

# CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

# SLOVO

September 2026  
vol. 49 no. 7

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October *Slovo* articles  
due September 1

**Sokol Singers**  
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon  
September 1 and 15

**Friendly Friday  
Evening Social** 7 p.m.  
Friday, September 11

**Czech and Slovak  
Language Classes**  
See page 2

**Kolo Bike Club**  
Through October  
[sokolmn.org/bike](http://sokolmn.org/bike)

**Sokol Gift Shop**  
Open September 13,  
1-5 p.m.  
for St. Stan's Festival  
or by appointment  
[giftshop@sokolmn.org](mailto:giftshop@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.

Contact  
Joyce Tesarek  
to discuss your tax-  
deductible donation at  
[finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org)

*Thank you!*

Write **Legacy Fund** in  
the check's memo line.

Mail to **C.S.P.S. Hall  
Legacy Fund.**

**Attn: Treasurer**

Or donate online:  
[www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

# 37<sup>th</sup> annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

**Come be a volunteer at the festival!**

There are lots of ways to volunteer,  
from set-up to take-down,  
serving food and more.

Volunteers work one 3-hour shift  
and have the rest of the day  
to enjoy the festival.

Donations for the  
Silent Auction are welcome!

For questions, information,  
or to volunteer contact Joyce  
at 612-232-2993 or sign up for  
a time on our website: [sokol.org](http://sokol.org)

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Sunday  
September 27 2026  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Ethnic Food • Czech-style Beer • Music • Sokol Gift Shop  
Street Vendors • Silent Auction • Special Guests  
Dance and Gymnastic Performances  
Children's Games • Exhibits  
FREE Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility



## Tastes from the Czech Republic

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota celebrates Czech National Day!

**44<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Dinner • Sunday, October 25 2026**

Doors and bar open: Noon. Sit-down dinner served: 12:30 p.m.  
\$40 per person. Pre-paid reservation by Monday, October 19.

Menu:

Řízek (traditional, Czech Schnitzel),  
Bramborový salát (Czech potato salad),  
Česnečka (garlic soup), rye bread,  
apple strudel, and coffee.  
Bar: Beer, wine, and soft drinks  
available for purchase.



Reservations:

Prepay dinner online,  
credit/debit card  
or PayPal go to  
[www.sokolmn.org/cc/](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc/)



Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan St. • Sokol's gift shop open 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Greetings and welcome to the September issue of *Slovo*!

With summer, becoming committed to memory, we look forward to fall and the changes it brings to many family's schedules and experiences. School is prominent on people's minds whether attending grade, middle, or high school. College too! Perhaps you've thought about learning the Czech or Slovak language, taking gymnastics classes, or singing in Czech? Language classes are available for all age groups through the online or in-person options through Sokol's education program and the *škola* group. Sokol's youth folk dancing is offered on Saturday mornings and the adult St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dance group is held Monday nights. There is something for everyone; check out all the options on the Sokol website, [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)

Another September highlight is Sokol's Czech & Slovak Festival being held on Sunday, September 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's going to be a lot of fun! Great Czech and Slovak food, non-stop entertainment inside and outside the building, Czech *pivo*, vendors selling different crafts, informational tables, a children's play area, and much more. FREE admission. Perhaps you are interested in volunteering at the Festival? Email: [volunteer@sokolmn.org](mailto:volunteer@sokolmn.org)

As we move into October, mark your calendar for the 44th Annual Czech Dinner on October 25. It is sure to be a delight, featuring a scrumptious home-cooked dinner of Czech schnitzel, Czech potato salad, garlic soup, rye bread, and apple strudel, by our resident cooks.

There are so many ways to celebrate our heritage. Be sure to visit the various celebrations including *Dožínky* Days in New Prague on September 19 and 20.

*Pho Hay To*, the new restaurant in the storefront of the C.S.P.S. Hall, opened mid-August to much fanfare! The new ownership has done a wonderful job creating a beautifully decorated space for serving their Vietnamese cuisine with a full-service bar as well. Have you been there yet? *Nazdar!*



Bob Kotek

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

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Steve Shimer

Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

### Let's make the Silent Auction another successful part of the Czech & Slovak Festival!

A donation table is set up in the classroom at our C.S.P.S. Hall, or leave your donations in the elevator entrance.

Please include a tag with your name, email or phone number, and the value of the item.

#### Donation drop-off times:

September 1 and 15, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

September 12, 19, and 26, 9:45 a.m.-noon

September 14 and 21 from 7-9 p.m.

Thank you again for your generosity!

Questions? Contact: [neecr75@gmail.com](mailto:neecr75@gmail.com)

### Czech Astronaut

Aleš Svoboda is set to become the first Czech astronaut to visit the International Space Station in 2027. Svoboda, a Czech Army pilot and European Space Agency reserve astronaut, will serve as the mission's pilot on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft.

### Get Ready to Learn Czech or Slovak! by Sally Lieberman

Sokol Minnesota's Czech and Slovak language classes for adults return in late September, right after Sokol's Czech & Slovak Festival. For 2026-27, we offer four levels of Czech, for beginning to advanced, and two levels of Slovak, from beginning to intermediate. Online and in-person classes meet for one 90-minute period per week. High school students may join with permission. Find full details and register online for the fall trimester at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) (Classes tab, Czech and Slovak Language Classes for Adults).

Beginning Czech for Children meets at the Hall on Saturday mornings starting October 3.

This class is designed for children ages 8-14 who are complete beginners or who have studied a little Czech before. One hour per week. For details and online registration, visit [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) (Classes tab, Beginning Czech for Children).

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](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)



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

## 2026 Sokol Minnesota's Youth Leadership Award Winners by Doreen McKenney



The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award (YLA) is our way to encourage and recognize outstanding participation of youth members who actively participated in one or more Sokol Minnesota youth activities, such as *Taneční* Teen dancers, Sokol gymnastics, Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link, actively participate in Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, and who are also regular volunteers at Sokol Minnesota-sponsored events.

The 2026 YLA judges who scored and evaluated the applicants were Sokol Minnesota President Bob Kotek, Sokol Minnesota Vice President Fred Simon, and Sokol Minnesota member Joan Sedlacek.

With great pleasure, the judges announced that Lucas Nemes, Adela Peterson, and Sofia Scholtz were this year's winners. Each winner will receive a \$500 scholarship from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, which includes a \$100 donation to Sokol from Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera. Louise Wessinger will donate a \$100 award for the best essay to Lucas Nemes. The awards will be presented during the program at the Czech & Slovak Festival on September 27.



**Lucas Nemes, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities language student and Sokol volunteer**

At an early age, Lucas always enjoyed learning the Czech language and culture. Lucas mentioned that when he enters the C.S.P.S. Hall it is like going back in time and connecting with the legacy of Sokol and that Sokol is not just a building, but a community that lives in your heart forever. Lucas has been a student at the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities since the fall of 2022, participating in four school years of Czech language and cultural education, learning Czech Christmas carols to perform at the annual *škola Mikuláš* celebration preserving and celebrating Czech cultural traditions.

He also participated at the Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp first as a camper, and then as a teen wanting to help younger kids feel welcome as he did, and became a Junior Leader for the past two years. Lucas mentioned that he himself is still learning new things, and he, also, volunteers at the Czech & Slovak Festival in the fall.

Jitka Sebek, who has been Lucas' teacher with Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, has watched him grow into a responsible, engaging and community-minded young person, building friendships while strengthening and appreciating his connection to his Czech heritage roots. Jitka wishes Lucas all the best in his upcoming school year and on his trips to the Czech Republic to visit his extended family.

**Sofia Scholtz, Sokol children and teen dancer and Sokol volunteer**

Sofia cannot remember a time where Sokol was not part of her life and has felt it a close community away from her mother's ancestral village in eastern Czechia. Sofia has enjoyed enriched learning through her participation in Sokol, connecting her by learning more Czech cultural heritage, while making friendships through shared culture. She has performed at the Festival of Nations, Czech & Slovak Festival, Sokol's *Svatý Mikuláš* and Spring celebrations, and she was a Junior Leader for two years at the Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp. In Sofia's essay she mentioned that she is excited to see Sokol flourish with the next generation of Czechs and Slovaks. Even after leaving to go to college, she believes she will find her way back to Sokol.

Sokol's dance instructor Louise Wessinger has known Sofia since the age of four when she joined the Sokol Children's Dance group. A quiet attentive child, Sofia always showed up excited to practice to learn new dances.

As a teen she could be counted on to help the new children, and danced with whomever needed a partner. As a Junior Leader at the Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp the past two years, she showed enthusiasm, always wanting to help the younger campers with their projects.



**Adela Peterson, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities language student, Sokol children and teen dancer, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link member, and Sokol volunteer**

Adela Peterson joined Sokol's children's dance group in kindergarten, where her Saturday activity during the school year was to attend Czech dance class and Czech language class at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Adela sang and danced with her friends, and was especially proud when she wore *kroj* (folk dress) to perform. She has been a part of the Czech and Slovak community for most of her life. When she entered high school she continued dancing on Saturday but shifted her language studies online allowing her to be on her high school cross country team. Learning a second language allowed Adela to communicate with her grandmother and extended family in Czechia. Over the years she performed at the Festival of Nations, Sokol's *Svatý Mikuláš*, Spring celebrations, *Šibřinky* dance, and several dance events in Montgomery, Minnesota, and volunteered at the Czech & Slovak Festival, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link's Trunks with Treats.

Louise Wessinger reflects on how Adela, as the oldest of three children, was most helpful to her younger brother and sister to learn the dances when they joined the group. When Adela moved up to the teen group, she was willing to demonstrate dance steps to the newer dancers. She has shared how much she values her experiences at the C.S.P.S. Hall and appreciates the friendships made and all the Czech cultural things, learned through Sokol. Adela and her family were part of Czech-Slovak community events such as family nights, Sokol Camp Association camping outings, and *Mikuláš* and Easter celebrations.

## Bechyn Czech Heritage Festival

by Doreen McKenney



Holle Brian and dancers Richard Sargent and Pam Langworthy stopped by Sokol's gift shop table during the festival.

Sokol Minnesota's gift shop was invited to be a vendor at the 35th Czech Heritage Festival held Sunday, August 9 in Bechyn, Minnesota, a rural community where many Czech immigrants settled. The festival took place on the grounds surrounding St. Mary's Church. Activities included performances by multiple bands such as Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchmen, an ethnic Czech dinner, vendors, dance performances by Bechyn's local Children's Czech Folk Dance group and St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, games, and bingo, which drew a huge crowd to this year's festival.

## Picha's Saloon to Pho Hay To: Commercial Tenants in the C.S.P.S. Hall, 1888 to Present

by Educational Director Sally Lieberman

Where in the West End of Saint Paul could you enjoy a beer, a cigar, and a free lunch in the 1890s?

Get your laundry washed and pressed in the 1910s?

Sneak a little moonshine during Prohibition?

Nab a bottle of eyewash and an aluminum eye cup in the 1930s?

Buy your clothes in the 1950s?

Enjoy Continental-style cooking in the 1980s?

Pick up groceries and fresh meats for much of the 20th century?

And where can you find a fantastic bowl of pho?

At the C.S.P.S. Hall, of course!

Our 2026 Festival exhibition celebrates the many commercial tenants who have occupied the C.S.P.S. Hall's first floor since 1888. Be sure to visit the third floor during the Czech & Slovak Festival, Sunday, September 27, for this peek into West End history!

## Sokol Camp Association Picnic by Scott Muires

The 96th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic was a big success. Nearly 400 people attended the event on August 9 to enjoy Czech and Slovak foods, music, dancing, and bingo! With cooler temperatures and sunshine, the crowds came early and stayed late in the day to celebrate Czech and Slovak heritage at our beloved Sokol Camp! Also, as bingo players celebrated, raffle winners were announced. The winners included: Karen Varian \$200; Mary Armstrong \$100; David Faunce \$50; Stacy Bulera \$50. Congratulations to the winners! Thank you for all the generous raffle donations given from members and friends of Sokol Camp.



Future Booya Chef Waylon assists in booya preparation under her dad's (Ray Vanyo) direction!



(L-R) Scott Muires, Waylon, Ray, and Samuel Vanyo, Kari Muires, and Lilly.



The 1926 Booya Shed, recently refurbished by Rick Verner, served nearly 400 patrons.

We truly appreciate Ray and Richard Vanyo and Bobbi Jo Chandler's culinary expertise to provide patrons with homemade ethnic foods and dishes to enjoy! Additionally, we extend a huge thank you to the many Sokol members and friends for their volunteerism and generosity. Your help makes this fundraising event successful to maintain our Sokol Camp for all members to use and enjoy!

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, August 8, 2027, for the 97th Annual Booya Picnic held at Sokol Camp in Pine City.

6th annual **Trunks with Treats** Harvest Fest  
Family friendly outdoor event!  
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

**Saturday**  
**October 24<sup>2026</sup>**  
**10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Sokol families are invited to a friendly outdoor parking lot walk-through event with games, treats, prizes and a photo op for Sokol kids 12 and under!

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL)

Sokol Teens can sign up to volunteer at the Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest at: [youths@sokolmn.org](mailto:youths@sokolmn.org)

## American Sokol National Instructor School by Sokol gymnastics coach and student Sylvie R



Gymnasts Owen, Maeve, Shea, and Sylvie waiting at the airport as they head off to the National Instructors School in Pennsylvania.



Students count off during rank formation.

graduation had ended. Overall, it was a great week for everyone who attended the Instructor School this summer, and we thank all who were involved!

Earlier this summer, four of Sokol's gymnastics coaches attended the American Sokol National Instructor School. It took place June 27-July 5, 2026, and was hosted by Sokol Monessen in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania.

Coaches Owen and Sylvie attended as Intermediate Instructors, while coaches Maeve and Shea attended as Beginner Instructors. The four of them were awarded travel and tuition costs from the Sister Crosson Endowment of the American Sokol Foundation, that covered the majority of expenses.

At Instructor School, students generally learned how to become better gymnastics coaches. Students were taught how to properly spot skills, operate equipment, teach routines, and make classes fun and enjoyable for their students. They also participated in everyday classes like marching and calisthenics, to strengthen their own skills as well as learn how to teach them better. Special number routines were a fun activity that students did on a couple evenings throughout the week. School Instructors assigned a song and a few general rules, and then students split up into their teams and created a routine.

On July 1, the instructors took a refreshing break from their work to go bowling at a local bowling alley. It was a fun way for them to bond with each other and take time outside of their classes for a little while.

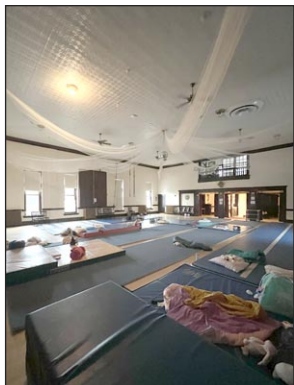
The graduation ceremony took place on July 4. Students performed folk dances, sang Czech and Slovak songs, and showcased the routines they had created over the course of the week. Since it was the Fourth of July, students celebrated with sparklers out in the parking lot after the



Taking a break at the bowling alley are Maeve, Sylvie, and Shea.

## Summer Girls Sokol Gymnastics Sleepover by Sokol Gymnastic Instructor Siri Schroeder

On Friday, July 24, the Sokol Youth Gymnastics program hosted a sleepover at the C.S.P.S. Hall for the Girls' Advanced and Competition classes. The evening included the hallmarks of any good sleepover: games, snacks, hide and seek, and a relatively comfortable night's sleep on the gymnastics mats. The girls also got to hear from coaches Sylvie, Shea, and Maeve about their experience at the Sokol Instructor School in Pennsylvania earlier this summer. (Owen, another Sokol coach, also attended the instructor school.) The sleepover was a memorable and fun chance for gymnasts to reunite during summer vacation before classes start back up in the fall.



Interested in enrolling in Sokol Gymnastics? Sign up at <https://sokolmn.org/sokol-fitness/>

**Czech Wencel Fest**  
Hosted by the  
**Czech Heritage Club**



**Sunday, October 11, 2026**  
**Noon - 4 p.m.**  
**Park Ballroom, New Prague, MN**

## Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota July 16, 2026 BOD Minutes by Recording Secretary Aaron Mislivec

The Board of Directors' online meeting was called to order by President Bob Kotek.

BOD members attendance: Jason Brozovich, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Linda Maxey, Sally Lieberman, Markéta Pálková, Paula Cihla-Sexton, Steve Shimer, Denise Stibal, and Joyce Tesarek.

June BOD meeting minutes motioned and approved.

**Board of Instructors Report:** Jason Brozovich reported that four Sokol Minnesota gymnasts attended the American Sokol National Instructors School in the Pittsburgh area, almost fully covered by a \$4,500 Sister Carol Crosson Endowment of the American Sokol Foundation and Western District. Airfare for the Instructors School will be reimbursed to Sokol Minnesota and parents. A gymnastics sleepover is scheduled for July 24, and gymnastic classes start in September.

**Building Property Trustees Committee:** Bob Kotek reported for Dave Stepan that tenant space clean-out is ongoing, a water leak was repaired, and a kitchen drain was installed. The new restaurant refinished the floor and bar top, and plans to seek Saint Paul Historic Preservation Committee approval for outdoor signage, as well as replace the winter shelter and entry. Roger Wencil offered to repair chairs, wind damage to the back fence was repaired, and the Hall AC was not working.

**Finance Committee:** Joyce Tesarek presented the June financial statement and noted Paula Cihla-Sexton's onboard with QuickBooks. A payroll tax processing issue in QuickBooks is being resolved. A \$10k check was received from the J. A. Wedum Foundation.

**Gaming Committee:** Steve Shimer gave a review of the gaming finances over the past year. The August budget and June expenditures were approved.

**Membership Director:** Steve Ernest reported one new member application (Kevin Lundeen), which was approved. Discussed automating member interest tracking and transitioning membership brochures to smaller cards with QR codes to reduce printing costs.

**Rental Committee:** Markéta Pálková reported updates to the internal event calendar and work on rental revenue tracking.

**Activities Director:** Jean Draheim noted that the events postcard draft will be reviewed prior to mailing with the September *Slovo*.

**Corresponding Secretary and Sunshine Committee Report:** Denise Stibal reported \$4,540 total in General Fund donations for April and May, along with in-kind flower and plant donations for June from Bob Kotek (\$241.30 value) and Hidden Hollow Nursery/Euro Gardens. High school graduation cards were sent to Jas Gilman, Adela Peterson, and Amari Conway. A congratulations card was sent to Jas Gilman for being awarded an American Sokol National Merit Award. A birthday card was sent to Libby Imbrone in honor of her 100th Birthday.

**Miscellaneous:** Report from Marit Kucera announced that new Deputy Head of Mission/Chicago Karel Pažourek will attend the Czech & Slovak Festival on Sunday, September 27. Kolacky Days take place July 23–25 in Montgomery.

### Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates donations received in May-July 2026 supporting programs and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S Hall.

#### GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$23,232

**Under \$99:** Blackbaud Giving Fund; Czech Moms; Wayne Zbytovsky; Sharon Van Epps.

**\$100-\$499:** David Hingst; Maria Neuzel (Food for the International Festival of Minnesota); ASO Conference-Cash Donations; Dennis and Mary Cahill (In honor of Libby Imbrone); Marit Kucera (Culture Camp scholarship); Greg and Karen Gades (Culture Camp scholarship).

**\$500-\$999:** American Sokol Organization; J Wilkinson-Mellon Trust of Delaware (In honor of Megan Brozovich).

**\$1000-\$9999:** Don Haselbauer; Joyce Tesarek; Nicholson Family Foundation (Mark and Pondie Taylor); Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**\$10,000+:** J. A. Wedum Foundation.

#### LEGACY FUND TOTAL \$200

**\$100-\$499:** Catherine Nicholson.

#### IN KIND DONATIONS:

Hidden Hollow Greenhouse (Various plants and flowers).

### This Past July Prague Strahov Stadium Turned 100

In July Prague's Strahov Stadium turned 100. In 1926 the stadium was constructed on a prominent elevated district on the west bank of the Vltava River on Strahov Hill overlooking Prague's cityscape. Strahov's historical root comes from an old Czech verb to stand guard (*strhovat*) or to guard (*strážit*) as a post on top of a hill.

The newly completed stadium held the first major gathering of Sokol gymnasts, establishing a century-long tradition of mass gymnastics. Gradually expanded until the 1980s, Strahov eventually reached a capacity of more than 240,000 spectators, featuring a massive field and structure that towered far above modern massive sports arenas, making it a unique venue with no equal anywhere in the world.

Prior to Prague's Strahov Stadium venue name, it was originally named Masaryk Stadium (*Masarykův stadion*) in honor of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the founding president of Czechoslovakia who regularly attended *slets* at the stadium.

No longer home to Sokol *slet* gatherings, the stadium has been divided into eight football pitches and serves as a training center for the Athletic Club (AP) Sparta Prague (professional football-soccer club).

The next scheduled XVIII International All-Sokol *Slet* (*Všesokolský slet*) will be held in Prague in 2030 at the Eden Stadium, also known as the Fortuna Arena.

Content from Radio Prague International.

# Czech Honorary Consul News September 2026

## Czech Consular Day in Minnesota is September 27, 2026

Do you want to apply for a Czech passport right here in Minnesota? You can do that during the 37th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival. On Sunday, September 27, the Consul from the Czech General Consulate/Chicago will be at the office of the Honorary Czech Consul in Saint Paul. Mr. Karel Pažourek will prioritize passport applications from Czech citizens whose passports expire in 2026 or 2027, or who don't currently have a valid passport. He will also accept citizenship and registry applications. For an appointment (on September 27) with Consul Pažourek in Saint Paul, please email your request by September 21 to: [chicago.consular.section@mzv.gov.cz](mailto:chicago.consular.section@mzv.gov.cz)



A highlight each summer for me, as the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis, is attending several Czech festivals, which this year included riding in two parades with Board Members of the New Prague-based Czech Heritage Club (CHC). On July 26, one of those many hot days this summer, at the Kolacky Days parade in Montgomery, we sat in the back of a luxurious pickup (2021 GMC AT4 1500, 4-wheel drive 1/2 ton with extended cab and short box), waving small Czech flags. (L-R) Gary Pikel, CHC president, driver; M.L. Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul; George Mikiska, CHC treasurer; and Vi Chromy, CHC founding member and past president, who had extra sun protection under her white/red/blue umbrella. Notice the magnetic signs on the sides of the pickup. Local radio station KCHK, 95.5 FM, is always on hand in Czech Country Minnesota, to announce units in the parade as they drive by the KCHK booth. (Right) At Lonsdale on August 8, George, Vi, and Marit again waved their Czech flags to the delight of many in the crowd who waved back and also applauded. New CHC board member, Tom Chromy was our driver. Next is the Dožinky parade in New Prague on September 19.



Former Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie led members of the Minnesota Consular Corps on a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the Minnesota State Capitol on Monday, July 13. (L-R) Britta Walstom (Sweden), Josh Torkelson (Sweden), Fouad D. Mehawej (Lebanon), Bruce Karstad (Sweden), Christina Selander Bouzouina (France), M. L. Kucera (Czechia), Dr. Molly Wright Steenson (Sweden), Mark Ritchie (guide), Kristin Speltz (Luxembourg), and Sandra Cruz (El Salvador). We stood for this picture in the ornate Governor's Reception Room on the first floor of the Capitol. Every detail in the entire building, which took nine years to build and opened in 1905, was designed by famed architect Cass Gilbert (1859-1934), who also designed the U.S. Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C., plus many others in the Beaux-Arts and Gothic Revival styles.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/  
Minneapolis  
for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and  
South Dakota

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul  
651-238-0447  
[minneapolis@honorary.mzv.gov.cz](mailto:minneapolis@honorary.mzv.gov.cz)



## SLOVO PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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### 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* management team:** Mary Cahill, Doreen McKenney, Kelly Rynda, and Joyce Tesarek.

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

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**For more information:** [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

# Join the **SLOVO** Team

Volunteer position opening  
for Sokol's *Slovo* newsletter publication  
as managing editor.

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

## Starting in September Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics Classes at the C.S.P.S. Hall

Open to everyone ages 4-18 on Monday,

Tuesday, and Thursday evenings.

For more details go to:

[fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)



## Children and Teen Folk Dancing

Starting Saturdays in September

Practice is held through the school year

at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Saturday mornings,

9:45 a.m. - noon

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



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

[facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

For events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at  
[sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* September 2026



## Fall 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)

SAVE THESE DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Sokol Minnesota Friendly Evenings

Second Friday of the month from 7-10 p.m. No Fee.

Card and board games, fun, food, and conversation! Meet fellow Sokols! Bring your own beverage and/or snack to share.

### 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech & Slovak Festival

Sunday, September 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

• Free Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility

Ethnic food, beer/beverages, live music, dance, special guests, gymnastic performances, children's games, vendors, exhibits, information, SMYL book sale, Sokol Gift Shop, and silent auction.

Volunteer: 612-232-2993 or [festivals@sokolmn.org](mailto:festivals@sokolmn.org)

Vendors: 651-210-0401 or [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

### Sixth Annual Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 24, 10 a.m.-Noon. C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot.

Family-friendly games, treats, photo op. For Sokol kids 12 and under. Hosted by Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL).

### Tastes from the Czech Republic, 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Czech Dinner

Sokol Minnesota celebrates Czech National Day!

Sunday, October 25. Doors and bar open: Noon.

Sit-down dinner served: 12:30 p.m. Traditional Czech schnitzel (řízek), Czech potato salad (bramborový salát), garlic soup (česnečka), rye bread, apple strudel, and coffee.

\$40 per person. Beer, wine, soft drinks available for purchase.

Pre-paid reservation by Monday, October 19.\*

### Annual Sokol Membership Meeting

Friday, November 20, 7 p.m.

Annual meeting, election of officers, membership anniversary recognition, and social time.

### Holiday Breakfast/Craft and Koláče Sale

Sunday, November 22, 9 a.m.-Noon.

No Reservations Needed • Public Welcome

\$12 adult, \$6 child, age 10 and under,  
\$30/family of four.

Pancake breakfast with all the fixings.

Pre-paid Koláče \$2 each (apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed).

Pre-pay koláče order by Tuesday, November 17.\*

To reserve a craft table: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

### Children's Holiday Party

Friday, December 4, 7 p.m.

Performances by the children and teen dancers, plus Sokol Singers. Special visits from Svatý Mikuláš, (Saint Nicolas), anděl (angel), and čert (devil).

### 2027 Svičková Dinner/Svičková s knedlíkem

Saturday, January 23, 2027. \$40 person.\*

Doors open: 4:30 p.m. Sit-down dinner served: 5 p.m.

Beef in cream sauce with bread dumplings, coffee, and dessert. Beer, wine, soft drinks available for purchase.

Pre-paid reservation by Friday, January 15, 2027.\*

Place your prepaid order early.

Limited number of dinners available.

\* 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 \*\* Information: [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) or contact: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org) or text/call: 651-210-0401