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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.”**

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**New 2022 - 2026 American Sokol National Officers**

Back (left to right): Marla Breidenbach – 1st VP, Matt Carlozzi – Public Relations, Bob Barcal - Treasurer, Adam Wilt - President, Dáša Měrková – Board Member, Joan Sedlacek – Board Member  
Front (left to right): Mary Cushing – Physical Director, Allison Gerber – Financial Secretary, Andrea Scheirer - Secretary, Kathy Barcal - Membership, Meribeth Tooke - Foundation, Anna Cooková - Education, Nancy Sijansky Hellegers – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Shelley Cairns – Board Member

## Educational Director's Report Kroje -- Czech Traditional Costumes

Although we use the word *kroj* (sing.) (pronounced "kroy") for the elaborate Czech folk costumes seen at festivals, *kroj* also refers to uniforms, such as the Sokol ceremonial marching uniforms. But we'll look at folk costumes for this article. While some Czech and Slovak descendants and immigrants here are lucky enough to have authentic *kroje* (pl.) from the "old country," most have made their own or have purchased *kroje* sewn here in the USA. Either way, they are a way to keep Czech and Slovak heritage traditions alive.

Before 1850, there were 17 areas in Bohemia and more than 40 districts in Moravia where people wore folk costumes. In the borderland between Moravia and Slovakia, there were 27 such districts at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (Note: It was during the late 1800s that most of our great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S.) Folk costumes differed from district to district. Although *kroje* within a district had a certain "look" relating to color, lace, embroidery styles, length, blouse/shirt style, each town had their own variations in design. This allowed others to identify the district that the wearer came from, as well as to their social status.

Some of the most beautiful *kroje* originated during periods of cruel oppression, when the peasants suffered under serfdom, so decorating their costumes was one way to show their personal individuality, self-expression, and taste. They were a sign of status and nationality.

Billowing skirts are worn over stiffly starched petticoats. The skirts may be made of flax linen, serge, wool, satin or brocade fabric. The predominant colors are red, yellow, blue and black. Some regions use stripes or floral skirt fabrics. Blouses/shirts can be trimmed with lace, eyelet, colored or black embroidery. The women's huge puffed sleeves might be stuffed with tissue paper, or held in place with cardboard at the pleats. Ladies' aprons might be white eyelet or elaborately embroidered on black fabric. It's all about regionality.

A new style of ladies *kroje* skirts emerged in the U.S. Midwest during the 1980s. The prairie skirt with a bottom ruffle became a popular style for the American country look, and was quickly adopted as a variant style with American Czech-Slovak descendants. You won't see these in the Czech Republic.



We have many picture books, picture calendars, and dolls in our museum identifying *kroje* from different regions. Come visit our Sokol Ennis museum during our next Czech special event. Or call 972-765-3733 to schedule a private visit.

**Na zdar!**  
Sis. Liz Moucka Krajca  
Educational Director



August, 2022

## GYMNASTICS REPORT

We received three grants this past season from the American Sokol Foundation Committee for Unit Growth of

- \$3,924 award for the new programs and Kitchen stove top and griddle,
- A COVID Sustainment of \$3,560 for Building Sanitizing Products, and
- \$5,175 for Sanitizing associated with the 2022 Convention that was held in June at our facility.

We are getting ready for the new gymnastic season. Registration is \$175 or \$75 with 10 hours of volunteer commitment. A parent has to be a Sokol Gold member \$40 to finish the 2022 year and in January dues are \$65 and due every January. Must keep membership for children to participate in gymnastics.

New gymnastic season starts September 12. I will be doing pop ups in August for new season registration. I will announce on remind and Facebook when those dates will be.

We have hired a new tot and novice coach Mrs. Molly Dickerson

## POOL REPORT

We are undergoing a whole renovation on the pool and pool house! News article was put in the Ennis Daily News Paper on renovation. We are still accepting donations To Save The Pool Fund!

If interested in Registering or New membership to Sokol you can email me at [jnoplis80@gmail.com](mailto:jnoplis80@gmail.com) or come by the clubroom Monday and Wednesday!

Thank you, Joanna Wilson -- Physical Director/Gymnastic Manager Sokol

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## Save the Pool!

It's going to happen! Thanks to generous donations from our members, we have the money to refurbish the Sokol Swimming Pool. On Monday July 18, 2022 President Thomas Betik and Treasurer Ray Elleven signed the first of two contracts to start the work.

This contract is with *RockPile Stone-N-Nursery Too* who will resurface the pool, install new decking around the pool, all new equipment, piping, and electrical. All work is expected to be completed by the end of the year assuring we will be open for next season.

The second contract will be signed in two or three weeks with *Bond Pro Restorations*. This contract is to remodel and upgrade the pool house. The new pool house will meet all handicapped standards and improved dressing rooms. This work should be completed by the end of the year.

The Sokol Pool is an important asset not only to our members but to the Ennis community. "It is the closest we have to community pool," said President Thomas Betik.

**SEE "ENNIS NEWS" ARTICLE BELOW**

Mark Warde

mark@ennisdailynews.com

Ennis received pleasant news on Monday, July 18, when it was announced the Sokol pool and pool house will undergo a large renovation program that will reopen the city's only swimming pool that will now be open to the public.

Pool Project Manager, Joanna Wilson, hosted a ceremony with officers and contractors, who signed agreements about who is responsible for the work outside of the Sokol Activity Center. The Save the Pool project will be done thanks to the contributions from many members and a few large, enabling donations from anonymous Sokol backers.

"The Sokol pool has been around a long time," said Wilson. "It has given families something to do, to make memories, have a good time, and meet new people. Renovating the pool will bring that back since we had to close ours for repair. I think it will bring joy back to Ennis, so people can start coming back with their families."

Treasurer Ray Elleven said the cost, previously, for access to the pool was roughly \$65, the yearly membership rate at Sokol. He indicated there will be a new plan for swimming only, which will include multiple pricings, including family annual fees, though the costs have yet to be announced. As for donating to the cause, Sokol is still accepting financial gifts to help with renovation expenses.

Wilson, in her fourth year on site, said the work to be done encompasses electrical and plumbing, plaster and tile as well as equipment. Blue tile will mark individual swim lanes.

Brandon Nichols, representing Rockpile Stone, of Corsicana, added decking as part of the work. The pool has a 300-foot perimeter and ranges from 4-to-12 foot deep, and will have at least two diving boards.

"It will take about five months to finish," said Wilson, with Nichols clarifying, "or, the end of the year." The pool is heated and will reopen in early 2023. Built in 1972, it has been closed in recent summers during which time repairs were planned. Becoming fully ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) compliant will involve both the pool and pool house areas.

Keith Pollard is another contractor on the project. His focus will be on the pool house. It is slated to have privacy locker rooms and showers.

Shreveport-native, Wilson, and her husband, Wes, a mechanic, share a

## Sokol Hall discloses large renovations for pool



Courtesy Photos

*Officers also ink deal on pool house, opening set for January*



Sokol President Thomas Betik (center) presented Brandon Nichols (left), of Rockpile Stone-N-Nursery Too, with the down payment check to start work on the pool. Others pictured are Treasurer Ray Elleven (bottom right), Tanner Schlottzman of Rockpile (standing far left) and board members (standing in back, left-to-right) Benny Trojacek, Randy Owen, Joanna Wilson, Nannette Liska, Rusty Liska, and Mike Liska.

14-year-old daughter, Madelin. She said her responsibilities as Physical Director at Sokol, involves a number of activities, like their volleyball league, gymnastics, and tumbling, take place inside their gym. The pool has both water aerobics and scuba.

The largest of all halls in Ennis,

Sokol (SO-kuhl) is located at 2622 E. Highway 34, approximately 1.5 miles east of Interstate 45 on what is East Ennis Ave. Additionally, the clubroom, positioned on the north end of the hall, is also facing a revamping project. It is separate from the work planned on the pool and pool house.

## 2022 ASO Convention Hosted by Sokol KHB

June 9-12, 2022



# “WE DID GOOD!”

The Convention Committee members and all the folks from KHB that had any part in hosting the Convention deserve a great big thank you for their efforts before and during the Convention – in most cases going beyond expectations.

- The shuttle service from the airports was essentially uneventful (special thanks to the Committee staff that met delegates as they arrived at the 2 airports). Most delegates complied with the arrival time window. Those few that did not were serviced by Committee members – WE DID GOOD!
- Hotel registration went smoothly, accommodations were good, there were no problems voiced by either guests or management – WE DID GOOD!
- The ‘Meet and Greet’, Friday evening Social, and Saturday evening social events were well received and enjoyed by all – WE DID GOOD!
- There were no issues with enforcement of the COVID protocol; a few delegates reported positive COVID tests during and after the convention – WE DID GOOD!
- The Convention meeting facility set-up in the stage side of the hall worked well. There were no audio/visual problems; the big projection screen, borrowed from St. Johns, was a big asset – WE DID GOOD!
- The Meals (1 lite dinner, 3 lunches, and 2 regular dinners) and 5 comfort breaks) and food service was outstanding and warranted many, many accolades from the delegates. Special kudos to the kitchen staff – WE DID GREAT!
- The Sokol memorabilia display and Sokol museum provided an excellent backdrop for the convention experience – WE DID GOOD!
- Shuttle service between the hotel and Convention venue worked well; Outings were enjoyed by the guests attending. Shuttle service back to the airports was timely – WE DID GOOD!
- The Convention minutes have been completed by the secretarial staff; they have been reviewed and updated with minor corrections, and approved by the National Executive Board. A big thank you goes out to the secretarial staff for a well done, timely effort – WE DID GREAT!
- The Convention sessions were productive – National Bylaws were updated, officer reports were presented and discussed, a new 4-year budget was adopted, and new national officers (Executive Board) were elected; and general discussion and sharing of ideas – ALL DID GOOD!
- The total final expense of the convention to the American Sokol was \$71,709; That FINAL EXPENSE FIGURE is **\$4956 UNDER** the approved, projected budget (\$76,665) submitted by the Committee in July, 2021 – WE DID GREAT!

Since the convention, the Committee and Sokol KHB leadership and members have received praise from individual delegates and Sokol Districts for a JOB WELL DONE. They particularly like the idea of holding the convention in a Sokol hall.

Sokol KHB represented itself well and can truly be proud! We all showed the entire American Sokol community some real Sokol Spirit and southern hospitality.

August, 2022



## August / September Member Birthdays

Month	Date	Last	First
August	4	Wester	Elizabeth
August	7	Kalat	Charles
August	8	Chapman	Richard
August	8	Collins	Dana
August	9	Wester	Chad
August	12	Vyers	Lisa
August	14	Toth	Eric
August	15	Gilbert	Savannah
August	15	Knapp	Shirley
August	17	Green	Sarah
August	18	Morales	Pete
August	18	Wiginton	Joe
August	20	Tabb	Judi
August	21	Liska	Rhonda
August	21	Liska	Tommy
August	22	Zapletal	Patricia
August	23	Kudrna	Dorothy
August	24	Mikuda	Lana
August	31	Hutyra	Matt
August	31	Pochobradsky	Victor

Month	Date	Last	First
September	5	Mikel	Stanley
September	6	Mikel	Jeremiah
September	9	Browning	Julia
September	9	Marek	Kevin
September	9	Mikula	Sandra
September	12	Anderson	Lou
September	14	Harris	Keyna
September	15	Barton	Joe
September	16	Hajek	Dennis
September	16	Smith	Brandon
September	16	Valek	Larry
September	18	Patak	J Gayle
September	20	Zhanel	Brian
September	21	Rejcek	Denise
September	21	Slovak	Deborah
September	21	Sullivan	Lisa
September	21	Zett	Erin
September	22	Hamilton	Jay
September	23	Betik	Deanna
September	24	Liska	Barbara
September	24	Watson	Hannah
September	29	Vrla	Libbie
September	30	Knize	Wesley
September	30	Perales	Lilia

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### CALENDAR – ONGOING ACTIVITY

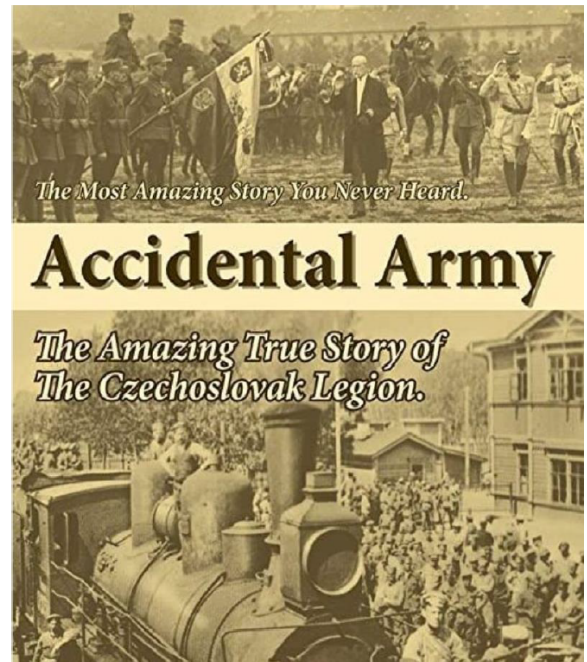
- Gymnastics** -- Monday -Thursday 5:30pm
- Get Fit with Sara Jakubik** – Mondays & Wednesdays 5:30pm & Tuesdays & Thursdays 6pm
- Volleyball** -- Wednesdays - Youth 6pm & Adult 7:30pm
- Clubroom** -- regular business hours are 5pm to 11pm Mondays & Wednesdays
- Swimming Pool** CLOSED for renovation
- Museum & Library** -- open for special events and by appointment
- Membership meetings** -- every 3rd Wednesday of month in Dining Room 7pm

### CALENDAR – UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 4 – Czech Heritage Society Social & Czech Movie – Accidental Army – 7pm – Clubroom 5pm
- Aug 7-26 Renovation of Dining Room and Main Hall
- Aug 17 Monthly Membership Meeting – Dining Room 7pm
- Aug 22 Monday Polka Party w/David Slovak & Friends 7pm – Clubroom 5pm
- Sep 1 Czech Heritage Society Social and Czech Movie TBA 7pm – Clubroom 5pm
- Sep 21 Monthly Membership Meeting – Dining Room 7pm
- Oct 8 Sokol Memorial Day
- Dec 3 Annual Members Day / Christmas Celebration – Main Hall 10am
- Dec 11 Annual Ellis County Toy Run – Main Hall – 12pm

## Monthly Czech Movie & Social Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

The next Monthly Czech Movie & Social is Thursday, August 4th in the Clubroom. Doors open 5pm & accordion music by David Slovak at 6pm. The featured film is "Accidental Army" at 7pm (in English) which is a true story of the Czechoslovak Legion, in the middle of WWI, with victory still in doubt, tens of thousands of Czech and Slovak POWs switched sides, to become the Czechoslovak Legion, an Allied army fighting for a country of their own. Caught up in the Russian Revolution, they fought their way home halfway around the world, capturing the Trans-Siberian railway, half of the Czar's gold, and the heart of a new nation - Czechoslovakia. Pizza, chicken strips, corn dogs, French fries, cheese sticks, jalapeno poppers, fried pickles, onion rings, bread pretzels & snacks available for purchase at bar. Non-smoking event (smoking allowed on patio). Czech Movie & Social occurs monthly on the first Thursday by the Ellis County Czech Heritage Society. All Sokol members welcome.



The Czechoslovak Legion was heavily influenced by the Sokol movement. Sokol members helped create the Czechoslovak Legions and local patrols that kept order after the disintegration of Habsburg authority, and during the creation of Czechoslovakia in October 1918. Great movie for Sokol members to see! Nazdar!

## Monday Polka Party set for August 22<sup>nd</sup>



We all had a fun time at the Monday Polka Party on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The next party is set for August 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Clubroom. Doors open 5pm. Music provided by David Slovak & Friends 7pm – 9pm. BBQ & klobase provided (with bread & potato chips). Bring a covered dish or snack if you like. No cover charge. A great way to get the week started!

Pictured L-R: Chris Trojacek, Danny Zapletal, Andy Mikula, John Marek & David Slovak (& Andy's grandchild Andie Rose)

## Monthly Membership Meeting Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> & Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>

Membership Meeting is held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the Dining Room. All members are encouraged to attend. Sokol values your interest & welcomes your involvement in the organization. There are many opportunities for youth & adult members to be involved. Involving the entire family in volunteer activities addresses the benefits of youth volunteering while utilizing the volunteer resource of adults with children. Sokol encourages parents and their children to volunteer together! Members are also encouraged to provide feedback & offer ideas on Sokol's educational, physical, cultural, & social programs & activities.



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

**2022 Sponsors of Sokol Ennis - Thank you for your support!**

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