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[Happy New Year 2015 - Message from President](#)



Dear Sokol members and dear friends of Sokol Washington,

I would like to wish you a healthy and prosperous 2015. We are one year older and perhaps a little bit wiser. A lot of us make a resolution at the beginning of the New Year. I am going to give you a hint of what the resolution for this year could be. Before I do that I would like to express my Thanks to all

all of you but you who do the volunteering work, know that this thanks belongs to you and I believe that your work is pure, coming from your heart and from your willingness to simply contribute to our small Czech and Slovak community here in the Washington DC area.

Volunteering work is not an easy task. I am not talking about our free time that we give up for what we believe is worth thing to do. This is just a small, necessary part of the volunteering work. I am talking about the bigger part: to overcome the feeling that you were not appreciated, feeling that comes with the volunteering work: "za dobrotu na zobrotu". You perhaps heard my stories when 25 years ago, I started to do the volunteering work. I was single at that time, didn't have my children yet. I agreed to be the Director of Men. For 7 years I had been coming to share my free time with children of our Sokol community. One of the parents thought that I have been paid for my work and told me that I should be thankful to him that he brings his children to Friday classes so I could "omastit si kapsy". When I decided to stop coming every Friday to do the gymnastics one of the Sokol member was upset that I quit and said that my volunteering work didn't last too long. He was correct; his volunteering work lasted much longer.

Volunteering work is not an easy task. Why do we do it then? Why didn't I quit my Sokol membership those 18 years ago? I would not have been able to answer that question back then. But I can answer it now. One of our Sokol member was quite active those 25 years ago. Then her Sokol activity ceased for short time period. Then she started to be active again. Her way of contributing to our Czech/Slovak community has been amazing. I couldn't understand how a person can do so much without expecting anything to get back. She then told me that the reason (at least partial) for why she started her volunteering work again was to return what other volunteers have done those 25 years ago. Because of the volunteers, her kids that didn't want to come to Friday's gymnastics at first started to really enjoy going. She no longer had to 'push' her kids to come to Sokol. Also, they come because they enjoyed being with our group of children. So now when my kids started to come to Sokol she wanted to return the favor to me and other volunteers and become active again. She not only returned the favor to me, she did much more. She spread the rippling effect of volunteering work. Forget the expression "za dobrotu na zobrotu". It is worth to do something for free...

Thank you and Happy New Year!

Milos Toth
President

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[Monthly Membership Meeting - January 7, 2015](#)



The January's monthly membership meeting will be held at the Bethesda Regional Library.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming dates: 1/7/15, 2/4/15, 3/4/15, 4/1/15, 5/6/15, 6/3/15.

All are welcome, member or not!

When

Wednesday, January 7, 2015 - 8 PM

Where

[Bethesda Regional Library](#)

Contact

Bro. Milos Toth at starosta@sokolwashington.org

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[37th Annual Bača Cup International Ski Race - February 14, 2015](#)



The Bača Cup International Invitational Ski Race is closely connected to our Unit and every year many of our members delight in attending this event.

The Bača Cup alpine racing event first started in 1979. Racer of all ages and nationalities are invited to participate, as representatives from Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and the United States take part in this annual event that highlights the relationship between all countries and their shared love of the Nordic experience. Truly, the Bača's vision of cooperation, competition, and good fun is realized through all who choose to be involved.

More Information is coming soon on [Baca Cup website](#) and our [Facebook](#).

When

Saturday, February 14, 2015 - 11 AM (TBD)

Where

[Blue Knob Ski Resort](#)

[Blue Knob, PA](#)

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[Sibrinky/Fasiangy/Masopust - February 28, 2015](#)



Please join us for an evening of live music and dancing at American Sokol Washington's traditional Sibrinky-Fasiangy-Masopust Mardi Gras Party.

We will server schnitzel with potato salad, chlebičky, and traditional šišky/koblihy. Good wine and pilsner on tap.

Activities will include live music, best costume prizes and raffle drawing.

When

Saturday, February 28, 2015 - 7:30 PM

Where

[St Luke Orthodox Church](#)

[6801 Georgetown Pike](#)

[McLean VA 22101](#)

Contact

Radka Herndon at Rradunka@gmail.com

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[ASW Membership Dues for Year 2015](#)



American Sokol Washington, DC membership dues 2015 are as follow:

- Individual Membership (adult /voting) \$35.00
- Two Adults Membership (both voting) \$65.00
- Family Membership I. (one adult voting / all children up to 18 years and other non-voting adults) \$45.00
- Family Membership II. (both adults voting / all children up to 18 years) \$70.00
- New Member One-time Administrative Fee \$5.00

Please make your check payable to "American Sokol Washington, DC", and mail it at your earliest convenience to:

American Sokol Washington, Inc.

Secy. Tibor Bartalos

1101 3rd Street, SW, Apt. 704

Washington, DC, 20024

Please remember, you are not a full Sokol member with voting privileges until you participate in a monthly meeting(s) and consent to take the Sokol oath.

All your contributions to Sokol Washington, D.C., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, are tax deductible. Please give us your consideration when you are deciding on your end-of-year contributions. If you are contributing through the United Way, our CFCNCA designation code is 93300. Your support will directly benefit all our activities and is greatly appreciated!

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[Sokol School/Preschool](#)



Dear Parents and Friends of the Czech and Slovak School,

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW LOCATION FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

We continue to accept registrations for children (ages 5 & up) and adults for Czech and Slovak classes, Czech & Slovak Preschool (ages 2 to 5), and children's gymnastics, for 2014/2015.

Below is the list of current teachers for the 2014/2015:

Slovak Preschool: **Martina Cullen**

Slovak Younger Children: **Veronika Tothova**

Slovak Older Children: **Katarina Petkovic**

Czech Preschool: **Radka Herndon**

Czech School: **Karolina Wilson**

Czech Younger Native Speakers: **Andrea Kletetschka**

Czech Older Native Speakers: **Petra Rehakova**

<http://www.sokolwashington.org/about-us/join-us/>

Reminders

PARENTS:

- children must be supervised at all times!
- no running in the hallways
- no eating anywhere, except the All Purpose Room

TEACHERS:

- after each class, you are responsible to WALK children back to All Purpose Room. No unsupervised children in the hallways.
- please do not let children out of classroom before 8pm; the only exception is bathroom use.

Preschool - parents must pick their child/children up at the classroom at 8pm and walk them to APR, gym or leave.

When

Friday's School 2015 upcoming dates are:

Jan 9 - school and gym open, NO Yoga that day (we don't have APR)

Jan 16, 23, 30

Feb 6, 13, 20, 27

March 6, 13, 20, 27

Where

[Carderock Springs Elementary School,](#)
[7401 Persimmon Tree Ln,](#)
[Bethesda, MD 20817](#)

Contact

Michaela Kiss at mishah@hotmail.com

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[Volleyball Mondays](#)

We encourage new volleyball players to check out our competitive volleyball Monday group. Due to the group large size and skill level, new players might get limited volleyball play time.

WE HAVE MOVED AGAIN! PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW LOCATION FOR ALL VOLLEYBALL ACTIVITIES.

<http://www.sokolwashington.org/activities/sports-activities/volleyball/>

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming dates:

January: 1/5/15, 1/12/15, 1/26/15

February: 2/2/15, 2/9/15, 2/23/15

March: 3/2/15, 3/9/15, 3/16/15, 3/23/15, 3/30/15

When

Mondays between 8 pm - 10 pm

Where

[Bannockburn Elementary School,](#)
[6520 Dalroy Lane,](#)
[Bethesda, MD 20817](#)

Contact

[Orienteering](#)



Colder weather will not stop you to enjoy this outdoor sport. This time of the season are the woods and parks even more fun to enjoy. There are some events scheduled for the month of January but in order to be certain, check the website for the latest news.

Events are organized by the local orienteering clubs and offer great fun for the whole family. This is a great skill for kids to master. Feel free to check the website of the organizer and even try it on your own. <http://qoc.us.orienteering.org>

All are welcome and for those interested, please contact brother Miroslav Honzak at mens.director@sokolwashington.org.

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[Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook](#)



Sokol Washington, D.C. offers additional way for the members to communicate and stay informed about additional events we may not include in our monthly newsletters. Bro. **Tibor Bartalos** has been exceptional at leading this effort.

Please bookmark and check our unit's Facebook page on regular basis at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sokol-Washington-DC/191155580916592>

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[Thank you](#)



We would not be able to flourish as an organization without the constant help of our many volunteers. We can't thank you enough, each and every member of our community.

Here are some most recent events and list of people who made them possible.

Thank you one more time.

The ASW DC Czech and Slovak School would like to thank the **Embassy of the Czech Republic** and the **Czech cultural attaché, Robert Rehak**, for a very generous donation of Czech textbooks and other children's books. These books combined with a previous donation from the Tojls family initiated the opening of the ASW DC Czech and Slovak School Library. Books will be available to teachers, parents, students and other Sokol members.

If you have books you would like to donate to our new library, please contact Michaela Kiss, Director of Education, at mishah@hotmail.com. Thank you!

St. Nicholas Feast (Mikulasska) organizers and volunteers, without your dedication and hard work, this event would not flourish and we would not be able to continue this great tradition. Thank you to all

Family Ski Trip organizers (Schneider Family), instructors (Monika, Radim, Vicki, Tomas and Petra) and volunteers thank you for yet another great ski trip. The record number of participants this year, speaks volumes about your ability and professionalism in managing this event.

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If you have any suggestion or would like to add users to thank you notes, do not hesitate to contact us at sokol@sokolwashington.org.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events

Sokol Washington DC

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