

## PERSONS OF THE YEAR

### BEVERLY SOBOTKA

Beverly Sobotka has been a long-standing member of the Serb National Federation since her father's best friend signed her up in SNF Lodge 43 in 1938. She is a dedicated member of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in Lenexa, Kansas, the Kolo Srpskih Sestara Sv. Petka and the St. George Church Choir.

Beverly has always been willing to step up and work for her church, community, and lodge. When she was a junior high school, she became secretary for the church choir and continued in that position for many years until she became treasurer, a position she still holds.

Beverly worked for a dentist for 27 years and was Treasurer of the Dental Assistants Association for 25 of those years. She later went into banking and retired from that industry.

In 1970, when her Deda, who was head of SNF Lodge 43 in Kansas City, developed health issues, Beverly became treasurer of the Lodge, a position she still holds today. She has been a church custodian for 50 years, at one time living very near the former church. Beverly says the new church is 30 miles away from her home and her parish priest Fr. Aleksandar Bugarin thinks she should move closer to the new church, but Beverly says she is very comfortable in her home.

In addition to her duties with the church and lodge, Beverly has been honored several times over the years by the church, Kolo and choir. In 2005, she was named Kuma for the Sveta Petka Serbian Sister's Circle Slava. In 2009 Beverly had the honor of being named the first Kuma for the choir's Slava, and in 2012 she was named Kuma for Church Slava.

As you can see from her list of achievements and history, Beverly has an exemplary work ethic. She keeps on top of her lodge members and is quick to inform the Home Office of changes to members' status with the SNF. She works hard to show members the value of SNF membership, and has convinced many to remain members and/or purchase new products.

We sincerely appreciate all of Beverly's efforts on behalf of the SNF, and offer our sincere congratulations on being named one of the Serb National Federation 2017 Persons of the Year.



## THREE DAY

by Milos Rastovic

PITTSBURGH, PA - Three-Day Weekend, the traditional event sponsored by the Serb National Federation, took place July 14 – 16, 2017. As in previous years, Serbs of all generations gathered together to continue the tradition of their ancestors fostering Serbian culture and customs. The event began with a boat ride on the rivers that meet in Pittsburgh, the Allegheny and Monongahela join together and form the Ohio. Passengers eagerly boarded the boat on Station Square and a magnificent Serbian odyssey of songs and dancing started. On the main deck, the elated guests danced with the rhythms of Orchestra Pobeda. It was nice to see younger and older people dancing together preserving this tradition.

When the dancers warmed up, a kolo contest began. The audience enthusiastically watched and enjoyed it all. The jury announced the winners: In the men's competition, Nikola Topich, SNF Lodge 6 from Pittsburgh, won the title of Kolo King. Courtney M. Mireles, SNF Lodge 7-Monroeville was named Kolo Queen. At the same time, guests enjoyed views of Pittsburgh from the top deck with the music of Radost Orchestra. The atmosphere was cheerful and guests were socializing, acquiring new friendships, and renewing and enriching their Serbian language skills.

Most of the guests did not even have time to share their impressions from the boat ride when they arrived at the American-Serbian Club for the rest of the evening. Tihomir and Jelena Japundza prepared traditional Serbian specialties that were difficult to resist. Orchestras Osvezenje and 412 Bend were playing Serbian music. The sounds of dancing and songs echoed deeply throughout the night.

The second day of the event began at Kennywood Park. At the entrance you could hear Serbian music and smell roasting lamb. In addition to the music of Srpski Sinovi, visitors also had an opportunity to enjoy rides and various other attractions at the amusement park. George Milosh sang the American, Serbian, and Canadian anthems. John Martich, President of the Serb National Federation, welcomed the public. Melicent Bielich, Lodge 6, read a letter from Olga Klipa, Lodge 37, and Daniel Markoff, Lodge 7, read a message about Beverly Dokmanovich Sobotka, Lodge 43, both of whom were honored as "SNF Persons of the Year 2017."

The long day of dancing and singing continued into the night again at the American-Serbian Club where guests were enjoying Serbian food and music of the Orchestras Kleveland Serbs with Djuro Klipa and Osvezenje.

The third day began with Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral. The service was served by Very Reverend Father Rajko Kosic. According to custom, Prota Kosic officiated at a parastos for the deceased members of the SNF in the church and later a pomen at the Serbian cemetery where deceased members of the SNF are buried.

The traditional picnic on the Castle Shannon property attracted a large number of visitors. The Nikola Tesla Man's Club of Holy Trinity SOC prepared roast lamb and pork for hungry guests. The visitors were socializing with the music of the Pobeda and Radost Orchestras.

Leaving the picnic that night it was obvious that each of us experienced something new, met at least one new acquaintance and enriched our heritage. Ziveli and see you at 3-Day Weekend next year!

### OLGA KLIPA

For years, Olga Klipa's name has been synonymous with the Serb National Federation. Although she was unable to attend this year's Three Day event at which she was honored as one of the SNF Persons of the Year, Olga sent this letter expressing what it meant to her to be so recognized.

