

the KNIGHT **VYTYTIS**

1975

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
**THE KNIGHTS
OF LITHUANIA**

Vol. 61 — No. 8

SPALIS — OCTOBER



National Convention Honored Guests SIMAS KUDIRKA (second from left) and ROBERT P. HANRAHAN (center) with Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Alexander Aleksis, Honorary Membership Chairman, and Anthony Miner, National President.

Photo: R. Kisielius

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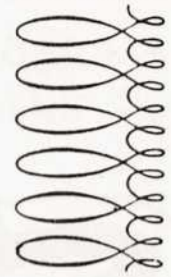
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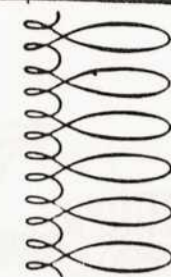
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the KNIGHT VYTIS



PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA

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VYTIS is published monthly Oct. through May, bi-monthly June-July and Aug.-Sept. by the Knights of Lithuania. Second class postage paid at Chicago, Ill. Subscription - \$5.00/yr. All correspondence should reach the editors by the 5th of the month two months preceding the next issue. The editor assumes no obligation to return any material not solicited.

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"Gerbkime mūsų dvi tėvynes!"

"Take pride in our heritage!" — Convention Motto



Presenting the

62nd NATIONAL CONVENTION KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA August 20 - 24, 1975

Hosts—MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
Hotel Taft, New York, N.Y.



STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT

This Knights of Lithuania State of the Organization report, 1974-1975, was compiled from the annual reports of the Supreme Council officers and Committee chairmen.

SPIRITUAL ADVISER

The Knights of Lithuania is most grateful to its Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Casimir Pugevicius for his constant counsel throughout the year. Father provided spiritual guidance whenever needed. He submitted articles regularly to the VYTIS, attended all Supreme Council meetings, and represented the K of L in numerous Lithuanian activities in various parts of the USA.

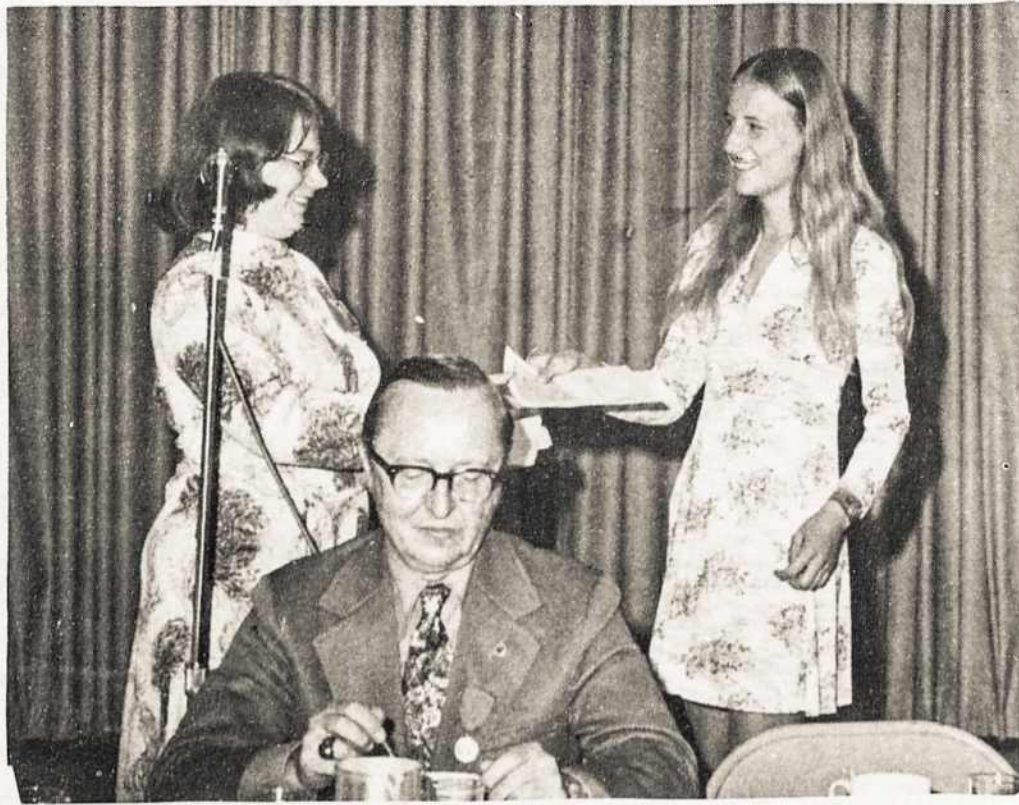
In answering the need for a National Lithuanian Affairs Chairman, Father Pugevicius steps aside as Spiritual Adviser to perform another most important task in the Knights of Lithuania. We wish Father Casimir well in his new endeavor and assure him our help.

PRESIDENT

President Leon Pauksta reported that he called four Supreme Council meetings, one at Kent State University and three in New York, and prepared the agendas for and presided at all the meetings. He also conducted a large amount of correspondence concerning National, District, Council and Committee levels. Mr. Pauksta was personally active in other Lithuanian organizations in the Chicago community, representing the Knights of Lithuania at numerous functions of the K of L and other organizations such as serving on the Honorary Committee for the Eighth Lithuanian American Congress.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT (JUNIORS)

Marian Skabeikis reported that the K of L to date has seven active Junior Councils - Chicago Juniors, Chicago, Ill.; C-96 Juniors, Dayton, Ohio; C-1 Juniors, Brockton, Mass.; C-17 Juniors, So. Boston, Mass.;



M. Skabeikis presents a Junior award.

C-90 Juniors, Kearny, N.J.; C-100 Juniors, Amsterdam, N.Y.; C-110 Juniors, Maspeth, N.Y. This is an increase of one Junior council over last year. The new council is in Amsterdam, N.Y.

Most notable of Junior council activities are the performing dance groups in Chicago, Dayton, and Kearny and the contributions made by Junior councils to the activities of their parent councils and districts. The Junior councils have all been active in the K of L Junior program which includes culture, the arts, Lithuanian language and Lithuanian affairs. The Conventionship Program has continued with a gratifying increase in response over last year.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT (MEMBERSHIP)

Anthony Miner reported a net increase of 90 members over the last year, bringing the total membership over the 2000 mark - to 2032.

Two new councils were organized - C-140, Syracuse, N.Y. (organized just prior to the 1974 - 61st National Convention) and C-141, Bridgeport, Conn. Charters were presented to both councils.

K of L Organizational Packets were sent to Buffalo, N.Y. and Jamestown, North Dakota. Membership brochures were also distributed to councils requesting them. Mr. Miner also submitted 5 articles to VYTIS.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT (SENIORS)

Longinas Svelnis reported that all Senior councils remain active. However, there have been no requests for assistance in forming new councils. Mr. Svelnis has dedicated his greatest effort toward making a permanent record of our archives.



S. Kudirka examines Juniors' progress during Egg coloring project at Convention.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Grazina Vaskelis attended all Supreme Council meetings that were called. She sent out meeting notices and minutes of meetings to all Supreme Council officers and Honorary Members, corresponded with Supreme Council officers when necessary, and sent Knights of Lithuania charters to newly-formed councils.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Ada Sinkwitz reported that she handled all receipts of dues and VYTIS subscriptions and turned over all funds promptly to the Treasurer. 299 Delinquent notices were mailed. There are still 102 delinquent members. There were 20 members lost through death last year.

As of August, 1975, we have a total of 5 Districts: New England, 648 members; Mid-Central, 528 members; Mid-Atlantic, 501 members; Illinois-Indiana, 303 members; and Los Angeles, 49 members. One council, C-18 was dropped. There are two new councils - C-140, Syracuse, N.Y. and C-141, Bridgeport, Conn. There are 35 regular councils, 2 inactive councils (C-113 and C-133) and 5 Senior Councils, making a total of 42 councils.

TREASURER

Irene K. Sankus attended 3 Supreme Council meetings and handled her duties with efficiency. The records were properly maintained, bills were paid, and funds wisely invested. Her records were audited by Anthony Radzevich and were made available to all interested delegates at the Convention.

TRUSTEES

Anthony Radzevich reported that in addition to his main duty of auditing the treasurer's records, he also served as overseer of the work of outstanding ad hoc committees which include those formed for Lithuanian language and K of L Manual revision. No report was received from Aldona Bunikis.

LEGAL ADVISER

Legal Adviser Anthony Young attended 3 Supreme Council meetings and performed all legal duties he was called upon to do.

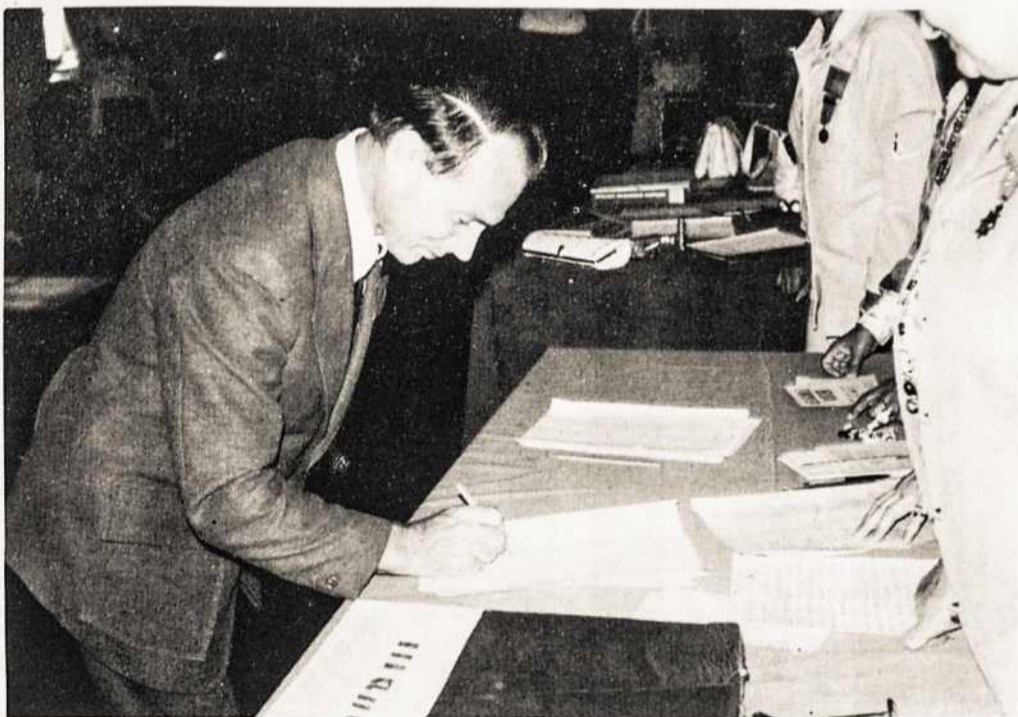
VYTIS

Editor, Loretta Stukas and her staff of Anthony Yuknis, Rita Regina Malakas, Josephine Zukas, Mary Kober, Lucille Kilkus, Irene Sankus and Balys Vyliaudas published 10 issues since the last Convention. Printing and mailing is done by Vi Vi Press in Chicago. \$800.00 was realized from the VYTIS Christmas Greetings.

The problems of getting enough Lithuanian articles in VYTIS continues. Although a special committee of volunteers was formed last year to provide a steady stream of Lithuanian articles for VYTIS, only ONE article was received from this committee.

Mrs. Stukas also rued the fact that almost NO Supreme Council members availed themselves of using the Official News section to reach members.

The Editor attended 3 Supreme Council Meetings and carried on correspondence relative to VYTIS and K of L matters. As VYTIS Editor, she also participated in special receptions for Simas Kudirka in Chicago and in Paterson, N.J.



An historic moment for the K of L... SIMAS KUDIRKA registers at the 62nd National Convention.

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS

Upon the resignation of Chairman Denis Mazeika, because of military service, our Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, took over active leadership of this important committee.

From August 1974 through June 1975 the Lithuanian Affairs Committee is credited with at least 10,662 communications to the President of the U.S., State Department, members of Congress, governmental officials, newspapers and other news media, and receiving 510 replies. In that same period 1,676 bulletins were prepared and sent, 983 news media and magazine clippings and communications were received, and 107 miscellaneous materials were received regarding the Knights of Lithuania and/or information about Lithuania generally.

In conjunction with the Supreme Council the committee selected former Congressman Robert P. Hanrahan to receive the 1975 Friend of Lithuania Award for his activity on behalf of Lithuania and specifically for his assistance in the Simas Kudirka affair.

LITHUANIAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Philip Skabeikis, Chairman, reported that for 1974-75, as in preceding years, he sought to establish a working line of communication between the National Chairman, the District Chairmen and finally, the council level, with limited success.

A national Cultural Fund is available, based upon an annual allocation from the Supreme Council, augmented by individual contributions.

Only one council and one individual member have taken advantage of the Library Project which makes \$100 available to each District for the purpose of



National Cultural Chairman Phil Skabeikis (second from left) discusses the Cultural program with A. Stungarys of C-110 Jrs., Alice Maleski and Lou Stukas.

placing books and records on Lithuania into public libraries and schools.

Mr. Skabeikis also saw his job as that of chief contributor of cultural articles to VYTIS, which he continued to do this year. He also set up and organized several exhibits in his own area, and continued to handle sales of the K of L Choir record and the book DAY OF SHAME.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Honorary Membership will be conferred upon Joseph Yanulaitis, of C-3 Philadelphia, Pa., and Simas Kudirka.

Alexander Wesey (Vasiliauskas) will be presented with Honorary Membership which was awarded to him last year.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Anthony Miner, Chairman, reported that the three 1974 scholarship recipients received their awards in two equal installments. Notices were sent to all council Presidents to remind their members about the availability of scholarships and the need for donations. An article in VYTIS on this subject was also submitted.

All donations are promptly acknowledged by the Scholarship Fund Treasurer, Mr. Anthony Mazeika, who also periodically sends a list of donors for publication in the VYTIS.

The 1975 Scholarship winner as selected and announced during the 1975 Convention is reported elsewhere in this issue.



Attentive delegates during a session.

RITUAL

Rita Pinkus, Chairman, in the name of the Ritual Committee of Rita Pinkus, Lillian Sasnauskas and Bertha Janus, reported that 46 First Degrees were presented by 6 councils, 26 Second Degrees were presented by 4 councils and 21 Third Degrees were awarded by 10 councils. 17 members have been approved for presentation of the Fourth Degree at the Convention, 5 were presented, the others will be presented later locally.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen Ed Baranauskas and Helen Kulber reported on their committee's active participation in letter-writing campaigns to free Simas Kudirka, to urge the President and the State Dept. of the USA to continue the U.S. policy of non-recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR, and other projects.

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID

Coordinator Susan Boroskas reported that a total of \$208.00 was collected in 1974-75 for the LCRA. Due to other personal commitments and problems, Mrs. Boroskas has rendered her resignation from this post, but extended her thanks to all who cooperated in donating to this worthwhile cause.



Ann Sidtis and Helen Yocius enjoy Cultural Exhibit.

MID-CENTRAL

President Elinor Sluzas reported that new officers were elected in May, 1975, during a joint Mid-Central District Convention and Mid-West Bowling Tournament held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

The District has 9 active councils. A dinner and meeting, was held in conjunction with the Mid-Central Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Cleveland, Ohio. A gold pen and pencil set was presented to Simas Kudirka on behalf of the Mid-Central District during a reception in his honor in Detroit.



Rev. Pugevicius administers Oath of Office to new Supreme Council.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

President Albert Jaritis reported that the District comprises 12 councils (10 Regular and 2 Senior) and two Junior councils. The District holds two conventions per year, in the spring and in the fall. Other District activities included a Television Mass Dec. 15, 1974 over Channel 7, WNAC, Boston, a St. Casimir's Day Communion Dinner, a Holy Year Holy Hour, a weekend retreat in Kennebunkport, Me., a Cultural Picnic in Brockton during which two scholarships were awarded, a Family Picnic in North Orange, Mass., and numerous individual council activities.



Frank Vaskas, Helen Gillis, Ann Mitchell, Msgr. J. Balkunas.

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

President Larry Janonis reported that at present, there are 14 councils in the District, a gain of one (C-141, Syracuse) from last year. 11 of these are active while three have members but have been inactive during the past year. The District also has three Junior councils.

Four District Conventions were held during the past year, one of which included a St. Casimir's Day celebration. The District has been active in Public Relations and Lithuanian Affairs and publishes District Bulletin regularly. The chief activity of the District during the past year was the planning of the National Convention which they hosted this year.



Simas Kudirka addresses Convention.

ILLINOIS-INDIANA DISTRICT

Leon Pauksta, in the name of President Algird Brazis, reported that the District held its annual "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet in February, a St. Casimir's Day Communion and Breakfast in March, and a July 4 Picnic. District members also participated in a special Mass for deceased members, and attended 4 quarterly business meetings. A very successful drive to help finance improvements to the K of L Building was held.

The District has 2 active regular, 1 senior and 1 junior council, plus a Lithuanian Folk Dance Group and a K of L Choir.

CALIFORNIA

No report was received from the California councils, but they remain active.



L. Svelnis, M. Aleksis, H. Shields, A. Aleksis.

PRESENTATION OF THE FATHER JUTT "FRIEND OF LITHUANIA" AWARD TO MR. ROBERT HANRAHAN

Each year (or less frequently), during the National Convention, the Knights of Lithuania honors a prominent non-Lithuanian who has especially distinguished himself with his work and interest in Lithuania's behalf. This year, the recipient of this "Rev. John C. Jutt Friend of Lithuania" Award was the very deserving ROBERT P. HANRAHAN, former Republican Congressman from Illinois's Third District and currently Assistant Secretary for Education, Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.

Mr. Hanrahan has distinguished himself in many spheres, particularly in the field of Education. Throughout his career of public service, he has shown special attention to the problems of the "little man" and the "underdog". Perhaps it was this talent that convinced him to champion the cause of SIMAS KUDIRKA.

Following is the text of the talk given by National Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Rev. Casimir Pugevicius in awarding the Gold Medal to Mr. Hanrahan, during the Inaugural Banquet and Ball of the 62nd National Convention on Saturday, August 23, 1975 at the Lithuanian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, N.Y. The date appro-

priately, coincided with the first anniversary of the release from Soviet prison of Simas Kudirka.

REMARKS OF THE LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN FR. CASIMIR PUGEVIČIUS

After the shocking events at Martha's Vineyard on November 23, 1970, when Simas Kudirka was taken by force from the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Vigilant" by Soviet agents after his leap to freedom from the Soviet fishing vessel "Sovietskaya Litva", most of us, I daresay, were ready to resign ourselves to his imprisonment. At the most, we were planning on a long campaign of prayer for Simas.

However, there were those who felt impelled to take more tangible action to free this brave Lithuanian seaman who was guilty of nothing more than the attempt to reach freedom from the Communist occupation of his country.

Among those who felt impelled to take action was the freshman Congressman from the third Illinois district, Robert Hanrahan.

It was no easy task he assumed. Not only on the Soviet side, but unfortunately also in the United

States government, he was faced with an apparently impregnable wall of bureaucratic red tape.

Armed with facts provided by friends and admirers of Simas in the Lithuanian community, Congressman Hanrahan went to work. He bombarded the U.S. State Department, the Soviet Embassy in Washington, and the Kremlin itself with letters and phone calls. He even wrote to Leonid Brzhnev, requesting a visa to the U.S.S.R. and permission to visit Simas Kudirka.

And then, exactly one year ago today, August 23, the cell door swung open for Simas Kudirka, and he was a free man. Nothing has so captured the imagination of the Lithuanians of the free world as the saga of Simas Kudirka. The fact that it has come to a happy ending is due, as much as anything else, to the efforts of the former Congressman from the third Illinois district.

The story of Simas Kudirka, we might say, is a miniature of the story of the Lithuanian nation in modern times. Simas Kudirka made a leap to freedom in 1970 which was cut short by Soviet force; the Lithuanian nation made a bid for freedom in 1918, which was cut short by Soviet forces in 1940.



As with Simas Kudirka, so with the Lithuanian nation, there is a temptation on the part of many to give up hope of freedom for the parties involved, and to forget too quickly. We would hope that through the determined efforts of many people and especially people in strategic positions like Congressman Hanrahan, the world might be pleasantly surprised in the not-too-distant future to witness the resurgence of free Lithuania, just as we were delighted to witness the release of Simas Kudirka, and the possibility for him, with his mother and family, to find asylum in the United States of America.

There are those who say that the United States should not let its foreign policy be influenced by the special interests of ethnic groups in this country. I, for one, believe differently. Since America is made up of ethnic minorities from all over the world, it would be right for the U.S. to pay attention to the

legitimate wishes of those U.S. citizens. Who is to say that the self-interest of the United States is by definition opposed to the interests of ethnic groups in this country?

In coming to the aid of Simas Kudirka, who turned out to be the son of an American citizen after all, the United States government championed a principle of human justice. This can only turn out to the ultimate advantage of this country.

To the man who was one of the first to recognize the justice of Simas Kudirka's cause, and who as a matter of principle brought to bear on the case all his prestige as a United States Congressman, and as a result had more to do than perhaps any other individual with making it possible for Simas Kudirka to breathe the air of freedom, the Knights of Lithuania are proud at this 62nd Convention, to present the 1975 Father Jutt Friend of Lithuania Award - to Mr. Robert Hanrahan.



A lighter moment for the Hanrahans.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mr. Hanrahan and his lovely wife, Barbara, proved to be not only "Friends of Lithuania" in general, but dear friends of the Knights of Lithuania in particular, as they enthusiastically joined in the events of the Convention. Arriving early Saturday afternoon, Mr. & Mrs. Hanrahan were feted by the committee with Champagne in the Hospitality Suite.

At the banquet, they warmly greeted as many as possible of those attending, and showed a genuine interest in Lithuania and Lithuanians. The Hanrahans also attended the Convention Closing Mass and Brunch at Transfiguration Church and Hall on Sunday, Aug. 24, 1975, where they marvelled at the beautiful examples of Lithuanian architecture and art in the church, and enjoyed the Lithuanian cooking of caterer Vytautas Beleckas.

The Knights of Lithuania were certainly proud to have Mr. and Mrs. Hanrahan in their midst these few days, and wish them well in their future undertakings.



The Kudirkas and Hanrahans (seated) with K of L friends: J. Stukas, B. Skripata, M. Skabeikis, K. Sipaila, A. Mazeika, A. Wesey, S. Mazeika, Rev. C. Pugevicius, P. Skabeikis.

LIETUVOS VYČIAI NEW YORKE

Vytis kun. Stasys Raila



Kun. Raila

**UOLŪS SĄSKRYDŽIO REN-
GĖJAI.** Ne visiems žinoma, kad newyorkiečiai pradėjo rengtis šiemetiniam Vyčių Seimui N.Y. (rugp. 20-24), Hotel Taft, nuo vyčių suvažiavimo Detroite, 1974 m. Šios apylinkės vyčiai sukūrė net dainą, kad New Yorke būtų 1975 m. seimas. Jie laimėjo. Toks didelis rūpestingumas galėtų būti pavyzdžiu daug kam. Kiek žinoma, nedidelė rengėjų grupė uoliai rengėsi susitikti, priimti vyčius ir svečius. Būtų įdomu, kad rengėjai paskelbtų savo darbus, susijusius su Seimo paruošimu. Viską reikėjo numatyti, apsvarstyti, sutarti; didelį seimo leidinį paruošti ir išleisti. Tikrai New Yorkas pajuto vyčių "antplūdį", kaip vienas laikraščiu parašė. Prie Hotel Taft plėvesavo Lietuvos trispalvė. Vyčiams buvo paruošta vieta New Yorke posėdžiauti, susitikti su vietos lietuviais, pasimelsti V.J. Atsimainymo lietuvių bažnyčioje, pabendrauti parapijos salėj ir Kultūros židinyje.

Posėdžių salėj mirgėjo vytiškos vėliavos, vytišką veiklą pavaizduoją laikraščiai ir fotografijos.

Seimo obalsis skelbė: "Gerbkime dvi savo Tėvynes". Tuo buvo pažymėta daugumos gimtasis kraštas ir dvasinė tėvynė - tėvų žemė, miela ir brangi Lietuva.

DARBŲ APŽVALGA. Pasimel-dę ir sugiedoję himnus vyčiai pradėjo savo sąskrydį. Išklause kelių sveikinimų vyčiai labai vykusiai buvo supažindinti su praėjusių metų atliktais darbais. Valdybos ir visų komisijų darbo apžvalga įteikta raštu. Pirmininkas trumpai apžvelgė visą veiklą. Tokiu būdu buvo labai daug laiko sutaupyta. Buvo ko pasidžiaugti vytiškais žygiais: jaunių veiklos atgyjimas, naujų kuopų įkūrimas, buvusių kuopų veiklos atgaivinimas; apskričių darbingi suvažiavimai, lietuviškumo ir patriotizmo sąjūdis, laiškų rašymas, naujų narių verbavimas; Simo Kudirkos laisvinimo indėlis, persekiojamųjų lietuvių, ypač tikinčiųjų, gelbėjimas; "Vy-ties" leidimas, įvairių fondų ugdy-mas; ypačiai stipendijų fondo vajas, ir t.t. ir t.t. Kiekvieną ste-bino plati vytiška veikla. Labai

puiki vytiškos veiklos metinė kro-nika galėtų būti išleista atskiru leidiniu.

Į AS SVARSTYTA IR KAS NE. Organizaciniai uždaviniai buvo labai trumpai ir lengvai apsvarstyti. Nesukėlė jokių smarkesnių diskusijų. Dalyvaujantiems galėjo atrodyti, kad organizacija arba labai puikiai gyvuoja arba snūdu-riuoja. Nesudarė gero išpūdžio ir kai kurių smulkmenų ilgokas svarstymas, nuošaliai paliekant reikšmingus uždavinius.

Amerikos Nepriklausomybės 200 metų sukakties įprasminimas tau-tinių - etninių grupių ir vyčių buvo rimtai svarstytas. Įžvelgta, kaip vyčiai gali daug laimėti savai orga-nizacijai ir lietuviškumui, bendra-darbiaudami su kitomis etninėmis grupėmis. Svarstymų vadovas Ploche labai įdomiai ir praktiškai vedė diskusijas.

**LIETUVOS KATALIKŲ BAŽ-
NYČIOS KRONIKOS** poveikį pla-čiai apibūdino kun. Kazimieras Pugevičius. Vyčiai yra pirmoji ir vienintelė didžioji lietuvių organi-



Garbės Nariai 62-trame Seime

zacija, kuri organizuotai rūpinasi gelbėti persekiojamą bažnyčią Lietuvoje. Jie jautriai pergyvena sunkiai išivaizduojamą tikinčiųjų persekiojamą Lietuvoje, ypačiai žiauriai sunaikintą lietuvių katalikų jaunimo organizaciją "Pavasaris", kuri yra sudariusi su vyčiais draugiškumo sąjungą. Vyčiai ne tyli, bet kovoja Lietuvos laisvės ir religijos gyvybei išgelbėti. Labai jautriai jie pareiškė, kad kiekviena vyčių kuopa, šeima ir apskritis dar uoliau melsis už Lietuvą pagal maldos kalendorių. Visi ryžtasi dar šiemet suorganizuoti maldos dieną už Lietuvą, visuomenei dalyvaujant. Vyčiai jau penkeri metai renka koordinatorių bendradarbiauti su Lietuvių Katalikų Religine Šalpa. Tik vyčiai taip planingai veikia tikinčiųjų gelbėjimui Lietuvoje. Jie tiki, kad Dievas yra galingesnis už ginklą. Jis suteiks laisvę ir ramybę neteisingai skriaudžiamiesiems. Šiemet vyčiai pasiryžo, be maldų, sudaryti fondą tikėjimui gelbėti. Lig šiol vyčiai

yra sutelkę gražią sumą, kurios palūkanomis būtų galima teikti pagalbą Lietuvos persekiojamiems tikintiesiems. L.K.R. Šalpa nuoširdžiai sveikina šią naudingą vyčių veiklą. Jie yra tikrieji vyčiai - tikėjimo šaukliai ir gynėjai. Vyčiai supranta savo istorinę prasmę palaikyti ir ginti tikėjimą.

ARPTAUTINIAME EUCHARISTINIAME KONGRESE nutarė praktiškai dalyvauti. Jie yra pirmoji organizacija, kuri paaukojo \$1,000.00 šiai šventei paremti. Kaip žinoma, E. Kongresas įvyksta 1976 m. Philadelphijoje.

NESVARSTYTA kai kurie labai svarbūs klausimai. Pavyzdžiui, visai praleistas vadovų kursų organizavimas ir vadovų paruošimas jauniems. Šio reikalo kažkodėl vyčiai neima į širdį. Gal todėl, kad vienoj vyčių organizacinės veiklos apžvalgoj buvo pasakyta, jog vyčiai virto šeimynine organizacija, vietoj buvusios veikliausios visuomeninės organizacijos. Taip atrodo pirmą kartą pas vyčius pateku-



M. Skabeikienė įteikia Juniorų pažymėjimą.

siems šiame seime. Šaltai buvo priimtas ir stiprus vyčio pasisakymas lietuvių kalbos reikalu. Niekas ir nebandė aiškinti ar ieškoti praktiškų būdų įdiegti lietuvių kalbos meilei ir surasti priemonių jai išmokyti.

JAUNIAI šiame seime dalyvavo su savo programa. Jie buvo sujau-dinti Simo susidomėjimu jų veikla. Mat, Simas praleido su jais ilgoką laiką. Jie tuo ir didžiuojasi. Tačiau iš esmės jaunių veikla nebuvo paliesta. Stovyklavimo reikalas nepaminėtas, didesnio dėmesio nekreipta į jaunių judėjimą. Viskas palikta tik jų vienu sumanumui. Tiesa, yra jų centrinė vadovybė, bet ji, be visuotinės paramos, yra bejėgė.

Visai nesirūpinta naujų vadovų, o ypačiai retėjančių dvasios vadovų reikalu. Jie seime beveik nedalyvavo. Kaip gali katalikiška organizacija klestėti be nuoširdaus dvasios vadovo, šalia lietuviškos parapijos, savo jėgomis pasitikėdama. Ar kuomet buvo sielojamasi vyčių ir parapijų, vyčių ir dvasios vadovų glaudžiu bendradarbiavimu? Kuris Centro Valdybos Pirmininkas mėgino artimiau pasikalbėti su dvasios vadovais? Ar jie prašė talkos, ar rašė Kunigų Vienybės Centro Valdybai?

MILŽINIŠKA MERGAIČIŲ IR MOTERŲ persvara vyčiuose, ypač šiame seime, kėlė klausimą, kodėl vyrų taip maža? Ar čia yra moterų "išsilaisvinimo" reiškinys? Jeigu bus pageidaujama, mėginasiu parašyti ir antrą savo išpūdžių dalį apie kitą seimo dalį.



Sekmadienio Mišios

MIRACLE ON FIFTY-FIRST STREET



JUNIOR CONVENTION SPARKS NATIONAL SCENE.

As regular delegates prepared to meet the challenge of Convention business, twenty very important young people were preparing to meet a challenge of their own. These new faces at the 62nd National Convention were members of six Junior K of L Councils, about to share their commitment to the Knights of Lithuania with other Juniors at the National level.

Eleven of the Juniors attended the Convention as recipients of the Knights of Lithuania Conventionship Awards, which are competitive grants of \$50.00 each, given to up to four Juniors in each District who have been selected by their Council and District officers for their interest and activity in the K of L. The purpose of the award is to encourage leadership and interest in the National organization, and the purpose was well met by the enthusiastic and talented young people who were winners this year. The winners, Kathy Sinkwitz, C-96, Dayton; Bernadette Klatt, Rosemarie Klatt and Maria Zakarka, Chicago Juniors; Clare Yaskauskas, Adele Markunas and Doris Balaconis, C-17 Juniors, South Boston; Arunas Stungurys, Jonas Stungurys, Leon Stungurys and William Sidtis, C-110 Juniors, Maspeth, received their awards at the Convention Brunch held at Transfiguration, Maspeth. Between arrival time and departure on Sunday, however, the Juniors engaged in a variety of activities and sessions which gave both the flavor of the convention city, as well as information about themselves as Americans and Lithuanians.

Early-bird activity was the focus of Wednesday activity for regular delegates and Juniors. As the adult visitors experienced New York theater, the Juniors visited a New York landmark, the Empire State Building.

Thursday morning found the Juniors and their Convention advisors, Diane Bachanas, C-90, and Marian Skabeikis, C-110, on a walking tour of Manhattan which culminated in a visit to the American Museum of Natural History. Here, Juniors had the opportunity to view representative exhibits of America's resources and wildlife.

The afternoon found the Junior delegates, as well as some convention guests, on a boat tour around Manhattan Island. Landmarks of the city, and a chance to become better acquainted were highlights of the trip.



Evening saw the first business session, an informal "rap" about the positive aspects of the Junior program in the councils, which included an opportunity for Juniors from different councils to share their experiences and local interests. To round out the evening, Juniors from C-90 arrived to meet the convention participants.

A more sober note was introduced on Friday, with a visit and guided tour of the United Nations. The dignity of the occasion was felt by all who attended, although a note of regret was felt by being faced once again with the realization of the continuing plight of the Baltic States.

Continuing the walking tour on Friday afternoon, the Juniors had the opportunity to visit Central Park and its Zoo, and many of the world-famous landmarks on New York's Fifth Avenue.

The most exciting session was held on Saturday morning. Beginning with an evaluation session, the Juniors expressed their satisfaction with the program set up for the Convention. Several Juniors did express interest in an expanded evening program oriented to their age group. Proposals for improving the quality of the Junior program nationally included articles to be published in VYTIS on topics of ancient and modern Lithuanian history written by and for Juniors, a greater emphasis on Lithuanian language instruction in their councils and in VYTIS, and a renewed vigor in Junior news reports to VYTIS.

The Juniors also felt a greater need for adult cooperation, interest and respect for their program.

The business meeting was followed by a session on Lithuanian folk dance, ably taught by Mrs. Ellie Nakrosis, C-90. A chance to relax was provided by the opportunity to learn the traditional craft of Easter egg design. The session, presented by the talented and creative Anne Klem, C-90, was visited by Mr. and Mrs. Simas Kudirka. This was truly one of the most exciting moments of the Convention for both the Juniors and their Convention advisors.

Special mention is due to the other Juniors who participated in the Convention program, Marija Stungurys, C-110; Susan and Debbie Bumilla, C-1 Jrs.; Maria Klatt, Chris Ralys, Chris Zakarka, and Laura and Brian Laframboise. Hopefully, some of these young people may be eligible for 1976 Convention Awards.

The Junior Convention would have been impossible without the support and help of concerned adults, especially Diane Bachanas, Ellie Nakrosis, and Anne Klem, C-90; Joe Dube C-1; Phil Skabeikis, C-110 and the Convention Committee. It is the hope of all who participated that this Convention will serve as a model and inspiration to future councils and districts planning to assume the delightful task of organizing a convention for the leaders of tomorrow's Knights of Lithuania.

Marian Skabeikis



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Once again, another young and industrious Knights of Lithuania member was aided in her quest for higher education, thanks to the generosity of K of L members and friends. During the 62nd National Convention Banquet, August 23, 1975, at the Lithuanian Cultural Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Chairman Anthony Miner presented the 1975 Knights of Lithuania Canon Kemezis Scholarship Award of \$500.00 to a deserving member.

The final selection was made by Scholarship Committee members Anthony Miner, Chairman, Anthony Mazeika, Secretary-Treasurer, Jack J. Stukas, Philip Ska-

beikis and Walter Svekla. The winner was selected on the basis of academic excellence, financial need and service to the Knights of Lithuania.

The winner will receive \$500.00, payable in two installments. Those applicants who have not received stipends this year are urged to re-apply next year.

Heartiest congratulations to the winner:

MARIAN LOUISE DILLIS, of Council 1, Brockton, Mass.

Marian plans to use her scholarship to prepare for a career in the field of Law Enforcement, either directly as a police officer, or indirectly. She graduated from Car-

dinal Spellman High School in Brockton this past June, and enters Stonehill College, North Easton, Mass. this fall to pursue this important career.

Fellow C-1 members describe Marian as "one of our outstanding younger K of L-ers". An active K of L-er since she became of age, she has been very helpful with K of L activities, particularly with the Juniors program. Marian is currently secretary of C-1 and attended the 62nd National Convention as a delegate. Marian is one of 16 children of a very active K of L family. Her parents, three sisters and brothers are regular K of L members, and the younger members of the family are Junior K of L-ers.

Of her scholastic abilities, a teacher states "She has always achieved high on academic problems and she has participated as eagerly in many extra-curricular activities".

Between school and K of L, Marian finds time to participate in various parish projects, sports activities and hospital volunteer work. She worked her way through High School as a Dental Assistant.

We extend heartiest congratulations to Marian Dillis, and wish her all the best in her planned career.



OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

ATTENTION ALL FINANCIAL SECRETARIES

Please note that dues for all members are due on or before Jan. 1, 1976. Newly-elected Council Financial Secretaries should begin collecting membership dues immediately. Dues should be collected for all year.

Dues are \$7.00 per year. Additional members of the same household, not receiving the VYTIS, pay \$3.50 per year. Married couples pay \$10.50 upon joining, and \$7.00 per year thereafter.

To insure your members receiving their VYTIS promptly, please include members' addresses with their dues. All dues and address changes and corrections should go to:

Mrs. Teresa Trainis
National Financial Secretary
215 Jefferson St.
Fairfield, Conn. 06432

NOTE: Address Changes MUST go to the above...
DO NOT send them to the Editor.

ELECTIONS

District and Council officer elections MUST take place either in the months of September or October, as per the constitutional change made at the 1964 National Convention.

Immediately after the election of new officers, PLEASE send the names and addresses of ALL the officers to National Recording Secretary,

Mrs. Ann H. Bender
45 Providence St.
Worcester, Mass. 01604

The Supreme Council and the National Committee Chairmen cannot operate efficiently without YOUR cooperation. As shown in the reports of the officers, there is a great need for better communication.

HISTORIES AVAILABLE

A few copies of the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA HISTORY, published in 1963 on the occasion of the K of L Golden Jubilee, are still available. The beautifully found and amply illustrated book was prepared and written by Ignas Sakalas, with a resume in English by Stanley Pieza. It gives an excellent

account of the activities of our organization during its first 50 years. No K of L home should be without one. Copies are available for \$5.00, postage included. For your copy, send a check to:

Miss Irene K. Sankus
2520 W. 68th St.
Chicago, Illinois 60629

VYTIS CHRISTMAS GREETING CAMPAIGN

The VYTIS Christmas Greeting Campaign is early this year. Deadline is OCTOBER 20, 1975. This is your last chance to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, 1975, and a Happy, Prosperous New Year, 1976. Mail your greeting copy and donation to:

MRS. LORETTA STUKAS
1467 Force Drive
Mountainside, N.J. 07092

Suggested donations:

Full Page - \$50.00
1/2 Page - \$25.00
1/4 Page - \$13.00
1/8 Page - \$8.00

One Line Well-Wisher - \$2.00

Remember, the DEADLINE is OCTOBER 20, 1975

IN MEMORIAM

Remember in your prayers...

ELEANORE BARANAUSKAS

C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y.

died August 12, 1975

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is a great pleasure to be able to greet the Knights of Lithuania as the new National President. It is indeed an honor to be President of the K of L. I sincerely appreciate the confidence you have placed in me, and I shall do my level best to fulfill your expectations.

The long-awaited 62nd National Convention has ended. A great deal of work was accomplished, old friendships were renewed, new friendships were formed, and our K of L spirit received another "booster shot". The Mid-Atlantic District which hosted the Convention, and especially the Convention Committee under the Chairmanship of Helen Shields deserve the highest praise for an excellent job. The organization and cooperation were outstanding, and were responsible for a very smoothly operating convention.

I urge all former Supreme Council members to turn over their records and materials, as soon as possible, to the Supreme Council members who succeeded them. This is an absolute necessity. I learned during the Convention that some records and materials had not been forwarded by former officers whose terms had expired in 1974. This is inexcusable! Such actions hurt the K of L and prevent it from operating at peak efficiency. Every K of L member should have the best interests of the organization at heart.

It is also essential that all councils send a listing of the names and addresses of their new officers immediately after their elections to the National Secretary, Mrs. Ann H. Bender, 45 Providence St., Worcester, Ma. 01604. No organization can operate effectively without communication. If the Supreme Council does not have an up to date officers' roster from every council, it cannot reach all of the K of L members when the need arises.

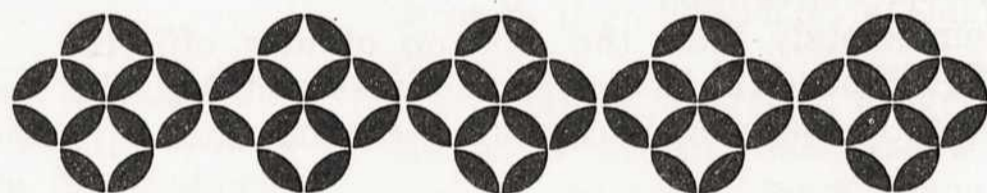
If you have any ideas or suggestions for the good and welfare of the organization, please send them to me. Regardless of whether they are ideas for future projects, internal organization improvements, or National Convention procedures or arrangements, I want to know what they are. Every suggestion will be given due consideration and you will be informed of the results. An alert, interested, and active membership makes a strong organization. Regardless of how capable and dedicated the Executive Board may be, it still needs the help, advice, and support of the members in order to do the most good for the organization.



Finally, I want to emphasize one major point. Every member, every council, and every district has an equal right to be heard and recognized. I assure you that this Supreme Council will strictly adhere to this principle throughout the year.

Now let us work together for a most successful new K of L year.

Anthony M. Miner
National President



HERE IS A THOUGHT

Someone has said that membership in every organization is made up of four kinds of bones...

1. There are the "WISH BONES" who spend time wishing someone else would do the work.

2. There are the "JAW BONES" who do all the talking but little else.

3. There are the "KNUCKLE BONES" who knock everything that anyone else tries to do.

4. And finally there are the "BACK BONES" who get under the load and do the work.

To which group do you belong?

WANTED

1,000 MEMBERS

WHO WILL CONTRIBUTE \$10.00 EACH TO THE
LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID, INC.

DURING 1975-1975 TO ESTABLISH A
KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ENDOWMENT FUND

If you recall, last year in Detroit, we were advised that the Bishops' Fund which contributed annually to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid was discontinued due to a drop in contributions and "other priorities". Efforts to regain this contribution have not been successful. As a result, aid formerly given to Lithuania's Catholics has been curtailed.

We have as our motto "For God and Country". We have an obligation to help our fellow Lithuanians retain their faith. To do so, they need OUR ASSISTANCE. We can do so, and very easily, by making a small contribution of \$10.00 which will go into the K of L Endowment Fund. This means that the principal will be invested and the income used to provide the necessities for the clergy and lay people of Lithuania for years to come.

Surely, you can spare 20 cents a week!

Larger contributions will be most welcome and

gladly accepted. However, to make this truly a united K of L project, I am only asking for \$10.00 from each member.

Send your checks or money orders to me or directly to:

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc.
64-09 56th Road
Maspeth, N.Y. 11378

Please mark clearly: K of L Endowment Fund so they will be properly credited. Your contributions are tax deductible. Don't delay, send your check today. The suffering, silent Church of Lithuania will be the beneficiary of your kindness.

Helen T. Shields, L.C.R.A. Co-ordinator
243 West End Ave. Apt. 812
New York, N.Y. 10023

K of L Calendar

OCTOBER

5

NED CULTURAL PICNIC, Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, Mass.

11

C29, Newark, 60th ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE, Holy Trinity Hall, Newark, N.J.

26

MAD ANNUAL MEETING, St. Andrew's Hall, Philadelphia, Pa. Hosts: C3

DECEMBER

6

SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, Chicago, Ill.

14

NED TV Mass, Government Center, Boston, Mass., Channel 7.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW!

Fr. Casimir Pugevičius,
Chairman, Lithuanian Affairs

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread", the old adage goes. After the magnificent work of the late Father Jutt as first chairman of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee, and after the equally great job by his successors Tony Miner, Jack Stukas and Denis Mažeika, it would be foolish indeed to presume to fill their shoes.

But the real work of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee is done by the local chair-persons, their local committees, and dedicated, involved members. The accomplishments of the K of L in the area of Lithuanian Affairs have over the years become the talk of the Lithuanian community nation-wide.

This has been made possible by the involvement of many people. The task of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee Chairman at the national level, as I see it, is to inform and motivate: to encourage or suggest meaningful action by individual members across the nation.

In this spirit, we would like to call everyone's attention to a dangerous threat which should galvanize us all into action. I refer

to the threatened cut-back of funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Both of these, as you know, broadcast to countries behind the Iron Curtain and are considered by members of the Lithuanian underground and others to be among their best sources of trustworthy information. The U.S.S.R. pays Radio Liberty the back-handed compliment of special "jamming" in the effort to prevent the programs from being heard in Lithuania.

Apparently under pressure from the champions of "detente" and those unable to appreciate the importance of broadcasting the truth effectively behind the Iron Curtain, the budgets of Radio Free Europe and of Radio Liberty are being cut, for fiscal 1976 and fiscal 1977.

The strategy seems to be to force a merger between Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, and ultimately to bring both back from Europe to Washington, D.C., where they would be placed under the aegis of the bland and all but useless Voice of America, which is prevented by Henry Kissinger's State Department from any gutsy broadcasting to countries behind the Iron Curtain.

Your Lithuanian Affairs Committee has prepared hundreds of kits containing the original newspaper report of the threat to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, a complete list of Congress-persons by state, and samples of possible letters. These have been mailed to local Lithuanian Affairs Chair Persons, and were distributed at the National Convention.

We would be happy to send anyone these kits in large quantities for distribution to other organizations and individuals who might be interested in writing their senators, congresspersons, or local editors on this issue.

The underground CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA cites Radio Liberty is one of the best sources of information Lithuania has. The chief of the Lithuanian Section happens to be Joseph Laučka, a long-time member of the K of L, well known to most of us. Although Joe is forbidden by government regulations from asking for our help, let's extend it to him anyhow. Even more important is the fact that we will be helping our fellow Lithuanians behind the Iron Curtain.



Rev. Pugevičius addresses Banquet.

REZOLIUCIJOS

WHEREAS SIMAS KUDIRKA, the Lithuanian seaman whose attempt in 1970 to defect from Soviet-occupied Lithuania was tragically aborted, has now safely reached the United States and has become a permanent resident, and,

WHEREAS, throughout his trial and subsequent subjection to imprisonment in a hard labor camp, he remained steadfast in his Catholic Faith, his love of and loyalty to a free Lithuania, and his respect for the United States of America, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kudirka serves as an outstanding example of loyalty to the motto of the Knights of Lithuania - "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY", and lives up to the organization's ideals,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates to the Knights of Lithuania 62nd National Convention temporarily suspend normal Honorary Membership selection procedures and unanimously approve the elevation of SIMAS KUDIRKA to Honorary Membership during the 62nd National Convention Banquet, Saturday, August 23, 1975.

KADANGI, SIMAS KUDIRKA, lietuvis jūreivis, kurio išsilaisvinimo bandymas 1970 metais iš sovietų okupuotos Lietuvos susilaukė tragiško nepasisekimo, dabar laimingai pasiekęs Jungtinės Amerikos Valstijas, ir tapęs nuolatinis jos gyventojas, ir,

KADANGI per jo teismą ir kalėjimą, jisai pasiliko stiprus katalikų tikėjimą, ištikimas laisvos Lietuvos meilei, ir dėkingas Jungtinėms Amerikos Valstybėms, ir

KADANGI SIMAS KUDIRKA tapo įžymiu pavyzdžiu ištikimybės Lietuvos Vyčių obalsiui - DIEVUI IR TĖVYNEI - ir šios organizacijos idealus kilniai įgyvendina,

TODĖL Lietuvos Vyčių 62-rasis visuotinis seimas, pakeisdamas įprastą Garbės Narių rinkimo tvarką, vienbalsiai nutaria pakelti SIMĄ KUDIRKĄ į Lietuvos Vyčių Garbės Narių eiles, ir įteikti jam Garbės Narystę 62-rojo Seimo Banketo proga, 1975 m., rugp. 23 d.

RESOLUTIONS



A. Aleksis presents Honorary Membership to S. Kudirka, as the Hanrahan's look on.



Simas enjoys a lighter moment with Robert P. Hanrahan.



Simas Kudirka greets former Siberian prisoner Eleanora Jočepienė at Banquet.

WHEREAS the Lithuanian nation of some three million people, 85% Roman Catholic, has always been loyal to the Roman Catholic Church, and

WHEREAS Lithuania has been occupied by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics since 1940, and

WHEREAS the Catholics of Lithuania have been the object of constant persecution ever since, and

WHEREAS the participation of a representative of the Holy See at the CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION, in Helsinki, Finland, has been interpreted by many as an approval of the subjugation of Lithuanians to atheistic communism,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania, assembled at their 62nd National Convention, August 21-24, 1975, in New York, N.Y., register its dismay at the action of the Holy See in becoming a signatory to the Helsinki Accord, and puzzlement at the policy of the Vatican toward the persecuted Catholics of Lithuania.

KADANGI, Lietuvos Vyčiai paremia ir užgria Amerikos Lietuvių Tarybos, Vyriausiojo Lietuvos Išlaisvinimo Komiteto, ir Lietuvių Bendruomenės pastangas Lietuvos laisvinimui, ir

KADANGI, Lietuvos Vyčiai apgailestauja, kad Lietuvos išlaisvinimo darbas pastaruoju laiku nukenčia nuo bereikalingų tarpusavio ginčų, ir kartais nebrolišku visiems mums kenksmingu žygiu, kurie kelia pasipiktinimą lietuvių tarpe, ir galimai padaro lietuvius išjuokos objektais kitataučių akyse,

TODĖL, Lietuvos Vyčiai, susirinkę 62-rajame visuotiniame seime 1975 m., rugp. 21-24 d.d., New Yorke, ragina mūsų veiksnius ko greičiausiai užmiršti asmenes bei organizacines ambicijas, ir siekti vieno mums bendro tikslo: LIETUVOS IŠLAISVINIMO.

TAIP PAT, Lietuvos Vyčių 62-rasis visuotinis seimas ipareigoja Centro Valdybą šias mintis perduoti minėtiems veiksniams.

WHEREAS the Catholic Church, from around the world, will celebrate the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, Pa., August 1 through August 8, 1976, and

WHEREAS the participation of ethnic groups in the 41st Eucharistic Congress in a meaningful way is encouraged, and

WHEREAS Lithuanian participation in the 41st Eucharistic Congress is being coordinated through a National Committee led by Bishop V. Brizgys, Msgr. J. Balkunas, and other Lithuanian leaders to honor Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist and to publicize the plight of Church in Lithuania and the contribution of Lithuanians to the Church,

Now, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the 62nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania authorize the Supreme Council Treasurer to make a donation of \$1000.00 (One Thousand Dollars) on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania to the Lithuanian Committee for the 41st International Congress.

WHEREAS, Mr. BILL ANDERSON, Associated Press syndicated columnist, has been foremost among journalists in pointing out the flaws and dangers inherent in the recently signed Helsinki Accord, and

WHEREAS, Mr. BILL ANDERSON, through his timely columns in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE and other national newspapers, was instrumental in seeing that the United States continue its policy of non-recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union, and

WHEREAS, he has specifically focused his attention on Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania, assembled at its 62nd National Convention in New York, New York, August 21-24, 1975, commend Mr. Anderson on his forthright efforts in defense of the principles of the self-determination of nations, and express sincerest gratitude to him for his assistance in bringing the plight of Lithuania to public attention.

WHEREAS the values and needs of the Ethnic Groups in this country, after long years of being ignored, have been newly recognized as worthy of attention, and

WHEREAS, the Catholic Conference on Ethnic and Neighborhood Affairs was founded in June, 1974, in response to this growing interest,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania, one of the largest and most venerable of ethnic fraternal organizations in the United States of America and now assembled at their 62nd National Convention, August 21-24, 1975, in New York, New York, support in principle the aims of the Catholic Conference on Ethnic Neighborhood Affairs, and pledge its support to the Conference.

WHEREAS, the Conference on European Security and Cooperation was recently concluded in Helsinki, Finland, and

WHEREAS, an agreement was signed by the heads of state of the thirty-five participating nations, among them the United States and the Soviet Union, and

WHEREAS, one of the points agreed upon was respect for the human rights of all people, among which is the re-unification of families,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania, assembled at their 62nd National Convention, August 21-24, 1975, in New York, N.Y., do hereby petition the President of the United States and the Secretary of State of the United States to urge the Soviet Union to show their good faith in this agreement by permitting the emigration of MRS. ALOYZAS JURGUTIS and her daughter DAINA from Lithuania in order that they may be reunited with their husband and father, MR. ALOYZAS JURGUTIS who is now living in the United States.

WHEREAS, Madeline Murray O'Hare, professed atheist, who was responsible for having prayer and Bible reading eliminated from all public schools in the United States, has succeeded in presenting in the Senate Bill No. RM-2493, which would eliminate all religious programs on radio and television, and

WHEREAS, the Knights of Lithuania, as a Catholic organization, is concerned with fostering respect for religion in the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED, that, the Knights of Lithuania, assembled in New York for their 62nd National Convention, August 21-24, 1975, express to members of the Senate of the United States their strong objection to this bill, No. RM-2493, and urge all Knights of Lithuania members to also express their objections to their respective Senators.

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania, by its constitution, favors improvement of relations with Lithuanian youth throughout the world,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania contribute to Birute and Vytautas Radzivanas, the sum of \$350.00, representing on-quarter of their total \$1500.00 cost expenditure to attend the Lithuanian Youth Congress in Brazil.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Honorary Membership Committee be expanded to consist of seven permanently elected Honorary Members, and that said members of the committee be elected such that all active Districts of the Knights of Lithuania are represented on the Honorary Membership Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 62nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania accept and ratify the recommendation of the Honorary Membership Committee to add the following three Honorary Members to the Honorary Membership Committee, to fill the vacancy upon the death of Leonard Simutis and to add two members to the committee giving representation to all active Districts, as per the foregoing resolution:

Stanley Vaitkus - C-96, Dayton, Ohio
(Mid-Central District)

Phyllis Grendal - C-17 Srs., So. Boston, Mass.
Helen Shields - C-3, Philadelphia, Pa.

Garbės Narystės Komiteto Nariai, peržiūrėję ir įvertindami kandidatės darbus Lietuvos Vyčių Organizacijai ir lietuviybės palaikymui nuo 1950 metų iki šios dienos, pristato šią rezoliuciją pakelti į Garbės Narius, per 1976 metų, 63-įjį L.V. visuotinį seimą, 26-tos Kuopos Narę, RITA PINKUS.

Garbės Narystės Komiteto Nariai, peržiūrėję ir įvertindami kandidatės darbus Lietuvos Vyčių Organizacijai ir lietuviybės palaikymui nuo 1952 metų iki šios dienos, pristato šią rezoliuciją pakelti į Garbės Narius, per 1976 metų, 63-įjį L.V. visuotinį seimą, 29-tos Kuopos Narę, ir VYTIES Redaktorę, LORETTA STUKAS.

BE IT RESOLVED that an ad hoc committee of one year's duration be formed in each District, under the chairmanship of the District President and working in close contact with the National Second Vice-President for the express purpose of re-activating inactive councils and assisting those councils which are experiencing difficulty in maintaining their active status and membership.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania constitution be reprinted to incorporate all changes made to the constitution since its last printing.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 62nd National Convention elect a committee of three members for a permanent Archives Committee. This Committee is to meet semi-annually to review gathered material for possible microfilming, prepare and present a yearly budget to the Supreme Council, and present a progress report to the National Convention every year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Cultural Committee again allocate \$100 per District for the express purpose of placing books and records in public or university libraries and that requests for such funds be made to the National Cultural Chairman through the local District Cultural Chairman.

WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the Knights of Lithuania that Supreme Council officers and National Committee Chairmen be present at all official meetings of the Supreme Council, and

WHEREAS attendance at all Supreme Council meetings may impose financial hardship due to the limited stipend available,

BE IT RESOLVED that Supreme Council officers, the VYTIS Editor, the Legal Adviser, and the National Committee Chairmen, be reimbursed for all transportation expenses incurred, for a maximum of four Supreme Council meetings.

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 62-ras visuotinis seimas, susirinkęs 1975 m. rugp. 21-24 d.d., New Yorke, patėmijęs "Darbininko" savaitraščio vedamąjį straipsnį 1975 m. rugp. 22 d. Lietuvos Vyčių tema išreiškia nuoširdžią padėką laikraščiu bei jo redaktoriams už ilgametį prielankumą parodytą Vyčių organizacijai, jos idealams ir užsimojimams.

Lietuvos Vyčių 62-ras seimas, susirinkęs New Yorke, išreiškia nuoširdžią Vytišką padėką dienraščiui "Draugui" ir redakcijos nariams ir rašytojams už nuolatinę ir nepertraukiamą paramą parodytą per ilgus metus Vyčių organizacijai ir jos siekimams "Dievui ir Tėvynei".

BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates and guests to the 62nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered Aug. 21-24, 1975, at New York, N.Y., acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the untiring efforts of the members of the Presidium, the Sgts.-at-Arms, and the members of the Convention Committees.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates and guests to the 62nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, who were literally overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of the hosts, the Mid-Atlantic District, extend heartfelt appreciation and thanks to them, for all the attentions and hospitality extended and for the hard work involved in the preparation of the Annual Convention.

Lietuvos Vyčių 62-ras Seimas reiškia nuoširdžią padėką Lietuvos Vyčių skyriaus redaktorei Emilijai Pakalniškienei, dienraštyje "Drauge", ir Lietuvos Vyčių redaktoriams "Darbininke", Vytautui ir Birutei Radzivanams.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the delegates attending the 62nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, extend heartfelt appreciation to the outgoing officers of the Supreme Council Board for their untiring efforts in performing their duties faithfully and well during the past year.

1976 NATIONAL CONVENTION



The Knights voted unanimously to accept the kind invitation of Council 96, and to hold their 63rd NATIONAL CONVENTION, during the great USA Bicentennial Year of 1976 in DAYTON, OHIO, in the great Midwest, true Heartland of the USA. Judging from the many ideas and talents demonstrated by Dayton-ers during this and past conventions, the 63rd National Convention should be truly an outstanding one!





*For your own copy,
send \$2.25 to:*

*Mrs. Loretta I. Stukas
1467 Force Dr.
Mountainside, N.J. 07092*

*Official Photo
Knights of Lithuania
62nd National Convention
New York, N.Y.
August, 1975*

OFFICIAL*Highlights*

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
EXECUTIVE BOARD
1975 - 1976**

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(res. in Baltimore)

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Ignas Sakalas, Chicago Seniors
Helen Shields, C-3, Philadelphia
Stanley Vaitkus, C-96, Dayton
Phyllis Grendal, C-17 Seniors, So. Boston

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Anthony Mazeika, Secy-Treas., C-41,
Brooklyn-Queens
Anthony Miner, C-116, So. Worcester
Rev. Walter Karaveckas, C-19, Pittsburgh
Dr. Jack Stukas, C-29, Newark
Philip Skabeikis, C-110, Maspeth
John Norusis, C-112, Chicago

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Edward Baranauskas, Co-Chrmn., C-100, Amsterdam

VYTIS

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Anthony Yuknis, C-112, Chicago
Regina Malakas, C-29, Newark
Josephine Zukas, C-109, Great Neck
Mary Kober, C-109, Great Neck
Lucille Kilkus, C-36, Chicago

LITHUANIAN RELIGIOUS AID COORDINATOR

Helen Shields, C-3, Philadelphia

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE PROPAGATION

Joseph Boley, Chrmn., C-41, Brooklyn-Queens

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CO-CHAIRMEN

Larry Janonis, C-12
Albert Jaritis, C-17

SECRETARIES

Anne Bender, C-26
Marjorie Dillis, C-1

SGTS-AT-ARMS

Andrew Rozger, C-19
Edward Krivickas, C-112
John Batakis, C-1



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Ada Sinkwitz, C-96; Monica Kasper, C-112;
Antoinette Naujelis, C-19; Sophie Nieminski, C-112.



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Elinor Sluzas, C-96; Edward Baranauskas, C-100;
Anthony Mazeika, C-41 Sr.; Eleanore Sakevich, C-29;
Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P., C-103.



GREETINGS COMMITTEE

Genevieve Gobis, C-100; Mary Stonis, C-29; Grazina Vaskelis, C-102; Aldona Ryan, C-96; Isabelle McKinley, C-100; Helen Radisch, C-29.

MINUTES COMMITTEE

Mary Lucas, C-96.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Larry Janonis, MAD; Elinor Sluzas, MCD; Albert Jaritis, NED; Irene Sankus, IID.

GREETINGS

Most Rev. Vincentas Brizgys, Bishop of Kaunas,
Lithuania in Exile, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, Ill.
The Most Reverend Francis Mugavero, Bishop of
Brooklyn
Kun. Stasys Raila, Lietuvių Katalikų Religinė Šalpa,
Maspeth, N.Y.
Generalinis Konsulas Anicetas Šimutis, New York,
N.Y.
The Honorable Hugh Carey, Governor of New York,
The Honorable Mayor Abraham D. Beame, Mayor of
New York, N.Y.
Ateitininkų Sendraugių Sąjunga, Juozas Vaitkus,
Pirmininkas
Amerikos Lietuvių Taryba, Dr. Kazys Bobelis, Pirm.
Amerikos Lietuvių Bendruomenė, Juozas Gaila,
Pirm.
Lietuvos Didžiosios Kunigaikštienės Birutės Karių
Šeimų Draugija, New Yorko Skyrius, M. Kliveč-
kienė, Pirmininkė, Woodhaven, N.Y.

Lietuvių Veteranų Sąjunga, Ramovė, New Yorko
Skyrius, Jonas Rūtenis, Pirmininkas, Merrick,
N.Y.
BALFO Centro Valdyba, Maria Rudienė, Pirmininkė,
Chicago, Ill.
Lietuvių Katalikių Moterų Organizacijų Pasaulinė
Sąjunga, Aldona Šlepelytė - Japnačienė, Ph.D.
Pirmininkė, Yonkers, N.Y.
Neringos Tuntas, Tuntininkės Pavaduotoja, Aldona
Katinienė, Richmond Hill, N.Y.
Lietuvių Fronto Bičiulių, New Yorko Sambūris, Dr.
B. Radzivanas, Pirmininkas, Richmond Hill, N.Y.
Lietuvių Katalikių Moterų Kultūros Draugija New
Yorke, A. Radzivanienė, Richmond Hill, N.Y.
Chicagos Lietuvių Katalikų Federacijos Apskritys,
Vincas Samaška, Pirmininkas, Chicago, Ill.
Lietuvių Tautinių Šokių Institutas, Jadvyga Matu-
laitienė, Pirmininkė, New York, N.Y.
Amerikos Lietuvių Vargonininkų-Muzikų Sąjunga,
Alg. Kačanauskas, Pirmininkas, Brooklyn, N.Y.

GREETINGS WITH DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

C-96, Dayton, Ohio	\$15.00
Rev. V. Katarskis, Dayton, Ohio	10.00
John Sprainitis, Hon. Member Paterson, N.J.	10.00
Gene Gobis, C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y.	5.00

VYTIS FUND

Matas Zujus, Hon. Member, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	\$30.00
Longinas Svelnis, Hon. Member, So. Boston, Mass.	10.00
Prof. & Mrs. Alexander Aleksis, Hon. Members, Waterbury, Conn.	10.00
Felicija Grendal, Hon. Member, So. Boston, Mass.	10.00
Margaret Papeaka, C-19, Pittsburgh, Pa.	5.00
Frank Vaskas, Hon. Member, Newark, N.J.	5.00
Gene Gobis, C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y.	5.00

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Joseph Gudelis, in memory of brother Frank Gudelis, C-96, Dayton, Ohio	\$1,000.00
Anthony Buknis, Cleveland Seniors C-96, Dayton, Ohio	150.00 25.00
Anthony Miner, C-116, So. Worcester, Mass.	15.00
John Sprainitis, Hon. Member, Paterson, N.J.	15.00
Stanley Vaitkus, Hon. Member, Dayton, Ohio	10.00
Ada Sinkwitz, C-96, Dayton, Ohio	10.00
Prof. & Mrs. Alexander Aleksis, Hon. Members, Waterbury, Conn.	10.00

Anne Klem, Hon. Member, Kearny, N.J.	5.00
Frank Vaskas, Hon. Member, Newark, N.J.	5.00
Elinor Sluzas, C-96, Dayton, Ohio	5.00
Gene Gobis, C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y.	5.00

CULTURAL FUND

Mary Lucas, Hon. Member, Dayton, Ohio	\$10.00
Anne Klem, Hon. Member, Kearny, N.J.	5.00
Margaret Papeaka, C-19, Pittsburgh, Pa.	5.00

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS FUND

Prof. & Mrs. Alexander Aleksis, Hon. Members, Waterbury, Conn.	\$10.00
Anne Klem, Hon. Member, Kearny, N.J.	5.00

JUNIORS FUND

Anne Klem, Hon. Member, Kearny, N.J.	\$5.00
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LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID

Prof. & Mrs. Alexander Aleksis, Hon. Members, Waterbury, Conn.	\$10.00
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41ST INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS

Prof. & Mrs. Alexander Aleksis, Hon. Members, Waterbury, Conn.	\$10.00
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MANDATE REPORT

SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICERS

Rev. C. Pugevicius, Leon Pauksta, Marion Skabeikis, Anthony Miner, Longinas Svelnis, Grazina Vaskelis, Irene Sankus, Ada Sinkwitz, Anthony Radzevich.

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CLERGY

Very Rev. R. Baltch, Very Rev. J. Balkunas, Rev. F. Bulovas, Rev. A. Jurgelaitis, Rev. W. Karaveckas, Rev. C. Pugevicius, Rev. S. Raila.

DISTRICTS - 4

ILLINOIS-INDIANA - Leon Pauksta, Irene Sankus.
 MID-ATLANTIC - Anthony Mazeika, Loretta Stukas
 MID-CENTRAL - Elinor Sluzas
 NEW ENGLAND - Benedict Coach, Marion Dillis,
 alt. delegate Mary Minkus.

COUNCILS - 27

C-1 - BROCKTON - Susan Boroskas, Marjorie Dillis, Sylvia Shukis, Charlotte Dillis, John Batakis.
 C-3 - PHILADELPHIA - Agnes Mickunas, Irene Svekla, Walter Svekla, John Mickunas, Joe Yanulaitis.
 C-7 - WATERBURY - John Alanskas.
 C-10 - ATHOL - Margaret Senk.
 C-12 - NEW YORK - Millie Pietz, John Antonavicius, Helen Matthews, Larry Janonis.
 C-17 - SOUTH BOSTON - Frank Yonika, Albert Jaritis, Mary Martus, Adele Martus.
 C-17S - BOSTON - Anne Voveris, Joseph White, Longinas Svelnis, Bertha Seymour, Phyllis Grendal.
 C-19 - PITTSBURGH - Andrew Rozger, Antoinette Naujelis, Julia Aleshunas, Stella Zoog, Margaret Papecka, Tom Unitas.
 C-25 - CLEVELAND - Ruth Guzauskas, Victoras August.
 C-26 - WORCESTER - Rita Pinkus, Helen Gillus, Ann Bender, Ann Bucinskas.

C-29 - NEWARK - Mary Stonis, Joseph Sakevich, Eleanor Sakevich, Helen Radisch, Eva Coll, Ona Pocius, Regina Schmidt, Ann O'Neill.
 C-30 - WESTFIELD - Joan Lafromboise, Bernard Minkus, Kunigunda Coach, Al Lafromboise.
 C-36 - CHICAGO - Christine Stachyra, Sabina Klatt, Rosemarie Klatt, Henry Klatt.
 C-41 - BROOKLYN-QUEENS - George Tumasonis, Vytautas Radzivanas, Helen Kulber, Peter Wytenus, Joseph Shoveliskis, Kazimiera Genevich, Birute Radzivanas, Emilija Sandanavicius.
 C-52 - ELIZABETH - Annie Mitchell.
 C-67 - BAYONNE - Martin Rusgi.
 C-79 - DETROIT - Magdalena Smailis.
 C-90 - KEARNY - Diane Bachanas, Ann Klem.
 C-96 - DAYTON - Mary Lucas, Judy Petrokas, Rita Ambrose, Albert Wallis, Albina Wallis, Frances Petkus, Joseph Ryan, Aldona Ryan, Ada Sinkwitz.
 C-100 - AMSTERDAM - Anthony Radzevich, Ann Radzevich, Sophie Olbie, Genevieve Gobis, Peter Hayes, Edward Baranauskas, Isabelle McKinley.
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 C-110 - MASPETH - Mary Kulis, Nellie Skabeikis, Phillip Skabeikis.
 C-112 - CHICAGO - Edward Krivickas, Sophie Nieminski, Monica Kasper, Barbara Klevinsky, Estelle Rogers, Dolores Wainauskas, Adella Zunas, Eleanore Laurin, Julie Zakarka, Al Zakarka.
 C-116 - SO. WORCESTER - Anthony Miner, Stanley Grigas.
 C-140 - SYRACUSE - John Stanley, Helen Mikelonis, Frank Petrauskas.
 C-141 - BRIDGEPORT - Teresa Trainis, Alphonse Trainis.
 CHICAGO SENIORS - Adele Gabalas, Peggy Zakaras.

GUESTS

Ohio - Elizabeth August, Adele Svet, Joanna Shigo, Stella Sankal, Dr. John Cadzow.
 Rhode Island - Victor Mathieu
 Pennsylvania - Joseph Petkunas
 Massachusetts - Frances Bumilla, Joseph Dube, Michael Dillis, Darius Monka, Jonas Conley.
 New Jersey - Joseph Sable, Anne Klimas
 Michigan - Anetta Byrne
 Illinois - Cecile Kincie
 New York - Sue Mazeika, Carole Mihalko, Mrs. John Serino, Suzanne Serino, Cassie Stanley, Ruth Hare, Irene Petrauskas.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Simas Kudirka
Irena Baraitis, President of the Federation of
Lithuanian Women's Clubs
Dr. Domas Jasaitis and Jonas Tamasauskas,
Ateitininkai Organization
Edward Plocha
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanrahan

JUNIORS

Arunas Sungurys C-110	Kathy Sinkwitz C-96
Leo Stungurys C-110	Rosemarie Klatt C-36
Marija Stungurys C-110	Maria Zakarka C-112
Jonas Stungurys C-110	Debbie Bumila C-1
William Sidtis C-110	Susan Bumila C-1
Doris Balaconis C-17	Laura Lafromboise C-30
Claire Yuskauskas C-17	Brian Lafromboise C-30
Adele Martus C-17	



BELATED GREETINGS

The following greetings apparently went astray enroute to the Hotel, and arrived too late to be presented at the Convention. We present them here, with apologies... and with gratitude for the generosity of the greeters.

1975 m. rugpiučio 20 d.

62-jam L. Vyčių Seimui
Hotel Taft
New York, N.Y.

Dėl pablogėjusios sveikatos negaliu asmeniai dalyvauti Seime, tad nors šiuo laiškeliu nuoširdžiai sveikinu mielas atstoves, atstovus ir svečius. Linkiu geriausio pasisekimo!

Veiklą Vyčiuose laikau maloniausiais mano gyvenimo atsiminimais.

Visiems Vyčių vadovams, veikėjams ir bičiuliams linkiu nenuilstančiai darbuotis Vyčių organizacijai ir tuo pačiu laiku mūsų vis tebekryžiuojamos Tautos naudai!

Dievas telaimina Vyčius!

Matas Zujus, Vyčių Garbės Narys
"Garso Redaktorius"

P.S. "Vyties" reikalams skiriu \$30.00.

9/5/75

Gerbiama Ponia Stukiene,

Aš siunčiau Vyčių Seimui sveikinimą 20 d. Aug. Hotel Taft.

Bet pasirodo, kad laiškas nepasiekė seimo, bet buvo man sugražintas.

Kadangi nežinau kas yra išrinkti į naują Valdybą, tai siunčiu jums, aš manau, kad Jūs esat Valdyboj vistiek.

Siunčiu \$10 - Vyčių reikalams ir \$15 - Scholarship.

Prašau perduoti čekį su geriausiais linkėjimais L. Vyčių organizacijai.
Geriausiu Linkėjimų Visiems,

Vytiškai

John Sprainaitis
Garbės Narys

SOUVENIR JOURNAL GREETINGS

The 62nd National Convention Committee extends sincerest thanks to the following donors, whose generous donations were received too late to be printed in the Convention Souvenir Journal.

REV. ALBIN JANIUNAS, So. Boston, Mass.
REV. ALF. BABONAS, Detroit, Mich.
VICTORIA CHEPELIONIS, Detroit, Mich.

Lietuvos Vyčių
62 Seimui
New York

Mieli Vyčiai!

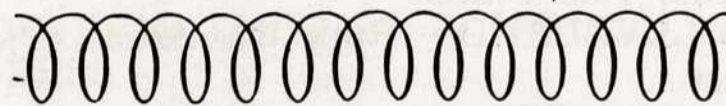
Linkiu sėkmingai aptarti ir įvykdyti svarbiausius Lietuvos Vyčių organizacijos reikalus.

Šiuomi siunčiu kuklią, bet nuoširdžią aukele stipendijų fondui.

Su vytiška pagarba,

Antanas Buknis
Cleveland, Ohio

(\$150.00 donation to Scholarship Fund).



OFFICIAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
MEMBERSHIP COUNT
AUGUST, 1975

Council	8-74	8-75	Gain	Loss
1	34	3	2	-
3	33	32	-	1
5	5	5	-	-
7	120	124	4	-
10	27	27	-	-
12	52	56	4	-
17	42	38	-	4
17 Srs.	79	77	-	2
18	5	dropped	-	5
19	40	39	-	1
25	35	37	2	-
Cleve. Srs.	37	36	-	1
26	125	111	-	14
29	114	113	-	1
30	36	41	5	-
36	63	73	10	-
Chgo. Srs.	30	36	6	-
41	36	34	-	2
52	26	24	-	2
61	9	3	-	6
67	7	7	-	-
74	39	12	-	27
78	14	12	-	2
79	184	181	-	3
90	46	50	4	-
96	128	137	9	-
100	74	83	9	-
102	48	41	-	7
103	21	19	-	2
109	32	25	-	7
110	29	30	1	-
111 Srs.	15	12	-	3
112	155	189	34	-
113	2	1	-	1
116	45	49	4	-
133	2	2	-	-
133 Srs.	48	47	-	1
134	20	21	1	-
135	60	61	1	-
139	24	24	-	-
140	-	31	31	-
141	-	53	53	-
Members - at large	1	1	-	-
TOTALS	1942	2030	180	92

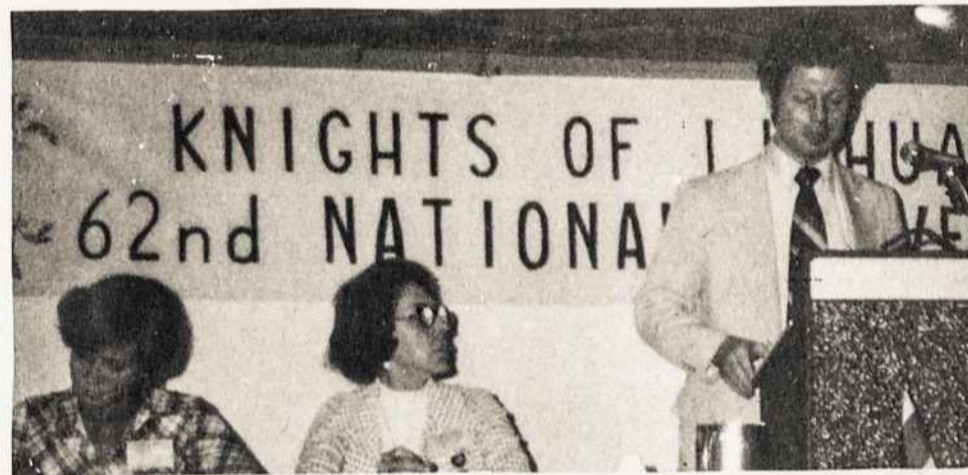


MAJOR DONATIONS

A very special donation was received by the National K of L Scholarship Fund during the convention. Joseph Gudelis, of C-96, Dayton, presented the Scholarship Committee with a check in the amount of \$1000.00, in memory of his brother, the late FRANK GUDELIS, Honorary Member of C-96, Dayton.

Another sizeable donation was received again from ANTHONY BUKNIS of the Cleveland Seniors. Unable to attend the Convention, Mr. Buknis sent greetings with a donation of \$150.00 for the Scholarship Committee. Mr. Buknis is noted for his regularity in presenting very generous donations to the Scholarship Fund.

On behalf of the Supreme Council, the Scholarship Committee and all future Scholarship Winners, a most hearty "AČIU" to Mr. Gudelis and Mr. Buknis for their generosity.



E. Plocha presents panel.

PLENARY SESSIONS

Various activities within and without the Knights of Lithuania which should be of major concern to the Knights were discussed during the four plenary sessions held during the convention. The sessions are discussed in greater detail elsewhere in this issue. The panels and their leaders were as follows:

1. "THE BICENTENNIAL AND THE K OF L"
Moderator - Edward Plocha, of the National Catholic Conference on Ethnic and Neighborhood Affairs
2. "THE CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA AND ITS IMPACT ON US"
Moderator - Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, K of L National Spiritual Adviser and Lithuanian Affairs Chairman
3. "THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS AND THE KNIGHTS"
Moderator - Rev. Casimir Pugevicius
4. "60 YEARS OF VYTIS"
Moderator - Loretta I. Stukas, VYTIS Editor

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE AWARDS

Signing up new members... and keeping present members' memberships up to date again proved rewarding, not only idealistically, but in special cases, materially as well! Special membership awards were again presented to councils and individuals during the Sunday Brunch by National Membership Chairman, Anthony Miner. Awards were given in categories according to the council size. The categories were as follows:

- First - 1 to 49 members
- Second - 50 to 99 members
- Third - 100 or more

The winners were as follows:

100% PAID UP MEMBERSHIP

- First Category - C-25 Cleveland
- Second Category - C-100 Amsterdam
- Third Category - C-96 Dayton



NEW MEMBER AWARDS COUNCIL

- First Category - Chicago Seniors 20% increase
- Second Category - C-36 Chicago 15% increase
- Third Category - C-112 Chicago 21-9% increase

NEW MEMBER AWARDS - INDIVIDUAL

- First Place - Estelle Rogers, C-112 - 215 points
- Second Place - Sabina Klatt, C-36 - 165 points
- Third Place - Gediminas Janula, Chicago Seniors - 70 points

SPECIAL AWARDS

In recognition of their self-sacrificing efforts, special awards were presented to FRANK PETRAUSKAS and TERESA TRAINIS who organized our newest Councils 140 and 141.

Again, individual awards consisted of beautiful works of Lithuanian folk art or Lithuanian gold - Amber.



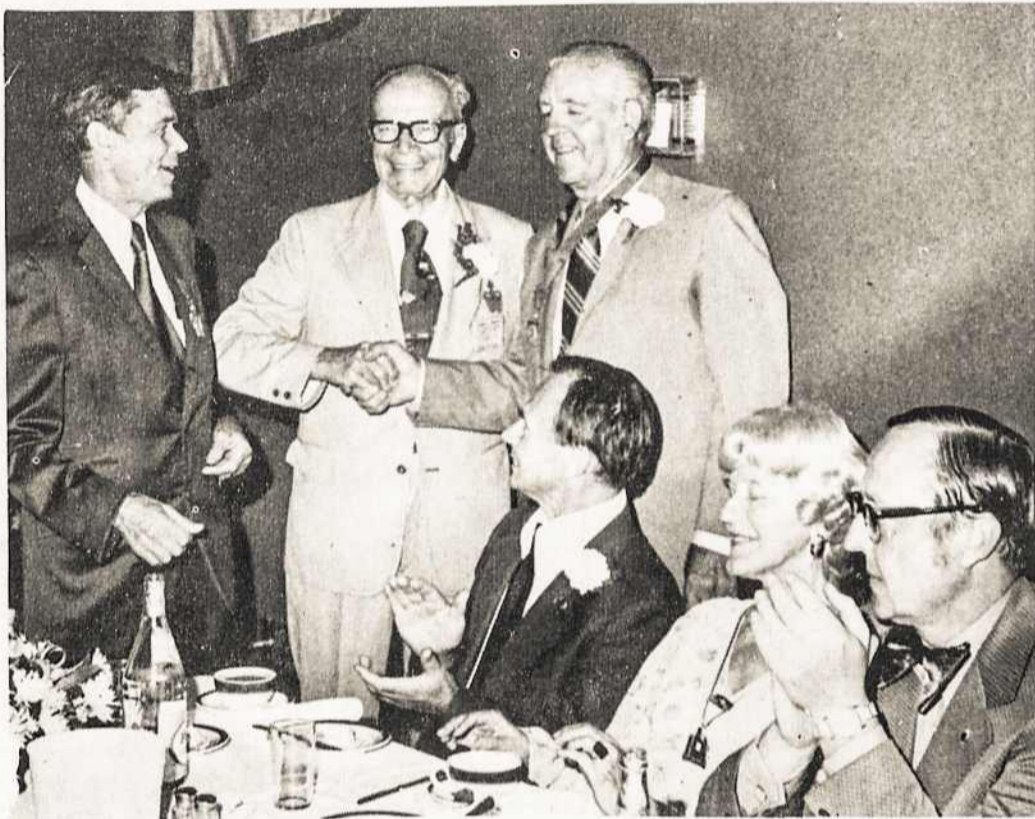
Special awards - F. Petrauskas and T. Trainis.



Individual awards - E. Rogers and S. Klatt.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDED

SIMAS KUDIRKA, whose plight made world history and whose eventual arrival in the USA was tantamount to a miracle, was awarded Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania during the Convention Banquet, in recognition of his demonstrated loyalty to "God and Country" under herrendous conditions in Lithuania... and for his continued setting of a fine example of "Knight-hood" since his arrival in the USA. A most sincere welcome to Simas. Two other members were also awarded Honorary Membership for their many years of hard work and leadership in the organization. Congratulations go to Alexander Wesey, C-109, Great Neck, N.Y. and Joseph Yanulaitis, C-3, Philadelphia, Pa. on their achieving this great honor in the organizati



*Top right: Simas Kudirka receives H.M. Medal from A. Aleksis as M.C. J. Stukas looks on; center
Center left: A. Mazeika and A. Aleksis congratu-*

late Al. wesey

Center right: A. Aleksis and A. Mazeika present H.M. Medal to A. Mazeika.

DEGREES CONFERRED

A highlight of the Sunday Program was the awarding of the Fourth Degree to five deserving members. Immediately before the Closing Mass, the Fourth Degree, Order of St. Casimir, was ceremoniously conferred by Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, assisted by Rita Pinkus to:

Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, OP, of C-103, Providence
Helen Cuprewich, C-12, New York
Bertha Stoskus, C-103, Providence
Beatrice Mathieu, C-103, Providence
Ruth Krecioch, C-103, Providence

It is interesting to note that the forementioned Bertha, Beatrice, and Ruth are all sisters, another bit of proof that the K of L is indeed a "family organization".





CONVENTION MASSES

In the tradition of always finding time for prayer as well as for work and play, daily Masses were very much a part of the Convention. The Actor's Chapel at St. Malachy's Church in Manhattan was the scene of the Opening Mass on Thursday, as well as the other daily Masses, Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, the Closing Mass was held in Transfiguration Church, Maspeth, N.Y. Mass was concelebrated by Pastor and M.A.D. Spiritual Adviser Rev. Frank Bulovas, Outgoing National Spiritual Adviser and present National Lithuanian Affairs Chairman Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, New National Spiritual Adviser Rev. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P., and Rev. Stasys Raila of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. Rev. Pugevicius gave the homily, urging K of L-ers to render constant support to their local Lithuanian parishes, as they are the life's blood of Lithuanian life and activity in the USA. Before Mass, Father Bulovas extended warmest greetings to all those gathered, and congratulated the Knights on the fine work they had done during the Convention. Also before Mass, Fourth Degrees were presented to deserving members and new Supreme Council Officers were installed.

MANY THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Almost a whole year of planning, discussions, contacts, and just plain hard work went into producing the 62nd National Convention. The smiling faces and expressed contentment of the delegates and guests, however, seemed to make the sleepless nights, worries, setbacks, and expended efforts worthwhile. Sincerest thanks and heartiest congratulations for a job well done go to the Convention Hosts, the Mid-Atlantic District, and especially to the Committee, namely:

SPIRITUAL ADVISER - Rev. Frank Bulovas
GENERAL CHAIRMAN - Helen T. Shields
SECRETARIES - Mary Kulis, Jeanne Janonis
TREASURER - Nellie Skabeikis
PROGRAM BOOK - Loretta I. Stukas, Chairman;
 John Stanley, Genevieve Gobis, Gladys Douches,
 Genevieve Mazur, Viola Skripata.
REGISTRATION - Millie Pietz, Jeanne Janonis,
 Mary Kulis
THEATER PARTY - Philip and Marian Skabeikis
NOSTALGIA NIGHT - Larry Janonis, Millie Pietz,
 Joseph Sleder, Jovita Sleder, Al Monkavitch,
 Joseph Kscenaitis, Helen Cuperwich, Mike Kartanowicz, Jeanne Janonis.
LIETUVIŠKAS LINKSMAVAKARIS - Anne Sidtis,
 John Sidtis, Nellie Skabeikis, Louis Stukas,
 Loretta Stukas, Elena Nakrosis.
CULTURAL EXHIBIT - Philip Skabeikis
INAUGURAL BANQUET AND BALL - Helen Shields, Larry Janonis, Loretta Stukas, Anthony Mazeika.
RECEPTION - Kazys Sipaila, Bernard Skripata
SUNDAY BRUNCH - Mary Kulis, Anne Sidtis, Anne Mitchell
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES - Marian Skabeikis, Chairman, Diane Bachenas, Elena Nakrosis
MAILING - Council 29 Members
PHOTOGRAPHERS - Romualdas Kisielius and John Sidtis.

VYTIS THANK YOU

VYTIS Editor Loretta Stukas extends heartfelt appreciation to all members who so graciously supplied articles, information and photos of the Convention, assisting the success of this issue. Special thanks go to Phil and Marian Skabeikis, Helen Shields, Irene Sankus, Aldona Ryan, Rita Pinkus, John Sidtis, Eleanore Laurin, Tony Miner, Ann Bender, and others. A sincere Lithuanian "Ačiū" to you all.



Social

Sidelights

Conventioneers began arriving on Monday to see the fabulous sites. Delegates from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Boston, Waterbury, Westfield, Providence and Bridgeport were seen at the United Nations, Empire State, Radio City, and the other great attractions of New York City. Super-guides Tony and Mary Kober took special care of some of the Chicagoans.

There's no business like show business and there's no other way to start out the official program of a New York hosted Convention than with a Broadway musical hit - and "Pippin" was it! The guests enjoyed the theater party, as arranged by Phil and Marian Skabeikis, the wandering in and out of the dozens of shops along the way back to the hotel, and of course, the socializing at the Taft to begin the whirl of convention events. Other early birds, Ed Krivickas and Irene Sankus, enjoyed the hospitality of Larry and Jean Janonis, Marty Rusgi, Helen Shields.

The Worcester ladies, Rita Pinkus and friends, really started to the convention on the wrong foot with car trouble in Connecticut. After being towed back to Worcester, they ran for the bus with all of their belongings and then on the New York - but not in time for the theatre party.

The business meeting room - The Colonnade - was transformed by the committee into a delightful party room Thursday night and the regular conventioneers certainly agreed that "Nostalgia Night" was one of the best socials. It was an event which made the "first-timers" look forward to going to a Convention again. Joe Thomas, the one-man orchestra, kept the dance floor filled with music for everyone's taste. Out-



going prexy Leon Pauksta and the Elizabeth boys were among the people doing their thing at the party. The buffet table provided a tremendous array of food to satisfy everyone's appetite. And, it was the same at the liquid refreshment center with dispensers-supreme Larry Janonis, Al "Monk" Monkawitch, Joe Sledar and other District members. The gathering ended only when the guests completely spent themselves and could party no more.

The many bus rides provided their own type of entertainment with the captive audience for the comedians and the community singing which all were under the direction of the Philadelphians - Walt Svekla and John Mickunas.

A good place to meet and greet old friends, to meet new friends, or find committee members, Loretta Stukas, Mary Kulis, Nellie Skabeikis, making final arrangements was the Taft mezzanine balcony before the business sessions.

No regular luncheons were scheduled so everyone had the opportunity to do their own thing from shopping to refreshment stops at the Americana Hotel, the Rincon Argentina, the various "delies" in the area, or just relaxing in their own rooms. This novel idea met with the approval of all of the delegates.

The Junior Convention program, headed by 1st Vice Pres. Marian Skabeikis, kept the Juniors on the go. From the various tours of the city to decorating Easter eggs and making Lithuanian Christmas ornaments (under the direction of Anne Klem) to attending the Convention Ball and the Sunday Brunch, the smiling faces of the Juniors were a pleasure to see. And they really smiled when eleven of the group were awarded \$50.00 Junior Conventionships.

"LIETUVIŠKAS LINKSMAVAKARIS"

"Mikalojus Konstantinas Čiurlionis was born in 1875 and died in 1911 at the age of 36. He never forgot his ethnic roots although all of his formal training was received abroad. His style was neither abstract nor naturalistic but that of a romantic dreamer and mystic".

Sitting in the cool comfort of Transfiguration Church Hall in Maspeth, New York during the 62nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania and listening to Philip Skabeikis' talk on M. K. Čiurlionis, commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth was a rare treat. It gave all of us an insight to a part of culture that is often overlooked; the famous painters, composers, authors and poets who contributed so much to our Lithuanian heritage.

This part of the program was further enhanced by the opportunity to hear a Prelude and a Nocturne written for piano by M. K. Čiurlionis and played by Alice Maleckevičiūtė who is a doctoral candidate in music performance at New York University and the Manhattan School of Music. This writer found the music to be



Phil Skabeikis speaks on Čiurlionis.

plaintive, poignant, and stirring to the very depths of the soul.

In the beautiful Lithuanian language, Vitalis Zukauskas told of the many contributions to Lithuanian culture of Bishop Motiejus Valancius, thus commemorating the 100th Anniversary of this patriot's death. Bishop Valancius, the great Lithuanian writer and leader, not only concerned himself with the spiritual life of the Lithuanians, but also led the Lithuanian people toward the establishment of a national Lithuanian culture.

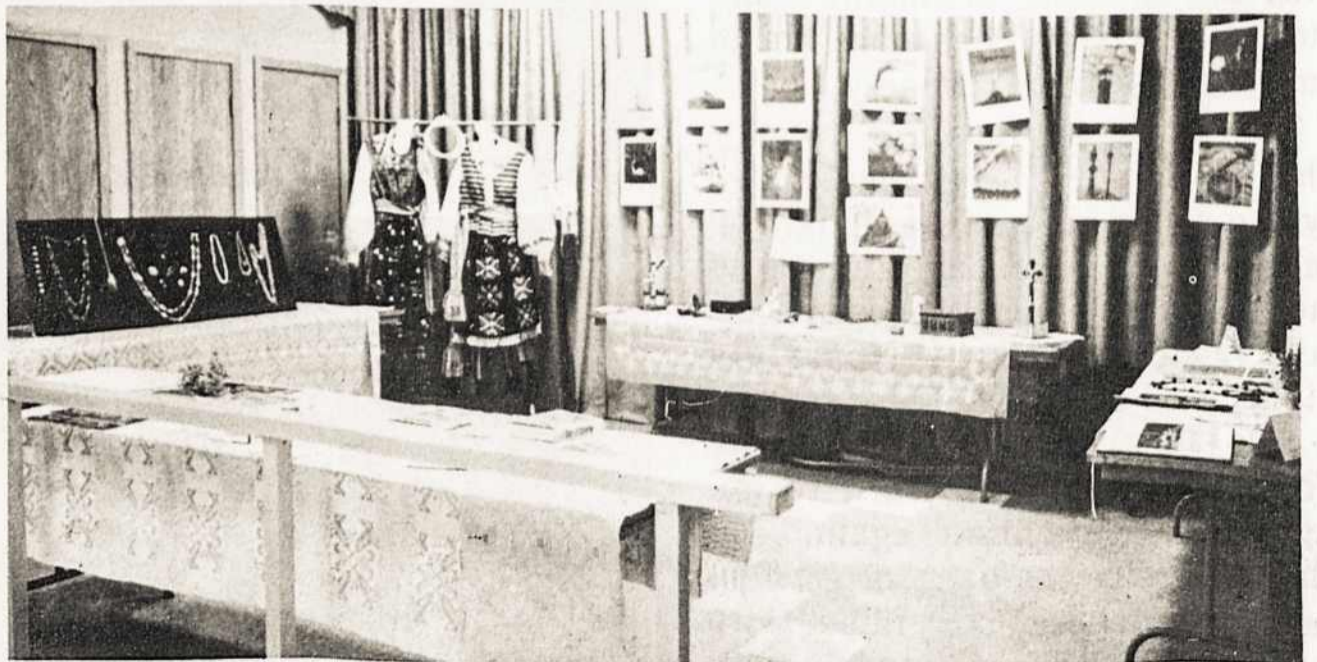


Alice Maleckevičiūtė, renders a Čiurlionis Prelude.

When Russia's banned the Lithuanian press, it was Bishop Valancius' initiative and leadership that led to the establishment of a secret Lithuanian press across the border, in East Prussia, and the famous "Knygnešiai" or "Book-Smugglers" era in Lithuanian history. Bishop Valancius constantly urged his people to be Lithuanians at all times and to work for the establishment and maintenance of a national culture. One wonders where... or what... Lithuanian culture would be without the contributions of this great man!



V. ŽUKAUSKAS, M.C. and speaker on Bishop Valančius.



Part of the Cultural Exhibit.



The "Vilija" Quartet and its leader, Louis Stukas.



The K of L Junior Dance Group of Kearny.

The serious portion of the program over, Mr. Žukauskas resumed his duties as "Master of Ceremonies" and cleverly led us into the "Linksmas" part of the "Linksmavakaris". His antics and routines gave comic relief to the evening's program. Somehow, jokes in Lithuanian are so very, very funny!

We listened to lovely Lithuanian songs as sung by the "Vilija" Women's Quartet. In this, their debut performance, the Quartet offered a most enjoyable rendition of Lithuanian folk songs and contemporary compositions. Their repertoire of both sentimental and

patriotic numbers included works by Lithuanian composers from the U.S. as well as from both pre-war and modern-day Lithuania. Aldona Pitkunigis, Regina Malakas, Edna Ryncavage, and Loretta Stukas offered something for the eye too, in their beautiful, native Lithuanian dress. Louis Stukas directed and accompanied the ladies admirably at the piano.

Another feature of the evening was the performance of Lithuanian dances by the Knights of Lithuania, Council 90, Jr. Lithuanian Dance Group of Kearney, New Jersey, directed by Elena Nakrosis. The intricate choreography of

ancient Lithuanian folk dances is being mastered by these youngsters and we enjoyed the fruits of their laborious rehearsals.

The entire Lietuviškas Linksmavakaris was bound together by an exhibit of amber, weavings, linens, woodcarvings, books, records, and other artifacts tastefully displayed by Phil and Marian Skabeikis and their committee.

Inspired by the evening, we returned to our hotel rooms, happily singing Lithuanian songs and discussing Lithuanian culture. We thank you for a beautiful evening.

Aldona Ryan



An enjoyable time was had by all.



A Lithuanian "Sing-Along" ended the evening on a gay note.



*Hospitality in the Hospitality Suite, for Com-
mittee...*



...and guests

There were many suites and rooms where the delegates from Brockton, Chicago, Dayton and Amsterdam entertained so that after the convention event, you could drop in for some more reminiscing, conversation and that night-cap. As large as the committee's Hospitality Suite was, it always filled with guests. And, small as Joe Sable's room was, everyone was welcome to stop in and enjoy his "Spirit of '76" party. Even if you had just a Bicentennial minute to spend, Joe's decorations helped you get into the spirit of



*The Newlyweds, Marcella &
Alexander Aleksis.*

things and when you left you knew how many kilometers it was to Kaunas or to the Moon. Presidium chairmen Tony Miner and Al Jaritis were always among the late-party goers, but were always the first at the business sessions in the mornings.

Phyllis Grendal and Eleanore Laurin held a Champagne reception for Honorary Members and many other guests toasting that most delightful newlywed couple - Prof. Alexander Aleksis and Marcella Andrikas-Aleksis. It was a sparkling success!



*VYTIS Editor L. Stukas (left) and former Editor P.
Grendal (right) greet the Newlyweds.*



*Past Presidents S. Boroskas, J. Sakevich, A.
Mazeika, J. Stukas greet the Newlyweds.*

SATURDAY INAUGURAL BANQUET AND BALL

After a grueling day of two busy Convention Sessions including elections of officers, delegates and friends commuted by bus from the Hotel Taft to the Lithuanian Cultural Center of the Franciscan Fathers on Highland Blvd. in Brooklyn, New York. The event was the Convention Inaugural Banquet and Ball. The already large complement of convention delegates and friends was swelled by local K of Lers and supporters. About 350 persons were in attendance. The unprecedented response caused some last minute changes, but once all were seated, the program began.

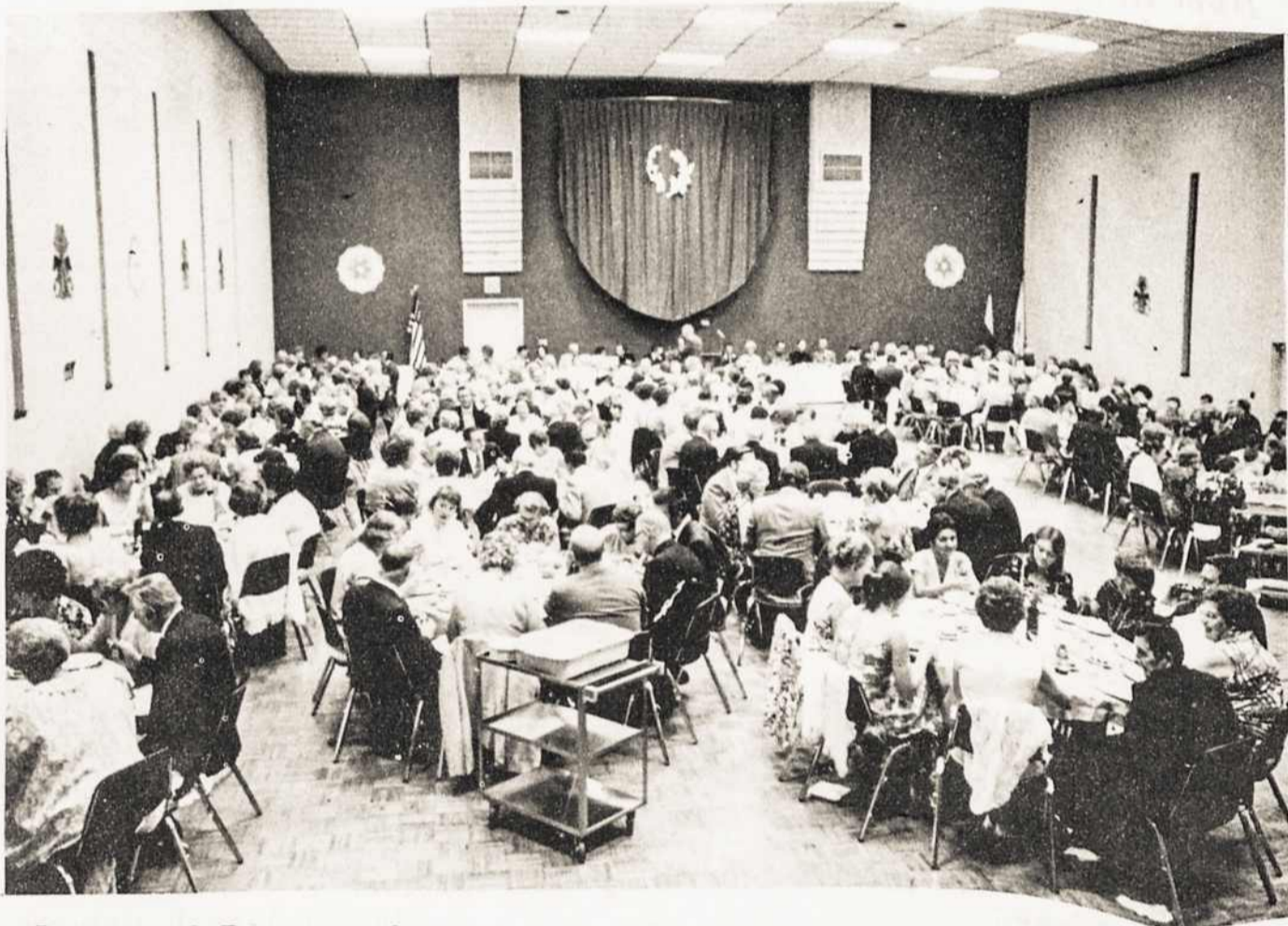
Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Jack Stukas, C-29, Honorary Member and past National President. The dais was graced by such personages as Mr. and Mrs. Simas Kudirka, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanrahan, Marcella and Alexander Alexis, Zuzana and Antanas Mazeika, Loretta and Jack Stukas, Rev. Frank Bulovas, Convention Chairlady Helen Shields and National Spiritual Advisor Kazimieras Pugevicius.

This year's K of L Scholarship was awarded to Marian Dillis of C-1 Brockton. Our organization's highest honor was conferred upon two of its most illustrious members, Mr. Alexander Wesey C-109 Great Neck, and Mr. Joseph Yanulaitis C-3 Philadelphia. These gentlemen now have joined the ranks of our Honorary members.

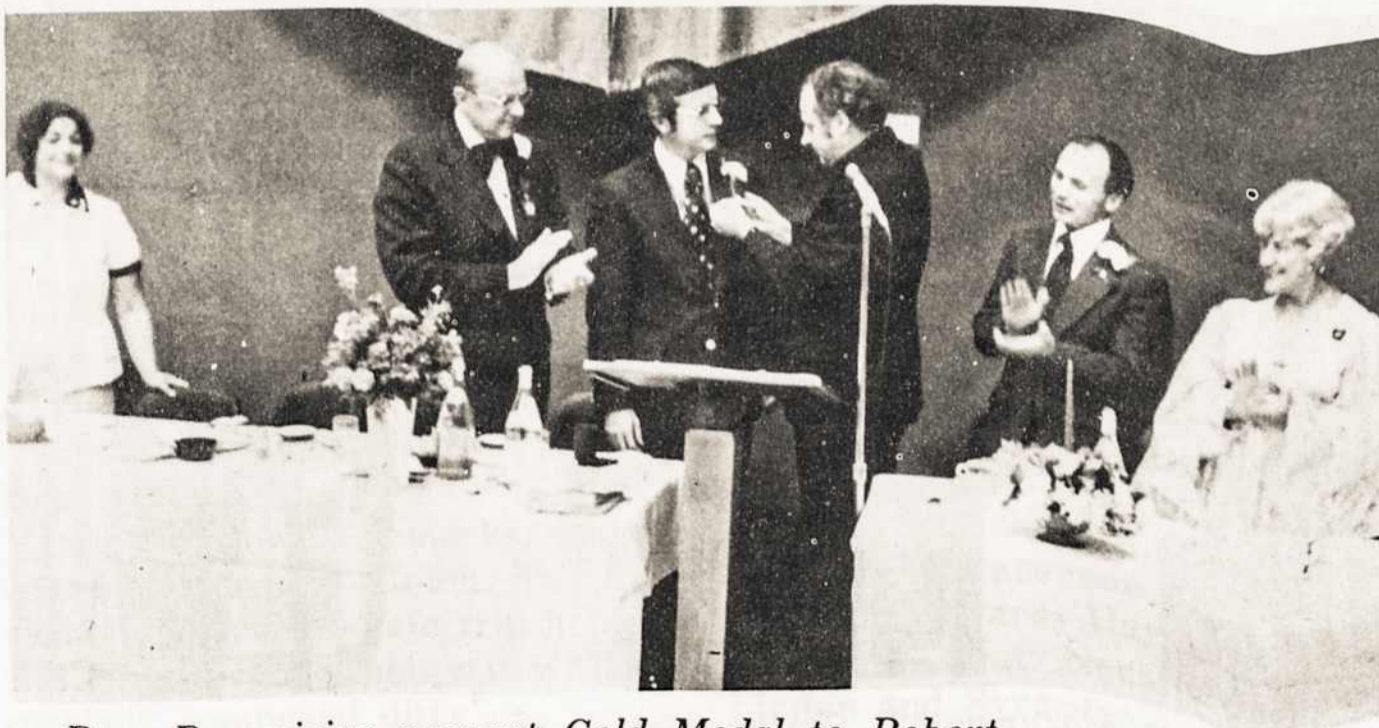
The "Friend of Lithuania" for 1975 was former Congressman from Chicago Mr. Robert Hanrahan, through whose efforts was realized the release of Simas Kudirka from the bondage of Soviet prison. Mr. Hanrahan vowed that with a united effort, Lithuania would one day be restored to her rightful place among the free nations of the world. The opportunity to have both major actors of a historic event together, to honor them, was unique and memorable.



Convention Chairman Helen Shields extends welcome to Banquet guests.



Inaugural Banquet Guests.



Rev. Pugevicius present Gold Medal to Robert Hanrahan.



Left: J. Stukas presents S. Kudirka with letter from R. Nixon regarding his case.

Right: Simas addresses Banquet Guests.



Robert Hanrahan greets Siberian prison survivor E. Juoėpiene.



Soloists G. Mazur and L. Stukas with A. Maleckevičiute.

The evening's undisputed highlight was Simas Kudirka's rise to accept Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania. His acknowledgement was greeted with one of many standing ovations. His halting, yet intense voice broke, as he wished he could place his medal upon the cold grave of a friend who did not survive the prison camp experience. Mr. Kudirka's presence that night as at the Saturday session, lent a special quality to the proceedings.

In the course of the evening, special gifts were presented to Mrs. Hanrahan and Mrs. Kudirka, by Loretta Stukas, on behalf of the committee, for the help and assistance they provided their respective husbands during the fight to free Mr. Kudirka. An Amber Pin was presented to Mrs. Hanrahan, and a gold pin, an "American Beauty Rose", was given to Mrs. Kudirka.

Also present and singled out for recognition was Mrs. Eleonora Juoėpiene, who survived many years of concentration camps to emerge crippled, weakened in body and spirit, but free!

The musical portion of the evening was provided by Louis Stukas C-29, and Genevieve Mazur C-90. Mr. Stukas' manly tenor-baritone voice makes him one of our few Lithuanian Helden tenors, Ms. Mazur's light and agile soprano suited her chosen repertoire perfectly. Both performed popular Lithuanian and International selections in solo and vocal duet. With both singers in fine voice, they lent an added lustre to an already memorable evening. They were able accompanied by Ms. Alice Moluskevičiūtė, who had distinguished herself at the keyboard the prior evening.

When the formal program was done, delegates and guests danced into the early hours of the morning, to the music of Joe Thomas and his band.

Phil Skabeikis

Without a doubt honor guests, former Congressman from Illinois Robert Hanrahan and his wife Barbara were two of the most enthusiastic and delightful guests. It was a pleasure to have them participate in not only the banquet, but also the Mass and Sunday Brunch.

Following the Saturday banquet, the Dayton ladies invited one-and-all to enjoy a sample of Council 96's hospitality in preparation for the 1976 convention.

The closing Mass was held at Transfiguration Church with the Sunday Brunch and Award presentation in the beautiful church hall. New York has a great goodwill ambassador that most would like to meet again - Vytautas Beleckas, the Sunday brunch superchef. Larry Janonis served as the M-C and introduced the newly-elected Supreme Council officers as well as the various guests that were present. Rita Pinkus presented the 4th Degree certifications; Marian Skabeikis, the Junior Conventionship checks; and Tony Miner, newly-elected President, completed his term as Membership Vice-Pres., by presenting the certificates to the council winners and Lithuanian wood carvings to the individual winners. "Kiss-kiss" was the cry of the Juniors and Tony obliged by kissing all of the lady winners. Council 41 of Brooklyn presented a beautiful scroll to Helen Kulber.



H. Kulber and V. Radzivanas.



The new Supreme Council, Head Table Guests at Sunday Brunch.



Sunday Brunch Guests.

Following the convention photo, everyone hopped back on the buses for the final trip to the Taft and the afternoon was spent saying goodbye, a meeting of the S.C. Board, and for those who remained, some more socializing and reminiscing. Some of the delegates stayed on at the hotel, while others travelled on to various friends' homes for the evening.

In her farewell remarks, Convention Chairlady Helen Shields wished everyone a safe trip home and sent everyone their way with a specially composed ditty -

Laikas tarti Jums sudiev, Aleluia
Laimingai grįzkite, Aleluia
Atvažiavote pas mus, Aleluia
Ačiū tariame mes Jums, Aleluia
Dirbkite visi uoliai, Aleluia
Daytone matysimės, Aleluia.

A big thank you to all for making the 62nd Convention a success from the Mid-Atlantic District and its member councils: Philadelphia, New York, Newark, Brooklyn, Elizabeth, Paterson, Bayonne, Scranton, Kearny-Harrison, Amsterdam, Great Neck, Maspeth, Linden and Syracuse.

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Address Correction Requested

