



Lavaca County Czech Heritage Society

ZPRÁVY DOPIS

<https://czechheritage-texas.org/>

July (Července), 2019

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Next Meeting July 14, 2019, 2 p.m. at KC Hall

Dobrý den:

Hope you are all doing well dealing with the summer heat. Marsha and I along with Phillip and Phyllis Steffek escaped it for over two weeks on vacation to Northern Europe including Iceland, Ireland, and Norway, but now we are paying the price to catch up. As you should know by now, we have a new Royal Court consisting of *Queen Brett Hermes* and Little Sister--*Lara Hermes* and *Princess Victoria Kraatz* and Little Sister--*Lacie Olivarez*. I want to thank these ladies and their parents for participating in this important activity. I will cover their parade activities later in this newsletter. Please come out and support our ladies during the parades.

Dobrý den,

New members may not have received the State CHS newsletter because it takes a bit to get you in the system. It is called the *Cesky Hlas* and is very informative and includes upcoming state events. Our Lavaca Chapter is also well represented, and I want to thank Irene Cerny for preparing and sending our Chapter News to them.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Regards,

James Steffek
President, Lavaca CHS

Scholarship Award,

Delaney Etzler is the recipient of this year's scholarship award. She will attend Howard Payne University and will also be playing volleyball in the fall. Harvey, thank you for handling the selection process for this event.



Parade Schedule

Kris Hermes is Coordinator of the parades for us and has applied to attend the following parades. Some or all of the Royal Court Ladies will be riding the float for these parades. I want to also thank JG and Janis Hrcir for helping with the float as well as storing the float in JG's shop.

Moulton, July 28

La Grange, August 31

Hallettsville, September 28



**Brett Hermes and Lara Hermes –
Shiner's "Half Moon Holiday" Parade
Saturday, July 6, 2019**



**Float begin driven by Brett's Dad (Greg
Hermes) and Family.
Brett and Lara in the**



**Congratulations to the Lavaca County
Czech Heritage Chapter** for placing Second in the Float Division at the Shiner "Half Moon Holiday" Event on Saturday, July 6, 2019. Congratulations to Brett Hermes and Lara Hermes for participating in this event. A big thank you goes to those who helped in decorating the float!

State Meetings

Irene Szwarc attended the June meeting as I was on vacation. She also gave our Chapter Report. She informed me that State CHS is pushing for chapters to list events on their web sites. We are now posting our newsletter on the site which includes our activities. I encourage you to go to the site www.czechheritage-texas.org and view the Lavaca Chapter's page.

STATE EVENTS FOR 2019

July 27, 2019--

Mgt/Genealogy @ Fort
Bend CHS

**September 21, 2019--EC Meeting @
TCHCC**

**November 9, 2019--Fall State Meeting
@ Travis-Williamson CHS**



Program for Next Meeting

There will be a Social after the meeting with “Szačina.” We will visit and talk with each other about Summer Plans and Travels. Please bring a dish/dessert for “Szačina.”

Crowning of Royal Court.



Janis Hrnecir conducted the crowning of the LCCHS Royal Court at last meeting.

The Lavaca County 2019 Royal Court are pictured left to right: (back row) **Queen Brett Hermes**, daughter of Greg and Kris Hermes and **Princess Victoria Kraatz**, daughter of Trey and Jennifer Kraatz; (front row) Little Sister for the Queen, *Lara Hermes*, daughter of Mark and Ashley Hermes and Little Sister for the Princess, **Lacie Olivarez**, daughter of Gary and Tracy Olivarez.



FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR LAVACA CHS

October 13, 2019--Mass 8:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Czech Singers. Mass for living and deceased members of CHS and Czech Singers

October 13, 2019--11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Family Center

December 8, 2019--11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Family Center.

Vítej

NEW MEMBERS JOIN LCCHS:

We want to welcome the following new members to our local Chapter:

WELCOME new members

Mark and Ashley Hermes
Wyatt Hermes
Lara Hermes
Brett Hermes
Greg and Kris Hermes
Joyce Hermes
Tracy Olivarez
Lacie Olivarez
Michael O'Day
Jim & Ruby Bujnoch





GOD IS CZECH

Here are some reasons for us to think that God is Czech:

We know God is Czech because He made sure our ancestors arrived safely to Texas.

We know God is Czech because He helped our ancestors build beautiful painted churches.

We know God is Czech because He has given us poppy seed for kolaches and sausage for klobásniky.

We know God is Czech because He gave us polkas and taught us to dance.

We know God is Czech because He gave us beautiful voices to sing those beautiful Czech songs.

We know God is Czech because He gave us sausage and potatoes to eat and pivo to drink.

We know God is Czech because He has given us pecans and peaches for pies or other desserts.

We know God is Czech because He gave us Faith, Strength and the love of Family.

We know God is Czech because He made us friendly, fair and caring just like Him.

We know God is Czech because he gave us the Lavaca County Czech Heritage Society.

Is there any doubt in your mind that God is Czech???

4 Things Czechs Do Better Than Anyone Else by Kafkadesk (Czech Republic Magazine)

Prague, Czech Republic – The Czech Republic tops the charts in a number of areas: some are pretty intuitive, others more surprising. Here's a quick overview of everything Czechs do much better – or worse – than most people in the world.

1. Having a Job

No offense, but chances are you'll be out of work before your Czech friends.

The Czech Republic boasts the lowest unemployment rate in the EU (3.5%), to such an extent that many companies are struggling to find people to fill their open positions. It's estimated that around 220,000 jobs are just waiting for applicants, an unthinkable situation for many European countries where the unemployment rate remains at staggering highs.

Is it a sign of the Czech economy's strength and attractiveness? Yes, undoubtedly. But it's also the symptom of a deeply rooted skills mismatch. The Czech economy, largely based on low-to-medium skilled manufacturing jobs, fails to attract high-skilled graduates and professionals who prefer to find better-paid opportunities elsewhere. Moreover, structural factors also threaten the labour market's astounding health (demographic decline, job automation) while the pressure on wages might cripple its attractiveness for foreign companies. A fair price to pay to keep tomorrow's talents from leaving, one might argue...

2. Drinking Beer

This might be their most famous area of expertise: Czechs are the biggest beer drinkers in the world, with an annual consumption of 140 litres per capita. Seeing as this also includes infants and children, you can easily guess that the average adult actually drinks more than that. Other contenders lag far behind: Poles (98 litres) come in second,

followed by Germans (96 litres) and Austrians (95.5 litres). The first non-European country to make the list is the United States, with an honourable score of 75 litres per capita. If you took pride in your abilities to down a beer, now would be a good time to put things in perspective.

As the saying goes, “a fine beer may be judged with only one sip... but it’s better to be thoroughly sure”.

Saying that beer plays an important part in Czech culture and society would be an understatement. In the birthplace of the original Pilsner and Budvar beers, pivo is a national treasure, an authentic art de vivre inherited from centuries-old traditions dating back to the 10th century’s Benedictine monasteries’ first brewing attempts.

If we consider the overall alcohol consumption, however, the worldwide winner is Belarus, with an annual consumption of 17.5 litres per capita. Guess they really like their White Russians. Czechs are ranked 9th (tied with Slovakia), with 13 litres of pure alcohol enthusiastically gulped down every year.

3. Being Educated... Up to a Certain Point

According to OECD figures, the Czech Republic’s adult population is the most educated among developed economies. Well, kind of. Simply put, 93% of the working-age population has completed at least an upper-secondary education. This is higher than all other OECD countries, where the average secondary education attainment rate is almost 20 percentage points lower (75%).

Looking at the big picture, the situation is more nuanced and less cause for celebration: for 60% of 25-34 year-old Czechs, upper-secondary education is their highest level of education – which also happens to be the highest rate in the OECD (see graph below). Therefore, Czechs fare much worse when we consider tertiary education, with an attainment rate of 30%, compared to an OECD average of over 40%.

4. Paying Women Less Than Men

This article, sadly, ends on a sour note. The Czech Republic has one of the most important gender wage gaps among developed economies (22%), only outranked by Estonia (around 25%). This pay inequality is especially strong in the finance and insurance sector (40% wage gap) and for information and communications jobs (33%). Moreover, if the gap stands at less than 14% for young adults (25-34 years old), it increases two-folds (27.4%) for the 35-44 age group.

So what’s at stake? You guessed it: babies. It’s no coincidence that both Estonia and the Czech Republic, apart from having the biggest wage gaps, are also the countries with the most generous parental leaves in Europe. Which would be perfectly all right if it was shared equally by moms and dads. Except it’s not. The Czech policy allows a 28-week maternity leave followed by a parental leave available until the new-born child reaches the age of three.

Even though these entitlements can theoretically be used by both parents, women are usually the ones who put their career on hold: the employment rate of fathers with children under 6 stands at 94% (UE average of 88%), while less than half of mothers in the same situation are employed (UE average of 61%). The graph below shows how much having children factors into the gender employment gap: while it’s almost equal to zero between men and women without children, it reaches more than 30% for parents. OECD, The pursuit of gender equality (2017)

A new measure, which came into effect last February and entitles new fathers to a 7-day paternity leave, is part of the government’s plan to curb this trend and ensure a more equally-balanced childcare policy. This list is far from being exhaustive. For the sake of clarity, we had to select the areas which seemed the most illustrative and relevant, but Czechs are ranked #1 in a number of other areas: any ideas which ones?

