

December, 2020



PROUDLY SERVING THE ENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1908

.....

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

What a year we have had! The pandemic has certainly brought us challenges, but Sokol KHB is alive and well. We were fortunate to get the Czech Fest and the 10K in before we had to shut down and those funds sustained us until August. The Executive Board had to make some operating decisions to stretch those funds as long as we could. We have been blessed with a matching donation from an anonymous donor. This donation matches funds we've raised in our ongoing fundraisers up to \$50,000. The Monday night fundraisers could not have been done without the support of members and non-members like Mike and Nannette Liska, Benny Trojacek, Larry Trojacek, Ray Elleven, David and Michelle Slovak, Rusty Liska, Deanna Betik, Randy Owen, Debbie and Darren Slovak, Frankie and Evelyn Svehlak, Mayfair Mulligan, and Kevin Marek and his fish-fry crew. I know I may be missing some other volunteers; I thank you all for not only your time, your food donations, but also other resources to sustain these fundraisers. This community of support is what Sokol is built on. I would love to see more of our membership become involved with these types of fundraiser activities and events. It's very evident that we all need each other during this time for not only social interaction reasons, but for financial reasons as well. I understand that not everyone is able to come out at this time, but we hope to see everyone very soon in the future after this pandemic passes. We are hoping that 2021 will be a year that we can get back to more normal Sokol activities.

Again, thank you for your support in the many ways you've given back to the unit. God Bless!

Thomas Betik -- President

["Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours."](#) Les Brown

December, 2020

SEASON'S GREETINGS

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

FROM

DIANE AND DAVID LISKÁ

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY 2021 BE BLESSED AND JOYFUL.

FROM

THOMAS & DEANNA BETIK

VESELÉ VÁNOCEL & ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK!

FROM

THE SOKOL KHB EXECUTIVE BOARD

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM

THE ELLEVEN FAMILY



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
from
David, Michelle,
Josef & Isabella Slovak*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES
FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR

FROM

THE KALATS – JAN, CHUCK,
PATTI,
CHARLES, CHRISTINE, & TAG

December, 2020

SEASON'S GREETINGS

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND, MARIE VRLA
FROM
ADELL, DOROTHY, & GEORGIE

DECK THEM HALLS, YA'LL
FROM
THE SOKOL ADULT CLASS –
ADELL, DOROTHY, GEORGIE,
LIZ, CAROLINE, PAULA, JAN & CHUCK



REMEMBERING OUR LOST SOKOL
SENIORS' EXERCISE CLASSMATE –
MARIE KOSTAK VRLA (1930 - 2020)
CHRISTMAS WILL NOT BE THE SAME
WITHOUT YOU!

“I WILL HONOUR CHRISTMAS IN MY HEART,
AND TRY TO KEEP IT ALL THE YEAR.
I WILL LIVE IN THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE.
THE SPIRITS OF ALL THREE SHALL STRIVE WITHIN ME.
I WILL NOT SHUT OUT THE LESSONS THAT THEY TEACH!”

CHARLES DICKENS

Mikuláš / St. Nicholas Day

Education Director's Report

Saint Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš in Czech) is one of the most popular minor saints commemorated in the Eastern and Western Catholic churches and now traditionally associated with Christmas. His Feast Day is December 6, so in many countries that is the day when children receive gifts. Children leave a shoe or sock by their door the night of December 5, and hope it is filled with goodies when they wake up the next morning. The traditional goodies are fruits, nuts, candy and gingerbread cookies. Naughty children instead find pieces of coal, onions, or potatoes in their shoe.

Saint Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš) lived during the 300s A.D. in the Mediterranean area. He was the archbishop of Myra in what is modern day Turkey. He lost his parents at an early age, but they left him great wealth when they died. The good bishop died on December 6, 343; thus this day is now St. Nicholas Day. After his death, the legend of his gift-giving grew. Many stories have been handed down about Nicholas, all testifying to a life spent in service to the weak, the small, and the defenseless, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving. Saint Nicholas (Svatý Mikuláš) was always very generous to poor children. Because of this, he is known as the patron saint of children.



Traditionally, the Czech Christmas season begins on December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas' Day, or as it is known to Czechs, "Mikuláš." Great anticipation awaits the arrival of Mikuláš by the children. Mikuláš is usually pictured as a bishop clothed in white, with a gold cape, the mitre hat of a bishop, and the traditional bishop's staff. He is accompanied by an angel carrying a large book with the names of the children, and marks indicating if they have been bad or good during the year. When Mikuláš asks the children what they want for Christmas, the angel also writes it in the book. A devil also accompanies Mikuláš. He carries a switch and a chain, trying to get the children to be naughty so that they will not receive their gifts from Mikuláš.

Today, many Americans of Czechoslovak descent hang their stockings up on the evening of December 5 – Mikuláš eve. Mikuláš comes with the devil and angel during the night and fills the stockings according to the marks in the angel's book. The name of St. Nicholas has been altered by different languages, such as Santa Nickalous in Latin and Sinterklaas in Dutch. Here he has been Americanized and he is dressed very differently, plus he visits on the night of December 24/25 as Santa Claus.

Veselé Vánoce a Šťastný Nový Rok
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

December, 2020

Gym Report

Sokol KHB Ennis is happy to report that our unit has received a \$325 special internal grant from the American Sokol. This past September, the Sokol Foundation Committee received special permission from the National Executive Board to utilize remaining funds from the Endowment Foundation Fund 2020 award money to help alleviate expenses faced by individual Sokol units for cleaning and sanitizing costs necessitated by COVID mandates, particularly at a time when these units were facing income shortfalls due to cancelled events.

Our "COVID-19 Required Cleaning/Sanitizing" mission has been to establish a safe and clean environment for our gymnasts, other physical programs and coaches per state and federal mandates and the "Risk Management on Assisting Units in Reopening Gyms" during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. We feel that these efforts will produce results of these four goals:

- Maintain sufficient quantity of necessary cleaning and sanitizing supplies to comply with COVID-19 required regulations.
- Do everything in our capability to keep our young athletes healthy and not contracting any diseases while in our gymnasium.
- Provide a level of security for our parents that their children will be safe in our facility.
- Attract new members. As this level of security is developed, we hope that our "gym parents" will spread the word within the community of our exceptional facility.

Gymnastics apparatus is sanitized after every class. Students and coaches are monitored for fever and illnesses. Although purchases of needed cleaning and sanitizing products (disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, all-purpose cleaners, bleach, latex gloves, non-contact thermometers, and more) began during the early Summer, these funds have been extremely beneficial in maintaining our supply throughout the Fall and Winter months.

We thank American Sokol for their support in providing assistance for our gym programs to maintain the proper level of cleanliness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Na Zdar !

The Sokol KHB Ennis Board of Instructors

"MAY YOU ALL HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY—WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHOEVER YOU ARE, HOWEVER YOU SPEND IT, AND WHATEVER EMOTIONS ARISE WITHIN YOU ON THIS DAY. BLESSINGS TO THE BEASTS AND CHILDREN WITHIN US ALL."

Elizabeth Gilbert



SOKOL KHB ENNIS ANNUAL MEMBERS DAY
SAT. DEC. 5, 2020 10AM-5PM

10:00 Annual Meeting & Elections
Kolaches & Coffee provided

12:00 Luncheon
Ham & Klobase provided / Please bring covered dish

1:00 Member Awards

1:30 Gym Exhibition

3:00 Santa & Christmas Social

Members Day occurs annually on the first Saturday of December

SOKOL ACTIVITY CENTER - 2622 E Hwy 34, Ennis TX
972-875-7959 fundraising@sokolennis.com sokolennis.com

SMOKE FREE EVENT
NO SMOKING PLEASE 



SOKOL ENNIS IS SEEKING SPONSORS FOR 2021



ONLY \$150!
PER YEARLY SPONSORSHIP

Your business ad will be promoted as follows:

1. Sokol Ennis Newsletter (bi-monthly Feb/Apr/Jun/Aug/Oct/Dec 2021)
2. Sokol Ennis Website at sokolennis.com (all year)
3. Sokol Ennis Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages (monthly)
4. Sokol Ennis Sponsor Banners in the Sokol Activity Center (all year)

Please email your business ad to fundraising@sokolennis.com

Send check to Sokol KHB Ennis - P.O. Box 205 - Ennis, TX 75120-0205

or purchase online at sokolennis.com/sponsors

Deadline – Sponsorships and ad designs must be submitted no later than Jan 25, 2021

American Sokol Organization Ennis, Texas is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

December, 2020

Calendar of Upcoming Events

2020

Dec 5 Annual Members Day / Christmas Celebration 10am-5pm

Dec 7 Feast Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm (menu TBA)

Dec 11 Karaoke Party w/ DJ Andrea - Clubroom 7pm

Dec 13 Annual Ellis County Toy Run - Hall 12pm

Dec 14 Feast Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm (menu TBA)

Dec 21 Feast Fundraiser - Dining Room 5pm (menu TBA)

Dec 23 Christmas Social & Sing-Along - Clubroom 5pm

2021

Feb 12-13 - [Ennis Czech Music Festival](#)

Mar 6 – Sokol Ennis \$10K Building Fund Benefit

Message from the Membership Committee

Sokol KHB Ennis is continuing its annual membership drive for 2020. All members are needed to help with this endeavor. Please encourage your family, friends, and relatives to join. The membership application can be found on the membership page at sokolennis.com or in the Sokol clubroom. For more information regarding membership, please contact Membership Director David Slovak 214-906-0891 or membership@sokolennis.com.

David Slovák - Membership Director - Sokol KHB Ennis
membership@sokolennis.com 972-875-7959 <https://sokolennis.com/>

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND RELATIVES TO JOIN.



Consider joining Sokol KHB Ennis for 2020!

Sokol KHB Ennis is entering its 112th year and there have been many changes since the organization was formed back in 1908. Its core foundations have remained solid, however, in that the organization is there to serve its members and to provide them not only with the finest gymnastics, volleyball, swimming, music and dancing facilities in the district but also to act as a professional host to many special social and cultural occasions we put on each year.

It is certainly true that while the sport of gymnastics – the coaching and the competition – is at the heart of what we provide, we are also keen to ensure that the social and cultural element meets the expectations of all our members. With that being an important focus, we always welcome our members' input.

For membership info & application form, visit
sokolennis.com/membership

 **Core of your Community!**
Affordable fitness & fun for all ages!

December, 2020

SOKOL ENNIS QUILT RAFFLE

\$1.00 PER TICKET

Handmade by Ennis Ladies Sewing Circle

**Tickets available prior to
the drawing on Saturday
Dec. 5th for Members Day**

Visit us at sokolennis.com & follow us on Facebook



SOKOL KHB ENNIS COOKBOOK

MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

ONLY \$5

**SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS
OFFER!**

**Purchase at
Sokol Activity Center
Clubroom**

(back entrance)

Mondays / Wednesdays

5PM- 10PM

2622 E Hwy 34 - Ennis

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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**IT MIGHT BE STORMY NOW,
BUT RAIN DOESN'T LAST FOREVER**

2020 Sokol KHB Sponsors - Thank you for your support!

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December, 2020



PROUDLY SERVING THE ENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1908

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

Donations and news worthy items to support the Sokol KHB Newsletter should be sent to Sokol KHB Newsletter, P.O. Box 205, Ennis, TX 75120

SOKOL KHB
P.O. Box 205
Ennis, TX 75120

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