



Providing fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

March Slovo articles due February 1

Sokol Singers  
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

First and Third Tuesdays February, 3 and 17

Friendly Friday Evening Social  
Friday, February, 13  
7 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities  
See page 3

Spring and Summer Events  
See page 12

Sokol Gift Shop open during events and by appointment  
giftshop@sokolmn.org

Use this QR code for sokolmn.org to follow all of our upcoming activities, events, and classes!

- Dinners
- Czech and Slovak Language Lessons
- Folk Dancing
- Sokol Gymnasts



Saturday, February 7 <sup>20</sup>/<sub>26</sub>  
12:15 - 1 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Youth Link meet in the C.S.P.S. Hall's dining room to make cards for neighborhood seniors. Art supplies and snack provided.



Interested in volunteering to make cards contact: youths@sokolmn.org or teens sign up with your class instructor.

*Flavors of Slovakia Dinner*

Sunday, March 8 <sup>20</sup>/<sub>26</sub>

Service starts 12:30 p.m. (doors open 12 Noon)

\$35 per person

MENU: Soup, Traditional Slovak *Bryndzové halušky* (potato dumplings, bryndza cheese, and bacon), *holubky* (cabbage roll), dessert, and coffee.



Payment: Prepay and reserve by March 2, with credit/debit card online at [www.sokolmn.org/cc/](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc/) OR reserve and pay by check by February 16: voice/text 651-210-0401



Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN



Experience the World at the  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL OF  
*Minnesota*



April 10 & 11, 2026 ST. PAUL RIVERCENTRE

Imagine IF... We All Belonged. One festival. Many cultures. A shared home.

## Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Bob Kotek

Welcome to the new year, 2026!

2025 closed out with a flurry of activity. Installation of the new boiler continues with the expected completion in January. We have had great support in the area of donations for this necessary project, but the total cost is quite large as you might imagine. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!

Sokol Minnesota hosted the Slovakia Junior Hockey team that was in Minnesota for the 50th IIHF World Hockey Junior Championship tournament.

The Czech Junior team was also invited, but was unavailable. Led by Barbora Carlson, many volunteers planned and delivered a very wonderful event and I am certain our guests left impressed by our Sokol's support for the team. See the article on pages 6-7 for full details.

In conjunction with the hockey reception, a food donation box was placed in the elevator lobby on the first floor at the Hall. After the event, it was suggested that we continue to collect non-perishable food items for the local Hispanic community in keeping with our mission of community support. When you visit the Hall, please be generous to those less fortunate!

If you have ever considered being more active as a volunteer within the Sokol organization, now is a great time to do it! As with any organization, we are always looking for new talent and energy to continue the long history for our Sokol. For more information, please call Joyce Tesarek at 612-232-2993.

The following message is from Adam Wilt, President of American Sokol, and I echo his appreciation for our membership! *Nazdar!*



Bob Kotek

*Dear American Sokol Unit & District Presidents,*

*Thank you for your efforts to continue to advance the Sokol mission! Your commitment to leading our Units and Districts is the driving force behind our organization having reached 160 years. With your efforts we will continue our work well into the future!*

*Special thanks for those of you who have supported your units' participation in the 2025 Slet and in preparing for the 2026 Convention! The American Sokol Executive Board is proud to support your work of continuing the Sokol tradition of a sound mind, in a sound body. And we are excited to share additional resources in the year ahead.*

*Please extend our greetings and gratitude to your membership. Looking forward to a fantastic year in 2026, and we can't wait to see many of you at the American Sokol Convention in Minnesota.*

*Best wishes for a Happy New Year!*

*Adam & the American Sokol Executive Board*

## Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors approved four new members in November:

**Zuzana Hadarova** and **Kirk Gilbertson** of Cohasset, Minnesota, with interests in adult calisthenics, dance and singing; language, cooking and crafting classes; films and theater; music and dances; history and genealogy; event help/organizing, setting up and in the kitchen; and other Sokol activities.

**Adam** and **Sonia Smith** of Minneapolis, with interests in youth dance and language classes.

These four brought our current membership to 335. Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults.

Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus e-addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](http://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)



Use this  
QR code  
to go to  
[sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2026 BOD (Board of Directors)

### President

Bob Kotek

### Vice President

Fred Simon

### Recording Secretary

Aaron Mislivec

### Corresponding Secretary

Denise Stibal

### Treasurer

Wayne Zbytovsky

### Sergeant at Arms

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Don Haselbauer

### Membership Director

Steve Ernest

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Sally Lieberman

### Rental Committee

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### Publicity Director

Tereza Treanor

### Board of Instructor, both Women's and Men's

### Physical Directors

Jason Brozovich

### Building and Property

### Trustees Committee

Dave Stepan, Chair

### Gaming Manager

Steve Shimer

Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and  
Hall Calendar of Events:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

## Brand New: International Festival of Minnesota on April 10 and 11

The International Festival of Minnesota (IFest-MN) invites you to a celebration of culture, community, and connection at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, April 10 and 11. Exclusive student hours: Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to everyone: Friday, 3-9 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Formerly known as the Festival of Nations, the IFest-MN gathers over 70 nations and ethnic communities to share food, music, art, dance, traditions, and cultural demonstrations.

IFest-MN offers a hands-on, heart-opening experience that fosters understanding across generations and provides a deeper understanding of each other's heritage. <https://www.ifestmn.org>

Representing Czechs and Slovaks, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has been invited to organize Czech and Slovak participation with a bazaar sales booth, cultural exhibit, food sales booth, and folk dance performances. All Czechs and Slovaks are invited to help Sokol Minnesota with this festival.

**If you are interested in volunteering in one or more of the areas during the two-day festival, please contact: [volunteers@sokolmn.org](mailto:volunteers@sokolmn.org)**

### Watch for News About ...

#### Summer Study Scholarships in Czechia By Sally Lieberman

As we go to press, the Czech government has not yet announced the scholarships for the intensive summer language study programs in the Czech Republic for 2026. To be notified when that information becomes available, please email: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)

## Upcoming Events of Interest

**February 7, 1 p.m.**, Rusin Association Duchnovich Day Celebration, *Aleksander Dukhnovych and Carpatho-Rusyn Romanticism* presentation by Dr. Nicholas K. Kupensky, with an analysis of Dukhnovych not only as a national awakener of Carpo-Rusyns, but also as a writer, one whose aesthetic draws upon the conventions of European Romanticism and American Transcendentalism. Presentation: \$20 at the door or <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/rusin-association-duchnovich-day-program-and-dinner-2026> St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center, 1701 5th Street NE, Minneapolis 55413

**February 13, 7 p.m.** *The History of Beroun in Minnesota*, presentation by Peg Skalicky, whose father's grandfather, one of the original settlers in the 1880s in Beroun, emigrated from Beroun, Bohemia, now in the Central Region of the Czech Republic (west of Prague). At C.S.P.S. Hall and sponsored by Czech and Slovak Culture Center, Sokol Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and Honorary Czech Consulate/Minneapolis.

**February 15: 26th Annual Masopust** ("giving up meat"), the traditional Czech *mardi gras* festival is traditionally the last chance to eat and drink in excess before the austerity of Lent. A king is crowned, plus music, dancing, food, costume contest, silent auction, and vendors. Rustic Farmer/Revival on Main, Montgomery.

**April 8-19**, Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) celebrates its 45th anniversary with over 200 films from around the world. *Slovo* will list the Czech and Slovak films included in this year's festival in the March issue. Since Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota supports MSPIFF, members of Sokol Minnesota can purchase discounted tickets. Info:<https://mspiff.org/mspiff45/>

**April 11: 37th annual Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant**, American Legion Hall, Montgomery.

**May 3: 8th Annual May Day** celebration with ribbon dances around a 40' pole, music, folk dancers, food, vendors. Montgomery.

## Sokol Volunteer Opportunities

**Flavors of Slovakia  
March 8  
Pancake Breakfast  
March 29**

Volunteer for set-up, serving, clean up, or bar

**Volunteer to help set-up and run IT Equipment at Sokol Events**

**Managing Editor for *Slovo***

starting with the April issue.

**Help *Slovo* as an Event Reporter**

attend events and write a story!

Contact: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

**To volunteer, email: [volunteer@sokolmn.org](mailto:volunteer@sokolmn.org) or call Joyce Tesarek: 612-232-2993**



**Volunteer to help with our ever-growing broken chair collection**

Ideal candidate: woodworking/carpenter talents, woodworking tools, as well as the ability to work independently at a location of your choice.

Contact: [trustees@sokolmn.org](mailto:trustees@sokolmn.org)

Would you enjoy attending a BOD meeting to share ideas for classes, activities, membership?

Members are always welcome to attend BOD meetings.

## Sokol Singers and St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers Perform at Lexington Landing by Pam Langworthy

The Sokol Singers kicked off the Christmas season at Lexington Landing by singing to the residents on December 2. With Don Haselbauer at the piano and Marlene Hinshaw shaking her sleigh bells, our music filled the air and more residents kept joining us. We began with patriotic songs and then sang Czech Christmas carols. We added a sing-along this year and the residents heartily joined in, tapping their feet and raising their voices in song.

Libby Imbrone, a long-time Sokol member and former member of the Sokol Singers, now a Lexington Landing resident, shared amusing stories from her long life and amazed us when she revealed that she is 99 years old.

Doreen McKenney brought a surprise treat of Czech *koláče*, baked by our members in our professional C.S.P.S. Hall kitchen, for the residents.

For the second year in a row, our performance at Lexington Landing was on “Giving Tuesday.” It seemed very appropriate that we could return appreciation on this special day to the J. A. Wedum Foundation, which built and owns this senior-living facility on West 7th in Saint Paul, for its many generous grants to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Their latest donation was a \$25,000 matching grant in late December for the C.S.P.S. boiler.

We look forward to next year when we will expand the sing-along, as everyone enjoyed getting in the swing of the holidays by singing together.

On Saturday, January 10, it was the yipping, that burst of high-pitched vocal exuberance, often



Front: Libby Imbrone, Pam Langworthy, Bob Kostichka, Marlene Hinshaw, Ed Hamernik, Back: Don Haselbauer, Tom Aubrecht, Richard Sargent, Doreen McKenney, Dave Stepan (standing), Louise Wessinger.

emitted by an enthusiastic dancer while dancing, which so delighted one audience member



at Lexington Landing that she wanted to know who had yipped during the performance of the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers (SPCSFD) that afternoon. Julie Lindner was delighted to be identified and was afforded multiple opportunities to showcase her talent for the pleasure of the rapt audience.

The SPCSFD is pleased to perform for the residents of Lexington Landing to show gratitude to the J. A. Wedum Foundation for its generous support of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Louise Wessinger, SPCSFD director, introduced each dance with interesting history and stories. Dancer partners were Pam Langworthy/Richard Sargent, Lenka Hester/Dave Cammack, Teresa Pojar/Anthony Kaczor, Julie Lindner/Scott Lindner, Renáta Tichá/Rick Palma, and Diane Bell/John Topic.

## Sokol Children’s Holiday Party on December 5



Sokol families and friends attended the annual holiday program of song and dance at the Sokol Children’s Holiday Party on the evening of December 5. The party began with the Sokol Singers, led by Director Don Haselbauer, performing Christmas carols in Czech and English. The audience was invited to join, reading the words projected on a large screen.

*Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční* teens, directed by Louise Wessinger, performed a variety of favorite Czech and Slovak folk dances. The highlight of the evening was the visit by *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas), *anděl* (angel), and *čert* (devil). The children were tempted by offers of fun from the cunning *čert* and his usual rotten vegetables, but all the kids ended up proclaiming they were good (very, very good in 2025) and signed the great book belonging to *anděl*. After speaking with *Svatý Mikuláš*, all the children were rewarded with a gift. Sokol Youth Link Members (SYML) helped *Svatý Mikuláš* pass out the gift bags. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed lemonade and treats, which were served in the dining room.





## Magic before Christmas By Jitka Sebek

The holiday spirit truly comes alive in the *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities/Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities* community right after Thanksgiving. Families made time once again at the C.S.P.S. Hall for our *Mikulášská besídka* (Saint Nicholas Party). Parents prepared many favorites for the potluck, including *chlebičky* (open-face sandwiches), *houbový kuba* (traditional Bohemian mushroom barley casserole), and *uzené maso* (smoked meat). On Saturday, December 6, our *škola* community group transformed the main Hall into a space for crafting, caroling, a music concert, and, most importantly, the special visit from *Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas), *anděl* (angel), and *čert* (devil).



Earlier in the week, several of our talented bakers rolled up their sleeves and organized another successful Christmas Bread Fundraiser. They mixed, braided, and baked breads, along with a bit of dancing and singing in the Sokol kitchen. Markéta Pálková together with Martina Gurgel, Adriana Wenberg, Katarína Bílá, and Renata Scholtz baked 50 festive loaves to sell.

This year marked our 21st *Mikulášská besídka*. We had a wonderful time together, reconnecting, and welcoming the Christmas season with our children. Before the evening ended, we were proud to submit \$920 in event donations and \$822 from the Christmas bread fundraiser to the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota general fund. We are already looking forward to organizing it again next year.



## Svatý Mikuláš 2025 in Montgomery By Jean Keogh, Montgomery Czech Fests Committee

Montgomery's Fourth annual *Svatý Mikuláš* celebration on Sunday, December 6, at the Rustic Farmer/Revival on Main, welcomed nearly 200 visitors with the sounds of bells and hoofs of the horse-drawn carriage and the traditional Czech rye bread dipped in salt.

Each child received a treat bag filled with candy, a wooden toy, and a clementine after being quizzed by *Svatý Mikuláš*, *anděl* and *čert*. Kids of all ages stood in line for the make-and-take crafts of Christmas ornaments sponsored by the Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant Committee.

Many in the audience jumped into the fun of learning a few traditional Czech dance steps from the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Four of the Sokol Minnesota Children Folk Dancers also performed to the delight of everyone, first by themselves, then with the adults. Traditional Czech fare included Czech hot dogs on homemade buns, *halušky* (dumplings and kraut), *vomáčka* (creamy potato soup), and *zelníčky* (sauerkraut crackers). The Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop and the Czech Heritage Club were among the vendors.



## Renew your 2026 Sokol Minnesota Membership

If you have not renewed for 2026 already, please do so soon to continue being part of the Sokol family this year. Renewal letters were sent out around Thanksgiving 2025. If you did not receive yours, we may not have your current address. The easiest way you can renew anytime is by going online to [www.sokolmn.org/membership](http://www.sokolmn.org/membership). In addition to paying your 2026 dues, you can use this web page to update your address, change how you receive the *Slovo* newsletter, express activities in which you would like to become more involved, and provide other feedback. Thank you for your support of our historic Czech and Slovak cultural institution!

28th annual  
**Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp**   
 June 15 -19   
 C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

**Cultural Landscape**  
 In the  
 Czech and Slovak  
 LANDS  
 (the forest feeds us more than food)

**Registration is OPEN**

28th annual  
 Children's Czech and Slovak  
 Cultural Day Camp  
 June 15-19, 2026

**Register by May 15  
 for the Early-Bird discount.**

All camp registration materials  
 must be received by June 1.  
 Registration materials for campers  
 grade K to 5, Jr leaders grade 6-12,  
 and adult volunteers  
 can be downloaded at  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

Full refund if camp needs to be postponed.

Questions? Contact:  
 Louise Wessinger: 651-271-3601

## Ten Teams, One Dream By Barbora Carlson

If you are a hockey fan, you know the Twin Cities hosted the 2026 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship, December 26, 2025, to January 5, 2026.

The American, Slovak, and Czech National Junior Teams, all among the top ten teams in the world, competed for a chance to stand on the podium at the 50th World Juniors U20 (under age 20) tournament.

Sparked by a hockey fan's idea and fueled by the efforts of Andrej Droba, the new Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall hosted a reception and dinner for the Czech and Slovak hockey teams on Sunday, December 28.



2026 Slovak IIHF World Junior Team U20 with coaches and Ambassador Droba (right).



To the disappointment of many, at the last moment, the Czech Junior Hockey Team and coaching staff were unable to attend the reception and dinner. But our local Czechs and Slovaks rallied together; everyone took great pride and honor in meeting the Slovak team and coaches.

Despite blizzard conditions outdoors, scores of volunteers made it to C.S.P.S. Hall to produce this extraordinary event. Our volunteers, plus many other fans, were thrilled to have a chance to meet and greet the hockey players, take pictures, or get a signature from them, while enjoying appetizers and traditional Czech, Slovak, and American Christmas baked treats, beautifully displayed on two long tables. During the Meet/Greet and after the dinner, Sokol Minnesota Historian Joan Sedlacek conducted tours of the C.S.P.S. Hall third-floor meeting space.



After the Meet-and-Greet, Bob Kotek, President of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, was master of ceremonies for the dinner. Czech Slovak Pageant Junior Ambassador Allie Langridge, wearing her sash, welcomed Andrej Droba, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America, with the traditional greeting of bread and salt.

Sarah Langridge, 2024-2025 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen, sang *a capella* all three national anthems, Czech, Slovak, and American, much to the pride of everyone, and impressing the Ambassador and the entire Slovak hockey team and staff, which also included the coaches of the Slovak Men's National Team. Barbora Carlson extended a welcome from the *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities/Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities*. M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis, brought greetings from the Honorary Consulate, as well as the Czech Consulate of the Czech Republic/Chicago and the Minnesota Trade Office. Both Ambassador Droba and Sokol Minnesota President Kotek received signed team jerseys by the Slovak Head Coach Peter Frühauf and the General Manager Tomáš Pšenka.



We put together a wonderful Christmas dinner for the Slovak Ambassador, the Slovak team, and all the guests: *Vianočná kapustnica, vyprážené bravčové rezne a zemiakový šalát, dezert, káva, nealkoholické nápoje*/Christmas cabbage soup, fried pork cutlets and potato salad, dessert, coffee, soft drinks. At the head of each place setting on the tables were two small candy bars with Twin Cities' origins: Pearson's Salted Nuts Rolls (Saint Paul) and Milky Way (Minneapolis), a gift from the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL). After the dinner, the team members were each invited to fill a container with cookies and goodies to take back to their hotel; at first shy, then many athletes happily accepted the offer! Bob Kotek took what cookies remained to a very grateful near-by Saint Paul fire station.



Organizers and supporters included Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities/Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities*, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in

Minneapolis, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL), the Minnesota Trade Office, and Pajarito Restaurant.

All ten teams played well and played hard. Many of our local Czech and Slovak compatriots attended games at both Mariucci and Grand Casino Arenas. Others cheered at home in front of their TVs. We applaud both our Slovak and our Czech teams; we are very proud of the silver medal won by Czechia in the championship game against Sweden on January 5. No matter what the final standings were in the end, to be at an arena cheering for the “home teams” and having a chance to meet the rising young Slovak hockey stars at C.S.P.S. Hall was a truly special and very memorable experience!

Thanks to all the volunteers: Jana Borovova-Geciova, **Barbora Carlson** with Izabela and Natalia, Emma Giancarlo-Lorenzo, Roger Green, Martina Gurgel, Silvia Guttmann with Lana, Jan Kostal, Katerina Kostal, Rosina Kostal, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, **Bob Kotek**, **Marit Kucera**, Allie Langridge, Sarah Langridge, Luboš Mareš, Linda Maxey, Doreen McKenney, Igor Nestrail, **Markéta Pálková**, Ludmila Pálková, Ludmila Pálková, Timotej Polansky, Matt Schroeder, Matthew Resong, Dáša Rosenthal, Joan Sedlacek, Olga Splichalova Espinosa with Izzy and Lucien, Dave Stepan, Tereza Treanor, Adriana Wenberg with Sophia and cousin/exchange student Michaela, Bryan Wyberg. Event leaders' names are in bold.



1. Slovak hockey players enjoyed gathering with fans.
2. H.C. Marit Kucera, Slovak Ambassador Droba, and Barbora Carlson.
3. Slovak TV JOJ reporter recorded the bread and salt welcome for the Ambassador, with Head Coach Frühauf, Bob Kotek, Ambassador Andrej Droba, Minnesota Pageant Junior Ambassador Allie Langridge, and Barbora Carlson.
4. Signed hockey jerseys: Head Coach, Peter Frühauf, Ambassador Andrej Droba. Sokol Minnesota President Bob Kotek, and General Manager Tomáš Pšenka.
5. Slovak players sign a Slovak flag.
6. Izabela and Natalia helped decorate the tables, all in white, red, and blue table cloths, napkins, ribbons, and flags.
7. Sokol Member (since 1988) Bryan Wyberg's high school exchange student Timotej Polansky from Stará Ľubovňa, Slovakia, was pleased to meet Slovak Ambassador Andrej Droba.

## November 2025 Pancake Breakfast Recap

By Mary Cahill and Joyce Tesarek

Our Pancake Breakfast with Craft and *Koláče* Sale on November 23 was another success. The weather was great, the food delicious, and the Hall was buzzing with conversation. We served dozens of hungry customers, many of whom also purchased *koláče* and homemade caramel popcorn from the bake sale and shopped the vendor's tables, where beautiful hand-crafted items and yummy holiday breads and cookies were among the available wares.



Proceeds from this fundraising event are an important source of funds to keep the C.S.P.S. building operational so that Sokol Minnesota can continue to offer classes and programming. Your attendance at these events literally helps keep the lights on.

Sokol Minnesota thanks the following volunteers, who make events like this possible: Tom Aubrecht, Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Roger Green, Dave Grostephan, Glynis Grostephan, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Theresa Hudachek, Bob Kostichka, Luboš Mareš, Doreen McKenney, Aaron Mislivec, Anna Overbo, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Rich Smith, Sheila Surrana, Joyce Tesarek, Tereza Treanor, and Bryan Wyberg.



Aaron Mislivec (left) filled fruit cups for Rich Smith, Sheila Surrana, and Roger Green to plate with pancakes and sausages.

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

Czech and Slovak Minnesota greatly appreciates donations received in November and December 2025 supporting Czech and Sokol programs and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S Hall.

### GENERAL FUND

**TOTAL \$11,699**

**Under \$99: Tereza Treanor; Wayne Zbytovsky; Sokol Camp Association (Slovo).**

**\$100-\$499: M. L. Kucera (in memory of Lloyd Krocak); Minnesota Earthworks LLC; Barbara Pavelka; Pavlina Tesch; U.S. Charitable Gift Trust; Bryan Wyberg.**

**\$1000-\$9999: Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities; Ivana and Zdenek Korinek; Michaela Giancarlo Kotek (CVS Health Foundation); Denise Stibal (Catholic Community Foundation).**

### LEGACY FUND

**TOTAL \$25,200**

**\$100-\$499: Sokol Camp Association (Boiler Fund).**

**\$25,000 matching grant: J. A. Wedum Foundation (Boiler Fund).**

## New ESTA Requirements

Customs and Border Patrol is proposing new requirements for visitors to the United States including the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov)  
There is a public comment period on these proposed requirements through February 9, 2026. Members of the public wishing to submit a comment may do so by February 9 via email to [CBP\\_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:CBP_PRA@cbp.dhs.gov) The subject line of the email must include the OMB Control Number 1651-0111 and the agency name: U.S. Customs and Border Control, Department of Homeland Security. Comments may also be submitted to your U.S. Senators and Representative.

## Highlights of Sokol Minnesota Board Meetings

### October 2025

By Jean Draheim

President Bob Kotek presided over the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors (BOD) Zoom meeting on October 16, 2025. Members present: Jason Brozovich, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Don Haselbauer, Bob Kotek, Sally Lieberman, Márketa Pálková, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, and guest Marit Kucera.

**Education:** Sally Lieberman: Five adult language classes, one Slovak, four Czech, totaling 40 students (20 are new) one children's beginning Czech class with five kids. Three classes are in-person; three are on-line. Upcoming on February 1, *Heirloom Fire: Czech Glasswork*, a presentation and class on Czech glass and jewelry-making by Andrea Turini. A group of (25) 9- to 25-year-old viola players from Žamberk, Czechia, hope to visit their sister city of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, and then perform at C.S.P.S. Hall. Sally will get more information from the Rice Lake International Friendship Association. Looking ahead: a possible opportunity for cultural activities with the Brno Jewish Community later in 2026.

**Board of Instructors:** Jason Brozovich: Gymnastics classes are going well; numbers are up. New junior instructors start this month and next. 2026 Western District *Slet* will be held in Cedar Rapids.

**Building and Trustee Committee:** Dave Stepan: The snow fence boards will be put up to protect the back fencing. The fall clean-up will include cleaning up the water line. The thermal coupler in the stove/oven will be replaced on October 24. The window air conditioners have been removed from the kitchen and the dining room.

**Finance:** Joyce Tesarek: J.A. Wedum Foundation has awarded us a \$25,000 matching grant for the boiler.

**Gaming:** Ed Hamernik, absent: President sent out the gaming reports for an email vote. Motions passed.

**Membership:** Steve Ernest: Four new-member applications were approved Janine Hradsky, Fridley; Laurie Erickson, Saint Joseph; Steven Blaha, West Saint Paul; Stephen Maresh, Saint Paul. Membership for the year: 331.

**Rental Committee:** Markéta Pálková: The discount for non-profit groups has been standardized at 25%.

**Activities:** Jean Draheim: Information for the spring/summer 2026 event postcard is needed soon.

**Stage Committee:** Jean Draheim: the grand drop (Charles Bridge) has been cleaned. While cleaning, Dr. Wendy Waszut-Barrett discovered that the fabric is pulling away from the wooden roll. The damage happened when the drop is down and the ventilation system is running. That drop cannot be used unless the ventilation is off. Wendy has spoken to President Kotek about the dire seriousness of this situation. Cleaning, repairing, and touch-up painting will continue on Wednesdays through the month of December.

**Slovo Interim Editor:** Marit Kucera; November *Slovo* will include 2025 annual meeting election information and recognize membership anniversaries.

**Vice President:** Fred Simon: Czech Heritage Club hosts Wencelfest, on Sunday, October 19, at the American Legion Park Ballroom, New Prague, with music, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, food, and vendors.

**Honor Membership:** This is an honor bestowed by our Unit on members of at least 15 years, who have given exemplary contributions in leadership and volunteer hours to our unit. Membership fees are waived for Honor Members. President Kotek will form a committee to choose awardees, the first awarded in several years.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Western District is hosting the **American Sokol 2026 Convention on June 12-14**. Most activities will be held in Bloomington at the hotel; Sokol Minnesota will hold a welcome reception at the C.S.P.S. Hall on June 12. Jason Brozovich, Steve Ernest, and Markéta Pálková are interested in being delegates from Sokol Minnesota to the convention.

### November 2025

By Denise Stibal,  
Corresponding Secretary

President Bob Kotek presided on November 21, 2025. Members present: Jason Brozovich, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Don Haselbauer, Ed Hamernik, Sally Lieberman, Márketa Pálková, Fred Simon, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek. Guests: Mary Cahill, Marit Kucera.

**A formal request** by Sokol member Barbora Carlson for Sokol Minnesota to

sponsor an event at the C.S.P.S. Hall for the IIHF Czech and Slovak Junior Hockey Teams visiting Minnesota for the 50th International Tournament at the end of the year. Event to be, perhaps, a reception and dinner for the team members, staff, plus guests. Motion approved to provide financial support for reception and dinner.

**Board of Instructors:** Jason Brozovich: Gymnastic classes are going well. Classes are utilizing the new set of uneven bars donated by Sokol Omaha. Jason needs help to move equipment for stage restoration being done by Dr. Wendy Waszut-Barrett in December. Western District competition is May 2, 2026, in Cedar Rapids.

**Building and Property Trustees Committee:** Dave Stepan: Pallet wrapping is finished; more shelving is available. Several chairs are in need of repair. Bryan Wyberg is working on the window shades. Boiler replacement will begin on December 1. For the boiler project, a \$25,000 matching grant is coming from the J. A. Wedum Foundation, plus the generous donation of \$35,000 from Ed Hamernik and family on November 4.

**Gaming Committee:** Ed Hamernik and Steve Shimer: Presented and approved:  
1. Gaming Budget for December.  
2. Report of Actual Expenditures.  
3. Transfer of \$15,000 from Gaming in November to General Funds.

Recognition and thanks given to Ed Hamernik for his dedication and outstanding work as Gaming Chair over the past 11 years, since summer 2014.

**Membership:** Steve Ernest: Four new members approved: Kirk Gilbertson, Zuzana Hadarova, Adam and Sonia Smith.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sally Lieberman offered to be Sokol Minnesota's contact to participate in the celebration at Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church on September 12-13, 2026

**Scholarships for Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders** was successful in 2025. Sokol Minnesota voted to offer a scholarship again in 2026.

 <p><b>blast</b> Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota</p>	<p>For Sokol's Latest News! Join the E-blast List</p>
<p>Send your email address to <a href="mailto:publicity@sokolmn.org">publicity@sokolmn.org</a></p>	

## Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting By Denise Stibal, Corresponding Secretary

After President Bob Kotek called the meeting to order on November 21, a moment of silence was observed to remember members who passed away in 2025.

**Stage Backdrops:** Wendy Waszut-Barrett, Ph.D., reported on the rehabilitation of the stage backdrops and flats. She stressed the valuable art treasure we have in our stage sets created by Victor Hubal, Sr. The front curtain is already restored. Book flats have been cleaned and are ready to paint. Wendy will work on the stage December 3, 10, and 17.

**Education Committee:** Sally Lieberman: 40 students in adult language classes, one level of Slovak and four levels of Czech, plus five students in a new beginning Czech class for children. CGSI is offering a six-lecture Genealogy course. Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders in Czechia last summer was successful; Sokol Minnesota awarded two tuition scholarships and one by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota. Local Historian Joe Landsberger gave two talks at the Hall on his book about the history of Fort Road in Saint Paul. The annual mushroom hunt was held in July. Two Czech cooking classes were held.

**Board of Instructors:** Jason Brozovich: Students participated in the annual Western District competition in Crete, Nebraska, in April. Three instructors attended training in Chicago; ASO provided grants to assist with travel expenses. We had three 10-week gymnastic sessions with strong participation numbers in 2025.

**Building and Property Trustees:** Dave Stepan, chair. Committee members: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, John Gerlach, Jake Jacobsen, Gary Novak, Rick Palma, Bryan Wyberg, and Gary Zweber. Our three-year contract with All City Elevator goes through 2027. Alliance Mechanical

is our radiator repair contact. Gary Novak is the Project Manager for our boiler replacement. Two large windows were installed on the east side of the Hall. We finished 54 repair requests for ongoing maintenance. There is a possibility of installing solar panels in 2026.

**Budget and Finance:** Joyce Tesarek, chair. Committee members: Don Haselbauer, Richard Sargent. Bonnie Simon, Michael Sebek, Dave Stepan, Wayne Zbytovsky. Presented review of the balance sheets and statement of activities for the year. Currently working on Minnesota Paid Leave Request.

**Gaming:** Ed Hamernik: Committee members: Mary Cahill, Marlene Hinshaw, Bob Kosticka. Joan Sedlacek, Joyce Tesarek, Ed Hamernik. Steve Shimer is the new 2026 Gaming Manager with two employees assisting him in Site Management. Contributions from Gaming to Sokol Minnesota stands at \$60,000 for 2025.

**Membership:** Steve Ernest: We had 333 members on January 1, 2025; 335 as of yearend. He provided a breakdown of membership: single, senior, etc.; we are one of the largest Sokol units in the country. A membership committee will form in January.

**Activities:** Jean Draheim: maintains the online Hall calendar and does the twice-yearly events postcard. Jean also works with the Stage Committee. Three generations of descendants of Victor Hubal, Sr., who created our stage drops and panels, visited the Hall on June 21: granddaughter (Naperville, Illinois); great-granddaughter and great-great-granddaughter (Overland Park, Kansas).

**Slovo Newsletter:** Marit Kucera, interim managing editor: would like to expand the newsletter staff in 2026 with volunteer reporters.

### Recognition of Members:

Jean Draheim received an Honorary Membership Award for her 50-year-membership. Honor Memberships for exemplary volunteer work were awarded to Tom Aubrecht, Jean Draheim, Marit Lee Kucera, Richard Sargent, and Dave Stepan.

### Election of Officers:

Nominating committee: Bob Kotek, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger. Slate for 2026 Board of Directors and committees were elected by acclamation: BOD members serve alternating two-year terms. 2026 positions elected:

Treasurer: Wayne Zbytovsky

Men's and Women's Physical Director: Jason Brozovich

Activities Director: Jean Draheim

Membership Director: Steve Ernest

Gaming Chair: Steve Shimer

Publicity Director: Tereza Treanor

Recording Secretary:

Aaron Mislivec

Board of Property and Trustees

Committee Chair: Dave Stepan

Board of Gaming: Bob Kostichka and Marlene Hinshaw

Budget and Finance Committee:

Bonnie Simon and Don Haselbauer

Delegates and Alternates to the Western

District Meetings: Jason Brozovich is an automatic delegate as Men's and Women's Physical Director.

Sokol Minnesota delegates are

Mary Cahill, Marit Kucera,

Joan Sedlacek, and Siri Schroeder

Delegates to the American Sokol

National Convention in June 2026:

Jason Brozovich, Steve Ernest, and Markéta Pálková

Installation of Officers was conducted by Denise Stibal, who read the oath of office to the officers, newly elected and re-elected for 2026-2027.



Honor Member recipients:(L-R) Dave Stepan, Jean Draheim, Richard Sargent, (President Bob Kotek holding wall plaque), M. L. Kucera, and Tom Aubrecht.



Denise Stibal (far right) inducted the new and re-elected BOD Members: (L-R) Jean Draheim, Dave Stepan, Steve Ernest, Steve Shimer, Jason Brozovich, and Sally Lieberman.

*Leaving by Václav Havel*, translated by Paul Wilson. Faber and Faber: London, 96 pages, 2008, published in Czech in 2007. Available at bookstores and libraries..

*Leaving* is Václav Havel's last play, perhaps best called a tragicomedy. Havel considered it a tragedy, but I and many others have enjoyed the absurd humor in it. The main character, Vilem Rieger, is leaving the top office of an unspecified country after many years. Havel claimed the play was not autobiographical, although there are similarities between Havel and the protagonist. He said, "Some small details from my life found their way into my play, but on the whole the play has nothing in common with my own departure."

Havel began writing this excellent play in the 1980s, before the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia. His attention then went to Czech politics and he threw out the draft. Fortunately, a neighbor saved an early draft. Two decades later, the play was completed, produced on stages in Europe and the United States with Paul Wilson's adept translation, and also made into a film.

The play is a thoughtful reflection on a variety of endings, with references to Shakespeare's *King Lear* and Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. The married protagonist Rieger clings to power and its trappings, which include a spacious residence, bribes, and many sycophants, including a lover. He doesn't accept the loss of the house until he receives an eviction notice and it is sold out from under him to the new leader, who already has five other residences.

Rieger thinks he has two life choices. In the first, he says, he "will constantly reminisce about the past, returning to it over and over again, analyzing it, explaining it, defending it, comparing it again and again to what exists now.... If I took this attitude, I would ultimately be reduced to an obscure figure on

the margins of history ..." The second option is to "demonstrate to everyone that serving my country is of greater importance to me than my personal prestige." Will Rieger take what is offered to him: a modest home in a small town and a position as "advisor to the advisor to the advisor to the advisor to the advisor of the new Chancellor"?

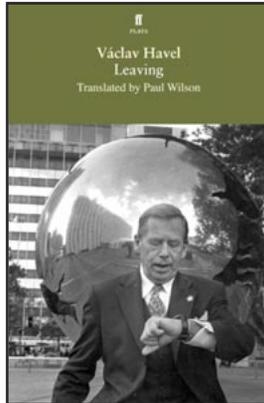
One unusual and effective aspect of the play is that Havel speaks directly to the audience several times. As The Voice, he can question whether to go this way or that, revising his work.

*Leaving* premiered on stage in 2008. From 2009-2011 Havel made his debut as director of a feature film based on the play. The movie was introduced in March 2011; on December 18 of that same year, Václav Havel died at the age of 75 at his cottage in Hrádeček.

Havel was born in Prague on October 5, 1936, to a wealthy family known for entrepreneurial and cultural accomplishments. They were later persecuted by the communists. He became a writer

who criticized the communists in his plays and as a leading dissident was in and out of prison during the 1970s and 1980s. Havel served politically as President of Czechoslovakia from 1989-1992 and President of the Czech Republic from 1993-2003.

*Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures book discussion group. Literary Ventures is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. Find information and updates at [cs-center.org](http://cs-center.org) or contact [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org)*



Join Literary Ventures at 10 a.m., Saturday, February 21, to discuss *Beyond the World of Men: Women's Fiction of the Czech Fin de Siècle* edited by Geoffrey Chew.

## Ongoing Gymnastics Classes are Available at the C.S.P.S. Hall

All levels of gymnastics classes for boys and girls continue through Winter!



For more information, please visit: classes at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

**COME INDOORS OUT OF THE COLD AND GET ACTIVE WITH GYMNASTICS**

## Children and Teen Folk Dancing Saturdays

9:45 a.m. - noon

Dance practice

is held each Saturday

morning through the school year,

at the historic C.S.P.S. Hall,

383 Michigan St., Saint. Paul, MN 55102

Practices are subject to change.

Contact Louise: 651-271-3601 • [folkdance@sokolmn.org](mailto:folkdance@sokolmn.org)

# Czech Honorary Consul News

February 2026

Barbora Carlson (standing) gave a tour of the first-floor class-room at C.S.P.S. Hall, used by Slovak language students of *Česká a slovenská škola Twin Cities*, to Slovak Ambassador Andrej Droba and his Slovak Embassy Assistant Paula Kolláriková on December 28, 2025. Afterwards they stopped by the office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for a short visit and to sign the guest register, before the reception and dinner for the Slovak IIHF Junior Hockey Team upstairs at C.S.P.S. Hall.



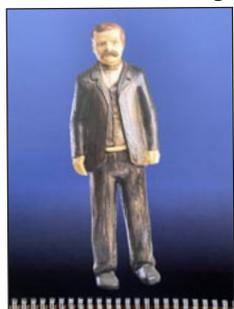
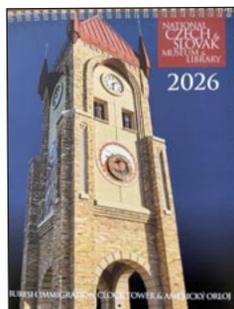
The Consulate of Mexico/Saint Paul invited members of the Minnesota Consular Corps on December 1, 2025, to tour *José María Velasco: A View of Mexico* at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

František Kaska (1834-1907), a Bohemian pharmacist and officer in the Austro-Hungarian army, went to Mexico with Emperor Maximilian in 1863. After the fall of the Second Mexican Empire in 1867, Kaska spent the rest of his life in Mexico. He collected eight paintings by José María Velasco (1840-1912), known for his distinctive vision of Mexico: its unique landscape characteristics, its historical legacy, and the transformative forces of modernity. After his death, Kaska's many collections were sent to the National Museum in Prague. Together with the National Gallery in London, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts mounted Velasco exhibitions last year. Two Velasco oil paintings, collected by Kaska, came from the National Museum of the Czech Republic in Prague for this exhibition.



(L-R) M. L. Kucera (H.C. Czechia), Jose Cicero Fernández (Deputy Head Consul, Consulate of Mexico/Saint Paul), Monical Rodriguez Gonzalez (Assistant to the Head Consul), Ambassador Alejandra Bologna-Zubikarai (Head Consul, Consulate of Mexico/Saint Paul), Barbara Müller (H.C. Germany), Teresa P. Olson (H.C. Chile), Estelle Arnaud Battandier (Consular Officer, Consulate General of Canada), and Csilla Grauzer (H.C. Hungary). Missing: Christine Selander Bouzouina (H.C. France).

The 2026 calendar for the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, features the individual statues in the Buresh Immigration Clock Tower and Americký Orloj, dedicated at the museum in 2024. The



Merchant, the April image, was a gift from the Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic in the United States. The Coal Miner, the October image, was a gift from the Honorary Consuls of the Slovak Republic.

The twelve statues, hand carved by Slovak artist Andrej Haršány, depict the stories of Czech and Slovak immigrants to the United States; they appear on the hour to the music of Czech composers Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák.

<https://store.ncsml.org/product/2026-ncsml-calendar/>



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/  
Minneapolis

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul  
651-238-0447  
minneapolis@honorary.mzv.gov.cz  
OR mlkucera@outlook.com



## SLOVO PUBLICATION INFORMATION

The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 West Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Phone: 651-290-0542.

### Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

To receive your *Slovo* in color via email instead of the black-and-white mail version, contact [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

### Non-member *Slovo* subscription: \$25 annually.

Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with a \$25 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; mail to *Slovo* at the above address.

The *Slovo* staff welcomes submissions.

**Copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month.** Send news, articles, and pictures (uncropped) digitally to [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

**Advertising:** For information on due dates and rates, please email [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

**Moving or temporarily away:** Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the *Slovo*.

The *Slovo* is bulk mailed; non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the post office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and billed to us at the first-class mail rate. For this reason, we will not send issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

### Member volunteer *Slovo* staff:

***Slovo* team:** Mary Cahill, M. L. Kucera, Kelly Rynda, and Joyce Tesarek.

**Mailing:** Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

**Mailing/Email lists:** Penny and Tom Tesarek.

**Minnesota ad designer:** Doreen McKenney.

**Production layout:** Mary Kucera.

**Issue contributors:** Bob Kotek, Jason Brozovich, Barbora Carlson, Steve Ernest, Sally Lieberman, Jean Keogh, Bob Kotek, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Bonnie Simon, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

**Issue photographs, ads, or illustrations:** Barbora Carlson, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Anita McGowen, Doreen McKenney, Gary Novak, Markéta Pálková, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, and Gwen Willems.

**More information at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

**C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND**

We ask for your support for maintenance and renovation to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 139th year in 2026. Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-232-2993 or email: [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) *Thank you!*

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Instagram: [@sokolminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota)

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**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2026**



**Spring/Summer 2026 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota**  
 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • 651-290-0542

For the most current information, go to the Sokol Minnesota website: [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)  
 Instagram: [@sokolminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota) or Facebook: [facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

**Valentine Making with Sokol Minnesota Youth Link**  
 Saturday, February 7, 12:15-1:30 p.m. No fee. Make cards for seniors. Meet in the dining room. Art supplies and snack provided.

**Sokol Minnesota Family Friendly Friday Evenings**  
 2nd Friday of each month, 7-10 p.m. No fee.

Card and board games, fun, food, and conversation! Come meet fellow Sokols! Bring your own beverages and/or snacks to share.

**Flavors of Slovakia Dinner**  
 Sunday, March 8, doors open noon, serving: 12:30p.m.  
 Soup, traditional Slovak *Bryndzové halušky* (potato dumplings, bacon, and *bryndza* sheep cheese), *holubky* (cabbage roll), dessert, coffee. \$35. Place your pre-paid\* dinner order by March 1.

**Pancake Breakfast/Craft, and Koláče Sale**  
 Sunday, March 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. No reservations needed. Public welcome. \$10 adult, \$6 children under 9, \$30/family of 4. *Koláč* (apricot, cherry, cream cheese, poppy seed, raspberry) \$2 each. Place your pre-paid\* koláče order by Saturday, March 21. To reserve a craft table: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

**International Festival of Minnesota (IFest-MN)**  
 Friday and Saturday, April 10 and 11  
 A celebration of culture, community, and connection at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 Kellogg Blvd. Over 70 ethnic nations with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota: bazaar booth, cultural exhibit, food booth, music, and folk dancers. Info: [sokolmn.org/all-events](http://sokolmn.org/all-events)  
 To volunteer: [volunteers@sokolmn.org](mailto:volunteers@sokolmn.org)

\* To prepay and order online: [www.sokolmn.org/cc](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc) or text/call before mailing a check (2 weeks before deadline) 651-210-0401 or [food@sokolmn.org](mailto:food@sokolmn.org) Mail to: Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Blast from the Past: Gala Edition**  
 Saturday, April 18, 7 p.m.-11 p.m.  
 Dance the night away with friends. Food and beverages available. \$15. Pre-pay by April 10/\$20 at the door. [sokolmn.org/all-events](http://sokolmn.org/all-events)

**SMYL Neighborhood Clean-up**  
 Saturday, April 25, 10-11 a.m.  
 Join our Sokol Minnesota Youth Link teens and volunteers to clean-up outside the C.S.P.S. Hall. [youths@sokolmn.org](mailto:youths@sokolmn.org)

**28th Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp, Monday-Friday, June 15-19**  
 For grades K-5. Exploring "Cultural Landscape" through ethnic crafts, cooking, language, gymnastics, dance, singing, and more. Early bird registration by May 15. Final registration June 1. Info: [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) or call camp co-director Louise: 651-271-3601.

**Sokol Camp Booya Picnic**  
 19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, MN  
 Sunday, August 9, Noon-4 p.m.  
 Great food, live music, folk dancers, children's games, and fun!

**37th Czech & Slovak Festival**  
 Sunday, September 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Free Admission. Public Welcome. Accessible Facility. Ethnic food, beer/beverages, live music, folk dance and gymnastic performances, children's games, street vendors, exhibits, information booths, SMYL sale, Sokol Gift Shop, silent auction, and special guests.

Volunteer: 612-232-2993 or [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org)  
 Vendors: 651-210-0401 or [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

