



National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

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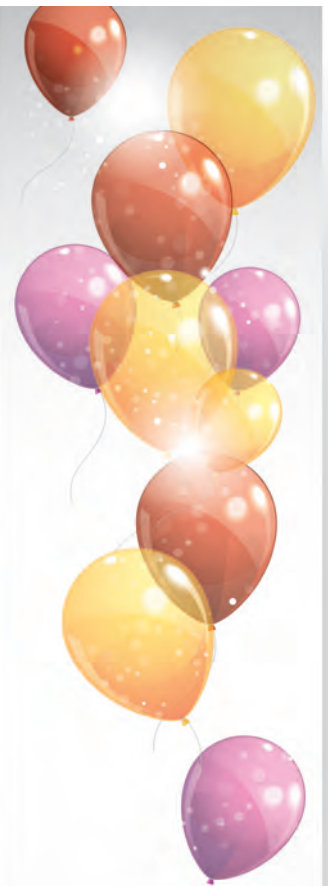
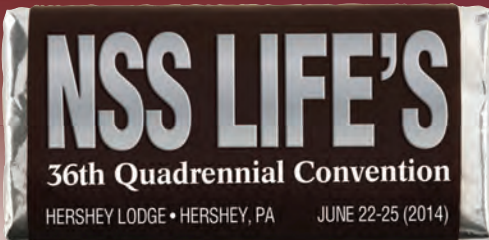


A sweet greeting for you!

Happy Valentine's Day!



NSS Life
Family Matters...



NSS Life
is celebrating our
124th birthday
on February 16!



National Slovak Society

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NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY
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“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*

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Mary Jo Holker
Robert Katricak
William B. Knoll
Susan Ondrejco
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ROCWMAS HONORARY OFFICER

Olga Kasnot, *President*

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

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Activities at a Glance...

REGION 2	Assemblies L075, P09M, 0146, 0617
February 23	Assembly L075, Convention Meeting, Grande Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
REGION 5	Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774, 0809
February 5	Assembly 0774, Convention Meeting, Home Office, McMurray, PA at 2:00 pm
February 16	Assembly 0100, Convention Meeting, Chojnicki Residence, Carmichaels, PA at 1:00 pm
February 18	Assembly 0441, Convention Meeting, Crowley Residence, West Mifflin, PA at 7:00 pm
March 8	Assembly P38A, Dinner/Meeting, Gaslight Restaurant, Wintersville, OH at 5:00 pm
March 8	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor Residence, N. Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
March 9	Assembly 0108, Convention Meeting, Strom Residence, Baldwin, PA at 2:00 pm
March 9	Assembly 0700, Convention Mtg, Ferienc Residence, Richey Ave, Pittsburgh, PA at 2:00 pm
March 11	Assembly 0039, Convention Meeting, IHOP Restaurant, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm
March 16	Region 5, Convention Meeting, NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm
REGION 7	Assemblies P09A, 0008, 0731
February 9	Assembly P09A, Convention Meeting, Yankee Kitchen, Youngstown, OH at 12:00 noon
February 16	Region 7, Convention Meeting, Poland Christian Church, Poland Township, OH at 2:00 pm
February 16	Assembly 0731, Convention Mtg, Poland Christian Church, Poland Township, OH at 3:00 pm
REGION 8	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595
February 18	Assembly 0432, Tobogganing, Cleveland Metroparks Chalet, Strongsville, OH
February 22	Assembly 0432, Annual Reverse Raffle, St Elias, Brooklyn, OH at 6:00 pm
March 2	Assembly 0432, Tobogganing, Cleveland Metroparks Chalet, Cleveland, OH
March 16	Assembly 0070, Convention Meeting, Dr Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15 pm
REGION 10	Assemblies 0065, 0586
February 10	Assembly 0065, Convention Meeting, Riverside Restaurant, Chicago, IL.
REGION 14	Assemblies R059, L102
February 16	Assembly R059, Meeting, Lahutsky Residence at 1:30 pm
February 23	Assembly L102, Convention Meeting, Wesnak Residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm
March 14	Assembly R059, Convention Meeting, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA at 12:00 noon
REGION 15	Assemblies L002, L006, 0028, L145
February 22	Region 15, Annual Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am
February 22	Assembly 0028, Annual Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am
April 12	Region 15, Convention Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am
AT LARGE	Assemblies R019, R023, P31M, 0038, L040, L075, 0110, 0207, 0236, 0240, 0267, 0299, 0316, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0705, 0800, 0805, 0813
February 1	Assembly 0236, Convention Meeting, Kocerha Residence, Colorado Springs, CO at 1:30 pm
February 2	Assembly 0554, Convention Meeting, 135 McCullough St, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
February 8	Assembly 0813, Convention Meeting, Holker Residence, Englewood, FL at 2:00 pm
February 16	Assembly L040, Convention Meeting, Clarence, PA
March 4	Assembly 0381, Convention Meeting, Medved Residence, Grosse Ile, MI at 3:00 pm
March 8	Assembly 0110, Convention Meeting, Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY at 5:00 pm
March 16	Assembly 0800, Kidney Foundation Walk, Lakes Regional Park, Fort Myers, FL
June 27-29	Assembly 0110, Bi-annual Weekend Outing, Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon, NY

Happy Birthday

A meeting was called at Walther's Hall in Allegheny township (today the North Side of Pittsburgh) on Sunday, February 15, 1890 by our founder Peter V. Rovianek which marked the formal beginning of the National Slovak Society of the USA.

As a result of this charter meeting its Constitution and By-Laws were ratified, goals for the future were set forth and cultural and economic matters were discussed as the society pledged to promote Slovak culture in America. With this emphasis on the economic and social plight of Slovak immigrants in the United States, private voluntary funding was established to provide relief for Slovak workers who became sick or disabled and to help shoulder the burial expenses. An initial death benefit of \$200.00 was set through the \$50.00 donations from four visiting delegates. It was further agreed to pay members a weekly sick benefit.

Finally, by-laws were established for administration and a symbolic seal was adopted.

This first meeting created a safe haven for Slovak immigrants coming to the United States and for those that were yet to come. Little did they know that 123 years later the National Slovak Society would be the oldest, and one of the strongest, Slovak Fraternal Benefit Societies in the United States.

God grant that the spirit of the "Founding Fathers" shall continue to live. In that spirit, the members of our National Slovak Society, as Americans, as Christians, as humanitarians, at all times proud of our Slovak origins, proud of our Slovak ancestry, shall carry on for God, for country, for mankind. We shall go forward to new times, new ways and new successes, ever guiding the footsteps of thousands of Americans of Slovak ancestry along the paths of "fatherhood of God" and "brotherhood of man." With these thoughts in mind,

*Happy 124th Birthday
National Slovak Society*

"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.

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

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.

NSS Convention June 22, 2014



The NSS 36th Quadrennial Convention will be held June 22-25, 2014 at The Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA.

*Visit our website at
www.nsslife.org
for all
current information.*

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
National President

Greetings from McMurray Pennsylvania, a suburb of the North Pole these days with frigid temperatures blanketing most of the country. I read that 187 million Americans have been affected by this polar freeze that the country has been experiencing for a few days. Our brothers and sisters living in New York have been experiencing a tremendous amount of snowfall in addition to the freezing temps. Our members as far south as Tampa Florida have experienced temps of 33 degrees. These extreme temperatures remind me of my Navy boot camp days at Great Lakes Training Center. Although it was 40 years ago, I can still remember the cold temperatures dropping as low as -25 degrees during the nights. During the days, the temps would average around 0 degrees. Let me say, January February and March is not a good time to join the Navy. Sign up in the Spring or Fall.

With the Convention only 4 months away, I see that there are many assembly and region meetings scheduled each month at which time delegates will be elected to represent the members of their assemblies. In addition to the meetings, Assembly 432, Lakewood, Ohio will be holding two fun events; tobogganing on February 18th and their Annual Reverse Raffle on February 22nd.

This month we celebrate Valentines Day on Friday the 14th so don't forget to take care of your sweetheart with a

nice dinner, or flowers, or a box of candy. On the 17th, which is also Presidents' Day, the Home Office will be closed in honor of Founders' Day of the National Slovak Society. We will be celebrating our 124th Anniversary, having been founded in 1890. In 2015, the Board is planning a special banquet to celebrate our 125th Anniversary of existence. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer but you can mark your calendar for the night of March 7th as the date of this gala event.

News of Narodniars

Special Happy Anniversary wishes go out to Helen and Dominick Sokolovic who will be celebrating their 64th Wedding Anniversary on February 4th.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Linda Beno, the Chojnicki's, Mary Lou, Tony and Philip, Charlie Lloyd, Home Office staff member Brian Erney, daughter Danielle Lavin and grandson, Cooper Lavin.

Best wishes to Brian Erney for a speedy recovery from recent surgery and to Justine Wesnak who also had some surgery recently.

Deepest Sympathies go out to the family of Albert Sues on the passing of his mother, Anna Mae who passed away Friday, January 3rd at the age of 85. May her soul rest in peace.

Thanks for your time

A young man learned what's most important in life from the guy next door. It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral

is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?" Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said. "Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him, he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over his side of the fence as he put it," Mom told him. "I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said. "You know, Jack after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"Mr. Belser is the one who taught me carpentry," Jack said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said. As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture....Jack stopped suddenly. "What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," he said. "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was the thing I value most," Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

(Continued on page 16)

The Second Opinion from the Vice-President



Dean Burns, FIC
National Vice-President

Valentine's Day

Be sure to let those you love know it. If you cannot think of your own words, borrow some from other people. There probably are very few new words anyway. But it is important to let them know. I realize that sometimes we are reluctant to let out our feelings. It is scary to put your feelings out there at the mercy of others. It is easy to say, "that, he/she knows how I feel." And it may be true, but most people need to hear the words now and again.

I think of the duet by Barbara Streisand & Celine Dion - **Tell Him**. Some of it describes all of our feelings at some time.

*"I'm scared,
So afraid to show I care,
Will he think me weak
If I tremble when I speak/
Ooh - what if
There's another one he's thinking of
Maybe he's in love
I'd feel like a fool
Life can be so cruel
I don't know what to do*

*I've been there
With my heart out in my hand
But what you must understand
You can't let the chance
To love him pass you by*

*Tell him
Tell him that the sun and moon
Rise in his eyes
Reach out to him
And whisper
Tender words so soft and sweet
I'll hold him close to feel his heart beat
Love will be the gift you give yourself*

*Touch him
With the gentleness you feel inside
(I feel it)
Your love can't be denied
The truth will set you free
You'll have what's meant to be
All in time you'll see*

*I love him (then show him)
Of that much I can be sure
(hold him close to you)
I don't think I could endure
If I let him walk away
When I have so much to say ...*

*Love is light that surely glows
In the hearts of those who know
It's a steady flame that grows
Feed the fire with all the passion
you can show
Tonight love will assume its place
This memory time cannot erase
Your faith will lead love where
it has to go*

*Tell him
Tell him that the sun and moon
Rise in his eyes
Reach out to him
And whisper
Whisper words so soft and sweet
Hold him close to feel his heart beat
Love will be the gift you give yourself*

*ooh ooh ooh
Never let him go".*

This works both ways, guys. Tell her too!

The calendar makers put one day in there for you to let others know you care about them. It is unspeakably cruel to let that day pass.

Convention

Now is the time to let your assembly officers know that you wish to be a delegate to the convention. In January and February assemblies must advertise in the newspaper that they are having a meeting to select delegates. Then in June, those delegates will meet in Hershey to set the course for the NSS for the next four years.

Fraternal benefit societies must have an elected governance by law. The members choose those leaders they want to run the society for four years. With over \$700 million in assets and the increasing complexity of regulations and financial markets, those decisions become more important.

Within our membership we have many people whose experience and expertise can help the society grow stronger. We need all of you to decide if they can contribute. Even if a person does not want to be a board member, as a convention delegate, they will choose those board members. Please do your part. Call your assembly officers.

Weather

Those of us in the midwest are tolerating temperatures which are well below zero. Be careful out there. Watch out for the elderly and others who may need a little assistance.

I promise that one day it will be Spring.

**Have You Signed
Up A
New Member??**

A Page From My Notebook.....

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



Convention Information

1. Assembly and Region Convention Packets have been sent containing the following information:

- a. A letter stating the number of delegates an assembly or region is entitled to elect.
 - b. the required delegate election forms, which must be filled out after elections and sent in to my office by **March 22, 2014** for verification.
 - c. Convention Fund Raiser Flyer.
2. Once again we are planning a Youth Convention held simultaneously with the Quadrennial Convention at the Hershey Lodge. More information will be provided as plans are finalized.
3. Convention Reports of the Board of Directors and Board Candidate Biographies must be submitted to my office by April 1, 2014.
4. Final Reminder: 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.

2014 Financial Planning

It's 2014 and time to look over your personal information to ensure it reflects your current financial status. Named beneficiaries should be reviewed quarterly and most importantly at the time of any major life events. See your financial advisor to make sure you are on the right track to protect yourself and your family.

Fraternal Tracking

2013 Assembly and Region activity forms have been coming in each day. It is important to get your forms in so that your assembly or region gets credit for all activities held in 2013. The next and final tracking report will be mailed sometime prior to the June Board of Directors Meeting which will be held Saturday, June 21, 2014 at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA, the sight of our 36th Quadrennial Convention.

Reminder

Just a reminder to all Assembly and Region Officers that 2013 Annual Reports, received in your assembly packets, are due in to my office by March 1, 2014. This information is reported to the American Fraternal Alliance as part of their efforts to protect our non-profit status. These documents also provide information to the PA Insurance Department and/or the IRS at the time of their audits.

PVR Scholarship Fund

Please keep the PVR Scholarship Fund in mind when determining next year's donations. Please think about donating to the fund by purchasing a Leaf, Acorn or Stone for the "Tree of Life" in honor and/or memory of those that are special and have made a difference in our lives.

A New Year "To Do"

Maximize savings! If you have a 401(k), set your contribution to the highest level you can handle; at least up to the company match if available. If you are self employed, look into special tax-savings vehicles.

Thank You

At the NSS Home Office we have always spoken highly of our members and how we are grateful for their kindness and loyalty to the NSS. On behalf of the entire staff I'd like to extend our thanks to all of our members who once again have shown their support and have been so patient during our move to a new Administration System. We are still working out issues however it is because of the understanding of our members that enables us to continue to work towards a successful implementation.

Condolences

My sympathy goes out to our former Sales Director Albert Suess and his family on the recent passing of his Mother. Albert you and your family are in our prayers.

PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS December, 2013

In Memory of Kathryn Stefka: From Assembly 0617	25.00
In Memory of Kathryn Stefka: From Anthony Beno	50.00
In Memory of Kathryn Stefka: From David & Debbie Sroka	25.00
Matching Funds from Assembly 0070:	50.00
Matching Funds from Assembly 0588:	250.00
Donations:	
Assembly 0617	100.00
Mary Jo Holker	25.00
William Knoll	50.00
Joseph A Chorney	25.00
John & Martha Bobby	20.00
Assembly 0737	300.00
Louis & Sharon Slovensky	100.00
Assembly 0070	50.00
Assembly 0588	250.00
Anonymous	28.41
Anonymous	1,000.00



MEMORIAL TREE LEAF DONATIONS December, 2013

In Loving Memory of Deceased Members in 2013:	
From Assembly 0039	250.00

DONATE TO 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 _____

Please issue your check to:

NSS PVR Scholarship Fund,

National Slovak Society, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317

Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship Fund

The following rules will determine eligibility in applying for a National Slovak Society, Peter Vitazoslav (PVR) Scholarship Grant:

1. The applicant must be a member of the National Slovak Society (NSS) for a minimum of two (2) years prior to receiving a PVR Scholarship Grant. Membership will be verified by the Home Office.
2. The minimum amount of insurance required for eligibility is \$10,000 of PERMANENT life insurance or \$5,000.00 of annuity deposits. The insurance must be in force at the time of application and be maintained throughout the scholarship period.
3. Eligible to apply are all student NSS members whose scholastic records, including College Board Examinations qualify them for acceptance by a college, university (4 years); junior college, nursing, trade, technical or business school (2 years) or other institution approved by the NSS National Assembly.
4. All applications must be accompanied by a transcript of the latest high school scholastic record of the applicant. For those already attending college, only college transcripts need to be submitted.
5. All applications must be accompanied by proof of the applicant's acceptance as a full-time student by an accredited college, university, junior college, business or trade school. Please list ONLY the school that you are going to attend, not all of the schools that you have applied and been accepted by.
6. All applications must be accompanied by a resume or biographical sketch of the applicant, not to exceed two hundred (200) words, along with a recent photograph for publication in the society's magazine.
7. All applicants must submit proof of fraternal activity. This activity may be participation in national or local activities, holding elective office in a fraternal benefit society, or similar fraternal involvement. In lieu of fraternal activity, an applicant may substitute community service or volunteer activity with a non-profit organization. (e.g. Hospitals, Red Cross, Juvenile Diabetes or similar charitable organizations.) Applicants must submit verification signed by an assembly officer or by an adult in charge of the community service or volunteer activity.
8. No application will be considered unless all requirements are met and fulfilled. Transcripts and all other forms included with the application shall be the property of the PVR Scholarship Fund and the National Slovak Society and will not be returned to the applicant.
9. In the event that a PVR Scholarship is granted, it shall be the responsibility of the student to remain in school full-time and to maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher for the remainder installments of the grant to be received.
10. The deadline for submitting applications for scholarship grants is MAY 1st of each year. Applications can be obtained from the Home Office or your local assembly. Applications and all required information is to be sent to: PVR SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA. 15317-3337. Further information can be obtained by calling 724-731-0094 or 1-800-488-1890.

Renewal Applicant Continuation Rules

1. Students must submit verification of continuing education enrollment from attending school by submitting a transcript of their grades indicating you have maintained a 3.0 GPA, to the NSS Scholarship Department at the conclusion of EACH school year before they will be considered eligible to receive payment for a second, third, or fourth year grant. These transcripts must be received by JULY 15TH. NO EXCEPTIONS, THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Do not rely on parents, friends, or your agent to get your information in. If your paperwork is not in the home office by the deadline you will not receive a check!
2. If you are transferring to another school, you MUST notify the NSS Home Office IN WRITING by sending in an acceptance letter to prove you will be attending a new school full time, by JULY 15TH, BEFORE checks are issued. No renewal checks will be issued after September 15th of each year for any reason.

Fraternal Matters...

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



PVR Scholarships

Attention 2014 Graduating Seniors.
NSS is accepting requests for applications for the PVR Scholarships. The scholarship is for \$500 per year for a total grant of \$2,000. Below are the guidelines that you must meet in order to be eligible.

The student must be a member of the National Slovak Society (NSS) for a minimum of two (2) years prior to receiving a PVR Scholarship Grant. Membership will be verified by the Home Office.

The minimum amount of insurance required for eligibility is \$10,000.00 of PERMANENT life insurance or \$5,000.00 of annuity deposits. The insurance must be in force at time of application and be maintained throughout the scholarship period.

Please contact me, Pam Blum, at 724-731-0094 or email me at pblum@nsslife.org to see if you qualify to request an application. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2014.

2014 Fraternalist of the Year

As a fraternal benefit society our mission calls us to “reach out to touch lives” in concern for those in need around us through our families, churches and communities. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the NSS that have gone that “extra mile” in volunteer fraternal services (i.e. meals on wheels, hospital work, visiting shut-ins, etc.). We are encouraging **ALL ASSEMBLIES** and for the NSS membership to nominate a fellow member who is deserving of consideration for this award. Please contact the Home Office or visit our web site at www.nsslife.org under “Forms” click on “Fraternal”.

*All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.
.....Charles M Schulz*



Happy Valentine's Day

2014 United Slovak Fraternalists Bowling Tournament

This year's tournament will be held April 25 & 26, 2014 at the AMF Mt. Lebanon Lanes, Pittsburgh, PA. Hotel accommodations will be provided by the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pittsburgh PA.

Please see the entry form and rules elsewhere in this publication. It is sure to be a weekend of fun and fraternalism!!

2014 National Golf Tournament

The 2014 National Golf Tournament will be held July 18-20, 2014 at Sawmill Creek Golf Course located in Huron, OH with accommodations at Sawmill Creek Resort. Would you like to get on my mailing list for updates? Email me at pblum@nsslife.org and get your name added!

2014 NSS Youth Achievement Award

In 1998 The National Assembly voted to establish a “Youth Achievement Award” that is similar to our “Fraternalist of the Year Award” for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members under the age of 21. The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in one of the following areas. School/work, community, church and their local assembly. If you know of a youth member who is deserving of consideration for this award please contact the Home Office or visit our web site at www.nsslife.org under “Forms” click on “Fraternal”.

“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



Filing Status	Annual Income	% of SS that is taxable
Single	Less than \$25,000	All SS income is tax free
	\$25 - \$34,000	Up to 50% of SS may be taxable
	\$34,000 or more	Up to 85% of SS may be taxable
Married filing Joint	Less than \$32,000	All SS income is tax free
	\$32-\$44,000	Up to 50% of SS may be taxable
	\$44,000 or more	Up to 85% of SS may be taxable

Social Security and You

Since Social Security (SS) was first established in 1939 Americans have relied on this program to help fund their retirement years. The program and the concept are fantastic and have provided millions with security. Fast forward to today and many people worry about the future of Social Security. While the ultimate fixes to SS have yet to be put in place, we hope that our politicians will make the right decisions soon. Subtle changes now will have a tremendous effect on future benefits.

No matter what happens you can count on Social Security (SS) to be part of your future. At one-time many financial planners referred to retirement as the three-legged stool made up of (1) Social Security, (2) company pensions & 401k's and (3) IRAs, personal savings, and other assets.

One area that current Social Security recipients are aware of is the taxation of their benefits. New retiree's or people planning on retiring soon should know that at one time SS benefits were tax-free. But times have changed and many taxpayers can now expect that some portion of their SS benefits will be taxed. Above is a basic chart:

So you can see a couple with a joint income of \$40,000 and interest of \$5,000 would be over the threshold and 85% of their SS may be taxable. It is important to understand this procedure. Any income can push you into the next tax bracket. For instance: part time income, future IRA withdrawals (especially RMDs after age 70½), interest earnings, taxable dividends, lottery winnings, etc. all have a way of adding to your adjusted gross income and affecting the tax you pay on your SS income.

Some of the ideas to help you minimize SS taxes are: work less, transfer IRA monies to a Roth IRA, or open a Roth IRA. Another idea is to move taxable CD interest to an annuity that is tax deferred. This last point works well especially if you don't need the interest to live on.

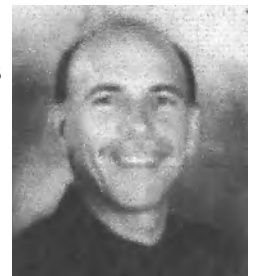
The bottom line is NSS Life can help you prepare for the future with some of our products and services. Please call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.

NSS does not provide tax advice. This is general information for the public. Please see IRS publication 915 for more information. As always you should consult with your tax advisor to see how this information affects your specific situation.

Congratulations To Our Leaders From 2013

NSS congratulates our 2013 yearly leaders. Top premium producer is **Berkley Badger** of Clearwater, FL and our top new member producer is **Ron Sturga** of Edinboro, PA. Thank you both for a great year.

Our top **PREMIUM PRODUCER** is Berkley Badger of Investors Choice Group in Clearwater, Florida. Berkley has 34 years of insurance experience. Berkley and his wife, Annette, have 3 children. To contact Berkley please call his office at 727-796-3339 or email him at: berklebadger@yahoo.com



Our top **NEW MEMBER PRODUCER** for the year of 2013 is Ron Sturga. Before entering the insurance business, Ron was a high school teacher, counselor and football coach at Port Allegheny H.S. He is a retired faculty member of Edinboro University. Ron works with families and specializes in the twenty pay life marketplace. The advantages of this plan along with fraternal benefits like the scholarship program (worth up to \$2,000) makes it an easy choice especially with Family Matters. Ron and his wife Mary reside in Edinboro, PA. They have a son in Greenville, SC and a daughter in Denver, CO. Ron can be reached at 814-734-5248.



Thought for the Month

No one can cheat you out of ultimate success but yourself.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 - 1882)

ASSEMBLY 008

Cleveland, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23rd, 2014 at 102 Grimm Heights, Struthers, OH at 2:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend. Routine business will be discussed and delegates will be elected for the upcoming convention. If you are interested in being a delegate but will not be able to attend the meeting, please call Dean Burns at 330-519-6419 to put your name in for nomination before February 16th, 2014.

Dean Burns
President

ASSEMBLY P38A

Wintersville, OH

A Dinner/Meeting will be held at "The Gaslight Restaurant" at 820 Canton Road (Rte 43) Wintersville, Ohio on Saturday, March 08, 2014. We will have a cocktail hour at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner (order from Menu) at 5:30 p.m. All members of P38A (and their guests) are urged to attend this our bi-annual dinner/meeting.

As this is a complimentary meal, **RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST!!!!** We have limited seating, so first come, first served. Please call 740-264-4333 or 740-283-1916 to place your reservations and get directions if needed. We hope to have one or two of our NSS National Directors in attendance to give us the latest news from the Home Office and to answer any questions we may have regarding the NSS in general. We will also be electing delegates to the NSS Convention to be held in Hershey, PA in June 2014. Please consider accepting this very responsible position for our Fraternity. It will not only be educational but also very entertaining at this popular resort.

Please plan on attending this Fraternal Evening. We look forward to seeing you there.

Roger Watts
President

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Delegate Election Meeting

Our first meeting in 2014 will be held at the IHOP restaurant community room, in the Walmart Plaza in Uniontown, PA on Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. We will be electing delegates to the 2014 NSS Quadrennial Convention on June 22-25, at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. Come and enjoy a free dinner and the fraternal fellowship.

Because we serve over eight hundred members, we are eligible for sixteen delegates to the 2014 NSS Quadrennial Convention. If you cannot be at the meeting and wish to be a delegate, please call me at 724-355-4100 or 724-570-1301.

The NSS Constitution and By-laws has two requirements to be an assembly delegate: 1) Must be an adult member in good standing; 2) Must be a member of the assembly one (1) year prior to the opening of the convention. The society will pay the transportation, lodging and meal costs for each delegate at the convention site.

Congratulations to our circle member, Madison Beatty and our secretary Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. for their winning entries in the recent NSS Ornament Contest.

Earn some extra \$\$\$ by being an NSS Recommender. Currently, there is a "2014 Convention" Recommender Campaign going on. Information is in the latest issue of the "National News".

Parents and grandparents! If you have an outstanding child in high school or college, the NSS Youth Achievement Award is available with a prize of \$500.00. Deadline for entry is April 1st and entry forms are on the NSS website.

High school seniors are reminded that applications for the NSS Scholarship Program are due on May 1st. Information is on the NSS website.

Seniors!! Scholarships are available for you too! If you are over fifty-five and have successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course, the NSS will pay one-half of the course fee up to \$100.00, twice a year.

We had a great 2013 and we look forward to an even better 2014 with more participation of our adult and youth members. See you at IHOP on March 11th at 6:00 p.m.

John Payerchin
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 065

Chicago, IL

I missed the January issue so I am late in wishing our members a very Happy and Healthy New Year! Hopefully you had an enjoyable holiday season.

Our February 10 convention meeting will be held at the Riverside Restaurant, starting at 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend this meeting, please call me at 708-387-7244 as I will be making reservations. Meeting dates for 2014 will be listed under "At a Glance". One month prior to meeting, location of meeting will be published.

A Region Meeting was held with Assembly 586 on Sunday, December 22 at the Bohemian Garden Restaurant. The convention was discussed and we are waiting for further information.

Mildred Mendel
President

ASSEMBLY 070/C070 Brooklyn, OH

A meeting will be held Sunday, March 16, 2014 at Dr Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15 p.m. The agenda includes election of delegates for the Convention and also plans for our June picnic. Refreshments will be served.

John Karkosiak
President

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 100 Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at Philip Chojnicki's residence, 994 West George Street, Carmichael's, PA. Assembly and convention business will be discussed. If you plan attending, please call 724-966-8056 or 412-337-8022 (cell) so that we can prepare accordingly. Any questions or directions, please free to call. All members are welcome.

Mary Lou Chojnicki
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 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 123 Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16th, at the Moon Township Eat N Park located on University Blvd at 12:30 p.m. At this meeting we will be choosing the delegates for the upcoming convention. This convention will be held in Hershey PA, June 22nd – 25th. Also, we will be planning future assembly activities.

It has been scheduled for us to attend a concert given by the West Hills Symphonic Band. The date for this concert is Sunday March 2nd at 3 p.m. at the West Allegheny High School in Imperial. Afterwards we will be going to dinner at a nearby restaurant.

If you plan on attending either the meeting on February 16th or the concert on March 2nd, you must call Joan Smith 412-778-0431 or me at 724-242-5085. The deadline to notify us for the February 16th meeting is Wednesday, February 12th and the deadline for the concert is Wednesday, February 26th.

To bring all members up to date, at the December meeting it was voted to donate \$100 to the Wounded Warriors Project, \$100 to the West Hills Food Bank, \$100 to the St. Joseph's Church Coraopolis St. Vincent de Paul Society, \$100 to the PVR fund, \$50 in memory of Dolly Peters, our departed Secretary-Treasurer and \$50 in honor of Mr. Bob Brown the NSS Fraternalist of the Year.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY L161 Pittsburgh, PA

Our assembly will meet on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at the Ondrejco residence, 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207 at 7:00 p.m. Election of delegates for the convention to be held at Hershey Lodge in June will take place. Other information regarding the convention will be discussed as well as activities for the remainder of the year. Please make every effort to attend.

If you are planning on attending please call 412 421-1204.

Sue Ondrejco
Secretary

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 381

Grosse Ile, MI

A meeting will be held on March 4, 2014 at the Medved's, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI at 3:00 p.m. We will elect delegates to the 36th Quadrennial Convention held in Hershey, PA.

Joanne Medved
Treasurer

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 441

West Mifflin, PA

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the Crowley residence, 576 Irwin Run Road, West Mifflin, PA at 7:00 p.m. Routine business and delegates will be elected for the upcoming convention. If you interested in being a delegate and cannot attend, please call Lori Crowley at 412-461-3091. Please RSVP by February 16th, so we can plan accordingly.

Lori Crowley
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 588

Slovan, PA

Election of Officers for 2014

Assembly 588 elected officers and set meeting dates for the coming year at its meeting on November 18, 2013. The officers for 2014 are:

President- John Bebo, Jr.;
Vice President – Keith Kucherawy;
Recording Secretary – Annette Stefka;
Financial Secretary – Joseph Stefka, Jr.; and
Activities Director/Eldress – Florence Bebo.

Meetings will be held at the Stefka residence at 52 Spring Valley Street, Slovan, Pennsylvania at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, February 24, 2014;
Monday, April 28, 2014;
Monday, September 22, 2014;
and Monday, November 17, 2014.

Delegates to the 36th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania will be elected at the February 24, 2014 meeting. Please try to attend the meetings and become active in your assembly.

Annette Stefka
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 588

Slovan, PA

Election of Convention Delegates

A meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2014, at the Stefka residence at 52 Spring Valley Street Slovan, Pennsylvania at 6:00 p.m. In addition to regular assembly business, the election of delegates to the 36th Quadrennial Convention from Assembly 588 will take place. Please try to attend the meeting to elect our representatives to the convention which will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania, June 22nd through June 25th, 2014.

Annette Stefka
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 617/C617

Ashley, PA

Election of Officers and Delegates

A luncheon/meeting will be held at the Grotto Pizza, Route 11 Edwardsville, PA on Saturday, February 15, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. Order of business will include: election of officers, annual reports, and the planning and scheduling of our upcoming events.

At this meeting we will also elect our eight (8) delegates for the 2014 NSS 36th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, PA beginning June 22, 2014.

All members are invited and encouraged to come to this important meeting.

Reservations are required by February 12, 2014 by calling Rose Mary Strish at (570) 825-3681.

Rose Mary Strish
President

ASSEMBLY 700

Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting will be held on March 9th, 2014 at William Ferienc's residence, Richey Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA at 2:00 p.m. Delegates for the upcoming convention will be elected. Please try to attend.

Dr. William Ferienc
President

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Our assembly will hold a meeting following the Region meeting on Sunday, February 16 at 3:00 p.m. at the Poland Christian Church on Struthers Rd. in Poland Township, Ohio. Election of assembly officers will take place at this meeting. Information about the NSS 36th Quadrennial Convention this summer will be shared and delegates to represent Assembly 731 will be elected.

Laurie Fox
President

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.

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

Paul J Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 774

Pittsburgh, PA

Delegate Convention Meeting

A meeting will be held at the Home Office, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA at 2:00 p.m. Election of delegates to the 36th Quadrennial Convention in June, 2014 will be held and any other business will be discussed at this time.

Linda Strom
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 800

Bonita Springs, FL

Matching Funds Project

The 3rd Annual National Kidney Foundation Kidney Walk will be held

at Lakes Regional Park, Fort Myers, FL. The event is scheduled for March 16th, 2014, all funds that are raised will be put towards, patient services program, awareness programs, and health screenings.

Assembly #800 is going to hold this as a Matching Funds project and is asking its members to come out and support this worth while cause by either walking or making a monetary contribution. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Gary Cepko at 239-566-7180.

Gary Cepko
President

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

Meeting Date Changed

Members of Assembly 813, Englewood, FL will meet on Feb. 15, 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

REGION 2

Hazleton, PA

Election of Officers and Delegates

A luncheon and meeting will be held at the Grotto Pizza Route 11, Edwardsville, PA on February 22, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. This is an important meeting for the election of officers,

our annual reports, and plan our upcoming yearly events. We will also elect our (1) delegate to the 2014 NSS Convention in Hershey, PA beginning June 22, 2014.

A representative or two from the Home Office may also be attending this meeting to give an update on the society and this years convention. If they are able to come, they will have a drawing for a door prize. More information will be available when you make your reservation.

Reservations are required by February 18, 2014 by calling Rose Mary Strish at 570-825-3681.

Rose Mary Strish
Secretary

REGION 5

Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at the Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 p.m.

Election of our delegate to the NSS Convention in June, 2014 will be held. Please try to attend.

Joseph Stefka
President

REGION 7

Youngstown, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014, at the Poland Christian Church on Struthers Rd., Poland Township, OH at 2:00 p.m. Election of region officers will take place at this meeting. Information about the NSS 36th Quadrennial Convention this summer will be shared and delegates to represent Region 7 will be elected. Contact Laurie Fox at 330-536-8850, for additional information or directions.

Laurie Fox
Secretary

From The President's Desk...

(continued from page 5)

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. "Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life."

A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filled his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for you time! Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most...was...my time." Jack held the watch for few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked. "I need some time to spend with my son," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet...thanks for your time!"

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away," and by the way, **Thank you for your time...**

(From the internet-Author Unknown)

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS December, 2013

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Beiser, Vernard G	Saginaw, MI	11/27/2013	0381
Burke, Margaret	Charleston, WV	11/28/2013	0774
Burrell, Dorothy	Largo, FL	06/05/2007	L075
Cassano, Thomas	Corapolis, PA	11/01/2013	0283
Cervenak, Klement	North Olmsted, OH	11/14/2013	0432
Cook, Carol R	Madison, WI	11/13/2013	0774
Cup, George J	Pittsburgh, PA	09/26/2013	0100
DeBlasio, Anna Irene	S Fayette, PA	11/14/2013	0434
Dorundo, Albert A	S Huntingdon, PA	12/15/2009	0737
Duchock Jr, Steve	Brookside, AL	08/13/2013	0100
Dvonch, Louis	Manassas, VA	07/01/2013	0586
Evangelist, Betty A	Belle Vernon, PA	12/03/2013	0377
Frano, Joseph C	DuBois, PA	12/11/2013	0774
Fredley, James C	Tarentum, PA	12/10/2013	0700
Garvey, Marie A	Luzerne, PA	05/11/2013	0617
Grech, John E	Pasadena, CA	03/29/2013	0568
Hudak, Mark	Benton, PA	03/22/2013	L075
Hvisdak, Ludmila	Hamilton Twp, NJ	02/10/2002	R059
Jarosz, Jacqueline M	Washington, PA	10/01/2013	0434
Kacsur, Judith A	Corapolis, PA	11/15/2013	0123
Kavanagh, Lillian	Livingston, NY	07/24/2013	0299
Leadman, Denzel	Hurricane, WV	11/06/2013	0774
Linder, Willis	Cary, NC	10/22/2013	0774
Mazur, Kathleen B	Marblehead, OH	11/26/2013	0160
McFadden, Fred A	Grove City, PA	12/06/2013	0731
Moore, Eleanor A	Glenshaw, PA	11/20/2013	0700
Patterson, Joan J	Bethlehem, PA	11/18/2013	L102
Poch, Helen	McMurray, PA	12/08/2013	L161
Rop, Jason C	Muskegon, MI	08/18/2013	0381
Sabol, Valentine	Valrico, FL	11/23/2013	0267
Smith, Ronald D	Milwaukee, WI	10/26/2013	0774
Stoss, Richard	Swoyersville, PA	11/13/2013	0617
Sulich, Gregory	South Canaan, PA	10/24/2013	L075
Swenglish, Charles L	Smithfield, PA	11/15/2013	0377
Vandiver, Margaret A	Norfolk, VA	10/20/2013	0377
Wojtaszek, Margaret	Pittsburgh, PA	12/01/2013	L161
Yaniko, Anna	Cochranon, PA	03/13/2011	0004
Zoldak, Michael F	Northville, MI	12/03/2013	0381

Happy 124th Birthday to NSS on February 16th

Assembly 813 Toy Drive



Assembly 813 recently met with the Marine Corps Reserve to support their Toys for Tots toy drive. Pictured are Cheryl Garnett of the Marine Corps Reserve, NSS National Director Mary Jo Holker, Mike Walton, coordinator for Toys for Tots, and 1st Sgt. General Dickerson, Retired USMC. All toys donated by Assembly 813 were made in the USA. The elves of Assembly 813 got into the holiday spirit in many other ways as well. They read to children in the Headstart Program in support of RIF. They were Salvation Army bell ringers, and volunteered at the hospitality center for the Downtown Christmas festival. They participated in the Shoe Boxes for Seniors and donated personal hygiene items for homeless students through the Backpack Angels. All of these things put us in the true holiday spirit.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

Assembly 813 Christmas Party



Our assembly concluded our very busy Christmas season with our annual Christmas party on December 22nd, 2013. With food prepared by Kerry Farrell, music by Dan Farrell, and a visit from Santa, it was an enjoyable, fraternal evening. Santa gave gifts (provided by the NSS home office) to young and old. Everyone enjoyed the food and merriment. Our next meeting will be held February 15th at 2:00 p.m. Please make every effort to attend. Call Mary Jo Holker at 941-473-0559 to advise if you plan to attend.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary



L-R: Kerry Farrell, Assembly 813, Pat Grimes accepting check from NSS Director Mary Jo Kruger for the Brown Bag program to provide food for needy seniors.

Assembly 004

Our Christmas Luncheon was held on December 8th at Yorktown Lanes. Everyone enjoyed a fine buffet prepared by Mike Cottrell. All in attendance were given a gift provided by the Assembly. One lucky person won a fruit basket, donated by Laura Havir, Assembly Eldress. A good time was had by all.

Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Bud SirLouis
Secretary/Treasurer

Assembly 123



National Director, Bill Knoll presents the Fraternalist of the Year plaque to Mr. Robert Brown of Assembly 123.

Assembly 070



John Karkosiak, Ed and Carole Koches presenting Matching Fund checks from Assembly 70 and Region 8 to Cleveland Food Bank external affairs chairperson Kristin Warzocha.

Február



NSS Life
Family Matters...

16. Februára slávime 124 výročie vzniku našej organizácie Národného Slovenského Spolku v Amerike.

Čest nášmu prvému predsedovi Peter V. Rovnianek a jeho spoluorganizovateľom ktorý verili, že každý ma právo byť Pánom vo svojom veru i Slovák na Slovensku.

Dnes je to skutočnosťou a Slovensky Národný Spolok rastie i naďalej v službe pre svoje členstvo.

Nech motto: Bratstvo—Rovnosť— Sloboda sa pestuje i naďalej v celom členstve NSS a u všetkých Slovakov po svete.

Oznámenie členom NSS: Láskave oznamujeme našim členom NSS, že tohto roku 2014 sa zijdeme na 36 konvenciu ktorá sa prevedie v Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA, od 22-do25 júna.

Vyzývame všetky assembly našej organizácie aby zvolili svojich delegátov a ich prihlášky zaslali do hlavného úradu do 22 Marca.

Február—Zima

Vo februáry prudká zima ale príde Matej a poláme ľady a len za krátku chvíľu už prídu i vtáci štebotať a zvestovať že slniečko je teplejšie a nový život prírody je nablízku.

14. Februára ako slovensky národ si pripomíname i našich vierozvestcov Sv. Cyrila a Metóda ktorý v roku 863 prišli na veľkú moravu a pokrstili náš národ v Kresťanstvo.

A 14 Februára slávime i sviatok sv. Valentína svätca ktorý sobášil milujúce sa páry aj napriek tomu že to mal zakázane. On videl do srdce milujúcich sa a doprial im vyznať svoju lásku pred ľuďmi a Bohom a ako knaz posväcoval ich manželstvom.

V deň jeho sviatku aj my sa pripájame k tradícii Sv. Valentína a vyznávame lásku k manželom, manželkám, deťom i blíznym. "Láska Bože láska kde ťa ľudí berú."

Alebo Vy ktorý poznáte melódiu:

Na Košickej turni dva holubky šedza ľudze im závidza,
ľudze im závidza že še radzi vidza.

Ach ľudze preľudze vezavidzce že im šak je to šumna vec,
šak je to šumna vec dzivče i mládenec.



Davnejšie tak pracovali naši rodičia na slovensku v zimnych mesiacoch, vyšivali, tkali aby bolo bielizne na celý rok.

Takéto aktivity nazývali priadky.

A keď sa tá poschádzali dievky a ženy neskôr tam prišli i mládenci, veru bolo i žartov i smiechu veď sú fašiangy.



**Valentín je sviatok krásny,
preži si ho v láske, šťastí.**



**Žiadne slzy, lásky veľa,
to Ti dnes z srdca želám.**



Studňa lásky

K hradnej studni sa viaže povest' o láske tureckého šľachtica Omara ku krásnej Fatime, zajatkyni trenčianskeho hradného pána Štefana Zápoľského.

Aby Fatimu vyslobodil, prisľúbil Omar, že vykope na Trenčianskom hrade v tvrdej skale studňu. Po tri roky kopal so svojimi druhmi, až skala skutočne vydala vodu, z kopáčov však prežili iba nemnohí. Prvú čašu vody Omar podal Zápoľskému so slovami: "Vodu máš Zápoľský, ale srdce nemáš". Keď Omar odvážal oslobodenú Fatimu na koni z hradu, zachytil sa jej závoj na šípovom kriku. Na tom mieste dodnes stojí najstarší hostinec v Trenčíne, nazývaný "Fatima", alebo v skorších časoch i "Závoj".



Youth Circle Page

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

NSS YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD Rules And Regulations

The National Fraternal Congress of America, through their "Americas Promise" Program, has encouraged their member societies to increase their awareness of the contributions of youth to the fraternal benefit system. In response to that challenge, the National Assembly, in 1998, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" that is similar to our "Fraternalist of the Year Award" for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members under the age of 21.

RATIONALE: The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these four (4) areas: a) At their school/work, b) In their community, c) In their church, d) In their local assembly.

NOMINATION: Youth members can be nominated by any adult member of the NSS or through their local assembly. A document detailing the qualifications of the Youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Home Office. A Youth Member may be nominated each year either until they reach their twenty-first (21st) birthday or until they are selected to receive this award. Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Forms/Fraternal."

DEADLINE: Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is April 1st of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

AWARD: The winning youth will receive a \$500.00 U.S. Savings Bond and will be announced in the "National News", the "Youth Circle Magazine" and listed on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Youth Achievement Award". Their name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

JUDGING: An independent judge, appointed by the National President, will review all nominations and make a determination of the winner. The National President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

**The winner of the NSS "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified
by the Home Office of their selection.**

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

For more information, contact the National Slovak Society of the USA
ATT: Youth Achievement Award
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317
Phone (724) 731-0094
Fax (724) 731-0145
NSS Web Site: www.nsslife.org

Appreciation Letter

Dear National Slovak Society,
Happy New Year and also Merry Christmas to all of you!

This note is very belated but also better late than never at the same time I say.

As my family reflects on 2013, we are thankful for many things, one of which is the National Slovak Society. My family have been members for a long time and we really enjoy reading your newsletter that we have been receiving every year. I myself have seen the newsletter go through many great changes that have been both interesting and also exciting. I have watched my two children grow and have also seen the NSS grow - both have come a long way!

My thank you is from my family for the very beautiful article and photo about my son Joshua's achievement last year as Eagle Scout that was published in the NSS March issue last Spring (told you this is very belated).

We are very proud of him and his accomplishment and it was so nice of you to help us celebrate this achievement in your newsletter. It made our day, especially Josh's, to see your newsletter acknowledge him so nicely with the full article and nicely placed picture.

Thank you once again - (I have been meaning to write this forever)!
Have a great year with continued NSS success!

Jo Anna Naylor and Family
(Jim, Josh and Danielle Naylor)

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

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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.