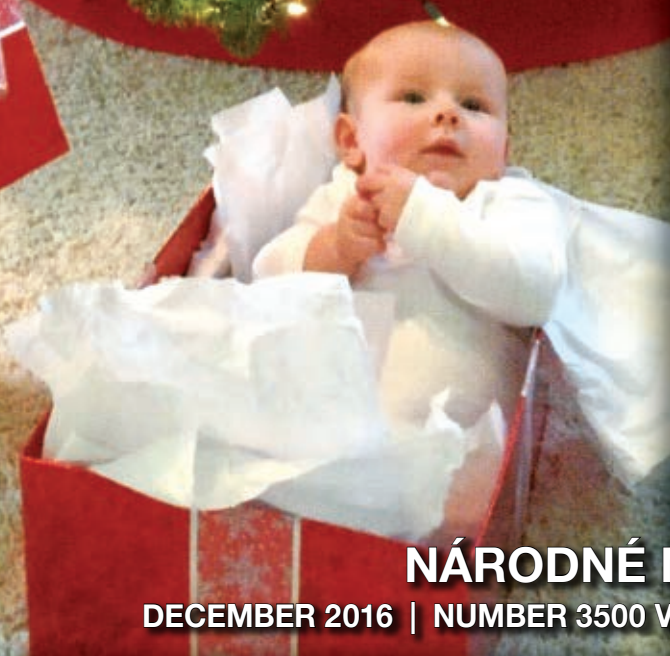




NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



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

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY

DECEMBER 2016 | NUMBER 3500 VOLUME 108

1 BILLION

**DOLLARS IN
ASSETS REACHED**

See page 6 for details



National Slovak Society

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



NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY

Published Monthly

Send articles for publication to:

351 Valley Brook Road

McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Deadline: 5th of preceding month.

"POSTMASTER" SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

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Robert Katricak
Susan Ondrejco
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PBU HONORARY OFFICER

Henri O. Albert, *President*

ROCWMAS HONORARY OFFICER

Olga Kasnot, *President*

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

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Activities At A Glance

<p>REGION 2</p> <p>February 11, 2017</p>	<p>Assemblies L075, 0617</p> <p>Region 2, Meeting at Perkins Restaurant. (Time to be announced)</p>
<p>REGION 5</p> <p>December 3 December 4 December 4</p>	<p>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0737, 0774</p> <p>Assembly 0737, Meeting/Christmas Luncheon, Paul Godor's, N Huntingdon, PA at 2:30 pm Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall at 2:00 pm Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Ichiban's Restaurant, Washington, PA at 3:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 8</p> <p>December 4 December 4 December 11 December 20 February 25, 2017</p>	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>Assembly 0004, Christmas Luncheon, Yorktown Lanes, Parma, OH at 1:00 pm Assembly 0070/C070, Christmas Party, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Gemini Center, Fairview Park, OH 1:00 - 5:00 pm Assembly 0432, Meeting, Gunselman's Tavern, Fairview Park, OH at 7:30 pm Assembly 0432, Annual Reverse Raffle</p>
<p>REGION 14</p> <p>December 10 December 11 December 14 December 17 January 8, 2017</p>	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>Region 14, Matching Funds Can Drive Assembly L102, Matching Funds for Camelot House Assembly L102, Matching Funds for the Kiwanis Club of Emmaus Assembly L102, The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley Region 14, Holiday Party, Wesnak's residence, Schnecksville, PA at 2:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 15</p>	<p>Assemblies L002, 0028</p> <p>No activities at this time</p>
<p>AT LARGE</p> <p>December 4 December 17 December 24</p>	<p>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813</p> <p>Assembly 0110, Christmas Luncheon, Trattoria L'Incontro, Astoria, NY at 1:00 pm Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 6:00 pm</p>

*Rejoice in the spirit of Christmas with
friends, family and colleagues.
Merry Christmas*

From Officers and Employees of the NSS

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Let me start out this month on behalf of my entire family by wishing each and every member and their family a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2017. The past year blew by so fast, and I reiterate the fact that as we get older time seems to fly by faster and faster. As I check the calendar, I see that there are many Christmas parties and meetings being held in December. If your assembly is having an event, try to get out and enjoy the holiday season with your fellow NSS brothers and sisters. Remember that the office will be closed on Friday December 23rd and Monday December 26th in celebration of Christmas.

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but 2016 similar to 2015, will go down in NSS history as another good year of solid growth, not only in new members, but in assets and solvency as well. Final results for 2016 will be reported in future issues.

Speaking of records, many of our youth members have never seen a record or record player. Two years ago at Christmas time, we pulled out a record player and played an album for our grandchildren who were amazed that music could come off of a vinyl disc with grooves in it.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes go out to NSS Directors Abigail Gross and Sue Ondrejco, Honorary Tribunal member Sophie Hudak, Home Office employees Brigid Delien, and Cyndi Salat, to John and Kevin Crowley, Melinda Chojnicki, Annette Stefka, my son, David W. Blazek, and to my lovely wife, Fran Blazek. Best wishes to all others celebrating this month.



A warm welcome to John G. Payerchin who is the newest member of the NSS Life Board. John is the son of former Secretary/Treasurer Paul Payerchin, Jr. Many of you know John from his attendance at golf outings and as a delegate who ran for election at the most recent convention in Hershey, PA. John is married and has 3 children. He has been very active on the local level and as President of Assembly 0039 in Uniontown, PA. John was elected unanimously by the Board to serve the NSS.

A Christmas Story

Did you know this about the movie?

- The film's setting is a town in Indiana, but it was actually filmed in Cleveland, Ohio.
- The film was released just before Thanksgiving and became a surprise hit. By the time Christmas rolled around, the movie had already been pulled from most theaters because it had been played out.
- According to Director Bob Clark, Jack Nicholson was given the script and was very much interested in the role of Mr. Parker. However, the studio didn't want to pay Nicholsons fee, which would have doubled the budget.
- Ralphie says 28 times in the movie that he wants the Red Ryder BB Gun.
- For the scene in which Flicks tongue sticks to the flagpole, a hidden suction tube was used to safely create the illusion that his tongue had frozen to the metal.
- The Wonder Years was inspired by A Christmas Story.
- According to Peter Billingsley (young Ralphie) in the DVD Commentary, the nonsensical rambling that Ralphie exclaims while beating up Scut Farkus was scripted, word for word.



Christmas Carols and Caroling

In the old world there was a mix of singing and dancing that was practiced for all festivals throughout the year. When Christmas was firmly established to be celebrated on December 25th, many of the existing carols or songs were sung on that day and new ones written to celebrate Christmas.

St. Francis of Assisi was instrumental in making the Christmas celebration one for the people instead of just for the clergy. He created large nativity scenes outside of his church and translated many of the Christmas carols from Latin into languages spoken by the average person and encouraged them to sing these songs to express their joy during the Christmas season.

This practice of singing Christmas songs outside of the Church near the nativity scenes spread throughout Europe and it was a natural next step for these Christmas carolers to start walking through the neighborhoods around the churches

sharing their festive songs. Caroling started to decline in popularity as people were able to hear and play the same songs on the radio and eventually on their own record players. However, carolers can still be seen and heard today during the holiday season walking through neighborhoods and sharing the Christmas message much as they have done for the past 1000 years.



Punography Of The Month:

Class trip to the Coca-Cola factory, I hope there's no pop quiz.

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



Well by the time you read this, the people of the greatest country on Earth, the United States of America, will have elected a new President! As I begin writing this article just days before our country's presidential election I am very apprehensive and saddened, and somewhat disappointed, to see what this great country has come to in their choice of candidates to lead us for the next four years. How lucky we are here at the NSS to have had great leadership over the years that has led to growth in all aspects of the business. And today, your NSS has reached an unprecedented milestone by surpassing **\$1 BILLION DOLLARS in Assets**. See page 6 for more details!

2016 Spring Board Meeting Minutes

The 2016 Summer Board Meeting was opened and called to order on August 13, 2016 by Chairman of the Board Joseph Stefka, Jr at the Home Office in McMurray, PA. After several opening remarks he turned the meeting over to President/CEO David G Blazek for the remainder of the meeting. All Board members and Executive Officers were either present at the Home Office or via teleconference. Also present were: Legal Counsel P. Ronald Cooper, Sales Director Greg Felton, and AQS Asset Managers Byron White and Larry White via teleconference.

All Bond Sales, Exchanges and Purchases through December 31, 2016 were ratified and all Mortgages reviewed. Minutes of the 2016 Fall Board Meetings were approved.

The Fraternal Activities Coordinator Report, presented by President Blazek, recapped fraternal events both held and upcoming for 2016.

Sales Director Greg Felton presented the Sales Directors Report highlighting: Sales, Membership, Agent Growth and New Business to date.

Legal Counsel Cooper presented an update on the Power of Attorney/Beneficiary litigation.

2nd Quarter Results were presented by CPA Donald Reddinger, Reddinger, Will, Gallagher & Dickert, LLC. Assets increased to \$974.5M, Surplus increased to \$40.0M, Net Income totaled \$4.1M and Solvency increased to 105.4% (without AVR/IMR).

NSS Asset Manager Byron White, AQS (via teleconference), presented his report, providing information on the state of our Portfolio, Projections on Cash Flow, Crediting Rates vs our Portfolio and Portfolio Yield. Recommended changes to the NSS Investment Policy and Guidelines were reviewed and moved for approval.

Annuity Interest Rates were reviewed and a motion was made to keep the rates the same for the 3rd Quarter of 2016.

Old Business presented the postponement of the Assembly Officers Seminar until March 2017, an update of the NSS Youth Ambassadors Program, the adoption of the new NSS Mission and Vision Statements, a recap of the recent Strategic Planning Session, information pertaining to offering IDShield to our members, and the status of the NSS Cyber Security Policy.

New Business saw the approval of one Petition and the appointment of a new Medical Examiner.

Under Good of the Order, Director Ondrejco provided an overview of what is being planned for the upcoming Septemberfest event on September 24, 2016 at the Home Office, McMurray, PA. Discussion was held on the new National Project "Blessings in a Backpack" and what procedures should be followed for assemblies to support this cause.

March 2017 Assembly Officer Seminar

Our second Assembly Officers Seminar is being planned for the weekend of March 24, 2017. Beginning with a Friday Fraternal "Movie" night and leading in to the Seminar itself on Saturday, we hope to once again present both a fun and educational event. Details will be provided soon to save the date on your calendars.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Requests

We are nearing the end of 2016 when we are very busy with year-end processing. In order to ensure that Required Minimum Distribution(s) are processed in a timely manner we ask that all RMD requests be submitted to the Home Office by no later than December 15, 2016.

Beneficiaries

I know I include this in my article every December but it's important that your beneficiaries on file are up-to-date and reflect those of your choosing. Life events sometimes cause us to have to update our beneficiary records on file so just as a reminder, please let us know of any changes you wish to make. Or if you don't recall your designations we can provide you with that information by calling the Home Office.

Annual Assembly - Region Packets

Annual Assembly and Region packets will be mailed the first week of December so look for them in the mail before the Christmas holiday. If you haven't received a packet by the 20th of December, please let me know. Also, don't forget to send in your forms for your activities/events for 2016 so that you get fraternal tracking points.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!
*MAY EACH AND EVERYONE OF
OUR MEMBERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON*

2016 THIRD QUARTER REPORT - NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

Net Admitted Assets:

	September 2016	December 2015
Bonds	\$966,594,773	\$872,509,151
Preferred Stocks	0	600,000
Common Stocks	1,385,677	379,425
Mortgage Loans on		
Real Estate	6,356,902	8,765,201
Certificate Loans	725,736	652,721
Real Estate Occupied		
By Society	729,013	745,029
Cash On Deposit	11,722,717	12,266,748
Electronic Data Equipment	0	0
Uncollected Premiums	161,878	97,937
Investment Income Due	13,095,356	11,031,689
TOTALS	\$1,000,772,052	\$907,047,901

Liabilities and Unassigned Funds:

	September 2016	December 2015
Aggregate Reserve	\$891,831,000	\$810,989,000
Deposit-type		
Contracts	56,028,702	48,359,100
Certificate Claims	200,000	250,000
Commissions Due	125,000	160,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	385,000	385,000
General Expenses Due	1,547,850	1,547,000
Retained By The Society		
As Trustee	29,601	37,257
Asset Valuation		
Reserve (AVR)	5,103,900	4,366,800
Interest Maintenance		
Reserve (IMR)	4,513,118	4,795,733
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	40,857,881	36,008,023
TOTALS	\$1,000,772,052	\$907,047,913

Surplus Account:

	September 2016	December 2015
Beginning Surplus	\$36,158,022	\$28,218,630
Net Income	5,380,725	9,085,723
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	206,234	(143,256)
Chge in Nonadmitted Assets	0	(188,275)
Change in Valuation		
Reserve	(737,100)	(814,800)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains		
and Losses in Surplus	0	0
Net Change In Surplus	4,849,859	7,939,392
Surplus At Stmt Date	\$41,007,881	\$36,158,022

Summary Of Operations:

	September 2016	December 2015
INCOME:		
Premiums & Annuity		
Considerations	\$129,132,063	\$152,299,739
Net Invest. Income	33,881,897	41,201,928
Amortization Of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	468,042	715,629
Income Sub-Total	\$163,482,002	\$194,217,296

	September 2016	December 2015
EXPENSES:		
Death Benefits	\$1,450,129	\$5,298,808
Matured Endowments	19,254	37,243
Annuity Benefits	66,226,465	81,527,319
Disability, Accident,		
Health Benefits	4,212	4,167
Surrender Benefits	2,093,973	584,648
Interest On Deposit		
Type Contracts	7,879	(3,443)
Increase In Aggregate		
Reserve For Life		
Contracts	80,842,000	88,773,500
Commissions On		
Direct Business	3,340,879	4,044,199
General &		
Fraternal Expenses	3,581,383	4,291,671
Insurance, Taxes,		
Licenses, Fees	146,677	179,850
Expense Sub-Total	\$157,712,851	\$184,737,962

SUMMARY:

	September 2016	December 2015
Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds		
To Members	\$5,769,151	\$9,479,334
Refund To Members	(273,298)	(380,865)
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds		
To Members	5,495,853	9,098,469
Net Realized		
Capital Gains	(115,128)	(12,746)
Total Net Income	\$5,380,725	\$9,085,723

Linda M Strom
Secretary/Treasurer, CFO

Fraternal Matters...

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



The Christmas Wafers - "Oplatky"

People of different countries of Europe over the centuries have developed their characteristic Christmas customs and traditions, which have become a part of their heritage and life. The people of Slovakia too, have their own beautiful customs significant of their Christian faith. The distribution, at Christmas, of the "Oplatky" (also known as Oplatky) usually by the pastor or by the church deacons, is one such venerable tradition.

The "Oplatky" is an important part of the traditional Christmas Eve and again New Year's Day dinner menu. These dinners are not ordinary dinners, but rather ritualistic and symbolic feasts. It is to be remembered that it is the Štedy Večer – the night of God's generosity and bounty and the "Oplatky" is a symbol or token of God's infinite love in Christ Jesus, His Son.

The day before the Holy Nativity must be quiet, peaceful, and solemn; there must be no hilarity and worldly merry-making; for it's the day of great expectations! And as the "Angelus" bell on the church steeple rings out, the supper begins. The family promptly gathers around the big table, laden richly with many kinds of food, which they allow themselves only on this most holy night.

First the father will offer a fervent lengthy prayer of thanksgiving and blessing, usually reading a prayer for the day from the "Kancional" (the Book of Worship and Hymnal – Transcius or Spevnik). Then a couple of Christmas hymns are sung, Cas Radosti or Narodil Se Kristus Pán, by the family with mother leading. Worship concluded, the father now distributes the "Oplatky" one to each person; while the mother passes around the honey to be spread on the wafer.

The "Oplatka" (singular "Oplatky", plural) is unleavened bread of flour and water, with figures or scenes of the Nativity impressed on it as it is being baked in the molds. It is somewhat similar to the Communion wafer, only much larger. After the wafer, the father will pour a little wine. Thereupon the mother will serve the traditional sour mushroom soup of sauerkraut juice with rice or barley ("Jucha" or Hubovia Polievka"). Then follows the main courses of meats and vegetables and "Bolbalky" (baked dough served with poppy seed with honey or sugar water); then dry and fresh fruit, figs, nuts, candy, and of course, "Medovniky" (artistically decorated honey cookies), "Kolače" and "Kolačky" (cakes and cookies). A large loaf of home-made bread is

gracing one corner of the table and a bowl of various fruit on another corner, to symbolize God's ever present and ever faithful and bountiful provision.

As in the Holy Communion, the "Oplatka" symbolizes Christ's Body and His Nativity – God's becoming flesh and dwelling with us men (John 1:14); and then offering His Body to be broken on the cross to redeem mankind from sin and death. The word "Oplatka" itself is from the Latin "Oblation", meaning offering or sacrificing. Hence "Oblation" is anything presented or offered in religious worship. The bread we receive in the Lord's Supper is also called "Oplatka" in Slovak.

The honey on the wafer represents the sweet love of God in sending His only begotten Son (John 3:16). The wine is of course symbolic of Christ's Blood. The sour soup is to remind us of Christ's bitter suffering. The entire sumptuous feast is expressive of God's bountiful goodness to men. However, it is the "Oplatka" that is the one significant token or symbol visibly, tangibly and beautifully proclaiming the angelic message:

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:11; 2:14)

VESELE VIANOCE – MERRY CHRISTMAS

Rev. Andrew Rolik

"Oplatky" is available for purchase from the Home Office – See page 11 for details.

Christmas Day December 25th

Rise above the storm and you will find the sunshine.
Mario Fernandez

Christmas Eve Books

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

These booklets contain recipes for the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper, a brief family devotion to conduct a service in the home and an explanation about the Christmas Wafers (Oplatky).



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



Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA

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

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

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 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.

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



Women and Retirement

A recent retirement survey found that women are far more likely than men to face a financial crisis in retirement. There are several factors that cause this problem. The first is the gender inequality regarding pay. It is still a fact that females make about 80 cents vs a dollar for a male. This lower income affects their Social Security retirement benefits later in life. Another factor is that many women may take time off to raise children. Again this gap affects their Social Security payments. Women also live longer than men. So their longevity in later life creates two concerns: 1) they must live longer on less money and 2) lower Social Security income means smaller annual increases. This latter point becomes significant to women in their eighties or nineties when years of small increases and inflation erodes their purchasing power. Now that you know the problem, what are the solutions? Think of retirement as a three-legged stool. One leg is government benefits and this may include Civil Service, VA benefits and Social Security. The next leg of the stool is company benefits. Think of where you work and they may offer a pension plan, 401k, or a profit-sharing plan. The third leg of the retirement stool is personal savings. This could be IRAs, Roth IRAs, savings accounts or some other personal asset. All three legs working together can provide a secure retirement future. Out of the three legs which one can you control? Only the personal savings is determined by you. The other two are controlled by factors beyond our influence.

So what should you do next? Start saving some money. The amount does not matter. Pick any figure that you can comfortably put aside on a regular basis. Then call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home office and they will help you figure out which NSS product will serve you best. For more than 126 years we have offered our members the best options for life insurance, annuities and IRAs. We can help you too.



Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule

Recently the U.S. Department of Labor imposed a rule that all retirement accounts (IRAs, transfers, and roll overs) are to be implemented using a fiduciary standard of care. In the past, advisors were held to a suitability standard. While the difference between the two approaches is significant – we wanted you to know that NSS is working on models to provide you with the utmost care and attention. Our members are the number one concern along with our representatives. Please know that we continue to research this process with our advisors. We are preparing to implement any necessary changes after the first implementation date of April 2017. The entire rule goes into effect in 2018. As always you can rest assured that NSS will provide our members with quality products, rates and services. We look forward to meeting these future challenges.



The Seven Wonders Of Life Insurance

Life insurance is the greatest financial product ever devised. Too often we think of life insurance to pay the funeral bill and that is it. Here is a quick refresher on some of the wonders of life insurance and what is possible.

- Buys time – we don't know how long we have on this earth but no matter what, life insurance provides money.
- A fresh start – insurance proceeds can be used to pay off bills and give some one a new lease on life.
- Generates income – just because you are gone, bills still must be paid. Insurance can be set up to pay a monthly income.
- Flexibility – means that the money from a life insurance policy buys your family the privilege to do what they think is important. Take time off work or whatever.
- Opportunities – insurance proceeds (or cash values) can open the door to fund a new business, pay for college, or provide the security for a loan.
- Fund the future – with life insurance. This is money that you can use as needed.
- Leave a legacy – to children and grandchildren. How nice would it be to know that you made a difference in a person's life or a charity?

So what is life insurance? It is a contract that buys your family or you money. Tell us how much money you want.

Thought for the Month - A Riddle

We know what we are, but know not what we may be.

William Shakespeare, British playwright (1564-1616)

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of Director **Keith S. Godor:**
From Annette/Joseph Stefka 100.00
In Memory of Director **Keith Godor:**
From James/Barbara Stoker 50.00
Donations:
Michael J Czarney 166.67
Robert Katricak 100.00



Memorial Tree Leaf Donations

In Memory of Director **Keith S. Godor:**
From Officers and Members of
Assembly 0588 250.00
In Memory of Director **Keith Godor:**
From Region 5 250.00



Acorn Donations

In Honor of **Members of Assembly 0146:**
From Assembly 0146 2,000.00
In Memory of **Calvin W. Kanyuck,**
Treasurer of Assembly 0146:
From Assembly 0146 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

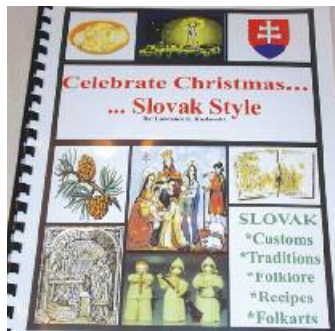
OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS October, 2016

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Allenbaugh, Charles	Pittsburgh, PA	07/04/2016	L105
Allenbaugh, Delores	Pittsburgh, PA	12/31/2015	L105
Andes, Vera	Pittsburgh, PA	08/19/2016	0441
Bakalar, Magdalen	Knoxville, TN	08/02/2016	0774
Barnes, Thomas	Chillicothe, OH	09/14/2016	P38A
Bartok, John	Monessen, PA	10/15/2016	0377
Baughman, Nancy	Latrobe, PA	07/28/2016	0737
Biletsky, Walter	Oxford, NC	06/20/2016	0774
Capps, Geraldine	Fork Union, VA	08/02/2016	0774
Christner, Emogen	Salisbury, PA	10/06/2016	0039
Cuba, Myrna	Baraboo, WI	09/19/2016	0774
Czapp, Edward	Nazareth, PA	06/06/2016	L102
Dunbar, Carl	Tampa, FL	07/15/2016	0800
Elkin, Wanda	Cool Ridge, WV	08/18/2016	0774
Fetchko, John	Josephine, PA	10/11/2016	0774
Fucci, Luigi	Palm Harbor, FL	07/17/2016	0813
Guthmann, Dorothy	Northbrook, IL	03/21/2016	0586
Harrer, William	Pittsburgh, PA	10/12/2016	0100
Holliday, Launa	Charmco, WV	09/18/2016	0774
Horka, Frank	Uniontown, PA	09/10/2016	0039
Howells, Michele	Zelienople, PA	09/25/2016	0123
Jackson, JoAnn	Columbus, OH	08/24/2016	0595
Janora, Elizabeth	Pittsburgh, PA	02/06/2016	0700
Johnson, Anna	Pittsburgh, PA	09/23/2016	0123
Kelley, Glenda	Snellville, GA	09/01/2016	0774
Kephart, Elizabeth	Osceola Mills, PA	09/04/2016	0267
Kirsch, Clifford	Northern Cambria, PA	09/16/2016	0774
Kitzmiller, Nettie	Carlisle, PA	09/18/2016	0267
Kristina, George	Chicago Heights, IL	07/31/2016	0586
Maier, Margaret	Uniontown, PA	05/07/2016	0039
Mawhinney, Betty	Pittsburgh, PA	07/22/2016	L161
McNamara, Gerald	Pittsburgh, PA	10/01/2016	0434
Morgan, Beatrice	Youngstown, OH	10/15/2016	0731
Patricca Jr., Albert	Pittsburgh, PA	02/01/2012	0700
Pennington, Erma	Oak Hill, WV	07/12/2016	0774
Richter, Hilda	Pittsburgh, PA	09/04/2016	L161
Roberts, Jean	Kissimmee, FL	04/26/2016	0813
Roll, Kenneth	Frankfort, OH	05/20/2016	0595
Schroth, Gerald	Slippery Rock, PA	06/18/2016	0731
Serafine, Florence	Penndel, PA	09/14/2016	L102
Shrontz, T. Richard	Washington, PA	09/21/2016	0588
Stiefvater, Fred	New Holstein, WI	09/09/2016	0774
Verges, Victoria	Belleville, IL	04/30/2016	0705
Volansky, Louise	Sharpsville, PA	09/04/2016	0100
Welch, Fumiko	Grantsville, WV	09/08/2016	0774
Werner, Francis	DuBois, PA	09/26/2016	0554
Whelan, William	Pittsburgh, PA	07/23/2016	L105
Winstone, Anna	Monessen, PA	10/11/2016	0377

Available from the **NSSHM 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



Christmas Slovak Style:
Remembering the Priceless Treasurers of Christmas Past and Inspiration for Christmases of the future
\$12.00 (includes postage and handling)

EXCLUSIVE! SLOVAK CHRISTMAS CD

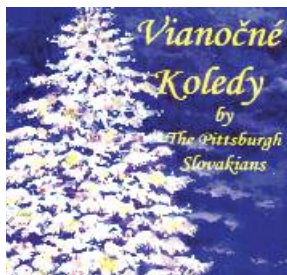
Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinčik, Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols.

Limited Supply Available \$15.00



NEW! SLOVAK CHRISTMAS CD

Sung and produced by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Features 14 traditional carols.
\$15.00



Make checks payable to: **NSS Heritage Museum,
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurry, PA 15317**

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

December, 1867

Anton Ambrose was born in the village of Kobyle, Eastern Slovakia. He became the second president of the National Slovak Society in 1901.

December, 1894

Judge Edwin H. Stowe decreed that the National Slovak Society conformed to the code for the first class of corporations.

December, 1907

A disastrous mine explosion occurred in Monongah, West Virginia. Of the 361 miners that perished, 22 were members of the National Slovak Society.

December, 1966

A membership campaign was announced to honor National Slovak Society founder Peter V Rovnianek. The winner of the campaign would be awarded \$250 and a championship trophy.

December, 1991

The National Slovak Society was mentioned in an article in the current issue of *National Geographic* magazine titled, "Pittsburgh Stronger Than Steel," by Peter Miller.

Prince of Peace Parish

23rd SLOVAK VILIIJA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner & Folk Entertainment

Saturday, December 10, 2016

4:00 p.m. Social Hour - 5:00 p.m. Dinner

Entertainment by:
The Pittsburgh Slovaks

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

Donation: \$30 Adults
\$12 Children (under 12)
FREE - 3 and under
Group Discount Available

*By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380
Tickets will NOT be sold at the door*

HOME OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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

*Closed - Friday, December 23rd thru
Monday, December 26th*

Closed - December 30th thru January 2nd

ASSEMBLY 004

Parma, OH

It's time again for the Christmas Luncheon for the Sunday Bowling League, at Yorktown Lanes on December 4th at 1:00 pm.

There will be food, cash and door prizes and a lot of socializing. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bud or Bob Sir Louis at (440) 845-2616.

The cost will be \$10.00.

Bob Sir Louis
Fraternal Director

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Our annual "Christmas Party" will be held on Sunday, December 4th starting at 2:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus fellowship hall. Once again, we will be raffling off a large screen HD TV along with a Chinese Auction for the PVR Scholarship Fund and numerous door prizes. Mark your calendar for an afternoon of fun and fraternalism. Dinner and festivities are **FREE**, even for non-members. Bring one along!!

Our schedule of meetings for **2017** is as follows:

"Pre-Lenten Dinner" - Sunday, February 26th in the community room of the Eat n' Park Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm.

Free "Summer Bar-B-Q" - Sunday, June 11th at the Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion starting at 1:00 pm.

"Remember 9/11 Dinner", and "Stuffers Club" Meeting - Sunday, September 10th in the community room of the Eat n' Park Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm.

Annual **"Christmas Party"** - Sunday, December 3rd at the Knights of Columbus social hall starting at 2:00 pm.

May the blessings of the Christ-child come to you and your family as we celebrate His birth. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all.

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY R059

Whitehall, PA

Assembly R059 will have a meeting on Sunday, 15 January at 2:30 p.m. at the Lahutsky's house. The snow date will be Sunday, 22 January. If in need of directions, please call (610) 868-3593.

Nancy A. Sobol
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 070/C070

Brooklyn, OH

Our Christmas Party and meeting will be held on December 4, 2016 at Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH. The deadline for reservations was 11/30/2016. Any questions, please call John Karkosiak or Mary Ann Karkosiak at 216-741-6990.

If you can make a dessert dish to share, it would be appreciated. We are also collecting for the Sunday School mitten tree.

John Karkosiak
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L102

Schnecksville, PA

Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves from Assembly L102 will be doing matching funds for:

December 11th - Camelot House

December 14th - The Kiwanis Club of Emmaus

December 17th - The Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley

On **December 10th**, Region 14 will do a matching funds Can Drive to benefit the homeless. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 8th** for our annual Holiday party for Region 14. It will be held at Drew and Sharon Wesnak's home starting at 2:00 pm. Be sure to come and have a wonderful time.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 110

New York, NY

Our annual meeting and luncheon will be held at Trattoria L'incontro, 21-76 31st Street, Astoria, New York from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on December 4, 2016. All members are welcome.

Richard DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

Hopefully many of you have marked your calendars for Sunday, December 18th. This is the day of our Christmas gala. At 2:00 pm we will tour the Merrick Art Gallery in New Brighton (1100 5th Ave.) and then at 4:00 pm we have reservations at the Grand Valley Inn, Route 51 in Fallston. Here you will be treated to a fine dinner and a few other surprises.

If you plan on attending one or both of these events you must notify Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546. And if you will be there for dinner you must send Mary \$10.00 by December 10th so we can make reservations. Her address is 210 Westminster Dr., Moon Twp., PA 15108. I guarantee you will enjoy the food and the camaraderie.

Just to let our members know our Assembly contributed \$100 to the Blessing in a Backpack, the NSS service project.

Usually at the Christmas get together we decide on donations to be made to other charities or members in need. If you want to recommend a worthwhile organization or know of a member in need please contact me (724-242-5085), Mary Maniecki, or Joan Smith (412-778-0431). We will vote on them at the Christmas get together.

Also, at our Christmas dinner we can decide activities for 2017. If you have suggestions, places to visit, or things to do please share them with us. Assembly 123 tries to be the most active and interesting of all the assemblies and much of the credit for that goes to you creative and interesting members.

I have a correction for my article from last month. My uncle Nick Risko, a WWII veteran, will be 93 on December 16th. He looks so young, it was a natural mistake.

I wish each of you a mild winter and modest gas bills. If I could make it so, that would be my gift to you. But, in closing I want to wish each of our members a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 160

Lorain, OH

"Fun Frolic" night will be December 20, 2016. This will also be our annual charity event. Please stop by our meetings to find out how to help this year's charity.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Dinner which will be held on January 17, 2017. We will start with a brief meeting at 6:00 pm, 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, II
Vice-President

ASSEMBLY 377

Bentleyville, PA

Our Holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 4th at Ichiban's, 371 Washington Road, Washington PA 15301 at 3:00 pm. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. A meeting will be held before dinner. I hope you can join us! RSVP to me at 412-439-2795.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 432

Fairview Park, OH

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 11, 2016 at the Gemini Center, 21225 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 in the Event Room at 1:00 pm. Swimming will be from 12pm - 2pm. The Center's Rules for swimming are as follows: **Children ages 7-9** - A parent must be on the pool deck while their child is in the pool. **Children 6 & Under** - A parent must accompany child in the water.

A dinner will be served and also a special visit from Santa Claus! Santa will be passing out gifts for children ages 15 and younger.

The assembly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at Gunselman's Tavern, 21409 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH at 7:30 pm. Election of officers will also be held. Mark your calendars for our Annual Reverse Raffle on February 25, 2017.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2:00 pm, at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club on Quarry Rd. in Lowellville, OH. Members are asked to bring blankets, coats, hats, or gloves which will be donated to the Mahoning Valley Rescue Mission to help keep the homeless warm this winter. Santa will be at the party with a gift for each child and refreshments will be served, so it is very important that everyone RSVP to Laurie Fox (330-536-8850 or email lamlfox@zoominternet.net) by December 8th so we have enough time to prepare for the party.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737

Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on December 3, 2016 at the home of Paul J Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 2:30 pm.

All assembly business will be discussed at this time including election of officers.

Following the meeting we will have a Christmas luncheon. If you plan on attending, please call 724-863-9662 by November 18, 2016 so we can plan accordingly.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

Our assembly will hold their Christmas party at the Farrell residence on December 23rd at 6 pm. Please let us know if you will be attending so plans can be made accordingly. Please call Kerry Farrell at 334-718-2416 by December 17th.

Thanks to all who donated their spare change for the Brown Bag program as well as those who donated toys for the Toys for Tots program. Assembly 813 certainly has the true Christmas spirit.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

44th Annual March For Life Washington, D.C.

For years, members of the Slovak/Catholic fraternal organizations (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union) have participated in this peaceful demonstration showing our support of and respect for the unborn. Our March for Life will be held on **Friday, January 27, 2017** in Washington, D.C.

Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Area

A bus will leave Wilkes-Barre at 7 a.m. from the park and ride located on Route 309 in Wilkes-Barre Township. A second pick-up will be at St. John's Bosco Church on Route 93 leaving Hazleton approximately 7:30 am. Local branches and districts may sponsor the cost of members wanting to attend.

Anyone interested in attending can call Theresa Kluchinski at 888-834-6614 or 570-823-3515 or e-mail

Theresa@lpescu.org for more information. Cost is \$55; this includes bus, snack on the bus, and dinner buffet at the Mountain Gate Restaurant on the way home.

Theresa A. Kluchinski

National President

Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

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

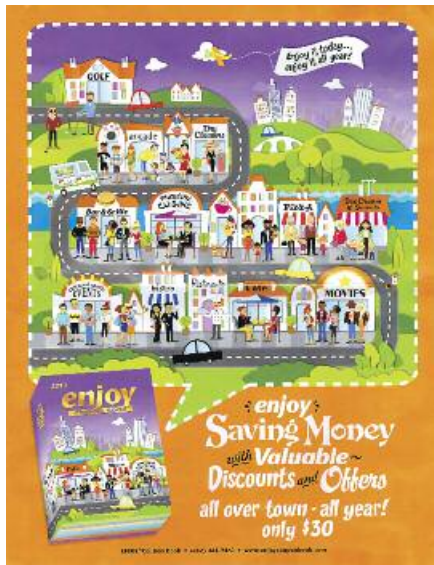
1. We'd like to say thank you for helping us stay in touch.
2. You'll receive any future NSS event news & updates.
3. We'll never spam you or sell your email address.
4. You'll help us save on paper & postage.
5. Best of all it's FREE!



NSS Life

Family Matters...

Email us at: info@nsslife.org



As part of our NSS National Project, "Blessings in a Backpack," NSS Life is selling Enjoy coupon books. The books are filled with valuable money saving coupons for casual and upscale dining as well as discounted admissions to venues and services that benefit the entire family. The coupons in the book are only valid for the Pittsburgh area market place.

The cost of the book is \$30.00, plus \$3.00 shipping if needed. **All of the proceeds will benefit Blessings in a Backpack to help support needy children that may not have enough food at home on the weekends.**

Your support for this most worthwhile cause is greatly appreciated. Please email: lkorte@nsslife.org for orders and delivery arrangements.



Ohio Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Program

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

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



Spotlight On Pam Blum Fraternal Activities Coordinator

Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Pam Blum and I am the Executive Assistant and Fraternal Activities Coordinator here at NSS Life. I have been with NSS for 11 years, starting as the Assistant to the Sales Director and then moving onto New Business and Customer Service. I have been in my current position for the past 3 years.



I wear many different hats during the course of a single day, anywhere from promoting, organizing and handling all facets of our National Tournaments to assisting the Executive team with any needs they may have in the daily running of the business. I administer the PVR Scholarship Fund as well as our annual May Art, Poetry, Photo and Ornament Contests. I assist the Editor for the monthly National News as well as the quarterly Youth Circle Magazine. I also help organize the annual Golf Tournament for the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh as well as various events for the Home Office. My days are never dull!! Probably my favorite part of the job is interacting and meeting our members... I love putting a face with a name.

On a personal note, I have been married to my best friend Greg for 24 years and we have a son Alexander who is 23. Alex just recently graduated from Robert Morris University with a degree in Finance and is currently employed with Mass Mutual in Pittsburgh. I live and breathe hockey (Alex played goalie for 13 years). I am a diehard Pittsburgh fan... and attend as many Steeler, Pirates and Penguin games as possible.



Assembly L102 Matching Funds



On Oct. 28th members of L102 traveled to Conshohocken, PA. to attend "Share for Shauna" a benefit for Shauna Harrington who was diagnosed with a Glioma brain tumor. We did a matching funds to help with medical expenses.



Goodbye Klas Restaurant!

During the holiday season OSOT volunteers will pass flyers at grocery stores including lists of needed items, asking shoppers to purchase these items and drop them off in containers on their way out of the stores.

Our dedicated 586 group has been collecting comfort items, socks and snacks for this cause for years. The recent drive for Christmas stocking items has shipped but we're always gathering more and delivering to the warehouse to send a little bit of home to our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

We'll collect and bring more troop items to our annual Christmas party, now being held at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont on Sunday, November 27, at 1:00 p.m. Instead of buying gifts for each other we will donate cash to the shipping costs incurred to ship goods overseas, since there is no break given by the USPS towards postage.

We were sad to hear that Restaurant Klas in Cicero, Illinois, owned by Slovak people and the intended site of our Christmas party this year, has closed after almost 100 years serving Bohemian-style food and pivo with an accompanying mind-blowing circus of stained glass, beautiful murals painted on the walls, forest gingerbread woodwork, Dr. Zhivago Room and all manner of woodland taxidermy subjects. It was truly a unique place but wasn't able to stay afloat among the 30 or so restaurants of a different ethnicity on the Cermak Road strip. Maybe it will make for an interesting fusion of Mexican/Bohemian food, maybe the first ever. What a mash-up it would be to order pollo paprikaš or svi kova enchiladas! We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary



These two cute pumpkin pickers are twins Claire and Aubrey Listle, who celebrated their first birthdays on September 25. Their parents are Christopher Listle and Amy Cielinski Listle, who is the daughter of 586 member Joe Cielinski, who is the son of 586 member Janice Cielinski.



An example of the fruits of our collecting labors: carton packed as tight as Rubik's Cube with items donated by Assembly 586 members and others at the Operation Support Our Troops America warehouse, ready to be shipped out to Armed Forces personnel serving his or her country.

Janet Tomaskovic
Assembly 586 Chicago
Home of the World Champion Chicago Cubs!



Bundled up on the hayride: Natalie & Bridgett DiVencenzo and their Aunt Sue Johnson.



Youth enjoyed a great time



Children of the corn maze: Cameron Mason, Ben Gaither, Ashlynn Mason, Jack Gaither, Zachary Martini, Abby Stout, Lucy Stout.



Elijah Mason tries the donut game.

Cold, windy October weather didn't stop Assembly 731 members and friends from enjoying their annual Halloween Hayride in Lowellville, OH. Children and adults enjoyed the hayride through a family-friendly haunted woods to the pumpkin patch where they picked their own pumpkin. Arriving back to the pavilion, they had fun in the corn maze, decorated their pumpkin, played games and warmed up near the bonfire. Hot dogs, chili, hot chocolate, and cookies were enjoyed by all. We all appreciated the Trick-or-Treat bags provided by the NSS home office.

Laurie Fox
President



Zuzana Vaňušová - Betlehem

Vianočné vinše

Vinšovanie je súčasťou vianočných zvykov, koledovania, rôznych obchôdzok i rodinných návštev. S ním späté vinše patria k ľudovej obradovej poézii a zasluhujú si osobitnú pozornosť. Sú výplodom poetickej duše jednotlivcov a trajú sa podobne ako koledy cez pokolenia, v súlade s tradíciami. (Ondrej Demo)

*Nech v dome Vašom zavládne radosť, že ste spolu,
keď rodina si zasadne k štedrovečernému stolu.
Lásky, šťastia hodiny v kruhu svojej rodiny,
užite si spoločne, krásne sviatky vianočné
a nech dlho prevláda novoročná nálada.*

Vinšujem vám, vinšujem, na peci koláče čujem.

*Dajte mi z nich pokoštovať,
Budem vám lepšie vinšovať.
Vinšujem vám keľ-o-teľo
A toto za mnou ani teľo.
(Vinš z obce Král)*



Pozvánka

Ak radi počúvate na Vianočné koledy a Vinše 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 popoludní z mesta Pittsburghu. Keď žijete mimo Pittsburghu možno to počuť cestou internetu. www.WPITAM.COM a potrebné kliknúť na "listen live." (EST—USA)

Veselé Vianoce

*Na jedličke sviečky svetia,
v jaslích leží Božie dieťa.
Nech Vás jeho láska hreje,
žiari i v tmách beznádeje.
Do srdca, duší Vašich vloží radosť,
šťastie, pokoj Boží.*

*Želáme všetkým našim členom a čitateľom
radosť a Požehnané Vianočné sviatky*

Vianočné zvyky a tradície na Slovensku

Bližia sa Vianoce - najkrajšie sviatky roka, sviatky pokoja, radosti, hojnosti, kedy oslavujeme narodenie Ježiša Krista. Mnohí si z detstva pamätáme vianočné zvyky, ktoré majú svoje čaro a dodržiavame ich dodnes.

ORECHY V KÚTOCH – po večeri ich do každého kúta rozhádže najstarší člen rodiny, aby bola v dome hojnosť počas celého roka.

ŠUPINY Z KAPRA – symbol bohatstva. Šupiny vložené do peňaženky majú zabezpečiť, aby sme netrpeli počas nasledujúceho roka núdzou a aby sa peniažky len tak sypali.

PENIAZE POD OBRUSOM – majú zabezpečiť, aby sa nasledujúci rok peniaze v rodine rozmnožili a pribudlo ich.

KRÍŽIK MEDOM NA ČELO – urobí ho hlava rodiny každému členovi rodiny, aby ho po celý rok ochraňovali anjeli.



...a čo si myslíte Vy?

z 320 opýtaných na Slovensku

Zachováate počas štedrej večere niektoré zo starých zvykov?

Áno, jeden 10% (jedno členna rodina)

Áno, viacero z nich 87% (viacčlenna rodina)

Nie, na poveru neverím 4%

Cítite vo Vianociach ešte stále duchovno, alebo je to už iba čistá komercia?

Áno, cítim duchovno 87%

Nie, Vianoce sú už iba "biznis". 13%



...tradičnými vianočnými farbami sú zelená, červená a zlatá. Zelená, zastúpená v podobe stromčeka, je symbolom života a znovuzrodenia. Červená predstavuje Kristovu krv, červené jablká odkazujú na Adama a Evu. A zlatá zastupuje svetlo a hviezdy.

NSS Ambassadors



News & Updates

Blessings in a Backpack Campaign

Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. The NSS Ambassadors Team will be assisting them in their efforts!

The NSS Ambassadors will be placing donation bins in their schools, libraries, community centers, etc. to collect new backpacks that are neutral in color. In addition, they will also be raising funds through donations.

We encourage NSS Ambassadors to assist us in this campaign for the less fortunate. For more information or to join our efforts in helping nearly 16 million children, email us at ambassadors@nsslife.org or visit <http://nsslife.org/fraternal-programs/nss-ambassadors/>.

Background on the Program

Blessings in a Backpack has the vision that every school-aged child in America has the nourishment needed to learn and grow. Blessings strives to ensure children don't go hungry on the weekends by empowering individuals and communities to take action. The nonperishable food items are placed in backpacks and given to the children on Fridays.

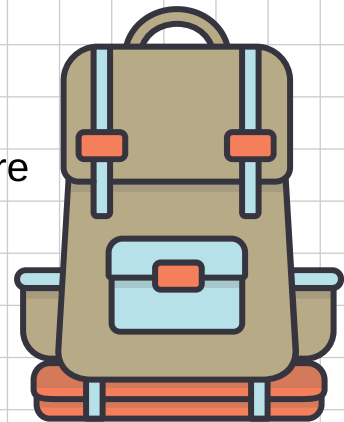


Photo Contest Winners



Overall Winner
Nicole Kearney - Assembly 434



Animal: 1st Place
Fran Blazek - Assembly 434



Animal: 2nd Place
Beth Mason - Assembly 731



Activity: 1st Place
Matthew Edwards - Assembly L075



Activity: 2nd Place
Jason Althouse - Assembly L102



Animal: 3rd Place
Mike Fox, Jr. - Assembly 731



Human Interest: 1st Place
Fayth Thao - Assembly C774



Human Interest: 2nd Place
Lydia Herbster - Assembly C434



Activity: 3rd Place
Laurie Fox - Assembly 731



Human Interest: 3rd Place
Ken Rainey - Assembly 554



Scenic: 1st Place
Mark Saniga - Assembly 377



Scenic: 2nd Place
Lydia Herbster - Assembly C434



Scenic: 3rd Place
Blaze Farrell - Assembly 813



Youth Circle Page

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

Third Place Winners of 2016 Poetry Contest

3rd Place – Angelou Flash Light

Flash light, light up
My night, be a shooting
Star.

Be the one
To guide me,
Show me the path –
Block away my anger,
My wrath.

Expand your light
Into darkness,
So hand puppets
Can thrive, be the
Light I follow until
The sun arrives.

Ella Yurick
C737 - Age 10

3rd Place – Frost Garden

Plant those seeds in the dirt,
And don't be afraid to get some mud on your shirt.

Begin to watch those seeds grow,
Better hurry because they'll be done by the snow.

Don't forget they need water and sun,
But make sure it's not overdone.

Soon each seed will have a sprout,
But for some you will begin to doubt.

Now the plants are so big,
They have to be held up with a twig.

Now that they learned to climb,
It is almost picking time.

All the plants have blossomed,
And it's almost autumn.

Wow! That was quick,
It's already time to pick.

All the plants are so tasty,
I picked some extra for the pastry

Jerzey Coble
C554 - Age 13

Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks

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

- * Learn to sing, dance and/or play the violin.
- * No experience necessary, we'll show you!
 - * Meet new friends
 - * Learn about your Slovak Heritage!
- * Perform at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival, Slovak Day, Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt as well as other events!

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

Visit our website at www.nsslife.org
Like us on Facebook

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.