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Zarja

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Uradno Glasilo Slovenske Zveze v Ameriki

Volume 83 Issue 4
July/August/September 2011

The Dawn

26th National Convention

SUA is alive and ready to grow!



Greeting Table from the Welcoming Party at the National Convention



Zarja - The Dawn

EDITOR: Debbie Pohar
DIRECTOR OF DESIGN: Bonnie Pohar Prokup

EDITORIAL OFFICE: 1696 Illinois St.
LaSalle, IL 61301
TELEPHONE: 815.223.9596
FAX: 815.224.1074

WEB SITE: www.swua.org

PUBLISHER: Slovenian Union of America
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Communications for the next issue of publication:

Do you have something SUA-related you would like to share with readers, like an event you want to let people know about or an idea for an article? We would love to hear from you! Please e-mail the editor at pohar4@aol.com. We reserve the right to edit any article submitted. It is preferable that you submit your idea for discussion prior to writing an article. Articles must be related to SUA events or members. The deadline for articles is the 15th day of the month, 2 months preceding the issue. For example, articles for the October/November/December issue must be received by August 15th. Thank you.

From the Editor

Dear Readers,

A last minute executive decision was made by the 2007 – 2011 National Board of Directors to eliminate the July/August issue of *Zarja The Dawn* and restructure the last two issues of 2011, now known as July/August/September and October/November/December. We have discovered this has been done at other times in the history of *Zarja*. Not only will this save our organization approximately \$11,000 of printing, postage and salaries for eliminating one issue, but another reason was the information that was to go into the July/August issue. You see the deadline for printing was long before the Convention began which means that you would return home from the Convention and within one week you would receive information that was very outdated. Instead we decided to combine the issues, this way you will have up to date information on the National Convention from June 16-19 in Milwaukee.

We hope you understand and support our decision to save money and give you this exciting edition of *Zarja* filled with pictures and stories from this great event.

- *Debbie Pohar, Zarja Editor*

To the Membership

Hello, everyone - attending my first convention as a delegate and President of Branch 43, my husband and I experienced the time of our lives which we will never forget. It was an experience I will hold close to my heart. From the business meetings to the workshops and all other events planned (which I was a part of), it was truly awesome.

Denise P. Bartlett was an outstanding Chairperson, and it was my pleasure to meet the National Board Officers, which I read about in the *Zarja*, and finally got to meet. My husband and I will always treasure the time spent with all of you. Na svidenje.

- *Janice Luzar Gehm, Branch 43*

Several members of Branch 93 are connected professionally via LinkedIn. I was recently contacted by two SUA members (from two other branches) too! I think this is great and gives our membership additional value. The only thing for anyone interested in connecting this way: be sure to write "We are fellow SUA members" so we know how we are connected.

- *Lynn Zalokar, Branch 93*

Convention Delegate Observations

In my professional work I attended many conventions and other large meetings. My assessment of their organization and the accommodations varied from good to poor. The planning and organization of the 2011 SWUA Convention earned my rating of "excellent." Branch 43 member, Denise Bartlett, and others of the Wisconsin branches who assisted, as well as the National Officers, deserve compliments for their extremely successful effort.

While the downtown Milwaukee Doubletree is on the "small" side, the management and staff made a superb effort to meet every need and wish of the convention attendees to assure their stay was enjoyable and activities could be facilitated. Meals were excellent and served without delay. Hotel staff were friendly and responded cheerfully to requests. To add to the "Slovenian climate," the hotel served Slovenian wines and authentic Slovenian-made apple strudel.

I previously attended national conventions of another Slovenian-American fraternal society and left with the perception that the business activities of the conventions were choreographed. That is, what the home office had decided the outcomes were to be-were achieved-regardless of the wishes of delegates who hoped for an open consideration of outcomes. On the other hand, I believe the SWUA convention was an open forum for the expression of opinions and ideas. The outcomes of some of the bylaw change votes probably surprised the persons who complied and evaluated the many proposals received from the branches.

However, there was one thing I would have wished to be different, that was the convention rule that no changes or additions could be made to proposed bylaw changes that had been published to the organization as a whole. Only an "up or down" vote was permitted on items. I accept the rationale offered to defend this approach, but feel the delegates might have been able to introduce helpful word editing had they the opportunity. For example, the proposed prohibition on publication of political endorsements in *Zarja* (which passed) might have benefited from editing to assist accomplishment of the intended purpose of assuring the political neutrality of SWUA.

A crucial implication of the bylaw amendment process is that its impact may be short lived. While these revised bylaws will serve in the interim, if SWUA successfully achieves the 501c3 tax exempt status proposed in the resolution that passed, the current bylaws will become a historical artifact, succeeded by a much shorter, less detailed, charter.

- *Rich Terselic, Branch 103*

National President's Message

2011 National Convention the BEST EVER!

WE DID IT!!!! Congratulations to Denise P. Bartlett, her entire staff of volunteers, the 2007 – 2011 National Board Of Directors, National Officers, Regional Presidents, Appointed Positions, Delegates, SWUA Branch Officers and Members, Guests from Slovenia, Attendees, Entertainers, Venue Staff and everyone else who made the 2011 National Convention the BEST EVER!

Read all the pages in this issue of *Zarja* and check out those smiling faces of convention goers. It was magnificent! The message I hope you get is that ***SUA is alive and ready to grow!*** We are no longer a boring, old, closed society. We have taken an 85-year-old product and new life is just beginning. Come watch and grow with us!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible. In all my years of being a member this was the finest moment. If you asked me what I loved best it was the wide range of ages that attended this convention. We had babies, children, teenagers, young adults and lots of men. This gives us hope for future leadership.

Those children and teenagers went home with new friends. They took advantage of modern technology and have exchanged telephone numbers for texting, facebook and skypeing. What a far cry from our early days when communication was via the post office and *Zarja The Dawn*. These are our future leaders and we need to keep them engaged and connected.

Be sure to read about the bylaws' amendments that passed, especially the two controversial ones. Let me reassure you that some were very hard decisions but the delegates did a great job listening to the presentations, understanding our issues and making a decision. It was not easy. What I like best about the new name is that only one word was dropped – women! How many of you know that this is the third time in our 85-year history that our name was changed? The first was during our founder's time.

Another controversial issue was changing one bylaw that was very problematic and hard to enforce. Can you imagine who would want to be the judge of someone's health or good moral character? As to being a Christian, our emphasis on Christian principles is still in our Declaration of Principle, nothing is going to change there. We will still have our commitment to Christian principles just as we have been doing, but now we will be welcoming those of all faiths who share our appreciation of Slovenian heritage.

You will notice that effective July 1st our membership dues are now \$25 for an adult and \$5 for a junior member. This had to happen! What we collect in dues does not cover running an organization, let alone a bi-monthly magazine.

In closing I want to especially thank my 2007 – 2011 National Board of Directors; Debbie Pohar, Carol Ryba, Mary Lou Voelk, Bernadette Kovacic Fitzsimmons, Karen Taylor Willis and Denise P. Bartlett for all their dedication to SWUA for four years. WE DID IT!

And to my future 2011 – 2015 National Board of Directors; Debbie Pohar, Jan King, Mary Lou Voelk, Mary Carmody, Karen Taylor Willis and Carol Ryba – LET'S GO GIRLS!

Bonnie Pohar Prokup
2007 – 2015 National President
Slovenian Union of America
wprokup@aol.com



Laverne (Pat Tomaszewski) and Shirley (Jackie Smith) of Milwaukee lore, welcomed the delegates to Milwaukee. This theme was used throughout the first day of presentations and set the tone for the Convention.

We are going to make our dreams come true.

Welcome to Our New Members!

1, Klunck, Jolene	20, Montgomery, Bernice	43, Jelinek, Patricia
1, Makreff, Jean	20, Pedersen, Diane	43, Lorencen, Julie
2, Karkowski, Andrea	20, Rodeghero, Sandra	43, Majerle, Florence
2, Lattuca, Isabella	20, Stahl, Arleen	43, Newman, Helen
2, Olson, Karl	23, Smith, Agnes	43, Rozman, Dorothy
3, Miller, Elizabeth	23, Smith, Anthony	43, Rozman, Gary
5, Cline, Jonathon Joseph	30, Cadez, Anne	43, Schluge, Marie
5, Lewis, Clara Juh	33, Anderson, Frances	43, Vidmar, Shirley
5, Lewis, Molly	33, Carlson, Michelle	43, Vidmar, Stanley
5, Robertson, Stephanie	39, Bajda, Majda	43, Vogeler, Carole
5, Smith, Helen	43, Abstetar, Dave	71, McCullough, Sylvia
20, Anderson, Judith	43, Checkai, Mary Beth	71, Romano, Patricia
20, Bloom, Joe	43, Garchar, Edward	89, Walter, Josie
20, Lange, Dolores	43, Garchar, Helen	99, Gary, Sharon
20, Lirovic, Ronald	43, Gorence, Patricia	99, Lenz, Marsha
20, Markin, Melyssa	43, Jelinek, Alfred	

Who's Who at the National Convention

Who was that man? That woman? Had your picture taken with a speaker and now wonder who? Here's a short list of our visiting dignitaries:

Sonia Avguštin - Slovenian World Congress, Ljubljana

Dr. Janez Bogataj - Author & Professor, Department of Ethnology & Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana

Nick Carmody - President of Rocky Mountain Potica

Perpetuum Jazzile - Famed Pop Jazz A Cappella Chorus of Slovenia

Rose Marie Jisa - President - Slovenian Genealogy Society International

Dr. Barbara Ivančič Kutin - Researcher at Institute of Slovenian Ethnology, Ljubljana

Boštjan Škrlec - Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia

Dr. John Vidmar - Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia for Illinois

Jure Žmauc - Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland

18 States Represented at the 2011 National Convention

(Attending one or more SWUA events - Does not include Perpetuum Jazzile concert)

118	Wisconsin
103	Illinois
27	Minnesota
12	Ohio
7	Maryland
5	California
5	Colorado
5	Indiana
4	Michigan
3	Florida
3	Pennsylvania
2	Iowa
1	Alabama
1	Alaska
1	Georgia
1	Mississippi
1	New Jersey
1	North Carolina

300 Total from USA - plus 11 from Slovenia

Thank You for the Following Donations

\$75 Donation

Hocevar, Suzanna, 93, +Frances Meglen

\$40 Donation

Schroeder, Kathleen, 1, +Dorothy Brezonik

\$30 Donation

Cummings, Dorothy Govednik, 13,
+Gertrude Govednik

\$25 Donation

Friesenhahn, Barbara, 5, Zarja
Gehm, Janice, 43, +Jean Luzar, mother
Kambich, Lisa, 2, Zarja
Kashman, Terri, 5, +Rosie Dugar
Kehoe-Judnick, Michele, 20,
+Louise Krameric and Louise Riffel

\$20 Donation

Demshar, Rosemary, 100, +Rose Baraga
Gorensek, Margaret, 50, +Juliana Gorensek
Kinkopf, Frances, 100, +Frances Kapel Sr.
Lenkaitis, Cathy, 24,
+Helen Swietek, aunt and godmother
Louch, Margaret, 20, +Lillian Eggan
Mavetz, Mary, 23, +Mary Petritz
Petrich, Diana, 23, +Katarina Chimzar
Petrick, Hermina, 3,
+Joseph J Petrick, Lois E Adams, Alojzia Galich
Picco, Elizabeth, 20, Zarja
Potocnik, Jennifer, 93, Zarja
Shavor, Marguerite, 23, +Helen (Slogar) Theno
VanGunten, Patricia, 54, Zarja
Vidmar, Michael John, 99, Zarja
Vidmar, Stanley, 43
Wanthal, Mary, 20,
+Rev. David J Stalzer and Margaret C Stalzer

\$10 Donation

Barbarich, Martin, 20, Zarja
Brady, Josephine, 24, Zarja
Brady, Sharon, 24, Zarja
Carlson, Michelle, 33, Zarja
Emanuel, Arminia, 33, Zarja
Klansek, John, 108, +Mary Yurchek, mother
Schueffner, Denise, 1, +Josephine (Peppy) Zaletel

Skul, Mary, 47, +Sadar and Skul Families
Stepec, Martina, 25, Zarja
Tarizzo, Marilyn, 20, +Mary Bozic
Thies, Mary, 89, +Andrew Dergance, father
Ungrad, Ruth Ann, 66, Zarja
Vidregar, Mary Lou, 100,
+Mary Lipovec Glad and Mary Vidregar, Sr
Watson, Jozef, 5, Zarja
Watson, Margaret, 5, Zarja
Yach, Carol Jean, 43, +Mary Starich
Yakos, Jacqueline, 24, +Mary Yakos

\$5 Donation

Carmody, Alexis, 110, Heritage Museum
Ceglar, Bernice, 35, +Pauline Plevell
Conway, Sherry, 20, Zarja
France, Beverly, 20, Zarja
Gremett, Diana Fir, 13, +Stanka Pecavar
Jakovich, John, 20, Zarja
Jorstad, Evan James, 109, Zarja
Judnic, Cynthia, 2, Zarja
Prijetel, Evelyn, 23, Zarja
Rehn, Megan, Subscriber, Zarja
Ritz, Frances, 30, Zarja

Additional Convention Monetary Donations

In the last issue we recognized those who gave financial donations to the National Convention fund. Here is a list of additional contributors. These monetary donations from members and other Slovenian organizations helped us to present a quality National Convention. The SUA/SWUA would like to recognize and sincerely thank the following:

\$100 Donation

Frank & Milka Menchak, Branch 43, Milwaukee, WI
Slovenian Cultural Society Triglav, Wind Lake, WI

Also Donating

Branch 1, Sheboygan, WI
Frank H. Konchar, Branch 24, LaSalle, IL
Frank M. Konchar, Branch 108, Olney, MD
George Plautz Jr., Branch 102, Willard, WI
Judith Rechlitz, Branch 43, Milwaukee, WI
Norm Setnicker, Branch 109, Twin Cities, MN
Anita Vovk, Branch 35, Aurora, MN

2011 - 2015 National Board of Directors

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
BONNIE POHAR PROKUP
wprokup@aol.com



VICE-PRESIDENT OF CULTURE & HERITAGE
MARY LOU DEYAK VOELK
ottolou@gulftel.com



I am 44 years old, married to Bill Prokup and have two daughters, Bekki age 18 and Barbi age 15. We live in the same area of our immigrant ancestors who came to the United States in the early 1900's from Slovenia and Poland.

I am very lucky that we moved back home to raise our family. We took professional sacrifices in the work force but none of that matters! Between Bill and I we have parents, siblings and a huge extended family that all live within miles. I don't think we will ever regret the move home!

We are a very active family that enjoys life and we do our best to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way. Traveling is very important to us. We rarely travel alone. I love planning trips for people! Some of my greatest tours have been to Slovenia where I have traveled to at least 20 times.

My favorite quote is, "Every day is an interview" and I do my best to live by this and instill this belief in my two girls. I also believe everything happens for a reason and even though it may not seem fair at the time, something always good comes out of it.

We spend a lot of time either coaching our two girls in some sport or being great parent fans. My girls have excelled in cheerleading, softball, bowling, musicals and especially golf. These days you will find us on the golf course the most. Bekki is on a golf scholarship at Quincy University and Barbi is following in her footsteps.

I am truly honored to serve one more term as National President. I have high hopes for SUA and I am confident we are on the right track for a bright future of SUA.

I was born in Ely, MN to Slovenian American parents, Frank and Mary Perovshek Deyak. In my early years I was surrounded by everyone Slovenian and until about 8 years of age, thought the entire world was Slovenian. My siblings are Judy Ostrander and Frank Deyak. I am married to Eugene Voelk. We have four children, Debbie Good, Michael, Thomas, John, and ten grandchildren.

My education is from Ely Memorial High School and Ely Junior College (now Vermillion Community College), University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN where I received my B.S. Elementary Education and Certification for Behavior Management/Learning Disabilities and University of Wisconsin, Superior, WI for M.S. Education and Post Graduate: Testing and Measurement.

I have been a volunteer for the past 11 years. During that time I served as the Director of Special Projects and VP of Culture & Heritage. The following are a few of the projects I have been involved in: 2 survey reports; Ivana Project; Mati Register; Zarja indexing; music collection; *Forget me not* book series; Library Collection; Zarja feature writer; Camp Heritage; presentations for conventions, Camp Heritage, and presentations in Slovenia; countless hours in heritage research and grant writing.

2011 convention decisions have brought the Slovenian Union of America into the 21st century. The future is in our hands and it has never looked brighter. There are tremendous possibilities for us to pursue, we will now be able to concentrate on raising the heights of the SUA. We have a fascinating heritage, full of culture, tradition, music, crafts, and oh those foods! How can we not succeed? I consider it an honor to serve on the national board for the Slovenian Union of America.

Note: The next issue of Zarja will have the nominations and election minutes and a short bio on Karen Taylor, National Corresponding/Recording Secretary and Jan King, Vice President of Home Office.

NATIONAL TREASURER
CAROL RYBA
Ryba4homeoffice@yahoo.com

Carol is honored to remain on the National Board as Treasurer. She is leaving the position of Vice President of Home Office



because of changes to the bylaws and the realignment of the financial responsibilities. Carol's many years of experience as a Finance Officer with the Federal Government easily qualifies her for the position of National Treasurer.

Carol is proud of her accomplishments during the last four years. Some of the accomplishments included updating the accounting system, which made obtaining accurate financial reports and tracking expenditures easier. Also, with the help of two key volunteers, Carol Novak and Carole Terlep, she reorganized the Burial Insurance records, which will make getting out of the insurance business easier. Additionally, she compiled information requested by the attorneys in order to obtain the 501(c) 3 not-for-profit status.

When Carol assumed the duties of Vice President of Home Office in 2007, she welcomed the challenge. The challenge was met, but we are not finished. Therefore, she will again be on the new Board to help complete the job and do what is best for the future of the Slovenian Union of America. Carol strongly believes that SUA is headed in the right direction and along with the other board members is grateful to the delegates at the 2011 National Convention for their trust, support and understanding. We are proud of what we accomplished during the Convention and are very excited about the future.

Carol had two wonderful SWUA trips to Slovenia and met relatives for the first time in 2007. She also gained a deeper appreciation of Slovenian culture and heritage, and has made lasting friendships. Finally, she is committed to "Keeping the Spirit Alive".

VICE PRESIDENT OF OUTREACH
DEBBIE POHAR
pohar4@aol.com

I was born and raised in LaSalle, Illinois where everyone knew their ethnic origins because it determined what Catholic Church you belonged to. There were five Catholic churches in town, the Slovenian Church (St. Roch's which I belonged to), Polish, Italian, German, and Irish churches.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Illinois University. I moved to Phoenix, Arizona shortly after graduating, where I stayed for fifteen years before moving back home so as not to miss any family events. I currently work in our family business John Pohar



& Sons, Inc., which was established in 1929 by my immigrant grandfather from Slovenia.

Four years ago I attended the National Convention in Utica, Illinois as the newly assigned editor of *Zarja The Dawn*, I was elected as the Vice-President of Outreach. We accomplished much in our four years, but we know there is so much more to accomplish.

This has been a very rewarding four years for me and I am very proud to be able to continue serving SUA. We have taken great strides as a group to improve the image and focus of SUA. We are "Keeping the Spirit Alive" and I am proud to say that I am a part of it.

VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING &
FUNDRAISING
MARY CARMODY



Mary Gornik Carmody is a first generation Slovenian American with roots in the Kocevje and Novo Mesto areas of Slovenia. Mary's family were SWUA members, and she was a student of the former Mother of God Slovenian Catholic parish, which was located in Waukegan, Illinois. Her mother, Mary Kajfez Gornik insisted that she

assimilate to the American while keeping the Slovenian culture alive in their home.

Mary is ecstatic about her new role on the 2011 - 2015 National Board of Directors and looks forward to the same challenges in this role that Slovenian immigrants face(d); be a good American citizen but continue to teach and share and keep our Slovenian culture alive.

Mary is currently employed by Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital in the Marketing Department. Her hobby is taking photos and many may remember her from the National Convention. Many of the pictures in this issue are compliments of Mary!

Historic Bylaw Decisions Made in Milwaukee

Tough Decisions Made - Delegates Came Prepared

The 41 delegates who convened at the 26th National Convention business meetings on June 17-18, 2011 in Milwaukee had some tough decisions to make. Many proposed amendments to SWUA's Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and Bylaws were easily passed with unanimous "yes" votes but several were big advancements for the delegates to consider. I, personally, was very proud of the delegates. It was evident to me that they had done their homework which was to study the proposed amendments to the Bylaws prior to our business meeting and to be attentive to all information presented. I am hopeful that the delegates will return to their Branches and strive to instill in their membership a new respect for our Bylaws. Oftentimes in the past SWUA's Bylaws have been overlooked and that is unacceptable in a successful organization - and compliance will be absolutely mandatory as we become a 501 (c) (3) organization with newly structured Bylaws. All Bylaw changes approved at the Convention must receive a final approval by the SUA National Board and the Illinois Department of Insurance. Following are some of our historic changes:

After 80 plus years as the Slovenian Women's Union of America, originally named the Slovenian Ladies' Union of America, the decision was made to change our name to the **Slovenian Union of America**. Twenty-two names were submitted for consideration and the one chosen was given much scrutiny. The list of 22 was narrowed to seven, then to three and finally to one. It may not be the name you, the member/reader, would have chosen but all must see the rationalization of having our name reflect our membership - we now boast that men make up 10 % of our membership. We hope that we'll now be attracting many more men to our SUA membership as some active, male participants work behind the scenes but were reluctant to join a women's organization.

Another very important decision was made to remove from our organization's purposes and membership requirements the requirement to live in the United States, to be in good health, of good moral character, and

Christian. Now, our membership purpose is "to unite persons with an interest in preserving Slovenian heritage" with no mention of where one lives, no mention of good health, moral character, nor one's faith. Members are cautioned to not read anything into the newly worded Bylaws' sections. In this section in particular there is nothing being taken away or requiring change in where or how your Branch meetings are conducted - other than to respect an individual's personal and private issues relating to health, morals and faith. The SUA/SWUA Declaration of Principle which states "The Slovenian Union of America hereby declares its belief in and commitment to Christian principles and the United States' concepts of freedom and democracy." remains intact.

Delegates also voted to allow future SUA National Boards the authority to take steps to get out of the burial insurance business with the guidance of legal counsel and the Illinois Department of Insurance. This move will help in the process of SUA becoming a 501 (c) (3) entity. Resolutions necessary for this process and written by our legal counsel were also unanimously approved by the delegates.

The financial situation of SWUA was presented and explained to the Convention attendees on Thursday, and on Friday delegates approved the raising of our assessments (dues) to \$25 a year - just a \$5 increase from eight years ago. SUA is fortunate to be building while other organizations are failing/folding in these difficult economic times.

There are several other changes that were approved and also proposed amendments that failed. Readers/members are encouraged to read the partial record of minutes from the business meetings elsewhere in this issue and the next of *Zarja - The Dawn*. Thank you to all who contributed to the process of studying our Bylaws and offering suggestions for improvement as we move forward in our efforts to build and strengthen our organization.

Denise P. Bartlett
Bylaws Committee Chairperson

Results of Bylaws' Amendments

**Saturday, June 19, 2011 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
President Bonnie Prokup calls the
meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.**

Parliamentarian Denise Bartlett requests that seating be by Branches in their numerical order in order to more easily count votes and for recognition by recording secretaries Karen Taylor and Julie Palnau.

Denise makes an accounting of all voting paddles to ensure accurate voting. Credentials Chairwoman Rita Majerle-Klug announces 41 delegates convened at this convention and are ready to vote. Denise instructed delegates on the use of the voting paddles and asked that paddles are left raised until each vote is complete and counted. Official counters are George Plautz, Jr., Branch 102, and Grace Doerk, Branch 20, who will be in the back of the room and paddles must face them. Albert Jelinek, Branch 43, will serve as the official timer for all opinions and comments expressed on each issue. Each person will be given the floor for one minute only. Questions are not timed. Delegates have the floor first and then other SWUA members are given the right to speak.

Norm Setnicker, Branch 109, and the newly appointed Heritage Director, will 2nd all motions in order to expedite the process. This does not mean that he endorses each motion, only that the motion may be considered for vote as worded.

A reminder is given regarding the Scope of Notice requirements per Robert's Rules of Order, which dictates that when amending Bylaws, delegates may only consider what has been previously proposed and published in our official publication, *Zarja - The Dawn*, for all members to view.

Tellers determined that a 2/3rd vote is required to pass a proposed change in the Bylaws. That means that with 41 voting delegates a vote of 28 or more is required to pass an amendment to the Bylaws. All other votes require a majority vote of 21 to pass. At least three of the votes being taken today will be silent balloting.

Jan King, Norm Setnicker, Yvonne Johnstone Khaldy and Denise Bartlett served on the Bylaws committee and sent recommendations for proposed amendments to be considered by the National Board. Those decided upon were brought to the National Convention for delegates' votes. Great consideration of what would be in the best interest of SWUA, and not personal opinion, were the criteria used in making the decision to bring the issues to a vote.

Delegates, audience members, and guests are reminded to remain professional when a vote doesn't go the way each delegate or member may wish. Delegates are honor bound to represent their branch, not their own ideals. Delegates must not come with their minds made up, but rather must listen to all the information presented to make an informed decision, per proper parliamentary procedure. Less than 30 SWUA members contacted the Bylaws committee about Bylaws and 5 to 6 branches held meetings to consider the Bylaws' amendments being proposed. Denise indicated that she is merely the messenger and that it is the delegates who have the power to make a difference through their votes.

At this time our Bylaws must be restructured as written. Proposed amendments were sent out to each delegate in advance and they were required to bring them with them for voting purposes.

Denise quoted "*If nothing changes, nothing changes.*"

Any changes made to our Bylaws must be approved by the Illinois Department of Insurance and also approved by the new incoming National Board of Directors.

*Following are the results of the Proposed
Amendments to SWUA's Constitution and Bylaws:*

PREAMBLE and ARTICLE I

ARTICLE I

Name and Location

1.01. The name of this organization is the **Slovenian Union of America**, or as abbreviated, **S.U.A.** Translated into the Slovenian language, the name is, **Slovenska Zveza v Ameriki** or as abbreviated **S. Z. v A.**

Comments from Denise: Recommending a change of name of the organization. 24 proposed name changes were submitted, but only 22 could be considered as two were submitted too late. The Board agonized over this decision and eventually, by voting, narrowed it down to seven possible names, then to three and finally to one name. It is the only one to be considered: "Slovenian Union of America." This name was selected to acknowledge the men who are current members, to aid in recruiting more men who remain reluctant to join a "women's" organization and to preserve as much of our current name as possible. Some feel we should not change name at all. Comments and opinions were expressed.

**Official Vote by silent ballot:
28-Yes and 13-No - Motion Passed.**

ARTICLE II

The purposes for which the Slovenian Women's Union of America is formed are: **Identical with 2.03 - page 2.**

a) **To unite persons with an interest in preserving Slovenian heritage.**

****Note: Declaration of Principle (page 3 of Bylaws) and Section 3.06 (page 4 of Bylaws) requiring member's duty to uphold SWUA's principles - both remain intact.**

b) **To promote the social and intellectual development of its members.**

c) **To promote American and Slovenian ideals.**

d) **To encourage participation in local and national civil affairs.**

e) **To honor and pray at the interment of its deceased members.**

f) **Remove to another document if approved by IL Dept. of Insurance.**

Comments by Denise: Currently these statements are not consistent with other text in our Bylaws and needs to be changed. Denise sought and received consultation to see what could be changed. We must only consider what we have proposed or completely rewrite it. Many comments were received by our membership and were considered. Generally the comments indicate that we should be open to all potential members and make our organization a welcoming one that embraces all cultures. Recent responses to the proposed change were read to all in attendance. Comments and opinions were expressed on both sides of the issue.

**Official Vote by silent ballot:
32-Yes and 9-No - Motion Passed.**

CHARTER

State of Illinois Department of Insurance

All information removed to another document if approved by the Illinois Department of Insurance.

Burial Insurance: all information concerning burial insurance in the current Bylaws, with the approval of the Illinois Department of Insurance, be moved to separate document. Comments and opinions: none.

Official vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA

A Burial Insurance Society, located at Chicago in the State of Illinois - All information removed to another document if approved.

Legal Advice: Future Slovenian (Women's) Union of America National Board may, with legal advice, get out of burial insurance business.

Comments and opinions: Denise has worked with the Department of Insurance's consultant and she has recommended that we proceed with this plan.

Official Vote: 40-Yes and 1-No - Motion passed.

BYLAWS of the SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION of AMERICA

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE

(Remains intact)

The Slovenian Women's Union of America hereby declares its belief in and commitment to Christian principles and the United States concepts of freedom and democracy.

ARTICLE III

Membership

3.03. The Slovenian Women's Union of America will have three (3) Classes of members - adults, juniors and those adults and juniors with previously issued burial insurance policies. The National Board of Directors may institute a Family Membership. Those members with policies are listed in the SWUA Burial Insurance Policy Listing. Remove listing.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

3.06. It shall be the duty of all members to uphold the principles upon which the Slovenian Women's Union of America is based and to abide by the Bylaws of the association. Ignorance of the Bylaws shall be no excuse for violation. Additionally, all members, when able, shall be expected to attend the business meetings of their individual Branches, to pay their yearly assessments by March 1st each year, and to promote the development of this association and its individual Branches to the best of their abilities. To preserve unity and friendship within the organization, members will be expected to be courteous and respectful to their fellow members.

Question asked and answered to clarify that assessments are the same as dues.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

3.09. Members who fail to pay their yearly assessment by April 1st of each year will have their membership cancelled. Burial Insurance information moved to another document. Any member who has failed to pay her/his assessment by April 1st of the year may be reinstated any time during that year upon payment of the full delinquent assessment. Members with burial insurance policies must be members in good standing to keep their policies in force.

Comments and Questions: Once all overdue payments are made and the member is in good standing reinstatement of membership and benefits would continue.

Official vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

3.10. A member may transfer from one Branch to another upon written notification to the Vice President of Home Office or the Director of Membership.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

3.11. Every National Officer and Branch President shall maintain a copy of the Bylaws of this association. Copies of the SWUA Bylaws shall be made available to the membership.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

ARTICLE IV National Convention

4.09. Any adult member is eligible to be a delegate or alternate to the National Convention if she/he is at least eighteen (18) years of age and a member in good standing. She/He must also be a member for at least one (1) year and must have attended the majority of meetings of her/his Branch during the year prior to the Convention as verified by Branch records. **Attendance and membership requirements may be waived in the case of newly organized Branches organized within the preceding year.** To be elected as a delegate or alternate, an individual member must receive a majority of the votes cast during the Branch's delegate and alternate elections.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

4.10. A Convention year shall be considered the twelve (12)-month period ending on the last day of June. Each Branch, of which members' yearly assessments have been paid **on or before April 1st** of the Convention year, is to be represented at the National Convention as follows:

- a) Each Branch with up to 200 adult members shall be entitled to one delegate.
- b) **Branches with over 201 adult members shall be entitled to two delegates.**
- c) Delete.

Questions and Comments: This was explained as a cost savings to future Conventions and to avoid having one branch potentially having an unfair voting advantage if several of its members hold National Board positions in addition to branch delegates. One delegate makes a request for a silent vote and it is granted.

**Official vote by silent ballot:
28-Yes and 13-No - Motion passed.**

4.11. No Branch shall be entitled to more than two (2) National Convention delegates in addition to their Branch members who may be serving in a National Officer position.

Question and comments taken.

Official vote: 35-Yes and 7-No – Motion Passed.

Recorded no votes: Scholarship, Zarja Editor,
Regional President Illinois/Indiana,
Branch 20 (3) delegates and Branch 42

ARTICLE V National Board of Directors

5.03. The members of the National Board of Directors will be elected for their offices at the National Convention. Voting will be by secret ballot only if more than one candidate accepts nomination to the same office. Board members shall be adult members of the association and may serve for a maximum of two (2) terms, a term consisting of four (4) years each. Elected Board members shall assume their respective offices on the first day of July following the National Convention. **In the event that no other SWUA members are willing to be nominated to serve in a particular National Board of Director's position, a Member of the National Board, having already served two (2) consecutive terms, may be**

elected to another term if two-thirds of the Convention delegates vote in favor of the Officer's reelection. If a lack of a willing nominee for the same National Board position occurs at the next National Convention, the Board position shall remain vacant.

Official vote: 40-Yes and 1-No - Motion passed.

5.04. The annual meeting of the National Board of Directors will be held within the first **four (4) months** of the year. Special meetings may be called at any time by the National President or a majority of the official members of the Board, and may be held at the Home Office. It shall be the duty of the Board members at the annual meeting to **arrange for** an audit of all the financial accounts, records and investments of the association and to determine the organization's program for the coming year. The presence of four (4) official members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. All matters before the Board shall be decided by the majority vote of the official members present. Members of the association may be invited to attend Board meetings by either the National President or a majority of the National Board. Such invitees will be allowed a voice in the meeting but on no matter shall they be allowed to vote.

Official vote: 40-Yes and 1-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No vote: 1 Delegate from Branch 20

5.05. Any action required by the Articles of Incorporation of this association or these Bylaws, or any action which otherwise may be taken at a meeting of the National Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, **is signed by 2/3 of the persons entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter of the consent.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes – Motion passed.

5.06. All members of the National Board of Directors shall be responsible to the National President and the National Convention for their work. Additionally, each member of the Board shall present a written report concerning their activities for the association to the National Convention. **Such reports shall be made available to the membership upon request.**

Questions and comments taken.

Official Vote: 38-Yes and 3-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No votes: Scholarship, Branches 39 and 43

5.10. No member will be eligible for the National Board of Directors if **she/he** holds an executive office in another substantial organization, which would prevent her/him from fulfilling her/his duties with this association.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

ARTICLE VI Committees

6.01. A Scholarship Program Committee **may** be formed consisting of a Scholarship Program Director/Committee Chairperson and six (6) members. The Scholarship Program Director/Committee Chairperson is appointed by the National Board of Directors. The six (6)

Scholarship Program Committee members are selected from nominees recommended by the Branches. Selection and approval of Committee members is made by the Scholarship Program Director and the National Board of Directors. Committee members will serve one (1) term of four (4) consecutive years.

Official Vote: 40-Yes and 1-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No vote: Scholarship

ARTICLE VII

Elected and Appointed National Officers

Regional Presidents

National Auditors and Appointed Directors

7.01. The **nineteen (19)** National Officers of the Slovenian Women's Union of America will consist of the following personnel:

Members of the National Board of Directors will be elected at each National Convention and may serve in their individual positions for a maximum of two (2) terms, a term consisting of four (4) years each. An exception is allowed as presented in Article V, Section 5.03. In addition, National Officers, namely, the Editor of *Zarja – The Dawn*, Scholarship Program Director, Director of Membership, Director of Special Projects, Heritage Museum Director, and the On-Line Newsletter Editor may be appointed by majority decision of the National Board of Directors. **There are no term limits for these National Officer positions.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.02. The National President will be the Chief Executive Officer of the association; while overseen by the National Board of Directors, she/he shall supervise and manage the affairs of the association. The National President shall perform all duties incident to such Office and such duties as may be provided in these Bylaws or as may be prescribed from time to time by the National Board of Directors or National Conventions. By virtue of her/his office, the National Conventions and all meetings of the Board of Directors or directorial committees, she/he shall have the authority to call meetings of the National Board of Directors, and to sign all official association papers and documents, as may be required. **The President shall oversee the Regional Presidents and receive their yearly reports.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.04. The National President shall be responsible to the National Convention and the National Board of Directors for all work carried out on behalf of the association. She/He shall present a report of her/his activities at all meetings of the National Board of Directors. She/He shall also provide a written report covering her/his term of office to the National Convention. **This report shall be available to the membership upon request. Further, the National President has the discretion to:**

- a) Adopt a Code of Ethics for the National Officers.
- b) Authorize a non-voting role for the immediate out-going SWUA President.

c) Offer Honorary Memberships for the duration of the President's term.

Questions and comments taken.

Official Vote: 35-Yes and 7-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No votes: Branches (?), 14, 33, 35, 39, 42, 109

7.06. The National Vice President of Outreach will oversee and be responsible for the following areas: publication of the *Zarja - The Dawn*, along with the *Zarja - The Dawn* Editor; maintaining and updating of the official website, along with the Webmaster; production of the On-Line Newsletter, along with the On-Line Newsletter Editor; and maintaining the Scholarship Program; working with the Scholarship Program Director. **The National Vice-President of Outreach shall not allow any political endorsements in any of the SWUA publications.**

Questions and comments taken. Denise explained that as a future 501 (c) 3 organization we may not be politically involved in campaigns.

Official Vote: 38-Yes and 3-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No votes: Branches 2, 20 (1) Delegate, 103

7.11. The National Vice President of Culture and Heritage will oversee the operation of the Heritage Museum and ensure that museum standards are maintained. **She/he shall direct the acquisition and exhibition of collections, promote fund-raising, procure grants, and communicate such information with the membership.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.17. The National Treasurer shall **oversee the recording** of all receipts and disbursements of the association. She/He shall sign all checks presented to her/him by the National Vice President of the Home Office and the National Vice President of Culture and Heritage, and she/he shall deposit all bonds, investment papers and documents pertaining to the funds of the association in a safety deposit box located in a bank approved by the National Board of Directors. She/He will have access to the safety deposit box only when accompanied by the National President or the National Vice President of Home Office or the National Vice President of Culture and Heritage.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.18. The National Treasurer will be an adult member of the association for at least two (2) years. She/He should have knowledge of accounting, finance and investments. The Treasurer shall be responsible for arranging for an audit of the financial accounts, records and investments of the association to be conducted by the appointed National Auditors **from the membership** in conjunction with the annual meeting of the National Board of Directors.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.19. The National Auditors will have the following responsibilities:

d) To arrange for a professional outside audit as required by law.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.21. Regional Presidents will have the duty to foster interest in the association in their respective areas. They shall promote the development of the organization generally, and shall program activities on a region wide level. In addition, they will organize and preside over Regional Conventions. The Regional Presidents shall send a report within two (2) weeks after their Regional Convention to the National President and Editor of *Zarja – The Dawn* for publication. **Regional Presidents report to the National President and each year shall submit a written report to the National President prior to the National Board of Directors' meeting.** Regional Presidents shall strive to attend one (1) meeting of the individual branches within their jurisdiction each year, and will supervise all regional membership campaigns. Regional Presidents shall attend the National Convention and shall present reports describing the activities of the branches within their respective jurisdictions. In addition, they shall perform such other duties as may be required by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned from time to time by the National President and the National Board of Directors.

Questions and comments taken.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.23. The Regional Presidents will be elected at the annual Conventions of their respective regions, which immediately follow the association's National Convention. The term of office of each Regional President will commence on the first day of January of the year following the National Convention. Regional Presidents may serve for a maximum of two (2) terms, a term consisting of four (4) years each. **The election of a Regional Vice President, who shall also serve for a maximum of two (2) terms, shall be left to the discretion of the Regional President. The Regional Vice-President may fill the Regional President's position if a vacancy occurs.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

7.26. The Scholarship Program Director will be appointed by the National Board of Directors, will be an adult member, and will chair the Scholarship Program Committee. She will have the duty to supervise the activities of the Scholarship Program of the association. She/he shall manage the Scholarship Fund, conduct the Scholarship Program, accept contributions and make all necessary payments to award winners. Each year the Scholarship Program Director shall present to the National Board of Directors a written report giving an accounting of the Scholarship Fund's income and disbursements and listing the current scholarship winners. She/He shall also present a written report to the National Convention detailing the activities and actions of the Scholarship Program Committee. **Such reports shall be made available to the membership upon request.**

Questions and comments taken.

Official Vote: 38-Yes and 3-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No votes: Minnesota Regional President,
Branches 39 and 42.

ARTICLE VIII

Initiative and General Referendum

8.02. Every Branch shall have the right on behalf of its members to propose an amendment or repeal of any of the Bylaws, except in the regulation of assessments, and may propose any measure it may deem proper for the success of the association. **These proposals must adhere to the time frame as presented in Article IV, Section 4.06.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

ARTICLE IX

Assessments, Investments Income and Disbursements

9.01 In order to meet the obligations of the association, a yearly assessment will be levied on those members of the Adult, Junior, and Family Classes.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes – Motion passed.

9.02. A yearly assessment is payable one (1) time per year immediately upon billing, **usually in January or February of each year.** The regular yearly assessments are as follows:

- a) **Adult & Adult Policy Holder Classes:**
\$25.00 per year
- b) **Junior & Junior Policy Holder Classes:**
\$5.00 per year
- c) **Family Memberships to be determined by the National Board of Directors**

Questions and comments taken.

**Silent vote. Official Vote:
37-Yes and 4-No – Motion passed.**

9.08. If applicable, eligible members shall be entitled to all **burial insurance policy benefits**, which the association granted up to and ending in 1999.

b) If applicable, the association shall pay burial insurance policies as listed in the SWUA Burial Insurance Policy Listing.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

9.10. Formerly 9.11. **The insurance bonding of the National Officers shall be procured by the association and the policy shall be kept in a safety deposit box in a designated bank.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

ARTICLE X

Official Publication, *Zarja – The Dawn*

10.01. For the purposes of progress and better understanding of the aims of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, this association shall issue an official publication called *Zarja – The Dawn*. Copies published shall be sent to each family of the association in the Adult and Social Classes. **Adult family members residing at the same address may receive individual copies upon request.**

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

10.04. The National Board of Directors shall decide on all articles of doubtful content. **The Vice-President**

of Outreach shall not authorize any political endorsements in SWUA publications.

Official Vote: 40-Yes and 1-No – Motion passed.

Recorded No vote: 1 Delegate from Branch 20

ARTICLE XI

Junior Classes

11.02. Junior Class members shall have the right to attend the meetings and functions of their individual Branches but shall not participate in any elections of the association or the Branches. The Junior Class membership does not include receiving the official publication, *Zarja – The Dawn*. Members who sponsor junior members will be responsible for the yearly assessments of the junior member and for all information stated in the junior membership application.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

ARTICLE XII

Regional Conventions

12.01. To create additional interest, sociability and to foster new ideas benefiting the welfare of the organization, Regional Conventions will be held at least once every two years in each region. Each Branch in a region will send a representative-at-large. The Regional President will preside over the Convention and a Recording Secretary of the hostess Branch will serve at each Convention. The minutes of the Convention will be published in *Zarja – The Dawn*. There shall be six (6) regions, with each being entitled to one Regional President.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes – Motion passed.

ARTICLE XIII

Branch Meetings

13.08. When individual Branches conduct profitable fund-raisers, 10% of the profit shall be forwarded to the SWUA National Treasurer to be placed in the SWUA General Account to also support the financial status of the SWUA.

Question and comments taken.

Official Vote: 7-Yes and 34-No - Motion failed.

13.09. Branches must receive approval from the National President or the Vice-President of Outreach or the Vice-President of Fund-Raising and Marketing before participating in or allowing publication of SWUA business with outside media.

Question and comments taken.

Official Vote: 7-Yes and 34-No - Motion failed.

ZIMMER FUNERAL HOMES

Mark Zimmer, Funeral Director

mark@zimmerfuneralhome.com

805 North 6th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081

Tel: 920.457.7012 Fax: 920.457.7013

W 2132 Ganton Rd., Sheboygan, WI 53083

920.565.2331

www.Zimmerfuneralhome.com

ARTICLE XIV

Branch Officers

14.03. It will be the responsibility of the Branch President to see that appropriate honor is shown to their Branch members upon their death.

Article XIV Remove this.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

14.09. The Branch Treasurer shall provide to the Branch accurate monthly and semiannual reports of its expenditures and receipts. The Branch Treasurer shall be held accountable for the Branch financial income and shall perform any other related duties as may be assigned to her/him by the Branch President. In the event of a Branch merger, the Branches' monies shall also be merged with both Branch Treasurers ensuring proper monetary control. In the event of a Branch folding, the Branches' monies shall be forwarded to the SWUA National Treasurer to be deposited into the SWUA General Account.

Question and comments taken.

Official Vote: 26-Yes and 15-No - Motion failed.

ARTICLE XV (re-numbered-formerly XVI)

General

15.01 Branch thirty (30) consists of members from all over the United States of America and beyond its borders (*if membership requirement to live in US is deleted) who do not live within a reasonable distance to a Branch. There is no provision for Branch thirty (30) members to be represented by a delegate(s) at National Conventions.

Official Vote: 40-Yes and 1-No – Motion passed.

ARTICLE XVI (re-numbered-formerly XV)

Heritage Museum

16.01. (formerly 15.01) The association may operate a Museum for the purpose of preserving, protecting and interpreting the story of the Slovenian Woman and the Slovenian people in general, as immigrants to and citizens of the United States. As part of the operational activity, the Museum will provide educational services as a means of increasing and enriching public knowledge about the Slovenian Story.

Official Vote: Unanimous-Yes - Motion passed.

16.05 All Branches have the responsibility to preserve Branch meeting minutes and all other records of historical value for SWUA's archives. All such records remain the property of SWUA and should be transported to the Home Office in the case of a folding or merging Branch.

Questions and comments taken.

Official Vote: 40-Yes and 1-No - Motion passed.

Recorded No votes: Branch 103.

President Bonnie Prokup calls for adjournment at 4:17 p.m. Saturday, June 19, 2011.

**RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE
SLOVENIAN WOMEN'S UNION OF AMERICA**

The National Convention of the Slovenian Women's Union of America, an Illinois
burial society ("SWUA"), hereby proposes the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the National Convention wishes to approve the creation of a new not-for-profit corporation (the "Proposed SWUA Entity"), which shall be organized for the purpose of conducting certain educational, religious, and charitable activities related to the promotion of the Slovenian culture;

WHEREAS, the National Convention wishes to resolve any and all issues with respect to the burial insurance provided to certain members of SWUA;

WHEREAS, the National Convention wishes to approve the incorporation of the Proposed SWUA Entity and the creation of Articles of Incorporation for the Proposed SWUA Entity;

WHEREAS, the National Convention wishes to approve the creation of corporate Bylaws of the Proposed SWUA Entity;

WHEREAS, the National Convention desires to approve the filing with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") for tax-exempt status for the Proposed SWUA Entity;

WHEREAS, the National Convention wishes to provide the Proposed SWUA Entity with interim funding from membership dues, unrelated to the burial insurance function, of the SWUA members;
and

WHEREAS, the National Convention desires to empower its Officers to take all actions necessary for the creation and application for tax-exemption for the Proposed SWUA Entity and resolution of the burial insurance function of the existing SWUA entity.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Convention grants the National Board of Directors the authority to work with the Illinois Department of Insurance to resolve burial insurance policies held by SWUA members;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Convention grants the National Board of Directors the authority to notify burial insurance policy holders of SWUA's intent to withdraw from the provision of burial insurance;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Convention grants the National Board of Directors the authority to distribute letters to burial insurance policy holders providing the option to accept or donate burial insurance payouts or, alternatively, to transfer their policy to another insurance carrier;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Convention authorizes that annual membership dues paid to SWUA be paid to the Proposed SWUA Entity; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the National Convention grants its Officers to take all actions necessary for the creation and application for tax-exemption for the Proposed SWUA Entity and resolution of the burial insurance function of the existing SWUA entity.

DATED: as of _____

Name: _____
Title: _____

Membership Application

Slovenian Union of America

Slovenska Zveza v Ameriki

www.swua.org

swuhome@sbcglobal.net

815.727.1926

Yes! I want to join the S.U.A. I want to preserve and promote the legacy of our Slovenian-American heritage. As a member I will receive the publication, *ZARJA - The Dawn*; I can affiliate with branches and events across the country and best of all, I will come in contact with fellow Slovenians.

Choose type of membership:

Adult, Annual Dues \$25.00
For January through December (If you join after August 30, you will not be billed in January of the next calendar year)

Check here if this is a gift.
Provide recipients name/address below.
If you agree to continue paying for this membership next year, please provide your name/address/e-mail on the back of this form for billing purposes.

Adult, International Address
Annual Dues \$35.00

Junior (Birth through 17), Annual Dues \$5.00

Invoices are sent annually in January; dues notices in the amount of \$25.00/adult or \$5.00/junior will be mailed to the address of the member listed below in January of the next calendar year after joining, unless otherwise specified.

Please print the requested information below and send this application form with a check payable to:

Slovenian Union of America 431 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432-1703

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Street Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Date of Birth _____ Branch Affiliation Number (if known) _____ Location _____

Maiden Name _____ Do you speak Slovenian? _____

Please describe your Slovenian ancestry and provide **SLOVENIAN SURNAMES**

How did you hear about us? S.U.A. member ___ newspaper ___ website ___ other _____

I would like to volunteer for the S.U.A. My area of interest or expertise is _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Tell a Friend! If you wish us to send information to a friend or relative just fill in name and address here:

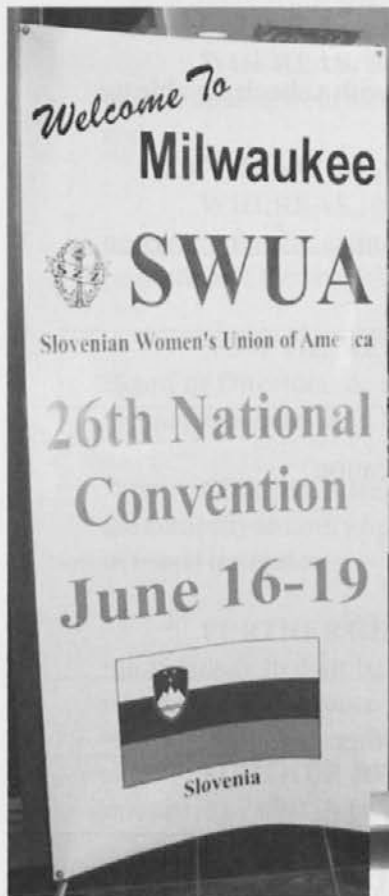
My friend's name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

26th National Convention

Thank you one and all! *Whew! We did it! Rating: Success!*

So much planning, preparation, work, anxiety, anticipation - and then it's over so fast. The SWUA's 26th National Convention - during its 85th year of existence and during the 20th year anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Slovenia - was a labor of love and a very proud milestone for the three SWUA Wisconsin Branches convening in Milwaukee with members from across our nation and special guests from the Republic of Slovenia. We are so pleased to hear all the positive feedback, praise, and appreciation from the attendees of the Convention. A lot was accomplished from Thursday, June 16th through Sunday, June 19th and most everyone headed home with a renewed appreciation for our Slovenian heritage.



A huge **Thank You** from me to the dozens of participants who helped in numerous ways, both small and large, to produce a quality experience for SWUA's members, guests and featured presenters. The staff at the four venues - DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Milwaukee Public Museum and Triglav Park - were so accommodating and greatly contributed to our success. **Thank**

donations. All of these gestures were extremely helpful for our overall impressive production. Attendees also seemed to really enjoy our efforts to showcase the authentic Slovenian items - music, song, dance, wine, slivovitz, potica, strudel, souvenirs, raffle baskets, costumes, historic documents, pictorial banners, gift shop items, and Slovenian-themed workshops with Slovenian dignitaries.

you also to those who contributed to our National Convention with beautiful, handmade articles, professionally produced materials, entertainment and the very generous financial





Denise P. Bartlett,
26th National Convention
Chairperson

It had been 53 years since SWUA's National Convention was held in Milwaukee. In 2007, at the 25th National Convention at Starved Rock Lodge in Illinois, when we were approached about hosting the 2011 Convention in Milwaukee - we at first said "no, no, no." Now we are saying - "yes, yes, yes!" The planning for this

Keeping Our Slovenian Spirit Alive, and rejuvenated our Slovenian friendships. I now better understand the words - a labor of love - for it's in every SWUA Slovenian and those among us of other ethnicity who stepped up to the plate! **Thank you so very much!** Our efforts to produce a quality experience were realized. Our glitches were small compared to our highlights. Space does not allow for the printing of all of your names - and I wouldn't want to miss a single person. To our out-going SWUA National Board members, Wisconsin Branch members, other SWUA Branch members, Republic of Slovenia guests, Convention and workshop presenters, members of other Slovenian organizations, the beautiful performers of dance, music, and song and the staff at the four venues - **Thank you one and all!** We, in Wisconsin, are already looking forward to the 27th National Convention in Lemont, Illinois in 2015.

Denise P. Bartlett,
26th National Convention Chairperson

Convention brought us all working together, motivated us to build up our membership, spread the message of

Hospitality Room



26th National Convention

Welcome Party

On the eve of the 26th National Convention, 165 people gathered at the Potawatomi Ballroom. Guests included Dr. Janez Bogataj, Sonja Avguštin and Barbara Ivančič Kutin from Slovenia, plus Nick Carmody and Rose Marie Jisa. Also in attendance were Boštjan Škrlec, his wife Bernarda and daughters Lana, age 11 and Tinkara, age 8. Boštjan is the Deputy Minister of Justice for the Republic of Slovenia.



Boštjan, Bernarda, Lana and Tinkara Škrlec

The evening began at the entrance, with Helen Frohna and Kathy Kaye in authentic costume, performing a traditional Slovenian gathering, serving a sip of slivovitz



and a piece of bread.. Eliciting participation from the audience, greetings in Slovenian were shown on the big screen, ending with a countdown, 10-0 by the audience.

For a few minutes 'only Slovenian' was heard in the ballroom! Performing were Eddie Vidmar on button box and accordion with Stanley Sterle on clarinet. Al Chandek, Nick Krmpotich, Mike Maren and Jeff Martinka of the Moški Zbor chorus rendered beautiful old Slovenian melodies.



In anticipation of Friday's event in the European Village at the Milwaukee Public Museum, Mary Lou Deyak Voelk presented a collection of God's Corner photos gathered during trips to Slovenia. All in all, it was almost a perfect evening.

26th National Convention



26th National Convention

Heritage Fest - Slovenian Tabors

Passion is the most important element in any presentation, and that is exactly what our Tabor presenters exhibited. They were prepared, they connected, and they delivered!

Sonia Avguštin, Dr. Janez Bogataj, Nick Carmody, Rose Marie Jisa, and Barbara Ivančič Kutin.

Sonia Avguštin was an exemplar of talent. Sonia is employed with the Slovenian World Congress, a civil organization endeavoring to unite people of Slovene birth



or origin and their non-Slovene partners and friends throughout the world. This marked the fourth visit to America for Sonja. Sonia and I have collaborated on 3 Memory Books, its content revamped to fit the workshops presented. Each person registered for workshops received the latest Memory Book. Together we researched and wrote the presentation on the Carniolan Bee. At ZarjaFest, Sonja was

part of the smoking of the house and as an Angel, accompanied Sv. Miklavz and the devil. Her voice is ethereal. As she began singing Silent Night the crowd quickly gathered round and joined in. Her latest project is Slovenian Trivial Pursuit featuring ten groupings ranging from familiar to difficult!

Dr. Janez Bogataj was an exemplar of Slovenian culture. His extensive knowledge of Slovenian traditions and lifestyle with fabulous examples via



photography warmed the hearts of the audience. There was geography and landscape, religious traditions, festivals and celebrations and then, of course, cuisine! Janez was also interviewed by the Food Editor, Nancy Stohs of the *Milwaukee Journal - Sentinel*. Her article can be found at the following site: www.jsonline.com/food dated June 22, 2011, Zest For Life Is Evident In Traditional Slovene Fare.



Nick Carmody was the exemplar of potica making. Nick works with such ease, the dough just seems to flow under his rolling pin! Grandmother Gornik is with him with each potica. He had the perfect setting just outside the bakery in the Streets of Old Milwaukee at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Nick donated seventeen poticas to the convention or on behalf of the convention; five were presented to the Perpetuum Jazzile members for a "taste of home" treat while traveling via bus to Cleveland. Nick's company, Rocky Mountain Potica distributed 420 blue, reusable, recyclable bags at the convention.

26th National Convention

Rose Marie Jisa, President of the SGSI, was the exemplar of Slovenian genealogy. She gave credit to Al Peterlin, founder of the SGSI for all she knows. But it is obvious her passion has allowed her to take over the reins of the



SGSI. Her presentation was informative and historical; she delivered with ease. Her presentation allowed the audience to hold their ancestors in mind as she communicated with the audience. Rose Marie proudly announced being a recipient of a SWUA Scholarship in 1954. This \$250 scholarship changed the course of her life. Several years ago, she in turn gave a \$1,000 Scholarship in memory of her mother, Mary Macek, of the Girard, Ohio Branch.

Barbara Ivančič Kutin was the exemplar of Slovenian folklore. Prior to her visit, Barbara sent preliminary documents to tweak minds about songs, puns, idioms that we had heard so long ago. Her presentation included a DVD featuring a social event, and storytelling at its best. One not only heard the story teller, he was front and center! It made for laughter personified!



A Slovenian Storytelling Festival began in 1998. In March 2011, the 13th festival took place in the Cankarjev dom, Ljubljana. The festival is appropriate for listeners of all ages.

Personal Note: When I received Barbara's request for her project of gathering oral tradition, I had a flashback. Sixteen years prior, when doing research for WI Public Television on the Slovenes in Wisconsin, I had received a number of books through interlibrary loan. One was a manuscript documenting the oral tradition of Slovenians on the Iron Range of Minnesota and compiled by a nun from St. Scholastica Priory in Duluth, MN. I could not remember the title or the author. In March 2011, a search began. St. Scholastica, Duluth Diocese, Duluth Public Library were all searching. Long story short, Rosemary Ribich and I were having a friendly conversation about the convention. My comment to Rosemary, "I wish I could find the manuscript compiled by a nun from St. Scholastica, so I could present it to Barbara!" Rosemary replied, "Oh, I just had it in my hands!" I gasped! Yes, a copy of the manuscript was in the Iron Range Historical Museum in Gilbert, MN. It was an honor to present to Barbara, a copy of the 170 page Master's Thesis, *A Survey & Interpretation of Slovenian Folk Culture On The Minnesota Iron Range* by Sister Mary Daniel O'Neill, dated 1952. Most of the people interviewed came from Carniola beginning in the late nineteenth century! I alerted Norm Setnicker of Branch 109 Twin Cities of the manuscript title and author. Norm found another copy in the University of Minnesota library!

On Friday evening, two traditional tabors were enacted at the ZarjaFest. Joe Skala, as father and Sonia Avguštin as mother led the family in the smoking and blessing of the



26th National Convention

house. Accompanying Joe and Sonia were Sydney Wood, age 9, daughter of Dan and Nicole Wood and granddaughter of Norm and Mary Ann Setnicker and Sophia Eschiti, age 11, daughter of Shelby Setnicker Eschiti and granddaughter to Ron Setnicker from Biwabik, Minnesota.

The last scene was the arrival of Sv. Miklavz, played by Don Baldin, the Angel, Sonia Avguštin, and the devil, Bekki Prokup. Sv. Miklavz dressed in fine fashion, wove through the crowd questioning young and old on their behavior



during the year. After receiving his blessing, the Angel, gave out luscious fruit. Never giving up, the devil lurked around and about attempting to lure the crowd into sin. But Sv. Miklavz was quick to admonish the devil with the words, *begone, there are no sinners here!* Syndey Wood, Sophia Eschiti and Juliana Fitzsimmons, age 12 from Maryland also participated as the children. The SWUA thanks the KSKJ for loaning the special costumes for this event, and to Paula and Mary Mavec for ironing and transporting the costumes from Joliet.

The 26th National Convention of the SWUA was the first National Convention to offer heritage tabor for all. Each tabor put focus on educating those in attendance on our unique Slovenian heritage.

To je to, Mary Lou Deyak Voelk



Workshop Feedback Requested!

If you attended any of the three workshops at the National Convention, we would like to have your input as to the value of this type of Slovenian education for future planning. Thank you!

Please send your comments to:
Mary Lou Voelk
Vice-President of Culture & Heritage
69820 W. Long Lake Rd.
Iron River, WI 54847
or ottolou@gulftel.com

26th National Convention

Musical Performances



26th National Convention

ZarjaFest

This was the second time for a ZarjaFest event and again it excelled past expectations and was a huge hit and a great time. For those of you who were lucky enough to be in attendance you know how wonderful it was and for those who were not able to attend, the following is a synopsis of the evening's affairs and highlights.

The event site selection was perfect as you were quickly whisked back in time to the old European villages with an atmosphere of fun brought on by the festive Slovenian style music, which greeted you as you entered along with a sip of slivovitz. Guests were presented with a stylish mug with the Zarja logo to be used for their favorite drinks for the night along with a commemorative program and song book; and that was just the beginning.

ZarjaFest opened with a toast by Jure Žmauc - Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland and from there the fun began.



The food and beverages coupled perfectly with the great button box music that really kept the party rolling.

There were amazing baskets up for raffle which were loaded with different Pabst products such as shirts, a raft, hats and of course beer which were all so generously donated by Dresbach's Distribution of LaSalle, Illinois. In addition to the Pabst gear there were other stylish items such as picnic wear and the big auction item; a signed game worn jersey donated by Nejc Vidmar, goalie for the Slovenian championship team NK Domzale. Through the attendees generous contributions, the raffles were again a success.

There was a murmur of anticipation for the next ZarjaFest. Please watch for details in an upcoming *Zarja*.



As you maneuvered your way through the streets of the Museum you saw all the different shops that were so critical to the times and the interesting way in which things were made and displayed. One of the focal points was Pabst Square complete with a fountain to add extra beauty. Then after weaving your way through the streets it was time to get a plate of the delicious delicacies to choose from such as sausages, cheeses, breads and potica; the wines and pivo that were available made a perfect marriage of flavors.



26th National Convention



26th National Convention

Triglav Park

In the last issue of *Zarja*, Helen Frohna, a member of Branch 43, Milwaukee, WI and the Slovenian Cultural Society Triglav (SCST) invited our entire membership on behalf of SCST President Matt Mejac to celebrate our last day of the National Convention at their beautiful Triglav Park in Wind Lake, WI. The Park is located just 30 minutes from downtown Milwaukee.

dancing to the Slovenian Jeff Winard Band. The Slovenian tradition is alive and very youthful at Triglav Park.

Thank you again to the Triglav Park membership for inviting us to attend your Sunday picnic and making us feel so special throughout the day. We look forward to more visits to Triglav Park. When the various Slovenian organizations come together, it's like we're one big family celebrating our common love - Slovenia.

Congratulations on turning 50 years old on July 17th! That is an important milestone. You are doing a great job Keeping the Slovenian Spirit Alive. Hvala Lepa!

- The entire Slovenian Union of America Membership



What a celebration it was! Our guests were treated to a spectacular day that started off with a lovely outdoor mass in Slovenian and English at their St. Cyril and Methodius chapel. Later we wandered the property that was founded in 1962. We enjoyed everything that it had to offer including the food! The balina courts were busy and guests were

Triglav Park
“Vinska Trgatev” or Wine Festival
September 18, 2011
Lunch is served at Noon
Grant Kozera Band from 1-5 p.m.

The dom is decorated with grape vines and has grapes hanging all around. The high point of the afternoon is when the guys dressed as policemen walk around the grounds to be sure that no one has stolen any of the grapes. If they have, they will be taken to jail and will have to see the judge who will give them their fine before releasing them. It turns out to be a rather fun afternoon. For more information please visit our website at www.triglavpark.com.

26th National Convention



Men in a SUA World

My last adventure was not in Slovenia but in Milwaukee for the National Convention, which as you recall I was very excited about, and it did not disappoint as the host group did a fantastic job! I arrived on Thursday and at check in received my first complimentary warm chocolate chip cookie, it would be the first of many. After checking in and dropping my bags in the room it was down to the lounge to see if any of my Slovenian friends were around and believe me there were Slovenians everywhere and I was excited to renew old acquaintances. After sharing a pivo or two and catching up with Slovenes from all over the globe it was off to the welcoming party at the casino.

The opening ceremonies were nice as we were made welcome and listened to some traditional Slovenian music and food before viewing a presentation on God's Corner presented by Mary Lou that was informative and thorough. But as we came in something happened that would prove to make my trip fun and memorable; gift bags were given out and the presenters were a pair of young Slovenes from Minnesota, Sydney and Sophia, these two would prove to show up and taunt me the entire weekend.

The next night was ZarjaFest, the time I looked forward to most. The last one was a great time and this one was every bit as good. Look to the article on ZarjaFest (page 24) in this issue for specific details. The highlights for me were the beautiful settings the museum provided and the chance to play Sveti Miklavz (St. Nicholas) in a little demonstration of Slovenian Christmas. It was fun and my niece, Bekki, had fun as she played the roll of the devil. My job was to bless the good children while an angel gave them a treat. Lo and behold, the first two children to be in line for a treat; you guessed it, the Minnesota duo, Sydney and Sophia. They said they had been good, but I had some doubts.

That brought us to Saturday and as the delegates and officers continued to meet on important topics in shaping the organization, I continued to have fun with a trip around Milwaukee and a quick stop at Polish Fest before the formal banquet that night. The banquet was very nice and a new potica champion was crowned and we heard many entertaining comments from the dignitaries in attendance. The most boisterous part of the dinner was when President Bonnie Prokup called off the roll of each branch in attendance and in order each stood and cheered; it was fun to be a part of. After dinner it was time to head to a concert by the Slovenian group Perpetuum Jazzile; I must

tell you this group of young people was spectacular and the energy in the room was off the charts as everyone in attendance had a great time. Then on the exciting bus ride back to the hotel I looked to the seat across the aisle and who do you think is looking right at me and talking my ear off? You got it - the dynamic duo! Once back to the hotel it was time for a cookie and a good night's sleep in anticipation of the next day at Triglav Park.

My morning began by loading up the car as the meetings wrapped up and as I loaded I heard the giggling voices as my friends had to check out early and celebrate Father's Day back home, but as fate would have it I got to say good bye before they left and I look forward to seeing them in four years in Lemont. Once the meetings wrapped up it was off to Triglav Park for a nice outdoor Mass and a simply amazing picnic. The group at Triglav Park did a fantastic job and threw a party the way you would assume a group of Slovenes would, with great music, incredible food and plenty of cold pivo. It was so much fun, I could have stayed forever. But soon enough it was time to head back to Illinois and we said good bye to our old and new friends and made plans to see each other again in four years in Lemont. I hope to see even more of you there in 2015 and as always may good luck be yours. — *Don Baldin*



Sophia Eschiti, Juliana Fitzsimmons, Sydney Wood and Don

SWUA Scholarship Program

Celebrating its 62nd year of Financially Assisting Students

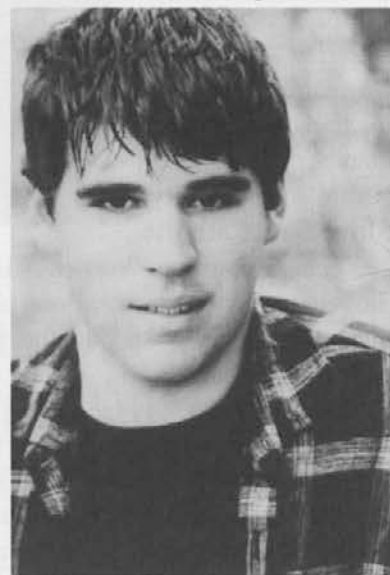
The Slovenian Women's Union Scholarship Foundation is pleased to present scholarship winners of 2011. We thank the Scholarship Committee members most sincerely for their work and salute our young scholars for their academic, civic, and community proficiency.

SWU SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION Award of \$2,000 has been awarded to Garret Jancich, son of Todd and Carol Jancich, Branch 100, Laguna Niguel, California. Garret has completed second semester college calculus classes, been a member of Dana Hills High School's orchestra



and its lacrosse team. With violin, guitar, and singing he has participated in many Slovene church and social programs. Garret senses a strong responsibility to help our damaged environment and hopes to be able to do so by attaining a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering.

FRANCES BARMAN Award of \$1,000 has been awarded to Steven Ivancich, son of Frank Ivancich and Catherine Braun, Branch 23, Ely, Minnesota. Steven, the youngest of three children, is the senior class president of Ely High School, a member of the National Honor Society, a lead trumpet player in the band and held the leading role in the school's play. He has been active in community events and been interested in computer science. Steven will enter the University of Minnesota - Duluth to pursue his goals.



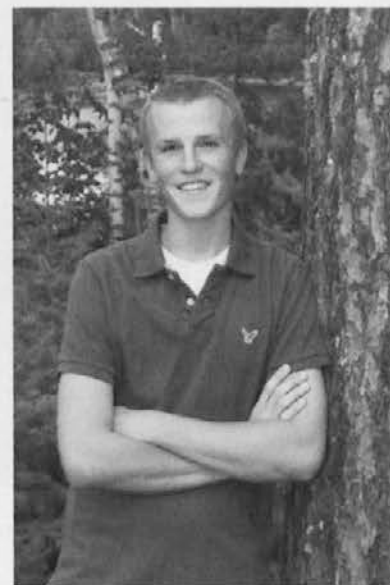
HELEN SKOFF Award of \$1,000 has been awarded to Margaret Koncar, daughter of Raymond and Annette Koncar, Branch 20, Joliet, Illinois.

Margaret has been a member of the Honors English class along with the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Math National Honor Society, and the National Art Honor Society. At St. Joseph's Church she is a minister, lector and musician, as well as a volunteer for various parish functions.



Margaret does volunteer work at the SWUA Home Office and holds active membership in the KSKJ, Slovenian Catholic League, and Slovenian Catholic Center. In September Margaret will be enrolled at Xavier University majoring in Occupational Therapy.

HELEN SKOFF Award of \$1,000 has been awarded to Tom Klum, son of Judith and the late Lawrence Klum, Branch 23, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Tom is majoring in Finance at the Carlson School - University of Minnesota, holding a 3.88 GPA. Tom graduated from the Ely Public Schools. He actively participated in school, church, and community affairs. While living in Minneapolis, Tom has not only begun an internship at Liberty Diversified International, but has also begun to realize the immense poverty and need throughout the area. He has worked as a volunteer for Kaleidoscope Place and will continue to reach out to children with physical, social, and mental needs. Tom remembers well his father's life altering quote, "Never, never, never give up."



FRANCES BARMAN Award of \$1,000 was awarded to John Koncar, son of Raymond and Annette Koncar, Branch 20, Joliet, Illinois. Currently John is attending the University of Illinois, pursuing a major in Accountancy. He holds a 3.44 GPA and is a member of the American Marketing Association and Alpha Kappa Psi. John is active in St. Joseph's Church as a Eucharistic minister, a member of the Holy Name Society, Slovenian Catholic League, Slovenian Women's Union, KSKJ, and the Slovenian Catholic Center. John plans to eventually earn a master's Degree in Accountancy and become a certified public accountant.



The Slovenian Union Convention of 2011 has come to a smashing successful close. After months of extensive, detailed planning, Denise P. Bartlett and her committee insured that each delegate, member, and guest was given a most gracious welcome and offered programs of interest.

My report to the Membership at the Convention included some resolutions that had been made at a recent Scholarship Board Meeting. The Continuing Education Award will be replaced by a Master's or Graduate Student Award, Scholarship winners and Merit Award winners will file a volunteer certificate along with their fall college registrations, before scholarship payment is made, and in the event of a name change of the SWUA, SWU Scholarship Foundation's title will remain as it is.

It has been a joy for me these past 15 years to work with young student applicants of Slovenian ancestry. During my tenure, and that of Marge Church, Vice President and Treasurer, we were able to award over \$150,000 to your children and grandchildren. Of course your exceedingly loyal, generous contributions have made this possible. I salute each of you, dear members, for the outstanding young people you are raising. Each applicant is a unique star, which will shine on well into the future.

SWU SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION MERIT AWARD winners:

TABITHA ECKERT, Branch 103, Bourbonnais, Illinois is attending Olivet Nazarene University, majoring in Nursing.

TONY EDGETON, Branch 35, Ramsey, Minnesota graduated from Elk River High School this spring and will be attending the University of Minnesota - Duluth, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

COURTNEY GRANT, Branch 43, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, is attending the Milwaukee School of Engineering majoring in Bimolecular Engineering.

CONNOR GRANT, Branch 43, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin is a student at Case Western Reserve majoring in Bio Chemistry and Spanish.

MEGAN JOHNSON, Branch 102, Eau Claire, Wisconsin is attending the University of Wisconsin majoring in Retail Merchandising and Management.

LISA LOREK, Branch 14, Mentor, Ohio is majoring in Visual Communication Design at the University of Dayton.

SARA LUNDGREN, Branch 100, Laguna Hills, California has received her diploma from Laguna Hills High School and will enter college in fall to study Biology.

VALERIE SCHOONOVER, Branch 39, Golden Valley, Minnesota graduated this spring from Hopkins High School and will enter the University of Iowa to study English in fall.

VERONIKA STARE, Branch 103, Potomac, Maryland is attending Gettysburg College majoring in Music and Health Sciences.

NICHOLAS VIDMAR, Branch 20, Joliet, Illinois has received his diploma from Joliet Catholic Academy and will enter the University of St. Francis to study either Psychology or History.

SWU Scholarship Foundation Scholarship Committee members who have diligently served for the past four years are: Marjeta Cedinik, Maria Selak, Virginia Strukel, Richard Terselic, Jean Zeleznikar, Rose Marie Princ, and Betty Johnson.

Without their precious time and discernment in evaluating student applications, the success of the SWU Scholarship Foundation would not exist.

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,500 Donation

Branch 2, Chicago, IL in honor of President Fran Morison, "2011 Woman of the Year", a dedicated promoter and worker for the SWUA for the past 30 years.

\$100 Donation

Julie A. Belloli

\$50 Donation

Branch 20, Joliet, IL

+Mary Gregorash, +Mary Margaret Dusa, +Vera Gale,
+Stephanie Kovack and +Margaret Rems

Branch 39, Biwabik, MN +deceased members of Br. 39

\$25 Donation

Agnes Koporc

Linda Farrell

\$20 Donation

Branch 50, Euclid, OH

+Anne Nowakowski and +Carol Traven

Milena Gobetz

Linda Rusie

\$5 Donation

Branch 23, Ely, MN, +Rose Gornik

Branch 23, Ely, MN, +Mary Kerntz

For information on the SWU Scholarship Foundation or for greatly appreciated contributions, contact Mary Turvey, Director SWU Scholarship Foundation, 4 Lawrence Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855 or email mturvey@aol.com or contact Marge Church, Vice President and Treasurer, 1028 Skyland Drive, Macedonia, Ohio 44056 or email yemec1@windstream.net.

2015 National Convention

**The 27th National Convention will be held in Lemont, Illinois
at the Slovenian Catholic Center.**

The purpose of the Slovenian Catholic Center is to promote, encourage and foster in the context of the American society, the ideals of the Slovenian heritage and Christian religious and ethical values, providing and operating adequate facilities in support of the religious purposes of the Commissariat of the Holy Cross (CHC) and the Slovenian Catholic Mission (SCM) to carry on exclusively religious, educational, and charitable activities. – Note: Purpose was taken directly from their web site.

Please look at their web site: www.slovenian-center.org to find more about this beautiful site.



The group from Branch 99, Lemont, Illinois at the 2011 National Convention

Festival of Nations 2011

“World Marketplaces”

Branch 109 Twin Cities

The energy of Branch 109 focused on the Festival of Nations held at the St. Paul Civic Center, May 5-9. Each year the International Institute of Minnesota, along with some 90 ethnic groups, picks a theme by which each group organizes their exhibits. The theme for 2011 was “World Marketplaces.”

Our chairpersons, Sue Rademacher and Michael Koski, headed a planning committee consisting of Frank Medved, Norm Setnicker, and John Zakelj. Over the past four years it has been a tradition that the committee does the bulk of the planning over Slovenian food and drink. This year was no different. The master plan consisted of “billboard” sized pictures of different Slovenian marketplaces, our interactive life-like “Urban,” the Ribničan, to a bin filled market in Prešernov Trg, close to the Plečnik Colonnade which is part of Ljubljana’s Central market. The life-like, oversized, high-resolution pictures drew rave reviews from adults and students alike. Students also gazed at our poster sized Norwegian ski jumper setting a world ski jumping record on his ELAN skis. Elan is a Slovenian company specializing in the production of sporting goods such as skis and snowboards. Elan markets its products through independent distributors in 46 countries.

The committee also designed a brochure, which featured such prominent Slovenian companies such as: Elan, Rogaška (crystal making), Sava Tires (recently acquired by Goodyear), Pipistrel (ultra light aircraft producer), and Seaway, a Slovenian yacht designer and producer. The brochure also highlighted future marketplaces for Slovenia in the “green tech” and “bio tech” markets which can lead to a cleaner and better environment. In addition, the brochure highlighted Slovenia’s foreign trade with such leading countries as Germany, Italy, and a number of other EU members. The U.S. market makes up only about 1% of exports and almost 2% of imports.



Festival of Nations Co-chairs: Mike Koski and Sue Rademacher

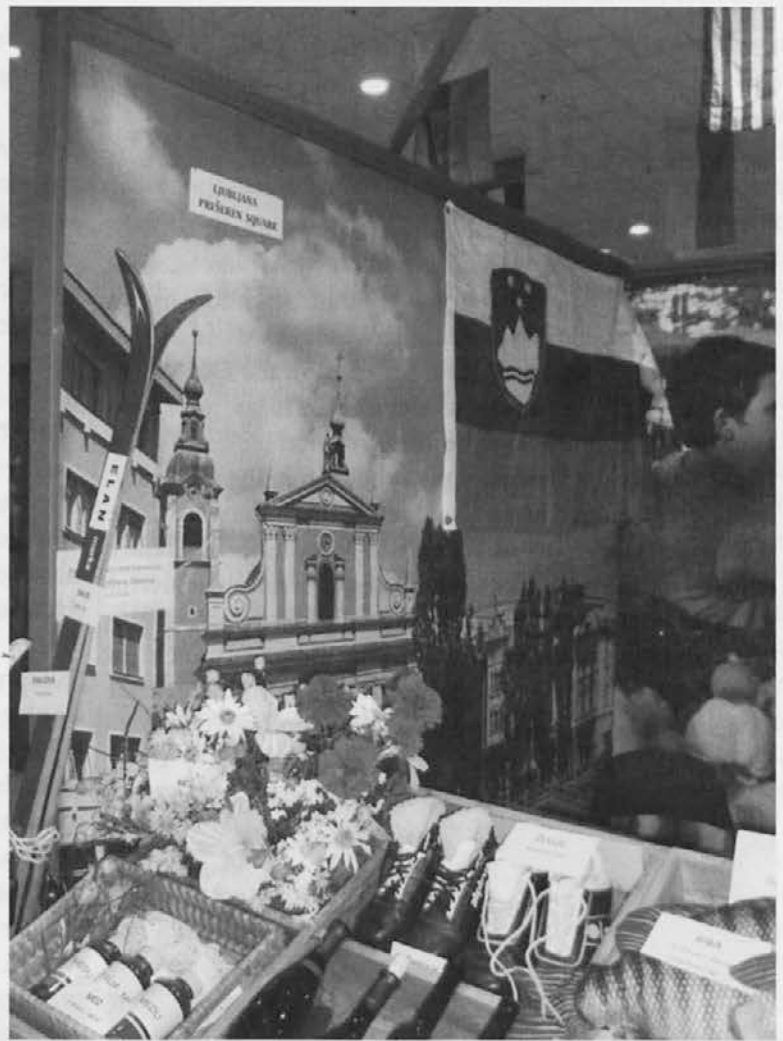
Trading Cards, illustrating four coins of the Slovenian Euro, were another highlight for our exhibit. We distributed over 2,000 cards which featured the 1Euro coin featuring Primož Trubar, the Slovenian Protestant preacher who is commonly credited with writing down the word “Slovenes” for the first time giving all inhabitants Slovenian as their mutual language; 2 Euro featuring France Prešeren,



Dave and Sue Rademacher

renowned poet and author of the Slovenian National anthem; 20 cent Euro which is engraved with the Lipizzaner horses bred in Slovenia for over 400 years; and a 50 cent Euro with Mount Triglav which is depicted on the nation's flag and seal. Many visitors to our booth were surprised that each Euro has a "common side" which represents EU unity and a national side, which displays something unique to each country. We tried to make our marketplace realistic and so our booth had a conversion chart comparing the dollar to the Euro. This way the visitors could compare the cost of some Slovenian products whether it was a jar of "med" (honey), a piece of potica or a pair of shoes.

On Thursday, which traditionally has at least 5,000-6,000 students visiting the exhibits and food court, we were surprised by a group of Iowa students who greeted our workers with an excited, "Dober Dan"! These students had visited the Festival of Nations and our Slovenian booth three years in a row and each year were able to bond with our Slovenian exhibit workers. To have students come out of the "clear blue" with a greeting of "Dober dan!" was truly gratifying. Don Palkovich, one of our veteran workers, told them that when they come next year he would buy them lunch "Slovenian style".



The Twin Cities Slovenians feel that each year it participates in the Festival of Nations it becomes a real educational experience and embeds our Slovenian heritage more deeply. It is also a unifying experience with over 50% of our members participating in the Festival to some degree.



Jamie Monson and Jenny Mayer



Al and Yvonne McComber surrounded by "blownup posters" of Ljubljana Marketplaces and Shoemaking Shop

Branch Reports

Poročila Podružnic

BRANCH 1 - Sheboygan, Wisconsin

The National Convention is over and it was a huge success in the record books! I hope all that attended had a wonderful time in Milwaukee! Friday night we had a great time at the Milwaukee Public Museum in the Old World Village. The appetizers were great, as was the entertainment, and of course, the slivovitz!

Saturday we enjoyed a lovely luncheon in the afternoon and a great dinner in the banquet room. Afterwards, we went to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and really enjoyed the music of Perpetuum Jazzile. What a wonderful group of young people; and such beautiful music!

Also exciting at the convention was that our Branch 1's MaryAnn Schellinger took third place in the Potica contest! Congratulations MaryAnn, we are so proud of you!



On Sunday morning we went to the beautiful Triglav Park for an outdoor Mass. Afterward we enjoyed a great lunch and entertainment by Jeff Winard and his band. What a wonderful conclusion to the convention!

In April, we had our "Member of the Year" dinner. Pauline Rugar, Member of the Year, looked fabulous in her Slovenian costume! Her family brought many photos of Pauline throughout the years; she was very active in the SWUA and our church, Ss. Cyril & Methodius. In honor of Pauline's 100th birthday, her family presented Father Glenn Powers, Pastor of St. Cyril Parish, a beautiful gold chalice. It will always be a reminder of Pauline and the graciousness of her and her family.

On June 14, we celebrated Flag Day once again with a Pot Luck dinner. Lots of wonderful traditional foods, and some new recipes were shared with our members. MaryAnn Schellinger shared the story of Annie, a mannequin dressed in traditional Slovenian dress. Annie needed many "repairs" in the last few months, and a big Thank You to Dick Jelovnik for giving her arms, and everyone else who helped out in her creation!

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

Until next time, NaSvidenje!
CHERYL KOTNICK LOPOUR

BRANCH 2 - Chicago, Illinois

We honored Fran Morrison, as our Member of the Year. She has been our president for 30 years and has led us through thick and thin, sad and happy, and good and bad. Her husband, Percy (now deceased) and sons, Mike and Terry, have always helped in any situation. Mass was celebrated at St. Stephens Church by Fr. Jim Gartland. Junior members were part of the celebration at church. There were approximately 75 members and guests in attendance. The luncheon was catered and members made desserts.

On a sad note, we lost 3 members: Our condolences to the Yucevicius and Toplak families on the death of Frances. To her husband, Stan, her children, her sisters and brother we extend our sympathy. Irene Kalina was an active member for 26 years. Our sympathies to her husband, Chuck, daughters and grandchildren. Also, to the Julane C. Svoboda family our condolences. Please remember them in your prayers. Greetings to all our shut-ins. You are always remembered.

Thanks to Denise P. Bartlett, her committee and Branch 43 for all their work. There were 32 Branch 2 members in attendance. Those who attended the workshops came away with so much information.

At our June 26th meeting, delegate Rosemary Litwin gave her report on the Bylaws. For those members not present and would like to know more, please read *Zarja*. If you want a copy of the Bylaws, they will be available on www.swua.org. Delores Puhek read her report on the social activities of the convention.

What can we say! Those who were not there, you missed a great time with lots of friends, delicious food, entertainment and slivovitz. The 2015 National Convention will be hosted by Branch 99, Lemont, Illinois.

Welcome new members: Karl Olson, Joan Steinman, John Tegel, Michelle Sarbarneck and junior member: Isabella Kathleen Lattuca.

DAISY

Do you want to receive the monthly SUA Online Newsletter?
If so, please e-mail: listoperator@swua.org to be on our list.

BRANCH 3 - Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: amtcharron@yahoo.com
719.696.8583

The hostess for the regular monthly Pueblo branch meeting in April was Mildred Stofac. She created a delicious angel food cake dessert topped with strawberries and whipping cream.

We celebrated Mother's Day with a May Day themed luncheon on May 3. President Marge Cullen and Vice President Eileen Kaplan decorated the room with a variety of colorful items. A maypole with pastel ribbons and porcelain dolls was on display at the front table. Porcelain maypole dolls and brightly colored handmade flower pins crocheted by Eileen Kaplan decorated each of the tables enhancing the spring theme. The dolls and crocheted pins were given as party favors to the 23 attendees. Party favors also included colorful kitchen pan scrapers provided by Madeleine Khosla.

The Pueblo branch welcomed four out-of-town guests for the luncheon. Jackie Simms brought her daughter, Snow Simms, who lives in Basalt, Colorado. Mildred Stofac's guest was Margaret Janezich from Chisom, Minnesota. Norma Becco brought her sister, Pat McCarthy, who was visiting from Boston, Massachusetts and Angela Mock from Colorado Springs was the guest of her sisters, Barbara Greenwood and Patti Derby.



Marie Mutz began the luncheon with an invocation followed by table grace. Eileen Kaplan shared the history of May Day and maypoles, and members shared their memories of past May Day festivities. Next was a word category game, and Madeline Khosla, the winner, won a beautiful leaded crystal candy dish. Since everyone attending brought a door prize, each attendee left the gathering with a lovely gift.

We will take a break over the summer months, so the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2, in St. Mary's Church Hall. At the October meeting, Branch 3's Member of the Year, Ann Yengich, will be honored.

ANNETTE SABO CHARRON &
BARBARA KARLINGER

BRANCH 5 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Greetings Branch 5 members! What a wonderful time we had in Milwaukee! It has to be one of the prettiest, cleanest and friendliest cities; the Riverwalk is gorgeous! The Convention Committee did a fantastic job with so many people and so little time, but they gave us great workshops, wonderful music and a beautiful "Night at the Museum"...it was like we were in old Europe!!

Changes, changes, changes...yes, we did attend many meetings at the convention, and I would really like each member to read the Convention Report in this issue....it is very important, because several key issues were discussed and voted upon. One was the changing of the organization name, as we no longer issue any new insurance policies and we now include male membership, we felt it important to update the name by dropping "women." SLOVENIAN UNION OF AMERICA" is now our legal name. Many other changes involved updating and deleting amendments to the bylaws, so please take a few minutes to read.

Mary, Karen and I would like to thank all Branch 5 members for their encouragement and support, especially when we have made so many changes to meetings and events. We enjoyed representing Indianapolis at the convention, and hope we spoke for all of you. Milwaukee will never be the same!

Na zdravje!
KAREN, MARY & PHYLLIS
aka "THE SLOVENIAN
SISTERHOOD"

BRANCH 10 - Cleveland, Ohio

Hi Ladies! Please wish a Happy Birthday to Martha Batich who is 106 years old. You can send wishes to Martha at 465 Inverness Road, Akron, Ohio, 44303.

God Bless and Stay healthy.
STEPHANIE SEGLIN

BRANCH 13 - San Francisco, California

Contact Information: 2324 Buena Vista Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002 bchiodo@comcast.net

We welcome new member Bernadette Spencer, the daughter-in-law of our secretary Moreen Spencer. Moreen is thrilled to hear Bernadette and her son, Kenneth, are expecting their first child. Moreen's other twin son, Kevin, and his wife, Alina, had their second child on April 28th. Her name is Karina Anastasia and she joins her big brother Jack who is three years old. Moreen is one happy grandma and she is followed closely by her twin sister great aunt Doreen. Congratulations to all!

The Slovenian Hall in San Francisco has been painted in Slovenian colors and looks beautiful. It is visible from Highway 101 and should draw attention of everyone. The Board of Directors are doing a great job of taking care of the hall.

Best wishes to my son, David Rathbun, who has been hired by St. Timothy's Catholic School in San Mateo. Good Luck Dave!!

I wish our members would send me news about their families so I could write about it in the *Zarja*.

BARBARA CHIODO

BRANCH 14 - Euclid, Ohio

I was honored to be the delegate to the National Convention. Denise P. Bartlett and her committee did a wonderful job in planning the entire event and deserve our thanks. There were so many lovely people in attendance and it was so enjoyable getting to know them.

Our members were disappointed that the three items in the Bylaws they were most concerned about, changing the name to "Slovenian Union", removing the requirement that members be "Christian", and raising the dues \$5 per year to \$25, all passed. I had written a paragraph on each of these items to present to the Convention stating our position and was given one minute to speak on each, so I could not adequately present.

I am sad to say that we had our last Mother's Day and Christmas dinners. Our president, Diane Varney, and her husband, Larry, along with Stana Grill did a tremendous amount of work in planning these events and are no longer able to continue. We thank them for their many years of memorable dinners and raffles.

I want to thank Agnes Gruenke of Sheboygan for sending me a "50 year SWUA member pin" which I presented to Stana Grill who has contributed so much to our branch. It is too bad that we stopped awarding these pins as the ladies eagerly anticipated receiving them and wore them proudly. Thanks also to Agnes for the lovely note she included with the pin.

I am proud to say that I am now on the SWU Scholarship Committee, and since I was a high school teacher for many years, this is something near and dear to my heart. Those students who work hard and achieve certainly deserve our help with their future education and we are there for them.

God bless everyone. Na svidenje!

PATRICIA BUDZILEK

BRANCH 16 - South Chicago, Illinois

I was not able to attend the Convention, but I received a beautiful note from our President Marge Mitchell who attended with her sister Alberta Corey. They both enjoyed being there. There were four days of meetings, workshops, excellent music and activities that were part of each day. They met Lynn Zalokar from Branch 93 and her father, Bill, (they share the same last surname) Marge's name was Americanized. They will be trying to see if they are related, their families are from the same regions. The Convention gave them a renewed desire of keeping the Slovenian culture and heritage alive. It was more than they had anticipated.

Our last meeting of the year (April) Marge asked us to bring in items for the abused women and children. When they leave a Home where they are protected, they don't have anything of their own to take with them, so this helps them out until they get settled. It turned out very well.



Helping Angels: (left to right) Julie Pastor, President-Marge Mitchell, Gen Marco, Marie Marast, Mary Jane Strus, Alberta Corey, Rose Tomasich, Helen Nowicki, Mitzi Klobucar, Dorothy Rossi, Tina Sertich.





Our Lady of Brezje Devotion was very good. Branch 16 and the KSKJ St. Florian Lodge 44 worked together and it turned out to be one of the best. After the services we served coffee and rolls in the Church Hall and Bob Kuhel gave his presentation on the Slovenian bees.

DOROTHY NOVAK ROSSI

BRANCH 20 - Joliet, Illinois

Contact Information: patricia.schager@att.net

One of the biggest highlights for Branch 20 is honoring our Member of the Year, Mike Vidmar, during our end-of-the-year dinner in May. Not only was Mike named as our choice, but he was also chosen KSKJ Joliet Lodge 29 Person of the Year during the Lodge's banquet. Quite a year for Mike!

Another highlight is the annual Bakery Sale with proceeds benefiting our own Scholarship Program. This year's proceeds totaled over \$1,300. Two recipients were announced during the Member of the Year dinner: Shane Coyne and Margaret Koncar.

The annual Grape Harvest Festival is on the last Sunday in September at St. Joseph Park in Joliet. If you haven't seen the parade of accordion and button box players or experienced "smokies and kraut" in awhile, then come join in the fun by keeping the Slovenian experience alive. The

festivities run from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., ticket prices are still \$8, and plenty of polka music by the popular Bob Doszak band.

An interesting stat about being a member of Branch 20 is how many members actively take a part in their communities. Member Rosemary Giarrante's husband, Tom, is the newly elected Mayor of the City of Joliet, member Don Fisher is newly elected to the Joliet City Council, member Jan Quillman is reelected to the Joliet City Council, member Joe Babich was reelected to the Will County Board, and member Barbara DeLaney assumed the Chairmanship of the Joliet Junior College Board of Trustees.

It is with sadness to announce the recent passing of member Frank Mandel, the passing of the husband of member Helen Ozbolt and brother-in-law of member Nancy Ursitti; the brother of members Helen Minnick and Pat Butterbach; and our oldest member Mary Gaspich who passed at age 99.

PATRICIA SCHAGER

BRANCH 23 - Ely, Minnesota

On May 22, we held the Member of the Year luncheon at Creek Ridge, a beautiful restaurant a few miles from Ely. We honored Mary Ann Pulis, a very supportive and loyal member of our branch. She is an avid member of St Anthony's Catholic Church in Ely and will work wherever there is a need. She participates as a cantor, a lector, and



also sings in the church choir. We are proud to have Mary Ann as our Member of the Year.

We would also like to thank Virgie Ivancich, BeBe Lobe and Joanne Skansgaard for the wonderful job they did in making this day so special. Hats off to the three of you!

I was sorry that I could not attend the National Convention due to illness but I would like to thank Judy Ostrander for filling in at the last minute. I have heard many great comments in regards to the convention. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make it a success.

GERRY PETRICH

BRANCH 24 - LaSalle, Illinois

Contact Information: 9_lives@att.net

Dober dan! Heartiest congratulations to all the branches in Wisconsin on a most successful National Convention. Also deep appreciation for all their efforts and hard work!

Thanks to all the delegates for their diligent work in the "business" part of the convention. Much was accomplished and with God's blessing The Slovenian Union of America will surely grow and prosper in years to come.

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of long time member, Josephine Foley. She is the sister of Fr. Bernard Horzen, O.S.B. of St. Bede Abbey. Despite frail health, Father concelebrated the funeral Mass and gave a most touching and beautiful homily often times with touches of humor. Sincere sympathy and condolences to her family and to Fr. Bernard.

All members were very creative at the April meeting making Easter bonnets, modeling them and having them judged. Betty Hurst was the 1st place winner. It made for a very fun-filled evening.



Our spring luncheon was held on May 19 at Mario's Maples in Peru with 30+ members in attendance. A branch scholarship was awarded to junior member, Emily Considine, a 2011 graduate of St. Bede Academy. She will be attending St. Mary's of Notre Dame this August where she received a basketball scholarship and where she will be majoring in sports communication and minoring in

Spanish. She is the daughter of Sue and Tom Sickley of La Salle. Good Luck Emily!

Our traditional Slovenian picnic will be held August 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Pulaski Park (5th St. Park) in La Salle. This is always a festive event and a culinary delight with members bringing Slovenian dishes to pass. Branch 89 of Oglesby has graciously accepted our invitation to attend.

Have a safe and happy summer, may your hearts be filled with peace and love.

LORETTA STORY

BRANCH 35 - Aurora, Minnesota

Contact Information: anitam1@frontier.com

We thank Kathleen Wheeler for taking over the "Bake, No Bake, Fundraiser". She did this all by herself, donating everything including postage. This was no easy task and it is greatly appreciated.

Ann Orazem volunteered to bring the lunch and it was a delicious kringle. Anita brought a potica coffee cake purchased from the Sunrise Bakery in Hibbing for the members to sample. It is very different from a potica or a potica cake but delicious and rich with walnuts. Sunrise Bakery also makes the regular potica.

I want to thank all the members of Branch 35 who were so generous with their responses to the fundraiser. I hope you know that we are grateful.

On May 1st, 16 attendees enjoyed the celebration of our Member of the Year, Anna Mae Droblich Lyle, at the Rustic Rock in Eveleth, MN. Because of illness, Anna Mae could not join us in person but she was honored in a most lovely way. Her daughter, Linda, sent us a message and told us some of what Mom's life has been. We sent a bouquet of flowers to our honored guest and the book written by Maria Priland.

John Stark brought his button box along and we had a sing-a-long of Slovenian folk songs. We thank John for always offering his help and services. John Stark graduated from the University of Minnesota - Duluth on May 14th. We congratulate you, John, and wish you God's blessings as you continue on your Journey in Life. Don't stray too far and remember you are always welcome to join us.

Amanda Ochsendorf, one of SWU Scholarship Winners, and my granddaughter, graduated from Loyola University. Amanda, we are proud of you. Our next meeting will be on Monday, August 15, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Center. See you all there! Pomlad je tukaj!

ANITA M. VOVK

Slovenian Union of America
"Keeping the Spirit Alive"

BRANCH 39 - Biwabik, Minnesota
Contact Information: rribich@northlc.com
218.865.6600

WOW! What more can I say, but HVALA LEPA to the Wisconsin Branches and our National Board of Officers for the wonderful National Convention held in Milwaukee. The delegates and other members from Branch 39, Biwabik had a wonderful weekend exploring Milwaukee and enjoying all the entertainment. Laverne and Shirley delightfully welcomed us to their wonderful city. The delegates worked especially hard during the meetings to get through the proposals and we did it! Delegates missed some of the entertainment, but after all, we were sent for the business of the organization and that is what we accomplished. We did have time to enjoy the evenings.

Not all the proposals passed in our favor, but there was compromise. We were pleased with the name change because it included continuity with the addition of "formerly known as SWUA." We cannot forget our founding sisters. Many proposals were passed as cost saving issues such as minutes and reports not to be published in the *Zarja*. They will, however, be available to anyone on request. Our delegates felt that the *Zarja* is the only way our elders can keep informed about the business of the organization. Well, win a few, loose a few. You can read all the convention info in another part of this *Zarja*.

Now our Branch members will prepare for our Regional Convention to be held in Ely, MN in September. As a Region, we will have many issues to discuss and vote on, using our new bylaws as a guide. We hope to have a branch meeting called before the Regional.

Have a great summer everyone and stay healthy so we can move forward toward "LIVING OUR LEGACY."
MARIJA POMAGAJ PROSI ZA NAS
ROSEMARY (SERTICH) RIBICH

BRANCH 43 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Contact Information: Jan Gehm 414.321.1413
twogehms@wi.rr.com

The 26th National Convention, hosted by all of Wisconsin, is now history. It was a memorable four days and it would not have happened without the leadership of Denise P. Bartlett. Many thanks to Denise who worked so diligently coordinating rooms, flights, transportation and entertainment for the delegates and guests. She had such a spirit of wanting everyone to remember their stay in Milwaukee and that spirit was contagious to all who worked with her. There are too many to mention individually and you know who you are, so A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL.

It was a pleasure to meet so many enthusiastic SWUA/SUA Members who I'm sure enjoyed all the events planned for them. The Welcome Party at the Potawatomi Bingo Casino was fun, the ZarjaFest at our Milwaukee Public Museum (of which we are all so proud of) was an evening to remember, the program by Perpetuum Jazzile at the Zelazo Center for Performing Arts was a highlight and the relaxing day at beautiful Triglav Park ended four days of experience and learning.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of our local performers who entertained during free times and at the various venues. Thank you seems like such generic words at this time, but it is the best I can come up with since it is sincere.

Congratulations to our potica contest winners. First Place went to Jackie Smith, Branch 43, Second Place went to Tillie Skusek, Branch 43, and Third Place went to Mary Ann Schellinger, Branch 1.

Saturday, May 14, was a memorable day for our two Members of the Year, Toni Needham and Rose Chepeck. Many of their family members and SWUA family gathered for a delicious luncheon in their honor.

Tillie Skusek, our out going Member of the Year, crowned these two generous and loving ladies. Congratulations Toni and Rosie.

We are saddened by the death of member Chet Zurawik. After a long illness Chet passed away and is now playing in a heavenly band along with many fellow musicians. We extend our sincere sympathy to Chet's family and to Rose Chepeck, his dear friend.

MICI BREGANT

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BRANCH 47 - Garfield Heights, Ohio

Contact Information: Olga Dorchak 1.330.468.7989 or
Elsie Spellacy 1.330.669.0031 or Katherine Wallace
1.330.253.0825 webblekatt@hotmail.com

Hi everyone. Congratulations on our new name. Slovenian Union of America. It is a new beginning for all of the Slovenian's in America and all over the world.

Our next meetings will be September 11th and November 13th at 1:00 p.m. at the Maple Heights Library. November will be election of officers. Our December meeting will be the 3rd, at the Valley View community Center. It will be at 12:00 p.m. and will be our Christmas Potluck Luncheon.

Birthday wishes go out to all members for June, July, August, September and October. Get well wishes go out to Ginger Kemmerling. She is recuperating from shoulder surgery. Hope you are doing well.

Condolences to the Stautihar family on the loss of their loved one. Condolences also go to member Diane Fornaro and her husband on the loss of his mother. Our deepest sympathy to both families at their time of need. Our prayers are with all of them.

With the Convention behind us, four of our members went and had a very good time. Our next Convention will be in Lemont, Illinois in 2015. Hope more people from around here can make the trip.

KATHERINE WALLACE

BRANCH 50 - Euclid, Ohio

Contact Information: 440.655.6735
ricktomsick@gmail.com

We held the Mother's Brunch at our meeting on May 18th at the Dubrovnik Gardens restaurant and had a good showing of members and guests. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21st.



*Branch 50 Mothers' Brunch, May, 2011.
Standing: Louise Troglia, Joey Tomsick, Rick Tomsick,
Ken Tomsick, Sr., and Rose Mary Toth*

The Ohio/Michigan Convention will be held on Sunday, October 2nd, Mass will be at St. Vitus at 10:30 a.m. (with Fr. Boznar and Bishop Pevec), and dinner to follow at Sterle's Country House, family style (the cost is \$24, which includes tax and tip).

At our April meeting, we were pleased to add the following new members to our roster: Marilyn Eckert, Alice

Hedderman, John and Elizabeth Jelinek, Arlene Lessard, and Sandra Turner. Welcome aboard, ladies and gentleman! Branch 50 is 184 members strong.

Get well wishes and continued prayers go out to Jo Wutchiett and Maria Dimitrijevic, both recovering from recent surgery. Thanks to Cookie Maxin for filling in on Jo's secretarial duties and providing a fine set of minutes of the last meeting.

We recently learned from Rosemary Kalfas that her mother, Christine (Basca) Duche, passed away at the age of 102 in April. Christine became a member of the SWUA in 1930 and lived her final years at the Lutheran Home in Westlake, Ohio. She was buried from St. Richard's Parish in North Olmsted. Christine had been a member of the Cadets since 1964, and enjoyed going to Branch 50 events, the last of which was to a polka Mass celebrated by Bishop Pevec at the SNPJ farm in 2006.

Our Branch President, Rose Mary Toth, reports that the Convention in June was well organized and she commends



*Convention 2011:
Ivanka Matic and Rose
Mary Toth enjoy the sights*

Denise P. Bartlett (and her husband Bob) for a job well done. Rose Mary emphasized what a terrific job Ivanka Matic and Cookie Maxin did in their role as delegates. Of course there was a lot of business to address, but the ladies found time for some well deserved diversions, including concerts and a train ride. Cookie and Ivanka would like to thank the membership again for placing confidence in them. I'd like to thank Rose Mary and our delegates for a job well done, and I know that our interests are well represented indeed. There will continue to be some controversy about a few of the resolutions that were passed, but it is safe to say that our voices have been heard, and hopefully we can continue to grow and focus on adding new members.

I'm proud to report on the ongoing successes of our young members Johanna Tomsick and Zach Tomsick. Zach recently completed his first year in health sciences college of Marquette University, and his little sister Johanna was elected president of her junior class at Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Their brother Jonah will be attending the World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI in Madrid on behalf of Boston College.

Thanks to news updates in *Zarja*, I recently heard from a cousin, Sandy Brown Rodeghero, originally from Joliet, who attended the Convention with her husband, Dale.

Denise P. Bartlett (and her husband Bob) for a job well done. Rose Mary emphasized what a terrific job Ivanka Matic and Cookie Maxin did in their role as delegates. Of course there was a lot of business to address, but the ladies found time for some well deserved diversions, including concerts and a train



*Cookie Maxin and Rose
Mary Toth at Convention*

Sandy made a connection by replying to my email address. It's wonderful to renew family relationships and to make new friends. Please email me at ricktomsick@gmail.com with any news, updates, accolades, upcoming events and the like, but keep in mind that we have about a two-month lag in reporting upcoming events.

RICK TOMSICK

BRANCH 55 - Girard, Ohio

Greetings from Girard! In Branch news, this spring has been a time of transitions. Member Anna Fooy graduated from 8th grade this past June. She will be attending high school in Michigan. Congratulations on your graduation, Anna!

I also graduated this past spring from The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine degree. I relocated to North Carolina earlier this summer where I will be completing my residency in Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. I am looking forward to beginning this next chapter!

In other news, member Dolores DePietro shared that she performs on the button box regularly at McMenamy's in Niles, Ohio during Friday night polka gatherings with other accordion players. Dolores was also featured on a local TV station during one of the polka jams this past summer. Those interested in hearing Dolores and others play can attend the Friday events at 5:30 p.m. at McMenamy's.

As always, members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. We would love to see more of you present!

That's all the news for now. In closing, a short poem by George Eliot:

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns."

MONICA SELAK

BRANCH 89 - Oglesby, Illinois

Contact Information: barbarbruch@yahoo.com or 815.339.2714

Six members of our branch: Alice and Jim Ebner, Mitzi Banich, Nancy Henkel, Cynthia Carus, and I were lucky enough to attend SWUA's 26th National Convention in Milwaukee. We want to thank Denise P. Bartlett and the members of Branch 43, as well as the members of Branches 1 and 102, for all the planning and preparation that went into the great convention we all enjoyed. What was the best part? It is impossible to say; there are so many things that stand out.

Walking the streets of the European Village at the Milwaukee Public Museum and peering in the windows of the Slovenian house and the houses of all the other countries made me think of my ancestors' lives in Slovenia before

they crossed the ocean to come to America. We were privileged to be able to enjoy the museum at night when it is usually closed. The Christmas blessing of the house and the visit from St. Nicholas and the little devil will long be remembered.

On Saturday night we had a delicious dinner with Slovenian wine and apple strudel. The heroine of the evening was Rose Chepeck who baked enough strudels to serve everyone there. Thank you Rose; it was delicious. Then we went to a concert at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee by the Perpetuum Jazzile, a pop jazz a capella group from Slovenia. They were marvelous! It was so exciting to see and hear such talented young musicians. I bought a CD and have been enjoying it and will share it at our next branch meeting.

Triglav Park on Sunday was another wonderful experience. The Slovenians in Milwaukee are lucky to have such a hidden gem to enjoy. We had another delicious meal and more Slovenian music to enjoy before heading home.

Congratulations to all the newly elected National Officers. Our branch is planning an event to encourage men and boys to join that we hope will bring new members.

Branch 99 in Lemont will host the National Convention in 2015 and Branch 89 is looking forward to helping any way we can. The National Conventions are a lot of hard work and a lot of fun. Everyone should attend the next one. I was honored to be our branch's delegate and look forward to the future with a lot of optimism.

BARBARA BRUCH

BRANCH 93 - New York, New York

Contact Information: lgross@tstnyc.org

In April, members and friends got together for a Saturday afternoon in a cozy corner of the Balkanika restaurant. After feasting on čevapčići, sarma, burek and other Balkan foods (but alas no Slovenian beer!) we went around the table to "Share Something Slovenian" - one person brought a 10 Tolar note, Slovenian money used before the European Union brought in the Euro. Another brought in a suha roba wooden spoon crafted in Ribinica that her mother had used all her married life, someone else a pair of black and white patterned knee socks popular in the 60's, another a linen dishtowel depicting the storks that the Prekmurje area is





famous for, another a first edition (1917) *Katekizem za Ameriške Slovence* printed by the Franciscans located at St. Cyril's Church. Others shared memories; one member, born in Argentina in the Slovenian community formed there post WWII explained how they had faithfully replicated



the cultural and spiritual life left in Slovenia, all the children learned Slovenian, were devout churchgoers, learned all the traditional songs of their parent's childhood etc. After visiting Slovenia for the first time herself, on her return she had to break it to them that things had changed! A



member who had grown up in Brooklyn related how the family's social life had been based on the activities of the SNPJ, meetings, dancing, and an opportunity for her to write for their youth magazine. It truly was a most interesting event!

In May, a few members joined other aficionados at the Jazz Gallery to hear Jure Pukl, extraordinary saxophonist and composer who hails from Velenje, Slovenia. On June 14, several members attended the opening reception of "*Slovenian in the U.S.*" Alenka Slavinec introduced the history of Slovenia from 1991 to 2010 through 20 well-chosen artist photos using Lipizzaner horses, a living cultural heritage, for the main artistic object, taken in their natural environment, Lipica. She is confident that they demonstrated the features that identify Slovenia. For more information and the photos go to: <http://www.alenkaslavinec.com/Aboutexhibition.html>.

The exhibit was enlivened by displays of beautiful fashions created by top Slovenian fashion and costume designer Sanja Veličkovič who also spoke. A few were modeled and the beautiful colors accentuated the contrast between photos of the horses wrapped in fog. Music specifically composed for each photo by Žan Tetičkovič was played by a talented key-board artist during the show. Refreshments included tarragon and nut poticas, kifli, Slovenian juices and wines.

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 Jure Pukl, 10/10

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On June 28th, members who didn't get to hear Slovenia's sensational a cappella group at the SWUA National Convention, were happily able to take advantage of catching Perpetuum Jazzile at the Gramercy Theatre. A special guest in the audience was the President of Slovenia! (There was a reception for the "National Day and the 20th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Slovenia" in the Delegates Dining Room at the U.N. the day before.) If you enjoyed P.J., "like" them on facebook to keep up with their future plans and read the glowing comments posted from their first ever North American tour.

Lynn Zalokar was our delegate at the convention and filled us in via our yahoo group and sent copies of her report to those not on e-mail. We are re-working what would have been our 4th Slovenian Heritage weekend into a day of activities at the Slovenian church to celebrate St. Martin's Day on Saturday, November 5th. Please join us!

See our web-site www.SWUANYC.org for current and past activities, or take a look at www.facebook.com (type in "SWUA"). Join our Yahoo group for notification of upcoming activities (e-mail: SWUABranch93NYC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). We'll be updating our addresses to reflect the change from SWUA to SUA but these are still good for now. Not on e-mail? Call Branch 93 contact: 201.947.6336. Same number to suggest an event, or contact Lynn Zalokar at Lzalokar@yahoo.com.

LYNN ZALOKAR

BRANCH 99 - Lemont, Illinois

Contact Information: jmhlade@hotmail.com

Our branch has had lots of activities. In May we held a Member Celebration to honor all our members. Thank you to Sonja DePratt for hosting the event at her home. We played Slovenian trivia, a musical hat game, learned a Slovenian toasting song, and enjoyed good food and friends. In June we held our meeting at This Must Be The Place restaurant in downtown Lemont. It was fun planning the next few months while enjoying this cozy restaurant!

Also in June, many of us attended the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Vice-President Paula Mavec was the delegate from our branch (Julie Partyka could only attend part of the time). We all had a wonderful time enjoying Slovenian traditions, music, food, and a special concert of Slovenian singers called Perpetuum Jazzile. This talented, a cappella singing group from Slovenia made their debut concert on their US tour at our Convention! Our branch also placed third in the recent membership drive and received an autographed copy of Dr. Janez Bogataj's book, *The Cooking of Slovenia*. The convention was very entertaining and several changes were made to the organization. See inside this issue for details.

In July we had the annual Bocce Ball Summer Social at Paula Mavec's home. Details of this event will be in the next issue.

On August 27th, we will be hosting a Blueberry-Lemon Strudel culinary class at the Slovenian Catholic Center at 9 a.m. Cost is \$15 per person. RSVP required to Barb Block at barbandlarryblock@att.net or 630.379.6442. Space is limited to 12 people. Bring your own baking pan.

Congratulations to Julie Partyka on her recent wedding in July. All our best to her!

Our next meeting is September 11th at 2 p.m. at the SCC library. We will be discussing the Bunco fundraiser, which is on October 30th from 1-4 p.m. If you have any prizes to donate, please contact Julie Partyka at jamp817@comcast.net or 630.854.5400. Bring donations to troops to either event!

JANA HLADE

BRANCH 100 - Southern California

Contact Information: ajkoci@cox.net

Over thirty members and guests gathered at a special new restaurant called Phood on Main to honor our Member of the Year, Joanna Farrage. We were happy to have Joanna and her husband, Larry, as our guests as we enjoyed the great food at this very nice place in Riverside, just up the

street from the famous Mission Inn, an old landmark in this part of Southern California.

It was great having Mary Lou Videgar come down from San Mateo to read the tribute to Joanna, as they have been friends since early childhood and had so much to share throughout their lives. We were happy to pick the winners of our local drawing at this



gathering. They were Marcia Leathers, Frances Kinkopf, and Donald Kambic. Thanks to all who participated.

We want to congratulate our high school graduates, Sara Lundgren and Garret Jancich. Garret was announced as a SWUA Scholarship recipient and will attend Cornell University in New York. Sara will be attending the University of Chicago. Congratulations to both! Another high achieving junior member is James Koci who was awarded the high honor of Eagle Scout for many years of hard work and an outstanding community project. He has worked his way up in the Boy Scouts by showing leadership and patriotism. James was still only 15 when he reached this high goal, quite young for an Eagle! Congratulations James!

We hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. I am looking forward to a two week trip to Slovenia with two of my grandchildren. We will also host a young dental student from Slovenia for a month or two, if all goes well. It is wonderful to have these young people experience each other's cultures and learn more of their heritage. I am grateful to be a part of it!

Na svidenje!
JEAN KOCI

BRANCH 102 - Willard, Wisconsin

Contact Information: kleespires@comcast.net

In spite of changing the time of our meeting there was an excellent turnout to celebrate our Member of the Year, Cathy Johnson. Cathy received a gift certificate from her favorite store "Broadway" in Stanley, Wisconsin. A lovely luncheon was prepared by our Branch officers, Bonnie Brierton, Sue Pakiz and Aggie Debevec.

The business meeting conducted by Bonnie included discussion of the changes to the SWUA Bylaws. A large part of the meeting was the planning for the Wisconsin State Convention in Willard this September.

Edward Bayuk joined the "Honor Flight" to Washington, DC this spring. Ed, we are extremely proud of the sacrifice you made for our Country during your time in the Armed Forces. Thank you!

Sue and Larry Pakiz have a new granddaughter, Addison Rose, born on May 5th. Proud great-grandparents are Rose and Frank Pakiz.

Our last fund raising event, the annual Palm Sunday bake sale, was well received by the Holy Family Parish family. This was one of our most profitable bake sales. Thank you to all the bakers and members who worked at the sale.

Frieda Klancher, 94, passed away on June 7th. She was a teacher whose career spanned many years and teaching environments, from one room schools through a modern grade school.

Both Sue and Larry Pakiz and my husband Larry and I want to congratulate and thank Branch 43 of Milwaukee

for hosting a wonderful National Convention. We had exceptional experiences at the social events, especially enjoying Perpetuum Jazzile from Slovenia (whose music I am listening to on the I-pod as I write this). I also must thank our National Board for comprehensive reports detailing their activities for the last four years and Denise P. Bartlett for a well run Bylaw review and vote. Branch members please plan on attending the next meeting in August for more information!

KAREN HRIBAR-SPIRES

BRANCH 103 - Washington, DC

It was approximately eight hundred and fifty driving miles one way from the home of our Branch delegate, Rich Terselic, and alternate Mary Terselic, to the Milwaukee SWUA National Convention. In Chicago, their daughter, and Branch 103 member, Susan Eckert joined them. Susan was an SWUA scholarship recipient during the 1980s and met scholarship committee chair, Mary Turvey, for the first time in Milwaukee. Susan's eldest daughter, Tabitha, was a scholarship recipient in 2010. We were also happy to see member and former Branch 103 president, Jill Augustine (who now lives in Florida.) We had a very pleasant visit.

Rich and Mary appreciated the friendly welcome they received from the other convention attendees, and the weekend was much like a warm family get-together.

Planning and organization of the convention, under the leadership of Branch 43 member, Denise P. Bartlett, were excellent. She received help from other members of that branch and the other Wisconsin branches. Two particularly loving acts done by the Wisconsin folks included the baking and provision of the two hundred servings of apple strudel served at the Saturday evening banquet and the preparation and provision of decorated wine bottle centerpieces for each of the twenty plus tables.

The branch has conducted or planned several activities for 2011 including: presenting a food basket to our spiritual director, Fr. Wadas at the Easter blessing of food held in the Slovenian Chapel at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception; distributing candy-filled Easter eggs to all attendees at the Easter food blessing in honor of the branch's deceased long-term supporter, Stane Sustersic; a Communion breakfast to be held after the August monthly Slovenian Mass.

Several of the branch members have been ill recently. We wish Mara Chokel, Molly Thomas and Jana Bevec speedy recoveries.

MARY LOU TERSELIC

BRANCH 108 - Olney, Maryland

Contact Information: Bettekfitz@verizon.net

Race Across America (RAAM), a nine day cross country bicycle trek spanning nearly 3,000 miles beginning in Oceanside, California and ending in Annapolis, Maryland took place in mid June with participants from around the world. In this year's race, Marko Baloh, a Slovenian solo rider, came in third place. Marjeta Cedilnik encouraged our members to greet him at the Bicycle Shop, time station



RAAM Group photo from left to right: Irma Baloh, Marjeta Cedilnik, Marko Baloh, Bernadette, Juliana and Thomas Fitzsimmons

52 in Mt. Airy, MD and cheer him on to victory in Annapolis, MD. Marjeta, Bernadette, Thomas and Juliana Fitzsimmons met at the Bicycle Shop, anxiously waiting until 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 24 to meet and greet Marko, as he came zipping down MD Rt. 144, followed by his team members in a van, and passing a Slovenian flag blowing in the wind. It was exciting to be in front of Slovenian TV cameras as we met Marko, his wife and team members; we will be American/Slovenian celebrities on Slovenia's sports channel in a couple of weeks that will document Marko's bicycle trip across America!

The highlight of the afternoon was Marjeta's cheese strudel that Marko devoured at the rest stop, and Bernadette giving a gift key holder necklace of Slovenian buttons and



Slovenia T-shirt to Marko's wife, Irma. There was a small gift bag containing a card from Branch 108 congratulating Marko, and information about our organization. Marko looked really tan and sore, but soon got back on his bike to complete the final 56 mile trip to Annapolis, where Marjeta was there to cheer his completion of the RAAM. As a native Slovenian, she is very proud that Slovenia was once again represented in this difficult feat of endurance. Jure Robič came in first place in the last three years, but passed away in a tragic accident in Jesenice, Slovenia less than a year ago. There was a small memorial at the Mt. Airy Bicycle Shop with his photo as he passed through just last year on his way to Annapolis for 1st place in the solo category.

Our brave Junior member, seven year old Zala Weyker went on a transatlantic flight alone to Munich to meet her grandparents who then drove her to Slovenia for a summer vacation. It will be interesting to hear this little girl's story about traveling solo across the Atlantic.

Congratulations to senior member Charlie Koiner, 90, for making the front page of the June 11th Washington Post metro section featuring his one acre farm in Silver Spring, MD. A film documentary, "Corner Plot" about his farm drew attention across the region last summer, shown at local festivals. The big news is that the film documentary was recently chosen by the State Department to be aired at embassies throughout the world for a public diplomacy initiative. Charlie and Lynn, his daughter, is amazed that they are suddenly celebrities simply from doing what they love. Locals flock to purchase Charlie's fresh vegetables and fruits at the weekly Silver Spring Farmer's Market. He works hard, stays busy and chuckles about all the attention Koiner's farm has been getting lately.

Watch your e-mail in box for details about our next meeting in late summer. Lynn Koiner, our Convention Delegate will summarize the changes implemented during the voting for Bylaw changes and will brief us about the Convention events. Bernadette will present a photo slide show of the Convention filled with memories of wonderful convention activities to share with all our members that couldn't be in Milwaukee in person to experience this awesome Convention.

BERNADETTE K. FITZSIMMONS

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Celebrating our 100th Year!

BRANCH 109 - Twin Cities Slovenians

"We Did It" The 26th National Convention held in Milwaukee made history. Not only did we change the name but also we opened up the membership requirements to basically anyone who wants to share and preserve the legacy of the Slovenian culture in the U.S.

It took a "Herculean" effort by Denise P. Bartlett and the entire leadership of the SUA to make this convention a truly memorable and historical event. Denise, our National Treasurer, not only organized the entire convention but also directed the discussion and voting procedures for the Bylaws Revision. The Bylaws revision turned out to be a model of "democracy in action." Delegates who wanted to be heard, were heard; directed questions were answered "directly" and after each vote was tallied, the business at hand continued without interruption.

As we have time to reflect on the results of the convention, Branch 109 celebrated Slovenian Independence Day with a "Thank You" party for the Ksenjia Sitar-Rener's family. Ksenjia's family has been in the Twin Cities for a year and have shared their Slovenian heritage by offering us Slovenian language classes for the past six months as well as attending and presenting Slovenian programs to our membership. Outgoing President, Norm Setnicker, presented gifts of Minnesota memorabilia along with a set of laminated articles dealing with Slovenia's breaking from Yugoslavia. The articles are from the Cleveland, Ohio "Plain Dealer" (June 30, 1991). Actually, the idea came from the Milwaukee Convention where the delegates had these copies as placemats. Special thanks go to Miro and Karen Medved for hosting the party in their home and to Andrew and Mary Percic who helped Ksenjia's family get acclimated to the Twin Cities by helping to find a school for their children (Dorian and Adriana), find an apartment close to the University where Ksenjia works, and adequate transportation for them to travel.

I would be remiss to not thank many of our Twin Cities Slovenian members who made Ksenjia's family stay so rewarding, whether it was taking them to the Twins Baseball game, taking them to dinner, having them over for dinner, sharing our Slovenian culinary skills or just "making them feel at home." Hvala Lepa!

Come August, our new incoming President, John Zakelj, will host a planning session for Branch 109. The goal will be to look at our financial structure and to produce a schedule of events for our membership in 2011-2012. The Milwaukee convention presented us with some excellent programming ideas, which we hope to implement. These ideas and revised Bylaws will be the subject at the Regional Convention hosted by Branch 23 in Ely come September.

NORM SETNICKER

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 14, 2011

Secrets of Slovenia 2009 Tour Reunion at the Slovenian Catholic Center Annual Raffle and Picnic. Mass will be held at the grotto. Check <http://scenews.slovenian-center.org/> for more information on the picnic.

AUGUST 18, 2011

Branch 24 of LaSalle, Illinois to host their Annual Traditional Slovenian Picnic at 6:00 p.m. at Pulaski Park (5th Street Park) in LaSalle across the street from our former Slovenian Church, St. Roch's. Everyone is asked to bring a Slovenian dish to pass. Branch 89 of Oglesby (across the river) has graciously accepted our invitation to attend. Anyone else?

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

Branch 20 of Joliet, Illinois to host their Annual Grape Harvest Festival at St. Joseph's Park in Joliet. Come see the "parade" of button boxes, enjoy the Slovenian food and the sounds of the Bob Doszak Band. Event runs from 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Cost is \$8.

OCTOBER 2, 2011

Illinois/Indiana Regional Convention hosted by Branch 2 of Chicago, Illinois. Branch 2 will be celebrating Zveza's and Branch 2's 85th Anniversary in Chicago; this is where it all began. Come and help us Celebrate with a big bang!

OCTOBER 2, 2011

Ohio/Michigan Regional Convention will be held at St. Vitus at 10:30 a.m. (Fr. Boznar and Bishop Pevec) and dinner to follow at Sterle's Country House. Family style dinner is \$24 which includes tax and tip.

OCTOBER 9, 2011

Wisconsin State Convention in Willard, WI



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Potica Contest Winners

When I think of my mom, what pops into my head immediately, is the sweet aromas coming from the kitchen. There was never an occasion in our home that potica, štrudelj, krofe, flancate and kifeljčke would not be part of the festivities. Baking was just a part of who my mom was and she has passed this love down to me. When Denise Bartlett asked me to be the chairperson for the potica contest there was no hesitation what so ever. This was right up my alley!

First we needed bakers. We had twenty possibilities and ended up with twelve strong contestants. Then of course we needed judges. It was very obvious that the first judge would be our guest from Slovenia, Professor Janez Bogatzj, Ph.D. Our second judge, Sonia Avguštin from the Slovenian World Congress and the third judge would be Jeff Welk, the General Manager of the Double Tree Hotel who just happened to be familiar with this tasty bread and was very happy to take part in the judging.

Each potica was graded on its appearance, texture and taste, with a point system of one for average, two for good, three for very good and four for excellent. It took the three judges an hour to carefully taste and grade each entry and when the numbers were tallied, the lucky winners were very surprised bakers.

At the banquet on Saturday evening, I had the honor of announcing the top three winners. I started with third place,

which went to MaryAnn Schellinger from Branch 1 in Sheboygan. The happiness that she expressed as her name was announced was priceless. Moving on to second place, I called out the name of Tillie Skusek from Branch 43 here in Milwaukee. Her look of disbelief was overcome with happiness. Finally it was time to announce first place. The winner could be any of the remaining 10 and so the anticipation was high. I was very happy to reveal to everyone in the banquet hall that the winning entry of the potica contest belonged to Jackie Smith, also from Branch 43. As Jackie received her certificate and basket full of baking goodies, she told us that she had not baked potica in over 35 years. Now that her children were grown and she had more time, she decided to try it once again and oh how happy she was that she did. Her winning potica recipe is included here for all of you to try.

Congratulations go out to these three women, and also to the others who received honorable mentions for entering. Each contestant received a wooden utensil, tied with a Slovenian ribbon and a potica pin attached to it. At the Na svidenje breakfast on Sunday, all the potica was shared with the members.

I hope that when we meet again in four years, many more of you will be entering your special potica and sharing this delicious Slovenian tradition with your fellow Slovenians.

- Helen Frohna, Treasurer of Branch 43, Milwaukee



Potica Winners (left to right): Tillie Skusek, MaryAnn Schellinger and Jackie Smith

First Place Winner

2011 National Convention Potica Contest

Sweet Dough Potica

By Jackie Smith

Dough:

1 large cake yeast (2 oz)
2 cups warm milk
1 cup flour
3 tbsp. sugar

Crumble yeast into warm (not hot) milk. Stir in 1 cup flour and 3 tbsp. sugar. Let mixture stand 10 to 15 minutes until it rises and bubbles.

½ cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
5 large eggs
8 cups sifted flour

Cream butter, 1 cup sugar, salt and eggs. Add to milk mixture.

Add 8 cups of flour gradually. Beat with wooden spoon until smooth and elastic. Keep dough soft. Cover and put in warm place until it is double in size. When dough is double in size, punch down. Divide into 3 parts. Roll out on floured cloth to desired thickness and spread with nut filling.

Nut Filling:

2 cups milk or cream
½ cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 cup honey
2½ lbs. ground walnuts
2 egg whites, stiffly beaten
Lemon rind, grated from 1 lemon
Dash of vanilla powder
Few dashes of cinnamon
If adding raisins, soak overnight in wine (I use Chardonnay)

Heat milk to boiling point, remove from heat. Add butter. When butter is melted, stir in sugar and honey. Mix in ground walnuts. Fold in beaten egg whites. Spread filling on rolled dough. Sprinkle raisins over filling along with one grated lemon rind. Roll dough like jelly roll. Place poticas in greased loaf pans. Cover, let rise about 1 hour. Brush milk with a little bit of sugar added on top of loaves before placing in oven. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until loaves are golden brown.

Makes three 14 inch loaves.

Slovenian Gathering Ceremony and Salutation Presented at the Welcoming Party at the Convention

Slovenia is a culturally rich country. The many regions have different gathering ceremonies and salutations. Original traditions are listed below.

Original Welcoming Traditions

Bread and glass of wine

Wine only

Dried fruits, apples or pears, and glass of wine

Fresh apples and bread

Flat cake or layer cake, glass of wine, alcohol or water

Bread and sip of fruit brandy, Karst Gin, Carniola Perry, Brkini Slivovitz, Kostel, Grappa, Prekmurje Slivovitz, Blueberry Brandy, Honey Brandy or Honey Liqueur

Salutation Traditions

Dober dan, Bog daj!

Dober dan!

Bog daj!

Dobrodosli!

Me (or: Nas) veseli, da ste prisli!

Pozdravljeni in dobrodosli!

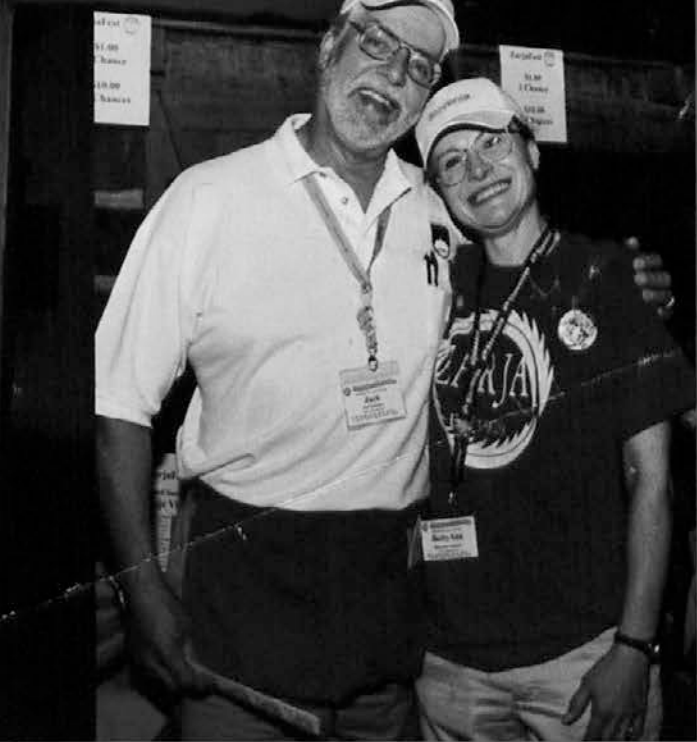


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Top picture: Nick Carmody, President of Rocky Mountain Potica prepares for a potica demonstrati on at ZarjaFest.

Bottom picture: Nick Carmody presented on Slovenian guests with one of his specialty potica (left to right): Nick, Dr. Janez Bogataj - Author and Professor, Department of Ethnology & Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Bonnie Pohar Prokup, President SUA, Boštjan Škrlec - Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia, Jure Žmavc - Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland

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