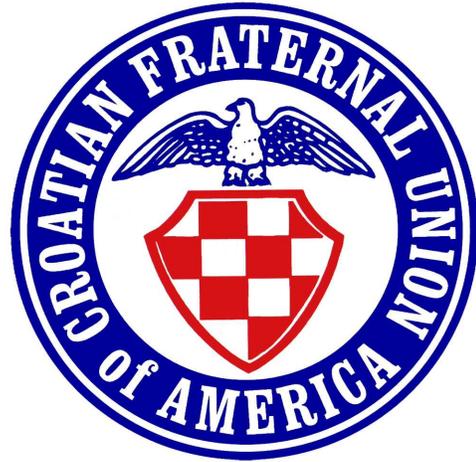


The Croatian Fraternal Union of America

www.croatianfraternalunion.org

The Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU) was founded in 1894 primarily as a society of mutual aid for Croatians in the event of sickness and death, as well as an organization through which Croatians in their new land could maintain contact and preserve their heritage and identity. Throughout its 100+ year history, the CFU has grown and matured into a sophisticated modern-day business operating as fraternal benefit society, providing numerous fraternal and cultural programs for the welfare and enjoyment of its membership.



Today, the CFU stands as the oldest and largest Croatian organization outside of the homeland Croatia. It is a highly respected American-Canadian-Croatian organization which honors Croatians as an ethnic group living on the American continent and helps them maintain ties to their homeland. The CFU actively preserves, promotes and protects Croatian heritage and identity while fulfilling the needs of its membership.

Why should a person become a member of the CFU?

All people of Croatian decent should be members of the Croatian Fraternal Union and the reasons are many:

***The Most Prominent Croatian Organization in the Diaspora** – The Membership of the CFU takes pride in belonging to such a large and strong Croatian organization dedicated to fraternal service to its brothers and sisters and to Croatians in need throughout the world. Promoting the culture, music, customs and ambiance of the Croatian heritage and preserving it for future generations is of significant importance to the Society.

***A Voice for Croatians** – The CFU is a strong voice for the improvement of life for Croatians living in the United States, Canada and the Republic of Croatia. The CFU is highly respected by government bodies, business entities and other ethnic organizations as an expert and advocate for its members and Croatians everywhere.

***Quality Products for its Members** – The CFU provides the highest quality insurance and savings products at the best possible costs to its members. It belongs to both the American and Canadian Fraternal Congress and strictly abides by all insurance regulations in the states, provinces and countries in which it operates. The CFU is a non-profit organization and all profits are utilized to provide fraternal programs and meet the needs of its members.

The Croatian Fraternal Union of America

www.croatianfraternalunion.org

***The Official Organ** – The CFU has been publishing an official organ, *Zajedničar*, which is sent to each member household weekly since 1904. The *Zajedničar* provides members an open forum for discussion on all matters relating to the CFU and for sharing information on activities and items of interest from local lodges. It brings news from the homeland and from Croatian communities across the US and Canada. The *Zajedničar* promotes literal and intellectual creativity.

***The CFU Scholarship Foundation** – Since its inception in 1958, the CFU Scholarship Foundation, Inc. has recorded the distribution of 8,030 scholarships totaling \$2,299,505 to deserving CFU member students interested in obtaining higher educations as of the 2007-2008 academic year. The Scholarship Foundation operates a General Fund and also maintains a special endowment fund program which is a self-perpetuating fund. New endowment funds are created through the generosity of the membership, frequently in memory of a deceased dedicated member. The Scholarship Foundation currently maintains a total of 72 individual endowment fund awards with a net worth in excess of \$4,000,000.



***Sports Programs** – The CFU organizes and supports a wide variety of sports activities, on national, regional and local levels for its members. Currently, the CFU supports national tournaments in basketball, bowling, golf, skiing and softball. Plans are underway for the first national soccer tournament. Through its sports program, the CFU promotes fraternalism, friendship and fun among its members.



***Cultural Programs** – The preservation and promotion of our beautiful Croatian folklore and culture is at the heart of the CFU. It is a proud sponsor of two annual tamburitza festivals: the Junior Tamburitza Festival held the first week-end in July and the Adult TamFest held the first week-end in November. Approximately 35 CFU affiliated ensembles participate in each of these festivals, which are held in a different city spanning across the US, Canada and in Zagreb, Croatia each year. These musical presentations, which attract thousands of people, are the crown jewel of the CFU fraternal programs.

The Croatian Fraternal Union of America

www.croatianfraternalunion.org



For over 20 years, the CFU has sponsored an annual concert tour of a popular tamburitza group from Croatia that begins in mid-August with performances in major cities in which there are lodges through Ontario, Canada, through Pennsylvania, Ohio and the Midwestern states. The CFU also sponsors other concerts of Croatian performers as opportunities are available.

***Humanitarian programs** – From the very beginning in 1894, the CFU has been engaged in many humanitarian aid ventures which have benefited Croatian people or people of Croatian descent. It has also stepped forward to assist during wars and natural disasters. In 1991, the CFU initiated “CFU Croatia Humanitarian Aid” and has collected in excess of \$1.3 million dollars through that program. The CFU was instrumental in purchasing and shipping tons of food, medical equipment and supplies, clothing and other articles of human need to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina at a cost of over \$25 million. The CFU also supports the DORA Foundation through which CFU members and friends have sustained 535 orphans at an annual cost of \$600 per child.

In September 2008, the CFU partnered with the Croatian American Cultural and Economic Alliance to create “The Angel’s Fund” which will provide assistance in cases of dire medical need, particularly for those who are not covered by medical insurance throughout the United States, Canada and Croatia.

***Home Office** – The CFU maintains a beautiful, modern Home Office in Wilkins Township, PA (near Pittsburgh) from which the Society is managed and its programs administered. In addition to serving as the business office for the Society, a museum and libraries are also housed there. Beautifully displayed are many artifacts from the homeland and CFU history, donated from past and present members, which provide deep insight into the very essence of the Croatian people and our Society. The museum library contains numerous resource books on Croatia, its history and its people. A special Croatian

music library which contains the sheet music for thousands of pieces is also maintained and made available to the membership.



The **Croatian Fraternal Union** of America

www.croatianfraternalunion.org

***CFU Gift Shop** – For the convenience of its members, the CFU maintains a Gift Shop in the Home Office which stocks many Croatian music cd's, Croatian language movies, jewelry, souvenirs, books and other items for sale.

Why should your child become a member of the CFU?

From its very beginning, family values have been at the core of the Croatian Fraternal Union. It credits its successes and longevity to this important fundamental with a particular focus on its youth of today who will be the leaders of tomorrow. Therefore, the Society strives to conduct programs specifically geared toward exposing our youth to the ideals of fraternalism, educational excellence, humanitarianism and other positive aspects that will serve as building blocks to becoming responsible adults.

As an individual of Croatian decent, our youth members are also exposed to the roots of their Croatian legacy, enlightened to the rich cultural and musical heritage of the Croatian people and given reason to take pride in their Croatian ancestry. It is only through our children that we will be able to safeguard our Croatian heritage and preserve our Croatian culture for future generations.

We invite you and your family to join our fraternal family and to participate in and support of fraternal activities!

CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION ***OF AMERICA***

The Society that Cares !

