



FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

Above - Nick DePersis with his father, 2014 Fraternalist of the Year Ed DePersis



SNF President Michael Marjanovic, Nell (Solaya) Mukanos, Cheryl Leydig, Romilda Lovrensky, John Lovrensky, SNF Treasurer Greg Volitich, Melissa Volitich

by Milos Rastovic

PITTSBURGH, PA - Sheraton-Station Square was the scene of a testimonial dinner sponsored by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh to honor Edward U. DePersis as the 2014 Fraternalist of the Year. DePersis is a Serb National Federation member and consultant. He was chosen for his many achievements and contributions to the fraternal benefit system.

DePersis is the principal and owner of Bruce and DePersis, consulting actuaries. He has served the SNF in that capacity and has been a loyal member for many years. SNF Director of Business

Development Cissy M. Rebich, current President of the FSGP, served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the program and welcomed the 200 guests.

As this year's honoree, DePersis said, "It is with great humility that I am grateful for my selection as the 39th recipient of this award. It is indeed an honor to join the impressive group of past awardees who have so deservedly received the award over the years." Among the former honorees he mentioned was SNF Past President Robert Rade Stone who was honored as 1988 Fraternalist of the Year.

The FSGP consists of 17 fraternal

benefits societies and nine business-associated groups with over a million members. Many of the member societies, such as the SNF, have been domiciled in Western Pennsylvania for over 100 years.

Among the guests were SNF President Michael Marjanovic; SNF Executive Committee Members John Martich, Misi Bielich, and Greg Volitich; and SNF Board Members Milana Milosh, Dane Medich, and John Lovrensky. Also in attendance were SNF Audit Board Members Lara Trbovich, Pamela Rajkovich, and Alexandra Slavkovic, and SNF Office Manager Cheryl Leydig.



Dane Medich, Cheryl Leydig, Ed DePersis, John Lovrensky, John Martich



Cissy Rebich served as Mistress of Ceremonies



SNF First VP John Martich with Susan Wuchenich Parker and John "Bratso" Wuchenich



SNF Board member Dane Medich, Eva Rozinsky, Nell (Solaya) Mukanos and Home Office Manager Cheryl Medich Leydig



SERBIA'S FIRST LADY HELPS MATERNITY WARDS

by Vladimir Kulmaticki

BELGRADE - Serbia's First Lady Dragica Nikolic formed a charitable foundation in February last year. It is involved with several projects, particularly the renovation of maternity wards at hospitals throughout the country.

Mrs. Nikolic and her associates toured the western United States in December of 2013, giving presentations on the "sad state" of maternity wards in about 76 major hospitals in Serbia. She says, "Serbs in the Diaspora have always been the power of their country. During hard times - those that were not hard have been quite rare - Serbia relied on its Diaspora. Our Generation is once again destined to save its country and its people. Each

year Serbia loses a town the size of Sabac, the natality rate is almost the lowest in Europe. Can anything cause more grief than the fact that our cemeteries are expanding whereas the maternity wards are diminishing?"

The First lady went on to say, "Even the existing maternity wards, mostly

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Serbia's First Lady is shown at the maternity ward in the hospital in Kragujevac at the opening ceremony on March 12th.