

Deadlines for nominations of National Board candidates, proposed SNPJ Bylaws changes

by KAREN A. PINTAR
SNPJ National Secretary/COO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — In accordance with the SNPJ Bylaws, Sec. 12. Eligibility and Qualifications:

“A candidate for the National Board, excluding Executive Committee, shall be elected by the convention from among the members of the Society, whether present at the convention or not.

“A candidate for the National Board, ex-

cluding Executive Committee, must have been a member of the Society for at least three (3) continuous years prior to the convention and have attended at least two of the regular Lodge meetings held in the twelve (12) months prior to the meeting of the election of delegates, and must have signed his or her name in the Lodge attendance book or have otherwise been recorded by the Lodge as in attendance.

“A candidate for the National Board shall

submit his or her name and such additional information as is required by the National Board to the National Secretary’s office no later than 45 days prior to the beginning of the convention. Only candidates that have done so and whose eligibility has been verified by the Executive Committee will be eligible for nomination. No other nominations will be accepted.”

SEE CONVENTION DEADLINES
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briefly

Home Office closed for the Society anniversary

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, April 18, in observance of the Society’s 118th anniversary, which we celebrate each year on April 6. Normal office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Tuesday, April 19.

Society sympathies for Lodge A18 president

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Home Office has been notified of the Feb. 7, 2022, passing of Sis. Susan M. Ramsey, president of Lodge A18 in Baden, Pa.

On behalf of the entire Society, the members of the Executive Committee and Home Office staff extend their condolences to Sis. Ramsey’s family and friends on their loss. See page 5 for the complete obituary.

Western Pa. Federation sets April Zoom meeting

PITTSBURGH— Happy spring! *Vesela pomlad!* The Slovene Federation of SNPJ Lodges of Western Pennsylvania will be meeting Tuesday, April 26, at 7 p.m. via Zoom video conference. Meeting notices have been sent to all affiliated Lodges. The Federation officers encourage Lodges to have representatives participate.

Bodite varni in zdravi! Vesele Velikonočne Praznike!

SHARON UJCICH (665)
Federation Secretary

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are May 2 and June 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, April 18, for the May 2 issue, and by Monday, May 9, for the June 1 issue. If you’re concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to prosveta@snpj.com or submit your material via the publications area of our website, snpj.org.



In January, the members of SNPJ Youth Circle 19 in Strabane and Youth Circle 36 in Sygan enjoyed an evening of ice skating at Printscape Arena in Canonsburg, Pa.

New activities for Strabane and Sygan SNPJ Youth Circle members

by BRYN SNOW (6)
SNPJ Youth Circle 36 Director

SYGAN/STRABANE, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 6, home to Youth Circle 36, and SNPJ Lodge 138, home to Youth Circle 19, collaborated to host a group outing to go skating at Printscape Arena in January. The event was a great success with 24 children in attendance, and even a dozen adults joined in on the skating fun.

Lodges 6 and 138 have a long history of friendship and friendly rivalry. Both Lodges play host to the annual SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament each February, during

which men and women compete in singles, doubles and team bowling events.

Youth Circle 19 Director Margaret Cadez and Youth Circle 36 Director Bryn Snow wanted to bring the friendships and competitive spirit between the Lodges to the next generation of our fraternal family.

The skating event was the first step, or glide, forward to this mission. The kids spent the day laughing, joking, skating—and falling—together, making memories and friendships that will last

SEE CIRCLE ACTIVITIES
ON PAGE 7

Commission accepting entries for the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant

by KARA MARUSZAK (142)
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

CLEVELAND — The Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission is currently accepting entries for the 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant. The pageant will take place July 8-10 at the SNPJ Recreation Center. Contestants must be single females between the ages of 18 and 28 by July 8, 2022, and an SNPJ member for at least three months at the time of the pageant. Transportation to

the Miss SNPJ Pageant, along with lodging and meal expenses, are paid for by SNPJ.

The young lady who is crowned Miss SNPJ 2023 will receive a \$2,000 scholarship award, and will have the opportunity to travel and represent the Society at a variety of events across the country. The winners of the remaining titles will receive awards in the following amounts:

SEE 2022 MISS SNPJ PAGEANT
ON PAGE 4

Delegates and auditor elections on the Lodge 31 agenda in April

by BARB BOGOLIN
Lodge 31 Secretary/Treasurer

SHARON, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 31 members are invited to a dinner meeting on Thursday, April 21, at Cianci’s, 489 S. Hermitage Rd., Hermitage, PA 16148.

The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. Members will order from the menu; the Lodge will pay for the cost of the meals. Lodge charitable contributions for 2022 will be decided.

Elections will be held for two delegates to the SNPJ Quadrennial Convention. In addition, nominations and an election will be held for the position of Lodge auditor due to the recent passing of Sis. Helen “Tootsie” Scarmack. She and her contributions to the Lodge will be missed.

If you are planning to attend the dinner meeting, please RSVP by April 19 by phoning Barb Bogolin at (724) 347-1197 before 10 p.m.



Kaiden T. North
Born March 10, 2021
Bon Air, Pa., Lodge 254

SNPJ Lodge 254 welcomes Kaiden Thomas North as the newest addition to the Lodge. Kaiden is the son of Brandon North and Heather Johnson, and the grandson of William “Raz” North (254). We welcome Kaiden to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.



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SNPJ Heritage Center prepares for summer season

by KATHY PAULENICH (776)
SNPJ Heritage Center Director

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The SNPJ Heritage Center Committee is busy planning for the 2022 season at the SNPJ Recreation Center. We launched the season with a teleconference meeting in January to get our creative minds thinking about updating displays in the museum and ordering new items in our gift shop.

At our next teleconference meeting in March, we were excited that many of our spring and summer events are planned to return to the calendar of events—this year will be an almost-normal season of events. I’m sure all of you are as excited as we are to see SNPJ friends again, attending all the great events and dancing to polka music.

Our first event of the season is the European

Union Embassy Open Houses scheduled Saturday, May 14, in Washington, D.C. Heritage Center Committee members will be at the Slovenian Embassy.

The Heritage Center has participated in this event over the years with our traveling museum on display. We usually send three committee members for the weekend to set up the display and then welcome the guests as they pass through the embassy. We promote SNPJ, the Slovenian heritage and Slovenefest. Anyone in the D.C. area, be sure to visit the Slovenian Embassy on May 14!

Our next big event is the Heritage Center Weekend, which will be held June 10-12. Patty C and The Guys will kick off the weekend, performing in the Gostilna on Friday, June 10, from 7 to 10 p.m. On Saturday morning, Denny

Brand will organize a balina tournament at the SNPJ Balinarena starting at 10 a.m. The Heritage Center museum and gift shop will be open from 1 to 5 p.m.

We are trying a new activity – a paint, pour and sipled by Sarah Loudon – in the wine room starting at 4 p.m. A fee will be charged to cover the cost of supplies. I’ll have more information on this activity in a future article.

We’ll conclude the Saturday activities with polka bingo in the Gostilna.

Bryn Snow is organizing children’s games (ages 3-13) on Sunday, June 12, in an area near the Heritage Pavilion. Our annual picnic will be held in the Heritage Pavilion, featuring the Ron Likovic Band and Western Pa. Button Box

SEE HERITAGE CENTER SEASON
ON PAGE 4

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Fontana Lodge 723 hosting in-person only meeting in April

by JULIANNE WOOD
Lodge 723 Recording Secretary

FONTANA, Calif. — SNPJ Lodge 723 will be holding its next Lodge meeting on April 21 starting at 6 p.m. in-person only. Please note the time change from 6:30 to 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Cypress

Community Center located at 8380 Cypress Ave., Fontana, CA 92335; diagonal from the Fontana Slovene Hall.

There will be no phone-in or internet conferencing options for this meeting. Masks and social distancing will be required, and meeting

attendees will be required to follow the guidelines set forth by the venue.

The agenda items to be covered include the review of the financial reports from the sale of the Fontana Slovene Hall, election of Lodge delegates to the SNPJ National Convention and, if time allows,

approval of donations to nonprofit organizations.

Members should arrive at 5:30 p.m. to review the documents prior to the start of the meeting at 6. Please contact Julianne Wood at (951) 300-3592 or e-mail JulianneWood@snpjLodge723.org with any questions.

SNPJ Region 2 No-Tap Tournament returning to the Sygan Lodge 6 Bowling Center in April

by KAREN A. PINTAR
Lodge 6 President

SYGAN, Pa. — SNPJ Region 2 Vice President Jim Curl will host a No-Tap Bowling Tournament on Saturday, April 23, at the Sygan SNPJ Lodge 6 Bowling Center. This event returns after a two-year hiatus, and we're looking forward to welcoming a great

crowd of bowlers and friends!

All SNPJ members and guests are welcome to join in the fun. The cost to enter the tournament is \$21; we will be providing free food to all bowlers. Bowling will start at 2 p.m., and we ask that participants arrive by 1:30.

Bowlers will have the opportunity to enter doubles matches for an ad-

ditional fee of \$2 per person. We'll also offer a 50/50 drawing, along with a free drawing that will give bowlers the opportunity to roll a strike and have their entry fee returned.

We look forward to seeing you at Sygan Lodge 6 on Saturday, April 23, for the SNPJ Region 2 No-Tap Tournament!

Following Florida SNPJ Days in February, Samsula Lodge 603 planning Easter festivities

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — SNPJ Lodge 603 in beautiful downtown Samsula hosted its annual Florida SNPJ Days on Feb. 25-26. We had a very good turnout for the festival, which featured the Frank Moravcik Band from Cleveland with Brad Turk on drums. Everyone so enjoyed the music, and on Saturday our dance floor was full of polka dancers. We even had a few jam sessions, which is always a plus for us.

SNPJ National Secretary Karen Pintar represented the Executive Committee at the festival. She was introduced on Saturday by Lodge President Connie Massey. Karen thanked our Lodge for its continued activities and presented the Lodge with a check for hosting a cultural event. We also received another award for completing at least four activities at our Lodge this past year, along with a listing of new members.

Secretary Pintar talked about our fraternal society, and extended greetings from the Executive Committee and the SNPJ National Board. She also thanked our Lodge hall manager for keeping Youth Circle 57 active. Throughout the festival, the Youth Circle members collected drawing tickets and sold popcorn. These funds were donated to the Lodge. Last year, the Youth Circle, under the direction of Cindy and her assistants, Ashley Merson and Holli Pell, donated \$500 to the Lodge after selling hot dogs at the Lodge hall and at the Benedict Farm Store in Samsula.

Martin Kumer, the president of SNPJ Lodge 715 in Universal, Pa., attended the festival, as did Wendy and Butch Kinney from Lodge 106 in Imperial, Pa.

A welcome dinner for Karen and Ken Pintar, and Wendy and Butch Kinney, was hosted by the Lodge 603 officers and several members at the home of Jeannette Humphrey the night prior to the festival.

The Lodge officers took charge of



SNPJ Lodge 603 officers greeted a group of northern SNPJ members as the Lodge hosted the annual Florida SNPJ Days celebration in February.

our Florida SNPJ Days event. Ruth Benedict organized the strudel bake and cabbage roll making, and took charge of the kitchen during the festival. She thanked the membership for volunteering at the two-day event. Get well wishes are extended to Pauline Lockwood.

The Lodge thanks Elaine Figueroa and Lisa Farber for working the entrance, and Jeanie Novatny for operating the Slovenian greeting table.

Lodge 603 will host its annual Easter Sunday dinner on April 17 at 1 p.m., followed by the Youth Circle 57 egg hunt, which is open to the community. The dinner menu this year will include baked ham and baked chicken with sides and a dessert. The donation for the meal is \$15 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-12. Reservations must be made with Cindy Griswold by phoning (386) 689-9454.

Lodge 603 President Connie Massey, along with Ella Adle and Nancy Bass, will be in charge of the meal. Workers are needed, so please let them know if you can assist.

Youth Circle 57 will meet Saturday, April 16, at the Lodge hall to decorate tables and prepare the eggs and prizes for the Easter egg hunt on Sunday. The Samsula Women's Club has donated \$100 to the Youth Circle for Easter egg hunt expenses.

Members are reminded of the July 8-10 dates for Slovenefest 2022 taking place at the SNPJ Recreation Center in Enon Valley, Pa. For additional information and directions, visit www.slovenefest.com.

If you would like information about polka dances and special events hosted by the International Polka Association in Florida, contact Brad Turk at (352) 875-3961.

Important deadlines for the 32nd Convention

CONVENTION DEADLINES FROM PAGE 1

Therefore, you must submit your name to the office of the National Secretary by July 1, 2022.

"A member cannot qualify as a candidate for the National Board for any of the following reasons: (1) while he is suspended or expelled; (2) if he has been found guilty of defrauding funds of the Society; (3) if he is on the board or is local Lodge secretary of another fraternal organization; (4) if he is an appointed agent of any life insurance company other than the Society; and (5) if he is an employee of the Society or has served in such capacity in the prior 5 years with the exception of Executive Officers."

A candidate for the National Board should possess qualifications that reflect the complexity and magnitude of the business and affairs of the Society. These desired qualifications may include experience in the areas of accounting, financial, insurance, legal, business, management and fraternal, among others.

Member-Proposed Changes to the Society Articles, Bylaws and Resolutions

In accordance with Resolution #1 of the Society, proposed changes to the Articles, Bylaws and Resolutions presented by an individual member or members must be approved and signed first by local Lodges or Federations of Lodges before they are presented to the appropriate committee(s).

These proposed changes must be received by the Executive Committee no later than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the opening of the Convention. So, any proposed changes would have to be in my office by June 16, 2022. In addition, all proposed changes must include a rationale. This rationale should explain the need for the proposal.

Any proposed changes that are not presented sixty (60) calendar days prior to the Convention will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Convention for introduction.

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:
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Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- APRIL 23 SNPJ Region 2 No-Tap Bowling Tournament at the Sygan Lodge 6 Bowling Center starting at 2 p.m. All SNPJ members are welcome to participate. Tournament entry fee is \$21; free food available to bowlers. Register at the Sygan Lodge 6 Club or phone (412) 221-9862.
- APRIL 30-MAY 1SNPJ National Bowling Tournament hosted by Loyalites Lodge 158 at Colonial Lanes, New Castle, Pa. All social events held at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information contact Tournament Secretary Gary Smrdel at (440) 655-7592 or e-mail garylodge158@roadrunner.com. The entry deadline is April 11.
- MAY 1 Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643 Spring Dance at Rolling Mills Lounge (the former Kuzman's), 1025 S. State St. in Girard. Music by the Frank Stanger Band from 3-7 p.m. For more information contact Ray Kovac at (330) 824-2154.
- MAY 28 CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, Ohio. For information contact Tournament Secretary Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-4001.
- MAY 30 Chicago District Federation Memorial Day Services in Woodlawn Cemetery, Forest Park, Ill., starting at 11 a.m. For more information contact Tina Rigler at (708) 257-8312.
- JUNE 4 SNPJ Golden Valley Lodge 745 Wine Tasting and Lunch at Pescatore Vineyard and Winery, 7055 Ridge Rd., New Castle, Calif., starting at 1 p.m. Music provided by John and Joe Mlakar. For more information contact Joe Mlakar at (916) 380-7722 or e-mail loskadolina@surewest.net.
- JUNE 10-12 SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For details contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 or e-mail snpj@snpj.com.
- JUNE 10-12 SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- JULY 8-10 Slovenefest at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ (Enon Valley), Pa. For additional information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- JULY 31-AUG. 6 ...SNPJ Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.
- AUG. 15 ... The 32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention at the SNPJ Recreation Center.
- SEPT. 2-4 National SNPJ Days at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail snpj@snpjrec.com.

We've Got You COVERED



DAVID C. ELY, CPIA
SNPJ Sales Director

Protecting the future (Real Life Stories from *Life Happens*™)

A mutual friend with a new dog brought Stephen and Katie together.

Stephen had headed to his friend's house to meet the new furry member of the family, and when he got there, he saw Katie playing with dog in the back yard. "Katie was so outgoing," says Stephen. "She was the nicest person you'll ever meet." That first meeting led to beach outings and concerts, and over time to getting married and thinking about starting a family.

It was Katie who suggested they get life insurance. Stephen admits he wasn't too happy about the idea. They were young and healthy, so he didn't see the point. Katie, however, convinced him to sit down with Rose, an insurance professional, who walked them through the process and presented them with affordable options. They both decided to get life insurance coverage.

A Growing Family: When the couple welcomed Chase, they decided to reevaluate their life insurance. Given their expanding family and responsibilities, they both bought additional life insurance. It was during her recovery from giving birth to Reid that Katie realized something was wrong. Her doctor confirmed her suspicion that the abdominal lump she felt was something much more serious. In fact, it was an aggressive form of cancer.

Katie, with the love and support of her family, valiantly fought the disease, but just over a year later it claimed this young mother's life. She was just 30.

Our Future: No words can capture the devastation that Stephen and his boys felt at Katie's loss. "It's horrible to lose your soul mate and best friend," he says. "But I have two boys to support, and I want them to know their dad can carry on." Life insurance has helped with that process.

"Nothing can bring Katie back, but having life insurance meant we didn't lose everything," he says. "I don't earn enough alone to afford living in our house. Life insurance has eased my financial worries on so many levels."

Thinking back to that first meeting with Rose, Stephen says: "Katie was the smarter one. She knew to plan for the future – our future – with life insurance."

I recently re-read this story, and it once again drove home the fact that way too many people procrastinate because they don't like thinking about unpleasant things. As an SNPJ member, we are here for you! Please call the SNPJ Home Office today at 1-800-843-7675. Let's review your life insurance needs together, ASAP!



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New ambassador at the U.S. Embassy

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The new U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia, Jamie L. Harpootlian, presented her credentials to President Borut Pahor on Feb. 17, following a period of more than a year that the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana had been led by the charge d'affaires. During her introduction, Harpootlian said that Slovenia and the United States had tremendous opportunities to strengthen their ties in many ways.

"My goal is to be a bridge; to work every day to open avenues for working together and strengthening our partnership to support our common vision for peace, prosperity and a healthier planet for all people," Ambassador Harpootlian was quoted in a press release from the embassy.

President Biden nominated Harpootlian as ambassador to Slovenia in July 2021, and she was officially sworn-in in December. She succeeds Lynda Blanchard, who left Slovenia in January 2021. Susan K. Falatko then took over as the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Ljubljana.

According to the U.S. Embassy, Ambassador Harpootlian has had a decades-long career as an attorney in both private practice and public service, centered on federal litigation and mass tort resolution. She has served in complex civil actions, with the Department of Justice appointing her to serve as a hearing officer on the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund of 2001.

"Ambassador Harpootlian is a community leader and an engaged patron of charitable organizations that support the environment, the arts, historic resources, and community needs," the embassy release adds.

Ambassador Harpootlian was raised in California and South Carolina, earned a bachelor's degree in political science and art history from Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Va., in 1981, and a law degree from Tulane University in New Orleans in 1984.

Slovenia submits drug abuse resolution to UN

VIENNA (STA) — Slovenia, a new member of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), submitted a draft resolution in mid-February that calls on the international community to step-up efforts to prevent the use of illicit drugs, in particular among children and youth. The CND debated the resolution at its 65th session held in mid-March.

Slovenia was elected a CND member for the 2022-2025 period last year. The commission, which meets in Vienna, monitors the situation in the field of illicit drugs globally, and takes measures to reduce global demand and supply.

"The initiative for the resolution has already been backed by the EU, and by submitting the resolution Slovenia has been joined by France, with Japan, Mexico and Nigeria expected to follow suit," the Slovenian Health Ministry wrote in a press release.

The release quoted Slovenian Health Minister Janez Poklukar as saying that with the resolution, Slovenia seeks to encourage member countries to apply an inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary approach to secure sufficient support and funding for early prevention of the use of illicit drugs in childhood and early adolescence.

The resolution proposes appointing a special task force of experts within the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to form guidance for effective early prevention of substance abuse based on established international standards.

New government bill promotes digital literacy

LJUBLJANA (STA) — In mid-February, the Slovenian government adopted a systemic bill to encourage digital inclusion that aims to enhance digital skills. The centerpiece is a program of EUR 150 (\$170) digital vouchers that children, secondary school students and adults over 55 will be able to use to attend various digital literacy courses or to purchase digital devices.

"More than EUR 31 million (\$35 million) has been earmarked for subsidizing the courses and digital device purchases in 2022," Minister for Digital Transformation Mark Boris Andrižanič told the press at the conclusion of the



government session. "This is the first systemic bill which regulates acquisition of digital skills and enables launching the biggest digital literacy project in the country," he said.

The Digital Compass presented by the European Commission last March sets ambitious digital transformation goals, including at least 80 percent of adult Europeans having at least basic digital skills by 2030. With only 55 percent of Slovenian adults currently having digital skills, the country ranks below the EU average, and Andrižanič believes the bill should help Slovenia to progress among the most digitally-inclusive European societies. "We will achieve 80 percent of adults having at least basic digital competence by 2028," he said.

The bill focuses on acquiring basic and advanced digital skills with the help of courses subsidized by the government. But since skills without computer equipment are not enough, the bill introduces the option of financial incentives to purchase computers.

Slovenians over age 55 will learn basic skills, such as how to engage in digital banking or use e-administration services. Children and students will have the opportunity to attend free courses focused on advanced digital skill sets, such as coding, robotics, AI and digital entrepreneurship. "These measures aim to encourage youth to acquire technical skills and to inspire their choice of a profession in the future," the minister said, adding that the new legislation "will also contribute to the digitalization of education."

Students could use the vouchers to purchase digital devices (computers, tablets, printers, etc.) while those over 55 will be able to use them to attend the courses.

"Today is a good day for Slovenia's digital transformation," Andrižanič said. He hopes the digital vouchers will be available as early as May.

French stamps feature Ljubljana architecture

PARIS (STA) — In late February, La Poste, the national postal service of France, issued a series of four stamps depicting Ljubljana's architectural landmarks: the Triple Bridge, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Ljubljana Castle and Tivoli Park.

"The French postal service has thus underlined the charm of the Slovenian capital," the Slovenian Embassy in France posted on Twitter, adding that "Ljubljana landmarks designed by architect Jože Plečnik, including some of those showcased on the stamps, are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List."

The Plečnik designs have been included on the UNESCO list since last summer. Seven of his works received this honor: the Ljubljana embankments with a number of bridges; Trnovo Bridge; Vega Street with the National and University Library, and Congress Square with Zvezda Park; Roman Wall; Žale Cemetery; and the churches of St. Michael in Črna Vas and St. Francis of Assisi in the Šiška borough.

The introduction of the French postage stamps follows Ljubljana having been declared 2022 European Best Destination in mid-February.

Concerts mark Slovenian Octet's 70th anniversary

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The Slovenian Octet is marking its 70th anniversary this year with a series of seven concerts, the first of which was held March 9 at the Church of the Teutonic Knights Order in Ljubljana. Since its establishment, the octet has been among the most eminent men's vocal ensembles in Slovenia.

The octet performs Slovenian songs, including folk songs, at concerts in Slovenia and among Slovenian emigrants and vocal music aficionados. The group was founded in Ljubljana in 1951 at the initiative of Slovenian immigrants in the United States.

In September 1951 the octet's initial lineup – Janez Lipušček, Gašper Dermota, Marij Kogoj, Božo Grošelj, Roman Petrovčič, Tone Kozlevčar, Tone Petrovčič, Artur Šulc, and artistic director Janez Bole – was selected through an audition organized by the Culture Min-

istry in collaboration with the Slovenian Emigrants Association.

The octet has released more than 60 recordings and has received numerous awards, including two Prešeren Prizes, the top national accolade in the arts. The group was also decorated with the Golden Order of Freedom by the Slovenian president during its 45th anniversary year.

Over the past 70 years the octet has included more than 40 members. The current lineup features Andrej Oder, Rok Ferenčak, David Jagodic, Janez Triler, Darko Vidic, Janko Volčanšek and Matej Vojc, with Jože Vidic as artistic director.

The March performance featured sacral and patriotic songs written by composers whose busts are displayed along Vegova Street in Ljubljana, part of what is known as the "Avenue of Slovenian Composers." Conceived by architect Jože Plečnik, the composers memorialized along the Avenue include Matej Hubad, Fran Gerbič, Benjamin Ipavec, Vatroslav Lisinski, Jacobus Gallus, Davorin Jenko, Stevan Mokranjc, Hugolin Sattner, Anton Foerster and Emil Adamič.

The next concert in the octet's Jubilee 70 series is scheduled April 6.

Per capita, Slovenia 2nd in Olympic medals

BEIJING (STA) — Slovenian athletes scored seven medals at the Beijing Winter Olympic Games, which ranks Slovenia second only to Norway in medals per capita. Overall, Slovenia ranked 15th among all countries on the Olympic medal table.

Team Slovenia won two gold, three silver and two bronze medals: four in ski jumping, two in snowboarding, and one in alpine skiing.

Ski jumpers Urša Bogataj took gold and Nika Križnar bronze in the women's individual event, and they grabbed another gold in the mixed team event paired with Peter Prevc and Timi Zajc. Prevc and Zajc also secured a silver medal in the men's large hill team event, along with Lovro Kos and Cene Prevc.

Snowboarder Tim Mastnak won a silver medal, and his female counterpart, Gloria Kotnik, won a bronze medal; while alpine skier Žan Kranjec took silver in the men's giant slalom.

Slovenia thus secured one medal per 296,991 residents.

Norway sits atop the medal-per-capita ranking with 37 medals, or one per 146,520 residents. Team Norway won 16 gold, eight silver and 13 bronze medals. Austria ranked third per capita, at one medal per 500,355 residents. Austrian athletes took home 18 medals.

A total of 2,871 athletes from 91 countries took part in the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

Rogaška Slatina to host FICTS Film Festival

ROGAŠKA SLATINA (STA) — In June, Rogaška Slatina will host an international festival of sports films presented by FICTS (Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs), recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

Slovenia was officially endorsed as the 21st FICTS Film Festival venue in late 2021, and Rogaška Slatina was selected as the town to host the event after months of deliberation, as announced on the municipality website.

According to Mayor Branko Kidrič, Rogaška Slatina boasts a sound sports infrastructure, its athletes have achieved excellent results in both national and international competitions, and the town has proven to be a superb event organizer in the past. As a reward for these accomplishments, the town was picked to host the first International Festival of Sports Film held in Slovenia, Kidrič said, adding that "the project will further promote local sports and Rogaška Slatina as a tourist destination."

The FICTS festival includes 125 members worldwide and takes place in 20 countries on five continents. The Rogaška Slatina municipality, which will provide EUR 30,000 (\$34,000) for the project, will be promoted in Slovenia and in the other FICTS festival venues. The Slovenian Olympics Committee and the Slovenian Tourist Board will serve as project partners in Slovenia.

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

Loyalites Lodge looking forward to the National Bowl and a busy summer

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158 Treasurer

EUCLID, Ohio — Hello, everyone, and happy (almost) spring! We hope you are all getting ready to do some spring cleaning in preparation for the Easter bunny. While we know you are all busy getting ready for the holiday, we want to remind you of a couple of things the Loyalites have going on.

First, however, we have some belated celebrations to recognize. Going in order from most belated to most recent, Diane and Dan Horabik celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary on Feb. 21. Diane is a really big help for our annual Christmas party, and we know Dan is right there by her side, helping every step of the way.

We also have two belated birthdays: Danny Elam on March 14, and Colleen Cleary on March 17. Sorry we missed you last month!

Our fearless Lodge president and his first lady (who keeps him in line!), Don and

Sue Srnick, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary on March 26. And finally – this one we are actually celebrating on time – Karen and Tim O'Donnell will be celebrating their wedding anniversary on April 5.

Speaking of Karen O'Donnell, we wanted to recognize her for her 50-year member status as an SNPJ Loyalites member. This recognition is coming about two years late since the pandemic didn't allow us to honor her at our picnic in 2020.

Karen is not only a longtime SNPJ member, she also held the position of Loyalites Lodge recording secretary for quite a number of years. Even though she has since passed her pen on to other members of our Lodge so that they may take the notes, Karen has remained an integral part of our Lodge. She is always willing to lend a hand in any way she can at all of our events, and is always sure to do it with a smile.

We appreciate everything Karen does, and we are so

sorry we couldn't recognize her properly. But don't worry – we'll be sure to pull out all the stops this summer for our favorite now-52-year member!

And while we're on the subject of summer, what better way to start it off than with a friendly bowling competition? The SNPJ National Bowling tournament, hosted by your friendly neighborhood Loyalites Lodge, will be held April 30-May 1 at Colonial Lanes in New Castle, Pa.

The weekend is sure to be filled with lots of fun and friends – and hopefully a lot of strikes! The entry form is published on page 8, and is also available on the SNPJ website, snpj.org.

Be sure to get your entries in on time, then dust off both your bowling and dancing shoes as the Loyalites have lots of fun things planned for the weekend, including the entertainment in the Gostilna at the SNPJ Recreation Center on Friday night and the Mike Wojtila Band on Saturday night. A weekend filled with

good music and a little competition is the perfect way to kick off an event-filled season, so let's get ready to rock 'n' bowl!

SNPJ and all Lodges host a slew of events all summer long, and one of those is the Young Adult Conference. This year's conference will be held June 10-12. This is a great opportunity for all SNPJ young adults to meet other members from across the nation and work together toward a common goal.

Over the course of the weekend, conference delegates complete a couple of service projects. These include both projects around the SNPJ Recreation Center grounds, as well as some involving local, or even nationwide, charitable organizations. I can personally guarantee that chairperson Alyssa Urban has a lot of great things planned so far – and she isn't even finished yet!

If you want to learn more about the SNPJ Young Adult Conference weekend and meet some of the people who currently attend or have attended

previously, feel free to join the Facebook group for updates.

As for being a delegate this year, the deadline is coming up. Each Lodge is allotted a number of delegates to represent them, but even if you aren't selected from your Lodge, you are still able to attend as a surrogate delegate.

If you are a member of Lodge 158 and have an interest in serving as a delegate, we will be electing delegates during our next meeting on April 7, so please e-mail your letter of interest to Lodge Secretary Jan Smrdel at jan158snpj@gmail.com.

Another event that the Loyalites have coming up is our annual picnic out at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio; a day filled with good food, great music, and lots of laughs with friends. This year, our picnic will be held July 24 with music provided by Bob Kravos. Bob is a longtime Lodge 158 member of and has been playing polkas for many years.

We typically have a theme and a charitable organization

tied to the picnic, but we want to keep those a secret just a little while longer, so be sure to keep up with your *PROSVETA* for the announcements. You can also keep up with the Loyalites on Facebook, as well as through our website, snpj158.wordpress.com, which is run by our very talented recording secretary, Liz Smrdel.

While these past few years have seen some trying times, there are always brighter things to look toward, like the addition of a new member to our organization. Lodge 158 would like to welcome Miss Emerson Elam as one of our newest members. She has a loving and supportive family around her, and we know she will grow to love SNPJ just as much as they do. Welcome, Emerson!

The next Loyalites Lodge meeting will be held Thursday, April 7, at Recher Hall in Euclid starting at 7 p.m. As always, we send our thoughts and prayers to all ailing and deceased members and their families during these difficult times.

To Believe ...or Don't

by MARTY KUMER
Lodge 715 President

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — First, a report from my annual winter vacation in Florida.

My son, Seph, joined me at my time-share condo on Ft. Myers Beach and we drove to Cape Coral to see Kathy Paulenich and the snowbird polka group.

What a great event: Kathy playing her button box; friend John, the drums; and five or six more band members who are just there to get out of the cold north and play for fun, drinks and tips.

We sat next to an enthused lady named Pat who was neither SNPJ nor Slovenian, but said she just loved the music. She had been to Slovenefest in the past and aims to come again this July.

From there we moved north to Daytona

Beach and managed to go to Samsula to attend their Florida SNPJ Days on Saturday. I can't say enough about the great job Jeannette Humphrey, Ruth Benedict and their army of volunteers did to make this a wonderful event – the music, dancing, traditional foods, door prizes. Shows what our Lodges can do for the love of the SNPJ.

Karen Pintar, SNPJ National Secretary, and her husband Ken were there. Karen gave a brief but thoughtful address (I told her I couldn't do any better). She is a great lady, and SNPJ is lucky to have her as National Secretary.

Now we're back in the cold north, looking forward to Easter. Actually, it's not so cold; 70 degrees today.

Easter is observed worldwide by both believers and non-believers. Everybody believes in the Easter bunny, colored eggs, candy baskets and ham dinners, but not everybody believes in the main reason for the holiday: the resurrection of Christ. I have family and friends who do. I have family and friends who don't. Same with

our SNPJ members.

So what is the SNPJ stance? Here's something you might already know from Resolution #1 in an older version of the SNPJ Bylaws & Resolutions book:

“Principles of SNPJ (section 1): Free-thinking; that is, the right to worship as one chooses... without coercion or discrimination from any source because of such choice.” Much the same as our U.S. Constitution proclaiming freedom of religion.

It's reasonable to not believe. Virgin birth, rising of the dead, living in the belly of a whale, parting the Red Sea – all seem impossible.

As for me, I believe. Didn't always. Over the years I've come to realize there's more to life than meets the eye; more than our senses can tell us. Radio waves we can't see. Miracles we take for granted. How about this big Earth spinning on its axis for billions of years, 24 hours a day to the second? The moon, and all the stars, in place.

Happy Easter to all!

Commission seeking 2022 Miss SNPJ pageant entries

2022 MISS SNPJ PAGEANT
FROM PAGE 1

Miss Activity, \$1,200; Miss Talent, \$800; and Miss Fraternalism, \$150.

All young ladies who participate in the pageant will receive a \$50 participant award, and those who enter the pageant before May 15 will also receive a \$50 early entry bonus.

The 2022 Miss SNPJ Pageant entry form is available on the Miss SNPJ Pageant page of the SNPJ website, snpj.org. The deadline to enter the

pageant is June 8.

The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is currently accepting donations. Any donation, large or small, is truly appreciated and will be recognized on social media and in the pageant program. Checks should be made payable to SNPJ with “Miss SNPJ Pageant” noted on the memo line.

Mail your donations to Slovene National Benefit Society, Attn: Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

SNPJ Heritage Center ready for summer events

HERITAGE CENTER SEASON
FROM PAGE 1

Club alternating from 1 to 6 p.m. We will be asking for a monetary donation at the door. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Slovenefest, the biggest event of the year at the SNPJ Recreation Center, is returning after a two-year hiatus. Be sure to check the Slovenefest website, www.slovenefest.com, for the complete entertainment schedule.

The Heritage Center is planning speakers for our

“Closer Look at Slovenia” series on Saturday and Sunday afternoons during Slovenefest. You'll want to check that out! Slovenefest is scheduled July 8-10.

The Heritage Center will take our traveling museum, along with items from our gift shop, to the Simply Slavic festival in Youngstown, Ohio, on Saturday, June 18; and to the American Slovene Day Picnic in Cheswick, Pa., on Sunday, Aug. 7. Be sure to mark all of these dates on your calendar.

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the month of February 2022

Westmoreland County Federation, SNPJ..... \$200
Badger Lodge 584, Milwaukee..... \$190
In memory of deceased members in 2021

The following donations were made in memory of Bro. Delbert Rezek (643)

Jeff & Mimi Ryznar, and daughters Kyra and Maeryn, Hudson, Ohio..... \$200
Richard & Mary Shulkosky, Wexford, Pa..... \$75
SNPJ Lodge 643, Girard, Ohio..... \$50

Raymond & Barbara Culp, Lino Lakes, Minn..... \$50
Bud Davy, Girard, Ohio \$50
Amy Stringer, Lake Toxaway, N.C. \$50
Sylvia Janosov, Mansfield, Ohio \$50
Donna & Doug Dieringer, Canton, Ohio \$50
Steen G. Buhala & Doreen A. McCall, Cortland, Ohio \$50
Gina Kenneally, Girard, Ohio..... \$30
Tim & Marylynn Britt, Girard, Ohio \$30

Pat Thomas, Girard, Ohio..... \$25
Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital Radiology Department, Canton, Ohio..... \$25
Gus & Maria Selak, Girard, Ohio..... \$20
Sonia Pasqualucci, Canton, Ohio..... \$20
Mark Massuri, Girard, Ohio \$20
Joseph J. Kren (643), Girard, Ohio..... \$10

PROSVETA Crossword Candy (#0422) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

1. Good earth
5. Pea soup bone
8. Transport, with a U
12. Top notch
13. Copenhagen native
14. Boggy
15. Who would
16. Play parts
17. “Sesame Street” roommate
18. *World's best-selling candy bar
20. Law school entry requirement, acr.
21. Use a garrote
22. Homer Simpson's exclamation
23. “Gimme a break” bar
26. Scrimmage line group
30. Dollar
31. Saltwater game fish
34. Hindu workout
35. 4 years for a U.S. President, pl.
37. *Hyde & ____ Boutique candy
38. Seize a throne
39. Popular aquarium performer
40. Germany's National Socialism, for short
42. Ryder Cup peg
43. Excellent
45. Jet setters' vessels

47. Scientist's office
48. Game ragout
50. One from Glasgow
52. *Twizzlers competitor
55. There's none like home?
56. Vocal piece for one
57. Small ladies' handbag
59. Black cat crossing the street, e.g.
60. One with biggest share?
61. Actor Wahlberg
62. Secondary school
63. Follow ems
64. Sheltered, nautically

DOWN

1. Order's partner?
2. Sounds of amazement
3. Any day now
4. a.k.a. hop clover or nonesuch
5. Certain consonant marker
6. Cavern or cave
7. Army ____ hall, or dining room
8. *Who's Kisses?
9. Pavlova or Kournikova
10. Newton, e.g.
11. Caustic chemical
13. One of Fanning sisters
14. Cell dweller
19. Online conversations

22. Cacophony
23. Japanese string instrument, pl.
24. Apathetic
25. 9 a.m. prayer
26. Mischievous Norse deity
27. *Pop Rocks sizzle and pop in it
28. Kind of heron
29. Back of the neck, pl.
32. Back of military formation
33. *Short for Pfefferminz
36. *Chocolate-covered whipped marshmallow (2 words)
38. Savory taste sensation
40. Apprehend
41. Spirit of the woods
44. Not now
46. Auteur's art
48. European finch
49. Goodbye, in Puerto Vallarta
50. Hurtful remark
51. Zoo room
52. Respiratory rattling
53. Et alibi, abbr.
54. “You betcha!”
55. OB-GYN test
58. *Mike and ____ fruity, chewy candy

The solution to puzzle #0422 will run in the May 2 issue.

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. MARTIN K. PLUTE • LODGE 245 •

LAWRENCE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 245 sadly report the Jan. 23, 2022, passing of Bro. Martin Kenneth Plute, 94, at a family member’s home in Punta Gorda, Fla., surrounded by his children and family.

Bro. Plute was born in Castle Shannon and raised in Hills Station, Pa. He loved his small coal mining town and he often said, “We live in the best and safest place in America!” From a young age he loved playing sports, especially football, but World War II was in action while he was in high school so he did the noble thing and chose to serve his country.

Martin proudly joined the U.S. Navy and set sail aboard the USS Helena (CA-75), serving 18 months until the end of the war. At 94, he still recalled the names of Navy friends and Petty Officers on that ship. He enjoyed telling his stories and experiences that he said “shaped him as a man.”

After marrying the love of his life, he and his darling Mary built quite the legacy, upheld by strong family tradition. He indulged in his wife’s family recipes and loved desserts more than most. His infamous quote, “What’s life worth if we can’t laugh and have fun!” will forever be cherished. He was a charming, honest man with great integrity, and was loved by all. He had the brightest smile that lit up every room.

Martin was a hard-working coal miner by trade. A 77-year SNPJ member, he served as Lodge 245 president from 1976-1991. He loved playing golf and was a gambling man who was passionate about poker. He enjoyed hanging out on his deck, listening to music, talking, laughing, and relaxing with family and friends. He was extremely proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, whom he adored.

In his later years, he loved

heading to the Villages in Florida for the winters to spend time with his eldest son and daughter-in-law.

Martin was a humorous jokester with great stories. The family believes that heaven is now a more joyous place with Martin’s contagious laugh, and will forever keep his spirit alive and carry him in the deepest place of their hearts.

A devoted husband, he was predeceased by his beloved wife of 65 years, Mary Drilyak Plute; his parents, Martin and Mary (Drew) Plute; two brothers, William (Ethel) and Walter; and two beloved daughters, Mary Lynn Ptaszynski and Mary Ann.

He is survived by his six children, Randy (Mary Jo), Rob (Julie Romano), Carmie Franjione, Martin (Yvonne), Timothy (Amy), and Sandy (Tim Phoenix); 14 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and loved ones.

A celebration of life service was held for Bro. Plute on March 5 in Faith Chapel Community Church, Lawrence. A graveside service followed on March 7 at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray, Pa., with military rites accorded by VFW Post #191 of Canonsburg, Pa.

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

BRO. ROBERT O’NEILL • LODGE 715 •

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — The members of Lodge 715 sadly report the Jan. 30, 2022, passing of Bro. Robert Earl O’Neill, 86, of Beaver, Pa., at Concordia Villa St. Joseph, Baden, Pa.

Bro. O’Neill was born April 11, 1935, in Cadmus, Ohio, a son of the late Earl Jennings and Helen Emogene Drummond O’Neill. Bob was employed as a steel worker for J&L Steel, then went on to work

as a real estate broker, and later retired from the Beaver County (Pa.) Assessment Office.

He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, and he loved to fish and spend time with his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Shirley Louise Frank O’Neill; three loving daughters, Robin O’Neill McKee of Beaver, Tammy O’Neill Parish of Struthers, Ohio, and Linda (Al) O’Neill Fielders of Kernersville, N.C.; a brother, Donald (Annette) O’Neill; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, of whom he was very proud.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, James O’Neill.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 715 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. O’Neill’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JOSEPH J. BLATNIK • LODGE 614 PRESIDENT •

CLEVELAND — The members of Lodge 614 sadly report the Feb. 5, 2022, passing of Bro. Joseph J. “Joe” Blatnik, 90, of Wickliffe, Ohio.

Bro. Blatnik was born Sept. 23, 1931, in Cleveland, the son of the late Joseph and Virginia Blatnik. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who will be greatly missed by many.

Joe was a longtime resident of Wickliffe and an active parishioner at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. He was also very active in preserving and celebrating his Slovenian heritage.

A 62-year SNPJ member, Bro. Blatnik was the current president of Lodge 614 and had served in that capacity since 1986. Joe also served as the secretary and treasurer at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, from 1964 to 2014. He enjoyed listening to and dancing to polkas, along with volunteering at many events hosted at

the SNPJ Farm.

He is survived by his children, Joseph G. (Laurie) Blatnik and Francine (James) Zizelman; grandchildren Cassidy (Lee) Zupancic, Dominic Blatnik and Matthew Zizelman; great-grandchildren Carter and Lily; siblings Martha (Robert) Kaska and John Karaz; and a host of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 57 years, Mary “Mitzi” (Matekovich) Blatnik; and siblings Paul Karaz and Helen Cvetic.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for Bro. Blatnik on Feb. 12 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. He was laid to rest in All Souls Cemetery, Chardon, Ohio. The family suggests donations to the SNPJ Farm, the Sisters of Notre Dame-Chardon, or the Slovene Home for the Aged.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 614 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Blatnik’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. SUSAN M. RAMSEY • LODGE A18 PRESIDENT •

BADEN, Pa. — The members of Lodge A18 sadly report the Feb. 7, 2022, passing of Sis. Susan Marie Ramsey, 71, of Baden, at Good Samaritan Hospice, Beaver, Pa.

Sis. Ramsey was born Oct. 31, 1950, in Sewickley, Pa., a daughter of Rose Marie Bauer Pfeiffer and the late Anthony F. Pfeiffer. In her younger years, Sue was a nurse at Friendship Ridge and Passavant Homes. She graduated from Carlow University in Pittsburgh and touched many lives with her online ministry. She was a published author; her book is titled “Captive Dreams.”

A 36-year SNPJ member, Sis. Ramsey had been serving as SNPJ Lodge A18 president since 2018. She was also a member of the Baden Women’s Club and Baden Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary. She

loved to make crafts, decorate her home, and visit with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Anthony; a brother, Joseph; a sister-in-law, Royce; and her loving husband, Fred R. Ramsey, who passed away in January.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by a brother, Anton (Phyllis) Pfeiffer; a sister, Diane (John) Peoples; four nieces, Melissa, Miranda, Kelley and Trish; two nephews, Bryan and Jason; a great-niece, Octavia; and a great-nephew, Brady. She will also be remembered by many dear friends that she called sisters.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in remembrance of Sis. Ramsey and her husband, Fred. They will be interred together at Divine Redeemer Cemetery, Fair Oaks, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge A18 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Sis. Ramsey’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. WILLIAM A. ARNAL • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Feb. 13, 2022, passing of Bro. William August “Bill” Arnal, 84, of Charleroi, Pa., in his home surrounded by family. He was a 47-year SNPJ member.

Bro. Arnal was born Sept. 24, 1937, in Canonsburg, Pa., a son of the late August and Caroleen Harmison Arnal. Bill was a graduate of Trinity High School in Washington, Pa., and had worked at Kroger, Giant Eagle, and Ashmore Florist.

A huge fan of fast cars, Bill was very proud of his Ford Mustang Cobra Jet. He also enjoyed watching football and college wrestling.

On Oct. 30, 1974, he married Lila Pirrung. She preceded him in death on Jan. 28, 2016.

Surviving are a son, John (Patty) Atkinson of Washington; a daughter, Janet Atkinson of Charleroi; a brother, Sam Arnel of Washington; a sister, Carol (Fred) Cushey of Washington; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and his wife, he was predeceased by a daughter, Elizabeth McCorkle.

A memorial gathering, including Military Rites conducted by American Legion Edwin Scott Linton Post 175 and the U.S. Army, was held for Bro. Arnal on March 10 at William G. Neal Funeral Homes, Ltd., Washington.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Bro. Arnal’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. APRIL J. RUSE • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Feb. 15, 2022, passing of Sis. April Joy Ruse. She was a 44-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member.

Sis. Ruse was born April 6, 1959, one of 12 children born to Juanita Alta and Robert George “Bob” Ruse of Strabane. April graduated from Canon-McMillan High School. She was not married and did not have children.

For the last 20 years April lived in Nanticoke, Pa., and at The Manor at Penn Village in Selinsgrove, Pa., to be near

her sister-in-law, Susan Dorris Ruse.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Juanita and Bob; and two brothers, William Ray Joseph Ruse of Nanticoke, and David Douglas Ruse of Seattle.

Surviving siblings include Robert “Bob” Lee Ruse, Mary Lee Ruse Wagner Neill, Juanita Ann Ruse Neill, Larry Thomas Ruse, Michael Anthony Ruse, Icie Margaret Ruse Evans, Linda Darlene Ruse Barnes Durkacs, Millie Rose Ruse Gray, and Glenn Richard Ruse. She enjoyed all her nieces and nephews, along with her great-nieces and nephews, especially through FaceTime since she lived so far away.

Sis. Ruse was laid to rest with her parents at Forest Lawn Gardens, McMurray, Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Ruse’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.



Sis. MARY UHERNIK (33)

SIS. MARY UHERNIK • LODGE 33 •

AMBRIDGE, Pa. — The Uhernik family and the members of Lodge 33 sadly report the Feb. 17, 2022, passing of Sis. Mary Uhernik, 94, formerly of Ambridge, at Country Meadows Retirement Communities in Bridgeville, Pa., surrounded by her loving daughters.

Sis. Uhernik was born in West Aliquippa, Pa., a daughter of the late Frank and Amelia Vidic. A 76-year SNPJ member, she was also a member of Good Samaritan Parish in Ambridge and KSKJ Lodge 50.

Mary retired from the Phoenix Glass Company in Monaca, Pa., and then devoted her life to her family. She never put herself first and was always willing to help others. She was a devout Catholic and sang in the Divine Redeemer choir.

Surviving are two daughters, Kathy (Jack) Suess of Ellicott City, Md., and Sandy (Jerome) Boring of Upper St. Clair, Pa.; three grandchildren, Kyle (Susan Ren) Suess of Columbia, Md., Ryan Suess of Los Angeles, and Mitchell Boring of Pittsburgh; two sisters, Jean Grandovic of Sewickley, Pa., and Anna Mae Vidic of Rochester, Pa.; one brother, Robert “Bo” Vidic of Rochester; and many loving nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 48 years, Edward; four brothers, Tony, Felix and Frank Selon, and John Vidic; and one sister, Helen Vidic.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Uhernik on Feb. 22 at Good Samaritan Church, Ambridge. Burial followed in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery, Hopewell Twp., Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 33 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Uhernik’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

FRATERNAL SYMPATHIES
CONTINUE NEXT PAGE

IN LOVING MEMORY
of our dear brother and friend



TONY (“SONNY”) KREN
June 14, 1940 — April 11, 2011

WE MISS YOU

Girard, Ohio, Lodge 643

In loving memory of our beloved mother,
grandmother and great-grandmother
It has been 20 years since you left us...

MARY LIPOVEC GLAD

February 12, 1904 - April 21, 2002

* * *

*Sadly missed by her family
Mary Lou Videgar;
Frank, Gretchen, Anna & Ivan;
and Lisa, Keith & Mia.*



PROSVETA 2022 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2022

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

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SNPJ fraternal sympathies

FRATERNAL SYMPATHIES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



Sis. HELEN M. SCARMACK (31)

Sis. HELEN M. SCARMACK • LODGE 31 •

SHARON, Pa. — The members of Lodge 31 sadly report the Feb. 22, 2022, passing of Sis. Helen M. “Toots” Scarmack of Farrell, Pa., in UPMC Horizon, Greenville, Pa. A 72-year SNPJ member, she recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Sis. Scarmack was born Jan. 3, 1932, at home in Farrell, the only daughter of the late Jerry and Mary (Germick) O’Korn. Her big brother, Ed, gave her the nickname “Toots.” She was a 1949 graduate of Sharon High School and served on her class reunion committee. Following graduation, she worked as a secretary for Dr. David Ekker, a dentist; and for attorney Walter Applegate.

She met a handsome Italian, Gene Scarmack, at a polka dance, and after one year of dating they married on Sept. 12, 1953, in St. Anthony’s Church, Sharon. Together they raised five children in Farrell. Toots became active in the former Msgr. Monti School, which her children attended. She and her husband were also active in Farrell Little League for more than 20 years.

Once her children were older, she was employed as a merchandiser for American Greeting Card Co. for 28 years, and supervised the card department in many local businesses.

Toots was an active member of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Farrell, serving on the Parish Council, the choir, the Bethany Club, Cavatelli Crew, Easter Bread Committee, and the Pre-Can Program. She was past president of the Altar-Rosary Society, and served as the secretary of the Mercer County Catholic Women’s

Retreat League.

Toots was also an active member of the Blue Army of Mercer County. Additionally, she and her husband were members of Knights of Columbus Council 4003 for more than 50 years.

Sis. Scarmack was very proud of her Slovenian heritage and had traveled to Slovenia in 1993 to tour the town of Cerovo, where her father spent his childhood. She and the late Frances Nespor formed the former SNPJ Juvenile Circle 21 while she was a teenager, and together they performed in many places.

She was also a member of the Slovenian Working Men’s Club, serving as a longtime ladies auxiliary president, and as the director and assistant director of the pensioners club.

Toots enjoyed her girlfriends’ monthly card club for over 60 years; watching game shows, Hallmark movies and Lawrence Welk reruns; sitting on her swing watching the birds in the back yard; and enjoying a cup of hot Lipton tea every morning while watching the daily Mass. In her younger years she enjoyed family poker nights, polka dances, bus trips to casinos, and bowling. She loved doing crossword puzzles.

Toots was a good baker, and no one left her home without a bag of Italian pizzelles or chocolate chip cookies. Her teapot collection, numbering more than 100, was displayed throughout her home and enjoyed by everyone who visited.

Above all, she cherished the time spent with her family, the holidays, and attending her grandchildren’s and great-grandchildren’s athletic and scholastic events.

Surviving are three daughters, Gina (Bob) Fromm of Transfer, Pa., Geri (David) Warchol of Hermitage, Pa., and Gayle (David) Orrico of New Castle, Pa.; a son, Greg Scarmack of Sharon; seven grandchildren, Gianna Orrico; Bob (Danielle) Fromm and their children, Angelo, Amelia and Nicholas; Jennifer (Eric) Mausser and their children, Addison and Liliana; Jason (Andria) Fromm and their children, August and Georgia; Gerard Scarmack; Sean Scarmack; and Cassandra (Tom Berkinyi) Scarmack and their daughter, Isabella; two sisters-in-law, Rosemarie Scarmack of Hermitage and Kathleen Scarmack of Canfield, Ohio; a

special cousin, Frank Germick Jr. of Meadville, Pa.; and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. The Our Lady of Fatima Church family held a special place in her heart.

In addition to her parents, Toots was preceded in death by her husband; a son, Gerard A. Scarmack, who passed away on Jan. 15, 2022; an infant son, Gary Scarmack; a daughter-in-law, Estelle Scarmack; her only brother, Ed O’Korn, and his wife, Rose; and many loving relatives and friends.

Toots was a very faithful Catholic woman, with a special devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Rosary. She treated everyone with kindness and always put others above herself.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Scarmack on Feb. 26 in Our Lady of Fatima Church. Interment followed in St. Anthony’s Cemetery, Hermitage.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 31 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Scarmack’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. WALTER H. GIBSON • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Feb. 22, 2022, passing of Bro. Walter H. Gibson, 83, of Bulger, Pa., in Heritage Valley of Beaver.

Bro. Gibson was born March 12, 1938, in McDonald, Pa., a son of the late Anthony and Helen Hook Gibson. He was a millwright with J&L Steel in Aliquippa, Pa., from which he retired in 2000.

He enjoyed polka music, fishing, hunting and reading. He liked building jigsaw puzzles and playing cards at the Sturgeon Belgium Club. His favorite thing to do was spend time with his family.

On Sept. 15, 1961, he married Shirley Marie Partin, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Helen Gibson of Weirton, W.Va., and Jannell (Ralph) Rance of McDonald; a sister, Darlene Chase of Burgettstown, Pa.; and two grandchildren, Danielle and Jonathan Rance.

Deceased are a sister, Pauline Tropeck; and a brother, Anthony “Toto” Gibson.

A blessing service was held for Bro. Gibson on Feb. 25 at

Nation Funeral Home, Inc., McDonald. Burial followed in Oakdale Cemetery.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Gibson’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. VERONICA B. PROGAR • LODGE 138 •

STRABANE, Pa. — The Progar family and the members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Feb. 24, 2022, passing of Sis. Veronica B. Progar, 96, of Houston, Pa., in her home, surrounded by her loving family. Sis. Progar, the daughter of Frank and Karolina (Sterle) Barbish, was born and raised in Shouptown, the small Slovenian neighborhood in Strabane. Karolina was one of the founding members of the SNPJ Lodge 138 Ladies’ Auxiliary. As a result, Veronica grew up attending Lodge functions and helping out the Ladies’ Auxiliary. She was a 78-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member.

Veronica was a graduate of Chartiers High School, and was a faithful member of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, St. Oscar Romero Parish, in Meadowlands, Pa.

She had been employed at a few different jobs prior to her retirement, including the role of sports editor and writer for the former *Daily Notes* newspaper in Canonsburg, Pa., and at Pennformer Credit Bureau of Canonsburg for a few years. She then went on to work in the accounting office at Canonsburg General Hospital, and for cafeterias in a few Chartiers-Houston District schools. She later volunteered in the snack shop at Canonsburg Hospital.

Her most significant role was matriarch to her family. She did her best to keep not only her immediate family in line, but all her brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, and cousins as well. When the family visited, she made sure that they were all well fed and encouraged them to keep in touch with each other, no matter the circumstances.

To Veronica, family was always most important, even when there was a fight, if family members were separated by thousands of miles, or if they flat out didn’t like each other. She would always say, “But they’re your family; your



Sis. VERONICA B. PROGAR (138)

blood.”

She would encourage welcoming new members of the family who may have different styles or ideas. Veronica would warmly welcome them, always be kind, help them feel included, and encourage the rest of the family to do the same.

Besides her family, whom she loved deeply, Veronica enjoyed listening to polka music, speaking Slovenian, collecting postcards, reading, baking, shopping, and sitting on the porch swing talking with her family and friends. She was also an avid bowler.

She met her husband, William Progar, in Strabane. He survives after 74 years of marriage. After Bill returned home from World War II, he

took her to polka dances at Drenik’s Park, and they spent many hours sitting on the porch swing and talking. They married on July 12, 1947, holding their wedding reception at the SNPJ Lodge 138 Banquet Hall.

Also left behind to cherish her memory are her daughter, Chris (Rick) Hervol of Strabane; grandchildren Jennifer (Jeff) Wolfe and Bill (fiancé Nina Aquino) Hervol; a great-grandson, Oliver; and several nieces and nephews.

Sis. Progar was the last of her immediate family. Deceased, in addition to her parents, are two children, Billy and infant Nancy; a granddaughter, Lisa; and her brothers, Frank, Harry and Ray, and their wives Jean, Martha and Marge Barbish; all of whom she is now happy to be reunited with, and feeding them potica and coffee in heaven.

A Catholic Blessing Service was held for Sis. Progar on Feb. 28 at Salandra Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc., Canonsburg. Interment followed in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 138 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Sis. Progar’s family, relatives and friends on their loss.

DEATHS REPORTED
For the month of February 2022

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Frank J. Bogden Jr.	01-13-2022	New Kensington, Pa.
2	Janice A. Rynkewicz	11-10-2021	Amboy, Ill.
3	William Znidarsic Jr.	02-27-2021	Woodbridge, N.J.
5	Anthony Papesh	11-03-2021	Streetsboro, Ohio
6	Frederick P. Thorpe	11-30-2021	McDonald, Pa.
31	Gerard A. Scarmack	01-15-2022	Farrell, Pa.
33	Ralph Mitchell	12-28-2021	Beaver Falls, Pa.
89	Joan Lee Smith	12-24-2021	Kansas City, Mo.
106	Jimmy A. Fink	06-04-2021	Bulger, Pa.
106	Emma Maslanik	10-21-2021	Oakdale, Pa.
106	Robert A. Pierce	01-30-2022	Imperial, Pa.
138	Domenick J. Monaco Jr.	11-26-2021	Sparks, Nev.
138	Frank W. Strnisa	01-08-2022	Burgettstown, Pa.
138	Marian H. Dorn	01-22-2022	Canonsburg, Pa.
142	Virginia A. Sherman	12-31-2021	Euclid, Ohio
142	Robert J. Tushar	12-27-2021	Wickliffe, Ohio
153	Gerald C. Kelly	01-20-2022	Youngstown, Ohio
174	Cynthia M. DeNorcy	01-07-2022	Central City, Pa.
218	Virginia L. Novak	01-09-2022	Durango, Colo.
223	Larry T. Shaffer	01-22-2022	Mount Pleasant, Pa.
225	Michael J. Marlier	01-06-2022	Frontenac, Kan.
254	Mary Ann Moore	08-20-2021	Johnstown, Pa.
254	Doris E. Shaffer	01-23-2022	Johnstown, Pa.
449	Harold Frank Bartol	01-03-2022	Chicago, Ill.
459	Catherine M. Katulic	01-05-2017	Flint, Mich.
559	Josephine Hott	01-07-2022	Belleville, Ill.
559	Suzanne M. Borowiak	10-10-2021	Yorkville, Ill.
562	David A. Kovalsky	01-16-2022	Waukee, Iowa
562	Joseph F. Zarvatski	10-30-2021	Neffs, Ohio
584	Karen M. Lesky	01-09-2022	South Milwaukee, Wis.
603	Janet Aungst	03-21-2018	Coopersburg, Pa.
603	Gladys Johnson	11-07-2021	Titusville, Fla.
603	Lillian Gallagher	02-17-2020	Vero Beach, Fla.
604	Burton M. Judson Jr.	11-20-2021	Willoughby, Ohio
604	Yvonne E. Degutis	01-04-2021	Willowick, Ohio
604	Frank R. Savena	10-18-2021	Broadview Hgts., Ohio
614	Rose Lorine Jochum	11-06-2021	Mentor, Ohio
643	Mary Ann Neff	01-11-2022	Girard, Ohio
665	John A. Mihm	12-26-2021	Pittsburgh, Pa.
665	Dorothy U. Pietro	12-15-2021	Pittsburgh, Pa.
677	Donald F. Fritz	12-15-2021	Traverse City, Mich.
715	Raffaella V. Yost	12-27-2009	New Kensington, Pa.
715	Josephine A. Von Alt	12-18-2021	Allentown, Pa.
715	William Potochnik	01-26-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
723	S. Robert Wise	12-20-2021	Phoenix, Ariz.
770	Stanley M. Litwinovich	12-28-2021	New Castle, Pa.
771	Marilyn Long	01-23-2022	Youngstown, Ohio
776	Joe Warga	12-26-2021	Beaver Falls, Pa.
786	Norbert Bernhardt	11-23-2021	Santa Ana, Calif.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA Crossword
SINGERS & SONGWRITERS (#0322) solution

S	A	N	D	S	F	C	C		S	O	P	H
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From the archives

Motor City SNPJ Youth Bowlers, Circa 1971

Young Americans Lodge 564 member Sis. Katherine P. “Kathe” Adamic celebrated her SNPJ 50-year membership in February, and to commemorate her membership milestone she submitted this photo. Along with the photo, Kathe included a note of appreciation, writing, “Thank you for sending my 50-year membership pin and certificate! The photo is of the Detroit Circle 29 Bowling League from 1971. We had great fun! Who can believe that was 50 years ago? It may be time for a reunion...”

This photo was first published in the August 1971 issue of *The Voice of Youth*. The original photo caption identifies the league members as follows: *[standing, from left]* Bowling Coach June Ragsdale, Bill Hagg, Peggy Russell, Circle Director Mary Russell, Cheryl Bernick, Duane Domutz, Barbara Adamic, Tom Middeditch, Kathy Adamic, David Domutz, Janice Adamic, Ronald Bernick, Mary Russell, Susan Kirkham, Eddie Bernick, Carol Cromer, Lori Mayer, Carl Wysocky, Darah Domutz, Janice Ragsdale, Lori Mlnac; *[kneeling, from left]* David Nylund, Brian Crossman, Dale Domutz, John Adamic, Nickie Lazarus, Donald Kirkham, Brett Nylund and Bobby Adamic.

Kathe, if you ever decide to hold that league reunion, be sure to send a photo to *PROSVETA*!

2022 SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament Results

Tournament rolled Feb. 18-20, co-hosted by SNPJ Lodges 6 and 138

Men’s Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*S. Morgan/S. Sutton	138	1,242	\$190
**M. Conley/T. Carroll	6	1,484	\$190
J. Stevenson/B. Wardle	138	1,463	\$140
G. Curl/J. Baselj	6	1,462	\$100
L. Teyssier/M. Blake	6	1,399	\$76
D. Prejsnar/D. Sankovich	770	1,382	\$70
P. Cummings/H. Oswald	6	1,377	\$64
D. Donovan/E. Pelino	6	1,348	\$58
L. Butka/A. Butka	138	1,339	\$50
P. Coppola/K. Yarkosky	138	1,321	\$44
G. Kolljeski/T. Zupancic	6	1,298	\$38

Men’s Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*J.J. Neubauer	6	678	\$110
**C. Wolff	6	754	\$110
B. Wardle	138	718	\$85
M. Desocio	138	714	\$70
J. Stevenson	138	709	\$63
S. Shuba	6	708	\$56
P. Cummings	6	691	\$51
J. Kuisis	6	690	\$47
J. Baselj	6	685	\$43
S. Morgan	138	679	\$39
G. Usnick	6	679	\$39
R. Butka	138	678	\$35
D. Pounds	138	667	\$33

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
J. Butka	138	662	\$31
C. Ward	138	661	\$29
J. Cummings	6	658	\$27
E. Valencic	138	657	\$25
L. Teyssier	6	656	\$23
A. Butka	138	656	\$23
Jack Neubauer	6	655	\$22
B. Kessler	6	653	\$21
J. Salizzoni	6	651	\$19
T. Zupancic	6	651	\$19

Men’s Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Team Sutton	138	2,728	\$180
**One Hitters	138	2,834	\$180
Wackos	6	2,788	\$140
Older Guys	138	2,784	\$120
Frightened Turtles	6	2,772	\$100
Last Team In	6/138	2,713	\$92
Ginger Plus 3	138	2,708	\$80
The Hangovers	138	2,703	\$68

Men’s All-Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*S. Morgan	138	2,013	\$60
**B. Wardle	138	2,196	\$60
L. Teyssier	6	2,161	\$50

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
P. Cummings	6	2,139	\$40
J. Stevenson	138	2,134	\$32
S. Shuba	6	2,077	\$26
L. Butka	138	2,048	\$22

Women’s Doubles Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*C. Puskarich/T. Maye	138	1,320	\$150
**J. Smrdel/E. Smrdel	158	1,415	\$150
N. Simonelli/K. Maier	138	1,411	\$110
B. Wudkwyh/M. Sanger	138	1,397	\$80
J. Randolph/B. Oswald	106/6	1,379	\$66
D. Magdich/P. Smith	6	1,378	\$60
K. Barnot/P. Cushman	138	1,369	\$54
R. McNurlen/M. Binotto	138	1,364	\$50

Women’s Singles Event

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*C. Puskarich	138	749	\$95
**K. Almo	138	799	\$95
D. Magdich	6	767	\$75
P. Maynard	158	762	\$60
D. Brand	6	750	\$55
D. Supinsky	6	744	\$50
P. Cushman	138	722	\$46
M. Graff	138	720	\$42
D. Bible	6	718	\$38

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
E. Smrdel	158	708	\$34
J. Nakoneczny	138	688	\$30
J. Smrdel	158	687	\$28
A. Mavrich	138	686	\$26
D. Volpe	158	678	\$24
D. Horabik	158	676	\$22

Women’s Team Event

Team	Lodge	Score	Prize
*Dolls With Balls	6	2,174	\$180
**Drunk On A Lane	138	2,771	\$180
Superstars	6	2,753	\$128
Queen Sisters	6/138	2,745	\$108
Bowling Stones	158	2,723	\$88
Don't Give A Split	6	2,657	\$80
Tootsie Rollers	6	2,580	\$76

Women’s All-Events

Name	Lodge	Score	Prize
*C. Puskarich	138	2,103	\$50
**P. Maynard	158	2,258	\$50
D. Brand	6	2,173	\$45
D. Supinsky	6	2,169	\$40
E. Smrdel	158	2,130	\$35

*Indicates Actual Champion
**Indicates Handicap Champion

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries April 2022

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
138	Frank Gorup	715	Virginia Smith
584	Florence E. Gordon	749	Amelia Studniary
643	Alice M. Cernich		

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
2	Mary L. Bicknell	559	Jo Anne R. Junis
5	Anna M. Blotnick	614	Richard L. Vadnal
198	Mary A. Drieman	749	Shirley M. Sipe
355	Irene E. Kovach	782	Raymond J. Pompe
559	Frank H. Michalek		

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
5	John M. Pavey	562	David E. Cline
6	Esther J. Phillips	564	Diana D. Acken
8	Ellen I. Kosich	564	Anthony B. Hribar
106	Richard E. Gregorich	564	Catherine Burke
142	Dennis R. Vauter	584	Nancy Mihevc
190	George W. Mehall	584	Robert D. Vencevich
225	Carolyn A. Pinamonti	584	Frank A. Siskar
358	Joseph M. Mellon	584	Dennis R. Susnik
371	Georgene M. Murphy	584	Catherine A. Heindel

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
6	Rita C. Milavec	581	William J. Kaluza
6	Thomas M. Kostelic	584	Thomas Troha
34	John M. Klemen	584	Roger J. Russ
138	Allan J. Wargo	584	Janice A. Bolka
142	Barbara A. Evatz	584	Ruth A. Hodnik
158	Bruce G. Heaton	603	Cheryl F. Benedict
158	Donald F. Srnovrsnik	614	John R. Goryance
207	James A. Rye	689	Debra J. Small
218	Jane D. Churchill	715	Victoria Posavatz
257	Thomas D. Walter	715	Scott A. Snyder
371	Marybeth T. Lindgren	721	Charlotte J. Raub
371	Rebecca A. Luoma	749	Paul J. Gaus
449	Patricia A. Maloney	770	Victor S. Bennett
449	Katherine X. Klover	776	Rose M. Potochnik
576	Jack K. Rotar		

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by KRISTEN CUSHMAN BARNOT (138)
Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission

STRABANE, Pa. — In February, several members of the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission had a great time in Western Pennsylvania at the 2022 SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament, which was co-hosted by Sygan Lodge 6 and Strabane Lodge 138.

Seven former Miss SNPJs from three different Lodges participated in the tournament, including me, Miss SNPJ 2013; Miss SNPJ 2002 Carissa (Pabian) Boyer (138); Miss SNPJ 2004 Courtney (Pabian) Koenig (138); Miss SNPJ 2007 Darcy (Brand) Bible (6); Miss SNPJ 2012 Danielle Brand (6); Miss SNPJ 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel (158); and Miss SNPJ 2020 Daniella Volpe (158).

The following week, Kurentovanje was held at the Slovenian National Home in Cleveland, where Miss SNPJ 2010 Kara Maruszak (142), Miss SNPJ 2019 Elizabeth Smrdel (158) and I had a nice time raising funds for the Miss SNPJ Pageant, enjoying the festival, and catching up with friends and family.

Although it was a cold day, there were blue skies and sunshine for the parade, which was packed with Slovenian culture and fun entertainment. Festival attendees also enjoyed good food and drinks, music and performances, dances with Kurenti, kids crafts and face painting, and an indoor bocce tournament.

In March, four other Miss SNPJs and I proudly participated in the 41st Lodge 138 In-House Bowling Tournament in Strabane. We had a fun time at the lanes and enjoyed catching up with each other. Pageant Commission members look forward to participating in more local and national activities throughout this year, and we hope to see you at an SNPJ event soon!

On behalf of the Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission, I would like to thank the following donors who recently contributed to the Pageant Booster Fund: the Westmoreland County (Pa.) Federation of SNPJ Lodges; SNPJ Lodge 782 in Glenshaw, Pa.; Miss SNPJ 1972 Denise (Lamm) Kneisley; and SNPJ Lodge 138 in Strabane.

Additionally, we would like to thank all those who supported the Pageant Booster Fund by participating in 50/50 drawings and by purchasing candy bars at various events. We are grateful for all donations and appreciate the support!



Miss SNPJs participating in the SNPJ Lodge 138 In-House Bowling Tournament in March: [from left] **CARISSA BOYER, COURTNEY KOENIG, SHANNON MURACO, KRISTEN BARNOT** and **ELIZABETH HARTMAN**.



Miss SNPJs [from left] **KARA MARUSZAK, ELIZABETH SMRDEL** and **KRISTEN BARNOT** enjoyed the festivities during Cleveland Kurentovanje.

Western Pa. Youth Circles partner for winter events



In February, a month or so after their ice skating outing, Youth Circle 19 and Youth Circle 36 members participated in the first-ever Youth Winter Classic Bowling Tournament at the Sygan Lodge 6 and Strabane Lodge 138 lanes.

CIRCLE ACTIVITIES FROM PAGE 1

and be remembered.

In February, just one week after the Winter Classic Bowling Tournament, the inaugural Youth Winter Classic Bowling Tournament was held at both Lodges, with the children bowling singles and doubles events. Lodge 6 hosted the singles events on Saturday; Lodge 138 hosted the doubles events on Sunday.

The tournament was a great success, with 36 bowlers filling both house's lanes each day! The kids again spent the days laughing, joking and compet-

ing for their chance to win a delicious prize of Sarris candy. They all did an amazing job and are already looking forward to next year's Youth Winter Classic.

Margaret and Bryn continue to think of more ways to bring their Circles together, and how to extend the collaboration to other SNPJ Youth Circles and extend each Circle's membership. If you have ideas on how to grow our youth networks or would like to have your youth become more involved, please reach out to Bryn Snow, snpjcircle36@yahoo.com, or Margaret Cadez, snpjcircle19@gmail.com.

Dust off the clubs and enter the 2022 CAL Gorjup Open Golf Tournament

by RICK GORJUP (158)
Cleveland Athletic League President

CLEVELAND — This year marks the 56th year of the Cleveland Athletic League (CAL) hosting a golf tournament, so don't miss out on a great day of fun and fraternalism!

We always have a great bunch of golfers, and with our CAL representatives, friends and volunteers, this

year's outing should be among the best. The tournament is about 56 days away now, and we're hoping to draw a record crowd. The winter has been very snowy and very cold, but hopefully spring is just around the corner!

This year's CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament will be played at Rolling Green Golf Course in Huntsburg, Ohio, on Saturday, May 28.

With a 9 a.m. shotgun start, we ask that you arrive at the course by 8:15 a.m. for check-in at the pavilion. Here's where you'll pick up your goodie bags and scorecards before heading out on the links. Hot dogs and *pivo* will be available at the turn, and a great steak dinner awaits at the 19th hole.

This is always a fun day, meeting old friends and making new ones. And remember,

this year the beer, pop and bottled water are free – all day long!

The entry fee of \$90 for adults (\$80 for youth) includes green fees, cart, prizes, a goodie bag, dinner, and a sandwich and beverage at the turn. Your friendly hostesses will again be stationed on the course to provide some libation and a toast to Don. Since 2022 is our 56th year hosting the

tournament, we'll have some extras to commemorate this anniversary.

The past two years, 2020 and 2021, were anything but usual, with the pandemic and weather canceling our last two tournaments. We hope to see you this year, with all expectations of a great time for all participants.

The tournament entry form is published below. Please be

sure to include your phone number and e-mail address on all entries in case we need to contact you.

Donations are coming in for our drawings, and we're planning a few surprises this year. So contact your golf buddies and enter early. As always, guests are welcome.

We hope to see you on a beautiful, sunny and warm Saturday, May 28.

Hosted by Loyalites Lodge 158, the SNPJ National Bowling Tournament heads to the Recreation Center

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The 2022 SNPJ National Bowling Tournament, hosted by SNPJ Loyalites Lodge 158, will be held at the SNPJ Recreation Center the weekend of April 30-May 1. Bowling will take place at Colonial Lanes in New Castle, Pa., and all social activities will be held at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

The tournament secretary is Gary Smrdel. Gary's contact information is included in the tournament entry form below and online at snpj.org. The

entry deadline is April 11.

Doubles and singles events will be rolled at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 30; team competition is scheduled Sunday, May 1, at 11 a.m.

On Saturday, a bus will be available to transport bowlers between Colonial Lanes and the SNPJ Recreation Center. The bus will depart the Recreation Center parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Be sure to e-mail Tournament Secretary Gary Smrdel at garylodge158@roadrunner.com to reserve your seat on the bus. A minimal fee will be collected when you board the

bus; seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until the bus is full.

Weekend entertainment includes karaoke by DJ Skippy Hall from 8 p.m. until midnight on Friday, April 29. On Saturday evening, the Mike Wojtila Band will perform from 8 p.m. until midnight. All entertainment is scheduled in the Gostilna.

Cabins are available for the tournament weekend. Phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 to reserve your cabin today. Food will also be available in

the Gostilna throughout the weekend.

A block of rooms has been secured at the Hampton Inn in New Castle. The special rate for this SNPJ tournament is \$115 (plus tax) per night for a room with a king bed, \$120 (plus tax) per night for a room with two double beds. Phone (724) 656-0000 and mention "SNPJ bowling tournament" to receive these rates. The deadline for room reservations is April 15.

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

Important figures to consider...

!


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

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

82%... people who are under-insured

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

1-800-843-7675



St. Marys Lodge 581 elects Convention delegates

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — During the SNPJ Lodge 581 March 13 meeting, John and Patricia Moore were elected as our Lodge delegates to the 32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention.

John and Pat have been active in our Lodge for many years. Pat is currently serving as Lodge president, and John is one of our auditors. Both are also very active in the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters and many other activities in the Kane, Pa., area. We are proud to send them as our representatives.

At our March meeting, members also finalized several of our upcoming activities. On March 23, all members are welcome to our scrapbook-making party at the St. Calistus Church Multi Purpose Room in Kane.

Over the years, since May 25, 1926, SNPJ Lodge 581 has accumulated a fine collection

of photographs, articles, papers, certificates, etc. We are planning to organize these and make them easily accessible to Lodge members. We will meet at 10 a.m.

John Troha is organizing the second annual Jerry Troha Music Scholarship this year. Two students will be selected from the St. Marys Area schools as recipients to help defray their costs when furthering their music careers. We plan to collect donations for the scholarship during a polka dance on April 24.

Lodge 581 will sponsor a Jackson Road cleanup again this year. New signs will be erected along the road honoring both Jerry and Robert Troha for their fine work in past years. The activity is planned for April 23.

We will meet at the Troha Camp at the trestle for donuts and hot drinks at 9 a.m. Following the cleanup, a picnic will be held with music provided by John Moore on accordion. A

rain date is scheduled April 30.

Lodge 581 also is planning a bus trip to Slovenefest the weekend of July 8-10. Anyone from Elk County and McKean County and the surrounding areas is welcome to sign up. Call John Moore at (814) 837-9218. We're not sure of the cost yet, but it will surely be cheaper than your driving alone – and much more fun!

Lodge 581 members will be very busy this spring (hopefully, spring is finally here!).

We welcome all SNPJ members and friends to participate in all of our activities.

The polka dances in April are scheduled April 10 at the Ridgway Eagles and April 24 at Wildwoods in St. Marys. Check out our Facebook page, *SNPJ Lodge 581*, and the Northwestern Pennsylvania Slovenian Polka Boosters Facebook page, or contact Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia K. Bleggi at (814) 335-4983 for information.



St. Marys, Pa., Lodge 581 members Bro. JOHN MOORE and Sis. PATRICIA MOORE will serve as delegates to the SNPJ Quadrennial Convention in August.

Help SNPJ save by reading PROSVETA online

IMPERIAL, Pa. — In an effort to curb continually escalating postage rates, *PROSVETA* is asking all SNPJ members to evaluate the need of receiving the newspaper in its printed format. We're also asking all members to provide us with an active e-mail address, and to consider receiving an e-mail link to the online *PROSVETA* issues.

There are numerous benefits to receiving *PROSVETA* online. First of all, the issues are posted to the SNPJ website, snpj.org, a week or so prior to the publication date – no more waiting around for your mail

carrier to deliver the current issue.

Secondly, archived issues are also available on the website. Click on the *PROSVETA* archive link and you'll have years worth of *PROSVETA* issues at your fingertips.

Third, and most importantly, by selecting to receive a *PROSVETA* e-mail reminder you will help SNPJ save thousands of dollars in postage and printing expenses each year.

So what's your first step to helping *PROSVETA* whittle away at mounting expenses? Send us your e-mail address. Simply e-mail pcushman@snpj.com

and include your name and the e-mail address at which you would like to receive the online issue reminders.

Still not sure? Do your-

self a favor: Pay a visit to <https://snpj.org/membership/prosveta-publication/> and see for yourself the conveniences offered by the online *PROSVETA* issues.

SNPJ Recreation Center 2022 Fraternal Events Schedule	
April 30-May 1	SNPJ National Bowling Tournament
June 10-12	SNPJ Young Adult Conference
June 10-12	SNPJ Heritage Center Weekend
July 8-10	SLOVENEFEEST 2022
July 31-Aug. 6	SNPJ Family Week
Aug. 15	32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention
Sept. 2-4	National SNPJ Days

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
June 23, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes from the May 26, 2021, meeting.

Discussed the upcoming Young Adult Conference – flights, meals, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Sept. 13, 2021

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

Approved the minutes from the June 23, 2021, meeting.

Discussed the upcoming National Board meeting and agenda.

Discussed hiring a part-time fraternal director.

Reported that an HVAC unit was replaced at the Home Office at a cost of approximately \$13,000. It was an original unit from 1993. Also obtaining prices for re-sealing the Home Office parking lot.

Approved a donation of \$800 for a Platinum sponsorship for Slovenian Days in Cleveland

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

JOSEPH C. EVANISH
National President/CEO

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

56th CAL Don Gorjup Open Golf Tournament
May 28, 2022
at Rolling Green Golf Club, Huntsburg, OH
9 a.m. Shotgun Start

Check Entry:
Men ☐ Ladies ☐ Youth ☐

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

Contact name: _____
e-mail: _____

The \$90 entry fee covers greens fees, cart, prizes, dinner, and sandwich and beverage at the turn. Youth entry fee is \$80.
Return this form, along with entry fees, to:
Rick Gorjup
7180 Kory Ct., Concord, OH 44077-2221
Phone: (440) 354-5001 [Home] or (440) 773-3233 [Cell]
Make checks payable to
SNPJ Cleveland Athletic League (CAL)
ENTRY DEADLINE IS MAY 22, 2022
The Home Office will verify all memberships. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.

SNPJ 84th National Bowling Tournament
April 30-May 1, 2022
Colonial Lanes
3210 Wilmington Rd.
New Castle, PA 16105
Phone: (724) 654-5000
www.coloniallanesbowling.com

Doubles & Singles
Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m.

Team Event
Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m.

Doubles & Singles Events Entry fee \$30 per person Saturday Only	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2020-21	All-Events \$5 per person YES/NO
1.			
2.			
1.			
2.			

Submit bowlers' names by position in lineup

Four-Person Team Event Entry fee \$60 per team Sunday Only	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2020-21
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Team name _____
Team captain's name, phone number & e-mail address: _____

The entry fee in each event is \$15 per bowler, \$4.80 of which shall be used for prizes, and \$10.20 for bowling. An extra \$5 is charged to all who desire to compete for handicap all-events prizes.
Return form, along with fees of \$15 per person, per event, to:
Gary Smrdel
4251 Oregon St., Perry, OH 44081
(440) 655-7592
e-mail: garylodge158@roadrunner.com
Make checks payable to **SNPJ Lodge 158**
ENTRY DEADLINE IS APRIL 11, 2022
All memberships will be verified at the SNPJ Home Office. Complete tournament rules are available by contacting the SNPJ Fraternal Department, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126.
Schedule of entries will be posted online at snpj.org.