



A social and cultural club for those who appreciate Czech and Slovak culture and traditions

csclubkc.wordpress.com



February | 2014

Annual Club Meeting - Come Join the Fun Sunday, March 30

Sunday, March 30, 2014 2-4:30 p.m.

2:00 Social
2:15 Meal
3:00 Meeting
3:15 – *Accidental Army*
4:15 p.m. Cleanup

Matt Ross Community Center

8101 Marty Street
Overland Park, KS 66204

Potluck:
A-F salad/vegetable
G-L appetizer/dessert
M-Z meat/main course

The club will provide soft drinks, plates, and other utensils.

See directions to Matt Ross Community Center inside.

Please mark the date for our club's annual meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2014. We have changed venues this year and it will be held at the **Matt Ross Community Center** in Overland Park. It will be potluck and we ask that members and guests bring food based on the guidelines mentioned. The club will provide the setups and drinks.

The program this year will be an encore showing of the 47-minute film "Accidental Army: The Amazing True Story of the Czechoslovak Legion." Our club sponsored this movie at the

WWI museum in 2009 and is planning to show it again this year as the museum commemorates the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War.

The business part of our meeting will include the current financial status of the club, upcoming programs, and the election of officers. You can mail your ballot to the address on the newsletter or bring it to the meeting.

Please RSVP to Terry Smitka if you are planning to attend the meeting. Terry can be contacted at tsmitka@rwbaird.com or 816-217-9487.

World War I Centennial 2014-19

The National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri, will be hosting a number of events, activities and exhibits during 2014-2019. One of the most important centenary anniversary dates is June 28, 1914, which witnessed the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary Empire. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand set the stage for the beginning of WWI and the ultimate dissolution of the Austria-

Hungary Empire and the creation of Nation States in Eastern and Central Europe. Czechoslovakia was one of the new nation-states.

continued on p. 2



The World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial will hold several events in honor of the 100th anniversary of the "war to end all wars."



continued from page 1



Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, first president of Czechoslovakia, greets Czechoslovak Legion

During 1914-1918 including the Russian Revolution of 1917, a specialized battalion of Czech & Slovak former prisoners of war formed the Czech and Slovak Legion in 1916 as a volunteer military army.

The main goal of the legion was to win the WWI allies support for the Independence of Bohemia and Moravia from the Austrian Empire and of Slovak territories in the kingdom of Hungary. In 1918, these former parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were recognized as the independent nation of Czechoslovakia.

The creation of Czechoslovakia was spear-headed by Dr. Tomáš G. Masaryk, who became the first president of the new republic and WWI General Milan Rastislav Stefanik, who were the major organizers of the National Council of Czechoslovakia that would set the stage for the new nation.

With the brief summary above in mind, the Czech & Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City - during 2014-2019 - will strive to work with the WWI Museum, The National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids Iowa, as well the Czech & Slovak Embassies in Washington, DC, as well the community in general to create programs and activities that will highlight Czechs and Slovaks participation in and contributions to WWI and the ultimate creation of an independent nation.

If any of our club members would like to contribute ideas for articles, family stories, programs and activities regarding WWI please send them to the club website or club officers.

Submitted by Ross P. Marine Honorary Council of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA.

Visit the museum website at: <http://theworldwar.org/>

2014 Club Dues Reminder

In order for us to execute our plans and provide interesting programs, we need all members who haven't done so to remit their dues as soon as possible. We really want our club to be fun and entertaining, but that requires the financial support of the members. We try to be very understanding when it comes to members who have fallen behind, but eventually, we have to focus on those members that support the club. So we ask that you please forward your 2014 dues to our treasurer, Bob Bee, at 5109 N. Jefferson St., Gladstone, MO 64118. A single membership is \$20/year and a family membership is \$25/year. Since our club is a 501(C)3 organization, your dues are also tax deductible.

To encourage more paid members, the board has also discussed charging non-members or delinquent members a fee of \$10 per family to attend "free" events where club funds are expended to pay for such things as venue rental, food and food setup items, and entertainment costs. So thank you very much to all who have already paid and we look forward to seeing everyone at our programs this year.

Who will be the next Miss Czech-Slovak Missouri 2014?

Is It Someone You Know?

Applications are now being accepted to participate in the Miss Czech-Slovak Missouri Pageant. The Pageant will be held on June 6th & 7th as part of the Sugar Creek Missouri Slavic Festival.

Participants have the opportunity to win:

- Cash awards up to \$800
- Several individual competition awards
- All travel and lodging expenses paid to represent Missouri at the Miss Czech-Slovak National competition in Wilber, Nebraska in August of 2015

More than \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded at the National Pageant which includes a trip to the Czech & Slovak Republics. For Registration Information visit our web site at:

www.missczechslovakmo.org

Questions? Contact Us at:

missczechslovakmo@gmail.com



Czech and Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City

Officer Candidates for 2014

President..... Terry Smitka
 1st Vice President (Membership)..... Patti Henderson
 2nd Vice President (Social/Programs) Hana Buric
 3rd Vice President (EEC Commissioner) Jana Magnuson
 3rd Vice President (EEC Commissioner) Mike Kalny
 Recording Secretary..... Sharon Short
 Corresponding Secretary Maria King
 Treasurer Bob Bee
 Historian Carol Jacobson

Board Emeritus..... Joyce Cox
 Board Emeritus..... Linda Vlasak
 Board Emeritus..... Jirina LaVine
 Board Emeritus..... Gene Simon

Please Pay Your Club Dues

Pay your 2014 dues at the annual meeting. Just \$25 per family or \$20 per single helps support the mission of our Czech and Slovak Club.

Check box for entire above slate, or enter write-ins for specific office exceptions:

Your signature and date _____

Please bring your ballots to the annual meeting or mail them to club Treasurer Bob Bee, 5109 N. Jefferson St., Gladstone, MO 64118. Contact Terry Smitka at 816-480-4227 if you have any questions. Ballots must be mailed by March 15, 2014.

Ethnic Enrichment Corner

On Tuesday - January 18, 2014 - our alternate commissioner Jana Magnuson and her family represented the club at Gracemor Elementary School for their International Day. Our cultural box was displayed together with various items from the countries – cornhusk people, crystal, ceramics, doilies, colored Easter eggs, pictures, dolls in native costumes, books and toys. Traditional foods were prepared – bábovka (cake) and pagáče (sausage pastries) and enjoyed by more than 100 children and parents.

Upcoming ECC events – Save the Date – come support and help the club

- **Diplomatic Ball** – March 1st – tickets were offered through e-mail and we will have a table of 10
- **Olathe North High School** – March 4th 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Cultural box
- **Flower Lawn & Garden Show** – March 28-30 – Bartle Hall
- **Northland Festival** – March 29th 11:00 – 3:30 at Parkhill South High School
- **ECC Festival** – August 15-17 – Swope Park – we will need volunteers to help with the booth and/or beer garden!

For more information about ECC visit www.eeckc.net or if you'd like to help out at any of the events to promote our culture e-mail Mike Kalny (mikekalny@aol.com) or Jana Magnuson (magnusonj@hotmail.com).





Calendar of Events

Major events for rest of 2014 are listed below. Dates and times are subject to change. Please check our website (<http://csclubkc.wordpress.com>) for latest information.

Date	Event	Location	Time
March 1, 2014	Diplomatic Ball	Sheraton Hotel at Crown Center Kansas City, Grand Ballroom	6:00 PM
March 30, 2014	Annual Meeting	Matt Ross Community Center 8101 Marty ST, OP, KS 66204	2:00 - 4:30 PM
June 6-7, 2014	Sugar Creek Slavic Festival	Onka Hall, 11520 Putnam St, Sugar Creek, MO 64054	See www.slavicfest.com/
August 1-3, 2014	National Czech-Slovak Festival	Wilber, Nebraska	See nebraskaczechsofwilber.com
August 15-17, 2014	Kansas City Ethnic Festival	Swope Park, Kansas City, MO	See eekc.net
September __, 2014	Club Picnic	Parkville, MO	TBD
December __, 2014	St. Mikulas Celebration	TBD	TBD

Newsletter credits: Content by Terry Smitka, Ross Marine, Jana Magnuson, Sharon Valášek. Editing and desktop layout by Gary Löfström (www.lofstromandcompany.com)

News from the Czech & Slovak Club
c/o Terry Smitka
1205 Wellington Way
Liberty, MO 64068
Address service requested



St. Mikulas December 2013

Our club held its traditional St. Mikulas event on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at the Sylvester Powell Community Center in Mission, KS. This year's event was attended by approximately 100 members and guests, including 28 children, which was the most in many years. Traditional Czech and Slovak Christmas music was performed by Tony Kugler on the accordion with a number of members joining in to sing the lyrics.



Setup and decorating was organized once again by Hana Buric and Jirina LaVine. This resulted in a room that was very festive as always. The food was delicious with a wide selection prepared by all of the members. And it wouldn't have been a celebration without the arrival of St. Mikulas.

As the children were gathered, St. Mikulas, the angel, and the devil came into the room. The children were each asked by St. Mikulas if they behaved last year and deserved a present. Not surprisingly, the children were in 100% agreement that they had been good and should be rewarded.

Our devil, Lukas Parrish, once again tried his best to convince St. Mikulas that the children were undeserving, but our angel, Kristina Parrish, came to their rescue. After a short (and sometimes scary) conversation with St. Mikulas and a performance by a few of the children, all were rewarded with a gift from St. Mikulas.

I think everyone would agree that it was a fun time and a great day for celebrating this traditional Czech and Slovak holiday. Thanks to all who attended and also those who assisted in both setting up and cleaning up afterwards.



Treasurer's Report

Robert Bee, Treasurer

The Czech and Slovak Club ended the year with a balance of \$10,507.98. Our income consists primarily of dues and proceeds from the Ethnic Festival at Swope Park and the Slavic Fest at Sugar Creek.

Our expenses include the dues to the Ethnic Enrichment Commission and booth rental for the festival; hall rental for our meetings and supplies for our special events; newsletter printing and mailing and the purchasing of Czech and Slovak items to sell at our events.

Note: The majority of club financial reserves are the result of donations and fundraising efforts and activities over the years. The club is a 501(C)3 nonprofit that welcomes personal and corporate donations. Please contact the president or treasurer if you'd like to donate.



Directions to Annual Meeting: Matt Ross Community Center

8101 Marty St.
 Overland Park, KS 66204
 913-895-6390



From South:

From the intersection of 95th Street and Metcalf Avenue, travel north on Metcalf to Marty Street. Turn left onto Marty. The center is on the right.

From North:

From the intersection of 75th Street and Metcalf Avenue, travel south on Metcalf to Marty Street. Turn right onto Marty. The center is on the right.

From East:

From the intersection of 87th Street and State Line Road, travel west on 87th Street to Metcalf Avenue. Turn right on Metcalf to Marty Street. Turn left onto Marty. The center is on your right.

From West:

From the intersection of 87th Street and Interstate 35, travel east on 87th Street, which turns into Santa Fe Drive at Antioch Road. Continue on Santa Fe Drive to the light at 80th Street. Turn right onto 80th. Turn right onto Marty. The center is on your left.

If you need additional assistance with directions, call 913-895-6390 or 913-895-6000.

2014 Olympics: Czech and Slovak Medals

Athletes from the Czech and Slovak Republics performed well in this year's Olympics, particularly in the Biathlon events. Below is a listing of the individual medalists.

Medal	Olympian	Sport	Event	Country
Gold	Samková, Eva	Snowboarding	Women's snowboard cross	Czech Republic
Gold	Sáblíková, Martina	Speed skating	Women's 5000m	Czech Republic
Gold	Anastasiya Kuzmina	Biathlon	Women's 7.5 km sprint	Slovak Republic
Silver	Sáblíková, Martina	Speed skating	Women's 3000m	Czech Republic
Silver	Moravec, Ondřej	Biathlon	Men's pursuit	Czech Republic
Silver	Soukalová, Gabriela	Biathlon	Women's mass start	Czech Republic
Silver	Ondřej Moravec, Gabriela Soukalová, Jaroslav Soukup, Veronika Vítková	Biathlon	Mixed relay	Czech Republic
Bronze	Soukup, Jaroslav	Biathlon	Men's sprint	Czech Republic
Bronze	Moravec, Ondřej	Biathlon	Men's mass start	Czech Republic