



SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC CENTER

“ NAŠ SLOVENSKI DOM ” established 1995

REMINDER: The ANNUAL MEETING of the Slovenian Cultural Center will be held on Sunday, April 24 after the Membership Appreciation Dinner. Members of the Board of Directors and their committees will be providing reports summarizing the past year at the Center. During the meeting we will also be electing the Board for the upcoming year. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join us for the meeting. *We are always looking for new faces and new ideas on our SCC board. Anyone that is interested in joining the board should let Mark Cepon, Martina Hozjan Ruda or an existing board member know.*

MOTHER'S DAY

Slomšek Slovenian School students are preparing for the annual Mother's Day Mass and program which concludes the 2015/2016 school year. We invite you to join us for Family Mass on Sunday, May 8th at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Mission. The school's program will begin at 12:45 PM with a buffet-style luncheon to follow at the Slovenian Catholic Center. The donation for the luncheon is \$20.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students ages 7 – 14 and children ages 6 and under are free. Paid reservations are due at the Center by Sunday, May 1st.

For further information, please call 630-243-0670 or visit our website at www.slovenian-center.org. Reservation form enclosed.

V nedeljo, 8. maja 2016, učenci Slomškove slovenske šole prirejajo praznovanje Materinskega dneva s sveto mašo in programom, ki zaključujeta šolsko leto 2015-2016. Vsi ste vljudno vabljeni, da se udeležite svete maše ob 11.00 uri v cerkvi. Šolski program v Slovenskem katoliškem centru se prične ob 12:45 ter nadaljuje s kosilom takoj po programu. Prispevek za kosilo je \$20.00 za odrasle ter \$8.00 za otroke od 7. do 14. leta (otroci stari 6 let ali manj jedo brezplačno). Rezervacije s plačilom se sprejemajo v Slovenskem katoliškem centru do nedelje, 1. maja 2016. Za dodatne informacije pokličite 630-243-0670 ali obiščite našo spletno stran www.slovenian-center.org. Prijavnica je priložena.

CONSULAR NEWS

There will be consular hours on Saturday May 8, 2016 starting at 1pm. Please contact either General Consul Andrej Rode in Cleveland (216) 589-9210 or John P. Vidmar (708) 204-4390 concerning your issue so that we can be prepared to address them. There will be a discussion concerning the process for applying for Slovenian citizenship for those interested.

April-May-June 2016

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SCC office hours – Sundays from 1 – 3 p.m. or by appointment

Center hours on regular Sundays – open until 5:00 p.m.



S U S SLOVENSKO VERSKO SREDIŠČE SLOVENIAN CATHOLIC MISSION

'Šmarnice'- Slovenian devotion to Mary will take place on selected Sundays in May: 1st, 15th and 22nd.

Corpus Christi procession will be held on **Sunday, May 29th** starting with the solemn Mass at 11:00 am at the Lourdes Grotto (weather permitting). After the mass there will be procession with the Blessed Sacrament around 'Lake Bled'. Children are especially invited to participate by bringing flower petals to the procession and laying them before the altars during prayers. All the Slovenian organizations are invited to participate with their banners.

Acceptance of the children who received the First Holy Communion this year will take place on June 12th at 11 a.m. Mass.

Pilgrimage days in Lemont for Slovenian organizations will be as follows:

June 19 – Prekmurje Social Club – Father's Day – Mass will be held at the Grotto with devotions to Mary immediately following

June 25 – 26 - Slovenian's Sport Club. Mass will be held on Sunday at the Lourdes Grotto.

July 17 - Slovenian Union of America (Slovenian Women's Union) – Mass will be held indoors with devotions to Mary immediately following.

July 24 - St. Anne Society KSKJ #170 – Mass will be held at the Grotto with devotions to Mary immediately following.

August 14 - Slovenian Catholic Center – Mass will be held at the Grotto with devotions to Mary immediately following.

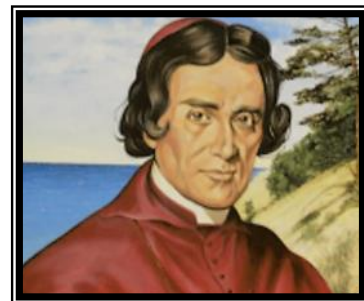
August 28 - Honey Picnic - Fundraising pilgrimage and picnic of the Franciscan Monastery. Mass will be held at the Grotto with devotions to Mary immediately following. Dinner will be served at the picnic area. Homemade bakery sale.

Bakery and other donations are greatly appreciated. The raffle will be drawn at 4:00pm.

September 10 - 11 - Baraga Days Pilgrimage to Marquette, MI

BARAGA DAYS 2016

Baraga Days will be held in Marquette, Michigan this year **September 9-12**. We will leave early Friday morning from Lemont and pick up passengers in Gurnee and Milwaukee. We are staying at a beautiful hotel, Country Inn and Suites a few miles from the Cathedral. We are using the same bus company that we have used the past two years, ABC Transportation which has new modern buses. We will return on Monday September 12th in the evening. We will probably stop on the way back at the Shrine of Marija Pomagaj in Champion, WI. We have a preliminary estimate for the cost of the trip : \$380 for a single, \$265 for a double, \$230 for a triple and \$205 for four people per room. These prices are per person. Please contact John P. Vidmar ([708-204-4390](tel:708-204-4390)) or Anna Hozjan ([630-253-4347](tel:630-253-4347)) to make reservations.



MARIJA POMAGAJ

KSKJ Joliet Lodges cordially invite you to attend a special Mass in honor of our patroness Marija Pomagaj. The Mass will be held Tuesday, May 24th at 6:30p.m. at St. Joseph's Church 416 N Chicago St, Joliet, IL 60432. May 24th is the day we honor Marija Pomagaj. P. Metod of the Slovenian Catholic Mission will hold the Mass. Please plan to attend.





CVETNA NEDELJA

Cvetna nedelja na Lemontu ni samo cerkveni praznik, ampak tudi praznik celotne slovenske skupnosti iz Lemonta, Joliet in njih okolice. Pri slovesnosti sodeluje osem različnih klubov: Sveti Križ, Prekmurje Social Klub, Slovenski Katoliški Center, Slovensko Versko Središče, Slovenski Športni Klub, KSKJ Illinois Federation, Slovenska Katoliška Liga-Joliet, učenci in starši Slomškove Slovenske Šole, letos se je skupini pridružila tudi organizacija Slovenian Union of America - Branch 99.

Priprave za cvetno nedeljo se že pričnejo v petek z izdelavo butaric. To je dobrodela akcija za misijone. V nedeljo je ob 11h dopoldan blagoslov zelenja pred Slovenskim domom, sledi procesija v cerkev z križem načelu, takoj zadaj dve butarice, katere krasijo cerkev teden pred Veliko nočjo, nato sledijo predstavniki z banderami vseh zgoraj omenjenih klubov in učenci Slomškove Slovenske Šole v narodnih nošah, procesiji se pridružijo vsi prisotni farani in duhovnik z diakonom in ministranti. Tam je nadaljevanje Svete Maše z branjem pasijona. Za lep zaključek dneva se zberemo v slovenskem domu za skupen Slovenski zajtrk/kosilo z šunko, klobasami, hrenom in z vsemi dodatki, ter pokramljamo s prijatelji.

Najlepša hvala vsem, ki ste priskočili na pomoč z delom pri pripravi in pospravljanju v dvorani in kuhinji in vsem sodelujočim klubom, kateri krijejo stroške dneva. Posebna zahvala vsem vodečim skupin: Stane Anzeljc in Gusti Demša - butarice, Nandi Puc - priprava in vodenje pasijona, Fanika Fritz in Ljuba Novak - kuhinja, Anna Marie Sever - pivnica, Dana Blase - Napovedovalka

Najlepša hvala vsem!

Palm Sunday is not only a religious holiday, but also a holiday when all the members of the different Slovenian organizations from Lemont, Joliet and the surrounding areas come together. The following 8 organizations come together each year: Holy Cross, Prekmurje Social Club, Slovenian Catholic Center, Slovenian Catholic Mission, Slovenian Sports Klub, KSKJ Illinois Federation, Slovenian Catholic League-Joliet, students and parents of the Slomšek Slovenian School, and joining us this year was the Slovenian Union of America-Branch 99.

The preparations for Palm Sunday begin on Friday, with the making of the traditional 'butarice'. All proceeds are donated to the missions. On Sunday, the day begins with a blessing in front of the Cultural Center, followed by a procession up to the church. The procession is led by the cross, and followed by two large 'butarice' that remain in the church during holy week, banners from all the Slovenian organizations carried by members of that organization, adults and children wearing the 'narodna noša', parishioners and lastly the priest, deacon and altar servers. In church, we celebrate the Holy Mass including a presentation of the passion. After Mass, we all gather at the Cultural Center for a delicious brunch of ham, 'klobase', horseradish and many other treats.

Thank you very much to everyone who donated their time for preparation of the food, setup/cleanup of the hall and kitchen, as well as to all the participating organizations, who cover the cost of the event. I want to especially thank the following individuals and their teams: Stane Anzeljc and Gusti Demša – 'butarice'; Nandi Puc – director of the passion play; Fanika Fritz and Ljuba Novak – kitchen; Anna Marie Sever – bar; Dana Rebrica Blase – MC. **Once again, thank you to everyone! Slavica**





AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The **HOMEMADE SLOVENIAN WINE COMPETITION** was held the afternoon of our KOLINE dinner on Sunday, February 14, 2016. What a great way to celebrate! Featuring a performance by our Slomšek Slovenian School students, homemade sausages, and homemade wine! We had a great turnout and good competition.

Our contestants this year: *Brian Ruda, Tone Sever, Herman Simrayh, Bob Vucinic, and Valentine Zupancic.*

A selection of 15 wines were judged comprised of the following varietals: *Barbera Dry, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Golden Muskat, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Reisling, Sauvignon Blanc, and Sparkling Sweet Barbera.* The judges tasted each of the wines beginning with the whites, followed by the reds, based on the following criteria: scent, clarity, and taste. Ranking each wine from 1 to 5 (5 being the best). **Special thanks to our judging panel:** *Jennifer Fortino, Nandi Puc, Slavko Sovan, Milena Zerdin, Robert Zizek, Alex Austin from Wales, and Andrej Rode – Consul General, The Republic of Slovenija.* Once the judging was complete, the score cards were tallied and the winners determined.

THE WINNERS FOR THE 2015 WINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

BEST WHITE – Brian Ruda (Chardonnay)

BEST RED – Valentine Zupancic (Cabernet Sauvignon)

The wine makers also submitted a second bottle of their wines and a tasting table was set up for all of our guests. Many people had a lot of fun tasting the wines and trying to guess whose wine they were sampling. **Special thanks** is also deserved by those that helped with this event: *Cyndy Barkowski, Reza Rozman, Martina Hozjan Ruda, Suzy Simrayh, MaryAnn Vucinic, AnnMarie Zajac, and Dana Rebrica Blase-Competition Organizer.*

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the wine makers – they are all winners!

We look forward to sampling next year's vintage.

KOLINE

Koline v februarju so bile zelo uspešne, to a zaradi izurjenih kuharjev, ter veliko ljudi, ki priskočijo na pomoč pri pripravi in izdelavi klobas. Delo se že prične v petek, nadaljuje v soboto in konča v nedeljo z okusnim kosilom. Pravi "Domači praznik" s svežimi krofi za sladico in poskočno polko za zabavo po kosilu. Učenci Slomškove Slovenske Šole s plesom pokažejo svoje znanje in uspeh sobotne šole, ter obogatijo dan z lepim programom. Ocenjevanje in pokušanje domačih vin je izvrsten dodatek za zabavno popoldne. Polno pričakovanja, kdo dobi prvo mesto za najboljšo vino.

Za tako bogat in pester dan je pa seveda potrebno veliko prostovoljnega dela. Najlepša hvala prav vsem, ki ste priskočili na pomoč pri pripravi in pospravljanju, ter več kot tristotim udeležencem letošnjih "Kolin". Posebna zahvala vsem voditeljem skupin Karl Zorjan - glavni kuhar, Liliana Čepin - krofi, pomivanje posode z jedilnice - Donna in Alojz Nekič, učiteljici plesne skupine Nada Petrovič in Andrea Novak. Dana Rebrica Blase - tekmovanje in pokušanje domačih vin, Anna Marie Sever – pivnica, Maria Sovan in Marko Čepin - rezervacije.

Stokrat hvala vsem.

This year's Koline was held on February 14. It was very successful, thanks to the hardworking cooks in the kitchen and all the knowledgeable volunteers that came to help make the sausages and prepare the hall. The preparations for the delicious meal started on Friday morning, and continued through both Saturday and Sunday. The fresh "krofi" we enjoyed for dessert, along with the live polka music truly made it feel like a holiday. The wonderful program the talented Slovenian school students put together added to the festivities. Another special part of the day was the popular homemade wine tasting contest. This event showcases our local wine makers, and adds additional excitement and anticipation as we all wait to see who the winner will be!

An event like this requires countless hours of volunteer work by many volunteers. Thank you to everyone to donated their time at any point during the weekend. Thank you also to the over 300 guests that attended the event! I want to especially thank: the following individuals and their teams, Karl Zorjan – head chef and Liliana Čepin – krofi; Donna and Alojz Nekič - dishwashers; Nada Petrovič and Andrea Novak – Slovenian school dance teachers; Dana Rebrica Blase – wine tasting contest; Anna Marie Sever – bar; and Maria Sovan and Marko Čepin - reservations.

Once again, thank you to everyone!

Slavica





MOTHER'S DAY - SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016

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The donation for the luncheon is

\$20.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students ages 7 – 14 and children ages 6 and under are free.

Paid reservations are due at the Center by Sunday, May 1st.

Reservations — Mother's Day 2016

Reservation Contact Name: _____

Contact phone #: _____

PAID RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CENTER BY SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2016

PAID RESERVATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE - PLEASE ADD \$5.00/ADULT TICKET

	<u>ADULT</u>		Adult when paid after cutoff, add late fee	<u>STUDENT(S)</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>
	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non Member</u>		<u>Ages 7-17</u>	<u>Ages 6 & under</u>
<u>First/Last Name</u>	\$20.00	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$8	FREE
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
TOTALS					

METHOD

CASH: \$ _____

OF PAYMENT:

CHECK: # _____ Amount: \$ _____

CREDIT CARD: # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Credit Card 3 Digit Code: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____

Please indicate with whom you would like to be seated. We will do our best to accommodate the request provided all parties have a paid reservation by the due date. We are unable to guarantee seating preferences for reservations made after the due date.

We strive to make all of your events enjoyable and kindly ask that when making a reservation for any of our "reservations required" events, all reservations correspondence be made to the Center. This enables our reservationists to more efficiently complete the seating arrangements and communications with our caterers. Please direct all e-mails, texts, or phone calls to the Center. If you have a question or need to change a reservation, we kindly ask you to e-mail us at secretary@slovenian-center.org, visit our website at www.slovenian-center.org, or call us at 630.243.0670.



ANNUAL RAFFLE

The SCC Annual RAFFLE will be held at our annual picnic on Sunday, August 14th.

The raffle is our main source of income and we encourage everyone to purchase a ticket from your seller or by contacting the Slovenian Catholic Center 630.243.0670.

GRAND \$10,000 PRIZE

PLUS 27 ADDITIONAL PRIZES IN VALUES OF - \$1000 - \$500 - \$100

RAFFLE TICKET DONATION \$50



ENTRY FORM FOR RAFFLE

AUGUST 14TH, 2016

\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE

PLUS 27 ADDITIONAL PRIZES

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Ticket donation = \$50.00

Remit to: **Slovenian Catholic Center, PO Box 634, Lemont, IL 60439**

Your official ticket will be mailed to you upon receipt of payment and completed form.

Last mail pickup August 12th!



THE SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL

On January 23, 2016, Mrs. **Fanika Fritz** and **Luba Novak** taught ten curious adults the art of making traditional Slovenian potato dumplings. Hvala lepa for donating this silent auction item last year!

The school children and their families were very excited about the annual **Winter Games** (coordinated by **Olga Voss**) which took place on February 13, 2016. This year, we mostly played indoor games due to lack of snow and extremely low outdoor temperatures. On February 14, 2016, the students performed their famous **Koline dance** with the piggy, butchers and cute, little sausages (under the supervision of Andrea Novak). On February 20, 2016, the children were very excited to once again paint on real canvases under instructions of our painting teacher **Michelle (Haklin) Ryan**, who taught students how to create interesting backgrounds with the sky and the hills. The resulting beehive panels were very creative and unique as shown in the attached picture.

On March 5, 2016, **pater Metod Ogorevc** prepared a thoughtful presentation about Slovenian missions and missionaries around the world, and **Mojca Anaya** added a creative project decorating little crosses. The school's last project before the Easter holidays was the coloring of the **Easter eggs** on March 19, 2016. The children took home a "*pirh*" after visiting the SCC kitchen and helping with the egg coloring for the SCC team which colors almost 600 eggs for the Palm Sunday luncheon (**Mojca Anaya, Erika Falk, Maria Sovan, Olga Voss and Andy Zorjan**).

Zbor Slomšek rad poje narodne in cerkvene pesmi, tako da so vedno pripravljeni, kadar je treba peti. Otroci radi pojejo in velikrat vprašajo za tiste pesmi, ki jih najraje pojejo.

This semester, **Čebelice** have focused on opposites like "*gor/dol*" or "*mrzlo/toplo*". The students also received their very own lift-the-flap booklets entitled "*Kje je moj sneženi mož?*" They had a great time reading those with the Zmaji class! They also talked about the food ("*hrana*") when they were approaching a feast for Easter ("*Velika noč*"). Then they played setting up the table on their individual placemats, complete with "*krožnik*", "*žlica*", "*vilice*", etc. Hopefully, the children will be able to set the table more often at home now!

Zvončki students wrapped up Unit 2 in their newly acquired "*Poigrajmo se slovensko*" books. They have been adding to their vocabulary while learning facts about Slovenia's geography.

Zmaji have been working on verbs and using them in discussions. They have also been writing simple stories using all of their vocabulary.

The Adult class would like to remind all parents that they are all welcome from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm each Saturday, while their children are in their classes. No previous knowledge of Slovenian is assumed. They are learning by comparing liturgical Sunday readings in English and Slovenian. This year, they have seen how Slovenian uses the "*dvojina*" to translate two apostles doing something as opposed to the plural in English. They have also seen how in Slovenian the use of male and female declensions generates slightly different translation compared to the English. Slovenian does not have to say the men or women did this. It is built into the words that are used by looking at their endings. We also have seen clearer translations because we can look at the case of a word to determine where it fits in the sentence. Additionally, Janez Vidmar provides an exegetical commentary in terms of why these readings have been put together for that particular Sunday.





THE SLOMŠEK SLOVENIAN SCHOOL (CONT'D)

After the Easter holidays, we will host **Nina and Luka Mozetič from Slovenia** (Didktina) on April 2, 2016. They will present various entertaining ways of learning Slovenian language through games and play. As always, we will conclude the school year with the **Mother's Day Family Mass and program** at the SCC on May 8, 2016 (see the attached registration form for more details).



SLOVENIAN SPORTS KLUB

Summer is right around the corner, along with some fun SSK events!

Annual Golf Outing (Canada vs. US - Ryder Cup Grudge Match!) - **Friday, June 24th** - location TBD. Guaranteed to be a great time! Please contact Stan Kastelic for more information. skastelic2003@yahoo.com

25th Annual Softball Tournament - June 25 & 26 - Co-ed Softball Tournament & Music Festival. Can you believe it's been 25 years! Don't miss the delicious lunch up on the hill at noon after mass! Contact Jake Gregorich or Chris Buh for more information or to sign up to play. jakobgregorich@gmail.com or christopherbuh@gmail.com

International Soccer Tournament – Sat. June 25th – 9am-6pm. Joe and Miha Vidmar will once again be running a soccer tournament for anyone high school age or older. So far we have American, Slovenian, Ukranian and Croatia players! This will be from 9am-6pm the same weekend as our softball tournament. Food will be available for purchase. Please email Miha Vidmar if you are interested in playing. miha.vidmar5@gmail.com / 708-204-8414.

Other events planned for 2016:

- **Volleyball Games** - Father's Day Picnic, June 19th
- **Annual Slovenian Canadian/American Softball Tournament** at the Slovensko Letovišče in Canada. July 30th-31st.
- **Bags Tournament and Obstacle Course for Kids** - Cultural Center Picnic - Sun., August 14th.
- **Youth Sports and high school/adult volleyball - Honey Picnic** - Sun., August 28th. We would like to sign up as many volleyball players as we can in advance. Please contact Jeanie Gregorich for volleyball details. tfgregorich@yahoo.com Contact Tony Vuksinic or Joe Vidmar for details regarding the youth sports. jozkovidmar@comcast.net or anthony.vuksinic@gmail.com
- **Trivia Night** - coming this fall! We are looking for some ideas and help in planning. If you have any suggestions/tips, please contact Francesca Nasti: fmnasti@gmail.com

If you would like more information about these events or would like to be added to our email list, please send an email to sloveniansportsklub@gmail.com or access our [Facebook](#) page. Search under Chicago Slovenian Sports Klub.

CALLING ALL TECH-SAVVY TEENS/ YOUNG ADULTS!

The SCC is currently looking for responsible and enthusiastic volunteers between the ages of 14 – 25 to assist with a few upcoming SCC and Slomšek Slovenian School web-based projects. Under adult supervision and direction, volunteers will learn about:

- Requirements gathering,
- How to write and carry out quality assurance test plans,
- Website editing and maintenance practices

Earn service hours while gaining real-life technical expertise and expanding upon the teamwork skills you already have. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone considering an I.T. career to learn valuable skills and make an enormous contribution to our Church, Center and Šola.

Please contact the SCC Technology Taskforce with questions at secretary@slovenian-center.org

TAROK TOURNAMENT WINNERS!



1st place **Olga Kastelic**
 2nd place **Stane Kastelic**
 3rd place **Karl Zorjan**
 4th place **Lojze Schuck**



SCC ANNUAL PICNIC & RAFFLE

**The Slovenian Catholic Center will be hosting its
ANNUAL PICNIC
on Sunday, August 14th, 2016 at St. Mary's in Lemont!**

Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. at the Lourdes Grotto, weather permitting. After Mass, we will be serving a delicious BBQ lunch with your choice of pork, lamb or chicken! We will also be serving čevapčiči and klobase.

All bakery donations will be greatly appreciated.

\$10,000 Grand Prize Raffle will be held at 5:00 p.m.

There will be numerous activities after lunch such as: children's games, raffles, volleyball, bags and music for your dancing pleasure by ANSAMBEL VESELJAKI!

Slovenski Kulturni Center vas vse lepo vabi na letni piknik in romanje, ki bo 14. avgusta. Pričeli bomo z mašo ob 11:00 uri dopoldne pri votlini.

Po maši bomo na hribu servirali odlično kosilo. Prašički, jagnje in piščanci na ražnju z okusno pripravljenimi solatami. Pozneje popoldne vas bomo postregli s čevapčiči na žaru in s prikuhami.

Naprošamo vas da prinesete pecivo, da se bomo znjimi posladkali ob kavi! Nato se lahko sprostite in uživate v prijetni družbi svojih prijateljev in znancev, ob dobri pijači in zabavi, ki bo za vse ljudi vseh starosti. Igre za otroke in odrasle!

HUGE THANK YOU'S!

Volunteer Spotlight - Bill Zerial! This quarter we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Bill Zerial. Bill is a constant volunteer at the Center and we couldn't appreciate his efforts more. He is always helping setting or cleaning the hall, working in the kitchen, making butarice, displaying his beautiful Christmas village and even participated in the SCC Anniversary Fashion Show with his Gorenjska Narodna Nosa. He is dedicated, hard working and always has a smile on his face. Bill, from all of us, a sincere thank you!

Special thanks go out to **Gusti Densa** and **Stane Anzeljc** for all their hard work around the Center. Gusti spends many volunteer hours at the Center week after week maintaining our landscaping and flowers and Stane is always there to help when needed as well. Thanks again!





Volunteers are the most important resource community organizations have; the ability to have our community members work together for the common goal to better our community is so valuable! THANK YOU to those dedicated people who selflessly donate their time and talents to our Dom. Our Dom is, to many, a second home; a place to spend time with family and friends, to relax, to play cards, to partake in a friendly bocce ball game, to just sit and talk, to enjoy a fantastic, home-cooked meal, and much more. In our Dom, we are a Slovenian community, but we are also a family. For 20 years, we have been blessed to have so many talented individuals in our community that have been willing to donate their time and expertise to our Center. We are now in a transitional phase, our founding members are looking to "retire" and our younger members are taking on leadership roles to ensure the continuation of our community. Our parents and grandparents worked so hard to pass on this wonderful gift to us, now it's our turn to keep it alive! We need to continue to bring in new ideas to enrich our existing foundation. We need fresh perspectives to keep our organization alive. As generations before us did, we need to work together to lessen the workload and keep the American- Slovenian community in Lemont thriving! In this, our 20th year, we are looking for volunteers to help us by donating their time and talents to the Center. I encourage everyone and anyone that is willing to donate their time to reach out to a SCC board member, feel free to come to me directly or even leave a message or note at the Center with your contact information. Having a variety of volunteers will give us all a greater opportunity to make new friends, foster new relationships, learn from one other and, of course, to have more fun than we do now!

Martina Hozjan Ruda, President, SCC

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much more." – Helen Keller



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FEBRUARY 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOME OFFICE:

2016 LODGE ELECTIONS AND DIVERSE LEADERSHIP



It was a busy fourth quarter of 2015 for our lodges with planning Christmas parties, volunteer events and electing lodge officers for 2016. As we settle into 2016, you may find your lodge in a transitioning role with increased membership, past officers in new positions

or younger members taking on leadership roles. At the Home Office, we are encouraged to report that nine percent of the 2016 lodge officers are 30 years-old or younger. **Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization, and to see many of our volunteers with a diverse mix of age groups in our officer rosters is highly beneficial to the continued success of KSKJ Life.**

How do we encourage more diversity? Understanding the different types of groups is the first step. Not every volunteer falls into these groups, as there are always exceptions, but these main four groups will help identify the typical volunteer by category.

1. Traditionalists (born between 1925-1944) are committed, loyal and volunteer because they feel it's their duty and is expected of them based on family history. They tend to stay within the same position for many years and prefer to communicate via phone or by mail.

2. Baby Boomers (1945-1964) are the largest in population and are ambitious, knowledgeable and eager to get involved. They prefer specific tasks and thrive when their skill set is utilized. They like to communicate through email or via phone.

3. Generation X (1965-1984) volunteers are chameleons – easy to adapt, eager to meet new people and determined. They are more apt to get involved when a cause impacts them directly. They are educated, technologically savvy and prefer to communicate via email, text and social media, such as Facebook.

4. Millennials (1985-2004) are also highly educated, technologically savvy and are motivated by acknowledgment and entertainment value. Most millennials will seek volunteerism to gain personal development. They seek praise and personal attention. They most likely communicate solely via text, social media and email.

Bridging the possible age gaps between volunteers is as easy as building a friendship. Take time to get to know your leaders and volunteers and encourage ice-breakers if you have new members or officers. It's much easier to gain participation when you are amongst friends.

It's important to remember that regardless of age, every volunteer has something to contribute

– whether it's a seasoned volunteer who has a lifetime of experience working with large groups of people, or a younger volunteer who may not have the experience, but can offer fresh approaches while managing communication or social media accounts. With a variety of volunteers from various ages, backgrounds and experience levels, there is so much to learn from each individual. We all want to be a part of something bigger, and we all have something to contribute. I leave all of you with a quote by Max Lucado, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Fratemally,

APRIL SLEYKO

KSKJ Life Home Office

"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."



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Established 1995—celebrating our 20th year!

Upcoming Events :

Sunday, **April** 10.. Family Mass
Sunday, April 24..... Annual Meeting &
Membership Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, **May** 7 .. Last Day of School
Sunday, May 8 Family Mass
Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day
Sunday, May 29 Corpus Christi

Sunday, **June** 5 Ave Maria Fundraiser
Sunday, June 19..... Father's Day Picnic
Prekmurje Social Club
June 25-26 Slovenian Sports Klub
Softball & Soccer Tournament & Picnic

Sunday, **July** 24 St. Anne's Society, KSKJ
#170 - Pilgrimage & Picnic

Sunday, **August** 14 SCC Picnic & Raffle
Sunday, August 28 . . Honey Picnic
& Youth Sports Tournaments

*Mark your calendars!!
Don't forget to make your
reservations for the
Member Appreciation Dinner
on April 24 &
Mother's Day on May 8!!
Renew your membership
today!*