

32nd Quadrennial Convention highlights the Society’s progress, financial strength, stability

by JOSEPH C. EVANISH
SNPJ National President/CEO

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Society’s 32nd Quadrennial Convention, held Aug. 15, 2022, took place at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. A total of 129 delegates and National Board members participated in the proceedings which were completed in one day.

The delegates are to be commended for being an important part of the national legislative body of our fraternal benefit society. The body carried out the responsibility of amending and

approving the bylaws of the SNPJ, as well as electing the National Board that will serve our Society for the next four-year period. A list of the newly elected National Board is below. Their four-year term of office will begin Jan. 1, 2023.

The Convention officers included Chairman Bro. Joseph C. Evanish, and vice chairs Sis. Tracey Anderson and Bro. Rick Hervol. The most demanding job during the Convention was that of the recording secretary. Sis. Karen Pintar did a commendable job. The sergeant-at-arms was Bro. Ken Vogrig (138).

All officer and Board reports were presented and accepted. It was reported that important steps were taken during this period to improve the overall financial strength and stability of the organization. This was accomplished through reinsuring a portion of our annuity business. By doing this, we were able to increase surplus, improve net income, increase the book yield and quality of the portfolio, and improve RBC. The action also improved our overall risk profile

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SNPJ National Board

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Just two months in, and already a busy reign for Miss SNPJ 2023

by MADISON SINAN (782)
Miss SNPJ 2023

GLENSHAW, Pa. — Wow! The first two months of my reign as Miss SNPJ have already flown by. When I asked former Miss SNPJs what to expect this year, all of them said it would go by so fast... and they were certainly right.

The weekend after Slovenefest I had the honor of attending my first event as Miss SNPJ: the Duck Race at Strabane Lodge 138. It wasn’t my first time attending, but it was wonderful to be there once again. I got another serving of my favorite polkas, sold a record number of 50/50 tickets with Allie Jo Vogrig, and had the privilege of announcing the winning ducks. A huge thank you to Jason Cadez for the invitation to this fun event, and to the members of Lodge 138 for being so kind and welcoming.

Just one week later, I went back to my home in Boulder, Colo., and had the pleasure of attending “Pizza and Potica” with the members of Denver Lodge 218. I loved spending time getting to know everyone from the Denver Lodge and eating delicious homemade potica. I am so grateful that Miss Fraternalism 2023 Cara Fabian was quick to invite me to the great events they have planned this year, and I am so excited to have an SNPJ home in Colorado.

In the time leading up to my next SNPJ event, I had the opportunity to spend 18 days traveling and presenting recitals in Costa Rica with Bel Tono, a newly formed professional trumpet ensemble. Touring was a thrilling way to wrap up my summer before going into the final year of my master’s program in trumpet performance.



Miss SNPJ 2023 **MADISON SINAN** [left] and Miss Fraternalism 2023 **CARA FABIAN** (218) attended the “Pizza and Potica” event hosted by Denver Lodge 218.

Attending the annual SNPJ National Days was a treat as always. I loved watching the National Balina and Bean Bag Toss tournaments, as well as helping my home Lodge, Glenshaw Lodge 782, with their annual breakfast fundraiser.

Later on Sunday, my team was quick to lose in the women’s bean bag toss tournament,

SEE **MISS SNPJ 2023**
ON PAGE 2

October date set for Gostilna Chef Dinner at Lodge 106

by TRACEY BELLE (138)
SNPJ Heritage Center Committee

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The SNPJ Heritage Center is excited to announce that it will be hosting the fourth in a series of dinners prepared by visiting chefs from different regions of Slovenia. The first three dinners took place before Covid-19 stopped all opportunities to gather together, but now we can again begin to enjoy these festivities!

Prior dinners featured menus from the Prekmurje and Dolenjska regions of Slovenia; this dinner will feature a menu prepared by chefs from the Stajerska region.

These visiting chefs are participating in an exchange program organized by Jure Žmauc, former Slovenian Consul General and current president of the Slovenian-American Business Association (SABA), in conjunction with

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Sygan Lodge 6 schedules October meeting date

SYGAN, Pa. — Due to unforeseen circumstances, SNPJ Lodge 6 had to cancel the regular Lodge meeting scheduled for Monday, Sept. 12. We apologize for any inconvenience.

The regular Lodge meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 10, in the Sunshine Room. The annual meeting for election of officers and SASC directors will be held as scheduled on Monday, Dec. 12.

KAREN A. PINTAR
Lodge 6 President

Your pageant donations support SNPJ tradition

IMPERIAL, Pa. — The Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund is accepting donations. There are numerous costs associated with the pageant, and your donations, both large and small, are truly appreciated to help defray those costs. Please make checks payable to SNPJ, noting “Miss SNPJ Pageant” on the memo line, and mail your donation to Slovene National Benefit Society, Att’n. Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126. See page 3 for a listing of recent Pageant Booster Fund donors.

THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are Nov. 1 and Dec. 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Oct. 17, for the Nov. 1 issue, and by Monday, Nov. 7, for the Dec. 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.



Axis A. Walters
Born Nov. 4, 2021
Bon Air, Pa., Lodge 254

SNPJ Lodge 254 welcomes their newest member, sixth-generation Lodge member Axis Ames Walters. Axis is the son of Tyler and Brittni Walters, grandson of JoCarol Naugle and John Pribish, great-grandson of Lodge 254 Secretary Donna Naugle and the late Anthony Naugle, great-great-grandson of the late Frank and Mary Torok, and great-great-great grandson of the late John and Frances Bizjak. We welcome Axis to the Society and extend our best wishes to his entire family.

Strabane Lodge 138 hosts Wounded Warrior riders

by KATIE MAVRICH GREEN
Lodge 138

STRABANE, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 138 was busy, busy, busy during the month of August.

First, Lodge members Jason Cadez, Jason Snider, Christopher Cadez, Margaret Cadez, Katie Mavrich Green, Jess Nakoneczny and Ken Vogrig represented the Lodge at the Society’s 32nd Quadrennial Convention held at the SNPJ Recreation Center on Aug. 15. There, Bro. Jason Cadez was elected as Region 2 Vice President on the National Board.

After the Convention, the Lodge geared up for its annual Old Timers vs. Young Bucs softball game on Aug. 27.

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Drone photo by Jason Cadez (138)

The parking lot at the Lodge 138 Hall in Strabane was filled to capacity with an estimated 300 motorcycles when the Lodge welcomed participants in the Wounded Warrior Project Bike Run on Aug. 28.

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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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Chicago Fed cultural event a showcase of Slovenian heritage

by MELANIE MATIASEK (559)
Federation Recording Secretary

CHICAGO — The Chicago Federation had representatives from all Lodges attend the SNPJ Convention. We all enjoyed the events planned by the Society, as well as the completion of a successful Quadrennial Convention. The week after the Convention, on Aug. 21, the Federation hosted a cultural event. Young Adults from the Chicago area, Lanie Maresh (449) and Justin Rigler (449), started the festivities and prepared the food for the luncheon; Slovenian klobase was the most popular item. Members donated a variety of desserts for all to enjoy. Lunch was followed by a short program. First runner-up to

Miss SNPJ 2023 Lanie Maresh represented Miss SNPJ Madison Sinan, who was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Vince Rigler and Cecilia Dolgan performed a few songs and were joined by Joe Valencic – everyone enjoyed listening to the music. The program was followed with a presentation by Joe Valencic and the viewing of his movie, “Polka! The Movie.” Popcorn was served as we all watched and listened to a historical perspective on polka music and the entertainers we have all listened to over the years, including Frankie Yankovic, among others. It was a successful event, and a big thank you goes to Tina Rigler (449) for organizing this program.



Chicago area delegates to the 32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention included [from left] **KAITLYN CHIAPPETTA** (559), **MELANIE MATIASEK** (559), **CARMELLA SMIDL** (8), and current Region 5 Vice President **TINA RIGLER** (449).



[Clockwise, from bottom left] **JEAN BOYACK** (689), **JEANNETTE MARASCO** (757), Lodge 113 Secretary/Treasurer **MADALENE WILLIAMS**, and Lodge 757 Secretary/Treasurer **JOANNE LESSAR** prepared cabbage rolls for the 2022 Utah Slovenian Day Picnic.



Three generations of SNPJ Lodge 689 members helped at the picnic: [from left] parents **SAM** and **MICHELLE SLAUGHTER**, along with their daughters **CHEYANNE** and **ASHLYN**, and the girls' grandparents, **GAYE** and **DAVE BABCOCK**.

The 39th Utah Slovenian Day Picnic maintains traditions

by GAYE BABCOCK
Lodge 689 Secretary/Treasurer

HELPER, Utah — The 39th Utah Slovenian Day Picnic was held at the Slovenian Home in Spring Glen on Aug. 14. Price Lodge 757 chaired the event, assisted by members of Price Lodge 113 and Helper Lodge 689. The word “picnic” has French roots and refers to a social gathering where people eat – and that they did! Many come for the food, but the added bonus is the socialization that we missed so much over the past

couple of years. Picnickers enjoyed klobase, cabbage rolls, stew, polenta, traditional potato salad, and our famous pickled eggs. Organizers baked dozens of Hungarian cookies, potica loaves, and pans of apple strudel. Lodge members spend countless hours making this event a success. Many of those hours are spent in their own homes baking pastries and pickling eggs in anticipation of the big day. All proceeds from food sales are donated to various charities.

For Miss SNPJ, the first two months filled with activity

MISS SNPJ 2023
FROM PAGE 1

but luckily the great polka music and dancing made up for the defeat. Overall, it was a fun weekend spent with my fellow fraternalists. Finally, the young adults held their first meeting via Zoom since the Young Adult Conference in June. We spent time catching up on our SNPJ involvement, and discussed our roles as SNPJ young adults and what we can do to get

more young adults and youth involved with fraternal opportunities. We're excited about what we can offer to this organization that is so important to us. With all of this, I have to say it's been a busy first two months of my Miss SNPJ reign! I have enjoyed the memories and many new faces, and I'm looking forward to the opportunities to come. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at an SNPJ event soon!

A change of date for the Lodge 723 October meeting

by JULIANNE WOOD
Lodge 723 Vice President

FONTANA, Calif. — SNPJ Lodge 723 has changed the date of the October Lodge meeting from Oct. 20 to Oct. 27. We will be having dinner, followed by the Lodge meeting, at Napoli Italian Restaurant in Loma Linda beginning at 6 p.m. Please arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. The restaurant is located at 24960 Redlands Blvd., Loma Linda, CA 92354. To view the menu, visit <https://napolilomalinda.com/loma-linda->

[napoli-italian-restaurant-food-menu](#). Lodge members attending the dinner will have their meal covered up to \$25. Any additional cost is the responsibility of the member. Guests are responsible for covering their meal expenses. To give the restaurant an accurate head count, you must RSVP by Monday, Oct. 24, by calling Julianne Wood at (951) 300-3592. If you have any questions, contact Julianne Wood at (951) 300-3592 or Lodge 723 Secretary Phyllis Wood at (951) 743-2098.

August picnic a blast for Lodge 745 members

by JOHN MLAKAR
Lodge 745 Secretary/Treasurer

SACRAMENTO — On the last Sunday of August, Lodge 745 held a picnic on the grounds of the Del Webb Sun City clubhouse in Roseville, Calif., overlooking the scenic golf course. This first-class facility was available to us because our Lodge vice president and his wife, Dick and Sarah Laux, are part of this community.

Lodge 745 provided the main meal, and attendees brought sides to share. The summer temperature was in the low 90's; however, we were comfortable in the filtered shade of the trees and a soothing breeze. Seven youth members from our Lodge were in attendance, and the young – as well as the not-as-young – had fun on the balina courts. John Mlakar provided melodies on the piano accordion.

A special thank you is extended to the Laux family for providing access to this beautiful facility.



PHILIP MLAKAR lays down his best balina shot at the Lodge 745 picnic.

President Joe Mlakar reported on his memorable trip to the SNPJ Quadrennial Convention. Our photographer, Teresa Mlakar, took lots of photos and posted them on our Facebook site, *SNPJ Golden Valley Lodge #745*, for viewing. All of us in Lodge 745 want to give a shout out to Frank Poropatt, brother to our beloved member, Mary Saber. Get well, Frank. We're thinking of you and hope to see you at another Slovenian event very soon!



Lodge 745 members enjoyed the meal served during the August picnic held at the Del Webb Sun City clubhouse.

Up-and-Coming...

A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- OCT. 9..... Westmoreland County (Pa.) Federation dance at the Yukon Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa.; 2 to 6 p.m. Music by the Skovenski Band featuring Mikey Dee.

Lodge 138 a part of August Wounded Warrior Bike Run

LODGE 138
FROM PAGE 1

For the first time in nearly 15 years, the Young Bucs won. The score was 11-6. Following the game, the Lodge hosted its annual end-of-summer picnic. But it was the next day that Lodge 138 is most proud of. The morning of Aug. 28, the Lodge welcomed participants in the Wounded Warrior Project Bike Run. Around 300 motorcycles rolled into the parking lot, and the visitors were greeted with cold drinks, hot dogs – and a lot of hospitality.

Sharon Green, who runs the bar and kitchen for the Lodge, was able to get food and water donated, so the only thing the riders had to pay for were drinks from the bar. Additionally, members of the Lodge 138 House Committee, the Lodge officers and Lodge

members all volunteered their time that day, ensuring that as much money as possible could benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

Nearly \$1,100 was donated to the organization, and multiple riders commented on the organization, friendliness, preparation and generosity of Lodge 138. To say we were honored to be a part of the event would be an understatement.

A special thanks to Bro. Mike Lucas who coordinated efforts with the organization. The Lodge would also like to thank all of our members and volunteers who attended and helped out, as well as the participants of the bike run and the Wounded Warrior Project for allowing us to participate.

For more photos of the event and a drone video taken by Jason Cadez, visit our Facebook page at *SNPJ Lodge 138*.



Photo by Katie Mavrich Green (138)

Wounded Warrior Bike Run participants appreciated the hospitality and friendliness of Lodge 138 members, and as hosts, Strabane Lodge 138 made a donation of almost \$1,100 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

Miss SNPJ Pageant Booster Fund Donors

We hope everyone has enjoyed the last days of summer and is keeping busy as we ease into the last few months of 2022. The Miss SNPJ Pageant Commission would like to thank the following donors who contributed to the Pageant Booster Fund over the last few months. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us offset the costs to keep the pageant tradition alive. We are very grateful for the Society's support with continuing the Miss SNPJ Pageant.

- SNPJ Lodge 254, Bon Air, Pa.
(in memory of Lodge members who passed in 2021)
- SNPJ Spartans Lodge 576, Cleveland
- SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa.
- SNPJ Lodge 564, Detroit
- SNPJ Lodge 3, Johnstown, Pa.
- SNPJ Lodge 106, Imperial, Pa.
- Lesa Rae (Kocjan) Wood (643)
- Miss SNPJ 1994 Deirdre (Kocjan) Adduci (643)
- Miss SNPJ 2001 Kandance (Kocjan) Franklin (643) and Brett Franklin
- Joseph C. Evanish (106)
- Edward and Henrietta Snyder (776)
- SNPJ Lodge 776, Borough of SNPJ, Pa.
- Ken and Karen Pintar (6)
- Bob and Jan Lawrence (138)
- David and Peggy Cushman (138)
- SNPJ Farm, Kirtland, Ohio
- SNPJ Wolverine Lodge 677, Detroit
- Miss SNPJ 1982 Tracey Anderson (677)
- Miss SNPJ 1977 Cheri Gottke (5)
- Linda (Lustic) Fetcko
- SNPJ Excelsiors Lodge 721, Aliquippa, Pa.
- SNPJ Golden Eagles Lodge 643, Girard, Ohio
- Miss SNPJ 2023 Madison Sinan (782)
- Angela "Francie" (Gradisek) Sinan (87)
- Robert (782) and Charlene Jurysta



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Aid to farms struggling with production costs

LJUBLJANA (STA) — The Slovenian government has decided to subsidize “agricultural reproductive material” to help farmers overcome the high cost of energy. Some 43,000 farms will be eligible for a total of EUR 15 million (\$14.89 million) in funding.

Adopted as part of the measures to address growing food prices, it is projected that additional aid will help lower food production costs affecting primary agricultural production. “High energy prices are driving up the production costs, including through increasingly more expensive reproduction materials, such as fertilizers,” a Ministry of Agriculture and Food representative explained.

Agricultural Institute data shows that the production cost for a hectare (2.5 acres) of wheat has risen from EUR 578 (\$573) last year to EUR 937 (\$930), according to preliminary data for this year.

Similar increases are being reported for other crops. The increase is lower only for some permanent crops. The main reason is an increase in the price of fertilizers, which had already gone up at the end of 2021 and continued to grow steadily in 2022.

Based on surface area data and other documentation, the ministry believes some 43,000 farms will be eligible for the subsidies.

President Pahor receives Czech Plečnik award

LJUBLJANA — In late August, Slovenian President Borut Pahor was honored with the Grand Prix Jože Plečnik 2022, an award conferred by the Prague Castle Administration in the Czech Republic, as he hosted a ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Ljubljana to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of acclaimed Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik and the 2022 Year of Plečnik.

The Grand Prix Jože Plečnik has been awarded since 2018 for lifetime achievements in architecture, construction and the protection of architectural heritage to top Czech architects. This year, when 150 years since Plečnik's birth is being marked, the award was given to Pahor, the first statesman to receive the award.

Pahor was recognized for his contribution to Czech-Slovenian cultural relations, and support for cooperation between the Prague Castle Administration and Slovenian institutions. He received the award from Prague Castle Administration director Ivo Velišek, who was honored to give him “the first Central European award for Plečnik's architecture.”

In his acceptance speech, Pahor described Plečnik as “one of those giants of our homeland who... transcended the boundaries of his profession to become a symbol of Czech-Slovenian relations.”

Plečnik was commissioned by Czechoslovak President Tomas Masaryk to renovate Prague Castle between 1920 and 1934. Another of his remarkable works in Prague is the monumental Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord.

Pahor said that Slovenians were grateful for the attention paid to Plečnik in the Czech Republic and for the care taken to preserve his architecture, while noting the rich and long-lasting Slovenian-Czech relations.

Together with his Czech counterpart, Miloš Zeman, Pahor was an honorary sponsor of a Sept. 13 event dedicated to Czech-Slovenian relations, at which Plečnik awards were conferred at Prague Castle.

The August ceremony in Slovenia was also addressed by Tomaž Štoka from the Slovenian Museum of Architecture and Design, who coordinated the working group that prepared the UNESCO nomination of Plečnik's architecture in Ljubljana. Štoka noted that with the selected works making the UNESCO World Heritage List, “the international community recognized values that go beyond national or regional significance and are important for the whole of humanity.”

A fine salt harvest for Sečovelje this year

SEČOVLJE (STA) — This year's scorching heat and severe drought have brought about an abundant and high-quality crop of salt in the Sečovelje salt



panns, where salt is produced manually with traditional tools. “As much as 1,600 tons has already been stored, which is more than is typically sold annually,” Klavdij Godnič, director of the Soline company, told the press.

The Sečovelje Salt Pans, located in the Piran municipality, cover an area of 593 hectares (1,465 acres) and are part of the Sečovelje Saline Nature Park.

Godnič said that after two years, the salt again has enough mineral content to be sold as Piran Salt, a product of protected origin that is also more expensive. Of the 1,600 tons of salt harvested through August, 1,400 tons is suitable for human consumption; the remainder will be sold as industrial salt.

“Another 400 tons of salt is still in drainage areas near the salt pans, and an average of 20 to 30 tons is harvested daily,” Godnič explained.

Harvesting typically ends in mid-September, depending on the weather, since every time it rains the work stops for two to three days. Since the salt pans are already somewhat “tired,” Sečovelje will focus on *fleur de sal*, a thin layer of crystals created when the seawater is still. Fleur de sal is highly valued by food connoisseurs.

The Sečovelje Saline Nature Park, which is home to many animal and plant species, is also a very popular tourist site. This year the park has been visited by around 24,000 guests; however, only 10 percent of those have also visited Fontanigge, the old section of the salt pans which hosts the Museum of Salt-Making. Many potential visitors are discouraged by the crowds in front of the busy Sečovelje border crossing with Croatia, where the route to the museum branches off from the main road.

Godnič, who also heads the Sečovelje Salina Nature Park, said that the infrastructure at the salt pans was being constantly adapted to climate change. Nature conservation is another major task, and the situation has been improving over the last 20 years.

Ten years ago, the European Life Mansalt Project enabled the water level in the bird nesting area to be regulated, preventing the risk of flooding. There are around 300 species of birds in the park every year, of which some 40 species nest there as well.

In 1993, the Sečovelje Salt Pans were included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, later joined by the Škocjan Caves in 1999 and the seasonal Lake Cerknica in 2006.

Prekmurje dialect audiobook in the works

MURSKA SOBOTA (STA) — An interactive audiobook celebrating the very distinct dialect of Prekmurje, Slovenia's easternmost region, was announced in mid-August.

The audiobook, titled “*Prekmurščina, kinč predragi*” (The Language of Prekmurje, A Dear Treasure), is conceived as a supplemental, widely accessible audio document dedicated to the culture, history and most importantly the language of the Prekmurje region, which borders Austria, Hungary and Croatia.

The selection of texts – written, spoken and sung – which will be accessible via QR codes will span from the present all the way back to when the regional language's formal rules began to take form, a representative from the General Maister Society in Murska Sobota, the initiator of the project, told the press.

The audiobook will further illustrate the Prekmurje dialect, which was used in several hundred books and had developed into a separate, standardized language in the 18th and 19th centuries before being incorporated into standard Slovenian in the 20th century. The project is expected for completion before the end of the year.

Groups agree to promote whole-grain products

GORNJA RADGONA (STA) — During the Agra agriculture trade fair held in Gornja Radgona in late August, representatives of several bakeries, millers, and the Slovenian food and health ministries signed an agreement of cooperation to promote whole-grain products, increase their variety, and raise awareness about the health benefits of whole grains.

The agreement was proposed by the Chamber of Agricultural and Food Enterprises at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GZS). The signatories are hoping to help create a shift toward better quality food.

The agreement is a part of the EU-funded WholeEU Grain project, bringing together partners from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Denmark, Romania and Slovenia. The main objective is to follow the lead of Denmark and build a partnership for whole grain products in other participating countries.

“We have laid a foundation for future cooperation, when we will carry out activities for the promotion and development of new whole-grain products together with our partners,” said Tatjana Zagorc, president of the Chamber of Agricultural and Food Enterprises.

In Slovenia, the most frequently used whole grains are wheat, spelt, rye, barley, brown rice and buckwheat. These are used in whole-grain breads, pastries, biscuits, pasta and meal products.

A new greenhouse devoted to strawberries

BELTINCI (STA) — Panvita, one of the largest agricultural and food groups in Slovenia, recently completed construction of the largest greenhouse in the country devoted to growing strawberries and herbs. The EUR 1.8 million (\$1.8 million) investment was co-financed by the Slovenian Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development, a representative from the Murska Sobota-based company said.

Covering an area of 20,000 square meters (approx. five acres), the greenhouse provides almost 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) of growing channels for strawberries.

Panvita CEO Peter Polanič is proud of the fact that in the year when his company is celebrating its centennial, it has a new greenhouse capable of growing up to 250,000 strawberry plants. He sees the investment as a means of increasing local food production, along with the country's self-sufficiency.

The new greenhouse will help Panvita counter the effects of climate and temperature fluctuations, which are increasingly interfering with the production of crops. Thanks to the controlled conditions in the greenhouse, the first fresh strawberries produced in the new greenhouse will hit the shelves in Slovenian stores this fall.

Pohorje bolsters status as a cycling destination

SLOVENJ GRADEC (STA) — The Pohorje peaks in Slovenia's northeast, best known for hosting the annual women's Alpine Ski World Cup races above the city of Maribor, is now offering 240 kilometers (149 miles) of newly-marked cycling paths. The infrastructure is the result of a joint effort by municipalities and other partners seeking to strengthen tourism beyond the winter season.

Pohorje, long a popular spot among ski enthusiasts and cycling downhillers, has also been attracting an increasing number of cyclists in general as the sport has become one of the fastest growing leisure activities in Slovenia.

Dubbed the “Partnership for Pohorje,” the project partners seized on the opportunity to extend the route over the past two years and spent months erecting signposts along seven circular cycling routes, ranging from 26 to 62 kilometers (16 to 38.5 miles) in length. The signs along the 75-kilometer-long Pohorje bicycle route have also been replaced, which makes for a total of 350 kilometers (217 miles) of marked cycling paths on Pohorje, with some of the routes overlapping.

For the most part, forest or gravel roads were selected for the new routes, but where alternatives were lacking, the planners resorted to utilizing municipal and regional roads.

“The planners joined forces with experienced Pohorje cyclists, while limitations highlighted by forestry experts and nature conservationists were taken into account as well,” Uroš Rozman, the director of the Regional Development Agency for the Podravje region-Maribor, told the press.

The cycling routes have been marked with a total of 504 signs. In addition, the routes and the three cycling parks on Pohorje are also described in detail online at www.pohorje-slovenija.si.

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

Combined picnic caps Lodge 581 summer events

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

ST. MARYS, Pa. — On Aug. 28, the SNPJ Lodge 581 and Polka Boosters picnic was held at the Kersey Firemen’s in Kersey, Pa. More than 75 attendees danced to the music of the Polka Classics from Pittsburgh, took chances on items brought by members for the annual drawings, and purchased 50/50 tickets. Lunch, which included great deserts, was catered by the Kersey Firemen’s. The picnic was another enjoyable time for these two groups.

Ten members rented a van to attend the annual Sausage Festival, which benefits the Polka Hall of Fame, at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. Everyone enjoyed the variety of sausages and the great polka music. (Just a note from the Lodge 581 secretary: “I won’t miss this next year! I heard they had krvavica.”)

Dances in the month of October include Bill Bevec at the Kersey Firemen’s on Oct. 16, and the Skovenski Band at Wildwoods in St. Marys on Oct. 30. The dances are scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m.; food and drinks are always available for purchase.

All members of Lodge 581 are invited to attend the Nov. 13 Lodge meeting at the



[Above] St. Marys, Pa., Lodge 581 members enjoyed a combined summer picnic with the North Central Pa. Polka Boosters in August, and several Lodge members made the trip to the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, to attend the Slovenian Sausage Festival in September [left].

Kersey Firemen’s. We will hold election of officers and have a dance afterward. The meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. and the dance follows from 2 to 5 p.m.

Keep our Christmas party on your schedule, to be held at the Kersey Firemen’s from

2 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18. Contact John and Pat Moore at (814) 837-9218 for more information.

Check the Lodge 581 Facebook page for more information, or call Marcia Klancer Bleggi at (814) 335-4983.

Annual Luncheon returning to the Lodge 715 schedule

by PATTI EVANISH
Lodge 715 Secretary

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — SNPJ Lodge 715 is excited to announce that our Comets Lodge Annual Luncheon honoring our longtime members is back on the schedule this year.

The luncheon will take place on Saturday, Oct. 22, at Palmieri’s Restaurant, 951 Old Frankstown Rd., Plum, PA 15239, from noon until 3 p.m. We will be honoring our members who have reached 50, 60, 70 and 80 years with SNPJ in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The luncheon is free to our honorees, who should have received an invitation in the mail. Any member is welcome to attend this special event for \$23 per person; make checks made payable to Comets Lodge 715. Please RSVP directly to me by Wednesday, Oct. 12, by calling (412) 443-8825 or e-mailing pattieevanish2017@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Visiting chefs display their culinary skills at Lodge 106 in Imperial

GOSTILNA CHEF DINNER
FROM PAGE 1

the Slovenian organizations SPIRIT Slovenia, Slovene Enterprise Fund, and Chamber for Craft and Small Business of Slovenia.

Our visiting chefs for this upcoming dinner are from the restaurant Fudo in Maribor. The menu is still being finalized, but you can be sure that the food will be wonderful, as all the Gostilna Chef Dinners in the past have been.

The three-course dinner will be served Thursday, Oct. 27, in the Imperial Room of SNPJ Lodge 106 in Imperial, with entertainment provided by Darryl and Frank Valencic. The doors open at 6 p.m.; dinner service will begin at 6:30.

For more information you can check the SNPJ Heritage Center Facebook page or e-mail GostilnaChefDinner@gmail.com. Reservations can be made by calling (412) 835-4818.

As fall arrives, Loyalites are anticipating the holidays

by DANIELLA VOLPE
Lodge 158 Treasurer

EUCLID, Ohio— Well, summer is gone, but that doesn’t mean the fun has to stop! The Loyalites still have a lot going on even if the temperature is dropping.

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who came out for our picnic this year. We had a much lower turnout than we’re used to, and Mother Nature really didn’t help us out, but nonethe-

less, we had a blast! We were able to watch the Browns win their first game of the season, and there was great polka music provided by Bob Kravos.

Speaking of our Cleveland Browns, the Loyalites will be hosting a watch party for the Browns vs. Ravens game on Oct. 23. We will have pizza, drawings and, as always, the hopeful attitude to see a Browns victory. The location is still to

be determined, so please keep up with the Loyalites Lodge on our Facebook page and website for more details.

While we haven’t even had Halloween yet, we do have to bring up our annual Christmas party. The party will be held Sunday, Dec. 4, at Recher Hall, so be sure to keep a lookout for those mailings in order to get your kiddos on Santa’s nice list.

On a less cheerful note, we lost

one of our own. Anna Adams, who we recently recognized as an 80-year SNPJ member, passed away on Sept. 12. She was ill for quite some time, so we only wish that she is now pain free. She will be missed dearly, and our condolences go out to her family.

As always, we send our thoughts and prayers to any and all of our ailing members and their families.

Lodge 749 provides financial support to the annual Johnstown Slavic Fest

by EVELYN DIMPFL
Lodge 749 Secretary

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Summer has quickly come and gone, but it was one with lots of sun and high temperatures around here. Lodge 749 meetings were discontinued in July, but started up again in August.

First, I want to acknowledge the passing of several members; namely, John Butchko, Helen Huber, Betty Ludwig, Mary Jane Zupan and Charles Bartosh. Deepest sympathies to all of the families.

While I didn’t know John Butchko, Helen Huber or Betty Ludwig, their loss is felt by their families, and deepest sympathies are extended.

Mary Jane (Werner) Zupan was well known in the Johnstown area as the lady who sold blueberries from her home. I remember going there in the ’70s and getting a quart for 50 cents. She is survived by daughter Alexandria Marguccio and sons Thomas, Frank and Matthew, as well as grandchildren Isabella Tyson and Drake, and two sisters and three brothers.

Member Charles Bartosh passed away after a lengthy illness on July 3. Charlie loved to dance with his beloved wife, Marian (Dereani), and they attended every Slovenefest and polka dance in the area.

Charlie and Marian were

my very good friends, and we spent several weeks together at the SNPJ Recreation Center during those wonderful Senior Weeks, along with two amazing SNPJ tours to Slovenia. Deepest sympathies to his wife, Marian; to their sons, Ken and Larry; and to the grandchildren.

After a two-year hiatus of events, it was a busy summer at the Recreation Center this year. I was happy to be at Slovenefest in July with all of music, food and old friends. We couldn’t have asked for better weather, and we even spent time at the pool.

The Miss SNPJ Pageant was very well done. Con-

gratulations to all of the young women who entered. You were all amazing, and there was a lot of good talent. Congratulations to Madison Sinan who was crowned Miss SNPJ 2023. It was so nice to meet you and your family. Have a wonderful year!

A few weeks later we returned to the Recreation Center to spend the week at Family Week. A nice group of about 80 people were there, and we were fed delicious meals and were entertained with a ’50s dance in the barn one evening, and karaoke the next night. I have to say that I was amazed at the talents of both young and old as they

entertained us.

Beautiful weather allowed us time at the pool and, of course, to participate in the balina tournament. Thanks to Annemarie for her leadership. It was nice to see again good friends like the Kumer family, who come from far and wide, and to meet new friends.

We also learned about a peach orchard nearby, so we took advantage of that and bought a big basket of peaches which made for good eating. We also visited the Milkhouse nearby and purchased delicious homemade ice cream.

Next on the agenda in the busy SNPJ summer was the Quadrennial Convention, also

held at the Recreation Center Aug. 14-15. The Convention was ably chaired by National President Joseph Evanish, and all business was concluded in a timely manner.

Delegate Marty Kumer brought the house down with his rendition of “All You Need Is Love,” with the entire body singing along. Thanks, Marty, for the joy and laughter you brought to the event.

At our June meeting, the Lodge voted to donate \$50 to the Johnstown Slavic Fest which was held Sept. 16-18. The SNPJ Heritage Center had a booth there with their traveling museum, as well as Slovenian items for sale.

PROSVETA Crossword Scary Movies (#1022) by StatePoint Media

ACROSS

- Shenanigan
- “Losing My Religion” band
- Kind of learning
- Capital of Egypt
- Nest egg acronym
- Cupid’s target
- Bar, legally
- Indian restaurant staple
- Kind of committee, two words
- *Hedge maze, dull boy, redrum, with The
- *Pretend girlfriend, surgery, body parts
- Monkey _____, monkey do
- Post-it message
- It makes a guitar louder
- Royal Indian
- Perfumes
- Glorify
- Freeway exit
- Like today’s cell phones?
- Keen on
- Like a confection
- At any time
- One of the large keys on the right
- Greek portico
- Common weekday start
- Former President of Egypt
- Ancient eternal life symbol
- *Bathtub, hacksaws, Jigsaw

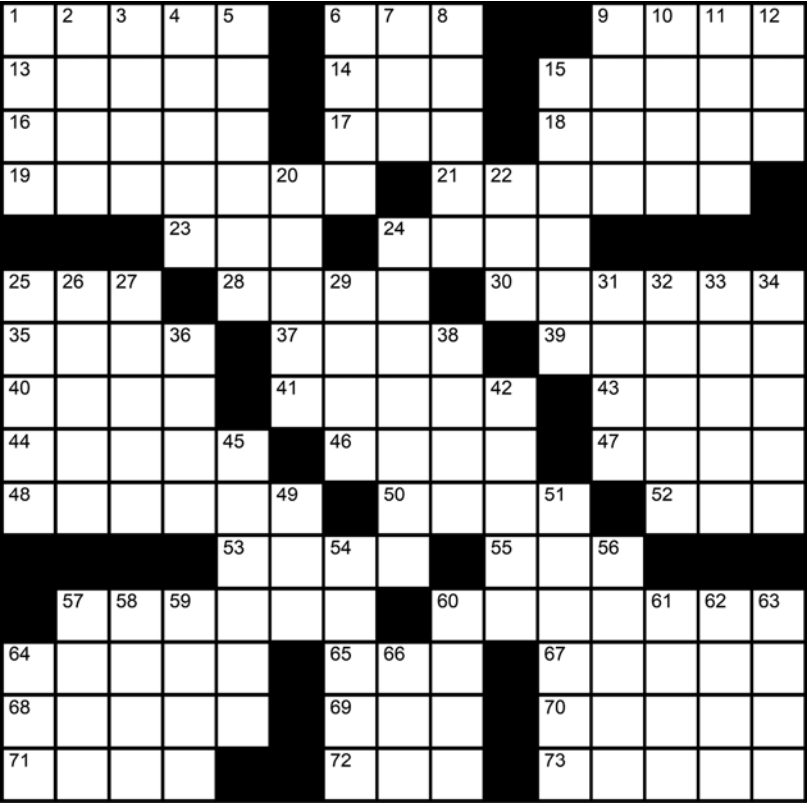
- Euphemism for “darn”
- *Blind violinist, transplant surgery, sees ghosts, with The
- *Hotel, mother, shower
- *Count, bite, cross
- Hot winter drink
- Aye’s opposite
- Financial benefactor
- Seize a throne
- Headquartered in Langley
- Exclude or omit
- Done on a Smith Corona
- Old age, archaic
- 6666...

DOWN

- Single pip cards
- Crosby, Stills, _____ & Young
- South American monkey
- Actor Jeremy
- Xerox machine
- *Videotape, stone well, seven days, with The
- Paleozoic one
- Tropical smoothie flavor
- Make over
- Hawaiian island
- Ragtime turkey dance
- And so on, abbr.
- Bias crime perpetrators
- Closes in on
- Pilot’s announcement, acr.

- ID badge, two words
- *Sigourney Weaver, outer space
- Old Testament miracle food
- Hits while on the green
- *Beachgoers, police chief, need for bigger boat
- *Boy, shadows in photographs, three sixes, with The
- “Transylvania” daughter
- Entertainment complex
- Scatter
- *Nobody _____ It Better”
- Low-ranking worker
- One who accepts the offer
- Porter’s head gear
- U Rah _____!
- Seven daughters of Atlas
- Present
- Food-borne bacteria
- One in a pocketful, according to Mother Goose
- Fish a.k.a. porgy
- Bygone era
- Two of a kind
- Type of operating system
- Prospector’s mother?
- God of war, son of Zeus
- Director’s cry
- Be ill

The solution to puzzle #1022 will run in the Nov. 1 issue.



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dish ACTIVITIES

With summer drawing to a close, activities resume at Samsula Lodge 603

by JEANNETTE HUMPHREY
Lodge 603

SAMSULA, Fla. — The members of SNPJ Lodge 603, located in beautiful downtown Samsula, met Sept. 6 for a business session following a chicken dinner. Lodge President Connie Massey thanked the officers and members for coming out to support the Lodge. Our membership attendance increased greatly for this meeting.

Connie Massey, Ruth Benedict and Rhonda Tesauro, the Lodge 603 Convention delegates who traveled to the Borough of SNPJ, Pa., reported Convention details at the September meeting. Rhonda served on the Credentials Committee and remarked what a good time she had attending the Convention for the first time.

The delegates gave a report on the business session of the 32nd SNPJ Quadrennial Convention, held Aug. 15, and all the good food and fraternalism extended to them by the Society during their stay.

The date of Aug. 6 marked another Frank-Mary, John-Jennie Luznar family reunion at the Lodge 603 Hall. Bill Tomazin, who served as chairman for the reunion, made beef stroganoff for the meal; family members brought side dishes. Yours truly provided apple strudel to carry on the tradition of our Slovenian heritage.

From the Frank and Mary

Luznar family, Linda and Frank Luznar, along with David, Kristen and their children, were in attendance. This side of the Luznar family also included Robert Burch and Jim Meaneyham. The John-Jennie side of the family was well represented by many who reside locally in Samsula.

The Luznars emigrated from Dolenja Vas, Slovenia, and took jobs in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Maryland before moving to Samsula in 1914-1915 to take up farming. Only a few on this side of the family continue in the farming business: David and his family own and operate two feed stores and work in the beef industry; Bill and Sheryl Benedict continue to farm as well.

Lodge 603 is hosting the annual Samsula Christmas Parade on Dec. 10, under the direction of Nancy Bass, Rhee Carter Goiriena and Shane Miller. The parade will start at the Lodge hall at 3 p.m., travel along Samsula Drive to the parking lot at the Frank Luznar property located at SR 44, and return to the Lodge hall.

The theme this year is “Christmas On the Farm,” and the parade will be open to floats driven by a tractor or farm truck. Four-wheelers, tractors, farm trucks and golf carts will also be included. The committee has been busy arranging parade sponsors, with great response.

After the parade returns

to the Lodge hall, a lasagna dinner will be available and Cindy Griswold will have the bar open for business. For more information, phone the Lodge hall at (386) 428-3983 and leave a message, or contact Cindy at (386) 689-9454.

Brandon and Kim Schmidt celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and Brandon’s 50th birthday with a trip out west. While in Montana, they met up with Cole Hauser who plays the role of Rip Wheeler in the popular television series “Yellowstone.” Kim and Brandon are big fans of the show. They also enjoyed visiting several national parks and the beautiful areas of the Western United States before returning home to Samsula.

Youth Circle 57 stays quite busy with activities throughout the year. Circle members met Sept. 7 at the Lodge hall to finalize plans for upcoming activities, which include a Halloween party scheduled at the Lodge hall on Saturday, Oct. 29, starting at 6 p.m. The Halloween party will offer a costume judging contest for all ages, games, and a spook house. The kitchen will have food available for purchase.

The Circle 57 annual Christmas program will start at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. The Circle will also enter a float in the Christmas parade.

We extend our thanks to Cindy for the fine job she is doing as Youth Circle 57 direc-

tor. Cindy is also the manager of our Lodge hall and deserves many thank-yous for all the work she does for Lodge 603.

The Samsula Woman’s Club has set the date of Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. for their annual Christmas Craft Show to raise money for high school and continuing education scholarships. The craft show will be held at our Lodge hall; everyone is invited to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be available from the kitchen.

A Celebration of Life was conducted for Cathy Weaver Ledger on Aug. 21 at the Lodge hall. The family provided a meal; guests brought side dishes to share. Sympathy is extended to her family.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Pauline Tomazin Lockwood who passed away June 29. A Celebration of Life is planned at a later date.

Our sympathies as well to the family of Mary Evans Pleterski who passed away Aug. 29. A Celebration of Life was held at the Lodge hall on Sept. 8. Mary, who was a 60-year SNPJ member, was married to Jack Pleterski of Samsula on Sept. 27, 1958, and remained active in our Lodge ever since. Jack made a generous donation to our Lodge in Mary’s memory.

A moment of silence was observed for these three women during our September



Members of the Frank-Mary Luznar family [above] and the John-Jennie Luznar family [below] celebrated their family reunion in August at the SNPJ Lodge 603 Hall in Samsula.



Lodge meeting.

Thanks were extended to John Tesauro for installing new exit lights in the Lodge hall at five door locations. He also repaired the kitchen ovens.

Jane Hafner became a new member of Lodge 603 recently, and her son, Justin Hafner, became a social member. We welcome both of them.

Ruth Benedict reported that while many members have sent in their annual Lodge dues of \$10, there are many who haven’t sent theirs yet. If you still owe your dues, please send them to Ruth Benedict, 3605 Darby Rd., New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168.

So long for now. See you at the Lodge hall!

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries October 2022

80-Year Members

Lodge	Member
576	Dorothy C. Sulen

70-Year Members

Lodge	Member
2	Stanley E. Simenc
34	Joyce A. Bailey
106	Nancy M. Dunning
153	Greta Clark

60-Year Members

Lodge	Member
5	Edward A. Kus
8	Linda K. Iantorno
34	Jerry Shillington
89	Edward Bongiorno
106	Gene A. Miklaucic
126	Jeffrey A. Babic
174	Elizabeth A. Pawlosky

50-Year Members

Lodge	Member
3	Frederick J. Boltz
3	Donna M. Zeigler
6	Glen L. Fisher
41	David A. Bosetti
41	Shirley J. Drnjevich
89	Frank Shuble
113	Thomas P. Tempfer
138	Peggy A. O'Bryan
138	Oren E. Kahlbaugh
138	Michael E. Chesnic
138	Susan A. George
138	Dennis A. Mavrich
138	Barbara J. Chesnik
142	Michael A. Hribar
142	Mary Ann S. Widmar
142	Joseph J. Pirman
207	Jack L. Gabrian

Lodge	Member
153	Antoinette J. Steinke
218	Dorothy A. Dwyer
218	John R. Kranker
604	Veronica Beuley

Lodge 153 recognized 50-year members in August

by WILMA VUKOVICH
Lodge 153

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — The Lodge 153 August meeting was held at the office of Diane Chermely-Tanner in Poland, Ohio. All Lodge members celebrating their anniversaries in 2022 were invited to attend the Aug. 9 meeting to be recognized. Those in attendance were 50-year members Robert Pavlich

and Hank Vukovich.

The meeting was kept short while we enjoyed a light dinner and cake in honor of the anniversary members. These members will also be recognized at the Christmas party.

Our annual Christmas party will be held Dec. 4, the first Sunday of the month, starting at 1 p.m. at Shepherd of the Valley Club Room, Western Reserve Road in Poland.

Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame heating up autumn with the Harvest Polka Party in October

by JOE VALENCIC (5)
Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame

EUCLID, Ohio — When there’s a chill in the air, it’s time to warm up on the dance floor at the Harvest Polka Party, scheduled Friday, Oct. 21, hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. Let polka legend Eddie Rodick and his orchestra entertain you with an evening of bouncy polkas and dreamy waltzes at the Slovenian Society Home in Euclid.

Admission is free to Polka Hall of Fame members as a

token of appreciation for their support. Guests can join the Hall of Fame that evening and earn a free ticket.

Enjoy music for dancing from 6 to 10 p.m. The Eddie Rodick sound features his captivating accordion and extensive repertoire of ballroom favorites.

Sandwiches and nationality treats are provided by the Slovenian Home. Your polka hostess, Sharon Staiduhar, may tempt you with a drawing or two.

The Slovenian Society

Home is located at 20713 Recher Ave. in Euclid, just off East 200th St., north of the exit on I-90.

Get your advance ticket for \$12 through the Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame, 605 East 222nd St. in Euclid, next to Euclid City Hall. Admission is \$15 at the door. Guests 18 and under admitted free of charge.

The Polka Hall of Fame is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Call (216) 261-FAME or e-mail Polkashop@aol.com.



The Eddie Rodick Orchestra will perform for the Polka Hall of Fame Harvest Polka Party on Oct. 21 at the Slovenian Society Home in Euclid, Ohio.

PROSVETA Crossword

FOOTBALL (#0922) solution

M	O	S	S		R	P	M			T	E	N						
E	P	E	E		T	A	R	E		S	H	O	T	E				
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S	C	R	I	M	M	A	G	E		O	L	L	A					
			L	I	A	R	S			P	O	D						
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17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

JAY SEDMAK

Editor, SNPJ Publications

SNPJ fraternal sympathies

BRO. HARRY J. GOLMONT
• LODGE 776 •

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — The members of Lodge 776 sadly report the July 25, 2022, passing of Bro. Harry J. Golmont, 93, of Lexington, S.C. He was a 36-year SNPJ Lodge 776 member.

Bro. Golmont was born July 31, 1928, in Beaver Falls, Pa., the son of the late Walter and Natalie Golmont. Harry served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces during the Korean conflict. A proud veteran, he never missed an opportunity to acknowledge a fellow serviceman and share his experience serving his country.

Influenced by his Polish heritage, his dedication and strong work ethic resonated throughout his life. He was a lifelong entrepreneur and consummate salesman.

Harry was happily married to Betty Jean Golmont for almost 67 years. They lived in Beaver Falls for 52 years, and were active members of their community and Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

A devoted husband and father, he enjoyed years of camping with family and friends. Harry and Betty Jean never turned down an opportunity to travel cross-country or across town to kick up their heels to a lively polka band.

In 2003, Harry and Betty Jean moved to Lexington to be closer to family. Harry was happiest in the company of his family, watching a Steelers game, listening to polka music, or working on a project.

He is survived by his three sons, Joel Michael (Alison) Golmont of Charlotte, N.C., Kevin Mark (Kathleen) of Martinsville, N.J., and Tracy John of Lexington; six grandchildren, Amanda Golmont, Taylor Golmont, Stephen Golmont, Kara Golmont, Renee Cizek, and Eddie Ward; and six great-grandchildren.

A Mass celebrating the life of Bro. Golmont was celebrated

Aug. 6 at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Lexington.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 776 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our condolences to Bro. Golmont's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

SIS. VIRGINIA D. PASTORE
• LODGE 358 •

WEST POINT, Ohio — The members of Lodge 358 sadly report the July 26, 2022, passing of Sis. Virginia Dorothy Pastore, 95, at Assumption Village Nursing Home, North Lima, Ohio.

Sis. Pastore was born Aug. 20, 1926, in West Point, a daughter of the late John and Mary (Macek) Chuck.

Ginny was known for being a dedicated babysitter for many years. In addition, she worked as a clerk at the Carl Company in Lisbon, Ohio, for a number of years.

A 78-year SNPJ Lodge 358 member, she was also an active member of St. George Catholic Church and its Altar and Rosary Society, and volunteered at St. Paul School in Salem, Ohio.

She enjoyed traveling, especially to Myrtle Beach; playing cards; spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; as well as gardening. She will be remembered for her faith, and for her famous spaghetti and meatballs.

Survivors include her children, Deborah (Richard) Hill of Kent, Ohio, Mary (Lee) Campanelli of Gahanna, Ohio, and Rita Farmer and Clara Tolson, both of Salem; nine grandchildren, Joseph Alan Hill, Eric (Gretchen) Hill, Leonard (Heather) Campanelli, Daniel (Camille) Campanelli, Jeff (Marcia) Campanelli, Sarah (Sean) Smith, Brandon Farmer, Jessica (Todd) Horning, and Josh Tolson; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death

by her husband, Leonard P. Pastore, in 1976; by all of her siblings, William, Theodore, Victor, Herbert, Edward, and Frank Chuck, Virginia Chuck, Victoria Dukes-Reynolds, Elizabeth Bergman, and Clara Snowberger; and by a grandson, Christopher Farmer.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Pastore on July 30 at St. George Catholic Church, Lisbon. Burial followed in Lisbon Cemetery.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 358 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Pastore's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. LOUIS V. KUMER JR.
• LODGE 715 •

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — The members of Lodge 715 sadly report the Aug. 9, 2022, passing of Bro. Louis V. Kumer Jr., 79, with his children at his side. He will join Diane, his wife of over 55 years, who passed in 2017.

Bro. Kumer was born May 4, 1943, a son of the late Louis V. Kumer Sr. and Jacobine (Berg) Kumer. He grew up in Oakmont, Pa., working many weekends at his father's clothing store. He attended the University of Pittsburgh and taught American history for the next 30 years, largely at Seneca Jr. High in Penn Hills, Pa., where he was well liked by teachers and generations of students.

Lou enjoyed hunting, great music and a cold beer with friends, but it was golf that he cherished. In his prime he was a scratch golfer, and for a number of years he even held the course record at Buffalo Golf Course in Sarver, Pa.

One of his greatest pleasures in life was golfing with family and friends each Sunday, a ritual that he rarely missed in over 50 years, and one that served as the impetus for many epic "Louie" stories that will live on forever.



Bro. LOUIS V. KUMER Jr. (715)

Lou was a 47-year member of SNPJ Lodge 715, and enjoyed vacationing and spending time with his extended family at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Diane L. (Berkoben) Kumer; and his brother, Frederick.

He is survived by a daughter, Jill (Stan) Gobrich; a son, Ken (Beth); five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Beyond his immediate family, he had an amazing support structure of relatives and many close friends. Charismatic and kind, Lou filled their lives with laughter, friendship, and many good times.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 715 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we extend our sympathies to Bro. Kumer's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

BRO. JAMES W. ASHMORE
• LODGE 89 •

MIDWAY, Pa. — The members of Lodge 89 sadly report the Aug. 11, 2022, passing of Bro. James William "Billy," "Billy Bob" Ashmore, 84, at his home in Midway, with his favorite people by his side. He was a 47-year SNPJ member.

Bro. Ashmore was born June 15, 1938, in Washington, Pa., a son of the late James and Virginia Welsh Ashmore. He was a proud U.S. Navy veteran.

He served and loved his country fiercely, even long after his time in the service.

Billy had numerous different jobs over the years, but they all had one thing in common: cars. Bill was an EMT for Fort Cherry Ambulance for a few years, and had also worked for Airport Shuttle Co.

Bill's greatest accomplishment was being a cars salesman, and it also helped that he always looked good in a suit. Throughout the years he worked for McDonald Ford, Woltz and Wind Ford, Budd Baer and Oliverio Buick. He even went on to receive his "Grand Master" car salesman title while employed at McDonald Ford. Billy had a special love for people and making them happy, and working within the sales industry he was able to do just that.

Even on his days off, Billy still found a way to bring happiness into people's lives. He often played Santa Claus for the Budd Baer dealership and the Humane Society. He loved seeing people smile, and he always enjoyed putting on his red suit. Bill also loved driving around, especially taking road trips with his wife. They loved to travel and tried to do as much traveling as they could throughout the years.

Above all, Billy's family was his everything; and really, nothing else mattered to him. He was the perfect example of a strong, fearless and loving man. No matter what was on the road ahead, Billy faced it head on and never turned away. He cared for his family to his very last breath, and even after continues to do so. His love for them will last longer than any life, and it will never end.

Surviving are the love of his life and best friend, Anita LeFebvre Ashmore; his children, Kathy Ashmore, Angela (Nolan) Havard and Jennifer (Bryan) Spotti; 17 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; along with numerous nieces and nephews, and cousins who became more like siblings.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his adoptive and loving parents, Barton and Freda Massey; children James W. Ashmore, Mary Kimberly Trussell, Adrian Ashmore, Heather Greenslate; and twin brother, Arthur; and siblings, Edward and Joyce.

Services for Bro. Ashmore were held Aug. 22 at Thomas-Little Funeral Service, Inc., McDonald, Pa. Interment followed in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp., Pa.

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

SIS. ROSE SLOGO
• LODGE 265 •

SOUTHVIEW, Pa. — The members of Lodge 265 sadly report the Aug. 27, 2022, passing of Sis. Rose Teresa Slugo, 97, formerly of Southview, in Bridgeville Rehabilitation and Care Center, Bridgeville, Pa. Sis. Slugo was an Honorary SNPJ Member, having outlived her SNPJ life insurance policy in April 2021.

Sis. Slugo was born Dec. 16, 1924, a daughter of the late Antonius and Sophia Zevnik Tutin. She worked as a laborer for the former Canonsburg Pottery.

In addition to her SNPJ membership, she was a member of the former Guardian Angels Church. She enjoyed baking and playing bingo.

Surviving are her son, Leonard Slugo of Upper St. Clair, Pa.; a grandson, Sean Slugo (Missy Rolin) of Bridgeville; a great-grandchild, Alliegh Rose Slugo; a granddaughter-in-law, Tricia Slugo of Beaver Falls, Pa.; and a brother, Louis (Marceline) Tutin of Leesburg, Fla.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Tony W. Slugo Jr.; a grandson, Leonard Slugo Jr., in 2020; a daughter-in-law, Linda Slugo, in 2021; three sisters, Frances Suchoparski, Stephanie Zdovc, and Sophie Persutti; and three brothers, Tony, Joseph and Frank Tutin.

A blessing service for Sis. Slugo was held Aug. 30 at Coleman-Taylor Funeral Services, Cecil, Pa. Interment followed in Venice Cemetery, Cecil.

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

In Memory of Frank Mavrich

who passed away five years ago on Oct. 18, 2017



We love you & miss you very much

Amy, Katie, Jimmy, Jimmy, Rich & Emily

In Loving Memory



SOPHIE & TONY KREN

you are always in our hearts...

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.

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of August 2022

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A01	Joseph T. Popiden	06-23-2022	Corapolis, Pa.
A01	Lillian A. Kutcher	06-23-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
A18	Rose Marie Pfeiffer	05-19-2022	Baden, Pa.
1	Eleanor A. Prelesnik	10-11-2019	Vancouver, Wash.
2	Mary L. Hill	09-01-2021	Stanton, Neb.
2	Shirley M. Rauh	07-23-2022	Depue, Ill.
3	Thomas E. Krupa Jr.	04-22-2022	Huntington, W.Va.
6	Daniel Joseph Wasky	07-20-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
6	Margaret M. Danilo	07-17-2022	Finleyville, Pa.
31	Paul Tomsich	12-23-2019	Cortland, Ohio
87	Agnes Wanto	12-07-2021	Uniontown, Pa.
89	James W. Ashmore	08-11-2022	McDonald, Pa.
106	Lola B. Dresman	05-31-2022	Morgantown, W.Va.
106	Herman Peroni	10-10-2021	Imperial, Pa.
107	Amy Haberkorn	06-20-2022	St. Peters, Mo.
126	Robert L. McDonough	12-26-2019	Kirtland, Ohio
158	Joseph F. Petric Jr.	04-14-2021	Cleveland, Ohio
158	Gina M. Volpe	12-14-2020	Mentor, Ohio
254	Jerry L. Daugherty Jr.	07-02-2022	Conemaugh, Pa.
254	Walter J. Wiczorek	07-21-2022	Aliquippa, Pa.
257	Robert E. Holmok	07-24-2022	Parma, Ohio
358	Virginia D. Pastore	07-26-2022	Kent, Ohio
581	Edwin R. Bowser	05-25-2022	Punxsutawney, Pa.
584	Geraldine Wojnowski	05-20-2022	Franklin, Wis.
584	Janet M. Grigutis	05-22-2022	Waukegan, Ill.
603	Melva J. Volker	05-05-2022	Port Orange, Fla.
603	Catherine W. Ledger	07-18-2022	New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
715	Ruth Grant	05-14-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
721	Norbert J. Beiter	07-11-2022	Cheektowaga, N.Y.
749	Kathryn J. Butchko	07-20-2022	London, O.C.
776	Harry J. Golmont	07-25-2022	Lexington, S.C.
782	Frances V. Kandzer	06-07-2022	Aliquippa, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR
National Secretary/COO

information
at your fingertips

Looking for information on your SNPJ life insurance and annuity policies? Pay a visit to snpj.org, click the "PolicyView Login" link, and then follow the step-by-step instructions.



SNPJ Lodge 142 picnickers feasted on their choice of a clam or chicken bake while enjoying the music of the Eddie Rodick Orchestra, while the younger picnic attendees stayed busy taking their best shots at a rocket-shaped piñata.



A full slate of fall fun on the Lodge 142 schedule

by CAROL MARUSZAK
Lodge 142 Recording Secretary

CLEVELAND — SNPJ Region 3 Vice President Don Srnick hosted Slovenian Heritage Night at the Lake County Captains baseball game on Sept. 6 with over 100 seats sold. Miss SNPJ 1970 Patricia Hlebak Miskulin threw out the first pitch. She missed her calling as a professional baseball player! Mark Maruszak flew in from Chicago to attend the game.

Everyone who purchased a ticket received a very nice Slovenian heritage T-shirt donated by Monreal Srnick Funeral Home. Thank you, Jane, for your donation. It was an enjoyable evening, and the weather was “pitch-perfect!”

Lodge 142 hosted a successful clam and chicken bake at the SNPJ Farm on Sept. 11 with over 150 bakes sold. The Eddie Rodick Orchestra entertained the dancing crowd.

The Lodge officers worked hard to make the picnic a success. President Chris Bacnik undertook the booze cooler drawing (and other miscellaneous projects), Secretary Carol Bacnik and I kept track of the bakes, and Vice President

Kara Maruszak organized the kids’ activities.

It was nice to see so many young people at the picnic. The hit of the organized games for the kids was the rocket ship-shaped piñata. The children had fun swinging at the piñata, but had an even better time picking up all the candy that exploded from the rocket when it finally broke open! Thank you to everyone who attended, and to all the volunteers who helped make our picnic a success.

Youth Circle 94 is sponsoring a day at The Great Lakes Science Center on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Special pricing has been secured: adults, \$17; and youth ages 2-17, \$15. The admission ticket includes entry for both the Science Center and the IMAX Theater. Contact Carol Maruszak at (440) 655-8776 for tickets and more information.

Dr. Timothy Pogacar will present “From Gorenjsko to Gallup, New Mexico: Slovene writer Ivan Tavčar,” on Saturday, Nov. 19, starting at 2 p.m. at the Mentor Public Library and on Zoom. His discussion will focus on his translation of “The

Visoko Chronicle” written by Ivan Tavčar.

“The Visoko Chronicle” is a true story about two generations of the owners of the Visoko estate in the Duchy of Carniola, a predominantly Slovene province of the Habsburg Empire in the 17th century. The events of the estate and the fate of its owners are affected by witchcraft persecution, the mistreatment of Protestants, and the Thirty Years’ War.

These themes are key to the construction of a Slovene national identity, which was going through a decisive phase as Tavčar was writing. By the time the novel was released in 1919, the nation had left the Habsburg Crown for the new Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

Dr. Pogacar received a PhD in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of Kansas, and undergraduate degrees in Russian and Spanish from Georgetown University. He has translated widely from Russian and Slovenian, completing eight Slovenian-English book-length translations since 2013.

For more information on this presentation, and for the Zoom meeting link, contact Kara Maruszak at (440) 655-9376 or e-mail snpjcircle94@gmail.com.

The picnic season at the SNPJ Farm has come to an end with the celebration of the Grape Festival held Sept. 25. Carol Bacnik and I enjoyed working with the kitchen ladies (and gentlemen) during the picnic season under the keen eye of Gerri Trebets.

Gerri and her support staff kept the kitchen full of delicious roast beef, sausages, and her famous “Slovenian *krompir* (potatoes),” a favorite request from the crowd. The krofe prepared by Michael and Milan Tomsic, who learned the secrets of making krofe from their dad, Richard, were a sell-out every picnic.

Carol and I learned the ropes, and at the same time were able to socialize with the attendees and meet many new people. Thank you to the SNPJ Farm Ladies Auxiliary for keeping the tradition alive. Carol and I look forward to working in the kitchen again next year!

Family, friends, fun: The essence of SNPJ Recreation Center Family Week

by ANNEMARIE FINCH
Lodge 158

BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa. — Hot, humid and sometimes stormy weather didn’t discourage the families attending Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center from July 31-Aug. 6. Coming from as far as California and as near as Pittsburgh, family and friends gathered together for a week of music, crafts, swimming, balina and, of course, food. There was something for the young, as well as the young at heart.

Balina and bean bag tournaments were competitive, with a bit of bravado and fun-filled, tongue-in-cheek teasing. Although both tournaments were friendly, with the announcement of the grand prize each team stepped up their game.

The eye was on the prize: eight smoked Slovenian sausages from Cleveland’s own Rudy’s Meats, plus a pound of homemade sauerkraut, also from Rudy’s. The winning balina team was Gail and Jim Buchman with Janet and Carolyn Cugini. The bean bag tournament winners were Olivia and Gabriel Bucciarelli.

Traditionally, Wednesday afternoon is Heritage Day. The SNPJ Heritage Center museum and gift shop were open. Wine was enjoyed by the adults, and the cheese and cracker board was a hit with the younger attendees.

Conversations were held between adults and children letting them know where their ancestors were from, and memories were shared of their parents and grandparents. Museum displays documenting the early days of the Recreation Center were met with awe.

As families studied the displays, one could hear someone pointing to the place on the map where families migrated from, or someone saying “My mom/grandmother had one of those.” Squeals, and sometimes tears, were heard from a frightened child as he/she turned the corner to see the seven-foot Kurent prepared to scare away winter.

At a Family Week favorite, Karaoke Night, our youngest singers belted out show tunes with the confidence of a seasoned Vegas headliner. Not to be upstaged, talented family duets entertained the audience with classic ballads. The amusingly entertaining pop favorites, including backup dancers, wowed the crowd. Even a simple rendition of the ABC song got some applause. Despite some technical difficulties with the Wi-Fi, the evening was a success.

Thursday night, the Gostilna began filling early for Family Bingo. Bingo was a sellout; all 168 cards were sold and 10 games were played. Jim, our veteran caller, welcomed and mentored California Jack to his first try at calling. “O-76” was called and silence fell as players looked for the elusive “O-76.” Then laughter filled the Gostilna.

The hot, humid weather that started the week created a weather cell that was calling for severe storms. The Recreation Center staff made the decision: We couldn’t chance being out on a hay ride and the skies opening up. Unfortunately, the threat of bad weather canceled the hayride and bonfire. Individual families built fires at their cabin fire rings, and roasted marshmallows and made s’mores. Laughter could be heard from every cabin. The Recreation Center was spared a downpour, and the final evening ended with an amazing sunset of golds and lavender.

On Saturday morning, families packed their cars, hugged each other and drove away. As the cars slowly drove past the lake and cabins, shouts of “safe travels” and “see you next year” could be heard throughout Enon Valley.

For many of the attendees, this is the only time they meet up with family and friends from far away. It’s clear – and heartwarming – to know that SNPJ Family Week is where family and friends gather and memories are made.

Safe travels... and see you next year!



Family Week 2022 balina tournament winners [from left] **GAIL BUCHMAN** (A02), **JANET CUGINI** (6), **JIM BUCHMAN** (A02) and **CAROLYN CUGINI** (6).



Family Week 2022 bean bag tournament winners **OLIVIA** and **GABRIEL BUCCIARELLI** (564).



The next generation, keeping the SNPJ Family Week tradition going: [from left] **JOSEPHINE McLAUGHLIN**, **AMELIA MIKLAUCIC**, **RAYMOND SCHUTTE** and **OLIVIA MIKLAUCIC**, all Lodge 158 members.



A gorgeous sunset, the finale to a beautiful 2022 SNPJ Family Week.

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A twin win at the 2022 Slovenian Sausage Festival

by JOE VALENCIC (5)
Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame

KIRTLAND, Ohio — Azman’s Quality Meats earned a twin win at the 18th annual Slovenian Sausage Festival, held Sept. 14 and hosted by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum.

The smoked Slovenian sausage from the Euclid, Ohio, meat market won the Best of Fest Jury Award and scored as the People’s Choice as well. As the popular choice, Azman’s sausages will be served during the Polka Hall of Fame three-day Thanksgiving Polka Weekend festival at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence, Ohio.

Nearly 1,300 hungry music lovers enjoyed eight hours of polka music, perfect weather and savory sausages at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland. Fifty musicians and accordionists

volunteered their services for this fundraiser for the Polka Hall of Fame. Dozens more players brought their own instruments to participate in jam sessions under the trees.

Azman family members have been butchers for more than a century. Bill Azman’s sausages have twice accompanied astronaut Sunita Williams on the Space Shuttle.

The Slovenian sausage is a regional American specialty prepared from recipes brought to the United States by immigrants from Slovenia, where it is known as *Kranjska klobasa*. An estimated 2,000 sausages were purchased at this year’s festival.

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum celebrates the city’s unique genre of polka music. The Polka Music Awards Show is the highlight of the

Thanksgiving Polka Weekend, this year scheduled Nov. 25-27.

The Polka Hall of Fame is located at 605 East 222nd Street in Euclid, in the city’s

historic former city hall. The museum and gift shop are open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information phone (216) 261-3263 or visit PolkaFame.com.



Photo by Phil Hrvatin (5)

Marie Azman of Azman Quality Meats accepted both titles at the 18th annual Slovenian Sausage Festival sponsored by the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame. Banners were presented by Polka Hall of Fame Secretary Joe Wojtila, Vice President Joe Valencic, and President John Muhvic.



32nd Convention sets the course for the Society's future

32ND SNPJ CONVENTION FROM PAGE 1

by reducing our long-term interest guarantee risk.

We reduced expenses more than \$900,000 over the past four-year period compared to the previous four-year period. Our surplus, asset to liability ratio, and risk based capital ratio improved significantly. Surplus improved from approximately \$7 million in 2017 to more than \$12.5 million today.

The leadership of our current National Board throughout this period of oversight during an unprecedented global pandemic, while reducing expenses and putting the Society in its strongest financial position in several decades, was exceptional.

Our Society's key consultants addressed the delegation. These included Andrew Paone, CFA, managing director with Wellington Management, the firm that serves as the SNPJ asset manager. Consulting actuary Joseph Steimla also reported; as did Leo Hannah, CPA and partner with H2R, the Society's independent auditing firm.

Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia Alenka Jerak greeted the delegation and extended appreciation to SNPJ for all of the support, especially during Slovenia's declaration of independence in 1991. On behalf of the Slovenian government, Alenka presented me with the Memorial Medal which was awarded for contributions to the American recognition of the independent and sovereign Slovenia. In 1991, I led SNPJ's efforts for this cause. Alenka also recognized Joe Valencic, who previously received this honor.

Retiring National Board member Bro. Ken Anderson was recognized for his service to the Society. Ken served a term as Regional Director and as a member of the Finance Committee since 1999, for a total of 28 years on the National Board.

Retiring National Board member Bro. Jim Curl was also recognized for his service to the Society. Jim served on the SNPJ National Board for 30 years as a Regional Vice President. Both Ken and Jim received standing ovations from the delegation.

The Convention committees did an exceptional job preparing and presenting their reports to the Convention. The committee members are as follows: the Bylaws, Resolutions, and Compensation Committee, comprised of Bro. John Baselj (6), Bro. Jason Cadez (138), Sis. Daniella Volpe (158), Sis. Kathy Loudon (358), and Sis. Kaitlyn Chiappetta (559); and the Credentials Committee, comprised of Bro. David Sankovich (770), Sis. Wendy Kinney (106), Sis. Alyssa Urban (715), Sis. Rhonda Tesauro (603), and Sis. Jojo Braun (6).

The Tally Committee included Bro. Frank Wright (6), Sis. Dawn Klasnick (626), Sis. Meredith Maresh (449), Bro. Ed Robich (31), and Sis. Donna Sebusch (576).

The Young Adult delegates representing the SNPJ Young Adult Conference were Justin Rigler (449) and Jerome Petukauskas (33). Justin, who is serving as the Young Adult Representative to the National Board for the year, also attended the National Board meeting held Aug. 14, 2022.

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

We also thank the Home Office staff for their help preparing all the necessary materials for the delegation. The

successful efforts of Executive Assistant Peggy Cushman and Office Manager Ruth Wright, who also set up and staffed our onsite Convention office, were greatly appreciated.

There is a significant amount of work that goes into preparing for a Convention, and Sis. Pintar led the organizational efforts, which include travel, lodging and food service arrangements. Our SNPJ shuttle driver, Frank Wright, did a great job taking care of our delegates, along with a limo service. Kathy Paulenich, Cathy Kalenits, Amy Mavrich and Kathleen Sinan helped with the microphones during the meeting.

Our SNPJ Recreation Center staff and management, who include Director David Jones, Sue Krispinsky, Gary Ehasalu and Sue Zarella, did a commendable job preparing the facility for the Convention.

The Sunday reception at the Heritage Pavilion was a great success. The reception featured a traditional picnic/dance theme with food, including Strabane klobase, prepared by Jones Catering. The Polka Classics provided the musical entertainment for a fun evening. Music in the Gostilna on Monday evening was performed by the Garret Tatano Band.

Bro. Marty Kumer (715) got the last word of the Convention, although not by giving his usual articulate speech, but rather by leading the delegation in song to the words of the Beatles "All You Need Is Love." It was a fitting ending with a wonderful message, for which he also provided a polka beat version.

The delegation is to be commended for taking part in this important governance process and in making decisions that will be beneficial to the future success and sustainability of the SNPJ. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and participation in making the 32nd National Convention a success.



Retiring SNPJ National Board members Bro. **JIM CURL** [above], with 30 years of service, and Bro. **KEN ANDERSON** [below], with 28 years of service, were recognized during the 32nd Quadrennial Convention.



Lodge 449 donations benefit the local community

by TINA RIGLER
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer

CICERO, III. — Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 members met in person and via telephonic communication on Sept. 18. Secretary Tina Rigler read all correspondence and gave the financial report.

Tina reported that many Lodge members and friends attended Slovenefest this year. It was a great weekend and we were able to support Lanie Maresh, who was a contestant in the Miss SNPJ Pageant. The fireworks on Saturday night were spectacular and enjoyed by all. It was great seeing so many friends after two years of the pandemic closing down Slovenefest.

Lodge delegate Meredith Maresh gave a report regarding the SNPJ Convention held in August. She also reported that the bylaw submitted by Lodge 559 and supported by the Chicago District Federation, which allows surrogates to attend the SNPJ Young Adult Conferences as a delegate from another Lodge, with transportation to be reimbursed in full

with approval by the National Board, was approved by the Convention.

Justin Rigler reported on the recent Zoom call that he conducted among the SNPJ young adults and the discussions held. He will be reaching out to more young adults for the next Zoom call that will be held at the end of October. The next Young Adult Conference is scheduled June 16-18, 2023.

The young adults also discussed the return of the TEL Workshop next year, and are excited to bring the program back and to help out with the program.

Lanie Maresh reported on the Miss SNPJ Pageant, and what a great time she had as well as the friendships she made. Lanie was awarded the titles of runner-up to Miss Talent, Miss Activity and Miss SNPJ. Congratulations to Lanie!

She also told us about her trip to San Francisco where she met up with Michelle Von Merta-Sustarich (304), whom she had met through the Young Adult Conference and the Miss

SNPJ Pageant.

Tina Rigler reported on the cultural event hosted by the Chicago District Federation on Aug. 21 at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont, Ill. The event was the showing of "Polka! The Movie," at which young adult members from Lodge 449 worked the kitchen, serving Slovenian sausages, etc. It was a great event attended by Lodge members and friends.

Lodge members were able to collect food items, paper products and books to donate,

along with pop tabs, to the Ronald McDonald House in Chicago. These donations will be delivered by members in the near future. The donations are appreciated due to many people experiencing difficult times as loved ones are being cared for.

Vince Rigler and Patrick Maresh won the meeting awards.

Our next meeting will be held Nov. 20 starting at 1 p.m. This is our annual meeting and will include our holiday luncheon.



Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 members are planning a visit to the Ronald McDonald House in Chicago to drop off their donations of food, paper products and books.



Even the youngest SNPJ Lodge 34 members worked to support the Indianapolis Slovenski Fest by selling the krofe donated by the Lodge.

Lodge 34 krofe popular with Indy festival crowd

by JERRY WATSON
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

INDIANAPOLIS — *Dober dan!* Lodge 34 delegates Jerry and Jozef Watson attended the SNPJ Convention Aug. 14-15. The Convention was very informative. Thanks to Karen Pintar and her crew for an outstanding Convention.

On Aug. 20, Lodge 34 held their third quarterly meeting during the Slovenski Fest at the Slovenian National Home (SNH). Following the brief meeting, many Lodge members helped to make the festival a success. Some of our youngest mem-

bers were busy selling krofe; more than 150 krofe were sold. Our Lodge purchased the krofe and donated them to the SNH. It's always great to see many of our members actively involved in our Lodge activities!

Our fourth quarterly meeting will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4, at the SNH, 2717 West 10th St. At this meeting, our Lodge will be providing the Friday night dinner of ham and beans, corn bread, salad and dessert. Please plan to attend to enjoy the dinner and visit with your fellow Lodge members.

Our future, our youth

by MARTY KUMER
Lodge 715 President

UNIVERSAL, Pa. — How true is that headline? The only future for old guys like me is non-participation on our planet. But until then, I enjoy observing what's happening and giving advice when asked – and sometimes even when not asked.

Well, about our SNPJ Quadrennial Convention... It was well planned by the Home Office and streamlined into one short day. In the past, there were longer Conventions with challenges and drama. But as a delegate, they were sorta fun. We came out as a better SNPJ because of the

exchange of ideas. We had the same at this Convention.

Only two National Board positions were not elected by acclamation. The Region 2 Vice President position was contested, and I was impressed by both candidates.

The loser of that election was a lady with a long SNPJ family lineage and service to the SNPJ, including the Recreation Center Committee. One of her aims was to restore our youth programs. The winner of the election was a younger gentleman, president of Lodge 138, and a possible candidate for higher office. He assured me that he, too, wants to get youth more involved.

The loser of the second election was the challenger for a spot on the Audit Committee. She also wanted to revitalize our youth programs.

I must say, for their intentions these ladies are winners to me. Did I not write

"Our future, our youth"? Hopefully, these ladies will continue to be involved in the SNPJ.

But I extend my congratulations to the election winners. You will be worthy of our delegates' votes.

It seems the youth of today have it tougher than us kids of the past. Are they over-managed by their parents? Seems they have their noses into their "dumb" phones a lot, and they're not into face-to-face participation.

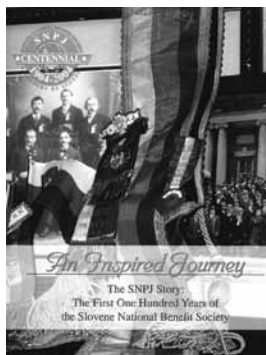
The SNPJ needs help from our kids' parents and grandparents to include SNPJ in their lives – just as my parents took my family to SNPJ picnics, and got me and my brothers into SNPJ golf tournaments.

As I've often said, growing the SNPJ is every member's job. We're an extended family. We call each other Brother and Sister. We may disagree on the details, but not on the goal: *perpetuation*. All we need is love!

SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the month of August 2022

SNPJ Lodge 31, Sharon, Pa. \$40
In memory of deceased member Paul Tomsich

Robert J. & Rose Marie Lawrence (138),
Strabane, Pa. \$25
In memory of Patricia Novak



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