

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, DC

Report to the Membership: October 2019

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 19, 2019, we had 107 paid memberships (57 Individual and 50 Family)

In October 2018, we had 100 paid memberships (54 Individual and 46 Family).

In October 2017, we had 85 paid memberships (42 Individual and 43 Family).

Financial

Our financial status is stable. Our total assets at September 30, 2018 were **\$14,790.02**. These assets are deposited in our business checking account with Bank of America (**\$8,701.09**) and a CD account with Lafayette Federal Credit Union (**\$6,088.93**).

City University

In May, we donated \$3,750 to City University of Seattle which supported 5 partial scholarships to needy students in Slovakia. In the Spring of 2020, we plan to hold our 6th annual Café Night scholarship fundraiser at Bistro Bohem in Washington, DC.

Programs

The following events were held or have been scheduled for the 17th year of our Speakers' Series:

We teamed up again with the Friends of Slovakia to bring in speakers for a series of talks about prominent years of 1919, 1939 and 1944 in Slovak history. We also teamed up with the Carpatho-Rusyn Society to bring in a speaker on genealogy.

May 4th — Kevin McNamara spoke about Milan Štefánik in a talk titled, "Six Events that Made Milan Štefánik a Founding Father of the Czecho-Slovakia."

September 28th — Prof. Susan Mikula, Benedictine University, spoke about the events of 1939 in a talk titled, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Slovakia in 1939."

October 10th — Dr. J. Luke Ryder, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, spoke about the Slovak National Uprising of 1944.

October 19th — Genealogist Paul Valašek will give a talk titled, "Immigrant Steamships: 1890-1950."

Service Recognition Award

To recognize the outstanding contributions of our members to the promotion and growth of our society, the Board has created a service award dedicated in memory of Stephen Matula. This award will be formally presented at the upcoming Svätý Mikuláš party.

Membership Initiatives

Over the past year, the SASW has continued with several initiatives to attract new members. The Board continues to explore new strategies for attracting new members and improving 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 March 9th, we held our inaugural Slovak Souper Bowl and social evening event.

On September 14th, we held our annual picnic was held at the home of SASW member Ludo Hintos.

On December 8th, our annual Svätý Mikuláš party will be held at the Slovak Embassy. After a long break, Patajši will be providing 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.

2019 Board of Directors

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