



SOKOLETTER

P.O. Box 448
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NOVEMBER 2008

www.sokolbaltimore.org

UNIT MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008

Meeting at 6:30 pm

**White Marsh Library
8133 Sandpiper Circle**

VINOBRANI

Sokol Baltimore's annual Grape Harvest dinner & dance was held on Saturday, November 1st. Due to schedule conflicts, and perhaps the current financial situation, the crowd was much smaller than last year. Those present did enjoy this traditional affair. The unit still managed a net profit of \$ 550.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Saturday, November 8 – Katerinska Party at 7:30 p.m. Presented by **Sokol Washington**. Location is at the VFW Club, McLean Post No. 82 McLean, VA 22102. (See page 2 for more information).

Sunday, November 9 – The Grand Lodge CSPS Open House from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Location is 1300 Horner's Lane. (See page 2 for more information).

Sunday, November 30 – Board of Directors Meeting at Pres. Michael Rokos' house. 3:00 p.m.

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Ann & Frank Huber
Fred Marsik

Happy November Birthday!

November 2nd – Michelle Horner
November 7th – Mary Parizek
November 10th – Lillian Sonberg
November 10th – Tina Hyde
November 16th – Libbie Vrzalik
November 20th – Mary Mojzisek
November 26th – Delia Gross

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Highlights from Sokol Baltimore's October Meeting 10/22/08

***Br. William Kool** was sworn into the office of 2nd Vice President and member of the Board of Directors.

***President M. Rokos** will be representing Sokol Baltimore by attending an event at the Czech Embassy on 10/23. Also, he will be in New York for the re-opening of the National Bohemian Hall. Pres. Rokos gave 3 copies of, "Nicholas Winton's *Lottery of Life*," the story of a British stockbroker who saved the lives of 669 Czechoslovak Jewish and non-Jewish children. Nicholas Winton has received the highest award from the Czech government and knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his extraordinary actions. Pres. Rokos plans to show Czech films with English subtitles at St. Margaret's Church (handicapped accessible). Pres. Rokos encouraged members to attend Vinobrani, November 1.

***Corresponding Sec. Sis. Kilian** directed incoming bills to the Treasurer. Sis. Kilian read an article in the NY Newsletter where she compared the opening ceremonies at the Beijing Olympics to a Prague Slet.

***Treasurer, Br. Askew**, August & September reports given.

***Financial Secretary, Sis. Cahlander**, reported Sokol Baltimore has 102 active members: 46 male & 56 female.

*Report from the **Eastern District Meeting**:

1. Br. Will Kool is the Eastern District Dir. of Men.
2. Br. Kool encouraged involvement by all units in the International Sport & Cultural Festival in Fort Worth, Texas, June 23-28, 2009. Groups from all over the world will be attending.
3. Br. Kool has **5 Goals for Sokol**:

- a) We need to encourage and increase membership.
- b) Run Sokol like a business.
- c) Value the volunteers.
- d) Make Sokol fun.
- e) Maximum participation in the Fort Worth International Sports & Cultural Festival.

*Br. Kool attended the BOI Dir. Conference. There were over 100 in attendance; Donna Sbriglia & Brian Flaherty, from Sokol NY attended.

***Education Report, Sis. Huber:**

1. Circulated the CSHA Festival Program Book.
2. Sokol table made \$1,212.75 at the CSHA Festival.
3. Scheduled memorial service for Sis. Kamphaus on 10/25 at 11:30 am at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Rt. 924.
4. Recognized individuals who baked, donated & worked at Sokol's table.
5. Shared Celtic origin of the Halloween celebration.
6. Plans to show Czech films at St. Margaret's Church.
7. Plans to have a cooking class at Sis. Marie Pokorny's home & interested individuals raised their hands.
8. Recognized Br. Thomas Bata's passing 9/1/08.

*Board Meeting to be held 11/02/08 at 3 pm at Pres. Rokos' home.

*Next Sokol Meeting 11/17/08 at 6:30 pm.

Thank You from the Education Director

I would like to acknowledge the following people who worked at Sokol Baltimore's display table, on October 12, 2008, at the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association's festival: a huge thank you to **Sis. Anna Losovsky** and **Sis. Marie Pokorny** for baking housky, kolačky, and rohlíky for the Sokol table and the cake table, a big thanks to **Bob Losovsky** for his setting up, dressing in costume, making items, and adding to the joy of the day; another big thanks to **Sis. Liz Kokes** for all the beautiful handmade and crystal donations for the silent auction; the flag carriers; and thank you to those who quietly made a financial donation.

Sincerely, *Anči Červin Huber*

AMERICAN SOKOL WASHINGTON, D.C.

cordially invites you to

KATERINSKA ZABAVA 2008

A traditional Autumn's dancing celebration for people of all ages. For the hungry we will serve Kocour's goulash. For refreshment you can enjoy on tap the Pilsner Urquell from Bohemia, one of the world's very finest beers with the intense taste of the Saaz hops, which blends with the malty sweetness of the barely to produce a harmonious bitterness and creamy body; and a great selection of world wines.

The Katerinska Party will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Club (the Veterans of Foreign Wars)
McLean Post No. 82
1051 Spring Hill Rd.
McLean, VA 22102.

Admission: Adults \$12.00
Sokol members: \$6.00

DIRECTIONS:

Take Georgetown Pike (Rd. 193) West from 495. At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Swinks Mill Rd. Then turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. At the next light, turn left onto Spring Hill Rd. The VFW parking area will be immediately on your left:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?address=1051+Spring+Hill+Road&city=McLean&state=VA&zipcode=22102&country=US&cid=lfmaplink>

CSPS Open House

The Grand Lodge CSPS of Baltimore was incorporated on November 8, 1880. To celebrate the anniversary, there will be an open house at 1300 Horner's Lane, site of the National Bohemian Cemetery, on Sunday, November 9, 2008 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Come and see how the restoration process is going, view historical and current information, documents, photos, sample Czech/Slovak food and share in this historic event. Other activities include: opening ceremonies, a display of artifacts; as well as, a cemetery tour, ancestral searches, and a jumble sale.



National Bohemian Cemetery 2008

SOKOL GOALS

When I was young my mother would sometimes put my sisters and I in the car. "Where are we going?" "For a drive." "But where?" "I told you, for a drive." Sometimes the surprise was good, like stopping at grandma and grandpa's. Sometimes, it was just a ploy to get us in the car when she had to run errands all over town. It was difficult to figure out if we should be excited or bored, or whether to even care. Without goals, an organization might be moving, but no one knows which direction. Members like to know where their organization is going. It makes the journey more fun. As an Eastern District Director, one of my first orders of business was to set goals for each unit. I propose the following 5 attainable and measurable goals for Sokol Baltimore:

Growth

Sokol is a membership organization, and it is a great organization to be a member in. We reach out into the community and provide physical fitness for everyone, a safe place for families, classes that keep children off the streets, leadership opportunities for teens and young adults, and social events that create networking and bonding that is hard to find anywhere else. There is an enormous need for an organization like Sokol in Baltimore. Well, we're already here and we've been here for 136 years! We have to spread the word and get Baltimore's best kept secret out. This goal can be measured by number of members, additional programs, class attendance, and financial security.

Operating as a business

Whether you believe it or not, every organization is a business, even non-profit 501(c)(3) ones. Operating with a business plan is essential. A business plan identifies the community we serve, targets segments of that community to promote our programs, and lets us know how successful we are. To keep our doors open, it helps to have doors in the first place. Therefore, getting a building to call home that suits our needs is of paramount importance. We also need people who can serve Sokol Baltimore full-time. Fortunately, we already have people willing to do that, but they still need to pay their mortgage and put food on their family's table. A business plan is necessary to ensure Sokol Baltimore's future growth and success, and having one is a giant leap toward meeting this goal.

Appreciation

There are hundreds of volunteers who are responsible for the existence and survival of Sokol Baltimore, many of which who have dedicated their entire life to the organization. Let's make sure we give appreciation where it is most needed and deserved. Often much is demanded of them with little or nothing in return. Our volunteers are the best, so let's make sure we let them know it. A little appreciation goes a long way. No appreciation goes a long way too, albeit in the wrong direction.

Fun & excitement

If you haven't attended a unit meeting recently, you may not have noticed a change that's already taking place – making *everything* we do fun and exciting! Skeptical that monthly meetings are fun? Come and surprise yourself. Our meetings are not long, arguing is not allowed, and we enjoy each other's company...the way it should be. Why do children participate in sports (or anything else)? Simple, because it's fun. Conversely, when do children stop participating in sport? When it stops being fun. Why did you become a Sokol member? Of course, because Sokol is fun! Now is an exciting time for Sokol Baltimore. Everything we do should be fun, because that's the best way to serve our current members and get new members too.

Maximum participation at the 2009 International Sport and Cultural Festival

This is a first-of-its-kind event in the United States involving over 35 countries and multiple gymnastics organizations...and American Sokol is hosting! Plan to spend your summer vacation in Fort Worth, Texas June 23-28, 2009. There is so much going on I'm planning on writing a separate feature article about it in next month's newsletter. With thousands of people participating, you need to start making your plans now for your best vacation ever! Go to www.american-sokol.com and www.slet2009.com for more information.

Nazdar!

William Kool
Eastern District Men's Director

The Sokoletter is published monthly by Sokol Baltimore Inc. All articles, news and contributions can be forwarded to Ann or Frank Huber, 514 Sellrus Court, Fallston, MD 21047-2421, (410) 877-0534. Email: frankh1228@aol.com or ann12141@aol.com. Material to be published is due by the 20th of the preceding month. Please also advise of address changes, etc. to ensure continued delivery. Annual subscription is \$ 10.00 for all non-members. Send check, payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to P.O. Box 448, Perry Hall, MD 21128.



SOKOL BALTIMORE
 P.O. Box 448
 Perry Hall, MD 21128

DATED MATERIAL



Will Kool to Run in the Philadelphia Marathon
 Pledges will benefit the Building Fund

It's that time again. For the 3rd time in 3 years I will be running a full marathon (26.2 miles) for Sokol Baltimore. Whew, it's tiring just thinking about it. This year the date is Sunday, November 23, 2008, and the place is Philadelphia. The road to Sokol Baltimore's new home is a marathon journey as well, and you can count on your leadership every step of the way. To show your support for me and Sokol, I'm asking for pledges of \$1 per mile that I run. If I cross the finish line you can celebrate with me knowing that your \$26.20 contribution will go directly into Sokol Baltimore's New Building Fund, to be used exclusively towards building our new home. If I can get 26 people to pledge \$262 to Sokol Baltimore's new building fund, then I will send each one an official Philadelphia Marathon photograph of me in my Sokol uniform during the race, and autographed, of course! A perfect symbol of your marathon-sized commitment to Sokol. My goal is to raise \$2,620 this year for Sokol Baltimore. Will you help Sokol Baltimore get started on its race to have a home built by its 140th anniversary in 2012?

Additionally, registration fees, travel expenses, and training costs really add up. I'm looking for one person to be my title sponsor. If you are willing to

donate \$500 directly to me to help defray the cost of my participation in the event, I will offer you a 1.5-2 hour scenic flight over Baltimore city, Maryland's Eastern Shore, or destination of your choice. I am an FAA licensed private pilot with 150+ hours of experience in 13 states.

Pledges can be made by emailing donate@sokolbaltimore.org. No money will be asked to be sent until after successful completion of the race. Thank you for your support!

Sokol Baltimore, Inc.

Officers 2008 – 2009

President Michael Rokos	1st Vice-President Bohus Bata	2nd Vice President William Kool
Corresponding Secretary Betty Joy Kilian	Recording Secretary Marie Pokorny	Treasurer Steve Askew
Financial Secretary Kristen Cahlander	Education Anci Huber	

Directors 2008 – 2009

Bohus Bata Frank Huber Michael Rokos	Joseph Ehrenberger William Kool Robert Romadka	Edward Foreman, Jr. Donald Otenasek Leilani Sain
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