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GAR SAS

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"Fraternalists Should Shout Their Praises"

For the first time in the history of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress the annual meeting was held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and the relatively new East Mountain Inn was selected as the meeting site. The scheduled event ran from Sunday, October 25 to Wednesday, October 27.

Registration opened at 2 p.m. on Sunday followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors at 3 p.m.

A gala evening of fellowship and entertainment was enjoyed at the hoedown attended by delegates and guests Sunday evening.

President Bernard Golubiewski called the meeting to order Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. The business session continued throughout the morning with elections taking place just before the noon recess.

The newly elected state officers are: president, John Acchione; first vice president, Paul Payerchin; second vice president, George Listner; secretary-treasurer, Andrew Brindzak.

Workshops were held Monday afternoon along with a presentation by William M. Mercer representative Robert E. Reuter on "Surplus ... How Much Is Enough?"

There were 200 delegates and guests at the Monday evening banquet with LCA represented by Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor; John Pocius, Vice President; Charles A. Liscosky, Secretary; Mrs. Dolores Liscosky, George Sadauckas and Rosalie Kizis,

Trustees; Edwin A. Sites, Director and Florence Eckert, Garsas Editor.

Keynote speaker for the banquet was Insurance Commissioner, Cynthia Maleski who spoke on solvency, licensing, health care reform and financial audits.

She noted that in the upcoming months she will be working on volunteer programs to perpetuate our fine heritage.

Maleski, the granddaughter of immigrants, called for assistance from fraternalists. "My door is open to you," she said. "My Mom said, don't forget your roots', and I will not."

President Golubiewski opened Tuesday's session at 9 a.m. and introduced Deputy Insurance Commissioner Ronald E. Chronister who gave an overview of the Insurance Department. He spoke on solvency and accreditation. Noting 14 states are now accredited and 36 plus the District of Columbia have not as yet received accreditation. He stressed the fact that we must be accredited by December 31, 1993.

Chronister said the state is now making preparations. The office has moved from Philadelphia to Harrisburg resulting in improved communications and coordination. "The comprehensive files are now in one location", he said, "and we are moving to increase our staff." He noted 21 new positions will be filled and this should have a positive effect on fraternalists.

Chronister pointed out that greater authority will be estab-

Pa. Insurance Commissioner Cynthia Maleski

lished for the commissioner to use outside experts and spend resources where they ought to be spent.

New exams may go from a 4 to 5 year cycle with changes in the examination process. "They should be quicker - more efficient - and the results received faster," he said.

In the accreditation process the Feds will visit the Harrisburg office, talk with the examiners, walk through the system and then determine if the state meets the Federal standards.

If Pennsylvania is not accredited, domestic fraternalists will be affected. If they deal in another state, at least one of those states will be responsible to be treated as a domestic.

"Solvency is the most important issue in rules for accreditation," Chronister said. "Solvency legislation must be passed before accreditation can be considered."

Insurance Commissioner Cynthia Maleski was given time at Tuesday's session to promote the volunteer programs now in the planning stages for Fraternal Week 1993.

"Fraternalists should shout their praises," she said, "show what they have done for their communities."

She called on volunteers to form committees to show their accomplishments at Harrisburg during Fraternal Week.

Maleski noted these efforts should not end with fraternal week, but rather extend into long term projects.



CYNTHIA MALESKI
Pennsylvania Insurance
Commissioner

Rita Simalchick, project chairman for 1992, noted that \$1,025 was received from member societies for the Feed A Friend Project which she had selected as the project for 1992.

The primary intention of the FEED A FRIEND project is to feed needy families throughout northeastern and central Pennsylvania for Thanksgiving.

That goal is attained by coordinating the efforts of food distribution agencies, civic organizations, schools and businesses, and promoting community awareness of the project to solicit food and money donations.

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Simalchick introduced Jacqueline Akulonis, representative of WNEP-TV sponsors of the FEED A FRIEND project. She expressed the station's appreciation for the generous contribution noting that 25,000 families were assisted last year.

Erin Duffy, director of Habitat for Humanity of Lackawanna County, Inc. spoke to the dele-

gates on the accomplishments of the non-profit organization operating in Lackawanna County.

Last year they rehabilitated one house and this year have plans to do four more.

Convention Committee Chairmen gave their reports and the three-day meeting was closed with remarks from the newly-elected president John Acchione.

Market Blues

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Now as she begins to check your items you wonder why you took so much time to carefully assort them on the counter. Bottles slide and bang against each other, cans squash up against the bread and cakes and the ten pound box of soap powder pushes the peaches out of the way. All this takes place your while checker and the one next to her talk about their love lives which details churn your empty stomach almost to the point of letting go.

You're convinced the bagger is working for one of those college degrees given out where no common sense is required or even thought of. These college kids

can figure out the computer world and the details of how to send a rocket ship into space but why is it they can't figure out why the angel food cake should not be put into the bottom of the bag under the box of Tide and bag of onions.

Well, it's finally over and you're on your way to the car where you struggle alone to unload the heavy bags into the trunk. (Long gone are the days when a young man did this for you.)

As you struggle with the cart and the kids watching for their safety, you observe the classy lady walk two steps from the door to her shiny high priced car parked in the handicapped space but with no handicap license and you say to yourself, "Wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to eat?"

What Can You Do to Help LCRA?

The U.S. government allocated funds in 1991 to cover certain shipping costs for humanitarian aid incurred by Private Voluntary Organizations providing relief to the Baltic States. As of June 1992, all of these funds, administered by Project HOPE, had been expended.

Since that time, and for the foreseeable future, LCRA must bear the burden of shipping costs associated with the provision of desperately needed assistance to Lithuania.

Transportation costs alone for one container shipment typically run approximately \$5000-\$6000, not to mention administrative costs incurred in assem-

bling relief goods, maintaining inventory control, packing, compiling necessary documents and so forth. At this time, resources to cover these shipping and administrative expenses are our greatest need.

It is only the generosity of our donors which allows LCRA to continue its mission. During this time of economic turmoil and transition in Lithuania, your help is needed more than ever. We thank you for your past generosity and ask for your continued support of our work.

The mailing address of LCRA is: 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207 Phone: (718) 647-2434.



Pictured at the table reserved for the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance are: Seated from left, Mrs. Dolores Liscosky, Mr. Charles A. Liscosky, Secretary/Executive Director; George F. Sadauckas, Trustee. Standing, Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas, Spiritual Advisor; Florence Eckert, Garsas Editor; John Pocius, Vice-President. Also present were Rosalie Kizis, Trustee and Edwin Sites, Director.

Staff Changes at LCRA

Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, having successfully served as Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid's Executive Director since 1976, left this position in April of this year. He returned to the Diocese of Baltimore, which had generously loaned his service to LCRA for the past 16 years. Rev. Pugevicius is currently serving at St. Clement's Church in the City of Baltimore.

Marian Skabelkis, previously LCRA's Controller, also left in the spring of this year.

LCRA is currently administered by an Executive committee the Board of Directors comprised of Bishop Paul Baltakis, OFM, President and Antanas Sabalis, Secretary-Treasurer.

LCRA's offices in Brooklyn are staffed by three full time employees, one part-time and one student who served as a summer intern.

As they have since 1990, large scale shipments of humanitarian aid to Lithuania continue to flow through LCRA. Since the beginning of the year, over \$4.9 million worth of goods have been sent by LCRA in 40-foot shipping containers and via cargo.

In consultation with Sr.

Albina Pajarsskaite, General Secretary of Lithuania's Caritas Federation, a decision was made this spring to begin shipping directly to the diocesan branches of Caritas. In this way, LCRA hopes to lighten the load of carrying out distribution from the Caritas central headquarters in Kaunas, as to reach a broader cross section of the population, especially those living in rural areas. Thus far, each of Lithuania's 6 dioceses has received on container shipment.

The largest portion of aid shipments is currently comprised of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies. Though arguably the most critical, medicine is not the only field experiencing difficulties in Lithuania today. Due to the inflation caused by a period of economic transition, many average citizens are finding it more and more difficult to purchase the items they need.

In response to this situation, LCRA and Lithuanian Commerce Corporation pooled their efforts to ship over 3000 pairs of brand new leather shoes to Lithuania in May. This valuable donation was made by the Red Wing Shoe Company.

Exeter, Pa. Couple Tours Lithuania

Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Gustitus of Exeter, Pa. recently returned from a tour of Lithuania and stopped by our office with many beautiful pictures taken on the tour. It was difficult to select from so many interesting shots but due to limited space we had to narrow it down to these three. Many photos of the famous Hill of Crosses come out of Lithuania and they're all very impressive.

This particular shot seems to reach out to humanity as the Mother who knows the true meaning of those crosses is seen standing over them.

Looking closely you can see several rosaries hanging from the crosses and mingled throughout the area are photos of the Madonna and Child. Is it any wonder that this little Baltic nation was freed.



Long before Lithuania embraced Catholicism Pagan Gods were worshipped and the carved wooden statues remain a tourist attraction to this day. The park

where these images are on display is near Klaipeda and the Gustitus's have many photographs of these strange looking creatures in their collection.



Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Gustitus of Exeter, PA, are pictured at the memorial cemetery in Vilnius where the young people who were slain at the TV and Radio Tower in Vilnius are buried. Many people come here to pay tribute to their beloved Lithuanian brothers and sisters who gave their lives for the cause of freedom.

Director Recommends Organizing L.A.C. Chapters

Mr. Jonas Vainius, Director of the LCA recently traveled to Lithuania where he attended the Birstonas Conference held in Birstonas, Lithuania.

The Conference was organized by several Lithuanian organizations including the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. in which Mr. Vainius holds the office of Vice-President of Financial Affairs.

The conference was attended by representatives from within and outside of Lithuania. The purpose was to identify issues that would bring Lithuanians

closer to Lithuania. Currently there are estimated approximately 200,000 Lithuanians who are living in Russia. The majority of these Lithuanians are descendants of individuals who were deported to Russian concentration camps in Siberia. Others were from Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, United States, Uruguay, Argentina, etc.

Mr. Vainius noted that he had the opportunity to meet several Lithuanian Government officials from various Ministries: Finance, Energy, Education, etc.

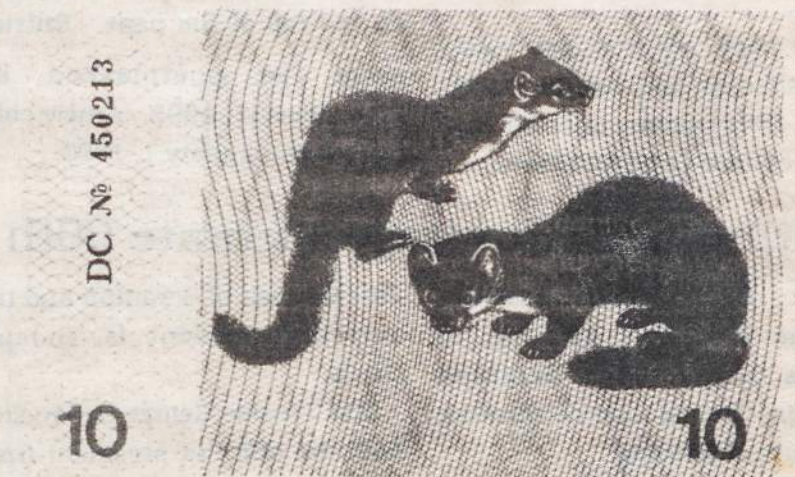
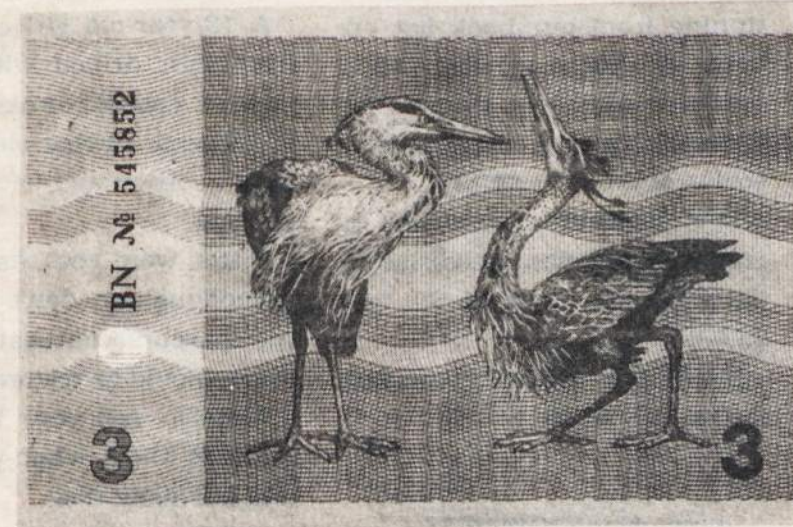
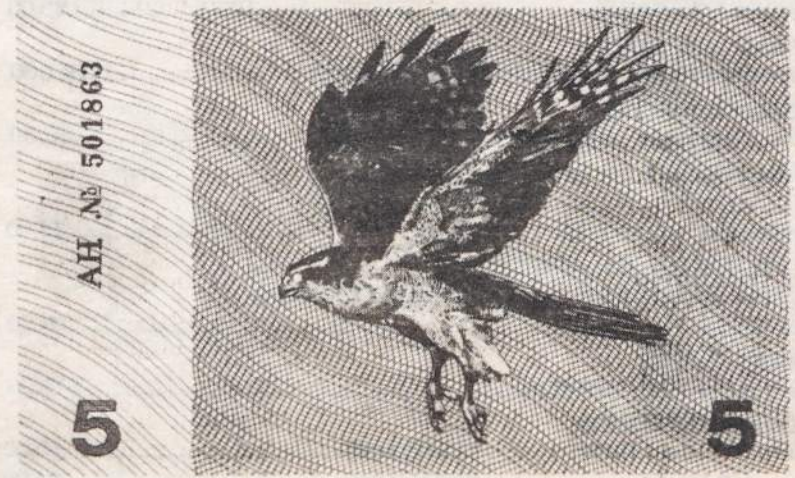
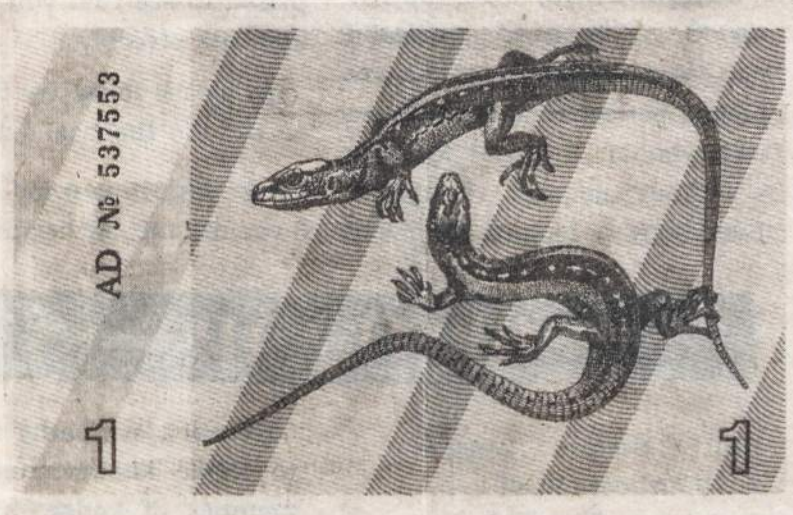
The Lithuanian American Community, Inc. is taking an active role in trying to bridge the gulf between Lithuania and Lithuanians who reside outside of Lithuania.

Currently, there are approximately 70 chapters throughout the United States and Vainius notes they are now looking to establish a close relationship with Lithuania.

He recommends that Lithuanian Americans in Northeast Pennsylvania take

the step to organize a chapter of Lithuanian American Community, Inc. "If there is an interest, I would direct you to a National Executive Committee official, who would assist you in establishing such a chapter," he said.

Editor's Note: Mr. Vainius attended the Birstonas Conference in Lithuania August 16-23, and was in Atlantic City on the 23rd to attend the LCA Convention. That's dedication!



Naujieji Lietuvos talonai, laikinai pavaduoja rublius. Nuotraukoje truputį sumažinti.

