

President's report to the AGM of SVU Alberta, January 16, 2017.

1. Membership base : variable, cca 45-50 in the last few years, based on annual membership

2. Meetings of the executive since last AGM: 21/3/2016; 6/9/16; 12/12/16; plus occasional consultations/tentative decisions by email or phone.

Important proposals and decisions (details in meeting minutes available at AGM):

- **Interactions with AGLC** ("casino commission") continued. Preparation of the annual accounting report and audit. **Newly approved applications and/or charitable donations:** 1200\$ Czech language camp instructor honorarium; 1000 \$ Czech language instructor (Stepan Pellar); 4500\$ for Novy Domov support/subscription for SVU members; 3000 \$ to Edmonton Chamber Music Society (ECMS, concert of the Prazak Quartet, 10/3/2017); 5000 \$ to the Edmonton Recital Society (concert of Martin Karlicek, October 23/10/2016)
- **SVU Scholarship Program** for University students: 5 applications received for the academic year 2016-2017, five (the maximum allowed) approved after proper evaluation by the SVU Scholarship Committee. One additional application for the academic year 2015-2016 received and approved as a special case (summer violin masterclass festival)
- **Continued support** provided for "techno-artistic programs" for children and "Czech and Slovak Choir of Edmonton" (rehearsal accommodation)
- **New support** discussed but not approved yet for Czech language school in Calgary
- **Renewed applications to the MZV Czech Republic** – "Program of support for activities of ethnic groups promoting Czech culture": The 2016 applications for support of the summer language camp successful. New application for 2017 ("Summer Czech language camp") submitted.
- **Web page** - The redevelopment of the web page completed, webmasters (Petr Miller and Tomas Barton) now looking after updates. Visit at <http://svu-edmonton.org/>
- **Liability insurance** was again renewed (paid from the casino funds) to cover any possible accidents during SVU sponsored activities and to protect the executive against any possible financial accidents especially considering the casino funds.

3. Activities, happenings and significant events in the past administrative year

- **"SVU monthly" lecture series** continued successfully. Held every first Tuesday of the month in the **Idylwylde Community Hall** (Bonnie Doon area, 8631 – 81st Street). Lecture of "our" Wirth Institute Intern" Stepan Pellar included. A special "thank you" to Jan Soukup for organizing this activity.
- **A successful casino** was completed February 26-27, 2016. Many thanks to all volunteers who helped.
- **Czech language camp for all ages:** 14-20/8/2016, at Van-Es camp of the Edmonton Moravian Church (South Cooking Lake), conducted fully under patronage of SVU, 3rd appearance by Stan Stepanik as a linguistic leader greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to the camp leader Kamila Moquin. The camp was again very successful, about 35 participants filled the lodge completely, with overflow bungalows also used for accommodation. For extensive pictorial record (thanks to Frank Hanus) follow the link <https://goo.gl/photos/GmAYymDHm3hmZ4U66>
- **Czech language courses** at the U of A, led by the Wirth Institute fellows (Stepan Pellar, now Ondrej Havac) continued - and still continue successfully - this year enjoyed once again by the attendees.
- **Musical events:** successful visit by the Czech piano virtuoso Martin Karlicek from Montreal. His concert in the Muttart Hall (October 23) was very well attended. All SVU allotted tickets (deeply discounted for the SVU members) were sold, additional tickets obtained from ERS. Mr. Karlicek also had concerts in Calgary and Canmore, SVU President helped in finalizing the itinerary and some of

the activities surrounding the visit. Czech National Day evening in the Faculty Club, U of A, 24/10/2016 was organized this year by SVU as a private function. Attendance 78 (SVU members their friends and other guests), thanks to excellent promotion by some SVU members.

- **Entertaining techno-artistic programs for children:** Easter afternoon 19/3/2016 in Idylwylde Community Hall; Children's Day 28/5/2016 in Fort Edmonton Park; good attendance and enjoyment at both activities.
- **Czech and Slovak Choir of Edmonton** participation of at the Christmas Concert "Silent Night" of the WI 11/12/2016, choir rehearsals supported by SVU
- **2nd annual "season kick-off" social event:** After its last year's premiere, the succesful and well received event was organized again for the pleasure of the SVU members at the Faculty Club, 27/9/2016. Special thanks to our members Julka Zalkovic and her teacher Martina Smazal for the musical enrichments. Another sprecial feature was a launch of a charming booklet for children and their parents, "Dr. C rika" created by a University of Alberta pediatrician Dr. Chapados; SVU suport of the Czech version, (funds obtained from the MZV of Czech Republic) is acknowledged in the book.

4. Report from the SVU headquarters (Washington, DC). Web page: www.svu2000.org

- 2016 Congress was held September 1 – 4 in Bratislava. Details see the web page, go to the link "about us", then "meetings". The time and place of the 2017 regional conference not yet known.
- The bulletin "Zpravy SVU" issued bi-monthly, available from the President of the SVU Alberta. See https://www.svu2000.org/publications/News2016_4.pdf for the latest issue with our report.

5. Forthcomming activities and plans:

- **Monthly lecture series** of the SVU Alberta (every first Tuesday of the month in the Idylwylde Community Hall) are continuing.
- Jarmila Traxler's 95 birthday on February 24, 2017.
- **Concert of the Prazak quartet** presented by the ECMS, 10/3/2017 (co-sponsored by SVU)
- **Techno-artistic programs for children** will continue as before, details will be communicated
- **Czech summer language camp** (Van-Es camp, Cooking Lake), **13-19 August, 2016** firmly booked
- **Traditional October music activities:** Our 2017 guests will be the concertmaster of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Jiri Vodicka, accompanied by Martin Kasik. Concert (presented by ERS) Oct. 22 or 29, 2017, Muttart Hall, Alberta College (downtown, opposite to Chateau Lacombe). Traditional Czech National Day Faculty Club evening also being planned.
- **Possibility of a show May 24** by Czech artists J. Labus (recitation) and E. Viklicky (piano) emerging
- **3rd annual "season kick-off" social event is being actively considered.**
- **Planning for 2018 calendar year of special activities being discussed**

6. Future prospects for SVU in Edmonton

- Financial situation satisfactory – AGLC dealings acceptable
- Membership base and ongoing support satisfactory (comparable to other similar organizations); several new members joined within the last year
- Communication exclusively via email, **collaboration with the "Novy Domov" magazine OK**
- **Very satisfactory collaboration with the Wirth Institute continuing, as well as with CSSK.**
- According to the main SVU web page, we are the only active SVU section in Canada.
- **A proposal for presidency hand-over forthcoming.**

Prepared by Prof. P. Jelen, President of SVU Alberta, December 12, 2016