

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC

Report to the Membership: October 2018

This year our society has continued our efforts to help foster awareness of Slovak cultural and current affairs. The following are the highlights:

Membership

As of October 14, 2018, we had 100 total memberships (54 Individual and 46 Family), an increase from the total of 85 memberships (42 Individual and 43 Family) in September 2017.

Financial

Our financial status is stable. Our total assets at September 30, 2018 were **\$13,280.81**. These assets are deposited in our business checking account with Bank of America (**\$7,280.81**) and a CD account with Lafayette Federal Credit Union (**\$6,000.66**).

City University

In May, we donated \$7,500 to City University of Seattle which supported 10 partial scholarships to needy students in Slovakia. This sum was the largest amount ever donated by the SASW in a single year.

On October 14th, we held our 5th annual Café Night fundraiser at Bistro Bohem in Washington, DC for City University Scholarships. Orchester Praževica provided the music for the event.

Programs

The following are the events we have held or have scheduled for the 16th year of our Speakers' Series:

In collaboration with the Friends of Slovakia, for 2018, we lined up speakers for a series of talks about prominent years in Slovak history that end with "8" – 1848, 1918 (the founding of Czechoslovakia), 1938, 1948 (the Communist takeover), 1968 (Prague Spring) and 1988 (Velvet Revolution).

April 21st — Dr. Carol Leff, University of Illinois, spoke about the events surrounding the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia.

May 4th — Ted Russell, former U.S. ambassador to Slovakia, spoke about his personal experiences in Czechoslovakia and Slovakia around the time of Slovak independence, and Prof. James Krapfl, McGill University, spoke about the events leading up to Slovak independence in 1993 and their influence to the present day.

June 15th — Prof. Leslie Waters, Randolph Macon College, spoke about the events of 1938.

September 29th — Prof. Gregory Ference, Salisbury University, spoke about the events of 1918 and the Pittsburgh Agreement.

October 20th — Prof. Martin Votruba, University of Pittsburgh, will speak about the events of 1848 and their meaning for Slovak nationhood.

November 3rd — Dr. J. Luke Ryder, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will speak about the communist takeover in 1948.

Membership Initiatives

Over the past year, the SASW has continued with several initiatives to attract new members. The Board plans to explore new strategies for attracting new members and streamlining organizational procedures concerning membership renewal.

We are working to increase the quantity and variety of content that is available to SASW members and visitors on our website www.dcslovaks.org.

We are actively maintaining public pages on social media sites such as Twitter (<https://twitter.com/DCSlovaks>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/dcslovaks/>) to raise our public profile and generate interest in Slovak topics. Please follow these pages and share them with your friends and colleagues to boost the society's internet presence.

Social and Cultural Activities

On September 22nd, we held our annual picnic was held at the home of SASW member Ludo Hintos.

On December 2nd, our annual Svätý Mikuláš party will be held at the Slovak Embassy. Orchester Praževica will provide the musical entertainment.

The SASW has continued to support a social group on the Meetup website (<http://www.meetup.com/dcslovaks/>) to attract younger members and more recent Slovak émigrés.

2018 Board of Directors

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