



Vytis - The Knight

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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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FRONT COVER:

"Mother of Mercy" - Rimini, Emilia, Italy. A miraculous painting which is enshrined in the Church of St. Clare. The portrait was kept in the church for many years as an artistic embellishment until it attracted citywide attention. The event that thrust it to the forefront took place in the year 1850, when the eyes of the painting were seen to repeatedly open and close. (From; Miraculous Images of Our Lady – by Joan Carroll Cruz. 100 Famous Catholic Portraits and Statues) - Courtesy of Rev. Anthony Markus.

To My Fellow Knights

First of all, apologies are in order for the extreme lateness of our long-awaited convention issue of the Vytis. Personnel and administrative changes at Draugas, as well as an overextended Vytis staff schedule, contributed to the delay. By now, hopefully all will have received this interesting issue.

This Vytis issue obviously is also late. Our apologies, again. We are making efforts to assure delivery to your homes as soon as possible. Our hope lies in a return to normalcy with the arrival of the November-December issue in late December. The Supreme Council and the editorial staff are studying ways of improving the timely printing and receiving of the Vytis magazine in the future. We very much appreciate your patience at this trying time.

Secondly, Vytis has a new internet provider and therefore, a new address. We could not get vytis alone for the address, so it is now: K of L Vytis all in lower case and with no spaces. Contact us at this new address, please.

The new Vytis email address is:
koflyvtis@sbcglobal.net
 (k of l vytis)

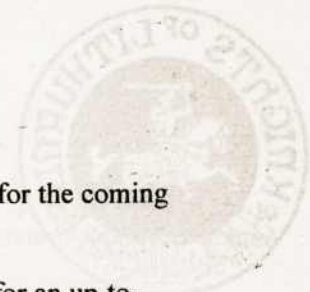
Thirdly, I would like to share a few thoughts about our beautiful slogan: "For God and Country!" Soon many churches in the United States will be conducting the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This will remind us of the vocation to the religious life and the achievements of so many religious who have touched our own lives.

That in turn reminds me of the "vocation", if you will, of the Knights of Lithuania. As Catholics, each of us is called to live a life of service to our neighbor and fidelity to God. This is the privilege and responsibility emanating from our Baptism. As Catholic Lithuanian Americans, I see that commitment fulfilled uniquely and continually by my fellow Knights. Just look at the work done through each of our charities: Aid to Lithuania, The Foundation, St. Casimir Guild, and the Our Lady of Siluva Fund. Check out the good done for youth through the scholarships and the influence exerted by the efforts of Lithuanian Affairs and Public Relations both on a local and national level.

Yes, fellow Knights, we hear you through your works: "For God and Country!" Valio!

Sister M. Janine

Watch for Rizika in the next issue of Vytis!



President's Message:

As all of our Councils are meeting and planning their cultural and social activities for the coming year, I wish to add a couple of "housekeeping" reminders.

Our National Recording Secretary has mailed a request to each Council President for an up-to-date list of all newly elected Officers and Committees. Please supply her with this information as soon as possible.

Also, Council Financial Secretaries are reminding our members that it is now time for payment of dues for 2006. Please remember that dues must be paid by February 15th in order to continue to receive the Vytis. If dues are not paid by April 1, then your membership in the K. of L. will cease. Please cooperate with your Financial Secretaries in fulfilling their responsibility.

The Supreme Council will be meeting in December. In addition to an already full agenda, plans will be made for the 93rd National Convention which will be held at the Grosvenor Resort in Lake Buena Vista Florida. Keep a lookout for definite information in forthcoming issues.

I know it might seem to be a bit early to you now, but I respectfully request that all Councils and districts begin to seriously consider the possibility of hosting the 94th Convention in 2007. As we are all well aware, time flies by quickly, and before you know it, we will be scrambling for a site. Our Trustees would be most happy to give you any information you would need to make an informed decision.

All the members of the Supreme Council join me in wishing all of God's graces and blessings to you and your families as you celebrate and feast with them on Thanksgiving Day.

Vytiškai,

Agnes V. Mickunas, H.M.

President



With health problems requiring me to stay close to home, it was not possible for me to attend the last convention during which I was to receive the Honorary Membership award. I am grateful to Elinor Sluzas, HM, Chairperson of the Honorary Membership Committee, for making a special trip to Chicago and presenting this award at a luncheon attended by my family, friends, C-112 members, MAMD officers and members of the clergy. My thanks to the Supreme Council for arranging to make this a memorable day in my more than 50 years with the Knights of Lithuania. **Al Mockus, HM, C-112**



Knights of Lithuania
Supreme Council

Established 1913

"For God and Country"

October, 2005

The Lithuanian Affairs committee of the Knights of Lithuania was organized by Fr. John C. Jutt (Jutkevicius) in 1946 as an all-out effort to keep Soviet-occupied Lithuania's plight known to the world outside the Iron Curtain and to the United States Government. Fr. John devoted much time and effort to this end and started the "100 letters a year" awards within the K of L.

Present day issues include legislation passed in the Senate and in the House to address the Russian Federation to acknowledge the illegal seizure of the sovereign Baltic nations from 1940-1991; erroneous news articles, most recently in the Chicago Sun Times by Andrew Greeley which termed the Yalta give-away of the Baltics as a "Big....Lie", persist. Action is still required.

Work continues by way of the Fr. Jutt Fund, formed in respect to Fr. Jutt's work. The Fr. Jutt Fund is used to disseminate information to the K of L Councils, nation-wide, for reponse to Lithuanian news and events- to correct and counter and/or to praise/thank for positive news/events. Different communication techniques are utilized due to different circumstances. Emails are augmented with regular mail.

At present, a request for donations is indicated. To this end, I write to ask your assistance. Many needy causes approach you, daily, and there are many worthwhile efforts underway. Please consider the Fr. Jutt Fund as worthy, also. Whatever your contribution may be, it is appreciated.

Please make checks payable to the Knights of Lithuania Fr. Jutt Fund and mail to:

Bernice Aviza, HM, Treasurer
 Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council
 8 Tremont Street
 Albany, NY 12205

Thanks in advance,

Mildred Jagiella, Chair'
 Lithuanian Affairs Committee
 Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council

Knights of Lithuania Supreme Council
Lithuanian Affairs Committee

As your new Lithuanian Affairs Chair, I thank you for the honor and for your confidence. A goal is to return to GRASSROOTS POWER - YOU! The K of L Manual reminds us: "The council-level (Lithuanian Affairs) committee members are the most important"!!!

We shall also resume the recognition of "One Hundred Letters a Year" but the annual plaque will be replaced by a certificate. Please track your letters, individually, and submit the total in May/June (to National). C-157, Lemont, came up with the idea of incorporating letter-writing at their meetings; topics will be provided by their Council Lithuanian Affairs Chair. This is great! Because the whole world is "busy", we need to keep letters "short and sweet" - not just for us, but we also have about 10 seconds to get the recipient's attention. Each council/district has their own local and national leaders and newspapers to reach.

Some issues will be networked from "national" as they arise; If you haven't received email or US Postal news yet, and wish to do so, please let me know to add your name to the list. I'm still compiling addresses.

Recent issues have been:

1. Continued monitoring of closing of Lithuanian churches.
2. Senators Lugar (IN) and Barak Obama (IL) detained in Siberia (8/29) while inspecting destruction of old Soviet WMD's. (Nunn-Lugar Amendment)
3. ARMED Russian jet crashed near Kaunas, Lithuania (9/15), violating Lithuanian/NATO airspace. ..."accidental... not a provocation.... pilot released". Plane was enroute to Kaliningrad from St. Petersburg.
4. The above incident is proof that Lithuania is in a high risk zone. The demilitarization of Kaliningrad is a project, especially because there have been no hostilities between the Kaliningrad residents and their NATO neighbors, Lithuania and Poland. (Address our State Dept., NATO, Legislators, Baltic Caucus-House and Senate, local newspapers)
5. Revision of issues that were corrected in the 40's - e.g Russian denial, again, that Lithuania was forcibly subjugated by the Soviets- have resurfaced and must be addressed again. On an ongoing basis, WE need to prevent EROSION of the TRUTH.

We need to be PROACTIVE; if only REACTIVE, the goals and agenda are set by others.

I look forward to your input, suggestions, comments.....

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XIV Lithuanian American Council Convention
 90th Anniversary of A.L.T.A.S.
 October 21-23-2005
 Knights of Lithuania Representative's Report

On Friday, October 21, the Pre-Congress Reception took place at Balzekas Museum, 6500 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL. This event was very-well attended.

On Saturday, October 22, two business sessions took place at the SSC Motherhouse, 2601 Marquette Rd., Chicago Illinois. The morning discussions were in Lithuanian and the afternoon session was in English. After registration, Saulius Kuprys, President, opened the sessions with a welcome by Sr. Regina, SSC, and greetings; the first symposium was on ALTAS's 90 years - history, impact, questions, future. Participants were Petras Buchas, dr. Jonas Valaitis, and Pranas Jurkus. All presented frank, forthright facts and questions, even as to continuation of the organization. There was general approval that much purpose and work remains. Consul Daunoravicius spoke in behalf of Lithuania. Next, Saulius Kuprys, President, presented information on changing immigration questions. (No visa relative to immigrant status/non-immigrant "visit" status)

Dr. Darius Furmonavicius of the UK then spoke on the Kaliningrad (Karaliaucius) issue. Re: demilitarization, Russian military aspects should be removed - in a rapid, orderly, and complete manner. A map of Stalin's red-line boundary was provided and information re: lack of documentation to Soviet "rights" to this territory. Also, the Victims of Communism Memorial progress and dissemination of information on Lithuanian issues via libraries, universities, etc. Attention needs to be increased re: restitution to victims, environment, etc. for the damage during the Soviet occupation.

Discussion on the "exodus" of young Lithuanians - the statistics, reasons, remedies and incentives followed. Participants were Dr. Jonas Valaitis, Prel. Edmundas Putimas, Jonas Stundzia, Algis-, and Tomas Rinkunas, a student at UIC.

A plentiful, delicious meal and beverages were provided before resuming the meeting.

The afternoon sessions started with a talk on the Lithuanian American Brigade by Henry Gaidis, formerly USAF, FBI, retired in MD, and a volunteer at JBanc. Starting with 1914, changes in names of the organization. Mr Gaidis developed the trail to the present.

Victims of Communism Memorial and JBanc were discussed by Dr. Lee Edwards, Chairman of the Foundation. The groundbreaking is anticipated for Spring, 2006, and the Dedication will be November, 2006.

Dr. Michael Szporer of the University of Maryland gave an eloquent and humorous talk on Solidarity and Sajudis.

Our State Department's Representative, Thomas Navratil, Office of Nordic and Baltic Affairs, presented "Baltic States Issues: A View from Washington. Numerous topics were included, e.g. The recent Russian Jet crash in Lithuania, Immigration, NATO, The friendly relationships between the US and Lithuania, etc. The topics and delivery were impressive. The Roundtable: Dr. Ramunas Kondratas, Dr. Darius Furmonavicius, Karl Altai, Tomas Rinkunas.

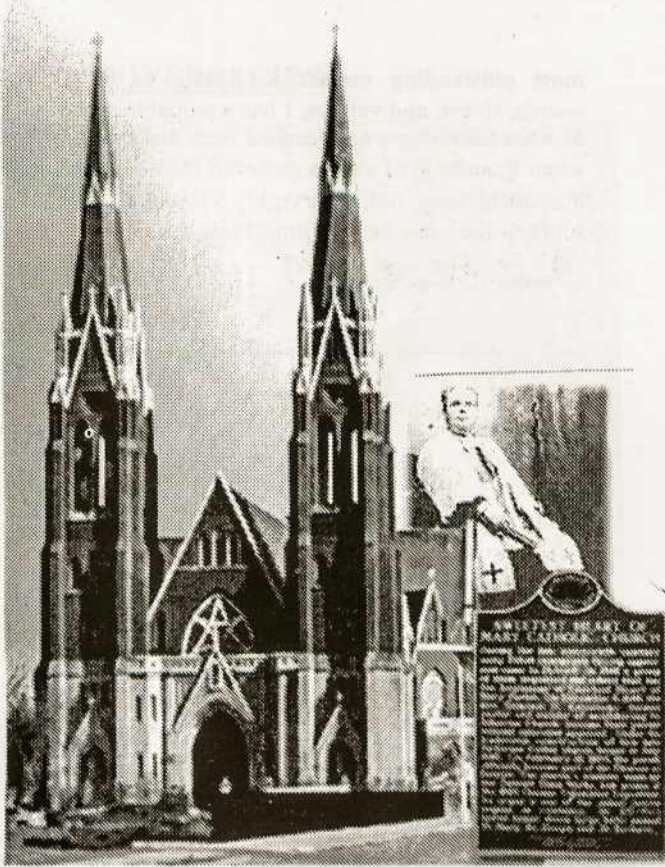
After the adjournment and a brief break, a bus was provided for transport to the Banquet at the Chicago Athletic Association, 12 S. Michigan, Chicago. White Sox "art" was prevalent during the ride - the Opening World Series game was taking place. The Banquet room was filled with Consular Corps, youth, Press, and MANY distinguished guests. All enjoyed a gourmet meal and a humorous, opera-oriented program by Ms. Lietuvninkas. The results of the hard-working committee shone.

Sunday, October 23, the SSC Motherhouse was the site for the Convention closing. Mass followed at Nativity BVM Church, Chicago. Farewells took place in Nativity's Church Hall after nourishments were served.

The Lithuanian American Council (ALTAS) convention successfully addressed history and plans for the future. The Knights of Lithuania Affiliation with ALTAS is mutually appreciated and beneficial.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Jagiella



The Mid-Central District Fall Pilgrimage

After the Fall meeting and lunch, the delegates of the Mid-Central District gathered at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit, for the pilgrimage. Sweetest Heart of Mary Church is truly an architectural gem. The style of design is classified as late 19th century Gothic or late Victorian Gothic of cathedral proportions. Its height and grandeur recall the mediaeval notion, that the cathedral was the center of the community. The guide gave an interesting history of its beginnings. In 1886, a group of Polish immigrants organized a school that was the beginning of Sweetest Heart of Mary parish. On December 8, 1888, the Rev. Dominic H. Kolasinski, former pastor and builder of the neighboring St. Albertus Church, became their pastor without Episcopal approval. Under his leadership, construction of the late Victorian Gothic Church began in 1890. On February 18, 1894, the parish officially became part of the Diocese of Detroit. Sweetest Heart of Mary Church was founded in 1889 by Polish immigrants who fled their homeland from oppression and settled in Detroit. The interior of the church is amazing, artistic and breathtaking. The church's uniquely beautiful stained-glass

windows, made by the Detroit Glass Works, won prizes at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition. Its organ, built in 1894, is one of the oldest Austin organs in existence. The façade window, or the organ window, has what might be called a politically inspired motif. In its star-shaped design, it features symbols of the Polish nation. In the center of the window is the Madonna with Child. On the left is the Polish Eagle; on the right is the Knight of Lithuania, and at the base, St. Michael, representing White Russia. Together, this was all to symbolize Greater Poland.

Other interesting facts about Sweetest Heart of Mary: its 217 foot spires house three large bells, named St. Mary, St. Joseph and St. Barbara; the elaborate main entrance has solid oak doors; the chandeliers are Victorian style, made of Tiffany glass; all candlesticks are hand-carved brass; and the interior was built to seat 2,400 people. This magnificent church was hailed as one of the most beautiful gothic structures in the State of Michigan, and as the largest and grandest Polish church in the US. In 1981, Sweetest Heart of Mary Church was dedicated as a Historical Monument by the State of Michigan.

~ Regina Juska-Svoba
MCD Public Relations Chair



The MCD silent auction item – an exquisitely made needle point picture. The highest bidder, Regina Juska/Svoba, C-102, Detroit. Picture donated by Elinor Sluzas, HM

First Prize-Winning Essay

MEMORIES OF THINGS LITHUANIAN

“Daug, Daug Dainelių,” more than any other phrase or object, carries me with a rush into that special place where memories of things Lithuanian live strong. I can still hear the voices of my mother and my aunt as they sing it and reminisce about their girlhoods in Lithuania. Had I been born into my husband’s family, those memories would be primarily about food – which is, undeniably, an essential element in life, especially in Lithuanian life. And the very thought of a golden kugelis and /or virtiniai with their many possible fillings startles the taste buds into glorious anticipation. My husband often said that I would rather dance than eat, so I guess it is, for me, all about the music.

Among my earliest memories, Margutis Radio Hour fills our home with Lithuanian songs and brightens the days of my grandmother, who rocks in her chair remembering how she attracted my grandfather, ten years younger than she, because she so loved to dance and sing. Normally, a little austere in appearance, music made her face glow like the sun. And when my parents gathered with family or friends, it was a rare evening that didn’t include raising their voices in song – even if it was only, „Gerkim po Lašuką „

Undaunted by gas rationing and retread tires, our family moved from Chicago to Los Angeles via Route 66 (another musical memory.) We were welcomed by Msgr. Maciejauskas, who had rooms to rent in a large house that included a chapel, the beginnings of a Lithuanian parish. Our days there rang with the sacred songs of Holy Mass, and the strains of „Pulkim ant Kelių,” still take me back. When we made our home in a smaller community, my parents sought out rich Lithuanian cultural experiences that were often provided by incredible singers such as Polyna Stoska and Helen Bartush Swaggert. And when a magazine came to our house with the music to „Kur Bakužė Samanuota,” mom helped me learn this lovely, nostalgic song.

It is God’s grace, obviously, that has brought me to this place in my life where I can indulge my joy in lovely Lithuanian melodies. The generous and gifted director of our Knights of Lithuania Choir, Faustas Strolia, granted me the opportunity to participate in the performance of music „For God and Country.” While every program stirs my soul, our participation in two festivals in Lithuania created some of my life’s

most outstanding memories. There, in those woods, rivers, and valleys, I have a palpable sense of what the songs I had learned were about. And when thousands of voices gathered from all over the world sang out, „Parveski, Viešpatie,” my soul rejoiced, and heaven must have smiled.

Irene Macke – C 157

The Art of Marriage

The little things are the big things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say, “I love you,” at least once a day.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is at no time taking the other for granted; the courtship should not end with the honeymoon, it should continue through all the years.

It is having a mutual sense of values and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family.

It is doing things for each other, not in the attitude of duty or sacrifice, but in the spirit of joy.

It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is not expecting the husband to wear a halo or the wife to have wings.

It is not looking for perfection in each other.

It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor.

It is having the capacity to forgive and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is finding room for the things of the spirit.

It is the common search for the good and the beautiful.

It is establishing a relationship in which the independence is equal, dependence in mutual and the obligation is reciprocal.

It is not only marrying the right partner, it is *being* the right partner.

~Author unknown ~

ANNIVERSARIES



Mr. and Mrs. Petrauskas

Frank and Irene (Lazor) Petrauskas, of Baldwinsville, celebrated their 50th anniversary May 29, 2005, at a Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Stephen's Church in Syracuse and a reception at Le Moyne Manor for relatives and friends.

The couple was married May 29, 1955, in St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Church in Syracuse.

The family includes their children Theresa Contons, of Concord, MA; Joan Chace, of Jericho, VT; Cecilia Shipley, of Norfolk, MA; Kathleen Petrauskas, of Syracuse; Matthew Petrauskas of flower Mound, TX; Ann Chatterton, of Portland, OR; and Barbara Brechbul, of Faoug, Switzerland; and 10 grandchildren.

Frank was a landscape contractor for 45 years. Irene was employed with the SUNY College of Science Environmental and Forestry and the U.S. government. She is a homemaker.

Frank is past national president of the Knights of Lithuania and long-time Council 140 Syracuse president. He is also a past president of the Nurserymen's Association. Irene is past president of the Southside Library Club. Both do a lot of volunteering with the Francis House, Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and St. Stephen's Church.

SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW



Rev. John Rikteraitis – 80th milestone

Many times when people would remark that a project couldn't be done, Father John would take up the challenge and with the aid of generous people accomplish the task. "Don't be afraid to get involved, just get in there and work!" he would encourage...

For ten years, Father was instrumental in organizing yearly Lithuanian Day celebrations at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hartford. He was able to receive permission to erect a 20-foot Lithuanian wayside cross at the side of the Cathedral. He also had Joseph Ambrozaitis design and construct a wayside cross in memory of his parents on St. Andrew property in New Britain. A statue of Our Lady that had traveled throughout U.S. and Canadian parishes had

to be returned to Lithuania when the country regained its Independence. Somehow, Father found ways to cut through the red tape. A friend was commissioned to make a new, jeweled crown for the statue. Pope John Paul II crowned the statue on his visit to Lithuania. Father John, with others, had made the difficult arrangements and even had the opportunity of shaking hands with the Pope. The Pope suggested, that breviaries in the Lithuanian language were needed. Again, Father accepted the arduous task. Together with Monsignor Contons, he raised the money required for printing. Father John is always involved with aiding Lithuanian causes, even in retirement. He still celebrates Mass each weekend at St. Andrew and St. John the Evangelist churches in New Britain. He enjoys having more time to visit on his sick calls now that he doesn't have the worry of administrative duties. Of course, more time is spent on his favorite hobby – reading. "Skaityk, skaityk, skaityk!" Parishioners are familiar with those words. He is also the chaplain of the Knights of Lithuania, Hartford, C-6. So what wisdom has he gained during 80 years? "When I was a young man I was very idealistic and thought I knew and could do everything. Now... I'm more realistic and realize there still is much to learn and do." So, we all wish you "Ilgiausių metų, Father John." May God continue to bless you for your many good works and kindnesses, and as you always say, may we together „Praise the Lord," for many, many years.

(Submitted by Bette Ann Liudzius, C-6.)

SMILES WITHOUT WRINKLES...

- He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.
- Age doesn't always bring wisdom; sometimes it comes alone
- I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

(Leonidas J. Galinskas, C-102)

SOME WORDS OF WISDOM...

- When people are serving, life is no longer meaningless.
- There are those who think they are free of all prejudices just because they hate everyone equally.
- The best thing about the future is, that it only comes one day at a time.
- The first thing some people do in the morning is brush their teeth and sharpen their tongue.
- It at first you don't succeed, well, so much for skydiving!
- Nothing is more difficult than trying to find something wrong with yourself.
- A hammer may miss its mark, but a compliment, never.
- Most of us know how to say nothing. Few of us know when.
- To get back on your feet, miss two car payments.
- There are days when it takes all you've got just to keep up with the losers.
- Gray hair is a blessing; ask any bald man.
- One nice thing about egotists; they don't talk about other people.
- If you were to list the ten smartest people you know, who would be the other nine?
- A frog is the only living thing that has more lives than a cat. It croaks every night.
- Most women hate four-letter words; cook, wash, iron, dust.
- You can run into debt, but you have to crawl out.
- Don't ever confuse motion with progress. If children did not ask questions, they would never learn how little adults know.
- Courage is fear that said its prayers.
- There's a town so dull, that when the tide went out it refused to come back.
- It's called "cold cash," because it's never in your pocket long enough to get warm.
- Many speakers need no introduction, just a conclusion.
- Remember, a top banana is supported by the rest of the bunch.
- A picture of a jail should be painted on top of every safe.
- The only one who got everything done by Friday is Robinson Crusoe.
- Most people don't like to repeat gossip, but what else do you do with it?
- Even a small star shines in the darkness.
- God tucks mothers in at night.
- God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home.



Elinor Sluzas, HM, Honorary Committee Chair, came to Chicago to present the Honorary Membership Degree to Al Mockus, C-112, who was unable to be at the Convention this summer due to illness. Congratulations, Al!



Some happy members of C-1, Brockton, Maryte Bizinkauskas, Veronica Bizinkauskas, HM, and Sister Helen, CJC, join with participants of the Concert in the Finale, which took place on May 7, 2005. You go, girls!

POLICY GOVERNING KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA SPORTS INVOLVEMENT

Per resolution passed at the 92nd National Convention.

Based on the findings of research into sporting activities conducted in the Fall of 2004 on the Council and District Levels, this policy regarding future "Sports Involvement" on the part of the Knights of Lithuania is adopted as policy.

1. The Knights of Lithuania encourages sporting activities and sports teams on the council and district levels of the organization. This leaves it up to each individual council and district to choose the extent of their involvement with sports. However, should a council or district's sports activities include sponsorship of a team, the following guidelines are to be adhered to:
 - A. If a council or district sponsors a sports related event or team (i.e., basketball team, bowling team, etc.) of any sort, said council or district accepts responsibility for any and all expenses incurred and all legal liability issues. The manner that they establish by which to cover the expenses, is at the jurisdiction of the council or district.
 - B. If the team is competing in a tournament sponsored by an outside organization, all team members representing the Knights of Lithuania **MUST** be registered members, in good standing, of the Knights of Lithuania.
 - C. The team members are allowed to wear jerseys or shirts depicting the organization's national logo. Said logo is the **ONLY** logo that is to be used and may be obtained by contacting the National President, who will forward a copy of the logo in JPEG format.
 - D. If a district is sponsoring a sporting event, they set the rules for the event. Should non-members be allowed to participate, their involvement is at the discretion of the district. However, these participants may not wear K of L logos or be referred to as a K of L team.
2. Districts and councils are encouraged to elect/appoint a Sports /Chair on their level.
3. Should circumstances change in the future regarding the need for a national sports chair, members may petition the SC, in writing, to have a national chair elected. Petitioners must show proof of the need for the position to the SC before it can be presented to the delegates of a national convention for consideration.

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Knights of Lithuania

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE

92nd NATIONAL CONVENTION
Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport Hotel, Coraopolis, PA
Host: Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA
August 11-14, 2005



Subject: Dissolution of National Sports Committee

Whereas ... During the 90th National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania the delegates voted to re-establish a National Sports Committee, and

Whereas ... During the year that followed it became clear to the Supreme Council that such a committee, on the national level, wasn't in the best interest of the organization as the financial sponsoring of sporting events through the National Treasury yielded the organization no new membership, the purpose for which the committee was established in the first place, and

Whereas ... During that same time the Supreme Council was made aware by our legal counsel of the legal ramifications, liabilities and expense of such an undertaking at which time a poll was conducted of all councils and districts as to the need to continue this committee on a national level, therefore

Be it resolved ... That based on the committee's findings, information obtained through legal counsel and due to the fact that the national committee was unable to achieve the objectives for which it was created that the position of Sports Committee Chair on the Supreme Council be abolished, and

Be it further resolved ... That the delegates of the 92nd National Convention gathered in Pittsburgh, PA from August 11-14, 2005 while fully supporting and encouraging sports activities on a local or district level, adopt as policy the attached recommendation of the Sports Evaluation Committee regarding sporting activities in the future, and

Be it further resolved ... That if approved this policy will be mailed by the National President to each Council and District for their files as well as being included in the Knights of Lithuania Manual. This resolution takes effect upon its ratification by the delegates.

Submitted By: Robert A. Martin, Jr. on behalf of the SC Sports Evaluation Committee

2. Congratulations to **Rev. Anthony Markus** on his 25th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood – submitted by C-112.

3. Congratulations to **Rev. Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus** as he marks the 40th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood – submitted by Saint Casimir Guild

4. Congratulations to **Msgr. Ignatius Urbonas**, as he celebrates his 70th anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood. – submitted by Joanna Radzevicius, C-82

5. The delegates of the 92nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania, support the **Victims of Communism Monument project** sponsored by JBANC and ALTAS. – submitted by Faustas Strolia, HM, C-157

6. The delegates of the 92nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania support the efforts of Archbishop Tamkevicius for the **Beatification of Adele Dirsyte**, dedicated teacher, Director of Lithuanian Catholic Women's Association and a Catholic youth educator who inspired them to do charitable work for old and poor alike, for which activities she was deported to a hard labor camp in Siberia. She was tortured and put in isolation. Exhausted, she could not survive. – submitted by Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96

7. The delegates of the 92nd National Convention thank **Loretta Stukas, HM, C-29**, who has faithfully served the K of L Foundation for 20 years with fervor and dedication. – submitted by Irene Svekla, C-3

8. Congratulations to **Council-144**, for preserving Lithuanian Day, which was originally started by the Lithuanian Priests' League and has been celebrated in Eastern Pennsylvania for 91 years, and for promoting our Lithuanian heritage and customs. – submitted by Anna Klizas Wargo, HM, C-144.

9. Whereas, **DRAUGAS**, the sole Lithuanian Catholic daily newspaper in the United States, which has been in existence for the last 96 years, and publishes news items and photographs relative to the Knights of Lithuania activities and projects, be it resolved that as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation of \$100 be given to Draugas. – submitted by Regina Juska-Svoba, Public Relations Committee Chair

10. That, as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation in the sum of \$100 be given to **DIRVA**, the Lithuanian National weekly newspaper that publishes the Knights of Lithuania organization's activities with consistency. – submitted by Regina Juska-Svoba, Public Relations Committee Chair

11. That, as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation in the sum of \$100 be given to **AMERIKOS LIETUVIS**, the weekly American Lithuanian newspaper that publishes the K of L organization's activities with consistency. – submitted by Regina Juska-Svoba, Public Relations Committee Chair

12. Therefore, be it resolved, on the anniversary of 15 years of servicing and assisting our less fortunate brothers and sister in Lithuania, **Aid to Lithuania, Inc.**, hereby humbly requests that the delegates of the 92nd K of L National Convention approve and donate the maximum of \$1100 for the ongoing support to allow Aid to Lithuania to continue to carry on the stated goals of providing aid to the needy people of Lithuania. – submitted by Regina Juska-Svoba, President: Aid to Lithuania, Inc.

13. That the delegates of the 92nd K of L National Convention continue to show support to the Lithuanian Pontifical College in Rome, Italy, with a donation of \$1,000 through St. Casimir Guild. – submitted by St. Casimir Guild

14. Be it resolved that the amount of \$800 be donated to Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund. – submitted by Council 1, Brockton, MA

15. Congratulations to **Msgr. Algimantas Bartkus** in celebration of his 40th anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood, a milestone in his noble career. Be it resolved that the delegates of the 92nd

National K of L Convention provide an anniversary gift of \$200 to Monsignor in the celebration of this event. – submitted by Robert Martin, Council 16

16. Be it resolved, that the delegates of the 92nd National K of L Convention provide a donation of \$250 to the **Victims of Communism Memorial Fund** to assist in the efforts to erect this memorial. – submitted by Faustas Strolia, HM, C-157.

17. Whereas, 2005 marks the **90th anniversary of ALTAS (American Lithuanian Council)**, be it resolved that we congratulate ALTAS and send a letter of greeting with a donation of \$50 to commemorate this special occasion. – submitted by Robert Martin, C-16

18. Be it resolved that the amount of \$200 be donated to each of the following **religious Communities**: Sisters of Jesus Crucified, Sisters of St. Casimir, Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God, and Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. – submitted by the Supreme Council

19. Whereas Council 3, Philadelphia, PA, the Amber District, and the Honorary Membership Committee approve and recommend for Honorary Membership, **Walter Svekla**; be it resolved that the 92nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania approve Walter Svekla, an outstanding and loyal knight, for Honorary Membership. – submitted by the Honorary Membership Committee.

20. Whereas, Council 157, Lemont, IL, the Mid-America District, and the Honorary Membership committee approve and recommend for Honorary Membership, **Theresa Strolia**; Be it resolved that the delegates of the 92nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania approve Theresa Strolia, an outstanding and loyal knight, for Honorary Membership. – submitted by the Honorary Membership Committee
21. Whereas, Council 19, Pittsburgh, PA, served as the hosts of the 92nd annual Knights of Lithuania National Convention, and in so doing accepted and fulfilled a very demanding task; Be it resolved that the delegates extend their **warmest appreciation and gratitude to Council 19**, and the entire committee for their hard work, diligence and hospitality in their preparation and presentation of this convention. – submitted by the Resolutions Committee.
22. Be it resolved that the delegates extend their warmest appreciation and gratitude to the **Presidium and its committees** for their hard work, diligence and dedication in the conduct of this convention. –submitted by the Resolutions Committee
23. Be it resolved that the delegates to the 92nd National Convention of the Knights of Lithuania express on behalf of themselves and the general membership, their deepest gratitude **to the 2004-2005 Supreme Council** for its dedicated service to the organization and support of the ideals of the Knights of Lithuania. –submitted by the Resolutions Committee
24. Whereas the management and the staff of the Wyndham Pittsburgh Hotel, Coraopolis, PA, demonstrated hospitality, courtesy, and cooperation during our 92nd National Convention; Be it resolved that the Supreme Council President send a letter of appreciation and thanks on behalf of all the delegates. – submitted by the Resolutions Committee
25. ***Resolution Rejected:** Whereas, **DARBININKAS** , a monthly publication that publishes the Knights of Lithuania organization's activities regularly, Be it resolved, that as a gesture of appreciation and support, a donation in the sum of \$100 be given to DARBININKAS. – submitted by Regina Juska-Svoba, Public Relations Committee chair.

In Memoriam...

C- 26	Helen Gillus	October, 2005
C-29	Virginia Kaminskas	October 3, 2005
C- 96	Ildefonsas Bucmys	September 2, 2005
C-96	Wilfred W. Gitzinger	October 9, 2005
C-110	Brenda Razickas	September, 2005
C- 147	Vladas Gelazius	October 29, 2005
C – 109	Vincent J. Dragunat	August 8, 2005

District & Council News

Mid-Central District Spring Meeting and Bowling/Golfing Regina Juska-Svoba

On the weekend of May 20-21, 2005, all roads led to Port Clinton, OH, for the MCD's Spring Meeting and Bowling/Golfing Tournaments which was hosted by C-96, Dayton, OH. Friday evening, approx 50 delegates, local K of L members and guests converged at the Commodore Perry Inn and Suites for a get-acquainted and welcome-back get-together. President Michael F. Petkus and his family, the weekend's co-chairs JoAnn and Gary Thiele and their energetic and enthusiastic committee greeted the guests with an abundance of good and filling sandwiches, salads, and decadent sweets. So that no one would feel the effects of the cooler spring weather, "medicinal libations" warmed everyone. It was good to see and "catch up" with many members whom we have not seen in the last six months. Mary Agnes Mikalauskas led the Chinese raffle where the gifts were wonderful and plentiful. A silent auction was held during the weekend for an exquisitely detailed-needlepoint picture of a Lithuanian girl dancer. The one-of-a-kind treasured picture was donated by HM Elinor Sluzas who actually did most of the needlework herself! Some members and friends lingered on after the get-together for some friendly and competitive card games. The District Meeting was held on Saturday, May 21. JoAnn Thiele led the members in an opening prayer. The meeting was conducted by MCD Pres Michael F. Petkus, C-96. Copies of the meeting minutes from the Fall 2004 meeting were prepared and readily available to all the delegates, thanks to the ever-efficient rec sec HM Frances R. Petkus, C-96. The District officers, council presidents, committee chairs

and ancillary charities' representatives reported on their biannual activities.

District delegates to the 92nd convention were selected-Lee Moore, C-86 and Regina Juska-Svoba, C-102.

The upcoming Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage will be hosted by C-102, Detroit, MI. The 2006 Spring Meeting and Bowling Tournament will be hosted by C-25, Cleveland, OH. Paul Moore, C-86 of the mandate committee reported that in total there were 29 participants- 23 delegates and 6 guests- who represented 4 councils-Cleveland, DuBois, Dayton, Detroit- and attended the meeting.

Ritual Chair Lee Moore, C-86, reported that two members would receive their Fourth Degrees- Lauretta Pant and Ellie Pacovcy, both of C-96.

HM Fran Petkus led new candidate/K of L member Joe Cernavicius in the new member oath. Joe Guerriero, C-102, was the lucky recipient of the 50/50 raffle drawing (\$43). Congratulations!

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by Michael F. Petkus and the singing of the Vyciu hymn.

All energies were in high gear for the bowling tournament and the mini golfing in the afternoon. Six bowling teams of four bowlers each participated in the heated competitions at the Freeway Lanes of Port Clinton. Those delegates and friends desirous of golfing had the opportunity to compete at Buckeye Mini Golfing.

In the evening the delegates and local C-96 Knights and friends gathered at the Immaculate Conception Church for the closing Mass. The closing dinner and bowling and golf award announcements took place at the Port Clinton Moose Lodge.

JoAnn Thiele introduced John Maskavich, member of the American Legion Lithuanian Post from Baltimore, MD, to give a brief overview about the Lithuanian aspect of the organization. Mr. Maskavich stated that the sole American Legion Lithuanian Post in the US was started in 1943 with only 15 members. The membership grew to 172 and currently

stands at 103members

The members participate with the Lithuanian flag at various church services, festivals, Lithuanian community events and holidays. Various services are offered for the deceased members and the POW/MIA. In closing, Mr Maskavich gave President Michael F. Petkus a gift- a vanity plate inscribed with "American Legion Lithuanian Post".

Sam Perritino, C-102, thanked the 6 teams which participated in the bowling tournament and then announced the bowling awards. Congratulations to the following: Pat Wilson, C-96; George Kayganich, C-102; Richard Marks team #6, C-25; Sam Perritino's team from C-102, Detroit; Joe Guerriero's team, C-102. The winners were satisfied and happy with their prizes. Heather Bowman, C-102, and Tom Petkus, C-96 were the high achievers for the lowest scores. You will do better next year!

JoAnn Thiele reported on the put-put golf. There were fewer golfers than bowlers, but the best of the best was little Gabrielle Pant, C-96, who shot a hole in one. Go, Gabby, show the adults how the game is played!

The winners of the MCD raffle were announced: Mary Kennedy, C-86, 1st prize of \$200; National President, HM Agnes Mickunas, C-3, 2nd prize of \$100. Congratulations to the winners!

The highest bidder for the silent auction was the undersigned. A perfect location has been found to hang the fantastic Lithuanian dancer needlepoint picture. Thanks to HM Elinor Sluzas for donating the beautiful picture!

On behalf of the District, Pres M. Petkus expressed heartfelt thanks to all delegates and guests who attended, participated and supported the district's weekend activities! Thanks to C-96 for hosting a well-organized and fun-filled memorable weekend- a special time of sharing and remembering.

After a successful and productive meeting and bowling tournament, delegates bid their faewells and wished each other a safe return home.

MCD Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage Regina Juska-Svoba

On the weekend of Sept 30-Oct 1, 2005, Fall was in the air and the sun's autumn rays led the Knights to Detroit for the MCD's Fall Meeting and Pilgrimage which was hosted by C-102.

On Friday evening, there was a get-together at the Sleep Inn Hotel in Lincoln Park. The participants had a great time socializing and catching up. There was plenty to eat and drink. A Chinese raffle was held and there was a vast variety of gifts and prizes. Several included Lithuanian baskets consisting of Lithuanian beer, ornaments, amber, inlaid wood picture, a Vytis throw, tapestry, etc. Many of the Dayton and Cleveland Knights won quite a few prizes.

Sat, Oct 1, Pres Michael F. Petkus presided over the meeting at the hotel. The Spiritual Advisor for the District, Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, was unable to attend the meeting due to previous commitments. In his absence, George Mikalauskas, MCD Recognition Award Chair, led the delegates and guests in the opening prayer. Patricia Zyren, C-102 Pres, greeted the members, guests, and delegates. The District President, officers and council presidents reported on their biannual activities. The organization's ancillary committees gave their presentations.

It was announced that the 2006 Spring Meeting/Bowling Tournament will be in May, hosted by Cleveland, C-25.

Lee Moore, District Ritual Chair announced that Theresa and Michael Shea and Rev. A. Babonas, all of C-102, would receive their third degrees.

District Delegates to the 92nd convention Lee Moore, C-86, gave a presentation of the convention activities. Due to personal reasons, Regina Juska-Svobas was unable to participate in the MCD meeting, but submitted a comprehensive report about the National Convention.

The delegates voted, unanimously, to donate \$100 each to the ancillary charities-St. Casmir Guild, KofL Foundation and the Our Lady of Siluva project. Because Aid to Lithuania is celebrating its 15th anniversary, a donation of \$150 was approved.

Lee Moore was asked to conduct the election of officers. The new 2005-06 slate of officers are: Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas, C-25; Pres, Michael F. Petkus, C-96; VP, Michael Shea, C-102; Treas, Richard Marks, C-25; Rec Sec, Frances Petkus, HM, C-96; Sgt-at-arms, Paul Moore, C-86; Cultural/Lithuanian Affairs, John Baltrus; Ritual Comm, Lee Moore, C-86; Trustees, Dolly Oberaitis and Jean Marks, both C-25; PR/Vytis Corresp, Regina Juska-Svoba; Vytis ads, Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96; ATL, Regina Juska Svoba; St. Casimir Guild, Mark H. Bell; K of L Foundation, Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96; Our Lady of Siluva Fund, Elinor Sluzas, HM, C-96; Scholarship, John Baltrus, C-19; Special Recognition Award, George Mikalauskas, C-96. The 50/50 raffle was won by Jean Marks. Congratulations to you!

The meeting concluded with a prayer led by George Mikalauskas and the singing of the Vyciu hymn.

After the meeting and lunch, the delegates gathered at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit for the Pilgrimage. The church is truly an architectural gem.

The MCD Fall meeting/pilgrimage concluded with a Mass at St. Anthony's Lithuanian Church in Detroit. The Mass was celebrated in the chapel which offered an intimate setting for the delegates and friends. Prior to the Mass, MCD Pres Michael F. Petkus led in the annual remembrance of the District's deceased members. Each council's representative presented a flower at the altar, while another member read the names of the deceased. After the Mass, the third degree candidates were presented and received their medals: Rev. Alfonsas Babonas and Theresa and Michael Shea. The

newly elected officers gave their oath. Congratulations to all!

Later in the evening, the delegates, friends, and guests returned to the hotel for cocktails, dinner, and socializing.

A special thanks to all the Knights who participated in the weekend's activities. It is always good to gather together and visit our friends in the MCD. Although we are a small District, visiting our friends in the various cities is always a warm and comfortable feeling of returning home to kinship and friends. Wonderful memories are made.

C-25 Cleveland, OH Ursula Kunsitis

Our May meeting brought in our snowbirds Bill and Helen Jakubs along with Christine, daughter of Dolly Oberaitis. We had fair attendance and plans were discussed for attending the MCD Spring Meeting. Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Jean Marks who is on a roll, winning 2 months in a row. 'Understand Eleanor Bendokas was luckier than Nellie Samas on their one day visit to Seneca!

Our members were truly shocked at the tragic news of Betty August's death on Mothers' Day. K of L services were held, led by Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Gediminas and our President, Theresa Capuria. Our deepest condolences to Betty's 3 daughters Dolores, Judy and Mary and brother, Frank, and her 7 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Rest in peace, Betty!

Paul and Irene have concluded travel to our Southwest.

Congratulations to Nellie Samas on her 80th Birthday! She was most delighted with the special gift from her family - an opportunity to see and hear Andre Rieu and Orchestra in person - and on her birthday, too. She was in heaven! Gene Kunsitis must know his art! In April, he was accepted in the Juried Gates Mills Art Show and in May at the June Fairmount Juried Art Exhibit. Keep up the good work!

C-25's summer vacations: Jim and Joan Thompson enjoyed several weeks at their favorite site in MD; Steve Yurkovic visited son, Fr. Dale, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Livingston, Montana. Fr. Dale was the subject of an article in the Livingston newspaper re: a chalice he used that once belonged to Pope Paul II; D. Marks was in Deadwood and visited family in Red Lodge, Montana; Eleanor and Nellie Samas tried their luck at Casino Allegheny in Wheeling, W. VA; Paul and Irene Chalko enjoyed the sights in Germany and the Elbe River Cruise; Ursula enjoyed a delightful trip to Niagara Falls.

Fran Pranskevich is doing well in rehab therapy and hopes to be back with Jim and Joan, soon. Dolly Oberaitis is recovering at home.

The Plain Dealer featured an interesting article on Ellie Chalko, Executive VP/COO of Cynergies Solutions Group; Ellie is daughter-in-law of Paul and Irene.

C-25 will host the 2006 MCD Spring Weekend.

Sunbirds Charlie and Nelda Machutas visited family and friends in Cleveland and W. VA.

A special HELLO to John Andrulis, Helen Garnis, Vince and Marion Gray, Rose Rew, Stella Sankal, A. Valley and Lillian Yurkovic!

Jim and Laura Farrell held a family picnic Sept 4 for Charlie and Nelda Machutas who were visiting from AZ. Driving in from Dayton were George, Frances and Elena Mikalauskas. Among K of L guests were Joan and Chris Ortman and friend John, Bill and Helen Jakubs and Gene and Ursula.

We must commend the 12 members and guest who attended our September meeting without the usual reminder.

Dick and Jean Marks, Chairmen of our Sept Coffee Hour at OLPH Church and all the bakers, workers, and donors did another excellent job. Parishoners always comment on our fabulous table! Thank you one and all!

Following our meeting, Dick and Jean

Marks, Gene and Ursula and Nellie Samas drove off to St. George's Parish Picnic and Homecoming on the parish grounds. We all enjoyed the delicious food, libations, and perfect weather. Many grand memories of our childhood and schooldays returned. On our trip home, Dick drove us around old neighborhoods. The following day, Dick was rewarded for his kind deeds - winner of the beautiful basket of imported wines which was personally delivered by Fr. Joseph Bacevice, Pastor of St. George's. Luck runs in the family. Congratulations to Gene Kunsitis for awards for his orchid entries at the recent Greater Cleveland Orchid Society. Ben Karklius was also a winner of a Thomas Kinkade painting in the show raffle.

C-96 Dayton, OH Frances R. Petkus HM

With the 92nd Knights of Lithuania National Convention behind us, we can't thank C-19, Pittsburgh, enough for their hard work and planning in putting together a very well-organized convention. The sessions, under the leadership of the Presidium moved smoothly and with little controversy, and social events ran on time. Our delegates, members, and Juniors returned home with nothing but praise: Elinor Sluzas HM, Mark and Annamarie Sluzas Berger, the Petkus' Fran, Michael, Norma, Robert, Erin and Tommy. Michael served on the Presidium while Robert represented the MCD on the Finance Committee; Elinor was on the Resolutions committee. On the Supreme Board Elinor will continue to serve as Chairperson of the Honorary Membership Committee and with Our Lady of Siluva project, now incorporated, Elinor will chair this Ancillary. Unable to participate in last year's national convention, Annamarie Sluzas Berger received her Fourth Degree Medal at the closing Mass. Congratulations!!!!

On Sept 11, 2005, Holy Cross Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church celebrated its Feast Day! During Mass, with Sept 8 the Feast Day of Our Lady of Siluva, the congregation sang "Our Lady of Siluva Hymn" composed by Knights of Lithuania Honorary member, Faustas Strolia of C-157. Following Mass, parishoners attended a special Koffee Klatch hosted by the parish in the church hall. Thanks must go to KofL members Elaine Pacovsky and Judith Petrokas for doing a great job. There was plenty of food for everyone to enjoy.

The Mikalauskas family and friends have been saving aluminum cans for several years now with the proceeds going to the Lithuanian Children's Relief Fund in Brockton, MA. They have been saving the pull-tabs, also, with those being sent to American Legion Post #409 in Detroit, MI. They are sharing this project with the chance other councils may want to start a project that has limited cost in putting together. Think of Lithuanian projects your efforts could help!

Get well wishes go out to Laretta Pant and August Blum.

Congratulations to the Geigers, Jim and Connie, on the birth of their third grandson!

Our deepest sympathies go to Janina Bucmys and her family on the sudden loss of her husband, Ildefonsas. Ildefonsas survived leaving Lithuania in the 40's after having seen members of his family killed by enemy forces and five-plus years facing false charges that could have deported him from the US. His case was resolved and then Ildefonsas was faced with a challenge from Mother Nature. Ildefonsas was a quiet man; a Knights of Lithuania member for almost forty years and a First Degree Knight. Father Michael Holloran led the membership in the KofL Wake services. We know that Ildefonsas is at peace now and in the hands of God our Almighty Father!



Retreatants at Kennebunk, LtoR: June Grenier, Bill and Brone Wisniauskas, Lillian Joseph, Bronius Savulis and Kay Urban.



Genevieve Maluska, (Council 157) and Cecilia Matul, (Council 36), serving their 2nd terms as *VicePresident and President, respectively, of the Chicago Lithuanian Women's Club.* They're planning a fundraiser for November 6.

Mid-Atlantic District C-12 New York, NY Irene Senken

After a brief summer hiatus and very little to write about, some news finally came in. The Sept meeting was cancelled due to our Pres Jovita Sleder's recent surgery. C-12 was represented by two faithful members at the National convention in Pittsburgh, Vinnie and Helen Cuperwich. Helen Yurkus, our Treas, has moved to Atlanta, GA with her daughter and family. Helen is a faithful member and will truly be missed. Good luck, Helen Stella Marcinauskis who resides in CT, had surgery. She was devastated by her son, John's, home burning down; no one was hurt. We wish them a speedy recovery from this loss.

Our sick list includes John Antonavich, Ed Cook, former Pres. We wish them a speedy recovery. Ed Senken has been on the sick list since May. Happy to report that he is doing fine now.

Irene and Ed Senken celebrated their 50 years of marital bliss, Oct 9. A Mass was celebrated at Annunciation Church, Brooklyn. Fr. Ed Sledzaus who married them came from Sarasota, FL, to renew their vows. A small reception followed, at the Milleridge Inn.

On a sad note, Helen Matthews, a good member for many years who recently lived in Canada, died.

Also, Brenda Razickas, John Bell's sister, also passed away.

May they Rest in Peace.

C-152 E. Long Island Toni Sakal

It was a very hot summer here on Long Island. We held our annual picnic at South Harbor Park, a new place for us. It was a wonderful day with about 15 people attending, including two Juniors.

Our plans for the coming fall season include hosting the Mid-Atlantic District meeting in Oct, a Chinese Auction in Nov, and, of course, our

Christmas Party.

We would like to thank Pittsburgh for the wonderful time and work they did for the National Convention.

This summer did bring some sad news. We lost member Helen Ceponis and John Bardovitz.

Some of our members have also been ill. We ask for prayers for Muriel Lofmark, Ray Lofmark, Julie Lot, Florence Ostrowski, and Felix Zorskis.

We welcomed back Michael Zokas, Edith and Frank LoPiccolo whom we have not seen in awhile.

Two new guests were also at our Sept meeting-Nancy and Don Arcurii.

Happy and Blessed Holidays to All!

C-153 Treasure Coast Florence Miskinis

At our Oct meeting, members returned all the officers to their previous positions. They graciously accepted with: Pres, Dorothy Parrilli; VP and Ritual Chair, Valarie Bissol; Treas and Fin Sec, Jim Parrilli; Rec Sec Florence Morris; Vytis Corresp, Florence Miskinis.

Last Christmas meeting and celebration of Kucios began with the Kucios prayers by Dorothy Parrilli. The food table, prepared by all the members, was joyfully enjoyed by all - especially the desros and sury made by Valarie Bissoll. The raffle was a great success with Dr. Charles Zukauskas winning the miniature Christmas tree decorated with Lithuanian ornaments made by Florence Miskinis.

St. Casimir Day, March 6, began with Mass celebrated by Msgr. Al Contons at St. Jude's Chapel in Tequesta, FL. Music was "Dainos" chorus, directed by Renata Armalaitis and accompanied by Lou Stukas at the organ.

It gave us so much pleasure to see Florence Morris, our faithful member, receive her 4th degree medal from Msgr Al Contons and Lee Moore. She is a Charter Member and has held offices since inception. We're so proud of her - a job well done!

Following Mass, the Banquet, chaired by Lou Stukas, was held at Marc's Chophouse in Jupiter with guests from Juno Beach, Miama, Canada, even So. Boston, MA. Lou Stukas introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr. Juozas Goldikas, from Lithuania, who spoke about the Vincas Kudirka Memorial. A delicious meal was served and the raffle was a great success. All profit from the Banquet will be distributed to our Lithuanian Charities at our next meeting.

Dorothy Parrilli announced that this could be our last affair. We were sorry to hear Lou Stukas announce his retirement from all activities and, unknowingly, what his prophecy would mean to us.

The joyful day ended with a very happy sing-a-long enjoyed by all.

On July 22, 2005, we were shocked and saddened to hear that our beloved member, Lou Stukas, unexpectedly passed away. He was a Charter Member and the backbone of many affairs and banquets that he chaired.

After our April meeting, all the members gathered around the piano and Lou led us all in singing all the old and new Lithuanian songs that we all remembered. Dr. Charles Zukauskas was in great voice and we anticipated more of the same at the next meeting in October, but it was not meant to be. Instead, Lou will be playing and directing the angels' choir and composing many new songs in heaven. He certainly will be missed by us. Many attended the KofL services at the funeral home in Stuart with Dorothy and Jim Parrilli leading us in prayer and Dorothy placing the white roses in the casket. Bendruomene group sang "Marija, Marija"; it's so emotional to hear that hymn. The funeral Mass was held at St. Christopher's Church where Lou was the organist. Our sympathy goes to the entire Stukas family. Liudas, Rest in Peace!

**91st Annual Lithuanian Festival
Is Nation's Oldest**

The 91st Annual Lithuanian Days, sponsored by the Knights of Lithuania, Anthracite Council #144, was held at the Schuylkill Mall, Frackville, PA, on Saturday, August 6-7, 2005. This event began in 1914 at then Lakewood and Lakesides Parks to bring together Lithuanian immigrants and their families for a day of culture, fun, and good fellowship. The Lithuanian Catholic Priests' League sponsored this.

It was held on August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption, a holyday of obligation until the end of World War II. At that time many mines would close so that the miners could participate in the festivities. After WWII it was held on the Sunday closest to August 15th to accommodate the young people who had left the area for better job opportunities. As many as 25,000 people attended the festival first held in Lakewood. When Lakewood closed, it moved to Rocky Glen Park.

After Rocky Glen Park closed, Schuylkill Mall very generously allowed the celebration to be held there. The Knights of Lithuania charities benefit from these days: the Church in Lithuania through the Pontifical Lithuanian Seminary in Rome, the orphanages and schools in Lithuania, as well as the needy poor.

This year's celebration featured the Lithuanian "Zilvinas" Folk dancers of Philadelphia, and the world famous Malunas Lithuanian Folk Dance Ensemble from Baltimore MD. Participants enjoyed the Sing-a-longs with Lynne Cox, accordionist. The Famous Sensations Band played here for the first time.

Two Lithuanian freedom fighters made their appearance and spread the story of the goals and courage of their counterparts in reality who fought and gave their lives for Lithuanian freedom. Specially honored were the anthracite miners of Pennsylvania for digging the coal that melted the steel that built the railroads that pushed America into high gear during the Industrial Revolution.

The traditional Lithuanian food, arts and crafts were available. Information was available at the Lithuanian tables for Heritage and genealogy, Lithuanian Internet information, and much more. One could learn how to etch Lithuanian eggs, "Marguciai" or create natural straw decors "Saudininkai" or even do mushroom art.

Lithuanian Days in Pennsylvania is the longest running consecutive ethnic festival in the United States.

Marion Saukaitis Wydra, C-144



FOURTH DEGREE MEDAL RECIPIENTS

L. to R.: Lee Moore, Supreme Council Ritual Chair; Elaine Pacovsky and Laurretta Pant – Council - 96

- A lot of money is tainted – it taint yours and it taint mine.
- Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.



**PRESENTATION OF
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship chairpersons,
Atty. Karen Domalakes and
Atty. Paul Domalakes (in
back row,) are shown here
after presenting scholarships
in an Elementary Parochial
School to students of
Lithuanian descent.

Scholarships are given by
Anthracite Council - 144.

Amber District C-46 Forest City, PA Betty Kwader

We were saddened by the death of our member, Stasia Wallace, on August 2, 2005. Our sincerest sympathy to her family, including two sisters, Amy Morris and Alice Puntar, who are KofL members. Stasia was 82 years old and in her earlier years, she was always the one to think of games and prizes to make the meetings more fun. She will certainly be missed.

A thank you was received from our sponsor child, Victoria, for her birthday money gift. Since Victoria has reached the age of 18, we requested the name of a young boy to be our new sponsor child. We will be sending him a Christmas package.

Instead of our annual picnic, we will be attending Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Forest City, then meeting at the CandleLight Inn for breakfast in Oct.

The Amber District Meeting will be in Binghamton on Oct 16, 2005. We have at least 5 members planning to attend.

Frank and Betty Kwader attended the Lithuanian Days in Frackville, PA, on Aug 6. The music, dancing, and food were fabulous. Marion Wydra from Mt. Carmel, PA, wrote a wonderful "Tribute to Lithuanians and Coal Miners" highlighting the celebration through the years, which included up to 25,000 Lithuanians. The number is much smaller, now, but still enthusiastic.

We are happy that Josephine O'Peka is convalescing from her successful surgery.

Good luck to Dolores Herbert, our Amber District Sec who is also convalescing.

John and Betty Gudaitis celebrated their 60th anniversary this summer.

Frank and Betty Kwader also celebrated their 50th anniversary. (Thanks to the person submitting their news article to the Vytis)

Congratulations and many more years

to all. Frank and Betty Kwader had the pleasure of hosting their young Lithuanian friend from Kaunas for an August-weekend. Justina is 22 years old and a senior student at the University in Kaunas. Her summer is being spent in Dover, Delaware, working at Wendy's and a pizzeria. She was delighted at all the wonderful scenery, homes, and good food. She loved the fields with the baled hay and all the hills and valleys which they don't have in Lithuania. Justina is an accomplished pianist and also helps to lead the Jesuit Choir. She is also the organist at her church. We were truly blessed with her visit.

C-74 Scranton, PA Marie Laske

Our Knights of Lithuania had a very enjoyable meeting at Fratelli's Restaurant. Jim O'Neil and wife, Romaine, Jean Kavelines, Marie Benckine and Richard and Marie Laske were enjoying our food while we discussed how to build up our treasury. We are planning a potato pancake sale in the summer. We may have another meeting at a restaurant in the future, as this was very entertaining.

We are planning to adopt 2 Lithuanian orphans for a year. We have done this for the past few years.

Happy Birthday to Della Zvirblis on her 89th birthday. God Bless. Her daughter, Marie Benckine is her caretaker.

Our good friend, Leo Zewicki, and Rose Stanches are both home-bound and are missed at our meetings.

Pray for all our Knights of Lithuania, both living and deceased.

C-144 Anthracite Ona

The 91st Annual Lithuanian Days-Aug 6-7, 2005, were a success, thanks to Chairman Larry Domalakes and his committee. It was 2 days of old Lithuania with the Malunas Dance

Group from Baltimore, the Ausrine and Gilvinas Dance Groups from Philadelphia and our Junior Gintaras Dancers. Lynne Cox from Philadelphia and her Lithuanian Troubadors sang and played their Lithuanian folk songs both days. Our Special Guests this year were Lithuanian Partisan Fighters who came from Baltimore. The food was great; the entertainment was great; and everybody was happy.

Paul Domalakes was Master of Ceremonies of the programs. We have to say "Aciu" to all our workers-too many to mention. Everyone worked hard; the food was delicious; the displays were beautiful. Now we have to start planning for next year.

We again lost two good members. Joe Dancho joined his beloved Valentina in heaven. Joe had been President of the Hazleton council and when that council disbanded, he and Val joined our council. They were both dedicated KofL'ers.

Lucy Zelonis, a longtime member, good cake baker and all-around worker until she went into a nursing home went to her Eternal Home. Amzina Atsilsis to both Joe and Lucy. We're sure they are having a great reunion with all those who are gone.

Anna Wargo, HM, reported on the National Convention in Pittsburgh. She remains President of the St. Casimir Guild and was elected to the Honorary Membership Committee. It was a good convention and the council in Pittsburgh is to be commended.

Our Humanitarian Aid Committee is still working hard sending much to the poor schools and the poorest in Lithuania. They send much needed items to these places and we receive many thank you letters and photos from the recipients. Our thanks to Bernice Mikatavage and her committee for all the time they devote to this job and for all the good work they do.

Because of Lithuanian Days, we are able to do this.

Congratulations to our Cultural

Chairperson, Meredith Domalakes, a student at Cardinal Brennan High School. Meredith has been inducted into The Outstanding High School Student US Achievement Academy and is listed in Who's Who Among American High School Students. We are all proud of Meredith. She took over the job of Cultural Chairperson when Mary Koons had to retire due to illness. She has presented an excellent report on Lithuanian culture at each meeting, researching information both known and unknown.

This year the council established a scholarship for students attending Catholic Elementary Schools. Atty. Karen Domalakes who had been on the National Scholarship Committee, chaired the Scholarship Committee. This year, eleven scholarships were presented to students of Lithuanian descent in 9 Catholic schools in our area. We felt that by helping students in the Catholic Elementary Schools, we will be helping Catholic education. Our Humanitarian Aid Committee is hard working and once again sent an enormous amount to poor country schools, hospices and help to the elderly in the villages of Lithuania. The members of this committee collect the items to be sent, make sure that everything sent is in good condition. Children in the schools have been provided with shoes, boots, winter clothing, school supplies, and many other items. Many letters of thanks are received.

Alice O'Donnell will Chair Kucios the second Sunday in Dec. Mass will be celebrated and officers will be installed at Mass. Kucios will be held following the Mass. Pres Larry Domalakes will be in charge of the program.

Thanks to Anne Bendrick who is Care and Concern Chairman. She is faithful in taking care of the sick and bereaved of the council.

Our best wishes to all of our Vyciai for a beautiful Autumn and a Happy Thanksgiving.

New England District C-1 Brockton, MA Daisey Ruta

No, we haven't fallen off the face of the earth. In fact, we're living in the splendor of "Wine, Music, and Song". Yes, another spectacular event, sponsored by our dedicated C-1 to benefit Lithuanian Children's Relief, Inc. Yes, it was a "Wunderbar" evening with over 350 guests- on May 7, 2005. Wine and hors d'oeuvres were served as everyone walked in. Promptly at seven, lights were dimmed and the concert began. Performers, seated on stage, and the audience were as one, humming, swaying, laughing, crying, and just enjoying the evening.

The Grand Finale brought everyone to their feet, swinging and swaying with a champagne toast to LCR. "Azuolai Zalios"- "The Oak Tree Will Live". Yes, the children and families will have hope and a better future.

Sister Helen, CJC, addressed and thanked our valued guests for their continued support.

Valio to our talented member, Maryte Bizinkauskas, who put it all together and "Aciu" to our awesome members of Council 1.

C-6 Hartford, CT Bette Ann Liudzius

Our chaplain, Father Rikteraitis, reminded us that nothing is too large or too small a request for the Holy Spirit. Betty Ellis and her committee must have solicited His aid since they were able to organize a splendid NED Spring convention in such a short time. Many planning meetings had been cancelled because of the severe, stormy weather. Although the council always works industriously, extra volunteers are welcomed with smiles and open arms. Member Louise Piwoski brought her husband, Pete, and their daughter, Beth. Agnes Gagnon, Louise's sister, truly made the convention a family project. They were right there and it didn't

matter what task had to be done. Betty thanked all who participated - flag bearers, cooks, and even the clean-up committee. She hoped that in the future more time would be allotted to plan the event. Congratulations were given to Betty and her committee for a job well-done.

Our treasurer, Florence Grigas, was so soft-spoken at the meeting that Frank Kadis rushed out to his truck and brought in a megaphone. Frank owns an antique shop. Amid laughter, Florence continued her report.

A new fundraiser for the council was selling various colored golf, tee and sweatshirts with the Vytis symbol. Opening sales were at the NED convention and they will be sold at council meetings or can be ordered from chairpersons Brian Daigle and Cathy Salka.

Dalia Dzikas told us that the word for the month was "Geguze", May. In Lithuania, all fruits and flowers are beginning to bloom. The chestnut blossoms seem like huge candlesticks and in the woods you can hear the sound of the cuckoo bird (gegute). Dalia's words refreshed and warmed the hearts of all who were weary of the cold, snowy winter.

July 24, 2005 was a beautiful day. The sun was shining and even though it was quite warm in the St. Andrew Church hall in New Britain, over 160 parishoners, friends, and relatives snacked on delicious appetizers and chatted while anxiously awaiting the arrival of former pastor, Rev. John Rikteraitis. Guests were from NY and MA besides our own CT localities of Derby, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, and Old Saybrook. Many guests had attended the 11:30 Lithuanian Mass and soon would celebrate with Father in the Lithuanian tradition of fine-food, libations, and camaraderie. As the honored guest entered the hall, he was greeted with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday". What a joy to have reached 80 years of age and had a life filled with so many blessings.

C-10 Athol-Gardner Vincukas

The Gardner Lithuanian community marks the 110th anniversary of the first Lithuanian to arrive in Gardner; a Mr. Kulisauskas, alias Kulish, arrived in town in 1895, a great uncle of KofL member, Vince Kulisansky of Athol.

Condolences are extended to the family of Julia Kalanta Meehan who recently passed on to her reward. She was a former KofL'er. And to Clara Zetkowsky on the death of sister, Regina Martin. Rest in Peace.

The local council will celebrate the 91st anniversary of its founding in August at the Lithuanian Outing Assoc. summer grounds in Gardner. It will be a summer outing.

Our council will sponsor a Lithuanian-style dinner to benefit its charity fund in Oct and Kucios on Dec 18 at St. Francis.

Lillian Genaitis Erickson, husband Phil and grandson, PJ, spent 2 weeks in Finland in June.

Our council celebrated its 91st anniversary of its founding on July 17 at the Lithuanian Country Club in Gardner. Rev. John Petrauskas, MIC, offered grace and a Lithuanian-style dinner prepared by Brone and Bill was enjoyed. Invited guests were NED Pres Vivian Rodgers and husband, Al. The dinner was served at the Club's summer dining room. Brone did a great job of decorating and a display of local KofL photos.

Ann Ambrose of Athol was treated to a 90th Birthday Party at her home on Aug 21. In attendance were KofL'ers friends and family. Ann, linkime dar daug graziu metu ir stipros sveikatos. The party was arranged by daughters Kathy Ambrose and Debbie Meter who is a KofL member of C-142, Washington, DC.

Athol KofL'ers Brone and Dick Qualters received the Margaret Graziis Citizens of the Year award, recently, in

Athol. The couple has given hundreds of hours of volunteer time to the Athol Memorial Auxiliary and their annual fairs. Brone has served for many years as a polling worker and Dick as a Town constable. They also co-chair the annual St. Peter's Fair in Petersham.

A big thank you to Msgr. Contons, the Retreat Master at the Franciscan Monastery and to NED Pres, Vivian Rodgers as Retreat Coordinator. The weather cooperated and the food, just perfect. See you all in 2006.

Local KofL'ers were seen attending the annual Sisters' Picnic in Putnam on July 24.

At a recent Teens World obesity test the USA topped the Industrial Nation's obesity list. Our Lithuania had the lowest rates in the latest study... that is probably because Lithuania has few fast-food restaurants and its teens have less money to buy snacks and fast-food. Reminiscing.. "I grew up in a small city with many ethnic groups. Our Lithuanian colony of about 200 families consisted of practicing Catholics, Protestants, liberals and those who intermarried with Poles. They were a close knit family even with their different beliefs and views. Because of our divided factions, we Lithuanians never had our ethnic parish. Growing up, I remember many Lithuanian customs and traditions-some that seem outdated, today. I was 9 or 10 when a group of about 30 people-friends of our family- surprised my mom and sister on the occasion of their Name's day. The women brought gifts and food and the men, home-brew and hard liquor. The women decorated a chair with a garland of fresh branches and flowers. Three men lifted mom and sister three times. Eating and merry-making began and lasted until late evening. Being late June, all went outdoors. We lived close to the center of town and a stone's throw from the police station. Our good neighbors did not call the police to break up the party, possibly wanted to join us."

C-17 South Boston Regina Alexander

After the 4:00PM Mass, Sat, Sept 17, C-17 had its first meeting of the 05-06 season. Pres. Frank Markuns presented the upcoming plans for a special Christmas supper for all active members. In order to help Sr. Helen and Children's Lithuanian Relief, Inc., all guests will be asked to donate needed children's clothing, underwear, stockings, etc.

Spiritual Director, Fr. Steve Zukas, gave an informative talk about his recent trip to Lithuania.

The present C-17 slate of officers was asked to continue for the coming year.

The council sends best wishes for good health to: Adele Martus, Betty Balukonis and Elaine Kniupis. Now residing at the Bay View Residence in So. Boston are: Joe Januskevich and also Eleanora Mikalonis. Both are longtime C-17 members.

Our own former Pastor, Msgr. Albert Contons, was the Retreat Master at the New England KofL Retreat at Kennebunkport, ME. Attending from C-17 were VP Florence Zaleskas, Phyllis Gendreau, Alice Opanasets, and Brenda Wachack.

The NED District convention, graciously hosted by the Lawrence Council, was attended by Pres Frank Markuns, VP Florence Zaleskas, Bill Olevitz and Alice Opanasets.

Pastor Fr. Steve Zukas's words to all parishoners of St. Peter Lithuanian parish were for prayers for the parish, an increase in vocations, and healing within the Archdiocese of Boston.

C-26 Worcester, MA Ruta

We kicked off our Sept meeting with a Potluck Supper. Everyone brought their special dishes. All we could say was "delicious". It was a great way to start off the new season. There was more than enough for everyone. Seconds were available and some of the

C- 10 CELEBRATES...

ITS 91ST ANNIVERSARY



The first Lithuanians began to arrive in Athol in the late 1880's. They left their Russian dominated homeland to avoid being drafted into the army, to better their living standards, to enjoy freedom of the press and to be able to freely use their language, and above all else, to enjoy their ethnic heritage and Catholic religion without suppression.

The first Lithuanian to arrive in Athol was, Jonas Braska, followed by Antanas Andraliunas, both from Vabalninkas parish, as were the majority of the Lithuanians that followed.

Realizing the need of being organized, they formed societies, and St. Francis parish for their spiritual and material betterment. It is worthy to note, that Rev. Juozas Montvila had agreed to come to St. Francis as their first pastor, but all were saddened on the news that he went down with the "Titanic." The K of L was founded by Mykolas Norkunas on April 25, 1913. The K of L took quick root and Athol was granted a charter on May 29, 1914.

At the first organization's meeting held in the old Eagle hall, 98 young Lithuanians joined Council 10, at which time the speaker was Norkunas. Pastor, Francis Mekškauskas was named spiritual advisor, and Domininkas Karoblis, president. Dues collected were \$3.25, and a collection netted \$3.37, and a gift from the pastor gave the treasury \$16.72.

The newly formed Council was a beehive of activity. English classes were held, picnics, dances and concerts were the norm. A drama

club was directed by Antanas Losius. On Aug. 24, 1914, a library was established on Exchange St. Members bought Lithuanian bonds after World War I, to help their war devastated homeland. The first member to die was, Emilia Vinciunas. The most active members in the early days were, Pres. Karoblis, Ladis Matulis, Jonas Gailiunas and Antanas Losius.

In later years, with the second generation, Council 10 parties paled in the NED basketball and bowling tournaments. The local girls' bowling team were District champions from 1927 to 1930.

In years past, the council made many more large gifts to the parish, and were famous for their winter carnivals and annual Mother's Day programs.

The Council lost many members during World War II, as the boys were called into the service. Membership fell, and in 1952 a group from neighboring Gardner joined, and to this day work together.

Our motto, "For God and Country" is well-lived, as each year we celebrate the feast of our patron, St. Casimir, and sponsor Lithuanian Independence Day and a supper to benefit their charities. Our annual "kūčios," could be called our highlight.

Many happy marriages were sealed through the K of L.

Howard Beaudette organized a Youth Day in 1963, including a street parade by the American Legion, the local K of C participating,



that marched to the War Memorial and held services. Brone Wisniauskas, Cultural chair, has done an excellent task of promoting Lithuanian culture in the area. We are proud of our K of L professionals and business persons; Dr. Henry Gailiunas, pharmacist Alec Kuzmickas, Richard Genaitis, owner of Rite Media, Richard Gatautas, realtor, James Krasauskas, owner of Anthony's Package store, Dr. Marie Shatas, Dr. Jackie Doherty, who also was recently elected to the Athol School Board, Marie and Tom Colo, owners of Athol Glass Co.

Spiritual advisors who held the group together through their dedication and concern were, Rev. Meskauskas, Rev. Pius Juraitis, Fr. Augustine Petraitis, Fr. John Bakanas, Fr. Michael Tamulevicius, Fr. Albin Yankauskas, Fr. John Jutt, Fr. Justin Steponaitis, Fr. Joseph Jurgelionis and Fr. Alphonse Volungis. Our goal now is, to mark our 100th Anniversary!

(Submitted by ; "Vincukas," William Wisniauskas.)

OLDER THAN DIRT QUIZ:

Count all the ones that you remember, not the ones you were told about. Ratings at the end.

1. Blackjack chewing gum
2. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water
3. Candy cigarettes
4. Soda pop machines that dispensed bottles
5. Coffee shops with tableside jukeboxes
6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
7. Party lines
8. Newsreels before the movie
9. P.F. Flyers
10. Butch wax
11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (Olive-6933)
12. Peashooters
13. Howdy Doody

14. 45 RPM records
15. S & H Green Stamps
16. Hi-fi's
17. Metal ice trays with lever
18. Mimeograph paper
19. Blue flashbulb
20. Packards
21. Roller skate keys
22. Cork popguns
23. Drive-ins
24. Studebakers
25. Wash tub wringers

If you remembered: 0-5 = you're still young
 6-10 = you're getting older
 11-15 = Don't tell your age
 16-25 = You're older than dirt!

"I may be older than dirt, but those memories are the best part of my life."

desserts could be taken home by members. The motif was fall colors. Even though it was hot outside, we could start thinking of cooler weather and the beautiful colored leaves that New England is noted for. Our meeting was underway with the discussions of old and new business when the lights went out. It was a good thing there were emergency lights. It seems that part of the area lost electricity. However, being true Lithuanians, we were not going to let this bother us and the meeting just kept going. It was sort of a Candlelight Meeting. Very relaxing. Maybe we should try this again?

A BIG Lithuanian welcome was extended to a new member, Peter Chunis. Most of us have known him for years. In our younger days, many have danced to his band.

Irene Markevicius is entertaining some visitors from Kaunas, Lithuania-Isabella Perulis and Henry Ullrichas. They lived in Worcester for many years before moving to Lithuania.

We were all happy to have a visit from our member, John Putis, who was visiting from his home in Walnut Creek, CA. You will remember that John moved out west last year to live with his son. He now spends some of his time sailing in San Francisco Bay on his son's 41 foot sailboat (what a life) and has been taking lessons in painting. He brought some of his samples to the meeting. They were very good. He works in acrylics and watercolors. I believe we have a budding male "Grandma Moses". His hidden talent is now coming forward. Maybe he will have a one-man show in the near future?

Ruth and Vitty Gadilauskas will be attending their granddaughter's wedding in Portland. Carly Boyer will be marrying Adam Peters. We wish them much happiness together. Their son, Paul, is coming from Utah for the wedding and to spend a few days visiting. Immediately after the wedding, their grandson, Andrew, will be flying to England where he will

spend his junior year attending college. A group of our members visited the Jail where our member, Guy Glodis, is the Sheriff. They enjoyed the hospitality of Guy and his personnel in showing them the facility.

Plans were finalized for our part in the Cultural Fair in Oct. Workers were selected and donations of baked goods and items were discussed. We are all looking forward to this annual event and to visit with all our friends from the other councils.

Some of our members were happily talking about their upcoming trip to Las Vegas. Those that are going: Terry and Ray Jakubauskas, Irene and Edmund Markevicius, Danute Marcinkevicius, and Fran Glodis, along with their friend, Nijole Prancevicius. We all wished them a wonderful trip and a lot of luck with their gambling.

Lillian Kondrotas was at the meeting after recovery. Aldona Waska is well on the road to recovery. Ann Bucinskas is at Radius Health Care Center.

We are sorry to report *that one of our members passed away.* Anthony "Tony" Anton was a third degree member of our council. He had moved to Florida and was living with one of his sons. Our prayers and condolences to family.

C-27 Norwood, MA Zaibas

C-27 now meets at St. Mary's, East Walpole, 2nd Sunday of month at 8:15 AM. The council has continued to have high hopes to keep their council energized and active. At the Sept meeting, Pres. Charles Trečiokas, his wife, Carol, and S. Betty Skricki gave interesting reports on the happenings at the National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Charles gave each attendee at the Sept meeting a calendar of council meeting dates and local Lithuanian events for 2005 thru 2006.

The new slate of officers: Pres, Charles Trečiokas; VP, Paul Zukas; Treas, Ramona Gonski; Membership, Sandra Melish; Sec, Sonia Betty Skricki;

Ritual, George Barton; Sgt-at-arms, Stanley Wasil

C-78, Lawrence, held the Fall NED convention at the Corpus Christi Church which is now their meeting place. Carol and Charles Trečiokas, Leonora and Albie Jarvis, Stan Wasil, and George Barton attended. George had just returned from his summer home in Lithuania, that week. He shared his experiences on Lithuanian economy, lifestyle, and the progress of the renovations continuing on the Kristaus Priskelimas Cathedral in Kaunas.

Our hard-working Pres Charles Trečiokas was elected to serve as Sec for NED. Carol Trečiokas was elected Public Relations. Congratulations to both! Lai Dievas Jums palaimina. Likit sveiki.

C-30 Westfield, MA Barbara

Our trip to Lithuania was an outstanding success, especially for me. I had never visited the country of my father's parents. I was awed by its beauty, antiquated structures, determination, and rebuilding. We visited Lithuania's major cities-Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga-and toured some very impressive and moving sites. We saw the Cathedral Basilica and Vilnius University, Trakai Castle, Kernave, Our Lady of Siluva and the Hill of Crosses where I placed a cross from home. We ended our vacation in Riga, Latvia. It was a wonderful 11 days and I do hope to visit again.

Four of our council members went to the Lithuanian Cultural Festival at Maironis Park, Shrewsbury, MA. Our council had a table because Wanda made teddy bears holding the Lithuanian flag. A Lithuanian dinner was served and Lithuanian dancers entertained us, dressed in their beautiful costumes.

Some news on our veteran council members -Adele Caruso is living in East Mountain Assisted Living and is enjoying the companionship of others. Kunigunda "Cookie" Coach and Joseph

"Corky" Sabonis are doing well but are home-bound. Charlie and Esther Griggs are living in Hampton Village. Helen Alexik is doing well.

Wanda Sokolowski just celebrated her 90th Birthday. Marcia and Jimmy Rodgers are enjoying their grandchildren

We are still trying to recruit younger members to become active in our council.

From our council to yours, a very healthy and joyous holiday season and our prayers are will you all for continued good health and a happy and prosperous New Year.

C-50 New Haven, CT Patty Fultz

Our council would like to apologize for our lateness in reporting our updates. However, we lost a valued member of our council, Robert Peterson, unexpectedly, in December. Not only was he the son of our council Pres, Isabel Peterson, but he was also our council's reporter for the Vytis. He was well-liked and will be sadly missed by many. As most of our members are on the mature side, it is hard to lose such a young and vital member.

Our council is hanging on by strong faith and love of our heritage. Month by month, we await the notice for closing St. Barnabas Church where we hold our meetings. Hopefully, we can find a church to adopt us in our efforts to keep our council together and contuing our pride as Lithuanians.

On a brighter note, C-50 celebrated St. Casimir Day with a brunch at Humphry's Restaurant in Orange, CT on March 13. We had a very good turnout from our members. The day was beautiful; the food was good; and everyone had a great time.

We, as a council, are looking forward to better and brighter days for the rest of the year. Hopefully, our council will be able to continue-perhaps in a

new location-but at least together. Although we are a small council, we are strong.

C-141 Bridgeport,CT Florence Zikaras

In March we held our annual St. Casimir's Communion Breakfast and meeting. After Mass at St. George Parish Community Church, breakfast was served in the church hall. The white damask tablecloths, spring flowers, and decorated Easter eggs created a pretty picture.

Marie Brilvitch made 8 doz. assorted muffins. The food was prepared by our usual kitchen crew: Alice Wilcinkas, Barbara Schmidt, Helen Simanis, Kathy Balcius, Nancy Pawsauskas, Linus Stasaitis, Pat Silk, and Florence Zikaras. Thanks to the ladies who made the kugelis. Pastor Rev. Julio LoPresti, IVE, gave the invocation and we all enjoyed cracking the Easter eggs. Many members brought their families and guests. John Balcius provided some pleasant recorded music.

After the business meeting, Sr Myrium Almah, SSVM, a member of the religious community of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, Argentina, spoke on the Shrine of Luan. We have four Sisters assigned to our parish to assist Fr. LoPresti. The Sisters have members in Lithuania at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Panavezys. Aldona Peters conducted a tag sale; Peter Balcius chaired the raffle. Helen Simanis made some delicious poppy seed and nut rolls that were sold immediately. It is at our breakfast that we hold our only fundraising events. Donations were accepted for the Children's Relief Fund and the St. Casimir College in Rome.

Our April meeting was a general business meeting following Mass and lunch. Lunch hostesses were: Alice Wilcinkas, Kathy Balcius and Barbara Schmidt. Bill and Marie Brilvitch offered their home for the annual summer picnic in August.

Fr. LoPresti announced that there would be a 3 day celebration in honor of St. George. Mass on Friday would be Spanish; Saturday, in English; and Sunday 10:00AM Mass would be bilingual, with a procession. Lunch would follow.

Condolences to the family of George Radzwillas who passed away on Holy Saturday.

Happy "big" Birthday to Aldona Peters and Stella Marcinauskas.

Mid-America District C-82 Gary, Indiana Daisy Talley

It was a picture-perfect day for the 8th annual Outdoor Mass and picnic for the former parishoners of St. Casimir Church, Gary, and friends. It was held at the VFW in Merrillville, IN and hosted by KofL C-82. Pres, Joanna Rudzevicius was chair'.

The KofL MAMD meeting preceded the Mass.

Msgr. I. Urbonas again celebrated the Mass with Faustas Strolia at the organ. Ann Marie Kassel was cantor. Sr. Janine Golubickis, SSC, was Liturgy Coordinator.

Once again, a delicious Lithuanian meal and plenty of desserts were enjoyed by all. Loreta Vician and Nell Jurczak ensure much of the delicious part.

Entertainment was provided by Bronius Muras, accordion virtuoso. Superb.

A raffle was held and prizes were awarded to all the lucky winners. A special raffle was for a hand-crocheted afghan donated by Diann Martin, C-16. Ursula Tavaras of C-82 was the winner. The MAMD Juniors manned the raffle tables and "did us proud"... Lexie, Rob Martin's niece, Liza Macke, April Vician, Kate Jagiella. And Thanks to all who donated raffle items.

We look forward to this "annual reunion" ever since our church closed.

New England District

On Friday, June 24, 2005, many KofL members began their annual weekend retreat at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunkport, ME, under the guidance of Monsignor Contons. His inspiring sermons, the delicious Lithuanian food, walks around the seminary grounds and swimming in the salt water pool all made for an enjoyable and reflective weekend.

Sunday, Sept 18, 2005, many of us ventured to the KofL District convention in Lawrence, MA, under the leadership of Vivian Rodgers. Monsignor Contons and Fr. Janunas concelebrated the opening Mass. Marcia Rodgers read the Secretary's Report for Frances Bumila. As for Lithuanian Affairs, Larry Miscevicus said that he got an award at the 7th World Lithuanian Basketball games in Lithuania this summer. He also said that the litas exchange rate is fluctuating a lot.

Jim Rogers said there were 13 applications for the Sviklas-Tamulevich Scholarship. Eleven awards totalling \$2,500 were given.

On Sun, Oct 16, 2005, a very good crowd gathered at Maironis Park in Shrewsbury for the KofL NED Cultural Festival. The Vetra Dancers from Connecticut entertained us while we feasted on kugekis, desros, and kapusta.

The District raffle was quite successful. Handcrafts, baked goods, and Lithuanian artifacts were sold.



Aldona Sainmininkas purchased the first shirt at the NED spring convention from chairperson, Brian Daigle. Council 6's latest fund raising project is to sell golf, tee and sweatshirts with the Vytis symbol.



C- 25 CLEVELAND September Sunbirds Family Reunion at the Farrells. L. to R. ; Charles & Nelda Machutas; Helen & Bill Jakubs; Fran & George Miklalauskas; Ursula & Gene Kunsitis; Elena; Joan and Chris Ortman.

Knight Life...



A tea honoring Nell Bayoras-Romanas; Marie and Richard Laske; Nellie Bayoras (88 yrs. old); Father Peter Aliauskas and Father Navy Kuma.



St. Casimir Day Banquet; Rev. Al Contons; C-153 president, Dottie Panrilli; Banquet chair, Lou Stukas; and Guest Speaker, Dr. Juozas Galdikas, chair of the Vincas Kudirka Monument.

Knight Life...

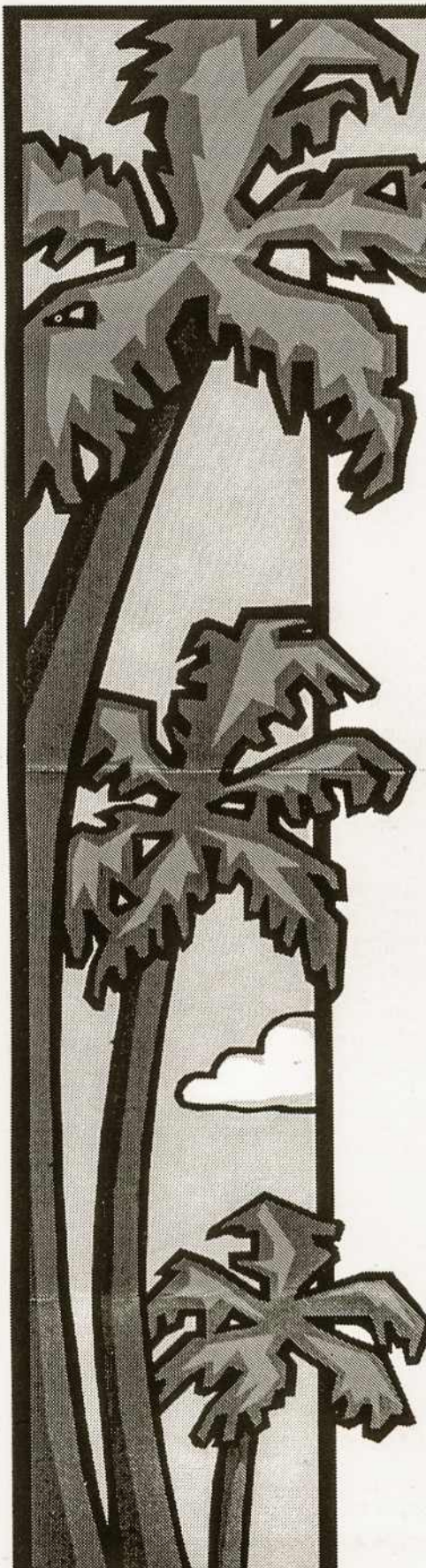
New England District



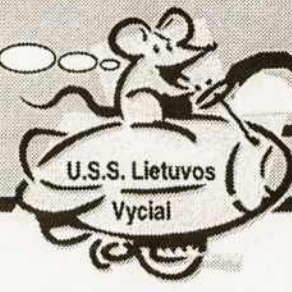
Mid-America District Members travel to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Sandusky, Ohio. Annual visitation to various shrines has become a spiritually refreshing tradition.



Terrie Rodriguez and Marion Wydra display materials about Mother Maria Kaupas, foundress of the Sisters of St. Casimir. Sisters Marily Karpovich and Theresa Dabulis, SSC's, are very happy to see them.



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