

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."

Thank You to Our Sokol Family

As we wrap up another wonderful year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our staff, members, and executive board. Your hard work, dedication, and love for Sokol continue to keep our organization thriving. Everything we accomplish is because of the time, energy, and passion each of you gives so generously.

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to begin even more renovations inside the hall—improvements that will help us continue building a place we can all be proud of. We can't wait to see what the new year brings and are grateful to have each of you with us on this journey.

Stay tuned to our website, marquee, and social media pages for updates on upcoming events and fundraisers. Your support is what keeps Sokol strong. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With gratitude,

Michelle Slavak - President

2026 Sokol KHB Staff & Volunteers

Executive Board (volunteer)

Michelle Slovak (Chair), Laura Trojacek, Benny Trojacek, Rusty Liska, Nannette Liska, Mike Liska, Chuck Kalat, Elizabeth Moucka, Joanna Wilson, David Slovak, Debbie Macik, John Marek Jr.

Officers (volunteer)

- President Michelle Slovak
- Secretary Laura Trojacek
- Vice-President Benny Trojacek
- Second Vice-President Rusty Liska
- Financial Secretary Nannette Liska
- Treasurer Mike Liska
- Assistant Treasurers Ray Elleven, Judi Tabb
- Editor of Newsletter Chuck Kalat
- Physical Director Joanna Wilson
- Educational Director Elizabeth Moucka
- Membership Director Nannette Liska
- Youth Ambassador Joanna Wilson
- Public Relations Director Michelle Slovak
- Property Chairman David Slovak
- Ways & Means Chairman Joanna Wilson (Co), Benny Trojacek (Co)
- Auditing / Budget & Finance Debbie Macik (Chair), Sammy Anderson, Lindsey Breadon
- Constitution & Bylaws Rusty Liska (Chair), Rhonda Liska, David Slovak
- Reconciliation John Marek Jr. (Chair), David Liska, Harold Corey
- Delegates to Sokol Southern District Joanna Wilson, Mike Liska
- Delegates to National Convention Mike Liska, Ray Elleven

"Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us – a time when we can look back on the year that has passed and prepare for the year ahead." — David Cameron

GYMNASTICS REPORT

We are doing gym and will pick raffle winner for the Nintendo Switch/Headphone Beats December 17!

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

The pool is closed till spring! Will start renting the pool for next season in January 2026!

If interested in Registering, New membership to Sokol, and Raffle tickets you can email me at inoplis80@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



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, 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 Štástný Nový Rok Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Sylvia Jean Laznovsky

1937 - 2010

Sylvia was born and raised in Sokol. The Laznovsky family was very active in the American Sokol and the local unit, Sokol KHB Ennis

From the time she was in her teens, Sylvia taught gymnastics at Sokol Ennis, where for more than 50 years she touched the lives of hundreds of young people, encouraging fitness and patriotism. Although Sylvia worked in Dallas for over 30 years, she faithfully taught gymnastics in Ennis during the evenings that entire time. Many Friday evenings, she would return to Ennis after work, meet a few of the teenage girl gymnasts, then drive back to Dallas to take them to gymnastics class at Sokol Dallas, then drive them back home to Ennis.



Upon the end of the Communist era in 1990, Sylvia took the opportunity to travel to Czechoslovakia to reconnect with her Czech heritage and participate in the International Sokol Slets (Všesokolský Slet). While there, Sylvia purchased and donated several of the Czech dolls dressed in traditional kroj that are now on display in our museum.



Sylvia served for thirty-five plus years as Unit Physical Director at Sokol Ennis and as the Southern District Physical Director. She also served our local unit for many years as Membership Director and Educational Director. Sylvia also served on the American Sokol (ASO) National Executive Board as Membership Director from 2000 to 2005. She was a charter member of the Texas Czech Genealogical Society, member of the Ennis Czech Women's Sewing Circle and member of Texans of Czech Ancestry.

Na Zdar!
Sister Liz Moucka Krajca
Educational Director, Sokol KHB Ennis

Seeking Sponsors for 2026

Support Sokol Ennis while building your business! Please email your business ad to fundraising@sokolennis.com and send \$150 check to Sokol KHB Ennis – PO Box 205, Ennis TX 75120-0205 or purchase online at www.sokolennis.com on the homepage.

Thank you for your support!



Membership Matters!



Have you renewed your membership for 2026? Already renewed? Refer a friend (or family member)!

It's annual membership sign-up time again! It takes a community and we're asking all of the Sokol Ennis community to renew and refer. With memberships starting at only \$25/person per year (social-only membership), there's so much that Sokol offers from social activities to fitness activities!

Visit our membership page at www.sokolennis.com/membership or stop by the Sokol clubroom to sign-up today!

Want to learn more about membership or just get involved in what's going on?

Join us at our next monthly members' meeting on Wednesday, Jan 21 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. Members' Meetings normally occur every 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Celebrate with Sokol this holiday season!

Monthly Czech Movie & Social is Thursday, December 11th in the Clubroom. Doors open 6pm. Accordion Music by David Slovak. Featured Film: "Warriors of Faith" 7pm. This will be a Christmas social, so bring a covered dish or snack if you like. For questions or comments: Victor Havel 817-714-8323 or Kyle Stuckly 817-925-1673, Ellis County Czech Heritage Society.



Our annual Clubroom Christmas Party is Monday, December 22, starting at 5 PM.

Please bring a covered dish or snack. Chili will be provided.

Music by David Slovak & Friends at 7 PM.

Drink Specials too!!

We are hosting a New Year's Eve Dance on Wednesday, Dec. 31st in the main hall. Doors open at 7pm. Admission is \$10 a person (no advance tickets). Music provided at 8pm by The Moravians (polka, country, variety).

Champagne will be available for purchase at the bar. Balloon drop & black-eyed peas & cornbread at midnight. No reservations please.

For more info, contact fundraising@sokolennis.com.



Get in on the Game!

Sokol is hosting a Super Bowl football board. Squares are \$100 and will pay out on each score change. Squares can be purchased in the clubroom on Mondays and Wednesdays (during clubroom open hours – 5-10 pm) until February 7 or sell-out.

\$8,000 Total Paid Out:

\$3,000 to Final Score

\$5,000 split among all other score changes.

20% of the proceeds will go to support Sokol's 2026 fundraising efforts for new hall tables.



Don't Miss Out! Mask Up for this year's Annual 10K Building Benefit!

This year, Sokol's benefit is inspired by Masopust, the traditional Czech pre-Lenten carnival (masquerade) that marks the end of winter. Individuals dress up in masks and costumes and enjoy singing, feasting, dances and performances as they celebrate the "world turned upside down" and the new spring season.

Tickets are \$150 and include a steak dinner for two, open bar from 6:00 – 11:30 pm and music from Brad Ackland, Lost Money and David Slovak & Friends. AND a chance for cash prizes ranging from \$150 to the **BIG WINNER** - \$10,000!

Other activities will include the return of the Silent Auction and 50/50, as well as Best Masked Contest!

Sokol is proud to continue to offer tickets at \$150. To support maintaining this ticket price and cash prizes, paid table reservations have been added this year. Table reservations are \$100 per table with a minimum of four (4) purchased tickets. No tables will be secured or held without a paid table reservation. Prior year preferred table selections will be held from general paid table reservation availability until February 15. If contact and payment have not been made by February 15, all unpaid, unreserved tables will be available for paid table reservations through March 1. As an added bonus, all paid table reservations will be entered into a separate raffle for a chance to win \$500! Contact Sandra Mikula at 214-770-5167 to reserve your table.

Want to stay up to date with this year's 10K announcements? Follow our event page on Sokol's Facebook.



Upcoming Events

Dec 4	Czech Heritage Society presents Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom
Dec 14	Ellis County Toy Run	12 pm in Main Hall
Dec 17	CANCELED – Monthly Members Meeting	
Dec 22	Clubroom Christmas	5 pm in Clubroom
Dec 31	New Year's Eve at Sokol/Music by the Moravians	7 pm in Main Hall
Jan 7	Annual Executive Board Meeting	7 pm in Dining Room
Jan 8	Czech Heritage Society presents Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom
Jan 19	CFP Nat'l Championship Watch Party (Game Start – 6:30 pm)	5 pm in Clubroom
Jan 21	Monthly Members Meeting	7 pm in Dining Room
Jan 24	Music & Eats	7 pm in Clubroom
Jan 25	Deadline – 2026 Sponsorship Sign-up	
Feb 5	Czech Heritage Society presents Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom
Feb 8	Super Bowl Party	1 pm in Clubroom
Feb 13	Ennis Czech Music Festival Polka Pre-Party	5 pm in Clubroom
Feb 14	Ennis Czech Music Festival	1 pm in Main Hall
Feb 18	Monthly Members Meeting	7 pm in Dining Room
Mar 5	Czech Heritage Society presents Czech Movie & Social	6 pm in Clubroom
Mar 7	Annual 10K Building Fund Benefit – Masquerade	6 pm in Main Hall

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

"Christmas isn't about candy canes or lights all aglow.
It's the hearts we touch and the care that we show."

— Anonymous

December / January Birthdays

December

Shirley 2 Trull 2 Diaz Lydia LaScala Frank 5 Zaidle Mary Ann 6 Benton Elayna 8 Jeanette Krajca 8 Alma 12 Lopez Howard Larry 12 12 Kuban Frank **Patak** Jeannette 13 **Oates** Mary 13 20 Lofgreen Barbara Valek Adele 20 Vrla Frank 20 Wester 20 Jo Ann Barbara 21 Perkey 22 Lambert Annette **Machuca** Jesus 23 Rutherford Kathy 23 Boggan Dusty 25 **Snodgrass** Becky 26 Redwine Leigh 26 **Thomas** 26 Cryer John Marek 27 (Chippy) Slovak Michelle 27 Marshall Katherine 28 Vitovsky William 28 Zapletal Danny 28 Matous Stanley 29 Valek Glenda 29 Ornelas Barbara 29 Liska Diane 30 30 Owen Randy 31 **McElroy** Sally

January

1	Henning Sr	Jackie Don
1	Ojeda	Adamarisse
1	Sosa	Karla
2	Jakubik	Sara
6	Tyner	Kelli
7	Warner	Mary
7	Steele	Marlene
8	Desai	Dhara
8	Morales	Cathie
9	Dodson	Billy
9	Lane	Rosemarie
11	Martinek	Bernard
11	Reeve	Joyce
14	Dlabaj	Leonard
15	Patak	Charlie
20	Novy	Theresa
21	Mitchell	Gary
21	Castillo	Mallorie
22	Owen	Debbye
24	Amos	Rebecca
24	Marek	Varvara
25	Belew	David
26	Anderson	Woody
26	Garcia	Rachel
27	Thomason	Eric
28	Cooke	Rosemarie
28	Roth	Bernard
29	Rolen	Gaylon
30	Knize	Evelyn

TO &LL

SOKOL KAREL HAVLICEK BOROVSKY MEMBERS:

MERRY CHRISTMAS -- VESCLÉ VÁNOCEL

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HAPPY NEW YEAR -- ŠTASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK!

THE SOKOL KHB EXECUTIVE BOARD

MAY EVERYONE HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!!

FROM

BENNY & LAURA TROJACEK

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM

THE ELLEVEN FAMILY

MAY THE CHRISTMAS SEASON BRING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ONLY HAPPINESS AND JOY.

FAMILY OF MIKE AND NANNETTE

"CHRISTMAS IS A TONIC FOR OUR SOULS.
IT MOYES US TO THINK OF OTHERS
RATHER THAN OF OURSELVES."

- B.C. FORBES



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

FROM

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! STAY BLESSED

FROM

JOANNA, WES, AND MADELINE WILSON

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

FROM

DIANE AND DAVID LISKA

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM

BARBARA AND RHONDA LISKA



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