

**American Sokol
Annual Report
World Sokol Federation Meeting October 2008
Respectfully submitted by: Brother Larry Laznovsky – President**

American Sokol has had a very active and successful year. We continue to pursue the mission of Myroslav Tyrs and Jindrich Fuegner in providing an organization to the community that promotes a healthy mind in a healthy body through physical fitness, culture, education and social activity. Our New Strategic Plan is in full swing and we are working towards positive changes that will move American Sokol into the future. Our goal is to not only continue our current mission, but to increase membership and create a stronger organization in the United States for all communities.

October 2007

- American Sokol Board of Instructors Directors' and Development Conference was held in Ft Worth Texas. Annual reports from districts and various committees are presented. This conference featured over 30, 1 hour sessions aimed at providing training for BOI (board of instructors) members and coaches. Many sessions were presented by non-sokol gymnastics and coaching professionals giving Sokol attendees a fresh outlook on many subject.
- Brother Larry Laznovsky and Sister Jean Hruby were invited to lay a wreath at "The Tomb of the Unknowns" at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington DC. This memorable ceremony is an annual event for the members of Sokol Washington DC. Brother Laznovsky and Sister Hruby were escorted by members of Sokol Washington DC and Military Officers from the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Sokol Washington DC commemorated their 60th Anniversary at a banquet following the ceremony.

November 2007

- American Sokol Board of Governor's meeting held in Chicago

December 2007

- National Skills Month – Districts run meets, evaluate and award ribbons to the top performers.

January 2008

- American Sokol National Headquarters moved to a new location. The new address is: 9126 Ogden Ave

Brookfield IL 60513

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May 2008

This month we celebrated the commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of T.G. Masaryk's visit and lecture in Chicago which brought over 150,000 people to the city to hear him speak. The celebrations began with the World Premier of documentary film "The Accidental Army – the most amazing story you never heard" – about the Czechoslovak Legion. American Sokol was a sponsor of this event and Sister Jean Hruby served on the planning committee. Another viewing of the film was at Klas Restaurant in Cicero – which celebrated the Premier of this film with the entire community. American Sokol prepared a museum display of TG Masaryk memorabilia and Czechoslovak Legion archives, with the help of Sister Schabowski and Brother Milan. Actors

were present, dressed as Presidents Masaryk and Stefanik for photo opportunities.

On May 13th, Madeleine Albright gave a lecture at the University of Chicago on democracy and T. G. Masaryk's ideals. American Sokol performed the wreath laying ceremony at the monument honoring T.G. Masaryk - "The Blanik Knight" – at the University prior to the lecture. Members of the new American Sokol Honor Guard – did a fabulous job. Sister Hruby organized this event as well. Comment sent from Hon. M. Albright's office stated that this was the most efficiently run event she has ever been a part of. It was a wonderful day.

June 2008

- American Sokol District Slets and Sokol Day Picnics – closing the Regular Sokol season.
- Traveling Sokol Camp hosted in Central District.

July 2008

- Brother Ted Polashek awarded Grant from the Czech Republic to study the Czech Language in Dobruska.

August 2008- flooding devastates Sokol Cedar Rapids. Many people have donated to the loss.

September 2008

- Sokol Town of Lake celebrates 120th Anniversary.
- New Sokol Season starts!

October 2008

- WSF meetings in Prague. International Premier of the documentary film "The Accidental Army to be held at Tyrsov Dum.
- Sokol Milwaukee celebrates 140th Anniversary.
- Sokol Stickney celebrates 80th anniversary.

WSF "Show" Program/contest

- American Sokol submitted a number for this contest and was selected as one of the 4 finalists. We are currently reviewing all entries to submit our vote. American Sokol plans on entering more numbers to the contest next time.
- The fitness Testing Program was coordinated within the ASO, and 270 individuals from 7 different units participated in the program. The results were submitted to the WSF and the ASO distributed specially designed lapel pins to all participants and achievement medals to the top 25%.

Youth Report

- American Sokol had approximately 1726 youth members registered for the 2007-2008 season.
- Youth members each receive a monthly newsletter and Teens receive a quarterly newsletter.
- Programs this year: Pen Pal, Kids Coloring contests, Sudoku contests are some of the activities in the newsletters
- 4 students received scholarships for use toward National Summer Camp or Instructor School. Applications required an essay and poster contest.

National Sokol Summer Camp

- Held in St Louis, Missouri – end of July 2008.
- Camp is a combined effort between American Sokol, Sokol USA, and DA Sokol.
- 50 Campers – endured a hot 90+ degree F – week of fun and bonding. DVD – of 2007 camp highlights is enclosed.
- Youth Camp initiative was to plan a carnival for children by the end of the week. Campers had to work in teams to plan, develop and work their event at the carnival.
- Other activities included a trip to Six Flags Amusement Park, swimming, home-made slip and slide water slide, campfires, songs, sports and laughs.

New Wing (18-25 yr old)

- Brother Ted Polashek Organized a Winter Slet in Chicago – January 2008.
- Events included Bowling, Volleyball Tournament and Dodge ball.
- Pig Roast was hosted by Sokol Tabor, Berwyn IL

National School Board

- National Instructor School was a 2 week session in July hosted by Sokol Greater Cleveland.
- This year we received a grant from Bridgestone Firestone Corp. that allowed us to provide scholarships to 4 students attending the Instructor School and to assist with general school expenses.
- Levels of Instruction: Novice, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced and Advanced II. 29 students attended.

Merit Award Program

- American Sokol offers \$500 scholarships to students attending colleges. They must meet the attendance and transcript requirements. This year 4 students received this award.

Traveling Sokol Camp

- this program is intended to help bridge the long summer gap when Sokol classes are out of session and keep kids interested in Sokol.
- Central District hosted this camp in June 2008 with 30 campers and 5 staff attending.

USAG - Brother Jerry Milan still serves as a member of the board of the USAG and they have partnered with American Sokol to participate in the 2009 International Sport and Culture Festival and Sokol Slet – Ft Worth Texas.

GAT- Brother Rome Milan and Sister Lori Laznovsky continue to serve on The committee of the Gymnastics Association of Texas. September 2009 – Brother Larry Laznovsky, President of Sokol KHB Ennis, accepts the "Pride of Texas Award" presented to Sokol KHB Ennis, by the Gymnastic Association of Texas at it's annual conference. The award is in recognition of KHB's 100th year of the oldest, continuous gymnastics program in Texas. Literally thousands of children, teens and adults have passed through the Ennis Sokol programs.

Gymnaestrada- Sister Lori Laznovsky continues to serve as a US representative to the Gymnaestrada organization.

Physical Fitness: American Sokol's main sport is gymnastics, but hosts many different sports throughout the US. Track and Field, Walking & Running Classes, Aerobics, Cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, rhythmic gymnastics to name a few.

Cultural Festivals around the US – Sokols participate in many of these year round.

Education – Many sokol units still teaching Czech language courses Sokol Units are used for community meetings.

Social – Sokol Units host family celebrations year round. Many still include providing Czech food. Sokol Omaha is the home of “Sokol Underground” – which is the concert venue for many popular rock bands in the US.

Fundraising – Sokol units hold many pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, pork dinners, bingo nights and continue to pursue other fund raising efforts.

Strategic Plan-

Exciting news.....American Sokol embarked on a new Strategic Plan a couple of years ago. This year many of those original plans have begun to take shape. We hired an Executive Director, Greg Harris and the Strategic Planning Task Force Teams have successfully completed the items needed to put the plan into implementation. The teams have come up with some new programs for each area: Education, Fitness, Cultural and Social. The Executive Director is looking into new funding and improvements for our Sokol units. A brand new marketing plan will be in place to promote the new programs and unify the Sokol program throughout the US.

2009 Sokol Slet / International Sport and Culture Festival

JUNE 23-28, 2009 – FORT WORTH, TEXAS

American Sokol has joined forces with USA Gymnastics, Pan American gymnastics Union Gymnaestrada, Special Olympics and others to create a week long extravaganza of sport, recreation, culture and fitness. Each organization will be holding its own competitions and activities for all to enjoy in the Fort Worth Convention Center. All organization in the WSF should have received the invitations by email and in the mail. Attached is another copy with information to plan your trip. There will be a Sokol Slet as well as combined events for all organizations and participants. For updated information – www.2009isfestival.co, We encourage and welcome participation from all WSF members.

Additional Information:

- American Sokol publication is sent to membership and outside organizations 10 times per year.
- American Sokol continues to maintain a website, and will soon be utilizing the website for fundraising, receiving donations and accessing a souvenir shop.
- Several American Sokol units are Sister Units in the Czech Republic.
- American Sokol had a stock of uniforms that were made in an incorrect color. These were donated to one of the Sokol Units in the Czech Republic – coordinated by Brother Milan of the American Sokol and Dr. Hlobil of the Czech Sokol.
- 5 members of American Sokol attended the Beijing Olympics and made Sokol signs that appeared several times on the “Today Show” in the United States and on the internet.
- The American Sokol Executive Board meets once a month, (the 4th Tuesday.) at the National Office in Brookfield, IL –and use a conference – bridge line to conduct meetings. Officers can call into the bridge to be in attendance.
- Brothers Lebloch, Milan and Podhrasky attended the Slet in Liberec, Czech Republic.

- Sister Jean Hruby continues to serve on Prague Sister Cities Committee of Chicago, the Czechoslovak Legion Project Executive committee and on the supportive committee of the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago – promoting and supporting relationships between the Czech Republic and the United States.
- Brother Bob Podhrasky serves on the Brno sister Cities Committee of Dallas.
- Brother Laznovsky continues to serve as Director of the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center in La Grange Texas, Assistant Director of the National Polka Festival in Ennis Texas, Director of Board of Texans of Czech Ancestry, Vice President of American Czech Culture Society of North Texas, Director on Board of RVOS Farm Mutual Insurance, Fraternal Activities Coordinator of SPJST Lodge 135 and is a Member of Western Fraternal Life Association.