



**NSS Life**  
Family Matters...

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**PVR Scholarship Program**  
**First Year Applications**  
**Due May 1st, 2018**

May Art Contest  
Deadline May 31st, 2018  
See Page 16 for Details



**National Slovak Society of the United States of America**

# National News

**Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Spring Youth Circle!**



**COUNTDOWN TO THE**

**NSS LIFE**

**37TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION**

HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY, PA | JUNE 24-28, 2018

**85 Days Until Convention**



*Happy Easter*

**NÁRODNÉ NOVINY**

APRIL 2018 | NUMBER 3516 VOLUME 110



# National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at McMurray, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices  
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## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Organized February 16, 1890  
351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337  
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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

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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*

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Abigail Gross  
Robert Katricak  
Susan Ondrejco  
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Joseph Stefka, Jr.  
Drew Wesnak

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*Spiritual Advisor*

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Olga Kasnot, *President*

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

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## Activities At A Glance

<p><b>REGION 2</b></p> <p>April 14 April 15 August 12 August 18 October 14 November</p>	<p><b>Assemblies L075, 0617</b></p> <p>Assembly 0617, Meeting, Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA at 12:30 pm Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Summer picnic, Mercatelli-Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Region 2, Meeting, Perkins, Pittston, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Wilkes-Barre V A Bingo Party (Time/Date to be announced)</p>
<p><b>REGION 5</b></p> <p>April 29 April 30 May 6 June 2 June 10 June 15 June 23 September 10 October 28 December 2 December 3</p>	<p><b>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0737, 0774</b></p> <p>Assembly 0123, Ring Pittsburgh, St. James Church, Sewickley, PA at 2:30 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread, Pittsburgh, PA at 6:30 pm Assembly 0377, Meeting, Hibachi Buffet, Belle Vernon, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0737, Meeting, Carol Godor's residence, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly 0039, Summer Barbecue, Knights of Columbus Picnic Shelter at 1:00 pm Region 5, NSS Pirate Night at PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA Assembly 0039, Relay For Life Walk, Fayette Campus, Penn State at 10:00 am Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park Community Room at 6:00 pm Assembly 0377, Halloween Party, Time/Place to be announced Assembly 0377, Holiday Party, Time/Place to be announced Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm</p>
<p><b>REGION 8</b></p> <p>April 8 April 17 April 18</p>	<p><b>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</b></p> <p>Assembly 0004, Scotch Doubles (Time/Place to be announced) Assembly 0432, Meeting, Bonnies, Fairview, OH at 7:30 pm Region 8, Convention/Semi-Annual Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 6:30 pm</p>
<p><b>REGION 14</b></p> <p>April 29 June 3 July 22 September 16</p>	<p><b>Assemblies R059, L102</b></p> <p>Region 14, Meeting, Location to be determined - Time - 2:00 pm Assembly R059, Meeting, Keysock residence, Bethlehem, PA (TBA) Assembly R059, Meeting, Sawarynski residence, North Hampton, PA (TBA) Assembly R059, Meeting, Slivka residence, Bethlehem, PA (TBA)</p>
<p><b>REGION 15</b></p>	<p><b>Assemblies L002, 0028</b></p> <p>No activities at this time</p>
<p><b>AT LARGE</b></p> <p>April 1 April 22 April 24 May 26 June 3 June 8-10 June 10 June 30-July 1 August 12 September 2 October 21 November 4 December 24</p>	<p><b>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813</b></p> <p>Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA (TBA) Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0813, Matching Funds Program, Loveland Community Center, Venice, FL Assembly 0813, Spring Social, Thirsty Pig, at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0110, Bi-Annual Fraternal Weekend, Woodloch Pines Resort, Hawley, PA Assembly 0381, Meeting, Hungarian Rhapsody, Southgate, MI at 3:00 pm Assembly 0705, Butwin Family Reunion, Seelyville, IN Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA (TBA) Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA (TBA) Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration, 6:00 pm (Fraternal Fund Activity)</p>

## From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC  
President, CEO

Greetings from McMurray PA, home of the National Slovak Society! This month we celebrate Easter on April 1st, one of the most important Christian holidays celebrated each year. April 1st is also known as April Fools Day! Another name for the day is All Fools' Day, which is an annual celebration in some European and Western countries commemorated by playing practical jokes and spreading hoaxes. The jokes and their victims are called April fools. People playing April Fool jokes expose their prank by shouting "April Fool". Some newspapers, magazines and other published media report fake stories, which are usually explained the next day or below the news section in small letters. This day has been made popular since the 19th century.

Another day on the calendar in April is Earth Day, which is an annual event celebrated on April 22nd. Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day events in more than 193 countries are now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network. The first Earth Day celebrations took place at two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. More importantly, it brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform. Environmental groups have sought to make Earth Day into a day of action to change human behavior and provoke policy changes.

### Punography Of The Month:

*A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it!*

April is going to be a very busy month as we prepare for the upcoming convention in June. Our Agent Incentive trip to Aruba is April 7th to the 14th, the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance will be holding a legislative luncheon in Harrisburg on the 17th, we will be attending Region meetings on the 18th and 29th and the AFA Executive Summit in Washington D.D. is being held from the 23rd to the 25th. Don't forget Administrative Professionals Day on the 25th. Also this month, we will be holding our annual bowling tournament in Erie, PA on April 20th and 21st.

## News of Narodniars

Birthday wishes go out to Director Drew Wesnak, former Director Bill Knoll, Home Office staff member Lisa Shriver, former employee 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.

## Art Contest and Scholarships

Time is running out if you plan on applying for a scholarship or entering the May Art Contest. All scholarship applications must be received in the Home Office by May 1, 2018. If you haven't obtained an application, please call today. Don't be left out in 2018. Also a reminder to all YFC members that your art contest entry must be in by May 31st. Everyone is a winner, just for entering, you will receive a t-shirt and the top three places in each age group will receive a monetary prize. Why not give it a try?

## Tax Deadline Fast Approaching

You have until April 15th to make a contribution to your IRA for the 2017 tax year. Now is also the time to make that contribution for the 2018 tax year. Contributing early is one of the best ways to take advantage of compounding the interest you will receive to enhance your IRA accumulation potential.

## Convention 2018

Final arrangements for the convention are being made. Committee assignment letters will be sent out soon, and in a future issue of the paper we will publish a list of the delegates that will be attending the 37th Quadrennial Convention. We will also be publishing brief bio's of those wishing to run for the Board of Directors. So please be alert for important convention information that will be forthcoming in future issues.



# A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



## Convention Update-to-the-Minute

1. Convention Planning has quickly progressed into 'stress' mode due to the amount of work involved in planning. We are doing our very best to make sure that the Convention runs smoothly and the business of the Convention is successfully acted upon.

2. A program is being developed for a "FUNFEST" for our youth members ages 5 through 16. This program will run from **Sunday evening through Tuesday afternoon**. More information on the "FUNFEST" activities will be forthcoming. It looks like it's going to be a lot of fun so make sure your youth members attend.

3. Listed here are the Fraternal Day Excursions we are working on: a Day at Gettysburg, a Day in Lancaster, learning All About Hershey and Fun at Hersheypark.

4. By now all Assemblies and Regions must have published their Delegate Meeting notice in the newsletter, held their delegate election meetings and returned the Verification form(s) for each delegate to my office.

5. Delegate Count as of 3/20 is 158.

6. Delegate Registration Packets have been mailed to each delegate. Deadline to return is April 30th.

7. The deadline for Board Reports and Candidate Biographies is **April 24, 2018**.

8. For those of you who have been chosen as delegates representing your assemblies or regions, I ask that you read ALL of the information provided to you prior to the convention so you are prepared for discussion and/or action.

9. **Bring all delegate information you receive in the mail to the convention as these will be your working documents. A binder will be provided for all of your papers.**

## Ten Ways To Be Happy

1. **Don't start with profundities.** When I began my Happiness Project, I realized pretty quickly that, rather than jumping in with lengthy daily meditation or answering deep questions of self-identity, I should start with the basics, like going to sleep at a decent hour and not letting myself get too hungry. Science backs this up; these two factors have a big impact on happiness.

2. **Do let the sun go down on anger.** I had always scrupulously aired every irritation as soon as possible, to make sure I vented all bad feelings before bedtime. Studies show, however, that the notion of anger catharsis is poppycock. Expressing anger related to minor, fleeting annoyances just amplifies bad feelings, while not expressing anger often allows it to dissipate.

3. **Fake it till you feel it.** Feelings follow actions. If I'm feeling low, I deliberately act cheery, and I find myself actually feeling happier. If I'm feeling angry at someone, I do something thoughtful for her and my feelings toward her soften. This strategy is uncannily effective.

4. **Realize that anything worth doing is worth doing badly.** Challenge and novelty are key elements of happiness. The brain is stimulated by surprise, and successfully dealing with an unexpected situation gives a powerful sense of satisfaction. People who do new things learn a game, travel to unfamiliar places are happier than people who stick to familiar activities that they already do well. I often remind myself to "Enjoy the fun of failure" and tackle some daunting goal.

5. **Don't treat the blues with a "treat."** Often the things I choose as "treats" aren't good for me. The pleasure lasts a minute, but then feelings of guilt and loss of control and other negative consequences deepen the lousiness of the day. While it's easy to think, I'll feel good after I have a few glasses of wine...a pint of ice cream...a cigarette...a new pair of jeans, it's worth pausing to ask whether this will truly make things better.

6. **Buy some happiness.** Our basic psychological needs include feeling loved, secure, and good at what we do. You also want to have a sense of control. Money doesn't automatically fill these requirements, but it sure can help. I've learned to look for ways to spend money to stay in closer contact with my family and friends; to promote my health; to work more efficiently; to eliminate sources of irritation and marital conflict; to support important causes; and to have enlarging experiences. For example, when my sister got married, I splurged on a better digital camera. It was expensive, but it gave me a lot of happiness.

7. **Don't insist on the best.** There are two types of decision makers. Satisficers (yes, satisficers) make a decision once their criteria are met. When they find the hotel or the pasta sauce that has the qualities they want, they're satisfied. Maximizers want to make the best possible decision. Even if they see a bicycle or a backpack that meets their requirements, they can't make a decision until they've examined every option. Satisficers tend to be happier than maximizers. Maximizers expend more time and energy reaching decisions, and they're often anxious about their choices. Sometimes good enough is good enough.

8. **Exercise to boost energy.** I knew, intellectually, that this worked, but how often have I told myself, "I'm just too tired to go to the gym"? Exercise is one of the most dependable mood-boosters. Even a 10-minute walk can brighten my outlook.

9. **Stop nagging.** I knew my nagging wasn't working particularly well, but I figured that if I stopped, my husband would never do a thing around the house. Wrong. If anything, more work got done. Plus, I got a surprisingly big happiness boost from quitting nagging. I hadn't realized how shrewish and angry I had felt as a result of speaking like that.

10. **Take action.** Some people assume happiness is mostly a matter of inborn temperament: You're born an Eeyore or a Tigger, and that's that. Although it's true that genetics play a big role, about 40 percent of your happiness level is within your control. Taking time to reflect, and making conscious steps to make your life happier, really does work. So use these tips to start your own Happiness Project. I promise it won't take you a whole year.

## 2017 Annual Financial Statement Recap

statement as of December 31, 2017

	Dec 2017	Dec 2016
<b>Net Admitted Assets:</b>		
Bonds	\$1,088,694,577	\$985,156,489
Preferred Stocks		
Common Stocks	1,730,363	1,305,635
Mortgage Loans on Real Est	6,125,112	6,137,977
Certificate Loans	818,069	723,674
Real Est Occupied by Society	702,319	733,928
Cash on Deposit	15,967,814	19,521,014
Electronic Data Equipment		
Uncollected Premiums	168,063	165,120
Investment Income Due	12,953,285	11,788,643
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,127,159,602</b>	<b>\$1,025,532,480</b>

### Liabilities & Unassigned Funds

Aggregate Reserve	\$1,001,227,000	\$913,883,000
Deposit-type Contracts	60,415,042	54,913,000
Certificate Claims	250,000	225,000
Commissions Due	265,000	140,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	465,000	425,000
General Exp Due	1,964,000	1,748,000
Retained by Society as Trustee	84,431	152,161
Asset Valuation Resv (AVR)	6,678,000	5,543,500
Interest Maintenance Resv (IMR)	5,185,212	4,939,745
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	50,475,917	43,413,074
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,127,159,602</b>	<b>\$1,025,532,480</b>

### Surplus Account:

Beginning Surplus	\$43,563,074	\$36,158,022
Net Income	8,011,135	8,321,678
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	191,914	259,765
Change in Nonadmitted Assets	(5,706)	320
Change in Valuation Reserve	(1,134,500)	(1,176,700)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains and Losses in Surplus		(11)
Net Change in Surplus	7,062,843	7,405,052
<b>Surplus At Statement Date</b>	<b>\$50,625,917</b>	<b>\$43,563,074</b>

### Summary of Operations:

#### INCOME:

	Dec 2017	Dec 2016
Premium & Annuity Considerations	\$150,814,114	\$165,020,054
Net Investment Income	49,226,217	45,330,095
Amortization of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	606,572	648,623
<b>Income Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$200,646,903</b>	<b>\$210,998,772</b>

#### EXPENSES:

Death Benefits	\$5,414,182	\$4,621,954
Matured Endowments	27,264	28,218
Annuity Benefits	89,490,907	84,872,077
Disability Benefits	4,074	4,287
Surrender Benefits	785,066	553,510
Interest On Deposit Type Contr	7,856	14,849
Increase In Aggregate Reserve for Life Contracts	87,344,000	102,894,000
Commissions On Direct Business	4,180,466	4,262,800
General & Fraternal Expenses	4,654,343	4,721,753
Insur, Taxes, Licenses, Fees	184,388	178,778
<b>Expense Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$192,092,546</b>	<b>\$202,152,226</b>

#### SUMMARY:

Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds To Members	\$8,554,357	\$8,846,546
Refund To Members	(453,909)	(419,194)
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds To Members	8,100,448	8,427,352
Net Realized Capital Gains	(89,313)	(105,674)
<b>TOTAL NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$8,011,135</b>	<b>\$8,321,678</b>

Linda M Strom  
Secretary/Treasurer,CFO

## May Deadlines

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

*How many new members did you sign up?*

## Fraternal Matters...

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



## Region 5 & Assembly 774 Sponsor NSS Night at PNC Park

Region 5 & Assembly 774 are sponsoring a group baseball outing on Friday, June 15th, 2018. Come join us as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Cincinnati Reds. The "All You Can Eat" seats are no longer offered but the tickets are loaded with \$10 that you can use towards concessions. This is a Free T-shirt Friday and a Dollar Dog Night. The price of the tickets are being subsidized by Region 5 and Home Office Assembly 774. The price is only 22.00 (regularly \$42.00). We have a limited number 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!!!!

### 2018 Board Meeting Schedule

June 22/23 ----- Hershey  
August 25 ----- Teleconference  
November 10/11 -- Home Office

## 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, 2018. 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, 2018.

## 2018 Slovak Fraternal's Bowling Tournament

This year's tournament will be held **April 20 & 21, 2018** at the Eastway Lanes, Erie, PA.

## 2018 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. The Poster Category theme is "My Favorite NSS Activity is..." Show us your creativity and put into pictures your favorite memory of a fun NSS activity. The deadline for the contest is May 31st. **Fraternal Note:** The Greeting Card Category has been eliminated this year. See rules on page 16.

## 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!!

## 2018 National Golf Tournament

The National Golf Tournament will be held on July 13-15, 2018 at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, PA. Accommodations will be at Park Inn by Radisson. 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.

## Congratulations

The 5 winners from March's "Hershey's Chocolate Candy" were:

Mary Jo Dolan, Assembly 0039  
Diane Paller, Assembly L105  
Courtney Korpus, Assembly 0377  
Barbara Lorch, Assembly 0588  
Martin McCormick, Assembly L102

Congratulations and Good Luck on this months Hershey's 2018 Word Search.



*Caramels are only a fad.  
Chocolate is a permanent thing.  
Milton Hershey*

## Count Down to Convention...

This month's activity is a Hershey 2018 Word Search. In order to give everyone a fair chance, we will pick 5 names from all correct entries received in the Home Office by April 13th. The 5 names drawn will be added to the winners from last month for a drawing to be held at the 37th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey. The winner need NOT be present to win. Note: Officers, Board Members, Employees and their immediate families **are NOT eligible**.

Mail your completed word search to: **NSS Life Word Search**  
**c/o Pam Blum**  
**351 Valley Brook Rd**  
**McMurray PA 15317**

If you wish to scan and email your entry please send to [pblum@nsslife.org](mailto:pblum@nsslife.org)

## HERSHEY 2018

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

tilt a whirl	dry gulch railroad	starship america	whip
twin turpike	cocoa cruiser	wave swinger	howler
the claw	tea cups	skyview	monorail
pirate	fender bender	whirlwind	vortex
tidal force	wave rider	krackle	kisses
mr goodbar	sandcastle	coal cracker	great bear
carrousel	chocolate world	ferris wheel	reeses
frontier flyers	sidewinder	skyrush	trailblazer
wild mouse	laff trakk	sooperdooperlooper	Hershey
twizzler	chocolate	jolly rancher	



## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

### In Memory of **Members from Assembly 0123:**

Lillian Dally	20.00
Agnes Risko Knoll	20.00
Mark Balser	20.00
Charles Frank	20.00
Rose Matsook	20.00
Dolores Stubblefield	20.00

### In Memory of **Deceased Members from Assembly 0070:**

Barbara Head	
Hulda Corp	
Ethelmae DeMatteo	30.00

### Donations:

Jean R Babbitt	100.00
Randy Zaleski	100.00
Anonymous	200.00



## DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

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

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

Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please issue your check to:

### **NSS PVR Scholarship Fund**

And send to:

National Slovak Society  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317

## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS February, 2018

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Arbuckle, Lockhart	Lewisburg, WV	03/16/2017	0774
Bainbridge, Harold	Lorain, OH	12/10/2017	0160
Bell, William	Fort Gragort, MI	02/09/2018	0381
Bihary, Marlene	Pittsburgh, PA	01/06/2018	L161
Bohm, Eugene	Green Bay, WI	01/07/2018	0774
Britt, Virginia	Wheeling, WV	12/30/2017	0108
Burke, Ralph	Pittsburgh, PA	08/20/2017	0123
Calhoun, Glenna	Marlinton, WV	01/11/2018	0774
Chanda, Edward	Massapequa, NY	02/08/2018	0110
Cigis, Nancy	Utica, PA	11/26/2017	0731
Coen, Seamus	Glenshaw, PA	01/18/2018	0108
Conner, Hazel	Oak Hill, WV	10/10/2017	0774
Davis, John L	Plumville, PA	12/26/2017	0774
DeCosmo, Kathleen	Hazelton, PA	01/18/2018	L102
Di Vita, Beryl	Irwin, PA	12/10/2017	0737
Escajeda, Bernice	Pittsburgh, PA	01/10/2018	0100
Estes, Sharven Lee	Herndon, WV	12/29/2017	0774
Findley, Curtis	Dandridge, TN	12/01/2017	0774
Fleming, Mary	Creekside, PA	02/02/2018	0774
Fleming, Thomas	Pittsburgh, PA	12/21/2017	0434
Fox, Phyllis	Spencer, WV	10/13/2017	0774
Furlong, Raymond	Pittsburgh, PA	01/17/2018	0108
Hall, Jessie	Huntington, WV	12/31/2017	0774
Jacobs, Jane	Mc Murray, PA	01/05/2018	0434
Johnson, Donald A	Perryopolis, PA	01/19/2018	0039
Johnson, Robert H	California, PA	02/02/2018	0588
Jurceвич, Roseanna	Belle Vernon, PA	02/14/2018	0377
Kauffman, Jeanne	Harrisburg, PA	01/08/2018	L102
Kawalkewicz, Susan	Swoyersville, PA	11/12/2016	0617
Kroll, Virginia	West Newton, PA	01/18/2018	0737
Leone, Antoinette	McMurray, PA	02/09/2018	0377
Macicak, Joseph	Romeoville, IL	10/30/2017	0586
Marthaler, Joseph	Orland Park, IL	01/06/2018	0586
Minotti, Christopher	Warren, OH	01/06/2018	0731
Mitchell, Dianna	Plain City, OH	01/15/2018	0731
Novak, William	Venice, FL	12/30/2017	0731
Parise, Martha	Baden, PA	02/19/2018	0123
Pastir, Stephen	Philipsburg, PA	01/05/2018	0267
Pisarcik, Karol(Charles)	Seattle, WA	09/12/2000	0774
Rape, Franklin	Johnstown, PA	01/20/2018	0123
Reeves, James	Greenfield, OH	02/04/2018	0595
Rezak, Dorothy	Sarver, PA	08/14/2017	L105
Rodachy, Albina	Avon, PA	02/18/2018	0160
Rosso III, Louis J	South Amherst, OH	07/07/2015	0160
Ruesch, Antionette	Chicago Heights, IL	01/21/2018	0586
Seftchick, Maureen	Bridgeville, PA	01/09/2018	0737
Seismann, Louise	Craigsville, WV	11/16/2017	0774
Sosik, Sue	Palmerton, PA	01/14/2018	L102
Spruce, Ruth	Charleston, WV	03/31/2017	0774
Sykes, Helen	Cleveland, OH	02/05/2018	0432
Taborski, Gabriel	Half Moon Bay, CA	01/04/2018	0588
Wilkins, Ronald	Philadelphia, PA	02/06/2018	R059
Winter, Carolyn	Pittsburgh, PA	09/25/2017	0434
Yeager, Emily	Welch, WV	01/20/2018	0774
Yingling, Sandra	Chillicothe, OH	02/06/2018	0595

# Life Insurance Needs Worksheet

This worksheet can help you get a general sense of how much life insurance you need to protect your loved ones, assuming that you died today. Before buying any insurance products, you should consult with a qualified insurance professional for a more thorough analysis of your needs.

Years Income Needed	Factor
10	8.8
15	12.4
20	15.4
25	18.1
30	20.4
35	22.4
40	24.1

## Income

- Total annual income your family would need if you died today.** What your family needs, before taxes, to maintain its current standard of living (Typically between 60%-75% of total income). \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Annual income your family would receive from other sources.** For example, spouse's earnings or a fixed pension.<sup>1</sup> (Do not include income earned on your assets, as it is addressed later in the calculation). \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Income to be replaced.**  
Subtract line 2 from line 1. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Capital needed for income.**  
Multiply line 3 by appropriate factor in Table A. Factor \_\_\_\_\_. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Expenses

- Funeral and other final expenses.** Typically the greater of \$15,000 or 4% of your estate. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mortgage and other outstanding debts.**  
Include mortgage balance, credit card balance, car loans, etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Capital needed for college.**  
(2007-2008 average 4-year cost: Private, \$146,210; Public, \$61,499<sup>2</sup>).

	Estimated 4-Year Cost	Appropriate Factor in Table B	NPV		
Child 1	_____	X _____	= _____	+ ]	→ \$ _____
Child 2	_____	X _____	= _____		
Child 3	_____	X _____	= _____		

- Total capital required.** Add items 4, 5, 6 and 7. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Assets

- Savings and investments.** Bank accounts, money market accounts, CDs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Retirement savings.** IRAs, 401(k)s, SEP plans, SIMPLE IRA plans, Keoghs, pension and profit sharing plans.<sup>3</sup> \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Present amount of life insurance.** Including group insurance as well as insurance purchased on your own. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total income producing assets.**  
Add lines 9, 10 and 11. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Life insurance needed.**  
Subtract line 12 from line 8. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Social Security benefits, which may be available, have not been factored into this calculation.

<sup>2</sup> *Trends in College Pricing*, 2007, The College Board. Costs reflect total charges, which include tuition, fees, room and board.

<sup>3</sup> Distributions from most retirement savings plans are subject to ordinary income tax rates.

**Note:** These tables help you determine Net Present Value (NPV), the amount of capital required today to satisfy future income or college cost needs, given an assumed investment return of 6%, inflation of 3% for living costs and 5% for college costs.

Prefer to Use an Online Calculator?

Visit the nonprofit LIFE Foundation's Life Insurance Needs Calculator at [www.lifehappens.org/lifecalculator](http://www.lifehappens.org/lifecalculator)

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

## 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.



# Youth Circle Magazine - Spring 2018



**DIRECTIONS:** Find the numbers in the list below the grid. The numbers can be in any direction: backwards, forwards, up, down, or diagonally.

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

- |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 130456 | 410974 | 561280 |
| 150526 | 433334 | 567037 |
| 253060 | 436234 | 572855 |
| 270159 | 444791 | 588586 |
| 280858 | 454908 | 592884 |
| 286554 | 470085 | 642950 |
| 296684 | 481973 | 712600 |
| 322942 | 500043 | 870099 |
| 325326 | 520680 | 896497 |
| 399918 | 549872 | 991013 |

## Are Bugs Good to Eat?

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?"

"That's disgusting — don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies.

After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?"

"Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

## Camping with Sherlock Holmes

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went camping.

They pitched their tent under the stars and went to sleep.

Sometime in the middle of the night Holmes woke Watson up and said:

"Watson, look up at the stars, and tell me what you see."

Watson replied: "I see millions and millions of stars."

Holmes said: "And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson replied: "Well, if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like Earth out there. And if there are a few planets like Earth out there, there might also be life."

And Holmes said: "Watson, you idiot, it means that somebody stole our tent."

## Where does the president keep his armies?

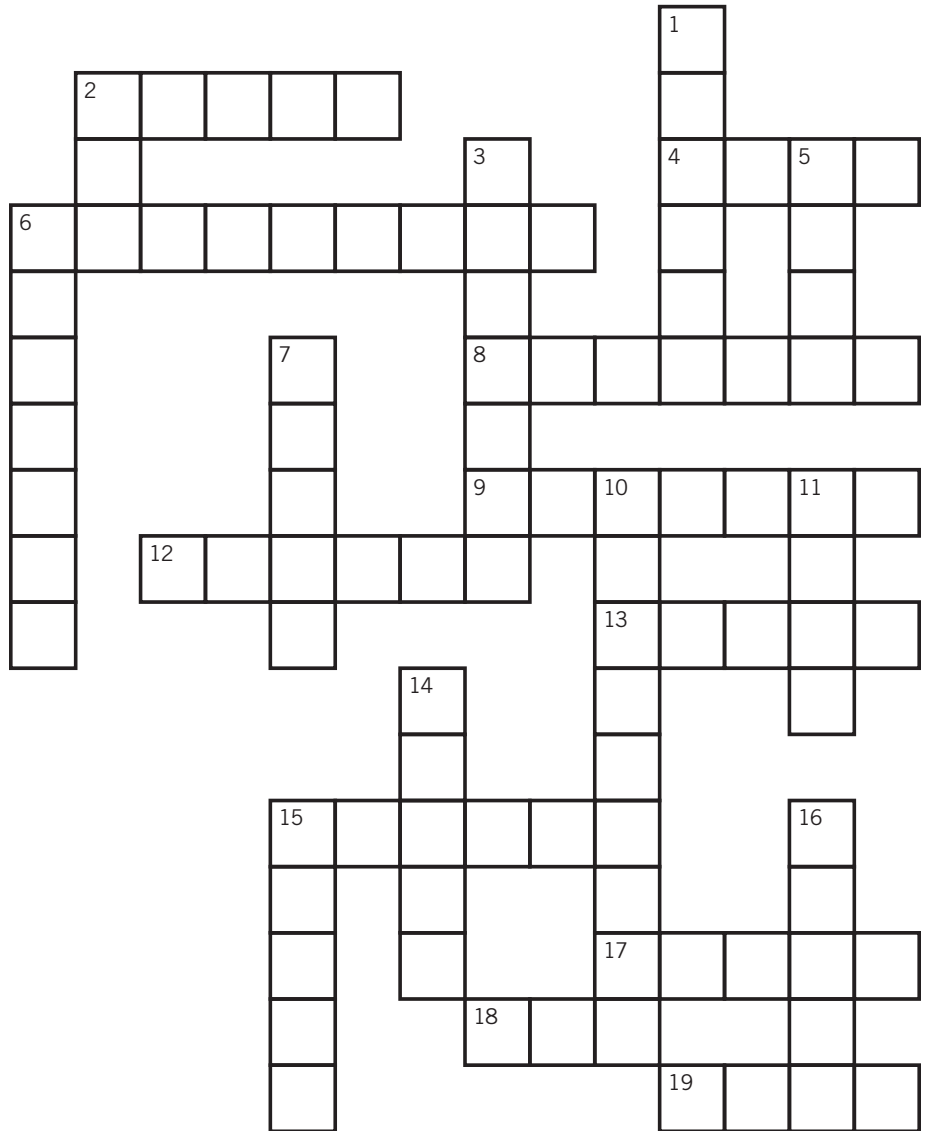
In his sleeves.

# BODIES OF WATER

## Crossword

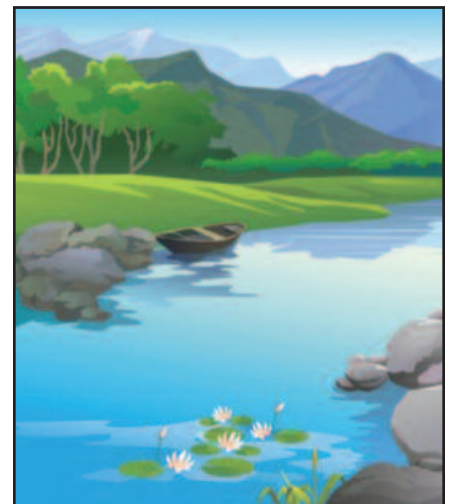
### ACROSS

2. A wide inlet of the sea that is parallel to the coastline.
4. A deep inlet of the sea almost surrounded by land.
6. A cascade of water on a river.
8. A length of water wider than a strait, joining two large areas of water.
9. The mouth of a large river, where the tide meets the river.
12. A place on the coast where vessels may find shelter.
13. A small arm of the sea, lake or river.
15. A narrow passage of water connecting two large areas of water.
17. A large natural stream of water.
18. A broad inlet of the sea where the land curves inward.
19. A small body of still water.



### DOWN

1. Shallow body of water located alongside a coast
2. A large body of salty water that may be connected to an ocean or completely surrounded by land.
3. A slowly moving river of ice.
5. A large body of water surrounded by land on all sides.
6. Land consisting of marshes or swamps.
7. A long, narrow and deep inlet of the sea between high cliffs.
10. A stream or river that flows into a larger river.
11. A ridge of rock, coral or sand near the surface of the sea.
14. Low-lying land that is flooded in wet seasons or high tide and always remains waterlogged.
15. Freshwater wetland that has many trees and shrubs growing in it.
16. Large body of salt water that surrounds a continent.



## How much do you know about Slovakia?

- What is the capital of Slovakia?  
Ljubljana  
Bratislava  
Košice
- What is the currency in Slovakia?  
Euro  
Lev  
Forint
- What is the official language spoken in Slovakia?  
Slovak  
Slovakian  
Slavic
- Which of these countries does not share a border with Slovakia?  
Bulgaria  
Poland  
Ukraine
- Which of these celebrities has Slovak roots?  
Andy Warhol  
Kandinsky  
Obama
- How do you say brother in Slovak?  
Sestra  
Brat  
Otec
- How long have Slovak people existed for?  
5,000 years  
20 years  
50 years
- What type of food is 'bryndza'?  
Chicken  
Oats  
Cheese
- In what year did Slovakia become independent?  
1993  
2000  
1976
- Who is Slovakia's current Prime Minister?  
Ján Carnogurský  
Robert Fico  
Rudolf Schuster

## Hilarious Jokes

- Q: Why is it dangerous to play cards in the jungle?  
A: Because there are so many CHEETAHS!
- Q: Why are teddy bears never hungry?  
A: Because they are always stuffed!
- Q: What is the Easter Bunny's favorite restaurant?  
A: IHOP!
- Q: Where do sheep go on vacation?  
A: To the Baa-hamas!
- Q: Why do birds fly south in the winter?  
A: Because it's too far to walk!
- Q: What musical instrument do you find in the bathroom?  
A: A tuba toothpaste!
- Q: Why did the belt go to jail?  
A: Because he held up a pair of pants!
- Q: What did the king say when he went to the dentist?  
A: I came to get my crown!
- Q: Where do people go when they have two broken legs?  
A: Nowhere!
- Q: Where do monkeys exercise?  
A: At the jungle gym!
- Q: A king had three goblets. Two were full, and one was half full. What was the name of the king?  
A: Philip III! (Fill up the third)
- Q: What do you call a puppy stuck outside in the rain?  
A: A soggy doggy!
- Q: Why do seagulls fly over the sea?  
A: Because if they flew over the bay, they would be bagels!

## Answers to Bodies of Water



**Answers:** 1. Bratislava 2. Euro 3. Slovak  
4. Bulgaria 5. Andy Warhol 6. Brat  
7. 5,000 years 8. Cheese 9. 1993  
10. Robert Fico

# Handmade Soaps

## Materials

plastic soap molds (plastic cups work as well or empty juice boxes)  
vegetable cooking spray or petroleum jelly for coating the molds  
pure glycerin soap (sold in blocks or cubes at craft stores)

microwave-safe measuring cup with handle for melting the soap  
red, yellow and blue soap dyes (also found at craft stores)  
small plastic animals or trinkets  
a chopstick or Popsicle stick for stirring



## Instructions

1. **Prepare the molds.** Spray the interior of the plastic molds with a small amount of cooking spray, making sure to cover all areas. If you use too much spray, simply use a paper towel to wipe away the excess. Likewise, if you are using petroleum jelly, use just enough to lightly cover the mold.

2. **Melt the soap.** The size of your mold will determine how much soap you'll need to begin with. Start by melting smaller amounts of soap; you can always add more. Place cube(s) of soap in the measuring cup and microwave on high for 30 seconds. If some solid soap still remains, microwave in 10-second intervals until soap is melted, but not boiling. Remove the melted soap from the microwave. This is best done by an adult or older child as the SOAP IS HOT.



3. **Add the color.** Add a drop or two of the liquid soap dye to the melted soap. Too much dye will make your soap dark, so don't overdo it. Mix colors to get your desired shade. Then stir the dye into the soap using your chopstick or Popsicle stick.



4. **Partly fill the molds.** Carefully pour the hot soap into the molds so that they are filled about a third of the way to the top. Let the soap cool for about 20 minutes and then place the plastic animal or trinket you want to use for decoration on top of the hardened soap.



5. **Finish the soap.** Repeat steps 2 and 3 to melt and color the remaining soap. Pour a second layer of soap into the mold, covering the plastic animal. Let cool and harden for at least 2 hours. Once cool, turn the mold upside down and pop the soap out. To clean the molds, just use hot water—the soap should wash right off!

You can also make the soap as described above without the trinkets. If you'd like a layered, rainbow look, pour small amounts into the molds and let them harden before adding another color layer. You can also add fragrance to your soaps with a drop or two of essential oils, or natural elements like poppy seeds or citrus peels, if desired. These are just some suggestions. I'm sure that you can come up with even more great ideas. The best part? After cleanup, you can wash your hands with your craft!

## From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC

Sales Director



## Tax Season is Over - Right?

Since it is April you probably have already filed your tax return and hopefully you received a nice big refund check. Here are a couple of things to consider. First, if you are eligible and would still like to make a contribution to an IRA, a contribution for 2017 tax year is acceptable up until April 17, 2018.

If it is too late for 2017 then why not think ahead and work on 2018 taxes. Start contributing now to a traditional IRA. It is easy to put some money away on a systematic basis. A \$100 a month would give you a \$1,200 potential tax deduction. In the 25% tax bracket that could save up to \$300 in taxes. Of course, any tax saving would depend on the amount contributed, tax bracket and eligibility. The maximum annual deposits depend on age and income. Under age 50 the amount is \$5,500; age 50 or older the amount is \$6,500.

### Thought for the Month

*We must all suffer from one of two pains; the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. The difference is the pain of discipline weighs ounces and the pain of regret weighs tons.*

*Jim Rohn (1930 – 2009)  
author and speaker*

Here is a quick view how a traditional IRA might be useful –

IRA Contribution	Assumes bracket 25% tax deduction	Prof. 8 @ 3.5% interest IRA value @ 10 yrs.	IRA + tax saving = Total savings
\$1,000 per year	\$ 250	\$12,141	\$14,641
\$5,500 per year	\$1,375	\$66,780	\$80,530
\$6,500 per year	\$1,625	\$78,922	\$95,172

In the above chart assume IRA contributions of \$5,500 per year for the next ten years. Each year the deduction could save you \$1,375 in taxes. Over ten years, using a Preferred 8 account paying 3.5% interest, the account value should be \$66,780. Add that value to ten years of tax savings and you could possibly have a total savings of \$80,530 using a traditional IRA.

So you can wish you had more money or hope for a better retirement or you can take some positive steps and build your own plan. Start today and ten years from now you will be glad you did. Not eligible for an IRA then use a Roth IRA which operates almost the same way except there is no tax deduction. No earned income then use a non-qualified annuity and save money on a tax-deferred basis.

Call your NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.



## A Life Preserver

I have an old life preserver that I'm trying to sell for \$5. I have already checked with all my friends, family and co-workers but nobody wants it. On Amazon's website you can buy a new one for about \$10 or so. Maybe everyone wants a new one because they are inexpensive. So as it turns out - nobody wants a life preserver – huh?

Let's create a different scenario. We are all on a ship that is sinking. All the life boats and rafts are gone. All that is left is my old life preserver and a bunch of people. If I were to sell it now - what would I get; \$50, \$100 or more? Well, when your life is on the line, money is no object.

In a sense a life preserver is a lot like a life insurance policy. You have to have it before you need it because when it is most needed you won't be able to get it. You know you need more life insurance protection so why not take a simple step and apply now.

Life insurance has never been more affordable. NSS has six different life plans so we are confident that we can design a plan to fit your budget. The plans range from one-time payment plans to low cost term insurance. Please contact your NSS representative or the Home Office for more information or a free quote.

## Life Insurance

No one really wants to think about life insurance. But if someone depends on you financially, it's a topic you can't avoid. In the event of a tragedy, life insurance proceeds can:

- Pay for funeral costs
- Help pay the bills and meet ongoing living expenses
- Pay off outstanding debt, including credit cards and the mortgage
- Continue a family business
- Finance future needs like your children's education
- Protect a spouse's retirement plans

Getting life insurance doesn't have to be hard (or boring). We have some easy steps for you to walk through to see if life insurance is right for you. You'll also find information and interactive tools to help you get a sense of how much and what kind to buy, plus information about how different life events—such as having children or buying a home—can affect your insurance needs. So why not get started!

## ASSEMBLY 004

### Parma, OH

Our Scotch Doubles event will be held on April 8, 2018. Contact Bud or Bob SirLouis at (440) 845-2616, if you would like to attend.

Also, our Bowling Banquet will be held on April 15th, 2018.

**Oliver C. SirLouis**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 039

### Uniontown, PA

Please mark on your calendar Saturday, **May 12th**. We will be assisting the local U. S. Letter carriers in their food collections to combat hunger. We meet at the rear of the main post office in downtown Uniontown at 10:00 am.

Don't forget to plan for our Summer Bar-B-Q on Sunday, **June 10th** at the picnic pavilion of the Knights of Columbus starting at 1:00 pm. We will be honoring our flag in anticipation of Flag Day.

Senior scholarships for those fifty-five years, or older are available if you wish to improve your life. Seniors are eligible, twice a year, for a \$100.00 scholarship upon successful completion of the course. Contact the home office for more information.

First time NSS scholarship recipients are reminded that **May 1st** is the deadline to apply for a scholarship. Even if you missed the deadline in the past, you are still eligible to apply for this coming Fall. All rules are on the NSS website: [nsslife.org](http://nsslife.org) and in the "National News" magazine.

Youth, the May Art Contest is coming up quickly. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to have their children and grandchildren enter. Everyone receives a prize for entering!

We are looking for volunteers for the "Relay For Life" walk, for the American Cancer Society, at the Fayette Campus of Penn State on Saturday, **June 23rd**. Starts at 10:00 am and continues until 10:00 pm.

Happy Easter to all!

**John Payerchin**  
President

## ASSEMBLY R059

### Whitehall, PA

Having finished the Nativity Season, we begin the Lenten Period to prepare for the Feast of Feasts: Pascha (Easter) on April 1st. During this time we participate in special services, readings, fasting and prayer: a time of spiritual growth and change.

Mark your calendars for the following meetings:

**June 3rd** - Keysock residence  
Bethlehem, PA

**July 22** - Sawarynski residence  
North Hampton, PA

**September 16** - Slivka residence  
Bethlehem, PA

Activities for the year will be confirmed at the meetings.

Belated congratulations to Nicholas and Erin Keysock on the birth of Francis on October 20, 2017. Grandparents are William and Alexandra Keysock. Also, to Eric and Lindsey Slivka on the birth of Jackson Matthew on June 17, 2017. Grandparents are Michael and Francine Slivka. We wish them much happiness.

For any information needed, you may contact Michele at 610-262-2045.

**Michele Guydan**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY L075

### Duryea, PA

Mark your calendars for our future meetings for our assembly in **2018**:

**April 15** - Grande's Restaurant Birney Ave. Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm.

**August 12** - Summer picnic at Mercateli-Segilia Park, Birney Ave. Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm. Members are asked to bring something for the table and a raffle basket item. Refreshments will be provided by the assembly.

**October 14** - Meeting at Grande's Restaurant Moosic at 2:00 pm.

**November** - Date to be announced for the Wilkes Barre V A Bingo Pizza Party

**Lehrae Ann Edwards**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY L102

### Schnecksville, PA

**April 29th** - Region meeting at 2:00 pm, location to be determined. President David Blazek and Secretary, Linda Strom will be in attendance.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0110

### New York, NY

Our bi-annual Fraternal weekend will be held on Friday, **June 8th** to Sunday, **June 10th**, 2018 at Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, PA. A luncheon meeting will be held on the premises on the afternoon of Saturday, **June 9th**.

Additional information is available from Diana Voda (973) 857-8904.

**Rick DeSanctis**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 123

### Coraopolis, PA

Did you know that April 6th is National Walk to Work Day? Seeing that my office is twenty miles away I'll take a pass on this holiday!

Wishing a Happy Easter, April 8th to all our Orthodox brothers and sisters. He is Risen Alleluia!

You have until April 17th to pay your taxes or get in your 2017 IRA contribution.

Congratulations to member Ashley Robbins, point guard for WPIAL champion Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic girls' basketball team!

Congratulations to member Jared Leins a freshman pitcher for the Naval Academy baseball team. He got his first save by pitching three scoreless innings against New Jersey Institute of Technology and striking out seven.

Do you want to have a ringing good time? Well our assembly all are invited on Sunday, **April 29th** to St. James Church in Sewickley (200 Walnut St) to enjoy a performance by Ring Pittsburgh. This is a very talented group of hand bell ringers who have been entertaining audiences all around Western Pennsylvania. Please join us at 2:30 pm at the church. There is a preconcert at 2:30 pm and Ring Pittsburgh concert begins at 3:00 pm. There is no charge for this concert.



Afterwards if you have time, those who have an interest will have dinner at a local restaurant and share some camaraderie. The cost of dinner is on your own but the assembly will buy dessert. As of this writing the restaurant has not been decided upon. Please call Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546 to express your interest in joining our group. She will have details of the restaurant and it is important that you contact her so she can make reservations if we have a large group.

Sending Birthday wishes to all our members who are celebrating their special day this month. May your day be joyful and may you have many more.

If there are any of our members who deserve special recognition because of something they have done or a milestone in life's journey please let me know so I can publish it.

**Bill Knoll**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY 377

### Bentleyville, PA

Our future meetings are as follows:

**May 6 2018**- Meeting/lunch at Hibachi Buffet, 160 Sara Way Belle, Vernon, PA. at 3:00 pm. Help us plan other activities for our assembly. Hope to see you there!

**October 28**- Halloween party at 3:00 pm. Location to be announced.

**December 2**- Holiday party at 3:00 pm. Location to be announced.

Please try to attend.

**Suzanne Skrypak**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY 381

### Grosse Ile, MI

On March 5th, 2018, six delegates were elected to represent Assembly 381 at the 37th Quadrennial Convention June 24-28.

There will be a meeting of delegates attending the convention in Hershey, PA on Sunday, **June 10, 2018** at the Hungarian Rhapsody, Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan at 3:00 pm.

Please contact Joanne Medved at 734-676-2199, or email: jtm1849@gmail.com to RSVP.

**Joanne Medved**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 0432

### Fairview Park, Ohio

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, **April 17, 2018**, at Bonnies in Fairview at 7:30 pm.

Our tobogganning event was a success again this year with over 80 people in attendance. Also, in February, our Reverse Raffle was held at a new location, Tony K's with about 100 people attending. We have received a lot of positive feedback, and hope that all who attended enjoyed a great night!

See you at the next meeting!

**Shawn Pytel**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 554

### Curwensville, PA

A meeting will be held on **April 1, 2018** at the home of Jim Stricek, 135 McCullough St., Dubois, PA at 2:00 pm. Please contact Jim Stricek at 814-590-7021 or at [assembly554@gmail.com](mailto:assembly554@gmail.com) if you are attending this meeting.

Other meetings this year will be on September 2, and November 4, 2018.

**Jim Stricek**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 0588

### Slovan, PA

A meeting will be held on Monday, **April 30, 2018**, at the Community Room of Panera Bread, 250 McHolme Drive, Pittsburgh, PA (North Fayette) at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the upcoming 37th Quadrennial Convention and to plan events and activities for the members of our assembly for 2018. Please try to attend and become active in our assembly.

**Annette Stefka**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 617/C617

### Ashley, PA

A meeting will be held on Saturday, **April 14, 2018** at the Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA at 12:30 pm.

All members are welcome.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 705

### Seelyville, IN

Please mark your calendars for meetings and events for 2018:

**April 22** - 1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

**June 3** - 1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

**June 30/July 1**- Butwin Family Reunion Seelyville, IN (Fraternal Fund Activity)

**August 12** - 1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

**October 21**-1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

**December 24** - 6:00 pm Annual Christmas Eve Celebration (Fraternal Fund Activity)

**Dorothy Buck**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 731

### Lowellville, OH

You don't want to miss the following events so mark your calendar for:

**Saturday, May 19th** - 5:00-9:00 pm  
Dinner & Dance for all ages at Lowellville Rod & Gun Club  
6226 Quarry Road  
Lowellville, Ohio

**Saturday, December 1st** - 1:00-3:00 pm  
Christmas Party  
Stambaugh Room, Boardman Park,  
375 Boardman-Poland Road  
Boardman, OH

**Laurie Fox**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 737

### Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on **June 2, 2018** at the home of Carol Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm.

We will be finalizing plans for the convention as well as setting dates for our next meetings.

**Carol Godor**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 800

### Bonita Springs, FL

A meeting was held in February, 2018 to elect the delegates to the 37th Quadrennial Convnetion to be held June 24th through June 28th in Hershey, PA.

**Gary Cepko**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY 813

### Englewood, FL

Our assembly will be conducting a Matching Funds program for the Loveland Chorus Spring Concert at the Loveland Community Center 157 S. Havana St., Venice, FL on **April 24, 2018**. NSS members will be distributing flyers and information as well as helping at the concert. Ken Arambasick is heading up this program.

On **May 12th** Assembly 813 members will be helping with the Letter Carriers annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. Locally, the Englewood Bible Church is the place to get involved, but members may help out in other places. Check with your local US Post Office.

The Spring Social, originally scheduled for May 19th, has been changed to **May 26th** at The Thirsty Pig, South Saint Andrews Street, at 2:00 p.m. Kerry Farrell is the contact person for this event.

For the National Project, we have again chosen the Back Pack Program of the Jubilee Ministry of St. David's Episcopal Church. We will be getting the next school year off to a good start shortly after school has started. Mary Jo Holker will work with Pat Knox of St. David's Jubilee Center Outreach Ministry. This is an ongoing project to ensure children of low income families do not go hungry on the weekends.

Members are asked to look over these opportunities to get involved to see where they'd like to help. Contact Mary Jo Holker, 941-473-0559, for more information.

**Mary Jo Holker**  
Secretary

## REGION 8

### Cleveland, OH

#### Delegate Election

**ATTENTION:** Members of Assemblies #4, 70, 160, 432.

A semi-annual meeting and special Convention meeting hosted by Assembly #432 will be held on **April 18, 2018** at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at 6:30 pm.

Officers from the Home Office in Pittsburgh will be attending this meeting to discuss the upcoming Convention which will be held at Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pa.

Assemblies must call either John Karkosiak at 1-216-741-6990 or Carole Koches at 1-440-238-8287 with the number of people attending from each assembly so we can plan accordingly! Food will be served!

**Deadline for reservations is April 9, 2018.** Hope to see everyone at this special meeting!

**Carole Koches**  
Recording Secretary

## Region 2 News

Our Region's luncheon/meeting was held at Perkins Restaurant in Pittston, PA. on February 11, 2018. We had seven members of Assembly 617 and seven member of L075 attending. Each assembly reviewed their activities for the year.

President, Marlin Petro Wesnak was elected as our delegate to the 37th Convention in Hershey, PA. We voted on our Convention Program Book Ad, our donation to the Aaron's Acres Embracing Possibilities Beyond Disabilities and what our donation will be to the PVR Scholarship Fund at the convention. We are all enthusiastic about the upcoming convention.

Secretary, Rose Mary Strish, resigned her office. Lucy Piccoletti was elected to become our new secretary. Our region annual reports were completed, followed by our fraternal luncheon. Our next meeting will be on **August 18, 2018** at 1:00 pm at Perkins in Pittston, PA.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
Secretary

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## Assembly 617/C617

Our assembly held our first meeting/luncheon of the year at Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA on February 15, 2018. We completed our annual reports, and reviewed our activities and donations for 2017.

We had one Matching Fund Event for El Salvador. 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 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 in the Art Contest. All in all, we had a productive year.

We completed our Annual reports and discussed our 2018 plans which included the 37th Convention in Hershey, PA. We will have 10 delegates attending the convention this year. They are: George & Rose Mary Strish, John & Stephanie Kurilla, Margaret Lukas, Robert & Marge Gushka, Joanne Kovaleski, Gloria Gomb and Rose Frati. We will be placing an ad in the Convention Program Book and donating to Aaron's Acres and our PVR Scholarship Fund.

We enjoyed our lunch and fraternalism as we all look forward to seeing old friends at the convention.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **April 14, 2018** at 12:30 pm at the Pierce St. Deli, Kingston, PA.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
President

*NSS National Convention - June 24th - 28th*

## This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

### April, 1959

More than 1,800 Slovak bowlers including members of the National Slovak Society helped to celebrate Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's 200th birthday by competing in the Slovak Bowling Congress of America's seventeenth annual tournament at Brannan's Bowl in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. The tournament headquarters was located at the Roosevelt Hotel in Pittsburgh.

### April, 1978

The National Slovak Society Home Office Headquarters located at 2325 East Carson Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, became property of the Society on April 13, 1978.

### April, 1999

The inaugural winner of the National Slovak Society Youth Achievement Award was Laura Ann Leboskie of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, a member of Assembly 774.

### April, 1999

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh honored the Fraternalist of the Year, National Slovak Society Secretary-Treasurer Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. at a banquet held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

*A Cardinal is a representative of a loved one who has passed. When you see one, it means they are visiting you. They usually show up when you most need them or miss them.*

*They also make an appearance during times of celebration as well as despair to let you know they will always be with you. Look for them and they'll appear.*



## Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6 pm, will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as local officials. A reception will follow the formal program.

The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. The catalyst for drafting and signing of this agreement was the visit to Pittsburgh of Professor Thomas Masaryk, who later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was also signed by leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations. Admission for this memorable event is \$35.00 per person (NO tickets will be printed).

Admission can be purchased from Carol Hochman at carolh1541@aol.com or from Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to WPSCA and mail to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admissions will be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by May 15th.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. They will also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above.



A poster (11x17) of the Pittsburgh Agreement will also be on sale at this event for \$10.00 or through the contacts listed above.

Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton is \$169.00 a night plus tax. The Hampton can be contacted at 412-288-4350 or you can book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 a night plus tax. Their phone number is 412-232-0200. At either hotel, just mention you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Cutoff deadline is May 2, 2018.

A symposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the University of Pittsburgh in room 4130 of Posvar Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague. Dr. Siavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

If you have any further questions, you can contact Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412-855-6581 or Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.



# 2018 CONVENTION CAMPAIGN

Here is an exciting opportunity for you to help NSS while earning some extra cash. Here is our pre-convention contest for all recommenders and fraternal agents only to celebrate our 2018 Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, PA.

From **December 1, 2017** through **May 31, 2018 (6 months)** every eligible recommender or application written will earn you prize chances. NSS will award four prizes: one for the person with the most recommenders or applications. Then three random prize winners will be chosen by drawing at the convention. You earn one chance for the first recommender/app, two for the second one, three for the third, and so on. (i.e. 5 recommenders would get you 15 chances)

So the more recommenders/applications you submit the greater the number of chances you will have to earn a prize:

**1st Prize.....\$500**  
**2nd, 3rd & 4th Prize.....\$250 per person**

Only one convention campaign prize per person. To submit fill out the Recommender form on the back cover of this newsletter. Winners need not be present.

All eligible recommenders will receive \$25 (\$10 on youth term apps). This is a great time to share your NSS experiences with family and friends. Good luck to you!



## 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 **has been eliminated**.
6. Each year a theme will be announced in the April Issue of the National Newsletter for the Poster.
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 National News and will be published on the NSS website.

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.**

## 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.



## 2018 Scholarships

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five year members of the National Slovak Society, Assembly 160.

The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting [www.americanslovakclub.com](http://www.americanslovakclub.com). Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 2018 Consular Tour Of Slovakia

**August 13 - August 26, 2018**

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has prepared a deluxe 15 day tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Poland and Hungary. This is the only tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Presov. At no extra cost, Joe has included two nights in Poland and two nights in Hungary. The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,300 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or 412-956-6000.

## 2018 Slovakia Heritage Tour

Experience Slovakia's culture and history, up close and personal on the 2018 Slovakia Heritage, **September 7-16, 2018**, small-group tour. Genealogical research and ancestral visits available.

For details: Visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com) or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, 978-544-5144 or [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com)

*Visit our website at [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org)*

## 37th Quadrennial Convention Fund Raising Campaign in support of Aaron's Acres

### Embracing Possibilities Beyond Disabilities



“Since 1998, Aaron’s Acres has provided children and young adults with special needs something very unique – possibility. The possibility to learn, to grow, and to succeed despite any challenges. With every family we serve, our goal is always the same: to provide social and recreational programs that nurture important socialization and communication skills. All children regardless of ability can partake in the Aaron’s Acres experience.”

Each convention NSS selects a local charity to support in the area around the site of the Convention. This year we have selected Aaron’s Acres. Please click this link <https://aaronsacres.org> to learn more about the organization and their amazing camp. If you can find it in your heart to be a part of this effort please send your donation to Pam Blum or Linda Strom at National Slovak Society, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317. Checks should be made out to “NSS”. Also, please write ‘Aarons Acres’ in the Note line at the bottom of the check.

This fund raiser will run through the Convention where we plan to present a check for the funds raised to a local representative of the charity during the Convention.

*Happy Birthday*

*to my Uncle Bob Burns  
on his 90th birthday.*

*Miss You & Love You ,  
Laurie (Fox) & Family*

## Assembly 737 Welcomes New Member



A healthy baby boy Kohen Patrick McDermott was born on January 25th, 2018, weighing in at 7 pounds 15 ounces at 6:19 pm. Proud parents are Jessica (Godor) and Adam McDermott. Great grandparents are Carol Godor and the late Paul J. Godor.

It’s been said that Kohen resembles the Godor side of the family and we are certain that late grandpap Keith Godor would be over the moon about the newest arrival. Congratulations to Jessica and Adam.





Po marci už 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.

### Pittsburska dohoda 1918—2018

Na štvrtok 31. mája 2018 v Pittsburghu budeme sláviť 100. výročie od podpísania Pittsburskej dohody. Špeciálny program k 100. výročiu sa prevedie v Heinz History Center začiatkom od 6. stej hodiny večer kde sa uskutoční prezentácia českých, slovenských a lokálnych politických činiteľov a potom bude recepcia pre prítomných. Vstupné lístky 35 dollarov za osobu a tie si rezervujte u Joe Senko 412/956-6000 do 15. Maja.

### Svätý Marek a oziminy

Svätý Marek (sviatok má 25. apríla) je autorom najstaršieho, najkratšieho a podľa všetkého aj najautentickejšieho zo všetkých uznaných evanjelií. Marek s apoštolom Barnabášom šíriť kresťanstvo na Cypre. Podľa tradície pôsobil aj ako Petrov pomocník, neskôr zakladal kresťanské spoločenstvo v Alexandrii a v Egypte zomrel mučeníckou smrťou asi v závere I. storočia. Jeho pozostatky boli prevezené do Benátok, sú uložené v Chráme svätého Marka.

Na Slovensku sa na sviatok svätého Marka konávali procesie do poľa, aby sa zabezpečila nádej na dobrú úrodu. Po rannej omši sa kňaz s procesiou veriacich vydali posvätiť chotár. Z kostola niesli zástavy ovenčené mladou zeleňou a venčekomí uvitými z ozimín. Mohli sa nosiť aj sochy svätcov či Panny Márie. Kňaz prečítal evanjelium, predniesol modlitbu do všetkých svetových strán a požehnal oziminy.

### Okolo sviatku svätého Marka platilo:

*Apríl zimný, daždivý, úroda nás navštíví.*

*Keď v apríli hojne vietor duje, stodola sa zaplňuje.*

*Teplé noci v aprílu, požehnanie ovociu i vínu.*

“Ja som cesta, Pravda a život.  
Nik nepride k Otcovi, iba cezomňa”  
(Jan 14,6)

V svetle posolstva vzkrieseného Krista nech je slávenie Veľkej noci pre Vás prameňom nádeje, radosti a pokoja.



Požehnané sviatky a veľa Božích milostí od vzkrieseného Krista. Želáme členom NSS a Vaším rodinám.



### APRÍL—mesiac lesov



#### Význam lesa

1. **Lesy sú pľúcami Zeme**  
les vytvára kyslík, potrebný pre život
2. **Lesy regulujú obeh vody v prírode,**  
vyparovanie, a zrážky.
3. **Lesy zachytávajú hluk a prach,**  
čím znižujú počet choroboplodných zŕodkov vo vzduchu.
4. **Lesy nám poskytujú:**
  - drevo
  - lesné plody
  - huby
  - liečivé rastliny
  - sú vhodným prostredím na oddych, a rekreáciu.



#### **Stará múdrosť hovorí:**

**Keď si v živote zasadil čo len jeden strom, nežil si nadarmo.**



### Dôležité dni Poznačte si kalendár...

**15.4** ... Čas dani...v Amerike sa vyrovnávame s daňovými poplatkami zo zárobku, a ak sa Vám niččo zvýši môžete to uložiť v našej organizácii. Skontrolujte rôzne plány úsporov pre dôchodok, alebo zakúpte si životnú poisťku tým sa stanete členom / členkou našej organizácie čím môžete brať účasť v aktivitách organizácie Národného Spolku.

**20—22.4** Bowling turnaj—Erie, PA.

**24—28.6** 37. Konvencia NSS bude v Hershey, PA. Podrobnejšie informácie na [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org).

**13—15.7** Golfový Turnaj, Hermitage, PA

**19.7** 96th Slovenský Deň v Kennywood Parku

**22.9** Septemberfest festival v našom múzeu McMurray.



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