

New Era

ENGLISH SECTION OF
Official Organ
of the
South Slavonic Catholic Union.

Nova Doba

AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS

December Meetings

If there is one meeting in the year that commands large attendance, it is the annual lodge meeting, held in December of each year.

And it is well that our members do look forward to the annual assembly for it is at this meeting that lodge officers for the year 1941 are elected. Officers who shall lead the local unit and guide its destinies.

The annual meeting of this year shall be particularly exciting, for details of the 1941 membership drive will be unfolded and explained to those in attendance.

Election of officers always has been more or less of a stimulant for our lodges and the component members. Human nature and the general tendency to satisfy a curiosity may be responsible for the presence of a number of members at the annual meeting. Not that they may dislike a person, or envy him or her, but just to see the spectacle, if there is one, and to sit in on the show.

A lively and active lodge normally has several members competing for elective positions, with the exception of the office of secretary. Realizing the responsibilities and the duties that go with the job of secretary, a member may hesitate to accept the candidacy for fear that he might be elected.

Sometimes, and very often, a good officer is re-elected. The lodge appreciates his abilities, and his talent for applying his abilities to all practical purposes, and as a result induces him to run again, going on the theory that a good turn deserves another.

Not very often, and in fact not often enough, members are rewarded for their activities and special aptitude with an elective office — as a means of inducement to carry on. Such a procedure pays big dividends to the unit with enough foresight to encourage its active young blood.

Going to the other side of the fence, we find lodges who have to beg members to run for office. This is unfortunate, as the elected administrative board looks upon this position as burdensome — one that no one else wanted to take over.

Although the foregoing example, fortunately, is a rare one, it is one that cannot be given slight attention. When a lodge is "up against" it for elective officers, it has no alternative but to give one hundred percent cooperation to those who have agreed to lead and guide the unit in the subsequent year.

And like many other phases of life, the new board, whether elected as a reward for its activities, or one who has been selected at random, may surprise the most pessimist with new ideas — ideas that attract the membership to the regular monthly meetings.

We must remember that the first and foremost problem confronting all lodge officers is the ability to attract component members to its regular monthly meetings. Once the members are assembled, then new plans for further expansion in the way of new members may be presented; also, ways and means to hold the interest of the members in the future monthly meetings.

Chicago Bowling

Chicago, Ill. — It sure looks like a great season for the SSCU Bowling League, with all the spirit and sportmanship that has been shown.

We had a great crowd out Friday night Nov. 15, in spite of the icy weather. After seeing another Bosco bowl 570 series last Friday, Mr. Louis Zefran seemed to buy any bowler, teaching that mark, a pair of bowling shoes, which gives the bowler a goal to shoot for.

The honor of high game for Nov. 16 goes to captain Dolmovich with 189 and a 503 series, with Louis Zefran following with 170 and 447 series. But when with these scores their teams took a beating. Zefran's morticians losing 3 games and Dolmovich's Florists losing 2 and winning one.

Team standings are:

Team	W	L
Dolmovich's Florists	10	5
Zefran's Dairy	8	7
Maryton Cafe	8	7
Zefran Morticians	4	11

I have a bit of sad news to report on behalf of our good friend and bowler Mr. George Yankovich, who will not be able to bowl with us any longer, because of his business obligations on Friday nights. But with bad news, there is always some good news, which cheered the boys in receiving our new shirts with our sponsors' names.

LODGE 145

Rockingham, Pa. — On Saturday, November 23, lodge "Ilirija," 145, SSCU will hold a dance at the Polish hall in Central City, starting at 8 p.m. Martin Sero and his trio from Greensburg will provide music for the dance. Members of all lodges in this vicinity are cordially invited to attend. In the future, when other lodges will sponsor programs of entertainment, we shall endeavor to return the favor. Friends, acquaintances residing in this vicinity, also are invited to join us on Saturday, Nov. 23d. Admission shall be only 35 cents a person.
Harry Cebron, Pres.

Marion — What are the young man's intentions?
Harriet — Well, he's been keeping me pretty much in the dark.

Here's a little gossip. Looks like the women out here are going in big for this healthful sport. They are planning to organize a couple of teams. Well, girls, we men are wishing you all the luck and success in organizing the women's bowling league of the SSCU.

So come out some Friday night, you fellow members, and watch us do our stuff. Don't forget every Friday night at 8 p.m. Krein's Alleys, 1838 W. Cermak Rd.
Louis Dolmovich Jr., Reporter

Lodge 21

Denver, Colo. — It has been some time since I had anything to say in the Nova Doba. Winter has come, and we received the first snow last Sunday, Nov. 10. The temperature fell down to 10 above, which is plenty cold for Denver. Nevertheless, we are still expecting that Indian summer, which may last until Christmas. Let's hope so, anyway.

Our lodge, St. Joseph, No. 21, SSCU will hold a social party on November 30th, at the Slovene National Home, 4468 Washington St. All of you are invited to attend. Good music will be provided for dancers. Refreshments will be served at 10 p. m., and all for only 50 cents. Prizes also will be given away. Prizes will range from a hair cut and shave to a ton of coal. You can see for yourself the fun awaiting you.

All members, their friends and acquaintances are cordially invited to attend. Tickets can be purchased at the night of the affair, at the ticket window.

Our neighboring lodges will find us an appreciative host, for their attendance to our Nov. 30th party will be returned by our attendance in their future affairs.

Steve Mauser, Pres.
No. 21, SSCU

Lodge 45

Indianapolis, Ind. — All members of lodge St. Joseph, 45, SSCU are urged to be present at the annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 8th. The English-speaking members, as well as the Slovene-speaking, are requested to attend in full numbers since a number of vital matters will come up for discussion. Lodge sport activities for the future will occupy part of the meeting, therefore, it is imperative that the younger set be present. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.
Louis Milharic, Sec'y

Use Double Care

Cleveland, O. — The peak season for automobile accident fatalities is approaching. The hazards of driving at this time of the year can be easily seen when we consider that mileage is sharply reduced in winter months but despite this the traffic deaths soar. Even the heavy traffic of spring and summer months cause fewer fatalities.

It takes a lot more skill and caution to drive or walk safely during late fall and winter months. There are more hours of darkness. The early hour of darkness increases the danger of accidents since it comes during the rush hours—the peak time for traffic. Everyone is hurrying from office and factory to be on their way toward home. To the hazards of the heavy traffic rush during the hours of dusk are added the handicaps of cold weather with its fog and rain—and a little later snow and ice. Pedestrians take chances to get out of the inclement weather and because of these same conditions it is much harder for the motorist to see them or stop in the event of an emergency.

Every motorist must use double care and each pedestrian must be extra cautious to keep his name from being added to Cleveland's traffic toll during the balance of the year.

George J. Matowitz
Chief of Police

BRIEFS

The younger set of Cleveland's SSCU lodges will turn their attention next Saturday, Nov. 23d, to Betsy Ross lodge, 186, SSCU thirteenth anniversary dance, to take place in the Slovene Workingmen's Home on Waterloo Rd. Frank Yankovich and his radio orchestra have been engaged to provide music for the occasion.

Indian lodge, 220, SSCU, of Chicago, Ill., will observe its tenth anniversary with a dance on Saturday, November 30, at the Bohemian Beer Garden, 1921 Blue Island Ave. Andrew Spolar, Sr., organizer of the lodge, will join in on the same day to celebrate his fifty-fifth birthday.

United SSCU lodges of Chicago announce a Christmas party on Sunday, December 15, for members of the juvenile department.

Thirtieth anniversary of the Slovene Mutual Benefit Association, (SDZ) will be fittingly observed with a banquet on Sunday, November 24, in the Slovene National Home on St. Clair Ave., in Cleveland, O.

On Saturday, Nov. 23, lodge 148, SSCU, Finleyville, Pa., will hold a dance in Hacket, Pa.

Visiting friends in Cleveland last week were Max J. Fink, Benedict Fink, Wallace A. Fink and Erma Fink, all members of lodge 36, SSCU, Conemaugh, Pa. The group stopped at the Nova Doba office on Friday, Nov. 15, in the company of Frank Fink, Cleveland, O., who is a cousin of the four from Conemaugh.

Polish Hall in Central City, Pa. is the site of the dance on Saturday, November 23d, sponsored by lodge 145, SSCU, Rockingham, Pa.

CARDINAL HIGHLIGHTS

Struthers, O. — We want to thank all you kind members from far and near, helping us to make our dance a success. We were very sorry to hear what a hard time Collinwood Boosters had trying to find Croatian Hall in Struthers and we hope you have better luck next time. We thank you for your cooperation. I hope, and all the other Cardinal members hope, all you fine friends will come to our next dance which will be January 25, 1941. Keep your eyes and ears opened to see who will furnish our music. Also, I hear the Cardinals bowling time is coming out fine. Every member is urged to come to the next meeting which will be the last meeting of the year. And a lunch and refreshments will be served. I thank you.

Mary Penich, Treasurer
No. 229, SSCU.

Palmetto — What are you cutting that piece out of the paper for?

Playfott — It tells about a case where a man got a divorce because his wife went through his pockets.

Palmetto — What are you going to do with it?

Playfott — I'm going to put it in my pocket.

Washington News

Enumclaw, Wash. — Calling all readers! Calling all readers! Once again it's your Washington State correspondent bidding for your undivided attention. But this time I'm making my debut on the pages of the English section. Do lend me your ear and give a listen!

Recent storms and gales racing up and down the coast have brought disaster and destruction to this territory. Only last July the great Narrows Bridge of Tacoma was opened with great pomp and ceremony. The bridge linking the Olympic peninsula with the mainland was built at a cost of six million dollars. The mile-long suspension span had three claims toward distinction, being the lightest and narrowest bridge in the world for its size and also was the third largest suspension bridge in the world. A gale racing up the Narrows at a velocity of nearly forty miles per hour, suddenly started the bridge swaying at a terrific pace. In less than half an hour the entire center span was buried in the water of Puget Sound. The tall towers on each end of the bridge and the approaches were all that remained. Several occupants of a car and truck were forced to abandon their vehicles as the bridge started to crack and crawled on hands and knees back to safety. Hailed as one of the greatest engineering feats in the world, it seems that dreams, fame and hope have been shattered. But let us hope that in its stead will rise another structure far surpassing the recent one. Plans are being made to rebuild in the near future. Insurance will cover the entire loss.

Washington also just recently was feted with its first snowfall. As the past few seasons have been comparatively mild, with far below the average snowfall in the mountains, snow this early in the season certainly wasn't anticipated. And as the major part of October was very summery it appears as if old men Sol, Pluvius and Winter are playing games.

The President of these United States recently proclaimed November 21st as Thanksgiving Day. It will be officially observed on that day by millions of our people, but to those whom traditions are dear and to those good 'ol stand-pats, November 28th will be Thanksgiving Day to them. But be it the 21st or the 28th let's all pause and give thanks, for we in America certainly have much to be grateful for. When Thanksgiving Day does roll around and those of you who have been less fortunate are apt to voice expressions full of cynicism—in short, "what have we to be thankful for," to those of you especially would I say, please read the following. It is an editorial from a recent issue of the Enumclaw Herald, and I feel at this time, very timely. "It's great to be an American," it is headed.

"A man died last night... died with an arm torn away, his stomach contorted by short rationing... died writhing with his face turned into earth churned soft by the treads of tanks and marching feet of troops. He lies there still... powerless now to hear his young son crying, to stop the leather-heeled marauder who sacks his

NEW NAME SELECTED FOR SSCU WILL BE — "AMERICAN FRATERNAL UNION"

Becomes Effective Jan. 1, 1941

By Little Stan



Little Stan

Ely, Minn. — An official "communique" from the Supreme Board via our supreme secretary, Bro. Anton Zbasnik, published in the last issue of Nova Doba notified the membership of the SSCU that the new name selected for our society is "American Fraternal Union."

The new name takes effect Jan. 1, 1941, according to decision taken by the 16th regular convention in Waukegan where delegates approved a change in the name by the overwhelming majority of 125 to 38.

In the formal publication of the notice, the supreme secretary specified that "Lodges need not discard the present supply of stationery with SSCU on it, for they can utilize the stationery until after the first of the year and until the present supply is exhausted."

Stipulated is the statement: "Let this announcement act as an advance notice to the members of the SSCU on the change in the name of the organization, a change decreed by the 16th regular convention, and by whose authority and instructions the present supreme board of the SSCU acted upon."

One of the major reasons for the change in name was that present times and conditions and our by-laws demanded a new name to fit.

Little Stan, who attended the convention, and was present at the session where the name was officially changed, was not surprised to see such an overwhelming vote cast in favor.

Times and conditions change. True we were and still are proud of the name South Slavonic Catholic Union — a name which carried out traditional meaning and feeling. For when it was selected way back in 1898, it fit the organization like a glove.

Not until recent years when by-laws were changed allowing issuance of practically the same kind of policies as issued by old line life insurance companies; allowing all to become members of the society as long as they were of the white race, and pass the required preliminary health examinations; — did a change become warranted.

WITH A NEW NAME, THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF SSCU (NOW AFU), CAN INCREASE THEIR MEMBERSHIP TREMENDOUSLY.

IN OTHER WORDS THE SSCU, WITHOUT LOSING ITS TRADITION AND COLORFUL HERITAGE, HAS BECOME STREAMLINED AND MORE AMERICAN. AFTER ALL, THE MEMBERSHIP IS 100 PER-CENT AMERICAN, AND NEEDED ONLY A CHANGE IN NAME TO IMPRESS UPON THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD THAT WE OF YUGOSLAV PARENTS ARE JUST AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER CITIZENS OF THE U. S. A. THAN THEY.

Our society loses nothing by the change in name. It gains in prestige of the world for isn't every member a free-thinking,

free-acting individual? Nothing can ever change that in this democratic nation. AS IN U. S. GOVERNMENT, SO IT IS WITH OUR SOCIETY. THE SUPREME BOARD IS ELECTED AND THE RULES OR BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY ARE ACTIONS OF THE MEMBERSHIP!

So with the change in name, effective as noted, the first of 1941, we start a new milestone in the fraternal field.

IT TAKES ANOTHER FIRST STEP AMONG ALL OTHER FRATERNAL SOCIETIES IN THE NATION AND EVERYONE COULD WELL BE PROUD THAT THE SSCU IS THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY IN THE NATION!

A week ago today, Little Stan wondered if he would be able to make mail connections in order to get this article out. Because this city was severed from all communication with the exception of telephone and telegraph from the world as the early-November snowstorm swept through the midwest.

Drifts were piled up so high people had to wade through, up to their hips, and over in many cases. Cars were stalled, and it was one of those times when all you could do was sit at home and "throw another log on the fire."

Tony Shikonya, bartender at Marty's, and another fellow were on White Iron lake when caught in the storm. They'd been hunting and somehow or another, Shikonya wandered away and became almost hopelessly lost. His pal fired several shots into the air, hoping to attract his attention, but heard no return from Shikonya, who by this time realized he was lost.

Tony didn't get panicky — a thing that probably was the difference between life and death. For had he gotten panicky he would have run until from sheer exhaustion he would have fallen to the earth, tempted to sleep, and if he had done that that sleep would have been everlasting.

He kept his noodle and kept on walking, hoping to sight some familiar landmark. The snowstorm, fanned by a wind of high velocity, made visibility very poor. But Tony suddenly found himself, and his sharp eyes detected a familiar sign — Birch lake river. He followed the shoreline, kept walking ceaselessly for five and a half miles until he reached safety. AND THAT'S THE STORY OF HOW A MEMBER OF LODGE NO. 1 MANAGED TO KEEP ON BEING A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

That storm literally swept through the entire midwest and hit other sectors in this state more devastatingly than in Ely. No mishaps were reported in Ely, but southern Minnesota counted many dead.

Southern Minnesota, you know, produced a big supply of the nation's turkeys for Thanksgiving. In many of these farms, turkeys were frozen to death. Other Minnesota farms suffered similar losses. It may cause a slight rise in turkey prices.

FOR HERE THEY RAISE THOSE BIRDS PARTICULARLY FOR THE THANKS-

(Continued on page 4)

