

National Slovak Society of the United States of America

PVR Scholarship Program first year applications due: May 1st, 2016

May Art Contest deadline: May 31st, 2016 • NSS Day at PNC Park **PIRATES**: June 24th, 2016

National News

April
showers
bring May flowers



NSS Life
Family Matters

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY

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National Slovak Society

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LORI CROWLEY

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351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

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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

Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617

No activities at this time

REGION 5

Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774

April 10

Assembly 0123, Hartwood Acres Tour, Indiana Township at 12 Noon

April 25

Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm

May 7

Assembly 0039, Volunteers-Main Post Office (loading dock) Uniontown, PA at 10:00 am

May 21

Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor residence, N Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm

June 19

Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Q, Knights of Columbus Hall at 1:00 pm

July 17

Assembly 0039, Tony Bartock Golf Outing, Springdale Golf Club

September 19

Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm

November 21

Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm

December 4

Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall at 2:00 pm

REGION 7

Assemblies P09A, 0731

December 17

Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH at 2:00 pm

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

April 10

Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15 pm

April 19

Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, North Olmsted, OH at 7:30 p.m.

May 15

Assembly 0004, Meeting, Havir residence, Westlake, OH at 2:00 p.m.

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

No activities at this time

REGION 15

Assemblies L002, 0028

No activities at this time

AT LARGE

Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813

April 8-9

Assembly 0813, Tri-State BBQ Festival

April 10

Assembly 0110, Meeting, Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY

April 10

Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

April 24

Assembly 0586, Meeting/Dinner, Bohemian Garden Restaurant, Downers Grove at 2:00 pm

May 14

Assembly 0813, Join Hands Day Project (Stamp out Hunger)

June 5

Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

June 24-26

Assembly 0110, Villa Roma Resort Weekend, Callicoon, NY

July 2-3

Assembly 0705, Butwin Family Reunion, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN

August 14

Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

October 23

Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

December 24

Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 6:00 pm

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Good morning from sunny McMurray Pennsylvania, home of the National Slovak Society of the U.S.A. Now that April is here and we have survived the cold winter months, I am feeling a lot better. Spring is probably my favorite time of the year. It's a time when we can all get outside and enjoy the weather. As I look at the calendar of events for Assemblies and Regions, at the time of this writing, the only event I see is the Tri-state Barbeque Festival being sponsored by Assembly 813. In addition, our annual bowling tournament will be held in conjunction with other Slovak Fraternals in the Columbus, Ohio area. So if you are available the weekend of April 22nd and 23rd, make an effort to come and participate. You don't have to be a good bowler but you have to have fun if you come.

Donations From The NSS

Each year, I like to look back at some of the donations the NSS Board has approved that help us fulfill our mission statement which reads, "Providing our fraternal family members financial security via life and annuity products, while offering charitable, cultural, social and educational opportunities that benefit them and their communities." Looking at last year's donations here is partial list of some of the organizations we have helped: Ashley Food Pantry, Cardinal Tomko Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation, American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity, City Mission, Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa, The Eastland

Centennial Commemorative Project at Bohemian National Cemetery, Holy Angels Crochet Circle, Highmark Caring Place, Prince of Peace Parish, Carmelite Nuns of Allentown, Center for Vision Loss, Johnstown Slavic Festival, Homestead District Lions Club, McMurray Rotary Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee, Peters Township Parks and Recreation, Wheeler Mission, Fresh Start Ministries & Mentoring, The Salvation Army, and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation.

I may have missed some of our contributions but the above list gives you a great idea as to how we help the communities in which our members live. I am personally proud to be a member of our great organization and see how we share our good fortune with others in need.

News of Narodniars

Celebrating birthdays this month are National Director Drew Wesnak, former National Director Bill Knoll, Home Office staffers Lisa Shriver and Kristen Boehm, Ashley Bernardo, Dan Tanzone, Rebecca Beatty, Rudy Ondrejco, son-in-law Jeff Lavin, and granddaughters Chloe and Alexa Woods. Happy Birthday to all others celebrating in April.

As reported in the last issue we lost a couple of longtime NSS members, former National Director Caroline Kucan passed away as did John Malik, member of Assembly 110 in New York. Deepest sympathies go out to the Kucan and Malik families on your loss. May their souls rest in peace.

A Special Thanks

At this time and in honor of Administrative Professionals Day, which used to be called Secretaries Day, I would like to give a shout out to the Home Office Staff of the National Slovak Society for all they do to help keep the Society running smoothly. They are a dedicated group of individuals that you will be meeting via our series of articles over the next several months in which we spotlight one employee each month. Thank you to each employee that I have had the pleasure of working with over the past 23 years.

Punography Of The Month:

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS A Fraternal Program

PURPOSE ~

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

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY ~

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

COURSE ELIGIBILITY ~

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

PROCEDURE ~

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

INFORMATION & APPLICATION ~

For an application or additional information on this NSS Scholarship for Seniors Fraternal Program, contact Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org or call the office at 724-731-0094, ext. 1010. The National Officers are the sole authority in any decisions regarding this scholarship program. Their decision is final in all cases.

A Page From My Notebook.....

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: lstrom@nsslife.org

2015 Financial Results and more....

Totals Assets at year end 12/31/2015 has surpassed \$900 million (\$907,248,971 to be exact). Our strategic goal of reaching \$1 billion dollars in assets is closer than ever before. We are also closing in on 30,000 members. The next two years should be very exciting for NSS. On page 6 is our 2015 Annual Financial Statement recap.

When we first began our IT project in 2012 to upgrade our administration system we had planned on providing a new benefit to our members that would allow the payment of premiums on life insurance policies with a debit or credit card. We went so far as to design an area on the back of the life insurance premium payment voucher to enter the DC/CC information. We continue to receive emails/calls regarding the ability to pay premiums via DB/CC. This benefit is still in the hands of our IT Admin System development team. As soon as it becomes available I will publish it in my newsletter article as I am doing now. Thank you for your continued patience.

If you haven't sent in your 2015 Assembly Meeting forms and the four (4) required Annual Reports, the deadline of March 1st has passed and may result in your assembly/region not receiving its 2015 Fraternal Allowance.



Identity Theft Is on the Rise

NSS has partnered with Family Care Insurance to bring our members and staff an opportunity to protect you and your family from Identity Theft. Identity Theft is on the rise and usually not detected until it is too late. We receive calls weekly from NSS members to inform us that their identities have been compromised. Please call Carol DeLucia, Family Care Insurance at (919) 457-0172 and mention NSS. It is very affordable, (\$8.95 per person, \$18.95 per family up to 8 children), and I highly recommend this protection for yourself and your family. More information will be made available in future issues of the newsletter.

IDShield

Millions of people lose their identities every year.

Don't be one of them.

Identity theft has been the top consumer complaint filed with the FTC for 15 years straight. Victims are spending an exorbitant amount of time and money dealing with it. The criminals are getting smarter. And they're not going away. That's why you need a company that's more than a website. You need an established institution that understands all the potential threats, how to prevent them and how to restore any damage done.

My investigator gave me great advice and the next day cleared up my situation.

Visit our website at
www.nsslife.org



MONITOR MORE OF WHAT MATTERS

We monitor your identity from every angle, not just your Social Security number, credit cards and bank accounts. If any change in your status occurs, you receive an email update immediately.



COUNSEL WHEN YOU NEED IT

Our identity specialists are focused on protecting you. They are available to provide you with a complete picture of identity theft, walk you through all the steps you can take to protect yourself and answer any questions. Plus, they are available 24 hours a day, every day, in the event of an identity theft emergency. We're always here to help, no matter what.



RESTORE YOUR IDENTITY COMPLETELY

IDShield is the only company with an exclusive partnership with Kroll, the worldwide leader in theft investigative services. If a compromise occurs, contact your Licensed Private Investigator who will immediately begin restoring your

IDSHIELD FAMILY
(for you, your spouse/domestic partner and up to 8 minors)

IDSHIELD INDIVIDUAL
(for you)

FOURTH QUARTER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT - NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

Net Admitted Assets:

	December 2015	December 2014
Bonds	\$ 872,509,151	\$763,035,867
Preferred Stocks	600,000	500,000
Common Stocks	379,425	617,669
Mortgage Loans on		
Real Estate	8,765,201	9,192,464
Certificate Loans	652,721	559,368
Real Estate Occupied		
By Society	745,029	766,384
Cash On Deposit	12,266,748	17,498,596
Electronic Data Equipment	0	0
Uncollected Premiums	97,937	96,042
Investment Income Due	11,031,689	9,659,931
TOTALS	\$907,047,901	\$801,926,321

Liabilities and Unassigned Funds:

	December 2015	December 2014
Aggregate Reserve	\$810,989,000	\$722,215,500
Deposit-type		
Contracts	48,359,100	40,388,483
Certificate Claims	250,000	250,000
Commissions Due	160,000	361,200
Refunds Due and Unpaid	385,000	360,000
General Expenses Due	1,547,000	1,259,200
Retained By The Society		
As Trustee	37,257	104,229
Asset Valuation		
Reserve (AVR)	4,366,800	3,552,000
Interest Maintenance		
Reserve (IMR)	4,795,721	5,217,079
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	36,008,023	28,068,630
TOTALS	\$907,047,901	\$801,926,321

Surplus Account:

	December 2015	December 2014
Beginning Surplus	\$28,218,630	\$21,195,838
Net Income	9,085,723	7,532,478
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	(143,256)	(92,971)
Chge in Nonadmitted Assets	(188,275)	97,285
Change in Valuation		
Reserve	(814,800)	(514,000)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains		
and Losses in Surplus	0	0
Net Change in Surplus	7,939,392	7,022,792
Surplus At Statement Date	\$36,158,022	\$28,218,630

Summary Of Operations:

	December 2015	December 2014
INCOME:		
Premiums & Annuity		
Considerations	\$152,299,739	\$111,728,468
Net Invest. Income	41,201,928	38,060,741
Amortization Of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	715,629	170,477
Income Sub-Total	\$194,217,296	\$149,959,686

	December 2015	December 2014
EXPENSES:		
Death Benefits	\$5,298,808	\$3,617,970
Matured Endowments	37,243	35,231
Annuity Benefits	81,527,319	66,547,314
Disability, Accident,		
Health Benefits	4,167	102
Surrender Benefits	584,648	660,498
Interest On Deposit		
Type Contracts	(3,443)	11,917
Increase In Aggregate		
Reserve For Life		
Contracts	88,773,500	64,074,500
Commissions On		
Direct Business	4,044,199	2,969,614
General &		
Fraternal Expenses	4,291,671	3,657,034
Insurance, Taxes,		
Licenses, Fees	179,850	374,121
Expense Sub-Total	\$184,737,962	\$141,948,301

	December 2015	December 2014
SUMMARY:		
Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds		
To Members	\$9,479,334	\$8,011,385
Refund To Members	(380,865)	(356,263)
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds		
To Members	9,098,469	7,655,122
Net Realized		
Capital Gains	(12,746)	(122,644)
Total Net Income	\$9,085,723	\$7,532,478

Linda M Strom
Secretary/Treasurer, CFO

Fraternal Matters...

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



NSS Fitness Matters...

Now that spring is officially here (thank heavens) it is a great time to join the "NSS Fitness Matters..." walking club. The purpose of this program is to help promote physical fitness and your good health.

Did you know that just one 30-minute walk a day is all it takes to lower your blood pressure? Don't have a solid half hour to exercise? Here's the good news: three 10-minute walks work just as well. Here are some ideas on how to work in a walk throughout your day: head outside during lunch, instead of feeling like you want a nap, you'll have a second wind; after dinner, go for a quick walk around the block, see if your spouse or kids will join you; when you have to make a phone call, do it on your cell and talk as you walk.

Sign up for NSS Life's Fitness Matters Walking Club by sending your name, mailing address and Assembly number to Pam Blum, Fraternal Activities Coordinator at pblum@nsslife.org or by calling me at 724-731-0094.

You will receive a free NSS Life pedometer and a mileage chart to help you track your progress. You are responsible for keeping track of your own mileage. You'll be on the honor system, so don't let me down!!

United Slovak Fraternal's Bowling Tournament:

Just a reminder that this year's tournament will be held April 22-23, 2016 at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus, Ohio.

NSS Nite at PNC Park

Back by popular demand... NSS has reserved a block of tickets on Friday, **June 24th** in the "All You Can Eat" section at PNC Park for the **Pittsburgh Pirates vs. LA Dodgers**. This is Free Shirt Friday. The tickets are \$60 but due to the generosity of Region 5 and Assembly 774 we are offering these tickets to our **members only** for **\$25** each. There are a very limited number of tickets available and since they are being subsidized by NSS Life you **must** be a **member to attend!!!** The tickets will be on a first come basis. Requests for tickets must be accompanied by your payment. Please make check payable to NSS Life and send to: Pirate Night, Attn: Pam Blum, 351 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317.



2016 May Art Contest

This year's Art Contest Greeting Card Category is "Happy Father's Day." The Poster Category is "What I love about the USA." The deadline for the contest is **May 31st**.

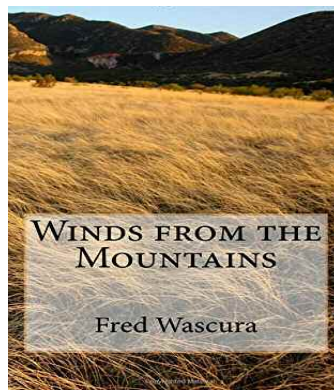
Attention High School Seniors

Don't forget to apply for this year's **PVR Scholarship!!** Deadline for applications is **May 1, 2016**. Please contact me ASAP to see if you are eligible and to request an application. A reminder for those students already receiving the PVR Scholarship, don't forget to request a copy of your transcripts be sent to the Home Office at the end of this semester to make sure you are still eligible to receive your next installment of your grant. Deadline for transcripts is **JULY 15, 2016**.

2016 National Golf Tournament

The National Golf Tournament will be held on July 15-17, 2016 at Treasure Lake Golf Course in DuBois, PA. The registration form & rules will be mailed to past participants and will be published in the May issue of the National Newspaper. If you have an interest in joining us for this most enjoyable weekend please contact me and I will make sure you're on the mailing list.

Looking for a Good Book ?????



Winds from the Mountains is a novel about a family from the Rusyn Village of Osturna, Slovakia, near the Tatra Mountains. Several of the Vascura family immigrated to America starting in 1897. The youngest daughter stayed and married a neighbor. Over the years, these related families on both sides of the Atlantic found themselves involved in world events and changing borders. The villagers were mostly farmers.

Members will enjoy reading the story of this Rusyn/Slovak family as they experienced life with optimism through the generations. The novel is available from Amazon in paperback or Kindle.

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

**Access your account values 24/7 by going to the website:
www.nsslife.org and log in/register as a member.**



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

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.**

Did you know....

You can 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.

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information. Let us help you and your family.

Thought for the Week

If you want something, something you've never had; You must be willing to do something you've never done.

Thomas Jefferson (1743 – 1826)

Motivated By Events

Life insurance is the greatest financial product ever designed. With the stroke of a pen and a few dollars you can be insured for thousands and thus protect your family and business. While the need for life insurance is great, most people are hesitant to buy it because they think that insurance is too expensive. That is incorrect because examples have shown that people generally assume that the life insurance cost is two to three times higher than it actually is. Now there are times that people really do consider purchasing life insurance. This action is usually motivated by some life event. A life event may be the birth of a child, getting married, buying a house or changing jobs. Sometimes it is a divorce or planning retirement. And sometimes it is because of a funeral.

Marriage, a new child, and home ownership all mean increased responsibilities. In these situations other people now rely on your ability to generate income. Divorce, job changes and retirement may all relate to a new standard of living. Life insurance can protect you there too.

The surprising event is death. Once people attend a funeral, they want to know about insurance costs. This may be the result of talking with family and finding out for the first time that the cost of a traditional funeral in most areas is around \$10,000. This is nothing fancy or elaborate just a basic service. Which begs the question, do you have \$10,000 to pay for this? Plus there are other costs associated with a final illness which would require even more money.

No matter what the situation – life insurance can be the answer. This unique product can provide money for you whether you live, die or quit paying into the policy. Life insurance is a good buy at any age but the younger you are the less it costs. NSS has six different plans – so we are confident that we can design an affordable program for you. Call your local NSS Life representative



Things You May Not Know About an IRA

So often we talk about IRAs (both traditional and Roth) and the discussion centers around the good rate of interest NSS is paying. Sometimes we mention the strong guarantees and the great track record. Of course there is the fact that proceeds may be paid probate free. Then when you add in the flexibility to create a lifetime income stream - this becomes an unbeatable product.

But here are a few things you may not have known about IRAs:

- You can start an IRA for \$90 per month or with a \$1,000 deposit. You don't have to put in \$5,000 or \$6,000 and you don't have to contribute every year.
- It is possible to contribute to an IRA even if you are not working? You would have to be a non-working spouse and your spouse would have to have sufficient income to make a contribution on your behalf. Or if you are receiving alimony which is considered income – you could contribute to an IRA.
- Children can have an IRA – they need to have income to justify the amount contributed.
- Married people that both have a pension can still contribute to an IRA if their combined income is less than \$98,000. For a Roth IRA the income limit is \$180,000.
- A savers credit is available for lower income people making contributions. Depending on your filing status this number ranges from \$27,000 to \$60,000 and those eligible can receive a credit on their taxes.
- Even if you are not eligible for an IRA you can make a non-deductible contribution. It's wise to document this move carefully so later on you don't pay taxes on the principal again.

If you have any questions please call us, we're here to help you.



EVERY CONVERSATION IS A HEARING TEST.

HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY?

As a member of the National Slovak Society (NSS Life), you and your family are eligible for American Hearing Benefits.

This FREE hearing benefits program gives you access to free hearing consultations and **discounts** on hearing aids through our nationwide network of hearing professionals.

To learn more and to schedule your **FREE CONSULTATION**, visit www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS or Call 1 (888) 705-6920

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ASSEMBLY 004

Parma, OH

Meeting

A meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at the residence of Mildred Havir, 1744 Westhill Boulevard, Westlake, OH. at 2:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

High school seniors! Now is the time to contact the home office about applying for an NSS Scholarship for the fall. All of the rules and regulations are on the NSS website: nsslife.org. Last year we had four members receive the annual \$500.00 scholarship. It helps pay for the books! Deadline is May 1st!!!!

Help us "Stamp Out Hunger" by volunteering on Saturday, May 5th. This is our way of participating in the NSS National Fraternal Project, "Help Feed America." Volunteers are asked to meet at the main post office, in downtown Uniontown, at the rear loading dock at 10:00 a.m. If you can't volunteer, please be sure to put out non-perishable food items for your letter carrier. All food collected will be donated to the Fayette County Food Bank.

Mark your calendar for our Summer Free Bar-B-Q that will be held on Sunday, June 19th at the Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion starting at 1:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, rigatoni, rolls, dessert and beverages will be served. Come join the fun and fellowship!

Our "Join Hands Day Project" will be conducted jointly with the local Knights of Columbus Chapter 1275 at the Annual Anthony Bartock Golf Outing. Springdale Golf Course will once again host the event on Sunday, July 17th. Profits from the event go to support Easter Seals, Fayette County Special Olympics and the local battered women's shelter.

Mall walkers or "Silver Sneakers" or anyone that walks for exercise; the NSS has a "Walking Program" that provides special gifts as well as "fraternal points" for our assembly. We have a number of assembly members that are participating. Contact Pam Blum in the Home Office to sign-up.

Check out the new NSS Life Anniversary Insurance Program that offers our 20-Pay Life and Single Premium Plans with face amounts depending on age. Program is in the February issue of the "National News."

For those that like to plan ahead, our annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 4th starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus fellowship hall.

The next meeting of the assembly will be on Sunday, June 19th at the Summer Free Bar-B-Q at the Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion on North Galatin Avenue extension.

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 0070

Brooklyn, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15 p.m. We will make plans for our picnic in June. Refreshments will be served.

Mary Ann Karkosiak
President

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

A meeting will be held on April 10, 2016 at the Grande's Restaurant, Birney Ave., Rt. 11, Moosic, PA at 1:00 p.m. Plans will be discussed for Join Hands Day, Wilkes Barre VA day for bingo and a pizza party for our veterans, and the fraternal summer picnic to be held in the summer at the Mercateli-Segelia Park, Birney Ave Moosic, PA. Members will bring a covered dish and a raffle basket and the officers will take care of the drinks, hotdog's and hamburgers.

The members made plans to hold their annual matching funds event for the Duryea Scouts by selling tickets and hosting the raffle at the Blue and Gold Banquet to be held on April 17, 2016 at the Dupont Hose Company Main St. Dupont, PA at 1:00 p.m. Cub Scouts

will cross the bridge into the Boy Scout troop.

The Margaret Pilosi Scholarship Committee wants to remind any High School Senior who is a member of Assembly L075 and who will graduate this June is eligible to receive a scholarship. This one time yearly award of \$100 was established to honor the 1st woman President of a Fraternal Society and former member of our assembly, the late Mrs. Margaret Pilosi. To obtain the scholarship members must submit a written essay of 250-500 words chosen from the following categories: Fraternalism, Slovak Heritage, Civic Duties or Volunteerism. It must be double spaced, typed and contain a title page on a separate paper with your name, address, phone number, age, parents name, and college they will be attending in the fall. The committee will judge the essays on neatness, presentation, content and subject accurateness and the winner will be asked to read their essay at the summer meeting where the award will be presented by our President and Committee Members. Please submit your essay by July 1, 2016 to: Lehrae Ann Edwards 65 Chittenden St. Duryea, PA 18642-1006. For more information contact Lehrae at 570-457-8402.

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0110

New York, NY

A meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th at Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY. Mark your calendars for our Villa Roma Resort Weekend in Callicoon, New York on June 24-26, 2016. Anyone interested, please contact Maryann Malik at 516-794-9014 for further information.

Rich DeSanctis
Secretary

Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., must be received by the Home Office no later than the **5th of the preceding month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article in a timely manner. Our email address is: info@nsslife.org

ASSEMBLY 123 Coraopolis, PA

Let's start with good news. You don't have to pay your taxes on April 15th this year because Emancipation Day celebrated in Washington D. C. falls on Friday, April 15th. You don't have to pay your taxes until Monday, April 18th, which is Patriot's Day in Massachusetts. I guess paying taxes is patriotic.

Our visit and tour of the mansion at beautiful Hartwood Acres, a six hundred and twenty five acre county park located in Indiana Township near Fox Chapel, is scheduled for Sunday, April 10th at noon. If you are interested in coming please call Joan Smith at 412-778-0431 as soon as you can. We need to give Hartwood the number in our group and time is short. Admission cost will be paid by the Assembly. After the tour which lasts about one hour we hope to have lunch at Hartwood, the cost of which will be on your own.

Yes, baseball season has started and our Assembly hopes to be able to arrange going to a Pirate game sometime in August or September if there is sufficient interest. Let your thoughts be known.

Just a few reminders: applications for the first year PVR scholarship are due by May 1st. Call Pam at the Home Office for your paperwork. Pam can be reached at 724-731-0094. This \$500 can be a big help with books. Also, May 31st is the deadline for the Art Contest. This is a reminder for you, Mariah Jeffrey.

Looking ahead to July, there is the NSS Golf tournament at Treasure Lake, in Dubois PA, July 15th-17th and Slovak Day at Kennywood July 21st. (I believe I had the wrong date of the 14th in the last issue). Your attendance at either of these events will be partially subsidized by the Assembly.

For our Jewish members let me wish you Shalom as Passover begins April 22nd.

We need to wish **Joy and Tony Bieltz** a **Happy 68th Anniversary**. This incredible milestone was reached this past February 28th!! God Bless you both! What is your secret??!!

We want to wish our Assembly founder Bill Del Monaco a Happy Birthday (April 22nd). It is also our

Assembly President's birthday on April 7th. Let me wish everyone who has a birthday or anniversary this month a delightful and richly memorable occasion and may you be blessed with many more.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 432 Fairview Park, OH

Our next meeting will be held on April 19, 2016 at the home of Dave and Marti Pytel, North Olmsted, Ohio at 7:30 p.m.

The Annual Reverse Raffle was a success again this year. Congratulations to the 5 winners who decided to split the jackpot. Thank you all for coming, and we hope to see you again next year.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 586 Slovan, PA

A Czech-style dinner and meeting will be held on Sunday, April 24th at the Bohemian Garden Restaurant in Downers Grove at 2:00 p.m. We will also have our collection for Operation Support Our Troops America. Hope to see you there.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 731 Lowellville, OH

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2016, at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, 6225 Quarry Rd., Lowellville, OH at 2:00 p.m. Details will be announced at a later date.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737 Westmoreland County, PA

Our next meeting will be held on May 21, 2016 at the home of Paul Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m.

All assembly business will be discussed at this time.

Paul J Godor
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 813 Englewood, FL

We will again be supporting Catholic Heart Work Camp through the NSS Matching Funds program. The event will be the *Tri-State BBQ Festival* on April 8th and 9th. There are various opportunities for volunteers so let us know your preference. Kerry Farrell is the contact person, 334-718-2416.

Our Join Hands Day project will be the "*Stamp Out Hunger*" campaign on May 14, 2016. This is in association with the National Association of Letter Carriers, and is the largest one day food drive in the country. Mary Jo Holker is the contact person (941-473-0559) for those interested in participating in this very fulfilling program.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 8 Cleveland, OH

The semi-annual meeting of Region 8 which includes Assemblies 004, 070, 160, and 432 will be held on:

DATE: April 20, 2016

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Dr. Martin Luther Church
4470 Ridge Road
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Assembly 432 will be hosting this meeting. Plans for activities for the balance of 2016 will be discussed.

Hope to see you all there!

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary

NSS Ambassadors



NSS is the destination for the Nation's future leaders. Whether you envision your future in the boardroom or the classroom, the NSS Youth Ambassadors Program will provide you with the opportunity and connections to develop into the ideal leader for tomorrow's world.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT AND SIGN UP TODAY!

The NSS Youth Ambassador Program is for youth ages 13 and up. If you join the Program not only will you prosper through peer-to-peer learning, but you can engage in fun activities and exciting opportunities while learning the skills to guide, direct, influence and motivate others.

Those interested are encouraged to visit <http://nsslife.org/fraternal-programs/nss-ambassadors/> and sign up today!

Upcoming Events & Activities

>NSS Ambassadors Short Video Contest!

We challenge you to shoot a 15 second video about what empowers, motivates, and inspires you. Fitting this into 15 seconds will be tricky but the prizes are awesome! Hurry, entry deadline is April 15th! Use the hashtag #NSSAmbassadorsShorts

>Take part in "Join Hands Day" on May 7th!

Volunteer as we give back to the community!

For more information on the video contest and *Join Hands Day* visit us at <http://nsslife.org/fraternal-programs/nss-ambassadors/>.

>Participate in our next Twitter Chat, April 23rd!

NSS Ambassadors Twitter Chat Series: Life Hacks for Leaders #LFTF (lead from the front) at 1p.m. ET.

Assembly 588 Members Assist with Toys for Tots and Food Drive



George and Margie Leasure, Assembly 588, preparing to distribute donated toys to needy families.

Volunteers of Assembly 588 George and Margie Leasure assisted with the Toys for Tots Campaign prior to the Christmas Holiday. For the third consecutive year, the campaign was hosted by the Alliance Church of Washington, Pennsylvania. Toys were collected, packaged, and distributed to children of both Washington and Greene Counties by the volunteers. The children also received hot chocolate and cookies.

George and Margie assisted with the packing and distribution of the 800 bags of toys. They volunteered their time in the true fraternal spirit to make the Christmas Holiday a more special time for the less fortunate families of Washington and Greene County.

Scenes from Assembly 123



Four generations of Assembly 123 members. Agnes Rieko Knoll, age 96, her daughter Leslie Ann O'Donnell, her grandson Robert O'Donnell and her great-granddaughter, Hadley.

Members of Assembly 123 at their Christmas Dinner. Good food and good fellowship.



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations February, 2016

In Memory of Frances D Campbell:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
In Memory of Edna Starr:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
In Memory of Robin Wingard:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
Matching Funds Donation:	
From Assembly L161	100.00
Donations:	
Assembly L161	100.00
Irene A Combi	50.00




Memorial Tree Leaf Donations February, 2016

In Loving Memory of Sandy Majors:	
Love, Dale	250.00
Assembly 0105	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: _____
 Zip: _____

Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

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

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS February, 2016

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Amev, Donna	Pittsburgh, PA	11/22/2015	0100
Ball Jr., Albert	Pittsburgh, PA	12/21/2015	L161
Barger, Maurice	Orland Park, IL	12/28/2015	0586
Belski, Vincent	Warren, OH	02/28/2005	0377
Benczo, John	Clairton, PA	01/30/2016	0108
Bezilla, Hannah	Woodland, PA	11/23/2015	0774
Bokor, Frances M	Monroeville, PA	12/30/2015	L105
Burns, James D	Avella, PA	12/21/2015	0588
Caston, Frank	Ossian, IN	12/06/2015	0705
Cmarik, George F	Frederick, MD	01/26/2015	0774
Collins, William A	Harmony, PA	01/30/2016	0123
Conway, John	Des Plaines, IL	12/21/2015	0586
Crnarich, Francis	Homer City, PA	11/27/2015	0038
De Remer, Helene	High Bridge, NJ	12/29/2015	0110
Dotson, Jason	Bethel Park, PA	11/16/2015	0108
Dubnicka, Virginia E	Battle Creek, MI	01/19/2016	0432
Eroh, Harold	Courtdale, PA	02/02/2016	0617
Feachen, Mary	Belmont, CA	10/08/2015	0595
Feinberg, Irwin	Davie, FL	09/30/2015	0800
Gasper, Dorothy	Pittsburgh, PA	12/01/2015	0100
Greskovic, Helen	Norwalk, CT	12/20/2013	L075
Haas, Dolores	Fairview Park, OH	12/23/2015	0070
Haftmann, John	Clarksville, PA	01/28/2016	0377
Hayduk, Claudia	Pittsburgh, PA	12/26/2015	0700
Hojo, Esther	Pittsburgh, PA	07/28/2012	0377
Holoman, William P	Mount Pleasant, PA	01/20/2016	0737
Hucik, Michael	Joffre, PA	01/11/2016	0588
Jones, Maurice	Brooklyn, NY	01/11/2016	0110
Kubasky, Donald	Greensburg, PA	01/18/2016	0737
Kucan, Caroline	Uniontown, PA	12/29/2015	0039
Kukan, Steve J	Bedford, OH	01/27/2016	0039
Lages, Cesar	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	10/22/2015	0110
Leary, Mary	Akron, OH	12/28/2015	0432
Lentz, Annabelle	Charlotte, NC	04/06/2015	0774
Leshinski, Helen	Murrysville, PA	12/31/2015	0434
Malik Sr., John	Astoria, NY	01/24/2016	0110
Metzger, Bradley	Belle Vernon, PA	11/21/2013	0377
Mizisin, Helen	Byesville, OH	01/21/2016	0731
Novak, Sophie	New Middletown, OH	12/26/2015	P09A
Polomik, Mary T	St. Clairsville, OH	12/05/2015	0774
Potanovich, George	Vero Beach, FL	12/06/2015	L102
Price, Sally A	Allensville, PA	12/29/2015	0267
Ragley, Thomas	Clarion, PA	01/19/2016	0554
Ratter, Lola	West Mifflin, PA	01/09/2016	0434
Ritti, Teresa B	Lansdale, PA	10/11/2015	R059
Rolik, Rev Daniel	Plymouth, MI	01/10/2016	0381
Rydle, Beatrice	Canonsburg, PA	11/01/2015	0434
Scullin, Caroline G	Piscataway, NJ	06/24/2015	0110
Scullin, James P	Piscataway, NJ	06/07/2015	0110
Serdel, Anne M	Dyer, IN	09/29/2015	0586
Skirpan, Louise	Coraopolis, PA	12/27/2014	0123
Slezak, Margaret	Warren, MI	01/23/2016	0381
Taxacher, Robert B	Everson, PA	01/24/2016	0737
Tomasule, Thomas	Sandusky, OH	06/26/2015	0160
Twigg, Karen	Martinsburg, WV	12/27/2015	0774
Vicinelly, Alicia	McClellandtown, PA	01/26/2016	0039
Virchick, Michael	Colonia, NJ	02/02/2016	0110
Wilkins, Audrey A	Connellsville, PA	08/05/2015	0737

A Family Tradition



Dorothy Jones, Helen M. Meunier & Betty Butwin

The Butwin family and Assembly 705 continued a long standing family tradition by gathering together for food and fellowship on Christmas Eve 2015. Nearly 60 people from various states came together to celebrate family and the Christmas season at the home of Mary Ann Froderman in Brazil, IN. With the meat provided by the Assembly, favorite side dishes and desserts were brought by those attending. A wide variety of options from meatballs to shrimp to mac n cheese and wonderful desserts like red velvet cake made for a great meal. We used our time together to catch up on the happenings in each other's families and to see how much the children had grown. The two daughters, Helen M. Meunier & Dorothy Jones, and daughter-in-law, Betty Butwin, of John & Anna Butwin, founding members of Assembly 705, were in attendance with their children, grand-children and great-grandchildren. After dinner, we were treated to a visitor from the North Pole. Santa Claus made his way down the stairs to the delight of all those present.

Songs were sung and presents were given to the children. Lots & lots of pictures were taken. As the excitement of the evening died down, everyone said their goodbyes with best wishes for a wonderful Christmas.

Dorothy A. Buck
Secretary

Assembly L002



L-R: JoAnn Marticek, Kristin Toman, and Joelle Marticek show a few of the food items to be donated.

Members of our assembly bring non-perishable food items at our meetings and we donate these items to Sterling House, a multi Service Community Center in Stratford, CT.

Assembly 588 Completes National Fraternal Project



Assembly 588 Officers presenting the check from left to right: Florence Bebo, Eldress/Activity Director; John Bebo, Jr., President; Dr. Sally Mounts Director of Development of the City Mission; Keith Kucherawy, Vice President; Joseph Stefka, Jr., Financial Secretary; and Annette Stefka, Recording Secretary.

Members of Assembly 588 recently completed a successful matching funds project for the City Mission of Washington, PA, as part of the NSS National Fraternal Project for 2015. The City Mission is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2016 and operates the McCausland Men's Shelter and the Avis Arbor Women's and Children's Shelter at its Washington location. On June 9, 2015, the City Mission experienced a devastating fire that destroyed its men's residence, kitchen, dining hall, chapel, and medical clinic. In spite of the fire, the City Mission continued to serve the homeless and hungry of the Washington area through the use of temporary facilities. In 2015, the City Mission served 111,764 meals; provided 38,142 nights of shelter; 6,096 medical interventions; donated 6,485 pieces of clothing, furniture, and household items; and provided 2,511 bags of food. The City Mission is currently reconstructing the facilities damaged by the fire. In addition, the City Mission plans to construct a new Veterans Residential Facility, a Vocational Training Facility to assist the homeless in job-skills training, and expand the Avis Arbor Women's and Children's Shelter. The donation was greatly appreciated by the Director of Development of the City Mission, Dr. Sally Mounts, to provide support for the homeless and hungry of the Washington, Pennsylvania area especially during such a trying time.



On the left is Mary Bludnicki, Assembly L002 member and Raymond O'Donnell, Director and Coordinator at Sterling House.



A torn American Flag was brought to our last meeting for retirement by Tom Marticek. It was given to the VFW post in Stratford, CT. On the right accepting the torn flag donation is Ray Pistey.

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

April, 1954

First Vice-President Joseph Saladiak assumed the position of President following the resignation of President Paul Kazimer. President Saladiak became the 12th President of the National Slovak Society.

April, 1976

The National Slovak Society announced it was moving to a computerized system for all of its records as authorized by the XXVI Convention. The computerized system would help the Society incorporate a "direct payment" of premiums to the Home Office.

April, 1981

National President Joseph Stefka, serving as the President of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh, appeared on WIIC-TV in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to present Channel 11 TV Personality Don Riggs the "Brotherhood of Man" Award for his service to mankind on behalf of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh.

April, 2001

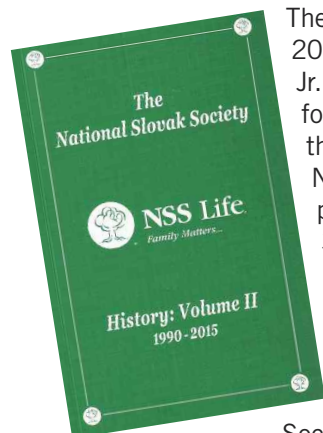
During the National Slovak Society 44th Annual Men's Bowling Tournament, George Joseph, Jr. of Assembly 432 rolled a perfect 300 game.

April, 2006

National Secretary-Treasurer Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. reported that the Society had reached a milestone by passing the \$200 million mark in Net Admitted Assets.

NSS History - 1990-2015

By Joseph Stefka, Jr., Chairman of the Board



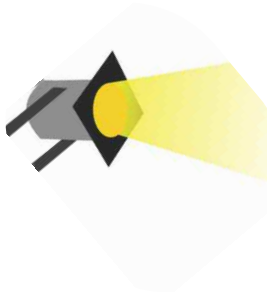
The National Slovak Society History: Volume II 1990 - 2015, authored by Chairman of the Board Joseph Stefka, Jr., and published by Slavia Printing, is currently available for sale, at a cost of \$15. The proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the PVR Scholarship Fund and the NSS Heritage Museum. To obtain a copy, send a check payable to "NSS" to Pam Blum at the Home Office, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337. The 203 page second volume of the history of the National Slovak Society is arranged chronologically, encompassing the first twenty-five years of Society's existence in its second century as a fraternal benefit society. Important events, member accomplishments,

Society progress, and milestones in the history of the NSS are recorded in the volume, along with a number of photographs.

An excerpt from the conclusion of the National Slovak Society History: Volume II reads: "The National Slovak Society has for the past 125 years, provided a means of financial security for its members. From its humble beginnings in February, 1890, to the present day, the Society has not only endured, but has prospered. Change has been a constant over the history of the Society but has greatly accelerated in the past twenty-five years. However, the Society has remained vigilant in protecting the financial, fraternal, and heritage interests of its membership. This has not happened by chance. The Society has had the benefit of leadership throughout its history with foresight and dreams to place the National Slovak Society in the forefront of fraternal benefit societies across the nation."

Spotlight On Donna Tenney

Controller



I am the Controller of the National Slovak Society and I have worked here since March, 1987. The only employee that has been here longer than me is our wonderful newspaper editor, Lori Crowley. When I started at the NSS our assets were \$17 million, hard to believe as the billion dollar mark is fast approaching. I want to thank all of the members and agents over the years

who have been so patient and pleasant with me and the rest of the staff. You truly make a difference.

I have a teenage son at home, so please be nice to me when you call. His name is Luke and he has been involved over the years in soccer, karate, swords and scouts. He is very intelligent so I am saving for college, so please do not ask to borrow money. He is going on a trip to the Galapagos Islands this year. While he is venturing, I plan on golfing, riding my bicycle, kayaking, boating, swimming and maybe read a book. I will miss him very much and I hope that he has an experience of a lifetime.

*Have you Signed
Up A New
Member Recently?*

This and that....from Slovakia

By Sue Ondrejco

2015 was the best year for tourism in the entire history of independent Slovakia. More than 4.3 million visitors opted for a vacation somewhere in Slovakia in 2015. This represents an increase of 6 percent reported on February 19 based on the data published by the Slovak Statistics Office. The largest share of foreign tourists came from the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland. Slovakia experienced a growing number of tourists from China, Great Britain, USA, the Netherlands, Italy and France in 2015.

HOTEL guests in Europe consider the hotels in Slovakia to be the cleanest on the continent. Slovak hotels received 8.75 points out of 10. Bulgaria placed second with 8.7 points, followed by Switzerland, Poland, Austria, Croatia, Germany, Portugal, the Czech Republic, and Romania. Denmark received the least points, only 7.73, the Aktuality.sk website reported.

Košice becomes European City of Sport 2016

Košice is the first Slovak city to receive the title from the European Cities and Capitals of Sports Federation (ACES Europe), a private non-profit organization based in Brussels.

Hundreds of events will be held for the public in the course of the year. The main aim of these events is to make as many Košičans as possible get moving, and to introduce them to sports as an effective means of supporting a healthy lifestyle. The city wants to develop traditional and new sports, and also plans to invest in sporting grounds.

(Source: TASR)

Košice European City of Sport 2016

Slovak wines harvested medals in Paris—Slovakia's winemaking has once again found success when Slovak winemakers won the third highest number of gold and silver medals out of foreign participants at Vinalies Internationales Paris, considered to be the most prestigious wine competition in the world. Altogether they earned 18 gold and 37 silver medals, the highest number so far, the Pravda daily reported. This year the competition showed that a new ambitious and talented generation of winemakers is taking hold in Slovakia. Na zdravie!

Slovak Architects Design Solar Powered Home Ecocapsules

By Slavorum

Slovakia has brought us another interesting and futuristic design, it's an Ecocapsules, designed by Bratislava-based far-sighted Architects. This miniature solar powered home has also an retractable wind-turbine and a rain water storage making this home giving you chance to live in it up to a year with no maintenance or need to have water or electric power infrastructure. If you look a bit into the ecocapsule you will find a miniature kitchen with fresh water, flushing toilet and hot shower as well which is pretty amazing. The Ecocapsule "is suitable for a wide range of applications," wrote the architects, where they counted things like "independent research station or a tourist lodge to an emergency housing or a humanitarian-action unit."

More info: ecocapsule.sk

So if you are an avid camper this might be a good choice for you and you were able to order one at the end of 2015 and have it delivered in the first quarter of 2016. It was on display during the Pioneers festival in Vienna on the 28th-29th of May, 2015.

Solely relies on green energy sources and collects rain water.

These pods are made to be deployed anywhere anytime.

You can fit them in a sea-container or can even on your car/truck trailer.

Dávno nie je január, i február zutekal,
pretože vždy po zime, jar radostne vítame.
Po marci však prišiel čas, medzi nami je tu
zas, Apríl, čo je známy tým, vrtošivým
počasím.
Slnko páli, štípe mráz, potom vietor fúka zas.
Je to všetko apríl márne, jar si zobrať už
nedáme.

Jar je jedno z ročných období v miernom teplotnom pásme nasledujúce po zime a predchádzajúce letu.

Deň Zeme vznikol ako reakcia na rozsiahle poškodzovanie životného prostredia. Iniciátorom bol environmentálny aktivista, senátor Spojených štátov z Wisconsinu, Gaylord Nelson. Tento deň sa začal oslavovať od roku 1970. Jeho cieľom je pripomenutie si našej závislosti na cenných daroch poskytované Zemou. Je potreba si uvedomiť, že zemské zdroje nie sú nevyčerpatelné, a preto sa treba venovať otázkam životného prostredia a prostredníctvom spoločného celosvetového úsilia chrániť jej poklady pre budúce generácie ľudí a ostatných tvorov žijúcich na Zemi.

22. apríl

Sv. Juraj sa slávi 24. Apríla

Juraj sa zobrazuje ako rytier na koni, ktorý doráža draka. Toto zobrazenie sa zakladá na legende, podľa ktorej mal Juraj zabiť draka. Drak znepokojoval Jurajovo rodné mesto Selena. Požieral ľudí a robil zle. Keď raz mal kráľ obetovať svoju krásnu a dobrú dcéru drakovi, aby dal pokoj mestu, vtedy – keď už išla k obludc – zrazu priváľal rytier a draka porazil a zabil. Tým rytierom bol sv. Juraj. Samozrejme, že ide o legendu, ktorá sa nezakladá na pravde. Ale symbolicky má svoj zmysel. Drak predstavuje diabla, ktorý naozaj jestvuje a robí zle, duchovne požiera ľudí. Sv. Juraj bol ten, ktorý proti nemu odvážne bojoval av boji s ním aj položil svoj život. Je patrónom rytierov a vojakov. Méno Juraj je populárnym ménom v apríli a mnoho slovenských chlapcov nosí méno Juraj. **Všetkým prajeme radostný den menín.**

Apríl ako mesiac lesov oslavujeme od roku 1952. Lesy znamenajú pre Slovensko veľmi veľa. Život človeka je od nepamäti spojený s drevom. Drevo sa používalo na kúrenie, ale vyrábali sa z neho aj mnohé nástroje. Živý strom v lese je skrýšou pre zvieratá a rôzne organizmy, v jeho korunke hniezdia vtáky, kôru obývajú lišajníky a medzi koreňmi bývajú rôzne zvieratká. Lesy majú celospoločenský význam, sú našimi pľúcami i rezervoármi pitnej vody. Lesy okrem produkcie dreva plnia aj zdravotnú a rekreačnú úlohu. Ročne sa vynakladajú nemalé finančné prostriedky na obnovu lesov, výsadbu nových stromčekov, či na odstraňovanie následkov škôd, ktoré napáchajú nezodpovední ľudia. Časté sú nelegálne výruby stromov a ľudia svojou neopatrnosťou či nezodpovedným konaním založia požiar, ktorý vie zničiť veľký kus lesa. Určite nielen v apríli, ale po celý rok by sme mali chrániť naše lesy, udržiavať ich čisté, aby sa zachovali pre ďalšie generácie. Je našou povinnosťou dohliadať na to, aby sa táto krása nezničila.

—Ivana Punová

Čas dani...

Do 15 apríla v Amerike sa vyrovnávame s daňovými poplatkami zo zárobku, a ak sa Vám niečo zvýši môžete to uložiť v našej organizácii. Skontrolujte rôzne plány úsporov pre dôchodok, alebo zakúpte si životnú poisťku tým sa stanete členom / členkinou našej organizácie čím môžete brať účasť v aktivitách organizácie Národného Spolku.

Koncom tohto mesiaca 22 - 23 apríla kolový turnaj - bowling. (Columbus, OH)

Golfový Turnaj bude 15-teho a 17-teho Júla. (DuBois, PA)

Podrobnejšie informácie na nsslife.org alebo volajte 1-800-488-1890.

Twelfth Consular Tour of Slovakia



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia from August 28 through September 10, 2016 which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Sastin, Skalica, Trencin, Bojnice, Rajecke Teplice, Cicmany, High Tatras, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kosice, Bardejov and Presov. As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some highlights of the tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of Dobsinska ice cave, a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, spa treatments and a welcome reception with the mayor of Presov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland, you will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and Wieliczka salt mine.

The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air-conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. At \$3899, this is the lowest price of any deluxe tour to Slovakia. For a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at - jtsenko@aol.com or (412) 956-6000.



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 yrs) 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.



Adult Ed Class At WCCC On Slovak Heritage

Westmoreland County Community College has listed a adult/ed class on Slovak Heritage 2 Thursday evenings from 6 - 8:30 at their Bushy Run Center (near Jeannette) on April 7 & 14, 2016. It will cover what remains of Slovak culture here in the US and their traditions, foods, language and music and explore how Slovak-Americans can discover their roots, trace their genealogy and find long-lost relatives in modern day Slovakia. The class will be led by Dennis Ragan.

For more information, you can contact WCCC at 1-800-262-2103, Ext. 4204 or 724-925-4204.

John Kalko



Youth Circle Page

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

May Art Contest

Just a Reminder - This year's Greeting Card Category is "**Happy Father's Day.**" Start early so we can return your card in time for Father's Day.

The Poster Category is "**What I Love about the USA.**"

The deadline is May 1st, 2016.

Pam Blum

Fraternal Activities Coordinator

Summer Language Camp for Kids

WPSCA is starting to offer Slovak language classes for children starting June 4, 2016 thru July 23, 2016. Classes will be every Saturday from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Library. Children must be able to read. Instructor Bozena Hilko is asking interested parents to contact her at bozi@comcast.net. The classes will be free, but there may be a small charge for materials.

May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. Contest is open to all members of the National Slovak Society between the ages of 5 and 16.
2. Only one entry is permitted **per member, per category.**
3. Contestants may create their artwork using:
 - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera, and cesium)
 - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
 - c. Ink/Pencil
 - d. Charcoal
 - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. The Artistic and Posters categories may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes. (Paint by numbers, stencils or tracing will not be accepted)
5. The Greeting Card category must be 5 ½ x 8 ½ folded. Please protect when shipping.
6. Each year a theme will be announced in the April Issue of the National Newsletter for the Poster and Greeting Card categories.
7. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, policy number, assembly/circle number, along with your t-shirt size. This information should be clearly printed on the back of each entry.
8. Please indicate t-shirt size by the following size chart available:
 - a. Youth sizes - YS and YM
 - b. Adult sizes - AS, AM, AL and AXL
9. Winners in each category will have their artwork displayed in the Youth Circle Publication. A listing of the winners will appear in the National News and will be published on the NSS website. First place winners will be highlighted on the cover of the Youth Circle Publication.
10. Contest shall be judged under the following levels and ages for all 3 categories:
 - a. Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
 - b. Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
 - c. Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
 - d. Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16*
11. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:
 - a. First Place \$50.00
 - b. Second Place \$25.00
 - c. Third Place \$15.00
12. All entrants will receive a NSS Life T-shirt.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING PROCESS

Deadline for entries to the Home Office is May 31st. Either mail or deliver artwork to: NSS Life, c/o Fraternal Department, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray PA 15317
Decisions of the judge(s) shall be final in all cases.

***In the event the First place winner in the Artistic Category - Van Gogh Level either enters an accredited Art School or pursues Art as a career in college, he/she will be awarded a one-time \$250.00 Art Scholarship provided that the student meets all the NSS PVR Scholarship rules and regulations.**

****The National Elder of the National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all displays or winning entries. Artwork will only be returned by request.**

Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks

We'd like you to become a part of our performing ensemble!

* Learn to sing, dance and/or play the violin.

* No experience necessary, we'll show you!

* Meet new friends

* Learn about your Slovak Heritage!

* Perform at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival, Slovak Day, Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt as well as other events!

We are now accepting new members and would like to invite you to come and find out what we are all about! For more information, call **Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204** or e-mail: **sue.ondrejco@gmail.com**

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 NSS Life, there is no better time than now to share your experience with family and friends. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward for recommending someone that we issue a policy to. You will receive a \$25 recommender fee (\$10 on the youth term product) 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.