



3909 S. Prairie Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

www.sokolspirit.org

March 2026

From the President's

Sis. Kathy Barcal



Podium

Spring is just around the corner~ Our 2026 winter/spring session is in full swing! Thank you for supporting Sokol Spirit!

All members are invited to attend our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7 p.m. with a social and the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mark your calendars for our Czech movie series at 7 p.m. and Beer Club at 8 p.m. every third Friday of the month. A flight of beer for \$15. Bring your family and friends!

We will be holding our annual spring show (also known as "Exhibition") on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Further details to follow. Please come out and watch our participants perform in Sokol calisthenics, special numbers and show off their gymnastic skills! All are invited to attend and then join us after back at the gym for a party in our lower hall. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase. We will have music and fun for everyone! See the flyer in this newsletter!

The Central District will be holding a Sham Rockin' & Rollin' Gymnastic meet on Saturday, March 21st at Sokol Lodge 306 located at 4855 N. Elston in Chicago. Please plan to arrive early so that you can find parking. The boys' meet begins at 9:00 a.m. and the girls' meet begins at 11:00 a.m. Admission is \$3.00 cash only. Be sure to check out our website at www.sokolspirit.org for upcoming events, making donations and our calendar. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Nazdar! - Kathy Barcal, President

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush." - Doug Larson



Flapjack Open Tournament

Every year, after the last syrup bottle is drained and the griddles finally cool, the real action begins. That's when the attention shifts from the buffet line to the volleyball courts.

Welcome to the **Flapjack Open** — a blind draw co-ed volleyball tournament that serves up competition, camaraderie, and just the right amount of chaos. Held annually immediately after our Pancake Breakfast, this beloved tradition transforms a morning of maple-fueled indulgence into an afternoon of high-energy rallies.

Congratulations to this year's Champions!



Trivia Night

Our annual Team Trivia Night was a lively and engaging event that brought participants together for an evening of fun and friendly competition. Teams put their knowledge to the test across a wide range of categories. The evening was filled with laughter, strategic whispering, and of course some great snacks and drinks. The energy stayed high throughout the event, culminating in a close final round that shook up the standings!



Congratulations to this year's winners, Team "Trivia?! I'm here for BINGO"

Also pictured: Team "Mind Your Own Falcon Business". They may not have won, but it looks like they had a great time!



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

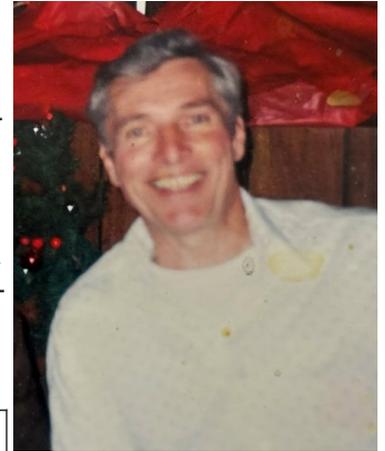


Have you heard...?

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

With great sadness we share the loss of Brother Elmer Kulousek who passed away on December 25, 2025 at the age of 91. Elmer was a lifelong member of Sokol for 73 years. He leaves behind many people he has touched with his friendship through the years.

Elmer was often spotted at the Sokol Hall on men's class nights, volleyball games, Unit fundraisers and social events. If he wasn't fishing in Wisconsin, you could count on him toasting a glass at our monthly World Beer Club. At our February Beer Club we celebrated Elmer by serving beers that remind us of him. Below is the line-up of drinks and why they were chosen.



	<p>Bohemia Pilsner · 4.7% ABV · Cervecería Cuauhtémoc Moctezuma · Monterrey, MX Among the many words to describe Elmer, one may choose "bohemian." This could describe his family heritage. Or maybe his unconventional lifestyle. Perhaps his preference for the cheapest beer he could get his hands on. We'll let you decide.</p>
	<p>Export Lager · 5.0% ABV · Rhineland Brewing · Rhineland, WI "Refreshing as Wisconsin's Northwoods" is on the can. Can you think of Elmer and not think of the Wisconsin Northwoods, making the journey to his second home hundreds of times? A classic Northwoods beer for a part-time Northwoods man.</p>
	<p>Bungalow · 4.0% ABV · Middle Brow Beer · Chicago, IL A lifelong Berwynite, Elmer represents not only the typical bungalow-dweller, but a reminder of the rich heritage those multi-generational homes carried as the Chicago Czechs migrated west - a nod to the good ol' days, when everyone walked to Sokol.</p>
	<p>Beer for Hoops · 5.0% ABV · Off Color Brewing · Chicago, IL Elmer, an athlete into his 80s, wowed his opponents with his long arms and non-existent vertical. While his volleyball number is retired, he was also known as a hooper, as several opponents lamented their hardcourt drubbings at his Sokol service.</p>
	<p>Small Wave City Club · 6.5% ABV · Solemn Oath Brewery · Naperville, IL A fish or two surely knew the look of a dreaded Kulousek lure, though their sacrifices created decades of bonds and memories between Elmer and his family and friends on Long Lake in northern Wisconsin. And he had the perfect arms for fish stories.</p>
	<p>Bad Elmer's Porter · 6.0% ABV · Upland Brewing · Bloomington, IN Elmer? Bad? Never. In fact, quite the opposite. If you remember a time that Elmer was anything but friendly, likeable, charming, welcoming, cheery, well-mannered, unpretentious, gracious, or upbeat, with a twinkle in his eye, your beer is free!</p>





With great sadness we share the passing of Brother William Kostecki who passed away on January 21, 2026 at the age of 98. He was a Sokol member for 75 years. William was known for his kind, friendly nature, and an exceptional sense of humor that brought laughter to all who knew him.

MEMORIAL AND ADA FUND DONATIONS

From Blanka Flosman

In Honor of Sokol Slavsky

From Ellen Duvall

In Memory of Elmer Kulousek

From Don and Sue Jenicek

From Angie Bultas

From Mildred Schnabl

From Dominic Mongello & Debbie Shields

From Carol Kala

From Barb Zeman

From Jan and Ray Sowinski

From Missy Dropka

From Elise and Dave Curelo

From Richard L Vachata

From Carol Shrofe and family

From Mark and Mary Novak

From Meribeth and John Tooke

From Gregory and Adrienne Kulousek

In Memory of William Kostecki

From SAIC Library and Special Collections Staff

From Ed Klus

From Henry and Mary

In Memory of Jerry Zitko Sr.

From Susan D'Andrea

MEMBERS NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH



3909 Prairie Ave.
Brookfield, IL

**DOORS OPEN - 6:30PM
RECOGNITIONS - 8PM**

Free

**For Spirit Members
and Kids**

\$15

For non-members

Buffet Dinner | Cash Bar

Featuring Live Music

**Join us for a fun night out, as we show our
appreciation for you!**

RSVP Required by May 1st

Questions? Contact Howie at

708-692-8350 or membership@sokolspirit.org

2026 Membership Honorees

<u>5 years</u>	<u>10 years</u>	<u>25 years</u>	<u>45 years</u>	<u>55 years</u>
Alice Cozad	Dianna Babiar	Cassandra Croft	Irene Balas	Cynthia Hokr
Kyle Cruz	Gregory Baran	Andrew Lutha	Denise Conway	Ray Lutha
David Harazin	Clare Mensik	Vera Wilt	Susan D'Andrea	<u>60 years</u>
Theresa Marion	Lisa Pachla	<u>30 years</u>	Maria Novak	JoAnne Bazata
Michelle O'Connell	<u>15 years</u>	Jacqueline Ravnicek	<u>50 years</u>	Susan Kozelka
Tricia Pros	Tricia Rini	<u>35 years</u>	Kathryn Carr	Sandra Michelin
JoAnne Raygoza	Jennifer Wasielewski	John Becker	Julianne Hume	<u>70 years</u>
Cecilia Rokusek	<u>20 years</u>	John Tooke	Barbara Lamb	Charles Dvorak
Amy Tudisco	Linda Bednar	<u>40 years</u>	Diana Rhoades	Charles Ptacek
Frank Tudisco	Pam Ferris	Debbie Milas		Elaine Zitko
Frank Tudisco III	Charles Klapp			
Philip Tudisco	Jessica Rus			
Linda Young	Meribeth Tooke			

*We hope to see you all at our
Members Night on March 8th!*

On Saturday, January 31st Sokol Spirit collaborated with Share Food Share Love, a local food pantry servicing the western suburbs of Chicago, to host a game night in our lower hall. Guests participated in exciting pricing games and raised funds for both of our organizations. It was a fun evening for a great cause! The food pantry is located in Brookfield. For more info visit sharefoodsharelove.org

Game Show Night

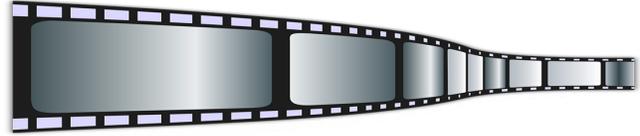


Dues Notice:

Thank you to all who have paid their 2026 dues.
Remember, you can pay dues on our website, sokolspirit.org.

- Dorothy Becker, Financial Secretary

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

March 20 Nowhere in Moravia / Díra u Hanušovic; 2014; 99 minutes; Color; English Subtitles; Rating: PG

April 17 KOLJA/KOLYA; 1996; 105 Minutes; Color; English subtitles; Rating: PG-13

May 15 Taxi 121/Taxi 121; 2016; 90 Minutes; Color; English subtitles; PG-13

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

Happy Birthday to Spirit members with March, April & May birthdays!

March

Kaitlyn Barcal
Michael Barcal
Joe Dusek
Kathe Heetel
Jinnene Hoggarth
Bill Komarek
Ken Kozelka
Jennifer LaGreco
Michael LeMasters
Linda Makdah
Chris Marquardt
Suzie Mazgay
Liz McGuire
Scarlet Pajer
Adam Rini
Mike Ryan
Anita Skotnicki
Phil Tudisco
Jeremy Ulrich
Martin Umlauf
Jennifer Wasielewski

April

Jaimie Baker
JoAnne Bazata
Rachel Cohler
Elaine Colina
Camille Elvidge
Robin Fuener
Catherine Goodwin
Chuck Kalat
Becky Maloney
Josie Mensik
Frank Michalek
Art Placek
Kyle Rhoades
Megan Rossie
Michelle Ruska
Marilyn Vicker
Eddie Zempich
Elaine Zitko

May

Matt Carlozzi
Sarah Clemenci
Jan Dubick
Peggy Gilbert-Ulrich
Wendy Gonzales
Tyler Kos
Christina Kuckie-Roberts
Gaby Lettiere
Andy Lutha
Jonathan McDermott
Carolyn Morriss
Dianna Rhoades
Keith Rhoades
Debbie Russell
Susan Seiffert
Thomas Zeman
Jerry Zitko

Happy Birthday



Calendar of Events

Upcoming:

March 20: Czech Film 7pm; Beer Club 8pm

March 21: District Gymnastics Competition

March 30: The Art of Kraslice (Egg Coloring) 7pm

April 17: Czech Film 7pm; Beer Club 8pm

April 25: Exhibition

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

Save the dates:

May 8: Membership Night 7pm

May 15: Czech Film 7pm; Beer Club 8pm

May 16: Central District Gymnastics Competition

May 17: Central District Sokol Day

May 30: LaGrange Pet Parade

June 3: Annual Meeting 7pm



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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