

## HOLIDAY 2019

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## 2019 HOLIDAY EDITION

### PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION AWARD

We are proud to recognize the 2019 Central District President's Recognition Award Recipients Ted Polashek (Sokol Tabor) and Andrea Schreir (Sokol Chicagoland).

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, the Central District held their annual meeting at Sokol Spirit. This encompasses each units Executive Boards coming together as a group to make plans, changes and recommendations for the coming year, as well as the President's Recognition Award presentation.



What is the Central District President's Award you ask? Each unit President may make one male and one female nomination and submit a one-page letter stating the nominee's qualifications for the award. Members eligible for the nomination are all Brothers and Sisters of the Central District who have shown a lifetime of exemplary service to the Sokol organization and its principles. All nominations were due at the September President's conference. The nominations are presented via email for the President's to read and submit their ballot. Winners are announced annually at the Central District Annual Meeting and not divulged prior to that time. Sokolice Tabor was proud to nominate Bro. Ted Polashek. Please turn to page 6 to read his nomination.

**Editor: Christina Curran**  
Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and photos!

Would you prefer Tabor Talk via email?

Send your email address to:

**[tabortalk150@gmail.com](mailto:tabortalk150@gmail.com)**

Articles & photos welcome!

Save a Tree...Pass the Word



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

## JINGLE BELL 2019

Sokol and Sokolice Tabor embarked on a new community venture in November partnering with the Chicagoland Czech-American Community Center and Divaldo Theater sponsoring and hosting Jingle Bell 2019 in our building. This consisted of a Czech holiday bazaar with vendors selling products such as handmade glass ornaments, holiday centerpieces, spa items and more, plus massage services. Children's activities included games, crafts, and pictures with Santa. There was an adult eggnog contest with 19 entries and a community tree lighting ceremony. Music was played in the gym and lower hall throughout the event, plus food and beverages were available for purchase. Sokol Tabor ran the bar and Sokolice Tabor ran a Candy Cane Lane Obstacle Course. Kids received a candy cane and Sokol stickers at the end of the course. We also had a craft ornament station and coloring tables, The BOI donated a Tabor Gear gift basket as a prize for the adult eggnog contest. and Sokol Tabor 1<sup>st</sup> Class Boy PJ Devenney and Jr. Girl Madison Polich did a tumbling performance.



### VENDORS



### CANDY CANE LANE OBSTACLE COURSE



# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

**"May 2020 be the best  
year yet for everyone."**

**Norma Kmet**

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
MERRY FITNESS!"**

**Raydeen & John  
Naughton**

**"Merry Christmas to all  
Sokol and Sokolice Tabor  
Members, the coaches and  
class members, the  
Properties Committee and  
all those that keep our  
building shining! Nazdar!"**

**Joan Curran**

**"Merry Christmas & Happy  
Healthy New Year!"**

**Val Husak**

**"BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL  
HOLIDAY SEASON!"**

**Colleen and John Capodice & Family**

**"HEALTH, HAPPINESS &  
BLESSINGS IN 2020"**

**Lil Malan**

**"MAY THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS PAST BRING YOU PEACE,  
HAPPINESS AND GOODWILL IN THE NEW YEAR!"**

**Phyllis Gronek**

# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

**“VESELÉ VÁNOCE & ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK**

**TRANSLATION: MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Irena Polashek  
Irene & Mike Gogerty,  
Helen, Chris, Christian & Catie Gard  
Ted & Teddy Polashek**

**“Wishing you a  
Healthy, Happy  
Holiday Season!”**

**Juanita LoGiudice &  
Family**

**“MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR”**

***Vivian Navratil***

**“Special Greetings to  
Sokolice Tabor’s  
hard-working  
Executive Board”**

**Julie Barcal**



**“Happy Holidays and wishes for a  
great New Year!”**

**Marilyn and Bruce Russell**

**“Wishing all a Merry Flippin’ Christmas! Jump for Joy  
into the New Year and get in some Happy workouts!”**

**Christina Curran**



# SPENDING TIME TOGETHER



For the past few years, Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy Barcal from Sokol Spirit have opened their home on Thanksgiving morning to host Sokol Friendsgiving! Bob holds dual membership with Sokolice Tabor. This is a great tradition of bringing Sokol friends together to celebrate our friendships before spending time with family. We socialize, a football gets tossed & turkey bowling skills are put to the test, all while enjoying brunch and beverages!

## HOLIDAY MAGIC

Brookfield Zoo is lit with more than one million twinkling lights for 2019 Holiday Magic. Many Sokol and Sokolice Tabor Members and Gymnasts visited and took photo opportunities throughout the zoo. Many found Sokol Tabor's Community Tree while enjoying caroling to animals, ice carving demonstrations, light shows, music, costumed characters, model railroad display and more. Youth Ambassador Veronica Walinski had our gymnasts create snowflake and bell ornaments to decorate our tree. Also, the Moravian Cultural Society Dancers performed in November in the Holly Jolly Theatre. See all the family and group photos on page 8!

## HOLIDAY DINNER

On Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, our annual Holiday Dinner was held in the lower hall. We were treated to a very special dinner hosted by Sokol Tabor featuring Czech and Italian food! Catered from Village Pub (North Riverside) was chicken salad, mostaccioli, gigantic meatballs, tasty sausage and peppers, and vesuvio roasted potatoes. Catered from Czech Plaza (Berwyn) was breaded pork tenderloin, duck, smoked butt, dumplings, sauerkraut, and veggies. Appetizers and dessert donations were supplied by Sokolice Tabor.

After dinner, Pack the Gym was help upstairs for Central District Men's Volleyball Playoffs. In the lower hall, Sokolice Tabor conducted their annual unit meeting.

A Holiday White Elephant Raffle was held throughout the evening. Members donated new or gently used items. Guests had fun raising their winning ticket and dashing to peruse the raffle table to select an item of choice.

The evening concluded with socializing in the lower hall.



*Dinner Buffet*



*Members enjoying their meal*



*Raffle Table*

# SOKOLICE TABOR ANNUAL MTG

Sokolice Tabor held their Annual Unit Meeting, Membership Recognition and elected their 2020 Executive Board in conjunction with the Holiday Dinner. President Christina Curran presided over the meeting which included a State of the Unit Address, a Czech Christmas customs educational presentation by Julie Barcal, membership pins presentation by Irena Polashek and appreciation gifts presented to the current Executive Board. We are proud to recognize these outstanding Sokol Sisters:

Membership Years	Sokol Sisters
25	Gina Curvin
30	Nancy Colagrossi, Nicole Lawler
50	Gale Hollinger, Lillian Malan
65	Jeanette Sivak



*Juanita LoGiudice accepting on behalf  
of her daughter Gina Curvin (25)*



*Nancy Colagrossi (30)  
Also accepted for Nicole Lawler*



*Jean Sivak (65)*

Wrapping up Membership Recognition, President Curran presented a small token of appreciate to outgoing Treasurer Jann Petkus.

*"With our greatest appreciation for your unwavering support and ongoing commitment, Sokolice Tabor presents a small gift for 10+ years of dedicated service keeping our financial and banking records in perfect shape. As Sokolice Tabor Treasurer, your hard work and efforts year after year are highly commendable. Thank you for your many wonderful years of service. You will truly be missed."*



2020 Sokolice Tabor Executive Board	
President: Christina Curran	Secretary: Anna Carlozzi
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President: Nancy Colagrossi	Education: Julie Barcal
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Candy Short	Membership: Irena Polashek
Treasurer: Judi Soulides	Physical Directors: Maureen Stanko & Veronica Walinski
Financial Secretary: Colleen Capodice	PR: OPEN

# BRO. POLASHEK NOMINATION

## Sokolice Tabor – 2019 Presidents' Recognition Award Nominee (Male)

We proudly nominate Brother Ted Polashek for the 2019 Central District Presidents' Recognition Award. Ted's participation began when he was a Tot and continues through today. He has served many rolls at Sokol Tabor; Instructor for Tots, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Junior Boys classes and served on the Executive Board in several position including Sokol Tabor President and is currently the PR Director. Ted was instrumental in proposing new classes and fitness to our gym such as Ballroom Dance and establishing a Work-Out Room in our building. Ted has mentored many boys in his classes that have followed in his Sokol footsteps.

Ted is known for setting up a large tent at Central District Sokol Day. In 2018, it was an extremely cold day. District members were welcomed into his heated tent and served hot soup, chili, beverages and entertainment. In 2019, weather took a turn and once again many were under his tent shielding from the rain. He hired a polka band to provide music for all to enjoy. Ted has organized several Central District bus trips, the most recent in 2016 for our district members to attend Sokol St. Louis' 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Ted has attended just about every Slet since he was enrolled as a Tot. Most recently, he took a road trip for the Buffalo Slet and had the honor of carrying the American Sokol flag during the Grand March of the Slet program. When asked what it was like to carry the flag, he replied "to represent all American Sokols on the Slet field filled me with such pride. So many people before me sacrificed and gave up so much of their lives to promote and build Sokol. Sokol is not just an organization. It's a way of life. It's the way a person presents themselves. It's a way one keeps their body and mind healthy from the age of four to 104."

Ted continues to thrive in Sokol. This spring, he trained in Prague with the Czech Sokol Straz Honor Guard from the Castle Guards. He is officially a Czech Sokol Straz member and working with the American Sokol Executive Board to establish an American Sokol Straz in the US. Training is scheduled to be held in the Chicagoland area in 2020.



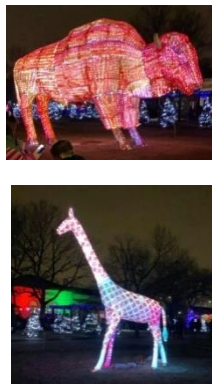
Ted has been a lifeline between the Czech Consulate Office of Chicago and Sokol; inviting and succeeding in the Czech Consult becoming a member of Sokol Tabor. Ted is an avid promotor in bringing the entire Czech community together by recruiting committees made up of members from several Czech organizations and businesses, not only to benefit them financially, but to celebrate our culture socially. Events such as Czech Beer Fest, Moravian Day, Houby Day and last year's Czech Centennial Social Night. He is currently the President of the Chicagoland Czech American Cultural Center, a hub for Czechs in America seeking immigration or legal assistance, or just seeking social networking opportunities.

In his professional career, Ted started as a paramedic and is currently a Cicero Fireman. He also served as a Berwyn Alderman for several years.

Ted's passion to serve his local community, his efforts to build a larger Czech community in the Chicagoland area by bringing Czech organizations together and his Sokol history is commendable. For these reasons, we are proud to give Ted Polashek our whole-hearted recommendation for this prestigious award.



# BROOKFIELD ZOO





# VOLLEYBALL 2019



## JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FINAL STANDINGS

1<sup>ST</sup> Place: Sokol Naperville/Spirit  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sokol United Red  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sokol Tabor "You've Been Served"  
4<sup>th</sup> Place: Sokol United Blue



## WOMENS VOLLEYBALL FINAL STANDINGS

1<sup>ST</sup> Place: Sokol United We Stand  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sokol Spirit 10  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sokol Tabor "Ta Ta Tabor"  
4<sup>th</sup> Place: Sokol Spirit 9  
5<sup>th</sup> Place: Sokol United We Fall



## 2019 CENTRAL DISTRICT MEN'S VOLLEYBALL FINAL STANDINGS

1<sup>ST</sup> Place: Sokol Tabor - Pilsner  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sokol United  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sokol Spirit 1

Has one of your dreams  
come true? If so, send in  
your story to Tabor Talk!  
Pictures welcome!

## JUDI AND A BLOWFISH

Sis. Judi Soulides is a HUGE fan of the band Hootie & The Blowfish. This past summer, she finally had the opportunity to see them in concert with her daughter Kim. After the concert, they lingered in their seats waiting for the crowd to leave for an easier exit. While waiting, they were approached by the bands crew and asked if they wanted to go backstage and meet the band! Pictured below is Judi hugging lead singer Darius Rucker backstage, and Kim and Judi in their seats before the concert. Dreams really do come true!



# CLASS ACTIVITIES

## JUNIOR CLASS BANQUET

There are eight Sokol Tabor Juniors this season; two Jr. Boys and six Jr. Girls. This is a younger Junior Class with the oldest being 14. The Sokol Tabor Junior Class Annual Banquet was held on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. This consisted of nominations and elections for the 2019-2020 Junior Board and discussing ideas for fund-raisers and class outings. Pizza and pop were served. Elected into office were Duncan Campbell – Class Representative, Mikaela Colagrossi – Treasurer and Madison Polich – Secretary. Let's give them three cheers and a NAZDAR!



*Officers Mikaela, Madison and Evan*



*Brainstorming Ideas*



*Junior Class Photo*

**SAVE THE DATE: JUNIOR BOARD MOVIE NIGHT – JANUARY 29, 2020**  
**FEATURED MOVIE: FROZEN**

## MALE WINTER ARTISTIC COMPETITION

On Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Sokol Tabor Boys and Jr. Boys competed in the Central District Male Winter Artistic Gymnastics Competition. Congratulations to our competitors and coaches on a job well done. Let's give them three cheers and a NAZDAR!





# CLASS ACTIVITIES



On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> after class, the Active Women held a Secret Santa Gift Exchange in the Clubroom. Everyone brought a snack to share while enjoying frosty beverages. Thanks to Coach Nichole for organizing!

**LIVE Entertainment BY: Winterz Moon**  
Featuring our very own Ed Linhart

# Beer & Bags

**January 25, 2020**

**Sign up @ 6:30pm**

**Practice starts at 7:00pm**

**\$30/Team**  
**\$20/person**

**Teams are encouraged**  
*Includes 1 drink ticket*

**Beer, Wine and Bar Snacks!!**

**1602 S. Clarence Ave, Berwyn, IL 60402**



# O' CHRISTMAS TREE

## ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Published on Wikipedia.com: "A Christmas tree is a decorated tree, usually an evergreen conifer, such as a spruce, pine or fir, or an artificial tree of similar appearance...The tree was traditionally decorated with "roses made of colored paper, apples, wafers, tinsel and sweetmeats." In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it began to be illuminated by candles, which were ultimately replaced by Christmas lights after the advent of electrification. Today, there is a wide variety of traditional and modern ornaments."

Once again for the Holiday edition, I was inspired by family and friends traveling around Chicago & the U.S. taking photos of Christmas trees. I enjoy the thought and time that goes into making each one a beautiful masterpiece. Enjoy taking a trip across state borders! ~Christina



*Macy's – Walnut Room – Chicago  
Photo courtesy of Chris Curran*



*Museum of Science and Industry  
Photo Courtesy of Kathy Barcal*



*Suzette's Creperie  
Wheaton, IL*



*Tribune Tower – Chicago  
Photo courtesy of Chris Curran*



*Drury Lane Theatre – Oak Brook  
Photo courtesy of Veronica Walinski*



*The Strand Brewery – Dowagiac, MI  
Photo courtesy of The Strand*



*LaGuardia Airport – Queens, NY  
Photo courtesy of Chris Curran*



*Union Station – Chicago, IL  
Photo courtesy of Debbie Blazina*



*Metlife Building – New York, NY  
Photo courtesy of Chris Curran*





# A LITTLE BIT O'HISTORY

## 1915 FIRE (CONTINUED FROM 2019 TABOR TALK FALL EDITION)

Below is an article about the fire that was translated from the Denni Hlasatel Czech Newspaper Dec. 8, 1915

### A SOKOL BUILDING IN ASHES

#### Valuable Documents Lost

Hardly a countryman living in the part of Chicago known as Merigold, or Novy Tabor (New Tabor), was able to enjoy peaceful sleep last night. There was too much excitement there, caused as it was, by a conflagration in which the building of the Sokol Tabor Slovanske Lipy at 13th Street and Karlov Avenue (formerly 41st Avenue) burned down. The report of the fire spread rapidly throughout the district and soon the scene was filled with large crowds of people who came together with many Sokols to see the end of that monument of unselfish Sokol work. Among those witnessing the fire was also the head of the Sokol Tabor Slovanske Lipy, Mr. Frant. Ort, who, in company with a number of other members of the organization, was trying to save at least the most valuable documents, souvenirs and other items pertaining to the history and activities of the organization but their efforts were in vain. Not even the historic flag sent to America with the first Sokol expedition from Prague, richly embroidered by Plzen Bohemian Ladies could be saved. All apparatus, a large Sokol library, large cabinets containing the records and other property of a number of various Bohemian associations which held their meetings in the Sokol building — everything was burned, and the oldest and foremost national property of Merigold Bohemians is nothing but a heap of ashes, from which a dusky skeleton reaches with its arms to the sky.

A definite opinion seems to prevail as to the cause of the fire. Most likely it was carelessness — whose, of course, it is difficult to determine. A Sokol squad had its drill in the gymnasium last night, and there was a meeting of some association on the second floor. The drill ended shortly after ten o'clock. Instructor Josef Pokorny left shortly thereafter, while a number of members of the squad remained in the locker room and around the showers. After their departure, about half past ten, the men upstairs smelled smoke, and when the odor grew stronger, a part of the group, together with the caretaker of the building, Mr. Florian Holek, ran down looking for the source of the smoke. They found it soon. The gymnasium was already filled with it, and they saw flames also at one side of the stage, the side where the dressing room is located. Realizing that nothing could be done any more without firemen's help, they called for it and soon three fire engines arrived. After fighting the flames for more than an hour, they saw there was nothing to be done about the Sokol building itself, and turned their attention to the immediate neighborhood, saving at least the frame house of a tailor, Mr. Sulc, which was catching fire in several places. The loss is considerable. The value of the building is estimated at \$18,000, the value of the library, some \$3,000, and the property was not insured for more than eight to ten thousand dollars. In the total amount of the damage, the cost of foodstuffs and other stock in Mr. Holek's restaurant must be included. The restaurant was on the first floor of the building and was richly stocked, thus the total loss should be estimated as being over \$20,000. The building of the Sokol Tabor Slovanske Lipy was a frame house with the lower part of the walls constructed of stone. It stood on two building lots, 125 feet long, and was built by Sokol Tabor in 1902. The decision to build it was made in the Sokol's memorable meeting of September 5, 1901, which from four offers submitted to its consideration, selected the lowest one, of \$8,000 sent in by Mr. Malecha. Sokol Tabor was founded December 14, 1890. About a year ago, it merged with the Sokol Slovanska Lipa, which moved all its property to the building which has just burned down. This included valuable and unique documents pertaining to the early life of Chicago Bohemians. These cannot possibly be replaced. The financial loss, what with the insurance and the well-known Sokol generosity, will soon be forgotten, but the loss of documents going back to the historic times of our first settlers in this city cannot be either made good or forgotten.

# EXTRA, EXTRA



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

*In the “#Fronallymarried” article in the 2019 Fall Edition, the name of the bride was misspelled. It should have read “Alix Wilt”. Apologies to the happy couple. Merry Christmas to the new Mr. & Mrs.!*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM  
OUR HOME TO YOURS!**

## IN MEMORIAM

*When we lose someone we love,  
we gain an angel we know.*



Sokolice Tabor member Martha Houdek passed away on October 28, 2019.

She was a member for 83 years! An incredible achievement to be proud of.

May she rest in peace.

