

The WSF Secretary's Report for WSF Board Meeting, Prague, October 19, 2008

The last WSF Board meeting was held almost 16 months ago on the occasion of the Slet of Sokol USA in Pittsburgh on June 16, 2007, now we are meeting in Prague on the occasion of the Sokol celebrations of 90th anniversary of the rise of the independent Czechoslovakia.

Since the last meeting, as we can find in the forwarded reports of the member organizations, rich activities were running and a number of significant events occurred. Also our common activity, in which the WSF secretariat participated, got new impulses and stepped forward in new direction. Women's director Jarina Zitna will report on this in detail.

The level of communication with the secretariat and engagement of individual organizations in our common activities, however, have been very different. I will not evaluate now all individual organizations, I must only say, unfortunately, that the minimal communication ran with Sokolska Zveza Slovenije and ZTG Sokol Poland. Therefore I am very happy that Slovenian brothers are again with us today. In ZTG Sokol Poland the newly elected leadership has not allied with us and with our common thing too much so far. On the other hand there is a hope for much better relations with D.A. American Sokol where also new leadership have been elected and for the first time I received their E-mail address (they were the only ones whose e-mail I did not have). The overseas organizations which are absent today have excused, the reason is mostly in the great distance of the meeting venue. Most of them, however, have sent their annual reports which you have in your files.

The changes have occurred also in the Sokol in Slovakia where the president of Slovak Sokol and at the same time 1st vice president of WSF bro. Lukacek resigned his functions. Therefore we welcome here new Slovak leadership and in one of the following item of the agenda we will tackle the co-optation of a new vice-president.

Regarding the membership in WSF there have been no changes. After the Slet in Pittsburgh I addressed the American Catholic Sokol but without any response. I also invited, but probably rather too late, to our celebrations the representatives of PTG Sokol Krakow but...

With respect to our mutual communication it has run, except for necessary cases, through electronic mail, the principal information have been communicated also in our websites. In the discussion I expect notes and proposals on this theme. Our address list goes here round the table, let me kindly ask you to check if your data are correct and, if necessary, update them.

The activities of the secretary have been concentrated this year mainly on the preparations of the events linked with just running celebrations and on administrative works linked with both of the common activities that sister Zitna will analyze.

In May WSF delegation participated, on the kind invitation of Sokol Abroad, the traditional Sokol meeting in Oetz (see the report of Sokol Abroad) and also the Advisory Board of Sokol Abroad meeting. In June the representatives of WSF participated, as guests, in the Slet in Liberec, the greatest Sokol event in our republic this year.

Now, the two items that could be presented also in the report of the Treasurer. With a real sorrow we all received news about catastrophic floods which stroke the states Iowa and Illinois. During those floods, besides others, the Czech village, the

Czech and Slovak Museum (whose reconstruction was immediately significantly financially supported by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in the city of Cedar Rapids also the Sokol gym hall was disastrously damaged. Water level reached 20 cm below the top of the entrance door which means that not only all sports equipment, the piano included, was damaged but also floors, windows and installation networks etc.

Immediately after this disaster the special fund for the renovation of the damaged property was established where lots of individuals and Sokol organizations from the USA and the world were and still are sending their solidary contributions for the renovation of Sokol Cedar Rapids. Therefore I ask you to consider the possibility to contribute a certain amount from the WSF financial resources to Sokol Cedar Rapids to its restoration.

Further, brothers from American Sokol ask us to arrange and to cover the conversion of the audio and video materials for the Slet 2009 in Texas to European norm and distribution of those materials to all organizations, except the American ones which they will make themselves. I assume that with respect to the great importance of this Slet which will concern most of our organizations it is our interest to support the Slet in Texas this way.

Allow me , sisters and brothers, to thank you for your year- long cooperation and at the same time I look forward to our common and joined more intensive work and to our common meetings at various Sokol events. The greatest one will be certainly the Slet of American Sokol in Texas. Let me wish you great success in all your – our activities.

October 2, 2008

Vladimir Dostal