217	307,367	(20,150)
Real Estate	2,278,800	2,333,551	(54,751)
Cash and Short Term Investments	1,085,179	1,384,764	(299,585)
Certificate Loans	776,093	768,479	7,615
Other Invested Assets	1,221,517	1,223,453	(1,936)
Investment Income Due & Accrued	2,420,949	2,362,995	57,954
Premiums Due	19,331	22,758	(3,427)
Amounts Recoverable From Reinsurer	45,189	26,796	18,393
EDP Equipment and Software	0	0	0
Total Admitted Assets	\$213,221,211	\$212,106,028	\$1,115,183
Liabilities:			
Reserve for Life & Annuity	\$200,095,904	\$198,776,095	\$1,319,809
Reserve for Sick & Operation	174,661	186,661	(12,000)
Liability for Deposit-type Contracts	357,502	370,808	(13,306)
Life Claims	167,221	244,017	(76,796)
Accident & Health Claims	20,346	20,346	0
Refund Payable	75,292	73,489	1,802
Premiums Received in Advance	63,187	57,571	5,615
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	1,151,390	1,263,592	(112,202)
Expenses Due & Accrued	497,787	456,388	41,399
Unearned Investment Income	15,357	15,408	(51)
Total Remittances & Items Not Allocated	1,630,247	1,776,034	(145,787)
Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR)	1,263,005	1,289,741	(26,736)
Write-In for Liabilities	546,267	526,267	20,000
Total Liabilities	206,058,164	205,056,417	1,001,747
Surplus	7,163,047	7,049,611	113,436
Total Liabilities and Surplus	\$213,221,211	\$212,106,028	\$1,115,183
Cash Flow:			
Cash in transit and in banks 12-31-17			\$1,384,764
Premiums Collected Net of Reinsurance		3,895,676	
Net Investment Income		4,777,357	
Proceeds from Investments Sold, Matured or Repaid		7,204,712	
Miscellaneous Income & Other Cash Provided		18,393	15,896,138
Total Receipts and in Bank		17,280,902	
Benefit Payments		5,873,698	
Commissions & Expenses Paid		1,292,737	
Cost of Investments Acquired		8,790,859	
Refunds Paid		35,293	
Net Other Cash Applied		203,136	16,195,723
Cash in transit and in banks 6-30-18			\$1,085,179

Slovene National Benefit Society

Summary of Operations for the period ending June 30, 2018

Description	2018	2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Life Premium	\$692,807	\$766,868	\$(74,061)
Annuity Considerations	3,181,381	3,864,550	(683,169)
Accident & Health Premiums	11,700	12,725	(1,025)
Total Premium & Annuity Considerations	3,885,889	4,644,144	(758,255)
Gross Investment Income	4,915,021	5,338,655	(423,634)
Investment Expense	(298,454)	(287,301)	(11,153)
Net Investment Income	4,616,567	5,051,354	(434,787)
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	119,728	132,400	(12,672)
Miscellaneous Income	18,393	4,273	14,120
Total Income	8,640,577	9,832,171	(1,191,594)
Death Benefits	895,000	926,459	(31,459)
Matured Endowments	31,462	48,425	(16,964)
Annuity Benefits	4,637,621	4,608,019	29,602
Operation, Accident & Health Benefits	15,053	15,764	(711)
Surrender Benefits	194,721	155,497	39,223
Interest on Certificate Fund	4,652	5,049	(397)
Payments on Suppl Contracts w/Life Contingency	0	0	0
Increase in Life Reserves	141,605	237,836	(96,231)
Increase in Annuity Reserves	1,178,204	1,861,546	(683,343)
Increase in Health Reserves	(12,000)	(9,750)	(2,250)
Commissions	110,642	120,260	(9,618)
General & Fraternal Expenses	1,163,877	1,180,569	(16,692)
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees	79,617	82,072	(2,455)
Increase in Loading on Uncollected Premium	(745)	(1,454)	709
Aggregate Write-ins for Deductions	0	0	0
Total Expenses	8,439,709	9,230,293	(790,584)
Net Gain from Operations Before Refunds	200,868	601,878	(401,010)
Refunds to Members	37,096	34,564	2,533
Net Gain Before Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	163,772	567,314	(403,543)
Net Realized Capital Gain (Loss)	(27,348)	(12,464)	(14,884)
Net Income	\$136,424	\$554,850	\$(418,427)

	6/30/2018	6/30/2017	12/31/2017
Surplus Account:			
Surplus, Dec. 31, previous year	\$7,049,611	\$6,188,490	\$6,188,490
Net Income From Operations	136,424	554,850	1,073,120
Change in Net Unrealized Gains (Loss)	(38,388)	3,485	3,363
Change in Non-Admitted Assets	(11,336)	(43,086)	(182,357)
Change in Asset Valuation Reserve	26,736	(58,737)	(33,006)
Net Change in Surplus for the Year	113,436	456,513	861,121
Surplus as of Statement Date	\$7,163,047	\$6,645,003	\$7,049,611

Slovene National Benefit Society

Detailed Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2018

Description	2018	2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Life Premiums			
First Year Premium	\$52,049	\$43,518	\$8,531
Renewal Premium	730,420	713,983	16,438
Single Premium	31,221	100,823	(69,602)
Refunds Applied to Paid-Up Additions	34,203	29,177	5,026
Less: Reinsurance Premiums Paid	(155,086)	(120,632)	(34,454)
Net Life Premiums	692,807	766,868	(74,061)
A & H Premiums			
Sick Benefit Premium	5,025	5,645	(620)
Operation and Hospital & Recup Premium	6,674	7,080	(406)
Total A & H Premiums	11,700	12,725	(1,025)
Annuity Considerations			
Annuity - First Year	2,227,974	3,371,727	(1,143,754)
Annuity - Renewal	913,408	452,822	460,585
Deposit Administration Contract	40,000	40,000	0
Total Annuity Considerations	3,181,381	3,864,550	(683,169)
Total Premiums & Annuity Considerations	3,885,889	4,644,144	(758,255)
Gross Investment Income			
Interest on Bonds	4,842,742	4,861,129	(18,387)
Dividends on Stock	147	151	(4)
Interest on Mortgage Loans	3,960	4,018	(58)
Interest on Cash and Short Term Investments	6,651	1,765	4,886
Income on Real Estate	45,000	45,000	0
Income on Real Estate	500	410,610	(410,110)
Interest on Certificate Loans	16,021	15,982	38
Total Gross Investment Income	4,915,021	5,338,655	(423,634)
Less Investment Expense			
Home Office: Deprec., Insur., Tax, Utility & Other	81,161	60,678	20,483
Rec Center Depreciation & Real Estate Expenses	40,654	43,366	(2,712)
Management, Custodial and Banking Fees	112,784	116,192	(3,409)
Salaries, Benefits & Board Travel - Investment	63,855	67,064	(3,209)
Total Investment Expense	298,454	287,301	11,153
Net Investment Income	4,616,567	5,051,354	(434,787)
Amortization of IMR	119,728	132,400	(12,672)
Miscellaneous Income	18,393	4,273	14,120
Total Income	8,640,577	9,832,171	(1,191,594)
Death Benefits			
Death Claims	976,412	927,959	48,453
Reinsurance Recovered	(81,412)	(1,500)	(79,912)
Total Death Benefits	895,000	926,459	(31,459)
Total Matured Endowments	31,462	48,425	(16,964)
Annuity and Pension Benefits			
Pensions Paid	88,079	86,870	1,209
Annuity Benefits	4,549,543	4,521,149	28,393
Total Annuity and Pension Benefits	4,637,621	4,608,019	29,602
Operation, Accident & Health			
Sick Benefit Claims	6,722	6,397	325
Operation Claims	8,210	9,246	(1,036)
Waiver of Assessment	121	121	0
Total Operation, Accident & Health	15,053	15,764	(711)
Total Surrender Benefits	194,721	155,497	39,223
Interest on Certificate or Contract Fund	4,652	5,049	(397)

DETAILED FINANCIAL REPORT
CONTINUES NEXT COLUMN

Description	2018	2017	Increase/ (Decrease)
Increase in Reserve for Life, A&H & Annuities			
Change in Reserves - Life	141,605	237,836	(96,231)
Change in Reserves - Annuities	1,178,204	1,861,546	(683,343)
Change in Reserves - Accident & Health	(12,000)	(9,750)	(2,250)
Total Increase (Decrease) in Reserves	1,307,809	2,089,632	(781,823)
Commissions			
Life Commissions	62,144	65,047	(2,904)
Annuity Commissions	46,948	47,582	(634)
Campaign Awards	1,550	7,631	(6,081)
Total Commissions	110,642	120,260	(9,618)
General Insurance & Fraternal Expenses			
Rent	45,000	45,000	0
Salaries & Wages	423,173	399,798	23,375
Director/National Board Fees	13,950	13,950	0
Employee Benefits	161,068	150,609	10,459
Employee Education Expenses	820	698	123
Legal Fees and Expenses	18,736	6,493	12,243
Medical Examinations/Underwriting	5,078	5,792	(714)
Actuarial and Auditing Fees	86,585	100,170	(13,585)
Travel Expenses	20,254	27,428	(7,174)
Advertising/Promotional Items	5,590	14,328	(8,738)
Postage and Telephone	29,336	30,601	(1,264)
Office Supplies, Printing & Stationery	18,075	11,911	6,164
Computer Supplies, Equipment & Depreciation	67,993	61,150	6,843
Machine Service, Repairs & Rentals	6,312	4,972	1,340
Books and Periodicals	569	2,093	(1,524)
Bureau and Association Dues	600	6,445	(5,845)
Insurance and Surety Bonds	11,228	16,398	(5,170)
Sundry General	4,890	6,062	(1,172)
Donations - Charitable	1,750	1,245	505
Sales Department	1,454	1,605	(150)
Publication: PROSVETA	84,333	79,934	4,399
Quadrennial Convention	29,221	33,000	(3,779)
Athletics	12,080	13,166	(1,086)
Miss SNPJ Pageant and Travel	6,101	5,901	200
Youth/Young Adult Programming	15,671	15,133	538
Lodge and Secretary Awards	53,009	54,268	(1,259)
Fraternal Expense - Other	41,000	72,421	(31,421)
Total General and Fraternal Expenses	1,163,877	1,180,569	(16,692)
Insurance Taxes, Licenses & Fees			
State Insurance Department Licenses and Fees	35,418	39,146	(3,728)
Employment Taxes	44,199	42,926	1,273
Total Insurance Taxes, Licenses and Fees	79,617	82,072	(2,455)
Increase in Loading on Uncollected Premium	(745)	(1,454)	709
Total Expenses	8,439,709	9,230,293	(790,584)
Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds	200,868	601,878	(401,010)
Refunds to Members			
Refunds Paid in Cash	4,397	4,491	(94)
Refunds Left to Accumulate at Interest	1,117	1,331	(215)
Refunds Applied to Paid-Up Additions	31,583	28,741	2,842
Total Refund to Members	37,096	34,564	2,533
Net Gain Before Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	163,772	567,314	(403,543)
Net Realized Capital Gains or (Losses)			
Gain on Disposal of Investment	18,992	116,343	(97,351)
Loss on Disposal of Investment	(38,814)	(32,290)	(6,524)
Amortization of IMR (Transfer to IMR)	(7,526)	(96,517)	88,991
Total Net Realized Capital Gain or (Loss)	(27,348)	(12,464)	(14,884)
Net Income	\$136,424	\$554,850	\$(418,427)

NATIONAL BOARD REPORTS
CONTINUE NEXT PAGE

REGION 2 VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

were a total of 60 new members for the first six months, with our 2018 goal of 269 new members for the region.

This concludes my report for this six-month period. I look forward to a productive and successful National Board meeting.

Fraternally,

JAMES L. CURL
Region 2 Vice President

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

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

**Region 3 Vice President's Report
January – June 2018**

Fraternal greetings, Brothers and Sisters of the SNPJ National Board. Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio. This report reflects the period of Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018.

January is the month for Region 3 Lodges to begin planning our upcoming events. One of the Lodges, 576 Spartans, waits until January to celebrate the holidays. With everyone's calendar so busy in December, this is a nice way to bring in the New Year.

The Cleveland Athletic League (CAL) tried in vain to schedule Sweetheart Doubles, but there was a conflict with the dates. CAL does not want to disband this event as everyone who attends has a great time. We will try again in 2019.

I attended the National Board meeting on March 23 via telephone conference as I was dealing with a medical issue. The board voted on several National Athletic Board positions, and I am proud to announce that Rick Gorjup (158) was again voted to represent District 4. On March 24, Lodge 643 and Youth Circle 7 held their annual Easter party.

The 80th anniversary of the Button Box Bash was held April 8 at Recher Hall. Former SNPJ Youth Circle members were invited to the stage and sang a few selections. Lodge 355 held their 12th annual spring clean-up at the Fairport Slovenian Club. On April 21 I attended a banquet for National Treasurer Bob Lawrence, who was honored as Fraternalist of the Year by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh. The Cleveland Federation of Lodges held a special meeting on April 23 for the Convention delegates, and on April 28 I attended the Zarja spring concert which was very entertaining.

May was extremely busy in Region 3. Loyalites Lodge 158 hosted the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament May 5-6 with many Region 3 members in attendance. On May 6, Lodge 643 held a polka dance at Rolling Mills Lounge. The SNPJ Farm in Kirtland held its Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, May 20; and finally, the CAL Don Gorjup Open was held May 26. There were 82 golfers who enjoyed a great day on the course and were treated to our famous steak dinner at the 19th hole.

The SNPJ Farm opened up in June for their Sunday picnics. The Farm Board hosted on June 4, followed by Lodge 5 on June 17. The Lodge 5 picnic included a Polka Mass celebrated by Fr. Frank Perkovich from Minnesota. Lodge 142 hosted their picnic on June 24, which was also the Beaverdale Reunion at the Farm. Cleveland-area SNPJ members who were either born or raised in Beaverdale, Pa., attend this yearly picnic to catch up. It's always a well-attended event. Many Region 3 young adults attended the Young Adult Conference which was held June 14-16. This year the Young Adults collected material and/or money and hand knotted blankets for cancer patients. The Young Adults then divided the blankets amongst themselves with the purpose of delivering them to their respective states. A big thank you to the Young Adults for their thoughtful projects.

On June 9 I trekked up to Detroit to attend the Region 4 yearly event – the Detroit Tigers vs. the Cleveland Indians. After a two-hour rain delay, the game finally started. It was a close game with the Tigers winning, 4-2, after 12 long innings. Thank you, Ken and Tracey Anderson.

Also in June, the Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Andrej Rode, co-hosted the 27th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Slovenia. Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Councilman Michael Polensek co-hosted at the Cleveland City Hall Rotunda. A performance by Mi Smo Mi entertained the crowd. Light appetizers were passed, and Slovenian wine flowed freely. It is a beautiful event.

In May 2018, letters were mailed out to all members of SNPJ Lodge 626 advising them that their Lodge was unable to remain active. The members were told they needed to transfer to another Lodge of their choice, or a Lodge would be selected for them. Several years ago I held a meeting with Lodge 626 and offered my help in keeping their Lodge alive. Unfortunately, the body tried, but to no avail, and the Lodge was disbanded.

As of June 30, 2018, Region 3 has 5,817 adult members and 573 youth for a total of 6,390. Our secretaries and licensed agents continue to pursue new members.

I am a member of Spartans Lodge 576 and hold the office of auditor. I hold the office of treasurer of CAL, and attend the Cleveland Federation and Farm Board meetings as time allows. I also currently hold an active insurance license for the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania and continue to sell SNPJ products exclusively. I am currently the Ohio Fraternal Alliance secretary. I continue to promote SNPJ and try to attend as many SNPJ events as my schedule permits.

Fraternally submitted,

LINDA GORJUP
Region 3 Vice President

Region 3 Vice President's Report: Sis. Linda Gorjup

Motion by Bro. Fredrick J. MLAKAR, second by Bro. HERVOL, to approve the report. Motion approved.

**Region 4 Vice President's Report
Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018**

Fraternal greetings. This report covers the period from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018.

The annual Region 4 Detroit Tigers game outing was held in June this year instead of September. It ended up being a long day, starting with a two-hour rain delay, and then the game went 12 innings; but the Tigers were victorious over the Cleveland Indians and we all had a good time. We were happy to have Region 3 members Linda Gorjup, Donna Sebusch and Pete Dutka, along with Pete's friend,

with us for the game. We also had time to visit with our Cleveland friends who came to the ballgame on a bus with the Slovenian Men's Club; it was nice that they were sitting only a couple of sections away from us. Unfortunately, Fraternal Director Kevin Richards was unable to attend the game with us this year.

Here are some highlights of other activities within the region during this period:

Lodge 34 had a successful benefit dinner for the Slovene National Home in Indianapolis and made a donation to relocate the bells from the Holy Trinity Slovenian Church.

In the Detroit area, the SNPJ Mixed Bowling League finished its 84th season and the golf league started its 47th season. These leagues keep getting smaller and smaller, but the participants still enjoy them and want to keep them going. Lodge 518 planted flowers at Forest View Assisted Living and visited with the residents.

Samsula Lodge 603 hosted their traditional winter and spring events, starting with a Venison/Wildlife Cook-off and fund-raising dinners in January and February. Florida SNPJ Days, held in early March, was attended by National Secretary Karen Pintar and Miss SNPJ 2018 Lauren Sebusch, along with her mother Donna. The Lodge hosted an Easter dinner and community-wide Easter egg hunt with Youth Circle 57 providing the prizes. In May, the men prepared a Mother's Day dinner and Circle 57 members made corsages to present to the mothers in attendance.

Nine new SNPJ members joined Region 4 during the first six months of the year: Lodge 603 with seven new members and Lodge 34 with two new youth members. The Michigan Lodges, once again, had no new members.

At the national level, members from Detroit Lodges traveled to the Recreation Center for the National Bowling Tournament in May. Region 4 was also represented at the Young Adult Conference in June.

As Compensation Committee chairperson, I once again led the CEO evaluation process and presented the evaluation results and salary recommendations to the National Board at the March meeting.

Fraternally,

TRACEY L. ANDERSON
Region 4 Vice President

Region 4 Vice President's Report: Sis. Tracey L. Anderson

Motion by Sis. RIGLER, second by Sis. GORJUP, 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! This is my report for the period of Jan. 1 through June 30, 2018.

During the annual meeting of the Chicago District Federation held on Feb. 17, I was re-elected as the recording secretary. At the Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 annual meeting, I was re-elected as the secretary/treasurer.

The 28th annual Tony Verbick Memorial Fraternal Bowling Tournament was held Jan. 20 in Milwaukee. Teams were comprised of members from SNPJ, CFU, Sloga and KSKJ. Athletic Director Mary Donovan (584) ran a very successful tournament with participation from all four societies and donations made to each society's scholarship program.

On March 23 I attended the National Board meeting. All officers and committee reports were given and approved. The Young Adult representative, Darcy Bible, was present and reported on the plans for the upcoming Young Adult Conference.

Young adults and members from Lodges 449 and 559 participated in the trivia night that was held at the Slovenian Catholic Center on April 14.

The 84th annual Memorial Day services sponsored by the Chicago District Federation were held May 28 in the SNPJ Section at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park, Ill. Boy Scouts Justin, Robert and Jason Rigler, all Lodge 449 members, participated in the flag ceremony. The American and Slovenian national anthems were performed by Zbor Spendov. Federation President Edward Dabrowski (449) welcomed everyone. Musical selections were performed by the Zbor Spendov Slovenian mens' chorus from Lemont, Ill. The guest speaker was Federation Secretary/Treasurer Marianne Murray (1). Program booklets prepared by Marianne were distributed, listing all the deceased members of SNPJ buried in the SNPJ Section. Thanks also to Grace Doerk (559) who had helped to update the names in the booklet. It was nice to see SNPJ members and friends gathered to pay homage to our departed members. A luncheon followed the program.

The Milwaukee Balina League began playing in May at the West Allis Veteran's Park. SNPJ members from area Lodges participate in this league.

The 20th annual SNPJ Tony Mlinar Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament was held June 16 at New Berlin Hills Golf Course in New Berlin, Wis. There are many SNPJ members who attend this annual event. Attending this year's Young Adult Conference, held June 15-17, from Region 5 were young adults from Lodges 449, 559 and 584. This year the young adults performed community service projects which consisted of cleaning up the nearby highway and making fleece blankets to be distributed to patients at various facilities. Congratulations to Meredith Maresh (449) who was elected to be next year's conference chairperson. Congratulations as well to Justin Rigler (449) who was elected to attend the Convention as one of the Young Adult Representatives.

On June 22 I attended an event to celebrate Slovenia's Independence Day at Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas' office in Chicago.

On June 24 I attended a picnic held at Triglav Park in Wind Lake, Wis. Many members attended this picnic from the Chicago area and enjoyed listening and dancing to Zadnja Kapla from Lemont, Ill.

As a member of the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont, I also attended various functions held at the center. There are many SNPJ members in the area who attend the monthly dinners held and the special events that feature Slovenian groups.

This concludes my report for the past six months. As the 2018 Convention is upon us, I look forward to meeting the delegates and having a constructive and successful Convention for the betterment of the Society.

Fraternally,

JUSTINA M. RIGLER
Region 5 Vice President

Region 5 Vice President's Report: Sis. Justina Rigler

Motion by Sis. WOOD, second by Sis. GORJUP, to approve the report. Motion approved.

**Region 6 Vice President's Report
January through June 2018**

Fraternal greetings from the far West. This report presents Region 6 activity highlights for the first half of 2018.

Denver Lodge 218 held their annual after-holiday party in January, a strudel-making party in April (using the Tomsic family recipe), and their annual picnic in June.

In March, Pueblo, Colo., Lodge 577 held its annual luncheon meeting when Lodge scholarships were awarded to Emily Davis and Lynsie Hand. Afterward, attendees were entertained with another special game designed by Secretary Mary Davis.

Fontana Lodge 723 kept their Slovene Hall busy with monthly dances featuring local and visiting bands, jam sessions, spaghetti dinners, community service projects and a Memorial Day weekend polka fest.

In April, Orange Coast Lodge 786 met over brunch hosted by Joe Udovch, followed by a movie at the Newport Beach Film Festival courtesy of festival organizer Cathy Udovch. In June, the annual wine and beer tasting picnic was again held at a picturesque winery in Temecula accompanied by the music of Don Milek and the Fontana Slovene Button Accordion Club directed by Frank Rote.

I want to extend my sincere condolences to our Utah Brothers and Sisters for the recent losses of longtime Price Lodge 113 Secretary Charlene Dupin and former Region 8 Vice President Lorraine Babcock. Their service to SNPJ will long be appreciated, and I will always remember their cheerful hospitality during my visits.

Before closing, I need to amend my last semiannual report by recognizing the efforts of Price Lodge 757, whose members chaired the successful Utah Slovenian Day Picnic held in August of 2017.

I'm looking forward to a productive National Board meeting and Quadrennial Convention to be held in Enon Valley this summer.

Fraternally,

FREDRICK J. MLAKAR
Region 6 Vice President

Region 6 Vice President's Report: Bro. Fredrick J. Mlakar

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

**SNPJ Recreation Center Committee Report
August 2018**

This report covers the first six months of 2018. Director Tim Jergel continues to lead an effective management team and staff at the Recreation Center. Our key full-time staff members include Operations Manager Sue Krispinsky, Maintenance Manager Jeff Wisneski, and secretary Susan Zarella. Director Jergel, our key staff members, and the part-time and seasonal staff do a commendable job operating our facility.

The SNPJ National Bowling Tournament was hosted by Lodge 158, Euclid, Ohio, in May. The social activities took place at the Recreation Center with many bowlers renting cabins for the weekend. This was a good weekend annual event for the Recreation Center.

The Young Adult Conference took place for a weekend in June at the SNPJ Recreation Center. The young adults conducted the Adopt a Highway road clean-up which also included roads within the property.

The SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center weekend was held in June. The Heritage Center hosted the musical entertainment on Friday and Saturday with free admission to the picnic. In addition, the Fraternal Department hosted balina and bean bag tournaments in conjunction with the weekend.

The Friday night entertainment schedule for the season was completed by Director Jergel. It included a variety of entertainment. Bingo also takes place on Saturdays in the Gostilna.

The pool was patched and painted in preparation for the season this spring. It continues to be a nice amenity at the Recreation Center, along with the mini-putt. Admission rates were increased this year. The Tiki Bar continues to be very popular during the summer.

The wedding business remains a strong source of revenue for the Recreation Center. The Alpine Room is the main venue, with the Heritage Pavilion being promoted as an additional venue. The Lakeside Gazebo continues to be utilized for ceremonies. The barn has many rentals as well. Operations Manager Sue Krispinsky continues to do an excellent job managing the wedding function. Jones Catering has done a great job providing quality services for these events, as well as for our fraternal programs.

The third annual Brew & Bean Fest took place on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. This was another successful event with strong attendance. A number of micro-breweries, chili vendors and crafters participated. We appreciate Ruth Wright's success with engaging the crafters for this event. Director Jergel, the staff and helpers did a great job.

An open forum meeting with the trailer court tenants was held in conjunction with our May meeting. This included general information and updates. It also provided a forum for questions and answers.

In March, the committee conducted a review of the internal control procedures at the SNPJ Recreation Center. This continues to be a normal business practice by the committee to ensure that proper procedures are being followed.

In conjunction with the Hilcorp gas lease, a well pad lease has been executed.

The committee reviewed the following resolution from the March National Board meeting regarding a lease arrangement between the Society and the SNPJ Recreation Center, and approved the lease agreement as presented:

Be it resolved by the National Board of Directors of the Slovene National Benefit Society this 23rd day of March, 2018 that the SNPJ Executive Committee of said entity, be and is hereby authorized by the National Board of Directors to determine whether it is necessary and appropriate to enter into a lease between the Slovene National Benefit Society and the SNPJ Recreation Center for the lease of the land and facilities located at 270 Martin Road, Enon Valley, PA 16120 and if the SNPJ Executive Committee determines that such lease is necessary and appropriate, to enter into such lease, upon such terms and conditions as the officers of the Slovene National Benefit Society determine are in the best interests of the Slovene National Benefit Society.

The committee continues to review and monitor the break-even plan for the Recreation Center which was approved by the SNPJ National Board in September 2016. The management and staff are working very hard to carry out the plans.

The grounds and our facility continue to look very good and aesthetically pleasing. We encourage everyone to take advantage of our

RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE REPORT
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

beautiful Recreation Center as we continue to promote our fraternal programs and activities.

SNPJ RECREATION CENTER COMMITTEE
JOSEPH C. EVANISH, Committee Chairman
VINCENT BASELJ
JIM CURL
DAVID CUSHMAN
JERRY R. HLEBAK
CATHY KALENITS
RONALD CADEZ
JOSEPH JURICICH, Honorary Member

SNPJ Recreation Center Financial Report
as of June 30, 2018

	Revenue	Expense	Profit/(Loss)
Cabins	\$41,734	\$13,785	\$27,949
Dances	\$10,462	\$7,442	\$3,020
Dining Room	\$2,930	\$2,622	\$308
Gostilna	\$43,323	\$45,933	(\$2,610)
Tiki Bar	\$11,679	\$8,822	\$2,857
Pool	\$8,174	\$12,542	(\$4,368)
Slovenefest	\$10,100	\$184	\$9,916
Trailer Court	\$160,427	\$27,751	\$132,676
Wedding/Banquet	\$161,194	\$87,791	\$73,403
Misc. Revenue	\$16,375	\$2,169	\$14,206
Overhead Expenses			
Salary & Wages		\$138,181	
Utilities		\$50,251	
Real Estate Taxes		\$31,961	
Insurance		\$65,275	
Depreciation		\$469	
Maintenance		\$24,358	
Office & Administration		\$11,993	
Major Maintenance Projects		\$1,768	
Total Overhead Expenses			(\$324,256)
Totals	\$466,398	\$533,297	(\$66,899)

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES
CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN

Recreation Center Committee Report

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

President EVANISH presents the report. He highlights some of the activities that took place at the Recreation Center, reported that the Recreation Center Committee presented a resolution to the board and approved the lease agreement, and explains some opportunities that may occur for another group to rent the facilities in addition to the ones we currently have.

Questions and comments by Sis. WOOD, Sis. GORJUP, Sis. RIGLER, Sis. ANDERSON, Bro. CLIFFORD, Sis. PINTAR, and the Young Adult Representative.

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

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

Discussion about the retirement of Bro. James L. CURL from the Recreation Center Committee and possible retirement of Bro. Vincent R. BASELJ from this committee. Motion by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. CLIFFORD, to make Bro. Curl and Bro. Baselj honorary members of the Recreation Center Committee. Questions and discussion by Sis. WOOD, Bro. HERVOL, Bro. BASELJ, Bro. CURL, and Sis. ANDERSON. The board clarified that mileage and per diem are paid to honorary committee members who attend the meetings. Motion approved.

President EVANISH appoints a tally committee for the election of Recreation Center Committee members. Bro. Mlakar, Sis. Gorjup and Bro. Herval are appointed.

On the first ballot, the results were Ron Cadez (13), Chris Petukauskas (13), Amy Mavrich (9), and Daren Fetcko (9). On the first ballot, Ron Cadez and Chris Petukauskas have a majority and are elected to the Recreation Center Committee for three-year terms.

On the second ballot, the results were Amy Mavrich (9) and Daren Fetcko (7). Amy Mavrich is elected to the Recreation Center Committee for a two-year term.

NATIONAL BOARD MINUTES
CONTINUE NEXT COLUMN

Motion to destroy the ballots by Bro. HERVOL, second by Sis. GORJUP. Motion approved.

Young Adult Representative

Young Adult Representative Meredith Maresh states that the Young Adult Conference had 60 attendees this year, 43 delegates and 17 surrogate delegates. They held an ice breaker on Friday evening; did work projects on Saturday, such as road clean-up and tie blankets for chemotherapy patients; and stated that it was a good weekend. Sis. Maresh states that she is happy to be the Young Adult Representative to the National Board.

Discussion on the Young Adult Conference by Sisters ANDERSON and WOOD.

Unfinished Business

A motion is made by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. ANDERSON, to ratify the Convention Bylaws/Resolutions Committee, Compensation Committee, and Credentials Committee previously approved via e-mail vote. Questions and discussions by Sisters GORJUP and WOOD. Motion approved.

General Business

Sis. PINTAR presents a request to the board that the upgrade for the insurance administration software will require a retrofit by the software provider for the PolicyView application that has a cost of approximately \$125,000. This is in comparison to purchasing a new package which would cost almost double that and require very costly maintenance fees each year. Bro. Louis J. NOVAK mentions that the current maintenance fees will not increase as a result of this retrofit.

Motion by Bro. CLIFFORD, second by Bro. NOVAK, to approve the expenditure for the PolicyView retrofit to the software update. Motion approved.

Motion by Bro. HERVOL, second by Bro. CLIFFORD, that the next meeting of the SNPJ National Board be held March 29, 2019, at the SNPJ Home Office. Motion approved.

President EVANISH thanks Region 1 Vice President Bro. Frank BREGAR for his work on the National Board.

A motion is made at 11:45 a.m. by Bro. BREGAR, second by Bro. HERVOL, to adjourn. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Loyalites events transition from summer to fall

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158

EUCLID, Ohio — Hello, everyone. It's good to be back. We're sorry we missed you all last month, but that just means we'll have more to talk about now!

First off, we would like to thank everyone who came out to support our Lodge at our Slovenestock picnic held at the SNPJ Farm on Aug. 26. The total attendance was 400, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. So if you were there, we appreciate it. But even if you couldn't make it, don't worry—we have plenty more events coming up.

The first event to announce is our annual Christmas party, which will be taking place Sunday, Dec. 9, from 1 to 5 p.m. As well as the big man in red himself, we will also have Jungle Terry there again to teach the kids about some amazing critters. Food and gifts will be provided for Lodge youth members. More details will follow as we get closer to the holiday season—and while that may seem far away, it will be here before you know it!

We also have a lot to celebrate this month, such as belated birthdays for Billy Frank Jr. on Aug. 18, and Anna Horabik and Molly O'Malley

on Sept. 10, as well as some birthdays to look forward to on Oct. 6 for Gina Volpe and Amy Gannon.

Wedding bells were also in the air for the Loyalites, and we congratulate the new Mr. and Mrs. Evan and Samantha (formerly Volpe) Lorenzato on their Aug. 18 nuptials. Colleen Frank and Jim Kuhn announced their engagement on Sept. 2 while on their trip to Niagra Falls. How romantic!

We also need to celebrate for some of our young adult members as they find their way in life. Colleen Frank, Cody Cleary and Rachel Elam all managed to land new jobs in

the past two months, and Billy Frank Jr. completed his plumbing apprenticeship and is now a journeyman plumber. Keep up the good work, guys, and good luck in your new positions!

Finally, a huge congratulations to Loyalites Lodge 158 Vice President and newly-elected SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Don Smick on his election to the SNPJ National Board. We are confident that Don will do a great job and everything in his power to represent our region well.

As always, we extend our thoughts and prayers to our ailing members and their families during these difficult times.

Lodge 355 celebrates Slovenia at the ballpark

by LEE JACKOPIN
Lodge 355 Secretary

FAIRPORT HARBOR, Ohio — Monday, Aug. 20, was Slovenian Heritage Night at Classic Park in Eastlake, Ohio, for the baseball game between the Lake County Captains and the West Michigan Whitecaps. This continued a tradition started by a former Regional Vice President, the late Dorothy Gorjup, who hosted Slovenian Polka Day in 2006. Region 3 Vice President Linda Gorjup (576) continued the tradition by hosting the Heritage Night event.

There was pre-game polka music provided by Patty Candela (576), Joe Strukel, T.J. Likovic (576) and Don Srnick (158). A first pitch was thrown by Region 3 Vice President-elect Don Srnick, Miss SNPJ 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel (158), and several others. The Slovenian National Anthem was sung by Ally Perdan (604), while the United States National Anthem was sung by a local vocalist.

Before and during the

game, SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Linda Gorjup, SNPJ Fraternal Director Kevin Richards, National Board Member Lou Novak (576) and Miss SNPJ 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel were at the SNPJ table promoting the Society's insurance products and activities.

It was "buck night" at the park for beverages and hot dogs, which always taste better at the ball game. Our group had excellent seats in Section 112, located behind home plate. This gave us a good view of an exciting play at home plate when a Whitecaps runner was thrown out. The Captains lost, 3-1.

The Captains staff provided many fun activities for the fans between innings. There was the usual T-shirt toss, as well as trivia questions on the scoreboard screen, "Skipper's Run" with the mascot and a group of preschoolers, and a chicken toss.

For SNPJ, there was a polka dancing contest, a Classic Auto T-shirt toss to members



The members of Lodge 355 enjoyed an evening at the ballpark on Aug. 20 during the Slovenian Heritage Night game hosted by the Lake County Captains.

behind home plate, and acknowledgement of Slovenian Heritage Night and SNPJ on the scoreboard screen. Liz Smrdel and Don Srnick led the singing of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and tossed baseballs from the upper deck to our Section. Lodge 355 member Kevin Regnier caught one of the baseballs.

In attendance from Lodge 355 were Stan Baucher and

his grandson, Shaun Edwards; Jean Fabian; Lee and Mary Ann Jackopin; Norene Popely; Christine Regnier and her children, Rebecca, Sarah, James, Mark and Kevin; and Bob Zeitz.

We had a super evening at the ball game, and we really enjoyed all the special happenings between innings from SNPJ honoring our Slovenian heritage.

The SNPJ Farm 2018 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

Oct. 21 **Pancake & Sausage Polka Brunch** 10 to 1
Kathy Hlad

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.

50-Year Members October 2018

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
FD4	Frank John Skowron	216	Judith A. Vantine
3	Lynn E. Kodrich	218	Lucille M. Zupancic
5	Theodore R. Bizjack	254	Sandra E. Sobota
6	Deborah A. Ray	257	Michele Slokar
6	Edward J. Polichnowski	304	Diane Kreseovich
8	Rita A. Moses	358	Frances J. Ferguson
33	David C. Pensy	371	Cheryl A. Maras
33	Jerald A. Pensy	518	Irene L. Kovac
34	Elaine Wethington	559	Joseph Greenwald Jr.
87	Kathleen E. Montrose	559	Judy A. Straza
87	Marilyn Martinelli	559	Priscilla M. Mulesa
87	Janet F. Tamborino	559	Deborah C. Novak
89	Charles R. Weidner	576	Maureen H. Clark
89	Evelyn Bish	584	Lois A. Ness
106	Cecelia M. Bauer	603	Alexander Kusich
106	Stanley R. Derosky	604	Geraldine Sexton
113	Madalene C. Williams	629	Edward T. Milosovich
117	Joseph M. Grkman Jr.	629	Gregory Magda
126	Judy L. Odon	643	Joseph C. Godina Jr.
138	Jacqueline W. Cafera	677	Lucille J. Mihelac
142	Jane A. Ferrante	686	Andrew N. Gerovac
153	Catherine A. Skebo	689	Adelaide R. Saccomano
158	Nada A. Norman	723	Linda M. Costell
158	Kathleen A. Aburto	723	Sharon M. Wright

60-Year Members October 2018

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
A02	Patricia E. Thomson	371	Robert K. Lickar
A02	Patricia E. Cheswick	449	Richard Push
2	Carol A. Gheen	559	Robert J. Kovanda
2	Judith A. Matheny	564	William A. Ritter
8	Anne E. Suarez	584	Veronica A. Sustar
41	Richard Bratkovich	603	Joseph D. DiMare
142	Arlene M. Toivonen	665	Nancy P. Lavrich
218	Agnes L. Fabian	677	Thomas A. Bernick
304	Arlene J. Strasilla	715	Hazel I. Bruce

70-Year Members October 2018

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
106	Raymond E. Perko	518	Louis Kirm
158	Martha K. Schaberl	715	John Kastelic Jr.
449	Harold Frank Bartol		

80-Year Members October 2018

Lodge	Member
603	Jean Narquini

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of June-August 2018

Fontana Slovene Button Box Accordion Club,
Fontana, Calif. \$200
In memory of Margaret Umeck

Mary Lou Vidergar (723), San Mateo, Calif. \$75
In memory of Margaret Umeck

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Engel (138), Canonsburg, Pa. ... \$50
In memory of Dorothy Gorup

Frank Gorup Jr. (138), Canonsburg, Pa. \$50
In memory of Dorothy Gorup

Bob, June, Laura & Ross Bernard,
Gibsonia, Pa. \$50
In memory of Dorothy Gorup

SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. \$35
In memory of Elizabeth "Lee" Damioll

Lillian Opeka (138), McMurray, Pa. \$35
In memory of Mary Cadez

SNPJ Lodge 225, Girard, Kan. \$30
In memory of Charles R. "Sonny" Wosel

Michael J. Fleischhacker (8), Chicago. \$25

Jennie Zuzek (138), Canonsburg, Pa. \$20
In memory of Mary Cadez

The Paul & Mary Jo Hartman Family (138),
Bethel Park, Pa. \$20
In memory of Dorothy Klobucher Gorup

We've Got You COVERED



DENISE HERRON
SNPJ Marketing Department

An umbrella of protection

Much of the country has been inundated with torrential rains this month, and recently the Pittsburgh area received between five and seven inches in one weekend. Once again, our roads flooded, creeks spilled over their banks and people pumped out their basements. But if you know anything about the Pittsburgh area, you know that we are, unfortunately, very familiar with the rain, and we usually keep our umbrellas handy.

It was in the rainy city of London that the umbrella was first popularized in the 1700s. This "portable roof" was once considered a purely feminine accessory to provide shade from the sun, but it quickly became indispensable to much of Britain. Originally the umbrella was made from whalebone and weighed 10 pounds, but today they are much slimmer, lighter and even foldable. But whether you're talking about the original heavy cotton or the lightweight fabrics of today, the purpose of the umbrella has always been the same: protection.

About the same time that Londoners were realizing the protective value of the umbrella, they were also realizing the need to protect their families in other ways. Once again, it was the forward-thinking and inventive people of London who developed another method of protection. Life insurance was first developed in this city so that there wouldn't be needless financial hardships upon the death of a family member.

Life insurance has become easier and more accurate through the years, and nothing has been invented that can offer a more affordable or more certain method of providing for your family in the event of your death. Having the assurance of financial help will ease some of the challenges for a family during the rainy days that follow the death of a loved one. With the help of the life insurance payout, the survivors will have the confidence to move forward toward a brighter future.

Contact your local agent, Lodge secretary or the SNPJ Home Office to find out about the plans that we have to offer. Insure your life and protect your family. As Roger Miller said, "Some people walk in the rain; others just get wet."

- **Thought for the Month** — Umbrellas cannot stop the rain, but allow us to stand in the rain. Confidence may not bring success, but it gives the power to face the challenges.

Anonymous



Harvest Ball pays tribute to music of the Vadrals

by JOE VALENCIC (5)
Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame

EASTLAKE, Ohio — The Vadrnal sound delighted fans for 70 years. The Joey Tomsick Orchestra will let you relive those days with a Vadrnal music tribute hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame at the third Harvest Ball on Friday, Oct. 5, at the American Croatian Lodge Ballroom in Eastlake.

Vadrnal descendants Tony and Jeff Fortuna will appear with Joey and his band for an evening of musical memories of Johnny, Frank and Tony. They'll be joined by Phil and Don Srnick, sons of the late Vadrnal bandmate Bill Srnick. You can also look forward to retired bandleader Richie Vadrnal taking part in the

festivities.

Enjoy dancing from 6 to 11 p.m. Hall of Fame Trustee Sharon Staiduhar will give you the chance to go home a winner with her Raffle Basket Gallery. Reserve your table by calling (440) 679-1420.

The Croatian Lodge is located on Lake Shore Blvd. at Rt. 91-Som Center Road in Eastlake. Dance tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 the day of the event. Tickets can be ordered through the Polka Hall of Fame by calling (216) 261-3263, or stop by 605 East 222nd St. in Euclid, Ohio, next to Euclid City Hall. We're open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Visit us online at polkashop@aol.com.

Slovenia curbing use of lightweight plastic bags

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In September, Slovenian stores launched a month-long campaign aimed at reducing the use of lightweight plastic bags. The "I've Got My Bag" campaign will continue in all Slovenian primary schools throughout the school year.

The campaign was organized by the Environment Ministry in cooperation with retailers, the Education Ministry, and several trade associations. The goal is to raise awareness about the harmful effects of excessive use of light plastic bags on the environment, and the program's focus is on ways to reduce waste through more sustainable consumption.

Shoppers and schoolchildren will be encouraged to use each plastic bag as often as possible, thus contributing to the quality of their environment. While it targets the broader public, the campaign is primarily aimed at educating young children.

Being light, strong and cheap, plastic bags are very popular among consumers, but they also create waste and threaten water eco-systems. Most problems are caused by use of the thinnest bags, which are rarely reused and end up as waste faster. These plastic bags do not degrade naturally for hundreds of years.

Through amendments to its Packaging and Waste Packaging Management directive, Slovenia has committed to reduce the use of lightweight plastic bags to no more than 90 per person by 2019, and no more than 40 per person by 2025.

National Gallery receives a major art collection

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenia's National Gallery has formally become the owner of one of the biggest private art collections in Slovenia, having received the works owned by the once-mighty ACH conglomerate.

The decision to donate the art was made last September before Protej, the management buyout vehicle for the debt-ridden ACH holding company, was sold to Trigano, a French auto manufacturing group. At the time, Protej ownership unanimously decided that the collection was a major national asset which formed a whole that should not be divided nor left to private ownership.

The handover was formalized at the Ljubljana Grand Hotel Union on Aug. 31 by National Gallery director Barbara Jaki and Axor holding representative Peter Krivic. Axor received the works during the sale of the Protej group, which included Adria Mobil, one of Europe's leading RV manufacturers.

A spokesman from the Slovenian Culture Ministry said ACH had supported and encouraged art in Slovenia for many years. The ACH collection includes older Slovenian art works as well as prestigious works by artists active on the territory of Slovenia through the mid-20th century.

"I'm very happy and honored in the face of such an important donation. The gallery funds for acquisition are very limited, and the purchase of such a major collection would have probably been difficult," Jaki said. She spoke of the incredibly valuable collection that includes the works of Slovenian greats such as Ivan Grohar, Rihard Jakopič, Matija Jama, Ivana Kobilica and Božidar Jakac.

Mt. Triglav missing its landmark tower this fall

MOJSTRANA (STA) — This fall, Mt. Triglav, Slovenia's highest peak and a solemn symbol of Slovenia, will be without its landmark tower for the first time in 123 years. The Aljaz Tower will be transported to the valley for the first time for a much-needed repair on its metal construction.

The photogenic tower marks a spot on top of Triglav that virtually all Slovenian and foreign mountaineers visit after climbing the 2,864-meter-high (9,396-foot-high) mountain.

The tower has sat atop Mt. Triglav since 1895, when it was built by Jakob Aljaz, a trailblazer in the Julian Alps. The tower and its immediate surroundings, including the country's highest peak, were proclaimed a Site of National Cultural Importance in 1999, presenting a symbol of national pride. But as of mid-September, Triglav has been left without its iconic metal construction.

Comprehensive repair work on the tower had been planned for a while, and now the project is ready. The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage



Slovenians help team solve a mystery of light

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenian scientists, in cooperation with their Canadian and Brazilian counterparts, have solved a 150-year-old mystery about how light causes movement. They discovered that light can cause elastic waves, similar to those generated during an earthquake.

According to information on the University of British Columbia website, as part of an experiment, laser pulses were reflected from a small mirror, which caused elastic waves similar to those generated by an earthquake, only much smaller. Thus, the researchers wanted to find out how light and its translational momentum effects other materials. It turns out that light can cause movement even though it has no mass.

Back in the 17th century, German astronomer Johannes Kepler determined that the tail of a comet is turned away from the sun, meaning that the sun creates a certain pressure. The first theories about light having a translational momentum emerged in 1873. The momentum was first measured in 1900, but only how it is translated to a subject as a whole.

Now, after 150 years, the team of Slovenian, Canadian and Brazilian scientists has determined exactly how the translational momentum is transferred to matter in time and space, and that elastic waves are triggered in the process.

As part of the project, led by Tomaž Požar from the Ljubljana Faculty of Engineering, the Slovenian scientists conducted the measurements in the experiment, the team from Canada calculated the optical forces, and the Brazilian scientists made a precise model of the spread of the wave.

The findings could be used to improve optical tweezers, used to physically hold and move microscopic objects. A scientific article on the discovery was published in the scientific magazine *Nature Communications*.

Screenings expanded for Slovenia's newborns

LJUBLJANA (STA) — Slovenia's main hospital has acquired equipment that will allow it to expand the newborn metabolic screening program from two to 20 conditions, which means more infants will receive diagnoses and treatment before they become seriously ill.

Screenings for hypothyroidism (thyroid hormone deficiency) and phenylketonuria (a metabolism disorder that results in decreased metabolism) have been in place in Slovenia for many years, and now all newborns in the country will be tested for 20 metabolic conditions. Officials at UKC Ljubljana expect to detect 10 infants with such conditions a year and then treat them even before they develop a disease.

Addressing an inauguration event in early September, Tadej Battelino, the head of the endocrinology, diabetes and metabolic disorders department at the UKC Ljubljana Pediatric Clinic, said that like before, a drop of blood will be taken from the baby's heel at the maternity ward. The barcoded sample will then be sent to UKC Ljubljana to be screened. If any of the 20 conditions is suspected, additional tests will be taken to confirm or rebut the initial test.

Hospitals across the country use several different IT systems that are not interconnected, so efforts are underway to have all 12 maternity wards across the country integrated into the same system.

Battelino explained that, in inborn metabolic disorders, the infant is born with a defect in a single part of the metabolism, which means that only one amino acid or some other molecule in the liver cannot metabolize. This causes toxins to accumulate in the body and damage an organ. If the toxins damage the brain, the infant may have developmental problems or seizures. If the liver is affected, the baby may die within a week or two.

"If we remove the intake of a single compound that the body cannot metabolize, the clinical picture of these conditions disappears," Battelino said, adding that doctors know how to treat the disorders for which the newborns will be screened.

Even though he believes that the ethics of screening is based on whether you can treat a disease and prevent damage, he said that they would like the Health Ministry to enable them to purchase additional equipment that would allow genetic screening for 50 more inborn conditions that they cannot yet treat.

The machine that will allow screening for 20 metabolic disorders in newborns cost almost EUR 500,000 (\$579,000). It was paid for by the Health Ministry, while UKC covered the EUR 50,000 (\$58,000) installation fee.

Cankar's works find new life as comic books

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The literary project "Cankar In a Comic Book," launched in 2017 as part of preparations for the 100th anniversary of the death of Ivan Cankar (1876-1918), has become quite a success. After receiving an award at the 2017 Slovenian Book Fair, the project was also honored by President Borut Pahor in early September.

The three comic books, produced by three pairs of authors, present some of Cankar's best known works in a genre that strikes a chord with younger audiences.

Actor and poet Andrej Rozman Roza and illustrator Damijan Stepančič made a fresh take on the 1919 play "Hlapci (Servants)" and created the comic book "Servants - The Silence of the Angels."

Translator and comedian Boštjan Gorenc-Pižama, who brought Slovenian literary classics closer to a younger audience with his successful "SLOLvenian Classics," joined forces with Tanja Komadina to rewrite "Moje Življenje (My Life)," a collection of Cankar's short stories. Their comic book is titled "Moj Lajf."

Youth writer Žiga X Gombač and illustrator Igor Šinkovec turned "Hlapec Jernej in Njegova Pravica (Servant Bartholomew and his Justice)" into a fable titled "Servant Bartholomew and Dog's Justice."

The comic books have made Cankar "part of the present-day pop culture," President Pahor said when presenting one of the awards, the Apple of Inspiration, to the entire team behind the project. "The authors have given the timeless questions that Cankar discusses in his works a modern appearance and a new place. They have even given modern answers to some of them," according to representatives in the president's office.

But the project did not only bring the three literary treats; it also includes an exhibition that visited 10 towns across Slovenia and abroad in 10 months, as well as a theatrical performance that has been staged 14 times.

The collection of comic books received the award for best book design in the category of comic books and caricatures at the 2017 Slovenian Book Fair, and the project's success continues. A month ago, "Servant Bartholomew and Dog's Justice" was issued in German, and this autumn "Moj Lajf" will be staged by the Maribor Puppet Theatre.

The articles comprising this feature have been reprinted with permission from the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).

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Lodge 715 sets Oct. 20 for honorees lunch date

by PATTI EVANISH
Lodge 715 Secretary

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — The annual Lodge 715 luncheon is set for Saturday, Oct. 20, from noon to 3 p.m. at Palmieri's Restaurant, 951 Old Frankstown Road, Plum, PA 15239.

Our members who will be honored this year are 50-year members David J. Richter, Edward M. Fiala, Patricia L. Ehalt, Randolph M. Sovic, Marlene L. Kumer Dean, Robert M. Fisher, Donna L. Potochnik and William J. Potochnik; 60-year members Natalie Cromie, Danial Potlas, Patricia A. Neff, Anthony J. Varlotta and Hazel I. Bruce; and 70-year members Jose-

phine Hravatic, John Kastelic Jr. and Francis R. Svoboda. Letters were sent to all our honorees, inviting them to attend as our guests of the Lodge.

The cost for the luncheon is \$20 per person, and checks should be made payable to "Comets Lodge 715." Please RSVP by Oct. 10 by mailing your check to Patti Evanish, 522 Highland Ave. N., Oakdale, PA 15071. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by calling (412) 443-8825 or sending an e-mail to pattievanish2017@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing everyone to honor our long-time members.

Lodge 581 paying tribute to late polka radio host

by JERRY TROHA
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 581 and the North Central Pennsylvania (NCP) Slovenian Polka Boosters sponsored their annual summer picnic at the Johnsonburg Fire Hall. The afternoon music was provided by an all-time favorite, the Del Sinchak Orchestra from Youngstown, Ohio. They played Slovenian tunes and classics from the 1950s and '60s. Del has been entertaining folks in the St. Marys area for many years.

The kitchen was a busy place as a local caterer prepared roast beef, chicken, potatoes, vegetables and salad for the main meal. A variety of homemade desserts were donated and enjoyed by attendees. Local beverages were on hand for the thirsty, including a hometown favorite, Straub beer, graciously served by bartender John Moore.

Throughout the day, several 50/50 drawings were held and door prizes

awarded, including gift certificates, CDs and bottles of local wine. The summer picnic was a fun-filled day for everyone.

Lodge 581 and the Polka Boosters are sponsoring a celebration and tribute to Jim Murone, founder of Murone's Radio Polka Party on WKBI radio and owner of Murone's Music & TV store in St. Marys for more than 65 years. Jim passed away in 1979 and his family continues his love of Slovenian polka music, which is well-received by the surrounding areas. Jim's family still operates the full-service appliance store on Brussels St. in St. Marys.

The tribute will be held Sunday, Oct. 14, at the Ridgway, Pa., Eagles Club from 2 to 6 p.m. featuring the popular Dick Tady Orchestra from Pittsburgh. Food and drink will be available.

In addition to the Oct. 14 event, the NCP Slovenian Polka Boosters will also host a dance on Sunday, Oct. 21, with the Bob Kravos Band from Cleveland

at the Wildwoods Bar and Grill in St. Marys from 2 to 5 p.m.

John Berne of the Maples Inn on Rt. 46 in Crosby, Pa., will host dances on Oct. 7 featuring the Anthony Culkar Band, and on Oct. 28 featuring the Rex Taneri Band for a Halloween party from 2 to 5 p.m. A hot buffet, included with admission, will be served at 1 p.m.

Lodge 581 extends sincere sympathies to the Luttie Rehar family. Luttie enjoyed coming to St. Marys on Friday nights and jamming with his button box. He will be greatly missed!

For more information on the NCP Slovenian Polka Boosters, contact Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218 or e-mail moorski@verizon.net. For additional information on Lodge 581, contact Jerry Troha at (814) 781-6978 or e-mail jerometroha@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at St. Marys SNPJ Lodge 581. We'd like to see you at one of our dances in Elk County, Pa.

31st Convention delegates elect new National Board, set course for Society's future

31ST CONVENTION
FROM PAGE 1

shows an improvement in SNPJ's financial condition.

Retiring National Board member Bro. Frank Bregar was recognized for his service to the Society. Bro. Bregar 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 Convention committees did an exceptional job preparing and presenting their reports to the Convention. Those committees are as follows:

Bylaws/Resolutions: Chairwoman Joanna Baker (120), Secretary Andrea Kamicker (721), Dennis Brand (6), Sarah Loudon (358) and

Ken Zakraysek (174).

Credentials: Chairman Dave Sankovich (770), Jeff Mlaker (584), Janet Smrdel (158), Dawn Klasnick (629) and Kaitlyn Chiappetta (559)

Compensation: Chairwoman Jeannette Humphrey (603), Chris Bacnik (142), Rose Masarik (223) and Marion Volpe (564).

Tally Committee #1 included Hermina Gail Church (321), Frank Wright (6), Shannon Muraco (138), Ed Robich (31) and Mindie Klinsky (265). Tally Committee #2 included Wendy Kinney (106), Ryan Brumbaugh (138), Carol Jancich (786), Meredith Maresh (449) and Craig Kumer (715).

The Young Adult delegates representing the SNPJ Young Adult Conference were Justin Rigler (449) and Elizabeth Smrdel (158). Mer-

edith Maresh, who was a delegate from her Lodge (449), is serving as the Young Adult Representative to the National Board and attended the National Board meeting on Aug. 12.

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 executive 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 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 (6) and Fraternal Director Kevin Richards, did a great job taking care of our delegates. Kathy Paulenich, Cathy Kalenits, Peggy Cushman and Ruth Orlovski helped with the microphones during the meeting.

Our SNPJ Recreation Center staff and management, including

Director Tim Jergel, Sue Krispinsky, Jeff Wisneski and Sue Zarella, did a commendable job preparing the facility for the Convention.

The Sunday reception at 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 & 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 SNPJ National Convention a success.

Badger Jabber

by BOB SMOLE
Lodge 584

MILWAUKEE — Well, Badger Lodge 584 meetings resumed in September after a recess in July and August. We started back on our regular monthly meeting schedule with our annual ice cream social.

Surprisingly, our attendance was low, but we were honored with the attendance of one of our Lodge's senior members, Sis. Fannie Smole. Sis. Smole is 91 years of age, a former SNPJ National Board member, and has been residing in an assisted living facility for some time, unable to attend meetings. Sis. Fannie's son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Smole, were kind enough to bring Sis. Smole to this annual event.

It sure was nice to see Sis. Smole smiling and in such good spirits. She did mention during the meeting how good she felt to be among the Badger Lodge members.

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Donovan on schedule at 7 p.m. All officers were present.

A moment of silence was observed for our recently deceased members: Sisters Marian A. Susnik of Sheldon, Wis.; Kathleen Anderson of Buffalo, Minn.; and Florence Lindquist of Guelth, Minn.; and Bro. Louis F. Saje of Milwaukee. Sincerest condolences from the members of Badger Lodge 584 are extended to their families, relatives and friends. Rest in peace, our dear members.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and accepted, as were the secretary/treasurer's reports.

Bro. Bob Smole reported that he received a call from Sis. Jan Gehm. He noted first that she was unable to attend this meeting, and he also indicated that she was experiencing much difficulty with the rehab she is going through with a severely broken wrist that required surgery to repair. The Lodge wishes Sis. Gehm well as she continues rehab and therapy from her home.

Sis. Gehm requested that someone from the Lodge submit a letter to the *USPEH Newsletter* that will be published soon.

She also asked that I disseminate information on an upcoming event that is being sponsored by Slovenian

Union of America Branch 65: On Saturday, Nov. 10, a Martinovanje (Slovenian St. Martin's Day) celebration will take place at the Root River Center, 7220 W. Rawson Ave. in Franklin, Wis. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with music by the Zadnja Kaplja Band from Illinois from 7 until 10 p.m.

Admission to this event will be \$25 per person or \$45 for a couple. The ticket price includes assorted appetizers, desserts, soda and coffee. Slovenian wines will be available at the cash bar. For ticket reservations and information, contact Betty Ann Kolesari at (262) 896-0942. Sounds like a great time; plan to attend and support this Slovenian celebration.

Several written reports were received and read at the meeting from Lodge representatives to the SNPJ Young Adult Conference that took place in June. Brian Donovan, Carley Schweiger, Amber Schweiger and Bailey Phalen all reported on their experiences at this event. Bailey Phalen was in attendance at this meeting and provided a verbal report in addition to his written report. All representatives indicated they enjoyed the experience and would welcome the opportunity

to be considered as a delegate again next year. All reports were accepted, and a motion to place them on file was made, seconded and approved.

The 2018 SNPJ Quadrennial Convention was attended by Badger Lodge representatives Bro. Jeff Mlaker and Bro. Rudy Papa. They both gave a verbal report, indicating that the Convention consisted of 152 delegates.

Some of the topics discussed included ways to improve income at the SNPJ Recreation Center, how to promote contributions to the Recreation Center renovation project, and how to conserve expenses at future conventions.

Things have changed considerably compared to the Conventions of "yesterday." A Convention that would have taken two or three days in the past was now completed in six hours. Wow, what a change. A lot of the election of officers are now handled by the Executive Committee prior to the Convention. These changes were all adopted at previous SNPJ Conventions and are part of the SNPJ Bylaws and Constitution.

Our birthday celebrant for September, Sis. Michele Melton, was treated

to the traditional birthday song from the Lodge, then again by Bro. Jim Smole's wonderful vocal rendition with his operatic voice. Great job, as usual, Jim.

How special was this? Our special senior member in attendance, Sis. Fannie Smole, was asked to pull the winning number for the attendance award. And guess what? Yep, she drew her own name from the basket. Very special. Congratulations, Sis Smole, and we hope to see you at our meeting again soon.

The meeting was adjourned and the line to the ice cream table filled very quickly. Vanilla and chocolate ice creams were available, plus a number of toppings to tickle your taste buds. Also available were homemade cookies, Kringle and some fresh fruit - yum! We all enjoyed this part of the evening as quietness fell across the room while all mouths were filled and enjoying the goodies.

The next monthly Badger Lodge 584 meeting is scheduled on the second Thursday of October, which is Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Mary Queen of Heaven gym, 2360 S. 106 St. in West Allis, Wis. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there!

PROSVETA Crossword

World Series (#1018) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- Capital near Casablanca
- African National Congress
- Sword handle
- Do like a good citizen
- Exclamation of suspicion
- Echo sounder
- Jewish holiday
- Kimono sash
- Blast from the past
- *Commissioner's _____
- *Yankees' home
- Little Mermaid's domain
- Command before "in"
- U.K. broadcaster
- Puerto _____
- *Why 1994 World Series was canceled
- Displeasure on one's face
- Barrels or casks
- Desert wanderer's hope
- Aries or Taurus, e.g.
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Grannies
- Conquer, as in Everest
- Overweight wrestler
- Man Ray's art movement
- "_____ Truckin'"
- Laundry room fire hazard
- One of Florida Keys, e.g.
- Database command

55. _____-cha-cha

- *Blue Jays' home
- Young domesticated ungulate
- Cover story
- Victoria's Secret purchase
- Free from
- Locomotive hair
- Big galoot
71. _____-la
- The big one and little one, e.g.
- Explosive
- Red Sea nation

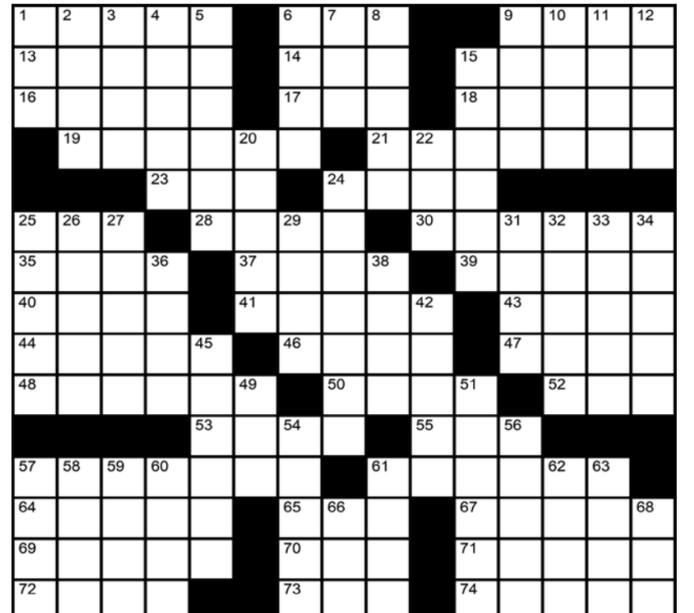
DOWN

- Ice Cube's genre
- Go up against
- Ethiopian currency
- Goodbye to amiga
- Difficult for Beast to control
- Sailor's call
- Nail a criminal
- Trouser fabric
- Like Roman Empire
10. _____-China
- Animal house
- "Star _____"
- Site of a 1976 uprising, South Africa
- Hispaniola republic
- First responders
- Give advice

25. * _____ Sox Scandal, 1919

- Round loaf, in Paris
- Type of mandarin
- *Overcame Curse of the Billy Goat
- "Atlas Shrugged" author
- Asimov or Mizrahi
- Sorta
- Bacon piece
- "Where the Wild Things Are" rollick
- Big rig
- Time being
- Herzegovina's partner
- "As if!"
- *Number of teams in MLB
- R2-D2, e.g.
- Flambé
- Diplomat's forte
- Mixture or medley
- Make someone angry
- #17 Across, pl.
- Synonym to #9 Across
- Dutch cheese
- The pianist's part
- *What Rickey Henderson did best?
- *World Series ticketholder

The solution to puzzle #1018 will run in the Nov. 1 issue.



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A full slate of summer activities for Utopians Lodge 604

by GERRI TREBETS
Lodge 604 Secretary

CLEVELAND — Lodge 604 Utopians planned and hosted the following activities for our members. The first was the Spring Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Sunday, May 20. Unfortunately, the majority of our members had previous commitments and only a very few of them were able to attend. It was a beautiful spring day and just perfect for a great breakfast served up by the illustrious SNPJ Farm Board crew. Many great comments were made as people left about our light and fluffy pancakes and sausage. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at our Polka Brunch on Oct. 21.

Our next activity was our annual summer picnic held July 22 at the SNPJ Farm. The day was perfect, but unfortunately, for whatever reason, the crowd was very light. All proceeds from our drawings went to the Parkinson's Foundation, an organization near and dear to many of our members. Many great items were donated by our members, and I want to thank you for that.

Every year we like to recognize our 50-, 60-, 70- and 80-year members with dinner, a little gift and corsage or boutonniere. This year we had 13 members attaining this great achievement, but only two were able to attend. Many were from out of town and couldn't make the trip. Richard Hill from Florida was in attendance. He has achieved 50-year status and was thrilled to be invited. Unfortunately, because of a family commitment he had to leave early and I was

unable to get a picture of him. Great seeing you again, Richard, and thank you for your support of the Society! Our other honoree was Dorothy M. Rzeszut, who was celebrating 70 years with the Society. Her entire family was in attendance, and it was so nice to see them all. Thank you, Dorothy, for your many years of support to our Society and Lodge. She attended many Utopian events throughout the years.

We were excited to have our new Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel (158) in attendance, and what a great job she did announcing our drawing winners and just being a gracious Miss SNPJ. She is a beautiful young lady and I wish her a wonderful year ahead. I enjoyed her article in the last issue of *PROSVETA* and know that she will make her Lodge and Society proud in the year to come. Even though she had a commitment that night, she took the time to attend our picnic.

I would also like to commend our outgoing Miss SNPJ 2018 Lauren Sebusch (576) on a great year representing our Society. I have known Lauren for many years and she has always been a caring, loving young lady, always greeting you with a smile. I read her farewell article in the last issue of *PROSVETA* and it brought me to tears. I know she will go far in life. She has many fine qualities. All the best to you, Lauren, and thanks for representing our Society so well.

Roast beef or sausage dinners were served, as well as sides and sandwiches throughout the day. I'm happy to say we did have many hearty eaters. Our specialty dish was smoked gouda and bacon mac and cheese prepared by member

Kathleen Trebets. Lots of great comments were received and, yes, it is quite a tasty dish! We also sold potica and apple and cheese strudel, and it all went rather quickly.

Great music was provided by Patty C & The Guys from 3 to 7 p.m. They did a great job and I want to thank them for their time and talents.

So even though the turnout was a little disappointing, I was so happy to share the day with our members and the many people who came out to support us. It was a fun day! I believe one of the reasons for the low turnout at many of our picnics was due to the excessively hot temperatures. This has been one of the hottest summers recorded, with consistently high temperatures.

By the time this article goes to print, our picnic season will have ended. Thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. It is truly appreciated. We have had some very successful picnics and it's thanks to people like you. Don't forget our Polka Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. We have a great menu for you, along with great entertainment by Kathy Hlad and Friends. Please join us!

In closing, I would like to thank Lou Novak, Linda Gorjup and Phyllis Wood for their many years of hard work and dedication to the Society. We truly appreciate it, and I wish you all good health and many happy years ahead. Now on to other exciting adventures in your lives.

Good health and happiness to all, and as I always say, be good to one another. It doesn't cost a penny and goes a long way.



Miss SNPJ 2019 **LIZ SMRDEL** (158) joined Utopians Lodge 604 officers at their annual summer picnic held July 22 at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio.



Seventy-year member Sis. **DOROTHY RZESZUT**, who was joined by her family, was honored during the Utopians Lodge picnic in July.

Halloween events ahead for Samsula Lodge 603

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — The members of Lodge 603 in Samsula held a social and business session on Sept. 4. All officers were present with the exception of Sergeant-at-Arms Jennifer Luznar. President George Benedict presided at the meeting.

Get well wishes are extended to Lodge President George Benedict, who suffered minor injuries in an automobile accident. He continues to improve each day. Because of his dedication to SNPJ, he presided over the meeting following just a few days of recuperating from the accident. He and his wife, Ruth, recently returned from another six weeks of traveling. They especially enjoyed visiting Greenland on this adventure.

A get well wish is also extended to Lodge Secretary Elaine Figueroa, who underwent knee surgery in September. She is doing quite well these days.

We had a successful Labor Day observance celebration at our Lodge hall this year. A

special thank you is extended to Bill Benedict and Matthew Tomazin for catching the mullet and cleaning them for the fish fry. Thanks as well to Vice President Jerry Hafner and Rudy Pleterski Sr. for frying the fish, and to Ruth Benedict for organizing the kitchen with the help of several members. Several members brought side dishes to serve with the meal. Another thank you is extended to John Tesouro for washing the pots and pans, and for taking such good care of keeping our water at the Lodge hall in good condition.

Youth Circle 57 hosted a successful spaghetti supper at the Lodge hall last month and gained several new members for our Lodge and the Youth Circle. Cindy Griswold, the Circle director, is assisted by her daughter, Nadine.

The youth members took a trip to Orlando, Fla., and enjoyed Disney Springs for the day. They stayed overnight and enjoyed swimming, games and dining out at the Rain Forest at Lake Buena Vista.

Halloween festivities at the Lodge 603 Hall are scheduled



[From left] **MATTHEW TOMAZIN, BILL BENEDICT, JERRY HAFNER** and **RUDY PLETERSKI** caught, cleaned and fried the fish for the Samsula Lodge 603 Labor Day fish fry.

Saturday, Oct. 27, from 6:30 until 9 p.m. Costume judging will begin at 7 p.m. A "spookhouse" and several games will be offered, along with a cake walk, which is always a favorite, inside the hall. Everyone is invited to make a cake or two, or some type of baked good, to be awarded. Halloween activities are open to the public.

The next Lodge 603 meeting is set for Tuesday, Oct. 2, starting with dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a business session at 7.

Congratulations to members Jack and Mary Pleterski, who spent three weeks traveling the United States in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary. The Pleterskis' anniversary date is Sept. 27, and they were in

Double Oaks, Texas, with family to celebrate.

Jack has a certificate noting that he joined our Lodge just 27 hours after his birth. He is a lifelong resident of Samsula, and the son of the late Anton Pleterski Sr. and Antonia Luznar Pleterski, who farmed all of their lives in Samsula.

A memorial service was held at our Lodge hall for Randy Ferguson in September which was well attended. Randy performed with a country band, and he and his wife, Kitty, have lived in Samsula for many years.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 22-23, 2019, when Lodge 603 will be hosting Florida SNPJ Days, our annual polka festival. We always enjoy welcoming you to our Lodge!

Fright Night coming to the Farm in November

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158

KIRTLAND, Ohio — Our season at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland may be coming to an end but we're not done just yet! We've planned a couple more events before we close up the doors for winter.

The first is the last Sunday event of the summer, the annual Polka Brunch, on Oct. 21. There will be plenty of food, drinks and music provided by Polka Hall of Fame award winner Kathy Hlad.

For Halloween, the Farm Board is going to perform an impossible trick and bring something back from the dead! Does anyone remember the Harvest Masquerade Ball,

a.k.a. the biggest "spooktacular" event of all time? Well, it's being resurrected this year in an event we're calling "Fright Night at the Farm." This is a 21-and-over event scheduled Nov. 3 at the Farm. The party will run from 6 to 11 p.m.; pizza and hot dogs will be provided.

Fright Night at the Farm will feature a costume contest with prizes, so start brainstorming and break out your sewing kits. Tickets are \$15 per person; the cash bar will offer \$2 drafts.

We are super excited to revive this tradition, so we hope you can make it! For tickets, contact Gina Volpe at (440) 205-1618.

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting May 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

The minutes from the April 26, 2018, meeting were read and approved.

Approved the lease between the SNPJ as landlord and the SNPJ Recreation Center as tenant.

Discussed the farm leases at the Recreation Center, the financial statements, and the money remaining for the Cabin Renovation Project at this point in time.

Discussed upcoming fraternal programs for the summer at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

Discussed the upgrade of the computer software and its compatibility with PolicyView.

Approved a donation in the amount of \$100 to the Westmoreland County Federation for a community event.

Approved sponsorship of \$500 for one-half the cost of the float and advertising in the Canonsburg, Pa., 4th of July parade.

Approved payment of \$125 to CSA Fraternal Life for a full-page ad in their convention program book.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

July 31, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

The minutes from the May 15, 2018, meeting were read and approved.

Discussed the upcoming Convention, timing, shuttles, events, meals, rooms and transportation. All arrangements have been finalized.

Joined by conference call during this meeting with the caterer and staff members of the Recreation Center to discuss logistics of the meeting, set-up, and to finalize menus.

Approved the Executive Committee to attend the annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance in September.

Sis. Pintar reported that she has some information for State Fraternal Alliance meetings, and this will be distributed to appropriate individuals.

Approved a donation in the amount of \$250 to the North Fayette Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Approved a cultural donation to the Chicago District Federation in the amount of \$100 for their Memorial Day booklet.

Approved a donation of \$100 for a PA Fraternal Charitable Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

U.S. Postal Service

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(4) Free or Nominal Rate distribution outside the mail	0	0
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i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	100%	100%

17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

JAY SEDMAK
Editor, SNPJ Publications

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. LOUIS N. LUSHINA
• LODGE 321 •

WARREN, Ohio — The members of Lodge 321 sadly announce the July 11, 2018, passing of Bro. Louis N. Lushina, 90, of Ashby Ponds, Ashburn, Va.

Bro. Lushina worked as a controller for NASA for over 30 years. He also served for two years in the United States

Army during the Korean War. He was a 42-year member of SNPJ Lodge 321.

Louis was the beloved husband of the late Florence Ruth Lushina, to whom he was married for 54 years; father of Brett Lushina and Jamie Freeman; brother of Agnes Beachler; grandfather of Julia Lushina, Nicole Freeman, Kyle Lushina and Bridget Lushina; and uncle of Sandy,

Tommy and Debbie.

Bro. Lushina was laid to rest next to his wife at Arlington National Cemetery.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 321 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Bro. Lushina's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. CARL HARRIS JR.
• LODGE 89 •

MIDWAY, Pa. — The members of Lodge 89 sadly report the July 21, 2018, passing of Bro. Carl "Kite" Harris Jr., 73, of Langeloth, Pa., in Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh.

Bro. Harris was born Sept. 15, 1944, a son of the late Carl and Helen Marie Martincheck Harris. He was a graduate of Union High School in Burgettstown, Pa., and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in marketing management from Morris Harvey College.

Carl honorably served his country in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves as an MP during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged. He was a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal and Sharpshooter Badge.

Bro. Harris retired from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where he was employed as an unemployment counselor. He was a 55-year SNPJ member.

Surviving are two sisters, Donna (Nick) Brenlove of Upper St. Clair Twp., Pa., and Christine (Ken) Darling of Eagle River, Wis.; sister-in-law Andrea Harris of Washington, Pa.; several nieces and nephews; and two great-nephews.

In addition to his parents, Bro. Harris was preceded in death by his brother, Michael Harris, and several aunts and uncles.

A private interment was conducted by his immediate family.

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

SIS. NANCY HILL
• LODGE 321 •

WARREN, Ohio — The members of Lodge 321 sadly announce a second recent loss with the July 25, 2018, passing of Nancy Scibiur Hill, 64, at Kobacker House, Columbus, Ohio, surrounded by her fam-

ily, after a 10-year battle with stage IV cancer.

Sis. Hill was a 1972 graduate of Warren JFK High School, and a 1976 graduate of The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She retired as a nurse with Ohio State after more than 30 years.

Nancy enjoyed vacationing with family and friends, especially her daughter, Bethany. She loved to sew and quilt, giving many gifts to family and friends over the years. She also enjoyed her bible study time with her friends at Xenos Christian Fellowship. She was a member of SNPJ Lodge 321 for 44 years.

Sis. Hill is survived by her daughter, Bethany Hill; two brothers, Thomas (Cathy) Scibiur and Michael (Kimberly) Biksey; many loving nieces and nephews; other family and friends; and her beloved dog, Ella.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Hill; her father, Thomas Scibiur; and her mother, Irene (Michael) Biksey.

Sis. Hill was laid to rest at Sunset Cemetery, Columbus.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 321 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Hill's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. OPAL V. SCHOTTING
• LODGE 245 •

LAWRENCE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 245 sadly report the Aug. 1, 2018, passing of Sis. Opal V. Dittman Schotting, 91, of Lawrence. She was born Feb. 5, 1927.

Opal was a 54-year SNPJ member. She was a gardener who loved canning, cooking, baking and country music.

She was the beloved mother of five children: Judy (the late John) Rikoric of Lawrence, Wanda (the late Don) Rura of Lawrence, Wayne (Janice) Schotting of New Bern, N.C., Robin (Steven) Lelak of Lawrence, and Ronna (Francis) Rosmon of Indian Trail, N.C. She was also loved by 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Services for Sis. Schotting were held Aug. 6 in Cremation and Funeral Care, McMurray, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 245 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Schotting's family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Sis. MICHELE M. BOARMAN (158)

SIS. MICHELE M. BOARMAN
• LODGE 158 •

EUCLID, Ohio — The Boarman and Halaburda families, along with the members of Lodge 158, sadly announce the Aug. 4, 2018, passing of Sis. Michele M. (Halaburda) Boarman, 51, of Las Vegas, Nev., at St. Rose Hospital in Henderson, Nev.

Sis. Boarman was born Feb. 16, 1967, in Willowick Ohio, to parents Paul and Irene Halaburda, and sister to Theresa. She attended St. Mary Magdalene Grade School and graduated from Lake Catholic High School, where she played bells in the percussion section of the marching band. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Gwynedd Mercy College in Philadelphia with a bachelor of science degree in business administration.

Michele's career started with Quest Diagnostics in the Cleveland area, where she was a phlebotomist. From there she moved to Syosset, N.Y., as a supervisor for Quest, and in 1998 she moved to the Philadelphia area to manage their billing department. A few years later she accepted a position for the company as director of compliance in Las Vegas.

In 2012 she joined MGM Resorts International as the supervisor of guest experience at the Aria Hotel, and also served as a manager at MGM's corporate facilities. From 2015 on she worked at the Park MGM hotel (Monte Carlo) team as the director of guest experience. During her career she successfully built and improved the service culture for the property.

A chance meeting on the Friday Night SNPJ Mixers League, Michele met the love of her life, Doug Boarman. The two were wed April 22, 1995, at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Willowick. They were married for 23 years.

Sis. Boarman was a parishioner of St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church in Henderson, Nev. She was a member

of Loyalties Lodge 158 in Euclid and the former SNPJ Youth Circle 94, she bowled on Saturday mornings in the CAL Youth Bowling League, and as an adult she bowled with the Friday Night SNPJ Mixers.

She was elected as a delegate to the SNPJ Young Adult Conference for many years, and was selected to serve as the Young Adult Representative to the SNPJ National Board.

Michele was known to fellow SNPJ young adults and friends as being one of those "Cleveland girls." She was an active member of the Harvest Masquerade Ball and joined fellow Lodge members and friends at many SNPJ-hosted bowling tournaments. She was also a former participant in the Miss SNPJ Pageant, served as co-director of SNPJ Youth Roundup, and for many years enjoyed spending time in Enon Valley, Pa., at her trailer.

Throughout her life she was generous with her time for others, and led fellow team members and friends in support of local charities in the Las Vegas area that included food pantries, the American Heart Association, and the Lupus Foundation.

When you met her, she would always add she was Michele with one "L," and she was proud to be left handed. She enjoyed spending time on cruise vacations with her family and friends, sharing a good laugh, shopping, trying her luck at local gaming centers, and taking care of her dogs, Bailey and Abby.

Michele leaves behind her faithful husband Douglas; her parents, Paul and Irene Halaburda; her sister, Theresa (Darryl); and many loving aunts, cousins and close friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents Nelson and Antoinette Bauer, and Vincent and Josephine Halaburda; and uncles Joseph Halaburda, Larry Bierer and Vincent Taraska.

A memorial Mass to celebrate her life was held Sept. 8, 2018.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Lupus Foundation of America Greater Ohio Chapter, 12930 Chippewa Road, Suite 4, Brecksville, OH 44141; or the SNPJ Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Project, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 158 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Boarman's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SNPJ Crossword
BACK TO SCHOOL (#0918) solution

M	A	D	A	M		A	P	R		B	A	S	T			
O	C	U	L	I		E	T	A		C	O	N	T	E		
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S	E	R	E			E	G	O		E	D	I	C	T		

In Memory of Frank Mavrich
who passed away one year ago on Oct. 18, 2017



We love you & miss you very much
Amy, Katie, Jimmy, Jimmy, Rich & Emily

In Loving Memory



SOPHIE & TONY KREN

you are always in our hearts...

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of July 2018

LODGE NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY-STATE
1 Gene A. Cramer	04-10-2018	Carbondale, Ill.
2 Ethel J. Bregant	07-08-2018	Princeton, Ill.
3 Christine M. Smith	06-10-2018	Johnstown, Pa.
5 Mildred Weitzel	05-24-2017	Lakewood, Ohio
6 Arthur R. Truzzi	06-16-2018	Bridgeville, Pa.
6 Robert F. Lincoln	04-17-2018	Point Marion, Pa.
31 Elizabeth Damoli	06-12-2018	Topsham, Maine
31 Dorothy E. Spadin	07-18-2018	Masury, Ohio
34 Larry D. Goddard	05-07-2018	Indianapolis, Ind.
89 Robert DeBlander Sr.	06-16-2018	McDonald, Pa.
89 Robert C. Punola	06-28-2018	Imperial, Pa.
89 Louis H. Lepro	07-11-2018	Avella, Pa.
106 Robert E. Manson	05-26-2018	Sewickley, Pa.
107 William H. Zvanut Sr.	03-02-2018	Ellisville, Mo.
126 Mary P. Fuerst	05-12-2018	Cleveland, Ohio
138 Richard H. Barto	06-14-2018	Sun City West, Ariz.
142 Carol A. Kompere	05-27-2018	Willoughby, Ohio
158 Jacqueline Letostak	08-10-2015	Imperial Beach, Calif.
218 Christina G. Loertscher	05-15-2018	Carbondale, Colo.
218 John Klemenic	05-03-2018	Palisade, Colo.
218 Elizabeth M. Tomsic	06-01-2018	Denver, Colo.
223 John E. Jablonsky Jr.	04-17-2018	Greensburg, Pa.
223 Donald W. Skergan	05-06-2018	Greensburg, Pa.
225 Audrey M. Weber	06-25-2018	Glendale, Ariz.
254 Josephine M. Zagrodniczek	04-28-2018	Springfield, Va.
257 Virgil Sanchez	06-24-2018	Parma, Ohio
274 Stephen D. Barton Jr.	06-21-2018	Bridgeville, Pa.
274 John L. Baird	05-16-2018	Windber, Pa.
304 Antoinette R. Rezak	05-01-2018	Elk Grove, Calif.
355 Anthony L. Perme	01-29-2018	New York, N.Y.
562 George A. Nemeth	04-30-2018	Yorkville, Ohio
564 Justina Weber	03-18-2018	Troy, Mich.
584 Kathleen Anderson	06-26-2018	Buffalo, Minn.
603 Richard L. Brown	07-01-2018	Brooksville, Fla.
643 Charles B. Zubyk	06-26-2018	Dover, Ohio
749 Dorothy Gaus	06-15-2018	Pittsburgh, Pa.
749 Terry L. Shaffer	11-25-2017	Accident, Md.
770 Dona L. Birnesser	06-02-2018	Winchester, Va.
771 Dale L. Penwell	04-27-2018	Bessemer, Pa.
776 Thomas S. Zitkovic	07-07-2018	Lady Lake, Fla.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA 2018 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2018						MAY 2018					SEPTEMBER 2018										
1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
28	29	30	31				27	28	29	30	31			30							
FEBRUARY 2018						JUNE 2018					OCTOBER 2018										
				1	2	3					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
25	26	27	28				24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31				
MARCH 2018						JULY 2018					NOVEMBER 2018										
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					25	26	27	28	29	30		
APRIL 2018						AUGUST 2018					DECEMBER 2018										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
29	30						26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	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 at 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.

2018 National Golf Results

Men's Individual: Members

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Ed Caggiano	770	69	\$90
**Daren Fetcko	138	68	\$90
**Bryan Zec	715	68	\$90
**Shawn Sutton	138	68	\$90
John Pierog	776	71	\$35
Ron Tkach	138	72	\$25
Jim Cadez	138	73	\$22
Dave Sankovich	770	73	\$22
Skip Morgan	138	73	\$22
Mike Almasy	138	74	\$19
Bill Lowe	138	75	\$18
Ed Galicic	138	75	\$18
John Copich	643	75	\$18
John Kliem	771	75	\$18
Vince Braddock Jr.	138	76	\$17
Craig Kumer	715	76	\$17
Dave Belfiore	138	77	\$15
Michael Copich	643	77	\$15
Don Prejsnar	770	77	\$15
Lou Presnar	770	77	\$15
Tony Volpe	564	77	\$15

Men's Team Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Ed Caggiano	770	311	\$140
Dave Sankovich	770		
Lou Presnar	770		
Don Prejsnar	770		
**Ron Tkach	138	298	\$140
Dave Belfiore	138		
Shawn Sutton	138		
Jeff Cadez	138		
Daren Fetcko	138	299	\$100
Ed Galicic	138		
Jeff Lewis	138		
Mike Almasy	138		
Mike Lucas	138	304	\$72
Skip Morgan	138		
Bill Lowe	138		
Pete Dutka Jr.	677		
Rowland Hudson	564	310	\$64
Grant Strack	6		
Glenn Spoharski	6		
Bryan Zec	715		
Jim Cadez	138	313	\$60
Vince Braddock Jr.	138		
Jamie Evanish	715		
Cory Ward	138		

Women's Individual

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Sara Taylor	138	97	\$38
**Kris Jack	138	75	\$38

Men's Individual: Guests

Name	Score	Prize
*Joe Davey	74	\$11
**Jeff Olander	73	\$11

*Indicates Actual Champion
**Indicates Net Champion

Peoria Holes Selected: Front – 1, 2, 8
Back – 11, 17, 18

2018 National Balina Results

Men's Division

Team	Lodge	Prize
No Deposit, No Return	138	\$100
8 Balls	6/158/715	\$80
Not Quittin' Yet	138	\$72
Ffun	6/715	\$68
Good Sports	564	\$56
Bessemer	277/643/782/776	\$56

Women's Division

Team	Lodge	Prize
Scrambled Legs	6/138/158	\$100
Campsite Divas	6/158/564/643	\$80
Team Almost	6/715/776/782	\$72
Family Affair	6	\$68
Four J's	106/715/782	\$56
Dolls With Balls	158/715/564	\$56

2018 National Beanbag Toss Results

Men's/Co-Ed Division

(Place)/Team	Lodge	Prize
(1) R. Randolph/J. Randolph	715/770	\$150
(2) Jas. Cadez/J. Wagner	138	\$110
(3) R. Tkach/D. Fetcko	138	\$80
(4) E. Valencic/C. Cadez	138	\$70
(5) J. Hudson/J. Zaman	564/142	\$52
(5) B. Spieler/M. Spieler	782	\$52
(7) S. Morgan/Jim Cadez	138	\$35
(7) L. Brand/D. Bible	6	\$35
(9) M. Brately/A. Brately	158	\$28
(9) H. Curl/M. Curl	6	\$28
(9) B. Senick/R. Senick	158/643	\$28
(9) J. Volpe/E. Volpe	564	\$28

Women's Division

(Place)/Team	Lodge	Prize
(1) J. Smrdel/L. Smrdel	158	\$52
(2) P. Hudson/B. Snow	564/6	\$20

Recreation Center plays host to 79th National SNPJ DaysNATIONAL SNPJ DAYS
FROM PAGE 1

We were entertained on Saturday evening in the Gostilna with the great musical sounds of KTB, the trio of Kim Evanish (158), Terry Skovenski (158) and Brian O'Boyle (158).

It was nice to have Bernie Senick (158) and Recreation Center Committee member Jerry Hlebak (158) prepare flatbread pizzas for the ladies playing balina on Saturday. The monetary donations they collected benefited the Recreation Center Cabin Renovation Fund. Thanks, guys!

The men's division of the 2018 SNPJ National Balina Tournament started on Sunday morning. Congratulations to team "No Deposit, No Return," consisting of Ron Cadez (138), Jim Cadez (138), Kevin Yarkoski (138) and Eddie Engel (138), for winning this tournament.

The competition continued into Sunday afternoon as the

2018 SNPJ National Beanbag Toss Tournament got underway at 3 p.m. Congratulations to the duo of Rayne (770) and Josh (715) Randolph for winning the men's/co-ed division, and Jan and Liz Smrdel (158) for winning the women's division. Thanks to District 1 Athletic Director John Wagner (138) and District 2 Athletic Director John Baselj (6) for running this tournament. Great job, guys!

The fun continued into the day as we were entertained by the great music of the Joe Grkman and Frank Stanger orchestras during the National SNPJ Days Picnic. It was great seeing Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel (158) in attendance. I hope you got a chance to say hello and meet this wonderful young lady. Liz has been quite busy already, attending many events and picnics in the months following her crowning. She's doing a great job!

Thanks to Miss SNPJ 2017



Congratulations to Sis. **LAURIE CADEZ** (138), who scored a hole-in-one on the par-3 second hole at Blackhawk Golf Course in Chippewa, Pa., on Saturday, Sept. 1, during the SNPJ National Golf Tournament.

Betty Hartman (138) and her sister, Kristina Hartman (138), for providing the children's entertainment, complete with face painting, a piñata and arts & crafts. I know the kids truly enjoyed it.

Again, thanks to everyone for being a part of the celebration of National SNPJ Days. We have such a beautiful SNPJ Recreation Center and it's nice to see our members enjoying it. I'll see you at a fraternal event soon!



Miss SNPJ 2019 **ELIZABETH SMRDEL** (158) prepares to throw out the first pitch during Slovene Heritage Night hosted by the Lake County Captains.

Heritage Night a hit with Region 3 members

REGION 3 HERITAGE NIGHT
FROM PAGE 1

Heritage Night tradition, much to the delight of the crowd.

This year's event was well publicized by the announcers on WINT and 24/7 Polka Heaven, including Tony Petkovsek, Dale and Denny Bucar, Ray Zalokar, Joe Valencic and Kathy Debevit. I received many phone calls from SNPJ members inquiring about tickets because of the announcements. Three of the announcers were invited to hold the Slovenian flag during the singing of the Slovenian anthem by Ally Perdan (604). Also in attendance this year was Slovenian Consul General Andre Rode and his family.

Throwing out a first pitch were SNPJ members Don Srnick (158), "The" Joe Trgo (158), Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel (158) and 11-year-old Mikey Lawrence (576). Mikey

threw the best pitch, showing up both Joe and Don. Liz also did fine; she practiced, and it showed as her pitch was a strike. A big thank you to my official photographer, Karen Novak, who provided great pictures from the evening.

During the middle of the second inning a polka dance contest was held on the field. We had four couples who bravely accepted the challenge. Congratulations to Marta and Joe Vidmar.

Liz Smrdel and Don Srnick led the crowd in singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" during the seventh-inning stretch. Nice job, guys! At the end of the game, the Captains announcer selected our section, 112, as the winning section for the night. It was a nice way to close out another successful Region 3 event.

I hope to see all of you again next year at this event, which will be in the capable hands of Don Srnick.



The members of Utopians Lodge 604 enjoyed a beautiful evening at the ballpark while celebrating Slovenian Heritage Night in August.

Lodge 604 members catch the Heritage Night ballgame with Region 3

by GERRI TREBETS
Lodge 604 Secretary

CLEVELAND — The third activity planned for Lodge 604 members was the annual Slovenian Heritage Night baseball game at Captain's stadium in Eastlake, Ohio, on Aug. 20. It was a picture-perfect evening for a ball game and everyone in attendance had a great time. Music by Patty Candela, Joe Strukel and T.J. Likovic outside the gates before the game, music throughout the evening, a polka dance contest, and beginning ceremonies – what more could you ask for? Oh, yes, and it was dollar dog and beer night as well! Thanks to outgoing Region 3 Vice President Linda Gorjup for once again planning a great event.

Our very own Ally Perdan sang the Slovenian National Anthem. As I have said many

times, what a beautiful voice this young lady has. It goes along with her bubbly, sparkling personality. We are proud of you! Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz Smrdel (158) and newly-elected Region 3 Vice President Don Srnick threw out first pitches, along with others.

Lodge 604 members in attendance included Rudy, Charlotte and Ally Perdan; Pam Dirk; Rich, Josh and Suzie Tomsic; Gerri and Kathleen Trebets; Ed, Gina and Jaxson Trebets; as well as good friends and avid SNPJs Joe and Linda Zuzak.

I didn't stay until the end of the game, but I don't believe the Captains had a win. In spite of that, the young guys out in the field did a great job and they are the future of baseball.

Wishing all of you out in SNPJland well.

Sharon Lodge 31 extending honors at November dinner

by BARB BOGOLIN
Lodge 31 Secretary/Treasurer

SHARON, Pa. — Twelve members of Lodge 31 are celebrating anniversaries this year. They include 50-year members Clifford Toth, Janice Locnikar Barella, Darlene Lammers, Fred Mlakar, Lawrence Moler, John Kasula and John Valentine; 60-year member JoAnn Bogolin; and 70-year members Angeline Adams, Dorothy Venglarik, Anna Brace and M. Antoinette Luin.

These members will be honored at the Lodge 31 dinner on Sunday, Nov. 11, at Nick's Inn 62, 1890 E.

State St., Hermitage, PA 16148. The dinner will begin at 2 p.m. Members' meals will be paid for by the Lodge and those attending will order from the menu.

During this annual meeting, our election of officers will be held and our meeting dates for 2019 will be set. Members interested in attending should call me, Barb Bogolin, no later than Sunday, Nov. 4. I can be reached at (724) 347-1197 before 10 p.m.

The members of Lodge 31 would like to congratulate Colten Phillips, who was just approved for an academic scholarship.

Lodge 786 collecting for Make a Difference Day

by JEAN KOCI
Lodge 786 Secretary/Treasurer

ORANGE COUNTY, Calif. — Orange Coast Lodge 786 had a nice turnout on Sept. 9, with about 25 members and friends at the lovely home of Lina and Tony. We kicked off our October Make a Difference Day project, which will support Vocational Visions, a local facility that helps adults with mental and physical disabilities do worthwhile tasks for the benefit of others. This gives them a feeling of self-worth while encouraging generosity.

Supporting this organization is especially appropriate because one of our own members had the opportunity to have care at this very efficient place some years ago when she was going through a difficult time in her life. We voted to make a generous Lodge donation to Vocational Visions and requested that members make individual donations as well. We can accept donations until Oct. 20 with the hopes of presenting a generous gift when we visit the facility on Oct. 24.

We also discussed our upcoming Christmas party which is set for Sunday, Dec. 2, at Laguna Woods Clubhouse 6 from noon to 5 p.m. Please give me a call if you plan on attending as we must give Laguna Woods a list

for admission to this gated community. It's also very important to RSVP if your member-child will attend because Santa Claus needs to be ready with gifts! We'll need names and ages for all children in order to be ready. This will also be election day for Lodge officers, so if you'd like to help as an officer, please step up.

For some years now, Lodge 786 has enjoyed Family Twosome Bowling the day after Thanksgiving. This event can also be enjoyed by non-members on an individual basis. The Family Twosome title is only used for youth SNPJ members who bowl doubles with a parent or grandparent who must also be an SNPJ member in order to qualify for the contest. Here in Orange County, we welcome all to bowl for fun. Adults pay a nominal fee to cover costs, and youth members will be paid for.

Afterward bowling, we go out for pizza and the food for youths is also covered. This is always a fun time for all ages — even grandparents like myself take part. We even hope too have some cash prizes if all goes as planned. Please RSVP as soon as possible as reservations must be made for the bowling lanes. I can be reached at (949) 495-0097 or ajkoci@cox.net. Hope to hear from many of you soon.

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The Chicago Federation hosts Miss SNPJ 2019 at annual dinner dance

by TINA RIGLER (449)
Federation Recording Secretary

LEMONT, Ill. — On Aug. 19, the Chicago District Federation held its ninth annual dinner dance at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont. Members and friends from Federation Lodges 1, 8, 449 and 559 gathered to enjoy the good food, singing and socializing.

Federation President Edward Dabrowski (449) welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He introduced the Federation officers in attendance: President Edward Dabrowski, Vice President Vince Rigler, Secretary/Treasurer Marianne Murray, Recording Secretary Tina Rigler, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Kovack, and auditors Dolores Novotny and Carmella Smidl. President Dabrowski also introduced former SNPJ National Secretary Grace Doerk and current Region 5 Vice President Tina Rigler, and recognized all Lodge officers in attendance.

Edward also spoke about the Chicago District Federation's three annual events: the Memorial Day services in the SNPJ Section of Woodlawn Cemetery,

the Christmas party, and this dinner dance. This year's Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, starting at 1 p.m. at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont, and everyone is invited. More details will be sent to each Lodge.

Region 5 Vice President Tina Rigler spoke on historical facts of when the first Lodges were formed and the progress of the Society as it formed the Federation and Youth Circles. She stated that she was glad to see so many youth and young adults present, and expressed her hope that they continue to stay involved. Tina then introduced Miss SNPJ and co-Miss Activity 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel (158), and presented her with a corsage and gift from the Federation. She spoke of Elizabeth's many accomplishments during her years in high school and college, as well as her involvement in many SNPJ activities. We were happy that Elizabeth could join us before heading back to school.

Elizabeth thanked the Federation for inviting her and said she was glad she could attend. She performed a country song that she

sang during the talent portion of the Miss SNPJ Pageant.

Edward Dabrowski then introduced Cecilia Dolgan (576) who sang some Slovenian songs accompanied by Vince Rigler (449). Cecilia explained the meanings of the songs she sang, which were enjoyed by all.

Also present was Miss SNPJ 2016 Julie Rockwell (138), joining Miss SNPJ 1981 Tina Dabrowski Rigler as the two former Miss SNPJs in attendance.

Following the program, everyone stayed to listen to the music by Vince Rigler, and each Lodge had a group picture taken with Miss SNPJ.

It was great to have Miss SNPJ Elizabeth Smrdel visit Chicago with her parents, Janet and Gary Smrdel, and her boyfriend, Derek, for our affair. On the day prior, Ed Dabrowski, Tina Rigler and Robert Rigler took Elizabeth, her mother and boyfriend to enjoy some Chicago-style deep dish pizza, take a tour of NBC Studios led by Ed Dabrowski, and visit the Chicago Bean. It was a beautiful, sunny day enjoyed by all.



[Left] Miss SNPJ 2019 **ELIZABETH SMRDEL** with the Chicago District Federation officers at the Federation's annual dinner dance.

[Below] Elizabeth on camera in the NBC Studios in Chicago.



Pioneer Lodge 559 members preparing for year-end meeting and events



Pioneer Lodge 559 members had the pleasure of meeting Miss SNPJ 2019 **ELIZABETH SMRDEL** (158) during the Chicago Federation dinner dance in August.

by KAITLYN CHIAPPETTA
Lodge 559 President

CHICAGO — It has been an eventful summer for Lodge 559. We had our meeting on Aug. 10, then two days later, Lodge officers Melanie Matiasek, Geri Matiasek and I attended the SNPJ Quadrennial Convention at the SNPJ Recreation Center. We enjoyed meeting delegates from across the country and participating in Convention discussions.

The National Board did a wonderful job entertaining us at the welcome luau, and the pool area where the event was

held was decorated beautifully to match the theme. We also enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Slovenian Heritage Center and explore the Recreation Center grounds. Simultaneously, in Chicago, members of our Lodge enjoyed the Slovenian Catholic Center picnic with meats roasted on site, music, dancing and various drawing prizes.

The following weekend, members of Lodge 559 gathered for the Chicago Federation dinner dance. This time, all Lodge executive officers were present. We were glad to have Miss SNPJ 2019 Liz

Smrdel (158) in attendance with her family, and we enjoyed her performing her talent from the pageant. Our members enjoyed the wonderful lunch provided with our tickets, as well as seeing everyone from other Lodges, and the musical entertainment provided by Vince Rigler (449) and Cecilia Dolgan (576).

The next Federation event will be the Christmas party on the first Saturday in December. The party is now open to both SNPJ adult and youth members with activities for all ages. Keep an eye out for more information.

In November, we will have a toy drive at our final meeting of the year. Feel free to send toys or monetary donations to support our cause. Any donations can be sent to Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Melanie Matiasek, 1020 55th Place, Countryside, IL 60525.

At our final meeting of the year, we will hold elections for officers and determine our meeting dates for the upcoming year. We invite all of our members to attend. That meeting will be held Friday, Nov. 9, starting at noon at McCook Bohemian Restaurant, 8300 Joliet Rd., McCook, IL 60525.

Lodge 106 readies for October Fall Classic Bowl

by KEVIN RICHARDS
Lodge 106

IMPERIAL, Pa. — Greetings from Lodge 106! Stop by the Lodge 106 clubroom on the first Tuesday of each month to see bartender Shari and enjoy an evening of free jukebox.

Bar bingo continues on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Special early bird games start at 6:30 p.m.; the first regular game starts at 7. Our kitchen is always open for bar bingo.

Join us for karaoke in the Lodge 106 clubroom on Friday, Oct. 5, starting at around 7 p.m. Bring your singing voice and join in on the fun! Can't (or don't want to) sing? No problem — come out and cheer on the talent!

Another "Seems Like Old Times" dance has been scheduled in the Imperial Room at Lodge 106 for Sunday, Oct. 7, from 7 to 10 p.m. Our kitchen will open at 5 p.m., offering a buffet meal for \$10.

Dance admission is \$8 at the door. Enjoy the Wally Merriman Group for this ballroom-style dance as we celebrate the music of America's greatest generation.

We invite everybody to the Lodge 106 clubroom on Friday, Oct. 12, as we welcome the country sounds of the Timothy Earl Band from 7 to 11 p.m. There is no admission for this show, and our kitchen will be open.

SNPJ Lodge 106 is once again hosting the SNPJ Fall Classic Bowling Tournament the weekend of Oct. 13-14. Bowling will take place at Paradise Lanes.

The Prime Time Polkas with Pam and Jerry Zagar Octoberfest and Radio Station Benefit Dance will be held in the Imperial Room on Sunday, Oct. 14, from 2 to 7 p.m. This will be a great afternoon in our hall featuring the wonderful sounds of the Polka Classics with Rob DeBlander, Karl Lukitsch and Autobahn, and much more. Admission is a \$10 donation per

person. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Euchre tournaments will be starting back up in the Lodge 106 clubroom on Sunday, Oct. 14, and continue every other Sunday. Check in the clubroom for details.

The Lodge 106 adult Halloween party will be held in the clubroom on Friday, Oct. 26. Come in costume for some great prizes. Our youth Halloween party will be held in the Imperial Room on Sunday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Would you like to receive periodic e-mails from Lodge 106 about upcoming events and important announcements? If so, e-mail snpj106@gmail.com and we'll add you to our list.

Keep track of all the activities going on at Lodge 106 by visiting the "Upcoming Events" page on our website, www.snpjimperialpa.com. You can also follow us on Facebook at SNPJ Lodge 106 and the Imperial Room at SNPJ Lodge 106.



Slavija Lodge 1 members were delighted to meet Miss SNPJ 2019 **ELIZABETH SMRDEL** (158) during the Chicago Federation dinner dance, held Aug. 19 in Lemont, Ill.

Lodge 1 members share a visit with Miss SNPJ

by MICHELLE HRIBAR-HERNANDEZ
Lodge 1 President

CHICAGO — Before heading into the fall season, the members of Slavija Lodge 1 enjoyed the annual Chicago Federation dinner dance held Sunday, Aug. 19, in Lemont, Ill. Members enjoyed visiting with Miss SNPJ 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel (158) and her family. Cecilia Dolgan (576), accompanied by Vince Rigler

(449) on the button box, sang many Slovenian favorites.

As a reminder, the annual Lodge 1 meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2, beginning at 11 a.m. at Czech Plaza. During this meeting we will elect our officers for 2019. All Lodge members are welcome to attend.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 1, I wish everyone a wonderful autumn.

S'more news from the SNPJ Trailer Court Assoc.

by TAWNIA SPOHARSKI (6)
SNPJ Trailer Court Assoc.

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — If you joined us for Slovenefest, you know it was a hot one! However, that didn't stop anybody from having a great time. The temperatures were high, but the enjoyment of this amazing event — filled with great food, even better music and crowds of people experiencing the heritage of SNPJ — was even higher.

The Trailer Court Association (TCA) would like to congratulate one of our own, Liz Smrdel (158), who was crowned Miss SNPJ 2019. We're sure she'll do a wonderful job representing SNPJ at all of the events she'll be attending throughout her reign. Thank you to all of the TCA volunteers who helped make Slovenefest a success; proof positive that our association embodies the fraternalism of SNPJ.

Speaking of events, we hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did at our annual "Fun in the Sun" balina tournament. It was an epic battle, but Jamie Evan-

ish (715), Liz Smrdel (158), Kim Evanish (158) and Paul McDowell (782) edged out the competition to claim the 2018 championship. Congratulations! The balina balls were rolling well into the night since so many of us didn't want the good times to end. A special visitor also rolled into the party late that evening. Thanks to all involved for making sure they got home safely.

The TCA hosted a night of magic on the microphone during our second annual Gostilna Karaoke. It was great to see so many in attendance as songs both old and new filled the air. It may have started out slow, but as the beer kicked in, things took on a life of their own! Be sure to check out the photos on our bulletin board to see our own "American Idols."

The TCA also hosted the return of our casino bus trip. A special thank you goes out to Marlene Skovenski (158) for organizing this anticipated event. The bus rolled out in the morning with many dreams of hitting it big. We

hope that winners were made and that no one returned with too big of a hit to their bank account! An out-of-this-world dinner was provided at the dorm. Thanks to all who had a hand in keeping us well fed!

As the saying goes, "kids will be kids," but I say "adults will be kids... when you put a water balloon in their hand!" TCA members went wild with an impromptu water balloon

battle of the ages. Golf carts and giggles were all over the Rec Center as we bombed and blasted each other with over 1,200 water balloons. Will it happen again? You can bet on it!

This concludes the latest version of "S'more news from the SNPJ Trailer Court" and with that I wish you many more times together as a community of friends and family!

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