



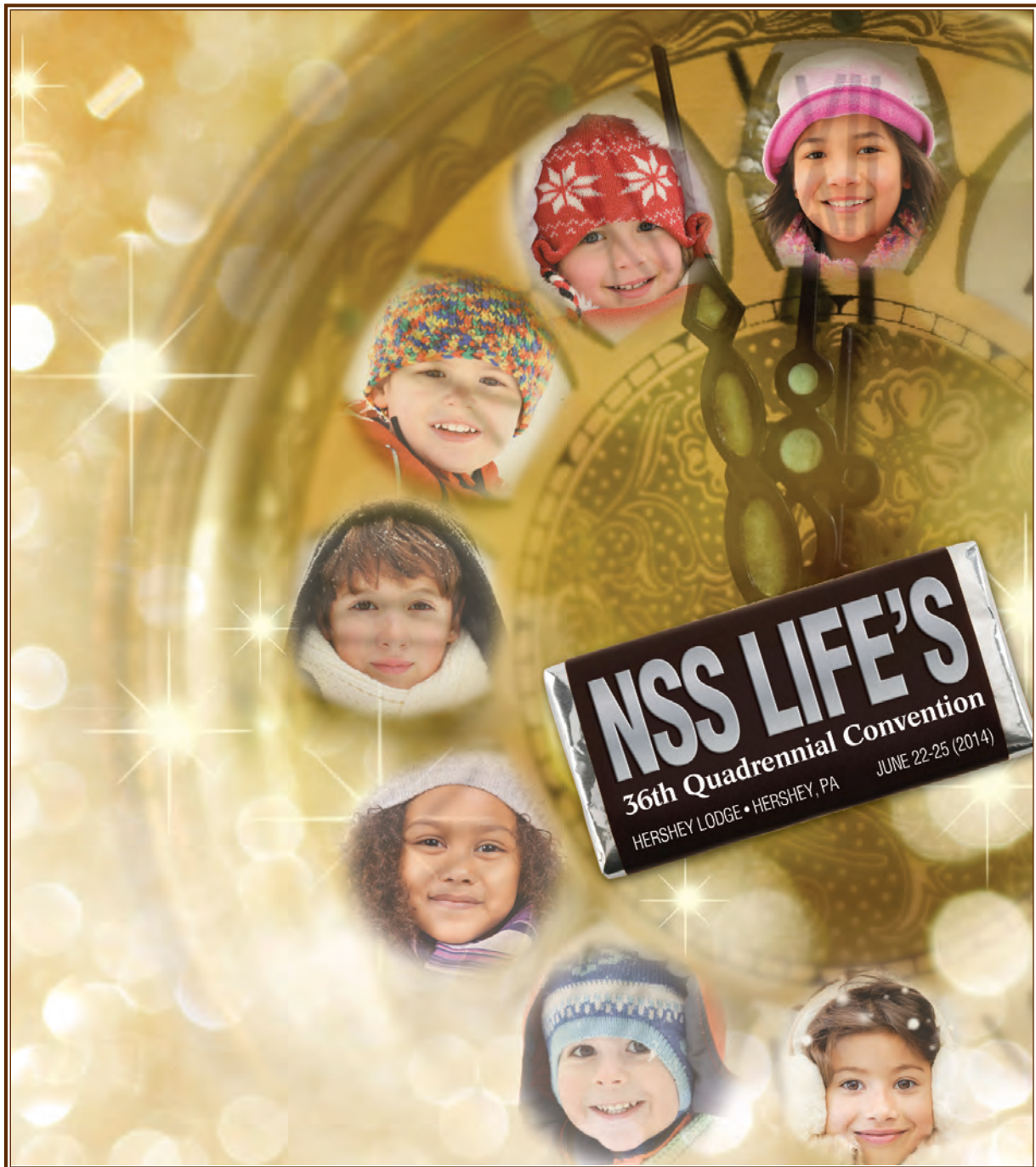
# National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

JANUARY 2014 | NUMBER 3465 | VOLUME 106



*Happy New Year from NSS Life*





# National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at McMurray, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices  
Owned and Published by the



## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Organized February 16, 1890  
351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337  
USPS 0371-140 - ISSN: 0027-7940  
Phone: (724) 731- 0094 -- E-Mail: info@nsslife.org  
NSS Web Site: www.nsslife.org  
Fax No: 724-731-0145

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

### EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY

Published Monthly

Send articles for publication to:

Lori Crowley

351 Valley Brook Road

McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Unsolicited manuscripts are not returned unless accompanied  
with a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Deadline: 5th of preceding month.

“POSTMASTER” SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

### NSS NATIONAL OFFICERS

David G. Blazek, *FIC, National President & Elder*

Dean Burns, *FIC, Vice-President*

Linda Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer*

### NSS NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Anthony Beno  
Keith S. Godor  
Mary Jo Holker  
Robert Katricak  
William B. Knoll  
Susan Ondrejco  
Joseph Stefka, Jr.  
Drew Wesnak

### NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

Sophia Hudak, *Tribunal Member*  
Edward Havir, *Director*  
Edward Koches, *Director*  
Paul J. Godor, *Director*  
Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr., *Director*

### FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

Justine Wesnak, *President*  
Reverend Monsignor Thomas V. Banick,  
*Spiritual Advisor*

### PBU HONORARY OFFICERS

Henri O. Albert, *President*  
Reverend George Virchick

### ROCWMAS HONORARY OFFICER

Olga Kasnot, *President*

FSWFE and PBU merged with NSS in 1997  
ROCWMAS merged with the NSS in 1998

## Inside this Issue...

### Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance ..... 3

### From the Executive Officers

President's Column..... 5

Vice-President's Column ..... 6

Secretary/Treasurer ..... 7

### NSS Financial Matters

3rd Quarter Financial Report ..... 8

Annuity Interest Rates ..... 10

### NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director..... 11

### NSS Activities

Fraternal Activities Coordinator Column.. 9

Assembly Photos ..... 16

### Assembly News

PVR Donations ..... 4

Departed Members ..... 16

Meeting Notices ..... 12-13

### Národné Noviny

Modlitba na začiatku Nového roku. 17

Rok Sedembolestnej Panny Marie..... 17

Na sanici ..... 17

Ohláška čkenstvu..... 17

### Youth Circle

Ornament Contest Winners ..... 18

Poetry Winners - Third Place ..... 19

## Activities at a Glance...

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>REGION 2</b><br><br>January 13<br>February 23  | <b>Assemblies L075, P09M, 0146, 0617</b><br><br>Assembly L075, Meeting, Moosic Diner, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm<br>Assembly L075, Convention Meeting, Grande Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm   |
| <b>REGION 5</b><br><br>January 2<br>March 5<br>March 8<br>March 9<br>March 11<br>March 16   | <b>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774, 0809</b><br><br>Assembly 0434, Meeting, NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA at 7:00 pm<br>Assembly 0039, Meeting, Denny's Restaurant, Uniontown, PA at 7:00 pm<br>Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor Residence, N. Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm<br>Assembly 0108, Convention Meeting, Strom Residence, Baldwin, PA at 2:00 pm<br>Assembly 0039, Convention Meeting, IHOP Restaurant, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm<br>Region 5, Meeting, NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm |
| <b>REGION 7</b>   | <b>Assemblies P09A, 0008, 0731</b><br><br>No activities at this time   |
| <b>REGION 8</b><br><br>January 15<br>January 19<br>January 21<br>February 18<br>February 22 | <b>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</b><br><br>Assembly 0160, Annual Dinner/Meeting, Lorain, OH at 6:00 pm<br>Assembly 0004, Annual Audit/Meeting, Havir Residence, Westlake, OH at 2:00 pm<br>Assembly 0160, Dinner/Meeting at 6:00 pm<br>Assembly 0432, Tobogganing, Cleveland Metroparks Chalet, Strongsville, OH<br>Assembly 0432, Annual Reverse Raffle, St Elias, Brooklyn, OH at 6:00 pm   |
| <b>REGION 10</b>  | <b>Assemblies 0065, 0586</b><br><br>No activities at this time   |
| <b>REGION 14</b><br><br>January 5<br>February 16  | <b>Assemblies R059, L102</b><br><br>Region 14, Annual Holiday Party, Wesnak Home, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm<br>Assembly R059, Meeting, Lahutsky Residence at 1:30 pm  |
| <b>REGION 15</b><br><br>February 22<br>February 22<br>April 12                              | <b>Assemblies L002, L006, 0028, L145</b><br><br>Region 15, Annual Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am<br>Assembly 0028, Annual Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am<br>Region 15, Convention Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am   |
| <b>AT LARGE</b><br><br>February 1<br>February 2<br>February 8<br>June 27-29                 | <b>Assemblies R019, R023, P31M, 0038, L040, L075, 0110, 0207, 0236, 0240, 0267, 0299, 0316, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0705, 0800, 0805, 0813</b><br><br>Assembly 0236, Convention Meeting, Kocerha Residence, Colorado Springs, CO at 1:30 pm<br>Assembly 0554, Convention Meeting, 135 McCullough St, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm<br>Assembly 0813, Convention Meeting, Holker Residence, Englewood, FL at 2:00 pm<br>Assembly 0110, Bi-annual Weekend Outing, Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon, NY   |

**“2014 Convention” Recommender Campaign**

Here is an exciting opportunity for you to help NSS while earning some extra cash. This contest is open to all members and fraternal agents of the Society. (regular agents are excluded)

From **November 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014** every recommender form you send in that is approved and issued will get you one chance in a drawing. There is no limit to how many chances you could have in the drawing. NSS will award **four (4) prizes**; one to who ever has the **most recommenders** in this seven month period; and **three (3) random winners will be drawn at the NSS convention** in Hershey, PA in June 2014. Only one prize per person. Each prize is \$250.

In addition to the convention campaign prizes, please see the back page of the magazine for a new easier recommender form. There you will find the new recommender earns \$25 (except for the youth term plan which is \$10) for all plans. You can copy this form and send in as many as you can. Good luck.

**PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS November, 2013**

In Memory of my father, **Dusan Blazek:**

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| From Dave Blazek                   | 50.00  |
| Matching Funds from Assembly L161: | 250.00 |
| Matching Funds from Assembly 160:  | 400.00 |

**Donations:**

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Assembly L161 | 250.00 |
| Bill Knoll    | 100.00 |
| Assembly 160  | 400.00 |



**Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour**

Visit Slovakia with the Youngstown Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour from July 7 to 21, 2014.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench at **jmbench@yahoo.com** or phone 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 for further information. Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel will be making travel arrangements also. He can be reached at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174.

**Heritage Museum Donations as of December, 2013**

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Dean Burns.....          | \$100.00 |
| Dave Blazek.....         | \$50.00  |
| Lt. Paul Tomanek.....    | \$10.00  |
| Csider Family.....       | \$20.00  |
| Bob Katricak.....        | \$50.00  |
| Tony Beno.....           | \$50.00  |
| Mary Jo Holker.....      | \$25.00  |
| Bill Knoll.....          | \$50.00  |
| Donation Box in Museum.. | \$42.00  |

**DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Here are good reasons why making a donation makes sense...

- Every penny donated goes directly into the PVR Scholarship Fund.
- Your contribution will help our young members achieve their academic goals.
- Your donation may benefit your own son, daughter, niece or nephew.
- Every year, requests for grants increase, making more demands on the PVR Scholarship Fund.

YES, I want to help our young members attain their academic goals. Here is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please issue your check to:  
**NSS PVR Scholarship Fund**  
 And send to:  
 National Slovak Society  
 351 Valley Brook Road  
 McMurray, PA 15317



## From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC  
National President

From the Officers, Board members, and entire staff at the home office, I would like to wish each and every one of our members a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year in 2014. As I write this article in early December and we are winding down the fiscal year of 2013, I am pleased to report that we continue to grow the organization both in membership numbers and assets at a steady growth using the model the Board had implemented a couple of years ago. It is a business model for success. Based on the third quarter results of 2013, we project the assets at year end to be in the \$730 million range. I learned many years ago that we can not control the economy, or the number of deaths the society incurs during the year, but we can control expenses, which is what we have strived to do over the years. This expense control is a very important part of the profitability that we have shown over the past many years. I am proud of the work our Board has done, as well as the outstanding work that our home office staff has provided to our membership. To the board, my fellow officers, and staff, I extend my sincere thanks for a job well done. More financial details will be forthcoming from National Secretary/Treasurer Strom in future issues as we close the books on the fiscal year 2013.

## Convention 2014

Convention is less than 6 months away and we are full speed ahead in making our final preparations for the event which will be held in Hershey, PA, from June 22nd through June 25th, 2014. Hopefully every assembly that is eligible to send delegates has scheduled their meeting to elect delegates. With the convention happening a little earlier than usual, we will need to have the names of delegates as soon as possible to name committees, and make rooming and meal arrangements. We are attempting to schedule visits to any Region meetings that will be held in the next 6 months to discuss potential by-law revisions and answer any questions regarding what will be happening at the convention.

## "Auld Lang Syne"

The song, "Auld Lang Syne," is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days." Here are the lyrics:

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
and never brought to mind?*

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot  
and days of auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,  
for auld lang syne,*

*we'll take a cup o'kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne.*

*Happy New Year!*

## Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to? Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn. Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow. Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement. Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character. Be thankful for your mistakes; they will teach you valuable lessons. Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference. It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks. Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

## News of Narodniars

Happy birthday wishes go out to Honorary Directors Paul Godor and Edward Havir, former Home Office employees Karen Orban and Cathy Lydic. Also celebrating this month are Tod Wilcock, Susan Payerchin, Else Resosky and daughter Shannon Woods. Happy Birthday to all others celebrating in January.

### Paraprosdokian of the month:

*ADULT TRUTHS: Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.*

## The Second Opinion from the Vice-President



Dean Burns, FIC  
National Vice-President

## Happy New Year

This time of the year finds many, if not most, people wishing each other a Happy New Year. January first is an arbitrary day to claim the beginning of a new year. Some people would claim their wedding day or the birth of a child or some other event as the beginning of a new period in their lives. There are many days which begin a new period in our lives.

Not all of those periods are happy occasions. In fact some are downright devastating to one family or another. Others are bad for one family and sort of good for another. But, that is how life goes. Not every event is a happy one. Fortunately, neither is every happening, bad.

But we mean well when we wish you good experiences. And we are arrogant enough to think that God is listening and will make our wishes for you come true. Of course, that is illogical or no one would ever have a bad day.

You may pick any day you wish as the beginning of your new year.

Whatever day that may be, work on it and try hard to make it better than the last one or at least as good. If January first is a screwed up day, start on the second or third or the 23rd. That can be up to you. But do it. Pick a day and start making your life better. Call them resolutions or whatever. Unless your life is perfect, strive to make it so. You might not get there, but you can make progress.

## Experience

Because I have been around a while, I have seen a lot and experienced a lot. I know that most of you have as well, but I have a need to try to give the benefit of my experience to others in order to make life a little easier for them. So, if anything I say doesn't make any sense or difference to you, just skip over it. I said I had a need to give out advice. I know that you may have no need to heed it. It will make me feel good to say it. It may make you feel good to ignore it. I will not be offended.

I have not had a good day for just over two years. I do not mean that every day was bad. Some were semi-okay. But it was not my plan to have my wife pass away before me. But things happen, whether we are ready for it or not. We deal with it and move on. Trust me. It is easier said than done.

If I had any warning, I would have found out where things were. I would have asked how to do certain things. I also would have done better at making Nancy understand how important she was. As I said before, my plan was to just continue to float along and expect to live forever and have others make decisions for me. The best laid plans....

## Things to do

Make sure your will is up to date and specifies what you want done after you are gone. Have your spouse do the same.

Make peace with those you have offended. Dying with enemies is pointless.

Clean out old papers so that your heirs do not have to. The heirs will appreciate it.

Find something which will serve as your legacy. Even small things will make a difference. Some things will make a big difference.

Try to think of things that others have left for you when you wish they would have taken care of it themselves.

## Convention

In six months, we will be making decisions about how the NSS will be governed for the next four years. The NSS is a member based company. Each assembly is entitled to send delegates to a convention and make the rules by which the company will operate. We need your help in finding the best people to be Board members.

Delegates will be elected in January and February. If you would be a delegate, you need to let your assembly officers know that you want to be on the ballot to represent your assembly.

The rules for election are spelled out in the bylaws. If you do not have a copy, call us. We will get that information out to you.

Follow the dates in the newspaper which apply to your assembly. You can be nominated from the floor as well as by your assembly. If you need assistance with any of this, call us. We will help you. It behooves us to get the best qualified people elected to the board.

The convention is earlier than usual so some timeliness may be compressed. We need to follow those timeliness as they are part of the rules. Help us stick to the bylaws.

## A Page From My Notebook.....

By Linda M. Strom, National Secretary/Treasurer  
Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



## Happy 2014!

This year promises to be a very busy one here at the Home Office. Plans are in full swing for our upcoming 36th Quadrennial Convention in June. There is much work to be done but I am looking forward to what I believe will be a very enlightening convention. Beginning this month my article will contain important convention information. Stay tuned.....

## Region Visits

This convention will once again require preparation, thought and decision-making as we plan for the future of the NSS. President Blazek and I are also preparing for the convention by visiting each Region within the next several months to outline items that will be presented to the convention for discussion and/or action.

## Convention Information

1. A convention packet will be sent this month which will contain a report showing the number of delegates your assembly or region is entitled to elect. The required delegate forms, which must be filled out after your elections and sent in to my office by March 22, 2014 for verification, will also be included in addition to other convention information.

2. **Make sure you announce the date, place and time of your assembly and/or region meeting for the purpose of electing delegates in the "National News" newsletter. This will ensure that your meeting is "official" and your delegates are approved.**

## Recap of the 2013 Fall Board Meeting

The 2013 Fall Board Meeting was opened and called to order on November 23, 2013 by National President David G Blazek with all Board members present.

All **Bond Sales, Exchanges and Purchases** through September 30, 2013 were ratified and all Mortgages reviewed. Minutes of the May 2013 Spring Board and the August 2013 Executive Committee Meetings were approved.

Sales Director Greg Felton presented the **Sales Directors Report** highlighting: 2012 Third Quarter Sales; Policy, Member and Sales Comparisons; Membership; New Agents; New Business and Growth since 2001.

CPA Donald Reddinger presented an **Overview of the 3rd Quarter** of 2013 which showed Net Income of \$2.9mm, Total Assets of \$711.7mm and Surplus of \$20.2mm.

The **Fraternal Directors Report**, presented by President Blazek, recapped the events of 2013 and those that are upcoming in 2014.

President Blazek introduced NSS Asset Manager **Larry White (AQS)** who touched upon: Portfolio Metrics; Trailing Reinvestments, Investment Quality Distribution; Sector Distribution; Municipal Distribution overall and by State; Projected Forward Cash Flow; Portfolio vs Crediting Rates; Gross Annuity Margin; our Annuity Book; Buys; Sells; Q3 Actual Data vs Full Year Projections; final commentary and US Job Information.

Annuity **Interest Rates** were reviewed and a motion was made to keep the rates the same for the 1st Quarter of 2014.

The **Assembly Growth Committee** reviewed the Assembly Tracking Pro-

gram and discussed inactive assemblies and how to help them get active. Changes to the tracking program will be determined after all contest rules are reviewed and rewritten.

The **Fraternal Growth Committee** acted upon all petitions received for consideration; researching Giveaways for 125th Anniversary Banquet; Committee will work with the Fraternal Activities Coordinator to rewrite rules for all contests; Fraternal Activities Coordinator will work with the Youth Convention Committee to develop an agenda.

The **Membership Growth Committee** reviewed the Convention Campaign; 125th Anniversary Campaign; recommended reinsurance retention rate revisions and reviewed the NSS Strategic Business Plan recommending minor changes.

The **Audit Committee Report**, presented by National Director Robert Katricak, indicated that the Bond Audit was completed and that all was in order. The CPA firm of Reddinger, Will, Gallagher & Dickert, LLC were again retained to audit for year ending 12/31/2013.

The **Museum Committee Report**, presented by Museum Curator Sue Ondrejco, provided an overview of a very successful year for Museum events and marketing. President of the Museum Keith Godor reported on the overall operations of the Museum.

The **Salary Committee** presented its report and recommendations. This was followed by the approval of the recommendations by the Board of Directors

Revisions to the **NSS Insurance & Annuity Policy and the NSS Investment Policy Guidelines** were approved.

Several items pertaining to Home Office operations were discussed.

President Blazek appointed National Director Susan Ondrejco to serve on the Executive Committee for 2014.

The following tentative **Board and Exec Committee meeting dates** were announced: Winter Executive Committee Saturday 3/8/2014; Spring Board Meeting Friday 6/20/2014; 36th Quad Convention June 22-25, 2014; Summer Executive Committee Meeting Saturday 9/13/2014 and Fall Board Meeting Saturday 11/22/2014.

## 3RD QUARTER 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT - NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

### Net Admitted Assets:

|                           | <u>September<br/>2013</u> | <u>December<br/>2012</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bonds                     | \$680,641,065             | \$623,541,210            |
| Preferred Stocks          | 587,999                   | 1,570,759                |
| Common Stocks             | 634,012                   | 591,442                  |
| Mortgage Loans on         |                           |                          |
| Real Estate               | 7,492,624                 | 7,386,404                |
| Certificate Loans         | 424,335                   | 441,415                  |
| Real Estate Occupied      |                           |                          |
| By Society                | 793,078                   | 793,078                  |
| Cash On Deposit           | 11,372,390                | 9,331,469                |
| Electronic Data Equipment | 0                         | 0                        |
| Uncollected Premiums      | 110,687                   | 165,621                  |
| Investment Income Due     | 9,640,896                 | 7,761,460                |
| <b>TOTALS</b>             | <b>\$711,697,086</b>      | <b>\$651,598,874</b>     |

### Liabilities and Unassigned Funds:

|                         | <u>September<br/>2013</u> | <u>December<br/>2012</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aggregate Reserve       | \$653,368,500             | \$599,041,260            |
| Deposit-type            |                           |                          |
| Contracts               | 28,832,505                | 27,111,834               |
| Certificate Claims      | 450,000                   | 450,000                  |
| Commissions Due         | 334,500                   | 100,000                  |
| Refunds Due and Unpaid  | 250,000                   | 250,000                  |
| General Expenses Due    | 1,274,800                 | 1,454,600                |
| Retained By The Society |                           |                          |
| As Trustee              | 253,826                   | 500,519                  |
| Asset Valuation         |                           |                          |
| Reserve (AVR)           | 2,722,500                 | 2,284,000                |
| Interest Maintenance    |                           |                          |
| Reserve (IMR)           | 4,001,346                 | 2,876,311                |
| Contingency Reserve     | 150,000                   | 150,000                  |
| Unassigned Funds        | 20,059,109                | 17,380,350               |
| <b>TOTALS</b>           | <b>\$711,697,086</b>      | <b>\$651,598,874</b>     |

### Surplus Account:

|                                  | <u>September<br/>2013</u> | <u>December<br/>2012</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Beginning Surplus</b>         | \$17,530,350              | \$13,619,454             |
| Net Income                       | 2,969,60                  | 5,401,810                |
| Change in Net Unrealized         |                           |                          |
| Capital Gains or (Losses)        | 147,651                   | 2,585                    |
| Chge in Nonadmitted Assets       | 0                         | 308,243                  |
| Change in Valuation              |                           |                          |
| Reserve                          | (438,500)                 | (966,400)                |
| Aggregate Write-ins for Gains    |                           |                          |
| and Losses in Surplus            | 0                         | (835,342)                |
| Net Change In Surplus            | 2,678,759                 | 3,910,896                |
| <b>Surplus At Statement Date</b> | <b>\$20,209,109</b>       | <b>\$17,530,350</b>      |

### Summary Of Operations:

|                          | <u>September<br/>2013</u> | <u>December<br/>2012</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>INCOME:</b>           |                           |                          |
| Premiums & Annuity       |                           |                          |
| Considerations           | \$81,045,267              | \$106,134,490            |
| Net Invest. Income       | 25,113,883                | 31,128,114               |
| Amortization Of Interest |                           |                          |
| Maintenance Reserve      | 28,986                    | (169,800)                |
| <b>Income Sub-Total</b>  | <b>\$106,188,136</b>      | <b>\$137,092,804</b>     |
|                          | <u>September<br/>2013</u> | <u>December<br/>2012</u> |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>         |                           |                          |
| Death Benefits           | \$1,196,703               | \$1,568,544              |
| Matured Endowments       | 44,612                    | 36,415                   |
| Annuity Benefits         | 39,533,881                | 65,107,124               |
| Disability, Accident,    |                           |                          |
| Health Benefits          | 3,437                     | 632                      |
| Surrender Benefits       | 2,372,088                 | 450,390                  |
| Interest On Deposit      |                           |                          |
| Type Contracts           | 66,659                    | 21,278                   |
| Increase In Aggregate    |                           |                          |
| Reserve For Life         |                           |                          |
| Contracts                | 54,327,240                | 57,480,416               |
| Commissions On           |                           |                          |
| Direct Business          | 2,509,481                 | 3,362,323                |
| General &                |                           |                          |
| Fraternal Expenses       | 2,725,097                 | 3,303,440                |
| Insurance, Taxes,        |                           |                          |
| Licenses, Fees           | 100,524                   | 133,522                  |
| <b>Expense Sub-Total</b> | <b>\$102,879,722</b>      | <b>\$131,464,084</b>     |

|                          | <u>September<br/>2013</u> | <u>December<br/>2012</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>SUMMARY:</b>          |                           |                          |
| Net Gain From Operations |                           |                          |
| Before Refunds           |                           |                          |
| To Members               | \$ 3,308,414              | \$5,628,720              |
| Refund To Members        | (171,341)                 | (257,440)                |
| Net Gain From Operations |                           |                          |
| After Refunds            |                           |                          |
| To Members               | 3,137,073                 | 5,371,280                |
| Net Realized             |                           |                          |
| Capital Gains            | (167,465)                 | 30,530                   |
| <b>Total Net Income</b>  | <b>\$2,969,608</b>        | <b>\$5,401,810</b>       |

**Linda M Strom**  
National Secretary/Treasurer



## Fraternal Matters...

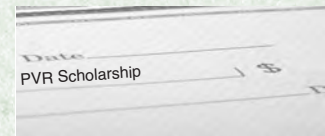
By: Pam Blum  
Fraternal Activities Coordinator  
Email: pblum@nsslife.org

## 2014 Fraternal Activities & Important Dates to Remember



*The best way to find yourself is to  
lose yourself in the service to others.  
.....Anonymous*

- Youth Achievement Award - Nomination forms due April 1, 2014
- Fraternalist of the Year - Nomination forms due April 1, 2014
- United Slovak Fraternalists Bowling Tournament  
AMF Mt Lebanon Lanes, Pittsburgh PA  
Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26, 2014
- PVR Scholarship Program  
First Year Applications due May 1, 2014
- AFA Join Hands Day - Saturday, May 4, 2014
- May Art Contest - Deadline May 31, 2014
- 36th Quadrennial Convention - Sunday thru Wednesday,  
June 22-25, 2014 - Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA
- PVR Scholarship Program - Renewal Transcripts due July 15, 2014
- NSS National Golf Tournament - Friday - Sunday, July 18-20, 2014  
Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron OH
- Youth Poetry Contest - Deadline August 15, 2014
- Photo Contest - Deadline October 1, 2014
- Christmas Ornament Contest - Deadline December 1, 2014



*“Relax ... your money is growing.”*



### *Current Interest Rates*

*Effective January 1, 2013*

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Preferred Choice</i> | <i>1.00%</i> |
| <i>Optimum 3</i>        | <i>2.00%</i> |
| <i>Preferred 5</i>      | <i>3.00%</i> |
| <i>Preferred 8</i>      | <i>3.50%</i> |

*\*Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4%, these plans are no longer available.*

*Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or*

*Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.*

*Your Money is Safe and Secure  
with NSS Life*

### **Members of NSS**



Elder Law Management is offering discounted estate planning documents for members living in Western PA. These important documents include Wills, Living Trust, Durable Powers of Attorney, Healthcare Directives and Living Wills.

Also offered are plans to lower potential inheritance taxes, assist with Medicaid planning and avoid Probate cost and delays. **Western Pennsylvania members can receive 10% to 15% discounts off our already competitive rates.**

For a no cost consultation call our Pittsburgh office at 412-456-4700; toll-free at 1-877-456-4700. Ask for Estate Advisor Rich Nulph.

## From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC  
National Sales Director

## February is “Insure Your Love” Month



What do love and life insurance have in common? More than you might realize. The motivation behind purchasing life insurance is love. We buy it for the people we love and want to protect financially. Think of it as the ultimate act of love.

## The things we do for love

We go to great lengths for our loved ones. We work hard to provide them with a life filled with happiness, comfort and opportunity. In fact, there's almost nothing we wouldn't do for our loved ones. We re-arrange our schedules to never miss our child's sporting events. We put in extra time at work to save up for that special family vacation. We rush out of the office to make sure we're home in time for dinner with our loved ones.

But what if you died tomorrow and were no longer around to provide for your family? Without your income and all the other things you do for your loved ones; would they be able to maintain their current lifestyle?

That's where life insurance comes in. It can't put your family back the way it was, but it can keep your loved ones in the world they are used too. So if you think you need life insurance now is the time to do something about it.

## A Different Way of Expressing Your Love

Preparing a romantic dinner, buying flowers or planning a surprise getaway weekend are all expressions of love that are sure to be appreciated. But why not consider giving your loved ones a more enduring and lasting gift of love: life insurance. Nothing says “I Love You” better than the promise to provide for someone's well being even after you're gone.

## Thought for the Month

*The best way to cheer your self up is to cheer someone else up first.*

*Mark Twain (1835-1910)*

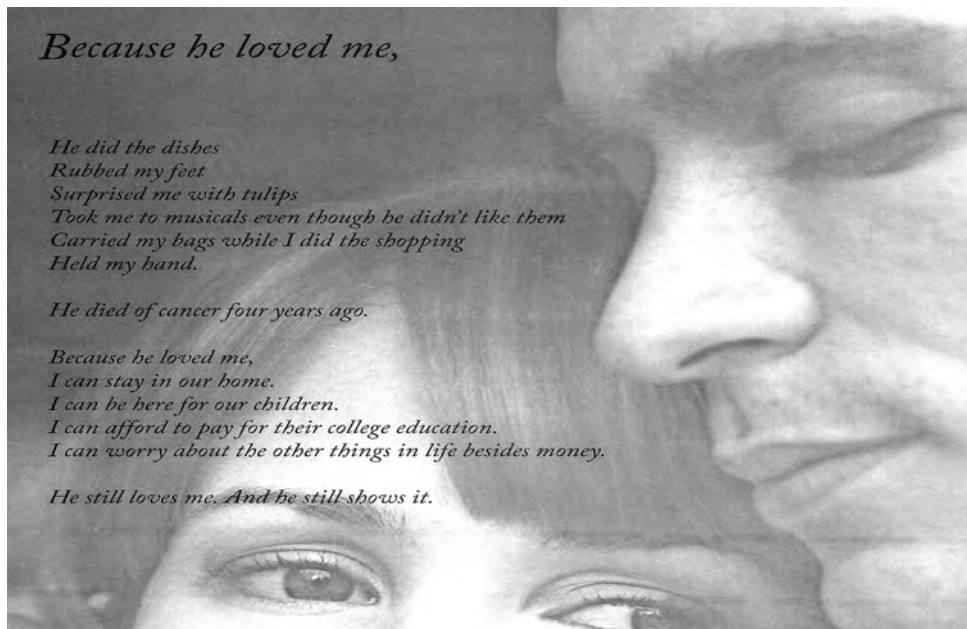
## *Because he loved me,*

*He did the dishes  
Rubbed my feet  
Surprised me with tulips  
Took me to musicals even though he didn't like them  
Carried my bags while I did the shopping  
Held my hand.*

*He died of cancer four years ago.*

*Because he loved me,  
I can stay in our home.  
I can be here for our children.  
I can afford to pay for their college education.  
I can worry about the other things in life besides money.*

*He still loves me. And he still shows it.*



## The Many Benefits of Annuities

People wonder why annuities are such a good savings vehicle. Many times it is one key point that appeals to a person. Usually this is the interest rate especially when compared to bank CD's which are currently running about 1%.

In reality there are many benefits to an NSS Life annuity. Here are some of the most common ones:

- Guaranteed minimum rate of interest. ( 1or 2% depending on the product)
- Competitive current interest rates (currently 3.50%)
- Guaranteed lifetime income options
- Tax deferral (3.5% after tax equals 4.7% taxable in a 35% tax) bracket.
- 10% Free withdrawals within limits
- Proceeds pass outside of probate
- Values are not subject to the claims of creditors
- Special, favorable tax treatment for annuitized payouts.
- No reinvestment risk as there is with CDs.
- Conservative investments supporting annuities are regulated for your protection.
- Flexible deposits may be made at any time.

Now is the time to stop procrastinating and cash in that old CD. Transfer the money to NSS and start earning more interest right now. For more information about our products and services and how they can help you and your family, please contact your NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.

## ASSEMBLY 004

### Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., at the residence of Edward and Mildred Havir, 1744 Westhill Blvd., Westlake, OH. This is our Annual Audit Meeting and all annual reports are due at this time.

The members of Assembly 4 in Cleveland, Ohio would like to wish a Happy New Year to all of you.

**Sonia Vorell**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 075

### Duryea, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at the Grande Restaurant Birney Avenue Moosic, PA at 1:00 p.m. Nominations and elections for delegates to the convention will be held at this meeting.

**Lehrae Edwards**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 110

### New York, NY

Our biannual weekend outing will be held on June 27-29, 2014 at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York. Reservation forms will be mailed out at a later date. Please contact Maryann Malik at (516) 794-9014 for more information.

**Rich DeSanctis**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 039

### Uniontown, PA

#### Delegate Election Meeting

Our first meeting in 2014 will be held on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014 at the IHOP Restaurant (community room), in the Walmart Plaza in Uniontown, PA at 6:00 p.m.

We will be electing delegates to the 2014 NSS Quadrennial Convention in June 22-25, 2014 at the Hershey Motor Lodge in Hershey, PA. Come and enjoy a free dinner and the fraternal fellowship.

We wish all of the NSS membership and friends a most blessed, joyous and prosperous New Year!

**John Payerchin**  
President

## ASSEMBLY L102

### Schnecksville, PA

Come join us for our annual Christmas party/meeting on January 5th, 2014 at the home of Drew and Sharon Wesnak, 1727 Elmhurst Drive, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 p.m. President Blazek and Secretary Treasurer, Linda Strom will be joining us!! Members of L102 and R059 all are welcome!! See ya'll there. Happy New Year.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 123

### Pittsburgh, PA

The New Year is the time for resolutions. Good luck with all you made; they are sometime easy to make but not so easy to keep.

Perhaps you can put with your resolutions to become more involved with our assembly's activities this year. If there is something you would like to do or find out about please call me at 724-242-5085. I'm open for new and interesting ideas.

As a member of NSS you are a part of a fraternal group whose mission is to serve its members and the community. That being the case, I'd ask you to resolve to become more involved with your church or some charity and perhaps volunteer or donate to your local food bank. You might be surprised how good it will make you feel.

Don't forget we are open for new members. Your friends, relatives or perhaps someone from your church may become the next member. There is a \$25 referral recommender fee available to you for referring a new client to us. You can call either me at 724-242-5085 or agent Bill Del Monaco at 412-264-7268. Have a great 2014!

**Bill Knoll**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 059

### Whitehall, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at the Lahutsky's home at 1:30 p.m. If needed, the snow date will be Sunday, February 23, 2014.

If directions are needed, please call 610-266-7346. There will be election of officers at this meeting. Please try to attend. Thank you.

**Nancy Sabol**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 108

### West Mifflin, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at the Strom residence, 3453 Bench Drive, Baldwin, Pa at 2:00 p.m. All members are welcome.

**Joseph Palko**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 160

### Lorain, OH

Our Annual Dinner will be held on January 21, 2014, starting with a brief meeting at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be followed by hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and then a sit down dinner. We hope to see many familiar faces (and some new ones!) at this event.

**John P Katricak**  
Vice-President

## ASSEMBLY 236

### Colorado Springs, CO

A meeting will be held on February 1, 2014 at 2504 Pine Bluff Rd., Colorado Springs, CO. at 1:30 p.m. This meeting's primary purpose will be to elect delegates to the NSS Life 2014 quadrennial convention. Other assembly business will also be conducted at this meeting. Please try to attend.

**Bob Kocerha**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 377

### Bentleyville, PA

Our next meeting will be held on March 2, 2014 at the Grand China Buffett, 301 Oak Springs Road, Washington, Pa. 15301. We will discuss the convention and yearly plans. I will also give an update of how our assembly is doing. Please RSVP to me at 724-207-0410 and join us for a nice afternoon. Hope to see you there!

**Suzanne Skrypak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 432

### Lakewood, OH

Mark your calendars for the following events:

On February 18, 2014 - Tobogganing at 16200 Valley Pkwy, Cleveland, OH 44136. Please call Dave Pytel at (440) 777-4054, or Bill Shuttleworth at (440) 331-6997 so we can get an accurate count for how many people will be attending.

On February 22, 2014 - Our Annual Reverse Raffle will be held at St. Elias, 8023 Memphis Ave, Cleveland, OH 44144. The fun starts at 6:00 p.m. sharp! Come enjoy a night out with family and friends. You will be provided with dinner, drinks, games, a DJ and plenty of fun! Please call one of the following to reserve your spot:

Dave Pytel - (440) 777-4054,  
Bill Shuttleworth - (440) 331-6997  
Tony Beno - (216) 226-7005

**Shawn Pytel**  
Activity Director

## Assembly 434

We will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 2, 2014 at the Home Office at 7:00 p.m. Please call Secretary David Blazek if you plan on attending. Election of delegates will take place.

**David Blazek**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 554

### Curwensville, PA

A meeting will be held on February 2, 2014, at 135 McCullough Street, DuBois Pa. at 2:00 p.m. This meeting will be held to select delegates for the upcoming Convention of the National Slovak Society.

Contact Jim Stricek at (814) 590-7021 or assembly553@gmail.com for more information.

**Jim Stricek**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 737

### North Huntingdon, PA

A meeting will be held on March 8, 2014 at the home of Paul J. Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m.

All assembly business will be discussed at this time, including delegates for the upcoming convention. All members are urged to attend.

**Paul J Godor**  
Treasurer

## Assembly 813

### Englewood, FL

Members of Assembly 813, Englewood, FL will meet on Feb. 8, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Secretary Mary Jo Holker, 1048 Iowa Avenue, Englewood, FL. All members are urged to attend as we will be finalizing plans for the 2014 events.

We will also be electing delegates for the 36th Quadrennial Convention to be held June 22-25, 2014 at Hershey, PA. If your schedule prevents you from attending the meeting, but you wish to give input for the 2014 plans, or wish to be considered as a delegate to the convention, please advise Secretary Mary Jo Holker by mail, email (joholker@verizon.net) or telephone at 941-473-0559 no later than Feb. 6th.

**Mary Jo Holker**  
Secretary

## Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., MUST BE received by the Home Office **no later than the 5th of the month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article in a timely manner.

Also, all articles should be typewritten in regular type and original photos submitted.

Home Office Phone Number  
724-731-0094

## Assembly L002 Activities



**L-R: Kristin Toman , Joelle Marticek, and Joann Marticek are surveying the food items to be donated to the Sterling House in Stratford, Connecticut.**

On September 8, 2013 members of Assembly L002 held its 24th annual business meeting. Members were asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting. These items will be donated to Sterling House, a multi-service community center in Stratford, Connecticut.



**On the left accepting the retired flag donation is Tom Marticek. On the right is Nelson Ladue who donated the torn American flags.**

On September 8, 2013 two American flags were brought to St. Stephen's Society for retirement. They were given to the local VFW Post in Stratford, Connecticut.



**On the left accepting the donation is Raymond O'Donnell, Adult and Youth Program Director and Food Pantry Coordinator at Sterling House. On the right is St. Stephen's Society member Mary Bludnicki.**

On November 6, 2013 non-perishable food items were donated from St Stephen's Society L002 to the Sterling House in Stratford, CT.

## Assembly 28

### You Can Make A Difference Day



**Participants who assisted with the preparation and serving of the meal to the guests were L-R front: Carol Ladue, Nelson Ladue, Lorraine Kelley, cook at the Merton House, Eileen Wilson and John Golias. L-R back: Joseph Goda, Judith Salamon and John Tkacik.**

\$600.00 were presented to Mark Grasso, Director, Merton Center and vice president Catholic Charities.

As has been our practice for many years now the following once again participated in the National You Can Make A Difference Day in October 2013. We do this via monetary donations and assisting with the preparation of a luncheon and serving same to the guests. Monetary Donations included: Slovak Catholic Sokol - Group 2; Assembly No.9, INC; Wreath 1; Wreath 39; and Assembly 308. The National Slovak Society: Region 15; Assembly 2 and Assembly 28. Slovak Alliance; Gymnastic Slovak Sokol; First Plavecky Society Of The Holy Trinity,Inc.; Jednota: Rev. Matthew Jankola District 1; and Eileen S. Wilson. Checks amounting to

## Scenes from Assembly 28



**Mr. & Mrs. Goda (Marge and Joe) delegates from the National Slovak Society to the New England Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting, Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth, Ma. and 89th Annual Reception and Banquet held in November, 2013.**



**Mr. Goda with the 2013 Family Of The Year Mr. and Mrs. Decker (Kenneth and Diane) and their two children Kerry and Kenneth (Known as K.J.)**

The Decker family was nominated "Family of the Year" by the Polish Falcon Nest 307 of Southington, Ct.

Mr. Goda presented the family with a plaque and a check for their favorite charity.

Brother Goda serves as the Chairperson of The Family Of The Year Award. He was also elected to the Board of Directors.

**Eileen S. Wilson**  
Secretary

## Assembly L075

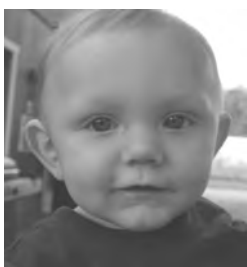


Members of our assembly volunteered at the Wilkes Barre Veterans Administration Center recently by sponsoring a bingo party. Veterans were treated to a pizza party and were given Canteen books as prizes. L-R: Gary Edwards, Lehrae Ann Edwards, Dorothy and Gary Collins. A spring social is being planned for next year.



## Assembly 731

Mikayla and Shae Hanley, members of C731, enjoyed an afternoon at Youngstown's Lanterman Mill for an "Olde Fashioned Christmas" with entertainment by musicians and other fine performers. They watched as artisans such as a potter, tinsmith and wood-carver demonstrated their crafts. The day was topped off with a taste of roasted chestnuts, a visit with Santa, and the sight of the Mill festively dressed in fresh greenery and ribbons. This annual tradition is provided by the Mill Creek Metro Parks for the community to enjoy.



Our assembly welcomes our newest young member, one year old Kaden Brenner.

## Note of Appreciation to Assembly 028

On behalf of everyone at The Thomas Merton Center, I'd like to thank you and everyone with the different Slovak societies for coming here to serve lunch to our guests on 10/23/13, as well as the wonderful donations you folks provided. Organizations like the ones you represent are in many ways our backbone, as we rely on the support of many generous folks like you to ensure we will be able to meet the needs of those who visit us for help. As always, we will certainly put these funds to good use. We continue to see more and more people come through our doors for help. Unfortunately, we don't expect that to change anytime soon due to the cuts in "food stamps" that many of our guests have experienced.

Again, thank you, and we wish you and everyone with the Slovak Societies all of the best!

Mark W. Grasso, MS - Vice President  
The Thomas Merton Center  
Catholic Charities

**..... I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME, THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU RECEIVED ME, NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND IMPRISONED AND YOU CARED FOR ME ..... MATT.25**



## Assembly 617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly recently made a donation to the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen on Jackson Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA and was a sponsor for the day. The soup kitchen's volume of people they feed each day has increased again. Our society is pleased that we are able to help them. We hope we can get members to volunteer to serve the poor at the kitchen in the future. We will publish an announcement in the paper. We may make it a Matching Fund Project, but we can't do it without your help. Please come to the meetings and give us your help and support.

Our assembly also donated to the Catholic Social Services to help purchase Christmas gifts for the children of needy families in our area.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
President

## Assembly 0039

Over thirty-five brave souls came out to our annual Christmas Party and annual meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Uniontown. Following a delicious catered dinner, a memorial service was held to remember the seventeen members who died this past year.

Over \$250 was raised for the PVR Scholarship Fund and a 32" HDTV was raffled off along with gift cards, beautiful poinsettias and other door prizes and giveaways.

Officers for 2014 were elected as follows:

*President - John Payerchin*  
*Vice-President - Timothy Schwer*  
*Secretary - Paul M. Payerchin, Jr.*  
*Treasurer - Nancy Schwer*  
*Trustee - Anthony Bartock*  
*Trustee - Rita Leonard*  
*Trustee - Mackenzie Payerchin*  
*Trustee - Thomas Kocis*

**John Payerchin**  
President

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS A Fraternal Program

### **PURPOSE ~**

To encourage our older members to continue their education and to make fuller use of their leisure time.

### **MEMBER ELIGIBILITY ~**

Any life insurance or annuity member, fifty-five (55) years or older, who has enrolled and successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course. Members may submit up to two (2) applications in one calendar year.

### **COURSE ELIGIBILITY ~**

Vocational schools, community colleges and universities offer a variety of short-term courses which may include areas like computer training, cake decorating, photography, landscaping, small engine repair, ballroom dancing, etc. This program does not cover courses that assist you to maintain your current full or part-time job. (Example: We will not reimburse life insurance or real estate agents who take continuing education credits to maintain their licenses.)

### **PROCEDURE ~**

Members should enroll and pay for the course of their choice. Once member has finished the class, they must submit an application, along with verification that the class was successfully completed, to the Home Office for approval by a National Officer. If the scholarship application is approved, the NSS will reimburse one-half (1/2) of the tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed, one hundred dollars.

### **INFORMATION & APPLICATION ~**

For an application or additional information on this NSS Scholarship for Seniors Fraternal Program, contact the National Slovak Society Home Office at 1-800-488-1890. The National Officers are the sole authority in any decisions regarding this scholarship program. Their decision is final in all cases.

## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS November, 2013

| Name                  | City and State         | Date of Death | Assembly |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Blacklidge, Leo       | Apollo Beach, FL       | 09/01/2013    | 0813     |
| Bowman, Earl F        | West Finley, PA        | 10/05/2013    | 0377     |
| Bryant, David R       | Toledo, OH             | 10/29/2013    | 0160     |
| Buliano Jr. Thomas J  | Hazel Twp, PA          | 10/13/2013    | L102     |
| Burrelli, Doris A     | North Braddock, PA     | 10/13/2013    | 0434     |
| Chasky, Michael W     | Baldwin Boro, PA       | 10/28/2013    | 0100     |
| Clack, Mary           | Keizer, OR             | 09/11/2013    | 0774     |
| Croyle, Ernest L      | Johnstown, PA          | 10/03/2013    | 0038     |
| Dagger, Marjorie      | Elizabeth Twp, PA      | 10/01/2013    | 0737     |
| Dell, Rose Marie      | East Huntingdon, PA    | 10/31/2013    | 0737     |
| Emmons, Della I       | Polk, PA               | 11/08/2013    | 0731     |
| Fusco, William G      | Punxsutawney, PA       | 10/02/2013    | 0737     |
| Gessay Jr. Stephen    | Vernon, CT             | 03/21/1993    | 0110     |
| Joyce, Thomas         | Belleville Town, NJ    | 10/04/2013    | 0299     |
| Klima, Susan M        | West Brownsville, PA   | 11/03/2013    | 0377     |
| Knutson, Marian       | Chicago, IL            | 08/20/1996    | 0586     |
| Kocerha, Judith Marie | Monte Vista, CO        | 08/31/2001    | 0236     |
| Kosco, John           | Rostraver, PA          | 11/03/2013    | 0038     |
| Krajovic, Evelyn A    | McCandless, PA         | 12/09/2012    | 0700     |
| Kubasky, Stephen      | Mt Pleasant, PA        | 11/15/2013    | 0737     |
| Lacey, Olga           | Commerce, PA           | 01/03/2013    | 0008     |
| Leslie, Georgette M   | Largo, FL              | 09/01/2013    | 0813     |
| Mikulay, Charles      | Lyon, MI               | 01/22/2011    | 0381     |
| Miller, Arthur J      | Kissimmee, FL          | 10/12/2013    | 0813     |
| Olsen, Erwin          | South Bend, PA         | 09/15/2013    | L105     |
| Pavelko, Sara B       | Rostraver Twp, PA      | 11/19/2013    | 0377     |
| Peters, Adesta M      | Aliquippa, PA          | 07/03/2013    | 0123     |
| Poliak, Noraleen A    | Florissant, MO         | 11/05/2013    | 0586     |
| Rao, Joanne G         | Pittsburgh, PA         | 10/05/2013    | 0100     |
| Schaper, Patricia F   | Cranberry Twp, PA      | 10/20/2013    | 0434     |
| Schulz, Ilse          | Palm Harbor, FL        | 10/14/2013    | 0813     |
| Sebolt, Hugh L        | Peters Twp, PA         | 09/09/2013    | 0588     |
| Slezak, George        | Sterling Heights, MI   | 10/13/2013    | 0381     |
| Smolik, Edward S      | Arbutus, MD            | 11/28/1993    | 0100     |
| Stephens, Mary Ann    | South Strabane, PA     | 08/09/2013    | 0588     |
| Susko, Elsie J        | Hilton Head Island, SC | 08/05/2013    | 0434     |
| Swansegar, Margaret   | Cuyahoga, OH           | 08/05/2013    | 0004     |
| Synder, Harriet J     | Valley Twp, PA         | 11/06/2013    | 0617     |
| Toth, Frank           | Rockville, MD          | 01/26/2008    | L075     |
| Truman, Jessie        | Powellton, WV          | 09/12/2013    | 0774     |
| Tuten, Henry E        | St Petersburg, FL      | 09/14/2013    | 0813     |
| Valli, Eugene A       | Greensburg, PA         | 09/10/2013    | 0434     |
| Walko, John A         | Cedar Rapids, IA       | 04/03/1994    | 0070     |
| Wilk, John            | Hempfield, PA          | 11/18/2013    | 0737     |
| Zucco, Mildred        | Export Boro, PA        | 10/22/2013    | L105     |





# Január



## Modlitba na začiatku Nového roku

Pane Ježišu, Ty si Cesta, Pravda a Život. Na začiatku tohto nového roka, ktorý začíname v Tvojom mene, pod ochranou Tvojej a našej Matky, Panny Márie, vrúcne Ťa prosíme: zachovaj nás vo svojej milosti a láske. Buď cestou našej vôle, buď pravdou našej mysle, buď životom našich duší a jediným cieľom nášho života. Chráň nás od zlého, zachovaj nás v zdraví, upevňuj našu vieru, obdarúvaj nás darmi Duchu Svätého, aby nás nič neodlúčilo od Teba, aby sme žili ako Božie deti, ktoré dennodenne vzývajú Otca na nebesiach. Amen.

## Rok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie

Slovenskí biskupi na svojom 76. plenárnom zasadnutí rozhodli, že rok 2014 bude na Slovensku Rokom Sedembolestnej Panny Márie.

Dôvodom je 450. výročie od prvého zázraku na príhovor Panny Márie v Šaštíne a 50. výročie potvrdenia Sedembolestnej Panny Márie za Patrónku Slovenska pápežom Pavlom VI, ktorý zároveň vyhlásil chrám v Šaštíne za baziliku minor. Rok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie bude trvať od 1. januára do 31. decembra 2014. TASR – Slovák v Amerike

## Naučte sa po slovensky?

Online program výučby slovenčiny je založený na obsahu, ktorý vytvorilo pedagogické a vedecké pracovisko Studia Academica Slovaca (SAS)— centrum pre slovenčinu ako cudzí jazyk na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave. Kompletný program obsahuje kurz, ktorý využíva kombináciu technológie Learning Management System, virtuálnych tried a mobilných zariadení ako tablety či smartfóny. Kurzy slovenčiny budú umiestnené na serveroch na Slovensku a bude ich spravovať kvalifikovaný personál, Online výučbu bude zabezpečovať SAS.

Hlavným partnerom projektu v USA je California University of Pennsylvania, ktorá zabezpečí marketing, propagáciu a umiestňovanie potenciálnych študentov do kurzov projektu Centra pre slovenčinu.

Memorandum podpísali v rámci trojdňovej medzinárodnej konferencie Slovenčina vo svete— súčasný stav a perspektívy. TASR - Slovák v Amerike

## Radostný a Požehnaný Nový rok 2014

### Želáme všetkým členom a čitateľom N.S.S.

Novým rokom otvárame dvere budúcnosti čo prinesie je otázkou? Želajme si zdravia, šťastia milosti i požehnaní, lásku i svornosť to nás povedie s prívetom „Nebojte sa“.



### Na sanici

Belejú sa stráne snehom, letia sánky dolu brehom.

Na sanici detská chasa od radosti výska, jása.

Na úbočí vedľa kriaka, robia deti snehuliaka.

Všetci majú rumeň v líci, je zdravé byť na sanici.



### Ohláška členstvu

Pripravte sa na 36 konvenciu našej organizácie NSS ktorá bude tohto roku 2014 v Hershey, PA od 22 do 25 júna.

### Jasličkári

Gratulujeme súboru Pittsburgh Slovaks ktorý svojim talentom prezentujú naše slovenské povedomie v Pittsburghu a okolí. A aj v tieto Vianoce zabávali obecnosť hrou jasličkári. Hru predvádzajú už 35 rokov čím sa snažia tam prítomným otvoriť srdcia vianočnému čaru.



**Vesel' sa ľudske stvorenie, prišlo k nám naše spasenie.**

**Radujme sa, veselme sa, v tomto novom roku.**

## 2013 Poetry Third Place Winners

### KEATS GROUP AGES 5, 6 & 7

#### Race Cars

by: Jacob Ostrowski

Age 5 - YFC C617

Dave is the driver  
Of the racing cars  
White and black  
Engine on the side  
Wing on top  
Little and loud  
Racing in an oval  
He crashes on the first lap.

### ANGELOU GROUP AGES 8, 9 & 10

#### The Beach

by: Noah Strish

Age 9 - YFC C617

Our family went to the beach for a few days.  
We went to the Aquarium and  
got to pet stingrays!  
We went swimming in the ocean.  
After putting on suntan lotion.  
I dug a deep hole in the sand.  
And covered my brother to his neck  
with my hands.  
We went to the Steel Pier.  
I rode the big coaster with no fear.  
Being on vacation is so much fun.  
I can't wait to go on another one.

### FROST GROUP AGES 11, 12 & 13

#### Emu Escapee

by: Elizabeth Ostrowski

Age 12 - YFC C617

I am an emu.  
'Tis said that I can't fly.  
It's true.  
Sigh.  
I'm gonna escape  
Through the gate.  
Wait for the truck to go through.  
Quick run!!!  
I've done it,  
I'm through.  
Now what to do?!  
OH NO!!!  
The emu patrol  
They see me.  
Quick!! To the left,  
No, to the right.  
Damn it, should have done this at night.  
The patrollers jump out of their cart  
and chase me  
While I try to hide behind a tree.  
AAAK!!! I'm cornered!  
They herd me back to my cage,  
And though it may look as if  
I'm shaking with rage,  
But  
You can bet,  
The day ain't over yet.  
I will escape again!!  
I will just wait 'til the patrol is gone.  
But don't worry,  
THIS time the escape  
Won't go wrong.

### SHAKESPEARE GROUP AGES 14, 15 & 16

#### Listening

by: Katherine Ostrowski

Age 15 - YFC C617

Only letting words and sounds  
Pass through your ears and  
Without meaning to your brain,  
Is not listening.  
But if one would stop,  
Really hear those sounds,  
Contemplate on them,  
They become something new and true.  
How often we block the meaning of sounds.  
Not taking in what they mean.  
We might hear birds chirping  
And it never occurs to us that it's spring.  
We must really listen to our family and friends,  
Then will we come to a greater love and  
Appreciation for them.  
If we stop talking for a little,  
Hear and think,  
We will be able to appreciate



# 2013 Ornament Contest Winners

Youth Circle of National Slovak Society • 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317



**Frosty - age 5-7**  
**Jacob Ostrowski - C617**



**Rudolph - age 8-10**  
**Ben Ostrowski - C617**



**Snowflake - age 11-13**  
**Elizabeth Ostrowski - C617**



**Santa - age 14-16**  
**Madison Beatty**



**Region**  
**Paul Payerchin, Jr. - 0039**



**Assembly**  
**Mary Jo Holker - 0813**



**Adult Member**  
**Anna Kostrej - 0108**



National Slovak Society  
(USPS 0371-140)  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 1166

## Could you use a little extra “green?”

### Recommender

As a proud member of NSS Life, there is no better time than now to share your experience with friends and family. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward for recommending someone that we end up issuing a policy to. You will receive a \$25 recommender free (\$10 on youth term) for each person that becomes a member.

### Recommender Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Prospect Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.



## Change of Address

Please use this form to register your change of address for the National News and mail to the Home Office. Upon receipt of this form completed in its entirety, the staff will immediately implement the change. *Thank you.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly No. \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Former Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., MUST BE received by the Home Office no later than the 5th of the month. Every effort will be made to publish the article and photos in a timely manner and space permitting. Also, all articles should be typewritten in regular type.