

# Second Vidovdan Summit Horizon 2050

by Milos Rastovic

The second virtual Vidovdan Summit of Serbian-American Diaspora leaders in the United States Horizon 2050 was sponsored by the American-Serbian Association for Prosperity (ASAP), Los Angeles, CA, on January 17, 2021. The leaders gathered together to open a proactive dialogue among Serbian-American organizations, societies, and distinguished individuals about the challenges they face in the time of COVID-19 and discuss opportunities to make the Serbian Diaspora in the 21st century healthier, united, and more prosperous. The main idea is to develop and maintain cooperation among Serbian organizations, societies, and distinguished individuals within the United States and the Homeland.

Representatives of Serbian-American organizations and societies informed other participants about their activities and plans in the near future. Among those present were Republic of Srpska Office for Cooperation, Trade and Investment; American-Serbian Association for Prosperity; Serbian-American Leadership Conference; Serb National Federation; Serbian-American Foundation for Kosovo; and St. Sava Cultural Center; as well as the Honorable Alex Machaskee, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Serbia in the United States; and Milo Stevanovich, former candidate for the US Congress.

The event began with the intonation of both anthems of the United States and Serbia by Sofija Knezevic. The organizer was Marina Schwabic, ASAP President, while the chairman was the Honorable Branko Terzic, Royal Adjutant and Member of the Privy Council of HRH Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic of Serbia. Before the official program began, all joined in a moment of silence for Milan Loncar, 25, who was killed on the streets of Philadelphia, PA, while walking his dog on January 13, 2021.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Schwabic welcomed everybody, particularly the new participants. "We are here to offer a virtual co-working space for you all to meet and collaborate. But also, we are here to promote the continuity of this initiative, so we challenge you to take this torch and keep running," she said. "What we are trying to do here is not a sprint, but this is a marathon. In this journey towards Horizon 2050, can we discover in our hearts and minds the common ground that has managed to bind us for generations, and can we commit to the Serbian Diaspora a unified platform with a winning narrative that can be heard and projects that can make a difference? Brothers and sisters, I will go out on a limb to say that at the moment, this group is it, we are it, nobody is coming to save us or grant us our wishes – as we look around this virtual room we are in - if we don't unite ASAP and collaborate we will be overpowered, assimilated as a nation and we will perish. For this reason, Samo Sloga Srbina Spasava



(Only Unity will Save the Serbs). That's why I ask you to take this initiative like your own and take its ownership and be active despite your daily obligations. If you have a project, please call people from this group to help, advise, or spread the word."

The keynote speaker was His Excellency Marko Djuric, the new Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to the United States. He expressed gratitude to be part of the Vidovdan Summit, and stressed that the relationship between the United States and Serbia is intertwined with Serbian vital national priorities, "... retaining stability and independence; promoting economic development; preserving the power of the demographic basis...preserving our culture and tradition; and looking to the future... improving relations between the United States and Serbia is beyond a single individual's capacity regardless of how well some person is connected."

The Ambassador noted some priorities of the Serbian Embassy mission in the United States. First, Serbia is on a new start in the US with a new administration to rebuild its presence. Second, plans to complete a new Serbian Embassy building in Washington, DC, in less than 18 months. Third, plans to expand Serbian diplomatic and consular activities within the United States in addition to consular offices in New York and Chicago. Serbia's government decided for the first time in thirty years to open trade offices throughout the world, including the United States. The Ambassador said the most likely location for a trade office will be in San Francisco near big information technology companies and Silicon Valley. Serbia and the United States have been allies for more than 110 years.

Jasmina Todorovic Boulanger, chairman of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), talked about her Serbian heritage, involvement in the Serbian community, and the mission of the IOCC. She is the daughter of Sima Todorovic, a Royal Yugoslav Army Officer. The IOCC is a humanitarian organization that offers emergency relief and development programs to those suffer-

ing. "We donate and help people without any discrimination. If it were not for people doing that sort of thing 70 years ago at the end of the war, maybe my father would not have lived, and I would not exist."

Djordje Popovic spoke of the Serbian-American Foundation for Kosovo based in San Diego, CA. This organization raises funds to improve living conditions, enhance economic sustainability and enable the growth of Serbian communities with funds for diagnostic equipment and equipment for farming in Gračanica, to facilitate communication and contacts between Serbian communities in Kosovo and Metohija and North America, and other projects in Kosovo and Metohija.

Marija Gluscevic-Draganic is a founder and president of the cultural center Rastko and Board Member of the Holy Three Hierarchs Serbian Orthodox Church in Southlake, Texas. She works on Serbian-Americans' education through the online school Sava, such as courses in the Serbian language.

Obrad Kesic, Director of the RS Office for Cooperation, Trade, and Investment, reported on the new US Administration's foreign policy. According to many experts, there is a consensus among Democrats and Republicans involved in the US foreign policy that the new US Administration's focus will be internal policies, with three priorities: rebuilding alliances with the European Union, NATO partners, and Asian countries; renewing participation in some agreements on from which the previous US administration withdrew; and an antagonistic approach to Russia and softer approach to China. Kesic said, "The big danger for Serbia and the Republic of Srpska will be the perception that has been created." There was significant support for Republicans among Serbs in the United States and abroad, which produced a perception that the election result is a defeat for Serbs. For Kesic, this perception is dangerous because buying into it can impact decision-makers. Kesic said, "Decision-makers in Belgrade and Banja Luka must understand that per-



ception is one thing, but reality is something else." Both parties, Republicans and Democrats, agree on opening a US International Development Finance Corporation Regional Office in Belgrade, Serbia. The new US Administration may provide more funds for this office and help small and middle businesses in Serbia and the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia appointed a new director of the Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region, Arnaud Guillon. He is a French and Serbian humanitarian, and founder and director of the charitable organization Solidarity for Kosovo. He is also the author of the book All My Roads Lead to Serbia. He received several medals from the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Government of the Republic of Serbia for his humanitarian work, which includes the medal of St. Sava of the First Degree from His Holiness Patriarch Irinej in 2018.

The next Vidovdan Summit take place in late Spring. The Vidovdan Summit Horizon 2050 was initially intended to commemorate the Serbian national holiday Vidovdan, which symbolizes Serbian resilience and dedication to unity, prosperity, and freedom. Vidovdan is also the Serbian Diaspora's official day for celebrating Serbian lives and achievements. The Summit seeks to unite in a shared vision of solidarity and sustainability. The plan is to organize several Summits each year to help coordinate as they build a more robust and influential Serbian Diaspora ecosystem over the next 30 years, and to establish a platform for future generations to sustain and grow.

## ABOUT THE NEW AMBASSADOR

From 2012-2014, Marko Djuric was a Foreign policy advisor to the President of the Republic of Serbia. As the youngest Advisor to the President of Serbia's Republic, Mr. Djuric headed the foreign policy team in the Office of the President, and served as head of the Serbian Negotiating Team in the dialogue with Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina. He was head of the Committee for implementing the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations between Belgrade and Pristina. From 2014-2020 he was Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija. As its longest-tenured Director since 1999 launch, he was tasked with creating and implementing state policy and coordinating all Republic of Serbia activities in the autonomous province of Kosovo and Metohija amid political and

*continued on page 16*



# HOPE ALWAYS IN THE LORD

**Psalm 16:9-Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.**

The firm presence of hope in God has a motivating effect upon the whole person. The believer's mind fills with ideas to implement when hope exists in the believer.

Hope's existence gives birth to the believer's anticipation of joy being realized. Hope emanating from the belief in God's goodness and mercy is well-founded. Enduring hope is rooted in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ's triumph over death.

**Psalm 22:9-But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.**

Hope is inseparable from God even though the person may not realize the Source.

Learning the Source of hope is essential in successfully battling existing despair. God resources are actively put in motion when the believer firmly believes in God. Too many people are afflicted with depression and live each day without hope. Believers' prayers and actions make a difference in helping depressed individuals.

**Psalm 31:24-Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord**

God's love for each person becomes known when the person hopes in the Lord.

Hope has a healing effect upon individuals battling with depression and despair. New strength comes from God for those turning to Him as the Source of all hope. Courage and hope work together for good when the believer turns to the Lord God.

A believer's confidence increases with each realization of hope rooted in the Lord.

**Psalm 33:18-Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;**

Believers following the ways of Lord perceive the Lord's great care and mercy. Depression and despair will have a devastating impact on persons without hope. A person's life is in the greatest peril when hope in the Lord God is non-existent.

The Lord God's love and care are known to serious searchers for the Source of life.

Believers lead their daily lives in ways that honor the Lord's teachings on hope.

**Psalm 33:22-Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee**

The Lord God's mercy enables believers to begin anew when hope firmly exists. Hope in the Lord changes a believer's demeanor and increases personal strength.

A sense of freedom develops within the believer due to the Lord's great mercy. Creativity flourishes in the believer's mind emanating from the Lord's mercy. Believers hoping in the Lord experience joy as a result of the Lord's great mercy.

*Holy Hieromartyr Methodius,  
Bishop of Patar: Venerable Nahum  
of Ohrid.*

*June 20/July 3, 2019.*

*Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.*

*Father Rodney Torbic*



## AKRON ELECTRIC, INC.

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

**A Family Tradition Since 1950**



George Ostich  
Michael Panceo Jr.  
Laura Panceo

**75 SIZES AVAILABLE, NEMA 7, 9, 4 & 4x, 3, UL & CSA APPROVED**

**JUNCTION BOXES**  
AXJ-AXI-XJATS-XJATG-XJATD  
□ Enclosures are designed for use as junction boxes, pull boxes, splice boxes and mounting of terminal strips

**CIRCUIT BREAKERS**  
XCB-XND-XFD  
Our circuit breaker series provides overload and short circuit protection on feeder or branch circuits, lighting, heating & motor circuits. Features include a external breaker operator handle that is padlockable in "On" or "Off" position.

**MOTOR STARTERS**  
XNAS-XRAS-XNTC-XNMC-XRTC-XRMC-XNSS-XNTS  
Starters are full-voltage combination or across-the-line type. Used for starting/stopping of squirrel cage induction motors. Can be sold as complete units or as enclosure only for field installation.

**CONTROL STATIONS**  
CXJ-CXI-XJIH-XJCTS-XJCTG-XJCTD  
□ Enclosures are designed for use as a control station or instrumentation housing when contactors, starters, relays, circuit breakers, meters, gauges or operators must be located in classified areas.

**"People Doing Business With People"**  
TEL: (330) 745-8891 FAX: (330) 745-2504 [www.akronelectric.com](http://www.akronelectric.com)

## Second Vidovdan Summit Horizon 2050

*continued from page 8*

security challenges of utmost complexity. For merit in this context, he received, on behalf of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, the Order of the Holy King Milutin from His Holiness Patriarch Irinej - one of the highest decorations of the Serbian Orthodox Church. In September 2020, he was part of Serbia's state delegation at the talks between Belgrade and Pristina held in Washington, DC. He accompanied President Aleksandar Vucic at the first bilateral meeting in more than two decades between Serbia and United States leaders at the White House. In 2008, Mr. Djuric was among the founding members of the Serbian Progressive Party. He holds a degree in law from the Faculty of Law for Commerce and Judiciary, University of Belgrade. He is fluent in English and Hebrew, and owns a working knowledge of French and Russian. His wife is the former Andrijana Djuric; the couple has three daughters: Jovana, Milica, and Djurdja.

Inserts from the biography of H.E. Marko Djuric were taken from the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia's official website to the United States ( <http://www.washington.mfa.gov.rs/ambassador.php> ).

## SEND NEWS

We love to include articles and items of interest sent in by you, our members. Here's how to participate:

### HAPPY WISHES

A small \$5 donation permits you to publish good wishes for someone's birthday, anniversary, graduation, or any special occasion. Send in the honoree's name, your message and a photo for publication on a color page.

### MEMBERS ONLY

Send in your special photograph describing who is in the picture and where and when it was taken. Photos do not have to be taken at a SNF event, but everyone in the photo must be a SNF member. (No cost)

### SRBO ON THE ROAD

Take a copy of the *American Srbobran* along on your next trip and get photographed showing the paper and your location. Let us know who is in the photo and where and when it was taken. (No cost)


### e-Mail

[sradoja@snflife.org](mailto:sradoja@snflife.org) (Photos in JPG or PDF)

### Snail Mail

Serb National Federation,  
Attn: Sandi Radoja  
615 Iron City Drive, Suite 302,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

TO PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD Contact the SNF Home Office > phone 412.458.5227 > fax 412.875.5924



1025 Eagon Street  
Barberton, Ohio 44203  
Ph: (330) 745-8891  
Fax: (330) 745-2504  
(800) 275-2535 USA

## AKRON ELECTRIC, INC.

A Division of the Akron Foundry Company

"People Doing Business With People"  
[www.akronelectric.com](http://www.akronelectric.com)

# NEXT ISSUE MARCH 3

## OBITUARY PUBLICATION POLICY

Obituaries are limited to 1,000 words and are published at no cost to SNF members. SNF members who require a publication size in excess of 1,000 words should contact Milos Rastovic at the SNF office for current applicable rates. All obituaries are published at the request of family. Due to possible space limitations, publication will be in accordance with available space. (eff. 9/2020)