



PROUDLY SERVING THE ENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1908

“The mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs.”

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The Ennis Czech Beseda Dancers performed for the National Polka Festival in May. Our next performance is October 12th at the Sokol in Dallas. Our practices are held at the Sokol Hall in Ennis. New dancers are welcome and if interested text or call Diane Liska 214-205-7610.

Educational Director's Report

Local Sokol Leaders

Bernice Frances Jurcik Hamilton

1934 – 2021

This "Local Sokol Leaders" series highlights our local Sokols who were instrumental in keeping the Sokol and Czech spirit alive here. These articles will reminisce for our older members and introduce our newer members to those they may never have known, who dedicated their lives to this organization.

Bernice began gymnastics at age 10. She drilled (practices gymnastics) here at Sokol KHB Ennis and at Sokol Zizka Dallas, where she would spend the night with her uncle and aunt nearby. She became an adult member in 1951 at age 17. She met her future husband Harrell Hamilton at Sokol when she bounced a ball off his head. After marrying, Harrell's college and army days took Bernice away from Texas. Upon returning after his military service, the young family settled in Fort Worth, where they became active in Sokol Fort Worth with gymnastics and dancing the Beseda.



In 1972, the Hamiltons moved to Italy, Texas. Bernice and her family, all 7 of them began either teaching or working out at Sokol KHB Ennis and competing in Southern District and National Slets. Bernice wrote and taught several award-winning rhythmic, gymnastic "Special Numbers." Among them were the Southern District Special Number, "Sokol Round-Up," that won First Place at the 1973 National Slet in Chicago. She wrote a special prostna (calisthenics) for tots, which involved stuffed animals. She also judged apparatus and Special Number routines at District Slets.



She was a member of the organizing team for the founding of the Sokol West Gymnastic Association. Bernice served as the treasurer for both the American Sokol Southern District and Sokol KHB for many years, as well as being assistant Director of Women in Ennis. Post her official positions, she continued to attend many Southern District annual meetings and ASO National Conventions as a delegate.

Bernice taught gymnastics classes into the late 1980s, finally retiring from coaching after 20 years. But she did not retire from Sokol. She continued to be an integral member of Sokol's kitchen crew. She led the kolache baking for decades, baking thousands of kolache for Polka Festival and the Junior Sokol Gymnastics annual bake sale. During the bake sales, she taught many a Sokol mother, dad and child the fine art of kolache baking. In addition, Bernice helped the Sokol kitchen prepare for Polka Festival by making at least 100 Czech dumplings (knedliky) and gallons and gallons of sauerkraut in a gravy base (kisely zeli).

Learn more about our past local Sokol leaders in our museum near the front entrance of our building.

Na Zdar!

Sister Liz Moucka Krajca
Educational Director, Sokol KHB Ennis

2025 National Polka Fest

We have all heard that raising children takes a village, but we all KNOW that pulling off a successful Polka Fest TAKES AN ARMY. Once again, Sokol KHB mustered that army in 2025 – cooks, servers, cashiers, bar staff, wrist band registrars, ticket takers and welcomers, dessert bakers, table and hall decorators, setup and cleanup crew members, and others not thought of here. Below are pictures, provided to the Newsletter, of just a few of those that pitched in:



**To everyone that had a part – THANK YOU
for A Well Deserved “JOB WELL DONE”**



Sokol KHB was well represented at the American Sokol National Slet in Chicago, June 25-29, 2025. Those KHB coaches, competitors, and families attending included Averie Rumfield, Lennox Sobczak, Avani Sobczak, Thea Nixon, Emma Wilson, Joanna Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Wes Wilson, Paul Sobczak, Holly Sobczak, Kelsie Pace, Chris Pace, Jamie Nixon, Tim Nixon, and Stanton Nixon. Rhonda Liska received a special award (see below). Jan and Chuck Kalat served on the National Board of Instructors Staff for the Slet. A group from Sokol Fort Worth also participated.



American Sokol Organization Honors Rhonda Liska

The American Sokol Organization has presented KHB member, Rhonda Liska, the Jindrich Fugner Service Award for her many years of dedicated service.



Rhonda Liska is a lifetime member of Sokol Karel Havlicek Borovsky. At age 10, she started in its gymnastic program and participated in her first American Sokol Slet in 1977. In addition, she was lifeguard at the Sokol KHB Tyrs pool, played volleyball as a teen and adult and attended instructor schools and numerous District, National, and International Slets.

Rhonda served as Sokol KHB Director of Women from 1989 to 1994 and was a member of the Board of Trustees for 8 years. At the district level, she has been the Southern District Secretary since 1987. Rhonda was Secretary of the American Sokol from 2000-2005 and has been on the National ASO Executive Board as Bylaws Chairman since 2018. Having participated in many American Sokol national conventions, she served as secretary in 1990 and represented the Southern District on the Convention Bylaws Committee where she was

secretary in 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2014. Rhonda continues as Southern District Secretary as well as serving on the National Membership and Bylaws Committees. Rhonda is a Certified Professional Landman in the Oil and Gas Industry and holds a Master of Jurisprudence from Texas A&M School of Law.

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From the August 2025 Sokol Greater Cleveland Newsletter:

Czechia Assists Texas

The Czech Republic was the only foreign nation to aid flood-stricken Texas in July. As reported by John Sabol on his *New Czech Voice of Cleveland* radio program, 16 Czech volunteer firefighters and search dogs arrived there to assist the search and rescue efforts.

Paul Burik

GYMNASTICS REPORT

We are gearing up for the new season! We have two registration nights July 28 and August 18 6pm-8pm!

We are doing a Quilt Raffle \$1 a ticket. We are also doing a Nintendo Switch/Headphone Beats Basket for \$5 a ticket.

VOLLEYBALL REPORT

Adult Volleyball play is Wednesday 730 till around 10. Must be 17 for these teams!

POOL REPORT

Pool is open!

New Hours with School Starting. New Hours Start August 7.

Water Aerobics Tuesday and Thursday 5:30pm-6:30pm

Extended Pool hours Tuesday and Thursday 6:30pm-9pm

Saturday 1pm-5pm

Here are the entry fees and pool rental cost for this year! We already are renting the pool and it's booking up fast! Call 972-921-1962 for booking pool and pool passes!

Daily Swim

(ANYONE COMING THROUGH DOOR HAS TO PAY ADMISSION REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING)

Member \$7 Non-Member \$14 2 YRS AND UNDER FREE

Water Aerobics -- \$7 a class

Patio Rental during Open Swim 2 Hours, \$50 for patio and 5 guest (REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT SWIMMING) all other guest to party will be charged regular entrance fee

- Private Pool Party (40 people or less REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT) 2 Hours, \$350
- Private Pool Party (60 people or less REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT) 2 Hours, \$400
- Private Pool Party (75 people or less REGARDLESS OF SWIMMING OR NOT) 2 Hours, \$450

Extra Fees

- Rentals (\$100 for every extra hour after a 2-hour min decided 72 hours prior to party)
- Rentals (\$150 Day of party to add a hour after 2-hour min)
- Bartender (\$50 cash day of party for 2 hours + \$25 extra hour)

If interested in Registering, New membership to Sokol, and Raffle tickets you can email me at jnoplis80@gmail.com, come to the gym Monday 5pm to 8pm , Tuesday 4-7, or come by the clubroom Monday and Wednesday!

Thank you

Joanna Wilson

Physical Director/Gymnastic Manager/Pool Manager Sokol KHB Ennis

Southern District Women's Director

Ellis County Czech Heritage Society **Czech Movie & Social**

Thurs. August 7, 2025 in the Clubroom

Sokol Activity Center

2622 E Hwy 34 – Ennis TX

Doors Open 6pm / Accordion Music by David Slovak 6:30pm

Featured Film: "To Catch a Millionaire" 7pm

Old members, new members, friends and neighbors are all invited to the social & 2009 Czech movie: "To Catch a Millionaire". Film is in Czech with English subtitles & will be shown in the Clubroom (back entrance).

No Cover Charge / Full Bar / Pizza, chicken strips, corn dogs, French fries, tater tots, cheese sticks, jalapeno poppers, bread pretzels, & snacks also for purchase at bar.

About the Film "To Catch a Millionaire (Ulovit Miliardáře)", a comedy:

Everyone wants to catch a billionaire. Policemen, journalists, politicians, artists, ladies and religious guys. Successful businessman Patrik Grossman is the subject of a fabricated racist reportage. Public opinion turns against him, and Grossman begins to lose money, businesses, banks, women and henchmen. It would seem that an unstoppable fall must come when suddenly a saving idea appears: to buy a private television station and turn public opinion to its side. The comedy can begin...



Questions or comments: Victor Havel 817-714-8323 or Kyle Stuckly 817-925-1673

www.czechheritage-texas.org

 **NO SMOKING EVENT**
Smoking allowed on Patio

CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 7 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: "To Catch a Millionaire" - Clubroom 6pm
Aug 18 - Gymnastics Registration - 6pm-8pm Main Hall
Aug 20 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
Sep 4 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBA - Clubroom 6pm
Sep 17 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
Oct 2 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBA - Clubroom 6pm
Oct 8 Sokol Memorial Day
Oct 15 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
Nov 6 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBA - Clubroom 6pm
Nov 19 Monthly Members Meeting - Dining Room 7pm
Dec 4 Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie: TBA - Clubroom 6pm
Dec 6 Annual Members Day / Christmas Celebration - Main Hall 1pm
Dec 14 Ellis County Toy Run - Main Hall 12pm
Dec 31 New Year's Eve Dance - Main Hall 8pm

Email any ideas for fundraisers & social events to the Ways & Means Committee at
fundraising@sokolennis.com

Join Sokol Ennis Members Group on Facebook to get upcoming event notices & other info

AUGUST	BIRTHDAYS		SEPTEMBER	BIRTHDAYS	
2	Newton	Dolores	1	Baker	Katey
4	Wester	Elizabeth	1	Monroy	Rosendo Israel
5	McIntosh	Theresa	1	Spurlock	Kollin
5	Pochobradsky	Dena	2	Kuehn	Kim
6	Gilburt	Chris	3	Zmolik	Rachel
6	Honza	Patricia	5	Dodson	Paul
7	Kalat	Charles	5	McCarty	Lacy
8	Chapman	Richard	5	Mikel	Stanley
9	Wester	Chad	6	Mikel	Jeremiah
10	Betik	Suzie	6	Sarmienta	Tiffany
11	Kubin	Bruce	9	Browning	Julia
12	Vyers	Lisa	9	Frossard	Johnny "Tex"
14	Toth	Eric	9	Marek	Kevin
15	Cryer	Phillip	9	Mikula	Sandra
15	Knapp	Shirley	12	Anderson	Lou
15	Marek	Ksenia	12	Barak	Alan
17	Green	Sarah	14	Harris	Keyna
18	Morales	Pete	15	Barton	Joe
18	Wiginton	Joe	16	Hajek	Dennis
19	Bautista	Cruz	16	Smith	Brandon
20	Tabb	Judi	16	Valek	Larry
21	Campos	Lizeth	18	Macalik	Melissa
21	Liska	Rhonda	18	Patak	J Gayle
21	Liska	Tommy	19	Martinez	Rachel
22	Pace	Kelsie	20	Zhanel	Brian
22	Zapletal	Patricia	21	Novak	Danielle
23	Gerich	Vanessa	21	Rejcek	Denise
23	Kudrna	Dorothy	21	Slovak	Deborah
23	Phillips	Ronald	21	Sullivan	Lisa
24	Mikuda	Lana	22	Hamilton	Jay
25	Salazar	Veronica	22	Smith	Tracey
28	Nichols	Elizabeth	23	Betik	Deanna
29	Curry	Caleb	24	Liska	Barbara
29	Gill	Lorna	24	Turner	Amy
30	Saucedo	Alysa	28	Robinson	Stacey
31	Hutyra	Matt	28	Trojacek	Kathy
31	Pochobradsky	Victor	29	Vrla	Libbie
			30	Knize	Wesley
			30	Perales	Lilia

2025 Sokol Ennis Sponsors - Thank you for your support!

<p>Shellie Smiley-York 101 NW Main Ennis, TX 469.245.5274 shelley@spendwithme.com</p> 	<p>HARDWOODS - LAMINATES - LVT PLANKS - WINDOW TREATMENTS CARPET DIRECT & Exciting Decor <i>You Save The Middle Man!</i> Call me for a \$7625 ESTIMATE and \$446/11 30 to 50% <i>below retail!</i> carpetdirect.com Dennis Hejlek carpetdirectflooring@yahoo.com Phone: (972) 322-4575</p>	<p>18th Annual ENNIS-CZECH MUSIC FESTIVAL Sokol Hall Sat., February 14, 2026 ENNISCZECHMUSICFESTIVAL.COM</p>	<p>Plant (Uniform Tiers by Team Management) plant@teammgt.com</p> 	<p>THE "TO DO" GUY Zeke Martinez 972-956-4360 LET'S GET THOSE "TO DO" TASKS DONE!</p> 
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