

Happy Mother's Day

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST

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CFU Annuity and Life Insurance Provides Security for Your Family

CFU Annuity Contracts offer 4.5% while Life Insurance Remains An Important Consideration For Every Family

By Edward W. Pazo / National President

PITTSBURGH, PA - Recently we had the opportunity to attend an industry seminar that brought together approximately eight of our peer fraternal benefit societies. The program was rich in content with respect to: Options for less traditional investment possibilities; human resources management concerns; actuarial observations; most recent year-end financial experiences of our industry; and, observations of three sales managers concerning contracting and working with life insurance sales agents.

All of the information presented was very interesting and provided an opportunity to assess where Croatian Fraternal Union presently stands in relation to its peers. The past few issues of Zajedničar presented the financial experience of our society which has been outstanding. In the most recent issue of our official organ, we covered our role in honoring and preserving our Croatian culture and heritage through the President's column.

During the portion of the presentation at the seminar covering sales agents, it became quite clear that Croatian Fraternal Union of America is most likely the last remaining successful fraternal benefit society that relies almost exclusively on its membership for referrals. This uniqueness of this sales approach is not lost on the Executive Board when implementing New Membership Sales Campaigns.

Our approach has been to utilize the Zajedničar and rely upon our active and dedicated Lodge officers to reach all of those members of the Croatian Fraternal Union who may have a relative or friend who could benefit from investing in an **Annuity or IRA account offered by CFU that offers 4.5% for two years**; or, who needs valuable life insurance coverage to protect one's family's financial interests and welfare.

Our Society Relies Upon Referral from Members

CFU National and local lodge officers take great pride in knowing our member customers, as many are friends or relatives of current members. Our greatest advertisement is when a satisfied

policyholder, either through life insurance or Annuity/IRA contracts, tells someone else about our products and services. We rely upon this sales approach to a very large extent and support it through frequent written articles in Zajedničar and volunteer recommender incentives which acknowledge the efforts of those members who support our overall sales results.

It is imperative that our society continues receiving leads and recommendations for individuals who would benefit from our Annuity and Life Insurance product portfolio. Therefore, we take this opportunity to ask **ALL** members to consider recommending someone for membership in the Croatian Fraternal Union. For families with multiple family members maintaining a current policy with our society, we ask that the family recommend someone for membership in our Croatian Fraternal Union. Let's make it a point this year to share the GOOD NEWS concerning our society and the many benefits of membership.

A few excellent benefits quickly come to mind:

1. Affordable premiums on



IT'S TENPIN TIME! Plan to be a part of the action at the 90th Annual CFU Tenpin Tournament slated for May 16-17 hosted by CFU Lodge 136 at Lorain, Ohio. Friendly competition on the lanes, terrific music by Mikey Dee and the Tamburica All Stars, good food and plenty of fun at the American Croatian Club in Lorain provide all the makings for a wonderful tournament weekend. Bowlers, members and friends all welcome to join in the celebration of nine decades of CFU bowling tournament festivities.

solid life insurance plans for the whole family. Whether whole life or term insurance, the CFU can provide options for a family's consideration.

2. Excellent rates of return on savings. Through the CFU CHOICE TWO Annuity, a present rate of 4.5% is guaranteed for two years from the date of issue of a contract. CFU offers either an Annuity or IRA account for basically the whole family. Eligible persons may establish either a Traditional or Roth IRA; those not eligible for an IRA may start an Annuity account; and, parents and grandparents can start saving for their children's education through a Coverdell IRA.

3. Fraternal benefits beyond compare when reviewing our industry peers. With \$10 Million Dollars in the CFU Scholarship Foundation, eligible youth seeking a college education can qualify for up to four annual awards that range from \$800 to \$2000. These are grants, not loans, and directly benefit a child and family as the high cost of education goes even higher.

4. Become part of and support an organization that continues to promote and perpetuate our Croatian Heritage and Culture for over 132 years.

SINGLE PREMIUM PLAN OFFERS 15% SAVINGS

Maintaining adequate life insurance remains a critical component of sound financial planning for all families. There is no good reason why a family should be underinsured as there are a variety of insurance products

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CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival Meets July 3-5 in Cleveland



CLEVELAND, OH — The Croatian Fraternal Union of America will once again bring the sound of tamburitza music to the shores of Lake Erie as it hosts its 58th Annual Junior Tamburitza Festival on July 3-5, in Cleveland.

Returning to Cleveland for the sixth time in festival history, this long-standing tradition will gather junior ensembles, families, and supporters from across the United States and Canada for a weekend centered on music, heritage, and community.

At the heart of the festival are the young performers who dedicate countless hours to learning the art of tamburitza. Through their performances, they not only showcase musical talent but also carry forward the mission of preserving Croatian culture for future generations. The annual event has become a cornerstone of the CFU's cultural programming, highlighting the organization's continued commitment to youth engagement and cultural education.

Festival headquarters will be located at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown, situated in the city's vibrant downtown district near Huntington Bank Field and within walking distance of several of Cleveland's most visited attractions.

Visitors attending the festival will have the opportunity to explore notable destinations such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the historic West Side Market, and the Great Lakes Science Center, all located just minutes from the festival's central hub.

A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees from July 2 through July 5 at a special group rate, with reservations available through the hotel's online booking system. Festival organizers note that the reservation deadline is **June 4, 2026**, after which availability and discounted pricing cannot be guaranteed. To reserve accommodations online, please visit: <https://book.passkey.com/go/58CFU>

Beyond the performances, the weekend will include a variety of social gatherings, offering members and guests the chance to reconnect and strengthen the fraternal bonds that have defined the organization for more than a century. For many families, the Junior Tamburitza Festival represents not only a performance opportunity, but a reunion and celebration of shared heritage.

As the CFU continues its mission to "protect, preserve, and perpetuate" Croatian culture, events

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Zajedničar

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...LORRAINE TURKALL

Forever in Our Hearts

Throughout the history of the Croatian Fraternal Union, we have extolled the virtues of the Society's Founding Fathers, Members of the National Administration who governed through our 132-year history, generations of lodge leaders and officers, and many more who served our Society in various capacities. Within the framework of our lodges, many people exerted countless hours of work to sustain the activities of the Society and their respective lodges, often without receiving any accolades, compensation or, sometimes, even appreciation.

Since the month of May pays well-deserved honor to all Mothers, this year celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10th, it is only fitting that we give a collective shout out to thank all of the Mothers, Grandmothers, and Women of our CFU Lodges who have worked tirelessly to support countless lodge functions, tamburitza events, sports programs and a host of other fraternal gatherings which required dedicated volunteerism and a caring workforce to make such activities possible and successful.

Not denying the tremendous amount of work which is accomplished by the male sector of our Society, we pause to make note of the equally important participation of the female population of our Society who have played, and continue to play, a vital role in the success of our lodges throughout the evolution of our CFU.

In the early years of our fraternal development, many Mothers, Grandmothers, and Women comprising our CFU lodges were charged with the responsibilities of preparing the feasts for lodge banquets, for organizing fundraisers and for providing secretarial skills to document activities of the lodge. The work of many Moms, Grandmas,

Aunts and Women of the lodges continue to this day as they assume leadership roles in our lodges and in our national organization. They also exert their efforts to promote the participation of children in nest activities, junior tamburitza ensembles, sports programs and many other facets of fraternal involvement. Moms often are largely responsible for handling bake sales, lodge dinners, and many fundraising gatherings, which oftentimes include additional tasks of cooking, baking, sewing costumes, shuttling children to and from tamburitza practices



GOOD NEWS!

The Current Interest Rate on the CFU CHOICE TWO Annuity Program has been **EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026!**

The CHOICE TWO Program's current interest rate of 4.5% has just been extended and is guaranteed for an initial Two-Year Term, with a 30-Day Window for Penalty-free Withdrawals beginning at the 2nd Anniversary of contract.

Minimum Deposit is \$3,000. Available as non-qualified Annuity; Traditional or Roth IRA.

Act now to secure the favorable rate on this excellent Savings Opportunity currently available through the Croatian Fraternal Union!

Call the CFU Home Office today at 412-843-0380 to lock in this great rate on a valuable CFU Annuity while it lasts!

and nest activities, and many more commitments.

Though not always acknowledged for their efforts, many mothers simply find happiness and satisfaction in knowing their work is worthwhile and appreciated by their children. A mother's love, time, work and unselfish efforts are reflected in the joys of her children and family, placing their needs before hers. From the terrible twos to the teenage years, challenges persist each day at every stage of development that test the mettle of mothers in coping with behaviors, attitudes and interests. Yet, mothers are fortified by their love and faith, trusting that what they do to help along life's way will positively reflect in the lives of their children and beyond.

How far we have come as a Society is surely, in part, thanks to the selfless involvement of Mothers and Women who believed in our fraternal mission and who shared their knowledge and talents to help achieve success for one and all. Joining their children in expressing appreciation for all they do, we offer our gratitude to all Mothers and Women who have contributed to our Society reaching its goals.

Truly, a mother's love is unconditional, and transcends all boundaries, nestled forever in our hearts, making this world and our Fraternal Family a better place.

Lodge 270 News

CALUMET, MI - Calling all Croatian Yoopers after a very long winter! It's time for our Lodge 270 meeting on Monday, May 18th. This will be held in our usual location at the Merchants and Miners Building at 200 Fifth Street in Calumet. The social hour will start at 6 p.m., with dinner and dessert. Our business meeting will follow.

Items on the agenda include a discussion of charitable donations and the Croatian Fest. Bring your ideas with you.

Mark your calendars for Monday, May 18th, and enjoy an evening with fellow lodge members.

Vidimo se!

Donna Preston/Secretary

Mother's Day Wishes!



By Edward W. Pazo/National President

We take this opportunity to extend our best wishes and prayers for God's blessings to all mothers, not only in observance of the upcoming "Mother's Day" on Sunday, May 10th, but always. Our mothers serve such a critical role in our families. They are the rock on which a loving home is built. They are the inspiration for our dreams while also our consoler when life's problems prey upon us.

Where would we be without our mother? Personally, I can't even begin to fathom the hardships which would have befallen me if my own mom was not present in my life. For those of you who were fortunate to have had or still have loving and steadfast moms in your life, you certainly can understand these sentiments. Tell your mom that you love her and all that she means to you and your family. I did and am eternally grateful for the blessings bestowed upon me and my family through the love and understanding of my own mom Catherine.

While thinking about the upcoming Mother's Day observance, I walked past one of the prized pieces of fine art in our home office, the bronze statue of "Povijest Hrvata" or sometimes also known as "Majka Hrvatska." Mother of Croatia is a wonderful, sculpted Bronze by the renowned master Ivan Meštrović.

A quick search of Internet yields the following:

Ivan Meštrović's 1932 sculpture *Povijest Hrvata* (History of the Croats) symbolizes Croatian national identity, heritage, and resilience, depicting a stoic, motherly figure as the guardian of the nation's history. Modeled after the sculptor's own mother, she represents the "Mother of Croatia," preserving tradition, literacy (via the Glagolitic script), and the spirit of the homeland.

Key symbolic aspects include:

- **Guardian of Heritage:** The woman, dressed in a Dalmatian hinterland folk costume, holds a stone tablet inscribed with "Povijest Hrvata" in the Glagolitic script, highlighting the preservation of Croatian cultural identity.
- **Mother Croatia (Majka Hrvata):** It portrays the homeland as a humble yet strong matriarchal figure, embodying "Mother Croatia" as the protector of the nation's past and future hopes.
- **Resilience and Identity:** Placed in front of the University of Zagreb (and at the University of Split), the statue symbolizes the enduring spirit, education, and continuity of the Croatian people.
- **Historical Context:** Originally created for the Knin museum, the 1932 sculpture is a masterpiece of Croatian art that, through its dignified posture, contrasts with the turbulent history of the region.

The bronze statue was gifted to our society by *Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika* on the occasion of the society's 90th Anniversary celebration with the following information also found online:

A bronze casting of Ivan Meštrović's "Povijest Hrvata" (History of the Croats) statue was donated to the Croatian Fraternal Union of America in 1984. Crafted at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb, this copy was presented by the Croatian Heritage Foundation and is now prominently displayed at the CFU home office in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, representing Croatian identity and heritage.

- **About the Sculpture:** The statue, depicting a seated woman in Dalmatian folk costume holding a stone slab with "Povijest Hrvata" in Glagolitic script, symbolizes the mother guardian of Croatian heritage.
- **Significance:** It is one of only three known major copies (one in Zagreb, one in Split, and one in Pittsburgh) of the iconic masterpiece, with the original located in Belgrade.

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Povijest Hrvata
 Mother of Croatia

CFU 2026 Calendar of Coming Events

Strossmayer Croatian Festival Welcomes All on June 6

VIENNA, OH - Dear fellow Croatians and friends of Croatia, Join us for an unforgettable day at the Strossmayer Croatian Festival on June 6th, at Strossmayer's Croatian Picnic Grounds, 4202 Smith Stewart Rd., Vienna, OH 44438. Come celebrate our rich Croatian heritage while helping us continue revitalizing this historic gathering place for future generations. Doors open at 12 noon. Cash-only event. \$8 admission, children 12 and under free.

Enjoy authentic Croatian favorites like ćevapi, sarma, and štrudel, Croatian beer and refreshments, traditional folk-dance performances, and live music by Noćne Sove of Youngstown, OH. Come kolo and dance the day away!

Roasted lamb and pork will be available by pre-order only. Please text (preferred) or call 330-507-6660 by June 1st to place your order.

Our Mission

Strossmayer's is a 100% volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All festival proceeds support ongoing renovations of the grounds. Thanks to your generosity, we've completed much-needed roof repairs and kitchen updates in the past two years — and we have more improvements planned!

Become a Donor or Sponsor

We warmly invite individuals, families, and businesses to support this event as donors or sponsors. Your contribution directly supports the restoration of the grounds and helps preserve our Croatian traditions. Sponsorship recognition opportunities are available.

Volunteers Welcome

Volunteers receive free admission and play an important role in making the day a success. To volunteer, donate, sponsor, or learn more, please contact us on Facebook or call/text 330-507-6660.

Mark your calendars and celebrate Croatian culture with us on June 6th!

Marina Juratovic Saunders
Lodge 66



CFU Lodge 978 Hosts Party

PHOENIX, AZ - CFU Lodge 978 will be hosting a "Cinco de Mayo" Party on Saturday, May 9. Bring your swimsuit and favorite Mexican appetizer. The event starts at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Sonja Schroder at 602-405-2059.

Sonja Schroder/Lodge 978

SPOTLIGHT ON CFU PROGRAMS

A Message from the Executive Vice President
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

OFFERED SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

Life insurance provides protection for your family and those who depend on you for financial support. It can provide a large, income tax free benefit to help your family members carry on if you pass away unexpectedly.

There is no better time than the present to secure financial protection for those who depend on you. The younger you are, the more cost efficient your premiums, and the more life insurance options you will have.

However, CFU also offers saving opportunities through annuity and IRA accounts (traditional and Roth). You can open an account with a \$3,000 minimum deposit, or greater, and currently earn 4.5% interest through the CFU Choice Two Program.

Purchasing an annuity provides an opportunity to save for the future and to supplement income at retirement age. Also, it offers an opportunity to have the tax-deferred accumulation of interest dollars.

Annuities are instruments through which one may develop plans for the accumulation and distribution of money, a process often referred to as estate planning. In spite of inflation, fixed-dollar investments continue to have an important place in long range savings, and annuities are among those investments.

CFU annuities provide for the tax-deferred accumulation of interest dollars with a flexible interest compounded annually. The interest accumulation is not taxed until it is withdrawn. However, when you make a withdrawal, you will pay ordinary income tax on the taxable amount withdrawn, so the tax is only deferred, not eliminated.

The CFU provides its members with a semi-annual statement every January and July indicating the annuity balance, deposits, and withdrawals.

CFU has a history of financial stability. With a 131-year past and currently having a surplus amount totaling \$74,001,781, CFU remains steadfast.

Plan your financial future and family protection with the CFU! Find the product right for you! Lock in years of financial stability today!

Call us at 412.843.0380 or visit our website at www.cfu.org. We'll help you to select the right product that meets your needs.



90th Birthday Wishes to Mary Plesha

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Mary Plesha is one of our dearest followers of Lodge 170 and Hoosier Hrvati in Merrillville, IN.

Mary came to our Friday Night Social to welcome our

guest groups for the Hoosier Hrvati Spring Concert. We, in turn, surprised her with flowers, a 90th Birthday banner and, of course, birthday cake. One of our staunchest supporters, her birthday coincided with the Friday Night Social and we had to celebrate!

Surrounded by family and friends, her grandson-in-law played and sang a special Croatian song to her. Through Mary's joyful tears, the "pick-up" band played and we all sang Happy Birthday and wished her many, many more.

Her sweet reply to all the attention was precious. She didn't think anything could top her 85th birthday surprise, when Hoosier Hrvati surprised her, at her home, with a "Garage Band" performance...but this took the cake!

Mary is Secretary of The Club of Retired Croatians. She is an amazing woman and loved by all.

Sretan Rodjendan, Mary. Bog Te Blagoslovio Uvijek!

Sally Kegley/Lodge 170



- MAY**
- 16-17 CFU National Bowling Tournament - Hosted by Lodge 136, Lorain, OH
- 30 Croatian Heritage Night at PNC Park - Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game - Pittsburgh, PA
- JUNE**
- 5-6 CFU National Golf Tournament - Hosted by Zora CFU Lodge 351 - Rockham Golf Course - Detroit, MI
- 7 Spring Picnic of Ogulin Lodge 530 - Tower Rd. - St. Thomas, ON
- 7 Javor Tamburaši Annual Picnic - Croatian Center - Millvale, PA
- JULY**
- 3-5 58th Annual CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival - Hilton Cleveland Downtown - Cleveland, OH
- 11 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Festival - Field Park - Mukwonago, WI
- 12 Midwest Croatian Fraternal Union Day Picnic & Raffle - Hosted by Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32 - Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St., Joliet
- 18 Joe Rady Golf Tournament - Hosted by CFU Lodge 367 - Kellogg Golf Course - Peoria, IL
- 19 St. George CFU Lodge 66 Annual Picnic - Croatian Home - Youngstown, OH
- AUGUST**
- 1 Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's Bob Novosel Memorial Jamboree - American Croatian Club - 32851 Ryan Rd. - Warren, MI
- 2 St. George Junior Tamburitza's Annual Golf Outing - Nemaocolin Country Club - Beallsville, PA
- 16 Annual Fraternal Day Picnic - United CFU Four County Lodges - Clairton Community Park - Clairton, PA
- 30 Summer Picnic and Bocce Tournament of Ogulin CFU Lodge 530 - Croatian R.C. Church - London, ON
- 30 CFU Lodge 170 Annual Picnic - Merrillville, IN
- SEPTEMBER**
- 6 Annual Croatian Day Celebration - Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA
- 12 St. George Tamburitza's Annual Picnic - Cokeburg Community Park - Cokeburg, PA
- OCTOBER**
- 10 Lodge 126 Indoor Picnic - Farrell Croatian Home - Farrell, PA
- 11 CFU 5K - North Park Boathouse - Allison Park, PA
- 17 100th Anniversary Banquet of the Rankin Croatian Home - Rankin, PA
- 25 United CFU Four County Lodges' Fraternalist of the Year and 50-Year Member Celebration - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA
- NOVEMBER**
- 6-8 39th Annual CFU Adult TamFEST - Renaissance Columbus Downtown - Columbus, OH
- 22 CFU Lodge 515 "Bernard M. Luketich" Toronto, Scholarship Luncheon in memory of Magdalena Mary Smintich - Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31, 1050 Weston Road, Toronto
- 29 Christmas Dinner and St. Nicholas Day of Ogulin CFU Lodge 530/Nest 530 - Croatian R.C. Church, London - ON
- DECEMBER**
- 13 St. George CFU Lodge 354/Nest 122 Annual Christmas Party - Croatian Home - Cokeburg, PA
- 13 Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32's Christmas Luncheon - Place to be determined.
- 19 Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's Christmas in Croatia - American Croatian Club - 32851 Ryan Rd. - Warren, MI

Consular Days in Pittsburgh and Cleveland

WASHINGTON, DC - Due to official obligations, the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will be unable to hold previously scheduled Consular Days on June 11, 2026, in Pittsburgh, PA, and on June 12, 2026, in Eastlake, OH.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mihovil Pažin
Embassy of Croatia Washington, DC

Zajedničar Publication Dates

- - Publication dates are highlighted in black
- - All Material Deadline dates are circles
- - Office Closure

MAY							JUNE							JULY									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4							
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
24 th	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30						26	27	28	29	30	31			

Submissions may be mailed to "Zajedničar", 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235; faxed to 412-823-1594. If you are e-mailing material for publication, please direct them to editor@cfu.org. E-mailed articles should be sent in the body of your e-mail and not as an attachment. Only photographs should be sent as an attachment. All material must be received at least one week prior to the issue date. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated - Hvala! —Editors

MINUTES EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

National President Pazo called the Meeting of the Executive Board to order at 10:00 a.m. with customary Fraternal Greetings.

In attendance are National President Edward W. Pazo, Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović and National Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras. Minutes of the Tuesday, February 17, 2026 meeting of the Executive Board were read and officially approved.

President Pazo opened the meeting by briefly reviewing the topics covered at the National Board's quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 24. The 2025 budget results were presented at that meeting and the proposed 2026 budget had been approved—marking the first time a budget was reviewed and finalized prior to the annual spring meeting in May. The spring meeting is scheduled for May 5-6, 2026.

He also discussed a March 17 meeting with the Society's custodian concerning recent procedural changes impacting CFU's cash interest rate. Attendees were informed of CFU's target rate and operational objectives, and the custodian's representatives indicated they would work with their management to develop a solution that meets CFU's needs.

President Pazo presented a request from "St. Anthony of Padua" Lodge 3029 & Nest 3029 of Sharon, Pennsylvania for a merger into "Slavno Ime Isusovo" Lodge 126 and Nest 190 of Farrell, Pennsylvania. This is due to lack of members willing to assume leadership positions in the Lodge. The Members unanimously approved the merger which will be effective April 1, 2026.

President Pazo then reviewed ongoing activities and progress related to the policy administration system upgrade, as well as the search for new accounting software to support it. Members also discussed meetings with firms offering assistance in developing cybersecurity policies and confirmed the vendor selected for the project.

He further noted that the February 26 visit to the Home Office by Minister Ante Šušnjar, Minister of the Economy for the Republic of Croatia, Ambassador Pjer Šimunović, and their staff went very well despite some scheduling delays. Minister Šušnjar expressed strong appreciation for the office, the museum, and the hospitality extended during the visit.

President Pazo informed the Members that the annual national basketball tournament which is normally held the first weekend in April has been cancelled for 2026.

President Pazo also informed the members that CFU's inaugural 5K race is scheduled for October 11th in North Park. The event is being organized in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and coordinated by a professional race management company. Proceeds will support the CFU Scholarship Foundation and the UPMC Hillman Cancer Institute's cancer hospital in Zabok, Croatia.

President Pazo then provided a status update on preparations for the 2026 Junior Tamburitza Festival, scheduled for the weekend of July 3-5 at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. He noted that the directors of the junior federation met on March 10, at which time the performance order of the 13 participating junior ensembles was determined.

Executive Vice President Franjo Bertović then presented the following summary of new business activity for the month of February 2026:

Insurance	
• Year to Date New Members	40
• Year to Date Certificates	47
• New Insurance in Force	\$940,000.00
• Annual Premium	\$28,238.44
Annuities	
• Year to Date New Members	12
• Year to Date Certificates	55
• Face Value	\$3,106,725.59

Detroit Lodge 351 Needs Your Photos

DETROIT, MI - We are looking for our members' help.

Zora Lodge 351 is honoring past presidents of not only Lodge 351, but also presidents of all Detroit area lodges that have merged with, or into, Detroit Lodge 351. These include CFU Lodges 54 and Dearborn 643 and CCU Lodges 32, 49 and 518. We are hanging photographs of all past presidents on our walls in recognition of their service to our Detroit Croatian community.

If any of you are related to, or recognize any of the names below and may have a photo, or know someone who might, please reach out. We will be framing in 5x7" or 8x10" format and will enlarge the photo if necessary. Originals will be returned upon request. Send photo via email to katthiel@gmail.com or mail to K. Thiel C/O Zora Lodge 351, 32851 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI 48092.

Zora Lodge 54 and Zvezda and Zora 351: Yzidor Mance, Pavao Mrazovac, Izabran Miroslavljevic, Alois Samer,

Max Donner, Mijo Vrevic, Josif Matomichen, Milan Kirin, M. Vukelich, Josip Buzvik, Joseph Kljucka, Josip Milakovich, Juraj Kastric, ___ Jankovic, Juraj Prpic, Matt Goretta, Anton Narich, Steve Tijan, Tomo Filipovic, Janko Orlic, Franjo Vlasic, Cita Malhenic, Janko Cvetnic, Dolbar Bolesti, Pavao Vidusic, Nikola Kirincic, Josip Cicic, Anton Krzmanic, George Mokrovic, J. Kraina and Michael Matkovich.

George Washington Lodge 518: ___Yaksic and Joseph Kalmeta.

St. Joseph Lodge 32: Charles Rozman, Steve Yukovcic, John Rozman, Ignac Kosutic, Ivan Paksich,, Frank Ott, John Morse, Martha Kekic, Joseph Cerjanec, Kuzma Kardum, Marko Bobaljic, John Bacic, John Ivanovic, Mirko Kovac, John Pendelj and Ivan Ivanovic, Sr.

We have no names for CFU Dearborn Lodge or CCU 49 and just two for 518 (included above). We have photos for John Bobinac, Tomislav Cicek, Julius Majetic, Steve Lipak, Thomas Chulig, Rudy Perpich, John Kosovec, John Belavich, Mark Mavretich and Robert Novosel.

The above names were all taken from Lodge minutes or program books. If anyone believes we missed someone, please reach out to the undersigned. They may have been Corporation, Board or Church Presidents, and would not be included in this project.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give us.

Kathy Perpich Thiel
Lodge 351

Secretary/Treasurer Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras informed the Members that the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) Fraternalist of the Year banquet is scheduled for April 18. The members agreed to place a full-page advertisement in the program booklet and to reserve a table for ten at the event.

Sister Luketich-Sikaras also reported that the American Fraternal Alliance's annual spring symposium will be held in Pittsburgh from May 5-7, and that the FSGP/DePersis seminar is scheduled for May 21 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. She will submit registrations for CFU attendees for both events.

Secretary/Treasurer Luketich-Sikaras reported the following death claims settled during the period February 1-28, 2026:

United States	Amount	Number of Certificates	Number of Members
California.....	\$ 0.00	3	2
Illinois	53,250.00	17	5
Indiana.....	5,000.00	4	3
Michigan	11,412.00	2	2
Minnesota	2,028.00	1	1
Montana.....	500.00	1	1
Ohio.....	16,822.77	10	7
Pennsylvania	76,057.20	23	18
Utah.....	1,000.00	1	1
Wisconsin	2,156.00	2	2
TOTAL.....	\$169,322.97	64	42
CANADA			
Ontario.....	\$ 55,700.00	6	4
TOTAL.....	\$ 55,700.00	6	4
FOREIGN/PUAS			
Foreign/PUAS.....	\$ 5,000.00	1	1
TOTAL.....	\$ 5,000.00	1	1
GRAND TOTAL.....	\$230,022.97	71	47

Secretary/Treasurer Luketich-Sikaras then submitted the Statistical Report for the period February 1-28, 2026 as follows:

	Number of Certificates	Amount	Number of Members
Certificate:			
Lapses/No Value	13	\$ 287,500.00	13
Cash Surrenders	30	76,886.15	29
Expired	11	310,000.00	11
Matured (Pending)	5	4,982.82	5
Deaths (Pending)	10	56,000.00	7
Certificate:			
New Sales	27	\$ 645,000.00	27
Increases	1	50,000.00	1
Annuity:			
New Sales	3	\$ 32,000.00	3
Increases	15	1,019,251.73	15

With no further business to come before this meeting of the Executive Board, President Pazo adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, National Secretary/Treasurer

ATTEST:
EDWARD W. PAZO
FRANJO BERTOVIĆ

The Tamburitians 89th Season Finale

PITTSBURGH, PA - As The Tamburitians complete their 2025-2026 season during the month of May, we want to thank our audiences across the country for supporting this amazing group throughout our incredible 89 years. Where does the time go? We look forward to our 90th anniversary season this fall bringing even more great music, song, dance and smiles to our family, alumni, friends and fans with some surprises along the way!



Celebrate the grand finale of the 89th season with The Tamburitians, America's longest-running multicultural song and dance ensemble. For nearly nine decades, this internationally acclaimed group has thrilled audiences with an electrifying blend of music, dance, and storytelling drawn from cultures across the globe. In one unforgettable evening, more than two dozen talented student performers transport audiences through the rhythms, costumes, and traditions of Eastern and Western Europe and beyond.

With dazzling choreography, live music, and breathtaking costumes, the show delivers the energy of a concert, the spectacle of a dance production, and the beauty of world cultures—making it a perfect night out whether you're a longtime fan or discovering The Tamburitians for the first time. Even more inspiring, every performer you see on stage is a full-time college student receiving scholarship support while carrying forward a cultural tradition that has captivated audiences for generations. Join this vibrant celebration of music, movement, and global heritage at these venues:

Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m., at The Pittsburgh Playhouse in the Pittsburgh Cultural District for our famous local end of year celebration.

Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m., at Mother McAuley High School in Chicago, presented by the Vucinic family. This will be a homecoming roadshow for Roman Vucinic, a freshman dancer and musician with the Tammies this year.

Mark your calendar for an evening of great entertainment and get your tickets today for these performances at thetamburitians.org/events. Click on your show venue to purchase tickets online and pricing levels. Day of tickets available at the venue. If planning a group, give The Tamburitians a call at 412-224-2071. They'll be happy to help you with group rates.

Enjoy your summer and SAVE THE DATE-Monday, Sept. 21, 2026 for the always fun 16th Annual Tamburitians Swing 'fore' Scholarships golf fundraiser at our exciting new venue, 1781 Club in Peters Township, PA. You won't want to miss it. See you there!

Joyce Crumbo/Lodge 2019

CFU Junior Tamburitza Festival...

(Continued from page 1) such as this remain vital in ensuring that the next generation remains actively engaged. With another strong showing of young talent expected, the 58th annual festival promises to be both a celebration of tradition and a look toward the future.

Members and friends of the CFU are encouraged to attend and support the performers during this special weekend in Cleveland.

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director

Single Premium Made Easy

PITTSBURGH, PA - Don't forget, the CFU's single premium insurance package can now be paid for in three convenient installments, so affordable quality protection from the CFU is even more affordable.

For more details on the single premium insurance and how you can make it work for your family, call the CFU at 412-843-0380 and ask for CFU Sales Department.



Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans In Concert on May 16

CHICAGO, IL - The Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans of Chicago, IL, are proud to announce their annual Spring Concert to be held on Saturday, May 16.

In addition to performances by the Sloboda Jr. Tammies, we are thrilled to welcome our special guest performers, the talented Detroit Star Junior Tamburitzans of Detroit, MI.

The event will take place at the Slovenian Catholic Center, 14252 Main St., Lemont, IL. Doors open at 4 PM, with the concert beginning promptly at 5 PM.

This year's event will feature

a concert, dinner and dance. Guests will enjoy a delicious family-style meal including baked chicken, roast pork loin, sausage with sauerkraut, potatoes, pasta, soup, salad, vegetables and dessert. A cash bar will also be available.

Tickets are \$55 for adults and \$20 for children ages 6-15. Children 5 and under are free (a seat must still be reserved). Tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Tickets are available online at: <https://sloboda.ticketspice.com/sjt26concert>

Guests may select their own table and seating when purchasing tickets. For assistance with orders, please contact Emily Kazak at 815-557-6920.

Join us for an evening of music, dance and fellowship as we celebrate our rich cultural traditions. We look forward to welcoming both longtime supporters and new guests—whether you are interested in learning more about the Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans or simply enjoying an unforgettable night of tamburitzna music and dance.

For families interested in joining the Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans, please contact us at slobodajunior@gmail.com. We would love to welcome you!

Sloboda Junior Tamburitzans
Lodge 32



Talan Earns Distinguished Award from Oakland University

DETROIT, MI - Steve Talan, a longtime member of CFU Lodge 351 and also longtime artistic director of the popular "Nova Nada" Croatian Folklore Ensemble from Detroit, MI, has received a distinguished award from

Oakland University in Rochester, MI. The Outstanding Alumni Award in Dance!

Steve is a 1981 graduate of Oakland University. While attending there he choreographed and directed the Oakland University Slavic Folk Ensemble. Since graduating, Steve has taught and performed with many, many ethnic folkdance groups in the greater Detroit area! He is known for his expertise in folk dancing and research, especially in his own Croatian culture.

Steve is currently teaching a class at Oakland University titled World Dance Traditions, where he shares his love of Croatian folk dancing with students each semester. Steve is most well-known for his choreographies for Nova Nada and how he intertwines folk traditions and local costumes into the dances. He makes them easily appreciated by all audiences, even if they don't understand the Croatian language. Steve will do anything he can to promote Croatian culture!

Detroit's Croatian community is thankful that Steve is such an active participant in events here. We send him our congratulations and well wishes in continuing to promote our beautiful Croatian culture.

Anna Talan/Lodge 351

Saturday Night Spring Fever Cash Bash in Rankin

RANKIN, PA - Come and have a groovy time at the Rankin Croatian Home for a Saturday Night Spring Fever Cash Bash! Join us on Saturday, May 16. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. First drawing is at 4 p.m.

The event benefits the Rankin Junior Tamburitzans.

Tickets are \$25 and include two bash numbers. A dinner buffet and beer are included. Participants must be 21 years and older. A winner every 15 minutes!

We will also have a 50/50 raffle, basket raffle, bake sale and games of chance.

Please contact us for tickets. Email rankinjrtammies@gmail.com or reach out to your favorite Tammie parent. For more information, visit our Rankin Junior Tamburitzans Facebook page.

Winner need not be present. Plan to enjoy a fun evening with us as we support our Rankin Junior Tamburitzans!

Lori Cindric/Lodge 146

Croatian Festival Set for June 6 in Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - Fellow Croatians and friends of Croatia, Join us for an unforgettable day at the Strossmayer Croatian Festival on June 6th, at Strossmayer's Croatian Picnic Grounds, 4202 Smith Stewart Rd., Vienna, OH 44438. Come celebrate our rich Croatian heritage while helping us continue revitalizing this historic gathering place for future generations.

Doors open at 12 PM. Cash-only event: \$8 admission, children 12 and under, free.

Enjoy authentic Croatian favorites like čevapi, sarma, and štrudel, Croatian beer and refreshments, traditional folkdance performances, and live music by Noćne Sove of Youngstown, OH. Come kolo and dance the day away!

Roasted lamb and pork will be available by pre-order only beginning May 1st, 2026.

Our Mission

Strossmayer's is a 100% volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All festival proceeds support ongoing renovations of the grounds. Thanks to your generosity, we've completed much-needed roof repairs and kitchen updates in the past two years--and we have more improvements planned!

Become a Donor or Sponsor

We warmly invite individuals, families and businesses to support this event as donors or sponsors. Your contribution directly supports the restoration of the grounds and helps preserve our Croatian traditions. Sponsorship recognition opportunities are available.

Volunteers Welcome

Volunteers receive free admission and play an important role in making the day a success. To volunteer, donate, sponsor or learn more, please contact us on Facebook or call/text 330-507-6660.

Mark your calendars and celebrate Croatian culture with us on June 6th!

Marina Juratovic Saunders/Lodge 66

Spring Kolo Party in Versailles

VERSAILLES, PA - It is that time of the year when we celebrate the close of another successful kolo season. Donna's Kolo Class will have their annual "Spring Kolo Party" on Tuesday, May 12th.

Get out your dancing shoes and plan to attend the party at the Versailles Croatian Club, 4400 Third St., Versailles, PA. Doors open at 5:30 PM. The party begins at 6 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM, and kolo dancing will begin immediately after dinner.

Everyone is welcome! We would love it if former members, family, and friends join us for our fun evening. Admission is only \$10. We ask that you bring your favorite "covered dish" for all to enjoy. The variety of food is always wonderful, plentiful and delicious.

Music will be provided by the very popular Pobjeda Orchestra. For more information, please call Eileen Novobilsky at 412-855-5610.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 12th, and help us celebrate another successful year.

Dobro Nam Došli!

Steve Komazec/Lodge 146

Read the **ZAJEDNIČAR** for the latest on Croatian banquets, picnics, barbecues, lodge meetings, concerts and sporting events going on in your area.

Tambura Night at Herby's

BRESSLER, PA - Herby's El Mexicano Restaurant is proud to host Tambura Night featuring Jerry Grcevich and his Tamburaši on Saturday, May 9, starting at 6 p.m.

Hostess/Owner Maria will be serving your favorite Mexican food.

Herby's is located at 720 Main St., Bressler, Harrisburg, PA 17113. For reservations, call 717-939-0624.

Maria says, "Welcome - Bienvenido - Dobro Došli!"

Editors

Attention CFU Lodge 170 Members

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Please join us for our future meeting dates. Meetings take place at 8550 Taft St., Merrillville IN. Please use the north doors. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m.

Future meeting dates are: May 17; July 19; August 16; September 20; October 18; November 15; and December 20.

Please note: No meeting in June due to Father's Day.

Cindy Mayer/Recording Secretary

Craft/Vendor Show in Versailles

VERSAILLES, PA - Sveto Trojstvo Lodge 146 in Versailles, PA will again be holding a Craft/ Vendor show in their upstairs hall on Saturday, May 9, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

We will have vendors such as Mary Kay and Tupperware and many crafts just in time for the summer season and Mother's Day. There will be no charge to enter the hall.

Anyone interested in showing their wares should contact me at melanie.haudenshield@gmail.com or stop into the club for an application. The cost for an 8 ft. space is \$20 and 2 spaces are \$35. Some tables are available, first come, first served. There will be a \$5 extra charge for each space that needs electricity. A \$25 item or basket is being requested as a donation to our Chinese auction.

The kitchen will have some items available and the bar will be open. There also will be a bake sale. Please contact me as soon as possible as we will not have any duplicate vendors.

Melanie Haudenshield/Lodge 146



American Zagreb Junior Tams Present 69th Annual Concert

CLEVELAND, OH - The American Zagreb Junior Tamburitzans invite the community to their 69th Annual Concert on Saturday, June 6, at the American-Croatian Hall in Eastlake.

This year's program will fea-

ture special guest group Kardinal Stepinac NY, followed by a lively social with entertainment by Zadnja Stanica.

Doors open at 3 p.m., and the concert begins at 4 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of music, culture, and community celebration.

Tickets are \$20 for concert and reception. Food will be available for purchase both before and after the performance.

For more information, please call Amela Vujica at 440-749-0331 or follow us for a full weekend itinerary on our social media instagram @zagreb_jr or facebook - American Zagreb Jr. Tamburitzans.

Amela Vujica/Lodge 995

CROATIAN HERITAGE NIGHT
AT PNC PARK
P vs MINNESOTA TWINS
SATURDAY, MAY 30
VISIT CFU.ORG FOR TICKETS

Croatian Heritage Night at PNC Park - May 30

PITTSBURGH, PA - Mark your calendars for one of the most anticipated community events of the year—Croatian Heritage Night at Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park on Saturday, May 30, as the Pirates take on the Minnesota Twins.

Tickets can be secured through the CFU website at www.cfu.org

This year's celebration is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. Highlighting the evening, the Junior

Tamburitzans of Duquesne—under the direction of 2026 CFU Junior Festival Guest Conductor, Nikola Vranesevic, will perform the National Anthem, setting the stage for a memorable and meaningful start to the game.

In addition, we are proud to recognize CFU Four Counties 2026 Man of the Year, Daniel Turkall, who will have the honor of throwing out the honorary first pitch.

And we're not done yet, there may even be a surprise or two

in store to make this night truly one of a kind.

Groups of 10 or more are encouraged to contact Derek Hohn at the CFU Home Office for assistance with coordinated seating. Derek can be reached at dhohn@cfu.org or by calling 412-843-0380.

Make plans now to join us for an unforgettable evening of baseball, culture, and Croatian pride at one of Pittsburgh's premier venues.

We look forward to seeing you at PNC Park on May 30!

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director

SAVE THE DATE: Joe Rady Golf Tournament set for July 18

CANTON, IL- CFU Sacred Heart Lodge 367 is happy to announce they will host the 2026 Joe Rady Midwest golf tournament on Saturday, July 18. The Joe Rady will be held at the beautiful Kellogg Golf Course, 7716 N Radnor Rd., Peoria, IL 61615.



Details will follow as the tourney weekend gets closer. For now, we hope you will mark your calendars and tell your friends to reserve the dates for this fun-filled CFU event. We welcome everyone and look forward to catching up with our CFU friends and guests over a great tournament weekend. Hvala!

Ruth Sepich/Recording Secretary

Mukwonago Lodge Plans Bowling Outing and Meeting

MUKWONAGO, WI - John Movrich CFU Lodge 993 will hold its annual bowling outing and meeting on Saturday, May 16. We will meet at Jay's Lanes in Mukwonago at 3 p.m. for bowling. We will order pizza there and take it to the Wendland's home and clubhouse to eat immediately after bowling (5:15-5:30 p.m.). The lodge will provide dessert. Our meeting will follow the meal. E-mail me at croatian993@gmail.com to let us know if you want to bowl with us and what topping you prefer on your pizza.

We had a fun April meeting and enjoyed trying out new recipes from our cookbook, "From Our House to Yours." We voted to support member Cindy Movrich Wendlandt by giving her a \$200 pledge for the ProHealth Care Cancer Walk. Cindy battled pancreatic cancer two years ago and won...Thank the Lord.

We are in the midst of planning our 66th Annual Mukwonago Croatian Day Fest which will be on July 11th. Our top sales woman, Laura Movrich Ellis, already sold over \$1,000 worth of raffle tickets. Chip off the old block...John Movrich, her father. We will be starting to schedule workers in May. If I don't call you, please contact me to volunteer a few hours to help.

Carol Movrich Gedde/Secretary

Lorain Lodge 136 Welcomes 90th CFU Bowling Tournament

PITTSBURGH, PA - The Croatian Fraternal Union proudly invites members and friends from across the country to gather for a truly special milestone—the 90th Annual CFU National Bowling Tournament. This year's event will be hosted by Lodge 136 in the welcoming lakeside community of Lorain, Ohio on May 16th and 17th, promising a weekend that blends

competition, camaraderie and rich Croatian tradition.

With its scenic waterfront, historic neighborhoods and strong Croatian-American roots, the city provides the perfect setting for bowlers and families alike to reconnect, celebrate and create lasting memories. Lodge 136 has long been recognized for its hospitality. Lodge members there are preparing a weekend that reflects the very

best of CFU fellowship.

All tournament bowling will take place at Rebman Recreation, where competition will follow the familiar format. Singles and doubles events will begin on Saturday, May 16, at 12:30 p.m. The team event will commence on Sunday, May 17, at 11 a.m. Whether you are competing for titles or simply enjoying the spirit of the game, the lanes will once again bring together generations of CFU bowlers.

Throughout the weekend, the heart of the celebration

will be the American Croatian Club, located at 4846 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053, where a full schedule of social events will keep the energy going well beyond the bowling alley.

Festivities begin Friday evening with a relaxed social gathering, featuring freshly prepared čevapi sandwiches-\$8 and paprikaš-\$7, offering a taste of tradition that sets the tone for the weekend. Saturday morning continues with a casual breakfast from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., offering sausage and gravy-\$5; donuts-\$2; and

free coffee, giving attendees a chance to fuel up and connect before heading to the lanes.

As the day transitions into evening, the Club will host a Tournament Banquet from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., where guests can enjoy a choice of baked half-chicken or steak, served with salad and a baked potato (\$18/dinner). The evening will be complemented by live music from Mikey Dee and the Tamburica Stars, ensuring the dance floor stays lively and the atmosphere unmistakably Croatian. Adding to the weekend's ambiance, music at the bowling alley on both Saturday and Sunday will be provided by Šarena, creating an upbeat environment for competitors and spectators alike.

For those traveling in, Lodge 136 has secured a convenient and comfortable host hotel at Ariel on Broadway. Bowlers can take advantage of a discounted weekend rate of \$139.99 plus tax by calling 440-246-6669 and mentioning the tournament, making it easy to stay close to all the action while enjoying the charm of downtown Lorain. All locations for the weekend (Club, Bowling Alley and Hotel) are within 3.6 miles of each other to make transportation easy and convenient.

As we celebrate ninety years of CFU bowling tradition, this tournament represents more than just competition. It is a testament to the enduring bonds of our organization and the communities that continue to support it. Lodge 136 is ready to welcome you with open arms for this sports event this promises to be a weekend filled with laughter, music and the unmistakable spirit of the CFU.

All participants are reminded that the deadline to register is May 8, so be sure to secure your spot and join us in Lorain for this historic occasion.

Derek Hohn
Fraternal Programs Director

<p>DOUBLES AND SINGLES 12:30 PM SATURDAY, MAY 16</p> <p>TEAM EVENT 11:00 AM SUNDAY, MAY 17</p> <p>TEAM EVENT</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>TEAM NAME:</td> <td>TEAM CAPTAIN:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EMAIL:</td> <td>PHONE:</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name (Last, First) Please Type or Print in the order they will bowl</th> <th>CFU Lodge # Or "Guest"</th> <th>AVERAGE 2023-2024</th> <th>Name of League</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>4.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	TEAM NAME:	TEAM CAPTAIN:	EMAIL:	PHONE:	Name (Last, First) Please Type or Print in the order they will bowl	CFU Lodge # Or "Guest"	AVERAGE 2023-2024	Name of League	1.				2.				3.				4.				5.				<p>90th ANNUAL TENPIN TOURNAMENT Hosted by Lodge CFU Lodge 136 "Jesus of the Last Supper" May 16 - 17, 2026 Rebman Recreation 5300 Oberlin Ave. Lorain, OH 44053</p>  <p>Visit www.CFU.org/events for updated hotel information.</p>	<p>SINGLES & DOUBLES</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Two Person and Individual Contest Registry (In the order they will bowl)</th> <th>AVERAGE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1a.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1b.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2a.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2b.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3a.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>3b.</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>PAYMENT/ENTRY FEE</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fees \$20 Per Person Per Event</th> <th>Event Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>TEAM \$100 (\$20 Each Bowler)</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DOUBLES \$40 (\$20 Each Bowler)</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SINGLES \$20 (\$20 Each Bowler)</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DINNERS \$18 Each</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>\$</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Two Person and Individual Contest Registry (In the order they will bowl)	AVERAGE	1a.		1b.		2a.		2b.		3a.		3b.		Fees \$20 Per Person Per Event	Event Total	TEAM \$100 (\$20 Each Bowler)	\$	DOUBLES \$40 (\$20 Each Bowler)	\$	SINGLES \$20 (\$20 Each Bowler)	\$	DINNERS \$18 Each	\$	Total	\$
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ALL MEMBERS MUST BE CFU MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ATTESTED BY LODGE SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE.

Lodge Number _____

Financial Secretary _____

ALL ENTRIES DUE MAY 8th
 Mail all entries to:
CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION
 Director of Fraternal Programs
 100 Delaney Drive
 Pittsburgh, PA 15235
 Phone: (412) 843-0380
dhohn@cfu.org

Saturday Night Banquet

Lodge 136 would like to invite all bowlers and their guests to a wonderful bowling banquet on Saturday, May 16th from 7pm-11pm. Please indicate number of dinners below for bowlers and guests.

Dinner is \$18 each, with your choice of Baked ½ Chicken or Steak (includes salad and baked potato).

Baked ½ Chicken _____ Steak _____



Zajedničar

Sretan Majčin dan
FRATERNALIST



GLASILO HRVATSKE BRATSKO ZAJEDNICE U AMERICI / SVI ZA JEDNOG — JEDAN ZA SVE

GODINA 121.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA / SRIJEDA 6. SVIBNJA 2026.

SEDMA STRANA

Anuiteti i životno osiguranje daju sigurnost vašoj obitelji

Anuitetski ugovori nude 4,5% a životno osiguranje ostaje važan čimbenik svakoj obitelji

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

PITTSBURGH, PA - Nedavno smo imali priliku sudjelovati na industrijskom seminaru koji je okupio otprilike osam naših sličnih bratskih organizacija. Program je bio bogat sadržajem u pogledu: Opcija za manje tradicionalne investicijske mogućnosti; pitanja upravljanja ljudskim resursima; aktuarskih zapažanja; najnovijih financijskih iskustava na kraju godine u našoj industriji; i opažanja triju menadžera prodaje u vezi s sklapanjem ugovora i radom s agentima za prodaju životnog osiguranja.

Sve predstavljene informacije bile su vrlo zanimljive i pružile su priliku za procjenu gdje Hrvatska bratska zajednica trenutno stoji u odnosu na svoje, rekli bismo vršnjake. Nekoliko posljednjih izdanja Zajedničara predstavilo je financijsko iskustvo naše Zajednice, koje je bilo izvanredno. U najnovijem broju našeg službenog glasila u našoj smo rubrici iznijeli našu ulogu u odavanju počasti i očuvanju naše hrvatske baštine i naslijeđa.

Tijekom dijela prezentacije na seminaru koji je pokrivao prodajne agente, postalo je prilično jasno da je Hrvatska bratska zajednica Amerike najvjerojatnije posljednje preostalo uspješno fraternalistično društvo koje se gotovo isključivo oslanja na svoje članstvo za preporuke novih članova. Ova jedinstvenost prodajnog pristupa nije promaknula Izvršnom odboru prilikom provedbe Kampanja za prodaju novih planova osiguranja. Naš pristup je bio koristiti Zajedničar i naše aktivne i predane odsječne odbornike kako bismo dosegli sve one članove Hrvatske bratske zajednice koji možda imaju rodbinu ili prijatelja koji bi mogli imati koristi od ulaganja u doživotni IRA račun koji nudi HBZ, a koji daje kamate od 4,5% za dvije godine; ili, koji trebaju vrijedno životno osiguranje kako bi zaštitili financijske interese i dobrobit svoje obitelji.

Naša Zajednica se oslanja na preporuke članova HBZ

Nacionalni i lokalni odsječni odbornici ponose se poznanstvom s našim članovima korisnicima jer su mnogi prijatelji i rodbina sadašnjih članova. Naš najbolji oglas je kada zadovoljan osiguraničnik, bilo putem životnog osiguranja ili anuitetskih/IRA ugovora, nekome drugome govori o našim proizvodima i uslugama.

U velikoj mjeri se oslanjamo na ovaj pristup prodaji i podržavamo ga čestim pisanim člancima u Zajedničaru i poticajima za volonterske preporuke koji priznaju trud onih članova koji podržavaju naše ukupne prodajne rezultate.

Neophodno je da naša HBZ i dalje prima kontakte i preporuke za osobe koje bi imale koristi od naših proizvoda kao što su Anuiteti i životno osiguranje. Stoga koristimo ovu priliku da zamolimo sve članove da razmotre preporuku nekoga za članstvo u Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici. Za obitelji s više članova koji održavaju važeću policu kod nas, tražimo da obitelj preporučiti nekoga za članstvo u našoj Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici. Napravimo ove godine cilj podijeliti DOBRE VIJESTI o našem društvu i brojnim prednostima članstva. Nekoliko izvrsnih prednosti dolazi odmah na um:

1. Pristupačne premije za solidne planove životnog osiguranja za cijelu obitelj. Bilo da se radi o osiguranju cijelog života ili privremenom osiguranju, HBZ može pružiti opcije za razmatranje obitelji.

2. Izvrsne kamatne stope na štednju. Kroz "CFU CHOICE TWO PLAN", trenutna stopa od 4,5% je zajamčena na dvije godine od datuma sklapanja

(Nastavak na 10. strani)



Kada je Majčin dan i kako se globalno razlikuje datum

Diljem svijeta obitelji obilježavaju Majčin dan na različite kalendarske datume, odražavajući različite kulturne povijesti i tradicije. Iako bi se mogli iznenaditi kada saznate da vaša proslava nije univerzalna, nego da je Majčin dan globalni i međunarodni praznik koji se slavi i obilježava u cijelom svijetu.

Druga nedjelja u svibnju u Hrvatskoj

Hrvati, kao na primjer i Amerikanci, obilježavaju Majčin dan druge nedjelje u svibnju. Ovo stavlja nadolazeće proslave na 10. svibnja 2026. i 9. svibnja 2027. Fiksni pristup dana u tjednu, a ne datuma, osigurava da praznik dosljedno pada na vikend, omogućujući obiteljima veću priliku za okupljanje.

Vrijeme ovog svibnja usklađeno je sa simbolikom obnove proljeća na sjevernoj hemisferi. Cvjećari posebno cijene ovaj sezonski plasman, jer Majčin dan generira otprilike jednu četvrtinu njihove godišnje blagdanske prodaje – čak i nadmašujući Valentinovo u kupnji cvijeća. Za restorane ova nedjelja je najprometniji dan u godini, s povećanjem rezervacija od 70% u usporedbi s prosječnim nedjeljama

Telefonske mreže doživljavaju slične poraste aktivnosti. Međugradski pozivi povećavaju se za 37% na Majčin dan u usporedbi s uobičajenim danima, naglašavajući kako komunikacija ostaje središnja za proslavu čak i u našem digitalnom dobu.

U međuvremenu, na globalnoj razini tvrtke za čestitke godišnje proizvedu gotovo 113 milijuna čestitki za Majčin dan, što ga čini trećom najvećom prigodom za slanje čestitki u Sjedinjenim Državama.

Različiti datumi u Meksiku, Velikoj Britaniji, Tajlandu i drugim državama

Dok Hrvati slave u svibnju, mnoge druge nacije slijede različite kalendare za odavanje počasti majkama. U Ujedinjenom Kraljevstvu "Majčinska nedjelja" pada na četvrtu korizmenu nedjelju (obično u ožujku). Ova tradicija datira stoljećima unatrag kada su kućne sluge dobile slobodan dan kako bi posjetile svoju "majku crkvu" i obitelji. U 2025. britanske obitelji proslavile su Majčin dan 30. ožujka, otprilike šest tjedana prije našeg Majčinog dana.

Slično tome, Irska poštuje ovo korizmeno vrijeme, dok se većina europskih nacija usklađuje s američkim datumom u svibnju. Međutim, postoji nekoliko značajnih iznimaka:

Meksiko slavi 10. svibnja bez obzira na dan u tjednu. Ovaj pristup fiksnog datuma proizlazi iz kampanje urednika novina Rafaela Alducina iz 1922. godine. Proslava se razvila u razradenu aferu u kojoj obitelji često angažiraju mariachi bendove kako bi majkama pjevali serenadu uz "Las Mañanitas", tradicionalnu meksičku rođendansku pjesmu. Jedinствена proslava

Etiopije traje tri dana u jesen (obično studeni) u sklopu festivala Antrosht. Kćeri tradicionalno donose povrće, dok sinovi daju meso za pripremu obiteljske gozbe, ističući kako se hrana i obiteljska suradnja usredotočuju na njihovu majčinsku počast.

Francuska je osnovala "Fête des Mères" 1950. godine posljednje nedjelje u svibnju (osim ako nije u sukobu s Pedesetnicom, tada se pomiče na prvu nedjelju u lipnju). Francuska djeca tradicionalno recitiraju pjesme i majkama poklanjaju ručno izrađene darove.

Rusija je prethodno slavila majke uz Međunarodni dan žena 8. ožujka, ali je uvela posvećeni Majčin dan posljednje nedjelje u studenom 1998. godine, stvarajući posebno priznanje za majčinske figure.

Arapske zemlje, uključujući Egipat, Irak, Jordan, Libiju, Libanon i Siriju, obilježavaju Majčin dan 21. ožujka, što se poklapa s početkom proljeća na sjevernoj hemisferi. Ovo vrijeme simbolično povezuje majčinsku njegu s obnovom prirode.

Argentina nudi možda najfleksibilniji pristup, dopuštajući svakoj obitelji da odabere kada će slaviti u listopadu, iako ga većina obilježava treće nedjelje.

Tajland odaje počast majkama 12. kolovoza, što se poklapa s rođendanom kraljice Sirikit – majke njihove nacije. Proslava uključuje cvijeće jasmína (simbol majčinske ljubavi), parade i društveno korisne aktivnosti.

Geografske varijacije protežu se dalje, pri čemu Južna Koreja slavi "Dan roditelja" 8. svibnja, a Indonezija svakoj regiji dodjeljuje različite datume na temelju lokalnih tradicija i kalendara.

Tijekom ovih raznolikih proslava, određeni elementi ostaju dosljedni – izrazi zahvalnosti, obiteljska okupljanja i javno priznanje majčinskih doprinosa. Ipak, različito vrijeme ovih obilježavanja otkriva kako kulture majčinstvu pridaju jedinstveni značaj dok proslave prilagođavaju svojim posebnim povijesnim i društvenim kontekstima.

HIC

Zajedničar

FRATERNALIST
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ALL FOR ONE – ONE FOR ALL SVI ZA JEDNOG – JEDAN ZA SVE
Official Organ Of The Službeno Glasilo
Croatian Fraternal Union of America Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice u Americi

Izlazi svaki drugi tjedan u mjesecu
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Website: www.cfu.org



GLAVNI URED
Hrvatske Bratske Zajednice
u Americi
Organizirane 1894. godine

RIJEČ UREDNIŠTVA...LORRAINE TURKALL

Zauvijek u našim srcima

Kroz povijest Hrvatske bratske zajednice hvalili smo vrline očeva utemeljitelja naše bratske organizacije, članova Nacionalne uprave koji su upravljali kroz našu 132-godišnju povijest, generacije vođa i odsječnih odbornika te mnoge druge koji su služili našoj Zajednici u raznim funkcijama. Unutar okvira naših odsjeka, mnogi ljudi su uložili bezbroj sati rada kako bi održali aktivnosti naše Zajednice i svojih odsjeka, često bez da su primili ikakvo priznanje, naknadu ili ponekad čak i zahvalnost.

Budući da mjesec svibanj odaje zasluženu čast svim majkama, ove godine proslavljajući Majčin dan u nedjelju, 10. svibnja, prikladno je da zajednički zahvalimo svim majkama, bakama i ženama naših odsjeka HBZ koje su neumorno radile na podršci brojnim odsječnim

funkcijama, tamburaškim događanjima, sportskim programima i mnogim drugim bratskim okupljanjima koji su zahtijevali posvećeni volonterski rad i brižnu radnu snagu kako bi ti događaji bili ostvarljivi i uspješni. Ne umanjujući ogromnu količinu rada koju ostvaruje muški sektor naše Zajednice, ovdje malo zastajemo kako bismo istaknuli podjednako važnu participaciju ženske populacije naše HBZ koja je igrala, i nastavlja igrati, vitalnu ulogu u uspjehu naših odsjeka kroz evoluciju naše Hrvatske bratske zajednice.

U ranim godinama našeg bratskog razvijanja, mnoge majke, bake i žene koje čine naše odsjeke HBZ bile su zadužene za pripremu gozbi za odsječne bankete, za organiziranje humanitarnih akcija i za pružanje sekretarskih vještina kako bi dokumentirale odsječne aktivnosti. Rad mnogih mama, baka, teta i žena naših odsjeka nastavlja se i danas, jer preuzimaju voditeljske uloge u našim odsjecima i u našoj nacionalnoj organizaciji. One također ulažu napore u poticanje sudjelovanja djece u aktivnostima gnijezda, juniorskim tamburaškim ansamblima, sportskim programima i mnogim drugim aspektima zajedničarstva. Mame često u velikoj mjeri snose odgovornost za vođenje prodaja kolača, odsječnih večera i mnogih humanitarnih druženja, što često uključuje dodatne zadatke kuhanja, pečenja, šivanja kostima, prijevoza djece na i s vježbi tamburice i aktivnosti gnijezda, te mnoge druge obveze.

Iako se njihovi napori ne priznaju uvijek, mnoge majke jednostavno nalaze sreću i zadovoljstvo u spoznaji da je njihov rad vrijedan i da ga njihova djeca cijene. Majčina ljubav, vrijeme, trud i nesebični napori očituju se u radostima njezine djece i obitelji, stavlajući njihove

potrebe ispred svojih. Od onih malih dvogodišnjaka do tinejdžerskih godina, izazovi se pojavljuju svaki dan u svakoj fazi razvoja, testirajući sposobnost majki da se nose s ponašanjem, stavovima i interesima. Ipak, majke su ojačane svojom ljubavlju i vjerom, vjerujući da će ono što čine kako bi pomogle na životnom putu pozitivno utjecati na živote njihove djece i dalje.

Koliko smo daleko došli kao Zajednica, sigurno je, dijelom, zahvaljujući nesebičnom angažmanu majki i žena koje su vjerovala u naš bratstveni cilj i koje su dijelile svoje znanje i talente kako bi pomogle u postizanju uspjeha za sve. Pridruživši se svojoj djeci u iskazivanju zahvalnosti za sve što čine, ovime izražavamo zahvalnost svim majkama i ženama koje su pridonijele tome da naša bratska ustanova postigne i ostvaruje svoje ciljeve.

Uistinu, majčina ljubav je bezuvjetna i nadilazi sve granice, zauvijek usađena u naša srca, čineći ovaj svijet i našu bratsku obitelj ljepšim mjestom za sve nas.



Majčine oči

I kad su daleko, one su blizu od smijeha i od suza tkane majčine oči, majčine oči čuvaju tvoje bezbrižne dane.

Sve radosti slave, sve utjehe znaju i sve brige brinu majčine oči, majčine oči sve svoje daju kćerci i sinu.

Ref.

Majčine oči sve radosti slave majčine oči sve utjehe znaju majčine oči sve brige brinu sve svoje daju kćerci i sinu.

I kad su daleko, one su blizu od smijeha i od suza tkane majčine oči, majčine oči čuvaju tvoje bezbrižne dane.

Ref. 2x

Sve svoje daju kćerci i sinu.

Novi Fosili

Čestitke za Majčin dan!



Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik

Iskoristimo ovu priliku da uputimo naše najbolje želje i molitve za Božje blagoslove svim majkama, ne samo u povodu nadolazećeg "Majčinog dana" u nedjelju, 10. svibnja, već uvijek. Naše majke igraju ključnu ulogu u našim obiteljima. One su stijena na kojoj je sagrađen ljubavni dom. One su inspiracija za naše snove, ali i utjeha kada nas životne poteškoće pogađaju.

Gdje bismo bili bez naše majke? Osobno, ne mogu ni početi razumjeti teškoće koje bi me snašle da moja vlastita majka nije bila prisutna u mom životu. Za one od vas koji su imali ili još imaju ljubazne i postojane majke u svom životu, sigurno možete razumjeti ove osjećaje. Recite svojoj majci da je volite i koliko vam znači ona i vaša obitelj. Ja sam to učinio i zauvijek sam zahvalan za blagoslove koji su nama i mojoj obitelji darovani kroz ljubav i razumijevanje moje vlastite majke Catherine.

Razmišljajući o nadolazećem obilježavanju Majčinog dana, prošao sam pored jednog od najcjenjenijih djela likovne umjetnosti u našem glavnom uredu, brončanog kipa „Povijest Hrvata“ ili ponekad poznate i kao „Majka Hrvatska“. Majka Hrvatske je prekrasna, izrezbarena bronca slavnog majstora Ivana Meštrovića.

Brza pretraga Interneta daje sljedeće podatke:

Skulptura Ivana Meštrovića iz 1932. godine Povijest Hrvata simbolizira hrvatski nacionalni identitet, baštinu i otpornost, prikazujući stoičku, majčinsku figuru kao čuvara povijesti naroda. Modelirana prema majci samog kipara, ona predstavlja "Majku Hrvatske", čuvajući tradiciju, pismenost (putem glagoljice) i duh domovine.

Ključni simbolički aspekti uključuju:

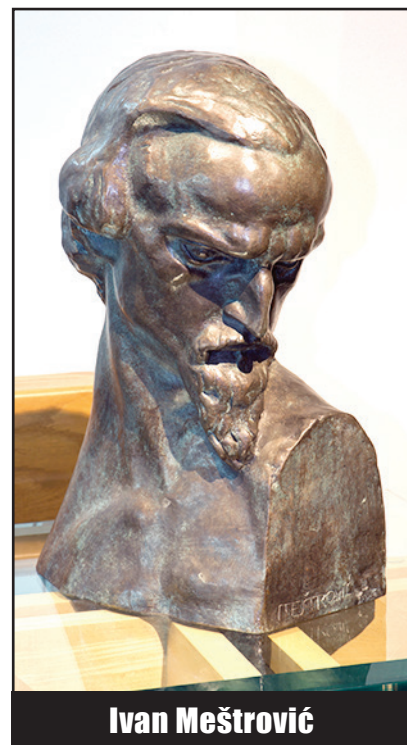
- **Čuvarica baštine:** Žena, odjevena u narodni kostim Dalmatinskog zaleđa, drži kamenu ploču na kojoj je ispisano "Povijest Hrvata" glagoljicom, naglašavajući očuvanje hrvatskog kulturnog identiteta.
- **Majka Hrvata:** Prikazuje domovinu kao skromnu, ali snažnu matrijarhalnu figuru, utjelovljujući "Majku Hrvatsku" kao zaštitnicu prošlosti nacije i budućih nadanja.
- **Otpornost i identitet:** Postavljena ispred Sveučilišta u Zagrebu (i na Sveučilištu u Splitu), kip simbolizira trajni duh, obrazovanje i kontinuitet hrvatskog naroda.
- **Povijesni kontekst:** Izvorno stvorena za muzej u Kninu, skulptura iz 1932. godine je remek-djelo hrvatske umjetnosti koje, kroz dostojanstveni stav, kontrastira s burnom poviješću regije.

Brončani kip je poklonjen našoj Zajednici od strane Hrvatske matice iseljenika povodom proslave 90. obljetnice HBZ, s informacijama koje se također mogu pronaći na internetu:

Brončani odljev kipa Ivana Meštrovića "Povijest Hrvata" doniran je Hrvatskoj bratskoj zajednici Amerike 1984. godine. Izrađen u Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti u Zagrebu, ova kopija je predstavljena od strane Hrvatske zaklade za baštinu i sada je istaknuto izložena u sjedištu HBZ-a u Pittsburghu, Pennsylvania, predstavljajući hrvatski identitet i baštinu.

- **O skulpturi:** Kip koji prikazuje sjedeću ženu u dalmatinskoj narodnoj nošnji koja drži kamenu ploču s "Povijest Hrvata" u glagoljici, simbolizira majku čuvaricu hrvatske baštine.

- **Značaj:** To je jedan od samo tri poznata velika primjerka (jedan u Zagrebu, jedan u Splitu i jedan u Pittsburghu) ovog ikonografskog remek-djela, dok se original nalazi u Beogradu.



Ivan Meštrović

(Nastavak
na 10. strani)



Odsjek 136 u Lorain, Ohio domaćin je 90. kuglačkog turnira naše Zajednice

PITTSBURGH, PA - Hrvatska bratska zajednica s ponosom poziva članove i prijatelje iz cijele zemlje da se okupe povodom zaista posebnog događaja - 90. Nacionalnog kuglačkog turnira Zajednice.

Ovogodišnji turnir ugostit će odsjek 136 u gostoljubivoj zajednici uz jezero u gradu Lorain, Ohio, 16. i 17. svibnja, obećavajući vikend koji spaja natjecanje, prijateljstvo i bogatu hrvatsku tradiciju.

Sa svojom slikovitom obalom, povijesnim susjedstvima i snažnim hrvatsko-američkim korijenima, grad pruža savršenu pozornicu za kuglače i obitelji da se ponovno povežu, proslave i stvore trajne uspomene.

Odsjek 136 odavno je poznat po svojoj gostoljubivosti. Članovi odsjeka pripremaju vikend koji odražava ono najbolje iz HBZ zajedništva. Sve turnirsko kuglanje održat će se u Rebman Recreation centru gdje će natjecanje slijediti već poznati format. Pojedinačna i

parovna natjecanja počinju u subotu, 16. svibnja, u 12:30 sati.

Timsko natjecanje počinje u nedjelju, 17. svibnja, u 11 sati. Bilo da se natječete za titule ili jednostavno uživajte u duhu igre, staze će ponovno okupiti generacije kuglača naše Zajednice. Tijekom cijelog vikenda srce proslave bit će Američki hrvatski klub, smješten na adresi 4846 Oberlin Ave., Lorain, OH 44053, gdje će cjelodnevni raspored društvenih događanja održavati energiju dugo nakon završetka kuglanja.

Svečanosti započinju u petak navečer opuštenim druženjem, uz svježe pripremljene sendviče s čevapima - 8 USD i paprikash - 7 USD, nudeći okus tradicije koji postavlja ton za vikend.

Subota ujutro nastavlja se opuštenim doručkom od 9 do 11:30, nudeći kobasice s umakom - 5 USD; krafne - 2 USD; i besplatnu kavu, pružajući sudionicima priliku da se okrijepe i povežu prije nego što krenu prema kuglanju. Navečer će Klub biti domaćin Turnirskog banketa od 7 do 11 sati, gdje gosti mogu uživati u izboru pečene piletine ili

odreska, posluženo sa salatama i pečenim krumpirom (18 USD/večera).

Večer će upotpuniti glazba uživo koju će izvoditi Mikey Dee i Tamburica Stars, osiguravajući da plesni podij ostane živahan i atmosfera jasno prepoznatljivo hrvatska. Dodatno ugodaju vikenda, glazbu u kuglani u subotu i nedjelju pružat će Orkestar Šarena, stvarajući veselo okruženje za natjecatelje i gledatelje. Za one koji putuju, odsjek 136 osigurao je prikladan i udoban hotel Ariel on Broadway. Kuglači mogu iskoristiti vikendski popust od 139,99 USD plus porez pozivom na broj 440-246-6669 i spominjanjem ovog turnira, što omogućuje jednostavan boravak blizu cijele akcije uz uživanje u šarmu centra grada Lorain. Sve lokacije tijekom vikenda (Klub, Kuglana i Hotel) nalaze se unutar 3,6 milja jedna od druge, kako bi prijevoz bio lak i prikladan.

Dok slavimo devedeset godina ove Nacionalne kuglačke tradicije, ovaj turnir predstavlja više od same konkurencije. To je svjedočanstvo trajnih veza naše organizacije i zajednica koje je i dalje podržavaju.

Odsjek 136 spreman je dočekati vas raširenih ruku za ovaj sportski događaj koji obećava biti vikend ispunjen smijehom, glazbom i neupitnim duhom naše Hrvatske bratske zajednice. Odmah osigurajte svoje mjesto i pridružite nam se u Lorainu za ovu povijesnu prigodu.

Dobro došli i mnogo uspjeha u kuglanju!

Derek Hohn/direktor bratskih programa

Službeno glasilo HBZ

Zajedničar je dostupan samo članovima HBZ a po želji može se primati u elektroničkom formatu preko računa:
e.zajednicar@cfu.org

Konzularni dani u Pittsburghu i Clevelandu

WASHINGTON, DC - Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske iz Washingtona održat će konzularne dane u Pittsburgh-u u prostorijama Hrvatske bratske zajednice, na adresi 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235, u vremenu od 10 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeći datum: **14. svibnja.**

Konzularni dani u Eastlake-u, Ohio održat će se u prostorijama hrvatskog doma "Kardinal Alojzije Stepinac" na adresi 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095, u vremenu od 9 sati ujutro do 4 sata poslije podne (uz prethodni dogovor termina) na sljedeći datum: **15. svibnja.**

VAŽNA OBAVIJEST: Potrebno je unaprijed zakazati termin i to putem adrese elektroničke pošte: crocons.washington@mvp.hr ili nazvati na +1-202-588-5899, kućni 2. Uz zahtjev za sastanak, potrebno je navesti vrstu usluge koja se zahtjeva i kontakt podatke (ime i prezime, broj telefona). Veleposlanstvo Republike Hrvatske u Washingtonu određuje vrijeme termina po redu zaprimanja zahtjeva i prema dostupnosti istih.

Mihovil Pažin/VRH



Održana veličanstvena proslava Jurjeve u Cokeburgu

PITTSBURGH, PA - Još jedna veličanstvena proslava Jurjeva održana je u Cokeburgu. Ovo tradicijsko slavlje održava se već 76 godina pod pokroviteljstvom Omladinskog tamburaškog ansambla „St. George“. Svojim imenom se ponose, slave svog zaštitnika

ČLANOVI I ODBORNICI odsjeka 530 HBZ prisutni na ovogodišnjoj proslavi.

sv. Jurja i podučavaju djecu sviranju žičanih instrumenata, pjevanju hrvatskih pjesmama i plesovima. Sve to obavljaju s ljubavlju, izrazitom lakoćom i talentima glazbenih direktora i koreografa.

Vodstvo sačinjavaju Jerry Grčević, Marlene Luketich-Kochis, Daniel Kochis, Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras, Derek Hohn i Marko Kochis. Organizacijski dio posla odvija se pod roditeljskom organizacijom na čelu s Martinom Hajduk.

Sve je započelo 1950. s dolaskom pok. Bernarda M. Luketicha na čelo odsjeka 354. Mlad i prirodno nadareni vođa odmah organizira kupnju zgrade za Hrvatski dom, okuplja mladež i svrstava u „Kolo skupinu“ koja će nešto kasnije promijeniti ime u „St. George Jr. Tamburitzans Ensemble“. Na tako čvrstim temeljima ovaj ansambl ima doista uspješnu prošlost, sadašnjost a siguran sam i svjetlu budućnost.

Iznimno je važno napomenuti da je školu tamburice prošlo na stotine djece i da su nastupali na mnogim pozornicama u Sjedinjenim Državama, Kanadi, Hrvatskoj i drugim državama.

St. George je jedan od rijetkih ansambala koji sve troškove putovanja za izvođače na pozornici plaća, što je veliko olakšanje za djecu i roditelje.

Ovogodišnja proslava započela je u subotu, s dvosatnim koncertom u dvorani srednje škole u Bentworthu. Gosti St. George tamburice i koncerta bili su: Hrvatski folklorni ansambl „Nova Nada“ iz Warren (MI) predvođena s umjetničkim direktorom Steve Talanom, Junior Tamburitzans of Duquesne iz Duquesne (PA) pod vodstvom Peter Kosovac

PROGRAMI HBZ-A POD POVEĆALOM

RAZMOTRITE VAŠE ŠTEDNE MOGUĆNOSTI

Životno osiguranje daje zaštitu vašoj obitelji i svima koji su ovisni o vašoj financijskoj pomoći. Pruža veliku i neoporezivanu pomoć s iznosom osiguranja onima koje ostavljate, u slučaju iznenadne smrti. Također, u isto vrijeme daje priliku štednje novčanih sredstava kroz akumuliranu gotovinu i predviđene dividende u stalnom životnom osiguranju.

Ne postoji bolje vrijeme, nego trenutno, da zaštitite one koji su ovisni o vama. Što ste mlađi premije su efikasnije jer su niže, što omogućuje kupnju većeg iznosa osiguranja i veći izbor.

Međutim, postoje i druge mogućnosti štednje i financijskog planiranja kroz otvaranja anuitetskog računa da uvećate svoju imovinu. Za uspostavu anuitetskog/IRA računa potreban vam je minimalni ulog od \$3,000 ili veći. Iskoristite kamatnu stopu, trenutno na ponudi, od 4.5%.

Otvaranjem anuitetskog računa stvarate mogućnost štednje za budućnost i dodatnih sredstava za mirovinu. Također pruža vam se mogućnost dodatne uštede kroz odgodu oporezivanja zarađenih kamata na vaš ulog.

Anuiteti su instrument s kojim možete razviti planove akumulacije novčanih sredstava ili proces koji je poznat kao imovinsko planiranje. Bez obzira na inflaciju, uloženi dolar ima važnu ulogu u dugogodišnjoj štednji kroz anuitetska ulaganja.

Anuiteti i umirovljenički računi kod HBZ-a omogućuju odgodu oporezivanja na zarađenu godišnju kamatu što ubrzava rast računa. Akumulirane kamate ne podliježu porezu dok se ne podižu s računa. Što znači da je porez odgođen ali ne i uklonjen.

Hrvatska bratska zajednica svojim članovima šalje stanje računa polugodišnje i to u mjesecu siječnju i srpnju, gdje su vidljivi podaci o saldu, ulozima i podizanju sredstava.

Kroz gospodarsku stabilnost Zajednice, stvorenu kroz više od 131. godinu i trenutnu nedjeljivu dobit (surplus) koja iznosi \$74,001,781 odraz je čvrste financijske stabilnosti.

Planirajte svoju financijsku budućnost i obiteljsku zaštitu kod HBZ-a! Izaberite program zaštite koji vam odgovara! Uzmite u ruke ključ financijske stabilnosti već danas!

Ako imate bilo koje pitanje(a) o programima životnog osiguranja ili o anuitetskim ulaganjima kod HBZ-a nazovite nas na tel. 412-843-0380 ili pogledajte web stranice www.cfu.org

(zbog odsutnosti muzičkog direktora Nikole Vraneševića i folklorne direktorice Danielle Vraneševića) a domaćine „St. George Junior i Adult Tamburitzans predvodili su muzički direktori Jerry Grčević, koreograf Marko Kochis uz pomoćne muzičke direktore Daniel Kochis, Derek Hohn, Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras te umjetničku direktoricu Marlene Luketich-Kochis. Uz tako renomirana kulturno-umjetnička društva prisutni su uživali i s aplauzima nagrađivali izvođače. Divili su se djeci i odraslima!

Raznolikost i lepršavost narodnih nošnji također su zaokupljali pozornost. Nastavak slavlja i druženja bio je u Hrvatskom domu u Cokeburgu koji također, kao i sve organizacije u sastavu odsjeka 354, nose ime St. George ili Sveti Juraj odakle su potekli korijeni ovih Ogulinaca.

U nedjelju, uz divnu procesiju kod St. Katherine Drexel Katoličke crkve u Bentleyville-u predvođenom tamburašima u narodnim nošnjama započeo je vrhunac slavlja i proslave Jurjeva. Misno slavlje vodio je vič. Pierre Falkenhan, član odsjeka 354 i prijatelj Hrvatske

bratske zajednice u Americi. Ponovno je slijedio povratak u Hrvatski dom u Cokeburgu gdje je nastavljeno slavlje uz tamburašku glazbu očeva djece iz St. George ansambla.

Za pisca ovog izvješća neopisiva je radost i ponos da se je ovdje rodila ideja o osnivanju odsjeka 530 „Ogulin“ u St. Thomasu (ON). Dirnuti smo bili i nadahnuti s ovim divnim ljudima i tamburašima koji su nas 1990. godine dočekali ispred Doma s pjesmom „Rođeni smo svuda po tuđini, al' nas srce vuče domovini“.

Predsjednik Bernard M. Luketich dočekao nas je raširenih ruku i postao naš mentor. Sve ove godine dolazili smo na ova Jurjevdanska slavlja s autobusima, automobilima i iznajmljenim vozilima, i s mnogim našim drugim prijateljima iz mnogih odsjeka u Ontariju i kulturnim ansamblima koji su gostovali na koncertima Jurjeva. Nismo izostali ni ove godine! Nas četrnaest doputovalo je i uživalo u događaju! Završimo ovo s poznatom izrekom Bernarda M. Luketicha: „Kapa vam dolje sestre i braćo“!

Franjo Bertović
izvršni potpredsjednik





DEATHS REPORTED

FROM APRIL 14 TO APRIL 27, 2026

4	James E. Sees.....	Etna, PA
6	Michael G. Zegar.....	Rankin, PA
13	Susan La Via.....	Steelton, PA
13	Vytautas Miknevičius.....	Steelton, PA
32	Elenore Kavovis.....	Chicago, IL
32	Lillian R. Kufrin.....	Chicago, IL
66	Jerome J. Petrov.....	Youngstown, OH
69	Gloria Wills.....	Caspian, MI
72	Anna J. Culina.....	Uniontown, PA
101	Margaret Cronican.....	S. Omaha, NE
126	Cynthia A. Gargas.....	Farrell, PA
146	John G. Vidmar.....	Versailles, PA
154	Vincent Goysich.....	E. Chicago, IN
170	Louise A. Wolotka.....	Merrillville, IN
314	Theresa A. Goles.....	Steelton, PA
337	Jo Ann E. Vukovich.....	Euclid, OH
351	Rose J. Millinkov.....	Detroit, MI
351	Stephanie M. Ranney.....	Detroit, MI
354	Vytautas Palubinskas.....	Cokeburg, PA
354	George Veselcich.....	Cokeburg, PA
439	Charles T. Royer.....	Seattle, WA
677	Ann Marie Disalvo.....	Los Angeles, CA
720	Cline J. Mitchell.....	Aliquippa, PA
859	Joseph M. Plavac.....	Cleveland, OH
900	George Rukavina.....	San Francisco, CA
975	Sheila B. Bojanic.....	Toronto, ON, CAN

Znate li što je cicvara?

Cicvara je jedno od najstarijih jela u BiH. Snažno povezana s načinom života stočara i stanovnika planinskih područja.

Iako se danas rijetko priprema, nekada je bila svakodnevni obrok u krajevima gdje su osnovu ishrane činili mlijeko, sir i kajmak.

Ovo jelo karakteristično je za planinske predjele, gdje su uslovi za stočarstvo bili najpovoljniji. U Bosni i Hercegovini posebno se veže za područja Vlašića, Romanije, Kupresa, ali i više dijelove Hercegovine, gdje su slična jela također bila prisutna.

U takvim sredinama pastiri su pripremali jednostavna, ali hranjiva jela, a upravo su mliječni proizvodi činili osnovu cicvare.

Nastala je iz potrebe i dostupnih namirnica. Stanovnici planina raspolagali su ograničenim izborom hrane, ali su imali dovoljno mlijeka, domaćeg sira, kajmaka i kukuruznog brašna. Kombinacijom tih sastojaka dobijalo se jelo koje je bilo lako za pripremu, a istovremeno zasitno i energetski bogato.

Danas se cicvara rjeđe nalazi na tpezama u domaćinstvima. Češće se može probati u planinskim selima, etno-restoranima ili kao dio turističke ponude tradicionalne kuhinje. U gradovima je gotovo iščezla iz svakodnevnice ishrane, ali i dalje ima posebno mjesto u kulinarskoj tradiciji.

Cicvara nije samo obrok, već i simbol života u planinskim krajevima Bosne i Hercegovine – priča o snalažljivosti, tradiciji i bogatoj stočarskoj kulturi.

BIH

Piše: Edward W. Pazo/Nacionalni predsjednik
(Nastavak sa 8. strane)

• **Lokacija:** Skulptura se nalazi u sjedištu HBZ-a u Pittsburghu.

Skulptura služi kao snažan simbol za hrvatsku dijasporu, povezujući Hrvatsku bratsku zajednicu s poviješću i identitetom domovine.

S velikom čašću i poštovanjem ponosno prikazujemo ovaj prekrasan simbol ljubavi prema našoj majci, našoj domovini Hrvatskoj, i ponosnoj povijesti Hrvata koja seže još dalje od krunidbe prvog hrvatskog kralja Tomislava 925. godine.

Anuiteti i životno osiguranje...

(Nastavak sa 7. strane)

ugovora. HBZ nudi anuitetski ili IRA račun za praktički cijelu obitelj. Osobe koje ispunjavaju uvjete mogu osnovati Tradicionalni ili Roth IRA; oni koji nisu podobni za IRA mogu započeti anuitetski račun; a roditelji, bake i djedovi mogu početi štedjeti za obrazovanje svoje djece kroz takozvan Coverdell IRA.

3. Bratske pogodnosti bez premeća kada se uspoređuju s našim industrijskim konkurentima. S 10 milijuna dolara u Školarinskoj Zakladi za stipendije, mladi koji žele studirati imaju pravo na do četiri godišnje nagrade koje se kreću od 800 do 2000 dolara. To su potpore, a ne zajmovi, i izravno koriste djetetu i obitelji jer visoki trošak obrazovanja postaje još veći.

4. Postanite dio organizacije i podržite je, koja već više od 132 godine nastavlja promicati i očuvati naše hrvatsko naslijeđe i kulturnu baštinu.

Plan jednokratne premije nudi 15% uštede

Održavanje odgovarajućeg životnog osiguranja ostaje ključna komponenta zdravog financijskog planiranja za sve obitelji. Ne postoji dobar razlog zašto bi obitelj bila nedovoljno osigurana, jer postoje razni osiguravajući proizvodi dostupni za obitelji u cijelom financijskom spektru. Često su to obitelji koje bi najviše imale koristi od kvalitetnog životnog osiguranja one koje zanemaruju organizirati odgovarajuće pokriće za oba hranitelja u današnjoj obitelji. U nastojanju da se pruži ovo vrijedno pokriće svim članovima obitelji, Hrvatska bratska zajednica i dalje nudi životno osiguranje s posebnim uštedama u prvoj godini kroz primjenu fraternalnih dividendnih kredita na vrlo popularnom planu osiguranja Jednokratne Premije Običnog Životnog osiguranja.

Podnositelji zahtjeva koji imaju četrdeset (40) godina ili manje, imaju pravo na Kredit Fraternalnog Dividenda u iznosu jednakom 15% jednokratne premije potrebne za policu osiguranja "Single Premium Ordinary Life" (SPOL); podnositelji zahtjeva koji imaju četrdeset i jednu (41) godinu ili više, imaju pravo na Kredit Fraternalnog Dividenda jednak 10% pune premije. U svakom slučaju, maksimalni fraternalni dividendni kredit dostupan bilo kojem članu jednak je Tisuću Dolara (1.000 USD), bez obzira na izračunati postotak. Povlastice dostupne putem SPOL Plana nisu ograničene samo na novorođenčad i mlade članove, stoga dalje vjerujemo da naši stariji članovi to trebaju ozbiljno razmotriti.

Zbog popularnosti plana životnog osiguranja s jednokratnom premijom, Izvršni

Pozor

Molimo cijenjene dopisnike da nam sva štiva i obavijesti za uvrštenje u **Zajedničar** šalju na e-mail adresu editor@cfu.org Unaprijed zahvaljujemo!
Uredništvo!

odbor je produžio posebnu ponudu do 31. prosinca 2026. godine kako bi članovima omogućio dovoljno vremena za pregled potreba svoje obitelji vezanih uz životno osiguranje. Međutim, ne možemo dovoljno naglasiti potrebu za odmah poduzimanjem mjera kako bi se obitelji zaštitile od tragične nesreće smrti. Čvrsto vjerujemo da je vrlo teško imati 'previše' životnog osiguranja. S obzirom na današnje sve veće pogrebne troškove, iznos životnog osiguranja koji su mnogi članovi kupili u prošlosti više nije dovoljan za pokriće troškova pristojnog pogreba. Osim toga, s mobilnom radnom snagom, danas je teško održavati životno osiguranje kroz zaposlenje, a često može biti prekidano. Stoga policu životnog osiguranja kod Hrvatske bratske zajednice pokriva promjene u zaposlenju te se može pouzdati i nakon uobičajene dobi umirovljenja.

Zajednica obilježava 250. godišnjicu Sjedinjenih Američkih Država s posebnom ponudom životnog osiguranja na dvadeset godina uplaćivanja s kreditima bratskih dividendi za korištenje u prvoj godini

Hrvatska u lipnju i srpnju 2026. nastupa na Svjetskom nogometnom prvenstvu

Po prvi put u povijesti Svjetsko nogometno prvenstvo održat će se u čak tri zemlje domaćina. SAD, Kanada i Meksiko ugostit će čak 48 reprezentacija što će biti najmasovnije SP u povijesti. Prva utakmica igra se 11. lipnja između domaćina Meksika i Južne Afrike, a finale se igra 17. srpnja što ovo prvenstvo čini i najdužim dosad.

Kada i s kime igra Hrvatska?

Hrvatska prvu utakmicu na SP-u igra s **Engleskom, u srijedu 17. lipnja od 22 sata u Dallasu**, čak šest dana nakon početka turnira. Nakon toga Vatrene igraju s **Panamom, u srijedu 24. lipnja od 01:00 u Torontu**, više od šest dana nakon prve utakmice. To će nam biti vjerojatno najlakši dvoboj. Svojevrsnu utakmicu odluke Hrvatska igra protiv **Gane u subotu, 27. lipnja od 23 sata u Philadelphiji**. **Što Vatrene čeka ako prođe grupu?**

Grupa L se u prvoj utakmici nekaut-faze, a to je ovaj put šesnaestina finala, križa s grupom K u kojoj su dvije najjače momčadi Portugal i Kolumbija. Tu naša reprezentacija nije imala baš sreće na ždrijebu, jer ukoliko Vatrene ne osvoje skupinu ispred Engleza, igrat će protiv jedne od ove dvije reprezentacije.

Prvo mjesto bi Hrvatskoj donijelo susret trećeplasiranim iz skupina E, H, I, J ili K (sigurno iz K ako trećeplasirani iz te grupe uspije proći) u Atlanti. Drugo mjesto bi donijelo drugoplasiranog u Torontu, a treće mjesto prvoplasiranog iz grupe K u Kansas Cityju.

Finalna utakmica će se igrati u New Yorku 19. srpnja. Samo naprijed Vatrene!

U čast osnivanja naše velike zemlje 1776. godine i u nastojanju da se proslavi neovisnost i sloboda koju su omogućili naši preci, Hrvatska bratska zajednica je proglasila da se krediti bratskih dividendi primjenjuju na ugovore izdane prema planu Životnog osiguranja na dvadeset godina uplate kako slijedi:

Molitelj osiguranja u dobi od nula do 25 godina

Ugovor o životnom osiguranju od 10.000 do 25.000 USD nominalne vrijednosti za premiju u prvoj godini od 17,76 USD, da, točno Sedamnaest dolara i sedamdeset šest centi! Preostala premija potrebna za prvu godinu bit će pokrivena kroz posebno proglašene kredite bratskih dividendi. Premije za drugu do dvadesetu godinu temelje se na standardnoj premiji izračunatoj prema važećim stopama životnog osiguranja HBZ za plan Životnog osiguranja na dvadeset godina uplaćivanja.

Molitelj osiguranja u dobi od 26 do 70 godina

Ugovor o životnom osiguranju s minimalnom nominalnom vrijednošću od 10.000 USD ima pravo na jednokratne fraternalne dividende do 250 USD koje se mogu upotrijebiti za premiju prve godine odabrane police. Minimalna premija za prvu godinu iznosi 17,76 USD za svaku prijavu. Preostala premija može se podmiriti primjenom do 250 USD jednokratnih fraternalnih dividendi i dodatne uplate od strane podnositelja zahtjeva u slučaju da standardna premija premaši 250 USD. Na primjer - muškarac podnositelj zahtjeva koji ima 40 godina i ne koristi duhan želi ugovor o životnom osiguranju u iznosu od 25.000 USD prema ovoj posebnoj ponudi Standardna premija iznosi 569,50 USD, a podnositelj zahtjeva trebao bi platiti premiju prve godine prilikom prijave u iznosu od: 569,50 USD - 250 USD ili 319,50 USD za prvu godinu. Alternativno, ako 40-godišnji muškarac odabere policu s nominalnom vrijednošću od 10.000 USD prema planu Twenty Pay Life, standardna godišnja premija iznosi 247,40 USD. Podnositelj zahtjeva bi osigurao \$17,76 za premiju u prvoj godini i bio bi podoban za fraternalne dividende u iznosu od \$229,64 kako bi se zadovoljila preostala premija u iznosu od \$247,40.

Posebno deklarirane fraternalne dividende mogu se koristiti za pokriće standardne premije prve godine u planu životnog osiguranja. Ova ponuda vrijedi bez obzira na dob ili spol podnositelja zahtjeva. Podnositelj zahtjeva odgovoran je za minimalno \$17,76 plus bilo koju neplaćenu premiju prve godine nakon što su primijenjene fraternalne dividende. Za sadašnje članove koji trebaju dodatnu zaštitu životnog osiguranja, bilo \$10,000, \$50,000 ili iznos između; potičemo vas da iskoristite ovaj izvrsni plan životnog osiguranja osmišljen kako bi pružio financijsku zaštitu u slučaju gubitka života. Ova posebna ponuda dostupna je od 6. svibnja do 31. prosinca 2026. godine i tu se primjenjuju standardna pravila Zajednice.

Pozivamo naše članove da nazovu našu koordinatoricu prodaje HBZ-a, sestru Cathy Brnich, na broj 412-843-0380 kako bi postali volonterski preporučitelji i saznali više o specifičnim opcijama dostupnim njima i njihovim članovima obitelji kod Hrvatske bratske zajednice Amerike.

How to Email Your Materials to the "Z"

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Information should be included in the body of the e-mail, not in attachments. We cannot provide individual confirmation of receipt for each e-mail. Sender must rely on automatic verification of "message sent."

Deadline for submission of articles is the Thursday prior to the publication date and submissions should include sender's name, lodge affiliation and telephone number. Deadline for e-mail submissions is the same as that for submissions by mail or fax.

Photographs may be sent via e-mail but due to incompatibility of some systems, photos will be considered on a case-by-case basis and we may ask that you send hard copies.

Editors

There's Much To Do With 32

CHICAGO, IL - Thursday, May 7: The National Day of Prayer, which is an annual U.S. observance held on the first Thursday of May, invites people of all faiths to pray for the nation. Its purpose: To turn to God in prayer and meditation, offering thanks for freedoms and seeking guidance for the nation's leaders and citizens.

Sunday, May 10: It's Mother's Day! **NO LODGE MEETING!** This day is set aside for all mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, aunts and any other lady who was or is significant in the life of a child. Celebrate it BIG because we deserve it!

Saturday, May 16: Our Sloboda Jr. Tamburitzans in concert. Ticket information and additional details are found elsewhere in the "Z".

Sat./Sun., May 16/17: Plan now! Become part of a fun-filled weekend at the CFU National Bowling Tournament, hosted by Lodge 136 in Lorain, Ohio. Don't bowl? So what! It's not all about bowling; it's about fun and camaraderie! Don't have a full team? So what! They'll team you up with a super bunch of guys and gals who will become your friends forever. It doesn't get any better than that!

Monday, May 25: Memorial Day. This is a whole weekend to celebrate, yet mourn the lives of our brave and selfless

fallen military who sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today. The first national observance, known as Decoration Day, occurred on May 30, 1868.

Friday, May 29: The Tamburitzans will perform their 89th season finale at 7:30 p.m. at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School Theater, 3737 W. 99th St., Chicago. The link for tickets plus more information is found elsewhere in this "Z". This performance is being sponsored by Robert Vucinic and Family whose son Roman, a 2025 graduate of Marist High School, is one of the performers as was his father during his college years.

Fri./Sat., June 5/6: CFU National Golf Tournament, hosted by Zora Lodge 351 in Detroit.

Sunday, June 14: "Happy Anniversary Hrvatska Sloboda Lodge 32 on your 130th year! We'll be celebrating it "BIG"! Join us as we celebrate this great milestone with champagne and goodies at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement Ave., Joliet, starting at 10:30 a.m. First the General Meeting, then the party. If you want to contribute to the festivities, please be my guest!

Saturday, June 20: Summer Solstice. This astronomical event marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. It signifies the official start of summer. Hip Hip Hooray! Have a safe and fun one!

Sunday, June 21: It's Father's Day! This day is

a meaningful day widely observed. It's a time to thank fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, guardians, and other male role models for their love, guidance, and support. Happy Father's Day!

Saturday, July 4: Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the U.S. which commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America by the Second Continental Congress declaring that the 13 Colonies were no longer subject (and subordinate) to the monarch of Britain, King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states. This year we celebrate 250 Years! God bless America!

Sunday, July 12: Lodge 32's Midwest CFU Day Picnic at the Croatian Cultural Club in Joliet. This is one Forget Me Not day! Make it a family day. Make it a picnic day. Best part - no cooking on your part. We'll do that for you. BBQ Lamb, ćevaps, beef sandwiches, strudels, nut rolls and more. Oops, I almost forgot, beer, wine, a specialty drink, pop and more. Our day begins with Holy Mass at 10 a.m., officiated by Father Anthony Dosen and music by our Prijateljji Orchestra. Open to all. Come and enjoy!

PLAN AHEAD:

Saturday, July 18: Joe Rady Golf Tournament, hosted by Lodge 367 of Canton, IL. Tournament to be played at

the Kellogg Golf Course in Peoria, IL.

Tuesday, August 11: There is a Chicago White Sox game at Rate Field at 6:40 p.m. vs. the Reds. That's not the best part; they're giving away Pope Hats (aka mitre) for everyone! Join in the fun and get your very own Pope Hat!

Also, now that Julie has graciously accepted the position of chairperson of the kitchen, she now needs a staff. Don't be shy! From what we hear, Julie does not bite! Step right up and volunteer. The more volunteers, the less time spent in the kitchen.

Speaking of volunteering, we also need help in the bakery department. We need strudel makers, povitica (nut roll) makers and other sweets to fill our bakery table. Here again, the more help we get, the less time spent behind the bakery table. Please give me a call at 773.586.3025. Don't forget to leave a message along with your name and phone number, and I'll get that message to the appropriate person. Thank you!

Please Remember: There is **NO GENERAL MEETING IN MAY** and our June 14th General Meeting and the celebration of our 130th Birthday will be at the Joliet Croatian Cultural Club, 1503 Clement St. in Joliet.

■ ■ ■
"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." - St. Therese of Lisieux

Arlene Boudos/Lodge 32

National Golf Tournament Heading To Detroit

DETROIT, MI - For the first time in over two decades, Zora Lodge 351 is hosting a National Tournament and we want to make a good impression! We welcome all golfers, local and especially those able to make the trip to the Motor City for this annual event.

On June 5-6, golfers will enjoy two days of golf at the historic Rackham Golf Course, owned

and operated by the City of Detroit, but located in the popular City of Royal Oak, next to the Detroit Zoo.

Following golf each day, our American Croatian Club, located at 32851 Ryan Rd., Warren, MI 48092, will be the gathering place. It is a short ride from both the golf course and the hotel, for out-of-town guests. Lodge 351 welcomes golfers and all others

who want a delicious meal, great music and good company! Friday, June 5, doors and bar open at 6 PM, the kitchen opens at 6:30 PM and music begins at 7 PM. Lamb (\$20), Ćevapi (\$15), Kolbasi/kraut (\$12) or Burek (\$12) dinners including potato salad and cole slaw are available for purchase. We ask that lamb be preordered by calling Kathy at 248.477.7621 by June 1.

The Adriatic Trio will be your entertainment for the evening. Talented musicians Danny and Steve Capuzzi and Rob Sestili all hail from the Pittsburgh area. Two of the trio now reside in metro Detroit.

There is no cover for the Friday night Welcome Party. We hope many of our locals will come to help show our out-of-towners our Lodge hospitality!

Saturday, June 6, following golf, the lodge will host a buffet

banquet, starting promptly at 4 PM. Cost of the banquet at \$25 is included in the price of golf. For all others, please RSVP to Kathy at above listed number, or Derek Hohn at the CFU 412.843.0380 by June 1.

If you prefer to come to the club after official golf business, there will be a \$10 charge at the door. Our kitchen will again be serving dinners all night. The menu is the same, minus the lamb.

Music for Saturday evening will be provided by our local Motor City Stringz. These outstanding musicians include Joe Novosel, Joe Matievich, George Patrash, Frank and Ben Corak, Pero Pavlovich and Danny Capuzzi.

For those looking for more friendly competition this weekend, we will have a one-loss elimination Corn Hole Tournament. Entry is \$10 per person. Cash prizes will be determined by number of entries, with first and second place payouts.

There will be a 50/50 raffle each evening and a prize raffle to be drawn Saturday night. A special raffle for a Croatian Corn Hole set, created and donated by the Anthony Radman family, will be the highlight.

Welcome golfers from near and far to our Croatian Club and the Motor City! For our local members who won't be golfing, please come down and support your Lodge the weekend of June 5-6. This will be a casual indoor/outdoor event, similar to our very popular picnic held last June, only taking place on back-to-back evenings. Volunteers are welcome and appreciated for the weekend. Please contact someone on the Lodge Board. Feel free to call the undersigned. Come one or both days and help us show our out-of-town guests that "there ain't no party like a Detroit party!"

Kathy Perpich Thiel
Lodge 351

THE 50th CFU NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 5 & 6, 2026

Friday, June 5th - 4-Man Blind Scramble

1:30 PM Shotgun Start

Saturday, June 6th - Stroke Play Tournament

7:30 AM Shotgun Start



Entry Fees per Golfer

Golf (2 day), Cart & Awards Event - \$170.00
CFU Nest Members 18 and Under - \$130.00
Additional Banquet Ticket (Non-Golfer) \$35.00

***Please check in at least 30 Minutes before teeing off Friday and Saturday.**

Rackham Golf Course
10100 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Huntington Woods, MI
www.rackham.golf
248-543-4040

Hotel reservations must be made before May 15, 2026

Please visit cfu.org/events for booking information

GOLFER'S FULL NAME	FLIGHT* (See Below)	CFU MEMBER or GUEST	EMAIL or PHONE	LODGE #

FLIGHTS

MEN:
- A Flight - 72-78
- B Flight - 79-85
- C Flight - 86-92
- D Flight - 93-100
- E Flight - Over 100

LADIES:

- A Flight - Up to 100
- B Flight - 101-110
- C Flight - 111 and Up
JUNIOR: Up to age 18
- MALE
- FEMALE

SENIOR: 65+

- Sr. Flight - 65 & Older

NO REFUNDS
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Croatian Fraternal Union

Deadline: Friday May 22nd

Mail Entries and Checks To:

Croatian Fraternal Union
c/o Derek Hohn
100 Delaney Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
email: dhohn@cfu.org

GUEST (non CFU Member) Team Contact

(Name & Phone or Email)

All CFU members must be in good standing. Director of Fraternal Programs will check eligibility.



**Scenes
From
32nd Annual
Velika Fešta
Tamburaša
in Cokeburg
March 28, 2026**



42nd Annual Croatian Extravaganza

SACRAMENTO, CA - Croatian American Cultural Center (CACC) is celebrating its 42nd Annual Croatian Extravaganza on June 13 and 14. This is family-style festival celebrating Croatian heritage and traditions. The festival is a huge celebration of Croatian Culture including food, music, and dancing over a fun filled weekend. The best part of the festival is creating an opportunity to get together with friends and to meet new people.

The Extravaganza started out in 1983 as a small picnic hosted by a few Sacramento-area Croatian families and now draws thousands of visitors from around the greater Sacramento, Bay Area, and throughout California. The European Festival in the Old-World Tradition features favorite Croatian food, desserts, and drinks, including delicious pastries, succulent spit-roasted lamb and pork, beef, chicken, cevapcici, and side dishes. There is an inside and outside bars the serve feature Croatian and Craft Beer, Croatian and California Wines, and a full bar of hard liquor. We also feature a special drink "Adriatic Splash" made with four different hard liquors, Slivovitz Rakija and fruit juices. This has been everybody's favorite for years.

The weekend will feature Croatian-themed music and entertainment, including Rakija Bend, a popular Chicago-based musical group specializing in Croatian. Rakija Bend <https://youtube.com/@raki->

jabend8858?si=WX0rXNaHwem-BpHgk started over four decades ago playing Croatian music together in various combinations, whether it was in other bands or our respective Croatian Folklore groups in Chicago. The current band started almost 18 years ago promoting our Croatian Culture that we are proud to have been raised in. They frequently perform at local venues, festivals, and community events like the Velika Gospa celebration. Known for high-energy live performances offering a diverse repertoire that guarantees a top-notch atmosphere and unforgettable celebrations featuring traditional instruments and modern hits. Our goal is to further share this with the younger generations like our parents did for us. As Hrvati in diaspora, it's even more important that we continue to do so...and we will! Živjeli!!

In addition, there will be Kolo Groups from Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Jose performing. This year's entertainment package will provide a wide variety of music for everybody's listening and dancing pleasure. Sunday's schedule will include a Catholic Mass at 11 a.m., followed by a "family day."

Last year's festival was outstanding, well attended, and one of the best in recent times. The success of the Croatian Extravaganza is mainly due to the hard work and dedication of the Executive Board and numerous volunteers. We really appreciate and thank all of them for all their outstanding service. Please note that many

of the volunteers have been helping since the first Croatian Extravaganza in 1983.

The Honorable Renee Pea, Consulate General of Croatia in Los Angeles, and her staff will attend the Croatian Extravaganza to consult with those interested in obtaining Croatian Citizenship on June 6, 7 and 8, at the Croatian American Cultural Center. Please note that these services are strictly by appointment only. To set up an appointment, please email a request to losangeles@mvep.hr. They will not be able to receive anyone without an appointment. Just like last year, there will be a swearing in ceremony of newly approved Croatian Citizens on Saturday during the Croatian Extravaganza Program.

We extend a very special and warm welcome to all!

Mike Spalj/Lodge 434

Lodge 235 May Meeting Notice

CLEVELAND, OH - Lodge 235 will hold our next meeting on May 17th. The meeting will be called to order at 1 PM in the library at Croatian Home in Eastlake. If the main entrance is locked, use the side door by the meeting rooms.

We encourage all members of the lodge to attend these important meetings. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there.

**Agatha Luketic
Secretary/Treasurer**

Nicholas DePersis FSGP Fraternalist of the Year



PITTSBURGH, PA - It was my honor to recently attend the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh banquet held on April 18 honoring 2026 Fraternalist of the Year Nicholas E. DePersis and to be a part of the CFU delegation at the banquet.

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) has in its fraternal ranks 14 fraternal benefits societies and seven associated business groups representing over a million members. The FSGP was organized in 1943 and was supported by Croatian Fraternal Union of America from the very beginning. Through FSGP meetings, member societies are provided the opportunity to exchange ideas, programs and the shared mission of fraternal organizations.

The 2026 FSGP Fraternalist of the Year, Nicholas (Nick) E. DePersis, has been involved in fraternal activities for over 30 years. Nick has participated in numerous fraternal undertakings and fraternal sponsored golf outings, volunteered for many fundraising events and was instrumental in organizing the Annual Seminars of the FSGP with his father, Edward DePersis. Nick is the President and CEO of ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, LLC. Since 2017, he has moderated FSGP seminars covering a wide range of topics that are pertinent to Fraternal Benefit Society operations.

Nick DePersis is a member of many fraternal societies and recently became a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union. Congratulations, Nick, on this well-deserved honor and welcome to the CFU!

Franjo Bertović/Executive Vice President

By Edward W. Pazo/National President

(Continued from page 2)

• **Location:** The sculpture is located in the CFU headquarters in Pittsburgh.

The sculpture serves as a powerful symbol for the Croatian diaspora, linking the Croatian Fraternal Union with the history and identity of the homeland.

It is with great honor and respect that we proudly display this wonderful symbol of love for our mothers, our motherland Croatia, and the proud history of Croats dating back even further than the crowning of the first Croatian King Tomislav in 925 AD.

OBITUARIES



CFU Annuity...

(Continued from page 1)

available for families across the financial spectrum. Oftentimes those families who have the most to benefit from sound life insurance coverage are those who neglect to arrange for adequate coverage for both wage earners of today's family.

In an effort to provide this valuable coverage to all members of the family, Croatian Fraternal Union of America, continues to offer life insurance at special first year savings through the application of fraternal dividend credits on the very popular Single Premium Ordinary Life plan of insurance.

Applicants who are age forty (40) or younger are eligible for a Fraternal Dividend Credit in an amount equal to 15% of the lump sum premium required for a Single Premium Ordinary Life (SPOL) insurance policy; and applicants who are forty-one (41) years of age or older are eligible for a Fraternal Dividend Credit equal to 10% of the full premium required for a CFU issued SPOL certificate.

In either case, the maximum fraternal dividend credit available to any member is equal to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), regardless of the percentage calculated. The benefits available through the SPOL Plan are not limited to only newborns and youthful members; we continue to believe that our more senior members of the society also should give earnest consideration to this plan.

Due to the popularity of the Single Premium plan of life insurance, the Executive Board has extended the special offer through December 31, 2026 in order to provide members with adequate time to review their family's life insurance needs. However, we cannot emphasize enough the need to take action immediately in order to safeguard families from the tragic misfortune of death. We firmly believe that it is very difficult to

have "more than enough" life insurance.

With today's ever-increasing costs, the amount of life insurance coverage that many members purchased in the past is no longer sufficient to cover the cost of a decent burial. Additionally, with a mobile workforce, the days of maintaining life insurance through employment is difficult and may oftentimes be interrupted. Therefore, a life insurance policy with the Croatian Fraternal Union spans the changes in jobs and may be counted upon well after a normal retirement age.

Society Recognizes the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America With Twenty Pay Life Special Offer Featuring Fraternal Dividend Credits for 1st Year Use

In recognition of the founding of our great country in 1776 and in an effort to celebrate the independence and freedom made possible by our forefathers, Croatian Fraternal Union has declared fraternal dividend credits applicable to contracts issued under the Twenty Payment Life Plan as follows:

Applicants Aged Zero to 25

A life insurance contract from \$10,000 to \$25,000 in face value for the first-year premium of \$17.76, yes, that is correct Seventeen Dollars and Seventy-Six Cents! The remaining premium required for the first year will be satisfied through the specially declared fraternal dividend credits. Premiums for years two through twenty will be based upon the standard premium calculated from the current CFU life insurance rates for the Twenty Pay Life plan of insurance.

Applicants aged 26 through 70

A life insurance contract with minimum face value of \$10,000 is eligible for up to \$250 in one-time fraternal dividend credits to be used toward the first-year premium of the chosen policy. **A minimum first-year premium of \$17.76 is required with each application.** The remaining premium may be satisfied through the applica-

tion of up to \$250 in one-time fraternal dividend credits and an additional payment from the applicant should the standard premium exceed two hundred fifty dollars.

For example - a male applicant who is age 40 and does not use tobacco, desires a \$25,000 Life Insurance contract under this special offer. The standard premium equals \$569.50 and the applicant would be required to pay a first-year premium with the application equal to: \$569.50 - \$250.00, or \$319.50, for the first year.

Alternately, if the aged 40 male chose a \$10,000 face value policy under the Twenty Pay Life plan, the standard annual premium is \$247.40. The applicant would provide \$17.76 in first-year premium and be eligible for fraternal dividend credits equal to \$229.64 to satisfy the remaining first-year premium equal to \$247.40.

The specially declared fraternal dividend credits are eligible to be used toward the first-year standard premium of the society's Twenty Pay Life Insurance plan. This offer applies regardless of the age or gender of the applicant. The applicant is responsible for a minimum of \$17.76 plus any unmet first year premium after the fraternal dividend credit has been applied.

For those present members in need of additional life insurance protection, whether \$10,000, \$50,000 or an amount between, we encourage you to take advantage of this excellent plan of life insurance designed to provide financial protection in the event of a loss of life. This special offer is available from May 6 through December 31, 2026 and the standard underwriting policies of the society apply.

We urge our members to call our CFU Sales Coordinator, Sister Cathy Brnich, at 412-843-0380 to become a volunteer recommender and learn more about the specific options available to them and their family members from the Croatian Fraternal Union of America.

Arlene Luketich



COKEBURG, PA - Arlene Ritenour Luketich, 62, of Ellsworth, PA, passed away on April 13, 2026 at home.

She was born November 23, 1963, in Washington, PA, a daughter of the late James R. and Allie Mae Porterfield Ritenour.

She was a member of the Croatian Fraternal Union, St. George Lodge 354 of Cokeburg, PA and the VFW 927 in Washington, PA. She worked as a gardener at the former Hot House in Eighty-Four, PA. Arlene loved gardening and especially

loved her dog, Otto.

Surviving are her husband, George Luketich, Jr., with whom she celebrated 46 years of marriage; children, Shawn Luketich (Brittany), Brian Luketich (Morgan), Michael Luketich (Dawn), and Melissa Luketich (Curtis); grandchildren, Peyton Luketich, Brayden Luketich, Madison Pidich, Brody Pidich, Adrianna Luketich, and Mason Luketich; siblings, Mary Ellen Thomas (John), Thomas Ritenour (Peggy), William Ritenour (Margie), Bonnie Riley (William), Joseph Ritenour (Jackie), Debra Jenkins (Tom), Sally Jo Evans (George), and Marlene Fereza (Frank), and several nieces and nephews.

Also deceased, are her siblings, Dorothy Ament, Hazel Geary, Dennis Ritenour, Danny Ritenour, Richard Ritenour, and Patsy Shawley, Jim "Skinny" Ritenour, Sr.

Friends were received on April 16, at the Thompson-Marodi Funeral Home, Inc., Bentleyville, PA. Memories and condolences can be shared at <https://www.thompson-marodi.com>.

Following the funeral service, family and friends were welcomed at a memorial reception at the Croatian Home in Cokeburg, PA. On behalf of our St. George Lodge 354 membership, we express our sympathies to the family and pray our departed member, Arlene Ritenour Luketich, may rest in Eternal Peace.

Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras
President



Jean Ann Grdasich



NORTH CANTON, OH - Jean Ann (Doyczich) Grdasich, 81, of North Canton, OH, passed away peacefully at home on March 15, 2026 with her loving family by her side.

She was born on August 23, 1944 in Sewickley, PA, to the late Joseph and Lubi (Jurcich) Doyczich. She was a 1962 graduate of Aliquippa High School and a 1965 graduate of Sewickley Valley Hospital School of Nursing.

Jean worked as a registered nurse at Sewickley Hospital, Aliquippa Hospital, and later Aultman Hospital from where she retired in 2006.

She originally was a member of CFU Lodge 423, which later merged with Lodge 720 of Aliquippa, PA, and was a Junior Tamburitzan.

Jean is survived by her husband and travel partner of 60 years, John Grdasich Jr.; daughters Joyce (Jim) Belli and Jana (Mike) Spargrove; grandchildren Jessica Belli, Jenna (William) Yobi, Andrew Spargrove, Allie Spargrove; great-granddaughter, Emilia Yobi; brothers Thomas (Michael Ann) Doyczich and Joseph (Carolyn) Doyczich; and many special nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jean's greatest joy was spending time with her family.

May she rest in peace.

The Family of Jean Ann Grdasich

★ GUIDELINES ★ for Submission of Obituaries ★

The **Zajednicar** understands that the death of a loved one is a difficult time for family members. Obituaries are among the most important items we publish in the **Zajednicar** since we are respectful of all CFU members and are grateful for their contributions to our Fraternal Family.

In light of the increasing number of lengthy obituaries which have been submitted in recent years, we ask all members submitting obituaries to please limit an obituary to two typed pages, double spaced (approximately 250 words). Be sure to include all basic obituary information include the CFU lodge affiliation of the deceased. Please note that eulogies, in most instances, will not be published. A photo may accompany the obituary, provided the photo submitted is of printable quality. Obituaries are published in the order they are received. We request that obituaries be submitted in typewritten copy by mail or by e-mail: editor@cfu.org. We reserve the right to edit information provided in all obituaries in order to maintain the style adopted for the obituary pages. Thank you for your cooperation! —Editors

Croatian Mass Schedule for May

WASHINGTON, DC - In May, our Holy Mass schedule will be as follows:

May 10 at 12:30 pm at Our Lady of Victory, 4835 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20007.

May 17 at 12:30 pm at Our Lady of Victory, 4835 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington, DC 20007.

May 24 at 11 am at the Church of St. Nicholas (Pittsburgh, PA), 24 Maryland Ave, Millvale, PA 15209. Confessions before Mass.

May 31 at 11 am - **HOLY MASS FOR THE HOMELAND** - in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Mir i Dobro! Peace and Goodness!

Father Maurus Dolčić

5 THINGS THAT CAN COST THE SAME (OR MORE) PER MONTH AS LIFE INSURANCE



A bottle of wine



A single subscription meal



A fitness class



A music streaming plan



One meal from a sit-down restaurant

LH.

COOKING Corner

Cherry Bars

1 c. butter, softened
2 c. sugar
4 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. almond extract
3 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt
2 cans (21 oz. each) cherry pie filling
In mixing bowl cream butter & sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the extracts.

Combine flour and salt; add to creamed mixture & mix until combined.

Spread 3 c. batter into a greased 15x10x1 inch baking pan. Spread with pie filling. Drop the remaining batter by teaspoonfuls over cherry filling.

Bake 350° for 35 minutes. Cool on rack.

Combine glaze ingredients:
1 c. confectioner's sugar, 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract, 1/2 tsp. almond extract, 2 to 3 Tbsp. milk.
Drizzle glaze over bars.

Zlivonka (Croatian Cornbread)

3 eggs
3/4 C. sugar
1 tsp. salt
3 tsp. baking powder
1 pint sour cream
1 C. melted butter
2 C. corn meal
1 quart milk (can use part evaporated)
1 tsp. vanilla

Cream eggs and sugar well. Add sour cream and butter, then alternate with remaining ingredients.

Bake in 9"x13" pan at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until set.

Serve hot or cold, as breakfast, dessert or side dish.

Ham 'n' Cheese Croissants

3 Tbsp. butter
3 c. sliced mushrooms
3 Tbsp. sliced green onions
1 1/2 Tbsp. flour
3/4 c. milk
Salt and pepper
4 large croissants, halved
8 slices ham
6 oz. Canadian Swiss cheese, sliced

Melt butter in saucepan. Sauté mushrooms and onions until tender and mushroom liquid has evaporated. Blend in flour. Gradually stir in milk. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Add salt and pepper to taste.

On bottom half of each croissant, layer 2 slices of ham, one quarter of the cheese and one quarter of the mushroom sauce; replace top croissant. Bake in 350°F oven, about 15 minutes or until heated through.

Honey Mustard Pork Tenderloin

1 pork tenderloin (1 lb.)
Glaze
1/4 c. honey
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. cider vinegar
1 Tbsp. prepared mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

Place pork tenderloin on a greased rack in a 15x10 inch baking pan lined with foil. In a small bowl, combine glaze ingredients; set aside 3 Tablespoons mixture for basting. Spoon remaining honey mixture over the pork.

Bake uncovered at 375° for 28 minutes until thermometer reads 145°, basting occasionally, with reserved glaze.

Let stand for 5 minutes before slicing.

All Recipes from the Cooking Corner Archives

Attention All Cooking Corner Contributors:

All submissions for the **Zajedničar Cooking Corner** are greatly appreciated. However, since we do not operate a test kitchen to validate all recipes received, we kindly ask everyone to please review each recipe submitted to ensure its accuracy. We realize many "Z" readers enjoy trying the recipes and recognize the fact that cooking and baking involves considerable time, effort, and expense. Missing ingredients and incomplete details result in disappointing finished products. We appreciate your accuracy because we want all of our **Cooking Corner** readers to be happy cooks and satisfied bakers!

—Editors

RECIPES WANTED! If you have a Croatian or American culinary specialty of which you're quite proud, please submit it to the "Z" by addressing it to **Zajedničar** at 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235, faxing to 412-823-1594 or e-mailing editor@cfu.org.

Javor Pittsburgh Ready To Host June Picnic

MILLVALE, PA - Join Javor Pittsburgh as they host the first picnic of the season on June 7th at the Croatian Center, 80 Schuetzen Rd., Millvale, PA 15206. Celebrate the start of the summer, while helping the group do what they do best - perpetuate Croatian heritage!

Gates open at noon: \$5 admission. Please no outside food or beverage.

The kitchen will be full of Croatian favorites such as čevapi and sarma, along with delicious homemade baked goods, and of course, a stocked bar (and excellent bartenders).

Lamb by Mike Mezick will be available for pre-order only! Order by May 29th by calling Maurine at 412-580-3708.

Performances by Sacred Heart Adult Tamburitans and Javor Pittsburgh will start at 1 PM, followed by entertainment from Orkestar Zabava from 2PM - 6PM. It's the perfect way to beat those Sunday scares!

Lauren Suchy/Lodge 354

Lorain Lodge 136 Meeting Calendar and Events

LORAIN, OH - Lorain Lodge 136 is pleased to announce its 2026 quarterly meeting schedule and encourages all members to mark their calendars and plan to attend.

The upcoming meeting dates are as follows: Saturday, June 20th at 2 p.m.; Sunday, September 20th at 2 p.m.; and Sunday, December 23rd at 2 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the American Croatian Club Hall, located at 4846 Oberlin Avenue in Lorain, Ohio.

In addition to the quarterly meetings, members and friends are invited to save the date for these special upcoming events:

Saturday/Sunday, May 16/17: 90th Annual CFU Bowling Tournament

Saturday, June 27: Celebration of America's 250th Birthday

Saturday, July 18: Croatian Festival

Lorain Lodge 136 looks forward to another year of fellowship, tradition and community involvement. Be sure to stay connected and participate in these important meetings and exciting events.

Donna Perichak Katrincsak
Secretary

Lodge 337 Scholarships Available

EUCLID, OH - CFU Lodge 337 will offer one-year scholarships up to \$500 for qualified students who have been members of Lodge 337 or Nest 373 for at least 5 years. Maximum is \$500 per year for four years.

Qualifying students include those attending an accredited two-year college/trade school or a four-year college.

Requirements: Submit in writing by October 31, 2026: Name, Address, Phone number, Birthdate, GPA and CFU policy number. For 1st year college students, please include a copy of your letter of acceptance. For 2nd-4th year college students, please send your latest transcript.

You must be a full-time student to quality, with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester, a minimum GPA of 2.0 and a current member of Lodge 337.

If you have any questions, please contact Lodge 337 Secretary Rita Mitch at 330-760-7468 or email mam2Ly@roadrunner.com.

Rita Mitch/Lodge 337

Sloga Lodge 1994 Offers Scholarships

MILWAUKEE, WI - Sloga Lodge 1994 in Milwaukee, WI, is again offering scholarships to our qualified lodge members. Information has been sent out to eligible members. If you need more information, or have any questions, or if you need an application form, contact President Christina Carroll at 414-708-6366 or email her at chris carr0676@gmail.com.

The deadline for completed applications is June 1, 2026. You can honor a member or a loved one, present or past, by making a donation in their name to the Sloga Lodge 1994 scholarship fund. You will also be helping our young members, our future leaders. Thank you!

Mary Alyce Francis
Lodge 1994

CULINARY DELIGHTS • SPECIAL DINNERS • BAKE SALES
LUNCHEONS • FUNDRAISERS • BREAKFAST MEETINGS
BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS
BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS
CULINARY DELIGHTS • BAKE SALES
LUNCHEONS • BREAKFAST MEETINGS
BREAKFAST MEETINGS • LUNCHEONS

BAKE SALES • SPECIAL DINNERS • CULINARY DELIGHTS

Lodge 995 Plans Appreciation Luncheon

CLEVELAND, OH - CFU Lodge 995 is pleased to announce that at its Saturday, May 9th meeting, we will host an APPRECIATION Luncheon for all members attending the meeting at the American Croatian Lodge, 34900 Lakeshore Blvd., Eastlake, OH 44095, in Atrium room. The meeting will start at 2 p.m. promptly.

Please call Mary at 216-313-0298 with the number of attendees so we can make arrangements with the restaurant for lunch with an accurate count of the number of people attending.

We are looking forward seeing you all on Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m.

Mary Laush/Secretary

Palačinka and Mimosa Brunch at Sacred Heart

MILWAUKEE, WI - Please join us for our famous Palačinka and Mimosa Brunch on Sunday, May 17, at Sacred Heart Croatian Parish in Milwaukee, 917 North 49th St. (1/2 Block South of Wells)! Brunch will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Bring your family and friends to relax and enjoy palačinke (crêpes), žganci (polenta), sausage and sauerkraut. All items are served à la carte. Beverages include coffee, orange juice, and milk, with mimosas available for adults.

We accept cash, check or credit card.

Holy Mass will be celebrated in English at 9 a.m. and in Croatian at 10:30 a.m.

Svi su ovdje dobrodošli! All are welcome here!

Save The Dates:

- Spring Grounds Cleanup - May 9th, 9 a.m.
- Parish Festival - June 6 and 7
- Holy Hill - Saturday, August 22
- Mladi Fest - September 10 - 13

Follow Sacred Heart Croatian Catholic Parish Milwaukee on Facebook or the website, SacredHeartMilwaukee.org.

Mary Schauer/Lodge 1959

CFU Junior Nest KIDS PAGE

The **Zajedničar** welcomes children and young adults to submit articles of interest and personal artwork for the CFU Kids Page which is published monthly in the first issue of each month. Original stories and artwork by CFU Nest Members may be submitted by *e-mail to:* editor@croatianfraternalunion.org or by *mail to:* Editor/Junior Page, Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Conversational Expressions In Croatian

DOVUČI - TO DRAG
ODVRATITI - TO REPLY
PREKINUTI - TO INTERRUPT
RAZGOVOR - CONVERSATION
USPJETI - TO SUCCEED
DOKAZATI - TO PROVE
DOĆI - TO COME
IZREĆI - TO SAY

IZMAKNUTI - TO ESCAPE
NAPASTI - TO ATTACK
NAPITI SE - TO DRINK
NATOVARITI - TO LOAD
NADMAŠITI - TO SURPASS
OBNOVITI - TO RENEW
ODNIJETI - TO TAKE AWAY

CFU Lodge 6 May Meeting

RANKIN, PA - Please mark your calendar to attend the regular monthly meeting of St. Nicholas Lodge 6 on Wednesday, May 20, starting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the All Purpose Room of the Rankin Croatian Home, 236 4th St., Rankin, PA 15104.

We hope to see many of our lodge members at this meeting.

Janet Craig/President

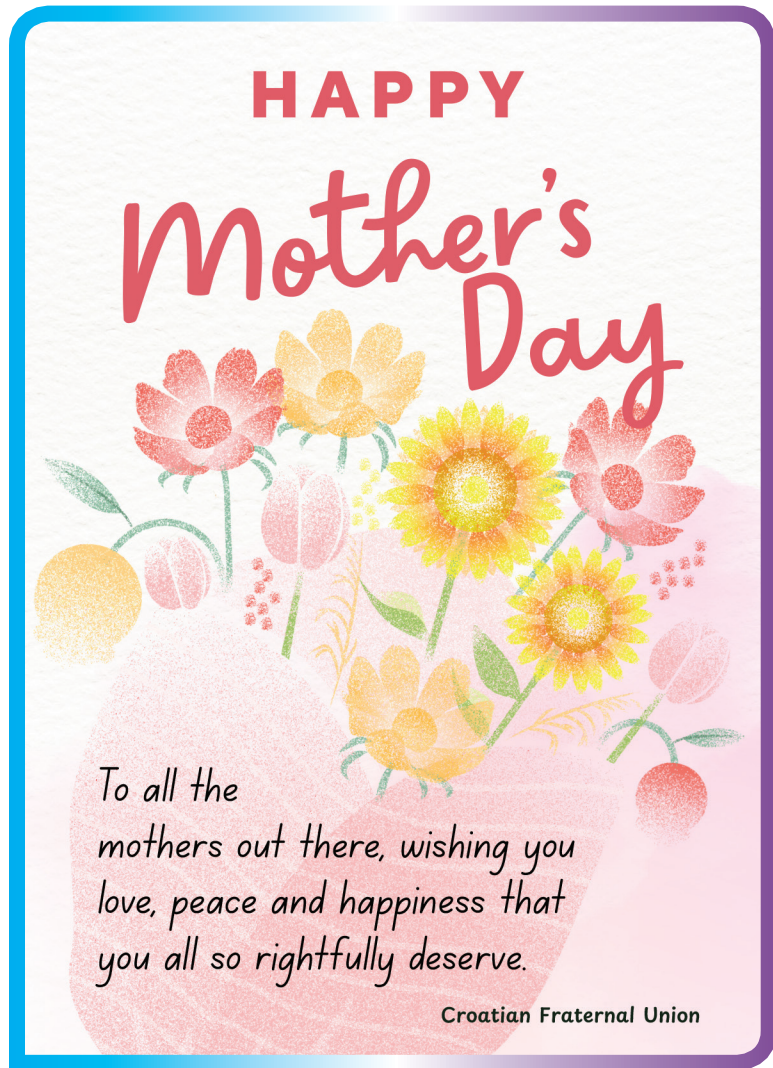
Lodge 170 May Meeting

MERRILLVILLE, IN - Attention Lodge 170 Members. Please join us for our next meeting on Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m.

Meetings take place at 8550 Taft St., Merrillville, IN. Use north doors. Future meeting dates are: July 19; Aug. 16; Sept. 20; Oct. 18; Nov. 15; and Dec. 20.

Please note: No meeting in June due to Father's Day.

Cindy Mayer/Recording Secretary



Peter Rabbit Delights Children at Easter Egg Hunt in Lorain

LORAIN, OH - On March 28, families gathered at the American Croatian Club in Lorain, Ohio, for a festive Easter Egg Hunt that brought smiles to children and adults alike. A special highlight of the day was a visit from Peter Rabbit, who greeted children, posed for pictures with the children and added to the excitement of the celebration.

The event was sponsored by members of the American Croatian Club's Social Committee and CFU Lodge 136. Over 50 children were in attendance. Upon arrival, each child received a goodie bag filled with treats, setting a joyful tone for the morning.

Festivities included refreshments and face painting, giving children plenty of opportunities for fun before the eagerly anticipated egg hunt began. Organized by age groups, the hunt ensured that every child had a chance to participate and enjoy the experience. Adding an extra layer of excitement, all



children discovered a golden egg hidden inside their goodie bags, each containing a special Easter gift.

Parents and grandparents

were delighted to share in the celebration, making it a memorable day for all who attended.

Donna Perichak Katrincsak
Secretary



CFU Junior Nest KIDS PAGE



NATIONAL BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY was held on Thursday, April 23. Several members of the CFU Home Office staff took this opportunity to bring their children to the Home Office to experience what it is like to work in an office setting for a day. Participating in the fun day, front row, from left, Venio Kodzic, Ivanka Barisic, Karlo Hohn, Sven Massimo Kodzic, and Gloria Maros; back row, from left, Klaudia Maros and Ellie Wolstoncroft.



DOZENS OF EXCITED CHILDREN

scrambled in search of hidden Easter eggs scattered on the lawn behind the Cokeburg Croatian Home on Saturday, April 4th, at the annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by St. George CFU Lodge 354/Nest 122. Children and their families enjoyed a beautiful sunny day filled with treats, snacks and prizes to celebrate this festive annual tradition which welcomes Nest 122 members, St. George Junior Tamburitzans and children throughout the Cokeburg-Ellsworth community.



CHILDREN ENJOY THE EASTER EGG HUNT

held on March 28 at the Croatian Hall-CFU Lodge 5, Johnstown, PA. Eggs, candy, crafts, snacks, fun and smiles!



WORD SEARCH

World's Best Mom

M O T H E R D R N S H C A E T O G E
 I E N T T L E A N H F E T D U N D A
 N T T R D S R O D A I G S I I U T S
 E S A A P T I P I N U G E R T I A N
 E E E E I T N L A I N O A I C H T P
 H K C I I C F O D E D C T L O U S C
 M T I D R N E A I R E A I O M G S H
 S E A S D O N R O S R C T V F S E I
 P R E A S C M N P G S M A E O P N L
 T W L T E E O E A P T A O T R E I D
 P I E E A H S E M C A N P M T O P R
 A S Y R D R B A L A N S F M E N P E
 D D T L E O B T H P D U H N O S A N
 F O A C I E M E A R I S R T E C H O
 H M N I C M M E L N N U T T R D I O
 G R A N D M A O L E G I E A U I T E
 E A A H A S E F H O C A N M A R B F
 P L D A U G H T E R R U B T L M E E

APPRECIATE	GRATITUDE	MOM
BIRTH	GUIDANCE	MOTHER
CARING	HAPPINESS	NURTURE
CELEBRATE	HEART	RESPECT
CHILDREN	HOME	ROLE MODEL
COMFORT	HONOR	SON
COMPASSION	HUGS	TEACH
DAUGHTER	KISSES	TRADITIONS
FAMILY	LOVE	UNDERSTANDING
GRANDMA	MEMORIES	WISDOM

MAY HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

(Junior Members Transferring into the Adult Lodge)

8	Rochester, PA Brody James Ellis
10	Merrillville, IN Talan Jacob Slack
24	Los Angeles, CA Rebecca I. Early
31	Duquesne, PA Dante Rocco Marino Abigail P. Murray
32	Uniontown, PA Cameron R. DeGusipe
36	Ambridge, PA Jonathan Hanzevack
37	McKeesport, PA Ashton J. Ulakovic
39	Clairton, PA Jenna C. Perlick
62	Cleveland, OH Liljana R. Pozderac
87	Monessen, PA Emily G. Bozek
103	Conway, PA Olivia M. Klaich
111	Pittsburgh, PA Danika M. Pavlic
122	Cokeburg, PA Kaiden Clingerman Kennedy Coonfare Kendra E. Davis Maria L. Stefansky
190	Farrell, PA Benjamin T. Stedina Tatiana R. Stedina
220	Seattle, WA Antonia Reed
272	Canonsburg, PA Gavin J. Garver
309	Youngstown, OH Chase D. Realty
467	N.S. Pittsburgh, PA Ryan D. Flaherty
576	Aliquippa, PA Riley A. Decker
651	Cleveland, OH Fiona DeMicheli
CANADA	
397	Hamilton, ON Joseph A. Marsic
525	Mississauga, ON Robert A. Biondich
530	St. Thomas, ON Adam Bertovic Peter I. Van Ryswyk

Make Your IRA Contribution Today

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect on your money. Consider making your 2026 IRA contribution as early as possible.

IRA CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

Tax Year	Under Age 50	Age 50 or Older
2026	\$7,500	\$8,600

Note: You may not contribute more than your taxable compensation for the year.

Bernadette M. Luketich-Sikaras
National Secretary/Treasurer

IRA CONTRIBUTION COUPON

If you wish to make a deposit into an existing account with the Croatian Fraternal Union, simply complete this coupon and return it to our Home Office.

Name _____

Certificate No. _____

Deposit Amount _____

Traditional IRA for Year 2026 _____

Roth IRA for Year 2026 _____



POST CONCERT PHOTO OF HOOSIER HRVATI and guest groups: DTO, HRVATSKI OBIČAJ, PRIJATELJI. The Red, White and Blue is stunning!

Hoosier Hrvati Celebrate Spring with Fantastic Concert

MERRILLVILLE, IN – It was a wonderful concert of our Hoosier Hrvati on April 25. We take this opportunity to thank all of the guest groups that joined in the celebration. Talk about an amazingly fun-filled weekend shared in Merrillville, IN.

Hoosier Hrvati was pleased to have as our guests: DTO from Detroit, HRVATSKI

OBIČAJ from St. Louis and PRIJATELJI from Chicago. Our Friday Night Social was jam packed with players, singers, beverage shots and dance. An amazing buffet was prepared by Chef, Dave Nanista, and his sous chef, Evan Pruzin. Friends from out of town had a wonderful time.

Saturday's Concert truly

entertained us all. Beautiful music enveloped our Hall and memories were made. If you missed it, you missed a truly good time. Our post-concert photo can attest to the love and camaraderie shared. Many thanks to Beckie Mikesic for the photo!

On Sunday, 5 HOT GUYS continued to entertain at Jalapeno's in Schererville. I'm told "Sunday was the icing on the cake. A perfect way to wrap up a fantastic weekend!" Puno Hvala to our guest groups--we were thrilled to have you. See everyone soon at TamFest in November!

Sally Kegley/Lodge 170

Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Program

WILKES-BARRE, PA - The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program. Applications can be obtained through eligible members of a Fraternal Benefit Society belonging to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, by contacting the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Secretary-Treasurer at Theresa@lpacu.org or 888-834-6614, or by accessing the PFA Website at www.pafraternals.org.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a current year high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: "What has membership in a Fraternal insurance company

meant to you".

The deadline for submitting applications is June 30, 2026, postmark. All completed applications and supporting information (essay and letter of recommendation) must be mailed to: Rebecca Kasper, PFA Scholarship Chair, LCBA, P. O. Box 13005, Erie, PA 16514-1305.

The Scholarship Committee of the PFA will make the selection of the scholarship recipients and all decisions are final. The scholarship recipients will be announced by August 1, 2026.

At least six \$500 scholarships will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds.

PA Fraternal Alliance

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4.5%

- ✓ Current Interest Rate Guaranteed Initial 2 Year Term
- ✓ 30 Day Window for Penalty-free Withdrawals Beginning at Second Anniversary of Contract
- ✓ Minimum Deposit \$3,000 Available as non-qualified Annuity: Traditional or Roth IRA

9 Year Surrender Charge Contract

4.0%

- ✓ Current Interest Rate
- ✓ Minimum Deposit \$3,000 Available as non-qualified Annuity: Traditional or Roth IRA

5 Year Surrender Charge Contract

3.25%

- ✓ Current Interest Rate
- ✓ Minimum Deposit \$3,000 Available as non-qualified Annuity: Traditional or Roth IRA

*Guaranteed Minimum Interest Rate - 3.00% • Effective January 1, 2024

START SAVING TODAY

- ✉ 412.843.0380
- 📍 100 Delaney Dr., Pgh., PA 15235
- 🌐 www.cfu.org

Consular Days in Pittsburgh and Cleveland

WASHINGTON, DC - The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold Consular Days in Pittsburgh, PA in 2026 at the premises of the Croatian Fraternal Union, 100 Delaney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (by appointment only) on the following dates: **May 14.**

The Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in Washington, DC will hold consular days in Eastlake, OH at the premises of the American-Croatian Lodge Cardinal Stepinac, 34900 Lakeshore Blvd, Eastlake, OH 44095 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., (by appointment only) on the following dates: **May 15.**

Appointments can be scheduled via e-mail: crocons.washington@mvep.hr or by phone: +1 202-588-5899 ext. 2. Please include the type of a request and your contact details.

Mihovil Pažin
Embassy of Croatia Washington, DC

DONATION

CFU SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Yes! I want to CONTRIBUTE \$_____ to the CFU Scholarship Fund in order to aid CFU students seeking a higher education. Please include the following message or memorial with my contribution.

Name _____ Lodge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Make all checks payable to CFU Scholarship Foundation and mail to:
Croatian Fraternal Union
100 Delaney Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15235