

Fraternal Updates For Your Meeting

Dear Lodge FAC,
Please share the enclosed information
at your April lodge meeting

Join Hands Day

Many lodges will observe Join Hands Day on May 6, 2017. As of present time, 20 lodges have signed up. The number of lodges participating this year on Join Hand Day is down from last year. We hope to have more lodges participate next year. Lodges throughout the state will complete many excellent projects in which youth and adults join together to do good in their community. Thanks again to all lodges who plan to participate in this worthy event.

The Supreme Lodge again will offer the \$100 incentive to all lodges that register their projects with the home office. You can do this by completing the Join Hands Day flyer and returning it to the SPJST Home Office. This year we ask you to share your photos and projects with the *Vestnik*. If you have any questions you can contact Fraternal Services Specialist Tammy Martinez at tammym@spjst.com or 800.727.7578 or me at frankh@spjst.com or my cell phone 254.534.0681.

Member Referrals Wanted: Participate in the Monthly Prize Drawing!

When it comes to getting new SPJST members, there is no substitute for member referrals. Referral cards received during a given month will go into a drawing for three (3) \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards. The individual making the referral also benefits the SPJST by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge.

On a related note, SPJST is looking for men and women who believe in the fraternal ideal and would like to consider the benefits of being an SPJST Sales Agent. Please note the enclosed flyer inviting prospective sales agents to apply.

Mother's Day

May 14 is a very important day to all of us — and especially our Mothers. Mother's Day is steeped in tradition. Although, we may view it as "just another Hallmark Holiday" it is one of those days that we should all stop and take notice of the special woman or women in our lives that have been there for us through thick and thin. If you are a mom or have a special lady in your life, read on to discover some fun facts about Mothers Day that you can use to wow and delight her — she will think you are so clever!

Mother's Day Flower Facts

1. Mother's Day sees around one quarter of all flowers purchased throughout the year falling on this holiday.
2. Carnations are very popular flowers for Mother's Day and are thought to be made from the tears of Jesus' mother (Mary) when she wept at his feet the day He was crucified.
3. Pink and red carnations are given to mother's that are still alive, while white ones are for those that have passed away.
4. Studies and research now show that giving a bouquet of flowers has many positive health and psychological benefits.

Fun Mother's Day Facts

1. In the vast majority of the world's languages, the word for "mother" begins with the letter M.
2. Ancient Egyptians believed cats were sacred animals and revered 'Bast' as the mother of all cats on Earth.
3. In the United States alone, around 122 million phone calls are made to moms on Mother's Day.
4. Approximately \$14 billion dollars is spent on Mother's Day.
5. In what was formerly Yugoslavia, children would tie up their mother on Mother's Day. The only way she could get free would be to pay her children with treats.

Please remember your Mother, Mother-in-law and Mothers-to-be this month by honoring them at your May meeting. Their nurturing is instrumental in who we become in life. We must let them know how much they mean to us. (I would suggest not to let your children celebrate Mothers Day by using Fun Mother's Day Fact number five!)

National Polka Festival

We invite all members to the National Polka Festival in Ennis, Texas to come help celebrate fifty-one years of Czech heritage festivities Friday through Sunday, May 26 - 28, 2017. Held annually on Memorial Day Weekend, the National Polka Festival offers an abundance of activities to be enjoyed by the entire family in a small city atmosphere. SPJST is a proud sponsor of the event.

The festival kicks off with an opening dance Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m., featuring polka music and the King and Queen Dance Contest, where participants and non-participants are encouraged to wear traditional Czech kroj. The opening dance is a fun event you don't want to miss!

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, floats, bands, and colorful costumes will kick-off the downtown festivities. The parade includes something for visitors of all ages. Enjoy the music of polka bands and our very own SPJST Royalty Court riding on our SPJST float or the sounds of the award winning Ennis High School Marching Band. The Shriners make their annual appearance, as well as celebrities, public officials, motorcycles, horseback riders, clowns, kids and seniors! This giant parade twists through historic downtown Ennis and is sure to please.

At 1 p.m. you will find the SPJST kolache eating contest under the main downtown tent. Men, women, boys and girls can join in the fun to see who can finish eating their kolache first. Prizes will be awarded to the first place winner of each category. You will experience traditions, religious customs, dancing, tastes, sights, sounds, and “a little bit of the Czech Lands” throughout historic downtown and at three spacious air conditioned halls and 14 sensational LIVE polka bands.

SPJST Summer Camp registration

The 2017 SPJST Summer Camp registration is now open. All SPJST members who have graduated kindergarten all the way to a graduating Senior in high school are invited to attend camp. The majority of youth who attend camp attend on the basis of youth club participation, however any young person who becomes a member by May 31 of this year can still pay to attend camp. The cost for the SPJST summer camp program is \$250 per youth. This cost includes four nights and five days of camp, ten meals, BB range, archery, high and low challenge courses, canoeing, blobbing, and many more camp activities.

SPJST camp is located on 182 acres in Ledbetter, Texas that is full of wildlife, three ponds, and trails. The American Camping Association is quoted to have said that Summer camp is a special place where you learn how to make a friend and how to be a friend...Kids come together from many different schools and communities and build brand new friendships that can last a lifetime because of the very special memories that they will share together in their camp community. If you have any questions, please contact State Youth Director Lynette Talasek at lynnett@spjst.com or 254.931.0639.

Memorial Day, Monday, May 29

Memorial Day is a US federal holiday that is celebrated every year on the final Monday of May. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution was passed in 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to “Taps”.

End of Summer Getaway!

Good times await you at the Corpus Christi End-of-Summer Getaway. Start making your plans now to join us on August 11 - 13 for a fun-filled weekend.

We will be staying at the Emerald Beach Hotel which is located right on the beach. There will be a lot of activities for the whole family. Additional details will be included in future newsletters and will be presented in the *Vestnik* as they become available.

SPJST FAC Assistance

We are here to help if you need assistance. Please feel free to call me at 254.534.0681, email frankh@spjst.com or Fraternal Services Specialist Tammy Martinez at 800.727.7578, 254.773.1575 or email tammym@spjst.com. Your District FAC is also available to assist you.

They are as follows:

District 1 – Kyle Skrabaneck	979.820.0531
District 2 – Ruth Hanusch	254.771.0193
District 3 – Vicki Sims	214.763.0341
District 4 – Janeece Williams	806.990.3351
District 5 – Don Fruin	832.651.5388
District 6 – Helen Zabransky	361.798.3347
District 7 – Theresa Haag	830.625.8262

Fraternally submitted,



Frank Horak
State Fraternal Activities Coordinator

WANTED



MEMBER REFERRALS

When it comes to getting new SPJST members, there's no substitute for member referrals. When an SPJST member refers a friend or family member for membership in SPJST, he or she is helping to build a stronger and more active lodge. It also qualifies you to participate in the monthly referral card drawing contest.

MONTHLY CONTESTS!

The name of each member who sends in a referral card(s) during the month will go into a drawing for three \$25 Walmart gift cards. The referrer also benefits by helping to build a stronger and more active local lodge. Referral cards are available from the SPJST Home Office, at SPJST-sponsored events, and online at www.spjst.org.

Please help us to ensure that the leads that you pass on are quality leads. We would not want any sales agent to devote precious time to calling on unqualified leads. A good referral is someone who an SPJST member has spoken with about membership and/or life insurance in SPJST and who has expressed an interest in joining. In visiting with your prospective lead, make sure that he or she knows that an SPJST Sales Agent will call.



2017 Membership Drive

SAVE THE DATE



Enjoy a fun-filled weekend
with family and friends at
the Emerald Beach Hotel
in Corpus Christi.

Located at 1102 South Shoreline, the
Emerald Beach is the only beachfront
downtown hotel.

Make plans now to attend the
**11TH ANNUAL
CORPUS CHRISTI
GETAWAY WEEKEND
AUGUST 11 - 13, 2017**



Discount Rate:
\$119 per night
Applicable taxes apply

To make your reservations,
please call the hotel directly at
361-883-5731 and refer to group
code "SPJ" to assume that you
receive the proper room rate.