



**ZORA Lodge 351**

# American Croatian Club

October 2011

[www.zoralodge351.com](http://www.zoralodge351.com)

32851 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48092, 586-979-8154

## *From the President*

Dear Members and Friends,

Having just returned from the Quadrennial Convention of the Croatian Fraternal Union held in Buffalo, NY, I thought it appropriate to cover some of the highlights.

Financially, the CFU is sound. We reviewed reports from the Executives and various consultants and all indicate that the CFU managed to navigate the Great Recession very well. To quote one of the reports, "NOT ONE CFU MEMBER LOST EVEN ONE DOLLAR." This is quite an accomplishment and a testament to the diligence of our Accountant and Executive Officers. As we all know, the turmoil in the market was widespread with many companies requiring bailouts or going bankrupt, which had a detrimental effect on investors. For the CFU to remain financially sound through all of this, while many large financial institutions collapsed, is quite a feat.

The election of officers was held and for the first time since I have been a Convention Delegate (this was my sixth convention), we actually had to vote for two of the three Executive Officer positions. In the past, the incumbent officers were re-elected as they ran unopposed. This time was different: the office of National President had two nominees and the office of Vice President Member Services had three nominees. Due to declining health, current Vice President Member Services, Joe Brigich, was unable to attend the convention and run for office.

In case you did not notice, two of our Lodge members were elected – Robert Novosel is a member of the National Board of Trustees and Marsha Puz is 2nd Alternate for the National High Trial Board – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Also of note, three of our five Delegates were appointed to serve on committees at the Convention: Robert Novosel, Debbi Cindrich and Marsha Puz.

There were some National High Trial Board decisions that were going to be challenged at the Convention, but the complainant offered a compromise, all parties agreed and the issues were resolved without discussion on the floor.

Fraternally Yours,

Mark Mavretich

President, Zora, Lodge 351

Here are the election results

(▶ indicates elected)

### **National President**

▶ Bernard M Luketich  
Pamela Plesh-Weigand

### **National Vice President Member Services**

▶ Franjo Bertovic  
Julia Bubanovich  
Anthony Capin

### **National Secretary Treasurer**

▶ Edward W Pazo

### **National Second Vice President**

▶ George Pavlecic

### **National Board of Trustees**

▶ Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras  
▶ Stan Blaz  
▶ Michael Ricci  
▶ Catherine Obenour  
▶ Ladislav Meze  
▶ Michael Loncarich  
▶ Robert S Novosel  
▶ Charles Lesko – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
▶ Andy Sepich – 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
▶ Nikola Bilandzich – 3<sup>rd</sup> Alternate  
Sonya Bolf-Schroder  
Christina Carroll  
Robert Reist  
John Tomljanovich

### **National High Trial Board**

▶ Richard Major  
▶ Robert Luketic  
▶ Maryann Boljkovac  
▶ Robert Panenic  
▶ Donald Weakley  
▶ Frank Jerbich  
▶ Stephen Vrkljan  
▶ Caroline Banjavcic – 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate  
▶ Marsha Puz – 2nd Alternate  
▶ Theresa Rocca – 3rd Alternate  
Carol Cubelic  
Danielle Lane  
Patricia Timko

### ***Messages from the VP/Lodge Secretary***

Unlike years gone by, there is nobody at the club during the day and sometimes not even during the evenings. With no "retirees" working in this position, messages left at the Club's answering machine may not be picked up every day. So we ask for your patience if your call is not answered as quickly as it used to be.

### **Questions on CFU Policies/Annuities**

Questions regarding joining the CFU, current insurance policies or annuities can still be addressed by calling the Lodge at 586-979-8154 or by calling Bob Novosel at home at 586-759-4911. [Other volunteer recruiters include Katy Kosovec (586-775-4899), Barbara Ruppe (248-585-4182), Kathy Thiel (248-477-7621) and Debbie Babich (586-979-9392)] In any case, leave a message and someone will get back to you shortly. Or, if you prefer, you can call the CFU directly at 412-351-3909. We promise that you will be taken care of as quickly as we can.

### **Death of a Lodge Member**

If a family member dies, what do I need do? This is not something that anyone likes to think about, but the question gets asked a lot. Because of the urgency of this situation, it is recommended that you call Bob Novosel at 586-759-4911 (or President Mark Mavretich at 586-726-0755) and leave a message if necessary. The immediate question that will be asked (after arrangements) is what the family's choice is regarding a donation. Lodge 351 will make one of the following:

- a. a \$50.00 donation in the form of a flower arrangement to be sent to the funeral home
- or** b. a \$50.00 donation to the Lodge 351 Memorial in a prominent location in the Club.

The choice is entirely up to the family. If no choice is made, the Lodge will automatically use option B.

You will need to send a copy of the death certificate along with the insurance policy (or a copy of the front page of the policy) directly to the CFU office in Pittsburgh. Please do not send (or drop off) this information at the Club. It has to go to the CFU office in Pittsburgh.

The CFU home office is very good at handling this situation and will usually have the check(s) in the mail within 24 hours.

### **Since our Spring 2011 Newsletter, we have learned of the following deaths in our membership. Our thoughts, prayers and condolences are with their families.**

Mary Hales	Mildred Bernadich
Helen Madak	Sylvia Martinez
Matt Serdar	Patricia Foster
Julianna Hardy	Branko Vinski
Mary Ziemniak	Marion Milkovich
Russell Wozniak	Irene Crnkovich
Katherine Cencich	George Simunick
Katherine Yurkovich	Edward Jergovich
George Lotrey	Christine Mazurkiewicz
Billy Topolski	

### **Please Welcome the Newest Transfers from the Nest to ZORA Lodge 351**

Brian Ruzich	Lauren Thiesen
Hanna Matievich	Kienan Galac
Maria Guracech	Neil Alampi
Matthew Klipsch	Tyler Tabenske
Kyle Gund	Collin Pentkowski
Jacob Zuzelski	Cherie Pirronello

### **Please Welcome the Newest Members to ZORA Lodge 351**

Terry Davis	Peggy Kruczynski
Kelly Smyntek	Patrick Demay
Veleslav Natchev	

We would like to welcome our newest members! It's very nice to have you join with us. If there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact Lodge Vice President / Secretary Bob Novosel at (h) 586-759-4911 or email [novosel4@comcast.net](mailto:novosel4@comcast.net) .

### **Annual Assessments are Extremely Important**

By now, everyone should have received their notice regarding paying your annual assessments. These small donations are absolutely vital in keeping Lodge 351 and the American Croatian Club open - both today and for many years to come. It's only \$20 per person. If you haven't already, please make sure your dues are paid for this year. Every dollar helps!

### **NEST 318**

We all had fun at the Lodge picnic. Thanks to the kids, parents and my family members who helped with the games, water balloons and prizes. The Star Tams put on a great little show for all in attendance.

It's hard to believe summer is behind us and the holidays are only a few short months away. Save the date of Sunday, December 11 for the Annual Christmas Party. Invites will be in the mail or email by mid-November.

Speaking of the Stars, the young Tammies are always looking for new members. This past summer the kids went to Disney World with the help of the Parents Club and the CFU. Don't miss out! Come on down to the Club on a Monday evening and check them out. Next summer's festival will be held in downtown Detroit. Be sure to attend one or more of the functions at the Detroit Marriot Hotel.

A committee has been formed and will soon be meeting to plan 'Family Night' at the Club. We want to plan activities that will involve our children in activities other than just music. Watch for details. Any ideas or comments, please contact the undersigned at 248-477-7621 or [katthiel@gmail.com](mailto:katthiel@gmail.com).

Kathy Thiel  
Nest Manager

### **TIME CAPSULE**

No plans have been made, of yet, to place the Time Capsule into the wall inside our club hall. We are still accepting items to go into the box for a \$5 fee each. Please limit pictures, etc, to the size of 8-10 inches. We did receive some donations at the past Lodge picnic. We will notify our members of the event when we have finalized plans.

Kathy Thiel  
Lodge Historian

### ***Detroit Star Tamburitizans are looking for new members***

The Detroit Star Tamburitizans 2011/12 season is underway, and the group is looking for new members. Children 5 yrs.-18 yrs. are welcome to join the Stars learning the songs and dances of Croatia. Rehearsals are Monday nights at the American Croatian Club. For information, call Marci Crandall at (810) 392-8302 or email her at [marcicrandall@comcast.net](mailto:marcicrandall@comcast.net).

The group travels to a national festival to perform and this year is in DETROIT!!! (July 6-8, 2012)

- Make friendships that you will have a lifetime
- Meet other people who have a love for the Croatian Culture
- Play Tambura, dance Kolos, and sing songs

Contact: Marci Crandall 810-392-8302 to let us know WHEN you are coming.

The Stars and their parents are planning some fundraisers for the fall and winter, including the very popular winter dance....look for info about these on the Lodge website and in the Z.



## Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra

### *Christmas in Croatia*

On Saturday, December 10, 2011 at our beautiful American Croatian Club located at 32851 Ryan Rd in Warren Michigan, the Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra will usher in the holiday season with our "Christmas in Croatia" affair. The doors open at 6:00 PM where participants may begin to enter the festively decorated hall. At 7:00 PM the traditional Croatian Buffet including desserts will be served along with evening entertainment provided by 'Sarena' of Cleveland, Ohio. The Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra performance will begin shortly after dinner. As in the past this will include the traditional Christmas carols that everyone is encouraged to join in singing. We kindly ask that all participants be present prior to DTO's performance to ensure minimum interruptions by late arrivals. After the DTO performance 'Sarena' will continue playing into the evening for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Drinks may be purchased from our well stocked bar. Tickets must be purchased in advance, as seating is limited and it is well known that this event sells out quickly. For more information on this event you may also visit our website at [www.detroittamburitzaorchestra.com](http://www.detroittamburitzaorchestra.com) "

John Dzapo, 248-303-5186

### **Greetings from Croatian Folklore Ensemble "Nova Nada"!**

We have chartered a bus to take us all and our friends to Washington D.C. for the Adult Tamfest November 10-13. We will leave Thursday morning at 5am from the Croatian Club in Warren. Food and drinks will be provided on the bus. Once we reach Washington D.C. we can check into the hotel, eat lunch/dinner if you wish, and catch a evening bus tour of the city. Friday morning is a free day during which we can catch another longer day tour of the monuments in Washington D.C. There is a Tamfest Welcome Dance Friday night starting at 9pm at the hotel. Saturday morning is free again until the afternoon concert of performing groups. A second dance starts Saturday night at 9pm, again at the hotel. Sunday morning there is a Tambura Mass at 10am. The second day of

concerts starts at 12:00 noon featuring "Nova Nada", "Selo", "Gemist" and many others! We will load the bus and leave by 3:30am and head back to Detroit.

If you are interested in celebrating our Croatian culture and traditions on the way to and throughout Washington D.C. please contact Anna Talan at 586-677-3949 or at [ATalan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ATalan@sbcglobal.net)

"Nova Nada" is looking forward to an action-packed road trip with all of you!

Steve Talan  
CFE "Nova Nada" Artistic Director



### **Croatian Woman, Br. 32**

Croatian Woman, Br. 32 is sponsoring their 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fashion Show, November 4, 2011, benefiting Child Help Michigan and St. Joseph Orphanage in Croatia. Fashions show will be held at St. Lucy Croatian Catholic Church Hall, 200 E. Wattles, Troy, MI. Fashions by Lord and Taylor. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$40.00. For tickets call: Violet Cunko (586) 412-7016, Danica Kramer (586) 772-2391, Zivana Kon (586) 747-8173.

Croatian Woman meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the American Croatian Hall. Everyone is welcome to come and join.

Violet Cunko  
President, Croatian Woman, Br. 32



## **OCTOBER**

Friday, October 21, 2011  
**PENSIONERS CLUB LUNCH**  
Croatian Club/Warren, MI, 12:30pm  
New members always welcome  
info: Mary Jurich 586- 268-9899

Friday, October 21, 2011  
American Croatian Club  
**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

Sunday, October 23, 2011  
**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**  
Southfield Civic Center Pavilion/  
Southfield, MI  
5:00pm Songs and Dances  
performed by Nova Nada  
5:30pm Childrens Parade featuring  
Stars Tamburitzaans  
Dance groups, International foods  
and marketplace  
Croatian Cultural Display  
Croatian Baked goods for sale  
info: 313-871-8600

## **NOVEMBER**

November 3, 2011  
Thursday – 7pm  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge Mtg**

Friday, November 4, 2011  
**BENEFIT FASHION SHOW**  
sponsored by: "Croatian Woman  
Branch 32"  
St. Lucy Hall/ Troy, MI  
6:00pm doors open  
7:00pm dinner is served  
Fashions by: Lord & Taylor  
Door prizes, cash bar, silent auction  
Ticket Reservations/ info call: 586-  
412-7016 or 586-772-2391 or 586-  
797-0007

November 10 - 13, 2011  
**ADULT TAMFEST**  
Washington, D.C.  
"Nova Nada" will proudly represent  
Michigan's Croatian community.  
Travel by bus and visit the sights and  
sounds of Washington, D.C.  
info: Anna Talan 586-677-3949

Friday, November 18, 2011  
**PENSIONERS CLUB LUNCH**  
Croatian Club/ Warren, MI, 12:30pm  
New Members always welcome  
info: Mary Jurich 586-268-9899  
November 18, 2011  
American Croatian Club

**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

## **DECEMBER**

December 1, 2011  
Thursday – 7pm  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge  
meeting**

December 3, 2011  
American Croatian Club  
**Nova Nada's "Christmas Bazaar"  
from 10am to 4pm**  
16+ vendors, homemade lunches  
and desserts  
For details, contact Anna Talan at  
586-677-3949 or  
[ATalan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ATalan@sbcglobal.net)

December 10, 2011 – Saturday  
**Detroit Tamburitza Orchestra's  
"Christmas in Croatia"**  
Details to be announced

December 11, 2011 – Sunday  
American Croatian Club  
**Nest 318 Christmas Party**  
Call Kathy Thiel (248-477-7621)

## **JANUARY**

January 8, 2012 – Sunday – 10am  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Annual Meeting and  
Monthly Lodge mtg**

January 20, 2012 – Friday –  
American Croatian Club  
**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

## **FEBRUARY**

February 2, 2012 – Thursday – 7pm  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge Mtg**

February 17, 2012 – Friday –  
American Croatian Club  
**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

## **MARCH**

March 1, 2012 – Thursday – 7pm –  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge Mtg**

March 3, 2012 – Saturday –  
Carpathia Club in Sterling Hts., MI.  
**CroFest** – 5pm to 1am  
Folkdance & music concert featuring  
6 Croatian ensembles  
For details, contact Anna Talan at  
586-677-3949 or  
[ATalan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ATalan@sbcglobal.net)

March 16, 2012 – Friday – American  
Croatian Club  
**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

## **APRIL**

April 5, 2012 – Thursday – 7pm –  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge  
meeting**

April 20, 2012 – Friday – American  
Croatian Club  
**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

## **MAY**

May 3, 2012 – Thursday – 7pm –  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge  
meeting**

May 18, 2012 – Friday – American  
Croatian Club  
**Zora Lodge 351 "Card Party"**  
Pinochle at 7:30pm – Euchre at 8pm  
\$7 per person  
For Details, contact Debbie Babich  
at 586-979-9392 or [djbab99@att.net](mailto:djbab99@att.net)

## **JUNE**

June 7, 2012 – Thursday – 7pm –  
American Croatian Club  
**Lodge 351 – Monthly Lodge Mtg**

June 12, 2012 – Sunday – Knights of  
Columbus Picnic Grounds  
**Lodge 351 Annual Summer Picnic**  
Details to be announced



**Congratulations George Ruzich!** Zora Lodge 351 member George Ruzich was inducted to the Tamburitza Association of America's Hall of Fame at the TAA's Extravaganza 2011 in September out in San Francisco, California. George was recognized for his lifetime contributions to tamburitza music in America, an honor bestowed upon him by his fellow musicians. There are only 155 members in this Hall of Fame. George joins other legendary Lodge 351 members such as Frank Cvetnich, Steve Pavlekovich, Lawrence Mavretich, James Guracech, Ken Kosovec and Marilyn Repasky along with Detroit area friends of Lodge 351 such as Mike Tomicic, Pete Tomicic, Billy Topolsky and Sanda Pavlovich. Congratulations George!

**CARD PARTY SCHEDULE**

Pinochle: 7:30 pm Euchre: 8 pm

SEPTEMBER 16, 2011	FEBRUARY 17, 2012
OCTOBER 21, 2011	MARCH 16, 2012
NOVEMBER 18, 2011	APRIL 20, 2012



**Lodge 351 is on Facebook**

Become a "Fan" of our Lodge page on Facebook- search for "CFU Zora Lodge 351." We'll keep our fans up on event postings, pictures, videos, etc! Or, visit our web site at <http://www.zoralodge351.com> to see all the latest information.

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