



Vytis - The Knight

Vol. 90 No. 5 - rugsėjis / September 2004

91st K of L National Convention



Ilgiausių Metų Vyčiai

Ačiū! - Thank You Council 90!

Vytis (The Knight)

Special Issue – September, 2004

Volume 90 No. 5

91st National Convention Issue - 91 Vyčių Seimo Leidinys

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Mission Statement: The Knights of Lithuania endeavors to instill in its members an attachment to Lithuania, the land of our ancestors, and knowledge, appreciation and love of the Lithuanian language, customs and culture.

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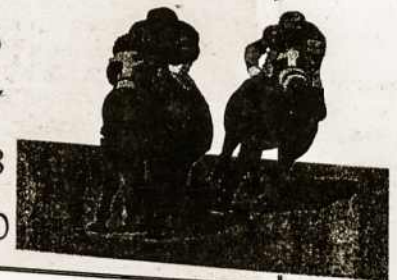
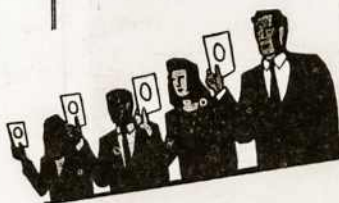


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SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS



From the Vatican, 13 August 2004

Dear Ms. Mickunas,

The Holy Father has received your kind letter informing him that on 4-8 August 2004 the Knights of Lithuania will meet in Secaucus, New Jersey, for their 91st National Convention.

His Holiness sends cordial good wishes for the occasion. He encourages all present to cultivate the rich spiritual and cultural traditions inherited from the land of their forebears and to work generously for the renewal of society in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel.

Invoking upon all taking part in the Convention joy and peace in the Lord, the Holy Father willingly imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Monsignor Gabriele Caccia
Assessor

Ms. Agnes V. Mickunas
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President's Message

Dear K of L Members:

Our 91st National Convention has drawn to a close. The delegates in attendance spent a few days together renewing friendships, sharing ideas and seeking ways to improve our Knights of Lithuania organization. We received written greetings from leaders of Lithuanian organizations praising us for our dedication and fidelity to our motto, "For God and Country." During the past year, I had the opportunity to meet a number of them and I learned first hand how many sing the praises of the Knights of Lithuania for all the good work we do – both for the people of Lithuania through our humanitarian assistance and here at home.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as President for a second term. The members who have been elected to serve along with me on the Supreme Council are a loyal and dedicated group. We are very honored that you have entrusted the Knights of Lithuania to our care and leadership.

Congratulations and thanks are certainly in order for the members of Council 90, Kearny, who outdid themselves in their efforts to insure that the delegates' stay at the Convention was comfortable and enjoyable.

Our 92nd Convention will be hosted by Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA. Their members are looking forward to seeing all of you next year – August 11-14, 2005.

God bless all the Knights of Lithuania!

Vytiskai,

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.



Mrs. Agnes Mickunas, HM, Supreme Council President, addressing the delegates and guests during the Saturday Evening Banquet

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA
91ST NATIONAL CONVENTION PRESIDIUIM



L to R : Presidium co-chairs, Vivian Rodgers, Robert Martin, Jr., and chairperson, Michael Petkus, running the Convention sessions



Our two wonderful Secretaries, Irene Svekla and Irene Macke, recording Plenary Sessions

Chairperson

Michael Petkus

Co-chairs

Vivian Rodgers
Rob Martin, Jr.

Secretaries

Irene Macke
Irene Svekla

Sergeants-at-Arms

Mildred Jagiella
Christopher Schroder
Paul Moore

Resolutions Committee

Theresa Strolia (Chair)
Sr. M. Janine Golubickis, SSC
Bernice Aviza
Elinor Sluzas
Dianne Drumstas
Lillian Greymas
Irene Ozalis
Sophie Sakalys
Sr. Johanna Marie

Donations/Greetings Committee

Shainauskas, SSC

Parliamentarian

Walter Svekla

Financial Review

Elena Nakrosis (SC Treasurer)
Mary Beth Slakis (SC Trustee)
Joseph Stiklius (SC Trustee)

Committee

Julia Schroder

Mandate Committee

Cathy Nakrosis *
Georgianna Macke
Antoinette Sakal
Lee Moore

Minutes Review

John Mankus
Vivian Rodgers
Michael Petkus

Committee

C-96 Dayton, OH (Mid-Central)
C-25 Worcester, MA (New England)
C-16 Chicago, IL (Mid America)
C-157 Lemont, IL (Mid-America)
C-3 Philadelphia, PA (Amber)
C-82 Gary, IN (Mid-America)
C-110 Maspeth, NY (Mid-Atlantic)
C-86 DuBois, PA, (Mid-Central)
C-157 Lemont, IL (Mid-America)
C-82 Gary, IN (Mid-America)
C-135 Hudson-Mohawk, NY (M. Atlantic)
C-96 Dayton, OH (Mid-Central)
C-3 Philadelphia, PA (Amber)
C-3 Philadelphia, PA (Amber)
C-3 Philadelphia, PA (Amber)
C-103 Providence, RI

C-112 Chicago, IL (Mid-America)
C-3 Philadelphia, PA (Amber)
C-90 Kearny, NJ (Mid-Atlantic)
C-16, Chicago, IL (Mid-America)
C-6 Hartford, CT (New England)
C-110 Maspeth, NY (Mid-Atlantic)
C-90 Kearny, NJ (Mid-Atlantic)
C-157 Lemont, IL (Mid-America)
C-152 Eastern LI, NY (Mid-Atlantic)
C-86 DuBois, PA (Mid-Central)
C-72 Binghamton, NY (Amber)
C-26 Worcester, MA (New England)
C-96 Dayton, OH (Mid-Central)



*Substituting for June Grenier – absent due to illness.

Knights of Lithuania
91st National Convention
State of the Organization
Report



In accordance with Article XI, Section 2 of the Knights of Lithuania Constitution which states that the President prepares the Annual State of the Organization Report, the following is a summary of all reports that have been submitted. All delegates are urged to take home a set of these reports, read them and share the contents with your Council members.

Spiritual Advisor – Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM

- Msgr. Joe hosted the Supreme Council meeting in October, with the assistance of Council 3, Philadelphia, PA. Family commitments prevented him from attending the 4/17 meeting in Kearny, NJ.
- Monsignor has continued to offer a monthly Mass for the deceased members of the Knights of Lithuania. Monsignor met with the President and has provided advice and counsel to the Supreme Council, when needed.
- We are very grateful to Monsignor for his continued friendship and support.

President – Agnes V. Mickunas, HM

- Presided over three meetings – Dedham, MA; Philadelphia, PA; and Kearny, NJ. At the invitation of ambassador Usackas, I represented the K of L at two commemorations in Wash., DC. I was privileged & honored to be invited to attend the ceremonies in Wash., DC, to witness the formal acceptance of Lithuania into NATO. Other Knights of Lithuania members were also present at this important event. I represented the K of L at the House of Representatives to celebrate the acceptance of Lithuania & other European countries into the European Union.
- During the year I maintained contact with members of the Supreme Council and communicated frequently with the Vytis Editor and the Legal Advisor.

- I attended the St. Casimir Day celebration in St. Petersburg, FL. When requested, I prepared and mailed K of L greetings to other Lithuanian organizations. Kept in contact during the year with Council 90, our Convention hosts, offering assistance when needed.
- When Valdas Adamkus, HM, was reelected President of Lithuania, I mailed a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania organization.

1st Vice-President – Brian Johnson

- Brian Johnson attended all but one meeting of the Supreme Council.
- He was given responsibility to maintain a correct and up-to-date record of the term limits and expiration dates of Officers and Committee Chairs. He prepares the list for publication in the January issue of Vytis.
- Brian has been an able assistant to the President. He is always in contact with the President and is always available to assist with any problems or issues.
- He has kept in contact with other members of the Supreme Council when the need arose.
- He is active with his Council and District. He has been extremely busy gathering information and meeting with C-19, Pittsburgh members relative to their agreement to host the 2005 Convention in Pittsburgh.

Second Vice-President – Becky Pataki

- Becky Pataki attended all Supreme Council meetings.
- As membership chair, she has worked diligently in correctly processing all applications for membership in the Knights of Lithuania. She prepares letters and “Welcome” packets for mailing to new members. When the need arose for new welcome gifts, Becky, after consultation with members of the Supreme Council, made the arrangements for the purchase of appropriate items.
- Becky has been an active member of this year’s Convention Committee and participates wholly in her local and Council activities.

3rd Vice-President – Maryte Bizinkauskas

- Maryte will conduct the Juniors' Convention Session at this Convention.
- She is scheduled to make a presentation with the Juniors at one of the sessions.

Recording Secretary - Bernice Aviza

- Bernice Aviza attended the Supreme Council meeting in Kearny, NJ. She was absent from the meeting in Philadelphia due to the untimely death of her sister.
- Bernice performed her duties most efficiently. In addition to her duties as Recording Secretary, Bernice updated the 1994 Constitution, incorporating all the amendments approved by Conventions since 1994. Bernice was given the duty to make sure that the Lithuanian translation coincided with the English text. She was given the responsibility to make arrangements for a new printing. The new updated Constitution with appropriate copies will be distributed to the Council Presidents at the Convention.
- Bernice has served her position as National Recording Secretary extremely well.

Treasurer – Elena Nakrosis

- Ellie attended all the Supreme Council meetings.
- She has paid all bills in a timely manner and has kept a close eye on the Knights of Lithuania finances. She will present an in-depth report at this Convention. Elena has been an excellent Treasurer for the Knights of Lithuania.
- Ellie has also worked actively this year preparing for this Convention. She plays an important part in assuring that all activities of the Convention will run smoothly and efficiently.
- Ellie has maintained active participation in her own local Council as well as the District.

Financial Secretary – June Grenier

- June attended all Supreme Council meetings this past year. She handled her ongoing responsibility of maintaining and updating the K of L mailing list for the Vytis. In cooperation with the Ritual

Committee, she has also completed the task of updating the Ritual records to the membership database.

- June prepares and mails out the National Convention Mandate forms to all of the Councils, and records the delegates' names for the Convention voting cards.
- June also serves as NED correspondent and serves as Trustee for Council 6.

Trustees – Mary Beth Slakis and Joseph Stiklius

- Both, Mary Beth and Joe, have attended all Supreme Council meetings during the year. They have been in close contact with each other during the year and have offered opinions and actively participated in discussions with the hope of helping the organization grow and prosper.
- They have worked diligently to secure a site for the 2005 Convention.
- Mary Beth and Joe have arranged time during the Convention to audit the K of L books and will be ready to report on their findings by the final Convention session.
- Both, Mary Beth and Joe, have been most assiduous in performing their duties and are indeed an asset to our organization.

Archives Chair – Frances Bumila

- Frances has been busy continuing the task of cataloging all materials in the Archives. She is open to any and all suggestions on the best manner in which to implement today's technology in the proper maintenance of Archives materials.
- This is the first year for Frances in this position and we are sincerely grateful for her desire to serve the Knights of Lithuania well.

Honorary Membership Chair- Frank Petrauskas, HM

- Frank traveled to Chicago this past winter to award Honorary Membership to last year's approved candidate who was absent from the Convention due to poor health.

- Frank submitted to Vytis the biographies of this year's Honorary Membership candidates.
- Frank remains active in both his local Council and District levels.

Lithuanian Affairs Chair – John R. Mankus

- John continues his work to keep the membership informed of pertinent matters concerning Lithuania. He has participated in commemorations at the Lithuanian Embassy and attended the formal ceremonies in Washington, DC when Lithuania was accepted into NATO.
- He will chair a panel during one of the Convention sessions. The subject will focus on the status of Lithuania today.
- John was given the responsibility to make the final selection of this year's "Friend of Lithuania." He will make the formal presentation during the banquet.
- He has attended all Supreme Council meetings and continues his activity on both his Council and District levels.

Lithuanian Language & Cultural Chair – Laurynas Misevicius

- Larry completed the Lithuanian translation of our updated Constitution. We appreciate the effort he put into this endeavor.
- Larry is involved with the sports program in the Northeastern area.
- He participated in three celebrations in the New England area commemorating Lithuanian Independence Day.
- Larry attended all meetings of the Supreme Council.

Our Lady of Siluva Fund Chair – Elinor Sluzas, HM

- Elinor has been involved all year with numerous matters pertaining to the Our Lady of Siluva Fund project. She maintained contact throughout the year with members of her committee and the Supreme Council.
- A separate meeting with all Committee members is scheduled during this Convention.
- Elinor will update the status of this project during her presentation at one of the Convention sessions.

Public Relations Chair – Regina Juska-Svoba

- Regina has done a top notch job as Public Relations Chair. She writes comprehensive reports of National Convention activities and accompanies them with pertinent photographs. Regina is always available to translate Council and District newsworthy information for publication in the Lithuanian Press. Regina has maintained consistent contact with editors of Lithuanian newspapers and radio programs, thus enhancing press coverage for our Knights of Lithuania organization.
- Regina is the official Knights of Lithuania news reporter. We value her untiring work on behalf of the Knights of Lithuania.
- She has attended all Supreme Council meetings and is an active participant on the local and District level.

Ritual Committee Chair – Lee Moore

- During the past year, Lee has efficiently maintained all Ritual records. She remains in contact with members of the Ritual Committee and is always available to acknowledge requests for information concerning the Ritual process.
- Lee has worked closely with the Financial Secretary in adding K of L members' degrees and points to the Financial Secretary's records. These records will be updated yearly.
- A total of 113 degrees have been processed this year. While in Florida, Lee presented 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees to qualifying members of C-153.
- Lee attended all meetings of the Supreme Council and participates actively on the local and district levels.

Scholarship Committee Chair – John P. Baltrus

- John assumed chairmanship during this past year. The transition took place smoothly and efficiently.
- He reports that he handled several inquiries. John, along with his committee, conducted a thorough review of all applications that were received. The recipients will be

announced during the Convention banquet.

- John attended the Supreme Council meeting held in Kearny, NJ. He is active in his Council and District.

Aid to Lithuania, Inc. – Regina Juska-Svoba, President & Robert Boris, HM, Board Chair

- ATL continues to flourish under the able direction and leadership of Regina and Bob. Their ongoing activity encompasses all elements necessary to obtain donations for medical and humanitarian aid, as well as seminary and homeless shelter assistance and trade school support.
- Their annual Board of Directors meeting will take place at this Convention.
- A full annual report will be presented to the delegates at this Convention. Their comprehensive and detailed report of the specific activities and accomplishments of ATL is included in the delegates' packets.

Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc. – Loretta Stukas, HM

- Loretta Stukas continues to spearhead efforts to assure the continued growth of the Foundation's assets.
- The Karklius Scholarship and the Annual Essay Contest are again being sponsored by the Foundation.
- The annual Foundation meeting has been scheduled during this Convention and Loretta will present her detailed report to the Convention delegates.
- Loretta attended the Supreme Council meeting in Kearny, NJ and remains active on the Council and District levels.

St. Casimir Guild – Anna Klizas-Wargo, HM, President

- Ann Wargo continued the tremendous task of St. Casimir Guild in obtaining donations and aid for the Pontifical Lithuanian College in Rome.
- A total of 6,135 Mass requests were received from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. Ann sincerely hopes that more members would consider utilizing the Mass Cards.

- Support for the College this year totaled almost \$32,000. This, however, was \$10,000 less than last year. ♣
- Ann, together with Msgr. A. Bartkus, is most grateful and thankful for all the contributions received to date that are so beneficial for the support of the student priests.

Sports Chair – Linas Balsys

- Linas has centered his activities with the basketball tournaments that have taken place in the New England area.
- We look forward to his report at one of the Convention sessions.

Amber District – Dianne Drumstas, President

- Dianne was elected President of the Amber District in October 2003.
- She reinstated the Amber District Celebration of St. Casimir's Day. This took place in Philadelphia on Sunday, March 14. On June 6, she conducted the District meeting in Shamokin, PA.
- Dianne, along with her District Secretary, introduced the Amber District Newsletter.
- Dianne represented the District at all Supreme Council meetings. She is very active in her home Council and is an asset to the District and our organization as a whole.

Mid-America District – Robert A. Martin, Jr., President

- Quarterly meetings were held on a regular basis. The District sponsored their 44th Annual Memories of Lithuania Banquet on February 1, at which time the District's Annual Award of Distinction was presented to "Draugas" newspaper.
- Rob reports that the District has been involved in numerous activities encompassing religious and social aspects. The District continues their financial support of K of L Charities.
- Rob has represented the K of L at many events. He participated in the NATO acceptance of Lithuania in Wash., DC; attended events sponsored by the Consulate General of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce and the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation.

- Rob represented the District at all meetings of the Supreme Council.

Mid-Atlantic District – Maryte Abbott, President

- The District held their Spring Convention in Maspeth on March 28. They celebrated and honored St. Casimir at their Lithuanian Mass.
- Ellizabeth, NJ hosted the following District Convention.
- Member councils continue to support the K of L Charities.

Mid-Central District – Michael Petkus, President

- During the past year, the District conducted its Annual Fall Convention/Pilgrimage in October.
- Their Spring meeting and their annual Bowling Tournament took place in Dubois, PA
- The District was represented at all Supreme Council meetings.

New England District – Vivian Rodgers, President

- Vivian presided at the NED Fall Convention in Bridgeport, CT in September and the Spring NED Convention in April in Athol, MA
- The District sponsored the annual Cultural Festival in October.
- Vivian mailed a survey questionnaire to all NED Councils to gain insight into the needs of the District.
- Member Councils continue to be active in numerous events.
- Vivian represented the New England District at all Supreme Council meetings.

Legal Advisor – Saulius V. Kuprys, Esq.

- We continue to rely on Saulius for his legal expertise. He prepares our annual filings with the IRS and handles all issues relating to such filings.
- Saulius is always ready to advise and assist the Supreme Council when necessary
- Saulius handled all the preparatory work necessary to achieve the incorporation status of the Our Lady of Siluva Fund.

- Saulius participates in the K of L activities in his area.

Sister Johanna Marie Shainauskas, SSC – Vytis Business Manager

- Sister Janine continues her fine work as Editor of Vytis. She prepares all issues for printing in a timely manner. She strives to produce a publication that is interesting and informative. Sister is most appreciative for all assistance that is offered. Being Vytis Editor is certainly a time consuming job and we thank Sister for all the effort she puts into her duties.
- Sister Johanna assists with the layout and typing of each issue. She works with the Treasurer in processing all the expenses associated with publication of the Vytis.
- Both, Sister Janine and Sister Johanna are active in their respective Councils and District.

In Conclusion

- The Knights of Lithuania remains steadfast and solid in the eyes of our Lithuanian counterparts. Yes, we still have a lot to accomplish. Our main goal is to work on improving our membership numbers. We will not view this as an impossible task, but rather a goal that involves understanding, creativity and stamina to successfully accomplish the high standard performance rating which has always been a part of our Knights of Lithuania culture and tradition.
- To this end, I thank the members of the Supreme Council for their undeniable interest and dedication to the Knights of Lithuania in their desire to achieve these results.
- And I thank you, the delegates of this 91st National Convention, for your continued support.
- Thank you.

Agnes O. Mickunas, K.M.
President

Written Greetings Received...

His Holiness Pope John Paul II

President George W. Bush, USA

Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas
Republic of Lithuania

Governor James E. McGreevy, New Jersey

Dr. Thorsteinn Gislason, Lithuanian Honorary
Consul in USA

Mindaugas Butkus, Consul General of the
Republic of Lithuania in New York

Vaclovas Kleiza, Consul in Chicago

Audrys J. Cardinal Backis, Archbishop of
Vilnius

Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, OFM, Lith. Roman
Catholic Apostolate in Diaspora

Rev. Msgr. Albert J. Contons, HM, President
Lith. R.C. Priests' League of America

Msgr. A. Bartkus, HM, Rector Pontifical
Lithuanian College, Rome, Italy

Rev. Robertas Salasevicius, Rector St. Joseph
Seminary, Vilnius

Rev. T. Placidus Barius, OFM, Provincijos
Delegatas, Sv. Kazimiero Provincija

Very Rev. Donald S. Petraitis, MIC, Provincial
Marians of the Immaculate Conception

Sister M. Immacula Wendt, SSC, General
Superior, Sisters of St. Casimir

Sister M. Bernadette Matukas, Provincial
Superior, Sisters of the Immaculate
Conception of the BVM

Dale Vaikutis Murray, President, Lithuanian
R.C. Women's Alliance

Nijole Balciunas, President, Lithuanian Catholic
Federation, "Ateitis," Inc.

Algis Rugienius, Jr., Chairman, Lithuanian
World Center

Saulius V. Kuprys, President, Lith. R.C.
Federation of America

Algirdas V. Matulionis, President, "Viltis," Inc.,
publishers of DIRVA

Saulius V. Kuprys, President, Lithuanian
American Council

Albina Umbakiene, "Darbininko" redaktore

Val Ramonis, Publisher/Editor, Lithuanian
Heritage Magazine

J. Rygelis, President, American Lithuanian
Cultural Archives



Greetings/Donations Committee: Front L to R: Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Sophie Sakalys. Back row: Dianne Drumstas and Sister Johanna Marie.



Sister Janine M. Golubickis, SSC, reading a greeting to the delegates and guests

REPORT OF ATTENDEES AT THE 91th NATIONAL CONVENTION
Held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Secaucus, NJ
August 5-7, 2004



Please be advised that this year's convention consisted of 3 sessions.

Supreme Council in attendance: Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis HM, Agnes V. Mickunas HM, Brian J. Johnson, Sr., Becky Pataki, Maryte Bizinkauskas, Bernice Aviza, Ellie Nakrosis, Mary Beth Slakis, Joseph Stiklius, Sr. M. Janine Golubickis SSC, Sr. Johanna Marie Shainauskas SSC, Frances Bumila, John R. Mankus, Frank Petrauskas HM, Lee Moore, Elinor Sluzas HM, Loretta Stukas HM, Anna K. Wargo HM, Regina Juska-Svoba, Robert A. Martin, Jr, Michael Petkus, and Vivian M. Rodgers,

Honorary Members in attendance: Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, Msgr. Albert Contons, Robert Boris, Agnes Mickunas, Frances Petkus, Frank Petrauskas, Estelle Rogers, Elinor Sluzas, Bertha Stoskus, Faustas Strolia, Loretta Stukas, Rita Sussko, and Anna K. Wargo.

Council Rosters and sessions attended:

C-1 Brockton: Jurate Bizinkauskas-2, Maryte Bizinkauskas-1, Veronica Bizinkauskas-3, Frances Bumila-3, Sr. Helen Ivanauskas-3.

C-3 Philadelphia: Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis HM-3, Lillian Greymas-3, Agnes Mickunas HM-3, John Mickunas-3, Irene Ozalis-3, Irene Svekla-3, Walter Svekla-3.

C-6 Hartford: Arlene Stiklius-3, Joseph Stiklius-3, Eugene Ziurys Jr-2.

C-12 New York: John Antanavicius-3, Helen Cuprewich-3, Vincent Cuprewich-3.

C-16 Chicago Bridgeport: Wanda Pliskaitis-3, Mary Beth Slakis-3, Aldona Zajauskas-3, Peter Zansitis-3.

C-17 So. Boston: Msgr. Albert Contons HM-2, Barbra Trybe-3, Florence Zaleskas-3.

C-19 Pittsburgh: John Baltrus-3, Brian Johnson, Sr.-3, Rita Johnson-1.

C-26 Worcester: Alfred Rodgers-3, Vivian Rodgers-3.

C-27 Norwood: Carol Treciokas-3.

C-29 Newark: Emilia Sadonis-3, Loretta Stukas HM-3, Rita Sussko HM-3.

C-30 Westfield: Barbara Sokolowski-2

- C-36 Chicago Brighton Park: Glen Perutis-1.
- C-50 New Haven: Isabel Peterson-3.
- C-72 Binghamton: John R. Mankus-3, Barbara Miller-3, Tom Miller-2.
- C-78 Lawrence: Marion Hobitz-3.
- C-82 Gary: Sr. Janine Golubickis SSC-3. Joanna Rudzevicius-2.
- C-86 DuBois: Lee Moore-3, Paul Moore-3.
- C-90 Kearny: Elena Nakrosis-2, John Nakrosis-2, Rita Ochs-3, Becky Pataki-2.
- C-96 Dayton: Michael Petkus-3.
- C-100 Amsterdam: Polly Ziausys-3.
- C-102 Detroit: Robert Boris HM-2, Regina Juska-Svoba-3.
- C-103 Providence: Sophia Sakalys-3, Bertha Stoskus HM-3.
- C-110 Maspeth: Christopher Schroder-3.
- C-112 Chicago Marquette Park: Anele Pocius-3, Edward Pocius-3, Estelle Rogers HM-3, Sr. Johanna Shainauskas SSC-3, Dolores Wainauskis-3, Julie Zakarka-3.
- C-133 Los Angeles: Josephine Barzda-3, Joan Manisalchi-1, Maryte Sepikas-2.
- C-136 Hudson-Mohawk: Bernice Aviza-3.
- C-140 Syracuse: Frank Petrauskas HM-3, Irene Petrauskas-3.
- C-144 Anthracite: Anna K. Wargo HM-3.
- C-152 Eastern Long Island: Regina Barile-1, Antoinette Sakal-3, John Sakal-3.
- C-157 Lemont: Ann Marie Kassel-3, Georgianna Macke-3, Irene Macke-3, Faustas Strolia HM-3, Theresa Strolia-3.
- Amber District: Diane Drumstas-3, Dolores Herbert-3.
- Mid America District: Mildred Jagiella-3, Robert A. Martin, Jr.-3.
- Mid Atlantic District: Julia Schroder-3.

Mid Central District: Frances R. Petkus HM-3, Elinor D. Sluzas HM-3.

New England District: Phyllis Gendreau-3, Charles Treciokas-3.

Guests: Blanche Goodstein-2, Caaaarmen Kasulis-2, Anthony Pacesa C-3-3, Eleanor Rokas C-90-3, Joseph Stelmokas C-110-2, Mary Stelmokas C-110-2, Victor Stepalovitch C-3-3.

Juniors: Vilija Bizinkauskas C-1, Kamila Ivanauskas C-1, Heather King C-1, Katie Drumstas C-3, Lauren Peterson C-50, Debbie Miller C-72, Audrey Przyleylski C-90, Loretta Przyleylski C-90, Leah Gaffney C-96, Erin Petkus C-96, Alex Deksnis C112, Anthony Barile C-152, Victoria Barile C-152, Zachary Barile C-152, Liza Macke C-157.

Respectfully submitted,

Convention Mandate Committee
June V. Grenier C-6, National Financial Secretary, Chairperson
Georgianna Macke C-157
Lee Moore C-86
Cathy Nakrosis C-90
Antoinette Sakal C-152.



The Mandate Committee: Front , Antoinette Sakal & Lee Moore. Back, Georgianna Macke and Cathy Nakrosis.



Our 3 Sargeants-At-Arms: Mildred Jagiella, Christopher Schroder and Paul Moore, on "Crowd Control" Duty.





Pre-Convention Activity

Ellis Island & the Statue of Liberty

August 4, 2004. We, the Knights of Lithuania, gathered for the 91st National Convention, embarked upon a trip through history, past and present. We boarded a bus in Secaucus, New Jersey, and traveled to Liberty State Park. There we boarded a boat that took us to Ellis Island Immigration Station. There, it is estimated, that over 12 million immigrants entered the United States. We entered the museum and proceeded to the computer room where many of us looked up our ancestors' names and dates. Kathie Craine, Education Specialist and Ranger, gave us some history about Ellis Island. We toured the museum and then boarded the boat to the Statue of Liberty.

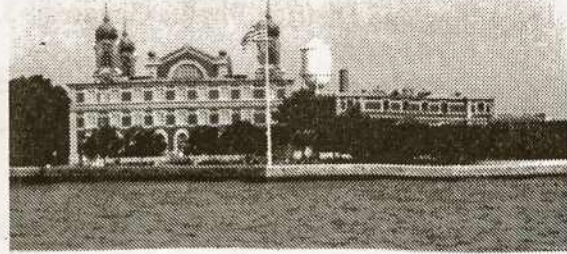
Pulling into New York Harbor was an awesome experience. The sight of the Statue of Liberty welcoming us re-confirmed in our hearts, that we had arrived at the place of freedom and prosperity. So powerful is the statue's presence, that someone said he "thought she was one of the Seven Wonders of the World!" We tried to get close to the statue, but, because of the "high alert" we were only able to congregate at her base.

We boarded the boat back to Liberty State Park. Two-thirds of the immigrants processed at Ellis Island landed at the Central Railroad of the New Jersey Terminal at the north end of the park. Between 1912 and 1914, it was the greatest concentration of freight and commuter rail facilities in New York Harbor. For Ellis Island immigrants, the Terminal was the Gateway to America.

At 1:30 P.M., we departed for lunch. Our destination was the *Tony Da Caneca* restaurant in Newark. There we experienced true Portuguese hospitality and food. Pork, seafood and chicken dishes were served. Most of us had to adjust our belts a notch after the meal.

The bus then took us back to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where we still continued to discuss the eventful day.

Joanna Radzgericius, C-82



Approaching Ellis Island, an impressive sight!



Maryte Sepikas, Rob Martin, Jr. and Regina Juska/Svoba, the welcoming committee.

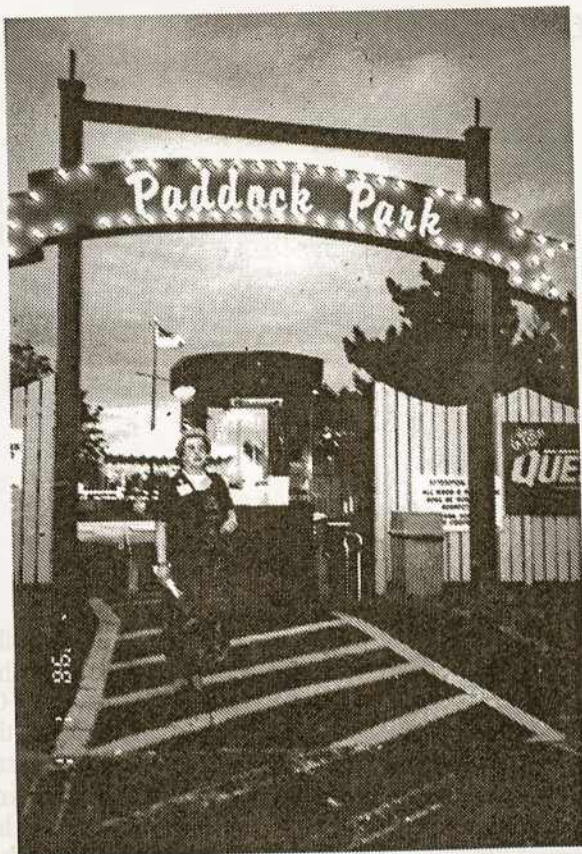


On our way to "the Islands"



The fantastic waiters at the *Tony Da Caneca Restaurant* in Newark, NJ

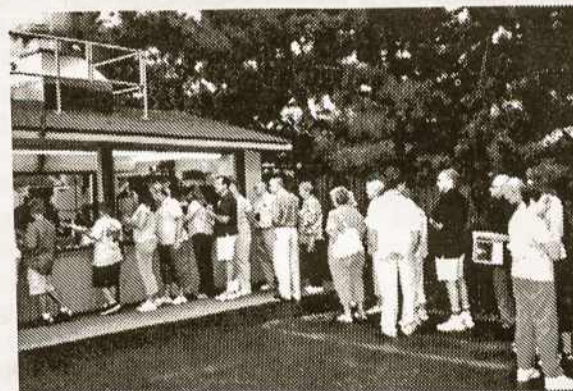
"A Night at the Races"



Regina Juska/Svoba at the entrance to Paddock Park Race Track.



The winner by a nose!



Picking up food and drinks at the Picnic in the Park. M-m-m-m-good!

On Thursday night, at approximately 5:30 p.m., the K of L boarded buses headed for the Meadowlands Race Track. We all spent an enjoyable evening, picnicking on burgers, hot dogs, corn, pork & beans, salad, fruit, cookies, etc., in a tented area of the park, close to the track.

The Juniors also had a fun time on the amusement rides, the slide, rock-climbing and playing the carnival games for stuffed animals. Most of us came away, neither big losers or winners; except for whisperings heard around that Frank Petrauskas was picking all the right horses.

All in all, we had a great night at the races, socializing with our K of L friends.

Irene Ozalis, C-3, Philadelphia



Having a great time under the tents

A Successful Completion to the

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA FOUNDATION 2004 ESSAY CONTEST

This year's Knights of Lithuania Foundation Essay Contest again provided members an opportunity to share personal thoughts relating to the Knights. This year, members were asked to write an essay describing their thoughts on:

What should Councils do to get new members, or

What should Councils do to improve their meetings.

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:

Michael Shea (2003 Winner)
Irene Ozalis (AMD)
Clemincine Miller (NED)
Lee Moore (MCD)
Ann Marie Kassel (MAMD)
Loretta Stukas (MAD)

Entries this year were few, but the quality was good. Only two councils and two Districts were represented.

Winners were announced at the 91th National Convention in Secaucus, NJ. The winning



Walter Svekla, 1st Place Essay Winner, 2004.

entries will be published in subsequent issues.

We thank the members who entered the contest, and congratulate those in the "winner's circle", namely:

1st (\$300.00) Walter Svekla
C-3, Philadelphia, PA

2nd (\$200.00) Kathryn Urban
C-6, Hartford, CT

3rd (\$100.00) Stephany Gutauskas
C-3, Philadelphia, PA

The Knights of Lithuania is most grateful to the late 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 ask all members to remember Msgr. Prunskis in their prayers.

We encourage all members to enter the next contest.

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



Loretta Stukas, K of L Foundation Chair

St. Casimir's Guild Report



Anna Klizas-Wargo, presenting the St. Casimir Guild Report during the sessions.

The St. Casimir Guild Report was given at the opening of the Saturday session. President, Anna Wargo gave the financial report. This year, the donations were less than the previous years, and the Mass requests were higher. She spoke of the importance of the Mass requests. The student priests at the College depend on the Mass stipends for their personal expenses. They come into Rome with very little living means. The Guild has Mass cards signed by Msgr. Bartkus for the Deceased, the Sick, and for special intentions. These can be obtained from her.

At the St. Casimir Guild Board of Directors Meeting, Msgr. Bartkus explained the Villa Lituania Guest House owned by the College. The founders of the College purchased the Guest House as a means of obtaining funds to support the College. Through the years, much has been needed to keep it in good condition. Many guests come from Lithuania, as well as from the United States and other countries. There is very little profit these days to fix the rooms so that they could accommodate the visitors and to keep in competition with the other Hotels and Guest Houses. There are no televisions in the rooms, and in these times it is a necessity to have them. The members of the Board approved of a project for their godson, the Pontifical Lithuanian College, to obtain the money for these TV's.

There are 55 rooms in the Guest House, and the televisions could be obtained at \$200 each.

Anna thanked all who supported the Pontifical Lithuanian College in any way, and turned the rest of the report over to Msgr. Bartkus.

Msgr. Bartkus thanked everyone for their continued support. He described the College as it is today. All students are Lithuanian priests who come to Rome for advanced studies. These are the brightest of the newly ordained. Of past students, some teach in the Seminaries in Lithuania and work in the Diocesan Offices. Several are already Monsignors, and one is a Bishop. Their scholarships are paid by the Lithuanian Bishops, but they receive nothing for personal needs. The Mass stipends cover these. They are at the College until they receive their Doctorates, and return to Lithuania for higher purposes. Expenses in Rome are very high, and the College receives no help from Lithuania. It depends on donations received from other sources. He thanked the Knights of Lithuania for its support. He stated that, this is the only Lithuanian organization that supports the Lithuanian Pontifical College, and is most grateful to his godparents, the Knights of Lithuania.

Msgr. also described the Villa Lituania. Information can be received by referring to www.villalituania.com. The e-mail no. is: villalituania@flashnet.lt. The phone: 06.70.17.464.

He then thanked the members for past successful projects and stated the importance of the televisions in the rooms at the Guest House. The monies received help in the maintenance of the Pontifical College. All Bishops from Lithuania stay there when they come to Rome for meetings. He explained the workings of both, the College and the Guest House and the importance of both of them. The Lithuanian Pontifical College is the gateway of the Church in Lithuania to Rome. He again thanked all who have assisted in the past and asked for prayers and help in any way we can.

Anna Klizas-Wargo



Becky Pataki presenting Anna with a membership award.

*Our Wonderful
K of L Juniors ...*



K of L Juniors reporting to the delegates and guests at the Saturday Plenary Session

A total of 15 Juniors attended the 91st National Convention this year, and what a fantastic job they did, besides having a really great time!

For fun, sightseeing and entertainment, they visited the Science Museum, had dinner at the Medieval Times Castle Restaurant, and some saw the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, too. But, they also joined in two special activities which brought joy to many children in Lithuania. They sold garden tools and tulip bulbs, and the profit for these sales benefited the "Valanciaus Vaikai," who plant flowers on graves in Lithuania. They will be sending them the \$300 which they made on their sales at the convention. The Juniors also planted flowers in special containers which they presented at the Saturday session. These were then placed at the foot of the newly renovated Wayside Cross which was rededicated on Sunday after the closing Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

The Juniors also sold special cards made by "Simona," a disabled young girl in Lithuania. The profit from these sales was \$250 which will be given to Simona to help defray the cost of her medical bills. Camila Ivanauskas also gave a report about her visit to Lithuania, and each of the Juniors presented one fact that they learned about the life of Motiejus Valancius.

Saturday evening found the Juniors enjoying a special banquet of their own.

Each Junior left the Convention truly enriched by his/her experiences, and surely had much to share with friends at home. They also felt a wonderful satisfaction of having done something special to help other needy children.

Also, these are the future "entrepreneurs" of the Knights of Lithuania.

Congratulations, Juniors! We are all really proud of you!



The "Liberty Family?"



Our two youngest K of L Juniors with mom and dad, Rita and Brian Johnson



"Please open your wallets for a good cause," says little Liza Macke.

91st National Convention

Annual

Membership Awards



Becky Pataki, 2nd V.P. Supreme Council, presenting a membership award to Robert Martin, Jr.

Out of the 52 active Councils in our organization, 30 have helped to increase our membership by 132 people in the past year.

Council Awards:

1-50 members C-30 Westfield, MA
 51-100 members C-6 Hartford, CT
 101 member + C-144 Anthracite, PA

Individual Awards:

1-50 members C-16 Rob Martin
 C-142 Joe Chaplick
 51-100 members C-6 Alyce Gegesky
 C-63 Valerie Smickle
 101+ members C-144 Marion Wydra

Becky Pataki
 Supreme Council
 2nd Vice-president



Presentation

of 4th Degrees



Fourth Degree members with their medals and certificates: Itor, Rita Sussko, HM, ritual Comm., Recipients, Harold Kaminkas, Michael Petkus, Irena Gecas/McCarthy and Felix Zorskis; Lee Moore, Ritual Committee chair.

Fourth Degrees were presented at the closing Mass of the 91st National Convention, August 8, 2004, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Kearny, NJ.

The candidates carried red carnations and were escorted into church by Lee Moore, Ritual Chair, Rita Sussko, HM, and Georgianna Macke, members of the committee.

Before the Mass, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, had the candidates repeat the Knights' oath. Prayers were then said, and the medals blessed and presented by Monsignor to Harold Kaminkas, C-29, Newark; Michael Petkus, C-96, Dayton, Class of 2004; Irena Gecas-McCarthy, C-96, Dayton; and Felix Zorskis, C-152, Eastern Long Island, Class of 2003. The Ritual closed with a special prayer and blessing. The other candidates of the 2004 class are: Bernice Wisnauskas, C-10, Athol-Gardner; Annamarie Berger, C-96, Dayton; Marion Wydra, C-144, St. Clair; Agnes Marma, C-152, Eastern Long Island; and Florence Morris, C-153, Treasure Coast.

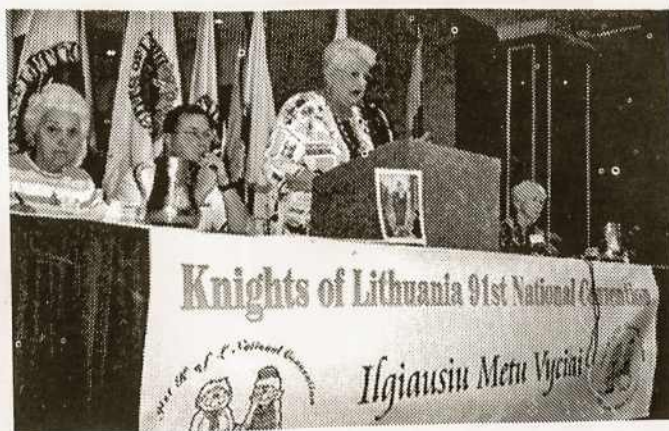
Following the Fourth Degree Ritual, the oath of office was recited by the Supreme Council Officers.

Lee Moore,
 Ritual Committee Chair

Convention 2004 Knight Life...



John Mankus and Loretta Stukas, HM, presenting the panel



Elinor Sluzas, HM, reporting on the Our Lady of Siluva Project



Becky Pataki handing out more membership awards



Isn't that Frances Bumila at the end of the line? Is she having fun, or what!



Some Knights of the Round Table at the Saturday Night Banquet



A group of "immigrants" waiting for the train at State Park

23
Convention 2004 Knight Life...



The boat that took us to the "Islands"



"Good night, Irenes!" L. to R.: Irene Macke, Irene Ozalis, Irene Svekla and Irene Petrauskas. Each year we seem to find one more Irene.



Our Juniors leading the entrance procession for the closing Liturgy at Our Lady of Sorrows Church



Some delegates and guests at the final session. So tired after so much hard work!



Breakfast at Tiffany's, oops! No. Breakfast at the famous Lithuanian Club in Kearny, New Jersey



More happy Knights of the Round Table at the Saturday evening banquet

Honorary Membership



L.toR.: Honorary Comm. Chair, Frank Petrauskas and Recipients, Veronica Bizinkauskas, Bernice Aviza, and Ann Marie Kassel

As was the case in 2003, when three people received their Honorary Membership Awards, the National Convention of 2004 found three more people receiving their Honorary Membership Awards. They were, Bernice Aviza, Council - 136, Hudson-Mohawk, Mid-Atlantic District, Veronica Bizinkauskas, Council - 1, Brockton, New England District, and Ann Marie Kassel, Council - 157, Lemont, Mid-America District.

At the Saturday evening Awards Ceremony, Chairman, Frank Petrauskas, introduced each recipient and had a special person place the award on that particular recipient. Polly Ziausys, a long time friend of Bernice, presented the award to her. Sister Helen Ivanauskas presented the award to her sister, Veronica, and Loretta Stukas, sister-in-law of Ann Marie, presented the award to her. After receiving her award, each Honoree then made a short address to the assembly. The ceremony was well-received by the membership.

In past years, each Honorary Member usually had a party to celebrate the big occasion. This year was no different. Normally, the parties are held on Saturday evening, after the banquet. This year, Veronica Bizinkauskas decided to do something different. She decided to hold her party on Friday evening, which was a good choice, since Friday was a free evening. There was nothing scheduled. The party started at 7:00 and lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

There was always something to eat and drink, to accommodate the large crowd of people. The highlight of the evening was when we began to sing Lithuanian Folk Songs, and it continued for an hour or more. Many people commented, that this was like the good old days.

Bernice Aviza and Ann Marie Kassel scheduled their parties for Saturday evening, and they were also successful. We Lithuanians love to party!

2004 was my last year as Chairman of the Honorary Membership Committee. In the 2 years I was Chairman, we awarded 6 very deserving people, and we have Alexander Mockus, C-112, in line for 2005. I want to thank my committee and the K of L membership for their help and assistance. The new Honorary Chairperson will be, Elinor Sluzas, C-96, Dayton. May she have a successful term of office.

Frank Petrauskas, KCM



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*Annual Report of
Aid to Lithuania
Board Chairman*



Robert Boris, HM, Aid to Lithuania Board Chairman.

May I use this opportunity to thank Regina for her outstanding performance as President and Co-chair of the Board. Her inspired direction and leadership during the past five years has lifted ATL to great accomplishments and success.

"Aciu sirdingai," many thanks to the individuals, councils and districts that have supported the programs of ATL throughout its 14 years of achievements, unparalleled to the best of my knowledge, in the 91 year history of the *Vyciai*.

Who would have imagined during our 1990 Convention, when the first ten thousand dollars was collected to ship the very first container of medical supplies, that we would, in the span of 14 years, collect over one million one hundred and thirteen thousand dollars, and that the value of the medicine and medical supplies would reach over seventy million. The resulting number of lives saved, sicknesses cured and pain relieved, is known to God alone. People in need, neglected street children, abused mothers, homeless people, disabled and disadvantaged young people have all been beneficiaries of Aid to Lithuania.

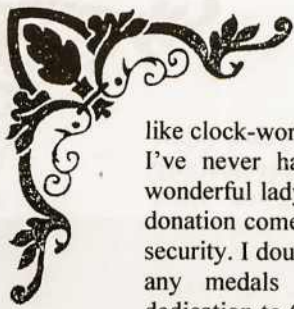
Our "Adopt a Seminarian Program," is reaching its goal of supporting the formation and education of eighteen young men preparing for the priesthood. The Archdiocese of Vilnius, the Diocese of Panevezys and Kaisadorys are being served by the five young men ordained to the

priesthood during the last three years, while seven were ordained as Deacons as the final step prior to ordination during the coming year. There are two students in their sixth course and will be ordained Deacons in the next few months. Two are in their 5th year of studies and one in his first year. We trust that donors will come forward, and that this program might continue successfully for many years. Several of the people who have donated a total of \$12,000 and whose seminarian has been ordained, have expressed willingness to adopt a second deserving young man. We urge all councils and districts to consider this most worthy program. To date, \$371,949.74 has been raised for the Seminary in Vilnius. Two members, Anne Baronas and myself, have also taken on to support two needy seminarians in the Diocesan Seminary in Telsiai.

Observations made during my recent visit to Lithuania were both, good and bad. Progress in several major cities like Vilnius and Palanga is remarkable. New buildings, western-style hotels and restaurants are everywhere. It's hard to remember the breadlines and empty shelves of 1990. However, one has only to look into the side streets and rural communities to see that conditions for pensioners and large families have not improved. It is not uncommon to hear people in the villages mention, that they were "better off under the Russians." While the government seems to turn a deaf ear to the cry of the poor, thank God, the Church, in cooperation with Caritas, has successfully launched programs to help in this area. The children of dysfunctional families, street kids, battered women, homeless folk, disabled or slightly retarded young people are the beneficiaries of the Trade School launched by Cardinal Backis. Home-making, cooking, wood-working, stained glass windows, art restoration and carpentry, are being taught to youngsters who, hopefully, will become self-sufficient. However, at the homeless shelter, run by Mother Theresa's Sisters, despite \$6,000 from Aid to Lithuania, still has an enormous unpaid heating bill. The diocese does not have sufficient funds and may be forced to close the shelter next winter, as the city has threatened to cut off heat because of the unpaid bill. ATL has been in the forefront, supporting all these projects within reasonable limits.

While we are seriously tempted to consider winding down Aid to Lithuania, it is obvious that the help is still desperately needed.

There is a lady here in Kearny, NJ, Mrs. S. Staknis, whose monthly check for \$5.00 arrives



like clock-work, ever since the inception of ATL. I've never had the privilege of meeting this wonderful lady, but I would guess that the \$5.00 donation comes from a meager pension or social security. I doubt that she has been decorated with any medals or honorary degrees, yet her dedication to God and Country exemplifies what the K of L is and should be all about. It is amazing how many affluent or financially comfortable members have never donated a dollar to ATL. Yet, if every K of L member donated \$5.00 each month - \$60.00 a year, we could double our humanitarian aid and never worry if we will be able to help with feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and simply follow the admonishments of our Lord Jesus.

I thank all who support this, one of the most important projects ever undertaken by the K of L, and I ask those who haven't, to examine your hearts and consciences and make a donation today. Aciu.

Robert S. Boris,
ATL Board Chairman



Walter Svekla, Frances Bumila & Regina Juska/Svoba in a serious discussion.



Msgr. A. Bartkus addressing the delegates & guests



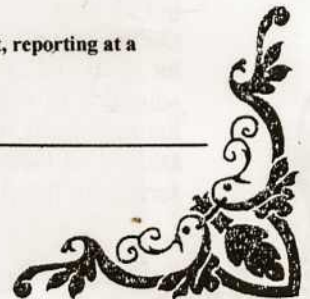
Regina Juska/Svoba and Maryte Sepikas welcoming everyone to the races.



Delegates & guests at the Opening Mass



Regina Juska/Svoba, ATL president, reporting at a Plenary Session



ATL President and Co-chair of the Board Reports...

Brangus Vyčiai, dvasiškiai, garbės svečiai
Distinguished guests and fellow Knights:

On behalf of the Officers of Aid to Lithuania, I extend our greetings to all the delegates and guests of the 91st National Convention gathered here in Secaucus, New Jersey.

By now, most of you had the opportunity to see or even to read the detailed annual report. The 2003-2004 fiscal year was not a stellar year for ATL. The container shipment decreased significantly. No containers were received or shipped to Lithuania since 2002, as Catholic Medical Mission Board in New York, the primary source of medications and medical supplies, has diverted the medical shipments to other countries that have had recent tragedies and more dire need for the medications. As the shipments have become fewer, Aid to Lithuania must refocus its goals for the medical/humanitarian aid program.

The Vilnius Archdiocese established Caritas in 1989. Throughout the last 15 years, Caritas has flourished and established 8 charities or programs: the Betanija Soup Kitchen, the Vilnius Daycare Center, the Mother and children's Center, Mother Theresa's Homeless Shelter, the Caritas pharmacy, the Children's Soup Kitchen, Social Services Agency, and the All Saints Residential Placement facility for teens. Caritas employs 26 staff, and over 130 volunteers assist wherever needed. Our in-country representative, deacon Balys Stankus, is the director over all the programs. He apprises ATL of the needed services and financial support for the programs. In the past, the local government supported the referenced programs. However, the support from the local government has decreased substantially. The Vilnius archdiocese services and supports a significantly large number of local residents, the homeless, exploited and vulnerable. The ongoing maintenance of the programs and expenses are ever increasing. Due, in large part, to these conditions, financial assistance is requested to continue funding for the charities. Without the financial support, some or many of the social programs would be limited or cease to exist.

For the last several years, ATL financially supported the Caritas Christmas programs: a benefit play at the Vilnius Drama Theater and Christmas packages for benefactors and children;

"kucios" dinner at the Mother Theresa's Homeless Emergency Shelter, and gifts consisting of toiletries and hygiene items, foods and sweets for the local prisoners.

ATL continues to support the Vilnius Handicraft Centre (Trade School). In June, Bob Boris presented the director, Darius Zizys, \$3,000 USD for the program.

The Caritas program activities would be virtually impossible to continue without the active and ongoing support of various organizations, individuals and private donors. ATL is truly grateful to the donors who take the initiative to step forward and donate to the Cardinal Backis charities. ATL further appeals to you, fellow Knights and friends, to please give serious consideration to ATL's project to assist the Cardinal in his quest to maintain and continue the Caritas social programs.

ATL's primary sources of income are derived from donations which are received at the K of L National Convention, the ATL annual newsletter, and councils and districts that solicit donations during the Lithuanian Independence Day (February 16th) commemorations, and in memory of deceased family, friends. Some donations are received as a result of employer matching funds programs and from estates of deceased K of L members. In the past, ATL received several generous donations through stocks issues. Most recently, a property of land donation is pending.

ATL's focus continues to be, that our brothers and sisters in Lithuania are at least a bit more comfortable, healthier, formally educated and spiritually renewed today and in the future. The Knights have *always* been supportive, generous and have come through whenever the call for assistance was made. Only with your support will the services continue uninterrupted and bring a brighter hope for tomorrow's future today!

In closing, ATL is appreciative to all the delegates of the National Convention, Council members, Districts and Supreme Council for your ongoing support, camaraderie and counsel. Please continue to reach out and support the Aid to Lithuania program.

Regina Juska/Sroba
President of ATL and
Co-chair of the Board



The Plenary Sessions...

On Thursday, Aug. 5, 2004, after the presentation of Colors, the grand entrance of the Supreme Council members, the singing of the anthems of the U.S. and Lithuania, followed by the *Vyciu Himnas*, the 91st National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, in Secaucus, NJ, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, was formally called to order by Supreme Council President, Agnes Mickunas, HM. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, Supreme Council National Spiritual Advisor, was called upon to present the Opening Prayer. Bernice Aviza, Supreme Council Recording Secretary, then directed the Roll Call of the Supreme Council Officers. John Nakrosis, President of the Convention Host Council – 90, welcomed all present to New Jersey.

Next in order followed the approval of the Convention Agenda, the Presidium election and the adoption of the rules of order. With the aid of modern technology, (the computer power-point program,) and the assistance of Robert Martin, Jr., President Agnes Mickunas, HM, proceeded to present the State of the Organization Report. Elena Nakrosis, Supreme Council Treasurer continued the agenda with her financial report. Greetings in person were next. Agnes then announced from whom written greetings were received, and stated that they would be posted for all to peruse. The Mandate Committee report was then given by Georgianna Macke. The approval of the minutes of the 90th Convention was requested. The minutes were approved as submitted.

The afternoon was then scheduled for the Junior convention meeting, and also the ATL. The evening was set aside for a Convention get-together, a "Night at the Races."

On Friday, August 6th, after the morning Mass at the hotel followed by coffee and..., the Second Plenary Session was opened with a prayer. Becky Pataki, Supreme Council Second VP, gave her report and presented awards. John R. Mankus, Lith. Affairs Chair, and Loretta Stukas, HM, continued this session with a panel presentation. John updated the delegates and guests with the present situation in Lithuania, i.e., what has occurred since its independence, while Loretta informed the assembly about Lithuanian studies in U.S. colleges and universities. She used St. Xavier College in Chicago as an example. It will include Lithuania in its European History curriculum. All were asked to encourage the same in any of their Alma

Maters. Loretta then followed with the K of L Foundation report, and also announced the winners of the annual Essay Contest. The names and essays will be published in the Vytis. The Ritual Committee report by chair, Lee Moore; the Nominations Committee report by Robert Martin, Jr., and the Honorary Membership Committee report by Frank Petrauskas, HM, followed. Regina Juska/Svoba, ATL president, scheduled to present her report was next at the podium. Sr. Johanna Marie then read the names of those who gave donations to date. This session closed for lunch at 2:30 P.M. That evening, those who did not wish to go sight-seeing were treated to 3 videos; "Vilnius," (in English,) "Pazaislis," (in Lith.) and a typical "Lithuanian Wedding," portrayed by the MAMD K of L choir and filmed on the Rudis' property in Monee, IL, (done in English.) The St. Casimir Guild and the Our Lady of Siluva Committees held their meetings during the late afternoon.

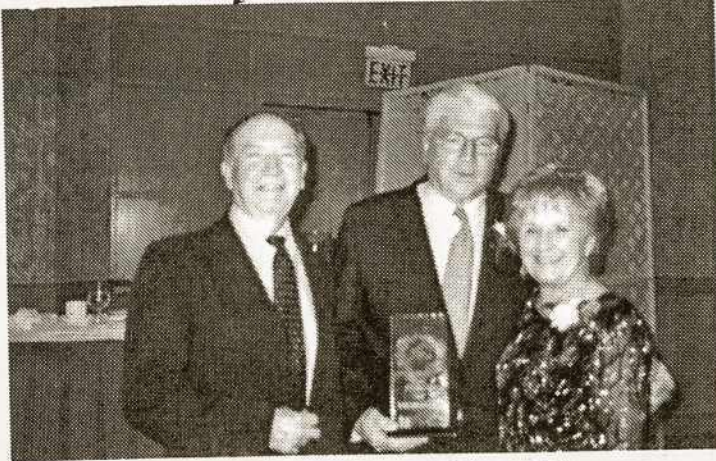
The third and final Primary Session on Aug. 7th, was begun after the morning Mass at the hotel. Ann Wargo proceeded with the St. Casimir Guild report. Rev. Msgr. A. Bartkus, rector of the Pontifical College in Rome, would speak at a later time. The election of SC Officers for the 2004-5 term followed. Mary Beth Slakis and Joseph Stiklius, SC Trustees, updated the organization as to the financial status of the ancillary charities, having previously examined their books. They also announced the sites for the next 2 conventions: 2005 in Pittsburgh, and 2006 in Disneyworld, FL. Elinor Sluzas, HM, put the membership up to date regarding the Our Lady of Siluva project, including the website. Then the K of L Juniors, under the supervision of SC 3rd VP, Maryte Bizinkauskas, gave their presentation, including the results of their convention sales. Terry Strolia, Resolutions Committee Chair, presented the entries received. The resolutions passed are published in this issue of the Vytis. Sr. Johanna Marie then announced the total sum of donations received, (also published in Vytis). Thus, all the hard work of the delegates for the 91st Convention was now completed, and this final session ended about 2:00 pm, with a fervent closing prayer. Everyone then left to dress in their finest for the evening banquet!

Sr. Johanna M. Shainauskas, SSC

(The K of L Foundation report will appear in the next issue of the Vytis.)



91st National Convention Closing Banquet



John Mankus, Dr. K.J.Keggi and Agnes Mickunas, HM

With the order of business for the national convention completed, it was time to relax, socialize and just enjoy each other's company at the banquet. As the head table honored guests and Supreme Council Officers were escorted in, delegates and guests greeted them with a hearty round of applause. Master of Ceremonies, John Nakrosis, introduced Knights of Lithuania Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, STD, HM, for the invocation.

As dinner was served, Joe Thomas and his orchestra entertained, with several couples dancing in between courses.

The beautiful voice of Angela Kiausas, accompanied by Virgilijus Barkauskas, entertained us with songs in Lithuanian and Italian. When singing, "Plaukia sau laivelis," Angela invited Maryte Bizinkauskas to join voices in a beautiful duet.

Supreme Council Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Chair, John Baltrus, announced the scholarship recipients: a seminarian at the Lithuanian College in Rome; Andrea Deksnis, C-112; Adam Westerling, C-136; Lydia Martis, C-112; Andrew Bereczelly, C-96. Honorary Membership Chair, Frank Petrauskas, HM, presented the new Honorary Members – Bernice Aviza, C-136; Veronica Bizinkauskas, C-1; and Ann Marie Kassel, C-157.

Lithuanian Affairs, John Mankus, introduced the Knights of Lithuania, "Friend of Lithuania" recipient, Dr. Kristaps Juris Keggi. Dr. Keggi shared: he was born in Latvia; much of the work

he has done in Lithuania was in the orthopedic field; and how he thought that Lithuania was a very beautiful country.

Our national president, Agnes Mickunas, HM, closed out the formal section of the program with words of enthusiasm for our coming year, and wishing everyone a safe trip home, looking forward to the 92nd National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.

The evening was wrapped up with many words of congratulations going around, plenty of hugging, and more dancing to the music of Joe Thomas and his orchestra.

Fran Petkus, C-96



John Nakrosis, President of Host Council 90, addressing delegates and guests at the Saturday night banquet



The amazing Joe Thomas and orchestra members.

Scholarship Awards-2004

National Convention

The Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Committee consists of 5 members: one representing each district. The committee members review and rank each application. Scoring is based on a numerical voting system that takes into account the following attributes: K of L involvement (minimum 2 year membership requirement); financial need, character reference, Academic Record, and Community service. This year we had four applicants and the committee decided that each was worthy of an award. In addition to the four applicants, each year the committee administers the Irene Sankus Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, which is awarded to a seminarian attending the Pontifical Lithuanian College-Seminary in Rome. It is customary for Msgr. Bartkus to select the recipient, who is from Lithuania and is studying in either his first or second year in Rome. I do not have the seminarian's name at this time.

Andrea Deksnis will attend Purdue University and major in nursing with a minor in communications. Andrea has been a member of the Knights of Lithuania since 1989, and has participated in numerous activities at the junior level before joining the adult council. She is currently 3rd vice-president of C-112. You may know that Andrea's grandparents, parents and aunts have participated in the K of L for years. While that has established the foundation for her participation in the K of L, this award is based on her accomplishments alone.

For the past 5 years, she has played an active role in the St. Bernadette Youth Group, where she has joined in their visits to local nursing homes and helped to prepare lunches for children who are less fortunate. She is a facilitator for Queen of All Saints youth group and participates in the weekly holy hour in their Perpetual Adoration Chapel. She takes part in "Teens Encounter Christ," a retreat that takes place 3 times a year. She has attended Camp Dainava and worked there for Heritage Week. She is a member of the K of L dance group in Chicago. She has helped to direct the Our Lady of Siluva Skit, and has participated in it since 1990. She has participated in pilgrimages, numerous youth activities in her

council, and is a regular attendee at K of L National Conventions. She is highly recommended by her teachers and peers. One letter of recommendation contains this quote, "Andrea is very responsible, cooperative, dedicated, willing to give of her time and talents, and has a strong faith. She is a fine example to the youth in our group, as well as to myself." The Scholarship Committee felt the same way about her relationship with the K of L upon reviewing her application, and has unanimously voted that she receive the top award for this year. Therefore, it is my pleasure to present Andrea with the Sviklas-Tamulevich Memorial Scholarship for the 2004-2005 academic year in the amount of \$2,500.

Adam Westerling will attend Siena College and major in political science and history, with a major in sociology. Adam has been a member of Council 136, Hudson-Mohawk, since 1995, beginning his participation as a junior knight. He has been president of his junior K of L council for the past 3 years.

He was instrumental in the creation of his local Lithuanian dance group and an active participant as well. He has traveled to Washington, D.C. to lobby in the offices of Senator Hillary Clinton and Representative McNulty for the admittance of Lithuania into NATO. He has volunteered his time to pack containers of medical supplies and clothing for Lithuania. He has served in Lithuanian Day celebrations at Aurisville Shrine, and the Lithuanian Independence Day Mass at Holy Cross Church in Schenectady. He has participated in World Youth Day as a representative of St. Casimir's Church in Amsterdam, NY, and attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Texas as a representative of St. Mary's of Mount Carmel Leadership in Gloversville, NY. He has attended the Christian Institute where he was instructed on how to be a peer leadership mentor. He has participated in a youth ministry team, the diocesan pastoral council, a youth advisory board, Boy Scouts of America, and other various community and volunteer groups. One of his letters of recommendation states, "He has shown he is a faith-filled, committed individual through his participation in his community service and willingness to learn and share his faith." Based on his outstanding qualifications, the Scholarship Committee has awarded Adam the Alice Karklius Memorial Scholarship, which is overseen by the Knights of Lithuania

The 2004 Scholarship Winners

Foundation. The Scholarship award for the 2004-2005 academic year will be \$1,200.

Lydia Martis will attend Drake University and major in pharmacy. Lydia has been a Knights of Lithuania member, starting as a junior member in 1999. Lydia has participated in various social activities for her council, has helped to host a Supreme Council meeting, and has attended a previous National Convention. She participates actively in the annual Siluva Play. She has received high academic honors, having been on the honor roll for 7 semesters. She is an Illinois State Scholar and on the National Honor Roll, as well as being a member of the National Honor Society. She received the 100-hour Community Service Award in 2003. She actively participated in sports while in high school. One of her letters of recommendation states that, "she is a strong and diligent student, an outstanding student leader, and an example to her peers."

For her academic achievements, the Scholarship Committee has awarded Lydia a scholarship of \$800 for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Andrew Berczelly will attend the University of Dayton and major in business. Andrew has been a member of the Knights of Lithuania since 1994 when he joined the junior council of C-96, Dayton.

For his Council, Andrew has participated in Mother's Day activities, Christmas caroling, cemetery visits, rest home visits, and has worked in the Lithuanian food booth at Dayton's annual World Fair. He participated in the National K of L Convention when it was held in Dayton, and has also helped with district conventions when hosted in Dayton. In his spare time, he has volunteered to be an assistant baseball coach for a 7th grade elementary team and has served as a public address announcer for a high school basketball team. One of his letters of recommendation states, "Andrew is a young man with great promise for the Knights of Lithuania." Another letter states, "He is a very affable young man, self-confident, cooperative, and interested in people, representing the K of L in a very positive way."

Based on his achievements, the Scholarship Committee has awarded Andrew an \$800 scholarship for the 2004-2005 academic year.

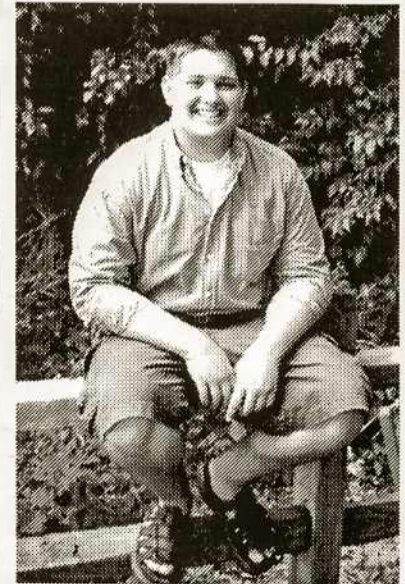
Report submitted by
Scholarship Committee Chair,
John Baltus



Adam Westerling



*Andrea
Deksnis*



Andrew Berczelly



*Friend of Lithuania Award
Recipient - Dr. Kristaps
Juris Keggi*



John R. Mankus & award recipient, Dr. Kristaps J. Keggi

"I am truly honored to be the recipient of the Knights of Lithuania 'Friend of Lithuania' Award," remarked Dr. Kristaps Juris Keggi during the Award presentation. I was very pleased and delighted to present Dr. Keggi with our "Friend of Lithuania Award" for his tremendous contribution to enhance the quality of medical care for the people of Lithuania. I would like to share some of his comments to the delegates at our National Convention and review a few of the highlights of Dr. Keggi's activities and achievements.

Lithuania has been blessed with the generosity of an outstanding orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Kristaps Juris Keggi, who has dedicated his knowledge and skills in training numerous doctors and nursed from Lithuania in advanced surgical techniques. Since the re-establishment of Lithuania's independence, his work for Lithuania and former occupied nations of the Soviet Union has been monumental.

Dr. Keggi was born in Riga, Latvia in 1934. He married Julia Quarles in 1957. They have three daughters, Catherine Keggi Hunter, Mara Keggi Ford, and Caroline Saunders Keggi.

Dr. Keggi's education and professional training include, Yale University, 1955, B.A., and Yale University of Medicine, 1959, M.D., Intern & Assistant Resident of Surgery at the Roosevelt Hospital, New York, NY., from 7/1/59 to 6/30/61, Assistant Resident & Resident in

Orthopaedic Surgery at Yale University, Yale New Haven Hospital, West Haven Veteran's Hospital, Newington's Children's Hospital from 7/1/61 to 6/30/64. He is a Captain MC, USAR. He served on Orthopaedic Staff, William Beaumont General Hospital, 1964-1965 and was Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery, Third Surgical Hospital in Vietnam, 1965-66. His hospital appointments include Yale New Haven Hospital, West Haven Veteran's Administration Hospital, Yale University, Student Health Department, Consultant, State of Connecticut, Laurel Heights Hospital, Waterbury Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, CT. Presently, he is Director at the Orthopaedic Center for Joint Reconstruction, Waterbury Hospital, Waterbury, CT.

In 1988, he began an exchange program with Eastern European Countries, when the first two orthopedic surgeons arrived for four months to study advanced surgical techniques in joint replacement and the latest methods of orthopaedic treatment. Currently, this program is primarily between the United States and Republics of the Former Soviet Union. At least ten surgeons and professors visit the Foundation each year. Twenty-two Lithuanian surgeons and a number of nurses have participated in this program.

This academic exchange program also involves the Yale University School of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation and the Orthopedic Center for Joint Reconstruction at the Waterbury Hospital Health Center. The surgeons participating in the program reside in quarters provided by the Waterbury Hospital and spend an intensive period of time observing and learning surgical techniques that they will employ and share with their colleagues upon returning to their countries. Dr. Keggi has visited these former Soviet occupied Republics on surgical and lecture trips more than eighty times. On many of his trips, other American surgeons have accompanied him and performed surgery in Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. During his visits to Lithuania, he participated as lecturer and/or surgeon at the Vilnius Institute of Orthopaedics and at the Lithuanian Orthopedic Congress, and was the Chairman of the Orthopaedic Symposium, ("Keggi Days") in Vilnius. Since 1966, he has been on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Baltic Foundation.

Through the academic exchange program, Dr. Keggi has provided extraordinary training to

Lithuanian doctors and nurses in the field of orthopaedics, rehabilitation and surgical techniques, which will greatly enhance the quality of medical care in Lithuania. This program is a testimony to Dr. Keggi's medical skills, organization and commitment to its mission.

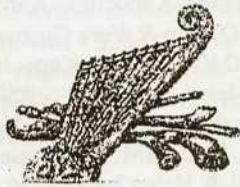
Dr. Keggi is the founder and President of the Keggi Orthopaedic Foundation. He has made numerous presentations at major medical meetings and has received many academic and international awards and honors for his public and community service activities.

I am very pleased and honored that we have presented this year's "Friend of Lithuania Award" to such a worthy recipient as Dr. Kristaps Juris Keggi.



Our K of L Honorary Members

*John R. Mankus,
Knights of Lithuania
Lithuanian Affairs Chairman*



Soloist Angela Kiausas with her accompanist, Virgilijus Barkauskas



John Baltrus, C-19, and helpers, inviting everyone to the 92nd K of L National Convention in Pittsburgh, 2005.



A happy groups of Knights at the Round Table

91st National Convention Donations

We wish to thank each and everyone who made a donation to the Knights of Lithuania Charities and Committees listed below as well as others that we offer our support to. Your generosity enables all as they continue their work for the coming year.

Thank you,

The 91st National Convention Presidium Donations Committee

Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Council 3 - \$100.00 IMO Nellie Pandza & Deceased Members of Council 3; Council 16 - \$100.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School; Council 29 - \$25.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Council 72 - \$25.00; Council 86 - \$125.00; Council 110 - \$350.00 (150 - Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School/100 - General Fund/100 - Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter); Council 112 - \$200.00; Lillian & Sam Adams - \$25.00 IMO Kapocius & Kairukstis Families; Margaret Allen - \$25.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter in honor of Council 3; Catherine Applegate - \$25.00 IMO Deceased Family Members; Josephine Barzda - \$75.00 IMO Frances Barzda; Eleanor & John Bogdon - \$25.00 IMO John & Paul Bogdon; Edward Budelis - \$25.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School; Frances Bumila - \$100.00; John & Mary Chernoski - \$50.00; Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons, HM - \$100.00; Helen & Vinnie Cuprewich - \$25.00; Eleanor Dapkus - \$50.00 (25 - General Fund IMO Mary & John Dapkus/25 - Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund IMO Charles Zaremsky); Amber District - \$100.00; Mid-America District - \$500.00; Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00; New England District - \$100.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter; Jeanne Dorr - \$25.00; Diane Drumstas - \$5.00 IMO Joseph Drumstas; Genevieve Fisher - \$25.00 Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund; James Gapsis - \$10.00; Adele Gibbs - \$25.00 IMO Peter Gibbs; Albert Gustaff - \$10.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Leona Gustaff; Stephany Gutanskas - \$10.00 IMO Daina Kapochus; Joan Iwasko - \$25.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School IMO Stanley Kibauskas; Regina Juska-Svoba - \$100.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School IMO Rimgaudas Svoba; Anna Kapochus - \$50.00 IMO Frank Kapochus; Karen & Len Kapochus - \$100.00 IMO Daina & Karl Kapochus; Len Kapochus - \$275.00 (25 IMO John & Vera Gestite, 50 IMO Philip Machonis, 100 IMO Richard Austin, Adolph & Anna Baliunas & 100 IMO Marilyn Kapochus); Jean Kapochus-Mihalick - \$100.00 IMO Kapochus, Petrauskas & Mihalick Families; Helen Karpovich - \$50.00 IMO Karpovich & Kapochus Families; Carmen Kasulis - \$200.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter; Elsie Kosmisky - \$25.00 Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund IMO Parents; Bronius Krokys - \$6.00 IMO Deceased Family Members; Mary Labadis - \$80.00 (50 - Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Bill & Helen Labadis/30 - General Fund IMO Joseph & Marcella Labadis); Ruth Lacek - \$25.00 IMO John & Martha Bagdziunas; Dorothy Machonis - \$100.00 IMO Philip Machonis; John J. & Juliann D. Majeski - \$200.00 IMO Frank A. Kapochus, Sr.; Dawn Maknys - \$35.00 IMO Joseph Drumstas; Algird Mameniskis - \$100.00 IMO Violet Mameniskis; Walter Mameniskis - \$100.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Violet Mameniskis; Joan Maniscalchi - \$100.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School IMO Philip Maniscalchi; Helen Medely - \$25.00; Agnes, HM & John Michunas - \$50.00; Lee & Paul Moore - \$25.00; Ann Navitt - \$25.00 IMO Antonina & John Zvinis; Josephine O'Peka - \$50.00 (25 - General Fund IMO Anna & Anthony Swedersky/25 - Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Anna & Anthony Swedersky); Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter; Frank, HM & Irene Petrauskas - \$20.00 IMO Mary Zutant; Anna Radzavage - \$30.00 IMO Domicelle Misunas; Estelle Rogers, HM - \$50.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Vincent Boris; Sophia Sakalys - \$25.00; Frances & Joseph Savitski - \$10.00 IMO Deceased Family Members; Maryte Sepikas - \$100.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School IMO Elena Sepikas; Frances Skurzynski - \$50.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Frances Toreila Wasiliauskas; Mary Beth Slakis - \$25.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School IMO Albert Slakis; Arlene & Joseph Stiklius - \$50.00 IMO All Deceased K of L Members; Faustas, HM & Theresa Strolia \$100.00 IMO Herkulis Strolia; Irene & Walter Svekla - \$25.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 3 Philadelphia; Philomena Vilutis - \$100.00 IMO Matt Vilutis; Dolores Wainauskas - \$50.00; Alberta Weigand - \$25.00 IMO Deceased Family Members; Peter Williams - \$50.00 IMO Deceased Family Members; Julie Zakarka - \$50.00 (25 - Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School/25 - General Fund); Florence Zaleskas - \$30.00 (10 - Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School/10 - General Fund/10 - Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter); Olympia Zelinski - \$2,000.00 Vilnius Seminarian Scholarship Fund; Polly Ziauzys - \$20.00: Total Donations Received - \$6,991.00 PLEDGES: Charles & Irene Macke - \$50.00 Cardinal Backis' Vilnius Trade School IMO Macke & Shillim Families; Rob Martin - \$25.00 Mother Teresa's Homeless Shelter IMO Ann & Pete Jurgis **GRAND TOTAL - \$7,066.00**

Knights of Lithuania Foundation, Inc.

Council 3 - \$100.00 IMO Philip Machonis; Council 29 - \$25.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Council 72 - \$25.00; Council 86 - \$125.00; John Antanavicius - \$100.00 IMO Deceased Members of C-12; Josephine Barzda - \$25.00 IMO Eleanor Barzda; Frances Bumila - \$200.00; Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons, HM - \$100.00; Mid-America District - \$500.00; Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00; Lillian Greymas - \$25.00; Len Kapochus - \$25.00 IMO Deceased Family Members; Mary Labadis - \$50.00 IMO Bill & Helen Labadis; Dawn Maknys - \$35.00 IMO Philip Machonis; Helen Medely - \$25.00; Barbara Miller - \$20.00; Lee & Paul Moore - \$25.00; Irene Ozalis - \$25.00; Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00; Frank, HM & Irene Petrauskas - \$20.00 IMO Mary Zutant; Sophia Sakalys - \$30.00; Arlene & Joseph Stiklius - \$50.00; Bertha Stoskus, HM - \$50.00 IMO John Stoskus; Faustas, HM & Theresa Strolia - \$50.00 IMO Herkulis Strolia; Loretta Stukas, HM - \$100.00; Irene & Walter Svekla - \$25.00 IMO Philip Machonis; Florence Zaleskas - \$25.00; Polly Ziauzys - \$10.00: Total Donations Received - \$1,865.00 PLEDGES: Rob Martin - \$25.00 IMO Ann & Pete Jurgil **Grand Total - \$ 1,890.00**

St. Casimir Guild, Inc.

Council 3 - \$100.00 IMO Joseph Drumstas; Council 16 - \$100.00; Council 29 - \$50.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Council 72 - \$25.00; Council 86 - \$125.00; Council 110 - \$100.00; Council 112 - \$100.00; John Antanavicius - \$100.00 IMO Deceased Members of Antanavicius Family; Frances Bumila - \$1,001.00; Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons, HM - \$100.00; Helen & Vinnie Cuprewich - \$25.00; Robert Damasauskas - \$100.00 (\$50 - In honor of Ann Marie Kassel upon her elevation to Honorary Membership & \$50 - IMO Bernice Pupinick on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of her death); Amber District - \$100.00; Mid-America District - \$500.00; Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00; New England District - \$100.00; Lillian Greymas - \$25.00; Len Kapochus - \$25.00 IMO Marcinkevicius Family; Mary Labadis - \$100.00 IMO Bill & Helen Labadis; Joan Maniscalchi - \$100.00 IMO Philip Maniscalchi; Helen Medely - \$25.00; Agnes, HM & John Michunas - \$50.00; Barbara Miller - \$20.00; Cathy Nakrosis - \$50.00; Rita Ochs - \$100.00; Irene Ozalis - \$25.00; Becky Pataki - \$50.00; Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00 IMO Michael P. Petkus, HM; Frank, HM & Irene Petrauskas - \$20.00 IMO Mary Zutant; Wanda Pliskaitis - \$20.00; Estelle Rogers, HM - \$50.00; Sophia Sakalys - \$25.00 IMO Rev. A. Klimauskis; Maryte Sepikas - \$100.00 IMO Elena Sepikas; Arlene & Joseph Stiklius - \$100.00; Faustas, HM & Theresa Strolia - \$100.00 IMO Herkulis Strolia; Loretta Stukas, HM - \$25.00; Irene & Walter Svekla - \$25.00 IMO Joseph Drumstas; Dolores Wainauskas - \$50.00; Anna Wargo, HM - \$100.00; Julie Zakarka - \$25.00; Florence Zaleskas - \$25.00; Polly Ziauzys - \$10.00 IMO Rev. Robert Balsys: Total Donations Received - \$3,946.00 PLEDGES: Rob Martin - \$25.00 IMO Ann & John Martin **Grand Total - \$3,971.00**

Knights of Lithuania Scholarship Fund

Council 29 - \$10.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Andrea & Maria Deksnis - \$25.00; Helen Medely - \$10.00; Frank, HM & Irene Petrauskas - \$20.00 IMO Mary Zutant; Loretta Stukas, HM - \$25.00: Total Donations Received - \$90.00 Pledges: None **Grand Total - \$90.00**

Our Lady of Šiluva Fund, Inc.

Council 16 - \$100.00 (\$50 - For the Chapel in Washington, DC & \$50 - For the printing of Holy Cards); Council 29 - \$10.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Council 110 - \$50.00 Chapel in Washington, DC; Council 112 - \$33.00; Andrea & Maria Deksnis - \$10.00; Mid-Atlantic District - \$50.00; New England District - \$100.00; Len Kapochus - \$25.00 For prayers for health of Mary Ann Mihalick Connor of C-143, Pittston; Dawn Maknys - \$35.00 IMO Julie Kowrak; Joan Maniscalchi - \$100.00 IMO Philip Maniscalchi; Helen Medely - \$15.00; Cathy Nakrosis - \$50.00; Becky Pataki - \$50.00; Frances Petkus, HM - \$25.00; Frank, HM & Irene Petrauskas - \$20.00 IMO Mary Zutant; Sophia Sakalys - \$10.00; Maryte Sepikas - \$100.00 IMO Elena Sepikas; Bertha Stoskus, HM - \$100.00 (\$50 - General Fund & \$50 - Chapel in Washington, DC); Faustas, HM & Theresa Strolia - \$50.00 IMO Herkulis Strolia; Loretta Stukas, HM - \$50.00; Julie Zakarka - \$25.00; Florence Zaleskas - \$25.00; Polly Ziauzys - \$10.00 IMO Virginia Barkowski: Total Donations Received - \$1,043.00 PLEDGES: Rob Martin - \$25.00 Chapel in Washington, DC IMO Ann & John Martin **Grand Total - \$1,068.00**

91st National Convention Committee

Council 29 - \$10.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark: Total Donations Received - \$10.00 PLEDGES: None **Grand Total - \$10.00**

Fr. Jutt Fund for Lithuanian Affairs

Council 29 - \$10.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Council 72 - \$25.00: Total Donations Received - \$35.00 PLEDGES: None **Grand Total - \$35.00**

Knights of Lithuania General Fund

Council 29 - \$10.00 IMO Deceased Members of Council 29 Newark; Arlene & Joseph Stiklius - \$50.00: Total Donations Received - \$60.00 PLEDGES: None **Grand Total - \$60.00**

Knights of Lithuania Junior's Fund

Council 72 - \$25.00; Andrea & Maria Deksnis - \$10.00; Arlene & Joseph Stiklius - \$50.00: Total Donations Received - \$85.00 PLEDGES: Mid-America District - \$250.00 **Grand Total - \$335.00**

Vytis - The Knight Magazine

Joan Maniscalchi - \$100.00; Anele & Edward Pocius - \$50.00; Sophia Sakalys - \$10.00; Maryte Sepikas - \$100.00: Total Donations Received - \$260.00 PLEDGES: None **Grand Total - \$260.00**

Lithuanian Children's Relief

Council 86 - \$125.00; Frances Bumila - \$200.00; New England District - \$100.00; Len Kapochus - \$25.00; Mary Labadis - \$50.00; George & Frances Mikalauskas Family & Friends - \$190.00; Florence Zaleskas - \$50.00: Total Donations Received - \$740.00 PLEDGES: None **Grand Total - \$740.00**

Sisters of St. Casimir

Karen & Len Kapochus - \$100.00 For Prayers and intercession for cancer cure for Mary Ann Mihalick of C-143 Pittston: Total Donations Received - \$100.00 PLEDGES: None **Grand Total - \$100.00**

91st National Convention Donation Summary

Total Donations Received by all - \$ 15,225.00
 Total Pledges Received by all - 400.00
Grand Total of all Donations - \$ 15,625.00



Our Parliamentarian and Presidium Secretaries; l to r.: Irene Svekla, Secretary; Walter Svekla, Parliamentarian; Irene Macke, Secretary



Greetings/Donations Committee: Seated l to r.: Irene Ozalis, Lillian Greymas, Sophie Sakalys. Standing: Sister Johanna Marie & Dianne Drumstas



Our ever faithful professional accompanist, maestro Faustas Strolia, adds a little spirit to the convention.



Host Council-90 President. John Nakrosis and beautiful wife, Elena

Resolutions . . .



91st National Convention

Subject: Change in Procedure of election of Honorary Membership Committee Members Article XII, Section 3 of the Constitution:

Whereas, a conflict exists between the rules stated in the constitution and the procedure currently being followed by the committee, be it resolved that the delegates to the 91st National Convention **amend the constitution** as concerns Art. XII, Sec. 3 to the following:

The Honorary Membership Committee consists of one elected Honorary Member from each district. One member of the committee is elected each year, for a five-year term. Each year the committee members shall elect their own chair and secretary. The committee investigates and weighs the qualifications of candidates for Honorary membership. The committee shall present to the delegates of the National Convention, qualified candidates for approval. Upon approval of a candidate, his/her biography shall be published in *Vytis*. His/her Honorary Membership will then be conferred upon them at the next National Convention. Be it further resolved, that if approved, this policy change take effect immediately.

Submitted by: District Presidents

Subject: Investigation of Yearly Scholarship for St. Joseph's Seminary

Whereas Aid to Lithuania, Inc. works diligently in its sustaining many areas of needed assistance for Lithuania, and one of those areas is the support of yearly scholarships to the St. Joseph Seminary in Vilnius, Lithuania, therefore, the delegates of the 91st National Convention, 2004, direct our National Scholarship Committee to investigate if a scholarship to support one seminarian's studies each year is within the rules and guidelines of our scholarship program, and if said scholarship would be within the rules and guidelines, we suggest that a \$2,000 yearly scholarship be considered. The final decision regarding the awarding of such scholarship would rest with the National Scholarship Committee. (Resolution passed.)

Submitted by: Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

Subject: Solidarity with St. Peter Parish, So. Boston, MA

Whereas, the Knights of Lithuania 91st National Convention, meeting in Secaucus, NJ, Aug. 5-8,

with 52 active councils throughout the United States, extends congratulations and prayerful best wishes to St. Peter's Lithuanian Parish, S. Boston, MA on the occasion of its centennial jubilee celebration, September 12, 2004, of parish life, serving the Lithuanian community of Greater Boston.

Whereas, most Rev. Sean O'Malley, archbishop of Boston, made the decision to suppress St. Peter Lithuanian Parish, and whereas, St. Peter's parish is still an active, visible, self-supporting parish, and whereas, the Declaration on Religious Liberty of the Second Vatican Council guarantees the right of all peoples to religious freedom and expression, according to their own cultural and religious traditions;

Be it resolved, that this Convention express its solidarity and support of the right of the Lithuanian Catholic Community of Greater Boston to continue to worship God at St. Peter's Lithuanian Parish.

Be it further resolved, that the Public Relations chairman notify the media of this important cause, and

Be it further resolved to urge the Archbishop of Boston to rescind his decision to close St. Peter Lithuanian parish and to permit the Lith. Community of Boston to use its parish buildings and furnishings to promote evangelization in accordance with its rights to religious liberty and expression guaranteed by the Second Vatican Council. (Resolution passed.)

Submitted by: Rev. Msgr. Albert Contons

Subject: Honorary Membership for 3 Candidates

Whereas, the 90th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Hilton Dedham Hotel in Dedham, MA, on August 15, 2003, approved the candidacy of Veronica Bizinkauskas, C-1, New England District; Bernice Aviza, C-136, Mid-Atlantic District; and Ann Marie Kassel, C-147, Mid-America District, and whereas all constitutional requirements and considerations have been met for these candidates,

Be it resolved, that this 91st Convention of the Knights of Lithuania confer Honorary Membership upon these three candidates.

Subject: Candidacy of Alexander Mockus for Honorary Membership

Be it resolved, based on the recommendation and vote by secret ballot of Council 112, Chicago, and the Mid-America District, and also the recommendation of the Honorary Membership

Committee, that the 91st National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, gathered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, NJ, approve as a candidate for Honorary Membership, Alexander Mockus, member of C-112, Mid-America District, and allow his history, outlining his services as a worthy and dedicated Knight, to be published in *Vytis*. (Resolution passed.)

Submitted by: Honorary Membership Committee

Subject: Ruta Lee Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Whereas, Ruta Lee is a member of Council 133, Los Angeles, CA, and has always been a keen supporter of Lithuanian causes, and has generously supported K of L causes, Be it resolved, that the K of L support the efforts to get a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for Ruta Lee. (Resolution passed.)

Submitted by: Maryte Sepikas, C-133

Subject : Donations

Mother Maria Kaupas Beatification Cause - \$250
Mother Theresa's Shelter - \$1,000 to help with heating bill.

Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund - \$750

Aid to Lithuania - \$700

K of L Foundation - \$100

Our Lady of Siluva Website - \$100

St. Casimir Guild - \$700

Sisters of Jesus Crucified - \$100

Sister of St. Casimir - \$100

Srs. Of St. Francis of Providence of God - \$100

Sisters of the Immaculate Conception - \$100

"Draugas" Daily - \$200

"Amerikos Lietuvis - \$100

"Darbininkas" - \$100

"Dirva" - \$100

Subject: Congratulations to be Sent to:

"Draugas" – 95th Anniversary of Publication

President Valdas Adamkus, HM, on winning the election to a second term

Rev. Anthony Markus – on his new appointment as Pastor of Nativity BVM Church, Chicago, IL

Subject: Thank You's to be Sent to:

Crowne Plaza Hotel – for hospitality, courtesy and cooperation demonstrated

Outgoing Supreme Council – for dedicated service during 2003-2004

Convention Presidium – for their hard work, diligence and dedication in the conduct of this convention.

Convention Host Council – 90 and entire committee for their hard work, diligence and

hospitality in their preparation and presentation of this Convention.

President George W. Bush – for his support of Lithuania's aspiration to be a member of NATO which Lithuania achieved in 2004.

"Lietuviu Balsas" – and its staff, for their cooperation and generosity



Resolutions Committee: Standing, Bernice Aviza & Elinor Sluzas. Seated, Sister M. Janine Golubickis and Committee chair, Terry Strolia.



Financial Review Committee members: l. to r.: Frances Bumila, Julia Schroder, Joseph Stiklius, Mary Beth Slakis & SC Treasurer, Ellie Nakrosis



Our two fantastic Convention photographers, Regina Juska/Svoba and Joseph Stiklius

Closing Breakfast & Mass



Concelebrants, Msgr. A. Bartkus, Bishop Paul Baltakis, Msgr. George Lutz and Msgr. J. Anderlonis

On Sunday morning, all were bussed to the Lithuanian Club in Kearny for another excellent breakfast, and enjoyed another time of visiting with old friends and partaking of the good food and wonderful service.

Following the meal, all left for Our Lady of Sorrows Church for the closing Mass. The procession into the church was led by the flag-bearers, followed by the new Fourth Degree Recipients, the Supreme Council and the Honorary Members. The Altar servers and Clergy followed, while the congregation sang, "Marija, Marija."

Concelebrants of the Mass were, his excellency Bishop Paulius Baltakis, Msgr. Joseph Anderlonis, Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus, Msgr. George Lutz, and the Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Rev. James Reilly.

Msgr. again preached an inspiring homily. The Offertory gifts were presented by children of the parish who were dressed in Lithuanian costumes. The lector also wore her Lithuanian costume. The hymn to Our Lady of Siluva, composed by Faustas Strolia, HM, was sung at the Offertory. Before the final blessing, Bishop Baltakis spoke and praised the Knights of Lithuania for all the good it has done for the Church and for Lithuania.

The Mass was closed with the singing of the American and Lithuanian National anthems and the Vyciu Himnas.

The procession then was led outside the church for the blessing of the beautiful newly renovated Lithuanian wayside Cross. All the people gathered around the Cross while the prayers of blessing were read by Bishop Baltakis, and all the clergy present blessed the Cross. It was truly an impressive ceremony.

After the blessing, the members gathered on the church steps for the annual Convention photo.

We all then left to our homes with a warm feeling of yet another successful Convention. The farewells were sad, but the hearts of all present were happy. The convention was four days of friendship, love and accomplishment. Our hearts were truly grateful to the people of Kearny for all they did to make these days so great!

Anna Klizas-Wargo



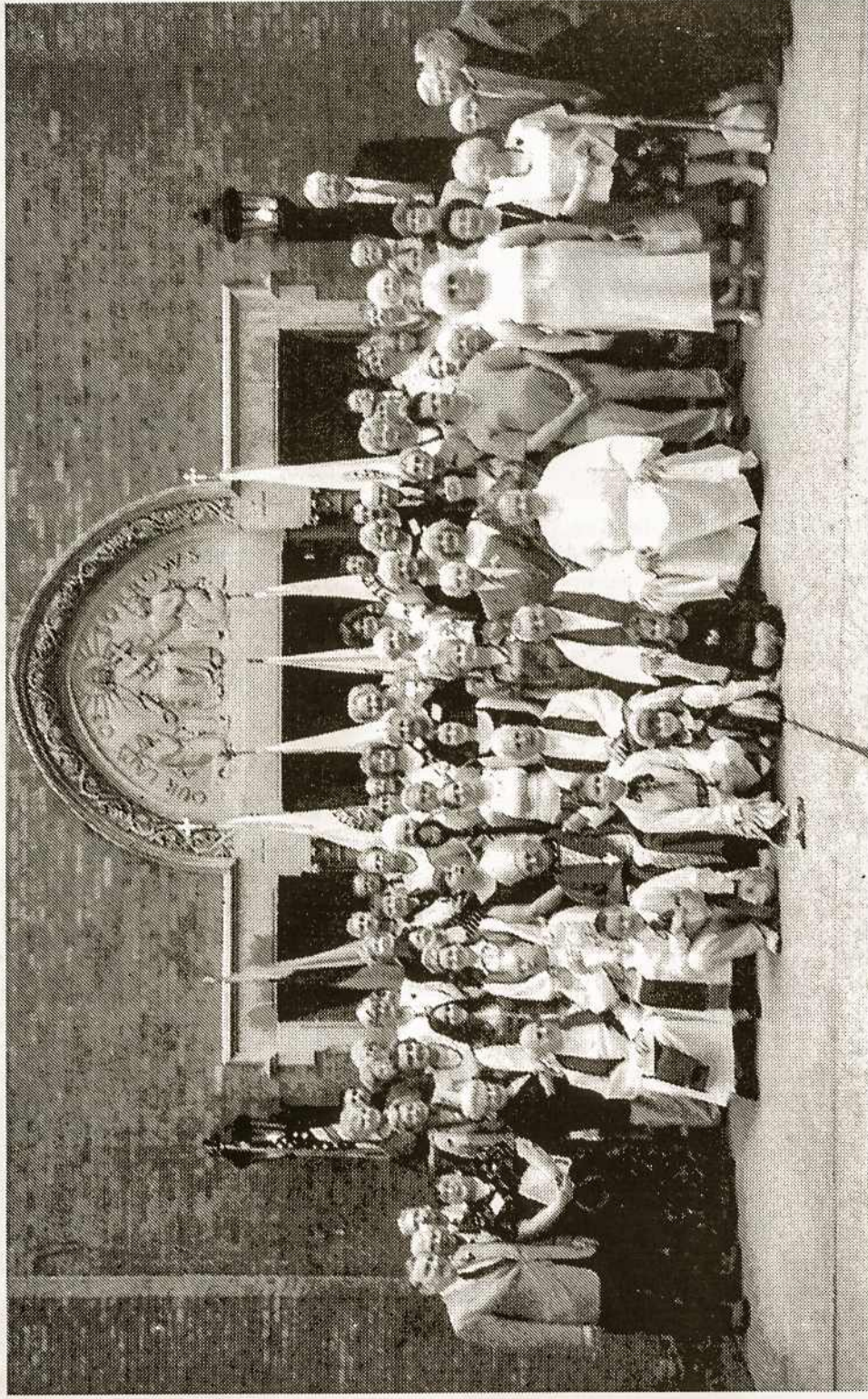
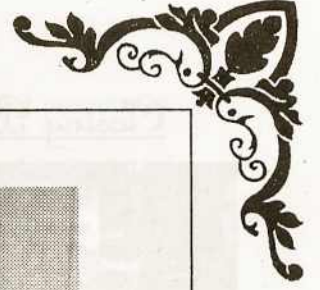
Members of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, ready to join the entrance procession, dressed in national costumes



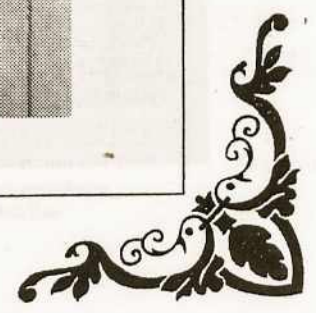
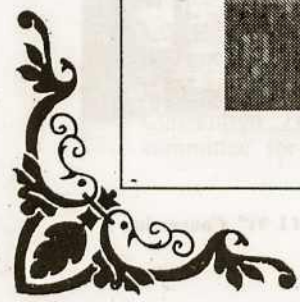
Waiting to begin the re-dedication ceremony of the newly renovated Wayside Cross.



Delegates and Guests of the K of L 91st Convention



The 94th K of L National Convention Photo 2004



Convention 2004 Knight Life...



What? You didn't come? You really missed a great Convention! Hope to see you next year in Pittsburgh for Convention 2005. In photo: Sister M. Janine Golubickis, Rita Och (Bobeliene!) and Arlene Stiklius



And they danced the night away!!! L.to R.: Brian Johnson & son, Irene and Walter Svekla, Georgianna Macke and Veronica Bizinkauskas. It was impossible to resist the music of Joe Thomas and his orchestra.



SCANDINAVIAN CRUISE

SCANDINAVIAN CRUISE WITH OPTIONAL TOUR TO LITHUANIA
June 24, 2005

PRINCESS LINES – STAR PRINCESS (SHIP'S REGISTRY BERMUDA)
(10 DAY CRUISE WITH MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT)

DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
1	HOME TO COPENHAGEN		9:00 PM
2	AT SEA		
3	NYNASHHAM (FOR STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN)	7:00 AM	5:30 PM
4	HELSINKI, FINLAND	8:30 AM	5:00 PM
5	ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA	6:30 AM	
6	ST.PETERSBURG, RUSSIA		6:00 PM
7	TALLINN, ESTONIA	7:00 AM	1;00 PM
8	GDYNIA, POLAND	9:00 AM	6:00 PM
9	AT SEA		
10	OSLO, NORWAY	7:00 AM	2:00 PM
11	COPENHAGEN, DENMARK	5:00 AM	

PRICE FOR STANDARD INSIDE CABIN:

\$1,937.00 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (INCLUDES PORT CHARGES,
GOVERNMENT CHARGES, & TRANSFERS TO & FROM SHIP) – SINGLE \$3,041.00

PRICE FOR STANDARD OUTSIDE CABIN:

\$2,237.00 PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY (INCLUDES PORT CHARGES,
GOVERNMENT CHARGES & TRANSFERS TO & FROM SHIP) – SINGLE \$3,521.00

AIR ADD ON:

NEWARK (NEWARK-LIBERTY)	\$1, 110.00
CHICAGO (O'HARE)	\$1, 175.00

RESERVATIONS AND CRUISE DEPOSIT OF \$600.00 PER PERSON MUST BE MADE BY
NOVEMBER 15, 2004.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: ELLIE NAKROSIS 201-998-9641 OR 201-294-4250

OPTIONAL TOUR TO LITHUANIA

LITHUANIAN HERITAGE EXTENSION TOUR

Knights of Lithuania

July 4 - 10, 2005

- July 4
Vilnius** Arrive from Copenhagen to Vilnius. After checking into your hotel, enjoy a tour of Vilnius Old Town. In the evening you will have a Welcome Dinner at a typical Lithuanian Restaurant. D
- July 5
Vilnius** Today your tour will take you to Trakai, the fully restored castle surrounded by Lake Galve. After a regional lunch, you will return to Vilnius and visit its beautiful churches, stop at the Parliament and have a chance to go to the Gediminas Castle. BL
- July 6
Palanga** Early in the morning you will start your trip to Palanga, with a short stop at Klaipeda, Lithuania's only port city. After lunch, you will be transported by ferry, to Neringa, the Coronian Spit. There you will visit the famous "Witches Mountain" with unique wooden sculptures, the largest Sand Dune and the very interesting fishing villages of Juodkranta and Nida. After arriving in Palanga, and the hotel check in, enjoy the resort on your own. BL
- July 7
Kaunas** After breakfast, you will depart for Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city. On the way you will visit two of Lithuania's most revered shrines, the Hill of Crosses and Our Lady of Siluva Shrine. After lunch, continue on to Kaunas. After the hotel check-in, you will have time to visit Kaunas Old Town, the Cathedral, as well as walk down the famous Freedom Blvd. BL
- July 8
Kaunas-** This morning, finish touring Kaunas and drive to Runsiskes, the unique open air- museum where you may observe the original buildings brought there from all different regions of Lithuania. After lunch in the Tavern and a short stop in Pazaislis, return to Kaunas and have enough time to do last minute shipping. BL
- July 9** This morning, after breakfast, you will be transported to Vilnius Airport for your trip back to the United States.

Airfare/Lithuanian Tour

Newark \$2,235.00

Chicago \$2,475.00

Single Supplement \$240.00

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"Dievui ir Tėvynei!"



"For God and Country!"