

My name is Heather Centorbi and I am of both Slovenian and Italian heritages. I grew up in North Royalton, OH and currently live in Strongsville, OH. I am an Event Planning and Marketing Specialist with a business-to-business media company, Benjamin Media. My family and extended family is significantly involved with the Slovenian lodge and one of our favorite yearly get together's the lodge puts on each August is the Porky the Pig Softball Tournament. Each August my cousins and I get a team together to participate. Luckily none of us are too competitive because we lose every single game in every single tournament we have played in, but we always have a really good time with each other and getting to know others of the same heritage as us. We have already made plans for the August 8, 2020 game and decided we are going to get matching t-shirts to try and at least look the part since we cannot play the part!

An Eastern European Commission would benefit the state of Ohio in many ways. Educationally it would benefit the state by helping teach others more about their heritage and provide a better understanding of our ancestors' birthplace. The more knowledge we have the more knowledge we can share with others. Having an Eastern European Commission would help both the local and state economy as well by hopefully providing new job opportunities in and around areas of Ohio. New contacts being made within this new commission can hopefully help spur conversation and relationships to allow for new job opportunities within each others networks. With new job opportunities, this will help those of Eastern European background become more financially stable while providing a positive financial impact locally and state-wide. I look forward to seeing SB 261 come to fruition. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Heather Centorbi