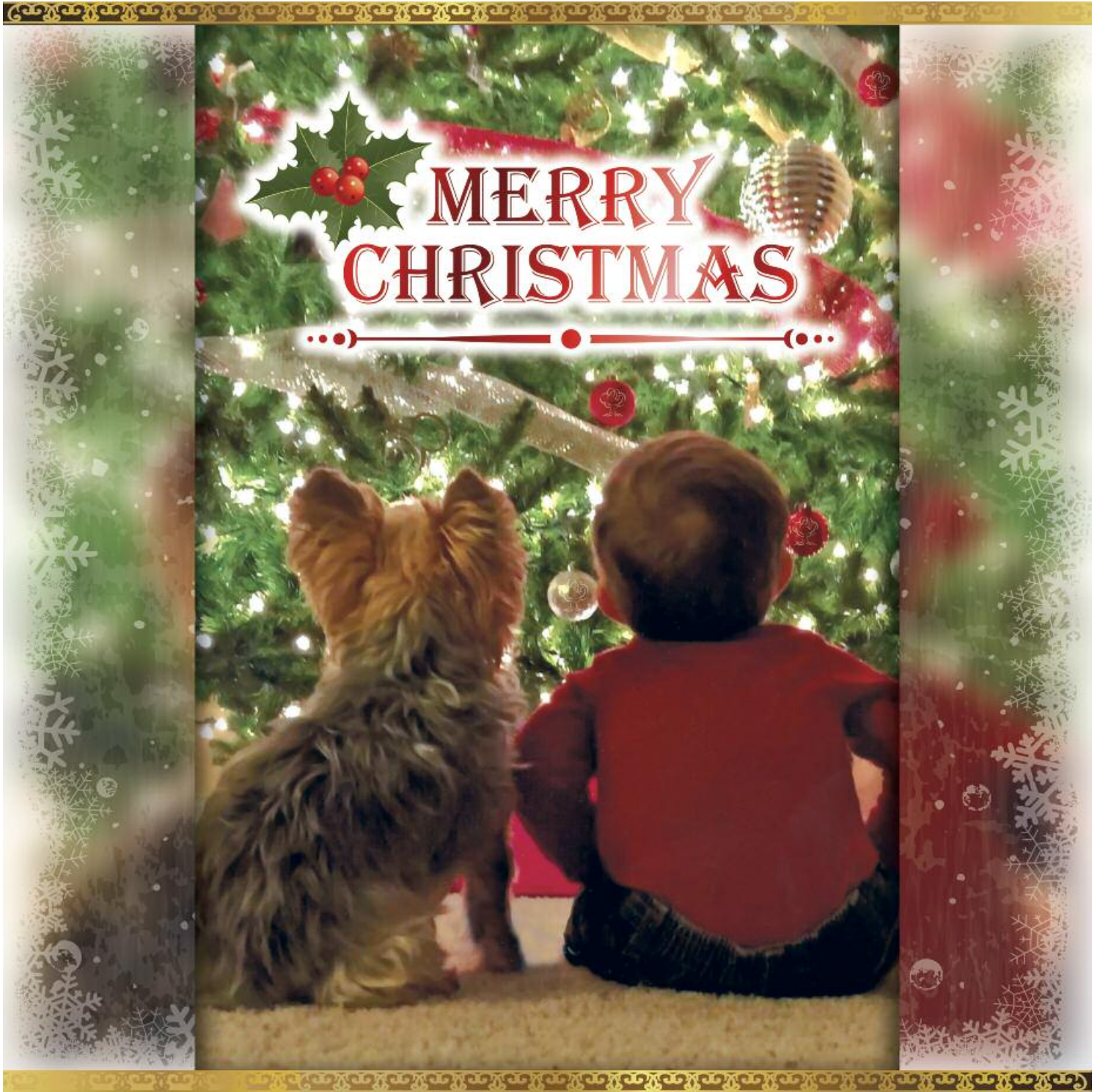




# National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

DECEMBER 2015 | NUMBER 3488 VOLUME 107



"FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN."



## National Slovak Society

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### NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

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# *Activities at a Glance...*

<b>REGION 2</b>	<b>Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617</b>
January 10, 2016	Assembly L075, Meeting, Terry's Diner, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm
<b>REGION 5</b>	<b>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774</b>
December 6	Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Social Hall at 2:00 pm
December 6	Region 5 Slovak Christmas Pageant, Greensburg, PA at 5:00 pm
December 12	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor residence, N Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
<b>REGION 7</b>	<b>Assemblies P09A, 0731</b>
December 5	Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH (2:00-5:00 pm)
<b>REGION 8</b>	<b>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</b>
December 5	Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Gemini Center, Fairview Park, OH at 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
December 6	Assembly 0070, Christmas Party/Meeting, 12:15 p.m. - Call the Karkosiaks at 216-741-6990
December 15	Assembly 0160, Fun Frolic Night
December 13	Assembly 0004, Sunday Bowling League Christmas Luncheon, Yorktown Lanes at 1:00 pm
December 31	Assembly 0432, New Year's Eve Party, Shuttleworth residence
January 19, 2016	Assembly 0160, Annual Dinner/Meeting, 6:00 pm
<b>REGION 14</b>	<b>Assemblies R059, L102</b>
December 6	Assembly L102, Matching Funds Project, The Camelot House.
December 9	Assembly L102, Matching Funds Project, The Kiwanis Club of Emmaus.
December 19	Assembly L102 Matching Funds Project, The Miracle League, Santa and his elves.
January 3, 2016	Assembly L102, Christmas Party, Wesnak residence at 2:00 pm
February 14, 2016	Assembly R059, Meeting, Lahutsky residence at 2:30 pm
<b>REGION 15</b>	<b>Assemblies L002, 0028</b>
	No activities at this time
<b>AT LARGE</b>	<b>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813</b>
December 6	Assembly 0813, Appreciation Dinner, Ruby Tuesday's at 7:00 pm
December 13	Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Bohemian Garden, Downers Grove at 1:00 pm
December 23	Assembly 0813, Christmas Party, Farrell residence
December 24	Assembly 0705, Butwin Christmas Eve Party at 6:00 pm



## From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC  
National President

Greetings, as we wind down the year 2015 and look forward to 2016. This past year has been a busy one, highlighted by our 125th Anniversary Celebration held back in March. Although the financial numbers are not finalized, I can tell you NSS has had a very good year. We continue to grow our society in both membership and assets. Because of the growth we have added additional staff to be able to provide the exceptional customer service that our members deserve.

A tip of the hat to our Home Office staff who continue to excel and provide professional service each and every day.

On behalf of my wife Fran, myself, and our entire family, (which has grown to include 5 children, 3 sons-in-law and 8 grandchildren) I would like to wish each and every one of our members a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year in 2016.

In looking over the calendar of future events, there are many holiday parties and events happening on both the assembly and region levels. If you have an event in your area, try and get out and enjoy the camaraderie with fellow Narodniars.

### Adult Truth Of The Month:

*Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.*

## Frequently Asked Questions About The NSS

*(Continued from last issue)*

### Q: When will annuity statements be mailed?

A. Annuity statements are mailed once a year near the end of January. Annuity balances can be accessed 24/7 through our member portal.

### Q: Why should I purchase an NSS Annuity?

A: There are three very good reasons for you to consider purchasing an NSS annuity:

1. You will earn a very competitive interest rate and there will be no charges to your account unless you withdraw funds early. (10% allowable NSS penalty free withdrawal each contract year.)
2. Purchasing an NSS annuity gives you membership in the oldest Slovak fraternal in the United States, complete with all the fraternal programs and activities it provides.
3. An NSS Life fixed annuity is guaranteed positive investment growth, with a guaranteed minimum interest rate.

### Q. Is my annuity money safe with NSS Life?

A. Annuity deposits are protected by the total resources of the National Slovak Society; with assets in excess of \$850 million dollars and growing. Information on NSS Life solvency can be readily obtained from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department or the independent CPA firm who conducts the annual audit.

*(To be continued next issue)*

## Christmas Tree Facts

- ◆ The first decorated Christmas tree was in Riga, Latvia in 1510.
- ◆ Nineteenth century Americans cut their trees in nearby forests. Today most live Christmas trees are grown on farms as sustainable crops like corn or pumpkins.
- ◆ 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms, while only 2% are cut from the wild.
- ◆ Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Johnson, came up with the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882. Christmas tree lights were first mass-produced in 1890, the year the NSS was founded.
- ◆ In 1856 Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States, was the first President to place a Christmas tree in the White House.
- ◆ President Coolidge started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the White House Lawn in 1923.
- ◆ Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.
- ◆ In 1963, the National Christmas Tree was not lit until December 22nd, because of a national 30-day period of mourning following the assassination of President Kennedy.
- ◆ To ensure enough trees for harvest, growers plant one to three seedlings for every tree harvested.
- ◆ It takes six to ten years of fighting heavy rain, wind, hail and drought to get a mature tree.
- ◆ Most Christmas trees are cut weeks before they get to a retail outlet. It is important to keep them watered thoroughly when they reach your home.
- ◆ The Blazek household has had as many as 8 decorated trees in our house in one Christmas season.

## News of Narodniars

We were saddened to hear of the passing of William Sandor, dear father of Chris Katricak, who entered eternal life on October 7, 2015 at the age of 84. May God be with the Sandor and Katricak families as they mourn the loss of William, may his soul rest in peace.

Happy Birthday to National Directors Sue Ondrejco, and Abigail Gross, Honorary Tribunal member Sophie Hudak, Home Office staffers Cyndi Salat and Brigid Delien, John and Kevin Crowley, Annette Stefka, son David W. Blazek and my loving wife Fran.

Congratulations to all others celebrating a special occasion in December.

## Creating Slovak Christmas Memories

Year after year, we look forward to preparing certain foods, and performing certain activities during the Christmas season. These habits and customs that we consider ordinary, create memories that evolve into traditions. Slovakia's ancestors are the treasure holders of countless Christmas traditions. Many have lost their meaning in modern times, but others still add beauty and charm to the winter holidays. They are priceless treasures that will help you to feel the warmth, joy and spirit of a truly "magical" Slovak Christmas.

### St. Nicholas

On December the 6th, we will celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas. There are far more legends about his miraculous good deeds than there are clear details about his life. Nicholas was quite young when his parents died of the plague leaving him as the sole heir of their vast possessions. He was determined to devote his life, using his inheritance for works of charity. We know that he really did live in the fourth century, that he was the Bishop of Myra (now a part of Turkey), and had been widely honored as a saint since the sixth century. Devotion to St. Nicholas is found in every European country. He became known for his holiness, enthusiasm, and 21 miracles. He is the patron saint of scholars, bankers, sailors, brewers, brides, and robbers among others. Because of his love and charity of the poor as well as the many legends of his good works, St Nicholas is best known as the patron saint of Children.

In Slovakia, Sv. Mikulaš traveling on foot the evening before his feastday is accompanied by an ugly chain-rattling devil, and an angel. The angel and devil symbolize the dual forces in a man's nature. Sv. Mikulaš reminds the children that Christmas is a few short

weeks away and they must behave themselves or the baby Jesus will not bring them presents on Christmas Eve. In the morning, good little children find their boots or shoes which were placed on the window sill the night before, filled with candies, cookies, oranges, apples, nuts or other dried fruits. The naughty children will find a lump or two of coal, or a potato left by the devil. As we honor the memory of this 4th century Bishop, let us remember he is known for his charity and generosity.

### Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is by far the most awaited day of the Christmas season. Sweet aromas fill the crisp winter air. Clean straw is placed under the tablecloth or on the floor to remind us that Christ was bedded on straw in the manger. In some places, the table legs are also bound with chains to represent the link from Christ's birth to his death, and to show the strength of the family. The family sits down to dinner as the first star rises. Blessed candles are lit as a reminder that Christ is the light of the world. Before the meal begins the house and table are blessed, using a pine bough and holy water. Oplatky or altar bread, broken and dipped in honey, is distributed to each member of the family. Reminding us of Christ's presence among us—the bread of life. The head of the family then dips his thumb in honey and blesses each member of the household by placing a cross upon the forehead, reminding each to keep Christ foremost in their thoughts and praying that harmony will sweeten their lives. It is also symbolic of the sweetness and bitterness of life in the coming year. Honey is believed to have special medicinal properties, so the remaining honey is placed aside to heal wounds or sore throats during the year. Everyone at the table is expected to have at least a bit of each food, and care is taken that not even a crumb is dropped on the floor. A small bit of

each food is also fed to the animals. After the meal, the remaining food is left on the table for the deceased members of the family, whom it was believed, would return as "guests" at midnight. In some villages in Slovakia it was also common to fill a bowl with water and silver coins. After the meal, beginning with the oldest child, they would wash their hands in the money to ensure wealth in the coming year. After everyone washes, the youngest child would keep the coins for good luck.

Food plays an important part in the Slovak Christmas Holiday Tradition.

Each of the foods are prepared for a reason—to symbolize something, for example:

**Wine** is served to signify the warmth of Christ's love.

The **mushroom soup** is usually made with sauerkraut juice representing the bitter destiny of Christ..to suffer for us.

**Bobalky**, small, sweet bread balls are mixed with sauerkraut or poppy seed to assure a plentiful crop.

**Fish** is an important Christmas Eve dish not only because it was considered a fasting meal but also because the scales of the fish resembled coins, symbolizing wealth.

The actual menu, the preparation and the manner in which the Christmas Eve dinner is eaten will vary from village to village and is greatly influenced by religion.

Perhaps this little bit of information will make your Vilija more interesting and meaningful.

Remember --it is up to us to see that these traditions are carried on!

*God made Christmas happen;  
friends make Christmas beautiful;  
music makes Christmas festive;  
giving makes Christmas joyous;  
love makes Christmas complete.*

**William Arthur Ward**

## Current Interest Rates Effective January 1, 2013

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

\*Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4%, these plans are no longer available.

Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or  
Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.

### *Did you know....*

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

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

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

### 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



### **IMPORTANT PLEASE READ**

Semi-annual annuity statements will no longer be sent in July of each year.

We will now send an annual statement in .....January..... only.

You may 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.



## From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC  
National Sales Director



### Top 5 Benefits to Owning an Annuity

1. Annuities have very competitive guaranteed interest rates and current interest rates.
2. Our annuities have no sales charges, fees or annual expenses – there is an early withdrawal penalty.
3. Annuities can offer tax-deferred accumulations.
4. Annuities can create a lifetime income that you can't outlive – retirement income.
5. Annuities are worry-free; every day your account is worth more than the day before. No wild up and down swings like the stock market or low woeful rates like a certificate of deposit (CD).

### A Simple Solution To The Retirement Crisis

There is an alarming crisis looming in the retirement world. Many baby boomers are preparing for retirement in the next ten years or so and many of them may be unprepared. In fact almost half of those pre-retiree's have zero money saved. Yes, you read that correctly – zero, nada, zilch, nil. Add in the fact that 63% of retiree's will be dependent on their Social Security checks and one out of five 401k participants has a loan against their plan. So what can we do?

One of the easiest solutions to this problem and one that many Americans say they plan to do - is work after retirement. Their plan may be to change jobs, work part-time or cash in on a hobby.

This sounds like a good idea and it is actually occurring to some extent right now. Back in the year 2000, only about 8% of people over age 65 continued working. Currently there are 14% of retiree's working.

Despite rising numbers the problem with this idea is the average person retires at age 63 and can expect to live another 18 years in retirement. The reason people retire earlier than planned has to do with health issues: 60% of early retiree's cited health reasons or were on disability. Others had workplace issues: laid-off, downsized, plant closures and an antiquated skill set. Some had to care for their spouse, parents or grandchildren. Some couldn't find another suitable career opportunity.

So what does all this mean? It is important to save as much money as you can right now. Take full advantage of any company sponsored plan like a 401k. Open an IRA if you are eligible. Start a Roth IRA and put money in there so you can reap tax-free monies later.

NSS can help you with our product portfolio. One of our annuity accounts is currently crediting as much as 3.50% interest. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information. The sooner you get started the better off you will be – we'll be glad to help you.

### Here are a Few Reasons to Send Us Your Email Address:

1. We'd like to say thank you for helping us stay in touch.
2. You'll receive any future NSS event news & updates.
3. We'll never spam you or sell your email address.
4. You'll help us save on paper & postage.
5. Best of all it's FREE!



Email us at: [info@nsslife.org](mailto:info@nsslife.org)

### 2015 3rd Quarter Sales Leaders

Congratulations to our 3rd quarter **new member** leader Chou Lee from Eleva, WI. Chou has been very involved in his community since 1987. He is an entrepreneur with business interests in several different properties and venues. Chou speaks four different languages. He is the principal in the NCLF Insurance Agency and his goal is to insure your future and the future of your loved ones. You may contact Chou at 715-379-7456 or email him at [choulee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:choulee@sbcglobal.net)



Congratulations to Ron Schmidt who is our **top premium** producer for the 3rd quarter. Ron has been in the insurance business for 50 years. Ron grew up on a farm and has been married for 51 years. He has five children - 4 boys and 1 girl. His goal is to always serve the clients best interest and give them outstanding service. Ron has been a top producer for NSS for a number of years. He can be reached by phone at 570-275-0807 or email him at [schmidt100@aol.com](mailto:schmidt100@aol.com)

## APRIL

1st

Youth Achievement  
Award Nomination  
Forms Due.

1st

Fraternalist Of The  
Year Nomination  
Forms Due.

22nd - 23rd

United Slovak  
Fraternalists Bowling  
Tournament  
Sawmill Lanes  
Columbus, OH

## MAY

1st

PVR Scholarship  
Program First Year  
Applications Due.

7th

American  
Fraternal Alliance  
Join Hands Day

31st

Art Contest  
Deadline



**NSS Life.**  
*Family Matters...*



# IMPORTANT DATES 2016

## JULY

15th

PVR Scholarship  
Program Renewal  
Transcripts Due.

15th - 17th

NSS National  
Golf Tournament  
Treasure Lake  
DuBois, PA

## AUGUST

15th

Youth  
Poetry Contest  
Deadline

## OCTOBER

1st

Photo Contest  
Deadline

## DECEMBER

1st

Christmas  
Ornament Contest  
Deadline



# Side Effects of Hearing Loss

It should come as no surprise that hearing loss can result in anxiety and feelings of isolation if left untreated. But there are other consequential side effects that are less obvious or well known.

**Fatigue** — Research shows that, with untreated hearing loss, the sheer effort it takes to communicate can cause fatigue, as the person needs to concentrate harder to participate in conversations.

**Earning Power** — Studies by the Better Hearing Institute show that people with untreated hearing loss lose up to \$30,000 annually, depending on their degree of hearing loss.

**Dementia** — A study by Johns Hopkins University reports that seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing.

The National Slovak Society (NSS Life) has recently partnered with American Hearing Benefits so that NSS Life members may enjoy the benefits of hearing help at a discounted rate. With today's advances in hearing science and technology, there's no longer a reason to let hearing loss affect you or those you care about the most.



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To learn more about your benefit or to schedule a **FREE CONSULTATION**,  
Call **1.888.705.6920** or visit **[www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS](http://www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS)**

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## New Member



**Kendall Ann Vlasak** was born on August 14, 2015. Proud parents are Chris and Heather Vlasak and big sister Payten of Janesville, WI. Kendall is the Great Granddaughter of Esther Vlasak, Assembly 774.



**Bill Knoll, President of Assembly 123** visiting members **Wendy McKeione** and **Dorothy Osterhola** who are part of the Florida extension of Assembly 123.

## Region 8

The unpredictable season of Fall arrived at our first hayride! We had pouring rain from late evening Friday to all day Saturday, October 3, 2015 at Richardson Farms in Medina, Ohio.



In true NSS fashion, we still had 25 adult members, 3 adult non-members, 6 children members, and 3 children non-members attend. Not bad for a rainy day! Everyone truly did enjoy the day. Region #8 thanks all of you that decided to spend your day with us.



We were able to move from an open pavilion to the closed back part of the Richardson Farms store! This made a huge difference for everyone! We had picnic tables and lots of food and beverages, including coffee and hot chocolate! We had the grill inside grilling dogs, crock pots warming with lots of steamy sloppy joe's and, of course mac and cheese!



Even though we were not able to go on the hayride, the barn was open for the kids, and as far as pumpkin picking was concerned, we had two choices. Go out in the field in the rain or pick from the pumpkins in front of the store! Guess what everyone chose to do?

Our thanks to everyone that decided to join us that day, and most of all to John and Mary Anne Karkosiak for bringing the food and beverages! And, if we do this next year, hope the weather will cooperate!

**Carole Koches**  
Secretary

## Assembly 617/C617 Join Hands Day



A clean up of the Back Mountain Scenic Trail was Assembly 617's Join Hands Day project this year. The 4.5 mile trail is one of the Wyoming Valley area's great assets. It began in Luzerne, off Main St., and continued to Terrace St., Dallas Township, PA. It was our first cold morning with frost this fall, but the sun came out and it was refreshing to walk the trail and pick up trash and litter. John Kurilla went the furthest and collected the most trash. Nice leadership, John. After our work was done, we had our lunch & meeting at The Grille in Luzerne. Our next meeting will be held in February, 2016.

## Youth Member



**Niko Scalise**

Niko Scalise, age 5, Circle 123 member and grandson of Bill & Susan Knoll proudly displays his Art Award. Congratulations Niko!



## 2015 AHA Youngstown Area Heart Walk

This year's walk raised \$218,443 to date from the Youngstown area. Team Strawberry (the Burns') raised \$2,275. We ranked 14th out of about 100 teams. On behalf of the AHA and our team, thank you very much! NSS contributed \$400 to that total.

Over 2000 people were at the WATTS at YSU and participated in the Walk. They have a "Superstar Walker" board that they display showing the people who raised \$500 or more by the day of the event. Out of the 17 people on the board, 3 were Burns'. This is our 7th year for this event. The total we raised is over \$15,000 and the NSS has contributed every year.



## ASSEMBLY 731 - HALLOWEEN HAYRIDE

Assembly 731 sponsored their annual Halloween Hayride at Countryside Farms in Poland, Ohio. More than 50 members and friends enjoyed an evening filled with Halloween Fun. The family friendly hayride to the pumpkin patch gave everyone an opportunity to pick their own pumpkin before enjoying refreshments of sloppy joes, chili, cupcakes and hot chocolate on a cool October evening. Games kept the kids entertained after refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed socializing around the bonfire. Year after year, this has proven to be one of our most successful fun family events.



This is just one of our two wagons filled for the evening.



Youth members gather for a picture



One of the games challenged the kids to eat a hanging donut...the adults also played this game with fun results.



Addison Draa, Hannah Mason, and Emily Bair show off the pumpkins they picked in the patch.



# Photo Contest Winners



**Overall Winner**  
Nichole Kearney  
Assembly 434



**Scenic: 1st Place**  
Carrie DeFelice - Assembly L102



**Scenic: 2nd Place**  
Carole Ladue - Assembly L002



**Scenic: 3rd Place**  
Laurie Fox - Assembly 731



**Human Interest: 1st Place**  
Becky Gaither - Assembly 731



**Human Interest: 2nd Place**  
Ashley Bernardo  
Assembly 588



**Human Interest: 3rd Place**  
Carole Ladue  
Assembly L002



**Animal: 1st Place**  
Ron Dinio - Assembly 377



**Animal: 2nd Place**  
Ruth Burns - Assembly 731



**Animal: 3rd Place**  
Katharine Karkosiak - Assembly 070



**Activity: 1st Place**  
Becky Gaither - Assembly 731



**Activity: 2nd Place**  
Joe Stefka - Assembly 588



**Activity: 3rd Place**  
Beth Mason - Assembly 731



## Prince of Peace Parish

### 22nd SLOVAK VILIIA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner & Folk Entertainment

Saturday, December 12, 2015  
4:00 p.m. Social Hour/ 5:00 p.m. Dinner

Entertainment by:  
The Pittsburgh Slovaksians

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

Donation: \$28 Adults  
\$12 Children (under 12)  
Group Discount Available  
By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380  
Tickets will NOT be sold at the door

## Home Office Decorated for the Holidays



## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS October, 2015

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Bailey, Rose	Ottawa, IL	01/21/2015	0586
Benjamin, Carmen	East Orange, NJ	10/03/2015	0774
Billig, John	Catawissa, PA	10/21/2015	0146
Brehm, Lavon	Mullens, WV	09/30/2015	0774
Brown, Robert H	Sewickley, PA	09/28/2015	0123
Bryant, Donald C	Pittsburgh, PA	09/15/2015	0100
Busch, Carol	Greensburg, PA	09/20/2015	0737
Carter, Myron W	Fruitport, MI	09/09/2015	0381
Cunningham, Raymond C	Auburn, MI	08/27/2015	0774
Dodson, Dolores R	Pittsburgh, PA	03/09/2014	0434
Foster, Mary	Erie, PA	03/04/2012	0554
Goetsch, William M	Pittsburgh, PA	03/10/2015	0100
Green, Doris J	Altoona, PA	09/06/2015	L040
Halleck, Dale L	Osseo, MI	10/02/2015	0381
Hartz, Adeltraud M	Pittsburgh, PA	10/07/2015	0441
Hester, Marjorie A	McMurray, PA	09/17/2015	0434
Hiltabidel, Arnold	Connellsville, PA	09/30/2015	0039
Hudak, Margaret	Brooklyn, OH	01/16/2015	0432
Hughes, Mary L	Pittsburgh, PA	10/07/2015	L161
Knox, Walter	Houston, PA	08/06/2015	0434
Koloen, Ellen A	Kenosha, WI	11/17/2010	0774
Kovacik, Margaret	Warren, MI	01/29/1993	0381
Kramer, Priscilla J	McKeesport, PA	09/15/2015	0774
Mack, Helen	Addison, VT	10/20/2012	0774
Magera, Anna S	Woodbridge, NJ	10/08/2015	0110
Mahoney, Dorothy M	Pittsburgh, PA	10/11/2015	0100
Malone, Rose S	Sarasota, FL	09/17/2015	0813
Marofsky, David	Girard, PA	05/11/2015	0731
Marofsky, Linda	Girard, PA	06/30/2015	0731
Matejicka, Joseph R	Lenexa, KS	09/17/2015	0774
Matvey, Paul M	Pittsburgh, PA	06/29/2015	0434
Mayza, Agnes	Hazle Township, PA	07/31/2015	L102
Monahan, Charles	Bellaire, OH	09/07/2015	0774
Muehlbronner, Alida	Wildwood, PA	10/04/2015	0283
Pachasa, Vera E	Cleveland, OH	07/28/2015	0070
Panehal, Robert	Ludlow, MA	07/11/2015	0432
Pilat, Elizabeth	Oak Lawn, IL	09/29/2015	0586
Reash, Betty Lou	Brookville, PA	03/27/2015	0554
Sage, Steven	Perryopolis, PA	10/07/2015	0039
Schluter, Maria D	Scotrun, PA	10/16/2015	0617
Shaw, Patricia	Huntington, WV	09/01/2015	0774
Shirilla, Helen	Campbell, OH	09/29/2015	0731
Simpson, Kathryn R	Canonsburg, PA	09/10/2015	0434
Slater, Robert T	Pittsburgh, PA	09/20/2015	L161
Sobel, Rose	New Bern, NC	08/11/2015	0800
Stang, Marjorie A	Fremont, OH	05/26/2015	0160
Tignanelli, Margaret	Elizabeth, PA	06/09/2015	0108
Usen, Howard B	Skokie, IL	07/09/2014	0586
Ventrone, Joseph	New Cumberland, PA	06/12/2015	L105
Vochinsky, Jack B	Ambridge, PA	09/22/2015	0123
Waskewich, Anne	Iselin, NJ	07/03/2015	0110
Wilkins, Audrey A	Connellsville, PA	08/05/2015	0737
Wilson, Milton L	Cleveland, OH	08/25/2015	0070
Wolstencroft, Eva M	Osceola Mills, PA	09/23/2015	0774
Zamecnik, Anna	St. Clair, PA	08/21/2015	0774
Zvarich, Michael	Sharon, PA	08/31/2015	P09A

## ASSEMBLY 004

### Parma, OH

The Sunday Bowling League will hold its Christmas Luncheon at Yorktown Lanes on December 13th at 1:00 p.m. There will be food, prizes and plenty of socializing. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bud or Bob Sir-Louis at 440-845-2616. The cost will be \$10.00 with a deadline for reservations on December 6th.

**Bob SirLouis**  
Fraternal Director

## ASSEMBLY 039

### Uniontown, PA

#### Vesele Vianoce

Remember, our annual "Christmas Party" will be held on Sunday, December 6th at the Knights of Columbus Social Hall, North Gallatin Avenue Extension at 2:00 p.m. Once again, we will be chancing off a 32" HD-TV (*if we get a good Black Friday deal it may be larger*) for the benefit of the NSS Scholarship Program. There will be a Chinese/Slovak auction as well as many door prizes and gift cards!!! We will be holding a memorial service to remember all of our assembly members that died this past year. Mark your calendar TODAY!! The party is FREE to members and non-members alike!!!! I will be looking for you.

Ladies, don't forget, the home office is soliciting your favorite recipes (the more Slovak the better) for publication in the monthly magazine. Don't wait, send them in today!!

The NSS Heritage Museum has Christmas wafers (**oplatky**) for Christmas and New Year's Eve. Information is elsewhere in this issue or contact the home office. This is a great tradition for the whole family.

Christmas is a time to pause and remember the greatest gift that doesn't fit under your tree; or need batteries; can't be purchased on Black Friday; is more precious than gold; comes in one size fits all; and best of all—it doesn't cost one red cent!!!! The only thing

you have to do with it is take it in your heart and then share it with family and friends. May the gift of the Christ-Child bring joy and peace to your life and those most dear to you. Merry Christmas and glorious blessings in the New Year!

**John Payerchin**  
President

## ASSEMBLY R059

### Whitehall, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lahutsky's home. Election of officers will take place at this meeting. The snow date will be Sunday, February 21st, 2016. If in need of directions, please call (610) 868-3593.

**Nancy Sabol**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 070/C070

### Brooklyn, OH

Our Christmas Party and meeting will be held on December 6, 2015 at 12:15 p.m. Reservations are required. Any questions call John Karkosiak or Mary Ann Karkosiak at 216-741-6990. If you are attending a dessert dish to share would be appreciated. We are also collecting for the Sunday School mitten tree.

**Mary Ann Karkosiak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY L102

### Schnecksville, PA

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, January 3rd, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. A short meeting will be held followed by refreshments and holiday cheer.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY L075

### Duryea, PA

A meeting will be held on January 10, 2016 at Terry's Diner, 4118 Birney Avenue, Rt. 11, Moosic, PA at 2:00 p.m. A roast beef dinner will be served and a brief meeting will follow. The Finance Committee will meet following to do the audit of the books.

**Lehrae Edwards**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 123

### Coraopolis, PA

First, let me wish each of our members a blessed Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. I only wish I could personally share this with each and every one of you individually.

2015 was a good year for our assembly; however it was marked by the loss of our dear brother, Bob Brown who will be sorely missed.

The assembly Christmas dinner will be Saturday, January 9th at 5:30 p.m. at the LaTavola Italiano Restaurant (BYOB) in the Mt. Washington section of Pittsburgh. There will be a nominal cost of only \$15. You might note that those of the Orthodox faith celebrate Christmas on January 7th so our choice of January 9th for our Christmas celebration is quite appropriate. If you plan to attend, please notify either me (724-242-5085) or Joan Smith (412-778-0431) by January 5th so we can make proper reservations.

If any member has ideas for assembly activities or charities deserving of our donation please share that with me so it can be considered.

In this season of giving, try to remember the homeless and the veterans. Also, keep in your prayers our members who are sick or suffering. And if nothing else give a smile to a stranger and wish them a Merry Christmas. Merry Christmas to all!

**Bill Knoll**  
President



## ASSEMBLY 160

### Lorain, OH

December 15th is our annual "Fun Frolic" Night. December's meeting will also be our annual charity event, a wonderful tradition that once again gives our members a chance to show their generosity.

Our Annual Dinner will be held on January 19, 2016, starting with a brief meeting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be followed by hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and then a sit down dinner. We hope to see many familiar faces (and some new ones!) at this event.

**John P Katricak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 586

### Chicago, IL

We're celebrating the Christmas season by partying at Bohemian Garden in Downers Grove on Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 p.m. Once again, we'll have a White Elephant activity which will be a great chance to re-gift a nice present to someone who will appreciate it. If you are able to attend our party, by all means come and have a tasty family-style Czech meal and swap gifts.

Please respond by December 10th to [janetjet24@gmail.com](mailto:janetjet24@gmail.com). We hope to see you there.

**Janet Tomaskovic**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 737

### Westmoreland County, PA

Our next meeting will be held on December 12, 2015 at the home of Paul J. Godor, 9280 Clubview Dr., North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m. This will be our Christmas meeting and luncheon. If you will be attending please call 724-863-9662 by December 4, 2015 so we can plan accordingly. Election of Officers will be held. All members are urged to attend.

**Paul J Godor**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 0377

### Bentleyville, PA

Our next meeting will be a holiday celebration on Sunday, December 6th at Atria's, 4059 Washington Road, McMurray, PA. at 1:00 p.m. Future projects and meetings will be discussed. All members are asked to please join us for a fun filled afternoon! Also, please bring a dozen of cookies for all to enjoy. I hope to see all of you.

**Suzanne Skrypak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 731

### Lowellville, OH

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, 6225 Quarry Rd., Lowellville, Ohio on Saturday, December 5th, 2:00-5:00 p.m. This year we will feature our youth on stage as they perform singing, dancing, and/or a Christmas Skit. We are in the process of encouraging our youth to share their special talents. In addition to the stage entertainment, Santa will pay a visit with a gift for each child. Each family is asked to bring blankets, sheets, towels, hats, gloves, or coats that will benefit the Mahoning Valley Rescue Mission in their efforts to help the homeless this winter.

**Laurie Fox**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 813

### Englewood, FL

Our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, will be held on December 6th, at 7:00 p.m., at Ruby Tuesday's.

The Christmas party will be held on December 23rd, at the Farrell residence. For more information on these events, or to let us know you will be attending, please call Mary Jo Holker, secretary, at 941-473-0559.

**Mary Jo Holker**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 432

### Fairview Park, OH

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park, Ohio from 12-5:00 p.m. Reservations were required.

Reminder - Our New Year's Eve Party will be held at the home of Bill & Sue Shuttleworth on December 31st.

**Shawn Pytel**  
Publicist

## Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., must be received by the Home Office no later than the **5th of the preceding month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article in a timely manner. Also, all articles should be typewritten in regular type and original photos submitted. Our email address is: [info@nsslife.org](mailto:info@nsslife.org)

## REGION 5

### Pittsburgh, PA

#### Fraternal Night at the Slovak Christmas Pageant at Bishop Connare Center

Region 5 is sponsoring a fraternal night at the Bishop Connare Center, 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, Pa on Sunday, December 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. for a Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and Christmas Pageant.

Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. in the Center's dining room followed by The Christmas Pageant, presented by the Pittsburgh Slovaks in the Chapel.

A limited number of seats were available and reservations were required. Any further questions, please call Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204.

**Joseph Stefka, Jr**  
Region 5 President

## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations October, 2015

In Memory of <b>Margaret Ann Gomola:</b>	
From Bob Gomola	100.00
In Memory of <b>John Drazdik:</b>	
From Assembly 0070	10.00
In Memory of <b>William J Sandor:</b>	
From Dave & Fran Blazek	50.00
In Memory of <b>Joseph &amp; Elizabeth Resovsky:</b>	
From The McEvoy Family	25.00
In Memory of <b>Bob Brown, Assembly 0123, Volunteer Extraordinaire:</b>	
From William & Sue Knoll	50.00
In Memory of <b>Andrew &amp; Anne Kreysa:</b>	
From Alfred & Gloria Jean Gomb	50.00
<b>Donations:</b>	
Rudolph Pallan	200.00
ComDoc	1,000.00



## 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

## Congratulations



Rev. John Ostrowski, a lifelong member of the NSS, was recently installed as pastor of San Pedro Catholic Parish in Teotepeque in El Salvador. El Salvador is a country in Central America, bordered by the Pacific Ocean, Guatemala and Honduras. His parish encompasses twenty-five communities that are presently served by a single priest. Some of the villages are so remote they can only be reached by ATV or on foot.

Fr. John spent ten years serving as assistant pastor in the Cleveland diocese in Ohio, and will return there after seven years in El Salvador. He is part of the Cleveland Latin American Mission team, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in El Salvador last year. The installation Mass was celebrated with Archbishop Jose Luis Escobar Alas of San Salvador and Fr. Paul Schindler. Attending were hundreds of people from Teotepeque and the surrounding villages, as well as several members of the Cleveland diocese serving on a volunteer mission trip.

Fr. John's mother, Mary Ann Ostrowski, and several of her children and grandchildren (all members of Assembly 617, Ashley, PA) also traveled to Teotepeque in July for the celebration. The family assisted in two construction projects and participated in several community events.



They also spent a day in the capital of San Salvador, visiting the chapel where Archbishop Oscar Romero was martyred in 1980 at the beginning of El Salvador's brutal twelve-year civil war.

The violence claimed the lives of more than 75,000 people, including four American church women, and displaced over a million.

In the words of Fr. John, *"Mostly what people here need, as in any parish, is the priest to be present to them... to walk with them... to let them feel they are part of the church to which they belong."*



**Available from our Gift Shop while supplies last!**

**OPLATKY:**

Package of 5 large wafers \$2.00  
 Small wafer with Christmas Blessing ideal for placing inside Christmas cards.  
 Available in English OR Slovak.  
 Please specify. \$1.00 ea.



**Christmas Slovak Style:**

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

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

Available on CD or as a book. Please specify which format you prefer when ordering.

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



# December

# Veselé Vianočné Sviatky



*Keď viete prijať od iných láskavé slovo, úsmev, porozumenie — v tej chvíli začínajú Vianoce.*

*Keď dávate úsmev, láskavé slovo, porozumenie druhému — začínajú Vianoce.*

*Keď máte snahu podať ruku tomu, kto Vás urazil — vtedy sú Vianoce.*

*Keď dokážete zabúdať na seba a myslieť viac na druhých — slávite Vianoce.*

*Pod' vianočný stromček Vám želáme veľa spokojnosti v duši, lásky v srdci, zdravia v tele a pohodu v rodine. Naplno si užijte tie zázračné chvíle. Oddychujte a veselte sa a majte na tvári úsmev a v srdci smiech. Majte pri sebe všetkých, na ktorých Vám záleží.*

*Majte všetko, čo skutočne potrebujete a čo je naozaj dôležité.*

*Požehnané vianočné sviatky Vám želá hlavný úrad  
Národného Slovenského Spolku.*

## 6. Decembra sv. Mikuláš

O tom, ako Mikuláš pomohol istému chudobnému človeku

Istý chudobný človek mal tri dcéry. V tých časoch bolo zvykom, že dievčína sa mohla vydať len vtedy, ak mala veno. Tento človek však nemal nijaké peniaze. Nariekal a bedákal: "svojim dcéram nemôžem dať nijaké veno. Skadiaľže mám vziať peniaze?" Raz v noci kosi vhodil do izby, kde spali dievčatá, tri veľké mešce plné peňazí. Dievčatá zučuli, že čosi s buchotom padlo na podlahu.

Rýchlo vybehli pred dom, aby zistili, kto hodil tie mešce s peniazmi cez otvorené okno. Lenže vonku už nikoho ne našli. Len ich chudobný otec hneď vedel, od koho sú tie peniaze. "To je dar od Mikuláša!" zvolal plný vďaky. Teraz sa jeho tri dcéry už mohli vydávať.



## Vinčovačky

Ja som malý vinčovačik, vinčujem vám za koláčik, korunku mi dajte, zdravi ostavajte. Dobré ráno.

Aj ja vám vinčujem za pecom koláče čujem, ešte lepší by som vám vinčoval keby som z nich okoštoval. Dobré ráno.

Aj ja vinčujem veľa božieho zdravia pre gazdu, gazdinu, a calu rodinu. Dobré ráno.

## Daj Boh šťastia

Daj Boh šťastia tomu domu,  
my spievame, vieme komu:  
malému dietatku, Kristu Jezuliatku,  
dnes v Betleheme zrodenému.  
On rozdáva štedrovníčky,  
jablká, hrušky, makovníčky,  
za naše spievanie, za koledovanie,  
daj nám Pán Boh požehnanie.



— J. Lada

## Pozvánka

Ak radi počúvate na Vianočné koledy a Vinšce tie možno počuť v nedeľu počas Vianočnej doby počnúc druhou nedeľou v decembri na rádio stanici WPIT—730 AM od 3-tej do 4-tej popoludni z mesta Pittsburghu. Keď žijete mimo Pittsburghu možno to počuť cestou internetu. WWW.WPITAM.COM a potrebné kliknúť na "listen live."



## 2015 Poetry Second Place Winners

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

#### **Baseball**

by: Sam Strish  
Age 7- Circle C617

I play baseball because it's fun  
I play for May's Restaurant team  
My colors are green & yellow  
I played against a lot of teams  
I really like baseball  
I practice baseball in my yard all the time  
When I'm at Gram's house,  
I play whiffle ball with my brother.

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

#### **I Love My Parents**

by: Giovanni Ferary  
Age 10 - Circle C774

I am thankful for your friendly smile,  
Even when I have to wait a while.  
You are also always great,  
Even when you haven't ate.  
Whenever I am in danger,  
You might save me from a stranger.  
I love you very much,  
Even from the simplest touch.  
When I make you mad,  
It makes me very sad.  
I love you more than anyone else,  
I also trust you a ton!

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

#### **Summer Fun**

by: Julia Rayman  
Age 11 - Circle C039

The sun, the waves,  
The sand on my towel.  
Collecting seashells.  
A sand crab, oh wow!  
Flip flops and friends,  
Kona ice too.  
Wave pool, rides and outdoor  
Games too.  
Smacking the ball,  
Sliding in dirt,  
I'm surprised I didn't get hurt.  
I'm jumping so high,  
Some days I feel like  
I can touch the sky.  
This is my summer,  
I had a blast,  
If only I can make it last.

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

#### **Birds**

by: Blaze Farrell  
Age 15 - Circle C813

The majestic eagle soars so high,  
The canary does loopy-loops.  
Not all the chickens are in their coops.  
Why, oh why, can't I?  
The geese scratch across the sky,  
The seagulls glide over the sand,  
The hawks zoom over the grazing land.  
Why, oh why, can't I?  
Look at the dove, see it gracefully fly.  
The jungle toucan squawks a squawk,  
While the homebound parrot talks his talk.  
Why, oh why, can't I?  
Why am I not trying?  
How has no one done this yet?  
Then I think of an airplane or jet.  
Why am I, "Why, oh why"ing?

**3rd Place Winners will be in the  
January, 2016 issue**

*Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year*



NSS Life  
Family Matters...

## TROPICAL VACATION OFFER



**Punta Cana**

**We're excited to offer YOU our members this opportunity for the experience of a LIFETIME!**

### DESTINATION:

One week all-inclusive trip to the **Dreams Punta Cana Resort & Spa** in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Preferred club deluxe tropical rooms w/pool view. Includes express check-in/out and free wifi service.

### DATE:

Sunday, April 3rd, 2016 – Sunday, April 10th, 2016.

### TRAVEL:

Charter airfare direct from Pittsburgh to Punta Cana included. Travel arrangements provided by Apple Vacations.

### PRICE:

**\$1,800.00** per person (Based on double occupancy).

***Limited number of rooms available on a first come, first served basis.***

We are excited about this trip and pleased to offer this opportunity to our members and their families. Contact **Connie Tortoreti** at (412) 714-4489 or at **unlimitedtravel97@gmail.com** for any questions.

NSS Life • 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337 • (724) 731-0094 • [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org)



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.

