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and a
knowledge,
appreciation and
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87th National Convention Issue

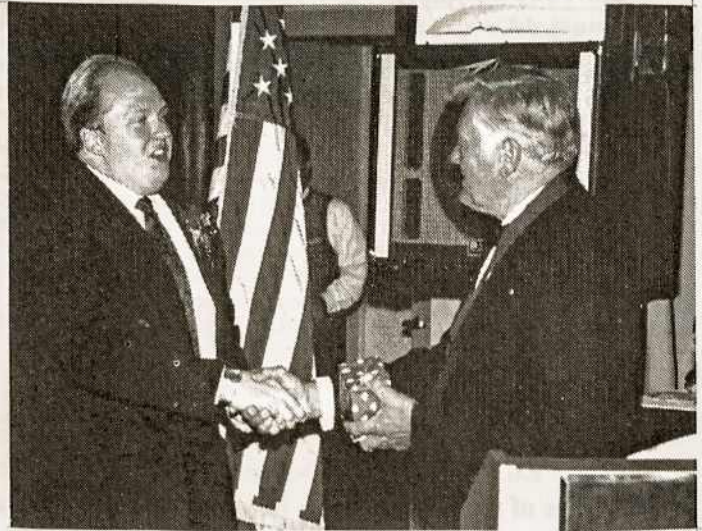
Table of Contents - Turinys

Message from Supreme Council President.....	1
New Editor's Greetings - <i>Sister J. Janine Golubickis</i>	3
State of the Organization Report - <i>John R. Mankus</i>	4
Convention Attendees - <i>Mark H. Bell</i>	9
K of L Foundation News - <i>Loretta I. Stukas</i>	10
"Sights and Sounds of L.A." - <i>Fran Petkus</i>	11
Opening Mass - <i>Fran Petkus</i>	12
New Honorary Members - <i>Loretta I. Stukas</i>	12
Convention Sessions - <i>Sr. Johanna M. Shainauskas</i>	13
Cultural Evenings - <i>Agnes Mickunas & Bernice Aviza</i>	17
Address by H.E. Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania.....	18
"Friend of Lithuania Award" - <i>Len Barcoucky</i>	22
Knights of Lithuania Juniors - <i>Annamarie Sluzas-Berger & J. Berger</i>	23
Scholarship Awards - <i>Irena Gecas-McCarthy</i>	24
K of L Foundation Essay Contest - <i>Loretta I. Stukas</i>	25
Membership Awards - <i>Maryte Sepikas</i>	26
Fourth Degree Awards -	26
Exciting Guests at the National Convention - <i>Loretta I. Stukas</i>	27
Saturday Banquet - <i>Elinor Sluzas</i>	28
Closing Mass - <i>Mark H. Bell</i>	29
Thanks for Memories - <i>Maryte Sepikas</i>	30
"Firsts at the 87 th Convention - <i>Elinor Sluzas</i>	30
Greetings to the 87 th National Convention.....	31
Resolutions of the 87 th National Convention.....	36
Vyciu Himnas Report - <i>Faustas Strolia</i>	45

A Message from your Supreme Council President

My Dear Fellow Knights and Friends,

It is truly an honor for me to write you in this Convention 2000 Issue of Vytis as your Supreme Council President. The 87th National Convention in Los Angeles, California was truly a memorable one for me and I hope the same is true for all those who attended. All those present can count themselves truly lucky to have been there as Knights of Lithuania history was made. It is safe to say that this year's National Convention may very well be our most



Newly elected K of L President, Robert Martin, Jr. receives greeting and gift from Lithuania's President, Valdas Adamkus.

historic. For not only was it our first convention of the new millennium, but for the first time in history we were honored to have the President of an Independent Republic of Lithuania in attendance to receive our highest award, Honorary Membership. I am sure all our members are grateful to President and Mrs. Adamkus for attending our convention. I am also sure that each of you joins me in offering them, from our hearts, our thanks, appreciation and unending support. I also wish to offer the thanks of the entire Supreme Council, our membership and especially myself to all those who attended our National Convention as delegates and guests. Without your participation we could not continue. At this time, I would be remiss, if I did not also extend to this year's convention committee our heartfelt thanks. The dedication and hard work of the members of Council 133, under the chairmanship of their President, Maryte Sepikas, in preparing this year's convention made it ever more memorable for all its attendees. Having been in their shoes before I realize the many hours that go into this labor of love. To all of the members of Council 133, Ačiu Labai.

During this convention as in conventions of the past we endeavored to continue to shape our destiny. I feel confident that we met that goal in Los Angeles. As you know this year the Supreme Council initiated a Membership Survey. I would like to thank all those who submitted their responses. I am grateful for the response we received. Let me assure all those who submitted your thoughts and ideas for the Knights of Lithuania's future development, through this survey, that the coming year will see your Supreme Council have further discussion and take action where needed to work to implement your visions for our future. By our election to the Supreme Council you have put your trust in each of us to lead the Knights of Lithuania to an even more glorious future. I pledge to you, to the best of my ability, to do just that and I am confident that your trust has not been misplaced in your new Supreme Council.

The year ahead of us is one that will see some changes. As many of you know Maryte Abbott, our Vytis Editor for the past six years, has decided to step down for personal reasons. I am grateful to her for her dedication during her tenure and on behalf of the entire organization I offer her our heartfelt gratitude and thanks for the first class magazine she and her staff presented each issue for all of us.

Her departure from the Vytis staff left us with a vacancy that was, to say the least, difficult to fill. I am very pleased to say that we have been able to find someone who I feel will be an outstanding Vytis Editor. Please join me in welcoming Sr. M. Janine Golubickis, SSC, as our new Vytis Editor. Sr. Janine is a member of Council 82, Gary, IN, and a long time K of L'er. Currently Sister resides in Lemont, Illinois and while she is still active in her home Council 82 she is also very active in Council 157. Sister has assumed her duties as Editor with this convention issue. I am confident that the Vytis will continue to excel under Sister's Editorship. I am sure that you join me in wishing Sister Janine well as she settles into this new facet in her life.

As I said during this year's convention banquet, the road ahead of us is one that holds great promise for Lithuania and the Knights of Lithuania as well. It may not always be as easy to travel as we would like, but nothing worth attaining ever is. So let us all pledge to one another to travel that road together. For by working tirelessly together we can make our dreams and aspirations for our future come true as we live our lives for God and Country.

Looking forward to working with and for you during the year ahead.

Vytiskai,

Robert A. Martin, Jr.



Our new Supreme Council President, amidst the Convention crowd, outside St. Casimir's Church, Los Angeles.



Labas! And best wishes to all our Knights of Lithuania throughout the country.

As I begin this new work as editor of VYTIS magazine, a myriad of heartfelt thanks are in order. **Maryte Abbott** has gathered interesting materials, organized information and generously served as editor of VYTIS. Maryte, I thank you for your splendid service and the cooperation and help you have offered us in this office. Thanks, also to the council news editor, **Betty Nakrosis Pataki**. You've done a wonderful job!

Following the exhilarating fellowship and proud accomplishments of this past convention in Los Angeles, this convention issue is its reflection, made possible by its participants. I extend heartfelt appreciation to all members who graciously supplied articles, information and photos of the convention, especially Loretta Stukas, Elinor Sluzas, Fran Petkus, John Mankus and Maryte Sepikas. For everyone behind the scenes and otherwise, ACIU LABAI!

I will do my best to make the VYTIS an interesting and inspiring magazine, but your contributions and input are essential. Please continue to keep the information, support and articles coming, to encourage us in our motto - "For God and Country." Presently we are in the reconstruction phase. The editorial office is being moved to 2601 W. Marquette Road, Chicago, Illinois, and during this transition, please "excuse our dust," as we settle in.

Deepest thanks go to Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas, Robert Martin, Jr., and Mary Kincius, whose knowledge and tireless efforts continue to bless the Knights of Lithuania and the VYTIS office.

Vytiskai,

Sister M. Janine Golubickis, SSC



ALL OUR THANKS

As many of you know, for the past six years *The Vytis* has been published under the editorship of our very capable member, Maryte Abbott. Unfortunately for us, last summer, Maryte informed us that due to personal reasons, she would not be able to continue to be our Editor after this year's convention. Under Maryte's guidance *The Vytis* continued to excel as a top-notch publication. All of us owe her a great deal of gratitude for her hard work and dedication. I am sure everyone joins us in wishing Maryte all the best in her future endeavors, as well as all our thanks for her past editorial leadership. Aciu labai, Maryte!



"KUDOS" TO COUNCIL-133 FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

Thank You! To Council-133, Maryte Sepikas, and the Clergy of St. Casimir's Church for hosting our 87th National Convention in Los Angeles, California. Anyone who has hosted a Knights of Lithuania convention knows that it is a difficult undertaking. Thanks for a memorable convention in your beautiful "City of the Angels."

Knights of Lithuania 87th National Convention State of the Organization Report

Presented by
John R. Mankus, National President
July 27, 2000



In accordance with Article XI of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution, I submit to the Delegates of the 87th National Convention, the National Executive Board's Annual Report. Wherein all reports have been submitted and combined before the National Convention. Please note that this is but a summary of the work done by your Executive Board. The officers have provided reports of their activities during their term of office. You are urged to take home a set of these reports, read them thoroughly and please share the contents with your council members.

National Spiritual Advisor, HM, Monsignor Dr. Joseph Anderlonis, S.T.D. Monsignor Anderlonis has been an outstanding spiritual leader and advisor to the Knights of Lithuania for many years. The Knights of Lithuania are most grateful for his counsel and guidance throughout these years. He has enriched us both spiritually and culturally. The Knights of Lithuania are proud and honored to claim Monsignor Anderlonis as National Spiritual Advisor. Although he is unable to be with us today, he has informed me he would be happy to accept the post of National Spiritual Advisor for the coming year.

President of the Supreme Council, John R. Mankus. As President I attended and presided at all Supreme Council Meetings. I sent out letters to Monsignor Albert Contons, President of Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America for approval of Monsignor Anderlonis as Spiritual Advisor, to Mr. Saulius Kuprys to remain Legal Advisor to the Knights of Lithuania, and to Maryte Abbott to remain Vytis Editor. I personally called and thanked them all for their dedication and hard work for the Knights of Lithuania. I corresponded with many Lithuanian American Organizations and elected officials, including President Valdas Adamkus, President William Clinton, Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, hospitals and convents in Lithuania and with many of our Knights of Lithuania members. I also wrote letters of thanks and congratulations to a number of individuals and councils on their anniversaries and for their work and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania. I also sent letters of greeting and congratulations to many Lithuanian American Organizations.

At District and Council level, I participated in Amber District meetings, all council meetings and many special events. I remain on the STATE UNIVERSITY of NEW YORK at Binghamton translation board for Lithuanian translations and to be an interpreter for visiting dignitaries. During the past year I translated many letters from Lithuania. I chaired and attended a number of special events, including Lithuanian Independence Day Commemorations, St. Casimir Mass, and during the year, chaired, packed and shipped packages of medical and humanitarian supplies to convents, orphanages and hospitals in Lithuania. As president of Supreme Council I received a large number of correspondence from various sources and responded to all, by letter and/or when appropriate, by phone or fax.

Many of the items I discussed with members of Supreme Council and at the Supreme Council meetings. I contacted and worked with Supreme Council members requesting their advice and input on various Knights of Lithuania matters. As I reported in the Vytis, representing Knights of Lithuania, I attended Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration at the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, D. C. and a number of informational meetings, including NATO enlargement discussions with U.S. State Department Officials, Embassy staff, and leaders of Lithuanian American Organizations.

At these meetings and conferences, I had the opportunity to discuss our Knights of Lithuania activities with President Valdas Adamkus, Parliament Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, Senator Richard Durbin, Ambassador Stasys

Sakalauskas, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, Congressman John Shimkus and other U.S. and Lithuanian state officials. I attended the Vilnius Gaon Jewish State Museum Exhibition in US Capitol. This exhibition was to commemorate Vilnius Ghetto Jewish Spiritual Resistance against the Nazis. The sponsors included Senator Richard Durbin, Lithuanian Embassy, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania and other organizations. I met and exchanged ideas with a number of Jewish and Lithuanian American leaders and Republic of Lithuania officials.

I, and a number of our Knights of Lithuania members attended the "Gift to Lithuania" Conference in Washington DC and made a presentation on the Knights of Lithuania humanitarian activities. As a follow up to "Gift of Lithuania" Conference, a "Lithuanian Organizations' Conference was held in Chicago in December. I requested Robert Martin, Jr. and Sister Johanna Shainauskas to attend and represent the K. of L. I believe these types of conferences will improve both communication and cooperation between our many Lithuanian American Organizations. Through my articles in the VYTIS, I reported on the highlights of these meetings to our membership.

First Vice President, Bernice Aviza. Bernice attended all S.C. meetings. Bernice is doing an outstanding job as Supreme Council, District and Council officer. She participated in the "Gift to Lithuania Conference in Washington, coordinated shipments of medical supplies to Lithuania by the National Guard, and as the Mid-Atlantic District Vice President for Juniors, Bernice set up a small web site for the juniors. She coordinated and attended many functions in her district, including Auriesville day of prayer, shipment of medical and humanitarian supplies to Lithuania, and has actively pursued the "re-activating" of Lithuanian parishes. Bernice is a great asset to our organization.

Second Vice President, Maryte Sepikas. Maryte has been working diligently to promote membership and on our National Convention. Seventeen new members have joined the K of L during the last October Lithuanian Days. As a result of her activity, a new council is planned in the San Diego area. Maryte has been very active with her council and district. She has contacted many Lithuanian Americans in San Francisco, San Jose and Oregon/Washington areas in hopes of generating new members and councils. Maryte is publicizing the Knights of Lithuania activities in Catholic newspapers, radio programs and magazines, to increase our membership. She is a tireless worker who never passes up an opportunity to inform anyone about the Knights.

Third Vice President, Annamarie Sluzas-Berger. Annamarie has been researching and compiling a "Start up Package" for the Juniors. She is also investigating "pen pal" communication with Lithuanian youth. I am sure Annamarie has a very enjoyable agenda for the Juniors at the convention. She will also run the Junior meeting Saturday morning.

Recording Secretary, Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas. Sister Johanna has attended all Supreme Council meetings, she has served her position as National Secretary extremely well. Her minutes were precise and sent out in a timely manner. Sister has updated the database of Council Presidents and Supreme Council officers. She never hesitated to assist the president or Supreme Council members. She has represented the Knights at a number of functions in the Chicago area. Sister Johanna is very active in her district and council, and as of January 2000, has been serving as the Kof L Choir president. With all her activities and secretarial duties, she also prepared letters of attendance and greeting to the many organizations for our 87th National Convention. Thank you Sister Johanna for an outstanding job.

Treasurer, Richard Niedvares. We have been very fortunate to have outstanding people elected as treasurer, and with Richard, we are continuing this trend. He attended all Supreme Council meetings. He is extremely knowledgeable, computer literate and meticulous in his job. He has kept in contact with me, the Finance Committee and our legal advisor. Richard has kept an unrelenting vigil on our finances. He has prepared the budget from the recommendations of the Budget Finance Committee and his own findings. Thanks to Richard, our financial situation is quite good. He will present a complete report of our financial standing at this convention. He has served us well this past year and has been a very cooperative member of the Supreme Council. Richard has done an outstanding job.

Financial Secretary, Mark Bell. Mark is in his first year as financial secretary, has attended all Supreme Council meetings. Mark brings plenty of enthusiasm and sound new ideas to the job. He has been in contact with the president, Council Financial Secretaries, and with the VYTIS Business Manager, so that changes could be implemented as soon as possible. Mark has computerized all active membership records and has sent out listings of all active members to council financial secretaries for verification of information on file. Since all the information is in a database, updating and dues payments will be easier to retrieve and verify. Thank you Mark for a job well done.

Trustees, Paul Strolia and William Kolicius.

Bill sent in a report, but is unable to attend the Convention. Trustee responsibilities include the publication and distribution of the updated K of L Manual, K of L inventory, and the annual audit. At the convention, the audit of the records of the National Treasurer, Financial Secretary and the ancillary K of L Organizations is done.

Amber District, HM Frank Petrauskas, District President. Since the death of Dorothy Banos, Frank has organized and presided at all District meetings. Profits from the district's annual raffle are donated to the various charitable organizations of the K of L. Council members have been writing letters to our President, local Senators and Congressmen to ask for their support for Lithuania's acceptance into NATO. Many District Councils are participating in shipment of textbooks, medical supplies and humanitarian goods to schools, convents, and orphanages in Lithuania. Frank contributed numerous articles to the VYTIS under "Lithuanian Gardener." Frank is a hard working and cooperative individual and is always ready to assist district officers and council members in their requests.

Mid-America District, Robert A. Martin, Jr. District President. Rob attended all Supreme Council meetings. The Mid-America District has held four District meetings. Memorial and St. Casimir Masses were celebrated by District's Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Anthony Zakarauskas. District Council 112 celebrated their 75th anniversary. District Councils participated in a number of fund raisers, Lithuanian Days activities, picnics, Christmas Candlelight suppers, and Lithuanian Independence Day commemoration. The district also provides support to various charities and Lithuanian Press and Radio. Rob has been a very active and hard working member of the S.C.

Mid-Atlantic District, Edward Barkowski, District President. Ed attended the Philadelphia Supreme Council meeting. He organized and chaired district meetings in Kearny, NJ and Maspeth, NY. Ed participated at a number of functions in his district including St. Casimir's Celebration Festival of Nations, fund raising activities, and collected humanitarian aid materials for shipment to Lithuania. He works well with district councils and publishes a newsletter of district activities and upcoming events. Ed is a very hard working and dedicated individual.

Mid-Central District, HM., Frances Petkus, District President. Frances attended all Supreme Council meetings. The district held their Fall Convention/Pilgrimage in Cleveland, and their Spring Convention/Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, where they also attended the performance of the Duquesne Tamburitzan Dancers. Frances maintains close contact with all district councils and works with members when

approached for help. As chairperson of the National Convention Nominating Committee, Frances has been actively working with other district presidents for viable candidates to the Supreme Council Board and Presidium. Frances is also C-96 chair of Council Ritual Committee, Vytis correspondent, and is an active member of Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in Dayton. Fran is a great asset to our organization.



Two good Knights, sharing a cup of good cheer at the reception for President Adamkus, prior to the Saturday night banquet.

New England District, Joe Stiklius, District President. Joe conducted board meetings in Worcester, MA and Putnam, CT. Joe participated in the New England District Cultural Festival in Schrewsbury, MA, which was very successful. Joe also assisted in reorganizing Council 6 in Hartford, CT., and is working to centralize the location of district meetings for maximum participation of district members. Joe continues to work diligently with his councils to make sure our constitution and by-laws are followed. He maintains a close working relationship with all board members and councils of the New England District.

Archives Committee, HM Longinas Svelnis. Larry has traveled to Putnam eight times and had four working meetings with his Archives Committee. The committee received a number of boxes of historical documents from Bob Boris, Loretta Stukas and several Councils. The Archives have been updated with a MacIntosh Computer, printer and scanner. After 20 years as Chairman of the Archives Committee, Larry is bowing out as chairman, but will remain a member of the Committee. We thank Larry for all his hard work over these years as chairman.

Honorary Membership, HM Loretta I. Stukas, Executive Chair. Two outstanding individuals will be awarded Honorary Membership during the National Convention: Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Rev. Peter Shakalis of Council -1. Their biographies have been published in VYTIS in keeping with the Honorary Membership rules. Councils and Districts are invited to submit names of

outstanding members for Honorary Membership following the guidelines printed in the K of L Manual. Loretta has been an outstanding member of the Knights of Lithuania, working tirelessly for Lithuania's freedom during the years of Soviet occupation. This year in Vilnius she received the highest Award of the Republic of Lithuania, the Order of Gediminas. We all are proud of her and we all congratulate her.

Legal Advisor, Saulius Kuprys. Mr. Kuprys has filed all required reports with the appropriate government agencies to which the corporation must report. He has filed information return 990 to the Internal Revenue Service as required. An annual report to the Secretary of the State of Illinois renewing our corporate status was sent. Mr. Kuprys maintains contact with the subsidiary corporations of the Knights of Lithuania and has filed all the necessary government forms. He has always responded to the various miscellaneous matters and legal questions which have come up from time to time. He has maintained good contact with the President.

Vytis Editor, Maryte Abbott. Maryte has done much to enhance VYTIS and to continue to keep VYTIS a viable informative magazine. She has incorporated camera ready copies and photos pre-scanned on disks. During the years as editor, even when some disagreements arose, Maryte has continually improved the VYTIS. The problems with the Chicago Post Office and Draugas, on mailing, production and other technicalities, have been addressed and either have been, or are being worked out. Maryte has indicated at the SC meeting and in her report, this will be her last year as editor. Maryte has done a good job as our VYTIS editor these past five years.

Vytis Business Manager, Mary Kincius. She attended both meetings of the Supreme Council. She has kept in contact with Maryte Abbott, the editor, and Mark Bell, the Financial Secretary, for a smoother transition of VYTIS activities. Mary's work includes the update of dues payments, new members, deceased members, answering of internet inquiries, etc. Back up disks are made each month, and copies taken to the printer. Mary has attended a number of meetings and made numerous phone calls to the auditor of the U.S. Post Office in Chicago, and Draugas, to resolve problems as they occur. She constantly updates the VYTIS mailing labels and invoices all advertising. Re-mailing of VYTIS issues is done as soon as they come back to her. Mary is the president of Council-36 and works with IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Parish to keep it alive and self-sufficient. She has done a good job.

Language and Cultural Committee, HM Faustas Strolia, Chairperson. Faustas attended both Supreme Council meetings. He has translated the 4th

Degree certificates from Lithuanian into English, and has revised "VYCIU HIMNAS," which is ready for review and approval.

Lithuanian Affairs Committee, Len Barcousky, chairperson. Len has been in contact with me and other SC members for the friend of Lithuania Award. We have an outstanding candidate for this award in Joseph Hunziker. His gift of a pipe organ to a new church in Sventoji, was the subject of a superb column in the Los Angeles Daily News, by Dennis McCarthy. We thank Len for all his work as chairperson of the Lithuanian Affairs Committee these past four years.

Public Relations, Regina Juska-Svoba, chairperson. Regina is a very dedicated member of the Supreme Council. Her numerous articles on The Knights of Lithuania activities appear regularly in DRAUGAS, DIRVA and DARBININKAS. Regina has translated articles for K. of L. Foundation, Aid to Lithuania, and the District, and submitted them to the Lithuanian press. At District and Council level, she participated in a number of meetings and commemorations held by Lithuanian American Organizations. She prepared synopses of these activities, aired on both Lithuanian radio programs - Lithuanian Melodies and American Lithuanian Voice Inc. She has taken on many responsibilities and has followed through on all of them.

Ritual Committee, HM Clemencine Miller, chairperson. She has fulfilled her duties and has conducted this committee quite well. She answered each letter and call from council chairs and individual members. Clemencine and committee members Elsie Kosmisky, Gerogianna Macke, Irene Yanek, and Rita Sussko worked diligently to assure that all qualified members are approved to receive their degrees. In 2000, there were 15 first degree, 22 second degree, and 13 third degree applications approved. There are 19 applications approved for the fourth degree to be presented at the National Convention this Sunday, July 30, in Los Angeles. Clemencine always kept in contact with the President and her committee members for clarification on different issues. She has been working with Ritual chairs of various councils in updating points and recording degrees. She continues to offer her assistance whenever needed. She has done an outstanding job as ritual committee chair.

Scholarship Committee, Irena Gecas-McCarthy, chairperson. Irena has corresponded with all scholarship committee members and sent an information package and questionnaire for their review. She has worked very thoroughly with her committee members, Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote, Wanda Pliskaitis, Antoinette Sakal, and Karen Damalakes. Irena has received thank you letters from all scholarship winners,

and has forwarded them to Maryte Abbott for publication in the VYTIS. Irena and her committee are looking into ways to increase applications of qualified persons. With the help of the Knights of Lithuania scholarship fund, we are helping qualified persons and future K. of L. leaders to further their education. Starting with 2000 Awards, members will be able to apply year to year, so that funds would be available throughout the candidate's education. Irena, in her last year on the Scholarship Committee, is a very capable, hardworking chairperson. She and her committee have done a very good job.

Aid to Lithuania, Inc., Robert Boris, Chair, Regina Juska-Svoba, President. To date, a total of 83 containers of medicine and medical supplies have been shipped to Lithuania with a total value of over 63 million dollars. The Seminarian Scholarship Fund has adopted 17 seminarians. At the "Gift to Lithuania" Conference in Washington, Regina reported on the medical and humanitarian activities of the ATL. Bob will present a complete report of Aid to Lithuania, Inc., accomplishments this Friday. We all thank Bob and Regina for their professionalism and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania.

K of L. Foundation Inc., HM Loretta Stukas, President. We mourn the death of Aldona Ryan. She served the Foundation as a fine advisor and coordinator of Foundation activities. We all will miss her. Mary Beth Slakis and Clemencine Miller were re-elected Directors to represent Mid-America and New England District. Mary Beth will continue to serve as a Treasurer of the Foundation. A gift of \$5500.00 was donated to the Archives Committee and a gift of \$2400.00 was donated to Anthracite Council-144 for shipment of school books and for printing of Religious Text Books in Lithuania. Foundation finances will be reported on at the convention. The Foundation sponsors an essay contest and the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship. Winners will be announced at the Convention and will be published in the VYTIS. Donations from the general membership are needed on a regular basis to guarantee the tax exempt status of the Foundation. Loretta is a very capable and hardworking individual. She has contributed articles to VYTIS and is also a member of the Budget Resolutions Committee.

St. Casimir Guild, Inc., HM Anna Klizas-Wargo, chairperson. Following the 86th National Convention, \$5000.00 was forwarded to the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome for their new Computer System. From July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, requests for 587 Masses were received. Mass requests with Mass stipends are forwarded to Rome each month. As a result of the March insert in the VYTIS, \$10,000 was donated and forwarded to the College. These Masses and

donations support the student priests and the priests studying for higher degrees at the college. They will become the future Hierarchy of Lithuania. Msgr. Bartkus, priests, and student priests are most thankful for your support. On behalf of the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome, and the St. Casimir Guild, Anna asks for your continued support, both financially with mass requests, and spiritually.



Members of the Supreme Council, posing for their millennium photo after their pre-convention meeting

SUMMARY

I want to thank all of you for giving me the honor to serve as your president the past three years. During these years, I participated in many meetings and conferences with officials of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, leaders of Lithuanian American Organizations and the Republic of Lithuania, and US elected officials. Being fluent in Lithuanian facilitated communication between myself and visiting Lithuanian officials and dignitaries and representatives of other Lithuanian American Organizations. I have always stressed the hard work and accomplishments of our Knights of Lithuania. These exchanges of information have led to greater understanding between us all, and have been to everyone's mutual benefit. We are the largest Organization, we are the leading Organization. The Knights of Lithuania have done more to help Lithuania than any other Lithuanian American Organization. Our members worked tirelessly for Lithuania's independence during the dark days of occupation. We must continue our work with our brothers and sisters in Lithuania to help them achieve their social, economic and political goals. Our accomplishments have been great, but they can be greater as we continue our work for God and Country.

-John R. Mankus

ATTENDEES at the 87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Sheraton Universal Hotel
Universal City, California
July 27 - 30, 2000

Supreme Council in Attendance: John R. Mankus, Bernice Aviza, Maryte Sepikas, Annamarie Sluzas-Berger, Sr. Johanna Shainauskas, Richard Niedvares, Mark H. Bell, Frank Petrauskas, HM, Robert Martin, Jr., Edward Barkowski, Frances Petkus, HM, Joseph Stiklius, Saulius Kuprys, Loretta Stukas, HM, Len Barcoucky, Faustas Strolia, HM, Irena Gecas -McCarthy, and Robert Boris, HM.

Honorary Members in Attendance. Robert Boris, Algerd Brazis, Agnes Mickunas, Frances Petkus, Frank Petrauskas, Estelle Rogers, Elinor Sluzas, Bertha Stoskus, Faustas Strolia, and Loretta Stukas.

Council Rosters and Sessions Attended.

C-1 Brockton: Maryte Bizinkauskas-3, Veronica Bizinkauskas-5, Frances Bumila-5, George Bumila-3, Sr. Helen Ivanauskas-5, Rev. Peter Shakalis-3.

C-3 Philadelphia: Lillian Greymas-5, Agnes Mickunas, HM-5, John Mickunas-5, Irene Ozalis-5, Irene Svekla-5, Walter Svekla, Jr.-1.

C-6 Hartford: June Grenier-5.

C-7 Waterbury: Eleanor Barkauskas-2, Agnes Bauza-2, Edward Bebrin-4, Elizabeth Bebrin-3, Frances Januska-1, Adele Klenske-1, Anne Kundrotas-3, Janina Nawarskas-1, Anthony Polman-5, Mary Pultinas-1, Doris Snirpunas-3, Arlene Stiklius-2, Joseph Stiklius-5, Anne Vaichus-4.

C-16 Chicago Bridgeport: Diann Martin-3, Richard Niedvares-5, Aldona Zajauskas-4, Francesca Zajauskas-4, Peter Paul Zansitis-3.

C-19 Pittsburgh: Len Barcoucky-3, Jean Schoentag-5.

C-25 Cleveland: Charles Machutas-5, Nelda Machutas-5, Joan Ortman-2.

C-27 Norwood: John Skricki-5, Sonia Betty Skricki-5.

C-29 Newark: Loretta Stukas, HM-5, Rita Sussko-5.

C-36 Chicago Brighton Park: Mary Kincius-5, Glen Perutis -4

C-50 New Haven: Isabel Peterson-5, Audrey Toole-4.

C-72 Binghamton: Grace Mankus-1, Barbara Miller-5

C-86 DuBois: James Allen-3, Twila Allen-3, Paul Moore-5.

C-90 Kearny: Elena Nakrosis-5, John Nakrosis-3, Rita Ochs-5.



C-96 Dayton: Mark Bell-5, Annamarie Sluzas-Berger-5, Michael Petkus-5, Elinor Sluzas, HM-5.

C-100 Amsterdam: Regina Kot-4, Ruth Ralys-3, Polly Ziausys-5.

C-102 Detroit: Robert Boris, HM-5, Eve Stark-4, Joseph Stark-4.

C-103 Providence: Anthony Gudeczaukas-5, Rita Krecioch-1, Sophia Sakalys-5, Bertha Stoskus, HM-5.

C-110 Maspeth: Phyllis Barkus-5, Virginia Kurylas-5, Dorothy Sakal-4, Janette Urban-4.

C-112 Chicago Marquette Park: Dutchie Adamenas-5, Mary Banky-2, Aldona Brazis-5, Algerd Brazis, HM-5, Genevieve Giedraitis-2, Alvina Giedraitis-1, Ellie Kasputis-5, Saulius Kuprys-2, Dolores Maldunas-3, Sr. Theresa Papsis-5, Estelle Rogers, HM-5, Sr. Johanna Shainauskas-5, Sr. M. Tarcisia Stuglis-5, Elizabeth Zibas-5.

C-133 Los Angeles: Stella Balesh-2, Josephine Barzda-1, Jack Bruzas-2, Mary Bruzas-1, Edmund Giedraitis-1, Giedre Gustus-1, Alyte Mazeika-1, Andrius Mazeika-1, Anthony Mazeika-2, Danute Mazeika-1, Mitchell Sapovich-5, Lillian Schaefer-1, Maryte Sepikas-2, Vincas Stokas-1.

C-136 Hudson/Mohawk: Bernice Aviza-5, Ed Barkowski-5, Virginia Barkowski-1.

C-140 Schenectady: Frank Petrauskas HM-5, Irene Petrauskas-5.

C-143 Pittston: Helen Karpovich-5, Jean Mihalick-5.

C-144 Anthracite: Elsie Kosmisky-5, Eleanor Vaicaitis-5, Marion Wydra-3.

C-147 St. Petersburg: Dolores Jonaitis-5, John Jonaitis-5, Aldona Kirstuk-5, Janina Lauras-5, Rasa Petraitis-1.

C-152 East Long Island: Antoinette Sakal-5, John Sakal-5.

C-157 Lemont: Faustas Strolia HM-5

Amber District: Len Kapochus-5, John R. Mankus-5

Mid-Atlantic District: Edward Jakatt-5, Frances Jakatt-

Mid-America District: Robert Martin, Jr.-5, Theresa Strolia-5.

Mid-Central District: Lee Moore-5, Frances Petkus HM-5.

New England District: Lillian Joseph-5, William Piacentini Jr.-5

Guests: President Valdas Akamkus, Algis Giedraitis, Kun. Gintaras Grusas, Kun. Astijus Kungys, OFM, Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas, Anthony Venckus.

-Mark H. Bell-



Mandate Committee members, Lillian Greydas, Irene Ozalis, and Isabel Peterson help the delegates register for the sessions.

K of L FOUNDATION NEWS

The Knights of Lithuania Foundation met Friday, July 28, during the Convention to discuss plans for the future of the Foundation. Following is a summary of points discussed:

1. The Foundation received a pleasant surprise – a bequest from the estate of the late Helen Shields, HM, totaling \$9,237.45, which was in addition to \$2,000 in bonds left earlier. This bequest, plus the generosity of our K of L members this year and in the past, will bring the Foundation capital over the goal of \$100,00.00! We thank all who donated for their generosity. This will help earn more interest, which can be used for helping the K of L and its members through the Karklius Scholarship, the Essay Contest, the Archives Committee, as well as special needs of Lithuania.
2. Last year's main project of providing religious texts to grade school students in Lithuania was most successful. In addition to the Foundation donation of \$2,000, individual members' donations brought the total K of L donation to over \$5,000.00. Copies of the texts were shown to members during the meeting. Also, the Foundation provided funds to C-144 for sending English texts to Lithuanian schools,

and to the Archives Committee for the purchase of a computer.

3. During the year, an additional \$1,000.00 was sent to the "Rokiskio Kolegija," where member Bill Piacentini was teaching English. The funds were used to establish a computer center for the College's English department.
4. The Essay Contest was successful, and the winners are reported elsewhere in this issue.
5. A new director, **Elinor Sluzas**, was ratified, to complete the term of the late Aldona Ryan, representing the Mid-Central District. Elinor was also appointed a judge in the Essay Contest, and is currently working on preparation of a Foundation brochure. Directors **Loretta Stukas (MAD)** and **Saulius Kuprys (MAMD)**, whose terms had expired, were reelected.
6. Hearing that Lithuania's school children now must purchase their own text books, at a cost of approximately \$50.00 per child, the Foundation members voted to donate \$1,000 to the "Kaimo Vaiku Fondas," specifically to provide books for the poor or multi-child families of the "Prienai" region of Lithuania, which is especially in need.
7. Individual members also donated to help the Navickas family in Lithuania, who are orphans, and struggling to keep their family together. More on this project is provided under "Donations," elsewhere in this issue.



Loretta Stukas, HM, K of L Foundation Chair, with First Lady, Alma Adamkus. Discussing special needs of Lithuania.

We thank members for their generosity, and invite others to join in, helping the Foundation increase its capital, so that yet more projects can be helped.

-Loretta Stukas, HM -

SIGHTS and SOUNDS OF LA.



The **City of Angels**, the nation's second-largest city had much for us to explore. Delegates and guests, especially those in LA for the first time, took advantage of taking in all they could while in the area. The scheduled tour bus, plus two vans, drove the early arrivals through the sections where many of the stars lived. Bob Hope's home, etc. On Hollywood Boulevard, members strolled the **Walk of Fame** where celebrities are memorialized with brass-trimmed pink terrazzo stars embedded in the sidewalk on each side of the road. Close by was **Mann's Chinese Theatre**, a giant, concrete "autograph album" of the signatures, hand and footprints of many of the entertainers, which caught everyone's attention. You could hear the members, when spotting the names of entertainers, reminiscing of movies they had seen, etc. We drove through **Beverly Hills** on to the famous **Rodeo Drive**. Unfortunately, we did not get out to "shop."

With everyone getting hungry, we stopped at a beach, parking away from shore. Instead of a tailgate party, the bus' luggage area served as our "buffet table." It was fun to see the expression on the drivers passing by, seeing 50 plus people loading up plates of food. The wonderful chicken, home made breads and pastries, all cooked by Maryte Sepikas and her mother, were out of this world! There was more than enough for everyone. Drink of the day was good old water! While parked, we did get to see areas that had been affected by mud slides.

We then drove to the **Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**. The area begins in Los Angeles and extends along the Pacific Coast into Ventura County, and covers 46 miles of prime California shoreline. We drove in the **Topanga State Park** area of the mountains. Looking down over the towns, seeing the variations of the land and mountain side, was absolutely beautiful. With the road being a close two-lane drive, one held their breath, with the bus winding the twists

and turns while going through the area. When we reached the bottom of the mountain, we headed back to the hotel.

With access to the tram, many members spent time at **Universal City Walk** in the evenings. This is an area of about three blocks, no traffic, with plenty of restaurants, (good food), and things to do. It was family-oriented, and one felt safe there.

Members took advantage of the beaches in the area, Santa Monica, Venice, Malibu - if not to swim - a view of the Pacific Ocean.

Many drove on famous roads, such as, **Sepulveda Drive, Sunset Boulevard, and Highway 101**. One could see the **Hollywood Sign** atop Mount Lee.



Some of us rode the LA subway system. Exits were placed at various tourist attractions. Beat fighting traffic! The Junior Knights spent one day at **Universal Studios Hollywood**. Other early arrivals spent a day at **Disney Land**.

Ruta Lee and her husband, Webb, graciously opened their home to the delegates and guests. In their courtyard, snacks and drinks were served. Ruta took time to meet everyone and have her picture taken with the members, in groups or individually. Their home was open for all to visit. The Junior Knights discovered the pool area and had fun finding different hiding places.

There is so much more to see and do in LA, but we did get a good taste of the city and surrounding towns.



-Frances Petkus

OPENING MASS

July 27, 2000



Opening Mass for the 87th National Convention was held at St. Casimir's Catholic Church in Los Angeles, CA. With the American, Lithuanian, Supreme Council and District Flags leading members into church, the Mass signified the official opening of the Knights of Lithuania Convention.

The Mass was concelebrated with Rev. Gintaras Grusas, formally from Los Angeles and now stationed in Vilnius, assisting was Rev. Francis Karvelis, Spiritual Advisor for C-7, Waterbury, CT, and Rev. Astijus Kungys, a Franciscan priest visiting from Lithuania. Organist, Viktoras Ralys and the St. Casimir choir added to the beauty of the Mass. Soloist, Honorary Member, Algirdas Brazis from C-112, Chicago, sang the "Panis Angelicus." Following Mass, delegates and guests headed back to the hotel for lunch and the first opening session of the 87th National Convention.

-Frances Petkus



NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary Membership was conferred this year on **President Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania**, and on **Rev. Peter Shakalis, NED Spiritual Advisor**. The awards were presented during the Saturday evening Closing Banquet by Honorary Membership Chair, Loretta Stukas. Both honorees expressed their sincere thanks for the honor conferred. President Adamkus also spoke of Lithuania's needs and offered suggestions on how the Knights can continue to assist Lithuania and its people, with special emphasis on help to gain NATO membership for Lithuania and assistance to Lithuania's youth. A copy of President Adamkus' talk is published elsewhere in this issue.



The Convention also designated two members who will receive Honorary Membership at the National Convention in 2001, namely **Elsie Kosmisky of the Amber District**, and **Rita Sussko, of the Mid-Atlantic District**.

Following the Convention, the Honorary Membership Committee announced to the Supreme Council, that Chairman **Loretta Stukas** resigned as Chairman, and that **Frances Petkus** was selected as the new Chairman. Loretta Stukas remains on the Committee representing the Mid-Atlantic District.

-Loretta Stukas

"Celebrating Our FAITH, FAMILY and HERITAGE."

"Mes džiaugiamės mūsų TIKYBA,
ŠEIMA IR KILME"

"CELEBRATING OUR FAITH, FAMILY, AND HERITAGE

"Mes dziaugiamės musu tikyba, seima ir kilme"

CONVENTION SESSIONS.

July 26, 2000 Pre-convention (Wednesday)



Registration was held in the hotel lobby from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. A tour of Los Angeles and attendance at a TV show was also offered. At 8:00 P.M., a Supreme Council meeting took place in the Terrace Room of the hotel.

July 27, 2000 (Thursday)

The 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania commenced with the traditional annual Mass, at approximately 10:30 A.M., concelebrated by the Rev. Gintaras Grusas, Rev. Astijus Kungys, OFM, and the Rev. Francis Karvelis, at St. Casimir Church in Los Angeles, California.

The First Plenary Session was convened at 2:00 P.M., with an entrance march of flag-bearers, followed by the Supreme Council Members. Due to the absence of our National Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, (whose father is ill), Sister Johanna Marie, Recording Secretary, was asked to recite the opening prayer. After both, the American and Lithuanian National Anthems were sing, the session was called to order by National President, **John Mankus**. Sister Johanna Marie was then called upon to proceed with the Roll Call. After the welcome address by **Maryte Sepikas**, Supreme Council 2nd Vice-President, also President of C-133 and Convention Committee Chair,

and the approval of the previous Convention's minutes, the Presidium Nominations were then presented by **Frances Petkus, HM**, President of the Mid-Central District.

Presidium members elected were: **Chairperson**, William Piacentini, (C-103); **Co-chairpersons**, Robert A. Martin, Jr., (C-16), and Agnes Mickunas, HM, (C-3); **Recording Secretaries**, Sisters Theresa Papis and Johanna Marie, SSC, both of (C-112); **Mandate Committee**, Mark H. Bell, Chair (C-96), Isabel Peterson, (C-50), June Grenier, (C-6), Irene Ozalis, (C-3), and Lillian Greymas, (C-3); **Greetings Committee**, Antoinette Sakal, (C-152), Sophia Sakalys, (C-103), and Leonard Kapocius, (C-3);

Finance/Budget Study Committee, Richard Niedvares, Chair., (C-116), Rita Sussko (MAD) (C-26), and Michael F. Petkus (MCD) (C-96); **Minutes Committee**, William Piacentini, (C-103), John P. Baltrus, (C-19), and Evelyn Ozelis, (C-36); **Parliamentarian**, Peter Paul Zansitis, (C-36); **Sergeants-at-Arms**, Helen Karpovich, (C-143), John Sakal (MAD) (C-152), Paul Moore, (C-86), and Lillian Joseph, (C-6).

The Convention Rules of Order were then presented to the assembly by **Elinor Sluzas, HM**, Knights of Lithuania

National Supreme Council President, **John R. Mankus**, then presented his annual State of the Organization address to the Convention.

National Treasurer, **Richard Niedvares**, enlightened the delegates as to the present financial status of the K of L, and the proposed budget for 2000-2001.

The Supreme Council's Cultural Chairperson, **Faustas Strolia, HM**, was then called upon to present his report regarding the "Vyciu Himnas" revision project which was assigned to him during last year's convention. He said that much care was taken not to make too many changes so that the hymn would not lose its originality. All were reminded that, the revised version of the hymn was twice published in the "Vytis" (May and June Issues), for everyone's perusal.

This session then came to a conclusion following the reading of more greetings, the mandate report, and a closing prayer.

July 28, 2000 (Friday) - Second Plenary Session

This second session was called to order by Presidium Co-chair, **Robert Martin, Jr.**, and opened with a prayer led by Sister Johanne Marie.

Elinor Sluzas, HM, presented resolutions honoring the following deceased members: Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius of Kaunas, Lithuania; Aldona Ryan, (C-96); Kazys Sepaila, (C-29); Sister Francesca Walls, (C-19), and all other deceased loyal and

"KNIGHT LIFE" AT THE 87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION



Opening

Mass

July 27, 2000

St. Casimir Church

Los Angeles,

California



KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLES



Thursday Evening
Get-Together
July 27, 2000

St. Casimir
Parish
Hall



JUNIORS JUST LIVIN' IT UP!

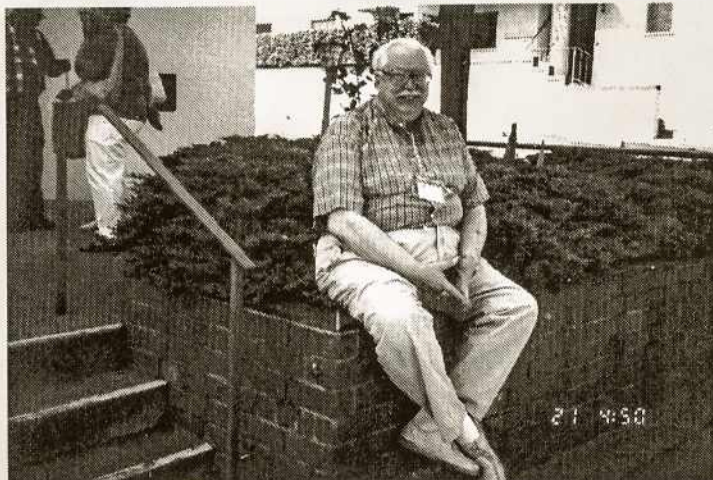
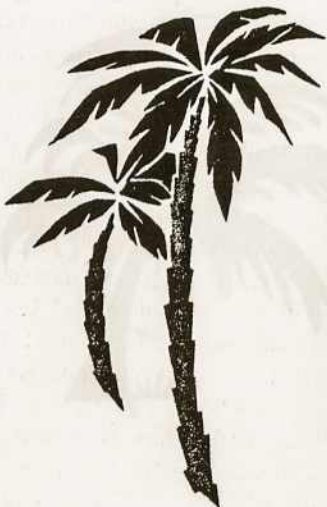


The Sheraton-
Universal
Hotel



Universal
City
Los Angeles

"WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER"



outstanding Knights. Each resolution was followed by a moment of silence for which the entire assembly stood in tribute. A resolution submitted by Rev. A. Zakarauskas encouraging the use of Christian Christmas Postage stamps depicting religious scenes during the Holiday Season, was also read. This resolution also required that this policy (of using such stamps), be printed in the October and November issues of the "Vytis" magazine.

Supreme Council President, **John Mankus**, and New England District President, **Joseph Stiklius**, presented a **Charter** to the newly re-formed **Council 6 of Hartford**. Council officers, **June Grenier**, and **Lillian Joseph** were present to accept the Charter. They were greeted with a thunderous round of applause.

A special greeting was then read by Mark H. Bell, from the **Pontifical Lithuanian Coliege in Rome**, sent by Rev. Msgr. Al Bartkus, Rector.

Elsie Kosmisky, of the **Ritual Committee**, came forward to present for the Convention's approval, the list of K of L members who have been qualified to receive their **Fourth Degrees** this year. (The complete list can be found in an article elsewhere in this issue). Only the following six members were present at the Convention to receive their degrees: **Edward Bebrin**, **Elizabeth Bebrin**, **Doris Snirpunas**, **Lee Moore**, **Eva Stark Aukstikalnis**, and **Joseph Stark**.

Greetings Committee member, **Len Kapocius**, returned to the podium to continue reading the next number of greetings received. The first were from the Amber District, submitted to Lithuanian Affairs. All monies received were to be directed to Aid to Lithuania. Total donations amounted to \$3, 616.00. Other greetings were from various other Lithuanian Organizations, and religious orders of priests, brothers and Sisters.

Next, **Faustas Strolia, HM**, Lithuanian Language and Cultural Committee chair, was called upon to introduce the presenter, **Giedra Gustaitė**, an expert in the dyeing of Easter Eggs according to Lithuanian Tradition. Giedra literally astonished the audience with her expertise in this area, and her humorous touch. She also did this presentation earlier in the day with the Junior Vyciai group. Everyone attending the demonstration received a handout for future reference, and for bringing back to their respective Councils.

The mandate report was read to the assembly by Mark H. Bell at this time, followed by the reading of yet more resolutions regarding: the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the K of L **Council 36**; expression of thanks to the "Lietuviu Balsas" publication; and a special expression of gratitude to **Regina Juska-Svoba** for her excellent work on the Aid to Lithuania Committee.

This Second Plenary Session was then adjourned with a closing prayer by **Rev. Gintaras Grusas**.

July 28, 2000 (Friday) - Third Plenary Session.

The third plenary session was begun with an opening prayer led by our new Honorary member, the **Rev. Peter Shakalis**. Presidium co-chair, **Agnes Mickunas, HM(C-3)** was the presider for this session.

The Aid to Lithuania report was then presented by **Robert Boris, HM.**, Board chair for the Aid to Lithuania Committee. Some of the highlights of this report were: after 10 years of operation, ATL has sent to Lithuania, \$63,000,000,000 worth of medicine; **Ann Bronis** of New Jersey donated her Southern Bell Stock in the amount of \$171,000; an amount of \$241,000 was donated to the seminary in Vilnius by ATL; the sum of \$319,000 was sent to various humanitarian places in Vilnius, e.g., soup kitchens, orphanages, homes for abused women, etc.; **Archbishop Backis** is asking for assistance for the future spiritual leaders of Lithuania, through his Adopt a Seminarian Campaign; **Frank Petrauskas, HM**, and **Len Kapocius** were commended for their untiring and outstanding assistance to the ATL organization; when the ATL was short of money in order to send containers to Lithuania, K of L members responded to the appeal for help with \$6,000. This enabled the ATL committee to send 3 more containers. The greatest need now, according to the bishops in Vilnius, is to establish a trade school which would help the youth learn special skills in order to help themselves. This project needs about \$350,000 to be realized. Robert then suggested that the K of L take up the cause, and, afterwards, perhaps the school could be named the "Knights of Lithuania School."

Loretta Stukas, HM, Honorary Membership Committee chair, presented the following resolutions for the Convention's approval: the bestowal of Honorary Membership to **President Valdas Adamkus**, and to **Rev. Peter Shakalis, (C-1)**, Brockton, at this convention, and for the acceptance of **Elsie Kosmisky, (C-144)**, Brockton, and **Rita Sussko, (C-26)**, New Jersey, as candidates for Honorary Membership for next year.

Elinor Sluzas, HM, resolutions committee member, presented resolutions regarding: congratulations to **Loretta Strukas, HM**, on having received the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas Award from President Adamkus in Lithuania, on July 6, 2000, for her Humanitarian Aid to Lithuania; congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Algerd Brazis on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary; a message of thanks to the Catholic Medical Suppliers from the K of L, for having supplied \$2,987,298.00 in medicine for Lithuania; gratitude to **Longinas Svelnis** for his 30 years of service to the K of L as Archives Chair, and a message of congratulations to **Sister Igne**

Mariosiute, of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, on the occasion of her election as General Superior.

William Piacentini, Presidium Chair, delivered a very moving and inspirational account of his last year's experience as a teacher of English in *Rokiskis, Lithuania*. Much of his address attested, by examples, to the generosity of the Knights of Lithuania. Delegates, members and guests responded with a thunderous round of applause.

Elinor Sluzas, HM, brought a few more resolutions to the attention of the Convention, regarding congratulations to the re-established **Council 6** of Hartford, as well as congratulations to the **Vyciu Himnas Committee** for a job well done. Get-well wishes were directed to **Anna Klizas-Wargo**, who was unable to attend the convention due to a serious fall.

Sophia Sakalys, Greetings Committee member read greetings in Lithuanian from the following: the Franciscans of Kennebunkport, ME; the Archdiocese of Vilnius *CARITAS* organization, and the Lithuanian Academy of Science of Putnam, CT. **Len Kapocius** then continued with written letters of greetings from: The White House, Washington, DC; The Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Washington, DC; and the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Priests' League of America.

Mark H. Bell once again presented the mandate report for the session, after which visitor, **Tony Mazeika** was granted permission to address the Convention in regard to Lithuania's acceptance into **NATO**. The adjournment of this session followed.

July 29, 2000 (Saturday) - Fourth Plenary Session.

With **William Piacentini** presiding as chair, the fourth session was begun with a prayer led by Sister Johanna Marie. The first item on the agenda was the report of the *K of L Foundation*, given by the Foundation Committee chair, **Loretta Stukas, HM**. (Her report, has been included in detail, elsewhere in this Vytis issue)

Robert Martin, Jr., **MAMD** president, and also co-chair of this convention's presidium, proposed a resolution that the K of L give a donation to the favorite charity of First Lady, Alma Adamkus, being the needy children and orphans of Lithuania. This was approved, and a donation of \$1,000 was presented to Mrs. Adamkus during the gala banquet on Saturday night.

This fourth plenary session will always remain memorable in the minds of all present, because the **President of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas PresidAdamkus**, graced us with his presence. He entered the Convention hall amid a standing ovation and very enthusiastic applause from delegates and guests. Prior to the President's address to the assembly, Supreme Council President, **John R. Mankus**, read aloud Mr. Adamkus' written letter to the 87th Convention. After addressing the

assembly, President Adamkus remained for a time while the Convention proceedings continued.

A short while later, John Mankus introduced **Ambassador to Lithuania, Stasys Sakalauskas**. Everyone also recognized his presence with loud applause.

The session then continued with resolutions, the St. Casimir Guild report given by **Mark H. Bell**, and the mandate report.

Then each **Junior Vyciai** member, under the capable leadership of **Annamarie Sluzas-Berger**, gave a wonderful presentation of their Lithuanian heritage, by means of posters which each of them had made. Annamarie then told the assembly that each of the Juniors received \$25.00 from the K of L Treasurer, and were able to spend it yesterday at Universal Studios. **John R. Mankus**, Supreme Council president, then presented each Junior with a special certificate of attendance at this Convention. Annamarie then seriously urged all Councils to begin Junior Chapters in their areas.

Maryte Sepikas, (C-133), and 2nd Vice-Pres. of the Supreme Council, gave a Membership report, (which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue).



Robert Martin, Jr., and the "junior mouseketeers," (cars and all!), to the delight of the entire assembly, marched in to the music of their theme song, to announce the proposed site for next year's convention, being, Orlando, Florida. More information and details are given on a special page of this Vytis issue.

The **Election of Supreme Council Officers** for 2000-2001 now took place. The results were as follows:
Spiritual Advisor: Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM
President: Robert Martin, Jr. (C-16)
1st Vice-President: Bernice Aviza (C-136)
2nd Vice-President: Elena Nakrosis (C-90)
3rd Vice-President: Annamarie Sluzas-Berger (C-96)
Rec. Secretary: Sr. Johanna M. Shainauskas (C-112)
Treasurer: Richard Niedvares (C-16)
Financial Secretary: Mark H. Bell (C-96)

Trustees: Agnes Mickunas (C-3); Rita Sussko (C-29)
Ritual Committee: Elsie Kosmisky (AMBER)(C-144)
 Rita Sussko (MAD)(C-29); Georgianna Macke(MAMD)
 (C-157); Irene Yanek(MCD)(C-86); Clemencine Miller,
 (NED)(C-141).
Lithuanian Affairs: John R. Mankus (C-72)
Lith. Culture and Language: Faustas Strolia (C-157)
Scholarship Comm.: Irena Gecas-McCarthy (C-96)
Public Rel. Comm.: Regina Juska-Svoba (C-102)
Archives Comm.: William Piacentini (Cj-103)

July 29, 2000 (Saturday)-Fifth Plenary Session

Presiding over this session was, **Agnes Mickunas, HM**, Presidium co-chair. Sister Johanna was granted permission to give a brief update on the process of the Beatification of Mother Maria Kaupas, foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir.

Ed Barkowski, (MAD), and Isabel Petersen, (C-50), serving as temporary trustees for this Convention, were called upon to give the Trustees' report. The "good news" was, that all the books are in balance.

The final resolutions of the Convention were now read by **Elinor Sluzas, HM**, regarding the following: expression of gratitude to the Presidium officers and committees; gratitude to the 1999-2000 Supreme Council for its dedicated service; thanks to the Sheraton-Universal hotel for its exceptional hospitality; an expression of thanks to Maryte Sepikas, the members of C-133, and their entire 87th National Convention Committee for their hard work, diligence and professionalism in their preparation and presentation of this Convention.

Irena Gecas-McCarthy, (C-96), and **Robert Martin, Jr., (C-16)**, presented to the Convention the results of a survey which was published in the Vytis and also sent to the Presidents of all the Councils. Based on 3,500 members, 242 responded. The basic purpose of the survey was, in general, to answer the basic question, "What is the future of the K of L as we enter a new era, a new millennium?" We need to re-establish our **mission** for the upcoming decades. Results of the survey will also be published in a future issue of the Vytis magazine. Robert and Irene then received many verbal commendations for a truly **excellent, informative and professional presentation**, plus a long, strong round of applause.

Elinor Sluzas then urged the assembly to go back to their cities and start up Junior Councils, since the presentation showed that the children are really the future of the K of L. All were reminded that Annamarie Sluzas-Berger, 3rd Vice-President of the Supreme Council and in charge of Juniors, has start-up kits for those who would like to have them.

The final mandate report was then given by Mark H. Bell, and an announcement was made by **Len Kapocius**, that the total amount collected from all of the greetings thus far was, **\$25,541.00**.

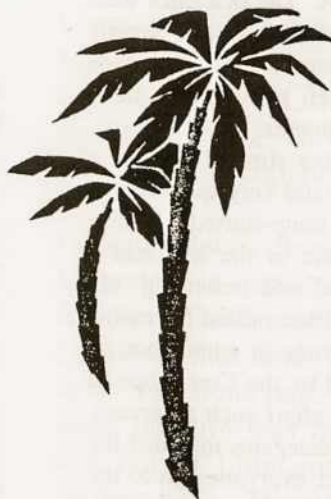
Faustas Strolia then reminded the Supreme Council that it was now up to them to implement the revision of the "Vyciu Himnas."

On that happy note, the 87th K of L National Convention was officially adjourned with a final prayer.



Delegates join in reverent prayer before the session begins.

- Sr. Johanna M. Shainauskas, SSC



JUST A REMINDER

The VYTIS will resume the printing of Council News with the November issue. Please keep your reports coming.

THURSDAY EVENING HIGHLIGHTS - July 27, 2000



The first social highlight of the Convention was the cocktail party hosted by Ruta Lee and her husband Web Lowe. All the delegates eagerly boarded the busses that transported them to their magnificent home in Hollywood Hills. Ruta's wit and hospitality made us all feel very, very welcome. Her husband, Web, an entrepreneur and restaurateur in his own right, personally prepared the delicious dips and snacks that everyone enjoyed. What a wonderful way to begin the evening!

At the appointed time, the delegates again boarded the busses and were taken to St. Casimir's Hall. When they arrived, the delegates were met by the Committee, who urged them to get settled and to begin the festivities. The tables were decorated using a beach party motif - sand buckets with candles, sand shovels, seashells, and sea creatures. Refreshments were dispensed to the thirsty crowd, and the kitchen committee proceeded to set up the buffet table. The delegates were escorted table by table to the food buffet, and eagerly filled their plates with the delicious kielbasa, chicken kiev, kugelis, sauerkraut, roast beef, mushrooms, salad and numerous accompanying condiments.

Art Walunas and his partner strolled with their musical instruments at each table and very quickly had everyone singing and dancing, and jump-started the party to a fun-filled experience. Everyone in the hall had a grand time making new friends and renewing old friendships. The Committee hosts then raffled off many, many prizes to the delight of everyone in attendance. A myriad of thank yous were offered by the Committee to those who assisted in making this affair such a success. When it came time for the happy delegates to board the busses for the return trip to the hotel, everyone agreed the end of the evening came all too quickly. Thursday night

was indeed a success in the eyes of all the delegates. --

-AgnesMickunas

CONVENTION'S CULTURAL EVENING - Friday - July 28, 2000

On Friday evening, everyone gathered at the Sheraton Universal for the Convention "Cultural Night." This evening of music began with a special treat. 15 year old Auksa Kronius of C-147, St. Petersburg, FL, displayed her talents as a young flutist. It was very inspiring to listen to this talented young lady.

Following her performance, we were introduced to "The Three Sisters," or, "Trys Sesutes Grikaviciutes." Mimi (Emilija), Ani and Loretta are Los Angeles natives. The evening of song they presented to us was diverse. Their voices and musical instruments made this a very unique evening.



They sang some classic Lithuanian folk songs, mixed with popular American songs. The younger members of the audience enjoyed the lively beats of the music, and danced in the aisles. They were even joined by some of their older colleagues.

At the close of their performance, they were presented flowers by Junior K of L members.

The "Trys Sesutes Grikaviciutes" explained that the K of L is special to them. When they heard that they were to perform at our 87th National Convention, they were inspired to prepare their second official cassette recording. It was officially released at the closing of this cultural evening, and K of L members had the opportunity to purchase this unique assembly of Lithuanian and American song.

Bernice Aviza



**Address by H.E. Mr. Valdas Adamkus,
President of the Republic of Lithuania**

National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania

Los Angeles, July 29, 2000

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished participants of the National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alma and I are grateful for this warm reception and indeed this is a great honor to be here tonight and express our admiration to your organization and personally to everyone individually.

I am glad to be among you again. For many years we have been united by the vision of free Lithuania. And this has been accomplished. We are free again. And you are part of this freedom.

Though living on the other side of the Atlantic, you are part of Lithuania. You are concerned with her worries, her daily life; you strive for her success and prosperity. It may be that today we are even closer than several decades ago, as state-of-the-art communications open up still wider possibilities for collectively creating the future of Lithuania.

The Knights of Lithuania stood at the foundations of modern Lithuania. World War I was still in progress when you voiced the question of Lithuania's independence and brought in innovative measures of political action. At that time a number of the Knights traveled back to the motherland to dedicate their experience and energy to her.

We, a later generation of emigrants, followed the trail blazed by the Knights of Lithuania, by filing numerous petitions to the US Government and sending thousands of telegrams.

Today, I am greatly honored to become one of you. It is not only because I highly value the Knights' contribution to the cause of the freedom of Lithuania. No less meaningful are your efforts to foster Lithuanian national identity and the principles of ethics and justice. My heartfelt thanks to you for naming me an Honorary Member of the Knights of Lithuania!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

It is not my intention to disturb the festive mood of this event. However, I must admit that work in the name of Lithuania, which has brought us together tonight, is far from easy. Freedom has opened up a lot of wounds inflicted upon us by the occupation regime. These are the wounds of the state, the economy, the wounds in the conscience of the people, which I refer to as "woes of Lithuania".

I am certain that you notice many of them. Myself, I had long believed that after the coercion leaves Lithuania, the situation would rapidly improve. However, I did not expect that the scars of occupation might be so deep.

I completely disagree with the view that Lithuania is paying too high a price for its freedom. There is still a small group of people in Lithuania that tends to look back with nostalgia upon the Soviet past. They would say: Look, how good our life was in the Soviet period. Others, and not in Lithuania alone, tend to look even further back. They would say: Look, how we prospered before the occupation. But in fact they both, intentionally or not, disparage the present,

which Lithuanian people are building and which they have already built in the recent decade.

Our homeland is free again. Now we must reflect on its future and focus on creation. Indeed, Lithuania has made a significant progress over the last ten years. Though burdened by numerous difficulties, we are still growing and getting stronger. We are growing fast, as we did after 1918.

Like then, new democratic institutions have been established practically from scratch, and a stable national currency, the litas, has been introduced. That period was marked by the Great Depression, but Lithuania withstood that challenge. Today, we can also say that Lithuania has overcome the impact of the Great Russian Depression on the Lithuanian economy.

Free and competitive economy is one of the major achievements of the re-established state of Lithuania. It enables our people to be the architects of their own well being. Today, seldom does one think what life might have been if reforms were not implemented, if the economy of Lithuania were still regulated by the state and depended on the sole market. If that were reality, I suppose, we would have neither money nor a prospect for growth.

However, it is different now. Since 1993, the Gross Domestic Product per capita has increased fourfold, and the foreign investment exceeded \$2 billion. The United States, together with the Nordic countries, are the largest investors in the Lithuanian economy. Today, same as previously, Germany is our major foreign trade partner in continental Europe.

Lithuanian economy has undergone even more significant structural changes. A large number of economic entities are once again private. More than two thirds of the Gross Domestic Product are produced in the private sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me go back to the woes of the homeland. The motives for that include more than just my personal emotions experienced when communicating with the hardship stricken people of Lithuania. I continuously follow the press of the Lithuanian community in the US and the evaluations of the Lithuanian economy that it presents. And I find it difficult to give up the impression that there is too much of an exaggeration. On that account, it is not surprising that readers often see their mother country as being on the brink of collapse.

I understand and appreciate the efforts of the goodwill people to assist Lithuania as much as possible. Assistance is much needed, indeed. But we must not paint Lithuania in such gloomy colors to raise sympathy and as a result to expect more contributions. Today Lithuania needs experience and investments. Investments in science, education, rural development as well as new sectors of industry and services. Lithuania is undergoing profound transformation.

Some of the changes are not easy. So far, many of my fellow citizens are reluctant to understand that new and modern society will change the face of the traditional countryside, on which we have built our identity for hundreds of years.

Perhaps in less than a decade Lithuania will join the common market of the European Union with an average of 5 percent of the whole population employed in the agricultural sector. In the neighboring European Union states of Finland, Sweden and Germany, this indicator stands even lower, at about 2 percent. Meanwhile Lithuania's agricultural sector employs nearly 20 percent of the whole population.

We must find ways to retrain people who are to retire from the agricultural sector. I mean hundreds of thousands of able-bodied people who have to be prepared for new activities. It is essential to create thousands of new jobs in the rural areas and make long-term investments in small businesses and innovations.

I wish this process developed more rapidly. Right now. However, the situation on the ground slows down the progress. We lack a lot, first and foremost – a new type of an individual who is ready and able to work in the conditions of modern society.

But the problems we face cannot shake my belief that we will solve the difficulties and will successfully complete the reforms of our economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to proceed by saying a few words about the young generation. I do not doubt that we, Lithuanians, are a nation of gifted and talented people. I have vivid memories of a recent experience when NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, was visiting Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. We were then strolling down the small streets of the Old City and in one of them, we met a group of secondary school students from one of the regions of Lithuania. If I remember correctly, they were sixth-grade students. I was then proudly observing them confidently talk with my guest in English. For me, this episode is a very eloquent example of the transformation that Lithuania has undergone during the recent decade.

Other significant changes are also on the surface. We see that the interest of Lithuania's young people in higher education is growing again. This translates into one of the present-day problems of how to properly accommodate everybody willing to deepen their knowledge and how to provide every student with relevant conditions.

Yet another problem: we have got many talented and motivated young people, highly professional teachers and scientific workers as well as good academic traditions, but year after year education gets increasingly expensive. Students at schools have to purchase their textbooks; college and university students have to pay for tuition. But in neither case, I suppose, the price is within the limits of what they can afford.

The current economic difficulties force increasingly many specialists, and especially young specialists, to leave Lithuania. That is a loss to the nation. However, I see it as a natural process, which every state has to undergo. In the context of modern Europe where internal borders have almost ceased to exist, Lithuania is not an exception.

Moreover, I try to look at the ongoing processes from my own perspective, from the perspective of one who was once made to leave the homeland. Maybe this new emigration is an advantage to Lithuania; maybe the new émigrés, like we some decades ago, will establish themselves in the political and business circles of foreign countries and from there will defend, actively and effectively, the interests of Lithuania.

On the other hand, it is our duty to jointly look for the ways to return to Lithuania her sons and daughters, whose knowledge and experience should be invested in the future of their mother country. I would like to invite our young people, graduates of foreign universities, to come and work back in their homeland.

I also appeal to you, distinguished Knights of Lithuania. The backing that you provide to those youngest members of your organization who wish to acquire higher education, deserves highest acclaim and respect. But maybe awarding a few scholarships to students from Lithuania could extend the activities of your Scholarship Fund. Maybe some of the young Knights would like to come and study in the colleges and universities of Lithuania, where they could receive high-level but less costly education.

Ladies and gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Lithuania needs all her children. While the importance of geographic distances fades away, the spiritual bond between us, and the values and ideals we share, acquire even greater significance. We must foster them and instill in the growing generation.

I know how difficult it is to preserve Lithuanian national identity being far away from the native country. However, we must spare no time and energy. Maybe today the boundaries of 'Lithuanianness' could be expanded to avoid confining our identity to mere learning of the native tongue, fostering national customs and traditions. It is vital that our sincere attempts do not distance young people. We must cultivate their love of Lithuania, enrich their knowledge about it, and motivate them to help the country of their ancestors. Lithuania has always needed and will need in the future the ardent support that the emigrant community is providing to its aspirations.

Let us have a look at Lithuania's changing position in the international arena. In ten years we have established ourselves as a full-fledged member of the international community and have entered into good relations with all the neighboring countries. We have started accession negotiations for the membership in the European Union, which should be completed in a few years. We are hopeful that in 2002 Lithuania will be invited to join NATO.

I would like to specifically draw your attention to the year 2002. Only in NATO will Lithuania be secure. During the fifty years of occupation we accumulated a lot of valuable experience, which we successfully consulted a decade ago, in the process of the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence. Now too I wholeheartedly invite you all to collective work in the name of our motherland.

It is not only by disseminating the information about Lithuania that you can contribute. When establishing business contacts with partners in the United States you are already representing your homeland. By investing in the economy of Lithuania you provide impetus to its further growth. By introducing American business people to Lithuania you further strengthen the Lithuanian-American partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that today we are capable of fostering and strengthening our state. We have restored it by concerted and orchestrated efforts of all Lithuanians. Therefore let the experience of civic solidarity not be belittled and wasted in the face of the burden of current difficulties. Those who are building Lithuania today will always need this experience.

We all come from the same spiritual home. We are a family who has laid the foundations for the Lithuania of the future. These foundations should accommodate all and every child of Lithuania – whatever different we might be, wherever we might live. It is the Independence of our country that unites us.

We proceeded toward independence each on our own way. Each with their own past, attitudes, and destiny. Each with a differently understood and fostered national identity, with a vision of the state cherished in a different way. Let us preserve this value for the future generations!

In concluding, I would like to express my joy and gratitude to all of you who have gathered here tonight. I am happy that Lithuania has so many advocates, supporters and like-minded people.

I would like to wish you all fortitude and success. May our steps be guided by everlasting love of the Homeland. Thank you.



KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA HONORS DONOR WHO GAVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC



Joseph Hunziker plays the organ by ear, and he appears to have a terrific one, both for music and for a good cause. So when Maryte Sepikas called him about his offer to donate an antique pipe organ, he listened to her plea. After evaluating requests from several other worthy groups, Joe agreed to give his musical instrument to a new church being built in Sventoji, Lithuania. For his uncommon personal generosity, he was honored as the "Year 2000 Friend of Lithuania," at our national convention in Los Angeles. He and his wife, Patricia, live nearby in Burbank.

He received the Friend of Lithuania award—an engraved glass trophy—at the Saturday night banquet attended by Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania.

Over the decades, the K of L has presented the "Friend of Lithuania" to a varied group of people—school teachers, politicians, academics, religious leaders and business people. In my four years as Lithuanian Affairs chairman, never was I more pleased to make a presentation than this year's award to Joe. A very modest man, he didn't seem to understand why we were making such a fuss over him.

A salesman by trade, he and his wife first came to know the Lithuanian-American community in Los Angeles when they attended St. Casimir's Church shortly after their marriage. Joe had already been familiar with the church, having attended high school across the street at John Marshall.

The main part of the organ he donated had been built for a funeral parlor in 1923. It was in pieces when

he acquired it in 1963. Its bellows—the air source that makes the pipes sound—came from the organ used in Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood during the Silent Movie era. Some other parts of the instrument date back to 1898.

Valued at \$40,000, the instrument was packed and shipped with the help of labor and cash donated by Los Angeles Council-133 of the Knights of Lithuania.

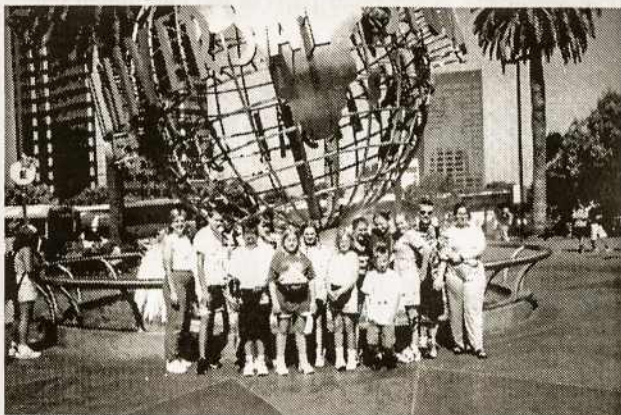
Joe and Patricia Hunziker have four children and six grandchildren. The giant theater organ that Joe rebuilt and preserved for more than 30 years, had almost become a fifth child. On behalf of the members of "Our Lady, Mary, Star of the Sea" church in Sventoji, I promised them that the Lithuanians would take good care of their offspring.

-Len Barcousky -



Mr. and Mrs. Hunziker pose with Len Barcousky, Supreme Council Lithuanian Affairs Committee chairman.

Junior Convention News From Los Angeles



The Junior Knights of Lithuania attended the convention held in Los Angeles, California, July 27-30, 2000. Their ages ranged from 7 to 15 years old. On Thursday we were treated to a Lithuanian Egg Decorating class. Many of the Juniors have decorated eggs in their own families, but all learned some new techniques. The remainder of the afternoon was spent by the pool, where C-133 treated us to pizza.

On Friday, the Juniors spent the day at Universal's Theme Park. Although it was a hot California day, everyone got cooled off on the Jurassic Park ride.

Saturday's Junior Session was spent talking about the importance of our ancestors, and how they came to the U. S. A. Each Junior prepared a poster board that showed their pride in their ancestors and their Lithuanian heritage. These were presented to the adult group at their morning meeting. Supreme Council President, Robert Martin, Jr., enlisted the help of the Juniors to promote the convention for next year, which will be held at the Grovesnor Resort Hotel, located on the Walt Disney World grounds in Orlando, Florida. (Each junior was a member of the "Vyciai Mickey Mouse Club," 'ears' included).

All of the Juniors attended Mass on Sunday with their parents.

Exploring ancestry is a good activity for Junior Councils. This requires some "homework," but it brings the past and the present together. Each junior really enjoyed preparing and presenting their "Heritage Board." Some questions to ask: (1) When did your ancestors come to the U.S.A.? (2) What city did they come from, and where in the U.S. A. did they settle? (3) When did they join the K. of L.? (4) Were they involved in their Lithuanian community? Have the Juniors bring pictures to put on their poster board, and supply them with poster

board, construction paper, different types of scissors, markers, stickers, stencils, etc. Talk about what they've discovered about their own heritage, and then let their creativity go to work. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at their enthusiasm for their heritage. If you have any questions, please feel free to call, or e-mail me. (Numbers are found on the inside cover of the Vytis).

-Annamarie Suzas-Berger



For Juniors, by Juniors

The convention was fun and exciting, held in Los Angeles, California.

Our first activity was, to learn new ways of Lithuanian egg dyeing. Then we had a pool party with pizza.

The next day we met and went to Universal Studio's Theme Park. There we enjoyed a day of rides and shows.

I enjoyed the Cultural Night's music, which was "Rock and Roll" in Lithuanian.

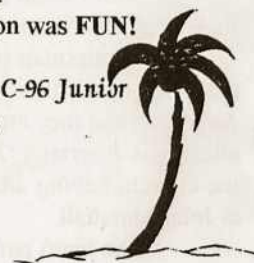
We also worked on posters. Each one of us told the story of our family and heritage on the poster.

On Saturday morning, each one of us presented our poster and told about our family history to the delegates.

Before the Saturday Night Banquet, President Valdas Adamkus met with us and we had our picture taken with him. It was very exciting.

All together, this Convention was FUN!

-Joseph Berger, C-96 Junior
Dayton, Ohio



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

presented at the LOS ANGELES
87th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Saturday Night Banquet

July 29, 2000



Labas vakaras!

It is my fourth year as Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Over these years, the Committee has struggled with what changes we can make to the award program to keep it meaningful and current with the times and the new millennium. Last year the Committee successfully voted to rescind the restriction that stipulated that an applicant could only win one time. However, I am sad to report that no one took advantage of that option for this year....there is always next year!!!!!!

Last year the Committee awarded \$7,800 of scholarship money to 4 worthy applicants, including one seminarian in Rome.

First, I would like to thank my committee, which is comprised of four other members from various districts:

- ◆ Veronica Bizinkauskas Cote, New England District;
- ◆ Antoinette Sakal, Mid-Atlantic District;
- ◆ Karen Domalakes, Amber District;
- ◆ Wanda Pliskaitis, Mid-America District;
- ◆ I continue to represent my long-time council, Council-96 Dayton, Ohio, and the Mid-Central District.

K of L Scholarships are awarded based on a numerical voting system that takes into account the following attributes: K of L involvement (2 year membership requirement); Financial need, Character reference, Academic ability, and Community Service.

Now... for the good part. This year the Committee has awarded \$7,500 to 3 lucky applicants. As always, I start off with the Irene Sankus Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 that is awarded each year to a seminarian attending the Pontifical Lithuanian College-Seminary in Rome. It is customary for Monsignor Bartkus to select

the recipient, who is from a Diocese in Lietuva, and is studying in either his first or second year in Rome.

The second scholarship, our top scholarship, the Sviklas and Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship, will be for \$3,500, and it is awarded to **SARAH MILLER**, A MEMBER OF Council 141-Bridgeport, Connecticut. Sarah is an active Junior member since 1989, and has participated in numerous national and local activities. She will be attending Clemson University, studying Communications. Congratulations, Sarah!!!

The next scholarship, the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship, (which is provided through the K of L Foundation), is for \$3,000 and is awarded to a returning student from Council 136 - Hudson-Mohawk - **LYNN HAYNER MACAFFERY**. She has served as President of her Council and obtained her 4th degree in 1999. After raising four children and seeing them enter adulthood, Lynn was determined to return to college. Lynn is now studying Occupational Therapy at Maria College. Daug sekmes...Lynn!

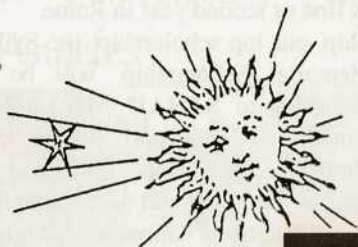


The final bit of exciting and wonderful news this year is, the establishment of a one-time fund in the Memory of Regina Wright of Council 141-Bridgeport, Connecticut. Regina passed away in August of 1999, and throughout the last year, the Scholarship Committee has been receiving funds from the family and friends of this dear long-time member. In their effort to remember this long-time Knights of Lithuania member, devotee to her homeland, Lithuania, devout Catholic, an avid musician, a philanthropic soul, a total of \$2,375 was collected. As mentioned by her daughter, "This fund represents just one example of her continuing compassion and kindness." Members of her family are here tonight, and we thank them for attending. The family has selected these funds to support a seminarian in Lithuania, through the Aid to Lithuania's "Adopt a Seminarian" program. Please let's now give the scholarship recipients our support.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of the scholarship program, and look forward to letting you know of the Committee's new ideas and potential changes.

-Irena Gecas-McCarthy

SPOTLIGHT



Hi, Mom!



Behind every great man,

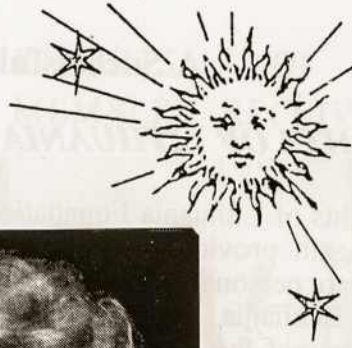


A toast to the greatest of hosts.



Greetings from Lithuania!

ON THE STARS



there's a great woman!

'Round in circles she goes.



I could have danced all night!

A Successful Completion to the

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION 2000 ESSAY CONTEST

This year's Knights of Lithuania Foundation Essay Contest again provided members an opportunity to share personal thought relating to the Knights, Lithuania, their Lithuanian heritage. The topic of the 2000 Foundation Contest was:

Write an Essay about something related to either the Knights of Lithuania, your Lithuanian heritage, or Lithuania itself, that is especially close to your heart.

Essays were judged on the basis of content, style, grammar, creativity, general appearance, and adherence to the stated topic. Judging was anonymous -- judges did not know the identity of any of the entrants until the judging was over. Judges, who represented all Districts, included:

Joanne Antanavage (1999 Winner)
 Adolf Klova (AMD)
 Clemencine Miller (NED)
 Elinor Sluzas (MCD)
 Mary Beth Slakis (MAMD)
 Loretta Stukas (MAD)

8 entries were received, representing 2 Districts and 5 Councils. The quality of the essays entered was heartening, the topics were interesting, and the judging difficult.

Winners were announced at the 87th National Convention in Los Angeles, CA. The

winning entries will be published in subsequent issues.

We thank all the members who entered the contest, and congratulate those in the "winning circle", namely:

- 1st (\$300.00) Jean Valente**
 C-50, New Haven, CT
- 2nd (\$200.00) Sister Helen Ivanauskas**
 C-1, Brockton, MA
- 3rd (\$100.00) Vilija Bizinkauskas**
 (tie) C-1, Brockton, MA
- 3rd (\$100.00) Patrice Genchauskas**
 (tie) C-1, Brockton, MA
- Hon. Mention Walter Svekla**
 C-3, Philadelphi, PA

The Knights of Lithuania is most grateful to Rev. Msgr. Juozas Prunskis for his generosity in donating a special grant of \$10,500 to the Foundation, with the specification that the interest from the grant be used for an Essay Contest, encouraging members to think about and write about Lithuania, her needs, and the Knights of Lithuania.

We encourage all members to enter the next contest!

Loretta I. Stukas, President
 Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.



FIFTH STRAIGHT YEAR Council 133 and Maryte Sepikas Winners of Membership Awards

173 new members joined the Knights of Lithuania in 1999. Congratulations to Council 133 - Los Angeles, and Maryte Sepikas, for having the most new members join the Knights of Lithuania for the last five years, in the category of Councils with 75 members or more

Individual members winners are as follows:

Maryte Sepikas - Council 133 - 19 new members
Mark H. Bell - Council 96 - 10 new members
Mildred Jagiella - Council 82 - 10 new members
Kathryn Urban - Council 6 - 9 new members
Casimir Balt - Council 82 - 8 new members
June Grenier - Council 6 - 5 new members
Robert Medonis - Council 19 - 5 new members
Eleanor Vaicaitis - Council -144 - 5 new members
Alex Yusias - Council 6 - 5 new members

Council with over 75 members winners are as follows:

Council 133 - Los Angeles - 19 new members
Council 144 - Anthracite - 8 new members
Council 112 - Chicago - 3 new members

Council with less than 75 members winners are as follows:

Council 6 - Hartford - 34 new members
Council 82 - Gary, IN - 24 new members
Council 19 - Pittsburgh - 5 new members
Council 147 - St. Petersburg - 5 new members

*-Maryte Sepikas - 2nd Vice-Pres.
Membership*

Council 6 - Hartford, Rejuvenated by Addition of 34 New Members!

Congratulations indeed to Council 6 - Hartford, for enrolling 34 new members into the Knights. Special thanks to the diligent efforts of Council 6 members; Alyce Gegesky, June Grenier, Lillian Joseph, Gertrude Kruzinauskas, Kathryn Urban and Alex Yusias, whose efforts proved that the Lithuanian spirit of Council survival lives on. Our applause for a job well done, Connecticut Knights!

*-Maryte Sepikas - Second
Vice-President, Membership*

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA MEMBERS RECEIVE 4TH DEGREES



In the absence of Clemencine Miller, Ritual Committee Chairperson, (who was unable to attend the convention this year due to a serious fall), Elsie Kosmisky, committee member, presented the names of the following candidates who were qualified to receive their fourth degrees this year:

Alice Bacon, C-3, Philadelphia
Edward Bebrin, C-7, Waterbury
Elizabeth Bebrin, C-7, Waterbury
Theresa Shukaitis, C-7, Waterbury
Doris Snirpunas, C-7, Waterbury
Mary Beth Slakis, C-16, Chicago
Joseph Ivaska, C-25, Cleveland
Albert Wallis, C-25, Cleveland
Evelyn Lapenski, C-50, New Haven
Ben Bruzga, C-86, Du Bois
Lee Moore, C-86, Du Bois
Benedict Radzavich, C-86, Du Bois
Vincent Stripeikis, C-110, Maspeth
Sophie Zuyus, C-110, Maspeth
Ann Soha, C-143, Pittston
Steve Soha, C-143, Pittston
Martha Warnagiris, C-143, Pittston
James Marcinkas, C-153, North Palm Beach
John Tamashauskas, C-153, North Palm Beach

In addition to these names were added two members who qualified to receive the Fourth Degree last year, but were unable to attend the convention. They are:

Eve Stark Aukstikalnis, C-102, Detroit, and Joseph Stark, C-102, Detroit, who will join the four members from the above list who were present this year.

Therefore, this Sunday, at the Closing Mass of the Convention, the 4th Degrees will be bestowed upon:

Edward Bebrin, Elizabeth Bebrin, Doris Snirpunas, Lee Moore, Eva Stark Aukstikalnis and Joseph Stark. Congratulations!

EXCITING GUESTS at the NATIONAL CONVENTION



It was as though they were old friends and Convention regulars...they greeted old and new friends, laughed, discussed ideas, and fit right in with the delegates and guests. It was hard to believe that these two special guests of the Supreme Council at the 887th National Convention were actually the President and First Lady of the Republic of Lithuania, Valdas and Alma Adamkus! But, to our delight, they indeed were.

The 86th National Convention in Philadelphia in 1999 voted to elevate President Adamkus to Honorary Membership. He graciously accepted our invitation for himself and his lovely wife, and arrived in Los Angeles to add excitement and elegance to this Convention. Because of the President's visit, the Convention was also graced with the presence of Lithuanian Ambassador to the USA, Stasys Sakalauskas and his wife, from Washington, and Consul General Cekanaukas and his wife, from California.

The President and Mrs. Adamkus arrived in Los Angeles Thursday evening, and were greeted at the airport by the Ambassador and Consul General and their wives, city and county representatives, members of the local K of L, National President John Mankus and his wife, and Honorary Membership Chair, Loretta Stukas, plus a group of LA Lithuanian youth in Lithuanian costume. The Mayor's office arranged for the use of a VIP lounge where the guests were able to greet the President and his wife, chat and establish a nice relationship with them. After the visit, the guests went on to the hotel for a much-needed rest (after half a day of travel from Lithuania), and the K of L-ers went on to enjoy the tail end of the Thursday evening Convention Get-together.

The Adamkus' and Sakalauskas' spent most of Friday meeting with city officials and the media. In the evening, they were feted by Ruta Lee (Kilmonyte) and her friends at her home.

Saturday, in between meetings with Baltic and Eastern European representatives, discussing common State affairs, President Adamkus and Ambassador Sakalauskas dropped in on a Convention session, where they were greeted with a standing ovation. Mr. Adamkus addressed the Session informally, but warmly. He thanked the Knights for our outstanding help with Lithuania during her fight for independence and for our continuing support, and urged us not to stop. Coincidentally, the President arrived in time to hear the delegates voting on resolutions vowing to work ever harder to bring the USA government to the realization that it is in their best interest to have Lithuania and the other Baltic nations included in NATO.

Before the evening banquet, Mr. and Mrs. Adamkus, plus the Ambassador and Consul General and their wives, attended the Supreme Council Cocktail Party, where they mingled with Supreme Council and Honorary Members, graciously agreed to have their photos taken, and exchanged ideas about Lithuania and her needs. Before leaving the party to go to the banquet, they also met and were photographed with the K of L Juniors.

The President was indeed the top guest at the Convention's Closing Banquet, for it was there that he was granted Honorary Membership in the Knights, for exercising democratic leadership of the state, and continuous support of the Knights of Lithuania. In accepting the award, Mr. Adamkus said, "I am greatly honored to become one of you. It is not only because I highly value the Knights' contribution to the cause of the freedom of Lithuania. No less meaningful are your efforts to foster Lithuania national identity and the principles of ethics and justice." He also spoke of the progress Lithuania has made in the recent decade, and expressed optimism that things will improve with time. He invited the K of L-ers to more actively support your people seeking higher education, and suggested providing scholarships for K of L-ers to study in Lithuania, and for Lithuanian students to study in the US.

To let Mrs. Adamkus know that her presence was no less appreciated, newly-elected K of L National President, Robert A Martin, Jr., presented her with a check for \$1,000, as a donation to her sponsored charity, "ALMA'S FUND," which aids needy and especially crippled children in Lithuania. To that, guest Ruta Lee responded by pledging to donate a sum of \$5,000 to the same fund. It was a lucky day for Lithuania's needy children!

When the banquet formalities were over, the President and Mrs. Adamkus were besieged with autograph seekers, professional and amateur photographers, and delegates and guests wanting to greet them. They responded with their usual warmth and charm.

On Sunday, President Adamkus and his wife Alma participated in the Closing Mass at St. Casimir's Lithuanian Catholic Church. Mr. Adamkus and the Convention's local chairperson, Maryte Sepikas, carried the Offertory gifts to the altar. Afterward, the President and his wife bid a fond farewell to the Knights, and promised to continue working with us. President and Mrs. Adamkus left for Los Angeles for Vilnius on Sunday evening.

We are most grateful and proud that President Adamkus took time from his hectic schedule to attend our Convention and become one of us. We wish him and Mrs. Adamkus well, and look forward to meeting them again in the not too distant future.

-Loretta Stukas-

SATURDAY BANQUET

The Terrace Room of the Sheraton Universal Hotel, with its floor-to-ceiling windows, was an elegant panorama of flowers and silver-filled tables, clear starry night, and a breathtaking view of Los Angeles.

After our honored guests were escorted into the room, hymns were sung, prayers were said and dinner was served. The food was excellent, and vigilant waiters attended to our every need.

Master of Ceremonies, Victor Ralys, skillfully led us through the evening's agenda.

Our FRIEND OF LITHUANIA award was presented by Leonard Barcoucky to Mr. Joseph Hunziker. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS presented by Irena-Gecas McCarthy were given to Sarah Miller and Lynn Hayner McCaffery. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP was bestowed upon Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania, and Rev. Peter Shakalis, New England District Spiritual Advisor, by Mrs. Loretta Stukas.

After the introduction of guests and presentation of awards, we were privileged to listen to a remarkable speech by Honorary Member, President Valdas Adamkus.

Mr. Robert A. Martin, Jr., our newly elected K of L president, presented a check for \$1,000.00 to Mrs. Adamkus from the Knights of Lithuania for ALMA'S FUND which helps the less fortunate children of Lithuania. Ruta Lee then announced that she and her husband would add an additional \$5,000 to Alma's Fund.

Music for the evening was provided by Art



Walunas' Orchestra. Maryte Bizinkauskas led us in the singing of "I Love Lithuania," written by Art Walunas. The evening closed with dancing.

-Elinor Sluzas -

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

This year, four K of L members were chosen to receive the "Order of Gediminas" ("Gedimino Ordenas") from the President of Lithuania for their work in helping Lithuania. **HM Loretta Stukas** traveled to Lithuania to receive her award on July 6th from the President. During the K of L convention Banquet, President Adamkus presented the awards to **HM Robert Boris** and **C-133 Member, Grazute (Slapelyte) Sirutis (Sirutiene)**. **C-29 Member, Rose Somkaite** has been designated to receive the Award at a future date. Rose will also receive the "Lithuanian Independence" Medal, for very special work done towards regaining Lithuania's Independence.

Congratulations to all of them!

-Loretta Stukas-



CLOSING MASS REPORT



July 30, 2000

The day began very early for the newly elected Supreme Council. The first meeting of the year was held at 8:00 A.M. at the hotel. Everyone was a little tired after enjoying the banquet the night before. After a few cups of coffee and some cool air, we all were ready to listen as President-elect, Robert Martin, Jr., called the meeting to order. The meeting was very basic, as the first meeting usually is. We decided to hold our second meeting in Orlando, in November, at the site of next year's convention. The meeting adjourned, and everyone "skedaddled" to the hotel lobby to catch the buses for the closing Mass at St. Casimir's.

The temperature was getting warmer as we awaited the start of Mass and the grand procession into the church. As the cross preceded the various organizations' flags into the church, the anticipation grew over the honored worshipers. The St. Casimir choir, under the direction of C-133 member, V́ictor Ralys, did a magnificent job as we gathered to thank God for a memorable convention. The fourth degree recipients processed in, then the new Supreme Council. Next, Honorary Members, including our two newest,--Father Peter Shakalis, and President of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus, accompanied by his wife, Alma, and ambassador and Mrs. Stasys Sakalauskas. Unfortunately, Father Peter had to be at the airport to catch his flight, and was unable to attend the closing Mass. Concelebrating our Mass were, Msgr. Olsauskas, pastor of St. Casimir's, Father Francis Karvelis of Waterbury, CT, Father Gintaras Grusas, native L.A.'er and currently in Rome for his Doctorate, Father Astijus Kungys, OFM, from Kretinga, Lithuania, and Father George Hazler of St. John the Evangelist parish in Naples, FL. The principal celebrant was Roger Cardinal Mahoney, Archbishop of Los Angeles. We were so happy to have him join us on this grand

occasion to close out the 87th National Convention. Father Grusas, in the absence of Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, national spiritual advisor, graciously blessed and bestowed the 4th degree medals to the recipients. He then called the Supreme Council forward to take the oath. Mass then began, as everyone settled back in their pews.

During his homily, Cardinal Mahoney spoke highly of the Knights and our work throughout the past 87 years of our existence. Using the three readings, Cardinal Mahoney compared the work of the Knights of Lithuania to the work done by Elisha in the first reading, providing food to the people. Also, the gospel reading was taken from the sixth chapter of St. John, when Jesus feeds the multitude from the five loaves and two fish. Again, he pointed out how the Knights have provided so much for the Lithuanian people.

Mass came to an end, and we all proceeded out for the convention photo.

The brunch in the church hall was an exciting event to say, "so long" to our fellow delegates, President Adamkus, Ambassador Sakalauskas and Southern California. We planned for next year in Florida, and bid a fond "Sudiev!" to our L.A. Knights in C-133.

-Mark Henry Bell

COUNCIL 133 - LOS ANGELES THANKS YOU for a ONCE in a LIFETIME of MEMORIES



Convention 2000 Committee members, Darata Miniskey, Laura Kush, Valerija Reklaityte, Maryte Sepikas, Vincas Stokas, and Daiva Schuksta celebrate a most joyous convention.

Convention 2000 Host Council 133 - Los Angeles, sends their heartfelt thanks to all participants for a wonderful convention.

We appreciate all the wonderful letters, photographs and kind words about President and Alma Adamkus' visit, Ruta Lee's hospitality, the great Lithuanian food, our Church and choir, and our Council.

We are so pleased that you were able to observe firsthand, that the Knights not only exist, but are thriving in the west - proud of their faith and heritage. Our Council members were elated to meet Knights from all over the country who share their Catholic and Lithuanian pride.

Thanks to His Excellency President Valdas and Alma Adamkus, the first Lithuanian President to attend a Knights of Lithuania Convention, and for making the convention such an unforgettable memory.

Thanks to his Excellency Lithuanian Ambassador Stasys and Jurate Sakalauskas, as well as the Honorable Consul General Vytautas and Janina Cekanaukas.

Thanks to His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahony, Msgr. Algirdas Olsauskas, Msgr. Jonas Kucingis, Father Gintaras Grusas, Father Peter Shakalis and Father Francis Karvelis, for the inspirational Masses.

Thanks to all delegates, guests and friends who attended the Convention.

Thanks to our beautiful Lithuanian star, Ruta Lee and her wonderful husband, Web Lowe, for their hospitality Thursday evening.

Thanks to our wonderful "Friend of Lithuania" recipients, Patricia and Joseph Hunziker.

Thanks for their guidance to Len and Barbara Barcousky, Mark Bell, John Mankus, Robert Martin, Irena Gecas-McCarthy, Agnes Mickunas, John Mickunas, Barbara Miller, Fran Petkus, Elinor Sluzas, Arlene Stiklius, Joe Stiklius, Loretta Stukas and Marion Wydra.

Special thanks and a big bouquet of gratitude to Convention Committee members - Co-chair, Adele Reklaityte for the beautiful Ad and Mass booklets, and convention committee members Valerija Reklaityte Hale, Darata Miniskey, Laima Baltrenas, Josephine Barzda, Daiva Schuksta, Vincas Stokas, Aldona Varijakojis, Arthur Walunas, Onute Sepikaite Kebliene, Vytas Keblys, Elena Sepikiene, Jurate Sepikiene, Juozas Sepikas, Robert Novak, Victor Ralys, Jurate Venchus, Maryte Newsome, Aida Mikalauskas, Mitchell Sapovich, Bart Barisa, Stella Balesh, James Balesh, Jeffrey Balesh, Jack Bruzas, Mary Bruzas and Laura Kush.

Thanks to our cooks Antanina Uldukiene, Genovaite Plukiene and Lyda Sturoniene for their tasty treats, and,

thanks to the "Trys Sesutes Grikaviciutes," (The Three Sisters) for their Friday Cultural talents.

***If anyone would like any **photographs** or a **video** from the various convention activities, please do not hesitate to contact Maryte Sepikas at (818) 782-1248.

-Maryte Sepikas -

The 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania will be remembered as the **FIRST** Convention of the 21st century. It is the **FIRST** time Honorary Membership was bestowed upon a President of Lithuania. It is the **FIRST** time a change was made in the "Vyciu Himnas" to make it more relevant for us today. It is the **FIRST** time, in response to the survey of all of its members, that major changes in the format will be made for future national conventions, and, it's the **FIRST** time... in a long time... that emphasis was placed on re-establishing Junior Knights of Lithuania Councils. So, let us look forward to this new century with renewed vigor and enthusiasm, to make our **KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FIRST** among Lithuanian Organizations.

-Elinor Sluzas, H.M.-

GREETINGS TO THE 87TH NATIONAL CONVENTION, 2000

PRESIDENT WILLIAM CLINTON
President of the United States
Washington, DC

GRAY DAVIS
Governor of California
Sacramento, CA

HIS EMINENCE ROGER CARDINAL MAHONY
Archbishop of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

ARCHBISHOP AUDRYS JUOZAS BAČKIS
Archbishop of Vilnius
Vilnius, Lithuania

MOST REV. PAULIUS BALTAKIS, OFM, HM
Titular Bishop of Egara for Lithuanian
Catholics throughout the Free World
Brooklyn, NY

REV. MSGR. ALGIMANTAS BARTKUS
Rector, Pontifical Lithuanian College
of St. Casimir,
Rome, Italy
by Mark Bell

PRESIDENT VALDAS ADAMKUS
President of Lithuania
Vilnius, Lithuania
in Person

HIS EXCELLENCY STASYS SAKALAUSKAS
Ambassador of Lithuania to the USA
Washington, DC
in Person

GIEDRIUS APUOKAS
Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania
Chicago, IL

DR. RIMANTAS MARKOVENAS
Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania
New York, NY

**LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS'
LEAGUE OF AMERICA**
by Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons, President
South Boston, MA

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL (ALTAS)
Mr. Saulius Kuprys, President
Chicago, IL
in Person

**LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC
FEDERATION OF AMERICA**
Saulius Kuprys, President
Chicago, IL
in Person

**LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC
CHARITIES, INC.**
Linus Sidrys, MD Exec. Comm. President
Chicago, IL

**LITHUANIAN AMERICAN ROMAN
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**
Dale Vaikutis Murray, National President
Brookfield, WI

**FEDERATION OF LITHUANIAN WOMEN'S
CLUBS**
Aldona Noakas Pintsch, President
West Milford, NJ

LIETUVIŲ SKAUTU SAJUNGA
Birute Banaitiene, President
Abington, MA

**LITHUANIAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY OF
SCIENCE, ALKA**
Juožas Rygelis, President
Putnam, CT

LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S RELIEF, INC.
Daiva Vistas Neidharst
So. Boston, MA
by Sister Helen Ivanauskas, V.P.

BALTIC JESUITS
Anthony Venckus, Consultant
Chicago, IL

CONGREGATION OF THE MARIAN FATHERS
Rev. Donald S. Petraitis, MIC, Provincial
Chicago, IL

THE LITHUANIAN FRANCISCANS
Rev. Placidus Barius, Vice-Provincial
Kennebunkport, ME

VILNIAUS ARKIVYSKUPIJOS CARITAS
Baly Stankus, Direktorius
Vilnius, Lithuania

SISTERS OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
Sister M. Paule Savickas, Superior
Putnam, CT

SISTERS OF JESUS CRUCIFIED
Sister Mary Valliere, CJC, Superior General
Brockton, MA
by Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC

SISTERS OF LITHUANIAN DESCENT
Religious Support of Religious in Lithuania (RSRL)
Sister Eugenia Glineckis, Delegate
by Sister Helen Ivanauskas, CJC

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR
Sister Immacula Wendt, SSC
General Superior
Chicago, IL
by Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS
Sr. Joanne Brazinski, OSF
Superior General
Pittsburgh, PA

GREETINGS WITH DONATIONS

K OF L GENERAL FUND:

Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM C-140 \$20.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36 10.00
Helen Medley, C-50 5.00

TOTAL: \$35.00

VYTIS FUND:

Sophia Sakalys, C-103 \$15.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36 10.00

TOTAL: \$25.00

REV. JOHN C. JUTT FUND (LITH. AFFAIRS):

Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM C-140 20.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36 10.00

TOTAL: \$30.00

K OF L JUNIORS ACTIVITIES:

General:

Bernice Aviza, C-136 \$50.00
Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144 10.00
Mary F. Kincius, C-36 10.00
Helen Medley, C-50 5.00

Subtotal (General) \$75.00

PLEDGES:

Elinor Sluzas, HM C-96 \$50.00

Subtotal (Pledges) \$50.00

TOTAL: \$125.00

AID TO LITHUANIA:

General:

K of L Mid America Institute \$650.00

K of L C-109, Great Neck, NY 400.00
Mr. & Mrs. Edward A. Jakatt, C-110 250.00
John III & Juliannj D. Majeski 200.00
(IMO Frank Kapochus)
Sister Margaret Louis E. Rupsis 200.00
(IMO Lithuanian Relatives)
K of L Amber District 100.00
K of L C-152, Riverhead, NY 100.00
K of L C-3, Philadelphia 100.00
(IMO C-3 Deceased Members)
K of L C-156, Shamokin, PA 100.00
Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons, MA, HM 100.00
Richard & Dr. Grace Austin 100.00
Bernice Aviza, C-136 100.00
(IMO Fr. Jonas Pakaluski)
Algerd & Aldona Brazis, HM, C-112 100.00
(IMO Bruno Shotas)
John & Dolores Jonaitis, C-147 100.00
Anna M. Kapochus 100.00
(IMO Frank A. Kapochus)
Daina M. Kapochus, C-3 100.00
(IMO Marilyn Eley Kapochus)
Len Kapochus, C-3 100.00
(IMO Marilyn Ely Kapochus)
Regina Kot, C-100 100.00
(IMO Deceased Family)
Philip and Dorothy Machonis, C-3 100.00
(IMO Deceased Family)
Joseph & Anna Marro, C-3 100.00
(IMO Deceased Family)
Jean Mihalick, C-3 100.00
(IMO Mihalick, Petrauskas, Kapochus Families)
Ann O'Neill, C-29 100.00
(IMO Mary Stonis)
Nellie A. Pandza, C-3 100.00
(IMO Deceased Family)
K of L C-86, DuBois, PA 50.00

K of L C-143, Pittston, PA	50.00	(IMO Deceased Family)	
Alphonse J. Balsis	50.00	Bertha Stoskus, C-103	25.00
(IMO Deceased Family)		Walter & Irene Svekla, C-3	25.00
John J. & Mary A. Chernoski, C-3	50.00	(IMO Kazys Sipaila)	
David C. & Mary Ann Cipolla, C-143	50.00	Anne E. Vaichus, C-7	25.00
Karen V. Kapochus	50.00	(IMO Husband, Raymond)	
(IMO Marilyn Eley Kapochus)		Alberta Weigand	25.00
Helen Karpovich	50.00	Ruth A. Wallash, C-3	25.00
(IMO Karpovich & Kapochus Families)		Harold & Dorothy Wilson	25.00
Mary Labadis, C-144	50.00	(IMO Deceased Family)	
(IMO Helen & Bil Labadis)		Catherine Applegate	20.00
Janina Lauras	50.00	Joseph & Dianne Drunstas, C-3	20.00
Alfred & Ann Navitt	50.00	(IMO Prayers for Healthy Friends)	
(IMO Deceased Family)		Flavius Jankauskas	20.00
Josephine O'peka, C-3	50.00	(IMO Deceased Family)	
Anthony J. & Barbara Pastore	50.00	Tomas M.I Kapochus & Gayle Dewald	20.00
(IMO Deceased Family)		(Marilyn Eley Kapochus)	
William J. Piacentini, C-103	50.00	Mary Moran	20.00
Charles & Donna Sulmar, C-3	50.00	Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM, C-140	20.00
Faustas & Theresa Strolia, HM, C-157	35.00	Margared R. Allen, C-3	15.00
K of L C-29, Newark, NJ	25.00	(IMO Warren Allen)	
(IMO Kazys Sipaila)		Nellie Bayoras-Romanas, C-143	10.00
K of L C-36, Chicago, IL	25.00	(IMO Helen Chesko)	
Sam J. & Lillian R. Adams	25.00	Frank & Donna Bunikis, C-2	10.00
(IMO Kapocius Family)		(IMO Ann Uznis)	
Alice Bacon, C-3	25.00	Stephany Gutauskas, C-3	10.00
(IMO Deceased Family)		(IMO Deceased Family)	
Mark H., Bell, C-96	25.00	Ann Kolernak	10.00
Mary B. Bigenis, C-3	25.00	(IMO Deceased Family)	
Thomas, Sr. & Lynn Bonavich	25.00	Jean Kapochus Mihalick & Helen Karpovich, C-3	10.00
Edward M. Budelis, C-3	25.00	(IMO J. J. Bayoras)	
Jeanne & Timothy Dorr, C-3	25.00	Jean Kapochus Mihalick, C-3	10.00
Joan C. Iwasko	25.00	(IMO Andrew Mihalick)	
Lillian Joseph, C-6	25.00	Jean Mihalick & Helen Karpovich	10.00
(IMO Al Joseph)		(IMO Helen Chesko)	
Len Kapochus, C-3	25.00	Josephine Remaize	10.00
(IMO Helen Chesko)		(IMO Deceased Family)	
Aniele Kendrick, C-3	25.00	Bronius Krokys, C-3	6.00
(IMO Deceased Family)			
Mary F. Kincius, C-36	25.00	Subtotal (General):	\$5,281.00
Mrs. Gaise (Ruth B.) Lacek	25.00		
Charles & Nelda Machutas, C-25	25.00	Seminary Fund:	
(IMO Isabel Reedick)		Anthony A. & Petronella Alexancer, C-7	\$2,000.00
Ruth T. Margis	25.00	Anthony Baron	2,000.00
(IMO Deceased Family)		Anne T. Baronas	2,000.00
Helen Medley, C-50	25.00	Robert S. Boris, HM, C-102	2,000.00
Paul & Dorothy Monkaitis	25.00	Mary Gudelis, C-96	2,000.00
(IMO Deceased Family)		Olympia M. Zielinski, C-156	1,000.00
Lee & Paul Moore, C-86	25.00	Elsie Kosmisky, C-144	25.00
Richard Niedvares, C-16	25.00	(IMO Helen Chesko)	
Frances R. Petkus, HM, C-96	25.00	Anna Wargo, C-144	25.00
(IMO Michael Petkus, HM)		(IMO Helen Chesko)	
Mary Pultinas, C-7	25.00	Subtotal (Seminary):	\$11,050.00
(IMO Ed Pultinas)			
Estelle J. Rogers, HM, C-112	25.00	PLEDGES:	
(IMO Vince Boris)		K of L C-110, Maspeth, NY	\$1,000.00
Sophia Sakalys	25.00	K of L C-16, Chicago, IL	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Skricki, C-27	25.00	Elinor Sluzas, HM C-96	50.00
(IMO Deceased Family)			
Frances Skurzynski	25.00		

Subtotal (Pledges): \$1,100.00

TOTAL: \$17,431.00

ST. CASIMIR GUILD:

VYTIS Tower, St. Casimir College

George & Frances Bumila, C-1 \$1,500.00

Subtotal (VYTIS Tower) \$1,500.00

General:

K of L Mid-America Institute \$650.00
 (IMO Stella Boneckis)
 K of L Amber District 100.00
 K of L C-3, Philadelphia, PA 100.00
 (IMO Joseph Yanulaitis)
 K of L C-152, Riverhead, NY 100.00
 Bernice Aviza, C-136 100.00
 Algerd & Aldona Brazis, HM C-112 100.00
 (IMO Tal Mitchell)
 William J. Piacentini, C-103 100.00
 Joseph & Arlene Stiklius, C-7 100.00
 K of L C-29, Newark, NJ 50.00
 K of L C-86, DuBois, PA 50.00
 K of L C-143, Pittston, PA 50.00
 Mark H. Bell, C-96 50.00
 Irene Grikenis, C-72 50.00
 Regina Kot, C-100 50.00
 Mary Labadis, C-144 50.00
 Loretta I. Stukas, HM C-29 50.00
 (IMO Helen Chesko)
 Faustas & Theresa Strolia, HM C-157 35.00
 K of L C-36, Chicago, IL 25.00
 June V. Grenier, C-6 25.00
 Mary F. Kincius, C-36 25.00
 Elsie Kosmisky, C-144 25.00
 Helen Medley, C-50 25.00
 Barbara Miller, C-72 25.00
 (IMO Elizabeth Kunce)
 Richard Niedvares, C-16 25.00
 Estelle J. Rogers, HM C-112 25.00
 Sophia Sakalys, C-103 25.00
 Anna Wargo, HM C-144 25.00
 Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM C-140 20.00
 Polly Ziausys, C-100 10.00

Subtotal (General): \$2,065.00

PLEDGES:

K of L C-16, Chicago, IL 50.00
 Elinor Sluzas, HM C-96 50.00

Subtotal (Pledges): \$100.00

TOTAL \$3,665.00

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION:

General:

K of L Mid-America Institute \$650.00
 George & Frances Bumila, C-1 200.00
 (IMO Joseph & Mary Kilmonis, parents of Ruta Lee)
 K of L C-3, Philadelphia, PA 100.00
 (IMO Helen Shields, HM)
 Rev. Msgr. Albert J. Contons, HM 100.00
 Algerd & Aldona Brazis, HM 100.00
 (IMO Bruno Shotas)
 Gene Gobis, C-100 100.00
 James Marcinkus, C-156 100.00
 Agnes & John Mickunas, C-3 100.00
 Rita M. Ochs, C-90 100.00
 William J. Piacentini, C-103 100.00
 Loretta I. Stukas, HM C-29 100.00
 (IMO Kazys Sipaila)
 Frank Yonika, C-17 100.00
 K of L Amber District 50.00
 K of L C-86, DuBois, PA 50.00
 K of L C-96, Dayton, OH 50.00
 K of L C-143, Pittston, PA 50.00
 Irene Grikenis, C-72 50.00
 (IMO Casey Grikenis)
 Mary Labadis, C-144 50.00
 (IMO Helen & Bill Labadis)
 Bertha Stoskus, HM C-103 50.00
 Polly Ziausys, C-100 40.00
 Faustas & Theresa Strolia, HM C-157 35.00
 K of L C-29, Newark, NJ 25.00
 (IMO Kazys Sipaila)
 K of L C-36, Chicago, IL 25.00
 Mark H. Bell, C-96 25.00
 Leonard Kapochus, C-3 25.00
 Mary F. Kincius, C-36 25.00
 Elsie Kosmisky, C-144 25.00
 Helen Medley, C-50 25.00
 Jean Kapochus Mihalick, C-3 25.00
 Lee & Paul Moore, C-86 25.00
 Richard Niedvares, C-16 25.00
 Frances R. Petkus, HM C-96 25.00
 Sophia Sakalys, C-103 25.00
 Anna Wargo, HM C-144 25.00
 Frank & Irene Petrauskas, HM C-140 20.00
 Clemencine Miller, HM C-141 (Post-Convention) 25.00

Subtotal (General): \$2,645.00

PLEDGES:

Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96 \$100.00
 K of L C-16, Chicago, IL 50.00

Subtotal (Pledges): \$150.00

TOTAL \$2,795.00

K OF L SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

General:

K of L Amber District \$50.00
 K of L C-143, Pittston, PA 50.00
 K of L C-152, Riverhead, NY 50.00
 Bernice Aviza, C-136 50.00

Mary Labadis, C-144 50.00
 K of L C-36, Chicago, IL 25.00
 Mark H. Bell, C-96 25.00
 Mary F. Kincius, C-36 25.00
 Frances R. Petkus, HM C-96 25.00
 Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144 10.00
 Helen Medley, C-50 5.00

Subtotal (General) \$365.00

PLEDGES:

K of L C-16, Chicago, IL \$50.00

Subtotal (Pledges): \$50.00

TOTAL: \$415.00

SILUVA SHRINE (WASHINGTON, DC) FUND:

Bertha Stoskus, HM C-103 \$100.00
 K of L C-152, Riverhead, NY 50.00
 Elsie Kosmisky, C-144 25.00
 (IMO Helen Chesko)
 Frances R. Petkus, HM C-96 25.00
 Anna Wargo, HM C-144 25.00
 Mary F. Kincius, C-36 10.00
 Helen Medley, C-50 10.00
 Sophie Sakalys, C-103 10.00
 Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144 10.00

TOTAL: \$265.00

LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S RELIEF:

Irene Grikenis, C-72 \$100.00
 (IMO Casey Grikenis)
 K of L Amber District 50.00
 K of L C-86, DuBois, PA 50.00
 K of L C-143, Pittston, PA. 50.00
 Phyllis Barkus, C-110 50.00
 (IMO Dalia Bulvicius)
 Phyllis Barkus, C-110 50.00
 (IMO Mary Barkus)
 John & Dolores Jonaitis, C-147 50.00
 Mary Labadis, C-144 50.00
 Bertha Stoskus, HM C-103 50.00
 Loretta I. Stukas, HM C-29 50.00
 Faustas & Theresa Strolia, HM C-157 35.00
 Sister Helen Ivanauskas, C-1 25.00
 Leonard Kapochus, C-3 25.00
 Jean Kapochus Mihalick, C-143 25.00
 Walt & Irene Svekla, C-3 25.00
 Eleanor Vaicaitis, C-144 20.00

TOTAL \$705.00

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR:

Richard Niedvares, C-16 \$100.00

TOTAL \$100.00

BALTIC JESUITS

Algerd & Aldona Brazis, HM C-112 \$100.00

TOTAL: \$100.00

TOTAL DONATIONS AND PLEDGES RECEIVED \$25,691.00

The Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council and all its Committees and Funds express sincerest thanks to all Districts, Councils, members and guests for their very generous donations, to keep our organization and its many activities thriving.



Resolutions of the 87th National Convention.

Resolution: WHEREAS during this past year, the Knights of Lithuania lost two of our very dear and active Honorary Members, Aldona Ryan , C-96 and Kazys Sipaila, C-29, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that in grateful recognition for their many years of work and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania organization, we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, in Los Angeles, on this 28th day of July, 2000, pay tribute to these worthy and outstanding Knights with a moment of silence.

“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.”

Resolution: WHEREAS Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius, who battled the Soviets for church rights in Lithuania’s darkest hours, died on May 28,2000 in Kaunas, Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, in Los Angeles, on this 27th day of July, 2000, pay tribute to this holy, extraordinary man with a moment of silence.

“May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.”

Resolution: WHEREAS Sister Francesca Walls, a member of C-19, Pittsburgh, PA was called to join our Father in Heaven on December 8, 1999, and

WHEREAS during Sister Francesca’s lifetime she displayed true service to God, her religious community, and the Knights of Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that in grateful recognitions for her many years of work and dedication to God and Country and the Knights of Lithuania that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, in Los Angeles, on this 29th day of July, 2000, pay tribute to this little “saint” with a moment of silence.

“May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.”

Resolution: WHEREAS during this past year the Knights of Lithuania lost a number of loyal and active members, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that in grateful appreciation and recognition for their work and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania organization, we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, in Los Angeles, on this 28th day of July, 2000, pay tribute to these worthy and outstanding Knights with a moment of silence.

“May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.”

Resolution: WHEREAS the foundation of the Knights of Lithuania is established not only in our love of our Lithuanian ancestry and culture but also in the beliefs and teachings of the Roman Catholic faith, and

WHEREAS the Christian holiday season of Christmas will soon be upon us once again with all its wonders and joys brought to us through the birth of the Christ Child, and

WHEREAS modern society on occasion has turned this Holy season into a season of commercialism and thus lessens the importance of its true religious meaning, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Knights of Lithuania adopt a policy of encouraging its members to remember this special time of the year primarily for its religious aspects rather than its materialistic ones, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy be printed in the October and November issues of Vytis whereby we encourage our membership to remember and remind our friends, and indeed the world, of our Roman Catholic Beliefs through the sending of Christmas cards depicting religious scenes only and by only purchasing religious postage stamps for the mailing of these cards.

Resolution: WHEREAS 2000 marks the 85th Anniversary of Knights of Lithuania Council 36, Chicago, IL (Brighton Park), and

WHEREAS this milestone achievement will be celebrated by a Banquet on Sunday November 12, 2000, and

WHEREAS a milestone of this nature is not easily attained by many councils, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal, Los Angeles, CA offer our sincerest congratulations to Knights of Lithuania Council 36 on this momentous occasion, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we instruct the Supreme Council President to send a letter to Council 36 expressing our joyous sentiments.

Resolution: WHEREAS Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres has provided Lithuania with six containers of badly needed medicine valued at \$3,592,675, and

WHEREAS Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres has requested assistance from **Aid to Lithuania** to provide funds for transportation of these three shipments, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the 87th National Convention thank Pharmaciens Sans Frontieres for its concern for the people of Lithuania and the spirit of cooperation.

Resolution: WHEREAS in April of this year a 50-member team from the 109th Medical Squadron of the NY Air National Guard travelled to Lithuania and taught military techniques of administering first aid,

HOLLYWOOD HOPEFULS



THE WINNERS' CIRCLE



THE WAY WE WERE



IT'S SO HARD TO SAY GOOD-BYE!



cardiopulmonary resuscitation, crisis intervention and suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS prior to this training mission, three containers of medical supplies and equipment were collected by members of the NY Air National Guard and shipped to Lithuania; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the 87th National Convention thank 109th Medical Squadron of the NY Air National Guard for its concern for the people of Lithuania and the spirit of cooperation.

Resolution: WHEREAS Catholic Medical Mission Board has been generous in supplying much needed medicines to Lithuania and has supplied medicines to Lithuania with a value of \$ 2,987,298.00, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the Knights of Lithuania 87th National Convention send a thank you to them for their continued support.

Resolution: WHEREAS The 86th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. on July 26, 1999, approved the candidacy of Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, for elevation to Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania, and

WHEREAS all constitutional requirements and considerations have been met for this award, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the Knights of Lithuania 87th National Convention

confer Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania upon Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania.

Resolution: WHEREAS The 86th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia PA on July 26, 1999, approved the candidacy of Rev. Peter Shakalis, for elevation to Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania, and

WHEREAS all constitutional requirements and considerations have been met for this award, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the Knights of Lithuania 87th National Convention confer Honorary Membership in the Knights of Lithuania upon Rev. Peter Shakalis, Spiritual Advisor of the New England District and member of Council 1, Brockton, Massachusetts.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, assembled at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, continue to show our support to the Lithuanian Pontifical College of St. Casimir in Rome, Italy, with a donation of \$1,000.00 through the St. Casimir's Guild.

Resolution: WHEREAS Lietuviu Balsas has generously publicized news about the Knights of Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, express

its appreciation of Lietuviu Balsas and its staff for their cooperation and generosity.

Resolution: WHEREAS H M Anna Klizas Wargo was unable to attend the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania because she is convalescing from a fall in which she broke her femur, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA send get well greetings to HM Anna Wargo, and ask God's blessings for a speedy recovery.

Resolution: WHEREAS The Lithuanian Weekly, DIRVA, has generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, express its appreciation to the DIRVA and its staff for their cooperation and generosity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a donation of \$100.00 be sent to DIRVA with an expression of gratitude.

Resolution: WHEREAS The children orphaned and institutionalized and poor families are in dire need of food, clothes, medicines and other basic needs, and

WHEREAS Many members are actively involved in helping to collect pack and ship these needed items, and

WHEREAS Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. has successfully shipped and distributed one hundred and two (102) 40' containers, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, donate \$1,000.00 to Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc.

Resolution: WHEREAS The Lithuanian Catholic Daily, "Draugas", has consistently and generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania in the "Vyciu Veikla" column and other parts of their publication, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, express its sincerest gratitude to "Draugas" and its staff for their cooperation and generosity in publicizing Knights of Lithuania activity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a donation of \$200.00 be sent to "Draugas" with an expression of gratitude.

Resolution: WHEREAS The work of AID TO LITHUANIA, INC. has contributed much for Lithuania and her people through the provision of much medical and humanitarian aid, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, express their support of this worthy project with a donation of \$1,000.00.

Resolution: WHEREAS The Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Sisters of St. Casimir, Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God and the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception strive to introduce new ways of serving the religious in Lithuania; and

WHEREAS the Knights of Lithuania also strive to make known the needs of Lithuania's religious communities and support them in various ways as best it can, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, acknowledge the Sisters' works with a donation of \$100.00 to each of the four communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That we ask and encourage each of our members to continue to offer support to the Sisters' efforts.

Resolution: WHEREAS The Lithuanian Catholic Weekly, DARBININKAS, has generously printed news of the Knights of Lithuania,

BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles,

CA, express its appreciation of DARBININKAS and its staff for their cooperation and generosity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a donation of \$100.00 be sent to DARBININKAS with an expression of gratitude.

Resolution: WHEREAS on July 6, 2000 in Vilnius Lithuania The Order of Grand Duke Gediminas was conferred upon H.M. Loretta Stukas by Presidentf Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania, and

WHEREAS Loretta Stukas has continuously brought honor, attention, and fame to the Knights of Lithuania through her phenomenal involvement in the Knights of Lithuania and numerous organizations during Lithuania's fight for independence, and later helping to provide humanitarian aid for the people of Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA offer our sincerest congratulations to this valued fellow Knight with a standing ovation.

Valio ir Ilgiausiu Metu mieli Loretta!

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA at the recommendation of the Honorary Membership Committee, approve as a candidate for Honorary Membership Rita Sussko, member, Council 29, Newark, NJ., and

Be it further resolved that her history, outlining her services as a worthy candidate be published in VYTIS.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA at the recommendation of the Honorary Membership Committee, approve as a candidate for Honorary Membership Elsie Kosmisky, member, Council 144, Anthracite, PA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that her history, outlining her services as a worthy candidate be published in VYTIS.

Resolution: WHEREAS the year 2000 marks the 60th Wedding anniversary of Honorary Member and long time Mid-America District Past President, Algerd Brazis and his lovely wife Aldona, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA offer our sincerest congratulations,

Resolution: WHEREAS Longinas Svelnis has served faithfully as Chairman of the K of L archives for many years, and

WHEREAS He is retiring from this position, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that in grateful appreciation and recognition of his work and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania organization, we, delegates to the 87th

National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, on this 28th day of July, 2000, extend our heartfelt "Thank You" and congratulations to this worthy and outstanding Knight for his untiring years of service.

Resolution: WHEREAS Hartford, Connecticut has re-instated Council 6 after being dormant for 50 years, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the 87th National Convention gathered together in the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles congratulate and welcome Council 6.

Resolution: WHEREAS the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Putnam, Connecticut have contributed greatly to the revitalization of numerous religious communities in Lithuania, and

WHEREAS Sister Igne Mariosiute has been a friend of the Knights of Lithuania for many years, and

WHEREAS Sister Igne was recently elevated to Superior General of the order of Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the 87th National Convention gathered together in the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Los Angeles congratulate Sister Igne at this important juncture in her life's mission of service and spreading God's word.

Resolution: WHEREAS at the 86th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, a committee was established to review the Knights of Lithuania anthem so

that it better represents the purpose of the Knights of Lithuania in today's world, and

WHEREAS the committee chair, Honorary Member Faustas Strolia, presented the results of the Committee's work during the first session of the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania congratulate the committee on the success of this difficult endeavor.

Resolution: WHEREAS Almos Fondas is a fund established by First Lady Alma Adamkus to help needy children and orphans in Lithuania, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates, to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered in Los Angeles, CA, donate \$1000.00 to this fund.

Resolution: WHEREAS The management and the staff of the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles demonstrated an uncommon level of hospitality, courtesy, and cooperation during our 87th annual National Convention: and

WHEREAS the accommodations were most comfortable and pleasing, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That the Supreme Council President send a note of appreciation and thanks on behalf of all the delegates.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania,

assembled in the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, extend their warmest appreciation and gratitude to Chairperson Maryte Sepikas, and the members of Council 133 and their entire 87th National Convention Committee for their hard work, diligence and professionalism in their preparation and presentation this convention.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA express on behalf of themselves and the general membership, their deepest gratitude to the 1999-2000 Supreme Council for its dedicated service to the organization and support of the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania.

Resolution: BE IT RESOLVED That the delegates to the 87th Annual National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, assembled today in Los Angeles CA, extend their warmest appreciation and gratitude to the Presidium and its committees for their hard work, diligence and professionalism in the conduct of the business of this convention.

Resolution: WHEREAS The people and government of the Republic of Lithuania have asserted that Eastern European security and freedom can only be assured by Lithuania's admission, together with that of Latvia and Estonia, to the North Atlantic Treaty organization (NATO); and

WHEREAS the United States has consistently proclaimed its policy of allowing new member nations to join NATO

as a step that is beneficial to U.S. interests and conducive to world peace and stability. BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates, to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered in Los Angeles, CA, continue to fully support Lithuania's bid for membership in NATO during its next expansion round in 2002, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that articles be placed in Vytis that encourage our membership to write to congressional, senatorial and presidential leaders urging their support for Lithuania's inclusion into NATO, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a list of mailing addresses for these individuals be sent by the Lithuanian Affairs Chairperson to each council president.

Resolution: WHEREAS Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D,NM) has introduced an amendment (No. 3491) to the senate Foreign Operations bill that gratuitously asserts that military aid to the Baltic's should not be interpreted as an expression of Senate support for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates, to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered in Los Angeles, CA, oppose such discriminatory attacks on the legitimate aspirations of the Baltic countries for NATO membership, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual K of L members contact their members of Congress to urge them to revoke the Bingaman amendment.

Resolution: WHEREAS The Lithuanian government has allocated scarce resources to prepare its armed forces for integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

WHEREAS continued U.S. military aid is critical if Lithuania is to be ready for NATO membership in 2002; and

WHEREAS \$20 million in Foreign Military Financing for the Baltics has been cut in the House version of the U.S. budget; and

WHEREAS conferees for the House and Senate will meet soon to discuss possible reinstatement of FMF funding, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates, to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered in Los Angeles, CA, call for restoration of this military assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual K of L members contact their members of Congress to urge them to restore FMF funding for the Baltics.

Resolution: WHEREAS The Knights of Lithuania has always supported Lithuania's quest for freedom and the reestablishment of democracy; and

WHEREAS The Knights of Lithuania has been a constituent member of the Lithuanian American Council and has always cooperated with and supported its efforts; and

WHEREAS it is amply clear that the preservation of Lithuania's freedom requires

coordinated efforts to assure its entry into NATO; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, delegates, to the 87th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered in Los Angeles, CA, support the efforts of the Lithuanian American Council to that end, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each K of L council will work with local chapters of the Lithuanian American Council and that each council designate a liaison who can receive information and facilitate the historical cooperation between the K of L and the Lithuanian American Council.



Resolutions Committee Members, Bernice Aviza and Terri Strolia, hard at work during the sessions.



Knights of Lithuania Survey 2000

As everyone knows, this year the Supreme Council indicated a membership survey for our organization. We are thankful to everyone who responded and are gratified by the responses received. In a future issue of *The Vytis*, a comprehensive report will be presented. However, to peak your interest, below, is a brief listing of some of the topics addressed by our membership for consideration for the future of the organization.

- **Convention Reform:** This includes proposed changes to number of sessions, number of days, topics for discussion, favored convention locations, etc.
- **Membership Types:** This includes the suggestion that a new category of membership be investigated to allow for a greater participation by non-Catholic Lithuanians as well as non-Lithuanian Catholics. Other ideas on membership included a deeper investigation into our current Ritual and Honorary Membership policies.
- **Longevity of the organization:** Members voiced their concerns for the need to change policies and procedures to more actively attract younger members. They also stressed their feeling on what the outcome for the organization will be if we don't investigate this now.

Again, this is only a brief overview of those issues that our membership felt strongly about. Please watch for the comprehensive report in a future issue.

ABOUT THE CHANGES IN OUR KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA ANTHEM



Faustas Strolia, HM, receiving Presidential congratulations and award.

As explained before in "VYTIS," May, 2000, the Knights of Lithuania Convention of 1999 in Philadelphia, PA, entrusted me, Faustas Strolia, as the Chairperson of the Committee for Culture and the Lithuanian Language, to review and eventually revise our Knights of Lithuania Anthem, looking for some more satisfactory expressions in underlining our organization's ideals.

This was not the first time that a request for changes reached a K of L Convention floor. Requests came up as early as the year of 1917, then again in 1926, 1933, 1966 and 1976. The hymn dispute always concerned itself with the "inaccuracy" of the same three symbols and phrases: "plieno kardas" (sword of steel), "mums viska dave Lietuva" (Lithuania gave us all), and "vaduosisim galva ja sava" (for her freedom we will lay down our very lives). (Lithuanian Fraternalism: 75 Years of U.S. Knights of Lithuania, by William Wolkovich-Valkavicius, pp. 193-195).

As a matter of fact, this same Rev. William Valkavicius, a priest and historian, a long-time "Vytis," and himself a known musician, called me before the convention, assuring his full support for the changes our Committee suggested, describing them as mild, gentle, short and very good. (Due to several operations, he was not able to attend the 87th Convention in L.A.).

When the resolution of Helen Chesko, PA, with a request for changes reached the floor of last year's convention in Philadelphia, she also pointed out that the 2000th Jubilee Year of Christianity would be a fitting year to solve this long-time dispute within our organization. Helen Chesko died within the past year, but her resolution not only carried on her convention floor - it carried fruits in the great Jubilee Year of Christianity. May her soul rest in peace!

-Faustas Strolia, HM, C-157-

LIETUVOS VYČIŲ HIMNAS *)

Kun. M. Gustaičio oisės
TEMPO DI MARCIA

A. Aleksio muzika

f Nu - žen - k, Ga - ly - bė, iš dan - gaus,
 su - stip - rink jau - ną Vy - čių dva - sį!
 Mes už tel - sy - bę sto - sim drą - siai
 Tė - vy - nę gin - ti kuo nar - siau.
 Stai ple - vė - suo - ja vė - lia - va.
p Ką *rall.* kal - ba jos žy - mē? *f a tempo* Ei, Vy - čiai,
 gy - ve - nam Tau - tai ir Baž - ny - čiai!
 Mū - sy šir - dy - se Lie - tu - va min - tys, dar -
 bai, karš - ta mal - da. Ei, Vy - čiai,
 gy - ve - nam Tau - tai *rit.* ir Baž - ny - čiai!

*) Šioje versijoje randame mažus pakeitimus. Pakeitimui priimti 87-ame Lietuvos Vyčių Seime, įvykusiame Sheraton Universal Hotel, Los Angeles, CA, 2000-aisiais Juhiliejiniiais Krikščionybės Metais, liepos mėnesio 27-30 dienomis.

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