



NSS Life

Family Matters...

May Art Contest

Deadline May 31st, 2017

See Pages 7 & 19 for Details

National Slovak Society of the United States of America

National News

Spring Youth Circle Edition

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890

Happy Easter

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY

APRIL 2017 | NUMBER 3504 VOLUME 109



National Slovak Society

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



NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY

Published Monthly

Send articles for publication to:

351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Deadline: 5th of preceding month.

"POSTMASTER" SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

Joseph Stefka, Jr., *Chairman of the Board*

Linda M. Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer, CFO*

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Burns
Michael Czarney
Andrea Garbon
Abigail Gross
Robert Katricak
Susan Ondrejco
John Payerchin
Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Drew Wesnak

NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

Sophia Hudak, *Tribunal Member*
Anthony Beno, *Director*
Dean Burns, *Vice-President*
Mary Jo Holker, *Director*
Edward Koches, *Director*
Paul J. Godor, *Director*
Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr., *Director*

FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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

PBU HONORARY OFFICER

Henri O. Albert, *President*

ROCWMAS HONORARY OFFICER

Olga Kasnot, *President*

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

Inside this Issue...

Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance 3

From the Executive Officers

President's Column..... 4
Secretary/Treasurer 5

NSS Financial Matters

2016 Fourth Quarter Financial Page 6
Annuity Interest Rates 8

NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director..... 9

NSS News/Activities

Fraternal Activities Coordinator 7
Spotlight on NSS Employee 11
NSS History 11
Assembly Activities/Photos 14-15
Ambassador Page 18

Assembly News

Departed Members 10
PVR Donations 10
Assembly Meetings12-13

Národné Noviny

Vel'konočný pondelok17
Pranostiky17
Vel'konočné symboly17



Happy Easter

Activities At A Glance

REGION 2 April 9 May 13 June 17 August 6 August 13 October 22	Assemblies L075, 0617 Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, Knights of Columbus Hall, Pittston, PA 10 am - 5 pm Assembly 0617, Meeting, (Time and place to be announced) Assembly L075, Picnic, Mercatelli-Segelia Park, Moosic, PA (Time to be announced) Assembly L075, Bingo/Pizza Party, Wilkes Barre, V A at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
REGION 5 April 9 May 1 June 11 September 10 September 18 November 6 December 3	Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0737, 0774 Assembly 0123, Spring Flower Show, Phipps Conservatory, Oakland, PA at 12:50 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread, North Fayette, PA at 6:30 pm Assembly 0039, Picnic, (Summer Bar-B-Q) Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion at 1:00 pm Assembly 0039, Meeting, (Stuffers Club-9/11 Dinner) Eat'n Park, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Time/place to be announced Assembly 0588, Meeting, Time/place to be announced Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm
REGION 8 April 2 April 18	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595 Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 11:30 am Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, North Olmsted, OH at 7:30 pm
REGION 14 April 6 April 30 July 30 October 1	Assemblies R059, L102 Assembly L102, Easter Bake Sale pick-up. Call Marge at 610-866-8945. Assembly R059, Meeting/Coffee Hour, St Nicholas Orthodox Church, following Divine Liturgy Assembly R059, Meeting, Sawarynski's residence at 1:00 pm Assembly R059, Meeting/Fundraiser, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, following Divine Liturgy
REGION 15	Assemblies L002, 0028 No activities at this time
AT LARGE April 9 April 16 April 16 April 22 April 30 May 6 June 25 July 2 September 3 September 17 November 5 November 5 December 24	Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813 Assembly 0568, Easter Mass/Lunch/Meeting, Pope John Paul II Polish Center at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0731, Easter Egg Hunt, Poland Christian Church, Struthers Rd., Lowellville at 3:00 pm Assembly 0586, Meeting, Hackney's in Palos Hills at 3:30 pm Assembly 0731, John Hands Day, Poland Christian Church, Struthers RD, Lowellville at 3:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Christmas Eve Party at Butwin Residence at 6:00 pm

12th Consular Tour of Slovakia ----- July 29th to August 11th, 2017

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Sastin, Skalica, Trencin, Bojnice, Rajecke Teplice, Cicmany, High Tatras, Levoca, Kezmarok, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kocise, Bardejov, Jedlinka 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 of the highlights of our tour. What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, 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, we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and Wieliczka salt mine.

The total price for this complete tour is just \$3,798 per person (double occupancy). The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, airconditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a copy of a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Good morning on this beautiful Spring Day. Winter is gone and now we can enjoy the blooming of flowers and trees as we enter the first full month of Spring. As of this writing in early March, the winter of 2017 will go down as a very mild one. There were many days in February that the temperature in the area of the Home Office reached into the 60 and 70 degree marks.

This month we will celebrate Easter on the 16th of the month. May you and your family have a Blessed Easter. Later in the month we will once again be joining with the First Catholic Slovak Union to participate in our annual bowling tournament on the weekend of April 21-23. This year's event is being held at Belle Vernon Lanes in Belle Vernon PA, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Hope to see you on the lanes.

The final numbers are in on the 2016 year and once again we have had a banner year of growth. Secretary Strom will provide a more detailed report but the short version is that our assets have grown to \$1,025,733,228; net income of \$8,321,678 at year end, and surplus has grown to \$43,563,074. We have a strong business plan for growing the Society both in number of members and financial strength and we have continued to achieve our goals. My thanks to the Board of Directors, the Home Office Staff and our entire membership for your help in making our organization the strong and viable fraternal benefit society it is today.

News of Narodniars

Let me start out by wishing a belated Happy Birthday to NSS Director John Payerchin who celebrated in March.

Also Birthday wishes go out to Director Drew Wesnak, former Director Bill Knoll, Home Office staffer Lisa Shriver and former staffer Kristen Boehm, and to 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.

Continued wishes for a full and speedy recover go out to Else Resosky and Bucky Wesnak and to all others who may be sick or recovering from an injury.

Home Schooled

Everybody over 50 was home schooled. Most of our generation 50 +, or slightly younger was Home Schooled in so many ways including the following:

1. My mother taught me **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**. If you're going to kill each other, do it outside, I just finished cleaning.
2. My mother taught me **RELIGION**. You better pray that will come out of the car-pet.
3. My father taught me about **TIME TRAVEL**. If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!
4. My father taught me **LOGIC**. Because I said so, that's why.
5. My mother taught me **MORE LOGIC**. If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me.
6. My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**. Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident and have to go to the hospital.
7. My father taught me **IRONY**. Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about.
8. My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS**. Shut your mouth and eat your supper.
9. My mother taught me about **CONTORTIONIST**. Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck?
10. My mother taught me about **STAMINA**. You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone.
11. My mother taught me about **WEATHER**. This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it.
12. My mother taught me about **HYPOCRISY**. If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!
13. My father taught me the **CIRCLE OF LIFE**. I brought you into this world, and I can take you out...
14. My mother taught me about **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION**. Stop acting like your father!
15. My mother taught me about **ENVY**. There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do
16. My mother taught me about **ANTICIPATION**. Just wait until we get home.
17. My mother taught me about **RECEIVING**. You're going to get it from your father when he gets home!
18. My mother taught me **MEDICAL SCIENCE**. If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way.
19. My mother taught me **ESP**. Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?
20. My father taught me **HUMOR**. When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me.
21. My mother taught me **HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT**. If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.
22. My mother taught me **GENETICS**. You're just like your father.
23. My mother taught me about my **ROOTS**. Shut that door behind you, do you think you were born in a barn?
24. My mother taught me **WISDOM**. When you get to be my age, you'll understand.
25. My father taught me about **JUSTICE**. One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you!

Last Call

You have until April 15th to make a contribution to your IRA for the 2016 tax year. Now is also the time to make that contribution for the 2017 tax year. Contributing early is one of the best ways to take advantage of the compounding of interest you will receive to enhance your IRA accumulation potential.

Punography Of The Month:

What does a clock do when its hungry? It goes back four seconds.

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



Time Flies

Today is March 13th and I'm writing my article for our April Newsletter. The weather forecast for this upcoming week is SNOW, SNOW and more SNOW. I sure do hope that by the time this edition gets to you in April that the weather is beautiful, sunny and warmer in preparation for Easter.

Assembly Packets

Now that we have completed the filing of our 2016 Annual Statement and have held our 2nd Assembly Officers Seminar I will be preparing information to include in the first Assembly Packet for 2017 which I plan to mail out mid-April. In this packet will be a listing of your membership, a final copy of your Assembly's Fraternal Tracking report that will be presented to the Board for approval at their June board meeting and updated pages for your Assembly's NSS Fraternal Manual.

IRS 990-N Filings

This month I will begin filing the IRS 990-N for each of our Regions and Assemblies. If you receive information in the mail regarding the 990-N for your assembly, please forward it on to me at the Home Office.

2016 End Results

I know you have heard this before but it begs repeating. From a mere \$20.00 in 1890 to over \$1 Billion in Total Assets at the end of 2016 the NSS achieved it's greatest milestone. This required a solid, attainable Strategic Plan which focused on slow, steady growth; Leaders that were not afraid to make those decisions that were not always favorable; and Members who stood, and still stand, behind the NSS. Congratulations to all on this achievement.

Happy Easter!



Things You Should Notify NSS About

1. Change of address and phone number.
2. Change of name if you get married or divorced.
3. Beneficiary change if one of your named beneficiaries has passed.
4. Any change in banking information if you receive payments or make automatic payments.
5. The addition of a named POA (Power of Attorney).



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.

NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE USA

Comparative Statement of Financial Condition for 2016 & 2015

Admitted Assets	December 31, 2016	December 31, 2015
Bonds	\$985,156,489	\$872,509,151
Preferred/Common Stocks	1,305,635	979,425
Mortgage Loans	6,137,977	8,765,201
Certificate Loans	733,928	652,721
Cash	19,521,014	12,266,748
Real Estate	723,674	745,029
Investment Income Due	11,788,643	11,031,689
Other Assets	165,120	97,937
Total Assets	\$1,025,532,480	\$907,047,901
Liabilities, Surplus and Other Funds		
Aggregate Reserves	\$913,883,000	\$810,989,000
Certificate & Contract Claims	225,000	250,000
General Expenses Due	1,748,000	1,547,000
Refunds Due	425,000	385,000
Deposit-Type Contracts	54,913,000	48,359,100
Amounts Retained by Society	152,161	37,257
Commissions Due	140,000	160,000
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	4,939,745	4,795,721
Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR)	5,543,500	4,366,800
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	43,413,074	36,008,023
Total Liabilities, Surplus	\$1,025,532,480	\$907,047,901
Summary of Operations		
Income:		
Life & Annuity Premiums	\$165,020,054	\$152,299,739
Net Investment Income	45,330,095	41,201,928
Amortization of IMR	648,623	715,629
Total Income	\$210,998,772	\$194,217,296
Expenses:		
Payment to Policyholders	\$ 90,094,895	\$ 87,448,742
Increase in Policyholder Reserves	102,894,000	88,773,500
Commissions on Direct Business	4,262,800	4,044,199
General and Tax Expenses	4,900,531	4,471,521
Total Expenses	\$202,152,226	\$184,737,962
Less Refunds to Members	419,194	380,865
Net Realized Capital Gains	(105,674)	(12,746)
Net Income	\$ 8,321,678	\$ 9,085,723

Fraternal Matters...

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



Region 5 and Assembly 774 Sponsors NSS Night at PNC Park

Region 5 & Assembly 774 are sponsoring a group baseball outing on Friday, June 16th, 2017. Come join us as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the World Series Champion Chicago Cubs. It's a free T-shirt night and we're in the "All You Can Eat" seats. The price of the tickets is being subsidized by Region 5 and Home Office Assembly 774. The price is only \$25.00 (regularly \$45.00). We have a limited amount of tickets available. You must be a member of Region 5 in order to attend this event. Send your check (payable to NSS) and the names of those attending to: NSS Life, Attn: Pam Blum, 351 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317. Come on out and join us for a great night of baseball and fraternalism. LET'S GO BUCS!!!!

2017 United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament

This year's tournament will be held April 21 & 22, 2017 at Brunswick Lanes in Belle Vernon, PA. (About 25 miles south of Pittsburgh.) There is still time to register for the banquet. Call Pam at 724-731-0094.

Attention High School Seniors

Don't forget to apply for this year's PVR Scholarship!! The scholarship is for \$2000 payable in 4 installments of \$500 per year. Deadline for applications is May 1, 2017. 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, 2017**.

2017 May Art Contest

Attention all NSS Youth Members... It's that time of year again to create artwork to submit for the May Art Contest. The deadline is **May 31st**, so begin thinking of an idea, collect your art supplies and get started. This year's Greeting Card Category is a **"Graduation"** card. You may add comments to your card and make them as simple or elaborate as you want. After the winners are determined, all of the "Graduation" cards will be forwarded to our PVR Scholarship recipients. The Poster Category theme is **"My Favorite Summer Vacation"**. Show us your creativity and put into pictures your favorite memory of a summer vacation. The deadline for the contest is May 31st.

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.

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!!

2017 National Golf Tournament

The National Golf Tournament will be held on July 14-16, 2017 at The Links at Firestone Farms, Columbiana, OH. Accommodations will be at Das Dutch House. 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 & I will make sure you're on the mailing list.



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



Any IRA or Roth deposits between now and April 18th should be clearly marked as deposits for tax year 2016 or 2017.
Any monies received after April 18, 2017 will be applied to tax year 2017.

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

Did you know....

You can add money 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 since 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.

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



Interesting Things To Know About IRAs

Since the deadline for IRAs is right around the corner (Tuesday, April 18, 2017) here are a few interesting facts that you may or may not know:

- The IRA program began in 1974 and that year the most you could contribute was \$1,500. Today the maximum is \$5,500 and an additional \$1,000 catch-up amount if you are age 50 or older.
- A child can have a Roth IRA if they have taxable earned income.
- A nonworking spouse can open and contribute to an IRA provided the other spouse is working and they file a joint return.
- If you exceed certain income limits you may not be able to contribute to a traditional IRA but you can always make non-deductible contributions and then later convert those to a Roth IRA.
- Self-employed people should explore a SEP IRA because it has much higher contribution limits.
- If your income is too much for a traditional IRA then look at the Roth IRA because it has higher income limits.
- If you are receiving alimony payments – this amount can count as earned income.
- Since 2013, more money has gone into Roth IRAs than traditional IRAs
- If you have a traditional IRA, you may convert it to a Roth IRA. And if later, you decide that wasn't working out to your advantage you can undo the conversion.
- A Roth IRA has no minimum distributions (RMDs) unlike a traditional IRA does at age 70½.

As the 2016 tax year winds to a close – let's resolve to make 2017 a better year. Decide now to open, fund, or contribute more money to your IRA accounts this year.

NSS offers IRAs and SEP plans with a variety of choices. It is easy to get started with plans that pay as much as 3.5% interest. Call your local representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information. Let us help make your future a little more secure.



Thought for the Month:

*You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.*

Dr. Suess (1904-1991) American writer

2016 4th Quarter Leaders

Our **TOP PREMIUM** producer for the 4th Quarter is **Rich Nulph**. Rich and his wife, Linda live in Natrona Heights, Pa. Rich is the founder and president of Safety First Retirement LLC. His company was built to help families with safe retirement options as well as estate planning and Medicare products. Rich and Linda are blessed with 2 sons. Nathanael is a Pitt graduate and currently runs the Medicare side of the business. Josh is currently at Pitt and is also studying to take his insurance license exam. Rich is also a part-time pastor. He serves at Lighthouse Fellowship in Sarver, PA.

"NSS Life has the best staff in the insurance business. They have done amazing things over the years to help my clients with incredible service," said Rich. You can learn more about Rich and his team at www.safety1stretirement.com or find them on Facebook as well.



Our top **NEW MEMBER** producer for the 4th Quarter is **Nouchao Her**. Nouchao recently relocated to Oklahoma, but continues his business in the states of MI, WI, OH, PA, CA and CO. He has 17 years of life insurance experience and has been with NSS Life since 2011. Honest and always ready to provide life insurance solutions to members. If you are looking for life insurance coverage for you or your loved ones, please contact Mr. Her at his Toll Free Number: 866-317-1514 or email him at: NOUCHAOHER@GMAIL.COM.

Dorothy Butwin Jones Passes On

Dorothy E. Butwin Jones, long time member of Assembly 0705, passed away on January 24, 2017 at the age of 89. She was the youngest daughter of John & Anna Butwin, founding members of Assembly 0705 in Seelyville, IN. She is survived by her children, Barbara Jones, Jim Jones, and Bob (Jenny) Jones, grandchildren Ashley, Caroline & Matthew Jones, Roxanne & Rachelle Jones and great-grandchildren, JJ & Jayceon Dashillas. Dorothy was an active member of the Assembly and of the Butwin family. She worked hard to make family gatherings successful. She really enjoyed the time when the family gathered together for the Christmas Eve Party in December. Dorothy will be missed. May she Rest in Peace.

Dorothy Buck
Secretary

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Calvin Kanyuck** of the former Assembly 0146:

From Assembly 0617 100.00

In Memory of the Deceased Members of 2015 and 2016:

From Assembly 0004 200.00

Donations:

Irene A. Combi 50.00

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, 2017

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Ancher, Julia	Jefferson, OH	12/22/2016	0004
Balsick, Raymond	Pepton, CO	12/24/2016	0236
Banas, Pamela	Highland, IN	02/03/2017	0586
Boban, Elizabeth	McKees Rocks, PA	01/24/2017	0100
Bobby, Gayle	Parma, OH	01/24/2017	0070
Buss, Helen	Summersville, WV	01/02/2017	0774
Butor, Edward	McMurray, PA	02/12/2017	0434
Caldwell, Walter	Wheeling, WV	01/17/2017	0774
Camp, Adelaide	North Fort Myers, FL	09/15/2015	0774
Carano, Irene	Syracuse, NY	01/21/2017	0774
Carter, Mary	Cabot, PA	01/08/2017	0123
Cepela, Michaleen	Crete, IL	12/25/1994	0586
Connoly, James	Belle Vernon, PA	01/23/2017	0377
Corbin, Estelle	Wethersfield, CT	12/12/2016	0774
Crawford, Mildred	Allenport, PA	12/31/2016	0377
Cuhran, John	Poland, OH	02/04/2017	0731
Drutarovsky, Lyona	Peckville, PA	02/02/2017	L075
Ellison, Gladys	Glenville, WV	01/13/2017	0774
Ernest, Richard	Burton, OH	01/31/2017	0070
Fair, Virginia	Monongahela, PA	01/03/2017	0377
Fisher, Emma	Gallipolis Ferry, WV	01/21/2017	0774
Galford, Otis	Marlinton, WV	01/30/2017	0774
Gallagher, Paul	New Brighton, PA	10/27/2016	0434
Goette, Dorothy	Merrimac, WI	12/22/2016	0774
Grose, Charles	Hickory, PA	02/19/2017	0588
Happersett, Paul	Boynton Beach, FL	01/29/2017	0800
Holloway, Arthur	Cuyahoga Falls, OH	01/06/2017	0004
Homola, Ronald	Johnstown, PA	02/06/2017	L075
Hoysa Jr., Matthew J	Cornelius, NC	10/08/2016	0586
Kelley, Irene	North Versailles, PA	11/27/2016	0123
Klimchak, Helen	Elizabeth, PA	02/02/2017	0100
Marcinka, Edward	Mingo Junction, OH	02/10/2017	P38A
Marino, Betty	Boardman, OH	01/20/2017	0731
McQuillis, Nellie	Ligonier, PA	07/30/2016	0737
Minich, Matthew	Reynoldsville, PA	02/08/2017	0774
Minto, Elsie	Merritt Island, FL	11/21/2016	P38A
Monachello, Anna Marie	Bristol, PA	12/11/2016	L102
Mudrak, Ann	Westmont, IL	02/15/2017	0586
Mudrick, Goldie	Charleroi, PA	01/16/2017	0377
Nelson, Kathryn	Pleasant Grove, AI	11/21/2016	0100
O Connor, Patrick	Greensburg, PA	01/10/2017	0039
Pajak, Margaret	Pittsburgh, PA	12/16/2016	0100
Palahunik, Debra	McKees Rocks, PA	01/23/2017	L161
Pankiewicz, Lawrence	Charleroi, PA	01/22/2017	0377
Potopchuk, Teresa	Orchard Park, NY	02/06/2017	R019
Pytel, Dorothy	Brunswick, OH	10/21/2016	0432
Rhoad, Michael	Lebanon, PA	02/18/2017	L102
Robinson, Hortense	East Orange, NJ	12/28/2016	0774
Rose, Mary	Beaver, PA	01/05/2017	0123
Rosengrant, Byron	Tunkannock, PA	01/07/2017	0617
Simmons, Shirley	Pittsburgh, PA	01/24/2017	0441
Sluka, Mary	Leechburg, PA	01/30/2017	L040
Snyder, William	New Kensington, PA	01/22/2017	0441
Stricker, Joyce`	Eighty Four, PA	03/29/2016	0434
Swires, Francis	Portage, PA	12/04/2016	0774
Taylor, William	West Middlesex, PA	09/17/2016	0731
Thistlethwaite, Betty	Waynesburg, PA	01/14/2017	0377
Trubisky, Anna	Union, KY	01/18/2017	0004
Udelhofen, Joyce	Lancaster, WI	12/04/2016	0774
Weinman, Norma	Mt Pleasant, PA	12/25/2016	0737
Weyant, Laurie	Monroeville, PA	01/18/2017	L105
Wolwowicz, Raymond	Moon Twp, PA	02/15/2016	0108
Wright, Harvey	Clarksburg, PA	11/29/2016	L105
Zemarel, Francis A	Pittsburgh, PA	11/16/2016	L161



Youth Circle Magazine - Spring 2017



Find the 6 Digit Numbers

1	6	2	2	6	1	2	5	6	2	2	1	7
6	6	5	4	7	6	6	5	8	2	8	7	8
3	6	5	0	7	4	5	6	4	0	9	2	4
4	2	1	3	2	8	4	3	7	4	4	5	2
9	7	4	3	8	4	3	8	9	3	6	0	6
6	3	7	9	7	1	4	2	1	2	8	6	0
9	5	9	9	4	9	6	4	9	1	1	2	1
6	7	1	4	5	1	4	4	5	8	8	9	3
3	5	4	2	7	9	1	9	5	1	4	1	6
8	2	4	5	6	7	1	4	7	7	3	6	8
3	5	7	9	2	5	9	0	8	4	6	9	0
1	9	7	2	7	25	2	3	6	4	6	6	2
9	4	9	7	6	7	3	1	2	3	5	1	9

106248

494114

564237

154259

496963

605271

162261

496974

653921

225479

532137

62735

236462

546183

751951

479158

563824

908469

489238

What is Slovak Food? I have never heard of it!

The traditional food of Slovakia is not exactly well known around the world. This is a huge shame! Slovak may not be the most low-fat cuisine out there (but then, a little fat is good for you), but it is very wholesome, down-to-earth cooking. It's like spending everyday at your grandparents. Slovak food is very cheap, easy to cook, and best of all, extremely delicious!

Slovak Cuisine

The cuisine has its origin in the diverse Slovak geography. The landscapes vary from flat lowlands of the Danube valley in the south, through the wine producing Tokaj region in the east, to the snow-capped alpine peaks of the Tatra mountains in the north. Traditionally, Slovakia was a

land of simple peasants, who spent their days working in the fields or watching after sheep in the mountains. The cuisine evolved from the ingredients people grew in their gardens, or from the products of the animals they raised. Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers and onions make the basis of many dishes. These are supplemented by chicken, pork, and to a lesser degree beef. And then there are the sheep. Besides mutton (which isn't actually all that common), sheep produced various cheese products, including a feta-like cheese called Bryndza and the smoked cheese Oštiepok.

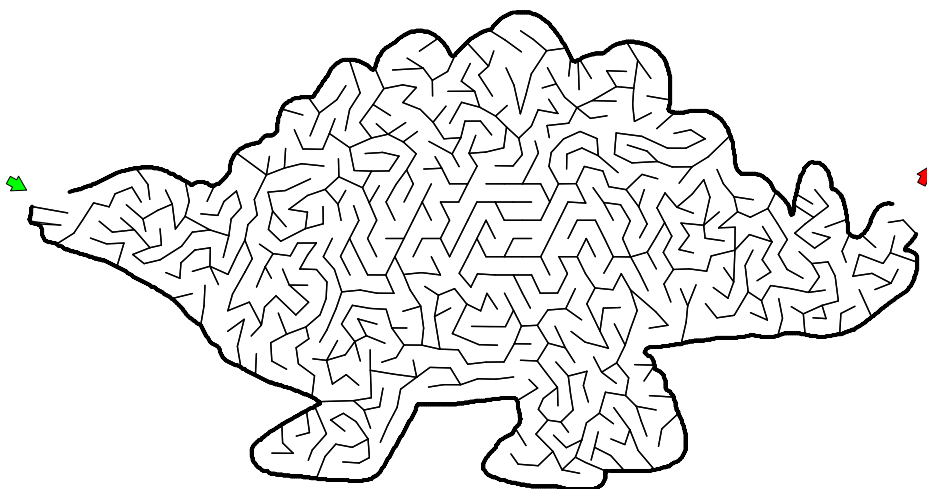
This will also give you an idea of the kinds of dishes you may expect to find in a typical Slovak restaurant.

GROWING UP

S	W	D	Z	M	R	D	R	A	G	E	D	R	N
E	E	O	E	G	A	E	L	D	D	I	M	G	A
N	M	P	M	E	G	T	L	I	Y	U	E	E	I
I	J	T	T	A	H	C	U	D	H	L	L	N	R
O	U	T	N	U	N	C	A	R	D	C	G	T	A
R	V	E	G	E	A	L	R	E	E	O	R	L	N
N	E	E	W	T	C	G	R	A	L	O	T	E	E
T	N	A	F	N	I	S	E	D	I	K	A	M	T
N	I	O	C	T	O	G	E	N	A	R	I	A	N
E	L	C	T	O	Y	N	U	L	A	N	T	N	E
I	E	I	Y	T	A	J	M	K	O	R	D	A	C
C	P	O	K	G	I	R	L	R	J	D	I	U	P
N	B	R	E	T	S	G	N	U	O	Y	A	A	A
A	G	R	O	W	N	U	P	A	R	E	N	T	N

ADOLESCENT	ADULT	AGED	ANCIENT	BOY	CENTENARIAN
CHILD	ELDER	GIRL	INFANT	LADY	JUNIOR
GENTLEMAN	GROWNUP	MATURE	JUVENILE	MINOR	OCTOGENARIAN
GOLDENAGER	PARENT	SENIOR	TEENAGER	TOT	SEPTUAGENARIAN
PATRIARCH	TODDLER	TWEEN	TYKE	WOMAN	YOUNGSTER
		MIDDLEAGE			

Dinosaur Maze



LEARNING QUOTE

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.

How To Make A Sailboat

Craft foam Mini bamboo skewers
Pencil Scissors Washi tape
Wine bottle corks Rubber bands

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Draw the shape of a sail onto your foam sheet in pencil. You can use one of the skewers as a guide to make sure your sail isn't too big or too small.
2. Cut out the sail with scissors.
3. Poke the skewer through the top and bottom of the sail, so that the pointy end comes out of the bottom.
4. Wrap a strip of washi tape around the top of the skewer, then trim into a triangle to create your sailboat's flag.
5. Create the base of the boat by laying three corks next to each other and securing with two rubber bands.
6. Poke the pointy end of the skewer into the middle cork to attach your mast.



Bouncy Balls

Two small bowls Two plastic forks Measuring cup
Measuring spoons Food Coloring Borax
Corn flour 4-oz bottle of clear school glue Water



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix 2 tbsp. hot water and 1/2 tsp. Borax in a small bowl.
2. In a separate bowl, combine 1 tbsp. corn flour, 1 tbsp. glue and a few drops of food coloring.
3. Transfer 1/2 tsp. of the Borax and water mixture into the bowl with corn flour, then mix everything together until it solidifies.
4. Scoop your mixture out and roll it into a ball shape. Let the bouncing begin!

The balls bounced higher after they'd been allowed to sit and harden for 10-20 minutes. Store your new toys in an airtight container after you're done playing — they'll last longer.

(Borax (not to be confused with boric acid) is a naturally occurring mineral that is safe to handle. But as with any household cleaning product, remember to wash your hands, keep it away from your eyes, and avoid inhaling it or exposing yourself to large quantities of it.)

Joke Time

Q: What did the red light say to the green light?

A: Look I'm changing!

Q: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?

A: He didn't have the guts!

Q: What do two oceans do when they meet?

A: Nothing! Just wave

Q: What is the best type of ship?

A: FRIENDSHIP!

Q: What did the bee say to the flower?

A: Hi, honey.

Q: What has ten letters and starts with gas?

A: An automobile.

Q: What happened when the shark became famous?

A: He turned into a starfish.

Q: What is a bee that can't make up his mind?

A: A maybe.

Q: What is a baby's motto

A: If at first you don't succeed cry cry again!

Riddles

Teacher: Whoever answers my next question, can go home.

One boy throws his bag out the window.

Teacher: Who just threw that?

Boy: Me and I'm going home now.

Teacher: What exactly is MATH?

Boy: Mental Abuse To Humans

Son: I can't go to school today.

Father: Why not?

Son: I don't feel so well.

Father: Where does it hurt?

Son: In school.

Q: How do you put a elephant in the fridge?

A: Open the door, put the elephant in and close the door.

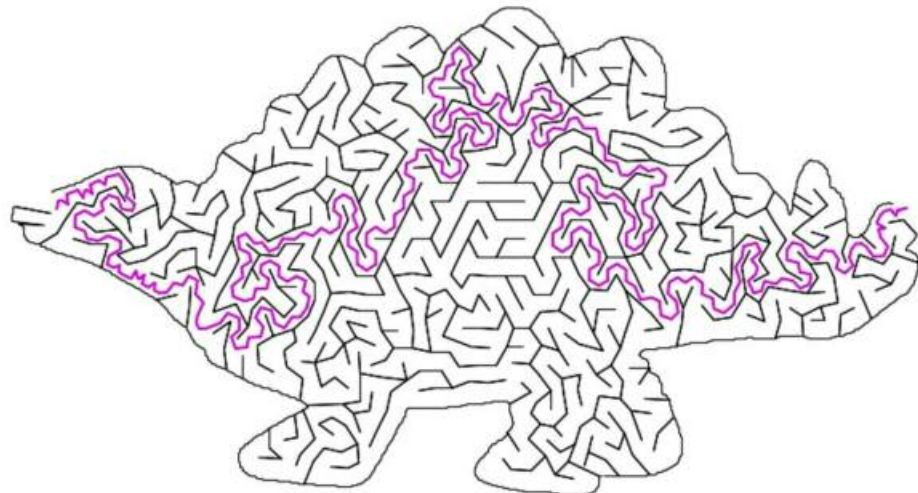
Q: How do you put a giraffe if the fridge?

A: Open the door take the elephant out, put the giraffe in, and close the door.

A kid asks his father.....

Kid: Daddy why do I have to go to bed?

Dad: Because the bed won't come to you.



This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

April, 1870

Albert Mamatey, the third president of the National Slovak Society was born in the village of Klastor pod Znievom in Turiec County.

April, 1930

Juraj (George) Tomascik was elected as the sixth president of the National Slovak Society at the XVI Convention in Lorain, Ohio. He was the first American born NSS President.

April, 1977

The results of a referendum vote to change the location of the 1978 Convention were announced. A total of 1730 votes were recorded, 71 votes to keep the location in Los Angeles, California, and 1659 votes to change the location. The change of location would be an agenda item at the upcoming Annual Meeting in May.

April, 1983

Karol Belohlavek, a National Slovak Society member, and one of the founders of the Slovak Garden died.

April, 2002

National Secretary-Treasurer Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. reported that the Society was closing in on a milestone of \$100 million in assets.

Spotlight On Brigid Delien Customer Service Associate



Have you ever called in with questions about your policy? You have probably heard my voice providing you with excellent customer service!

Hi! My name is Brigid Delien and I am your friendly Customer Service Associate.

I began my career with NSS Life in October of 2010 as the Executive Assistant/Fraternal Activities Coordinator. In that role I oversaw the many fraternal activities that NSS provides to our members, as well as, perform administrative duties as needed.

In an effort to learn more about the business side of NSS, I then took the position of Customer Service Associate when the position became available.

In this role I answer a myriad of questions our members have about their policies, which may include account balances, beneficiary information or policy verifications. I also input the data on all our new life insurance policies, put together and mail out all policies and track the delivery of each policy to the member. In addition, I oversee the beneficiary changes to policies as requested by our members, as well as, providing the correct forms and making and confirming with the member that their request has been completed. If you need to make a change to your policy (i.e address, phone number change) I am the one to help you.

I enjoy talking to our members and helping you with your questions and concerns. And remember, no question is too minor! I answer all with the courtesy and respect that you have come to expect from NSS Life.

On a personal note, I have a wonderful husband of 20 years. A son who is a senior at Slippery Rock University and a daughter who just started her freshman year in high school. My little family is rounded out by our 2 dogs, 3 cats and 1 guinea pig! In my spare time you will find me in the kitchen making and trying new and exciting dishes, which my family is more than happy to taste test for me!



Congratulations



NSS Controller, Donna Tenney celebrates 30 years at NSS Life.

May Deadlines

- 1st PVR Scholarship Program First Year Applications Due
- 1st American Fraternalist Alliance Join Hands Day
- 31st Art Contest Deadline

ASSEMBLY 004

Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 21, 2017** at the home of Milly Havir, 1744 Westhill Boulevard, Westlake, Ohio at 2:00 pm. We hope to see you there.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Seventeen members gathered for our March dinner/meeting to celebrate the beginning of the Lenten Season in our local Eat n' Park. We agreed to purchase a full page ad in the program book for the celebration of our Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Strom as the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh "Fraternalist of the Year". Members also agreed to support the upcoming NSS National Bowling Tournament.

Members are invited to volunteer for our participation in the NSS National Fight Hunger Project by joining with the National Association of Letter Carriers for their 25th Annual "Stamp Out Hunger" on Saturday, **May 13th, 2017**. Members are asked to meet at 10:00 am at the main Uniontown post office rear loading dock.

We had four members attend the NSS Assembly Officers Meeting in March. President and NSS Board Members John Payerchin, Vice-President Timothy Schwer, Treasurer, Nancy Schwer and Youth Trustee, Mackenzie Payerchin. They will be giving a report at our June Bar-B-Q.

As you plan your summer schedule, be sure to mark on your calendar our annual Summer Bar-B-Q on Sunday, **June 11th, 2017**. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion, on Gallatin Avenue Extension at 1:00 pm. This is a free event to members and non-members alike.

One of the newest non-insurance program offered by the NSS is hearing benefits by American Hearing Benefits. For discounts or more information call (888) 705-6920.

Our young members are reminded about the NSS May Art Contest. It will be here before you know it! Rules and regulations are on the NSS website at: nsslife.org. Deadline is May 31st!!!

As Christians we will be celebrating Easter on Sunday, April 16th. We wish you and your family all the joys and hopes of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 004

Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on **April 18, 2017** at the Pytels, 25680 Timber Cove, North Olmsted, OH at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Thank you to all who attended the Reverse Raffle. Congratulations to the 5 winners of the main raffle. Hope to see everyone again next year!

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY R059/RC59

Whitehall, PA

Our assembly will hold the following meetings during the year of 2017.

April 30, 2017 - Meeting & Coffee Hour will be held at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church following Divine Liturgy.

July 30, 2017 - Meeting at the Sawarynski's residence at 1:00 pm.

October 1, 2017 - Hot Dog Fundraiser to benefit the Allentown Rescue Mission at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church following Divine Liturgy.

Call Nancy Sabol at 610-266-7346 for directions and/or additional information. Members are urged to attend.

Elizabeth Sabol
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

Mark your calendars for all of our activities that we have planned throughout the year.

On **May 13th, 2017** members will assist the US Postal workers for their annual food drive and our Join Hands Day at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Pittston, PA. from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

August 6, 2017 will be our fraternal summer picnic at the Mercateli-Segelia Park, Moosic, PA. Members will bring a covered dish and items for the Chinese

auction, conducted by Marlin Petro Wesnak Region 2 President. Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak will cook up hotdog's and hamburgers. The Margaret Pilosi Scholarship winner will be announced and Bingo will be played for prizes.

We will host a bingo and pizza party for the veterans at the Wilkes Barre V A 2nd floor recreation room on **August 13th, 2017** at 2:00 pm.

Our final meeting of the year will be on **October 22nd, 2017** at the Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm.

Lehrae Ann Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L102

Schnecksville, PA

Cardinal Tomko Chapter Easter bake sale pick up is **April 6**. Call Marge to arrange your time at 610-866-8945. Happy Easter!

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

Spring is here and a rather mild winter is gone, so to brighten things up how about going to the Spring Flower Show at Phipps Conservatory in Oakland. If you are interested please call Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546. We are scheduled to go Sunday, **April 9th, 2017** at 1:00 pm. All are welcome; entrance fee will be paid by the Assembly. Meet at the front entrance at 12:50 pm. Afterwards, if there is interest, we will gather at a nice restaurant for a late lunch/ early dinner and some friendly conversation.

We had a recent phone call from a wonderful member, Jean Brown, widow of Bob Brown a past Fraternalist of the Year. Jean is now Assembly 123 member living in North Carolina. She is doing well and enjoying herself. She said hello and sends her best to all her friends.

Parents, Grandparents if you have a child or grandchild who is eligible for the PVR scholarship, encourage, cajole, and threaten him or her to get their paper work in by May 1st. This is a wonderful benefit of being a member of NSS. Don't lose out on this \$2,000 of scholarship money.

There are a number of interesting activities that came up but because of the

timing delay of getting information in the magazine we cannot take part in them. If you would like to be informed of these just give your email address to Mary Maniecki at: MaryTM4@verizon.net Your name will be added to the list. Mary is also open to your suggestions for activities. We would like to get more of our members involved.

April 24th is a holiday in our family and it should be yours too. Why? It is Pigs in the Blanket Day. Yes, there was nothing better than my mother's and mother-in-law's Pigs in the Blanket.

If any member has a birthday or anniversary or accomplishment of note that they would like recognized in the magazine please let me know. I'll be sure to get it in. Pictures are also welcome. Call me or email me, 724-242-5085 or wbkns123@hotmail.com

May I wish each of you a blessed Easter! "He has Risen"!

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 554

Curwensville, PA

Our next meeting will be held on **July 2, 2017** assembly at the home of Jim Stricek, 135 McCullough Street, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm.

For information and directions contact Jim at (814) 590-7021 or assembly554@gmail.com

Jim Stricek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 568

LaCanada, CA

Slovak Easter Mass

Our Annual Slovak Easter Mass will be held on Palm Sunday, **April 9th, 2017** at Pope John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA. Mass will begin 1:00 pm and a Slovak lunch will be served after mass along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

Also, following the festivities Assembly 568 members will hold a meeting to review officers reports and discuss assembly activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Milan Konkol
President

ASSEMBLY 586

Chicago, IL

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 30th, 2017** at Hackney's in Palos Hills.

On Sunday, February 26, our assembly gathered to celebrate the memory of Lenore Demma, beloved assembly member and past officer, who passed away recently. We shared our stories of her after a nice brunch and allocated funds to donate to the PVR Scholarship Fund in her honor.

Happy Easter to all and best wishes to Linda Strom, NSS Fraternalist of the Year!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 588

Slovan, PA

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, **May 1, 2017** at Panera Bread, North Fayette, PA at 6:30 pm.

Annette Stefka
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 617

Ashley, PA

Welcomes Assembly 146

Officers & members of Assembly 617/C617 are honored to have members of the late Calvin Kanyuck's Assembly 146 join our assembly. Calvin worked very hard in keeping Assembly 146 active through the years. He was also active as our treasurer of Region 2. After Calvin's death, his son, Dwight, tried to keep the assembly going, but he lives in New York and found it difficult to continue to plan meetings, etc from that distance. We commend both father, Calvin, and son, Dwight, for doing their best for their assembly.

Our assembly will make a donation to the PVR Scholarship Fund in the name of Calvin Kanyuck from our combined Assembly. Calvin was a proud Slovak and a proud veteran. We miss him at our region meetings.

We hope that all members of the former Assembly 146 will join us at our next meeting on **June 17, 2017** so

we can welcome you in person. We would like you to become active at our meetings and activities. Everytime you see Assembly 617 in the National News, that means you are all welcomed to come and join us.

Rose Mary Strish
President

REGION 2

Hazleton, PA

This year, we met at a new restaurant for our Region #2 meeting, Perkins in Pittston, PA on February 11, 2017. We had 11 members of Assembly 617 and 5 members of L075 attending. Each assembly reviewed their activities for the year. Region 2 was notified that Assembly 617's membership. We also discussed the officers seminar in March and we were all happy and pleased that Linda Strom was chosen as Fraternalist of the Year 2017 by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh.

We were also proud that Linda was here for our Testimonial Banquet at our seminar. We have representatives from both our assemblies attending the seminar and dinner. Our annual reports were done, followed by our fraternal luncheon.

Rose Mary Strish
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 19, 2017

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

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

Assembly 0070 will be hosting this meeting. Plans for activities for the balance of 2017 will be discussed.

Hope to see you all there!

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary

Slovak Night with Jaroslav Halak



Pictured with Sound Tigers Goalie Jaroslav Halak (seated) are Assembly L002 members Nelson Ladue, Carol Ladue and Carrie DeFelice.

On Sunday, February 26th 2017, we celebrated Slovak night at the Webster Bank Arena located in Bridgeport CT. Jaroslav Halak, the goalie for the Bridgeport Sound Tigers, (a farm team for the NY Islanders) did a meet and greet after the game.

Jaroslav is a 31 year old young man from Bratislava who has been playing hockey since he was 8 years old.

The Sound Tigers played the Hershey Bears and won by a score of 2 to 1. Of the 20 shots on goal, Jaroslav had 19 saves. Several members of NSS Assembly L002 were in attendance at the game.



Assembly 617/C617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly held our first meeting of the year at Perkins Restaurant, Pittston, PA on February 11, 2017. We were delighted to share the news of our Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Strom, being chosen as Fraternalist of the Year of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh. We will have 2 representatives at the a seminar who will be attending Linda's testimonial banquet. We are all looking forward to having members of Calvin Kanyuck's Assembly 146 coming to our future meetings and activities since their assembly has recently joined our assembly.

We completed our annual reports, and reviewed our activities and donations for 2016. We had 2 Matching Fundraisers: one for El Salvadore and one for the Ashley Food Pantry. For our Join Hands Day, we served a meal at St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen and sponsored them for the day with our donation. We gave donations to Little Flower Manor Nursing Home, Catholic Social Services, The McAuley Center for Women & Children, the NSS Slovak Museum and Golf Tournament and two clubs' at Holy Redeemer High School. Our biggest Fraternal Activity was a day at Knoebels Amusement Park. Our children were active in the Art and Poetry Contests and did very well. All in all, we had a productive year. We discussed our 2017 plans and we will be doing the same this year with a few more possible additions. Our tentative date for our next meeting is June 17 and for our Fraternal Day at Knoebels is July 27.

Rose Mary Strish
President

Assembly L102 Matching Funds Project



Members of Assembly L102 filled up several shopping carts with food to make another donation to a local elementary school as part of the Blessings in a Backpack program. All items were delivered to Dodd Elementary School in Allentown where the guidance counselor distributed the items to children who may otherwise go home to empty cupboards. Sixty-Seven percent (67%) of the students who attend

Dodd Elementary are considered "economically disadvantaged," according to the PA Dept. of Education. The food was sent home with the students right before their Spring Break in February.

ANNUAL SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 8, 2017

St. Adalbert Church

160 So.15th Street, South Side



10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

12:15 p.m. -- SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS

sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)
kolbasy (sausage) paska (sweet bread) kolace (baked goods)

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side

* Homemade Baked Goods

* Craft Demonstrations

* Cultural Displays

* Imported Slovak gifts

* Slovak "Auction" / Raffles



ADMISSION FREE - Donations Gratefully Accepted
For more information call (412) 481-8380

Assembly 588 Completes National Fraternal Project



Assembly 588 Officers and members of the Avella Area High School National Honor Society at the recent check presentation:
First Row (l-r): Cassandra Muhr, Paige Allen, Becca Spencer, Victoria Clarchick, Madison Dubich, and Sarah Dzurko
Second Row (l-r): John Bebo, Jr.- Assembly 588 President, Florence Bebo - Assembly 588 Activities Director/Eldress, Maverick Glaum, Robert Scott - Avella NHS President, Joseph Stefka, Jr.- Assembly 588 Financial Secretary, Catherine Fluharty - Avella NHS Secretary, Sarah Maidment, Annette Stefka - Assembly 588 Recording Secretary, Lynn Akins - Avella NHS Advisor.

Members of Assembly 588 recently completed a successful matching funds project for the Blessings in a Backpack program in the Avella Area School District, as part of the National Fraternal Project for 2016. Avella Area School District is a small, rural school district located in Washington County, Pennsylvania. The Blessings in a Backpack Program at Avella is conducted by the Avella Chapter of the National Honor Society as part of their service to the local community. The Blessings in a Backpack program relies on individuals from the community to provide and pack food for children who are at risk of not being fed over the weekend. Through Blessings in a Backpack, the Avella Chapter of the National Honor Society serves ten to fifteen elementary school students each week by giving a backpack of non-perishable food items to them every Friday. The Avella Chapter of the National Honor Society has participated in the Blessings in a Backpack program since the 2012-2013 school year. Although the members of the National Honor Society do fundraisers, the success of the program is dependent on the donations from local organizations and businesses, as fundraising does not cover the yearly costs of the backpacks. The advisor for the Avella Chapter of the National Honor Society, Mrs. Lynn Akins, commented in a letter regarding the donation to the Blessings in a Backpack, "I would like to extend our gratitude to the members of Assembly 588 for your support. Your donation will enable the National Honor Society to continue a valuable service to children within the Avella community." At the check presentation at Avella Area High School, the students also indicated their appreciation for the donation.

Scenes From Assembly L002 Meeting



Assembly members attended Mass at the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stratford, CT. This photo was taken after the church service where Reverend Andrew Marcus is pastor.

Assembly L002 held its 27th Annual Business Meeting at Vazzy's Restaurant. Below are a few of the members that attended.



Standing from L-R: Joelle Marticek, Kristin Toman, and Tom Marticek. Seated is JoAnn Marticek.



L-R: Nelson Ladue, Pat Pistey, and Ray Pistey.



Members were asked to bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting. These items will be donated to Sterling House, a multi-service Community Center in Stratford, CT. From left, Alyssa Toman and Mark Toman, Jr. Kristin Toman and Mark Toman, Sr. are holding items to be donated to the Sterling House.



Left: Nelson Ladue donated the torn American flag for retirement to the local VFW post in Connecticut. On the right accepting the flag is Ray Pistey.

Easter Slovak Style:

Remembering the Priceless Treasures of Easters Past and an Inspiration for Easters of the Future

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

To Purchase items shown on this page, Make checks payable to NSSHM
351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317

Egg - in - Wrap

Choose from




Slavic Pin Art or Old World Designs

Sleeve of 6: \$1.50
Sleeve of 12: \$3.00

1. Use large raw, hardboiled, blown, ceramic or plastic eggs.
2. Slide egg into egg wrap.
3. Place egg on spoon.
4. Dunk into boiling water until wrapper shrinks around egg.

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.

April

V tomto mesiaci slávime najstarší a najvýznamnejší sviatok kresťanského cirkevného roka – Veľkú noc, kedy si my kresťania pripomíname umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista.



To vajíčko rysované, kvietočkami cifrované, tomu ja ho darujem, koho verne milujem.

Toto vajíčko, moje srdiečko, koho ja milujem, tomu ho darujem. Teba ja Janiček, teba milujem, tebe toto vajíčko,



**Radujte sa, ó kresťania,
v srdciach Vašich plesajte!
Z mŕtvych povstal náš Spasiteľ
Alleluja spievajte.**

*Všetkým úradníkom, členom,
čitateľom a Vaším rodinám želáme
radostné Veľkonočné Sviatky*



Pranostiky April zimný, daždivý, úroda nás navštívi.

Juraj (24.4) Čo do Dzura narastie, to po Dzure skape.

Marek (25.4) Na Marka daždivo, sedem týždňov blativo.
Koľko tepla pred Markom, toľko zimy po ňom.

Veľkonočný pondelok

Veľkonočný pondelok ten vhuhol do dediny nebadane, ten býval zo všetkých dní najveselší. Tešili sa naň dievky i mládenci. Niesol sa v znamení oblievačky a šibačky. Veru nebolo nijakou zvláštnosťou, že mládenci začínali už krátko po polnoci. Darmo sa dievčatá poschovávali, kúpači si ich vždy našli. Veľmi často im skrýše vyzradili malí chlapi, alebo aj otcovia dievok. Pri studni, na potoku, všade sa ozýval smiech, výkriky a výskot. Ale dievky sa nehnevali, lebo vedeli, že studená voda a prútený korbáč im dávajú zdravie.



Veľkonočné symboly

Veľká noc je významným sviatkom kresťanskej cirkvi. Viete, čo veľkonočné symboly znamenajú?



baránok - je jedným zo symbolov Ježiša Krista, lebo obrazne podľa kresťanskej viery on je baránok obetovaný za spásu sveta.



kríž - je najdôležitejším z kresťanských symbolov, pretože Kristus bol odsúdený na smrť ukrižovaním. Tento trest patril k trestom veľmi krutým a ponižujúcim.



sviečka - je v mnohých kultúrach chápaná ako znamenie života. Veľkonočná sviečka symbolizuje vzkrieseného Krista - tento symbol pochádza zo starovekých osláv Veľkej noci, pri ktorých sa zapaluje sviečka (nazývaná tiež paškál) od ohňa.



ohň - veľkonočná bohoslužba sa začína zapálením veľkonočného ohňa, ktorý symbolizuje víťazstvo Ježiša Krista nad temnotou a smrťou. Od tohto ohňa sa potom zapalujú veľkonočné sviečky.



zajačik - tento symbol má pravdepodobne pôvod v pohanských rituáloch oslavujúcich príchod jari tak, ako aj kuriatko.



vajíčko - je symbolom zatvoreného hrobu, z ktorého vstal Kristus, ako symbol nesmrteľnosti.



korbáč - bitie a šľahanie prútni patrí k dávny magickým praktikám. Má priniesť zdravie, šťastie a odohnať zlých duchov. Pripomína aj bičovanie Ježiša Krista pred jeho ukrižovaním.



JOIN THE
NSS AMBASSADORS
FOR
JOIN HANDS DAY
MAY 6TH

Together, we can help make this world a better place for everyone

LEARN MORE AT

<http://nsslife.org/nss-ambassadors/what-we-do/>



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 a **"Graduation" card**.

The Poster Category is **"My Favorite Summer Vacation"**. The deadline is May 31st, 2017.

Pam Blum

Fraternal Activities Coordinator

Ohio Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Program

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance will award a \$500 college scholarship to three graduating high school seniors in 2017. Applicant must be an Ohio resident and a current member of a fraternal society belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Congress. They also must be a 2017 high school graduate.

An application may be obtained from The Ohio Fraternal Alliance website: <http://www.ohiofc.org> or Call Robert Tiell (home) 419-595-2756 or (cell) 419-934-0227 - Email: robertstiell@aol.com.

Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship Fund

The **deadline** for submitting applications for scholarship grants is **MAY 1st, 2017**. 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 Pam Blum at 724-731-0094 or 1-800-488-1890 or pblum@nsslife.org.

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 in the NSS National News.
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.**

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

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

Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

As a proud member of NSS Life, there is no better time than now to share your experience with 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.