



National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

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THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP



National Slovak Society

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351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

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Linda Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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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	<p>Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No activities at this time</p>
REGION 5	<p>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774, 0809</p> <p>December 7 Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Social Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm December 7 Assembly 0377, Christmas Party/Meeting, Atria's, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm December 7 Assembly 0123, Frick Mansion Tour, Point Breeze, PA at 3:00 pm December 13 Region 5, Little Lake Theatre, Canonsburg, PA at 7:30 pm</p>
REGION 7	<p>Assemblies P09A, 0008, 0731</p> <p>December 4 Assembly P09A, Christmas Party, Yankee Kitchen, Boardman, OH at 5:45 pm December 6 Region 7, Christmas Party, Holy Family Parish Hall, Poland, OH at 1:00 pm</p>
REGION 8	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>December 7 Assembly 0070/C070, Christmas Party/Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Ch, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15pm December 14 Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Gemini Center, Fairview Park, OH at 12 Noon December 16 Assembly 0432, Christmas Meeting, Transfiguration Parish Hall, Lakewood, OH at 7:00 pm December 16 Assembly 0160, Fun Frolic Night December 31 Assembly 0432, New Years Eve Party, Bill & Sue Shuttleworth's residence at 6:00 pm January 20, 2015 Assembly 0160, Annual Dinner/Meeting at 6:00 pm February 28, 2015 Assembly 0432, Annual Dinner Dance/Reverse Raffle</p>
REGION 10	<p>Assemblies 0586</p> <p>December 11 Assembly 0586, Stedraký Christmas Luncheon, Sts. Peter & Paul Lutheran Church, Riverside, IL</p>
REGION 14	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>January 11, 2015 Region 14, Holiday Party, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm</p>
REGION 15	<p>Assemblies L002, 0028, L145</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No activities at this time</p>
AT LARGE	<p>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0299, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0705, 0800, 0813</p> <p>December 3 Assembly 0813, Appreciation Dinner, TGIF Restaurant at 6:30 pm December 7 Assembly 0110, Meeting/Christmas Dinner, Ponticello Restaurant, Astoria, NY at 1:00 pm December 14 Assembly R019, Basket Raffle/Luncheon December 21 Assembly 0568, Mass/Luncheon, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Ontario, CA at 11:00 am December 22 Assembly 0813, Christmas Party, Farrell's residence at 2:00 pm December 24 Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve celebration March 22, 2015 Assembly 0381, Welcome Spring Lunch/Meeting, Time/Location TBD</p>

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
National President

Greetings from the Home Office, as we wind down 2014 and look forward to 2015. Let me start off by wishing each and every member of the National Slovak Society a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year from the entire Blazek Family. 2014 has been a very busy year and seemed to fly by all too fast. We held our Quadrennial Convention in June and at the same time we were undergoing our once every 5 year examination from the PA Insurance Department. A tip of the hat goes to my co-officer Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom and to the entire Home Office Staff for all their help in preparing for the convention and in providing all information to the Insurance Examiners in a timely matter that made the exam proceed smoothly.

Upcoming in 2015 we have another major happening in the Society; our 125th Anniversary which will be celebrated at a Gala Banquet on Saturday March 7th, 2015. So mark your calendars and plan on attending this once in a lifetime event.

December is probably one of the busiest months for Assembly and Region activities in the NSS. In looking at the Activities at a Glance page, I see numerous Christmas Parties scheduled, a tour of the Frick Mansion in Point Breeze, PA., a Fun Frolic Night in

Lorain Ohio, a Stedrak Christmas Luncheon in Riverside Il., a Basket Raffle/Luncheon in New York and a Christmas Eve celebration in Indiana.

Region 5 in Pittsburgh is planning on attending a Christmas Play on December 13th. So check the schedule of events in your area and try to make it to an event.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes go out to National Director Sue Ondrejco, Honorary Tribunal Member Sophie Hudak, Home Office staff members Brigid Delien and Cyndi Salat, John and Kevin Crowley, Annette Stefka, my son David W. Blazek, and my wife Frances Blazek.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Wally Kosiba who has been undergoing some health issues and to National Director Drew Wesnak who continues rehabbing from a work injury. Congratulations to Julie Godor on the birth her son Liam; Julie is the daughter of National Director Keith Godor; and congratulations to National Director Mike Czarney and his wife Randi on the recent birth of their son, Chase Michael Czarney. As of this writing, National Director Abigail Gross and husband Michael are awaiting the birth of their second child in late November.

Congratulations to all other members that may be celebrating in December and best wishes go out to any of our members that are having any health issues.

Adult Truth For The Month:

Bad decisions make good stories.

Board of Directors Meeting

The newly elected Board of Directors held their Re-organizational/Fall Board Meeting on November 8th and 9th. All Board members were in attendance and we had a very good two day meeting. Results of the third quarter were delivered by our CPA Donald Reddinger and the numbers are right on track for what we have projected for the year 2014. We also reviewed the preliminary budget for 2015. During the session we held a Board orientation session as we have four new board members; perhaps the most to join the board at one time other than when the Society was first founded in 1890. During the sessions, the new members of the board were very involved in all discussions and had many good comments and ideas. After a lengthy presentation by our investment advisor, the board voted unanimously to hold the current credited rates on our annuity policies for the first quarter of 2015 as the country continues to operate in a low interest environment.

125th Anniversary

If you haven't heard yet, the 125th Anniversary of the NSS will be celebrated at a Gala Banquet in the Pittsburgh area on Saturday, March 7th. For out of towners, we have blocked hotel rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn, Pittsburgh/Southpointe, which is the location of the Banquet. We encourage our members in the Tri-state area to attend this once in a lifetime event.

More details will be forthcoming from our Fraternal Activities Coordinator but in the meantime, mark your calendar to save the date.

A Page From My Notebook.....

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



Holiday Homework

I'm sure those of you that received or obtained a copy of our Convention Minutes have read them and found that the month of the convention was published as July when it should have read June.

Well, I have a holiday project for all of you. While you are relaxing and doing nothing but eating and watching football, read your convention minutes again and take a red pencil and cross out the month 'July' and pencil in the month 'June'.

I wonder how many of you just said: "She's finally lost it!" or "Sure, when Hell-o freezes over". Well, I'm only kidding. The convention month is incorrect and should be June but you don't have to fix it (unless you really are bored).

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HO, HO, HO

3rd Quarter Results

Third Quarter results are in and once again show controlled growth. Net Admitted Assets: \$783,022,566; Surplus: \$25,858,006; Solvency: 103.4% and Profit/Net Income: \$5,074,780. Next months publication will include the 3rd Quarter Financial Report.

2014 Reorganizational Board Meeting

The 2014 Reorganizational meeting of the Board of Directors began Saturday, November 8 at the Home Office. This first meeting has always been designated as a reorganizational meeting as it includes Directors elected and re-elected at the convention.

I'd like to congratulate the 2014-2018 Board of Directors on a very successful meeting and to extend my welcome to the newly elected Directors: Alan Burns, Michael Czarney, Andrea Garbon and Abigail Gross.

Assembly/Region Packets

Annual Assembly/Region Packets will be sent out this month. If you haven't received your packet by the end of December please call me at the Home Office to verify your mailing address and we will get one out to you.

Withdrawals and RMDs

Do not wait until the last week of December to determine if you need to take a minimum distribution for the 2014 tax year or if you need to make a withdrawal. We ask that you have your requests in to the Home Office no later than December 15th.

Beneficiaries

It's that time of year when we take a look back and reflect on the past year. Some of you had life changes that require updating your personal information, especially your beneficiaries. Please contact Brigid Delien at the Home Office if your personal information requires updating.

A Slovak's Night Before Christmas

*Tw'as the night before Vianoce,
and all through the house
The Slovaks had gathered to eat
sauerkraut.
The kolach was nestled all snug in its dish.
Bobalki was cooking, and so was some
fish.
Babushkaed women and men in their caps
Had all settled down with food in their
laps.
When out in the lawn there arose
such a clatter.
We all went to see what was the matter.
Away to the window Baba flew like a
flash,
Screaming "Lock all the doors and
hide all the cash".
When what to our wondering eyes
should appear
But a pagach shaped sleigh complete
with reindeer.
With a little old Slovak so lively and quick,
We knew in a moment it was Janosik.
Faster than Novenas his reindeer all came
As he shouted "On Stefan" and each
reindeer's name.
"On Stefan, on Boris, on Janos, and Olga,
On Jasko, on Cyril, on Sandor and Volga".
Then out to the smokehouse the
reindeer all flew
With a sleigh full of Kolbasa and
Janosik too.
Into the smoke vent he leapt with a
bound,
Dancing the czardas and twirling around.
He did a quick polka, then went to
his work.
He gave us Oplatki then turned with
a jerk.
We gave him Kapusta and Dzedo's
old clothes,
Then sang Ticha Noc as up the vent
he rose.
But we heard him exclaim as we took off
our coats,
"Vesele Vianoce to all and to all dobre noc".*

Author Unknown

Linda Strom Receives John Jordan Upchurch Award at Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Meeting

The history of fraternalism in America begins with John Jordan Upchurch who is recognized as the father of the fraternal benefit system. He organized the first lodge of a fraternal benefit society on October 27, 1868, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, with the formation of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. The John Jordan Upchurch Award is recognition by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance for distinguished and exemplary service to fraternalism. The award was officially adopted by the Board of Directors for the Congress on June 13, 1977.

We are pleased to announce that this year's winner of the award is Linda M. Strom, National Secretary/Treasurer of the National Slovak Society. Linda is very deserving of the award having demonstrated her leadership on the local, state and national levels of the fraternal system. Her dedication to fraternalism is displayed by Linda in all she does in life. Congratulations Linda for this most deserved award.

Linda is the fourth NSS officer to receive this prestigious award since its inception in 1977. Previous recipients from NSS were Joseph Stefka Sr. in 1988, Paul M. Payerchin Jr. in 1998, and David G. Blazek in 2002. Also receiving this award in 2012 was Home Office underwriter Rick Toth.



Linda Strom and son, Ryan Strom



Linda Strom recognized by Home Office Staff for her achievement.



Pictured l-r: National Director Drew Wesnak, National Director Joseph Stefka, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom, President David Blazek and National Director Sue Ondrejco.

Christmas Message From Our National President

The holiday season is a time of tradition when families draw together, reaffirming well-loved customs and fundamental benefits. But don't forget the real reason for celebrating this most Holy Day, the birth of a Savior, Jesus Christ. The word Christmas brings warm and wonderful memories that will last a lifetime.

In spite of the uneasy tensions of the times in which we are living, the Christmas spirit gives strength to us all. If we can but fashion the spirit of Christmas into a way of life - a direction in which we travel each day - a more peaceful world is possible.

This is not a dream but something that is within our reach. If we would apply the same unselfishness, forgiveness and understanding that we feel at Christmas time to situations that arise within our daily lives in the home, in the business world and in our assemblies throughout the year, we would be taking a great step toward making the spirit of Christmas a year-round influence.

Let us try to carry the fine attitudes we have at this season into our activities in the new year. Our lives and the lives around us will be richer for this effort.

May your Christmas and New Year find the peace of mind and heart which lies within your reach. Have a blessed and joyous holiday.

David G. Blazek
President

HOME OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

In order for our staff to enjoy the holidays with their families, the schedule for the Home Office is:

Closed - December 24th / December 25th
and December 26th

Closed - December 31st at Noon,
January 1st and January 2nd

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations October, 2014

In Memory of **Albert J Alimena, Jr.**
From Assembly 123 20.00

Donations:
Rudolph Pallan 100.00
Assembly 065 250.00

PVR 125th Anniversary Perpetual Scholarship October, 2014

Donations:
Region 5 250.00
Assembly 0236 500.00

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: _____

Zip: _____

Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

And send to:
National Slovak Society
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

*May you have
peace, love, and joy
this holiday season.*

From NSS Officers and Employees

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS October, 2014

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Boepple, Patricia	Berkeley Springs, WV	07/27/2014	0774
Byers, Robert	Mahaffey, PA	09/26/2014	0554
Cartwright, Nada	Kenna, WV	08/10/2014	0809
Chapko, Anthony	Elsie, MI	10/11/2014	0381
Deuble, Susanne M	Highland, MI	08/26/2014	0160
Gregory, Elsie F	Columbus Junction, IA	07/31/2014	0813
Hanyuck, Calvin W	Nanticoke, PA	09/07/2014	0146
Hose, George M	Star City, WV	07/23/2014	0774
Jordan, Kevin J	Exexter, PA	08/31/2014	0617
Kaschak, Irene	Cleveland, OH	09/07/2014	0432
Kiselick, Mary	Sarver, PA	08/25/2014	L105
Konecko, Nevada A	Pittsburgh, PA	09/26/2014	0283
Kralosky, Helen J	Bellevue, PA	08/23/2014	0700
Leinas, Constantine S	Monroeville, PA	07/03/2014	L105
Leinas, Peter S	Monroeville, PA	04/09/2014	L105
Leventry, Pauline	Portage, PA	08/13/2014	0038
Lockard, Chester	Portage, PA	10/10/2014	0774
Lusakow, Andrew	Weirton, WV	08/12/2014	0588
Maiuri, Eva M	ST. Clair Shores, MI	08/02/2014	0381
McCandless, John	Butler, PA	09/14/2014	0123
Meyers, Kenneth D	Connellsville, PA	09/15/2014	0039
Mihm, Mary L	Pittsburgh, PA	09/13/2014	L105
Mital, Thomas	Aledo, IL	03/09/1999	0586
Novajovsky, Joseph	Bridgeport, CT	08/19/2014	L075
Pansing, Geraldine M	Wheeling, WV	09/24/2014	0595
Perry, Annetta J	Marianna, PA	09/15/2014	0588
Pytel, Anthony	Brunswick, OH	09/27/2014	0432
Roland, Mary S	Bradenton, FL	09/05/2014	0434
Ronning, Russell J	Spring Lake, MI	08/23/2014	0381
Samson, Joseph S	Pringle, PA	09/15/2014	0617
Santucci, Lucy	Pittsburgh, PA	10/11/2014	0123
Schrader, John	Kharleston, WV	09/02/2014	0809
Senvisky, Margaret	Youngstown, OH	10/02/2014	0008
Sigmon, Lettie	Kimball, WV	09/24/2014	0774
Simmons, Amy	Exeter, PA	09/23/2014	L075
Strasser, Bertha	Portage, PA	09/04/2014	0038
Summers, Janet M	Gibsonia, PA	09/14/2014	0123
Thome, Helen	Woodstock, IL	09/18/2014	0065
Turkiewicz, Walter	Linden, NJ	09/17/2014	P31M
Waskovich, Diane	State College, PA	09/14/2013	0774
Webb, Wendell E	Fryeburg, ME	09/28/2014	0774
Young, Katherine	Cross Lanes, WV	09/04/2014	0774
Zaluski, Alexander	Seminole, FL	01/16/2014	0813

Available from our Gift Shop while supplies last!

OPLATKY:

Package of 5 large wafers \$2.00

Small wafer with Christmas Blessing ideal for placing inside Christmas cards. Available in English OR Slovak. Please specify. \$1.00 each



Slovak-English;English-Slovak Dictionary

Pocket size edition by Aliberto Caforio
566 pgs. Great for travelers! \$ 12.00

EXCLUSIVE! Slovak Christmas CD

Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinik, Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols.
\$12.00



Make checks payable and mail to: NSS Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Rd.
McMurray, PA 15317

Prince of Peace Parish

21st SLOVAK VILIIJA &
JASLICKARI PROGRAM
December 13, 2014
5 p.m. Saturday

Traditional Meatless
Christmas Eve Dinner

Entertainment by:

The Pittsburgh Slovaks
*Performing songs and dances depicting the
winter traditions practiced in the Slovakia of
our ancestors.*

Donation: \$24 Adult

\$12 Children (age. 3-12)

Group Discount Available

By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380

Prince of Peace Parish Center
81 South 13th Street, South Side

Handicap Accessible

Only 150 tickets will be sold



Christmas Eve Dinner

United Slovak Societies will host a Vilija, traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner, on Sunday, December 7th, 2014 at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, Ohio at 5:30 p.m. The cost of dinner which includes the award winning Ladies Auxiliary perch is \$20.00 and will include all the traditional delights.

Advanced tickets sales please contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236. The dinner is open to the public.

Michele Mager

United Slovak Societies

ASCA Vilija Dinner

The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting their annual traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 4pm at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School) 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, Štedrý Vecer, or Vilja...the traditional Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to celebrate midnight Mass. This dinner is filled with tradition and memories of our Slovak heritage. In eastern Slovakia it is a meatless meal but by no means a meager one. We will have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal featuring oplatky and honey, fish, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup and kolacy. There will be musical entertainment and much more including a Chinese Auction and a lotto tree raffle. We'll even have oplatky for sale! We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our Slovak community. While some of us still celebrate this traditional Christmas Eve dinner at home, many no longer have that opportunity and this annual dinner is our way of keeping our tradition alive. Whether you still have this dinner at home or you remember it from your childhood and would like to experience it again...or if you've never had the opportunity to experience it but would like to...come join us in celebrating our Slovak heritage. Get your tickets soon for the best seating. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.** For ticket price and information contact: Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330-549-3760 or e-mail Loretta at: loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is December 8th.

Fraternal Matters...

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



Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. ~Oren Arnold

Senior Scholarships Available

I would like to take a minute to remind our senior members (55 and older) of the Senior Scholarships that are available to them. This scholarship is to encourage our older members to continue their education and to make fuller use of their leisure time. Each senior member is entitled to 2 applications in a calendar year. Members should enroll and pay for the course of their choice. Once the member has completed the class they must submit an application along with verification that the class was successfully completed. NSS will reimburse one-half (1/2) of the tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed \$100. If you have any questions or want more information please contact me at pblum@nsslife.org or call 724-731-0094 ext. 1010.

Christmas Eve Books

For those of you wishing to celebrate Christmas Eve in a true Slovak tradition, we have booklets available at the Home Office that we will send to you, free of charge, in time for the holidays. These booklets contain



recipes for the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper, a brief family devotion to conduct a service in the home and an explanation about the Christmas Wafers (Oplatky). The Christmas Wafers along with a variety of Christmas Ornaments made in Slovakia are available for purchase at the Home Office.

May the blessings of this holiday season be with each of you. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from our family to yours.

A Slovak Christmas Tradition

The ritual lighting of the fire used to be a widespread practice observed by all Europeans. The Christmas fire was considered sacred and later it was replaced by burning of candles as a memory of near ones no longer with us. These candles were eventually incorporated into the richly decorated Christmas trees, which arrived in Slovakia from Germany and Austria in the latter half of 18th century. The trees are traditionally decorated (in addition to the candles) with fruits (apples), homemade Christmas decorations (wood or carvings), baked goods made with honey in the form of Angels and other religious symbols and candies. The Christmas tree was kept until 6th of January (feast of the Three Kings) at which time the kids were allowed to finally have the candies and other sweets from the tree.



125th Anniversary Perpetual Scholarship

As we wind down 2014 and look forward to 2015, I would like to take the opportunity to remind our members of the campaign to raise money to commemorate our 125th Anniversary with a Perpetual Scholarship. We are asking our members, assemblies and regions to contribute to this special initiative to honor our 125 years of fraternalism. If we all work together our lofty goal of \$12,500 is well within our reach. If you would like to make a contribution to this special scholarship, please make your check payable to the:

PVR Scholarship Fund
and send it to:
Fraternal Activities Coordinator
125th Anniversary Scholarship
351 Valley Brook Rd
McMurray, PA 15317

Please make sure and designate "125th Anniversary Scholarship" on the memo line of the check.

At NSS Life we have a plan that fits your needs!

Did you know....

You could make an additional deposit to almost any Annuity with NSS-just send us a check.

Any additional funds **will not** increase the time period on early withdrawal penalties.

Current Interest Rates

Effective January 1, 2013

Preferred Choice	1.00%
Optimum 3	2.00%
Preferred 5	3.00%
Preferred 8	3.50%

**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.*



Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA

- Competitive interest rates
- Guaranteed minimum interest rate
- Tax-deferred earnings
- Avoids Probate
- Liquidity/Withdrawal features
- Flexible retirement income options
- No sales charges or fees

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
National Sales Director



10 Advantages to Owning Whole Life Insurance

The insurance industry has been around for almost two hundred years. Whole life insurance has been around nearly as long and that's why it is the bread and butter product of the industry.

With a long track record of success here are 10 reasons why you should consider owning whole life insurance.

- Lifetime insurance protection
- Level, premium payments that don't go up with age.
- Increasing cash/loan values
- Reduced paid-up options should you discontinue making payments.
- Dividends which may enhance a policy's value.
- Tax free proceeds paid to your heirs
- Assignable as collateral for loans
- Tax deferred build-up of cash value
- Can be owned by your trust for asset protection and estate planning.
- Great tool for gift giving to family or charity

Now that you know the advantages you may be thinking that whole life is too expensive. The reality is this is the most affordable permanent plan of insurance. Here are some sample monthly rates for a female, non-tobacco users: Of course males and tobacco users would pay slightly more.

Sample premium for Whole life insurance

	\$25,000	\$100,000
Age 25	\$14/mon	\$43/month
Age 35	\$23/mon	\$77/month
Age 45	\$35/mon	\$128/month

Because this is life insurance everyone tends to think of the death benefit – the face amount of the policy that would be paid to a beneficiary upon someone's death. But another important benefit of whole life insurance is the cash value. Let's examine the female, age 35; \$100,000 whole life plan for \$77 per month. The annual premium would be \$854 and after the second year the cash value increase from year to year is at least \$800 so in a sense the insurance might cost you \$54 but \$800 is going towards the savings portion of the plan. But wait there is a dividend (not guaranteed) that starting in the fifth policy year is more than the \$54 insurance cost. So if you look at the numbers after ten years – you would have paid in \$854 per year or \$8,540 for a \$100,000 of coverage. The guaranteed cash value would be \$7,800 and the projected amount (with the dividend) would be \$8,563 which is more than you paid in premiums. So from the tenth year and beyond this whole life policy is making you money. This is why life insurance is now considered an asset. This is also why life insurance is the greatest financial product ever devised.

For a free quote please contact your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office.

A Christmas Story

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the manger when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures.

He hurried outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get your passenger, my fine friend?"

The little boy replied, "I got Him at church." "And why did you take Him?" The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give Him the first ride around the block in it."

Thought for the Month

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed in the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the harbor, catch the trade winds and explore, dream and discover.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)

ASSEMBLY P09A

Youngstown, OH

Our Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 4, 2014 at the Yankee Kitchen, 6635 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio at 5:45 p.m.

Deadline for gifts for the Rescue Mission is December 11th. Call Betty DeArcangelis at 330-799-0144 by November 30th to let her know if you will be attending the Christmas Party.

Betty DeArcangelis
Secretary

As we conclude 2014, I want to thank all of our officers and members that came out to support our projects and attend our meeting and events. Especially I want to thank our youth that participated in the NSS fraternal programs. Great job, well done.

To all of our members and friends, may the birth of the Christ-Child bring you and your family the joy of His love, this Christmas Season and may the New Year bring the riches of good health and long life.

John Payerchin
President

mansion, "The Clayton", which is decorated for the holidays. The Clayton is located in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh. Our tour is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7th.

Henry Clay Frick was one of the wealthiest men in America. He ran Andrew Carnegie's steel mills. He was both greatly admired and hated. He had a passion for art and because of his wealth became a renowned art collector. Touring his mansion should be both interesting and enlightening.

After the tour we will be going to Applebee's in Edgetown Center for dinner and Christmas cheer. If you want to join us, you must call Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546. Time is running out.

In the spirit of the season, I want to give a gift of sincere compliment to my fellow officers, Larry Smith, Joan Smith and Mary Maniecki whose help has been invaluable to me. Thank you so much. Also, let me thank all our members who volunteered their time this past year.

If any of our members have any ideas or suggestions for activities this coming year or know of any of our members in need, please give me a call, 724-242-5085.

I wish each and everyone of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY R019

Buffalo, NY

Our NSS adult Matching Fundraiser will be a basket raffle/luncheon event and is scheduled for December 14, 2014. It will keep us busy making that a success.

Irine Zinter
Fraternal Director

ASSEMBLY 070

Brooklyn, OH

A Christmas Party & Meeting will be held on December 7, 2014 at the Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Rd, Brooklyn, Ohio at 12:15 p.m. Election of officers will also be held. Call John or Mary Ann Karkosiak if you plan to attend, since the lunch will be catered, at 216-741-6990. If you can bake something for the bakery table it would be appreciated. We are also accepting donations of caps, scarves, or gloves for the DML Sunday School Mitten Tree.

John Karkosiak
Financial Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

"Win a 32" HDTV"

How would a 32" HDTV look in your bedroom or kitchen?? You can be that lucky person if you attend the annual assembly Christmas party on Sunday, December 7th at the Knights of Columbus Social Hall, on North Gallatin Avenue Ext. starting at 2:00 p.m. The party is free for members with a delicious dinner, door prizes, giveaways, a Chinese auction for the NSS Scholarship Program and plenty of fraternal fellowship. Mark your calendar today!

The NSS Museum announces that Christmas wafers (oblatky) are available by contacting the home office. Information on what the museum is offering for Christmas is in the NSS magazine.

Congratulations to our deck hockey team that won another championship in their division at the Hot Shots Recreation Center in Mt. Pleasant PA.

ASSEMBLY 110

Parma, OH

The Christmas Dinner and Meeting will be held on December 7, 2014 at Ponticello Restaurant, 4611 Broadway, Astoria, New York 11103 at 1:00 p.m. Regards and best wishes to all for the Christmas holidays.

Rick DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

It is not too late if you want to join us for our Christmas celebration. This year we will be going to the Frick

ASSEMBLY 160

Lorain, OH

December 16th is our annual "Fun Frolic" Night. December's meeting will also be our annual charity event, a new tradition that once again gives our members a chance to show their generosity.

Our Annual Dinner will be held on January 20, 2015, starting with a brief meeting at 6:00 p.m. 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 377 Bentleyville, PA

Our annual Holiday Party and Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7th at Atria's, Washington Road, McMurray, Pa. at 3:00 p.m. Please bring a dozen of your favorite cookies for a cookie table. Please RSVP to me at 724-207-0410. We look forward to seeing you there and discussing upcoming plans for the new year!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 381 Grosse Ile, MI

Members, please mark your calendars for an upcoming "Welcome Spring" lunch and meeting to be held on Sunday, March 22, 2015. Details to follow in upcoming newsletters.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members of Assembly 381.

Joanne Medved
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 432 Fairview Park, OH

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on December 14, 2014 at the Gemini Center, 21225 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126. Our Assembly will gather in the Event Room from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Swimming will be from 12 - 2:00 p.m., and admission to the swimming area will be \$2.00 per person. The Center's rules for swimming are: children ages 7-9, a parent must be on the pool deck while their child is in the pool, and ages 6 and under must be accompanied by a parent in the water. We will be eating dinner, and there will be a special visit from Santa Claus. Santa will be passing out gifts for children ages 15 and younger. We will also be collecting winter clothing for the Trimble schools from Athens, Ohio. Please bring your donations to the Christmas Party. We will collect mens, women's and children's clothing.

A Christmas Meeting will be held on December 16th at 7:00 p.m. at Transfiguration Parish Hall, 12608 Madison Ave Lakewood, Ohio 44107. This meeting will include Assembly 432's election of officers. If you are interested in a position, you need to attend this meeting. Officer's will be elected for a 2 year term. We will be providing traditional Slovak meats and desserts.

Our FINAL Activity of 2014! New Years Eve, December 31st at the home of Bill and Sue Shuttleworth. Please bring a dish to share, and whatever beverages you want. The fun begins at 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for 2015 - Annual Dinner Dance/Reverse Raffle on February 28, 2015. Details to follow!

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 568 LaCanada, CA

Our annual Slovak Christmas Mass will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 710 Sultana Avenue, Ontario, CA 91761 at 11:00 a.m.

Slovak lunch will be served after mass along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Christmas. Also, following the festivities a meeting will be held to review officer reports, and hold elections of new officers and discuss assembly activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

Milan Konkol
President

ASSEMBLY 586 Chicago, IL

All members can attend free the annual Stedraký Lunch held at Sts. Peter & Paul Lutheran Church in Riverside on December 11th at Noon. Reservations need to be phoned in to Millie Mendel (708-387-7244) no later than **Sunday, December 7th** (Remember Pearl Harbor!) Guest tickets - \$15.00. **No**

tickets will be sold at the door, so please call soon. Riverside is just down the road from Oak Brook Center, too, so you can walk off that great lunch afterwards and do your other Christmas shopping.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

Assembly 813 will be celebrating the contributions their members have made throughout the year with an appreciation dinner to be held at TGIF restaurant on December 3, 2014. The dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and we ask that you call 334-718-2416 to let us know if you will be attending. A presentation of a check to Toys for Tots will precede the dinner.

The Christmas party for all members will be held on December 22 at the home of Dan and Kerry Farrell at 2:00 p.m. Members are reminded to bring in the spare change they have been saving for the Brown Bag Program of the Wiregrass. This is our Matching Funds effort for the National Fraternal Project. The Brown Bag Program is a food program that addresses the needs and concerns of the elderly. We are proud to support this program once again this year. Call 334-718-2416 or 941-473-0559 for reservations or information.

Mary Jo Holker
Treasurer

REGION 14 Whitehall, PA

Our annual Holiday party will be held on January 11, 2015 at the home of Drew and Sharon Wesnak, 1727 Elmhurst Drive, Whitehall, PA. A short meeting to begin at 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by food and drinks. For questions, call Sharon (610-769-7006).

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

REGION 5

Fraternal Night at the Little Lake Theatre

Region 5 is sponsoring a fraternal night at the Little Lake Theatre, 500 Lakeside Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 8:00 p.m. to watch the play, *A Tuna Christmas*. The play is intended for audiences over 13 years of age as outlined in the information from Little Lake Theater. During intermission of the play, dessert and coffee will be served as part of our Region 5 theater package. Those attending should plan to be at the theater by 7:30 p.m. to facilitate the ordering of dessert for the intermission. The cost of a play/dessert ticket for members is \$10.00 and the cost for any non-member is \$30.00. A limited number of seats are available.

To reserve a ticket, please send your reservation request along with a check payable to NSS Region 5 for the cost of your ticket, (\$10 for members/\$30 for non-members) to Sue Ondrejco, 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. **The deadline for reservations is Friday, December 5, 2014.** Please join us for an evening of theater, dessert, and great fraternal fun!

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Region 5 President

Assembly 123



Members of Assembly 123 volunteer at the Veterans Hospital for bingo and pizza night.



Bill Knoll, President of Assembly 123 with his wife, Susan and his grandson Jared at his confirmation in Raleigh, North Carolina.

DECK HOCKEY TEAM WINS ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP



Members of the NSS Assembly 0039 that won the championship in their division.

The NSS Deck Hockey team "Assault" sponsored by Assembly 0039 has won another championship, in their division, at the Hot Shot Recreation Center in Mount Pleasant, PA. The assembly provided the bright green shirts the team wears that has the NSS Life name and logo on the back with each player's name. We congratulate them for another successful season and championship.



Assembly L075

Members of our assembly held their old fashioned summer picnic at the Mercateli-Segilia Park in Moosic in July. Members were treated to a cook out with Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak and President Gary Edwards manning the grills with hot dogs and hamburgers. Members supplied the goodie table treats and picnic adornments. Bingo was played hosted by Marlin & Samantha Wesnak and players won WalMart gift cards. A basket raffle followed with the members donating the 18 baskets. The Margaret Pilosi Scholarship was awarded to Madison Petro. Plans were finalized for the October meeting with nominations and election of officers for the 2015-2016 term.



Shown are members in attendance; Allie and Adam Lazar. Adults in the next rows; Adam Edwards, Marlin Petro Wesnak, Dorothy & Gary Collins, Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak, Secretary Treasurer Lehrae Ann Edwards, Samantha Wesnak, The Late Lucille Ward, Good Will Ambassador Joseph Gorgol, President Gary Edwards, Patricia Gorgol, Debbie Wesnak, Timmy Ward, Vice President Lucy Piccoletti, Catherine Janichko, Cherilynne Harrington and Joe Janichko.

My Slovakia Tour - Part III

(Continued from last month)

Leaving the city of Bratislava, Slovakia's Capital, our tour traveled to the Trencin area in Western Slovakia. This is the area where my grandparents on my father's side came from. We visited a beautiful Kamen Castle, and we were overwhelmed by its opulence, it is immediately apparent how the Hungarian Aristocrats lived. In fact, Slovaks were never mentioned in any of the castles we visited.

After leaving the castle, we traveled to the city of Piestany, where one of Slovakia's prominent spas is located. Generally a spa in Slovakia is a health facility specializing in treating a certain illness. The cost for being at a spa is paid by the Slovak government as Slovakia has socialized medicare. Piestany is huge, beautiful, and located on an island. These spas are all over Slovakia and are also made available to the public at a cost. Most spas are also located in areas where there are mineral enriched thermos springs. Frankly, I had no idea thermal springs even existed in Slovakia, much less in there large number. Actually, to get to the Piestany Spa you crossed a river on a covered bridge. They were selling oplatky cookies on the bridge. These are actually our Christmas Wafers layered with various fruit fillings. They are great.

As a special treat, a personal friend of Jim and Kay invited us to a special cultural performance in Trencin. This was fantastic! Everyone received wines, Slivovitz, special pastries, and cakes to enjoy while performers put on a display of Slovak music and dance in costume. It was fantastic and really exemplified the warm and friendly nature of the Slovak people.

In the evening we had dinner in a winery and dined on Venison Goulash. This was a real treat and the goulash was outstanding. Our host was cordial and took the time to personally welcome us and to explain the details of the Slovak wine. Samples were provided. It was great fun and very educational. I personally never knew anything about Slovak wines and of Slovakia being a wine producing country. Some crazy agreement with Hungary prohibits its sales outside of Slovakia.

Next month will be our travel to the Tatry Mountains.

Donald Kolecky Sr.



Assembly L075

Members of Assembly L075 donated the lottery and camera basket to the Catherine McAuley Center. The drawing was held on Sept. 20 and our NSS members sold tickets at the 1st Friday Walks in Downtown Scranton at Duffy Jewelers and raised over \$400. The Parade of baskets grand total from this years Parade of Baskets generated \$12,700. Shown are Dorothy Collins, Timmy Ward, Lehrae Ann Edwards Secretary/Treasurer, Rita Wesnak and Tommy Ward.



At the September Luncheon sponsored by the center where the basket winners were drawn; the center honored our late member Lucille Ward who had been employed at the Center for 22 years. Sister Therese Marques, RSM and Eileen King a co-worker with Lucille; presented the boys with a beautiful planter in memory of their Grandmother. Shown are: Eileen King and Sister Therese Marques, RSM from the Catherine McCauley Center, Tim Ward Lucille's Grandson, Lucille's sister Rita Wesnak and Tom Ward Lucille's Grandson. Lucille was a beautiful woman who will be sadly missed by our members who in turn will continue to honor her with the Adopt a Family and the Parade of Baskets donations each year in her memory.



Region 2 Hazleton, PA

The Region 2 luncheon/meeting was held at the Grotto Pizza, Route 11 Edwardsville, PA on Saturday, October 25, 2014. Members from two of our Assemblies #617 and #L075 attended. After a prayer and a reflection on the life and death of our treasurer, Calvin Kanyuck, we proceeded to elect a new treasurer to replace our dedicated and loyal treasurer, Brother Calvin.

Our Financial Secretary, John Kurilla, accepted the nomination to move to treasurer. Al Gomb accepted the position of Financial Secretary. They were elected unanimously. We then discussed the fraternal events of our assemblies and then enjoyed some pizza and fraternalism.



1st row: John Kurilla, new Treasurer; Rose Mary Strish, Secretary; Marlin Petro Wesnak, President; Al Gomb, new Financial Secretary; and Mary Ann Ostrowski, Vice President. 2nd row: Stephanie Kurilla, Lucille Petro, Lehrae Edwards, Dorothy Collins, Lucy Piccoletti, and John Ostrowski. 3rd row: Margaret Lukas, Gary Collins, and Gloria Gomb.

Rose Mary Strish
Secretary

Region 14 Whitehall, PA

Region 14 members had a great evening of fun and laughter at the annual Cardinal Tomko Chapter matching funds basket bingo.



FAVORITE MEMORIES OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Our family celebrates Mikolajki (mick-o-wy-kee) on December 6th every year. As a child we never even knew about it, so I learned it from my Polish wife Justina.

In Poland, St. Mikolaj is similar to Santa and travels the countryside, blessing the children, and distributing goodies to well behaved children (the naughty get twigs). The night of December 5th, the kids put their clean boots by their bed. The next morning the boots are filled with stocking stuffers, candy, small toys and so on. My kids love it! Christmas starts a little early. *-Alan Burns*

My favorite Christmas memory was the Slovak Christmas Eve dinner each year. All of my father's sisters, their husbands, and my cousins would travel to my Grandma's and we would all gather at tables in my Grandmother's kitchen. Grandma spent the entire day preparing the delicious foods for the meal. The smell of the traditional mushroom sauerkraut soup hit you instantly as you walked into the house. My father would always offer the prayer before dinner. My father was the oldest male of the family since my Grandfather had died when my father was still a youngster. The memories of the entire family gathering together each Christmas Eve, the great Slovak foods prepared by Grandma, and the thought of Santa coming in just a few hours kept all of us excited throughout the evening. *-Joe Steffka*

My most favorite and memorable Christmases are those with my son, especially when he was a toddler. One particular Christmas, when he was 3 years old, we got him a big yellow Sesame Street 'Big Bird' which talked. It was about 20 inches tall and came in a box which was a little taller. Come Christmas morning he sat down in front of his big present and began to take the wrapping off. Upon seeing Big Bird he just sat back and literally shook with excitement. He then grabbed a hold of Big Bird, took him out of the box, threw him on the side and got up and sat in the box. He played with that box for days. The \$60 Big Bird just sat in the corner and watched. *-Linda Strom*

For as long as I can remember we have always celebrated St. Nicholas Day on December 6th. The night before I would polish my shoe with authentic Slovak shoeshine (commonly known as Vaseline). It would be left downstairs with the hope of finding it filled with treats, and a Christmas coloring book with new crayons. In school on St. Nick's day, the entire school would place one of their shoes outside the classroom door and wait for a visit from St. Nick, an angel, and Fritzi, who was dressed as a devil. It was widely known that you did not wear red to School on St. Nick's day or Fritzi would likely pay extra attention to you. Celebrating St. Nick's day is one of the many cherished traditions that our family continues to celebrate. Even though my children are grown and scattered across the country on or near the feast of St. Nicholas we all eagerly await for packages to arrive from St. Nick. *-Sue Ondrejco*

My favorite Christmas tradition is the Vilija (Holy Supper) on Christmas Eve. My great-grandparents, and then grandparents, prepared this special meal every year since I can remember. Our supper begins with mushroom-sauerkraut soup, and continues with pagac, bobalky, a white fish and oplatky (which we break apart and share before dipping in honey.) When I met my husband, I learned that he, too, celebrated the Vilija, but his family tradition is a little different as it includes eating pirohy and raw garlic. He and I look forward to sharing this Slovak tradition with our sons and teaching them about the symbolism behind this special meal. *-Abigail Gross*

My favorite memories of Christmas are coming into the living room on Christmas morning and seeing a decorated tree, with gifts all over the room. At the time, I didn't know my parents stayed up until the wee hours of Christmas morning decorating our tree, putting toys together and setting up our train and village under the tree, but rather thought it was Santa Claus. Now, after having been a parent of children, I really appreciate what they did to make Christmas morning so magical for me and my siblings. *-Dave Blazek*

A fond memory of mine is Christmas Eve dinner at my paternal Grandfather's house. We would have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner. Being the youngest grandchild I would always be at the "Kids" table. We seemed to have more fun than the adults. My Grandfather would try to put honey on the single women's heads to sweeten them up so they could attract a boyfriend. After a dinner that included many delicious Slovak cookies and of course nut roll, we would try and wait patiently for the time when we could open gifts. We would have to wait while dishes were washed and would look at the packages to see which ones were ours. My Grandfather said Santa made a special delivery so we could open them up that evening. We continue this tradition today with some variation. Because my brother the Catholic Priest is very busy on Christmas Eve, we celebrate the Sunday before Christmas. Also, since my brother-in-law is Polish, we have added Polish traditions and food. *-Bob Katricak*

I have many fond memories and favorite traditions around the Christmas season. One of my favorite memories as a child was going to Disney World over Christmas break. I remember staying up all night with excitement because I just couldn't wait to get there! One tradition my family still practices today is the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner. I can remember that even if we didn't like something to eat, we were told you have to have a little bit of everything. It's something I have looked forward to throughout the years and I appreciate the tradition that my grandparents and Father have carried on. I look forward to continuing this tradition with my family in the many years to come. *-Mike Czarney*

Veselé Vianoce



Foto: ZBIERKY PODIA VORINSKÉHO MÚZEA

Betlehemská hviezda

Betlehemske svetlo bolo znamením, ktoré oznámilo celému svetu narodenie Krista Vykupiteľa.

Už 2000 rokov sa každoročne po celom svete rozsvetujú betlehemske hviezdy nad symbolickými betlehemami. V roku 1989 sa živé betlehemske svetlo sprostredkované cez Rakúsko dostalo i k nám na Slovensko. Odvtedy každý rok tesne pred Vianocami bratislavskí skauti preberajú svetlo dovezené priamo z Betlehema, z miesta, kde sa narodil Kristus, a roznášajú ho po celom Slovensku. Skauti a bežci ho odovzdávajú ďalej do Poľska a na Ukrajinu. Tak sa betlehemske svetlo dostáva do všetkých krajín Európy: od Moskvy po Paríž od Stockholmu po Rím.

Prial by som Vám, aby ste si našli čas zájsť do kostola po svetlo z Betlehema, aby Vám donesené do Vašich domov pripomínalo, že betlehemska hviezda a jej žiara dodnes zostáva symbolom Vianoc.

Sviece zažaté betlehemským svetlom dohoria. Želám Vám však, aby ste v sebe našli silu, ktorá nechá horieť svetlo lásky a priateľstva vo Vašich srdciach po celý rok. —Daniel Baláž

Pokojne Vianoce: Prichádza čas zázrakov, čas stretnutí, čas nádejí i naplnených prianí. Pre tých, ktorí milujú život, pre tých, ktorí vedia ľúbiť, pre tých, ktorí sa vedú usmievať, pre tých, ktorí vedú odpustiť, ...pre tých, ktorí vedú snívať s otvorenými očami a pre tých, ktorí vedú, že Vianoce nie sú len jeden deň, ale po celý rok.

Pokojné, príjemne a radostné vianočné sviatky našim členom a priateľom želá

Hlavný úrad Narodneho Slovenskeho Spolku

Veselé Vianoce



Prvé drevené jasličky boli pravdepodobne postavené už v 7. storočí v bazilike Santa Maria Maggiore v Ríme.



Časové umiestnenie vianočných sviatkov (24. december - 5. január) sa od vydania Rímskeho misála roku 1570 viac menej nemenilo. Vianočný čas sa aj dnes slávi od prvých večerí dňa 25. decembra do prvej nedele po Zjavení Pána. Táto nedeľa sa v latinskej cirkvi nazýva nedeľou Pánovho krstu.

Salónky sú neoddeliteľnou súčasťou vianočnej dekorácie stromčeka. Bez nich by nebolo zdobenie vetvičiek kompletné.

Táto sladká čokoláda, zabalená do zlatého alebo strieborného obalu a zavesená na šnúrke, si vždy našla svojho fanúšika.

Po demontáži stromčeka a odkladania vianočných ozdôb ostal vždy po salónkach len prázdny papier. V redakcii sme sa preto pýtali, ktoré sú tie naj, aby boli dekoratívne, aj chutné.



Umelý stromček

alebo

Živý?

....dôležité je, aby symbolizoval pokoj a súdržnosť rodiny, veď preto stromčeky ozdobujeme...

Či radi počúvate Rádio?

Dnes skoro každá domácnosť má computer a internet lebo každý chce byť connected. Vy čitatelia týchto riadkov naladte si internet na Slovenské vysielanie z Pittsburghu na wptam.com Listen Live v každú nedeľu od od 3-tej do 4-tej popoludni, Eastern time. Áno hráme tam slovenské piesne, melódie a počas vianoc vianočné koledy ktoré Vám prinesú spomienky na rodnú vlasť, vašu mladosť a radostné chvíle Vášho života.

2014 Poetry Second Place Winners

**KEATS GROUP
AGES 5, 6 & 7**

Wrestling

by: Cody Hamilton
Age 7 - Circle 731

Before the match I was scared,
The kid was **big**, I was little
Then I went out there, shook his hand
And the ref said "wrestle"
And I took him down to the ground
And he was pinned
And then we got up, shook hands
And victory was mine!

**ANGELOU GROUP
AGES 8, 9 & 10**

Hockey Poem

by: Tyler Hamilton
Age 9 - Circle 731

The ice so cold, no fear, no fright
I can put up a pretty good fight
So you better watch out where you skate
Cause before you know it I'll be on a breakaway
I had two goals, one more would be nice
But I tripped so hard and hit the ice
I got back up ready to play
But time ran out and I can say
I put up a pretty good fight.

**FROST GROUP
AGES 11, 12 & 13**

Pie

by: Casey Lako
Age 12 - Circle 039

Pie comes in all kinds
It's a pastry that's tasty
You might one day find
For seconds you must be hasty

It pleases me to eat
Oh that lovely pie of mine
It's really oh so sweet
I filled it full of lime

I tried some of mine
That I made early today
Some kinds were lime
All the pie was okay

My favorite treat to eat
Is a very nice pie
You could never beat
That sublime pie of mine

**SHAKESPEARE GROUP
AGES 14, 15 & 16**

**The Rainbow,
God's Promise**

by: Caly Farrell
Age 15 - Circle 813

I look around at this world,
And see one that is swirled,
A mix of prejudice and war,
Love and happiness galore.
We ask, "Where's the equilibrium?"
And the answer's always, "ummm,"
Because who would know.
We'll all know when we go.
For now let's remember,
We mustn't surrender.
Let's stay united and strong,
Stand up against what's wrong,
And we'll know after the storm,
Things will go back to the norm,
Because up in the sky,
God's rainbow will lie.

**3rd Place Winners will be in the
January, 2015 issue.**

2014 Photo Contest Winners



Animal Category



1st place Animal - Kerry Farrel - 813



2nd place Animal - Catherine Korowicki - 434



3rd place Animal - Susan Shuttleworth - 432

Convention Category



1st place Convention - Laurie Fox - 731



2nd place Convention - Mike Fox, Jr. 731



3rd place Convention - Daniel Farrell - 813

Human Interest Category



1st place Human Interest
Andrea Garbon - 737

Scenic Category



1st place Scenic - Jeanene Saniga - 377



2nd place Scenic - Monica Boone - L161



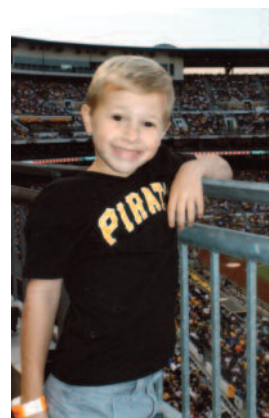
2nd place Human Interest - Kerry Farrell - 813



3rd place Scenic - Patricia Lafko - 434

NSS Activity Category

From left to right
1st place NSS Activity - Mike Fox, Sr. - 731
2nd place NSS Activity - Nicholas Cessna - 731
3rd place NSS Activity - Brett Bernardo - 588



Overall Winner

Stacey Shun - 774

National Slovak Society
(USES 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 NS 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 fee (\$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.

