



3909 S. Prairie Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

www.sokolspirit.org

December 2025

From the President's Podium

Sis. Kathy Barcal



Wow! Where has 2025 gone? As we wind down the 2025 Sokol year, I would like to thank all of you, our members, for your support. Thank you for volunteering, signing up for our classes and attending our fundraising events. We could not have done it without all of you! We look forward to a successful 2026 Sokol year.

At this time, I would like to thank Sokol Spirit's Executive Board who have worked continuously all year long to maintain our Sokol programs and our building for our membership. Many thanks to our Building Management committee who keeps our building safe and clean all year long. We continue to move forward with improvements. We just completed our roof repairs and we have a new stove in our kitchen! More improvements to come in 2026! Thank you to our Board of Instructors for all they do to keep our classes running so efficiently and smoothly all year long! Thank you for investing your time and energy to Sokol Spirit. It is truly appreciated.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events! On Friday, December 19th, we will have our Winter Show which will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please join us in the lower hall for snacks and refreshments. This is also our monthly beer club which is for everyone! The first Wednesday of each month, Sokol Spirit holds their unit meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. with a social followed by the meeting at 7:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend to stay up to date on what is happening at Sokol Spirit. It is a great way to socialize with our members. We will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 25th, 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. followed by our volleyball Flapjack tournament. All are invited to participate! We are always looking for volunteers to make this event run smoothly! Registration will be open soon for our 2026 Winter/Spring session which runs from January 12th - May 15th, 2026.

Whether you signed up for class, volunteered at a fundraiser, supported the fundraiser, made a monetary donation or attended a meeting or two, you have helped make a difference towards our success! Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Or as they say in Czech, Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok! Enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends! We look forward to seeing you in 2026!

Nazdar! - Kathy Barcal, President

HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES OF THE SEASON FROM SOKOL SPIRIT MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok! Nazdar! - The Barcal Family

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Sokol members and friends
- Dorothy & Henry Becker

Veselé Vánoce a Šťastný Nový Rok - Angeline Bultas & Family

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & Nazdar! - The Maskill Family

Veselé Vánoce a Šťastný Nový Rok! - Bruce & Diana Rhoades

Happiest holidays to all and cheers to the new year! Nazdar! - Patricia Satek

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - The Sowinski Family

Wishing all my Sokol Friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy
New Year! Na Zdravi! - Carol Shrofe

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy 2026! - The Zitko Family

Happy Birthday to Spirit members with December, January & February birthdays!

Marge Amlie

Irene Balas

Lisa Fallara

Cole Heetel

Laura Hruska

Barbara Lamb

Martha Lopez

Daniel Maskill

Bridget Massengill

Regina McGuire

Jacquie Ravnice

Regina Rocush

Frank Tudisco III

Robert Barcal

Ryan Barcal

Charlotte Belsan

Chris Boomer

Angie Bultas

Cassie Croft

Michael Drobick

Frank Flosman

David Harazin

Keith Langele

Mario Mongello

Carol Rocush

Charles Rocush

Pat Satek

Carolyn Scott

Kami Spatzek

Josh Suvetor

John Tooke

Karen Veselsky

Dorothy Becker

Jennifer Bejar

Stephanie Borkovec

Laura Chlapecka

Mary Cushing

Milissa Dropka

Kate Harris

Jimmy Hedderman

Lindsay Kostecki

Chris Lancel

Heather Lebrun Paveza

Mia Luciano

Michael Maloney

Lisa Pachla

Jill Ravnice

Tricia Rini

Ruth Svestka

Geri Umlauf





Have you heard...?

Tell us about Sokol Spirit member news:
SPIRITNEWS@HOTMAIL.COM ~ 708.692.8350

Run, Debbie, Run!

Congrats to Debbie Shields on completing the Chicago Marathon on October 12th.



Welcome to the world Danica Elizabeth, born on November 3rd to Ashley and Matt Petkus. Congratulations to the Croft & Petkus families!



Wendy Sanders is home and recovering after a recent surgery. Get well soon, Wendy!



On October 18th Jenn Baran & Kevin Rutkowski had a little party. They had a LOT of friends help them celebrate and a great time was had by all. Jenn has been attending Sokol classes for 30 years now, the toe point should say it all! Congratulations to Jenn & Kevin!



Presidents Award Winners

Every year the Central District Presidents recognize individuals who show exemplary service to Sokol. This year at the district annual meeting, our very own **Cassie Croft and Mark Shrofe** received this award. Also receiving the award was Ken Fron Jr. of Sokol Tabor. Congrats to all who were recognized and thank you for your many years of time and dedication to Sokol!

Sis. Cassie Croft started Sokol at the young age of 3. Cassie was a competitor in gymnastics, rhythmic, track and field and volleyball. Cassie was active in the junior girl class and served as director of the Junior Board. Cassie became an adult member of Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky in 2001. In 2000, Cassie represented us in the Houby pageant as Miss Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky. She joined the women's class in 2005. Cassie taught junior girls class at Sokol Spirit for five years. She became involved in Central District as the Membership Director. At Sokol Spirit, Cassie has served as our Secretary, PR/Marketing Director and 2nd Vice President. Cassie has been in charge of Sokol Spirit's involvement in the Village of Brookfield's Farmer's Market. Each week she ensures that Spirit has volunteers at the market to promote our Sokol program and all that we offer to the community. Through the program, our Wheels program and Tot's class have grown over the last couple of years. Cassie has helped promote and work many fundraisers over the years. Cassie has been an integral part of the success of Sokol Spirit's Oktoberfest that she has been involved with for 15 years! We have also held many successful wreath sales with Cassie taking the lead on this fundraiser and making sure all orders are correctly placed and received. Cassie is always looking for creative ways to raise money to keep the Sokol programs running for our community. She even took the helm to coordinate Beer Club for several years even though you will seldom see her with a beer in hand. Cassie was a member of the American Sokol National BOI. She contributed great ideas and brought her leadership skills and constructive feedback to assist our National BOI. In 2025, Cassie was the co-chair of the XXV American Sokol Slet. Cassie brought to this committee her strong management skills as well as her creativity and organizational skills. Through Cassie's many years participating in Sokol and taking on roles from Juniors class all the way up to the National level, she has shown impressive leadership skills and that Sokol is in her heart!



Pictured: Cassie Croft with last year's recipient , Dan Bajek



Bro. Mark Shrofe started his Sokol involvement at Sokol Berwyn in Tot's class in 1975. Mark later became the coach of the first class boys' class. Many of the boys liked him and Bro. Louie Prikazsky because they were so "cool!", but aside from being "cool", Mark has been a dedicated Sokol member and participant. He helped with set ups and clean ups and worked the cloakroom for many events such as the Concertina dances and the Czech plays by the club Bedrich Smetana. In 1989 Mark took over as President of the Board of Directors. This group oversaw maintaining the building and assisting with events and fundraisers. Mark held this position until 1996. When his son Dean started in Tos class, Mark joined the men's class and participated in many exhibitions and Slets. He also became involved again with the Building Management Committee and later became the

Chairman of the board. Under Mark's leadership the Sokol Spirit Building Management Committee didn't simply maintain the building, but he has gone above and beyond to modernize our facility. Some of our major projects have included using his electrician skills for the installation of new lighting systems throughout the building, making Wi-Fi available throughout our facility, overseeing the abatement and renovations of our lower hall following a major flood, a full rebuild of our parking lot, and a project to renovate our shower room. Mark's work has allowed us to continue to serve as a venue for many unit, district, and national events for the American Sokol. Mark's leadership is the reason our facilities were able to support these activities which our building was not previously equipped to do. The role on the Building Management Committee is a role that doesn't get much recognition, but we can all agree that this group is essential to keeping Sokol going.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Lorraine Hynek

From Susan Seiffert

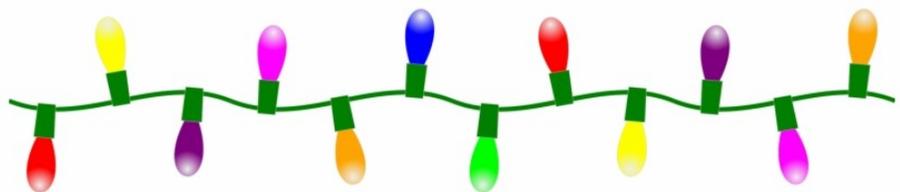
In memory of Paul Lebloch

From Moravian Cultural Society

In the Spirit of giving, please mail Memorial, Newsletter and ADA Fund donations to Sokol Spirit or to the newsletter editor. We also accept donations through our website. Sokol Spirit is a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization. Your donation is fully tax deductible. All donations to these funds go towards gym class equipment, printing cost for this newsletter, and future projects to make our building more accessible.

Our Tree is Trimmed!

Thanks to everyone who braved the elements and came out to the Brookfield Zoo to decorate our tree. Come visit tree #915, towards the end of the West Mall.



Reminder: The newsletter can be found in color at sokolspirit.org on the Membership page

Fun at the Gym!

Our classes had a blast dressing up for Halloween!



In October our Tots enjoyed a stuffy day. Their furry friends joined them in class activities.
Rumor has it the Senior men will be doing this in the future ;)



Competition Time!

Congratulations to Hope Spatzek! Hope finished in 3rd place at USA Wheel's recent bi-annual Wheel Week-end competition. The event featured three days packed with education, growth, and as many new wheel skills learned as new friends made. They welcomed athletes from Chicago, Maryland, New Orleans, Cincinnati, and Germany, alongside coaches from Chicago, Germany, and Switzerland.



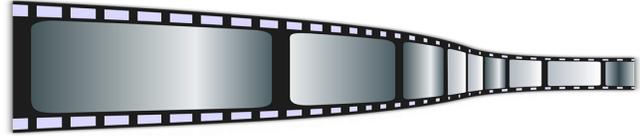
On November 15th our gymnasts competed at the Central District Turkey Time Gymnastics Meet, held at Naperville Central High School. Great job to all the boys and girls!



Dues Notice:

Please consider paying your membership dues for 2026, now available on our website sokolspirit.org. Save time, save a check, save a stamp by paying now. (No service fees charged) Questions? Call Dorothy Becker at 847-842-0390 or 708-715-2421

CZECH FILM SERIES



(English Subtitles) on **the 3rd Friday of the Month** starting at 7pm in our Czech classroom upstairs. With a donation of \$5 you get a free pilsner, pop, or water. Our Czech language instructor will be introducing you to all the film background and will be there to answer questions. This is our 11th season!

We will take a break from films in December/January and return in February

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

February 20 WHEN A DRAGON GETS A HEADACHE / KDYZ DRAKA BOLI HLAVA; 2018; 98 Minutes; Color; English Subtitles; Rating: G

March 20 Nowhere in Moravia / Díra u Hanušovic; 2014; 99 minutes; Color; English Subtitles; Rating: PG-Language & Sexual content, no nudity

Visit www.sokolspirit.org/education/czech-film-series/ for more detailed movie descriptions



**WANTED:
SECRET SANTA HELPERS**

Help us assist the *Pillars Community Health Association* by contributing warm clothing (new gloves, scarves, earmuffs, etc.) for Ages 6 months to 18 to the **Sokol Spirit Giving Tree** located on the stage. Used, clean items may also be contributed.

December 19th will be the last pick-up. All items will be collected and brought to the Secret Santa "Workshop". Anything not utilized in the "Workshop" is given to the free medical and dental clinics to use throughout the winter with youth clients or stored for the 2026 program.

Sokol Spirit members, students, and friends have been collecting for this program for 25 years!

Your help will assist in supporting local parents who work hard to care for their families and children but may be among the "working poor" who have no health insurance and visit the health clinic or use the health programs run by the association. These include a free school physical, inoculations, sick visits, and dental care. When housing, food and utilities use up disposable income, there is nothing left for the holidays. This year more than 1,000 children have been identified as certified low-income families.



Please join Sokol Spirit to express our support for this local charity.
THANK YOU in advance for your support and making
the Holiday Season merrier!



Czech Party Foods

 Sokol Spirit



Thursday
December 18th
7pm - \$10

**JOIN US TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE
SOME CLASSIC CZECH SNACKS,
JUST IN TIME FOR THE
HOLIDAYS. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**SOKOL SPIRIT
3909 PRAIRIE AVE. BROOKFIELD IL**



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 25, 2026

7:30am-11:00am

Children (6-12)

\$8

5 and under - free!



Adults

\$12

Flapjack Volleyball Tournament
following breakfast

3909 Prairie Ave.
Brookfield IL, 60513

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Calendar of Events

Upcoming:

- December 18:** Czech Party Foods 7pm
- December 19:** Winter Show 6:30pm & WBC 8pm
- Dec 20-Jan 11:** Winter Break; No Classes
- January 16:** World Beer Club 8pm
- January 25:** Pancake Breakfast & Flapjack Open

Recurring meeting— First Wednesday of the month
Unit Meeting 7:30 pm All members are welcome!

Save the dates:

- January 31:** Share Food Share Love Game Night
- February 20:** Czech Film 7pm & WBC 8pm
- February 21:** Trivia Night
- March 7:** Family Fun Fair
- April 25:** Exhibition



Follow us on social media



Moving? Please let us know your new address. Contact: Dorothy Becker

BeckerD9749@SBCglobal.net 340 Lake Shore Drive North Barrington, IL 60010-3425



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