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# For 2023, a new slate of Fontana Lodge 723 officers

by PAMELA PANDZA  
Lodge 723 Recording Secretary

**FONTANA, Calif.** — SNPJ Lodge 723 has survived many changes in the past several years. The most significant, surely, was the sale of the Slovene Hall on Cypress Ave.

The site, with all of its host organizations and activities that thrived throughout many generations, was more than a building to many of us — it was a place that called to our souls through camaraderie, music, food, unique experiences, entertainment, and work planned, then accomplished.

We may not have articulated a mission statement in a formal sense, but I believe we shared

the spirit of embracing a place to honor cultural traditions and enjoy friendships in a unique environment. It wasn't just a bar, a restaurant, a dance hall, a meeting place or a game center, it was all of those things and more.

Facing challenges of the economy, changing demographics, and finally the restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic, it was more and more difficult to maintain the classic building and property on Cypress, home to the former SNPJ Lodge 569 (Slovene speaking) and then the English speaking SNPJ Lodge 723.

The Hall was sold to the City of Fontana for their future use as a community event center. The officers and membership of Lodge 723 have

been continuing to meet at various locations to work on two main issues: how to make the best use of the sale proceeds, and how to move forward as a Lodge organization.

The Wood family members have served as officers of the Lodge for an extended period, including through some challenging times. They announced at the Nov. 17, 2022, meeting that they would not run for any office in the year to come. So the future of Lodge 723 at that point sat on the brink.

Alas, some members present came forth to agree to accept nominations, and a vote was

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## briefly

### Home Office closed as we celebrate the New Year

**IMPERIAL, Pa.** — The SNPJ Home Office will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in celebration of the New Year. Normal office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., will resume Tuesday, Jan. 3. We wish all SNPJ members and friends the very best in the new year!

### Lodge 776 plans January meeting to open the year

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — SNPJ Lodge 776 will hold its regular meeting on Sunday, Jan. 15, starting at 2 p.m. at the SNPJ Recreation Center.

We held our annual meeting and Christmas dinner at the Recreation Center, enjoying the meal prepared by Recreation Center Director David Jones. During the meeting, members elected the following officers: President John Pierog, Vice President Rich Dombrosky, Secretary Ed Snyder, Recording Secretary Rich Dombrosky, and auditors Mary Jo Nahod, Madeleine Kerr and Henrietta Snyder. Members also contributed donations for the local food bank.

We hope to see you at the SNPJ Recreation Center for the Jan. 15 meeting.

**VERONICA DOMBROSKY**  
Lodge 776 Recording Secretary

## THE DEADLINE

The next two *PROSVETA* issue dates are Feb. 1 and March 1. All material must be received by noon on Monday, Jan. 16, for the Feb. 1 issue, and by Monday, Feb. 13, for the March 1 issue. If you're concerned about making the deadline, send an e-mail to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com) or submit your material via the publications area of our website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).



Submitted by Francine Zizelman (614)

### Sharing Fond Memories of MPZ Circle 3

Members of the former MPZ Circle 3 gathered for a reunion during the annual Grape Festival hosted by the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio, on Sept. 25, 2022. Lots of pictures, memories and laughs were shared by the MPZ Circle 3 members. Many thanks to those who attended the event — what a great time!

# Nov. elections launch Lodge 581 into the New Year

by MARCIA KLANCER BLEGGI  
Lodge 581 Secretary/Treasurer

**ST. MARYS, Pa.** — During the most recent meeting, held Nov. 13, 2022, Lodge 581 members elected new officers and set plans for 2023 activities and projects.

The officers elected are Pat Moore, president and vice president; Marcia Bleggi, secretary/treasurer; and auditors John Moore, Bill Grol-

emund and John Troha.

These officers will be sworn in at our first meeting of 2023, scheduled Feb. 5 at Wildwoods in St. Marys starting at 12:30 p.m. A polka dance sponsored by the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters will follow, featuring Larry Lewicki from Olean, N.Y.

We received the SNPJ calendars and are distributing them throughout the county. Hope-

fully they keep us on schedule!

Lodge 581 members helped set up and clean up for the Historical Society annual dinner held Dec. 4, and co-sponsored a Christmas party with the North Central Pennsylvania Polka Boosters.

John Moore, and John and Nick Odonish

**SEE LODGE 581 ELECTIONS**  
ON PAGE 2

# Lodge 449 sets their 2023 schedule, anticipates return of TEL Workshop

by TINA RIGLER  
Lodge 449 Secretary/Treasurer

**CICERO, Ill.** — Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 held its annual meeting on Nov. 20, 2022, with 10 members and one guest in attendance.

Secretary Tina Rigler read all communications received from the SNPJ Home Office and gave a financial report. An annual audit will be scheduled prior to the next meeting.

Secretary Rigler also reported on the correspondence and information regarding the SNPJ TEL (Teens Experience Leadership) Workshop that will be brought back in 2023 if there is enough participation. Discussion was held regarding the members from our Lodge

between the ages of 13 and 17. Tina has reached out to the parents of each of these members who qualify to attend the TEL Workshop in 2023.

A motion was made and passed by the Lodge to submit all the youth members who qualify to attend and who are interested. Members eligible to attend include Alenka Rus, Jakob Rus, Adam Rus, Roman Vucinic, Maja Vucinic, Katherine Potter, William Potter and Sonja Dolgan. This is a great opportunity, and we hope more youth will participate in this program.

As a notice to all Lodge members, Lodge 449 will be meeting four times in 2023. The

**SEE LODGE 449 SCHEDULE**  
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## Call for Candidates SNPJ Heritage Center Committee

Notice is hereby given regarding the opening of nominations for candidates to the SNPJ Heritage Center Committee. The Heritage Center is located in the Borough of SNPJ, Pa. Committee members will be selected by the SNPJ National Board at the March 24, 2023, meeting and will serve a four-year term.

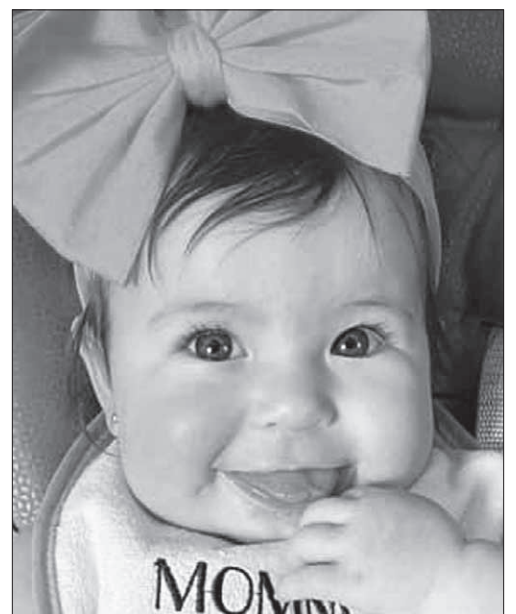
### Qualifications

Successful candidates should:

- be members of SNPJ for a period of at least two years
- be members in good standing
- have an interest in the Slovenian language, history and culture
- enjoy working with people and explaining the displays throughout the SNPJ Heritage Center
- present ideas for the improvement of the SNPJ Heritage Center
- perform docent duties on a rotating schedule from April through October
- be available to attend 8 to 10 meetings per year
- be able to attend approximately 8 work days per year, or more as needs require
- mileage reimbursement paid up to a 100-mile radius of the SNPJ Recreation Center

Please forward names and qualifications by March 17, 2023, to:

**Joseph C. Evanish**  
SNPJ National President  
247 West Allegheny Road  
Imperial, PA 15126  
Fax: (724) 695-1555  
e-mail: [pcushman@snpj.com](mailto:pcushman@snpj.com)



### Hailyn Grace Wiser

Born Feb. 23, 2022

St. Marys, Pa., Lodge 581

SNPJ Lodge 581 welcomes Hailyn Grace Wiser as the newest addition to the Lodge. Hailyn is the daughter of Tyler and Saydie Moore (581) Wiser, great-granddaughter of John and Patricia Moore (581), and little sister of Harper (581). We welcome Hailyn to the Society and extend our best wishes to her entire family.



follow SNPJ on **Facebook!**

Make [snpj.org](http://snpj.org)  
your first stop for  
SNPJ information  
on the go.  
Scan the code  
to get started.





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## SNPJ NATIONAL BOARD

**Executive Committee:**  
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT/CEO**  
Joseph C. Evanish

**NATIONAL SECRETARY/COO**  
Karen A. Pintar

**NATIONAL TREASURER/CFO**  
Robert J. Lawrence

**Correspondence received at:**  
247 West Allegheny Road  
Imperial, PA 15126-9774

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

### Finance Committee:

**Robert Lawrence, Secretary**  
**Joseph C. Evanish**

**Roger C. Clifford, Chairman**  
568 Lang Rd.  
Sewickley, PA 15143

**Richard Hervol**  
183 Wylie Ave.  
Strabane, PA 15363

**Tracey Anderson**  
1014 Edgewood Dr.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

### Audit Committee:

**Joanna L. Baker, Chairwoman**  
301 Cactus Rd.  
Gallup, NM 87301

**Vincent Baselj**  
1001 Grandview Ave., Apt. 903  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

**Kenneth J. Zakraysek**  
106 Queens Row, P.O. Box 137  
Elton, PA 15934

### Regional Vice Presidents:

**Region 1: Maurice M. Sinan Jr.**  
116 Shady Oak Dr.  
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

**Region 2: Jason J. Cadez**  
179 Alexander Ave.  
Strabane, PA 15363

**Region 3: Donald F. Srnick**  
29254 Chardon Rd.  
Willoughby Hills, OH 44092

**Region 4: Justina Rigler**  
1116 Berkley Ln.  
Lemont, IL 60439

**Region 5: Fred Mlakar**  
13592 Onkayha Cir.  
Irvine, CA 92620

**SNPJ Recreation Center**  
270 Martin Road  
Enon Valley, PA 16120  
(724) 336-5180 • fax (724) 336-6716  
Toll-free: 1-877-767-5732  
website: [www.snpjrec.com](http://www.snpjrec.com)  
e-mail: [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com)

# West Point Lodge 358 looking back as the New Year dawns

by KATHY LOUDON  
Lodge 358 Secretary/Treasurer

**WEST POINT, Ohio** — Lodge 358 in West Point would like to wish everyone a happy New Year!

It seems like just yesterday when our little Lodge met for a spring luncheon. We were looking forward to New Year 2022 filled with all the joy the word “summer” means to people in our part of the country. We know we need to make the most of our warm-weather months here.

We spent a lot of our summer at the SNPJ Recreation Center this past year. If you haven’t visited the grounds there lately, check it out. Whether you like to swim, fish, enjoy the fraternal warmth of the Gostilna, have a nice meal, just relax in the serene beauty of nature – or polka! – you should stop by.

After our June meeting we enjoyed a dip in the pool and ate a plentiful meal in the Gostilna. A perfect summer day!

In the spring, Lodge members decided to do something to help the people of Ukraine. We held a drawing over Labor Day weekend, and all proceeds were donated to

a well-established fund to benefit Ukraine. We were delighted to be joined by Miss SNPJ 2023 Madison Sinan. She graced our table with her warm smile and always-positive attitude. Many thanks to Madison!

Our drawing was successful because of personal donations from the members of our little Lodge. Thank you all for your generosity of time and goods. And of course, a drawing fundraiser will not work without those willing to take a chance and buy a ticket. Your purchases are truly appreciated!

This being the season of giving, our Lodge also decided to share some warmth with those who could use a little during our Ohio winter. We purchased hats, scarves and gloves, and donated these to The Brightside Project. This is a local organization that helps to meet the basic needs of children with food, clothing and personal care items. Their goal is to empower children and give them hope for the future.

Good tidings to you and yours! We wish you peace and joy during this holiday season and throughout the New Year!



During National SNPJ Days weekend, Lodge 358 members, with the assistance of Miss SNPJ 2023 Madison Sinan, conducted a drawing to benefit the people of Ukraine. Pictured (from left) are **HOWARD LOUDON, KATHY LOUDON, MADISON SINAN** and **SARAH LOUDON**.



More recently, Lodge 358 members purchased hats, scarves and gloves, donating these items to The Brightside Project.

## Toy drive, elections close out the year for Lodge 559

by KAITLYN CHIAPPETTA  
Lodge 559 President

**CHICAGO** — Happy 2023! We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season with friends and family. Our Lodge definitely did!

We held a toy drive during our November meeting to kick off the holiday season. Members donated toys to the Toys for Tots campaign at our local VFW hall. We enjoyed our meeting at the McCook Family Restaurant, which is now under the ownership of a woman of Slovenian descent.

Our November meeting was also our annual meeting for election of officers. All officers were reelected to their current positions: President/Recording Secretary Kaitlyn Chiappetta, Vice President/Sergeant-at-Arms/Auditor Geri Matiassek, Secretary/Treasurer Melanie Matiassek, and auditor Mike Vidmar.

In December we attended the Chicago Federation annual Christmas party. The Federation did a great job, as usual, hosting the event. We enjoyed the Slovenian sausage meals, although I may be biased since I was recruited to work in the

kitchen at the event! I was happy to take a turn working the event so that others had a chance to truly enjoy the event this year.

The Christmas music, bingo games, drawing, talent show by youth members, and appearance by Santa all made the event a wonderful start to December and the Christmas season. The Consul General of Slovenia also made the journey from Cleveland to celebrate with us.

Our upcoming meeting dates for 2023 are March 10, May 12, Sept. 9 and Nov. 10. All meetings will start at noon at the McCook Family Restaurant.

At our March meeting we will have a food drive, and at our November meeting we will hold a toy drive. Please e-mail our Lodge secretary, [mjmatiassek@gmail.com](mailto:mjmatiassek@gmail.com), if you want to be added to our e-mail list to be notified of any changes to our schedule or for more information about our activities scheduled throughout the year. You can also check our Facebook page for updates, *SNPJ Lodge 559*. I hope to see you all soon!



The Lodge 559 toy drive conducted during the November meeting resulted in a generous donation to the local Toys for Tots campaign.

## SNPJ Home Office Position Available Fraternal Director

SNPJ is accepting resumes for the part-time position of Fraternal Director for the administration, management and oversight of SNPJ athletic tournaments and fraternal programs. Some duties can be completed remotely; however, several of the programs (approximately six) are weekend activities that require in-person oversight. Much of the work is administrative in nature.

This position promotes and administers the following SNPJ programs:

- SNPJ Athletic Tournaments (National Bowling, National Golf, National Balina, National Bean Bag, Winter Classic Bowling, Fall Classic Bowling, CAL Don Gorjup Golf, Family Twosome Bowling), working with tournament secretaries, volunteers and the SNPJ National Athletic Board
- Young Adult Conference
- Miss SNPJ Pageant
- SNPJ TEL Workshop
- Youth Circles/youth activities
- Slovenefest children's games
- SNPJ Lodge Bonus Program
- Regional Fraternal Activities
- Communication with SNPJ Lodge secretaries on special activities

### Position Requirements:

- Familiarity with SNPJ programs helpful
- Effective communication and presentation skills, including virtual communication
- Experience with event planning and administration
- Good administrative skills necessary
- Proficiency in Microsoft software (Office, Word, Excel, etc.)

### Compensation (part-time position):

- To be determined by qualifications and experience

Forward resume and letter of interest to:

**Joseph C. Evanish, National President/CEO**  
**Slovene National Benefit Society**  
247 West Allegheny Road  
Imperial, PA 15126  
Fax: (724) 695-1555  
e-mail: [snpjjobs@snpj.com](mailto:snpjjobs@snpj.com)

## St. Marys Lodge 581 setting activities schedule for the year

### LODGE 581 ELECTIONS FROM PAGE 1

continue to entertain in Kane and Sheffield, Pa., for the senior citizens. Their polka group performed on Nov. 13 when the band scheduled for the Polka Boosters dance was unable to play. They were great!

The Polka Boosters are planning a dance on April 16 featuring the famous Mollie B and Squeeze Box with Ted Lange at the Johnsonburg

Fire Hall. Make your reservations today with Pat Moore by phoning (814) 837-9218. Check the SNPJ Lodge 581 Facebook page for more information.

We welcome all Lodge 581 members to our Feb. 5 meeting at the Wild-woods. We're planning our activities for 2023, and welcome new faces and new ideas! For more information contact Lodge Secretary/Treasurer Marcia Bleggi at (814) 335-4983.

## 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 ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to:  
**PROSVETA**  
247 W. Allegheny Road  
Imperial, PA 15126-9774  
e-mail: [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com)

# Up-and-Coming...

## A look at events planned by the Slovene National Benefit Society

- JAN. 1 ..... SNPJ Westmoreland County (Pa.) Federation New Year's Day dance, 2-5 p.m. at the Slovenian Hall, Yukon, Pa. Entertainment by the Skovenski Band.
- JAN. 21 ..... Tony Verbick Memorial Fraternal Bowling Tournament (9-pintap) at Lucky Lanes, 51st and Howard, Milwaukee; starting at 11 a.m. Open to members of SNPJ, KSKJ, CFU and Sloga. Five-man team entry fee is \$85; entries and payment due Jan. 5. For details contact Mary Donovan at (414) 405-0532.
- FEB. 17-19 ..... SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament co-hosted by Sygan, Pa., Lodge 6 and Strabane, Pa., Lodge 138.
- FEB. 24-25 ..... Florida SNPJ Days hosted by Samsula, Fla., Lodge 603.
- MAY 6-7 ..... SNPJ National Bowling Tournament at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. Games will be bowled at Colonial Lanes, New Castle, Pa.
- MAY 27 ..... CAL Don Gorjup Golf Open at Rolling Green Golf Course, Huntsburg, Ohio. For information contact Rick Gorjup at (440) 354-5001 or (440) 773-3233.
- JUNE 16-18 ... SNPJ Young Adult Conference at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For registration and event details contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675.
- JULY 7-9 ..... The 40th Slovenefest and the 65th Miss SNPJ Pageant at the SNPJ Recreation Center. For more information phone the Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- JULY 30-AUG. 5 .... Family Week at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For additional information phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732.
- SEPT. 1-3 ..... National SNPJ Days weekend at the SNPJ Recreation Center, Borough of SNPJ, Pa. For details phone the SNPJ Recreation Center toll-free at 1-877-767-5732 or e-mail [snpj@snpjrec.com](mailto:snpj@snpjrec.com).



We've Got You  
COVERED



by GINA WISE  
SNPJ Marketing Manager

# And the winning numbers are...

If you were caught up in Powerball mania this past November, you weren't alone. Many of us were day-dreaming about all the things we could do with the \$2.04 billion jackpot. It was enough money to fulfill our wildest dreams, the wildest dreams of our loves ones, and still be able to provide significant support to our favorite charities. We were excited about the prospect of trading our alarm clocks, rush hour traffic and schedules for a life where our only worry would be if the tide was gonna reach our chair.

Our angst about higher food, fuel and appliance prices would quickly fade once the first check arrived. Our apprehension about our stock market investments would turn to indifference as the checks continued to roll in.

Whether you are an enthusiastic player who sits on the edge of your seat while the numbers are being drawn, or a more laid-back player who waits to pull the numbers up on your phone the next morning over a cup of coffee, I think we would all agree that even a fraction of that jackpot would have been life changing.

Unfortunately, there was only one winning ticket, and unless you were the lucky person who bought it, you aren't enjoying any of that massive prize. You aren't living the life of luxury you were anticipating, and you must continue to go to work and put money away for your future – your future that is now minus a yacht because someone in California was extremely fortunate.

All is not lost, however! SNPJ has WINNING NUMBERS that don't involve 1 in 292,201,338 odds. These numbers can be enjoyed by everyone, and we can all reap the benefits of them.

Effective January 1, 2023, SNPJ has increased the rates on our annuities. These WINNING NUMBERS are going to help your hard-earned money work for you, to grow your savings even faster; a savings that if you start early enough can turn dreams into reality:

<b>Loyalty 8 Annuity</b>	
First-year guarantee rate for new money .....	4.50%
Rate in years two and after (non-guaranteed) .....	3.50%
Minimum guarantee.....	3.00%

<b>Loyalty 5 Annuity</b>	
First-year guarantee rate for new money .....	4.00%
Rate in years two and after (non-guaranteed) .....	3.25%
Minimum guarantee.....	3.00%

Like playing the Powerball, you will need to determine the amount of money to put in. Current SNPJ members who are already the insured on a life insurance policy, or the owner of an annuity, can open a new Loyalty Annuity for just \$25 per month or \$300 per year. If you are considering becoming an SNPJ member through the purchase of an annuity, you are required to make a \$2,000 minimum deposit.

Unlike playing the Powerball, an SNPJ Loyalty Annuity **guarantees** a return on your money. Our fixed annuities provide you the opportunity to earn interest while protecting your investment. Your annuity's growth remains tax-deferred until withdrawal.\* And those withdrawals can be made periodically at your request, at scheduled intervals, or you can annuitize the funds for guaranteed income for life.

Once your annuity is opened, you can continue to add to it enthusiastically, or you can take a more laid-back approach and just let your initial investment continue to grow.

Setting money aside in an annuity now will provide you an additional resource to tap for whatever life brings. Whether you do it to protect some of your retirement from the stock market's ups and downs, to help offset future inflation, or use it to fulfill a dream, you should take advantage of our WINNING NUMBERS and open an annuity today!

SNPJ annuities can be opened as non-qualified (unlimited savings opportunity), or as a Traditional or Roth IRA (subject to IRS yearly contribution limits). We also accept rollovers or transfers of funds from other plans.

Speak with your local SNPJ agent or Lodge secretary, or call the Home Office at 1-800-843-7675 to learn more.

*\*Withdrawals from an annuity prior to age 59½ may also be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty imposed by the IRS.*

*SNPJ does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Consult with a tax, legal or accounting professional regarding your specific situation.*



New Year, New Rates

Ring in the new year with our increased rates!  
Contact the SNPJ Home Office at 1-800-843-7675  
to open your SNPJ Loyalty Annuity TODAY!

<b>Loyalty 8 Annuity</b> 8-year surrender period <b>4.50%</b> first-year <i>guarantee</i> rate for new money 3.50% in years two and after	<b>Loyalty 5 Annuity</b> 5-year surrender period <b>4.00%</b> first-year <i>guarantee</i> rate for new money 3.25% in years two and after
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**All rates listed above effective January 1, 2023**

- No fees attached to either Loyalty Annuity
- Rates not guaranteed after the first year
- **3.00%** guaranteed minimum on **new issues only** beginning 1/1/2023
  - IRAs/Roth IRA/non-qualified eligible
- Conversions of existing annuities available at first-year rates

Annuities issued since September 2003 will see a rate increase effective January 1, 2023, as follows:  
**3.50% for 8-year annuity**  
**3.25% for 5-year and 2-year annuity**

**Slovene National Benefit Society**  
247 West Allegheny Road • Imperial, PA • 15126  
1-800-843-7675 • www.snpj.org

## Slovenians elect their first female president

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — Nataša Pirc Musar, a 54-year-old attorney, was elected Slovenia's first female president after defeating former Foreign Minister Anže Logar in the Nov. 13 election run-off, garnering 53.86 percent of the vote.

A newcomer to politics, Pirc Musar is a household name in Slovenia, having served two terms as the country's first Information Commissioner and several years as a news anchor. She is well known for her advocacy of human rights.

Pirc Musar, who describes herself as a "left liberal," was not affiliated with any political party, but was endorsed by two former presidents ahead of the first round of voting, and by the two largest ruling coalition parties prior to the November run-off.

In her first address as president-elect, Pirc Musar pledged to work hard for human rights and democracy. "I will do my best to truly be the president of all; I will work hard for the fundamental human rights, constitutional rights and democracy."

Announcing that her first move as president would be to host a meeting with the leaders of parliamentary parties, she promised to "make maximum effort that all of us in politics will reach unity on strategic issues," pointing to human security, quality healthcare, and the need to tackle climate change.

Her opponent, Anže Logar, congratulated Pirc Musar, expressing hope that she would keep her promise to be the president of all Slovenians. "This is what Slovenia needs now more than ever," he said, hoping the new president would serve as a unifying force. Logar believes that Pirc Musar will be a "good president if she lends an ear to us – all of us – and will have our support in bridging differences."

Pirc Musar congratulated Logar on his campaign, saying they had spent five months together, so she had, in a way, accepted him as a friend. "We have proven to Slovenia that respectful communication is possible. I think this is what Slovenia expects of statesmen, politicians," she said, expressing her hope that Logar would carry on with his rhetoric because Slovenia needed such politicians.

Former presidents Milan Kučan and Danilo Türk, who endorsed Pirc Musar as she announced her presidential campaign, said her election marked the arrival of a new generation of politicians who can take the country forward.

Pirc Musar took office as Slovenia's fifth president on Dec. 23 from incumbent Borut Pahor, whose second five-year term expired Dec. 22.

## UNESCO recognizes beekeeping in Slovenia

**RABAT, Morocco (STA)** — The beekeeping tradition in Slovenia has been added to the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, according to a decision made by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage during its Dec. 1 session.

Slovenia's nomination, titled "Beekeeping in Slovenia, a Way of Life," was coordinated by the Culture Ministry, which announced the decision.

Ministry representatives said that the bid demonstrated the richness of the beekeeping tradition in Slovenia, its long history and traditional expressions, as well as the extensive skills, knowledge and practices handed down from generation to generation. "With its immovable and movable heritage, beekeeping is strongly embedded in Slovenia, and in modern times also being developed is beekeeping in urban environments, as well as apitherapy and apiturism," they added.

The nomination was based on intangible cultural heritage units that were entered on the Slovenian list of registered intangible heritage between 2018 and 2020. These units include beekeeping; the painting of beehive panels; mobile beekeeping; the production of beehives and apiaries; the breeding of Carniolan honey bee queens; apitherapy; and the production of wooden models, gingerbreads and *licitars* [honey dough cookies].

Participating in the preparation of the nomination were experts from the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum in Ljubljana, the Beekeeping Museum in Radovljica, and the Beekeeping Association of Slovenia.

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee made its first review of the bid in the beginning of November,



saying that it noted "the links between intangible heritage and environmental sustainability."

## Lipizzan breeding gets UNESCO recognition too

**RABAT, Morocco (STA)** — The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage has placed the tradition of Lipizzaner horse breeding in Slovenia and seven other countries on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The decision was made during a committee session held in Rabat on Dec. 1, after the beekeeping tradition in Slovenia received the same recognition.

The approval followed a renewed nomination of Lipizzaner horse breeding filed by Slovenia on behalf of eight countries that maintain this tradition: Slovenia, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovakia. The Slovenian Culture Ministry, which coordinated the nomination, said that the Lipizzaner horse had played a symbolic role in all eight countries for centuries and still represented many communities today.

The nomination included a broad spectrum of cultural and social practices, knowledge and skills, as well as oral traditions, celebrations and equestrian sports related to Lipizzaner breeding. The Culture Ministry noted that the effort had brought together representatives of national stud farms and private breeders, experts in intangible heritage, culture experts, researchers, and local communities.

When the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee evaluation body gave its first nod of approval at the beginning of November, it indicated that the bid represented the "close cooperation of eight countries in the spirit of mutual understanding."

Lipizzaner horse breeding thus joins beekeeping, the Škofja Loka Passion Play, the Shrovetide Kurentovanje custom, bobbin lace making and dry stone walls as examples of heritage in Slovenia that have made it to the UNESCO representative list.

## Olm protection center set up under Kranj

**KRANJ (STA)** — A new information center, SOSProteus, has been set up in the tunnels under Kranj to educate the public on the protection of the olm. The center, which is a joint project of the Tular Cave Laboratory and the Kranj municipality, opened to the public in early December and features a display of live olms.

The Tular Cave Laboratory has been researching and protecting olms for more than 60 years. "Our main focus is to observe the olm and understand its life in a semi-natural habitat since it is inaccessible to us in its underground habitat," said lab director Gregor Aljančič.

The project partners hope that the new information center with its permanent olm display will allow them to reach the public and raise awareness about the fact that the olm and other cave animals are endangered by groundwater pollution.

"The olms will not simply be a tourist attraction; they will also serve as a symbol of protecting cave biodiversity and sources of drinking water, said Aljančič.

The Slovenian Environment Agency has approved the extraction of eight olms from nature, five white and three black specimens. Only a few of these will be on display at any given time, Aljančič said, adding that two were currently in the aquarium. He noted that the olms were not removed from their natural habitats. Rather, these are olms that were destined to die after flood waters rushed them out of their underground habitat – they get trapped on the surface and will either dry out or be eaten by birds.

All profits from admission fees will benefit research to ensure the future of the Tular lab. Aljančič hopes that they will be able to attract new researchers since fewer than 10 worldwide are currently studying olms.

The tunnels under Kranj are only the second olm display in the country, along with the Postojna Cave.

The information center is a result of a public-private partnership between the Tular Cave Laboratory and the Kranj

Tourism and Culture Board, which contributed around 200,000 euros (\$209,000) to the project.

Kranj Tourism and Culture Board Director Klemen Malovrh noted that the center was a unique attraction that would present the olm in a different, sustainable manner since every visitor will contribute to the research and protection of this mysterious animal.

## Music Academy moves to a new premises

**LJUBLJANA (STA)** — The University of Ljubljana Academy of Music hosted a ceremony in mid-November celebrating its move into new premises in the newly renovated Kazina, a 19th-century mansion located on the corner of Slovenska Street and Congress Square. Opening day activities, including concerts and other events, followed on Nov. 25.

Leading up to the start of the academic year on Oct. 1 and prior to moving into Kazina, the academy was operating from nine separate locations, so staff and students are immensely happy that the academy has finally moved into adequate premises. Still, the 5,000-square-meter (approx. 54,000-square-foot) space in Kazina isn't enough for the academy's 400 students, so portions of the students' training will continue a stone's throw away in Vegova Street.

However, these students will also move into Kazina once an addition providing a concert hall and more classrooms is completed at the rear of the building. Construction hasn't yet begun, but media reports indicate the addition should be finished sometime in 2028.

Apart from several lecture halls and classrooms, the new premises also feature the academy's own studio, which is connected to all performance halls and enables recording of any events hosted there. Practice rooms are also available to students at Kazina, which wasn't the case before. "Each student can now schedule two hours of practice time per day," academy Dean Marko Vatovec said; adding, however, that "three hours are the bare minimum."

The premises also feature six smart classrooms, designed as part of an international project involving the Vienna Academy of Music and Arts and the Conservatory of Music Giuseppe Tartini in Trieste, Vatovec said.

Academy classrooms are equipped with microphones, cameras, and a special internet connection that prevents delay. This has allowed the academy to host a concert featuring a soloist in Ljubljana, the orchestra in Trieste, and audiences in two separate Kazina halls.

The renovation, funded by the University of Ljubljana, totaled EUR 38.2 million (\$39.85 million); a considerable increase over the EUR 25.2 million (\$26.3 million) planned when the project was launched in 2014.

## Local puppetry the focus of new Maribor museum

**MARIBOR (STA)** — The Maribor Puppet Theatre opened a puppet museum near the central Maribor market in late November to showcase the history of puppetry in Maribor, and offer a space to learn through play and creativity. The exhibition is open to visitors of all ages and is also available in English.

The museum presents the history of the Maribor Puppet Theatre, which has been active professionally for nearly 50 years, while amateur puppeteers started performing even earlier with the first marionette theatre in Maribor, founded in 1922.

While the Puppet Museum in Ljubljana focuses on national puppetry history, the museum in Maribor focuses on local productions. The museum features key artists from each decade, as well as the technology that has been developed over time. Different types of puppets, costumes and scenery span from the first show, "Flying Cow," which premiered in 1974, to modern creations.

A portion of the exhibition is dedicated to sculptor, woodcarver and puppet maker Anton Jezovšek (1905-1992), whose puppets are still used today. Visitors can play with some of the puppets. Every Sunday, workshops for children will be scheduled in the creative space adjacent to the museum.

The museum will welcome a digital upgrade in March, made possible through the cooperation of the Network of Art and Cultural Research Centers.

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



# Chicago Federation celebrates the holiday season

by MELANIE MATIASEK (559)  
Chicago Federation

**CHICAGO** — Happy New Year to all! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas season.

The Chicago Federation held its annual Christmas party on Dec. 3 at the Slovenian Catholic Center in Lemont, Ill. It was wonderful to see all the Lodges represented.

We were entertained by youth members from Lodges 1 and 449: Alenka Rus played the flute and performed Christmas songs, as did her brothers, Adam and Jakob Rus, who also played the clarinet and saxophone. Lodge 1 youth members Penelope and Alexandra Hernandez performed Christmas songs and played the piano and drums. They all did a great job!

We also had a surprise guest at the party. Consul General Alenka Jerak from Cleveland was in town and joined in the festivities. She spoke fondly of us carrying on the Slovenian heritage in the United States.

Vince Rigler performed and led us in Christmas songs to entice Santa to arrive. Santa then joined us, and did a great job talking with the children and adults to prepare his list for Christmas deliveries. Thank you to Santa and to

Vince for getting us all in the Christmas spirit.

We also presented Marianne Murray with flowers and thanked her for her 35 years of service as Federation secretary. She did a wonderful job, and it was nice to see her just relax and enjoy the party this year.

We all had a wonderful time socializing, eating Slovenian sausages and playing games. We thank young adults Kaitlyn Chiapetta and her friend, Kevin Doherty, for working in the kitchen, and Jason Rigler for tending bar.

Carmella Smidl and Melanie Matiassek prepared plates of baked goods for purchase; the bakery was donated by Carmella Smidl, Tina Rigler, Ed Dabrowski, Marianne Murray, Geri Matiassek and Melanie Matiassek. Ed Dabrowski took many photographs and printed them on-site so that we could take them home; thank you Ed!

The party was organized by Tina Rigler, who deserves acknowledgment and our gratitude for all she did to plan a successful Christmas party.

From the Chicago Federation to all SNPJ Lodges, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!



[Above] Members attending the Chicago Federation annual Christmas party had the opportunity to share their wish lists with Santa.

[Below] Former Chicago Federation Secretary **MARIANNE MURRAY** (left), pictured with Slovenian Consul General **Alenka Jerak**, was recognized for 35 years of service to the Federation.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Presentation outlines the 1913 Italian Hall Disaster in Calumet, Mich.

When I'm asked about the SNPJ organization, I am proud to say that the roots are deep in the social, educational and fraternal immigrant community of the mining, steel and automotive industries during a time of progress in the movement in America to protect workers in dangerous professions, provide for the families in the event of loss, and offer education to the immigrants who came to this country to provide a better life for their families.

As a child, I grew up listening to members speaking other languages as they shared stories, sang, and danced polkas or waltzes to accordion music. Sports provided a common activity, and balina was introduced at summer picnics, along with children's games. It seemed that the weddings, grape dances and annual children's Christmas parties included all children of members and friends.

The various SNPJ Lodges conducted business meetings in halls which usually had a stage for events and programs, a big kitchen to give the ladies space to cook great European meals, and an area where meetings were conducted under the

now-famous Robert's Rules of Order. Sometimes discussions could become heated, but in the end consensus and common sense prevailed. Of course, the bar rooms offered a place to socialize after adjournment.

As a former teacher, my daughter, Meg Wacker, and I have attended many Michigan author/book presentations over the years. Thanks to a heads-up from Tracey Anderson (677) and Ermando Volpe (564), we were able to meet author and attorney Steve Lehto and attend a presentation of his book "Death's Door: The Truth Behind the Italian Hall Disaster and the Strike of 1913."

The Italian Hall Disaster in Calumet, Mich., on Dec. 24, 1913, was even more tragic because the hall was packed with over 400 people, but the majority of those who died were the children of the Italian, Hungarian, Slovenian, Croatian and Finnish miners.

A YouTube reference is a good introduction to the events, and there are several videos and references online. But Steve offers a much more thorough investigation following years of research

PROSVETA welcomes letters to the editor from all SNPJ members. All submissions to Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, Lodge and telephone number for verification, and all are subject to editing. The views expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Slovene National Benefit Society or PROSVETA.

Letters to the Editor submissions should be addressed to SNPJ PROSVETA, Attn: Letters to the Editor, 247 West Allegheny Rd., Imperial, PA 15126. Letters may also be faxed to (724) 695-1555 or e-mailed to [prosveta@snpj.com](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com). Not all letters will be printed or individually acknowledged.

into the events, and the mine workers' needs and concerns. An attorney, he is focused on truth, detail, full disclosure, and seeking justice and peace for the victims. His passion is infectious, and he is sensitive to the trials of the immigrant worker experience.

The Italian Club sponsored the event at the Shelby Township Library in November and may plan a bus trip to Calumet, Mich., in the spring of 2023.

Steve has spoken on the topic and shared his continuing research for groups across Michigan. This research and his book speak to the community experience and injustice of a horrible tragedy set in the midst of an experience common to us all.

Since our Society plans

Christmas parties for children across the country, this tragedy hits too close to my heart. As we support the causes of fair labor practices and acceptance of other cultures in America, this book emphasizes the importance of the work and purpose of the SNPJ.

Copies of the book are available online and signed copies are offered by Mr. Lehto, who is always willing to learn more if your family was impacted by this event, or to answer questions. If you watch his presentation on YouTube, you may be able to answer his question about what the wooden structure behind a boarding house had to do with balina.

**KAREN SCHNUELL-RUTH**  
Lodge 677, Detroit

## ANNOUNCE IT

# Lodge 776 member earns a master's degree



SNPJ Lodge 776 member **EMMA SNYDER**, pictured with her grandparents, **ED** and **HENRIETTA SNYDER** (776), received her master's degree in public administration from Bowling Green State University in April 2022.

**BOROUGH OF SNPJ, Pa.** — Emma Snyder (776) graduated from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, with a master's degree in public administration in April 2022. In October she began her professional career with her first role as a program manager with gener8tor, specifically working for the US Venture Sustainability Accelerator Program in Appleton, Wis. In this role, Snyder and her program director mentor five national startup organizations to weave sustainable practices into their operations.

Her new employer, gener8tor, is a nationally-ranked venture capital firm and accelerator that brings together startup founders, corporations, job seekers, universities, musicians and artists. The gener8tor platform includes more than 75 programs spanning startup accelerators, corporate programming, speaker series, conferences, skills accelerators and fellowships.

Emma's sustainability program is funded by US Venture, a privately-held, North American leader in the distribution of fuel and transportation products founded and based in Appleton. The company has adopted a strategy of sustainability, and embraces responsible environmental stewardship and promotes a culture of energy management and innovation.

Snyder earned her bachelor's degree in political science from BGSU in April 2020. While a student, she worked as a graduate assistant and a course assistant for BGSU. She completed The Washington Center Internship, working for Multistate Tax Commission in Washington, D.C., in 2019. Additionally, she has held roles with the BGSU Center for Regional Development, the Hanna & Fisher Law Firm, Wood County (Ohio) Educational Service Center, and Walt Disney World, where she completed The Disney College Program in 2018 earning her "Mouseters" degree (yes, that's what they call it).

Emma is the daughter of former SNPJ Home Office employee Anthony (776) and Sara Snyder, and the granddaughter of SNPJ Lodge 776 Secretary and former SNPJ National Board member Edward and Henrietta Snyder.

## 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**



# PROSVETA Crossword

Winter Fun (#0123) by StatePoint Media

## ACROSS

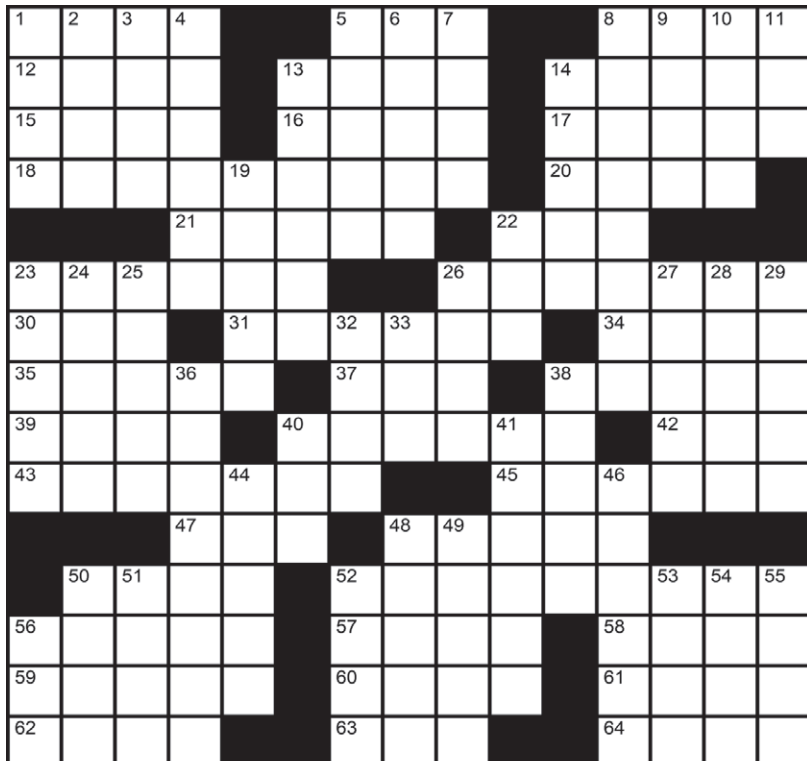
- Rope fiber
- Mai \_\_\_\_\_
- Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
- "What \_\_\_\_\_ Happened to Baby Jane?"
- Tattled
- Actress Reed
- Internet share-able
- Inwardly
- Black tropical hardwood
- \*Winged impression in winter
- Home of the Hawkeyes
- Investigative report
- Chicken or this?
- Not dense
- Early-day supercontinent
- Afternoon shut-eye
- Even though
- Picture on a coat
- Anti-seniors sentiment
- Jean of Dadaism
- Crewneck alternative
- Half-man, half-goat
- Arm cover
- Victoria Beckham \_\_\_\_\_ Adams
- Lacking sense of moral standards
- Flying high

## DOWN

- Often part of disguise
- Queen-like
- Wood file
- \* \_\_\_\_\_ Plunge
- Secret stash
- Damien's prediction
- Not at work
- Opposite of cation
- Abbreviated seconds
- Precedes stated rank
- Moon pull
- \*Like toddy or cocoa
- Trans-Siberian Railroad city
- Shortens pants
- Like fair share
- Short for memorandum
- Antebellum
- Polynesian kingdom
- Ten-pin establishment
- Bucolic poem
- \*Ride on runners
- \*Winter building material
- Tolstoy's Karenina
- R&B Charles
- \*Glittery decor
- Condescend
- Indian black tea
- Nibble

- Big mess
- Like a Druid, e.g.
- Celery, technically
- \*Snowman's corn cob accessory
- Are not
- Wedding singer, e.g.
- Questioned
- \*Snow \_\_\_\_\_, ammunition
- \*"But I heard him exclaim, \_\_\_\_\_ he drove out of sight..."
- \*Winter walking aid
- Type of consonant
- Actors' grp.
- a.k.a. strict vegetarians
- Mature, as in fruit
- Like Silas of "The Da Vinci Code"
- Young Montague
- Decide at the polls
- Jasmine of "Aladdin"
- Turns blue litmus red
- #42 Across, once
- Cheese from Netherlands
- Contributions to the poor
- Stink to high heaven
- \*Arctic \_\_\_\_\_, snowmobile brand

The solution to puzzle #0123 will run in the Feb. 1 issue.



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The New Year brings renewed activity for Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 members



In November, Cicero Neighbors Lodge 449 members feasted on a holiday meal prior to the annual meeting.

**LODGE 449 SCHEDULE**  
FROM PAGE 1

meetings will be held starting at 1 p.m. on the following dates: March 19 (with a bowling event after the meeting, location to be determined); June 11 (meeting and backyard picnic at Justin Rigler’s home); Sept. 17 (meeting held in downtown Chicago at a pizza restaurant to be determined); and Nov. 19 (the annual Lodge meeting at the Rigler home).

Election of officers was held with the following elected: President Justin Rigler, Vice President Meredith Maresh, Recording Secretary Edward Dabrowski, Secretary/Treasurer Tina Rigler, Sergeant-at-Arms Lanie Maresh, and auditors Vince Rigler, Jan Maresh

and Jason Rigler. Congratulations to all officers!

Lodge representatives to the Chicago District Federation include delegates Edward Dabrowski, Tina Rigler and Vince Rigler; and alternates Meredith Maresh, Lanie Maresh and Jason Rigler.

Lodge members determined our four activities for 2023 to be held on the same day as the regularly scheduled meetings, if possible. Our first activity will be scheduled March 19 at a bowling alley. Lodge members, friends and guests will be participating in two games of bowling. The location will be announced in a future *PROSVETA* issue.

Tina Rigler reported on the Chicago District Federation and the annual Christmas party held Dec. 3, 2022. Three Lodge 449 youth members, Alenka Rus, Jakob Rus and Adam Rus, attended the party and performed during the program. Congratulations to Edward Dabrowski who will be retiring from NBC after 45 years of service. It’s time to relax, vacation, and have some fun!

Jan Maresh and Edward Dabrowski won the meeting awards. Members enjoyed a holiday meal before the meeting, bringing their favorite dish to share.

I wish all members a happy and healthy 2023, and look forward to seeing our members at our meeting on Sunday, March 19, at 1 p.m. Please call Tina Rigler at (708) 257-8312 regarding the location of the bowling alley, then plan to join us!

With the New Year, new officers for Lodge 723

**FONTANA LODGE 723**  
FROM PAGE 1

held. The 2023 slate of officers: President Sherri Alexander Black, Vice President and Recording Secretary Pamela Richtar Pandza, Secretary Diana Rote, and Treasurer Frank Rote.

This collection of officers for the new year hopes to help preserve the Lodge within the family of SNPJ. We will continue our good will mission of contributions, maintain a treasury for the future use of the Lodge, organize activities and cooperate with SNPJ and other Lodges, and (most hopefully) solicit input from more members on goals and the nature of our group as we move forward.

Members can do this by communicating with any of our officers or, if at all possible, by attending meetings. Here is how to reach us: Sherri Black, (909) 801-0246, [sblack1162@yahoo.com](mailto:sblack1162@yahoo.com); Pamela Pandza, (951) 850-8711, [slowcrow@msn.com](mailto:slowcrow@msn.com); Diana Rote, (909) 987-8714, [grammad244@gmail.com](mailto:grammad244@gmail.com); Frank Rote, (909) 987-8714, [butnboxr@gmail.com](mailto:butnboxr@gmail.com).

Do take into account that as retired folks, we may be “on the road” or tending to our California gardens, so please give us time to respond. We would also appreciate your patience as we learn our jobs

and deal with our new responsibilities.

Members are invited – no, change that to *encouraged* – to attend our first meeting of the year to be held on Feb. 2 beginning at 6 p.m. You can remember the date by noting it on your calendar or using one of these associations: Groundhog Day, or 2-2-23 for Lodge 723.

The meeting will be held at Napoli Restaurant, 24960 Redlands Blvd. in Loma Linda, Calif. The Lodge will pick up the tab for your food order (from the menu) at the restaurant. If you need a ride or want the company of a non-member, that guest may be present in our meeting room or have dinner in the restaurant, either way at his/her own expense.

Important: Please contact Diana Rote by Jan. 28 to let her know that you will attend the meeting. Diana needs to notify the restaurant of the number of people to expect.

Since new officers will preside over the meeting, we thought it might be interesting for you to learn a little bit about our backgrounds...

**President Sherri Alexander Black:** I hail from Western Pennsylvania; specifically, the small town of Stoneboro in Mercer County. I attended Lakeview High School and graduated from Clarion University with a degree in elementary education.



Lodge 723 President  
**SHERRI ALEXANDER BLACK**



Lodge 723 Vice President/  
Recording Secretary  
**PAMELA PANDZA**



Lodge 723 Secretary  
**DIANA ROTE**



Lodge 723 Treasurer  
**FRANK ROTE**

Upon graduation, I moved to Fontana where my aunt had lived since the 1960s. I was hired to teach in Fontana at South Tamarind Elementary School, where I met and became friends with a Slovenian, Pamela Pandza. Being single and thousands of miles from home, she encouraged me to become a part of the Slovene Hall, where I began attending events and meetings on a regular basis. I served as recording secretary for several years and attended the SNPJ Young Adult Conference as well.

My years of education in education saw me in a variety of roles. In Fontana, I was a teacher, union president, staff developer, elementary principal, and a human resources director. As I stepped into executive management, I spent 12 years as an assistant superintendent of human resources, first in Upland, then Yucaipa-Calimesa. I retired in July of 2019 after 35 years.

Retirement gives me time to attend the events of my very active 13 grandkids who are involved in sports, music, and academic enrichment programs. I do consulting work in human resources and teach an administrative class for UC Irvine.

My husband Byron and I have also been traveling the U.S., mostly in our RV, and we have explored Europe, including our first trip to Slovenia this past June.

**Vice President/Recording Secretary Pamela Pandza:** I was born in Fontana while there was an event at the Slovene Hall; my father left the Hall that Sunday for Kaiser Hospital to meet me for the first time. And so my connection with SNPJ and the Slovene Hall continued throughout my life.

My parents met and celebrated their marriage at the Slovene Hall, and I did likewise with my husband Krste, whom I married in 1974. My parents, Joe and Lorene Richtar, were active in every group that stemmed from the Hall, including the Slovene Singing Club, 20 Club, Women’s Club, Button Box Club, Circle 70, and more.

My father was president of Lodge 723 for decades, and my mother served as Hall Committee secretary and Circle director. They also managed the Hall for a spell. The place was my second home. My heart is full of memories stemming from the Hall, especially the long parade of characters who helped shape my life.

I attended the University of California at Riverside, followed by teaching credential work at Cal State San Bernardino. I worked for the City of Fontana for a period, and then began my long career with Fontana School District, mainly teaching and mentoring.

For 15-plus years now, we have lived in Indian Wells, in the low desert. Krste and

I escape the extreme summer heat by traveling to Croatia where our latest endeavor was renovating the war-stricken stone house of his parents in the Dalmatian hinterland. We visit Slovenia every year.

We like to travel and garden, and we enjoy nature. We’ve had our share of building projects. I also like to read and play mah-jongg.

**Secretary Diana Rote:** I was born in East Los Angeles, the oldest of three children. I grew up in Rowland Heights on polka music, and met my husband-to-be at a Frank Zeitz dance. We married in 1972. We’ve raised two boys, Frank Jr. and Michael, both of whom are married. We have four grandchildren who we adore. I enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom.

My hobbies are spoiling my grandkids (and getting in trouble for it!), sewing, gardening, and my new pastime is diamond dotz art painting.

I became involved with the former Fontana Slovene Hall and SNPJ Lodge 723, along with my husband Frank, through friends and music. I always enjoyed helping out at the Hall and sharing in the camaraderie and love amongst everyone. The Slovene Hall is very much missed by all.

Along with all of our new officers, I’m hoping to help keep that closeness amongst our Lodge members and to work together to do just that.

I look forward to this new

adventure as secretary of SNPJ Lodge 723.

**Treasurer Frank Rote:** I was born and raised in Gowanda, N.Y., to Slovenian parents Frank and Elvina (Korbar) Rote. At age 14 I formed a four-piece “Broadway Polka Band” in which I was the accordionist, playing piano, diatonic and chromatic button boxes.

I attended Rochester Institute of Technology in their mechanical engineering program. I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Long Beach and San Diego, as well as Japan during the Vietnam War. I served a total of four years.

I married Diana (Curtis) Rote in 1972. We are parents to Frank Jr. and Michael, both of whom are SNPJ members. We are the grandparents of four, three boys and a girl.

After the Navy, I was employed by Southern California Edison where I worked in the Power Supply Dept. as a control operator. I am now retired.

For 61 years I have been a Slovene-style polka band leader, and I am also the musical director of the Fontana Slovene Button Box Accordion Club. I have been an SNPJ member for 30 years, and have served on the Fontana Slovene Hall board and as an officer of SNPJ Lodge 723.

My hobbies include repairing accordions, teaching accordion music, writing polka and waltz music, gardening, and cooking.

Official Proceedings

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting  
March 22, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes from the Dec. 13, 2021, meeting.

Held a meeting with attorney Todd Martin on bylaws changes that he would recommend. We will make these recommendations to the National Board at the upcoming meeting.

Discussed the compensation that would be determined at the upcoming Convention and will discuss with the National Board at the upcoming meeting.

Reviewed some thoughts on the computer system upgrade/conversion.

Approved a donation of \$60 for a half-page ad in the West Allegheny Musical Boosters program book.

Approved a donation of \$200 to SNPJ Lodge 603 for a cultural donation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

June 8, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by President Evanish with Sis. Pintar and Bro. Lawrence in attendance.

Approved the minutes from the March 22, 2022, meeting.

Discussed the various proposals and information we have received from computer system vendors. Discussed the demos that we have viewed and discussions held with various vendors.

Sis. Pintar reported on some thoughts and ideas that she and the IT consultant have been discussing.

Will review information we have and will set a meeting date with the SNPJ National Board to discuss further.

Approved a donation of \$5,000 to Brother’s Brother Foundation for Ukraine relief.

Approved a donation of \$100 to the Westmoreland County Federation of SNPJ Lodges for the Pretty In Pink fundraiser.

Approved a donation of \$100 to the American Slovenian Polka Foundation for a golf outing hole sponsorship.

Approved a donation of \$400 to the Cleveland International Hall of Fame for a quarter-page ad in the Hall of Fame program book honoring Bro. Joe Valencic.

Approved a donation of \$120 to the Greek Catholic Union for an ad in the Fraternalist of the Year program book.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

**JOSEPH C. EVANISH**  
National President/CEO

**KAREN A. PINTAR**  
National Secretary/COO

Looking  
backward

by MARTY KUMER  
Lodge 715

**UNIVERSAL, Pa. —** Happy New Year, but let’s review some of last year...

Slovenefest was enjoyable after a two-year Covid hiatus. The SNPJ Quadrennial Convention was constructive and promised hope for our future. Sadly, that Convention will be my last, and 2022 was also my last year as president of Lodge 715.

It was an honor and a privilege to serve the SNPJ for many years. But I will continue to observe what’s happening and make any suggestions and comments when asked – and sometimes when not asked.

SNPJ deals with life, trying to make it secure for us, making it an environment for friendship and fraternalism; an extended family. But let’s remember, and honor, our family and friends we lost last year. In particular, my choosing of cousins Judi March and Lou Kumer Jr., my good friend Reed Trimble, and fraternalists Josie Bole and Jim Curl.

Josie Bole: Well known and well liked by all, Josie was active in SNPJ with her Lodge and as treasurer of the Western Pa. Federation. She was the wife of Tony Bole, an SNPJ icon who I knew well and admired, having served with him on the

SNPJ Recreation Center Committee.

Tony was also president of the Western Pa. Federation, and I attended a meeting at which Tony wanted to spend a lot on SNPJ events. Josie objected because she had much of the funds tied up in CDs. Well, Tony won; the vote was to spend. Josie relented, saying famously, “I guess we’ll have to have a bake sale!”

Judi March: The daughter of my dad’s sister, “Teenie,” and George “Nutsy” Marovich, they moved to Detroit when Judi was 15. For years we never saw her – she became a Powers model and eventually CEO of one of the Powers agencies. Her parents moved back to Western Pennsylvania after George’s retirement, and Judi starting visiting during Memorial Day weekends.

Generously, Judi began inviting relatives to dinner on Memorial Sunday. The numbers were low, but soon expanded to 40 or more. This continued for 20 years or more until she said “No more,” and my daughter Holly took over and kept the tradition going with an annual family picnic at a Monroeville (Pa.) park where all contributed.

Last year, Judi arrived at my cousin Marlene’s for the event on Monday. On Tuesday, Judi was tired and lied down on a couch. Marlene went shopping, and when she returned discovered that Judi had died.

Jim Curl: I knew Jim as the SNPJ Recreation Center director when I was on the Rec Center Committee. He was also president of SNPJ Lodge 6 and a Regional

Vice President on the SNPJ National Board until he retired in August. He passed recently, and we will miss him.

Reed Trimble: I met Reed and his lovely wife Lee maybe 30 years ago at Family Week. They were teachers and friends of my brother Max, and became SNPJ members and attended Family Week every year. Reed was bright and had a great sense of humor. He discovered he had cancer this past summer. My son and I got to see him and Lee over lunch near his home in early November, two weeks before he passed.

Lou Kumer Jr.: A complex character, Lou was more like a brother than a cousin. Our blood lines were the same: Our fathers were brothers, our mothers were sisters. I could write a book about Lou, but I won’t. I won’t say anything bad about Lou, but I could. “Judge not, lest ye be judged.” Lou’s good qualities... I was told he was a good teacher; he taught history at Penn Hills to junior high students. They all loved Lou because he related well to them – their songs, their culture.

Lou was an excellent golfer, maybe one of the top five in SNPJ golf tournament history; certainly among the top 10. He took first place in some tournaments. He was lucky he got the good golf genes in our family; my brothers and I didn’t.

Lou was a good-time guy; genuine, not mean or evil. He was more than a cousin, he was my friend. I called him “Lovable Lou.”

My sympathy to all of you who lost family and/or friends this past year.



SNPJ fraternal sympathies



Sis. ANNA STOKLOSA (277)

Sis. ANNA STOKLOSA  
• LODGE 277 •

**STRUTHERS, Ohio** — The Stoklosa family and the members of Lodge 277 sadly report the Aug. 28, 2022, passing of Sis. Ann Catherine Stoklosa, 100, at Shepherd of the Valley, Poland, Ohio.

Sis. Stoklosa was born March 15, 1922, in Homer City, Pa., a daughter of Frank and Josephine Pernsek Zajec. Ann was a 1941 graduate of Homer City High School and worked at the Acme Die and Machine Company during World War II.

An 82-year SNPJ member, she was also a member of Christ Our Savior Parish at St. Nicholas Church in Struthers.

Her husband, Andrew Stoklosa, whom she married June 14, 1947, died July 1, 1995.

She leaves two sons, Kenneth (Peggy) Stoklosa of Poland and Robert (Lisa) Stoklosa of Pickering, Ohio; a daughter, Carol Quattro of Pickering; seven grandchildren, Kevin (Pamela) Stoklosa of Poland, Sarah Stoklosa (Jeff Mullen) of Berea, Ohio, Sammi Stoklosa of Red Bank, Tenn., Kelley (Sanju) Silpakar of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, Jeff (Ali) Quattro of Pickering, Carrie (Tim) Zimpher of Lithopolis, Ohio, and Justin (Therese) Quattro of Pataskala, Ohio; eight great-grandchildren, Brayden Stoklosa, Eve and Nick Quattro, Brady, Kate and Colin Zimpher, and Liam and Noah Quattro; a sister, Elva Zajec of Homer City; a sister-in-law, Teresa Zajec of Homer City; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Frank Zajec; a sister, Dorothy Breznican; and a son-in-law, Michael Quattro.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sis. Stoklosa on Aug. 31 at St. Nicholas Church, Struthers.

On behalf of the members

of Lodge 277 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our sympathies to Sis. Stoklosa's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Sis. MARLENE DANILO  
• LODGE 6 •

**SYGAN, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 6 sadly report the Aug. 30, 2022, passing of Sis. Marlene Danilo, 88, of Bridgeville, Pa.

Sis. Danilo was born Oct. 13, 1933, in Hendersonville, Pa., a daughter of the late Joseph and Cecilia Kusz Gudac. Marlene was a retired employee of St. Clair Hospital. She was a 56-year member of SNPJ Lodge 6, where she loved to listen to polkas. She adored her grandchildren.

Marlene was the beloved wife of the late George "Sam" Danilo; loving mother of Marcy (Dane) Barzanty; cherished grandmother of Shane (Kristi) Barzanty and Zachary (Megan) Barzanty; great-grandmother of Natalie and Camilla Barzanty, and Baby B; sister of Joseph (Joann) Gudac, Stephen (the late Emma) Gudac, and Dolly (John) Lucciola; and aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Services for Sis. Danilo were held Sept. 8 in Warchol Funeral Home, Inc., Bridgeville.

On behalf of the members of Lodge 6 and the Slovene National Benefit Society, we offer our condolences to Sis. Danilo's family, relatives and friends on their loss.

Bro. FRANK E. GUZEL  
• LODGE 138 •

**STRABANE, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Oct. 15, 2022, passing of Bro. Frank Edward Guzel Sr., 93, of Chartiers Twp., Pa.

Bro. Guzel was born Nov. 25, 1928, the son of the late Mary and Frank Guzel. Frank was always proud that both his maternal and paternal grandparents immigrated through Ellis Island from Yugoslavia. He grew up in Cuddy, South Fayette Twp., Pa., before the family moved to Washington, Pa., where he graduated from Trinity High School. Following graduation, on Sept. 22, 1951, he married Verna Sharp, who passed in April 2021.

Frank enlisted and was proud to serve in the Army, Division 28 Infantry, 108 Field Artillery Battalion. When he

served in Germany, he was able to take a leave to visit relatives in Yugoslavia.

Upon discharge from the Army, Frank and his wife built a home on the Sharp Farm in Canonsburg, Pa., where they raised their five children, Rhonda (Robert) McDonald of Canonsburg, Rebecca Rankin of Burgettstown, Pa., Ruth (Wilbert) Dinsmore of Washington, Regina (Kevin) Julius of Erie, Pa., and Frank (the late Joyce) Guzel Jr. of Canonsburg. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Mary Guidos.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a great-grandchild; his sisters, Alice Borza and Dorothy Coughenour; sister-in-law Beulah O'Byrne; and brothers-in-law Alvin Sharp and Andrew Guidos.

Frank was never afraid of hard work. He told stories of his youth when he peddled vegetables for his paternal grandmother, did odd jobs at a small store that his family lived above, and helped his uncle on a farm. He walked to all of the jobs that he had during his high school years. His hard work was instilled in his children through working on the farm taking care of a menagerie of animals, tending to the land, gardening, and cutting wood to sell.

Holding several jobs, he was a heavy equipment operator during the day and worked at the former PA Transformer in the evenings.

When it was determined that his younger daughter was allergic to cow's milk, Verna and Frank bought dairy goats, and they were able to meet wonderful people through the Dairy Goat Association. They traveled to many shows throughout many states, including the Washington County (Pa.) Fair, where their two older daughters were the first to show their 4-H animals and

he became and remained the superintendent of the Dairy Goat Department for many years. He also started the 4-H Dairy Goat Club.

A 77-year SNPJ Lodge 138 member, he was also a proud member of American Legion Post 902 in Houston, Pa. He enjoyed polka dancing, loved polka music, and would meet many friends at the Strabane Lodge 138 Club as well as other dances.

After retiring, he searched for many men with whom he served in the Army. He would invite them to lunch at various restaurants until it became too difficult for him to travel. During that time, Frank and Verna traveled to many states to visit with relatives and attend Army functions.

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

Bro. BERNARD L. SIVAVEC  
• LODGE 138 •

**STRABANE, Pa.** — The members of Lodge 138 sadly report the Nov. 23, 2022, passing of Bro. Bernard "Bernie" Ludwig Sivavec in his home. He was a 78-year member of SNPJ Lodge 138.

Bro. Sivavec, a son of the late Anton and Mary Zagar Sivavec, was born Aug. 10, 1926, and raised on a farm in Cecil, Pa. Bernie graduated from the former Cecil High School before joining the Army to serve as an aerial engineer, airplane and engine mechanical specialist in WWII. He then served in the National Guard while beginning his career as a mechanical engineer for the RCA in Meadowlands, Pa.

Bernie met Dorothy Kmet at a Slovenian polka dance at the SNPJ Lodge in Strabane. He married Dorothy in 1950, and soon after he built his

pride and joy, his house in McMurray, Pa., where they raised their family. Always a farm boy to the core, Bernie enjoyed vegetable gardening, riding his tractors, and working on his land.

He was an avid golfer who loved his RCA league play, as well as playing with his children and traveling to his favorite resorts. Having an engineer's mind, he was compelled to fix everything in the house, from radios and televisions to appliances and cars. He also enjoyed inventing and tinkering in his furnace room workshop.

General Electric acquired RCA in the 1980s, and he finished his career as a senior engineer at GE of Camden, N.J. At the time of his retirement, he moved back to his home in McMurray.

He spent his life as a caring and loving husband, and enjoyed traveling with Dorothy after retirement. In 2004 they traveled to Slovenia and had the time of their lives, and Bernie met with his cousins at the Sivavec farm where his father was born and raised.

Bernie was a loving, sup-

portive and encouraging father to his three children, and his life revolved around them. He loved to help them with improvements to their own houses. As a grandfather, he was lots of fun and took much pride in his three grandsons. His family felt that he was one of a kind, and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; his children, Kevin Sivavec of Glastonbury, Conn., Timothy (Vincenzo Bumbalo) Sivavec of Clifton Park, N.Y., and Diane (Mark McFeeters) Sivavec of Ewing, N.J.; and his grandsons, Tyler Sivavec, Jacob Sivavec and Nicholas McFeeters.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Anthony (Mildred) Sivavec, Mary Sivavec (Anton) Leban, and Frederick Henry (Catherine) Sivavec.

Private interment was in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, McMurray.

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

DEATHS REPORTED

For the month of November 2022

LODGE	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	CITY, STATE
A02	Nancy L. Wimer	09-24-2022	Danville, Calif.
1	Jack Marinich	07-21-2022	Phillips, Wis.
1	Charles W. O'Connell	09-09-2022	Orland Park, Ill.
1	Arla Faye Franchi	10-09-2022	Park Ridge, Ill.
6	Elizabeth E. Chambon	08-26-2022	Bridgeville, Pa.
6	John Choma Jr.	10-19-2021	Carnegie, Pa.
8	Anne B. Batzer	11-06-2020	Saint Charles, Mo.
34	Demetrius L. Clay	09-23-2022	Cincinnati, Ohio
41	Mary J. Moorfoot	09-22-2021	Mechanicsburg, Pa.
87	A. Dolores Zadel	04-27-2021	Riverhead, N.Y.
89	Frank J. Urbanic	10-13-2022	Chesterfield, Va.
89	Jayne A. Klick	11-28-2022	Bulger, Pa.
138	Karen K. Adams	09-16-2022	McDonald, Pa.
138	Frank E. Guzel	10-15-2022	Canonsburg, Pa.
158	Margaret Farrelly	05-19-2022	New Canaan, Conn.
165	Ronald L. Beck	10-19-2022	Brownsville, Pa.
218	Adeline Maniscalco	10-20-2022	Trinidad, Colo.
274	Lois J. Stephens	09-13-2022	Ashland, Ohio
274	Linda M. Richnavsky	10-01-2022	Sagamore Hills, Ohio
358	Mary Ann Campitelli	10-19-2022	Malvern, Ohio
518	Theresa M. Rugel	11-14-2022	Traverse City, Mich.
562	Steve E. McPherson	10-29-2022	Wheeling, W.Va.
564	Harry E. Fifolt	10-29-2022	Findlay, Ohio
581	Linda L. Means	12-25-2021	Valier, Pa.
581	Josephine Salak	09-22-2022	Prompton, Pa.
584	Martin J. Filkas	08-04-2020	Coos Bay, Ore.
584	Lorraine Smith	10-26-2022	Winthrop Harbor, Ill.
584	James A. Hagsten	08-19-2022	Keewatin, Minn.
603	Melinda G. Reigel	11-22-2021	Simpsonville, S.C.
715	Edward M. Sheedy	10-27-2022	Pittsburgh, Pa.
782	Dorothy Stanik	12-27-2021	Oakmont, Pa.

KAREN A. PINTAR  
National Secretary/COO

PROSVETA 2023 Publication Dates

JANUARY 2023						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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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](mailto:prosveta@snpj.com); or submitted via the Publications section of the SNPJ website, [snpj.org](http://snpj.org).

PROSVETA Crossword

HAPPY HOLIDAYS (#1222) solution

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

Uncle Sam wants your money... and it's up to you whether you pay now or pay later.



SNPJ offers **Roth IRAs** in addition to our regular IRAs and annuities to help build a safe financial future for you and your family. We've helped build secure futures for our members for over a century. Phone **1-800-843-7675** and we'll be happy to help you too.



# A festive holiday gathering for Lodge 786 members

by TERESA KOCI  
Lodge 786 Secretary/Treasurer

**ORANGE COUNTY, Calif.** — Where else does one get great food and toe-tapping music but at a Slovenian gathering! At the Marina Hills Clubhouse in Laguna Niguel, Calif., SNPJ Lodge 786 held their Christmas party.

Santa was definitely a highlight for our youth members, but we also had a couple of surprise musicians attend as well. Two Cleveland Hall of Famers, Stan Blout and Eddie Rodick, tickled their accordion ivories for Lodge 786 members and guests. Stan now lives in Southern California but is originally from Cleveland, and Eddie just happened to be in the area, so we were thankful to have him join us as well. They weren't the only entertainers, though: Frank Rote from Fontana Lodge 723 enriched the music already going strong to a whole other level.

No Lodge meeting was held, but for a few announcements from Lodge President Fred Mlakar, so the whole afternoon was an atmosphere of relaxed catching-up and reconnecting with the 30-plus people in attendance.

It was a great to finally meet member Mark Matyasich and his guest, Rita, from Costa Rica. Robert Grobin, who we don't get to see often, came by as well. The Udovch/Gott Dank family were in full attendance, along with so many others.

Vince Mlakar is back in California, so it was a delight to have him join us, too. Several members from Lodge 723 also joined us: MaryLou Jensen, Linda and Butch Trembly, and Frank and Diana Rote. We certainly miss seeing our Lodge 723 friends, especially now that the Fontana Slovene Hall has sold.

A big thank you goes to Krista Lawson, our Youth Circle 104 director, for managing the youth activities and being Santa's awesome elf. Another thank you goes out to our delightful Santa, Don Milek.

Thank you as well to Fred Mlakar, Vince Mlakar, Ken Koci, MaryLou Jensen and Diana Rote for clubhouse set up, food management, and clubhouse tear down.



[Above, left] Evander, Isaiah and Annika Lawson with Santa.

[Above] The Udovch/Gott Dank family.

[Left] Eddie Rodick and Stan Blout.

[Below, left] Bella Gott Dank with Santa.

[Below] Robert Grobin, Mark Matyasich and Mark's guest, Rita.

# Utah members mark the ruby anniversary of the annual Strudel Day

by GAYE BABCOCK  
Lodge 689 Secretary/Treasurer

**HELPER, Utah** — On Nov. 12, 2022, members of SNPJ Lodges 113, 689 and 757 joined forces to prepare more than 100 pans of apple strudel. Volunteers from near and far converged at the Slovenian Home in Spring Glen, Utah.

The event is held in support of the Slovenian Day Picnic held each summer. The strudels are frozen fresh until the day of the picnic, then divided amongst volunteers who bake the strudels in their homes.

Strudel Day has been an annual event for 40 years, making this the "ruby anniversary" of our tradition. The origin of the word "ruby" is

from the Latin word *rubeus*, which means "red." Their hue can range from a deeper blood red to a pinker rose red.

You could compare the many shades of rubies to apples! The color red is associated with energy, passion and action. We Slovenians are passionate about our strudel and approach its creation with energy and action!

Our members consider this event an opportunity to pass on the art of strudel making to our younger members. They look forward to this day each year as a time to catch up and renew old friendships.

Once the strudels were safe in the freezer, we enjoyed a lunch which included a sample of the delicious strudel.



[From left] JOANNE LESSAR (757), JEANNETTE MARASCO (757) and Robert Dimick make the dough for the strudels.

# Indy Lodge 34 slates first 2023 meeting in March

by JERRY WATSON  
Lodge 34 Secretary/Treasurer

**INDIANAPOLIS** — *Srečno novo leto 2023!* Lodge 34 members held their fourth quarterly meeting of 2022 on Nov. 4. Members reelected the 2022 officers and scheduled our first quarterly meeting for 2023 on March 10. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Slovenian National Home (SNH) located at 2717 West 10th Street.

Part of this meeting will include providing the Friday night dinner at the SNH. Jozef Watson will be serving his famous gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches with tomato soup and a dessert. Please plan to enjoy dinner at the SNH. All proceeds are donated to the SNH.

At our Nov. 4 meeting, Lodge President Mary Dragan

and her team served outstanding ham sandwiches, homemade potato salad and gourmet baked beans. As you can see from the photo, Mary believes in getting our young members involved at an early age.

The dinners were sold out and enjoyed by Lodge members and SNH patrons. Many of the SNH members look forward to the SNPJ Lodge 34 dinners and have requested that our Lodge host more dinners.

A big "*dobrodošli*" for the members of the former St. Louis Lodge 107. Our Lodge is very happy to welcome all of you. If any of you are in the Indianapolis area, please stop by the SNH for a drink and dinner. The SNH is only open on Friday nights from 6 p.m. on. Normally, you can find a Lodge 34 member enjoying dinner and a drink.



Lodge 34 President MARY DRAGAN and her young kitchen crew prepared the meals for the November dinner served at the Indianapolis Slovenian National Home.

# SNPJ Scholarship Fund Donations for the months of October & November 2022

SNPJ Lodge 107, St. Louis ..... \$314.28  
The Jones family: Dan, Mary (89), Hilary (89), Kyle, Meredith (89) and Derek, Westerville, Ohio ..... \$200  
In memory of Frank J. Urbanic

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co., Auburn, Ill. .... \$76.70

Robert & Rose Marie Lawrence (138), Strabane, Pa. .... \$20  
In memory of Josie Bole

## SNPJ RECOMMENDER PROGRAM

Recommending a new SNPJ member could be worth a total of

**\$110**

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

### Recommender Benefits

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

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

I would like to introduce

for SNPJ membership

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Preferred Agent \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional)

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Lodge Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



JoAnne and John Sharpe peel and cut the apples.



DAVE BABCOCK (689) and his granddaughter, CHEYANNE SLAUGHTER (689), chop and weigh the apples.



[From left] ASHLYN (689) and CHEYANNE SLAUGHTER learn the technique of stretching the dough from their grandmother, GAYE BABCOCK (689).



# The holidays now over, Loyalites look to 2023

by DANIELLA VOLPE  
Lodge 158 Treasurer

**EUCLID, Ohio** — Hello, all, and happy New Year! We hope your holidays were filled with lots of joy and new memories made.

We want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended and helped at the Loyalites annual Christmas party. The kids had a great time asking Santa for gifts and meeting all of Jungle Terry’s critter friends. A huge shout-out to Lodge President Don Srnick for making the place look fun and festive, to Diane Horabik for organizing and purchasing all of the children’s gifts, and to Liz and Jan Smrdel for setting up all of the kids’ crafts and games.

We look forward to the rest of this year and hope everyone is sticking to their New Year’s resolutions, whatever they may be. Be sure to keep an eye out in *PROSVETA* for all upcoming

news and announcements from your Lodge 158 Loyalites.

We would also like to remind everyone that for events like the Christmas party and annual picnic, we do send mailings to let you know about them.

If you have moved, please update your address with the Home Office. You can do this by visiting [snpj.org](http://snpj.org) where you’ll find Member Services and Forms under the Policy Services section. Click the link to “Change of Address Authorization Form,” complete the form, print it, and mail it to the Home Office.

With an updated address, you can receive all relevant SNPJ news, including our event details, as well as product information and updates.

As always, we send our thoughts and prayers to all of our ailing and deceased members and their families during these difficult times.



Jungle Terry introduced a few of his “critter friends” to the children attending the Loyalites Lodge 158 Christmas party.



# Support the Rec Center Cabin Renovation Project



by JOSEPH C. EVANISH  
SNPJ National President/CEO

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

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

(scholarship) cause, but rather, recreational in nature, contributions are not considered tax deductible.

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

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

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

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

# Rec Center Cabin Renovation Donations for the month of November 2022

SNPJ Lodge 2, La Salle, Ill..... \$100  
Geraldine Misch (719), Pittsburgh..... \$100  
Marilyn Tomsic (138), Washington, D.C..... \$50  
*In memory of Zorka Tomsic*  
Marilyn Tomsic (138), Washington, D.C..... \$50  
*In memory of Mirko Tomsic*  
Amy D. Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa..... \$20  
*In memory of David Eugene Zarella*

*The following donations were made in memory of Josephine Bole:*  
Slovene Federation of Western Pennsylvania.. \$200  
Catherine A. Kalenits (776), Youngstown, Ohio.. \$25  
Nancy K. Koutoulakis (721), Aliquippa, Pa. .. \$20

*The following donations were made in memory of James L. Curl:*  
The Curl family (6), Oakdale, Pa. .... \$250  
Babe & Beverly Baselj (6), Bridgeville, Pa... \$100

Edward S. & Betty M. Spoharski (6), Heidelberg, Pa..... \$50  
Catherine A. Kalenits (776), Youngstown, Ohio.. \$25

*The following donations were made in memory of Janean Baselj:*  
Kenneth J. & Karen A. Pintar (6), Bridgeville, Pa. . \$50  
John R. & Kathy A. Brown (6), McDonald, Pa. . \$50  
Amy D. Mavrich (138), Canonsburg, Pa..... \$20



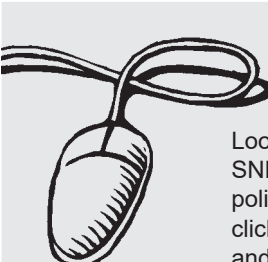
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
CONSULATE GENERAL CLEVELAND

Generalni konzulat Republike Slovenije v Clevelandu se vsem članom slovenske skupnosti, ameriškim prijateljem in partnerjem zahvaljuje za odlično in plodno sodelovanje v preteklem letu, želi vesele božične praznike, zdravo in uspešno novo leto 2023 in čestita ob dnevu slovenske samostojnosti in enotnosti 26. decembra.

Srečno!


The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland would like to thank the members of the Slovenian community and our American friends/partners for their excellent and fruitful cooperation this past year. In addition, it extends warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year 2023, as well as congratulations on the Day of Slovenian Independence and Unity, December 26.

Best wishes!



## information at your fingertips

Looking for information on your SNPJ life insurance and annuity policies? Pay a visit to [snpj.org](http://snpj.org), click the “PolicyView Login” link and follow the step-by-step instructions.



## cook eat slovenia

This new, keepsake Slovenian cookbook, published in English, is available for purchase through the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center

**\$37<sup>00</sup> each**  
includes postage

Return completed order form with full payment to:  
**SNPJ Heritage Center • 270 Martin Road • Enon Valley, PA 16120**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_  
Make check or money order payable to **SNPJ Heritage Center**

SNPJ Membership Anniversaries January 2023			
70-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
138	Patricia J. Oravec	584	Ruth E. Gerek
190	Edward F. Beesoick	614	Helen L. Prijatel
584	Iris A. Belec		
60-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
3	Carol H. Hamilton	581	Sharon L. Moore
5	Karen A. Tomsic	603	Rudolph W. Pleterski
87	Daniel F. Skarja	604	Anton Ipavec
142	Frank E. Kalin	604	Evangeline M. Smith
174	Karen Danaitis	614	Joseph A. Zabukovec
218	James J. Delost	643	John W. Koniowsky
225	Treva Nichols	677	Martin E. Obed
225	Dennis M. Vinardi	723	Charlene J. Spencer
581	Walter Bullett	729	Doreen H. Banchansky
581	Joan A. Bizzak	A01	Ronald R. Bialorucki
581	Stephen J. Buynak		
50-Year Members			
Lodge	Member	Lodge	Member
1	Michael A. Ericksen	218	Leonard J. Kumar
2	Patricia S. Friedland	257	Jeanne M. Raczka
2	Pamela M. Schwigen	257	Dane E. Jablonski
3	John S. Tay	277	Sharon E. Porter
3	Marilyn A. Alberter	449	Helen V. Gurriel
3	John W. Rován	564	Thomas A. Klyder
5	William J. Pinkava	576	Sharon M. Medica
5	Preston D. Moss	576	Robert A. Kodramaz
5	Alan Staniszewski	576	Kathleen K. Bellis
6	Irene Changle	584	Mary D. Strukel
6	Gary F. Russak	584	Karl R. Kodrich
8	Gerlind V. Fleischhacker	643	Sally M. Novak
31	Frank Yukich	689	Vern L. Koncher
31	Gina M. Fromm	721	Magdalene Ursic
33	Johanna S. DiCiccio	721	Phillip G. Cushing
87	Wayne T. Burns	749	Debra A. Crouse
126	Leslie S. Rozman	771	Nancy K. Hitchen
138	Vincent J. Braddock	776	Deborra A. Feltes
138	Carey L. Martell	A02	Suzanne E. Wheeler
158	Marion A. Ivory	A02	Joseph W. Skrtich
216	Joseph F. Zelek		

## SNPJ Winter Classic Bowling Tournament

### February 17-19, 2023

co-sponsored by SNPJ Lodge 6 and SNPJ Lodge 138  
and SNPJ Athletic Districts 1 and 2

MEN	WOMEN
<b>Doubles &amp; Singles Events</b> at Strabane Lodge 138 269 Latimer Ave. Strabane, PA 15363 Club: (724) 745-9860 Lanes: (724) 745-9775 <input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 18, 9 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.	<b>Doubles &amp; Singles Events</b> at Sygan Lodge 6 540 Third Ave. Bridgeville, PA 15017 Phone: (412) 221-9862 <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:30 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Feb. 18, 2:30 p.m.
<b>MEN</b> <b>Team Event</b> at Sygan Lodge 6 540 Third Ave. Bridgeville, PA 15017 Phone: (412) 221-9862 <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19, 9 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19, Noon <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19, 3 p.m.	<b>WOMEN</b> <b>Team Event</b> at Strabane Lodge 138 269 Latimer Ave. Strabane, PA 15363 Club: (724) 745-9860 Lanes: (724) 745-9775 <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19, 9:30 a.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19, 12:30 p.m. <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Feb. 19, 3:30 p.m.

Doubles & Singles Entry fee \$30 per person Friday/Saturday Only	Lodge No.	Highest Average 2021-22	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 2021-22
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

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

The entry fee for each event is \$15 per bowler, \$9.00 of which shall be used for prizes and \$6.00 for bowling. An extra \$5 is charged to all who desire to compete for handicap all-events prizes. The Slovene National Benefit Society adds \$6 per member to each prize fund except all-events.

Return form, along with fees of \$15 per person, per event, to:  
Jason Cadez, Tournament Secretary  
179 Alexander Ave., Strabane, PA 15363  
e-mail: [cadez138@gmail.com](mailto:cadez138@gmail.com) • Phone: (724) 299-1138  
Make checks payable to **SNPJ Lodge 138**

**ENTRY DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

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