


the KNIGHT



VYTYIS

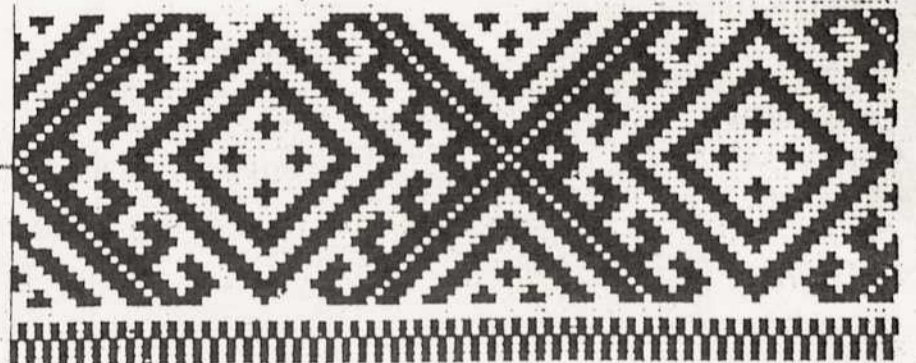
HOLY
YEAR
1983

PUBLISHED BY THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA



SUPREME COUNCIL 1983-1984

Seated: Dr. Jack Stukas, Frank Petrauskas, Elsie Kosmisky, Loretta Stukas, Elinor Sluzas, Nancy Miro, Alphonse Trainis, Mary Ann Lapera,. Standing: Anthony Radzevich, Larry Janonis, Paul Binkis, Fran Petkus, Aldona RYAN, Father Anthony J URGELAITIS, Anna Wargo, Magdalena Smailis, Dr. Algirdas Budreckis.



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VYTIS

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KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 70th NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 18 to 21, 1983

MOTTO:

"Tai, ką mes pasižadame, tegu
Dievas padeda mums išlaikyti!"

HOLIDAY INN
4th & ARCH STS.
PHILADELPHIA, PA



Your Hosts—COUNCIL 3

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA 70TH NATIONAL CONVENTION STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION REPORT

As presented by Loretta I. Stukas, National President,
August 18, 1983



Loretta Stukas receives flowers from C-3 President Walter Mameniskis

In accordance with Article XI, Section 2 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution, I hereby submit to the delegates of the 70th National Convention the Supreme Council's Annual Report, wherein I have combined all reports submitted to me before the Convention. It is important to note that this is but a summary of the work done by your Supreme Council, to give you a sense of what we have achieved this past year and where and how our organization stands today. The officers have provided fuller reports of their activities in writing, and we urge you to take home a set of these reports, read them carefully, and share the contents with your council members.

SPIRITUAL ADVISER

The Knights of Lithuania is grateful to Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, OP for his spiritual guidance and moral support provided the Knights during the past year. In preparation for the Year of St. Casimir, Father is preparing a schedule of special prayers for use by councils and districts to worthily celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the death of our patron St. Casimir throughout the year. Father further urges all Knights to rededicate themselves to the cause of the Beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis, by renewed prayer, especially in asking God for a miracle that would hasten the Beatification.

Rev. Jurgelaitis has written inspiring articles in VYTIS, and helped prepare the "What More, What Better" packets for Council Distribution. He offered

Masses for 51 Knights whom God called to Himself since the 69th National Convention.

PRESIDENT

President Loretta Stukas organized and presided at three meetings of the Supreme Council. She represented the K of L at numerous events, including the Signing of the Baltic Freedom Day Proclamation at the White House. At that event, she presented President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan with Amber Cufflinks and an Amber broach, and received a gracious, personal letter from Mr. Reagan, thanking her for the gift and her expression of friendship. Mrs. Stukas was guest speaker in New Haven and Chicago, visited and addressed Conventions of three of our four districts, and led a Lithuanian Affairs panel at the MAD Seminar in Pittston. She attended the ALTAS Convention and appointed K of L representatives to that body. She worked with Legal Adviser John Narusis and member John Valauskas in preparing a basic plan for establishment of a Knights of Lithuanian endowment fund. By mail or in person, she handled organization of numerous other Supreme Council projects, e.g. History, Archives, and special PR releases, and kept in contact with representatives of problem councils.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Juniors Vice President Elinor Sluzas reports that we currently have 8 Junior Councils, and she is actively trying to establish more. Mrs. Sluzas compiled and distributed a Junior Packet to all Junior Councils. The packet contains Junior by-laws and outlines of suggested



Junior projects. She has written to Lithuanian clergy and religious asking their help in the Junior program. She conducted a Junior essay contest and will reward the winners during this convention. Mrs. Sluzas has also been in contact with officials at the Camp Dainava in Michigan with respect to the possibility of having a K of L sponsored Juniors Camp there in 1984. Elinor has also prepared a Juniors Panel for this Convention. We commend Elinor on her energy and ingenuity in planning this most important part of our K of L life — attracting and keeping our Lithuanian YOUTH in the organization.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Membership Vice-President Elsie Kosmisky conducted the Membership Drive and will present awards to the winners later during this convention. One new council, C-27, Norwood, MA was reorganized this year, and another, in Shamokin, PA is expected to be organized shortly. Mrs. Kosmisky has worked diligently to plant many other "seeds" by sending organizational materials to prospective council representatives in various cities. We trust that many of these seeds will begin to grow soon. Elsie urges all District Vice President in charge of Membership to pay closer attention to council activity in their geographical areas and offers her help in organizing or reorganizing councils there. While only one new council was established this year, we are happy to report that last year's new councils have survived their first year. They are alive and well, several of them are represented here today.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

Seniors Vice-President Frank Petrauskas offered considerable help and advice in the work and deliberations of the Supreme Council. He reports that with the recent merger of C-17 and C-17 Srs, and C-103 and C-103 Srs., only three Senior Councils exist. These Senior councils are alive and well, but Frank questions whether more should be formed. Although today most of our members could qualify as Seniors, a push for Senior Councils might weaken the Regulars. Perhaps "Senior" activity should include not only Senior Council but also provide services for all "Senior Citizen" members of the organization. The Supreme Council has been talking about this problem. We would appreciate hearing the views of the membership on this as well.

RECORDING SECRETARY

National Recording Secretary Nancy Paulauskas Miro has diligently notified members of pending meetings, kept minutes of those meetings, and sent minutes to all officers and Honorary Members. She compiled and distributed lists of national, district and

council officers and committee chairmen, and handled miscellaneous correspondence required by the Supreme Council. Nancy assisted in preparations for the reception after the Archives Room Blessing and prepared council materials for the "What More, What Better" project, to be discussed later. In preparation for the National Convention, Nancy issued Convention invitations to other national organizations and dignitaries and compiled officers reports for distribution to delegates.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Ann Marie Kassel, Financial Secretary, prepared and distributed monthly membership reports, had printed all forms needed for membership and convention delegate recording, and, most important, kept accurate and up-to-date records of dues payment of all members.

She reports that as of June 30, we have 3804 members, 54 councils and 8 Junior Councils. This represents an increase of 285 members since the last Convention, or an increase of 141 members since Jan. 1, 1983! This increase is sizable, especially in light of the fact that 51 members died last year! Again, we must give accolades to C-36, Chicago and their energetic president John Paukstis, who brought their council membership up from 343 on Jan. 1, 1983 to 509 as of June 30! We could certainly use a few more John Paukstis' in our organization.

Ann Marie is grateful to all council financial secretaries for their diligence in keeping the membership current, and the Supreme Council is especially grateful to Anne Marie for her outstanding work in this ever growing job of maintaining our membership records so smoothly. In the four years Ann Marie has held this office, our membership has increased by almost 1000. Ann Marie worked closely with Gerry Mack who assumed maintenance of the VYTIS mailing list. Through the efforts of Ann Marie, Gerry, and Irene Sankus who also assisted in the turn over, the mailing list has been corrected, and updated. All members should now be getting their VYTIS at their correct addresses, duplicate issues have been reduced or eliminated, and the expense of returned VYTIS issues reduced. We again urge our "mobile" members to report address changes to Miss Mack promptly, so that she can continue to keep the list updated.

TREASURER

Treasurer Alphonse Trainis handled K of L monies efficiently and wisely. He will give a full oral report on our financial standing later in the Convention. I am happy to note again that our expenses stayed safely below our income, and we are still operating "in the black." Increased income from membership dues, donations to the Lithuanian Affairs Committee and wise use of funds by officers and committees allowed us to require use of

only a small portion of the interest earned on investments to meet our financial needs.

Your continued support of pet K of L projects, your promptness in paying dues and bringing in new members will be appreciated, and as a sign of our appreciation, we can again avoid asking for a dues increase!

TRUSTEES

Trustees Paul Binkis and Anthony Radzevich kept track of the Financial status of the K of L during the year, and audited the National Treasurer's and the National Financial Secretary's books before this convention. They also investigated possible sites for the next National Convention.

LEGAL ADVISER

Legal Adviser John Narusis filed the necessary annual K of L tax forms and performed whatever other duties were asked of him by the Supreme Council. He assisted the Supreme Council in preparing for the establishment of the Knights of Lithuania Foundation by advising how best to set it up, outlining steps needed to incorporate it, and gathering the necessary materials. If the Foundation is approved by this Convention, Mr. Narusis will take the proper steps to effect the incorporation.

VYTIS EDITOR

Editor Aldona Ryan and her staff continue to keep VYTIS alive and vibrant, as the publication prepares to enter its 70th year of existence next year. Ten issues were published since the last convention, providing readers with the opportunity to learn about Lithuanian culture, the language, Lithuania's history and the activities of its people behind the Iron Curtain and in the free world. The VYTIS staff consists of Helen Chesko, Council News Editor, Ruth Kazlauskas, Lithuanians-in-the-News Editor, Vida Gecas, Layout Editor, and Gerry Mack, Circulation Manager. H. M. Mary Lucas provides a steady stream of Lithuanian recipes, and A. Budreckis provides "Language Lore." The membership has been very faithful in submitting articles and ideas.

Aldona reports an excellent response to the Christmas Greeting campaign. That and other donations to VYTIS have contributed to keeping VYTIS overall costs down.

MID-AMERICA DISTRICT

President Vince Samaska reports that the Mid-America District held 4 meetings during the year. They had a successful "Memories of Lithuania" Banquet in February, a St. Casimir's Day Commemoration in March, and the traditional July 4 Picnic. The District's K of L Choir, directed by Faustas Strolia, and K of L Dance

Group, directed by Frank Zapolis, participated in the recent International Lithuanian Song Festival and both groups make frequent appearances in and around Chicago spreading the name of Lithuania. Newly-reorganized C-40 in East St. Louis plans a Festival in September and members of other councils in the district plan to attend.

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

Larry Janonis, MAD President, reports on another very active year for this District. The District sponsored three Conventions, in Amsterdam, Bayonne, (in conjunction with St. Casimir's Day), and Maspeth. MAD also sponsored its annual Lithuanian Festival featuring Lithuanian cultural artifacts, displays, food and program, in Maspeth, N.Y. MAD also sponsored two Leadership Workshops, in Pittston, PA and Manhattan, NY. Both workshops were well attended and successful. As a result, the District plans to continue the Workshops with modified formats and in new locations, to reach as many as possible of its members. In observance of the Year of St. Casimir, MAD plans to hold all its District Convention of the next year in parishes dedicated to St. Casimir, namely, in Pittston, Paterson, and Philadelphia.

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT

President Tom Bruzga reports that the District sponsored two Conventions, in Dayton (combined with the District Pilgrimage), and in Southfield, MI (in conjunction with the Midwest Bowling Tournament). MCD councils are active in all phases of activity, and have been generous in their donations to K of L and other Lithuanian projects, including the Scholarship, History, and Chronicle Funds, as well as the Lithuanian Legation and various parish funds.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

President Peter Bizankauskas reports that the District had two Conventions, in Athol and Bridgeport, and plans a Cultural Picnic in Fall. Its member councils have been involved in a variety of activities, including assisting with K of L Archives activities. A new council, Norwood, MA was added to the District and is flourishing.

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chairman Dr. Jack Stukas reports another very active Lithuanian Affairs year. Most of the activity is directed by the Lithuanian Affairs Bulletin, edited by Miss Bernice Aviza under Dr. Stukas' direction. The bulletin is sent to members and friends of the K of L who request it. The cost of publishing the bulletin has been offset by donations received from members and councils. The bulletin provides action items and instructions on how

and when to respond to press, etc., information about Lithuanian causes.

Two councils, C-148, Bridgeport and C-1, Brockton, while cosponsoring Feb. 16 Commemorations in their communities, collected contributions for the Lithuanian Affairs Committee as well as for other organizations, thus further aiding the Committee's work. Dr. Stukas recommends that all councils who co-sponsor Feb. 16 rallies in their communities also include the K of L Lithuanian Affairs Committee as a cause for donations by those attending.

The Lithuanian Affairs Committee cooperated with other Lithuanian organizations in obtaining the Baltic Freedom Day proclamation by President Reagan and several governors. It was active in the renewed effort to obtain a Darius-Girėnas Commemorative stamp, in the fight to obtain freedom for Rev. Svarinskas, and has participated in many other Lithuanian causes. Through the Bulletin, it has provided members considerable information about the activities of the US-OSI and its use of Soviet witnesses and documents to attack Lithuanian-American citizens by accusing them of Nazi activity, and has urged members to write to government officials explaining that the names of these Lithuanians and that of Lithuania itself are being unjustly damaged.

Personally, Dr. Stukas attended the Baltic Freedom Day Proclamation Signing Ceremony in Washington, D.C., led a Lithuanian Affairs panel at the MAD Seminar, and maintained relations with major Lithuanian organizations. He broadcasts Lithuanian Affairs items regularly on his two radio programs.

Dr. Stukas urges members to pay more attention and respond to news items about Lithuania and to send clippings promptly to him for further action. Dr. Stukas and his committee express thanks to all members who have submitted clippings and news articles about Lithuania, for use by the committee.

LITHUANIAN CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Chairman Anna Klizas Wargo maintained contact with Council and District cultural committee chairmen by mailing information on how to conduct Cultural Activity on the Council and District level. She submitted numerous Cultural articles to VYTIS. Three Districts requested and received \$100 each for presentation of Lithuanian Cultural books to local libraries. In response to reports of council cultural activity, Anna has selected prize-winners for the best activities. The awards will be made later during this convention. Anna also participated in the MAD workshop and spoke at St. Casimir's Day in Pittston.

RITUAL COMMITTEE

Chairman Helen Chesko and committee members

Magdalena Smailis and Rita Piņkus report that 25 candidates have been approved for the Fourth Degree at this Convention. During the year, 166 First Degrees, 119 Second Degrees and 71 Third degrees were awarded. The committee is currently attempting to reorganize the point system to make it more equitable, and is investigating the establishment of a degree beyond the Fourth.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman Irene Sankus reports that she sent post-Convention news to Dirva and DRAUGAS, and has sent releases during the year to the various Lithuanian papers reporting on Supreme Council plans and meetings and the President's activities. Special thanks are expressed to Mrs. Emilija Pakalniškis for her editing of the VYČIŲ VEIKLA column in DRAUGAS, and to Dale Bulvicius, who handles K of L news in DARBININKAS and Bridges. Commendations should also go to Gene Gobis, Anna Wargo, Ruth Kazlauskas and Vince Gray for their outstanding work in PR on their local levels. Irene urges all councils and districts to become more PR minded. No K of L activity should go unnoticed by the American or Lithuanian press. The world needs to know more of what we do. Irene chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate the establishment of a 5th Ritual Degree and is active in numerous other Lithuanian activities.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

1983 marks the 25th Anniversary of the first K of L Scholarship Award. The event will be appropriately commemorated during this Convention. Chairman William Piacentini has attempted to contact as many as possible of the past scholarship recipients, encouraging them to attend this convention and take an active part in it. Last year's recipients have all received their Scholarship allotments, and applications for this year's awards will be reviewed during the Convention. Secretary/Treasurer Vitalija Vaskelis has resigned from the committee and a replacement to fill her unexpired term will be elected.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman Anthony J. Mazeika reports that the K of L currently has 34 living Honorary Members, including one Archbishop, one Bishop, one priest, 17 Knights and 14 Ladies. In the history of the K of L, a total of 81 members have been elevated to Honorary Membership.

The Honorary Membership Committee will bestow Honorary Membership on Jonas Valauskas, C-147, and will present the Medal to Mary Kober, C-109, whose Honorary Membership was approved last year, but who was unable to attend the Convention to receive it for health reasons. The Committee will meet during the Convention to evaluate other candidates and to select a

replacement on the Committee for Rev Valancius, who died this past year.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

A formal dedication of the K of L Archives Room at ALKA, in Putnam, CT, was held last Oct. 16. The event was celebrated with a Blessing, wine and cheese reception and luncheon, and was attended by Supreme Council members, dignitaries, committee members and NED representatives. Archives Donor Jonas Valauskas was honored at that time and presented with a plaque as our token of appreciation. Chairman Larry Svelnis is collecting K of L records and archival materials and, with his committee, is organizing and cataloging materials received.

LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE PROPAGATION

Coordinator Algirdas Budreckis continues to foster the Lithuanian language among members with his "Lithuanian Lore" feature in VYTIS. The monthly feature has been found useful by all VYTIS readers, regardless of their level of understanding of Lithuanian. Mr. Budreckis has also translated Convention resolutions and a variety of other K of L-related articles, letters and features, and aided in the evaluation of materials being considered for publication by the K of L.

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID

Chairman Frances Petkus reports that the drive to collect \$2500 to sponsor the publication of an issue of the Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania was successful, and she will present a check in this amount to Rev. A. Contons, president of the Lithuanian American Priests' League during the Convention. With members' approval, we will continue this practice, and begin another drive immediately. Donations to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid by K of L members have been generous also.

K OF L HISTORY

Helen Shields, History Fund Chairman, reports good progress on the K of L History, both financially and editorially. Rev. W. Wolkovich has compiled considerable material already and will continue collecting memorabilia, interviewing members, and otherwise gathering data. Financially, Mr. Jonas Valauskas has reiterated his intention of sponsoring the printing of the book, and has made an initial donation of \$1000, while the rest of the organization must collect the approximately \$15,000 needed for research and writing. To date, only Honorary Members, Councils and Districts have been formally approached for donations, but approximately 75% of the sum needed has been collected or pledged! We

hope that those councils that have not yet responded will do so soon so that the drive may be completed well in advance of the 75th Anniversary. We wish to extend very special thanks to all who have thus far donated or pledged donations, but especially to Mr. Valauskas for his pledge to cover all the printing expenses, to Mr. Kazys Sipaila for his \$1000 donation, and to Alvina Luiza who donated \$1000 in memory of her late husband, Peter Luiza.

Those districts, councils or individuals who contribute at least \$75.00 will be acknowledged in the publication and will receive a complimentary copy. Contributions can be spread over a period of 5 years. The History will be published in both languages, with English as the primary one and a summary in Lithuanian. Helen Shields will be very happy to accept your donation or pledge at this Convention. Any amount will be most welcome.

YEAR OF ST. CASIMIR

Plans have begun for the proper commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the death of our Patron Saint during the year 1984, designated as "The Year of St. Casimir." Rev. Jurgelaitis is preparing special prayers for use by councils and districts at their meetings, imploring St. Casimir's aid in their deliberations and renewing their trust in him as Patron.

All Districts have agreed to conduct Convention or other events at parishes dedicated to St. Casimir, thus making the events also pilgrimages. The VYTIS staff is preparing to publish the March, 1984 issue of VYTIS as one totally devoted to St. Casimir, featuring poetry, readings and pictures about his life.

We are looking into making available to our members a ceramic statue of St. Casimir, so that all members can continue their devotion to him privately. Publicly, we urge all councils and members to join in local Holy Hours, etc., or to sponsor them, to honor St. Casimir on his feast day Mar. 4, or other times during the year.

Also, many members are planning to join other Lithuanian tourists from around the world for a Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on March 4, 1984.

Whatever your personal situation allows, we urge you also to vow to rededicate yourselves to St. Casimir, and make 1984 truly a year in which personal and public devotion to St. Casimir is increased and enhanced.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

Looking for new sources of income so that we can keep our dues low and accessible to all, especially to the young and to families, the Supreme Council is proposing the establishment of an Endowment Fund, to be called the Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. The Foundation would be made up of donations and bequests from individuals wishing to remember the K of L. Said

donations would be invested, the capital would be "untouchable", only interest would be used for K of L special projects. A basic plan for establishment of this Foundation has been set up, in the form of a resolution. A copy of the proposal will be distributed by the Resolutions Committee for your information. We urge you to read the proposal carefully, offer your ideas, and help establish this fund.

WHAT MORE, WHAT BETTER

In our attempt to assist councils in planning special meeting and commemorations, two packets were prepared by Rev. Jurgelaitis and Nancy Miro and sent to all councils. The packets explained how to commemorate, at a meeting or special event, Lithuanian Independence Day, St. Casimir's Day, Founders Day, and the Terrible Days of June. The project was successful and well-received, especially by new councils. Future plans for such packets include Lithuanian language lessons at meetings and other cultural activities.

SUMMARY

Once again, I am happy to report that "we had a very good year." Our Supreme Council officers and committee heads attended most of the meetings and were faithful in corresponding between meetings. Our successes came from cooperation and mutual respect, and from sharing ideas and work. Board members alone, however, cannot lay claim to a successful K of L year. You the members, who signed up new members, who planned cultural events, who attended meetings, district conventions, seminars and who offered ideas to your officers are the real heroes.

But let us not rest on our laurels yet. A lot of work still awaits us if we are to make and keep our organization alive, vibrant, and a leader in the work of fostering Lithuanianism and Catholicism.

As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Knights of Lithuania, let us reflect on how we can guarantee ANOTHER 70 years of activity.

We need to involve more YOUTH in our organization. Otherwise, our future is dim!

Concentrating on Junior activity is not enough. The Junior program teaches youngsters about the K of L, but what happens when these Juniors graduate to regular membership? Do we welcome them into the regular councils, or just ignore them? Do we put them to work, encourage them to plan activities for their peers, or expect them to immediately "grow old" with the rest of us? We need to take PAINSTAKING EFFORTS to make our meetings and activities attractive to youth — former juniors as well as the others in the 20-30 age group. And we need to TRUST them with offices and responsibilities.

They may do things differently than we do, but perhaps they have even better ideas. Let's give them a chance. They are our future.

We take pride in being part of a growing organization. We ARE gaining new members of all ages, but what are we doing on the local level to KEEP those members? Do we welcome them to our meetings, talk to them, involve them in our causes, or do we just stick with our closed cliques or comfortable group of friends and let newcomers shift for themselves?

And do we give our members a good reason to belong? Do our meetings reflect our Lithuanianism, with discussions of Lithuanian Affairs, culture, history, or might they be mistaken for Elks Club or CYO?

We often hear the complaint on the council or district level that we lack leaders. One year's elections frequently become carbon copies of the past year's elections. The same faces hold office year after year because "no one else can do the job as well." This can lead a council into complacency and stagnation!

Perhaps the officers themselves can turn the tide, and begin early in the year by training others to assume their offices, then stepping down and letting new blood, new ideas take hold. Working in the background while teaching someone else how to do the work can be rewarding, for you, your council or district, and the new leaders you thus foster. Let's not be afraid to take a chance. The Supreme Council rule of "Three years and out" has worked, perhaps it should become a model for districts and councils as well.

We call ourselves "Lithuanian Catholics," but do we support our LITHUANIAN parishes with attendance, donations and activity support? And do we pray for and encourage vocations to religious life among our Lithuanian youth, so that these parishes can continue to be staffed with Lithuanian priests and sisters? Our Lithuanian parishes should be the center of religious and cultural life for us. When they close, will our activity end also?

In the coming year, the year of St. Casimir, let us remember WHO we are — Lithuanian American Catholics — and renew our commitment to fostering the ideals our founding fathers set down for us, and enjoy the fruits of this commitment.

On behalf of the Supreme Council, thank you for your attention today, and your cooperation and interest all year. May our patron, St. Casimir continue to watch over us and guide us in our efforts "Dievui ir Tėvynei."

Dievas telaimina mūsų pastangas, pasiryžimus ir nutarimus darbuotis Dievo ir Tėvynės labui. Lai Gyvuoja Lietuvos Vyčiai.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta I. Stukas, National President



REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

To the 70th National Convention
Philadelphia, PA — August 18-21, 1983

Following is a summary of my activities in fulfillment of the duties of National President during the past year:

1. Scheduled and chaired three Supreme Council meetings, in Putnam, CT, Philadelphia, PA and New York, NY.

2. Was Guest speaker at C-50 St. Casimir Day Breakfast in New Haven, CT, and at Commemoration of 50th Anniversary of Darius-Girėnas Flight, in Chicago, IL, sponsored by DG American Legion Post.

3. Led Lithuanian Affairs and Officers' Workshop panels at MAD Leadership Conference Oct. 7, 1982, Pittston, PA.

4. Represented K of L at the Signing of the Baltic Freedom Day Proclamation by President Reagan at the White House. Presented Pres. Reagan a gift of amber at that time, and received gracious letter in return.

5. Represented the K of L and extended greetings at the ALTAS meeting in Chicago and at Dinner honoring Rev. J. Prunskis.

6. Appointed Dr. Leonas Kriauceliunas, Leonard Simutis, Jr. and Ann Marie Kassel as K of L representatives to ALTAS.

7. Attended and addressed conventions of the MAD in Bayonne, NJ and Maspeth, NY, MCD in Detroit, MI, and NED in Bridgeport, CT and paid courtesy visits to MAMD July 4 Picnic and MAMD Dance Group in Chicago, IL.

8. Attended and addressed Dedication of K of L Archives Room in Putnam, CT, and prepared article on the event for VYTIS. Also arranged for presentation of plaque to Mr. J. Valauskas when he was unable to attend Dedication because of ill health.

9. Formalized plans for the establishment of the

Knights of Lithuania Foundation after consultation with Legal Adviser J. Narusis, Supreme Council members and other members. Submitted preliminary information about Foundation plans for publication in VYTIS. Prepared resolution to be considered at the National Convention.

10. Responded with written greetings, to invitations to conventions of VLIKas, Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation, World Lithuaniañ Community, Inc., and others.

11. Wrote to President Reagan and Gov. Kean of NJ, thanking them for their proclamations of Lithuanian Independence Day and Baltic Freedom Day.

12. Wrote to the Holy Father and to American Conference of Bishops in the name of the K of L, asking their support of the Lithuanian Blue Army's crusade to promote the observance of First Saturday Mass and Communion for World Peace.

13. Prepared material about the K of L and our association with ALTAS in response to questions by Rev. Prunskis, for publication in DRAUGAS.

14. Kept in close contact with C-3 with respect to their plans for the 70th National Convention.

15. Kept in touch with S.C. members and leaders of various districts and councils to help and advise where needed and to solve problems as they occurred. Responded to a variety of correspondence received from K of L-ers, interested Lithuanians and other Lithuanian organizations.

I would like to sincerely thank all the members of the Supreme Council and the National Committee heads for their outstanding cooperation this past year. Their help and support as well as their diligence and interest in carrying out their duties was gratifying and made my job truly enjoyable and rewarding. Ačiū širdingai.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta I. Stukas
National President



Executive Board

**KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
EXECUTIVE BOARD
1983-1984**

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Clemsini Miller, C-141, Bridgeport

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LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID

COORDINATOR

Frances Petkus, C-96, Dayton

ARCHIVES

Longinas Svelnis, C-17, So. Boston

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Rita Pinkus, C-26 Worcest



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Georgianne Kassel, C-36 Chicago
Grazina Vaskelis, C-102 Detroit
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HERALDS OF OUR PRECIOUS HERITAGE

Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, O.P.

Historical Philadelphia, city of brotherly and sisterly love, was the scene of our 70th Anniversary Convention. This article will try to recall the highlights of the spiritual and religious activities.

The opening of the Convention took place in the oldest Catholic church in the United States — Old Saint Joseph's, with a concelebrated Mass. Principle Concelebrant was our beloved Honorary Member, Bishop Vincentas Brizgys. With him at the altar were Fr. A. Contons, president of the Lithuanian Priests' League and Fr. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P., Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor. Thirty five other concelebrating priests filled the first four pews. Present also was the Right Reverend Monsignor Frank Statkus, personal representative of His Eminence, John Cardinal Krol. Deacon Daniel Staniškis assisted the concelebrants at the altar. The first reading was read by Zofija Šakalienė (C-103 Providence). Deacon Staniškis read the Gospel. Mr. Petraitis, organist, accompanied the all K of L congregation in the singing of Lithuanian hymns.

The Convention keynote sermon was preached by Fr. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P. His theme was the title of this article.

Knights of Lithuania are "heralds of a precious heritage" — a Catholic Faith heritage through Baptism and Confirmation, an American heritage by birth, a Lithuanian heritage by ancestry. This heritage is the source and power behind our activities "For God and Country".

The highest purpose of this Convention is to raise our con-



sciousness and our convictions of the value of our Faith, our Americanism and our Lithuanian traditions. We pray to the Holy Spirit of God for light and strength: "Descend, O Power from Heaven above, strengthen the youthful spirit of the Knights" as we sing so often in our K of L hymn. Our K of L ideals inspire us to work tirelessly in heralding the message of our Christian Faith, our American aspirations of freedom and justice for all and our concern for the oppressed people of Lithuania.

To emphasize the point that our Knights of Lithuania ideals require sacrifice and even painful sacrifice, the preacher stepped down from the pulpit, went over to the altar, took up a small crucifix representing the painful sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord. Raising this on high, he "dubbed" the Convention participants "Heralds of our Precious Heritage".

"As I lower this crucifix", he explained, "imagine that the Cross of Christ touches your shoulder. When you hear the knock on the pulpit, please say "Ouch"! Three hundred voices exclaimed "Ouch!"

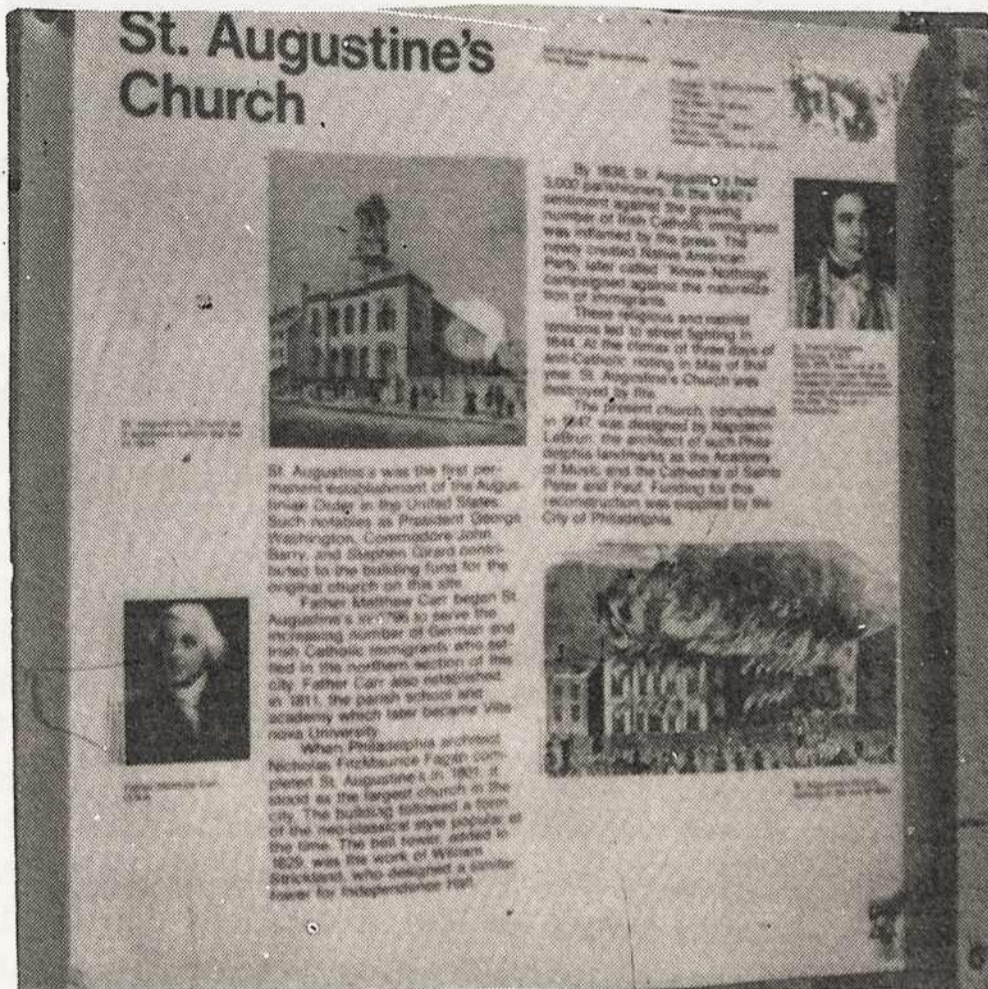
"May this symbolic gesture and your response always remind you to

be prepared to make even greater sacrifices, even painful ones, for our precious heritage."

The Offertory Procession included bearers carrying a crown and a bouquet of lilies, a reminder of the 500th Anniversary of the death of our Patron, Saint Casimir.

At the close of the Mass, before the Last Blessing, Monsignor Frank Statkus, Chancellor of the Archdiocese and personal representative of Cardinal Krol, conveyed to the Convention the warm greetings and a blessing from His Eminence. He also read a cablegram from Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, expressing his greeting, imparting the Papal Blessing and promising a remembrance in his prayers. Joyous and grateful applause echoed through the church.

On Friday, the religion conference and discussion focused upon the importance and activities of the Catholic League, the national organization for the defence of religious and civil rights of Catholics in the United States. The guest speaker was Father Peter Stravinskis, East Coast Director of the League. His animated conference was most informative, with frequent



Sign in front of St. Augustin Church



Father Eugene Wassell and Bishop Vincentas Brizgys

dashes of humor and lively examples. His suggestions for K of L activities in this area were completely in accord with the motto of the Knights of Lithuania. They provided useful and effective materials for future K of L activities and projects.

"Our basic task is to maintain Faith in God in spite of the overwhelming faith in non-God prevalent in our society."

"Our chief concerns at the present moment are pro-life action, freedom of choice in the education of our children and vigilance against gratuitous insults or mockery of our Catholic Faith, which too often appear in the media."

"Vote issues, not persons."

"We Catholics are not second rate citizens."

The Mass on Friday was offered in Saint Augustine's church "for the persecuted Church in Lithuania." Honorary Member, Father A. Contons was principle concelebrant. Also offering the Sacrifice of the Mass were Fathers A. Jurgelaitis, J. Rikteraitis, A. Janiunas, J. Andrulonis and J. Dambrauskas, MIC:

George Kisielius (C-50, New Haven) was reader. In the homily Father Contons pointed out the two meanings of "martyr": one who dies for the Faith and one who witnesses heroically his or her God given Faith by words and deeds. He recounted several examples of heroic fidelity to the Faith in present day Lithuania: the soldier, Grigas who refused to take the soldier's oath to defend the Soviet Union for reasons of conscience, and Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, exemplary priest, heroic witness to the priesthood of Christ. Tens of thousands of people from 72 parishes signed petitions requesting his release from prison, and defending him against charges that he "slandered the Soviet Union".

Lithuania is "the Land of Crosses" which express the centuries old Catholic Faith of the nation and inspire both priests and laypersons to persevere in their beliefs and act courageously in making sacrifices for Christ and his Church.

Friday evening, in a simple, but meaningful outdoor ceremony the Knights of Lithuania participated in

a "Thank you, God, for America" candlelight procession at the Liberty Bell, symbol of American freedom, hope of those unjustly deprived of freedom. Led by a U.S. Marine Color Guard, the procession made its way to the Shrine of the Liberty Bell, where K of L President, Loretta Stukas placed a wreath at the foot of the bell. Then the Color Guard and procession proceeded to an area in front of the Shrine, forming three rows of one hundred K of L'ers with lighted candles. National Spiritual Advisor said the invocation. "This bell is mute tonight, but its message resounds throughout the world. Lord, inspire us to be bell ringers by our words and deeds, being hope to those still enslaved. Loretta Stukas then read an act of Rededication: "We Catholics of Lithuanian Heritage take this occasion to reaffirm our love, loyalty and dedication to uphold the principles which our beloved Country espouses. May the light from our candles reach across the sea to our loved ones in Lithuania to let them know that we are hoping and praying that they also may know



Wreath at Liberty Bell

Photo by Cecelia Yankus

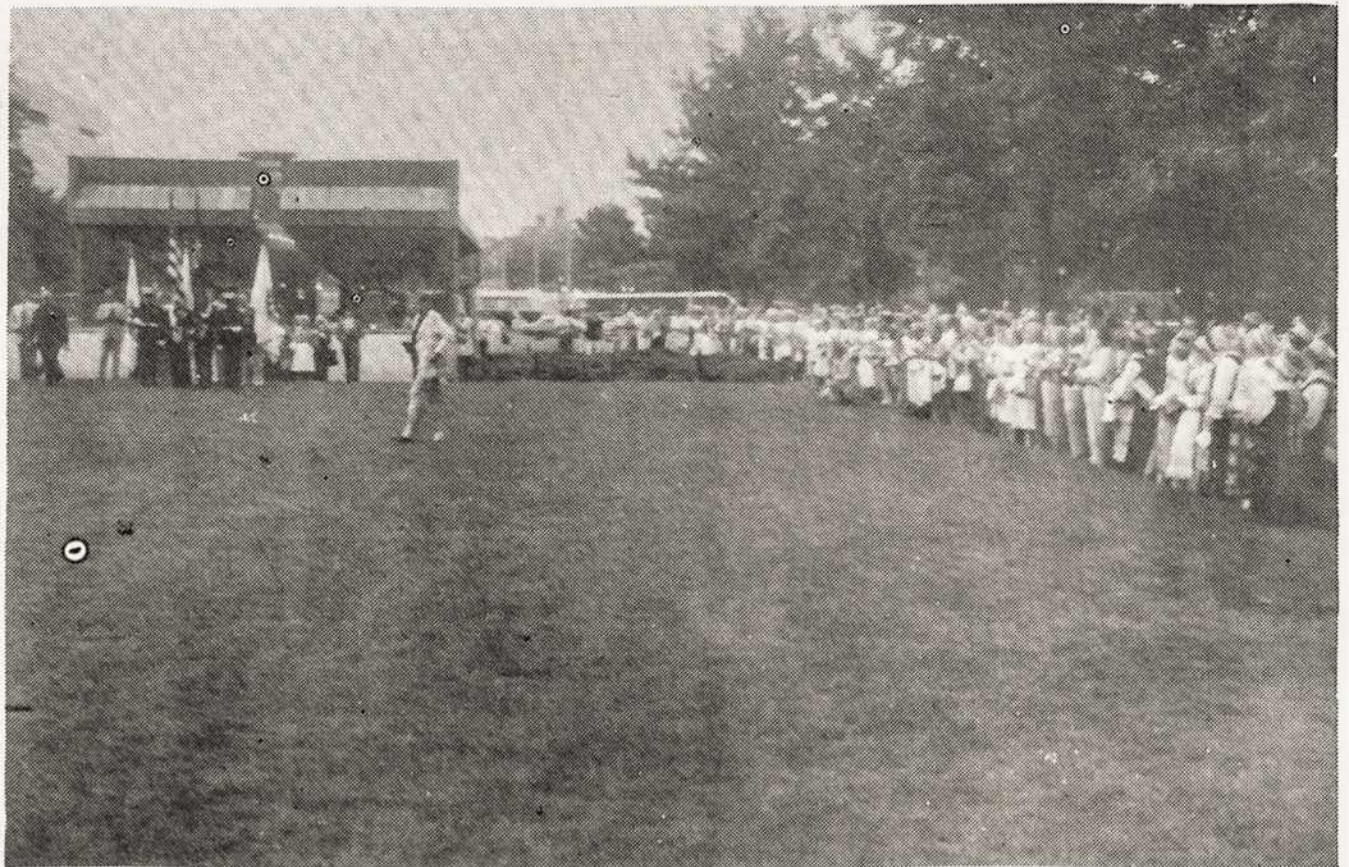
the joy of freedom in the near future.”

As the procession reformed for the return to the hotel “Marija, Marija” and “God Bless America” were sung as dusk covered the park.

Saturday’s Mass was for all our deceased members. Father A.J. Andrulonis was chief concelebrant and homilist. Sister Eugenia, CJC read the first reading. Father Andrulonis reminded us that in a Mass such as this we pray for the deceased, because we love them. But there is another dimension to our commemoration: we are reminded of their deeds and learn to love what they loved. As faithful Knights of Lithuania, they loved the ideals of the K of L and worked hard to realize them. This thought gives us added inspiration to carry on the works of the organization.

In the Offertory Procession a large portrait of the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Matulaitis was presented and a scroll containing the names of our members who died since the last Convention was placed upon the altar.

Among the Resolutions passed at the Convention were several reflecting the spiritual concerns of the



Crowd at Liberty Bell

Photo by Joe Ryan

Knights of Lithuania. These will be found in another part of this issue. They will be commented upon in future issues of the VYTIS.

At the Closing Banquet on Saturday evening Bishop V. Brizgys made several important points and suggestions, which must not be overlooked.

“You, Knights of Lithuania, have accomplished many great deeds in your history, perhaps, many more than you realize. You are of all Lithuanian organizations the one that is growing fastest. Let me suggest that you think over your achievements and list them, for example, nearly a million letters in defense of Lithuania, almost a hundred scholarships over the past 25 years. When you write to your relatives and friends, tell them about the K of L, let them know what you are doing. A friendly letter such as that will surely attract more members who will help you in your great work.

He further advised that we be careful of useless polemics—internal bickerings, which have ruined other groups. “No polemics, just exemplary deeds,” he said.

Noting that there is a great moral decline in our country, the Bishop

stated that moral decline lessens true patriotism. A nation cannot be strong civically, unless it preserves its moral strength. The Knights of Lithuania is a patriotic organization, hence it must continue to grow in moral strength.

Finally, speaking of the Year of Saint Casimir, he urged that we “present the personality of Saint Casimir to America”. Our Saint, as all Saints, have something to offer America and all the world even today.

Towards the close of the Banquet Program the Master of Ceremonies, Walter Svekla began a “This is your life” type biographical sketch. He asked the audience to stop him, when they knew the identity of the person. It did not take too long for the audience to call out a name. That person was invited to the podium. A mysterious box was opened and a “From all of us to you, Father” gift was presented in appreciation for services rendered to the Knights of Lithuania on the Supreme Council and otherwise. The recipient held up the gift, an elegant pair of bookends with a shield of Providence College on each made by Phil Carter. Taken totally by surprise, Father Jurgelaitis

could say scarcely more than "Ačiū, ačiū, ačiū."

On Sunday morning we were bussed to the beautiful Church of Saint Casimir in So. Philadelphia for the Closing Mass of Thanksgiving. First, the Fourth Degree, the Order of Saint Casimir, was conferred upon Father Eugene Wassel, pastor of the parish and about 15 worthy candidates. The new officers of the Supreme Council were sworn in. Together with Bishop Vincentas Brizgys the Concelebrants were: Monsignor Frank Statkus and Fathers Wassel, Janiunas, Jurgelaitis and Baltrashunas. Deacon Dan. Staniškis assisted at the altar. Sister Angela, CSC, read the first reading, J. Strolia the second reading and Deacon Staniskis read the Holy Gospel. The homily was preached by Father A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.

The Gospel of the day spoke of the narrow gate and the wide gate, of knocking at the gate: "Lord, Lord," and of pushing to be first. These situations face us today: a choice of a life of ease or of sacrifice; the problem of knocking at the gate, without an armload of good works and depending only on "Lord, Lord" to get us in; the dangers of pride in our K of L activities.

The Convention mottos should be the fresh starting point for a new year of K of L action: **MAY GOD HELP US ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE PROMISE!** In keeping our Baptism promises we avoid the wide gate. In fulfilling our K of L commitments we gather together good works which will mean more than simply calling out "Lord, Lord."

It was good to hear the congregation, mostly Knights of Lithuania, repeat in Lithuanian: "Tai, ką mes pasižadame, tegu Dievas padeda mums išlaikyti."

— A. A. J.



RESOLUTION

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania establish an endowment Fund, to be known as the KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION, INC. (referred to in this resolution as "the Foundation"), and that said Foundation be subject to the following rules:

1. The Foundation shall be incorporated as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in the State of Illinois.

2. The funds of the Foundation shall be derived from donations, gifts, bequests and devises made by the Knights of Lithuania members, councils, districts or other individuals or organizations.

3. The principal of said Foundation shall be held in perpetuity. Only income obtained from investment of said principal can be spent, to promote, encourage and foster the activities and community service of the Knights of Lithuania together with the upkeep of all properties belonging to the Knights of Lithuania, a not-for-profit corporation.

4. Principal of the Foundation shall be invested only in Federally Insured savings institutions, not in real estate, stock, or other investment forms.

5. Members of the Foundation shall be those individuals, councils or districts who have contributed not less than \$100.00 each. Honored Donors shall be those individuals or organizations that have donated \$1000.00 or more to the Foundation.

6. Members and Donors of the Foundation shall be recorded in a special Record Book of the Foundation, and their names shall be published in VYTIS at least every three years.

7. The Foundation shall be managed by at least five Directors, one from each district, plus the Supreme Council President. The four Directors representing the districts shall be elected at National Conventions of the Knights of Lithuania. Said Directors shall be elected to serve for four years each, in staggered terms such that one new Director is elected each year.

8. Candidates for Director of the Foundation shall be at least Third Degree members of the Knights of Lithuania. The roster of candidates for Director shall be prepared and approved by the Supreme Council of the Knights of Lithuania, for presentation to the Knights of Lithuania National Convention.

9. The Supreme Council President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Trustees elected at the 70th National Convention shall serve as pro-tem Directors of the Foundation for a period of one year or until Directors are selected, screened and elected formally.

REZOLIUCIJA DĖL LIETUVOS VYČIŲ FUNDACIJOS

LAI BŪNA NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai steigia Fundacijos fondą, kuris bus žinomas Lietuvos Vyčių Fundacijos vardu (šioje rezoliucijoje toliau žymimas, kaip „Fundacija“) ir kad vadinamoji Fundacija tvarkysis pagal sekančius potvarkius:

1. Fundacija bus inkorporuota, kaip ne pelno, atleista nuo mokesčių bendrovė Ilinojaus valstybėje.

2. Fundacijos lėšos susidarys nuo donacijų, dovanų, palikimų ir kitų devizų, kuriuos padarys Lietuvos Vyčių nariai, skyriai, apskritys ar kiti asmenys ar draugijos.

3. Šios Fundacijos pagrindinis turtas bus laikomas perpetuitetiniu pagrindu. Vien palūkanos, įgytos nuo pagrindinio turto investicijų, gali būti išleistos paskatinti, paraginti ir puoselėti Lietuvos Vyčių veiklą ir visuomeninį patarnavimą drauge su visų Lietuvos Vyčių, ne pelno organizacijos, turtų priežiūra.

4. Fundacijos pagrindinis turtas bus investuoti tik į fedarlinės valdžios apdraustas taupomasias įstaigas, ne į nekilnojamą turtą, akcijas ar kitokias investavimo formas.

5. Fundacijos nariai bus tie individai, skyriai ar apskritys, kurių aukos bus nemažiau \$100 nuo kiekvieno. Garbės aukotojais bus tie asmenys ar draugijos, kurios bus paaukojus \$1000.00 ar daugiau Fundacijai.

6. Fundacijos nariai ir aukotojai bus įrašyti į specialią Fundacijos knygą, ir jų pavardės bus paskelbtos Vytyje bent kas tris metai.

7. Fundaciją tvarkys bent 4 direktoriai, po vieną iš kiekvienos apskrities, ir visuotinis pirmininkas, kuriuos išrinks Lietuvos Vyčių Visuotiniai Seimai. Direktoriai bus renkami 4 metų kadencijai kiekvienas, kadencijos bus sueiliuotos taip, kad kasmet bus renkamas naujas direktorius.

8. Kandidatai į Fundacijos direktorius privalo būti bent Lietuvos Vyčių trečiojo laipsnio nariai. Kandidatų į direktorius sąrašą paruoš ir aprobuos Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba ir bus pasiūlytas Lietuvos Vyčių Visuotinio Seimo metu.

9. Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tojo Visuotinio Seimo išrinkti Centro Valdybos Pirmininkas, Išdininkas ir Protokolų Sekretorius, kaip ir Išdo Globėjai, tarnaus kaip direktoriai **pro tempore** Fundacijos vienerių metų laikotarpiui ar iki kol direktoriai bus parinkti, patikrinti ir formaliai išrinkti.

10. Pirmieji Fundacijos direktorių formalūs rinkimai įvyks Lietuvos Vyčių 71-mojo Visuotinio Seimo metu. Tuo metu direktoriai bus renkami šiaip: vienas direktorius ketveriems metams, vienas — trims metams, vienas — dviem metams, ir vienas vieneriems metams. Kadencijoms baigiant, direktoriai po to bus renkami keturių metų kadencijoms.

10. The first formal election of Directors of the Foundation shall take place during the 71st National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania. At that time, Directors will be elected to serve as follows: One Director for a four year term, one for a three year term, one for a two year term, one for a one year term. As the terms expire, Directors will from then on be elected to serve for four year terms.

11. Directors of the Foundation shall be concerned with the wise investment of handling of the assets of the Foundation and shall report at least twice a year to the Supreme Council, and once a year to the National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.

12. The official address of the Foundation will be that of the office of National Legal Adviser, John Narusis, who is a resident of the State of Illinois.

13. The Foundation can be dissolved only by resolution at a National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania. Such a resolution, in order to be presented to the National Convention assembly for action, must first have the approval of at least two-thirds of the active councils, then be submitted to the Supreme Council in writing prior to the opening session of the National Convention at which such a resolution is to be presented. Upon the dissolution of the Foundation, its remaining net assets shall be turned over to the Knights of Lithuania treasury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council and its Legal Adviser, John Narusis be empowered to take the necessary steps to formally incorporate the Foundation as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation in the State of Illinois, and that they set down detailed by-laws of the Foundation as required by the State of Illinois and consistent with the rules defined in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any expenses incurred in the process of incorporation be covered from donations made to the Foundation.



Linus Kojelis, Aide in the Office of Public Liaison at the White House, was a most welcome speaker at the First Session. For information, he can be contacted by writing to him directly at the White House

11. Fundacijos direktoriai tvarkys investicijas ir Fundacijos turtą ir bent dukart kasmet išduos pranešimus Centro Valdybai, ir syki į metus Lietuvos Vyčių Visuotiniam Seimui.

12. Fundacijos oficialus adresas bus Lietuvos Vyčių teisinio patarėjo, Jono Narušio, kuris yra Iliojaus Valstybės gyventojas.

13. Fundacija tegali būti likviduota tik Lietuvos Vyčių Visuotinio Seimo nutarimo keliu. Idant tokį nutarimą iškelti Seimo suvažiavime, visų pirma reikia įgyti bent dviejų trečdalių veiklių skyrių pritarimo, po to raštu įteikti Centro Valdybai prieš Visuotinio Seimo atidaromą sesiją. Fundaciją likvidavus, jos netto turto likučiai bus perduoti Lietuvos Vyčių išdui.

LAI BŪNA TAIPOGI NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdyba ir jų teisinis patarėjas Jonas Narušis įgaliojami imtis reikalingais veiksmais formaliai inkorporuoti Fundacija, kaip ne pelno, nuo mokesčių atleista bendrovė Iliojaus Valstybėje, ir kad jie surašytų detalizuotus Fundacijos nuostatus, kaip reikalauja Iliojaus Valstybė ir kad tie nuostatai būtų suderinti su šios rezoliucijos potvarkiais.

TAIPOGI NUTARTA, kad išlaidos, sudarytos yšium su inkorporavimo procesu, būtų padengtos iš aukų Fundacijai.



Linus Kojelis

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE 70th NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania celebrated their 70th Anniversary at their National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from August 17-21, 1983, and;

WHEREAS his Holiness, Pope John Paul II has conveyed his best wishes and bestowed His Apostolic Blessing upon the Knights of Lithuania and their families, and;

WHEREAS His Holiness has promised to remember the Knights of Lithuania in His prayers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania express their loving gratitude, continuing devotion, and pledge themselves to fervent prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

* * *

WHEREAS on July 26, 1983, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the *de jure* recognition of the three Baltic Republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia by the United States, President Ronald Reagan issued a strong statement reaffirming the recognition of Independence of the Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia; and

WHEREAS President Ronald Reagan directed Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick to present this statement to the Secretary General of the United Nations and requested that this statement be made an official document of the United Nations General Assembly to be circulated;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania's 70th National Convention express its sincerest thanks and appreciation to President Ronald Regan for his statement and directive.

* * *

WHEREAS the Voice of America serves as a valuable means of carrying America's message to the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS the Voice of America is listened to by our brothers and sisters in Lithuania; and

WHEREAS in order to continue effective broadcasts the Voice of America needs to replace out-dated transmitters and to hire additional engineers and technicians;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania write to President Ronald Reagan and to Senator Paul Laxalt, Chairman of the appropriations subcommittee which oversees the Voice of America expressing support for the needed modernization program of the Voice of America.

REZOLIUCIJOS

LIETUVOS VYČIŲ 70-tojo SEIMO REZOLIUCIJOS

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčiai paminėjo savo 70 metų veiklos sukaktį visuotiniame seime Filadelfijoje, Pensilvanijoje tarp 1983 m. rugpiūčio 17 ir 21 d., ir

Kadangi Jo Šventenybė, Popiežius Jonas Povilas II buvo pareiškęs savo geriausius linkėjimus ir suteikęs savo Apaštališkąjį palaiminimą Lietuvos Vyčiams ir jų šeimos nariams, ir,

Kadangi Jo Šventenybė yra pažadėjęs prisiminti Lietuvos Vyčius savo maldose,

Lai būna nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių organizacija išreiškia savo padėką su meile, nuolatinį pasišventimą ir pažada patys karštai melstis už Šventojo Tėvo intenciją.

* * *

KADANGI 1983 m. liepos 26 d. sukako JAV 61 metų sukaktis *de jure* pripažinimo trijų Pabaltijo valstybių, būtent Lietuvos, Latvijos ir Estijos, ir Jungtinių Amerikos Valstybių Prezidentas Ronaldas Reaganas paskelbė stiprų pareiškimą, pakartotinai tvirtindamas Lietuvos, Latvijos ir Estijos nepriklausomybės pripažinimą, ir

Kadangi Prezidentas Ronaldas Reaganas liepė ambasadorei Jean Kirkpatrick įteikti šį pareiškimą Jungtinių Tautų Generaliniam Sekretoriui ir paprašė, kad šis pareiškimas taptų Jungtinių Tautų Generalinės Asamblėjos oficialiu dokumentu, kuris privažo būti paskleistas visur,

Lai būna nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis seimas išreikštų savo nuoširdžiausią padėką ir įvertinimą Prezidentui Ronaldui Reaganui už jo pareiškimą ir direktyvą.

* * *

Kadangi Amerikos Balsas yra vertinga priemonė pasauliui paskelbti Amerikos idalus, ir

Kadangi mūsų broliai ir sesės Lietuvoje klausos Amerikos Balso, ir

Kadangi siekiant ištesėti Amerikos Balso transliacija reikia pakeisti pasenusius siųstuvus ir pasamdyti papildomus inžinierių ir technikų kadrus,

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai kreiptų į Prezidentą Ronaldą Reaganą ir į senatorių Paul Laxalt, JAV Senato apropriacijų pakomisės pirmininką, su pareiškimu, jog Lietuvos Vyčiai remia Amerikos Balso reikalingą sumoderninimo programą.

WHEREAS the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Accords; and

WHEREAS the arrest and imprisonment of the Reverend Alfonsas Svarinskas and Reverend Sigitas Tamkevicius by Soviet authorities constitutes a violation of their universal human rights, especially of religious freedom; and

WHEREAS Father Svarinskas and Father Tamkevicius were active in the defense of the rights of believers in the U.S.S.R.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania strongly urge the release of Father Svarinskas and Father Tamkevicius and that they be allowed to return to their parishes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin and President Yuri Andropov.

* * *

WHEREAS the present financial penalty placed on parochial school parents in the United States is unique the democracies of the world, and;

WHEREAS American democratic principles call for liberty and justice for all citizens — independently of social or economic status — in all areas of life, and;

WHEREAS Catholic social teaching requires that the exercise of fundamental human rights never be taxed or made contingent upon the ability to pay;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 70th National Convention go on record in support of tuition tax credits or similar programs that facilitate parental freedom of choice in education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body do everything possible to highlight this matter in local, state and national elections and vote accordingly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send a message of support to President Ronald Reagan for his commitment to tuition tax credit legislation and likewise urge him to take a decisive leadership role on this issue in the present session of Congress.

* * *

WHEREAS on January 13, 1983, the European Parliament passed a resolution requesting the investigation of the illegal occupation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union by the Decolonization Committee of the United Nations and;

WHEREAS the Honorable Otto von Habsburg introduced this resolution in the Parliament;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania 70th National Convention convey its sincerest appreciation to the Honorable Otto von Habsburg for his efforts on behalf of the people of the Baltic States.

Kadangi Sovietų Socialistų Respublikų Sąjunga yra Visuotinio Žmogaus Teisių Deklaracijos ir Helsinkio sanderų signatorius, ir

Kadangi kunigo Alfonso Svarinsko ir kunigo Sigito Tamkevičiaus suėmimas prie sovietų yra jų visuotinių žmogaus teisių, ypač tikišinės laisvės teisės pažeidimas, ir

Kadangi kunigas Svarinskas ir kunigas Tamkevičius buvo veiklūs SSRS ribose tikinčiųjų gynyboje,

Nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Seimas stropiai reikalauja kun. Svarinsko ir kun. Tamkevičiaus paleidimo iš kalėjimo ir jų grąžinimo į jų parapijas, ir

Taipgi nutarta, kad šios rezoliucijos nuorašai būtų nusiųsti ambasadoriui Anatolijui Dobryninui ir Prezidentui Jurijui Andropovui.

* * *

KADANGI dabartinė finansinė pabauda tėvams, kurių vaikai lanko parapijines mokyklas Jungtinėse Valstybėse, yra unikumas pasaulio demokratijose, ir

Kadangi Amerikos demokratiniai principai reikalauja, kad būtų suteikta laisvė ir teisybė visiems piliečiams, nepaisant visuomeninio ar ūkinio statuso, visose srityse, ir

Kadangi katalikų visuomeninis dėstymas reikalauja, kad pagrindinių žmogaus teisių vykdymas nebūtų apmokestinamas ar grindžiamas galimumu mokėti mokesčius,

Tenutarta, kad šis Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis seimas viešai pasisakytų, jog remia matrikuliacijos mokesčių kreditus ar panašias programas, kurios palaiko tėvų teisę ir laisvę parinkti vaikams švietimo būdą,

Taigi nutarta, kad šio greniumo dalyviai stengtųsi vietos, valstijos ar federalinių rinkimų santvarkoje pasistengti iškelti šitą reikalą viešumon,

Taigi nutarta, kad šis seimas nusiųs Prezidentui Ronaldui Reaganui paramos pareiškimą už tai, kad jis remia matrikuliacijos mokesčių kredito įstatymų projektus.

Taip pat seimas ragina Prezidentą, kad jis ištvermingai ryžtųsi imtis iniciatyvos šį klausimą iškelti šio Kongreso sesijoje.

* * *

KADANGI 1983 m. Europos Parlamentas priėmė rezoliuciją, reikalaujančią Sovietų Sąjungos neteisėtos okupacijos Pabaltijo Valstybių ištyrimo Jungtinių Tautų Sąjungos dekolonizacijos komiteto, ir

Kadangi Gerbiamasis Otonas von Habsburgas įnešė šią rezoliuciją į Europos Parlamentą,

* * *

WHEREAS the United States of America will be observing the Centennial of the Statue of Liberty National Historic Monument in 1986; and

WHEREAS a Federal Commission designated as the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission has been established for the restoration and preservation of the Statue of Liberty and to plan and implement the Centennial celebration; and

WHEREAS the Commission's goal to raise funds is to be accomplished by a nationwide people's participation; and

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania members as American citizens with a strong belief in preserving the Statue of Liberty's symbolic message of freedom consider that it should be perpetuated for the future generations; and

WHEREAS Council 112 of Manhattan, New York City, being the nearest Council to the Statue of Liberty, assumed the responsibility of initiating a three year "Save Your Pennies" fundraising drive in October 1982; and

WHEREAS at the Mid-Atlantic District meeting of March 13, 1983, the Councils approved a motion to join in the crusade to "Save Lady Liberty";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the significance of the Statue of Liberty as a National Historic Monument warrants the support of the restoration at the National level of Knights of Lithuania, and as a sign of encouragement to the nation-wide membership who are dedicated to the principles of a free nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania consider its efforts on behalf of the Statue of Liberty as a heartfelt memorial tribute to the thousands of courageous Lithuanian ancestors who settled in America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Supreme Council develop guidelines for the fundraising efforts of all Councils for this purpose.

* * *

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania's 70th National Convention commend the Lithuanian Catholic newspaper **Darbininkas** and the Franciscan Fathers, for the outstanding editorial on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Knights of Lithuania published August 19, 1983; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania's 70th National Convention express its sincerest thanks to **Darbininkas** for its continuing support of the Knights of Lithuania through the publication of articles and providing information columns on a regular basis.

Lai būna nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis visuotinis seimas pareikš savo nuoširdžiausią padėką Gerbiamajam Otonui von Habsburgui už jojo pastangas Pabaltijo valstybių žmonių labui.

* * *

Kadangi Jungtinės Amerikos Valstybės paminės Laisvės Statulos Nacionalinio istorinio paminklo šimtmetį 1986 metais, ir

Kadangi buvo sudaryti federalinė Laisvės Statulos — Ellis Salos šimtmečio komisija restauruoti ir išlaikyti Laisvės Statulą ir suplanuoti ir įgyvendinti šimtmečio sukaktuves, ir

Kadangi tos komisijos tikslas sutelkti lėšas buvo atliekamas visuotiniu žmonių prisidėjimu, ir

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčiai, kaip Amerikos piliečiai su įsitikinimu, jog reikia išlaikyti Laisvės Statulos laisvės simboliką, ryžtusi Statulą išlaikyti ateinančioms kartoms, ir

Kadangi Manhatano 12-tasis Skyrius, Niujorke, yra arčiausiai prie Laisvės Statulos ir užtat priėmė atsakomybę pradėti trijų metų „Taupykit Savo Centus“ lėšų vajų 1982 m. spalio mėn., ir

Kadangi Vidurio Atlanto Apskritis 1983 m. kovo 13 d. suvažiavimas priėmė įnešimą prisidėti prie „Save Lady Liberty“ žygio,

LAI BŪNA nutarta, kad Laisvės Statulos reikšmė kaip nacionalinis istorinis paminklas reikalauja, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai visuotinėje plotmėje remtų restauraciją, ir kaip paraginimas Lietuvos Vyčių nariams, kurie laikosi laisvos tautos principais,

TAIPOGI NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai laikytų savo pastangas Laisvės Statulos labui kaip nuoširdžia pagarbą tiems tūkstantiems lietuvių protėvių, kurie įsikūrė Amerikoje, ir

TAIPOGI LAI BŪNA NUTARTA, KAD Lietuvos Vyčių Vadovybė paruoš skyriams gaires lėšų telkimo vajui tam tikslui.

* * *

Nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas padėkos lietuvių katalikų laikraščiui **Darbininkui** ir tėvams pranciškonams už puikų vedamąjį Lietuvos Vyčių 70 metų sukakties proga 1983 m. rugpiūčio 19 d. laidoje, ir

Taipgi nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis visuotinis seimas išreikš savo nuoširdžiausią padėką **Darbininkui** už nuolatinę paramą Lietuvos Vyčiams per straipsnių ir žinučių skelbimą laikraščio skiltyse.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania's 70th National Convention express its sincerest thanks to **Draugas** for its continuing support of the Knights of Lithuania through the publication of articles on a regular basis.

* * *

WHEREAS Reverend Peter Stravinskas, Regional Director of Development for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, conducted a panel on Catholic Action and Lithuanianism at the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, and impressed upon those in attendance the importance and need of that organization to continue its efforts;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania's 70th National Convention show its support by donating a sum of \$100.00 to the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

* * *

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania have enthusiastically supported the Beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis, especially by collecting and presenting to the Holy Father over 15,000 petitions for his Beatification; and

WHEREAS the final stage of the Process depends on prayer;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Supreme Council Spiritual Advisor create plans for Phase III of our efforts, a program of prayer, to be undertaken by the Knights of Lithuania;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania make a donation of \$250.00 to the Vice-Postulator of the Process, Father Joseph Dambrauskas, M.I.C. to further the popularization of the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop George.

* * *

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania traditionally has concerned itself with the well-being of Lithuanian parishes; and

WHEREAS the number of Lithuanian priests and religious is diminishing;

BE IT RESOLVED that at all Knights of Lithuania meetings and conventions, prayers be offered for an increase of priestly and religious vocations.

* * *

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania have in the past contributed to the support of Lithuanian Religious Orders; and

WHEREAS the Lithuanian Benedictine Sisters of Bedford, New Hampshire have requested our assistance in a Greeting sent to the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania donate \$100.00 in support of the refugee Benedictine Sisters apostolate.

Nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas padėkos lietuvių katalikų laikraščiu **Draugui** ir jo vyriausiajam redaktoriui kun. Pranui Garšvai, MIC, už nepaprastą vedamąjį Lietuvos Vyčių 70 metų sukakties proga, kuris pasirodė 1983 m. rugpiūčio 13 d.

Taipgi nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas išreikš savo nuoširdžiausią padėką **Draugui** už nuolatinį straipsnių apie Lietuvos Vyčius talpinimą.

* * *

Kadangi kunigas Petras Stravinskas, Katalikų Lygos religinėms ir pilietinėms teisėms išvystyti direktorius, pravedė svarstybas apie katalikų akciją ir lietuviškumą Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tame Visuotiniame Seime, ir įtaigojo klausytojus apie tos organizacijos svarbą ir reikalingumą,

Nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas parodys savo paramą, paskirdama \$100 sumą Katalikų lygai religinėms ir pilietinėms teisėms.

* * *

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčiai entuziastiškai rėmė arkivyskupo Jurgio Matulaičio beatifikaciją, surinkdama ir įteikdama Šventajam Tėvui daugiau kaip 15.000 peticijų, prašančių jo beatifikacijos, ir

Kadangi šio proceso paskutinis etapas priklauso nuo maldos,

Nutarta, kad Vyriausiojo Skyriaus Dvasios Vadas paruoš mūsų pastangų trečiajai fazei planus, t.y. maldų programą, kurią atliktų Lietuvos Vyčiai,

Taipogi nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas paaukos proceso vicepostulatoriui kun. Juozui Dambrauskui, MIC, kad anas toliau populiarintų Pagarbaus Dievo Tarno, arkivyskupo Jurgio garbinimą.

* * *

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčiai visuomet rūpinosi lietuviškų parapijų gerove, ir kadangi lietuvių kunigų ir dvasiškių skaičius mažėja,

Nutarta, kad visuose Lietuvos Vyčių susirinkimuose ir seimuose maldos būtų sukalbėtos dvasinių pašaukimų padidėjimo intencijai.

* * *

Kadangi praeityje Lietuvos Vyčiai prisidėjo prie lietuvių religinių ordinų išlaikymo, ir

Kadangi lietuvis bendiktinės, reziduojančios Bedford, New Hampshire, paprašė paramos savo sveikinimo laiške Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tajam Seimui,

Nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai paaukos \$100 pabėgėlių Benediktinių Sesių apostolatui paremti.

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania has traditionally maintained its fidelity to the Church, its Bishops and Pastors, and;

WHEREAS the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania was held in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia,

BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention express its deep respect and obedience to His Eminence John Cardinal Krol, and thank him for his hospitality and gracious encouragement of the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania.

* * *

WHEREAS the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania was greatly honored by the participation of Linus Kojelis, Associate Director, Office of Public Liason, The White House, and;

WHEREAS this address provided the organization with specific information and effective guidelines for the implementation of the Knights of Lithuania's future activities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania extend to him its sincerest thanks.

* * *

WHEREAS THE Knights of Lithuania recognize the possibility that in the event of serious illness or some other emergency, that would not permit the National President to perform his/her duties, and it would be expected of the First Vice President to execute those duties until the following National Convention when elections would be held, and;

WHEREAS at the present time our First Vice President is designated to be in charge of Juniors, and in recent years efforts have been made to find younger candidates for this position, it is recognized that although that person may be most qualified to foster the Junior Program, he or she may lack the knowledge and experience to assume the duties of President should such emergency arise.

It is therefore proposed that the duties of the First Vice President be changed to be in charge of Membership and the duties of the Second Vice President be changed to be in charge of Juniors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that henceforth from this Convention the Constitution be changed to read:

“Article XI, Section 3.

The Vice Presidents substitute for the President when necessary. The First Vice President directs the membership drive, strives to inject new strength in the weaker councils and organize new ones. The Second Vice President is in charge of the Juniors, tries to expand their activities and organize new Junior branches. The Third Vice President directs the organizing and the activities of the Seniors.”

Article X, Section 6.

The President and the First Vice President must be at least Third Degree members.

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčiai visuomet buvo ištikimi Bažnyčiai, Jos vyskupams ir ganytojams, ir

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas įvyko Filadelfijos arkivyskupijoje,

Nutarta, kad 70-tasis Seimas išreikš savo gilią pagarbą ir paklusnumą Jo Eminencijai, Jonui Kardinolui Krolui, ir jam padėkos už jo vaišingumą ir malonų Lietuvos Vyčių idealų paskatinimą.

* * *

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tąjį Visuotinį Seimą pagerbė Baltųjų Rūmų visuomeninių ryšių padirektorius Linas Kojelis savo dalyvavimu, ir

Kadangi jo kalba mūsų organizacijai suteikė specifinę informaciją ir efektingas gaires Lietuvos Vyčių tolimesnei veiklai,

Lai būna nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas pareikš jam savo nuoširdžiausią padėką.

* * *

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčiai skaitosi su galimumu, jog dėl rimtos ligos ar kokios nors nelaimės, Centro Valdybos pirmininkas negalės vykdyti savo pareigų, ir kad tuo atveju pirmasis vicepirmininkas privalės vykdyti tas pareigas iki kol sekantis Visuotinis Seimas laikys rinkimus, ir

Kadangi šiuo metu pirmasis vicepirmininkas yra įpareigotas prižiūrėti jaunavyčių veiklą, ir pastaruoju metu buvo pastangų surasti jaunesnius kandidatus šiam postui, suprantama, kad nors toks asmuo tikėtų puoselėti Juniorų programą, tačiau jam ar jai gali stokoti žinių ir patirties perimti pirmininko pareigas krizės atveimu.

Užtat siūloma, kad pirmojo vicepirmininko pareigos būtų pakeistos, kad jis/ ji tvarkytų narystę ir kad antrajam vicepirmininkui būtų priskirta jaunavyčių priežiūra.

UŽTAT NUTARTA, kad nuo šio seimo konstitucija būtų šiaip pakeista:

„Skyrius XI, Straipsnis 3.

Vicepirmininkai pavaduoja pirmininką, kada yra reikalas. Pirmasis vicepirmininkas tvarko narių vaju, stengiasi įskiepyti naujas jėgas į silpnesnius skyrius ir organizuoja naujus skyrius. Antrasis vicepirmininkas tvarko juniorus, stengiasi išplėsti jų veiklą ir organizuoja naujus juniorų skyrius. Trečiasis vicepirmininkas tvarko sendraugių organizavimą ir veiklą.”

„Skyrius X, Straipsnis 6.

Pirmininkas ir pirmasis vicepirmininkas privalo būti bent trečiojo laipsnio nariais.”

BE IT RESOLVED that Reverend Albert J. Contons of Boston, Massachusetts be approved to fill the existing vacancy of the seven-member Honorary Membership Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania elevate the Honorary Membership Jonas Valauskas, Council 147, St. Petersburg, Florida, whose candidacy to this honor was approved by the 69th National Conention at Cleveland, Ohio.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania approve Reverend Albin F. Janiunas, Council 78, Lawrence, Massachusetts, Spiritual Adivsor of New England District of the Knights of Lithuania for candidacy to the elevation of Honorary Membership for his long, untiring and outstanding work on behalf of the organization.

BE IT RESOLVED that Article VI, Section 8 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution be changed to read:

“8. A member may be known as a Lifetime Member upon dues payment of \$150.00. The spouse of Lifetime Member may also be known as a Lifetime Member upon payment of dues in the amount of \$75.00. A special certificate shall be presented to recognize this distinction.”

WHEREAS resolutions of the National Convention often result in changes in the constitution; and

WHEREAS the published constitution does not reflect the changes that have been voted;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Supreme Council review all resolutions of National Conventions since the published constitution in 1978, and have those resolutions that affect the constitution published in an appendix to the constitution for the 1984 convention.

WHEREAS the present 1978 Constitution of the Knights of Lithuania does not distinguish matters of constitutional significance from procedural matter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Supreme Council create a committe to review the present 1978 constitution and arrange the document into appropriate components, namely, constitution and by-laws.

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania 70th National Convention was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania August 17-21, 1983, and;

NUTARTA, kad kunigas Albertas J. Contons-Kontautas iš Bostono, Massachusetts, paskirtas užimti esamą vakanciją Garbės Narių Komisijoje.

* * *

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas pakelia Joną Valauską, St. Petersburgo, Floridos 147 skyriaus narį, į garbės narius. Vyčio Jono Valausko kandidatūrą į šį paaukštinimą buvo priimta 69-tojo Visuotinio Seimo Klivlande, Ohio.

* * *

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių Naujosios Anglijos apskrities dvasios vadas ir Lawrence, Massachusetts narys kunigas Albinas F. Janiūnas būtų priimtas į kandidatus į garbės narius dėl jojo ilgalaikio, nenuilstamo ir pavyzdingo veikimo mūsų organizacijos labui.

* * *

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių Konstitucijos Skyrius VI, Straipsnis 8 būtų šiaip pakeistas:

„8. Narys gali tapti viso amžiaus nariu sumokėjęs \$150.00. Viso amžiaus nario žmona ar vyras taipogi gali tapti viso amžiaus nariu sumokėjęs \$75 suma. Ypatingas pažymėjimas bus įteiktas paženklini šį ypatingą nario kateogriją.”

* * *

KADANGI Visuotinių Seimų nutarimai dažnai pakeičia konstituciją, ir

KADANGI išspausdinta konstitucija neparodo šių nubalsuotų pakeitimų,

NUTARTA, kad Vyriausias Skyrius peržiūrės visas Visuotinių Seimų rezoliucijas nuo 1978 m., kada konstitucija buvo paskutinį kartą perspausdinta, ir nutarimus, kurie liečia konstituciją, išspausdins, kaip priedą 1984 m. seimui.

* * *

Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčių esamoji 1978 m. konstitucija neskiria konstitucinių dalykų nuo procedūrinių dalykų,

Lai būna nutarta, kad Vyriausias Skyrius paskirtą komisiją peržiūrėti dabartinę 1978 m. konstituciją ir paruoštą šį dokumentą į atitinkamas kategorijas, būtent, į konstituciją ir į nuostatus.

* * *

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas, susirinkęs Filadelfijoje, Pensilvanijoje 1983 m. rugpiūčio 17-21 d.d., ir



WHEREAS the Honorable William J. Green, Mayor of Philadelphia, has kindly proclaimed August 18, 1983 "Knights of Lithuania Day" in Philadelphia;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania express its heartfelt gratitude. This recognition not only is a source of pride for the Knights of Lithuania, but also honors all Lithuanian-Americans in this "City of Brotherly Love".

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania gathered at its 70th National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, extend its warmest gratitude to Msgr. Francis Statkus for his kind words on behalf of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. His presence was a source of motivation for those attending the Convention.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania 70th National Convention express its highest commendation and sincerest gratitude to the members of the outgoing Supreme Council. Through their efforts they stimulated the Knights of Lithuania to maintain an active and vital voice in the Lithuanian-American Community.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania 70th National Convention express its sincerest gratitude to the Convention Presidium and Committees for their untiring efforts in the conduct of the business of this Convention.

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania 70th National Convention, held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from August 17-21, 1983, was hosted by Council 3, Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS the Convention gained immeasurable pleasure and enjoyed traditional Lithuanian hospitality as a result of their arduous efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention express its profound appreciation and highest commendations to Council 3, Philadelphia on a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 70th National Convention express its gratitude to Rev. Eugene Wassel, Pastor of St. Casimir's Church, for his kind hospitality during the Convention.

KADANGI Filadelfijos burmistras William J. Green teikėsi paskelbti 1983 m. rugpiūčio 18 d. kaip „Lietuvos Vyčių dieną Filadelfijoje“,

UŽTAT LAI BŪNA NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas pareikš savo širdingą padėką. Miesto pripažinimas yra ne tiktai pasididžiavimo šaltinis Lietuvos Vyčiams, bet taipgi pagerbia visus „Broliškos Meilės Miesto“ Amerikos-lietuvius.

* * *

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčiai, suvažiuavę 70-tąjį Seimą Filadelfijoje, Pensilvanijoje, pareikš savo šilčiausius linkėjimus prelatui Francis Statkui už jo nuoširdžius žodžius Filadelfijos arkivyskupijos vardu. Jo dalyvavimas seime buvo paskata seimo dalyviams.

* * *

Nutarta, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas išreikš savo užgirimą ir nuoširdžiausią padėką buvusio Vyčiausiojo Skyriaus nariams. Per jų pastangas Lietuvos Vyčiai buvo pažadinti išlikti veikliu ir svarbiu veiksmu Amerikos lietuvių visuomenėje.

* * *

NUTARTA, kad Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas išreikš savo nuoširdžiausius linkėjimus ir padėką Seimo prezidiumui ir komisijoms už jų nenuilstamas pastangas praveisti seimo darbotvarkę.

* * *

KADANGI Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas, įvykęs Filadelfijoje, Pensilvanijoje 1983 m. rugpiūčio 17-21 d.d., buvo Filadelfijos 3 skyriaus globojamas, ir

KADANGI Seimui suteikė neįkainojamą malonumą ir tradicinį lietuvišką vaišingumą minimo skyriaus pastangas,

NUTARTA, kad 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas pareikš savo gilią padėką ir aukščiausius linkėjimus Filadelfijos 3-čiam skyriui už gerai atliktą darbą.

TAIPOGI NUTARTA, kad 70-tasis Visuotinis Seimas pareikš savo padėką kun. Eugene Wassel, Šv. Kazimiero parapijos klebonui už jo paslaugumą seimo metu.

Lietuvos atstovo, dr. S. A. Bačkio, žodis, pasakytas Lietuvos Vyčių bankete 1983 8 20 d. Philadelphijoje, minint L. V. 70 metų gyvavimo sukaktį.

Dėkoju Lietuvos Vyčių 3-čiosios kuopos pirmininkui p. Walter A. Mameniškui už pakvietimą dalyvauti Lietuvos Vyčių metinio 70-tojo Seimo šiame iškilmingame bankete. Man yra didelis malonumas ir garbė būti su Jumis. Šią progą Lietuvos Diplomatines ir Konsularines Tarnybos bei savo ir O. Bačkienės vardu nuoširdžiai sveikinu Lietuvos Vyčius, mininčius 70 metų gyvavimo sukaktį čia, Philadelphijoje, kur 1776 m. liepos 4 d. buvo paskelbta JAV nepriklausomybė ir kur yra 1753 metais nulietas istorinis amerikiečių paminklas — LAISVĖS VARPAS su įrašu: „Skelbki laisvę visoje šalyje visiems jos gyventojams.“ Ši Jūsų organizacijos 70 metų sukaktis minima šioje JAV istorinėje vietovėje teprimena visiems, kaip gražiai Lietuvos Vyčiai veikia pagal savo himno žodžius — „Ei, VYČIAI, GYVENAM TAUTAI IR BAŽNYČIAI.“ Savo veikla Lietuvos gerovei praeityje ir dabar Jūsų organizacija nusipelno Lietuvių Tautos gilią pagarbą ir dėkingumą. Tą pačią progą reiškiu taip pat Jūsų organizacijai, jos kuopoms ir paskiriems nariams nuoširdžiausią padėką už dosnias aukas Lietuvos Pasiuntinybės rūmų remonto reikalams. Tai parodo, kad Jūs Lietuvos Vyčiai dirbate ne vien savo organizacijai, bet uoliai darbuojatės ir Lietuvos reikalams. Iš Jūsų organizacijos istorijos matyti, kad Jūsų nuopelnai yra didingi dar iš to laikotarpio, kada veikėte po pirmo pasaulinio karo Tautos Fondo, Lietuvių Tautos Tarybos būruose, Lietuvių Dienose, parašų rinkime, kad JAV pripažintų Lietuvą *de jure*. Tada Jūsų organizacija daug darbavos, kreipdamasi Lietuvos reikalais į Administracijos pirmūnus, senatorius, kongresmenus, laikraščių redaktorius, žurnalistus, įtakingus amerikiečius.

Sovietų Sąjungai Lietuvą okupavus ir dabar, kada ta žiauri okupacija tebesitęsia, Jūsų organizacija šauniai veikia Lietuvos laisvės atgavimo klausimu ir gindama okupacijoje esančių lietuvių pagrindines žmogaus teises bei laisves. Jūsų veikla yra labai svarbi, nes Jūsų organizacija yra skaitlinga savo nariais, turi mėnesinį žurnalą VYTI ir Jūsų Lietuvos Reikalų Komiteto leidžiamą MONTHLY LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS BULLETIN, iš kur matyti Jūsų veikla, žygiai padėti neteisingai okupantų persekiojamiems, nubaustiems lietuviams ir Lietuvos laisvės bylai.

Neuilstamai ir tvirtai padėdami Lietuvos laisvės bylai ir nuo okupantų nukentėjusiems tautiečiams — Jūs labai gražiai rūpinatės ir lietuviškų papročių bei tradicijų palaikymu. Turėdami savo organizacijoje narius iš visų lietuvių išėivijos generacijų — Jūs propaguojate lietuvių kalbos mokymąsi, žinodami jos grožį ir mokslinę reikšmę.



Dr. Stasys Bačkis

Jūsų organizacijos 70 metų sukakties progą prisiminkime, kad Jūsų ryšiai su Lietuvos Diplomatine ir Konsularine Tarnyba yra gražūs ir reikšmingi — joje daug metų aukštas pareigas ėjo Jūsų organizacijos nariai dr. J. J. Bielskis ir dr. P. Daužvardis, o dabar p. J. Daužvardienė Chicagoje yra Lietuvos tarnyboje, kuri taip pat yra Jūsų organizacijos garbės narė.

Savo veikloje nepamirškime, kad mūsų žygiai dėl mūsų tautiečių pagrindinių teisių ir laisvių yra nuoširdžiai palaikomi Šv. Tėvo, kuris nuolat lietuviškai prakalba mūsų tautiečiams okupacijoje, primena pasauliui mūsų egzistenciją ir kuris ateinančiais metais celebruos Šv. Mišias kovo 4 d. Šv. Petro Bazilikoje, minint Šv. Kazimiero, Jūsų Patrono, 500 metų mirties sukaktį. Čia, JAV-se, nuolatos sulaukiame palankumo Lietuvos laisvės byloje ne tik iš įtakingų amerikiečių, JAV Kongreso narių, bet ir iš JAV Prezidento. Prisiminkime jo žodžius, kuriuos jis sveikindamas 1982.8.2 d. Jūsų 69-tąjį Seimą yra rašęs: „I COMMEND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE AND YOUR EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL.“ Šiomet, Prezidentas Reagan, skelbdamas Vasario 16 Dienos progą proklamaciją, joje pasakė: „WE MARK THIS ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE WITH A RENEWED HOPE THAT THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY WILL BE RESTORED TO LITHUANIA.“

Tai primindamas ir gėrėdamasis Lietuvos Vyčių veikla ir nuopelnais Lietuvai, linkiu, kad kuo geriausia sėkmė lydėtų Jūsų žygius ir veiklą.

Ilgiausių metų Lietuvos Vyčiams!



Father Jurgelaitis installs the new Supreme Council

VYČIŲ 70-tasis SEIMAS

Dr. Jokūbas Stukas

Didingas Vyčių 70-tasis seimas įvyko Philadelfijoje. Atstovų ir svečių dalyvavo suvirš trys šimtai.

Atidarymo posėdyje ketvirtadienį, rugpiūčio 18 d. visa eilė lietuviškų organizacijų atstovai sveikino seimą. Pažymėtina, kad Baltųjų Rūmų atstovas lietuvis Linas Kojelis padarė išsamų pranešimą. Po to „Aušros“ laikraščio šimtmečio minėjimas, kurį atliko radio direktorius ir aktorius Juozas Boley-Bulevičius. Kitos sesijos buvo prarastos katalikų veiklos svarstymams, kurioms vadovavo kun. Petras Stravinskas ir jaunųjų vyčių kuopų steigimo ir pagyvinimo reikalais.

Penktadienio vakarą įvyko iškilmingas vainiko padėjimas ir procesija su žvakėmis istoriniame „Laisvės Varpo“ pavilijone, netoli viešbučio. Lydimi Jungtinių Amerikos Valstybių jūreivių garbės sargybos ir dalyvių, kurių buvo apie 400 ir sugiedojo Marija, Marija. Trumpai bei įspūdingai programai vadovavo Dr. Jokūbas Stukas. Gražią, turiningą invokaciją sukalbėjo Vyčių dvasios vadas kun. Antanas

Jurgelaitis. Vyčių centro valdybos pirmininkė, Loreta Stukienė su dalyviais pasižadėjo būti ištikimi Amerikos idealams bei principams ir kovotojais už Lietuvos laisvės ir nepriklausomybės atgavimą ir taip pat visus vyčius pasveikino miesto bei valstybės pareigūnai.

Po iškilnių, vyko kultūrinis vakaras, kurio programą išpildė „Harmonijos“ jaunimo ansamblis iš New York'o, vadovaujant muzikui Viktorui Raliui. Ansamblis sužavėjo klausytojus, kurie jiems sukėlė audringas ovacijas.

Šeštadienio rytą buvo svarstoma vyčių uktūriniais klausimais ir vyčių laipsnių pakėlimus. Po pietų buvo renkama nauja centro valdyba ir jai treiems metams iš eilės vadovaus Loreta Stukienė.

Popietinėje šeštadienio sesijoje taip pat buvo priimta visa eilė rezoliucijų, kurių laikas neleido pilnai suminėti. Pažymėtina šios rezoliucijos: kad būtų sudarytas Lietuvos Vyčių Fondas, kad vyčiai daugiau prisidėtų ir paremtų, kad Arkivyskupas Jurgis Matulaitis būtų paskelbtas Šventuoju, kad skatintų daugiau kunigystei pašaukimų, vyčiuose, finansiniai paremti Katalikų Lygą religinėms ir civilinėms teismės ginti, padėkoti

valstybininkui Otto von Habsburgui už jo pastangas Europos parlamente prarasti rezoliuciją Pabaltijo tautų išlaisvinimo reikalui, reikalauti kad Amerikos Aukščiausias Teismas sugražintų konstitucinę teisę dar negimusiesiems, reikalauti, kad kunigai Svarinskas ir Tamkevičius būtų paleisti iš Sovietų darbo stovyklų, padėkoti Prez. Reagan'ui, už Pabaltijo Laisvės Dienos proklamaciją ir už jo pastangas sumoderninimui siųstuvų ir praplėsti „Amerikos Balso“ transliacijas į pavergtas tautas, piniginiai paremti vajų dėl Laisvės Statulos New York'e pataisymo.

Šeštadienio vakarą įvyko didžiulis banketas, kuriame dalyvavo apie 500 svečių. Vos tilpo didžiulėje salėje. Banketo metu svečius pasveikino Lietuvos atstovas iš Vašington'o Dr. Stasys Bačkis ir Vyskupas Vincentas Brizgys iš Čikagos. Buvo įteiktos stipendijos keliems studentams keletą tūkstančių dolerių vertės. Kadangi Lietuvos Vyčių stipendijų komisija ir fondui šiais metais sukako 25-kermetai, stipendijų ir fondų komisijos pradininkas ir ilgametis vadovas Dr. Jokūbas Stukas buvo gražiai pagerbtas ir apdovanotas menišku lietuvišku koplytstulpiu. Seime buvo perskaitytas ir Prez. Regan'o pasveikinimas. Popiežiaus Jono Pauliaus 2-rojo pasveikinimas, gautas per Kardinolo Casaroli Vašingtone buvo perskaitytas prelado Pranciškaus Statka, Kardinolo Krol atstovo, Philadelfijoje.

Sekmadienį 70-tasis Vyčių seimas buvo baigtas iškilmingom koncelebracinėm mišiom Švento Kazimiero lietuvių parapijos bažnyčioje, kurioms vadovavo Vyskupas Vincentas Brizgys.

Žodžiu šis Vyčių seimas buvo sėkmingas, darbingas ir gausus atstovų skaičiumi. Sekantis seimas bus Čikagoje, ateinančių metų rugpiūčio mėn. pabaigoje, globojant Čikagos Vyčių 36-tajai kuopai, kuri turi suvirš 500 narių, vadovaujant visuomenininkui Jonui Paukščiui.

PLENARY SESSIONS

CATHOLIC ACTION PANEL

In Philadelphia on August 19, Father Peter Stravinkas, East Coast Director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, delivered an insightful talk on the present social and political position of Lithuanian Catholics in America to the annual convention of the Knights of Lithuania. Stating that there was both good and bad news for Lithuanian Catholics in the United States, Father Stravinkas identified an increasing secularization as the main problem facing the Lithuanian community today. He outlined three main areas in which this problem has manifested itself.

First and foremost, according to Father Stravinkas, was the problem that many Lithuanian parishes were unclear as to whether the preservation of ethnicity or faith was of prime importance. While ethnicity often bolsters faith, noted the young priest, it must never replace faith as the main reason for our actions.

Another area of concern to Father Stravinkas was the growing number of Lithuanian parents who were sending their children to public schools. This problem is more serious today than in the past, according to Father Stravinkas, since today's public schools no longer teach even basic moral values. Citing an increasing tendency for Lithuanians to seek assimilation and upward mobility via public education, the Catholic League's East Coast Director called this issue the "lynch pin" for the future of the entire Lithuanian Catholic community in America.

The third area of secularization, according to Father Stravinkas, manifested itself in the lack of vocations to religious life among persons of Lithuanian heritage. Noting that this problem was intrinsically related to the tendency of Lithuanian parents not to use Catholic schools, Father Stravinkas observed that he had yet to meet a Lithuanian seminarian in his numerous visits to seminaries on the East Coast over the past three years.

The problem of secularization among Lithuanian



Catholics, in his opinion, results from and contributes to a lack of primacy for the Catholic faith in a person's life. The risks for being religious in today's society are pervasive and subtle as most of society attempts either to mock or to ignore religion.

On a more positive note, Father Stravinkas stated that there is a way of living one's faith with integrity in today's society and that it was important for one to function effectively in a democratic-pluralistic society. Father Stravinkas identified the Catholic League as a vehicle for this type of life and activity. Founded by Father Virgil Blum in 1973, the Catholic League attempts to help Catholics and others to exercise and safeguard their religious and civil rights.

Father Stravinkas identified the media as a problem area for Catholics in this regard. "When covering the Church," he said, "dissident priests and nuns are always given equal time and made to seem like 'enlightened Catholics'." The Pope, he noted, is frequently made to appear to be "a dumb Pollock" by comparison. Father Stravinkas later quoted from an article by Monsignor Francis Fleming entitled: "Catholics: Fair Game for Filmmakers." As with a family situation, he noted, it is not funny when those outside the Church ridicule her. "Catholics," he noted, "are a community of 'Rodney Dangerfields' who have yet to realize that they get no respect."

Abortion politics is another area where Catholics have difficulty, according to Father Stravinkas. Quoting from a talk by former Pro-Life Presidential Candidate Ellen McCormack, he noted that Catholics tend to vote on the basis of personalities and party loyalties rather than the issues. Hence, Catholics frequently help to elect persons who are decidedly pro-abortion.

Father Stravinkas concluded his informative talk by explaining the structure and function of the Catholic League itself. He discussed the silence of the Church in society, noting that it was excusable behind the Iron Curtain since it was forcibly imposed. In America, however, we have allowed ourselves to be silenced and must be held accountable.

Perhaps this trend was excusable for ethnic groups who had not had recent histories of oppression but, according to Father Stravinkas, Lithuanian Catholics and other Eastern Europeans could have no justification for allowing this trend to continue. Citing the need for Catholics to organize, vote on an issue basis, exert political pressure, and to praise and make demands upon politicians, Father Stravinkas reminded the crowd of over 400 that public officials were elected to serve them, not vice versa. "We must use our freedom wisely in order to preserve freedom," said Father Stravinkas, "and religious freedom is the most fundamental of them all."

W. J. Sweeney



Elinor Sluzas, Moderator of Junior Panel



Junior Panelists - Michael Mikolaitis, Casimir Yanesh and Helen Shields

JUNIORS



© "THE JUNIOR KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA" PANEL - Elinor Sluzas, First VP and Moderator, introduced the three members of the panel.

Helen Shields, HM, went into detail and told us, step by step what was necessary to form a Junior Council. She gave us suggestions on how to keep it active.

Casimir Yanish, Jr. Adviser, related his experiences in working with youth. He also pointed out that the new Jrs. By-Laws Booklet has an activities agenda for each month. This is a very important and helpful tool for Junior Advisers.

Michael Mickolaitis, Junior K of L President C100, talked to us about his thoughts and experiences as a Junior Council President.

After the presentations were made, the response from the floor, with questions and comments, was most encouraging. As long as the Junior Knights of Lithuania are an important part of our organization, we have a future.



Youth at 70th National Convention

CULTURAL PANEL

Anna Klizas Wargo

The Cultural Panel, moderated by Anna Klizas Wargo, was presented by Theresa Balcunas of Kenosha, Wisconsin, known throughout the Midwest as the "Amber Lady."

Theresa presented a very interesting program, along with a slide presentation, entitled "Valuation of Amber and Differentiating it From Imitations." The following is some of her talk.

"Hardness is considered of major importance in mineral gemstones such as diamonds, rubies and others but is less important in organic gems such as pearls, coral, jet and amber. In these relatively soft substances, characteristics such as beauty, rarity and inclusions elevate them to the rank of important minerals.

The hardness of Baltic Amber varies from 2 to 2.5 depending on specimen. Harder than gypsum, it can be scratched by calcite. Younger amber is softer. Because of the softness of amber, it is mostly shaped into beads and pendants rather than rings. For rings, amber is cut into high domed cabachons, rather than faceted and surrounded by a setting.

Specific gravity of amber is low ranging from 1.05 to 1.10 or slightly higher than water. Clearest amber is the most dense.

A simple specific gravity test will separate amber from most plastics. Place four heaping teaspoonsful of salt to eight ounces of water. The amber will float. The plastic will sink. Do not use special solvents for testing as the gravity may damage the surface of the amber.



Anna Klizas Wargo and Theresa Balcunas

When invisible ultraviolet light is directed upon it, it emits longer wave lengths than those of ultraviolet and thus places them in the portion of spectrum visible to the human eye. Common fluorescent colors of amber are blue, yellow with green, orange and white. Recent studies suggest that color of amber is often dependent on certain tree sources. Red amber could be from resin of plum and sherry species, copal amber is formed from resin of a palm tree.

Amber is insoluble in water, slightly soluble in ether and then only after a long duration. By using an ether on copal, you can differentiate it from amber. Copal and other resins will become sticky very shortly. Amber will not.

Amber is a poor conductor of heat, therefore feels warm to the touch in contrast with other stones. When rubbed briskly with a cloth or gently heated, pine odor is emitted. At between 250 to 375 degrees, it decomposes evolving white fumes and strong pine odor, if amber. Lithuanians used to throw amber into bonfires to have the nice pine smell or used amber on cook stoves to form a room deodorizer, especially after cooking.

When amber is rubbed vigorously, it will emit pine smell and remain shiny, while copal will become sticky.

Rare pine needles, fragments of wood and pollen grains have been found in amber. Many insects have been found inside amber.

Baltic amber is found around the Baltic Sea Coast. Included are artifacts, some estimated about 90 million years old.

There are imitations of amber. Celluloids is a synthetic plastic. It softens when heated and hardens when cool. It is made by treating cellulose (usually cotton) with nitric and sulfuric acid with camphor added.

To differentiate cellulose from amber; 1 — Examine swirl lines between clear and cloudy areas. The lines will be very sharp in cellulose while in amber, they will be more blended. 2 — Mold lines will be detected in cellulose. 3 — Parings can be shaved from celluloid with a knife, but genuine amber splinters or crumbles. 4 — When touched with a hot point, celluloid adheres or may flare with an emission of camphor.

Glass imitations are easily detected because of greater hardness and greater weight. Glass beads are also cold to the touch.

General recommendations to detect imitations of amber.

1. Carry a piece of amber and compare
2. Use magnifying glass to look at inclusions
3. Look for mold marks
4. Look for layers
5. Look at holes of beads for chipping or wear
6. Feel amber for warmth
7. Use flotation test

8. Touch with hot point on loose item.

Theresa had a lovely display of amber and imitations. She answered all questions and checked amber worn by several participants. Her knowledge of the Lithuanian gem is outstanding and she shared this with all present.

RITUAL PANEL

Helen Chesko

President Loretta Stukas served as moderator of the Ritual Panel at the Fourth Plenary Session.

Helen A. Chesko, Ritual Chairman, presented the revised point system for the committee, Rita Pinkus and Magdalena Smailis.

Basically the changes recommended and accepted with modification were the elimination of the classification of vice presidents on the council level and the reclassification of council and district chairmen to include Vytis correspondent, sports category and junior counselors.

More realistic point values in relation to services performed were adopted for council officers; council and district chairmen of ritual, Lithuanian affairs, cultural and public relations; host council committee for the national convention.

An ambiguous statment with reference to a committee member who participates only on the day of the function was deleted. Point credit for membership in Lithuania parish or other choirs was eliminated. Points for K of L unsalaried choir director and members on a regularly scheduled basis as well as instructor of Lithuanian classes were upgraded.

Ritual chairmen were cautioned to use discretion in awarding maximum point values for limited activity in respective areas.

A revised point system will be published in a future Vytis issue.

Irene Sankus, Chairman Ritual Ad Hoc Committee, presented the report for the committee comprised of Thomas Bruzga, Helen A. Chesko and Peter Bizanskauskas.

After discussion, the assembled delegates adopted the following program for degree requirements: First Degree to be awarded after membership of one year with three points of credit as outlined in the point system; Second Degree after two years of membership in the First Degree and 10 cumulative points; Third Degree after three years of membership in the Second Degree and 40 cumulative points; Fourth Degree after four years of membership in the Third Degree and 100 cumulative points.

By increasing points and years of membership, delegates recommended that the adopted degree program eliminates the need for a Fifth Degree.



Ritual Panel

President Stukas presented the revised point system and degree requirements to become effective October 1984 at the Fifth Plenary Session.



ROBERT CHASE
Member of C-100
Amsterdam, NY
Died on June 6, 1983.

VIOLA GRADECK
Member of C-50
New Haven, CT
Died on September 3, 1983

JULIAN GREYMAS
Member of C-3
Philadelphia, PA
Died on June 6, 1983

LAURA SENULIS
Member of C-19
Pittsburgh, PA
Died on September 10, 1983

GREETINGS

HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN II

Vatican City

RONALD REAGAN

President of the United States

ARCHBISHOP PAUL C. MARCINKUS

Vatican City

WILLIAM J. GREEN

Mayor of Philadelphia

MOST REV. VINCENTAS BRIZGYS, HM

Bishop of Kaunas, Lith. in Exile

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, IL

DR. STASYS A. BAČKIS

Charge D'Affaires of Lithuania

Washington, DC

HON. JOSEPHINE J. DAUŽVARDIS, H.M.

Consul General of Lithuania

SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION

OF LITHUANIA (VLIKAS)

Dr. Kazys Bobelis, President

by Jonas Stiklorius

WORLD LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY (PLB)

V. Kamantas, President

by Algimantas Gečys

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL, INC.

(AMERIKOS LIETUVIŲ TARYBA)

Dr. Kazys Šidlauskas

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE

USA, INC. (BENDRUOMENĖ)

Dr. Antanas Butkus, President

by Ignas Budrys, Hartford Chapter President

LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

OF AMERICA

Saulius V. Kuprys, President

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

(ATEITININKŲ FEDERACIJA)

Juozas Laučka, President

by Terese Gečienė

AMERICAN LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Julia A. Mack, President

NATIONAL LITHUANIAN SOCIETY OF

AMERICA, INC. (AMERIKOS LIETUVIŲ

TAUTINĖ SAJUNGA)

Vaclovas Mažeika, Pirmininkas

FEDERATION OF LITHUANIAN WOMEN'S

CLUBS

Marija Noreikienė, President

LITHUANIAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

(TAUTOS FONDAS)

Juozas Giedraitis, Pirmininkas

LIETUVIŲ FONDAS

Viktoras Naudžius, President

LIETUVIŲ SKAUTŲ SAJUNGA (LITHUANIAN

SCOUTS)

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OFFICIAL KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
MEMBERSHIP COUNT
AUGUST, 1983

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT



**A LETTER FROM
YOUR SPIRITUAL
ADVISOR**

BRANGŪS VYČIAI — DEAR K of L'ers,

At the close of another K of L year we look back over our activities "DIEVUI ir TĒVYNEI" with special focus on "Dievui" to examine our fidelity to our motto and our K of L ideals.

Council News in VYTIS report varied religious activities: pilgrimages, days of prayer, St. Casimir celebrations, Communion Sundays and a constant, generous cooperation with our pastors in local parish activities.

From Supreme Council to Local Councils preparations are being made to celebrate worthily the 500th Anniversary of the death of Saint Casimir, our Patron. There is growing interest among K of L'ers in the Pilgrimage to Rome in 1984.

The Year of Saint Casimir will be a logical continuation of the Year of the Lithuanian Parish. Prince though he was, Casimir loved to visit his parish church and leave alms for the poor, thus leaving us a powerful example.

Continued on page 35

	Total 1981	Total 1982	Regular	Assoc.	Clergy	Life Time	Honorary Members	Totals 1983
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT								
1 Brockton	32	33	21	1		1		23
7 Waterbury	130	124	46	9	2	2	2	61
10 Athol-Gardner	33	36	29	6	1			36
17 So Boston	155	152	146	6	4		5	161*
26 Worcester	160	155	114	6	3	1	3	127
27 Norwood	-	-	24	1	1			26
30 Westfield	28	28	21	2	1			24
50 New Haven	49	80	83	12	4	1		100
78 Lawrence	23	22	17	1	1	2		21
103 Providence	46	47	42	3	2	3		50
116 Worcester	58	60	55	4	1	1		61
135 Ansonia	66	62	47	11	2			60
141 Bridgeport	39	45	42	3	1			46
145 Holyoke	34	35	26	2	1			29
MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT								
3 Philadelphia	77	72	55	8	5		2	70
12 New York	68	73	66	4	2	6	1	79
29 Newark	135	148	124	12	1	1	3	141
41 Brooklyn	30	43	37		2	3	2	44
46 Forest City	34	35	31	5	2			38
52 Elizabeth	20	20	23		2	1	1	27
61 Patterson	30	41	38	2	4		1	45
63 LeHigh Valley	-	37	44					44
67 Bayonne	25	20	19		1			20
74 Scranton	87	81	68	8	5			81
90 Kearney	35	35	24	5	1			30
100 Amsterdam	108	106	88	11	4	1		104*
109 Great Neck	16	17	13	2	1		1	17
110 Maspeth	261	288	232	29	22	4		287
118 Hazelton	-	18	15	5	1			21
140 Syracuse	47	51	44	8				52
142 Washington	40	38	30	3	1			34
143 Pittston	56	56	52	3	1			56
144 Schuylkill Ct	187	223	204	23	13			240*
146 Harrisburg	73	57	43	7				50
147 St Petersburg	73	82	72		7	2	1	82

Concluded from page 34

		Total 1981	Total 1982	Regular	Assoc.	Clergy	Life Time	Honorary Members	Totals 1983
MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT									
19	Pittsburgh	46	47	48	1	6	2		57
25	Cleveland	45	49	48	6	3			57
Srs	Cleveland	29	28	24					24
79	Detroit	142	131	110	7	3		1	121
86	DuBois	59	55	48	17	1			66
96	Dayton	124	124	100	22	1		2	125*
102	Detroit	39	41	34	1	2		1	38
139	Detroit	19	25	25	1	1			27
149	Saginaw	29	25	17	1	1			19
MID-AMERICA DISTRICT									
5	Chicago	5	5	3	1		1		5
14	Cicero	19	26	24	1				25
36	Chicago	92	343	456	34	16	2	1	509*
Srs	Chicago	42	35	27				2	29
38	Kenosha	10	15	16					16
40	E St Louis	-	8	17					17
82	Gary	32	3	9	1	2			12
112	Chicago	212	208	201	5	3	5	3	217*
117	Darien	-	7	4		1			5
150	Kansas City	-	14	5					5
OTHER									
133S	Los Angeles	50	45	41		1	1		43
TOTALS									
	New England	865	891	713	67	24	11	10	825
	Mid-Atlantic	1402	1541	1322	135	75	18	12	1562
	Mid-Central	532	525	454	56	18	2	4	534
	Mid-America	412	661	762	42	22	8	6	840
	Other	50	45	41		1	1		43
GRAND TOTAL		3261	3663	3292	300	140	40	32	3804

Ann Marie Kassel

Ann Marie Kassel
Financial Secretary
June 30, 1983

*Juniors Council

**C-144 has 3 Juniors Councils

Our Knights of Lithuania action for the Beatification of Archbishop George Matulaitis has reached a plateau. The Holy Father has approved his heroic virtues and granted him the title of Venerable Servant of God. Now, the Church pauses, prayerfully awaiting a sign of God's favor — a miracle, before proceeding to the Beatification itself.

The Beatification process several extraordinary favors granted through his intercession, including some acceptable as miraculous. However, some of the documentation does not meet the Church's rigid standards. This means our efforts are not yet over.

Henceforth, we Knights of Lithuania (and all Lithuanians) must concentrate our activity on one thing: PRAYER. Very simply stated, we must pray for a miracle. We can all pray in general: "God, grant the miracle that would hasten the Beatification of Archbishop George, your Venerable Servant." We should also pray in particular, commending our needs, our family needs to Archbishop George, himself. We should not hesitate to entrust our "special intentions" to his care.

Since the 69th Convention your Spiritual Advisor has offered Masses for 51 Faithful Knights whom God called to Himself. As you know, whenever a Mass is said for one deceased member, all deceased members are remembered in prayer for their eternal rest and peace.

And, finally, a word of explanation why certain articles were missing from the VYTIS during the past half year, or so. They did not appear because your Spiritual Advisor was advised by his advisor (M.D.) "to slow down a bit". He did. Happily, he is getting back to normal speed again.

VYTIŠKAI,
Fr. A. A. Jurgelaitis, O.P.

LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AID REPORT



Rev. Albert Cantons, President of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests League, receives check for \$2575 from Frances Petkus for publication of one issue of the Cronicles

I am very pleased to announce that through the generosity of the members and councils we have reached our goal for the 1983 National Convention!!! My personal contribution to this project is donation of all my mailing expenses plus having the LCRA Report printed for the National Convention. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this Drive. I realize some councils and members did make donations directly to the Lithuanian Catholic Aid office and I commend them also.

A final report, with all donations from the beginning of the Drive will be printed in the VYTIS.

It has been my pleasure acting as the Supreme Council LCRA Coordinator.

INCOME	TOTAL
Total as of 7/31/82	\$1293 38
Received from the 69th National Convention:	
Prof. & Mrs. Alexander Aleksis (#7)	10.00
Antanavicius, John (#12)	10.00
Larry & Jeanne Janonis (#12)	20.00
Longinas Svelnis (#17 Srs)	10.00
Mark L. Thompson (#102)	25.00
Anna K. Wargo (#144)	10.00

Received after the National Convention:

John Antanavicius (#12)	10.00
Joseph Gudelis (#96)	25.00
Helen A. Chesko (#144)	10.00
Peter J. Kasilionis (#52)	17.00
George Kisielius (#50)	5.00
Anne Mitchell Matalavich (#52)	20.00
Leo & Trudy Meshauk (#63)	25.00
Anthony Miner (#166)	25.00
Theodore & Rita Pinkus (#26)	10.00
Anthony & Ann Radzevich (#100)	20.00
Margaret A. Senk (#141)	25.00
Helen Shields (#3)	15.00
Elinor & Annamarie Sluzas (#96)	10.00
Anna Naujelis Uzdavinis & Albert Naujelis — IM Antoinette Naujelis (#19)	100.00
Helen Venis — IM John Medelis (brother) (#110)	15.00
Anna K. Wargo (#144)	10.00
Joseph & Ann White (#17 Srs)	25.00
Joseph & Jo Zukas (#109)	12.00
NAMD	50.00
MCD	25.00
NED	100.00
C #26 Worcester	25.00
C #36	35.00
C #61 Patterson	25.00
C #78 Lawrence	5.00
C #86 DuBois	100.00
C #96 Dayton	39.50
C #100 Amsterdam	100.25
C #110 Maspeth	100.00
C #116 Worcester — IM Dottie Sinkeviches' mother, Sophie	5.00
C #140 Syracuse	50.00
C #146 Harrisburg	25.00
Bank Interest	94.30
Grand Total 7/1/83	\$2536.43

Frances R. Petkus
LCRA Coordinator

VYTIS CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Wish all of your K of L friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in the December issue of VYTIS. Mail your greetings or donation to:

Aldona Ryan, Editor
6591 McEwen Road
Centerville, Ohio 45459

Donations:	Full page	\$100
	1/2 page	50
	1/4 page	35
	1/8 page	25
	Patron	10
	Well-wisher	2

REPORT OF LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS BULLETIN. Edited by Bernice Aviza, 9 monthly issues have been sent to those members and Lithuanian leaders/organizations who have indicated they wish to receive it, also to those persons who have sent in a donation to support it and to local Council or District Lithuanian Affairs Committee chairpersons. (A \$5.00 annual donation has been suggested to cover printing and mailing costs) . . . It must be emphasized, again, that this is not simply a newsletter . . . it is a Bulletin requiring action on the part of the recipient, and is directed principally to members and friends of our organization. It is not intended for general distribution. Over 200 bulletins are currently being sent out. The mailing list will be continually monitored and revised. It is well received.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT. We received a check for \$61.50 toward the expenses of Lithuanian Affairs Committee work from the sponsors of the Feb. 16th Independence commemoration in Bridgeport Conn., which was co-sponsored by Council 141, and the local Lithuanian Community Chapter. This is the second year that C-141 has come through for us! **Dr. Peter Bizinkauskas**, of Brockton, Mass. sent us checks totalling \$115.00, as his local Council's share of funds collected from the Feb. 16th minėjimas held in cooperation with the local Lithuanian Council Chapter. Other Councils and Districts, co-sponsoring or organizing Feb. 16th or similar functions, should include our Lithuanian Affairs Committee when allocating donations or proceeds.

"FRIEND OF LITHUANIA" AWARD. Two names for this year, were given to the Supreme Council for consideration for the Rev. John Jutt K of L "Friend of Lithuania" award. Unfortunately, although an invitation was forwarded many months in advance, either candidate could not attend our Convention Banquet to personally receive the award. As this is a traditional requirement, none will be made again this year.

RADIO. Knights of Lithuania — Lithuanian Affairs Committee articles and news items continue to be regularly broadcast each week on the "Memories of Lithuania" radio programs, broadcast on WEVD, New York, also on the "Music of Lithuania" programs, aired over WSOU — radio service of Seton Hall University, So. Orange, N.J. Your Chairman is host and commentator for both, and comments regularly on activities and projects of the K of L.

REPRESENTATIVE. Represented the K of L as Chairman of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee, together with our National President, Loretta Stukas, at the Baltic Freedom Day Proclamation ceremonies at the White House, in Washington, last June.



Dr. Jack Stukas was honored at the Saturday Banquet for his countless efforts for the K of L. Elinor Sluzas made the presentation. Also shown seated: Walter Svekla and Walter Mamameniskis, C-3

ACTION. Your Chairman was instrumental in composing and obtaining a Proclamation from the Governor of New Jersey, Hon. Thomas Kean, for Feb. 16th — Lithuanian Independence Day, also cooperated in obtaining a Proclamation for Baltic Freedom Day in New Jersey. The Newark Star-Ledger printed his editorial "The Lithuanian Quest for Freedom" on Feb. 26th. Through the Bulletin, we have been very active in our cooperation with other Lithuanian organizations in obtaining Baltic Freedom Day proclamations by President Reagan and governors of various states. We continue to press for a Darius-Girėnas commemorative stamp, the release of Father Svarinkas from imprisonment in a Soviet labor camp, and other dissidents and freedom fighters as well. We demand that the OSI agency of the U.S. government cease engaging the services of Soviet agents and utilizing false soviet documents in their accusations against former Lithuanian, other Baltic and Ukrainian nationals of collaboration with the Nazis during their occupation of their lands. We have also sought to have maps of the U.S. government and private organizations delineate the boundaries of the occupied Baltic states, and protested the use of slave labor in the Soviet pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe.

ARTICLES & LETTERS. Not only members of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee of various Councils and Districts, but every member of the K of L should help by regularly clipping news items, also writing letters and articles on Lithuania and Lithuanians to local media. Clippings and copies of letters and responses should be forwarded to us directly, also to your Lithuanian Affairs Committee District and Council chairpersons. Every

Knight or Lady should consider it his or her duty to write, thank, protest and correct items and stories concerning Lithuania and Lithuanians. Reports should be regularly made on Council, District and National levels, on the numbers of letters sent, responses received, signatures obtained on petitions, etc. These reports are essential!

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT. As Chairlady of the MAD Lithuanian Affairs Committee, also Editor of our Bulletin **Miss Bernice Aviza** continues to do an excellent job. Each issue is interesting, timely and significant, and calls for quick reaction. In her report as Chairlady, she has documented the many petitions circulated and replies received from her MAD District urging the issuance of a Darius-Girėnas stamp, and to the Vatican requesting a Vatican stamp be issued on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the death of St. Casimir. Other issues acted on by Councils in the District include: Marija Jurgutis and other families in the Soviet Union being denied the right to emigrate; use of slave labor on the Siberian pipeline, appeals for the release of Skuodis and his family, religious persecution in Lithuania. There were numerous Lithuanian Independence Day activities, participation in international fairs and festivals, Captive Nations programs, etc. Bernice Aviza's personal activities report, which covers five single-spaced pages, is an indication of her innate capabilities, perseverance and dedication to our "cause."

MID-AMERICA DISTRICT. **Mrs. Ruth Kazlauskas**, Chairlady, has not received reports from other Councils in Chicago, save her own, C-36. She reports that thousands of signatures were obtained and forwarded to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, calling for the issuance of a Darius-Girėnas stamp. Also many letters were written on this, also on investigations of alleged Nazi war criminals, Maria Jurgutis and other separated families in Lithuania, a Vatican stamp to honor St. Casimir, Irena Skuodis' appeal to President Reagan, on Sen. Percy's article regarding the dismal human rights record of the U.S.S.R., congratulating Cong. Derwinski on his nomination for a position in the State Department, Lithuanian Independence Day, and Baltic Freedom Day. In addition, countless letters were written to the news media on Lithuanian Affairs. All postage expenses attributed to the District on Lithuanian Affairs have been donated by Ruth Kazlauskas. Of special note is the Darius-Girėnas essay contest, sponsored by C-36, in conjunction with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of their flight. Two \$100. savings bonds were presented to the winners at the mammoth rally held in Chicago at the monument on July 4th. **Ruth Kazlauskas** recommends, that each District should receive at least one copy of the Bulletin. Also, District chairpersons should follow-up monthly by corresponding with Council Presidents or Lithuanian Affairs chairpersons, on action being taken

on letter writing requested in the Bulletins. In addition, reports should be given by each Council monthly, on how many letters have been written, what subject, to whom, replies received.

NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT. Chairperson, **Marion Hobit**, C-78 reports, that Councils have been encouraged to collect names on petitions for an issuance of a Darius-Girėnas stamp, write in behalf of Vytautas Skuodis, and on other causes mentioned in the Bulletin. Councils have participated in local ethnic celebrations, Lithuanian Independence Day observances, Captive Nations commemorations, St. Casimir's Feast Day affairs.

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT. No reports were received from **Marie Kase** or **Stephanie Rastikis**. However, **Tom Bruzga**, District President reports that a number of councils have written letters and signed petitions for the issuance of a Darius-Girėnas stamp. **Ben Bruzga**, Lithuanian Affairs Chairman of DuBois C-86, was instrumental in gathering 3000 signatures on petition forms for the stamp. Petitions were also sent by Councils to Archbishop Marcinkus in the Vatican, requesting a stamp in honor of St. Casimir be issued. Many letters were also sent to various politicians, regarding the plight of Vytautas Skuodis.

Aldona Ryan, Editor of Vytis, informs us that C-96 for the second time completed a campaign for the Darius-Girėnas stamp. Five pages of names were sent with her letter to the Citizen's Advisory Committee the first time, and new petitions were gathered and forwarded a second time.

Joanna Gilbert, President of C-146, Harrisburg, Pa., gathered 281 signatures on the petition of a Darius-Girėnas Stamp, and forwarded them with a covering letter to William F. Bolger, Postmaster General of the U.S.

Bernice Skirius, Chairperson for Lithuanian Affairs in her Council in Los Angeles, Calif., tells us that 50 letters were sent, and 500 signatures gathered for the Darius-Girėnas stamp.

Annie Mitchell, Honorary Member, C-52, Elizabeth, N.J. sent in two sheets of signatures on the petition for the Darius-Girėnas stamp, with a covering letter to the Postmaster General.

ADDITIONAL PLAUDITS . . . Thanks and richly deserved credit must be given to the following persons who have done a great deal this past year in Lithuanian Affairs work: —

Helen V. Kulber, President, C-41, Brooklyn. She continues to be most active, representing the K of L on Captive Nations Committees and demonstrations in New York, also at other functions. She continues to represent the Lithuanians at the United Nations — (NGO) — non-governmental organizational meetings, also on numerous cultural, civic and social committees in the Greater New

York area. She continues to write many letters in behalf of Lithuania and Lithuanians to the media and to governmental officials at all levels. She has been active for many years also in BATUN — Baltic Appeal to the United Nations group.

Gene Gobis, C-100, Amsterdam, N.Y. Continues to write letters, gather signatures on petitions, clip articles from the media for the Bulletin, and correspond in our behalf with Congressman S. Stratton, her personal friend. She outdistances all others!

Numerous clippings, petitions, etc., have been regularly sent in to your National Chairman by: **Sabina Klatt, Ruth Kazlauskas, Mrs. N. Ruggles, Tom Bruzga, Mrs. J. Beleckas, Larry & Jeanne Janonis, M. Pietz, Leonidas Galinskas, Anthony Young, S. Rastikis, Dr. Denis Mazeika, Marie Kase, Marie Laske, Helen Kulber, Vince Gray-Grazulis, Mr. & Mrs. J. Zukas, Larry Svelnis, Ann Bender, J. White, Magdalen Smailis, J. Jezulinas, Katherine Cravetts, Bernice Mikatavage, Albinas Zukauskas.** Hope they keep it up!

FUTURE PLANS. We hope to revive a system of awards and presentations to those Knights and Ladies who are outstanding in their work and activities for "the cause." When submitting news clippings about Lithuania, please include: date, name and address of publication. News clippings about Lithuanians in the news should be forwarded to **Mrs. Ruth Kazlauskas**, for her column in Vytis magazine. Her address is: 2453 W. 45th Pl., Chicago, IL 60632.

We hope to have a meaningful, action panel at the 1984 convention!

COOPERATION. Your Chairman continues to cooperate with other Lithuanian organizations engaged in the fight for Lithuanian freedom: Lithuanian American Council and its Information Service; Lithuanian American Community, Lithuanian Information Service in New York, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Joint Baltic American National Committee in Washington, Baltic Freedom League in Los Angeles, and the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania, in Washington, of which your Chairman is Vice-President for relations with the non-Lithuanian press.

DONATIONS WELCOMED. It is hoped that Councils, Districts and individual members will make it a habit to regularly donate to our Lithuanian Affairs Committee, so that we can make it a more viable and effective tool in the fight for Lithuanian freedom. We also want to make this Committee self-sustaining, and not dependent on the meager income of the Supreme Council for sustenance.

AČIŪ VISIEMS! I am very grateful to all who have contributed so much, to a most fruitful year of work in Lithuanian Affairs. A special word of thanks, again, to **Miss Bernice Aviza**, who not only has contributed so

much in time and effort to the publication of our Bulletin, but also paid-donated the April, 1983 issue, in memory of Rev. Stasys Yla.

It is my continued hope that we will be joined in our work by other dedicated Knights and Ladies in increasing numbers in the months and years ahead.

Vytiškai Jūsų,
Prof. Jack J. Stukas, Ph.D.
Chairman



REPORT OF THE KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Knights of Lithuania Archives Room was completed in May and dedicated October 16, 1982. During the past fiscal year we made seven trips to Putnam sorted and listed material, now the second phase is typing information on 3" x 5" cards and preparing an index file. The file on Ritual degree status of members and degree point system must be updated. The Archives Committee is seeking volunteers for typing up information on 3" x 5" cards and listing in set category for filing. The Ritual Point System must include volunteer workers for the Knights of Lithuania Archives.

The Knights of Lithuania Archives Committee consists of the following members:

Alexander Akule 20 Summer Drive Saugus, Ma. 01996

Teresa Trainis 215 Jefferson Street Bridgeport, CT 06432

Longinas Svelnis 43 Gage Street Needham, Ma, 02192
Tel. 617-444-7499

Joseph White 427 East Seventh Street South Boston Ma. 02127

Material for Knights of Lithuania Archives should be addressed as follows:

Knights of Lithuania Archives
c/o ALKA
P.O. Box 608
Putnam, CT. 06260

Vytiškai,
Longinas Svelnis
Knights of Lithuania
Archives Chairman



Now that the 70th Convention is a matter of history and after Labor Day everyone is gearing up for busy cultural and social season, it is time to write letters: letters of thanks, remembrance, invitations, and announcements. How about writing them in Lithuanian? **Parašyk laišką lietuviškai!**

For starters in lieu of a covering letter, I am incorporating my message to our VYTIS editor in this article:

Quincy, 1983.IX.2.

Poniai Aldonai Ryan
VYČIO Redaktorei
Dayton, Ohio

Gerbiamoji,

Tikiuos, kad laimingai grįžote į namus po vyčių seimo. Buvo labai malonu pabendrauti.

Pradedame naują veiklos sezoną. Ta proga Jums siunčiu keletą straipsnių iš „Language Lore“ serijos.

Linkiu Jums tolimesnio pasisekimo kaip VYČIO redaktore!

Su gilia pagarba,
Algirdas Budreckis
LV Lietuvių Kalbos Koordinatorius.

In translation the letter reads:

Quincy, September 2, 1983

Mrs. Aldona Ryan
Editor of VYTIS
Dayton, Ohio

Most Esteemed,

I trust that you returned home safely (fortunately) after the Knights' Convention. It was a pleasure to socialize with you.

We are commencing a new season of activities. On this occasion I am sending you several articles for the series "Language Lore."

I wish you continued success as editor of VYTIS!

With profound respect
(signature and title)

LANGUAGE LORE: IT'S TIME TO WRITE LETTERS!

Dr. Algirdas Budreckis

This simulated letter is a sample of letter writing in Lithuanian which follows an established pattern. Let's briefly analyze the format. On top the writer places his address in three lines: street address, town and state, and date. Lithuanian does the same. However one could use an abbreviated form: one line with town or city in the nominative case) followed by year, month, and date. Remember Lithuanian thinking goes from the general to the specific. The date could be written out: 1983 metų rugsėjo mėn. 2 diena. The year and month are written out in the genitive case.

The addressee is addressed in the dative case, because the question asked is KAM rašoma? and answered: poniai Aldonai. The same holds for her title VYČIO Redaktorei which is written on the next line. The address then follows.

The third part of the letter consists of the Dear Sir or Dear Madam part (Gerbiamasis or Gerbiamoji). You will note that this is written using the nominative form of definitive adjectives (įvardžuuotinis būdvardis). If the address is familiar, the vocative case may be used: Mielas Jonai! (Dear John).

The body of the letter is routine, followed by a polite ending that takes the instrumental case: With Respect: Su pagarba. The signature and title that follow are in the nominative.

Let's take a look at the structure of four typical letters that you may be writing this season;

The Invitation — Kvietimas

Niujorkas, 1983 m. rugsėjo 10 d.

Gydytojui Antanui Petrauskui
99 E. 117 Str.
New Yrok

Gerbiamasis,

Maloniai Tamstą kviečiu atsilankyti į Aušros 100 metų sukakties minėjimą, kuris įvyks 1983 m. spalio 10 d. 7 val. popiet Aušros Vartų Parapijos salėje.

Su tikra pagarba
Edmundas Vaičius

Programos Komiteto Pirmininkas

Again please note that at the top is the city, year, month and date of the letter. The addressee (a fictitious Dr. Petrauskas) is addressed in the dative. Dear Sir follows. The letter invites him to the AUŠRA Minėjimas

— commemoration which will take place on: the year, the month, the date, the hour. (Popiet means p.m.) and finally the location. Salutations follow with the writer's name and title.

An Announcement — Pranešimas

Čikaga, 1984.I.25.

Ponui Jurgiui Norbutui
66-66 W. 66th Ave.
Chicago, Ill.

Gerbiamasis,

Š.m. vasario 8 d. 2 val. 30 min. p.p. Marquette Parke šaukiamasis steigiamasis Lietuvių Šeimotyro Draugijos suvažiavimas. Darbotvarkė: 1) LSD organizacinės komisijos pranešimas, 2) įstatų svarstymas, 3) valdomųjų organų rinkimai ir 4) einamieji reikalai.

Su pagarba
LSD Organizacinė Komisija

Skipping introductions, the body of the announcement reads: "This year, on February 8 at 2:30 p.m. in Marquette Park a meeting is called to establish the Lithuanian Genealogical Society. The agenda is 1) LGS organizers' committee report, 2) discussion on by-laws, 3) election of officers, and 4) old business."

You will note that in this type of letter Š.m. (Šių metų) can be substituted for the year. Also once the organization is identified, it can be referred to abbreviations or acronyms. Following logical progression after the month, the date and the hour, you will note that minutes follow: 2:30 p.m. is written — 2 val. 30 min. popiet (or p.p.).

The Thank You Letter — Padėka

Watchung, 1983.X.15.

Gerb. Povilui Strazdauskui
R.F.D. 2
Leaping Leopard, PA

Mielas Tautieti,

Mes labai džiaugiamės, kad Jūs galėjote iš savo kuklių išteklių paskirti Lietuvos Vyčių Fundacijai 50 dolerių auką. Už tai nuoširdžiai dėkojame ir linkime Jums geriausios sėkmės.

Su didžia pagarba
LV Fundacijos Direktorai
(signatures)

You will note that if the person is a stranger, but a Lithuanian of good will, you can address him in the vocative as: "Mielas Tautieti", i.e., Dear Fellow Lithuanian. In addressing K. of L'ers you can say: Mielas Vyti or Miela Vyte (fem.).

Since many of us will be writing thank you letters to financial contributors, the model letter cited above will be translated so that you could get the gist of polite Lithuanian:

Dear Fellow Lithuanian,

We are very pleased that you were able to donate to the Knights of Lithuania Foundation a sum of fifty dollars from your humble means. We offer our heartfelt thanks and wish you the best of luck.

Very sincerely yours

The Request — Prašymas

Ponui Maironio Lituaništinės Mokyklos Direktoriui
Vytauto Atėjūno,
P.O. Box 77
McKees Rocks, PA

PRAŠYMAS

Prašau Poną Direktorių priimti mano sūnų Robertą Atėjūną, pradedantį McKees Rocks pradinę mokyklą, į Tamstos vadovaujamos mokyklos skyrių lietuviškai nemokančiųjų.

Priedai:

1. gimimo metrika,
2. McKees Rocks pradinės mokyklos priėmimo pažymėjimas.

Vytautas Atėjūnas

Pitsburgas, 1983.IX.6.

The formal request is a rather stilted, bureaucratic form. Of course, Lithuanian Saturday Schools are not so formalistic on admittance anymore. However this hypothetical request by a parent that his son be admitted to the McKees Rocks Lithuanian Saturday School shows the elements of formal requests in writing.

The director is addressed at first in the dative case (KAM?). The appellant's name follows in the genitive case (because the request reads THE REQUEST OF SO-AND-SO), followed in turn by his address. Then comes the title: PRAŠYMAS — REQUEST (always in capitals). The actual request follows. The appellant gives his name and signature and below that comes the city or town where he wrote the request and the date thereof.

In beginning and ending letters in Lithuanian, the following phrases could be useful:

Dear Sir — Gerbiamasis

Dear Madam — Gerbiamoji

Dear Mr. — Gerbiamasis pone ar Gerbiamasis Tamsta

Dear Mrs. — Gerbiamoji ponia ar Gerbiamoji Tamsta

Dear Miss — Gerbiamoji panele

Most Esteemed — Didžiai Gerbiamasis

Most Esteemed — Didžiai Gerbiamoji (fem.)

Yours sincerely — Su pagarba

Yours affectionately — Jūsų mylintys

His Excellency — Jo Ekscelencija

Sir! — Pone or Tamsta

the host — šeimininkas

the manager — vedėjas

We get letters...

Cardinal Krol
222 North 17th
Philadelphia, Pa

The Holy Father was pleased to be informed of the Seventieth annual Congress of the Knights of Lithuania and he offers his warm greetings and cordial good wishes to all the members of this esteemed fraternal organization meeting in Philadelphia. His Holiness prays that this event will be an occasion for Lithuanian emigrants to forge even stronger bonds of unity and mutual solidarity based on their common ethnic origin and shared cultural heritage. In the love and peace of Christ our Savior His Holiness willingly imparts His Apostolic Blessing which He extends to the families and loved ones of all present at assembly.

Cardinal Casaroli

Dear Brother and Sister Vyčiai:

Nuoširdūs sveikinimai Lietuvos Vyčių Seimo atstovams ir dalyviams!

Sincere greetings to the Knights of Lithuania delegates and participants of this Convention!

The Knights of Lithuania are to be congratulated and commended for your diverse activities and endeavors, particularly for your efforts to help restore independence and freedom to soviet-enslaved Lithuania and her suffering people.

May the Vytiškas spirit of the Convention revitalize and inspire you to greater incentives and to your commitment to serve God and Country.

With all best wishes,

Vytiškai,
Josephine J. Daužvardis
Consul General of Lithuania
Honorary Member

White House DC
The Knights of Lithuania 70th National Convention
Attn: Mrs. Loretta I. Stukas, Dlr Dont Dwr
Holiday Inn
Independence Mall
4th and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

I am delighted to send warmest greetings to those who gather for the 70th annual Convention of the Knights of Lithuania.

This occasion provides me with a welcome opportunity to commend the important contributions Americans of Lithuanian ancestry have made to American life and society. Your members demonstrate a particular devotion to moral and religious values that helps preserve the cultural traditions of our forefathers. Lithuanian Americans are among our most productive and patriotic citizens.

Americans of all backgrounds can take pride in knowing that groups such as yours work to strengthen this nation by fostering a respect for our ethnic heritage.

You have my very best wishes for an enjoyable and productive convention and for the future.

Sincerely,
Ronald Reagan

Gerb. p. Lorettai Stukienei,
Lietuvos Vyčių Centro Valdybos Pirmininkei

Gerbiama ir Miela p. Pirmininke,

Negalėdamas dalyvauti Lietuvos Vyčių 70-tame seime, maloniai prašau perduoti seimo dalyviams mūsų visų lietuvių pranciškonų nuoširdžiausius sveikinimus ir geriausius linkėjimus. Mes visuomet nuoširdžiai įvertinome Lietuvos Vyčių gražią ir prasmingą veiklą ir didžiuojamės, kad visa eilė mūsų pranciškonų priklauso Jūsų garbingai organizacijai.

Sėkmės ir Dievo palaimos!

Su gilia pagarba vytiškai Jūsų,
Tėv. Paulius Baltakis, OFM
Pranciškonų provincijolas

LANGUAGE LORE - continued

the chairman — pirmininkas

the secretary — sekretorius

the editor — redaktorius

Yours obediently — Jūsų klusnus

Your obedient servant — Tamstos paklusnus tarnas

Yours faithfully — Jūsų ištikimas

Your affectionate friend — Tavo mylintys draugas

Cordially yours — Širdingai Jūsų

To the Consul General — Generaliniam Konsului

Note that the formal way of saying "Yours" is Jūsų (which is the plural you as well as the polite singular you). Tamsta is semi-formal and can be used when addressing someone you know well. Use "Tavo" only with persons with whom you have the most friendly and familiar relationships. It is also a form that can be used when addressing children, brothers and sisters, cousins, and buddies. It can also be used in addressing parents with whom you have good relations. When addressing formal letters to officers of organizations use the formal "Jūs" and "Jūsų".

Algirdas Budreckis

MANDATE REPORT

Ann Marie Kassel

SUPREME COUNCIL

Spiritual Advisor — Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis OP C-103
 President — Loretta Stukas HM, C-29
 First Vice-President — Elinor Sluzas, C-96
 Second Vice-President — Elsie Kosmisky, C-144
 Third Vice-President — Frank Petrauskas, C-140
 Recording Secretary — Nancy Pawasauskas Miro, C-141
 Financial Secretary — Ann Marie Kassel, C-36
 Treasurer — Alphonse Trainis, C-141
 Trustees — Anthony Radzevich, C-100 and Paul Binkis, C-112
 Vytis Editor — Aldona Ryan, C-96
 Mid-Atlantic District President — Larry Janonis, HM C-12
 Mid-Central District President — Thomas Bruzga, C-86
 New England District President — Dr. Peter Bizankauskas, C-1

COMMITTEES

Lithuanian Affairs — Dr. Jack Stukas HM, C-20
 Lithuanian Cultural — Anna Klizas Wargo, C-144
 Scholarship — William Piacentini, C-103
 Ritual — Helen Chesko, C-144
 Archives — Longinas Svelnis, HM, C-17
 Public Relations — Irene Sankus, C-112
 Lithuanian Language Prom. — Dr. Algirdas Budreckis, C-17
 Honorary Membership — Antanas J. Mažeika, C-147
 LCRA Coordinator — Frances Petkus, C-96

CLERGY

Rev. Peter Shakalis
 Rev. Peter Stravinskas
 Rev. Joseph Anderlonis
 Rev. Leon Peciukevicius
 Rev. Joseph Rymdeika
 Rev. Walter Karaveskas
 Rev. George Vilciauskas
 Sister Eugenia Glineckis
 Very Rev. Joseph Dambrauskas, MIC
 Deacon Daniel Staniskis
 Rev. John Rikteraitis
 Rev. Casimir Pugevicius
 Rev. Albin Janiunas
 Rev. Anthony Baltrushunas
 Sister M. Valeria

HONORARY MEMBERS

Joseph Boley, C-41
 Ann Bender, C-26
 Rita Pinkus, C-25
 Dr. Jack Stukas, C-29
 Loretta Stukas, C-29

Rev. Albert Contons, C-17
 Larry Janonis, C-12
 Annie Mitchell-Matalavich, C-52
 Helen Shields, C-3
 Eleanore Laurin, C-112
 Antanas J. Mazeika, C-147
 Phyllis Grendal, C-17
 Anthony J. Young, C-17
 Longinas Svelnis, C-17
 Kazys Sipaila, C-29

DISTRICTS

Mid-America

Ann Marie Kassel, C-36
 Irene Sankus, C-112

New England

George Barton, C-27
 Patricia Kontrimas, C-27

Mid-Atlantic

Jonas Tamasiunas, C-12
 Bernice Aviza, C-100

Mid-Central

Magdalena Smailis, C-79
 Gražina Vaskelis, C-102

Council 1 — Delegates: Frances Bumila, Veronica Bizinkauskas.

Guests: George Bumila, Rev. P. Sakalys.

Council 3 — Delegates: Victor Stepalovich, William Miller, Jewel Ushka, Walter Svekla, Dolores Herbert, Frank Andrews, Mary Anne Lapera.

Guests: Albert Macelis, John Mickunas, Diane Drumstas, Sally Andrews, Violet Mameniskis.

Council 7 — Delegates: Patricia Richards, Frances Balciunas, Frances Januska, Henry Kacherguris, Delores Jonaitis, John Jonaitis, Anthony Alexander
Guests: Regina Alexander, Rev. G. Vilciauskas.

Council 12 — Delegates: John Antanavičius, Dalia Bulevičius, Julia Gomes, Millie Pietz, Jovita Sleder, Alice Zupko, Helen Yurkus

Guests: Albert Monckawitch, Connie Siatsis, Walter Yurkus, Jeanne Janonis, Helen Cuprewich

Council 17 — Delegates: Alexander Akule, Eva Ball, Sister Eugenia Glineckis, Albert Jaritis, Alice Opanasets, Adele Martus, Mary Martus, Dr. Algirdas Budreckas, Phil Carter, Frank Yonika, Patricia Aule, Ann Voveris, Josephine Mason, Rita Shertick, Ann Narkevich, Veronica Aluzas, Longinas Svelnis HM, Phyllis Grendal HM, Anthony Young HM, Rev. Albert Contons HM

Guests: Mary Matachinskas, Ann Evans, Giedrė Budreckas

Council 19 — Delegates: Sister M. Valeria, William Kolicius, Betty Palma

Guests: Albina Ewalt, Andy Rozger

Council 25 — Delegates: Lucy Tabbert, Raymond Vanagas, Charles Machutas, Albina Wallis

Guests: Nelda Machutas, Al Shigo, Al Wallis

Council 26 — Delegates: Rita Pinkus HM, Ann Bender HM, Helen Gillis, Anne Bucinskas, Anne Walinsky, Frances Kulakausky, Charles Kulakusky, Marion Shapiro, Tillie Zelesky

Council 27 — Delegates: Helen Dallalis, Stanley Dallalis

Council 29 — Delegates: Kazys Sipaila HM, Loretta Stukas HM, Dr. Jack Stukas HM, Eleanor Cavallo, Helen Radicsh, Bernard Skripata, Viola Skripata, Rita Sussko, Adele Urbanas, Anna Skurdenis

Guests: Joseph Sakevich

Council 30 — Delegates: Nellie Lord, Kunigunda Coach

Guests: Benedict Coach

Council 36 — Delegates: John Paukstis, Sophie Zukas, Georgi Kassel, Paul Strolia, Thomas Strolia, Sabina Klatt, Sue Susski, Mary Kincius, Very Rev. Joseph Dambrauskas, MIC

Council 38 — Delegates: Theresa Balciunas, Rose Roberts

Guests: Vito Balciunas, Aldona Balciunas

Council 41 — Delegates: Helen V. Kulber, Beatrice Hoff, Joseph Boley HM

Council 46 — Delegates: Beatrice Stanis, Isabel DeWitt

Council 50 — Delegates: Frank Peterson, Bernice Barile, Viola Gradeck, Marcella Aimutis, George Kisielius

Guests: Anna Rimkevicius, Helen Maculaitis, Mary Yesukevich, Evelyn Lepersky

Council 52 — Delegates: Annie Mitchel-Matalavich

Council 61 — Delegates: Helen Balutis, Joseph Balutis

Council 63 — Delegates: Anthony Sockel, Walter Balchunas, Mary Sockel

Guests: Robert Klova, Ed Klova

Council 67 — Delegates: Michael Grigaliunas, Martin W. Rusgi

Council 74 — Delegates: Ann Dudewicz

Guests: Casimir Yanush, Robert Kaboskie, Eva Kaboskie

Council 78 — Delegates: Marion, Hobits, Mary Ann Zuber

Guests: Rev. Albin Janiunas, Ignatius Hobitz, Anna Axtin, Helena Zuber

Council 79 — Delegates: Marianne Newberry, Marie Kase, George Kase, Stella Hotra, John Newberry

Guests: Valentina Bulota

Council 86 — Delegates: Tom Bruzga, Ben Bruzga, Frances Bruzga

Council 96 — Delegates: Pat Alexander, Frances Petkus, Aldona Ryan, Catherine Prasmantas, Elinor Sluzas, Cecelia Yankus

Guests: Joseph Ryan, Annamarie Sluzas, Lewis Yankus

Council 100 — Delegates: Jack Sweet, Mary Sweet, Willar Kensell, Jenny Kensell, Sophie Olbie, Genevieve Gobis, Ann Radzevich, Anthony Radzevich, Regina Kott, Gerard Drenzak

Guests: Michael Mikolaitis

Council 102 — Delegates: Donna Bunikis, Frank Bunikis

Guests: Nancy Tebelman

Council 103 — Delegates: Joseph Waitonis, Raymond Savickas, John Jacknevich, Sophie Sakalys, Ruth Savickas

Guests: Agnes Waitonis, Bertha Mathieu, Theresa Jacknevich, Victor Mathieu, Bertha Stoskus, William Piacentini, Susan Gudeczauskas, Josephine Piacentini

Council 110 — Delegates: Antonie Adomenas, Jonas Adomenas, Mary Baltrus, Adele Dauzickas, Helen Jambor, Helen Janis, Helen Matulonis, Hellie Skabeikis, Helen Venis, Peter Yuskevich, Helena Zedar, Al Marcel

Guests: Allison Craddock, John Craddock, Nancy Craddock, Winifred Marcel, Anthony Razickas, Brenda Razickas

Council 112 — Delegates: Albert Zakarka, Julie Zakarka, Rita Zakarka, Estelle Rogers, Eleanor Kasputis, Frances Shillis, Paul E Binkis, Elizabeth Zibas, Elinor Lauren HM

Council 118 — Delegates: Albert Launikonis, Alma Launikonis

Council 140 — Delegates: Katherine Cravetts, Veronica Sutkus, John Sutkus, Catherine Brandt, Norman Klimas

Guests: Irene Petrauskas, Jack Brandt

Council 141 — Delegates: Carol Duggan, Ann Petrus, Helen Petkus, Clemencine Miller, Teresa Trainis

Guests: Victor Miller

Council 142 — Delegates: Joseph Chaplich, Julia Burlen

Guests: Francis Stann, Bertha Stann, Emily Paukstis, Al Paukstis

Council 143 — Delegates: Anne Challan, Annamarie Sewatsky, Leo Butsavage, Helen Butsavage, Alice Puscavage, John Puscavage

Guests: Dorothy Banos, Nellie Bayoras

Council 144 — Delegates: Helen Ambrose, Susan Banditelli, Anna Bender, Anna Garlitis, Edmund Carlitis, Helen Chesko, Mary Gustus, Helen Kratulis, Ann Marie Lithkowsky, Helen Matunis, Bernice Mikatavage, Mary Narcavage, Anna Nardini, Joseph Petrosky, Mary Pieri, Anna Radzavage, Adele Schutz, Anna Supernavage, Anna Klizas Wargo, Beatrice Wasley, Joseph Yezulinas, Anna Zaldaris, Olympia Zelinski

Guests: Helen Labadis, Julia Norcross, Anne Dunlap, Lucy Zelonis, Stan Burkevage

Continued on page 45

OFICIALUS SKYRIUS

OFFICIAL NEWS

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Elsie Kosmisky

We are growing in numbers, thanks to the cooperation of many good people. In 1982, we had 3663 members. This total raised to 3804 in 1983.

Council #27, Norwood, has been re-activated. There are several other areas that look promising.

It is the responsibility of every District and Council First Vice President to make every effort to re-activate old councils or organize new councils in their geographic areas.

I have written numerous letters and sent information packets to all who requested K of L information but I find that personal contact brings the best results. That is why I encourage all of you to promote the K of L everywhere you go to everyone you meet.

It gives me great pleasure to present the following membership awards. First will be the councils who were first in their category to have their dues paid up 100% by March 31, 1983:

Category #1 — C-143, Pittston

Category #2 — C-135, Ansonia

Next will be the councils having the largest percentage in increase in membership over last year with a minimum of 10% increase:

Category #1 — C-25, Cleveland — 16.3%

Category #2 — C-50, New Haven — 12.5%

Category #3 — C-36, Chicago — 37%

For signing up new members, awards go to John Paukstis, C-36, Chicago and to Sister Valeria, C-19, Pittsburgh. Council #36 now has 509 members!

I congratulate Sister Valeria and John Paukstis for the fine work they are doing and I charge the rest of our members to follow their example and help our organization grow. Thank you very much.



Elsie Kosmisky gives membership award to John Paukstis, President of C-36 while National President Loretta Stukas extends congratulations

NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Attention all Council Financial Secretaries — Please note that a new National Financial Secretary was elected at this Convention. All dues and subscriptions should be sent to the following:

Mrs. Helen Skudra
7927 North Drive
Highland, Indiana 46322

Helen can also supply needed forms, membership applications, constitutions, etc. upon request. We welcome Helen and wish her well in this very important work. We also thank Ann Marie Kassel for the outstanding work she did keeping our organization's membership records for four years.

Note also, that ALL questions regarding incorrect address, failure to receive VYTIS, or problems with the postal service should be referred directly to:

Miss Gerry Mack
2461 W. 45th St.
Chicago, IL 60632

MANDATE - concluded from page 44

Council 145 — Delegates: Nellie Ruggles, Margaret Picard

Council 146 — Delegates: Joanna Gilbert, Florence Haughey, Nell Berulis, Vity Grabauskas

Guests: Helen Grabauskas, Jeffrey Gilbert

Council 147 — Delegates: Antanas J. Mazeiks GN, Emilia Petraitis, Dr. Dennis G. Mazeika, Audrone Mazeika

Guests: Maria Strazdis, Irene Strazdis

Council 149 — Delegates: Della Telmos, Tillie Przybylski

Guests: Stella McLeod

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SUPREME COUNCIL RITUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

71st National Convention — Philadelphia — August 18-21, 1983

**Helen A. Chesko, Chariman
Rita Pinkus, Secretary
Magdalena Smailis, Treasurer**

The Supreme Council Ritual Committee approved the applications of 25 candidates (3 Clergy, 21 Regular, 1 Associate) for installation in the Fourth Degree at the National Convention in Philadelphia on Sunday, August 21, 1983.

New England District: C-50 New Haven — Rev. Albert Karalis — Frank Peterson.

Mid-Atlantic District: C-3 Philadelphia — Rev. Eugene Wassel; C-12 Manhattan — Eugenia Janonis — Connie Siatsis — Helen Yorkus — Walter Yorkus; C-74 Scranton — Helen Cravath — Eva Kazokas Kaboski; C-110 Maspeth — Antoinine Adomenas — Jonas Adomenas — Nellie Skabeikas; C-144 Anthracite — Helen Chesko — Elsie Kosmisky — Bernice Mikatavage — Annie Morgalis — Anna Klizas Wargo; C-147 St. Petersburg — Emily Petraitis; C-143 Pittston — Nellie T. Bayoras.

Mid-America District: C-36 Chicago — Ruth Kazlauskas; C-112 Chicago — Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas.

Mid-Central District: C-19 Pittsburgh — Anna Alaliunas — Simon Alaliunas — Margaret Papeaka; C-25 Cleveland — Walter Jakubs.

Degree Membership Cards were issued to Council and District Ritual Chairman as follows:

	First	Second	Third
Mid-Atlantic District			
C-3 Philadelphia			1
C-12 Manhattan			2
C-29 Newark			7
C-61 Paterson			4
C-74 Scranton	3	6	15
C-100 Amsterdam		5	3
C-110 Maspeth	50	11	17
C-140 Syracuse			3
C-142 Washington	21		1
C-143 Pittston	3		2
C-144 Anthracite	26	15	8
C-146 Harrisburg		27	
C-147 St. Petersburg			4
	First	Second	Third
New England District			
C-7 Waterbury		26	
C-17 South Boston	14		
C-26 Worcester	3	5	



RITUAL COMMITTEE - Helen Chesko, Rita Pinkus and Magdalena Smailis

C-27 Norwood	11		
C-50 New Haven	11	10	
C-141 Bridgeport	5		
Mid-Central District			
C-79 Southfield	3	9	
C-86 DuBois	2	3	
C-96 Dayton	4		
Mid-America District			
C-36 Chicago	5	2	3
Srs. Chicago			1
C-112 Chicago	7	3	

TOTALS: First Degrees 166 Second Degrees 119
Third Degrees 71

The committee thanks all the Council Ritual Chairmen who participated in the Degree Program during 1982-83 and regrets that more councils did not encourage members to work toward degrees. We also congratulate all members who earned degrees and wish them success in attaining further degrees.

We extend our sincere thanks to District Ritual Chairmen for promoting the Third Degree Program. We also appreciate the time devoted by Ritual Chairmen in assembling the data for Fourth Degrees. A special word of thanks is due to the Mid-Atlantic District for including a panel on Ritual in the Workshops.

Rita Pinkus capably handled the many requests for degree information and filed all degree information in centralized files for future reference. Magdalena Smailis served as treasurer. Coordinating the program under the experienced guidance of President Stukas was a fruitful term of office for your chairman.

— Helen Chesko

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Requirement for Knights of Lithuania Ritual Degrees be revised as follows:

FIRST DEGREE.

A member may be enrolled in the First Degree upon one year membership in the Knights of Lithuania and the accumulation of 3 points as per outline in the Point System.

SECOND DEGREE

Two Year membership in the First Degree, and the accumulation of at least 10 points, as per outline in the Point System.

THIRD DEGREE

Three year membership in the Second Degree, and the accumulation of at least 40 points as per outline in the Point System.

FOURTH DEGREE

Four year membership in the Third Degree and the accumulation of at least 100 points as per outline in the Point System.

All other requirements remain the same as defined at the 65th National Convention, August, 1978, in Syracuse, NY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these requirements become effective on October 1, 1984.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knights of Lithuania Ritual Point System is revised so that the following Point System be in effect immediately after the 70th National Convention.

CREDIT POINTS FOR DEGREES — effective August 22, 1983

(* indicates change)

a. COUNCIL OFFICER

President, per year	6 points*
Vice President, per year	3 points*
Secretary, Recording	5 points
Secretary, Financial	5 points*
Treasurer	4 points
Trustees	1 point*
Sgt. at Arms	1 point*

b. DISTRICT OFFICER

President	5 points
Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer	3 points
Trustees, other	2 points

c. SUPREME COUNCIL OFFICER

President	10 points
Vice Presidents, Recording & Financial Secretaries	7 points
Treasurer	5 points
Trustees	3 points*

d. STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

(as defined in the Constitution of the K of L)

National	6 points*
District	4 points*
Council	2 points*

e. COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON (Any level)

Social event, ad-hoc committee, head, or yearly photographer, historian, etc.	2 points
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f. ACTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

(Not Chairperson)

Council, District level	1 point
National Level	3 points

g. DIRECTOR of K OF L CHOIR, or CONDUCTOR of regularly-scheduled Lithuanian classes,

per year	5 points*
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(For shorter periods of time, 1-4 points, at discretion of Council Ritual Committee)

Salaried persons excluded.

h. MEMBER, K of L Choir,

per year	3 points
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i. GENERAL CHAIRPERSON, Host

Council Convention Committee for National Convention	5 points*
Co-chairman or event chairman	2 points*

j. MEMBER, Host

Council Convention Committee for National Convention	1 point
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k. NATIONAL CONVENTION OFFICER

Chairman, vice-chairman, secretary	2 points
------------------------------------	----------

l. MEMBER of National Convention Committee

(Resolutions, Mandate, Greetings, etc.) per occurrence	1 point
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m. DELEGATE TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

(If record of attendance is satisfactory as per Mandate Committee records and 4 sessions attended).	1 point
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n. DELEGATE TO DISTRICT CONVENTION

per meeting	1/2 point
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o. ORGANIZING A K OF L COUNCIL

(Regular, Senior or Junior)	5 points
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p. ENROLLING NEW MEMBERS OR re-enrolling former member into K of L,

per member	1/2 point
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q. FOR EACH FEATURED ARTICLE OR editorial published in VYTIS

(Dates must be submitted)

per occurrence 2 points

r. YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

per year 1/4 point

s. ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

per occurrence 1/4 point

t. Other activities, -as approved by the Supreme Ritual Committee. Points to be awarded as per the recommendations of the districts/ councils and approved by the Supreme Ritual Committee.

Note: Mere election to an office or committee does not automatically entitle one to Degree credits. Proof of satisfactory fulfillment of duties and proof of other activity listed in the application must be available.



Bishop Brizgys confers medals on fourth degree recipients at 70th Convention

FOURTH DEGREE RECIPIENTS



Helen Chesko

In a most impressive ceremony before Sunday Mass, the Rev. Anthony Jurgelaitis, National Spiritual Advisor, installed seventeen Knights in the Order of St. Casimir. Bishop Vincentas Brizgys, assisted by Rita Pinkus and Magdalena Smailis of the Ritual Committee, presented Fourth Degree Medals to the following: Antoinine Adomenas, C-110 Maspeth, Jonas Adomenas, C-110 Maspeth, Nellie T. Bayoras, C-143 Pittston, Helen A. Chesko, C-144 Anthracite, William Jakubs, C-25 Cleveland, Eugenia Kanonis, C-12 Manhattan, Eva Kazokas Kaboski, C-74 Scranton, Elsie Kosmisky, C-144 Anthracite, Bernice Mikatavage, C-144 Anthracite, Frank Peterson, C-50 New Haven, Emily Petraitis, C-147 St. Petersburg, Connie Siatsis, C-12 Manhattan, Nellie Skabeikas, C-110 Maspeth, Anna Klizas Wargo, C-144. Anthracite, Rev. Eugene Wassel, C-3 Philadelphia, Helen Yurkus, C-12 Manhattan, Walter Yurkus, C-12 Manhattan.

The Fourth Degree was also approved for eight members who were unable to attend the National Convention but will receive their medals during appropriate ceremonies in their home councils or at District Conventions: Anna Alaliunas, C-19 Pittsburgh, Simon

Alaliunas, C-19 Pittsburgh, Helen Cravath, C-74 Scranton, Rev. Albert Karalis, C-50 New Haven, Ruth Kazlauskas, C-36 Chicago, Annie Morgalis, C-144 Anthracite, Margaret Papeaka, C-19 Pittsburgh, Rev. Anthony Zakaruskas, C-112 Chicago.

FOR YOUR '83 NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTOGRAPH (Size 8½ x 11), Please send check for \$6.50 made payable to Council #3, Knights of Lithuania, c/o John Mickunis, 333 Davis Avenue, Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059

_____ Photo No. 1 _____ Photo No. 2

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(Address)

(City).....

(State)

(Zip)



Convention photo No. 1



Convention photo No. 2

FROM THE BEGINNING

THURSDAY — OUR 70th ANNIVERSARY

Aldona Ryan

The large crowd of people gathered in the lobby of the Holiday Inn early Thursday morning gave a hint of the size of the 1983 convention. It was BIG!

As we walked down the street in twos and threes toward St. Joseph's Church, we had glimpses of gardens behind wrought iron fences. We studied the buildings. We looked at the street vendors and speculated on what we might buy for lunch on our return trip.

More than 400 delegates and guests packed the small, historic church. The Mass was very inspiring and we left the church with the feeling that we were truly ready to start the serious work of the convention.

On the way back to the Inn, we found the "Bourse" — an arcade type of establishment that featured many little shops and tiny eating places that served food from many countries. Dozens of trips were made to the "Bourse" during the rest of the convention.

The Thursday afternoon session seemed to whizz by and we looked forward to the dinner and dance at the Mummer's Hall.

It was our first opportunity to kiss and hug and greet our many friends that we had not seen for a whole year. The ten minute ride on the bus seemed short as we listened to the sounds of laughter and Lithuanian songs everywhere.

Again, we were overwhelmed with the great mass of Lithuanians who had arrived for the event.

We found a plentiful banquet beautifully arranged on buffet tables.



Antanas Mazeika cuts our Anniversary cake



Tilly Pryor, Joe Yezulinas and Joe Drumstas entertain us at Mummer's Hall



Stella McLeod wins a Mummer's Doll

The lines moved quickly and the task of finding seats in the overcrowded hall began.

The air conditioning system groaned under the pressure of singing, dancing, hollering and "visiting". Congrats go to Joe Drumstas and his committee.

FRIDAY — CULTURAL EVENTS

Mary Ann Lepera

The highlight of our cultural program took place on the evening of August 19, 1983.

An impressive candlelight procession made its way to the seat of America's symbol of independence, the Liberty Bell.

The procession began with a United States Marine Honor Guard and proceeded in the following manner: individual council flags, honorary members, Mrs. Loretta I. Stukas, National President, and Mr. Walter Mameniskis, Council 3 President, and followed by an estimated 400 members and guests.

"God Bless America" and "Marija, Marija" were sung by the procession.

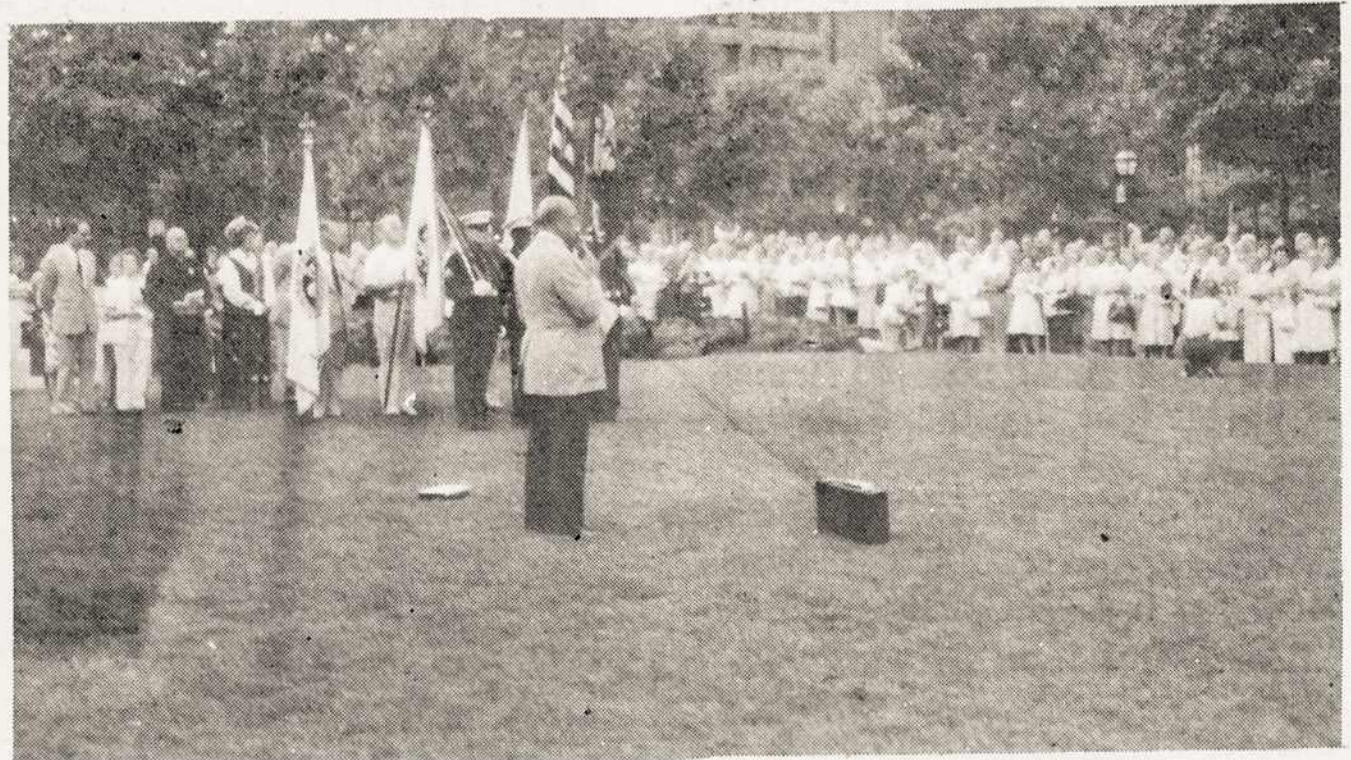
Delegates and guests represented 55 councils from all areas of the United States who were united in their cause.

Appreciation was expressed for opportunities that America has provided for us all. Many expressions of gratitude for our freedom were brought to mind and it was an opportunity to re-affirm our love, loyalty and dedication to our country.

The Knights of Lithuania and all persons of catholic Lithuanian heritage acknowledged our suffering brothers and sisters of Lithuania. We hoped that our candles reached across the sea to our loved ones in Lithuania to let them know we are hoping and praying so they, too, could enjoy freedom in the near future.



C-3 Culture Committee: Seated - Edmondas Binkis, Victor Stepolovitch, Jewel Ushka and Annette Zulick. Standing - Anastasia Binkis, Mary Ann Lapera, Francis Downey and Doloris Herbert. Missing - Nick Zulick and Tom Lapera.



Ceremony at Liberty Bell

A memorial wreath was placed to commemorate our dedication.

Speakers for this occasion were Mr. James Tayoun, City Councilman, Philadelphia, Mr. Joseph Vignola, City Commissioner, and Father A. A. Jurgelaitis O.P., Supreme Council National Spiritual Director.

After this wonderful occasion we

adjourned back to our hotel and we were entertained by the Harmonija Quartet of Brooklyn, New York. The members of the group are Petras J. Tutinas, Rasa Bobelis Brittain, Victor Ralys, Birute Ralys Malinauskas and Matthew A. Yatkaukas. The members of Harmonija are all Lithuanian-Americans and their chosen title describes what they do

best. They were magnificent.

Some of the selections sung were "Du broliukai kunigai", "Kur Bėga Šešupė", and "Nemunėlis".

Flag pins, displaying the beautiful Lithuanian colors, were given to everyone that attended.

Additional highlights were the cultural awards presentations made by our Supreme Council Chairman, Mrs. Ann Klizas Wargo, and a poem reading entitled "Heritage" by Mary Ann Lepera (Marytė).

The cultural room was adjacent to the registration desk and it was visited by many of our delegates and guests. Hand made Christmas tree ornaments were the work of Mrs. Annetta Zulick, C-3, and were on sale. Knights of Lithuania bumper stickers and 70th anniversary tee-shirts were also sold. A replica of the castle of Grakai expanded on 2 tables and a shadow-box featuring the inside of a Lithuanian farm house was displayed. Many other Lithuanian symbols and artifacts were shown.

The motto of the cultural room was "MAY THE LOVE OF LITHUANIA BURN IN OUR HEARTS".

The committee for this endeavor was made up of Dolores Herbert, Victor Stepalovitch, Francis Downey, Annetta Zulich, Nick Zulich, Jewel Ushka, Al Ushka, Anastasia Binkis, Edmundas Binkis, Thomas Lepera, and Mary Ann Lepera, Chairman.

SATURDAY — BANQUET AND DANCE

Aldona Ryan

As we were dressing for the evening banquet and dance, we learned from the weather report that Philadelphia had topped all previous records for heat and humidity but we were comfortable inside the Inn.



Harmonija Quartet



Mary Ann Lepera with replica of Trakai castle

A cocktail party was hosted by Council 3 for the speakers and honored guests. Among them were Bishop Vincent Brizgys and Dr. Stasys A. Backis.

As we entered the ballroom, we found that it was again filled with people — twelve to a table. Two head tables faced the delegates and guests. Master-of-ceremonies Walter Svekla started the ball rolling with warmth and wit.

We were served a platter of food that contained a huge piece of roast beef — much more than what we could eat.

During the dessert course, Walt introduced our "25 years ago first scholarship winners" Dr. Algirdas Budreckis and Dr. Dennis Mazeika. It was evident that our scholarship money had not been wasted.

They announced that the scholarship winners for this year



Head tables at Saturday Dinner-Dance



Mary Kober receives Honorary Member Medal

were: Thomas Strolia — Chicago, Michael Mikalaitis — Amsterdam, Vida Gecas — Dayton, Rita Zakarka — New York, Rima Hartvigas — Amsterdam, and Veronica Bizinkauskas — Brockton.

A short ceremony by Elinor

Sluzas then honored Dr. Jack Stukas for his 42 years of Lithuanian Radio Programming.

Dr. Stukas, in turn, announced that there would be no "Friend of Lithuania" award this year and he read a letter from Congressman Don



Joe Boley recites at 70th Convention

Ritter of Pennsylvania stating how much he regretted he was unable to attend.

Dr. Stukas commended the Knights of Lithuania for having "written more than a million letters for Lithuanian Affairs" in the past. We applauded the work of Bernice Aviza as a member of his committee and the many members who had helped this past year as announced by Dr. Stukas.

After that, Anthony Mazeika spoke about Jonas Valauskas, Honorary Membership Candidate, who was unable to attend due to illness. Eleanore Laurin helped present the Honorary Member Medal to Mary Kober who had been slated to receive it a year ago but was ill at that time.

Bishop Brizgys and Charge d'Affairs Stasys Backis talked glowingly about the work of our organization. Our National President, Loretta Stukas, added her comments.

Walt Svekla honored Father Anthony Jurgelaitis and presented him with bronze bookends containing the logo of Providence College made and donated by Phil Carter.

Gifts were given to our speakers.

We danced to the music of "The Ambassadors" until we could move no longer and thanked Chairman Walter Mameniskis and his committee for a wonderful evening.

SUNDAY — FAREWELL

Aldona Ryan

Cool, heavenly breezes greeted us on this beautiful day. We were bussed to St. Casimir's Church on Wharton Street with laughter and song as our companions again.

Rita Pinkus and Magdalena Smailis lead the procession of Fourth Degree Recipients to the altar. Undoubtedly this was the largest number to receive this award at one time in our history.

The Officers and Committee Chairmen of the Supreme Council were then installed.

The Mass was very impressive with the entire congregation joining in with the responses and singing the hymns.

After Mass, we were allowed to kiss a relic of St. Casimir as we marched out of church.

As it turned out, there were too many people to fit into one picture and it was decided to split the group and take two convention photographs this year.

The Farewell Luncheon at the Holiday Inn was sumptuous indeed. We enjoyed being entertained by the Juniors singing Lithuanian songs accompanied by Tom Strolia and his accordion.

Joseph Drumstas and his committee had done well by us.

SPECIAL THANKS go to Joe Ryan, Loretta Stukas, Dr. Jack Stukas, Dr. Algirdas Budreckis, Father Anthony Jurgelaitis, Mary Ann Lopera, Stefanija Rastikis and Orsino Studios for their contributions to this issue of VYTIS.

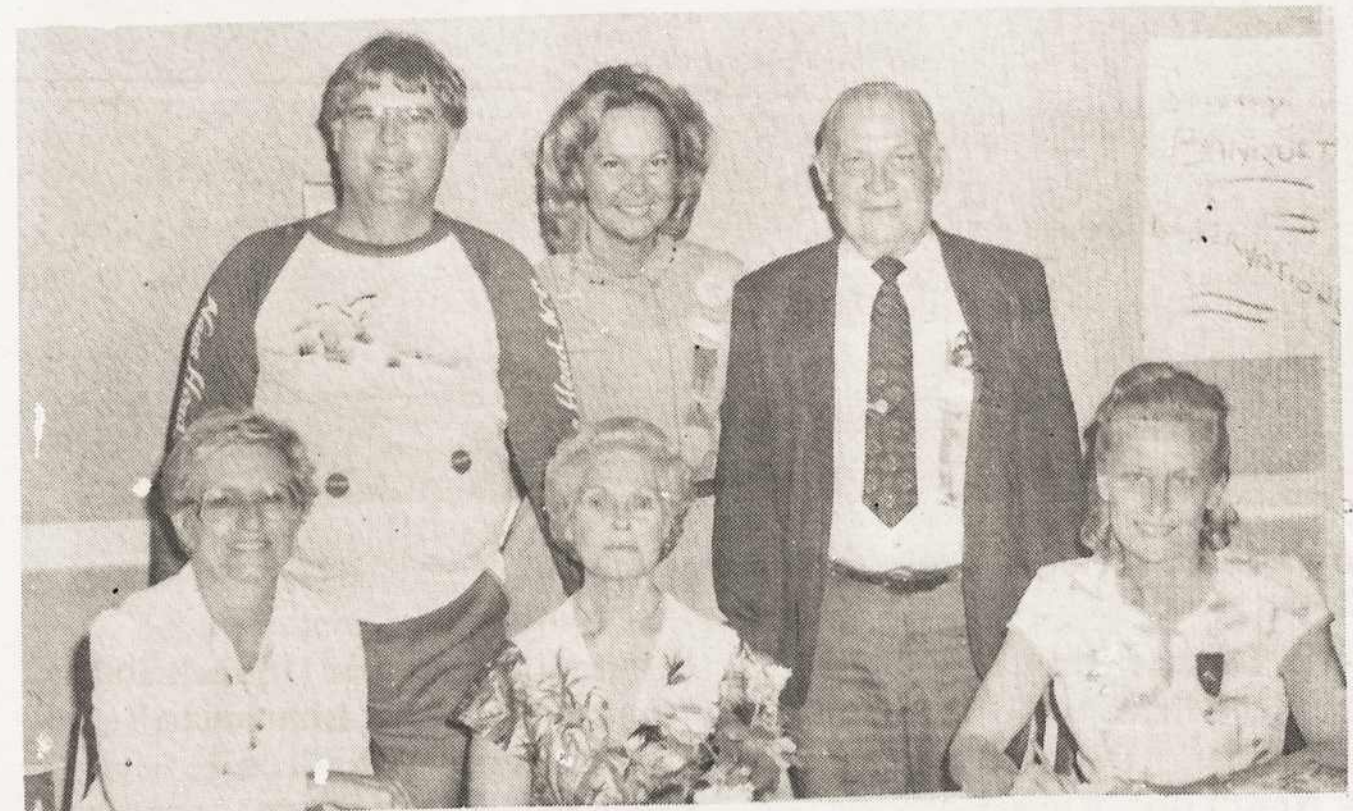


We are entertained by our YOUTH on Sunday



Honorary Members: Seated - Eleanor Lauren, Mary Kober, Phyllis Grendal. Standing - Annie Mitchell, Rita Pinkus, Ann Bender,

Antanas Mazeika, Kazys Sipaila, Loretta Stukas, Longinas Svelnis and Dr. Jack Stukas



Registration Desk: Seated - Agnes Mickunas, Sally Andrews and Irene Svekla. Standing - Bill Miller,

Dolores Herbert and Frank Andrews

Social Sidelights

By JOSEPH RYAN



0-112
 MRS JOSEPHINE DAUZVARDIS
 CONSULATE OF LITHUANIA
 3147 S ARDEN AVE
 CHICAGO, IL 60629

VYTIS

G. A. MACK,
 2461 W. 45th St.
 Chicago, IL 60632

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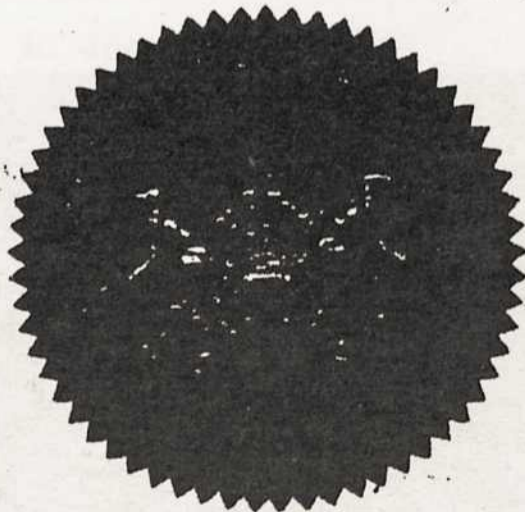
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 HARRISBURG

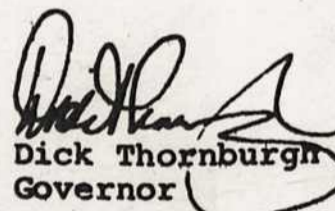
GREETINGS:

As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to extend warm regards to all those who have gathered in Philadelphia for the 70th national convention of the Knights of Lithuania. Welcome to the Keystone State!

Pennsylvania is proud to be the home of many citizens of Lithuanian descent who have shared the fine customs and traditions of their homelands with their fellow residents. Lithuanian-Americans have become leaders in government, business, industry, education and the professions here in the Keystone State, and their hard work and determination have contributed vastly to our state's growth and progress. Members of the Knights of Lithuania have been a special part of our ethnic diversity, and your organization's dedication to the preservation of your ethnic identity is worthy of our distinct praise and recognition.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I offer best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable convention. After visiting with us here, I'm sure you'll know what we mean when we say that "You've Got a Friend in Pennsylvania!"




 Dick Thornburgh
 Governor