

Brother Steve Banjak lived his whole life believing in and supporting the ideals of the Sokol movement founded by Dr. Miroslav Tyrš in the Czech Republic and established by Ivan Branislav Zoch in Slovakia. Brother Banjak was active in the gymnasium since he was introduced to Sokol when he was 14 years old; stopping only when his advanced age and health did not permit it. As President, he led our lodge for a period of 50 years to become one of the most successful lodges in the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA. Brother Banjak also held almost every office in District Svätopluk, including President. In 1958 he was President of the Committee responsible for the very successful XIII Slet held in Cleveland, Ohio. The lodge has unanimously voted to name this scholarship in his honor as a way to remember him for his many years of service to Sokol. The first recipient was announced at the 100th anniversary celebration of the lodge held at the Radisson Hotel on May 20, 2006.

1.

(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

2.

(Street Address) (City, State, Zip)

3.

4.

(Telephone Number) (Number of years a member of Sokol USA Farrell)

5.

(Email Address)

6.

(High School where you received your diploma) (Year Graduated)

7.

(Accepted to OR attending which College/University

8.

(Reference Name and position/relationship to you) (Reference Name and position/relationship to you)

*Requirements to complete application follow:*

Requirements for eligibility and the method used to rank applicants for the “Steve

Banjak Memorial Scholarship” are as follows:

Beginning with the academic year 2010-2011, the award will be $1,000.

1. A member in good standing of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA in Farrell, PA for a minimum of three years. (Non compliance = disqualification)

2. High School diploma or equivalent. (Non compliance = disqualification)

*3.* Acceptance to an accredited school of higher education with degree programs. *A letter of acceptance to the school to which you plan to attend must accompany this application OR if you are already attending, an official transcript must accompany this application. (*Non compliance = disqualification))

*4.* Two letters of reference from non-related persons (at least one from a former teacher) attesting to the character and ability of the applicant. *The letters must accompany this application.* (2 points)

5. Evidence of “service” either to Sokol or the community at large. *A letter from an official or person supervising your activity must accompany this application.* (Up to 3 points)

6. An essay of one page written in your own hand, describing an activity or event in your life in which you strove to accomplish a task as close to perfection as possible. ***Please use the attached sheet to write your essay.*** (Up to 3 points)

7. A fully completed application and letters of reference must be sent by U.S. Postal delivery no later than May 01 of each year. (2 points)

A maximum of 10 points is possible.

Previous recipients are welcome to apply; only the first page of this application and an official transcript of up to date grades from the school currently being attended needs to be submitted. Preference will be given to first time applicants.

Send Application and accompanying documents to Bro. Tim Brandt, Lodge #103 President; 1488 Hall Avenue; Sharon, PA 16146.

This year the scholarship will be announced at the 110th Anniversary Banquet of Sokol USA Farrell which will be held on Sunday May 15 at Park Inn by Radisson in West Middlesex, PA.

Applicants are encouraged to also apply for the:

1. “Milan Getting Scholarship” which is granted by the National Office of Sokol USA; Box 189; 276 Prospect Street; East Orange, NJ 07019-0189. Phone: (908) 803 7465; Website: http://www.sokolusa.org/index\_ns.html

2. Various Scholarships granted by GBU Financial Life, the parent company of Sokol USA, which is located in Pittsburgh, PA. Toll Free: 1-800-765-4428; Website: http://www.gbu.org/

**Previous Recipients of the Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship are:**

2006 Oleksandra Banjak 2007 Oleksandra Banjak

2008 Katie Shebeck 2009 Lucia Murcko

2010 Robin Platte 2011 Bibiana Murcko

2012 Bibiana Murcko 2013 Daniel Konopski

Robin Platte 2014 Sarah Goda

2015 Daniel Konopski

Sarah Goda



Sokol philosophy is quite different from prevailing contemporary thought. Sokol philosophy is an expression of *democratic behaviors through self-discipline*, designed to guide individuals toward *goals* to which all people of good will are striving. It places great emphasis on *individual responsibility, individual performance and the individual’s quest for perfection in their lives*. Sokol believes, in this way each individual is responsible for the success of the whole of society rather than society being responsible for raising the individual.

Please describe an event in your life in which you strove to attain perfection in accomplishing a task and how this event, either directly or indirectly, contributed to the “greater good”.

**Signature and Date**