

DR. JUOZAS KRIAUCIUNAS
31 SAYLES AVE
PUTNAM CT 06260



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73rd Convention To Be Held in Wilkes-Barre

Proposed Resolutions to be Considered

After taking into consideration various sites for our 73rd Convention, members of the Executive Committee agreed it would be a financial savings and a convenience to hold it close to the Home Office.

The Ramada Hotel in just two blocks from the Home Office and was one of the new buildings erected after the devastation of the downtown area due to the flood waters of Hurricane Agnes.

Located on Public Square, you are just across from the Kirby Center for the Performing Arts, the Farmer's Market, and the downtown business district.

The dates selected for the Convention are August 28 - 29, 1995, so mark your calendar and keep those dates open. Details will be printed in the June issue of Garsas.

RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee on December 1, 1994.

These Resolutions will be presented and voted upon at the 73rd Convention.

RESOLVED: That Article 7, Sec. 1 of the CONSTITUTION be changed to read as follows:

Sec. 1 GOVERNING BODY BETWEEN SUPREME LEGISLATIVE CONVENTIONS: The affairs of the Alliance shall be managed by eight (8) Officers

and Directors (who herein shall be called the Board of Directors), in the interim between Conventions of the Supreme Legislative Body or Convention, subject to control by the Supreme Legislative Body or Convention and having powers and duties delegated to the Board of Directors as further set forth in the By-Laws, and shall have such powers as are necessary and incidental to carry into effect the objects and purposes of the Alliance.

Article 7, Sec. 1 of the CONSTITUTION as it now reads:

Sec. 1. GOVERNING BODY BETWEEN SUPREME LEGISLATIVE CONVENTIONS: The Affairs of the Alliance shall be managed by eleven (11) Officers and Directors (who herein shall be called the Board of Directors), in the interim between Conventions of the Supreme Legislative Body or Convention, subject to control by the Supreme Legislative Body or Convention and having powers and duties delegated to the Board of Directors as further set forth in the By-Laws, and shall have such powers as are necessary and incidental to carry into effect the objects and purposes of the Alliance.

RESOLVED: That Article 7 of the BY-LAWS, - ADULT SECTION, be changed to read as follows:

SECRETARY-TREASURER of the Alliance shall regularly attend to the duties of his office. He shall record minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, and at the Convention until the regularly elected Convention Officers assume their duties. He shall carry out all directives approved by the Board of Directors.

SECRETARY-TREASURER shall deposit in the name of the Alliance all receipts turned over to him by the Home Office in depositories selected by the Board of Directors. He shall countersign checks issued for payment by the Home Office. He shall make reports of receipts and disbursements in such form as shall be required by the Board of Directors and present cancelled checks, bank books and bank statements to the Trustees for an examination at least once each year or on order of the President or the Board of Directors. Upon termination of his office, he shall turn over, within thirty days following adjournment of a convention, all property of the Alliance to his successor. If the office is declared vacant by resignation or dismissal, all property of the Alliance in his possession shall be turned over to the Home Office immediately.

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Lithuanian Catholic Alliance Board of Directors

Spiritual Advisor: Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas - Little Flower Manor, 200 S. Meade St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702.

President: Thomas E. Mack, Esq. - 11 West Union Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702. Home - (717) 472-3880. Office - (717) 823-1131.

Vice President: Mr. John Pocius - 147 Morris Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18504. Home - (717) 342-3533.

Secretary: Charles A. Liscosky - 137 Charles Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702. Home - (717) 822-4855. Office - (717) 823-8876.

Treasurer: Mrs. Leocadia Donarovich - 37 Eldon Avenue, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050. Home - (215) 626-2409. Office - (215) 645-4101.

Trustees: George F. Sadauckas - 119 South Rebecca Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18504. Home - (717) 344-0429.

Mrs. Rosalie T. Kizis - 134 Church Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania 18640. Home - (717) 654-4271.

Medical Examiner: Joseph A. Stankaitis, M.D. - 6 Owls' Rest, Honeoye Falls, New York 14472. Office - (716) 238-4650. Home - (716) 624-3769.

Directors: Jonas A. Vainius - 3 Clare Drive, East Northport, New York 11731. Home - (516) 263-3797.

Charles J. Mack - 201 Foxtail Drive, H-2, West Palm Beach, Florida 33415-6148. Home - (407) 433-1539. Office - (407) 586-0005.

Mr. Edwin A. Sites - 13 Mill Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania 18640. Home - (717) 654-0771.

Garsas Editor: Florence Eckert - 22 Seminary Place, Forty Fort, PA 18704. Home - (717) 288-8860. Office - (717) 823-8876.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

Benevolent Committee: Mrs. Patricia Mack - Heatherhill, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602. Home - (717) 472-3880.

Mrs. Verna Sadauckas - 119 S. Rebecca Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18504. Home - (717) 344-0429.

Mrs. Frances Katilus - 1059 Blair Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18508. (717) 342-3619.

Press and Information: Florence Eckert - 22 Seminary Place, Forty Fort, Pennsylvania. Office - (717) 823-8876. Home - (717) 288-2858.

Joseph Vitenas - 7910 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill, Maryland 20745. Home - (301) 567-5261.

Constitution and By-Laws: Mrs. Anna Stranch - 13 Hilldale Avenue, Plains, Pennsylvania 18705. Home - (717) 823-2081.

Anthony Snipas - 93 Eagle Court, Cedar Village, Wilkes-Barre, PA. 18706-3003. Home - (717) 822-9684.

Judicial Grievances and Appeals: Mrs. Mary Kozerski - 35 Hilldale Avenue, Plains, Pennsylvania 18705. Home - (717) 823-8468.

John Kozerski - 35 Hilldale Avenue, Plains, Pennsylvania 18705.

Youth Committee: Mrs. Marlena Anderson - 81 Youngs Road, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430.

Mrs. Verna Sadauckas - 119 S. Rebecca Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18504. Home - (717) 344-0429.

Mr. John Pocius - 147 Morris Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 15804. Home - (717) 342-3533.

Resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

Article 7 of the BY-LAWS - ADULT SECTION as it now reads provides for a Secretary and a Treasurer. The above RESOLUTION combines the two offices into one.

RESOLVED: That Article 7 of the BY-LAWS, ADULT SECTION, be further changed to read as now stated, but eliminating the following paragraph:

TRUSTEES: The Trustees shall examine the Secretary's and Treasurer's records, as required by the Board of Directors, cancelled checks, bank books, statements, mortgages and other documents related thereto; securities, real estate owned and all other assets necessary to make a complete examination at least once each year, and prior to a convention, making reports to the board of Directors and to a convention.

RESOLVED: That Article 6, Sec. 3 (c) of the BY-LAWS, ADULT SECTION, SHALL BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: The Officers and Directors shall be the Board of Directors which shall be composed of the following Officers and Directors: Spiritual Director, President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Medical Examiner and three (3) Directors.

Article 6, Sec. 3 (c) of the BY-LAWS, ADULT SECTION, as it now reads: The Officers and Directors shall be the Board of Directors which shall be composed of the following Officers and Directors: Spiritual Director, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Trustees, Medical Examiner, and three (3) Directors.

LCA Foundation Assists Young Lithuanians

A report on the activities of the Lithuanian Catholic Alliance Foundation was submitted by Foundation Treasurer Saulius Kuprys.

The Foundation continues to support religious and educational programs in accord with the mandate of its charter.

The Foundation has undertaken to financially support English language seminar/camps in Lithuania which are sponsored by the Lithuanian Catholic Federation in cooperation with the Bishops of Lithuania. Last year LCA paid out \$3,500 to partially defray the cost of these camps. The Foundation currently has approximately \$1,200 with accrued interest in its account.

The organization of these camps was undertaken in response to a request from Bishop

Tamkevicius and Sister Nijole Sadunaite. Apparently various sects and cults have organized English language courses in Lithuania and have attempted to convert the young of Lithuania through such programs. The Lithuanian Catholic camps are thus a direct response to the challenge of various cults and sects.

Three such camps were organized in 1992 and four were organized in 1993. Four more camps are planned for August of this year. The camps have been highly successful and many high school students have received instruction not only in English but also solid Catholic doctrine. Some have been baptized; others have made their First Confession and Communion.

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Board of Directors Annual Report

The 1994 Annual Board of Director's Meeting was held at the Home Office with President Thomas E. Mack presiding.

The following members were present:

Spiritual Director, Msgr. Frank L. Yashkas; President Thomas E. Mack; Vice President, John Pocius; Secretary, Charles A. Liscosky; Treasurer, Leocadia Donarovich; Trustee, Rosalie Kizis; Trustee, George Sadauckas; Director, Edwin Sites; and Director, Charles Mack.

Medical Examiner Joseph Stankaitis and Director Jonas Vanus were each excused due to their conflicting work schedules.

Both men submitted written reports.

Msgr. Yashkas offered the opening prayer with all of the board members joining in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

First order of business entailed clarification of a misunderstanding from the minutes of the September 1993 Board Meeting regarding a donation to be made to the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid and another to the Lithuanian Christian Democratic Society. The stipulation of this motion was "when and if the monies come available."

It was later clarified by President Mack that the motion regarding a donation to the LCDS was out of order due to the fact that this is a political organization and it is illegal for fraternal societies to donate to political parties.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vice President Pocius then called for the Spiritual Director's report. Msgr. Yashkas gave a verbal report in which he expressed his sympathy and that of the board to the family of the late Mrs. Clementine Zemaitis

who died March 23, 1994. She was the mother of Treasurer Leocadia Donarovich.

In commenting on the longevity of Lithuanians, he noted that Catherine Kvetkas who is 99 years old lives by herself in Wilkes-Barre since the death of her husband, William, a former Secretary of LCA. Mr. Kvetkas was a very active member of LCA and held several different offices.

It was properly moved and seconded to accept the report of the Spiritual Director.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his report to the board, President Mack commented on the noticeable improvements in the Home Office which included much needed new draperies and lighting.

He noted that the July fire in the building next to the Home Office caused water damage to the roof of our building. We are covered by insurance and have contacted our agent and are in the process of negotiating an equitable settlement.

Director Edwin Sites moved that a letter be sent to the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department, with a copy to the Mayor, thanking them for the fine work they did in saving our building and protecting it from suffering any further damage. The motion was properly seconded and approved.

Stressing investments as the most important part of his report, President Mack noted concern regarding the significant drop in premium income. He pointed out that income from investments is also down due to the bad economy.

Mr. Mack noted the Alliance is faced with a big problem. While membership and income continue to decline, expenditures remain the same. The board will have to figure where expenses could be trimmed without hurting services.

He indicated that publishing the Garsas is costly. We should consider using our computer and putting out our own Newsletter from the Home Office. This may be an area where we could save money.

The Board was made aware of the assistance received at the Home Office from Dolores Liscosky during the period LCA was advertising for a secretary to replace Joanne Karaska who took a job in private industry.

When the new girl, Pat Weiksner, was hired, Mr. Liscosky's wife Dolores stayed on to train Pat with all of her time spent at the Home Office being gratis.

It was properly moved and seconded to accept the report of President Mack.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his report to the board, Vice President John Pocius stated that he and his wife had their share of illness this past year having both been hospitalized at the same time. He noted that his wife had a very serious operation and he is very fortunate that she came through it as well as she did.

He managed to attend a meeting of the Northeast Fraternal Society of Pennsylvania held at the Polish National Union Building in Scranton along with Charles Liscosky, Edwin Sites and George Sadauckas. Insurance Commissioner Cynthia Molesky, who was present, spoke on her duties as Insurance Commissioner. Noting that she herself is a member of a small fraternal, the commissioner made it known that as long as she is State Commissioner she will be as fair as possible to Fraternal Societies.

On a motion by George Sadauckas, seconded by Charles Liscosky, the report of John Pocius was accepted.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The President then called for the report of the Secretary/Executive Director Mr. Charles Liscosky.

When fire broke out in the building next to the Home Office on July 4, 1994, my son Joseph and I rushed to our building after receiving a call from City Hall stating our offices were on fire.

When we arrived we learned it was not our building but firemen were on our roof pouring water on the burning building next door.

The roof will be checked by a reputable roofer and reported to our insurance company. Thanks goes out to John Pocius and Edwin Sites who came prepared to help clean-up where needed in our offices.

Covering other areas, Mr. Liscosky noted Sister Angela, co-ordinator of Camp Ausra was notified that any youths desiring to attend camp and in need of financial help must submit their names to the Alliance for approval.

Commenting on the Garsas, he noted older members at Holy Trinity Church and on occasion members he meets express their appreciation for the Garsas and enjoy the articles. One woman remarked that her children who are out of town wait their turn to receive her copy to read it.

Liscosky noted that at the last board meeting, it was decided the next convention would be held in Florida and all arrangements were to be handled by Director Charles Mack.

Mr. Liscosky was informed by the Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner that there is concern over our income. The Insurance Department could, without our approval, join us with another Fraternal Society in order to protect the members of the Alliance.

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Board

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Mr. Liscosky reported that he had met with President Mack a few weeks ago and told him of his plans to retire as Executive Director. He felt that at age 74 it is time to take it easy and enjoy life. He offered to stay on until this Board meeting and noted Mr. Mack understood and agreed.

The Executive Director's report was accepted on a motion from George Sadauckas with a second from Edwin Stites.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Leocadia Donarovich described her report as she presented it and Charles Mack requested she outline which duties on the report were hers and which were handled by Alena and Pat. In checking off the various items in the report, the Treasurer noted Alena handles all of the disbursements and Pat all receipts.

On a properly moved and seconded motion, the Treasurer's Report was accepted and filed with the minutes.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

Trustees Rosalie Kizis and George Sadauckas audited the Treasurer's Report and informed the Board that all the figures balanced. Trustee Sadauckas then reported on some of his activities of the past year involving LCA. As President of the Northeast Fraternal, he sat in the Press Box at the Ball Park during Fraternal Week and threw out the first ball which was later returned to him to keep as a souvenir. He also had the honor of giving the Pledge of Allegiance.

He took part in several proclamation signings and picture sessions in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Harrisburg.

George gives out pens, calendars and other memorabilia with the LCA insignia imprinted on them and also sponsors a

bowling team which has won a trophy that is displayed in the Home Office window.

In closing, he expressed the appreciation of Mrs. Kizis and himself for the cooperation given to them by the Treasurer, Executive Officers, and the Home Office staff noting it was this cooperation that enabled them to fulfill their duties to the best of their ability.

It was properly moved and seconded to accept the report of the Trustees.

MEDICAL EXAMINER

The Medical Examiner's report sent in by Dr. Joseph Stankaitis showed five disability forms reviewed and approved and 16 membership applications also approved.

In closing his report, Dr. Stankaitis thanked the Alliance staff for assisting him in the performance of his duties and wished to have this support recognized by the Board of Directors and the Alliance membership. He expressed his wishes for a productive meeting and looks forward to being in attendance at the next meeting.

It was properly moved and seconded to accept the report of the Medical Examiner.

DIRECTOR VAINIUS' REPORT

The President then called for the report of Director Jonas Vanius which was mailed to the Board with each member receiving a copy.

Mr. Vanius reported that he represented LCA at the annual meeting of the Lithuanian National Foundation, Inc. held during April, 1994 at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, NY. It was a significant meeting in that a new set of By-Laws were accepted and Mr. J. Giedraitis, a member of LCA, was reelected as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Vanius met with Mr. Povilas Katilus at Vilnius, Lithuania. Mr. Katilus ex-

pressed his gratitude for the warm and cordial reception given him by the LCA Executive Committee when he visited LCA headquarters in June of 1993.

Mr. Vanius reports that he attended the banquet for Ambassador Anicetas Simutis, Lithuania's Ambassador to the U.S. which was held to commemorate the Ambassador's 60 years of dedicated diplomatic service to Lithuania. Many of these years were spent in exile due to the forcible annexation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union by Russian and Lithuanian Communists.

The banquet was held in New York.

In September of 1994, Vanius attended Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to Lithuania. An outdoor ceremony was held at Vingio Parkas situated on the beautiful Neris River in Vilnius. High Mass was celebrated. A choir of over 2,000 singers provided inspiring patriotic and religious songs. Approximately 150,000 people attended the Mass. Bishop Baltakis was one of the celebrants.

On a motion by Leocadia Donarovich and a second by John Pocius, Director Vanius' report was approved.

DIRECTOR SITE'S REPORT

The report of Director Edwin Sites followed.

Mr. Sites noted that since the last annual meeting of the Board, he enrolled his great-granddaughter bringing his total of new enrollments between the years 1989 - 1994, to 19 with a face value of \$69,000.

Mr. Sites responded to the fire alarm that threatened the Home Offices in July of 1994, attended the Annual Christmas party, and also the meeting in June, 1994 of the Northeast Fraternal held in Scranton.

Having the pleasure of meeting Insurance Commissioner Cynthia Molesky, he noted some of her concerns. She stressed the importance of gaining the inter-

est of our youth in hopes that one day they become the life and blood of our organization and she also expressed concern over education and health care.

The report of Director Sites was approved on a motion by George Sadauckas, seconded by Charles Liscosky.

DIRECTOR MACK'S REPORT

The report of Director Charles Mack followed.

Mr. Mack gave a report on his efforts to locate a convention site in Florida. He singled out one hotel which in his opinion offered the best deal for room rates and included a complimentary suite and banquet space. The arrangements were for 60 people. He presents his report at this meeting and awaits the boards decision.

His parish of Holy Name of Jesus celebrated a 40th anniversary with one of the highlights being a procession of flags of the nationalities of parish members. Being the first Lithuanian to sign up, he had the honor of carrying the flag of Lithuania. The celebration was held at the fair grounds with over 3,000 people in attendance. There were 39 different flags representing parishioners and the Bishop concelebrated Mass with 14 priests.

While checking on a June Mass date at his former parish where a Lithuanian Mass is celebrated each month, he found that if he had called a week earlier, he might have been invited to a dinner party held for Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis who was in the area seeking funds for a new effort to upset the Communist Party and return as President.

He also told of an incident where in offering an umbrella in the parking lot he finds he is offering it to Bishop Timlin of the Scranton Diocese.

On a motion from Edwin Sites and properly seconded, Director Mack's report was approved.

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Board

(Continued from page 4)

GARSAS REPORT

Garsas Editor Florence Eckert submitted her report noting we continue to receive complimentary letters and phone calls from readers expressing appreciation for a particular story or announcement and others just letting us know how much they enjoy each copy.

Currently we mail approximately 1650 copies each month to our membership and subscribers.

We sold four policies to one of our subscribers and are awaiting replies from applications out to two more subscribers.

We continue to press for new members in every issue and the March issue had two front page stories on membership along with two inside pages explaining the different policies and giving samples of premium rates.

We are ready to begin publicity for our 1995 Convention anytime the Board is ready. There will always be available space for a membership drive should the Board decide to have a campaign. There was concern voiced at the last meeting regarding the expense of publishing the Garsas and I offered several suggestions of avenues to follow that would cut expenses.

Following a lengthy discussion by Board members on ways to cut Garsas expenses, John Pocius introduced a motion that along with eliminating the Lithuanian pages the paper be changed to a newsletter. Charles Mack seconded the motion with all in favor.

Following the reports of the members of the Board, it was noted the Board decided not to send any delegates to the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress this year which is scheduled for October 16 - 18, 1994 at the Pittsburg Radison Hotel.

Miss Dorothy Maxwell, secre-

tary of Lodge 249, returned her dividend check to the Home Office indicating she would like to have it donated for youth activities.

The Alliance is required to have proof of payment of current Real Estate taxes of all persons having mortgages with LCA. Therefore, the following notice will be sent to all mortgagees: Please forward to the Alliance Home Office, proof of payment of the current Real Estate Taxes.

A lengthy discussion was held on the problem of expenses which are exceeding income and the manner in which this is to be handled. Robert Kopec, CPA for the Alliance, suggested a Finance Committee be formed of board members to meet and discuss means to reduce expenses and/or increase income. The committee should meet on a continuing basis and set policy regarding operations of the Alliance. He noted he would be pleased to discuss and to render any necessary assistance to implement them.

1995 CONVENTION

The upcoming LCA Convention was discussed with the majority of the board members in agreement that due to our financial crisis the Florida site should be eliminated. It was further agreed that not only Florida but any site outside of the Home Office area would be a financial burden we could not undertake at this time.

Msgr. Yashkas introduced a motion to change the Convention site to a local place. Seconded by Edwin Sites, the majority agreed.

Various local sites were mentioned including, King's College, Wilkes University, and the Luzerne Knights of Columbus Hall. Noting lodging would be required for out of town guests, it was suggested to consider The Woodlands, Hotel Genetti and the Ramada.

A mention of the possibility of Kennebunkport, Maine was in-

troduced and President Mack volunteered to check it out and report back to the board.

Charles Liscosky made a motion that President Mack should check into Kennebunkport for the next convention site in 1995. Edwin Sites seconded the motion and it was passed.

Vice President Pocius introduced a motion to set a date and place for the 1995 Convention during the next executive meeting as the board has no plans to meet before the Convention. On a second from Msgr. Yashkas, the motion was approved.

ALENA MISKINIS NAMED ACTING OFFICE MANAGER

Msgr. Yashkas noted he spoke with Alena Miskinis regarding her accepting the position of Acting Office Manager until such time as the position vacated by Mr. Liscosky could be filled. It was suggested her salary be increased and she receive full benefits.

On a motion from Charles Mack, it was agreed that Alena Miskinis receive the wage increase set by the board along with full benefits, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and take the position of Acting Office Manager of all office personnel. With a second from Edwin Sites, the motion was accepted.

In a discussion on the new employee, Pat Weiksner, it was agreed that since she is now employed full-time and has been employed over six months, the Alliance should pay one-half of her health benefits effective immediately. The Board approved.

FATHER WOLKOVICH ADDRESSES BOARD

Msgr. Yashkas introduced a guest at the meeting in the person of Father William Wolkovich-Valkavicius.

Father Wolkovich who makes his home in Norwood, Massachusetts has been assigned to undertake the responsibility for a series of books summarizing the history of the

140 Lithuanian parishes in the United States.

This assignment was given him by Bishop Paul A. Baltakis, O.F.M., Bishop for the spiritual assistance of Lithuanian Catholics living outside of Lithuania.

Father Wolkovich appealed to LCA for space in the Garsas to bring this to the attention of people in Lithuania parishes (especially in Pennsylvania) requesting they send photos and history of their parishes to him. He also appealed to LCA for financial assistance.

After giving an explanation of his work, Father picked up his violin which he brought with him informing the group he carries it along wherever he goes. Then he proceeded to play a few numbers for the board and also entertained with a few vocal selections much to enjoyment of the board members.

The Board agreed to having Mrs. Eckert publish this appeal and also voted to give Father Wolkovich a donation of \$500. Should we utilize his services as entertainer for our 1995 Convention, an additional donation would be considered.

The motion was then introduced by John Pocius to contribute to Father Wolkovich's project, the sum of \$500 with the condition he speak about it at our convention and also at the convention we will reimburse him further with a stipend. Charles Mack seconded the motion with all in favor. With no further business, Msgr. Yashkas gave a blessing for a safe journey home to all board members and the meeting was adjourned.

TEACH ME TO LOVE

What -- giving again?

I asked in dismay.

Must I keep giving time and money away?

No, said the angel, piercing me through,

Just give until God stops giving to YOU!

Northeast PA Fraternals Hold CPS Seminar



The Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania held a seminar at the Polish National Union, Scranton. The Seminar was conducted by Sam Urda, president of CPS Actuaries, Stamford, CT. Pictured above, from left, are George Sadauckas, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance Trustee and former President of the Northeast Fraternals; Sam Urda and Rose Wartko, president Northeast Fraternals and vice-president of the Polish Union.

New Members

LCA welcomes the following new members, Alyssa Marie LaJoie and her sister, Jessica Lynn of Amherst, MA, great-granddaughters of Virginia Abromowski of Lodge 81. The

girls have also been enrolled in Lodge 81.

Irene Gintare Balzekas and Stanley Vasaris Balzekas, IV of Hinsdale, IL, enrolled in Lodge 33 by their grandfather Stanley Balzekas, also a member of Lodge 33.

Louise Elizabeth Wilkas of Wilson, NY enrolled in Lodge 212 by her great-grandmother, Antoinette Regna. John Kozerski, secretary of Lodge 212 is the field worker.

SHEPARD, William G..Lodge 8

(a.k.a.) Sheporaitis)
R.H. Myers Apts.
27200 Cedar Road #318
Beechwood, OH 44122
Died: 4/6/95
Cremated: 4/7/95
Place of Disposition:
Cremation Service, Inc.
Cleveland, OH

(Editor's Note: Mr. Shepard's final letter to family and friends was published on page 5 of last month's issue of Garsas.)

Senior Citizen's Lament

Thought I'd better see the doctor
'Cause I didn't feel just right,
All those aches and pains
 annoyed me
And I couldn't sleep at night.
Doctor could find no real
 disorder
But he wouldn't let it rest
What, with Medicare and Blue
 Cross
It wouldn't hurt to have some
 tests.
To the hospital he sent me,
Tho I didn't feel that bad,
And arranged for them to give
 me
Every test that could be had!
I was fluorescoped and
 cysticericoids,

My aging frame displayed,
Stripped - upon an ice-cold table
While my innards were x-rayed.
Doctors came to check me over,
Probed and pushed and poked
 around,
And to make sure I was living,
They wired me up for sound.
They pierced me with long
 needles
Taking samples of my blood.
They have finally concluded,
(Their results have filled a page)
What I have will someday kill
 me
My affliction is OLD AGE.

Author Unknown

Columns by Eckert

I receive many phone calls and letters at my home and the office from readers who enjoy my columns often requesting back issues they missed. This has prompted me to compile those columns into a little booklet for enjoyment to share with a friend.

These booklets will be available sometime this summer and you can reserve your copy by sending your name, address and phone number to:

Florence Eckert
22 Seminary Place
Forty Fort, PA 18704



Governor Jim Edgar and Francis Slutas

Chicago Governor Jim Edgar appointed Francis Slutas to the Radiologic Technologist Accreditation Advisory Board. Her experience and expertise in the field of medicine will be an asset to the Board of Illinois. Slutas is the Executive

Director of the Lithuanian Mercy Lift which has sent 115 containers of medical supplies and equipment to Lithuania. The governor commended Slutas for her selfless dedication to the betterment of mankind.



NEW and IMPROVED!

AARP's unique 8-hour classroom refresher course for drivers age 50 and older has just been updated!

New information and lively illustrations help you learn how to improve driving skills and drive more safely.

BONUS: Graduates may be able to qualify for a discount on auto insurance!

Find out more about 55 ALIVE courses near you. Write to
AARP 55 ALIVE
601 E Street NW
Washington DC 20049.

The fee is only \$8.
Sign up now!



Sliupas Speaks of His Concerns for Lithuania

The following are some excerpts from a speech given by Vytautas J. Sliupas delivered in Denver, Colorado on February 12 at the Lithuanian Independence celebration at St. Anthony's Hall.

Mr. Sliupas, a registered professional engineer was born in Lithuania in 1930 and came to the USA in 1947.

Mr. Sliupas is presently retired but remains active in Lithuanian organizations. He travels to Lithuania and often writes about his opinions of conditions in Lithuania.

In the March issue of Garsas, we read about Col. Klimash's experiences while serving in Lithuania for six months with the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28th Division.

He found the streets of Vilnius safer than some streets in cities in America and evidenced no robberies or muggings even around the midnight hour.

In these excerpts, Mr. Sliupas paints another picture.

He notes that the bloody actions by Russian troops in Chechnya, "have shown the world that Russia is not yet ready to give up its dream of an empire - reaching from the Baltic Sea to the Pacific, from the Arctic to the Indian Ocean."

"We are again in very grave danger of being brutalized and occupied by our neighbor to the East.

Unfortunately, our present U.S. government does not see nor recognize this danger."

Noting that he spoke to Lithuanian Americans in Chicago a year ago informing them that he had recently made nine trips to Lithuania and while there met with "all kinds of people," both political and non-political.

"I am not an alarmist," he said, "but try to be a realist."

"Presently life in Lithuania is

hard to at least 90% of the population and extremely harsh to 40% of them, especially to the pensioners."

He pointed out that one could not expect miracles after 50 years of mismanagement by the communists. "Not even Landsbergis, nor Brazauskas could have provided a happier life there." He noted he was not justifying the present regime but rather only giving the facts as they exist.

"As comparison, Lithuania today is in a better economic and political situation than Russia or Byelorussia, or Ukraine, or most of the states that are in the so called Commonwealth of Independent States. However, we should not be satisfied that Lithuania is in somewhat better shape than the others around. We have to struggle for a better tomorrow, especially we must be aware of the dangers from outside. The trap is being prepared for Lithuania to fall in."

Speaking of organized crime, he noted the U.S. is helping in that area. The Director of the FBI visited Lithuania last summer and as a result many young policemen are now being trained here in the States. "People in Lithuania are desperately divided among themselves," he said. "They fight each other, they distrust the former communists who are in leading places, and - rightfully so - they are afraid of the Russians. "He reminded his audience that there are over 7,000 former KGB members still in Lithuania, "and with such a group one can be sure of more trouble." Sliupas said, "Russia is doing its utmost to get the Baltics back into their Empire."

After speaking at length in a negative tone, he notes there are many good things about Lithuania. "But they do not fall in the fields of politics," he said, "or international relations, or the economic level."

Lithuanian Women's Club Plans May Banquet



Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley held a planning session for the upcoming Annual Banquet to be held May 7, at Luzerne Community College. Pictured are those in charge of arrangements. Seated from left, Nellie Bayoras Romanas, President; Ann Yeager, Assistant Chairperson; Anna C. Stranch, Publicity; Mary Kozerski, Hospitality. Standing from left, Marie Lauck, Decorations; Agnes Kelly, Favors and Lenore Rosencrans, Chairperson. Dolores Liscosky, Assistant Chairperson, was absent when the picture was taken.

LCA Foundation

(Continued from page 2)

The camps are staffed by American volunteers - graduate students - who pay their own way to Lithuania - approximately \$1,200. The spiritual direction at these camps is provided by a priest of Opus Dei, a personal prelature of Pope John Paul II and which is directly under the Pope's jurisdiction.

The chaplain this year and for the two previous years is Father Farrell Peternal who is the chaplain of the Windmoor Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Peternal is currently studying Lithuanian. This year he will stay on in Lithuania after the camps to help organize a Catholic Youth Center in Vilnius, Lithuania.

This year Father Peter Shakalis, pastor of St. Casimir parish in Brockton, Massachusetts, will also act as a chaplain at the camps.

For the last two years the camps were directed by John Freeh of Pittsburgh, a former journalist with the Associated Press and an editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. (It may be of interest to know that John Freeh is the brother of Louis Freeh, the current Director of the FBI who himself visited Lithuania in June of 1994.)

To date, the camps have served some 500 high school students. A video has been prepared on these camps which was edited by Tom Paulson of the Smithsonian Institute. We will shortly be forwarding a copy of the video to the Home Office for review.

LITHUANIAN HISTORY/HERITAGE BOOKS

(Available to Members Only)

Lithuanian Self-Taught

by M. Variakojyle - Inkeniene (Essentials of Lithuanian for travel and enjoyment).....\$6.00

Popular Lithuanian Recipes

by Josephine Dauzvardas\$8.50

Lithuanian/English Dictionary

by B. Plesarskas and B. Svecevicious (about 27,000 words).....\$15.00

English/Lithuanian Dictionary

(30,000 words by V. Baravykas).....\$15.00

Introduction to Modern Lithuanian

(Forty lessons for the teacher or the self-teacher)

by Dambriunas, Klimas and Schmalsteig.....\$25.00

Simas (The Story of Simas Kudrka)

by Jurgis Gliuda (Translated by Kestutis Ciziunas and J. Zemkalnis).....\$3.50

Lithuanians in America

by Dr. Antanas Kucas, (translated by Joseph Boley)\$12.50

The Brothers Domeika

by Liudas Dovydenas, (translated by Milton Stark.).....\$3.50

Vytautas the Great - Grand Duke of Lithuania

by Dr. Joseph B. Koncius. (The life and times of Lithuania's most famous ruler).....\$5.00

Praise the Lord, All You nations

(A religious, social and cultural history of Lithuania)

by Sister Virginia Marie Vytell.....\$9.00

Lithuanian Cookery

by Izabele Sinkeviciute (328 pages).....\$15.00

Lithuanian Customs and Traditions

by Danute Brazyte Bindokiene.....\$16.50

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L.C.A., 71-73 S. Washington St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Obituaries

**BORASZ, Victoria K.....
Lodge 155**

120 S. Van Buren Ave.
Scranton, PA 18504
Died: 4/14/95
Buried: 4/18/95
St. Joseph's Cemetery
Throop, PA

MICKELS, Helen....Lodge 163

3800 W. 68th Place
Chicago, IL 60629
Died: 4/7/95
Buried: 4/11/95
St. Casimir's Cemetery
Chicago, IL

TYLUKE, Eva.....Lodge 155

15-A Beaver Ct. Wilkeswood
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-7821
Died: 4/10/95
Buried: 4/12/95
Marcy Cemetery
Duryea, PA

GARDNER, Edward F...Lodge 7

22 Garden Ave.
Mountaintop, PA 18707
Died: 4/6/95
Buried: 4/8/95
Maple Hill Cemetery
Hanover Twp. PA

**GUDAUSKAS, Vitalija
.....Lodge 163**

4115 W. 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60629-4909
Died: 3/16/95
Buried: 3/20/95
St. Casimir's Cemetery
Chicago, IL

VIERAITIS, Juozas....Lodge 95

7351 S. Maplewood
Chicago, IL 60629
Died: 4/6/95
Buried: 4/8/95
Lithuanian National Cemetery
Justice, IL

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