CZECH AND SLOVAK
Sokol
MINNESOTA

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

SLOVO

October 2026
vol. 49 no. 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

November *Slovo* articles due October 1

Sokol Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon
October 6 and 20

Friendly Friday Evening Social 7 p.m.
Friday, October 9

Czech and Slovak Language Classes
sokolmn.org

Kolo Bike Club
Sunday, October 11
10 a.m. Last ride for year
sokolmn.org/bike

Sokol Gift Shop
Open during Czech Dinner, October 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment
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

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**

6th annual Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest

Family friendly outdoor event!
383 Michiagan St., Saint Paul

Saturday October 24 2026
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!

Sokol teens can sign up to volunteer at the Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest at: youths@sokolmn.org

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

Tastes from the Czech Republic

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota celebrates Czech National Day!

44th Annual Czech Dinner

Sunday, October 25 2026

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 383 Michigan St

Doors and bar open: Noon

Sit-down dinner served: 12:30 p.m.

$40 per person

Pre-pay your reservation by Monday, October 19

Reservations: Prepay dinner online, credit/debit card or PayPal go to www.sokolmn.org/cc/

Sokol gift shop open first floor: 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Menu:

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



Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Bob Kotek


Bob Kotek

Greetings to all faithful readers of the *Slovo*! There are many exciting events and items of interest contained in this issue; we look forward to seeing everyone in the near future!

The 44th annual Czech dinner will be held on Sunday, October 25. Please make plans to join us for a wonderful meal prepared by our volunteer team of talented cooks!

The following is an article I came across that I wanted to share as it holds special meaning to me. In my travels to the Czech Republic and Slovakia, I have had the opportunity to hear the firsthand accounts of this time in history. This quote is from Kristýna Koutná.

"It's been 58 years since the invasion of Czechoslovakia by 500,000 troops, mostly Russian soldiers, to stop what was known as the Prague Spring. The Prague Spring was a period of political liberalization in Czechoslovakia during the era of Soviet domination after World War II. It began on January 5, 1968, when reformist Alexander Dubček was elected First Secretary of the Communist Party. He introduced reforms that granted greater freedoms, including loosening restrictions on the media, speech, and travel. The Prague Spring continued until August 21, 1968, when the Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Pact—Bulgaria, Hungary, and Poland—invaded Czechoslovakia to halt the reforms. Romania and Albania refused to participate. When people realized that their freedom was about to be taken away, they took to the streets, armed with nothing but their bare hands, standing up against tanks and troops. My dad was among them, taking a great risk to stand up against the invading forces. During the occupation, 137 Czechoslovak civilians were killed and 500 were seriously wounded. Around 300,000 people emigrated before the borders were completely closed, guarded by armed soldiers. Twenty-one years later, on November 17, 1989, many young Czechoslovak students stood up and roused the heart of the nation. Together, they helped bring down communism in what became known as the Velvet Revolution. We got our freedom back. Thanks to all those brave people, I can live as a free Czech—free to travel, free to live in the United States, and free to write about this history, which should never be forgotten. Freedom cost many lives and you can imagine how emotional and heartbreaking the initial day of the occupation was." *Nazdar!*

Sokol Minnesota Membership Anniversaries Recognized

by Steve Ernest, Membership Director

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is celebrating the continuous membership of 51 of our members who have five-year anniversaries in 2026. On behalf of the entire organization, the Board of Directors would like to thank these members for continuing to support Sokol Minnesota by renewing their membership every year. We especially recognize and congratulate Joan Sedlacek, who is celebrating 50 years of continuous membership this year! Recognition of membership anniversaries will be part of the annual Sokol Minnesota membership Meeting on Friday, November 20, at the C.S.P.S. Hall at 7 p.m. Congratulations and THANK YOU, MEMBERS!

50 Years (since 1976) **Joan L. Sedlacek**
40 years (since 1986) **Geraldine Dooley, Steve Fritze, Suzie Fritze**
35 years (since 1991) **Cecilie Gaziano, Doreen McKenney**
30 years (since 1996) **Julie Andrle, Renae Faunce, Mark Andrle, Kari Muyres, Scott Muyres**
25 years (since 2001) **Joyce M. Ehmke, Kate Gilman, Anne Jans**
20 years (since 2006) **Ed Hamernik**
15 years (since 2011) **Jason Brozovich, Mary Edel-Joyce, Robert Jacobson**
10 years (since 2016) **Patricia Mestenhauser Bergh, Carissa Freeland, Glynis Grostephan, Gary Havir, Winona Havir, Don Prohaska, Rose Sundermeyer, Richard J. Vanyo, Natalie Zett**
5 years (since 2021) **Denisa Acs, Diane Imbrone Bell, Pam Brokaw, Bruce Chuchel, Dylan Freeland, Greg Gaides, Karen Gaides, Mary Garvie, Theresa Hudachek, Jerry Karel, Erika Kovac, Jozef Kovac, Amy Kuebelbeck, Luboš Mareš, Anita Imbrone McKeown, Mark Neuzil, Nora Oberle, Brenda Rodgers, Kelly Rynda, Barbara Skrivanek, Michael Tesch, Pavlina Tesch, Gretchen Toman, Marshall Toman**

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 or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Use this QR code to go to 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
Paula Cihla-Sexton

Sergeant at Arms
Linda (Ludmila) Maxey

Directors at Large
Markéta Pálková
Don Haselbauer

Membership Director
Steve Ernest

Budget and Finance Committee
Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Activities Director
Jean Draheim

Educational Director
Sally Lieberman

Rental Committee
Markéta Pálková, Chair

Publicity Director
Tereza Treanor

Board of Instructors, 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

Sokol Minnesota Donates Phonographic Cylinders to Prague for Digitization



During this past summer, Dave Stepan (right) delivered 120 Edison cylinders to the Národní Muzeum in Prague for digitization to preserve Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's collection. The cylinder collection was in storage on the third floor at the C.S.P.S. Hall. There are 57 remaining cylinders that will be shipped to the museum.





Filip Šír, DiS, (left) is the coordinator for the digitization of audio documents in the Digitization and New Media Department of the Národní Muzeum in Prague. His department's focus is on comprehensive solutions for audio documents and care of the methodology of their digitalization. Shown here is Filip with gifts Dave Stepan brought him, a Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) souvenir and a Minnesota Vikings Teddy Bridgewater jersey.

Currently five cylinders are available to hear on soundcloud.com, but the site most likely will change to the Národní Muzeum website: https://tinyurl.com/yc5mdyys

Vintage *Kroj* repair history from Ratiskovice, Moravia

by Louise Wessinger



In an August *Slovo* article, Sokol Minnesota member Sally Lieberman wrote about how she was able to repair a vintage Moravian *kroj* (folk dress) from the village of Ratiskovice, donated by Dorothy Mulko Kucera.

In 1962, Dorothy, along with her friend Vera Verner Hawkinson, founded the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Dorothy's grandparents immigrated to Manitoba, Canada, from the village of Ratiskovice in Moravia, Czechoslovakia. Dorothy, who worked for Pan American Airlines, was able to travel to Europe and visit the family relatives who remained in the area. When our dance group started, members wore mostly homemade folk dress. Working from photos in books, moms, aunts, and grandmas did their best to make the group look authentic with American-made *kroje*.

When Dorothy planned to have an authentic wedding in Chicago for her marriage to Fred Kala in 1965, she wanted for all her single friends to be part of the ceremony in authentic Czech *kroje*. On trips to her family village, Dorothy was able to go door-to-door asking for *kroje* pieces. At that time in Czechoslovakia, under communism, citizens were not encouraged to keep their cultural traditions alive. Many people were happy to see their *kroje* pieces go to America to be worn and enjoyed. Dorothy brought to Saint Paul many pieces of folk dress to help dress as many of the women as possible. Since most *kroj* were not complete, many of the women's *kroje* did not have the beautiful five-yard red pleated skirt, each with 144 hand-embroidered flowers. Fabric was purchased and the floral pattern was stamped 144 times on each skirt. The women and girls learned to embroider and spent the summer hauling around a skirt and embroidering whenever and wherever there was time. By the time of her wedding, the ladies looked authentic.

The *kroje* are treasured to this day; many of the women in the dance group today still wear them to dance in. When members of the dance group retire, they donate their *kroje* to current dance group members. And this is the story connecting the *kroje* and Dorothy's village in Moravia.

In 2012, on the 50th anniversary of the dance group's founding, several people went on a tour to Czechia. One of the highlights was a visit to Ratiskovice, where the group was honored with a wonderful reception, as if we were all family!

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

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

GENERAL FUND TOTAL $

Under $99: Wayne Zbytovsky; Paula Zenker; Gretchen Schillings.

$100-$499: Marit Lee Kucera (Three student Youth Leadership Awards).

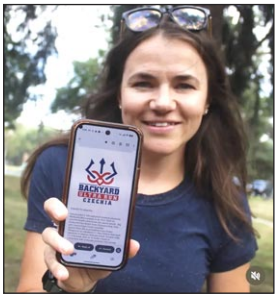
IN KIND DONATIONS:

Marit Lee Kucera (Moravain *kroj* for the Sokol gift shop).

Backyard Ultra World Team Championship in Czechia

Congratulations to Katka Svensson who will represent Czechia at the Backyard Ultra World Team Championship on October 17, in Czechia.

Katka qualified to be one of 15 selected to run the Backyard Ultra around the beautiful chateau Holesov. Katka stated that she and her crew is ready to give it everything they've got to contribute to the Czech team.



Velké české srdce by Sokol Minnesota member Sandy "Fritz" Prohaska

Czech Compatriots Abroad Scholarship Program in Poděbrady July 13 through August 7, 2026

Ahoj, my name is Sandy Prochaska. Some of you might know me from Sokol Minnesota activities or dancing with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

About eight years ago I heard about the Czech Compatriots Abroad Scholarship Program in Poděbrady while taking language classes through Sokol Minnesota at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Who wouldn't want to spend a month in the beautiful spa town of Poděbrady and attend classes in a castle learning the beautiful native language while discovering cultural customs and traditions and making friends from around the world who share the same interests?



Sandy submitted this photo of herself with her application with her extremely large *Krtek* (suggesting it might be the largest in the US) that she enjoys sharing with people young and old during Czech, Slovak, and Slavic activities.

I had visited the Czech Republic in the past, but I had many reservations leaving for a full month and did not think I would be considered for the scholarship in Poděbrady. I really wanted to apply, but didn't think I could explain my *velké české srdce* (big Czech heart) or how I wanted to connect more with the Czech language and be more Czech than I am.

I wanted to participate in this program to learn more of the beautiful Czech language I heard growing up; understand the words/meanings to the old Czech tunes my grandma, Josephine Vohnoutka, sang, my dad's band (Gordy Prochaska and the Little Fishermen Orchestra) played; and songs I play on a concertina and occasionally sing with groups.

I had heard great things from past students who attended the program. Dance friend and Sokol member Renáta Tichá encouraged me to apply for the scholarship, offered to help with my application process, and volunteered to take care of my home, my basset hounds Jožin and Jitka, and my parrot Elvis (which all take commands in Czech).

After submission and to my disbelief, my application was selected for review by the Czech Consulate/Chicago. Imagine my excitement staying in the running with four other applicants from Minnesota.

In May, I was approved stating that I was "an active participant in expatriate life in Minnesota, an authentic disseminator of Czech cultural heritage, and an enthusiastic student of Czech."

I was going to Czechia for an opportunity of a lifetime, being immersed in everything Czech and seeing and feeling what my ancestors might have felt and seen. I wanted to participate and be active and share what I know and celebrate that is Czech heritage (folk dancing, music, holiday traditions and activities), heritage here in the United States with people from the Czech Republic and around the world.

Monday through Friday in the morning, we had language classes based on our level of Czech. Students stayed in dorms about a 15-minute walk to the castle, where classes were taught. There are *osmdesát osm* (88) stairs in the castle, where I practice counted them many times in Czech. The view from the castle is incredible and dorms are walking distance to many shops, restaurants, and beautiful parks. A colonnade along the town square offered activities, concerts, mineral water fountains (unique flavor), flower and architectural gardens, and beautiful buildings.

After morning classes, we had a break for lunch followed by afternoon get-togethers (games, tennis, volleyball, movies, cultural activities, dancing, field trips, holiday traditions, foods, swimming, and more). On Saturday, buses usually took the students to historical places, including Lidice, Terezín, Kutná Hora, Mělník, Prague Ethnographic Museum, Černý Palác, Crystal Bohemia, Přerov nad Labem, Hora Říp, Ossuary, castles, and churches. Sundays were usually free to meet my friends who lived in Bohemia: Veselí nad Lužnicí, České Budějovice, Tábor, Soběslav, Nymburk, Hradec Králové, Liberec, Zámek Loučeň, and my ancestral homes, Přehořov and Kardašova Řečice. I could see why my ancestors picked Minnesota to call home. A highlight was traveling with friends to North Bohemia, crossing the border where Germany and Poland meet.

I highly recommend applying to the Czech Compatriots Scholarship even if it seems impossible or a faraway dream. I may not be Czech-born, but in many ways I learned more about myself and just how Czech I really am connected to my Czech roots. The opportunity changed how I see myself in Minnesota participating in Czech cultural activities, and it gave me a deeper respect for the *kroje* worn while folk dancing, more love of Czech people, culture, history, and cuisine.

I enjoy being a Sokol member and volunteer. I love dancing with the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. I am happy to share my experience, so don't hesitate if you see me to ask questions about the program. Special thanks to my Sokol and Dance friends Renáta, Mike, John, Diane, Richard, Lenka, Louise, and Judy whose encouragement and support made this experience possible for me.



Sandy standing second left in front wearing a custom-made t-shirt, with "born in America with Czech roots" made by Sokol member Míša Kotek, on the front and a list of her Czech ancestral names on the back. The shirt received a big thumbs up at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Sokol Participated at West Fest on 7th on September 13 by Sally Lieberman

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic, and the Saint Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers were honored to participate in this year's West Fest on 7th at Saint Stanislaus Church, located right behind the C.S.P.S. Hall. The Czech Baker's *koláče* and apple strudel, offered for sale, was a big draw to Sokol Minnesota's information table!



Sokol volunteers Sally Liberman and her niece Louisa (who is a Sokol gymnast) talked with many visitors interested in Czech and Slovak heritage, plus classes and events that Sokol offers.

Sunday, Joe Landsberger offered one of West Fest's popular tours which was a tour of the C.S.P.S. Hall that drew a dozen people, Doreen McKenney opened the Sokol Gift Shop from 1-4 p.m., and the Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed.

The two-day Fest also included St. Stan's turkey dinner, live music, bingo, a garage sale, a street dance on Saturday evening, and other activities.

Participating in the Fest continues our Czech and Slovak neighborly relationship to St. Stanislaus Church, which stretches back to the late 1800s.



Joe Landsberger (wearing a hat) historian and Bohemian neighborhood walking tour guide with some of the participants outside of Sokol Minnesota's gift shop in front of the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Sokol Minnesota's Language Program News by Education Director Sally Lieberman

Sokol Minnesota's language program for adults began its 24th year in September, with five Czech classes and two Slovak classes on offer. The classes meet weekly year-long, with fall, winter, and spring trimesters. Two of the Czech classes meet in person and the rest meet via Zoom.

New this year is an online version of Beginning Czech, taught by the newest member of our teaching staff, Beja Puškášová. Beja is a recent Macalester College graduate who grew up in Olomouc, Czech Republic. She had her first taste of teaching Czech to foreigners while still in high school, when she taught workers at an Indian restaurant in Olomouc, who often gifted her food! Beja has also taught creative writing and theater. Beja will be living and working in Chicago this year while teaching.

Returning teachers are George Hoffman (Slovak), Luboš Mareš (Beginning Czech in person), Michael Trittipo (Year 2 Czech in person), Tess Dajc (Intermediate Czech), and Renáta Tichá (Advanced Czech).

Sokol Minnesota welcomes Pho Hay To to our historic C.S.P.S. Hall and neighborhood

by Sally Lieberman

Sokol Minnesota welcomes Pho Hay To Vietnamese Kitchen & Bar to the ground floor space that was formerly occupied by Pajarito. The proprietors owned and operated Tay Ho restaurant on University Avenue, a Saint Paul favorite, for over two decades.
Pho Hay To held their Grand Opening with family and friends on August 16. Stop by and enjoy their delicious Vietnamese specialties including appetizers, classic beef pho, vermicelli salads, *bún riêu* (a tomato-based seafood noodle soup), rice platters, and much more!



Pho Hay To family and friends Grand Opening

Sokol in Bohemia, America and the 1920 tournament held at New Prague, MN

Sokol History Presentation
October 28, 6 p.m.
Giesenbräu Bier Co., New Prague, MN

Co-sponsored by
The Czech Heritage Club and
New Prague Area Historical Society

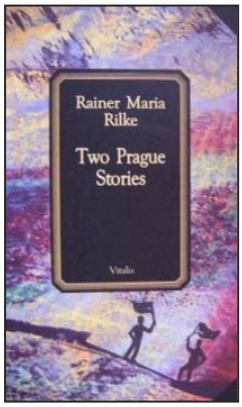
ON BOOKS!

Rilke's Writing During Czech-German Tensions

by Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Two Prague Stories by Rainer Maria Rilke, translated by Isabel Cole. Vitalis: Prague, 128 pages, 1977, originally written in 1897 and 1898. Available at libraries and bookstores.

The writer Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926) is one of the best-selling poets in the United States, acclaimed as idiosyncratic and expressive, a significant writer in the German language. Rilke's writings include a novel, collections of poetry, several volumes of correspondence, and early novellas.



This book is not one of Rilke's most well-known, but these stories, which have undertones of mysticism, subjective experience, and disbelief, are significant in terms of their personal focus on Czech nationalism and tensions between Czech and German cultures. In the afterword, Harald Salfellner writes that the book, "continues to be of value for all readers interested in more than a superficial black-and-white sketch of the complex German-Czech conflict in Prague."

Rilke left his birth city of Prague in 1896 at the age of 21 and wrote these stories in 1897 and 1898 in two German cities where he was studying. According to Salfellner, "By that time the German-Bohemian conflict had long since developed into a (not only) verbal battle in which the rare words of reason or moderation were drowned out by the cries of fanatically nationalistic mobs on both sides." Rilke was clearly in favor of the Czechs. The author eventually chose to settle in Switzerland.

The first story, *King Bohusch*, is a fictionalized account of *Omladina*, a real organization considered subversive by the Austro-Hungarians. It was founded towards the end of the nineteenth century by progressive Prague youth who fought for the restoration of their cultural and national identity.

One of the Czech characters says, "[Germans] don't understand our land…. On the border there are big forests and mountains…. Everything in between, all the fields and meadows and rivers, that's our homeland, that belongs to us as we belong to it …." The story also serves as a historical travelogue, describing many noteworthy sites in Prague.

The second story, *The Siblings*, is more plot-driven and tells of a widow, son, and daughter who move to Prague after their husband and father, a forester, is shot and killed by poachers. The story ends on a note of reconciliation, with one character wanting to improve her German in exchange for teaching some Bohemian (Czech).

In 1899 Rilke wrote, "This book is sheer past. Homeland and childhood, both of them long remote, form its background. It made half-forgotten things dear to me and thus enriched me, for all we possess of the past is that which we love."

Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures book discussion group, 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 at cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join Literary Ventures to discuss *Caravans Pursued* by B. K. Oldre on Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m. - noon.

August 20, 2026, Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

by Recording Secretary Aaron Mislivec

The Board of Directors' online meeting was called to order by President Bob Kotek on August 20. Attendees: Jason Brozovich, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Don Haselbauer, Marketa Palkova, Paula Cihla-Sexton, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, and Joyce Tesarek, and guest Marit Kucera. July minutes were approved with corrections.

Education Director: Bob Kotek reported for Sally Lieberman that registration is now open for adult Czech language classes across four levels, with a potential teacher for a new online beginner class. Registration will open soon for the Saturday children's beginner Czech class.

Board of Instructors Report: Jason Brozovich reported gymnastics classes start September 14 with a $5 price increase per session. Jason accepted the Western District Physical Director role. Instead of a Western District (WD) competition in 2027, WD plans to attend the Sokol USA *Slet* in June 2027 near Detroit, Michigan.

Building Property Trustees Committee: Dave Stepan reported plans to donate and safely remove the old C.S.P.S. Hall kitchen stove, to repair the alley fence posts, and to prepare for an upcoming required in-person appearance for the Saint Paul city board review for the Czech & Slovak Festival permit.

Finance Committee: Paula Cihla-Sexton presented the June financial statement. Joyce Tesarek noted preparations for Festival cash and tickets, a Czech grant request submitted for interior hall painting, and receipt of the first rental payment from the new restaurant tenants.

Gaming Committee: Bob Kotek presented for Steve Shimer. Approved July expenditures of $18,618 and also the total requested budget of $13,310 for September.

Rental Committee: Markéta Pálková reported the next committee meeting is scheduled for August 24.

Activities Director: Jean Draheim reported that the Fall 2026 events postcard had been sent to the printer. Jean noted plans to step away from postcard responsibilities; she will submit next year's event dates for approval.

Corresponding Secretary and Sunshine Committee: Denise Stibal reported $20 in General Fund donations and $220 in Legacy Fund donations. A get-well card was sent to Gwen Willems.

Miscellaneous: M. L. Kucera thanked Bob Kotek and Dan Bednar for repairing the vandalized Honorary Czech Consul mailbox.

Dave Stepan brought 120 Edison cylinders to the National Museum in Czechia for digitization, with 57 remaining to be shipped. (See page 3)

Our Czech & Slovak Festival hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on September 27. Volunteers are actively being recruited for three-hour shifts at the Festival, including for the gas grill operation, as well as baking *koláče* on September 24.

The BOD voted to forgo the September meeting to focus entirely on our Czech & Slovak Festival preparation.

Czech Honorary Consul News

October 2026

Jakub Kulhánek is new Czech Ambassador

The United States of America has a new ambassador from the Czech Republic. Jakub Kulhánek transitioned in August to this post in Washington, D.C. On September 9, 2026, Ambassador Jakub Kulhánek presented copies of his credentials to the U.S. Chief of Protocol at Blair House, formally beginning his tenure as the Czech Ambassador to the United States. He was the Czech Ambassador to the United Nations from early 2022 until mid-2026. He is succeeded at the United Nations by Hynek Kmoníček, who was the Czech Ambassador to the United States from 2017 to 2022.



As they did last year, members of the Twin Cities Horn Club, *Klub loveckých rohů* (hunting horn society) will welcome diners with a rousing Czech hunting call at the start of the 44th Annual Czech Dinner on Sunday, October 25 (see page 1 to order your tickets)!

Members of the Twin Cities Horn Club (TCHC) founded the *Klub loveckých rohů* in order to perform hunting music on authentic instruments used in Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, and Italy. The *Klub* is in the process of acquiring instruments like those used in the Czech Republic, including horns from Josef Lídl, the oldest manufacturer of hand-crafted brass instruments in Czechia, founded in 1892 in Moravia. https://jvtc.org

Twin Cities Horn Club of Minneapolis/Saint Paul performed its annual Parking Lot Concert on August 10 in Falcon Heights in the Garden Community Church parking lot. Its mission is to share, learn, mentor, create, discuss, and enjoy the art of horn playing while creating community through music. https://www.facebook.com/TwinCitiesHornClub

Bob Olsen, president of the TCHC and member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, is the co-founder of the hunting horn group and proud of his Czech heritage which dates back to the middle 15th century.

On the Summit stage in the International Village at the 167th Minnesota State Fair, August 27 to September 7, SlovCzech, the popular Eastern European folk-rock band, performed the first two days of the 12-day fair, three sets each. SlovCzech, based in the Twin Cities, was founded in 2008 by Petr Bachan from Czech Republic, who plays electric and acoustic guitar, and by Jozef Klobusnik from Slovakia, on the accordion. https://www.slovczech.com



Markéta Pálková and Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera caught their sets on the first day of the fair, which was a record-breaking first day with over 155,000 people attending.



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

***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

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**

Advertising: For information on due dates and rates, please email 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.

Mailing/Email lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Minnesota ad designer: Doreen McKenney.

Production layout: Mary Kucera.

Issue contributors: Mary Cahill, Steve Ernest, Bob Kotek, M. L. Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Aaron Mislovitz, Sandy Prohaska, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

Issue photographs, ads, or illustrations: M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Markéta Pálková, Sandy Prohaska, Dave Stepan, Katka Svensson, and Louise Wessinger.

For more information: www.sokolmn.org

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
651-290-0542

Join the SLOVO Team

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

Contact: slovo@sokolmn.org

E-blast

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

For Sokol's Latest News!

Join the E-blast List

Send your email address to publicity@sokolmn.org

Annual Czech and Slovak Minnesota Membership Meeting.

Friday, November 20, 7 p.m.

Annual meeting; election of officers; membership anniversaries, retiring BOD, and leadership recognition; plus social time with refreshments at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

sokolmn.org
events@sokolmn.org
Instagram: @sokolminnesota
facebook.com/sokolminnesota

For events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

Holiday Breakfast Craft and *Koláče* Bake Sale



Price

$12 Adult;
$6 child 10 and under;
$30/family of 4
Pancakes
and all the fixings

Public welcome
No breakfast reservations needed
To reserve a craft table:
activities@sokolmn.org

Sunday November 22 2026

9 a.m. - Noon

Hosted by
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St.



Pre-order *koláč!*

Apricot, cream cheese, cherry, or poppy *koláč*
$2 each

Prepay: credit/debit card
www.sokolmn.org/cc/

Prepaying your *koláč* order by check
text/call: 651-210-0401

Prepaid *koláče* orders must be received by Tuesday, November 17