



NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

Photo Contest Overall Winner
Paige Sabol - Assembly C617



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



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

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY

DECEMBER 2017 | NUMBER 3512 VOLUME 109

**“UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR,
WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD...GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
& ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.” – LUKE 2:11; 2:14**



National Slovak Society

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

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Activities At A Glance

REGION 2

January 15, **2018**
 February 10, **2018**
 February 15, **2018**
 April 15, **2018**
 October 14, **2018**

Assemblies L075, 0617

Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm
 Region 2, Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, Pittston, PA (Time to be announced)
 Assembly 0617, Meeting, Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA (Time to be announced)
 Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm

REGION 5

December 2
 December 3
 December 3
 December 3
 January 9, **2018**
 January 21, **2018**
 March 12, **2018**
 June 10, **2018**
 September 10, **2018**
 December 3, **2018**

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

Assembly 0737, Meeting/Luncheon, Godor residence, N Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Capstone Grill, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0123, Christmas Luncheon, Peter's Place, Bridgeville, PA at 1:00 pm
 Assembly 0441, Meeting, Local Restaurant, West Mifflin, PA at 7:00 pm
 Assembly 0108, Delegate Meeting, Strom residence, Baldwin, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park Community Room at 6:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Summer Barbeque, Knights of Columbus Picnic Shelter at 1:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park Community Room at 6:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm

REGION 8

December 3
 December 3
 December 19
 December 31
 February 24, **2018**

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

Assembly 0070, Meeting/Lunch, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 12 Noon
 Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Fairview Park Gemini Ct, Fairview Park, OH at 12 Noon
 Assembly 0432, Meeting, Shuttleworth's residence, Fairview Park, OH at 7:30 pm
 Assembly 0432, New Year's Eve Gathering, Shuttleworth's residence, Fairview Park at 6:00 pm
 Assembly 0432, Reverse Raffle, Tony K's, Berea, OH at 7:30 pm

REGION 14

December 13
 December 15
 December 17
 January 28, **2018**
 January 14, **2018**

Assemblies R059, L102

Assembly L102, Santa at The Emmaus Kiwanis Club
 Assembly L102, Santa at the Miracle League of The Lehigh Valley
 Assembly L102, Santa at the Camelot House
 Assembly L102, Meeting, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm
 Region 14, Christmas Party, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm

REGION 15

Assemblies L002, 0028

No activities at this time

AT LARGE

December 3
 December 3
 December 16
 December 16
 December 23
 December 24
 February 15, **2018**

Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813

Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, Westmont, IL at 12 Noon
 Assembly 0568, Mass/Meeting, St. John Paul Polish Center, Yorba Linda, CA at 12 Noon
 Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Elton Beard Cabin, Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm
 Assembly R019, Trolley Ride at 4:00 pm
 Assembly 0813, Christmas Party, Farrell residence at 7:00 pm
 Assembly 0705, Christmas Eve Party at Butwin Residence at 6:00 pm
 Assembly 0617, Meeting, Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA (Time to be announced)

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Let me start out this month's article by wishing each and every member a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year in 2018 on behalf of my entire family. I see many holiday events scheduled by assemblies and regions so try to get out and enjoy the events with fellow NSS members. Our office will be closed December 25th and 26th in observance of Christmas and January 1st and 2nd in observance of New Year. 2018 will be a very busy one for the Society with the upcoming 37th Quadrennial Convention scheduled for June 24th - 28th in sweet smelling Hershey Pennsylvania. More details will be forthcoming after the first of the year.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes go out to NSS Directors Sue Ondrejco and Abigail Gross. Congratulations also go out to Abigail and Michael Gross on the birth of their 3rd son who was born in November. Also celebrating birthdays in December are Honorary Tribunal member Sophie Hudak, Home Office employees Brigid Delien, and Cyndi Salat, John and Kevin Crowley, Melinda Chojnicki, Annette Stefka, wife of Chair of the Board Joe Stefka, my son David W. Blazek, and to my darling wife, Fran Blazek. Best wishes to all others celebrating this month. I would like to wish a speedy recovery to Sharon Wesnak on her recent illness. Deepest sympathies to the Knoll family on the passing of Bill's Mom Agnes.

Christmas at the Gas Station

The old man sat in his gas station on a cold Christmas Eve. He hadn't been anywhere in years since his wife had passed away. It was just another day to him. He didn't hate Christmas, just couldn't find a reason to celebrate. He was sitting there looking at the snow that had been falling for the last hour and wondering what it was all about when the door opened and a homeless man stepped through. Instead of throwing the man out, Old George as he was known by his customers, told the man to come and sit by the heater and warm up. "Thank you but I don't mean to intrude," said the stranger. "I see you're busy, I'll just go."

"Not without something hot in your belly." George said. He turned and opened a wide mouth Thermos and handed it to the stranger. "It ain't much, but it's hot and tasty. Stew ... made it myself. When you're done, there's coffee and it's fresh. Just at that moment he heard the "ding" of the driveway bell. "Excuse me, be right back," George said. There in the driveway was an old '53 Chevy. Steam was rolling out of the front. The driver was panicked. "Mister can you help me!" said the driver, with a deep Spanish accent. "My wife is with child and my car is broken." George opened the hood. It was bad. The block looked cracked from the cold, the car was dead. "You ain't going in this thing," George said as he turned away. "But Mister, please help ..." The door of the office closed behind George as he went inside. He went to the office wall and got the keys to his old truck, and went back outside. He walked around the building, opened the garage, started the truck and drove it around to where the couple was waiting. "Here, take my truck," he said. "She ain't the best thing you ever looked at, but she runs real good." George helped put the woman in the truck and watched as it sped off into the night. He turned and walked back inside the office. "Glad I gave 'em the truck, their tires were shot too. That 'ol truck has brand new tires." George thought he was talking to the stranger, but the man had gone. The Thermos was on the desk, empty, with a used coffee cup beside it. "Well, at least he got something in his belly," George thought.

George went back outside to see if the old Chevy would start. It cranked slowly,

but it started. He pulled it into the garage where the truck had been. He thought he would tinker with it for something to do. Christmas Eve meant no customers. He discovered the block hadn't cracked, it was just the bottom hose on the radiator. "Well, shoot, I can fix this," he said to himself. So he put a new one on. "Those tires ain't gonna get 'em through the winter either." He took the snow treads off of his wife's old Lincoln. They were like new and he wasn't going to drive the car anyway.

As he was working, he heard shots being fired. He ran outside and beside a police car an officer lay on the cold ground bleeding from the left shoulder, the officer moaned, "Please help me." George helped the officer inside as he remembered the training he had received in the Army as a medic. He knew the wound needed attention. Pressure to stop the bleeding. The uniform company had been there that morning and had left clean shop towels. He used those and duct tape to bind the wound. "Hey, they say duct tape can fix anything, he said, trying to make the policeman feel at ease. Something for pain, George thought. All he had was the pills he used for his back. "These ought to work." He put some water in a cup and gave the policeman the pills. "You hang in there, I'm going to get you an ambulance." The phone was dead. "Maybe I can get one of your buddies on that there talk box out in your car." He went out only to find that a bullet had gone into the dashboard destroying the two way radio. He went back in to find the policeman sitting up. "Thanks," said the officer. "You could have left me there. The guy that shot me is still in the area." George sat down beside him, "I would never leave an injured man in the Army and I ain't gonna leave you." George pulled back the bandage to check for bleeding. "Looks worse than what it is. Bullet passed right through 'ya. Good thing it missed the important stuff though. I think with time you're gonna be right as rain." George got up and poured a cup of coffee. "How do you take it?" he asked. "None for me," said the officer. "Oh, yer gonna drink this. Best in the city. Too bad I ain't got no donuts." The officer laughed and winced at the same time.

(Continued on Page 12)

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer
Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



Merry Christmas and Happy Christmas

We wish people a 'Happy Birthday', and if you're in the USA in November and December you might say 'Happy Holidays', so why do we say 'Merry Christmas' more often than 'Happy Christmas'?!

Saying 'Merry Christmas' rather than 'Happy Christmas' seems to go back several hundred years. It's first recorded in 1534 when John Fisher (an English Catholic Bishop in the 1500's) wrote it in a Christmas letter to Thomas Cromwell in 1534 "And this our Lord God send you a Merry Christmas, and a comfortable, to your heart's desire."

There's also the carol "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" which dates back to the 16th century in England. It comes from the West Country in England and it was first published in the form we know it today in 1760.

In the English language of the time, the phrase 'Rest You Merry' didn't mean simply to be happy; 'rest' meant "to keep, cause to continue to remain" and 'merry' could mean "pleasant, bountiful, prosperous". So you could write the first line as "[May] God keep you and continue to make you successful and prosperous, Gentlemen" but that would be hard to sing!

The comma in the phrase should be AFTER the 'merry' not BEFORE it! But it's often put after the merry which changes the meaning to make 'merry Gentleman' and so a 'Merry Christmas'!

The term 'Merry Christmas' might well have been made very popular in 1843 from two different sources.

The first Christmas card, sent in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, had this wording on it: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You".

Assembly/Region Packets

Annual Assembly/Region Packets have been sent out this month. If you haven't received your packet by the end of December please call me at the Home Office to verify your mailing address and we will get one out to you.

Withdrawals and RMDs

Do not wait until the last week of December to determine if you need to take a minimum distribution for the 2017 tax year or if you need to make a withdrawal. We ask that you have your requests in to the Home Office no later than December 15th.

A Slovak's Night Before Christmas

*Twas the night before Vianoce,
and all through the house
The Slovaks had gathered to eat
sauerkraut.
The kolach was nestled all snug in its
dish.
Bobalki was cooking, and so was some
fish.
Babushkaed women and men in their
caps
Had all settled down with food in their
laps.
When out in the lawn there arose
such a clatter.
We all went to see what was the matter.
Away to the window Baba flew like a
flash,
Screaming "Lock all the doors and
hide all the cash".
When what to our wondering eyes
should appear
But a pagach shaped sleigh complete
with reindeer.
With a little old Slovak so lively and
quick,
We knew in a moment it was Janosik.
Faster than Novenas his reindeer all
came
As he shouted "On Stefan" and each
reindeer's name.
"On Stefan, on Boris, on Janos, and Olga,
On Jasko, on Cyril, on Sandor and Volga".
Then out to the smokehouse the
reindeer all flew
With a sleigh full of Kolbasa and
Janosik too.
Into the smoke vent he leapt with a
bound,
Dancing the czardas and twirling around.
He did a quick polka, then went to
his work.
He gave us Oplatki then turned with
a jerk.
We gave him Kapusta and Dzedo's
old clothes,
Then sang Ticha Noc as up the vent
he rose.
But we heard him exclaim as we took off
our coats,
"Vesele Vianoce to all and to all
dobre noc".*

Author Unknown



NSS Board members and guests attend the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Conference

Fraternal Matters...

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



Christmas Eve Books

For those of you wishing to celebrate Christmas Eve in a true Slovak tradition, we have free booklets available at the Home Office titled A Slovak Christmas Eve 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 (Oblatky). The Christmas Wafers along with a variety of Christmas Ornaments made in Slovakia are available for purchase at the Home Office.

May the blessings of this holiday season be with each of you. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from our family to yours.



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.

A Slovak Christmas Tradition

The ritual lighting of the fire used to be a widespread practice observed by all Europeans. The Christmas fire was considered sacred and later it was replaced by burning of candles as a memory of near ones no longer with us. These candles were eventually incorporated into the richly decorated Christmas trees, which arrived in Slovakia from Germany and Austria in the latter half of 18th century. The trees are traditionally decorated (in addition to the candles) with fruits (apples), homemade Christmas decorations (wood or carvings), baked goods made with honey in the form of Angels and other religious symbols and candies. The Christmas tree was kept until 6th of January (feast of the Three Kings) at which time the kids were allowed to finally have the candies and other sweets from the tree.

Gingerbread...A Slovak Tradition

Honey cookies have been around for hundreds of years. Over time, the honey cookie evolved to become what most of us know as gingerbread. Often thought to be a German tradition, gingerbread baking is found throughout Europe. There were several centers where gingerbread masters went to work, including Bratislava. Early in its history, gingerbread was baked in monasteries for sacral purposes, on estates, and in peasant households. Additionally, there were gingerbread masters who, in the 17th century, had the exclusive rights to make gingerbread, except at Christmas and Easter when everyone was allowed to make gingerbread. Early molds made from clay were used to bake the gingerbread cakes. As baking developed, wooden carved molds were used. In Bratislava, the art of gingerbread making was closely linked to woodcarving. To be a good gingerbread maker, you also had to be a good woodcarver.

Bratislava became the center of gingerbread making in the Hungarian Empire. The first former Hungarian Empire gingerbread maker's guild, The Main Guild Treasury, was established in Bratislava in 1619. The Treasury administered the whole territory of the former Hungarian Empire. Later, many smaller, independent guilds were established, guaranteeing a high standard and professional approach to gingerbread making.

Today, gingerbread is still an important part of Czech and Slovak Christmas tradition. Methods and recipes differ from region to region, as do the shapes and decorations. A recipe for Honey Cookies – Medovníky (pronounced: meadow-neecky) can be found below. (National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library)

Honey Cookies - Medovníky (pronounced: meadow-neecky)

4 heaping cups all-purpose flour

1/3 cup honey

1/3 cup unsalted butter, melted and cooled

1 2/3 cup powder sugar

2 eggs (let warm to room temp.)

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp ground cloves

1/2 tsp anise (optional)

Beat eggs and sugar together, add honey, butter and spices. Fold in flour with baking soda and mix into smooth dough. Chill several hours. Allow dough to warm to room temperature before rolling it out onto a lightly floured surface, 1/4 inch thick. Cut various Christmas motifs with cookie cutters. Place on a dry cookie sheet, brush top with beaten egg and bake in a preheated oven (325-350 F). After you brushed the tops, you may choose to press raisins or nuts (sliced and halved almonds, halved or quartered walnuts or pecans) in the unbaked cookies. Plain cookies may be iced once cooled.

Available from the NSSHM Gift Shop while supplies last!

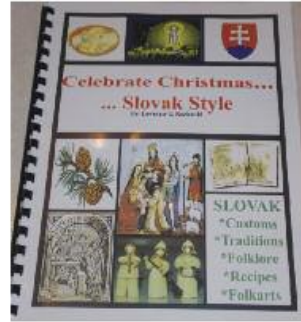


OPLATKY:

Package of 5 **large** wafers \$3.00

Small wafer with Christmas Blessing ideal for placing inside Christmas cards. Available in **English OR Slovak.**

Please specify. \$1.00 ea.

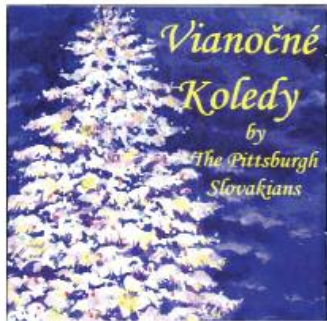


Christmas Slovak Style:
Remembering the Priceless Treasures of Christmases Past and an Inspiration for Christmases of the Future

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

Slovak Christmas CD

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



EXCLUSIVE! Slovak Christmas CD

Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinčik, Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols. **Limited Supply Available \$15.00**



Make checks payable and mail to:

NSS Heritage Museum 351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317



Information Pertaining To The NSS Natural Disaster Benefit

Members who live in areas affected by natural disasters may be eligible to receive this Disaster Relief Fraternal Benefit upon meeting the following criteria:

Natural disasters include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricanes | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornadoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floods | <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfires | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest fires |

The following qualifications apply:

- Must be federal or state declared disaster
- Member must be in good standing
- Maximum benefit per family is \$1000 regardless of number of calamities suffered by the family and/or the number of adult members affected
- Benefit is for "out of pocket" expenses **not** reimbursed by insurance and/or relief from FEMA or other agencies
- Please send photos and/or documentation of **loss**
- The NSS shall have sole discretion in determining payees and the dollar amounts of any awards
- Disaster Relief Benefit does not cover damage resulting from water entering basement due to sewer backup or sump pump failure
- Assemblies and Regions shall be notified and encouraged to add to the award.

National Disaster Relief Benefit information provided here describes the criteria necessary to be considered for the benefit. Please contact Pam Blum at the Home Office. for Additional Information about how to apply for this benefit. Call Toll Free at 1-800-488-1890

Is choosing a Medicare plan giving you a headache?

- Be sure you don't miss important deadlines to enroll upon turning age 65 or retirement
- Learn about the Medicare plans that are offered in your area
- Understand the differences between Medicare Parts A, B, C, D
- Learn the differences between Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Supplement (Medigap)
- Understand the different tier levels for prescription drugs and how that affects your copays
- Learn about the assistance available for those with low income and disability (Medicaid, PACE, PACENET)

At NSS Life we now have a certified Medicare Department to assist you.
Contact us to schedule a personal consultation
@ 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.



Veselé Vianoce



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

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

Current Interest Rates

Effective since January 1, 2013

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

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

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

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



This is Life Insurance!

Years ago when I started my insurance career one of the first person's to buy something from me was a family friend. This gentleman was single, in his 50's and wanted an IRA. He put the maximum in his IRA for the next several years. When I delivered his policy we talked for a few minutes about life insurance. He didn't want any. He said he really didn't have a need for it since he was single. I suggested that he buy a \$10,000 life insurance policy to cover his last expenses. This amount was more than enough to cover any funeral costs at that time. He agreed and made the payment for the next several years before he died of a brain aneurysm. Why did he buy it or what changed his mind?

The answer is simple. He loved his family. He did not want his mother or sister to have to pay any money out of their pocket to cover his final expenses. He had other assets; IRA, car, etc. but a funeral bill has to be paid at time of service or reasonably thereafter. Life insurance proceeds get paid right away with no loss of value.

What other product makes money available at a moment's notice under the worst possible circumstances – none! Only life insurance does this job and does it well. You see life insurance is really just money that you want your heirs to have later on. You tell us how much you want them to receive and we will let you know what it costs. Typically, it is pennies on a dollar. So if you want \$10,000, \$100,000 or \$1 million of coverage the cost would be less than a couple of cents per thousand dollars of insurance. In this example for a 45

year old, male, that translates into \$168, \$1,680 or \$16,800 per year respectively. How much do you want to send on to your family?

Life insurance may be the greatest financial instrument ever devised. For more information or a free quote please contact your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home office for assistance.

What is a Rollover and a Transfer?

In the qualified business market the question always comes up, is this a roll over or a transfer. Starting with the basics: qualified means retirement monies usually associated with an IRA, Roth IRA, 401k, company pension plan, etc.

A transfer is when you move money from like accounts. Moving an IRA from the bank to NSS would be a transfer. And you should always try to do a direct transfer. Direct means that a check is made out to the new institution and not the individual. An example would be a bank that sends us a check on your behalf. If the money is sent directly there should not be any tax problems. Moving a Roth account from a brokerage firm to NSS is also considered a transfer.

A roll over is when you move money from unlike accounts. A typical example would be your 401k account to an NSS IRA. This roll over should also be direct – in other words, the 401k provider sends us the check on your behalf. If you get the money or the check is made out to you then you only have 60 days to roll over the funds. The important part about the 60 day roll over rule is that you may only do one per year (not calendar year). So if you did a rollover in August 2017 you could not do another one until next August 2018.

The rules about IRA rollovers and transfers can be complex. You should always consult your tax professional for specific information regarding your situation. NSS assumes no liability for tax or legal advice.

Thought for the Month

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try.

Gail Devers

Two time Olympic gold medalist in the 100 meters



2017 Third Quarter Leaders

Our **TOP PREMIUM** producer for the 3rd Quarter is **Dave Ambrose**. He is a 40 year veteran of the business and is the managing partner for Financial Solution Services. Dave is a multi-line agent specializing in investment products: mutual funds, variable and fixed annuities, life insurance, and property & casualty products. Dave is married to Debby for 41 years. They have three sons and six grandchildren. Dave is active in his community serving on several different boards and organizations. To contact Dave please call 724-462-1917 or email him at ambrose.dave@pmlmail.com



Our top **NEW MEMBER** producer for the 3rd Quarter is **Nouchao Her**.

Nouchao recently relocated to Oklahoma, but continues his business in the states of MI, WI, OH, PA, CA and CO. He has 16 years of life insurance experience and has been with NSS Life since 2011. Honest and always ready to provide life insurance solutions to members. If you are looking for life insurance coverage for you or your loved ones, please contact Mr. Her at his Toll Free Number: 866-317-1514 or email him at:

NOUCHAOHER@GMAIL.COM.

ASSEMBLY 004

New York, NY

Our holiday Christmas Luncheon will be held on **December 10th** at Yorktown Lanes at 1:00 pm.

After the meal, we will have door prizes and cash drawings. There will be finalizing and then head to the lanes for the knockdown of the 1st half of the holiday schedule. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Bud or Bob SirLouis at 440-845-2616.

Bob SirLouis
Fraternal Director

ASSEMBLY R019

Buffalo, NY

A trolley ride will be held on **December 16th** around Iron Island to see the lights from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Refreshments will be served and a raffle. We are looking for someone to sponsor the trolley (\$300.00)

Linda Mucyn
President

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

I am asking our members to give some thought to being a delegate to the 37th Quadrennial NSS Convention scheduled for June 24th-28th at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA in 2018. Our assembly is eligible to send sixteen (16) delegates to the meeting. We will be sharing more information at our Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 3rd.

Our first meeting, in 2018 will be on Sunday, **March 12th** at the Eat n' Park Restaurant Community Room starting at 6:00 pm. This is a very important meeting as we will be electing delegates to the 2018 NSS Quadrennial Convention. Come enjoy a FREE meal and great fraternal fellowship.

Qualifications to be a delegate are these:

- 1) *Must be an adult benefit member of the NSS one (1) year prior to the opening of the convention. (That date has passed for a new member.)*
- 2) *Must be in good standing in the NSS. (Complies with the NSS By-laws and directives of the board of directors.)*
- 3) *Our assembly is eligible for sixteen (16) delegates.*

4) *The NSS pays all site lodging, food and travel expenses for each delegate. Non-delegate members and even non-members are eligible to come to the convention under the fee structure established by the board of directors. Give it some thought!*

Remember the 2018 fraternal trip the NSS is offering to Aruba, Saturday April 4th through the 14th. The cost is \$1,999 per person, dbl. occupancy, airfare included. Arrangements through Apple

Vacations. Call Connie Tortoreti at 412-714-4489 for information.

The NSS Museum is offering Christmas Oblatky (wafers). Call the home office to place an order.

May the gifts of the Christ-Child come to you and your family this Christmas Season. Merry Christmas! Vesele Vianoce!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 070/C070

Brooklyn, OH

Our Christmas Party and meeting will be held on **December 3, 2017** at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 12:00.

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

John Karkosiak
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L102

Schnecksville, PA

Santa and his crew from Assembly L102 will be on the move once again doing matching funds for The Emmaus Kiwanis Club for kids on **December 13th**, The Miracle League of The Lehigh Valley on **December 15th**, and Camelot House for kids on **December 17th**. We are polishing up the sleigh and we will be ready to fly!

A special meeting will be held on **January 28th** at the Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm for election of delegates for the upcoming convention. If you are unable to attend you must submit a letter to the assembly stating you would like to be a delegate.

If you have any questions, please call Drew or Sharon at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 108

West Mifflin, PA

A meeting will be held on **January 21, 2018** at the Strom residence, 3453 Bench Drive, Baldwin, PA at 2:00 pm

Our agenda includes election of delegates to the 2018 convention and activities for 2018. Please contact Linda Strom at 412-334-4046 for information.

Linda Strom
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

Due to some Holiday scheduling problems our Christmas luncheon is **changed to Peter's Place in Bridgeville**. Check with Mary Maniecki 412-264-3546 for further details.

I'm just amazed that the year has passed so quickly. We tried to fill the year with some interesting and different activities. I hope you agree. Let's review; visit to Phipps Conservatory, the Bobcat players, the Escape Room, Tour of Harwood Acres, Midnight Catechism, Miniature Golf and a boat ride on Lake Arthur. I'm going to challenge Mary Maniecki, our Activity Director to make 2018 an even better year!

This year will also be remembered as the year our member, Jill Grover, was named Fraternalist of the Year. An honor she so richly deserved.

We also had a bumper crop of members qualify for the PVR Scholarship. We welcomed some new members to our assembly; the Huskas and Kovacs. It was nice to see them participating in our activities. All our members are welcome to participate in any of our activities. If anyone has ideas on an interesting and fun activity or a volunteer project that would be appropriate for us please let Mary Maniecki know at 412-264-3546. We will certainly consider it.

I would like to take a personal moment. On October 15th, my mother Agnes Risko Knoll passed away at the age of 98. Her last few years were not easy for her and she spent her last year in a nursing home confined to bed or

wheelchair. My sister Leslie visited her every day of which I am most grateful for the loving care and concern Leslie devoted to her. My Mother was a woman of simple taste who worked very hard all her life. Her life was her children and her Catholic faith and she did well by both. I miss her now and always will. Let me thank all of you who expressed their condolences to me. It was very comforting.

To all our members who lost a love one this past year, on behalf of all the officers of Assembly 123 our sincere sympathy and may you have cherished memories of your loved ones.

Now it is time to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year. Let's all make 2018 a very good year for Assembly 123.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 377

Bentleyville, PA

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on **Sunday, December 3, 2017** at the Capstone Grill, 4050 Washington Road (Rt.19) McMurray PA at 3:00 pm.

Please RSVP to me at 412-439-2795 and please bring a dozen of cookies for our cookie table.

Help us plan our meetings and activities for the next year, too! I hope you can attend our party and look forward to seeing you there!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 432

Fairview Park, OH

Mark your calendars for the following activities:

Our Holiday Party with Santa will be held on **December 3** at Fairview Park Gemini Center, 21225 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park. Swimming will be from 12-2, and in the Hall from 2-4. Please come for food and fun. Call for reservations, Dave Pytel, Tony Beno or Bill Shuttleworth.

A meeting will be held on **December 19** at the Shuttleworth's residence, 3909 W 210th St, Fairview Park at 7:30 pm.

A "New Years Eve Gathering" will be held on **December 31st** at the Shuttleworth's residence at 6:00 pm.

Our annual Reverse Raffle will be held on **February 24, 2018** at Tony K's 841 W Bagley Rd, Berea, OH from 7:30pm – 10:30pm at \$35.00 per person. Refreshments include Pizza, Salad, Pasta, & Wings and open bar.

Please see Dave Pytel, Tony Beno or Bill Shuttleworth for tickets.

Shawn Pytel
Activities

ASSEMBLY 434

Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting will be held on **January 9th, 2018** at the Blazek residence at 7:30 pm. If unable to attend, please email me at dgb803@gmail.com if interested in serving as a delegate.

Fran Blazek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 441

West Mifflin, PA

A meeting will be held on **January 9, 2018** at a local restaurant at 7:00 p.m. All assembly business will be discussed at this time including election of officers and convention delegates. Please call Lori Crowley if attending at 412-461-3091 so can plan accordingly and make reservations.

Lori Crowley
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 568

LaCanada, CA

Our annual Christmas Slovak Mass will be held on Saturday, **December 23, 2017** at St. John Paul Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA at 12 Noon. Lunch will be served after the Mass along with the presentation of gifts for children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Christmas.

Also following the festivities, a meeting will be held to review officers reports, hold election of new officers and activities for the year of 2018.

We hope to see you there and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and very special New Year.

John Dorusinec
President

ASSEMBLY 586

Chicago, IL

Our annual Christmas party was enthusiastically scheduled for **December 3, 2017** at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, Westmont, Illinois, beginning at noon. In lieu of white elephants and grab bags we agreed to bring more items for putting together thank-you packages for the troops.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Assembly 586!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 588

Avella, PA

National Fraternal Project

The members of Assembly 588 will be conducting a fundraiser as part of the NSS National Project to benefit the Blessings in a Backpack Program sponsored by the Avella High School Chapter of the National Honor Society. The National Honor Society conducts the Blessings in a Backpack Program as part of their service to the community. The fundraiser will take place from **December 1-15, 2017**.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 16, 2017** at the Elton Beard Cabin in Boardman Park near Kids' Town, Boardman, Ohio from **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**. Santa will be at the party with a gift for each youth in attendance – please RSVP to Laurie Fox by December 5th.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737

Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on **December 2, 2017** at the home of Carol Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m. All assembly business will be discussed at this time including election of officers.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

The Toys for Tots benefit will be on **December 3rd** in conjunction with the Marine Corps Reserve. Members who have been saving change for the Brown Bag Matching Funds program for needy seniors are asked to turn in their money by December 3rd.

Our assembly Christmas Party will be held on **December 23, 2017** at the Farrell residence at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided by the assembly and music of the season will be provided by Dan Farrell. Call Mary Jo Holker, 941-473-0559 to let us know if you will be attending.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

From the President's Desk

(Continued from Page 4)

The front door of the office flew open. In a burst a young man with a gun. "Give me all your cash! Do it now!" the young man yelled. His hand was shaking and George could tell that he had never done anything like this before. "That's the guy that shot me!" exclaimed the officer. "Son, why are you doing this?" asked George, "You need to put the cannon away. Somebody else might get hurt." The young man was confused. "Shut up old man, or I'll shoot you too. Now give me the cash!" The cop was reaching for his gun. "Put that think away," George said to the cop, "we got one too many in here now." He turned his attention to the young man. "Son, it's Christmas Eve. If you need money, well then here. It ain't much but it's all I got. Now put that pea shooter away." George pulled \$150 out of his pocket and handed it to the young man, reaching for the barrel of the gun at the same time. The young man released his grip on the gun, fell to his knees and began to cry. "I'm not very good at this am I? All I wanted was to buy something for my wife and son," he went on. "I've lost my job, my rent is due, my car got repossessed last week." George handed the gun to the cop. "Son, we all get in a bit of a squeeze now and then. The road gets hard sometimes, but we make it through the best we can."

He got the young man to his feet, and sat him down on a chair across from the cop. "Sometimes we do stupid things." George handed the young man a cup of coffee. "Bein' stupid is one of the things that makes us human. Comin' in here with a gun ain't the answer. Now sit there and get warm and we'll sort this thing out." The young man had stopped crying. He looked over to the cop. "Sorry I shot you. It just went off. I'm sorry officer." "Shut up and drink your coffee" the cop said. George could hear the sounds of sirens outside. A police car and an ambulance skidded to a halt. Two cops came through the door, guns drawn. "Chuck! You ok?" one of the cops asked the wounded officer. "Not bad for a guy who took a bullet. How did you find me?" "GPS locator in the car. Best thing since sliced bread. Who did this?" the other cop asked as he approached the young man. Chuck answered him, "I don't know. The guy ran off into the dark. Just dropped his gun and ran." George and the young man both looked puzzled at each other. "That guy work here?" the other cop asked. "Yep," George said, "just hired him this morning. Boy lost his job." The paramedics came in and loaded Chuck onto the stretcher. The young man leaned over the wounded cop and whispered, "Why?" Chuck just said, "Merry Christmas boy ... and you too, George, and thanks for everything." "Well, looks like you got one doozy of a break there. That ought to solve some of your problems."

George went into the back room and came out with a box. He pulled out a ring box. "Here you go, something for the little woman. I don't think Martha would mind. She said it would come in handy someday." The young man looked inside to see the biggest diamond ring he ever saw. "I can't take this," said the young man. "It means something to you." "And now it means something to you replied George. "I got my memories. That's all I need." George reached into the box again. An airplane, a car and a truck appeared next. They were toys that the oil company had left for him to sell. "Here's something for that little man of yours." The young man began to cry again as he handed back the \$150 that

the old man had handed him earlier. "And what are you supposed to buy Christmas dinner with? You keep that too," George said. "Now git home to your family."

The young man turned with tears streaming down his face. "I'll be here in the morning for work, if that job offer is still good." "Nope, I'm closed Christmas day," George said. "See ya the day after." George turned around to find that the stranger had returned. "Where'd you come from? I thought you left?" I have been here. I have always been here," said the stranger. "You say you don't celebrate Christmas. Why?" "Well, after my wife passed away, I just couldn't see what all the bother was. Puttin' up a tree and all seemed a waste of a good pine tree. Bakin' cookies like I used to with Martha just wasn't the same by myself and besides I was gettin' a little chubby."

The stranger put his hand on George's shoulder. "But you do celebrate the holiday, George. You gave me food and drink and warmed me when I was cold and hungry. The woman with child will bear a son and he will become a great doctor. The policeman you helped will go on to save 19 people from being killed by terrorists. The young man who tried to rob you will make you a rich man and not take any for himself. "That is the spirit of the season and you keep it as good as any man." George was taken aback by all this stranger had said. "And how do you know all this?" asked the old man. "Trust me, George. I have the inside track on this sort of thing. And when your days are done you will be with Martha again."

The stranger moved toward the door. "If you will excuse me, George, I have to go now. I have to go home where there is a big celebration planned." George watched as the old leather jacket and the torn pants that the stranger was wearing turned into a white robe. A golden light began to fill the room. "You see, George, it's my birthday. Merry Christmas." George fell to his knees and replied, "Happy Birthday Lord Jesus"

This story is better than any greeting card. **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD BLESS!**

Punography Of The Month:

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Assembly 568 News

Assembly members met in October after having raised \$200 for our matching funds program and voted to make our contribution to the Salvation Army for hurricane relief. This choice was made based on members' experiences with various charities. The Red Cross was cited by some as having charged servicemen for a donut and coffee during wartime, whereas the Salvation Army never charged for so much as a donut hole. So the Salvation Army will benefit from \$400 total from NSS members.

Our members discussed once again the practicalities of traveling to Hershey PA to attend the convention next year, a long distance to drive for Chicagoans wanting to serve as delegates. We agreed that Sawmill Creek in Ohio was a wonderful venue for our convention in 2010 and we would like to express our wishes again that the chosen location be a little more convenient for Midwesterners to attend in future.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Millie Mendel on the passing away in August of her husband. Emil Mendel was a Korean War veteran and a well-loved, good man. Our assembly has made a donation to the PVR Scholarship fund in Emil's name.

While enjoying our brunch after fundraising we met about ten Army Reserve soldiers from the base in Darien at the tables near ours. Irene Tomaskovic let them know about our assembly's continual collection of comfort items to send to service members who are serving overseas. One of the soldiers came to our table and told us of receiving one of these care packages while serving in Afghanistan and sharing with his buddies. He said it was such a nice reminder of people at home and thanked us for thinking of them by sending them packages while they are stationed in dangerous places. We said **"You're Welcome"** with a big cheer from our many 586ers.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

Assembly R059



NSS Assembly R059 hosted its annual hot dog luncheon on October 1, 2017 at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Through matching funds with NSS, the Assembly donated \$1,400 to the Allentown Soup Kitchen, where members volunteer to serve lunch every other month throughout the year. The Allentown Soup Kitchen is run by the Lehigh Conference of Churches and serves more than 35,000 meals a year. This annual hot dog luncheon of NSS Assembly R059 is an example of one of St. Nicholas' mission outreach efforts to its community.

My Trip To Montana

In the summer of this year, I had the amazing opportunity to enroll in a travel course to Montana through Grove City College. As a freshman majoring in biology pre-health, I was a little nervous at being a part of something new to me and possibly being the youngest person on the trip. However, the experience was breathtaking and life changing and I am so glad I went!

Six of my classmates and I began by learning more about Montana, the Crow Indian culture we would be interacting with, and about various diseases and health issues we would be addressing. Because this was a public health course, we offered a free Rabies vaccination clinic for dogs in the Crow community we were traveling to along with free West Nile Virus vaccines for horses. We

also volunteered to work in a community garden located next to Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency.

In addition to volunteering, we also got the chance to witness the amazing natural beauty of Montana. My favorite day was when our group got the chance to visit Ok-a-beh Reservoir. After renting a pontoon boat, we eventually made our way back to a creek emptying into the reservoir fed by the melting snow

in the nearby mountains. After docking the boat, our group got out and explored. The views were breathtaking!



Through this trip, I experienced much more than I could ever write about. I loved every minute! I became friends with all of my classmates and really connected with my professor as well. It was a real blessing to be a part of this trip and I hope to revisit Montana again someday!

Katie MClymonds

Assembly 813 Activities

Assembly 813 chose the Jubilee Center of St. David's Episcopal Church for their National Project partner. Their Back Pack Ministry Program provides nutritious weekend meals for low-income or homeless families with children who attend Englewood Elementary School. Affordable, kid-friendly nutritious food is purchased from All Faiths Food Bank and delivered every two weeks.



This program is made possible through donations from groups and individuals. The NSS Matching Funds program check for \$400 was presented by Mary Jo Holker, Assembly 813 Secretary, to Pat Knox, head of the Backpack Ministry of St. David's before the 80 bags of food were packed by all the volunteers.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

Assembly 377



Assembly 377 Halloween meeting at Napoli's Italian restaurant, October 29th.

Assembly L075

Members held their meeting on Oct. 22, 2017 at Grande's Restaurant Birney Avenue, Moosic, PA to discuss the upcoming convention in Hershey, PA in June 2018 along with the future meeting dates of the assembly: January 15th at Grande's Restaurant in Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm, April 15th at Grande's Restaurant in Moosic at 2:00 pm, Summer picnic date at Mercateli-Segilia Park in Moosic, PA (TBA) and October 14th at Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm.

Congratulations to member Adam Edwards and Karen Richardson for completing the Steamtown Marathon for 26.2 miles in 5 hours and 53 minutes. They were sponsored by Assembly L075 and are shown after completing the race with their medals on Oct. 8th.

Our assembly sponsored a summer basket for the Catherine McAuley Parade of Baskets matching funds. Lehrae Ann Edwards and Dorothy Collins are pictured with their basket. They purchased a cooler, 2 chairs, beach towels, summer items and a Canon digital camera with SD card

and \$30 in lottery tickets. They sold tickets at the Luzerne County Fair on Sept. 10th

and then attended the volunteer luncheon at the Mercy Center in Dallas on Sept. 23rd where they are pictured with: Jenny Blanchard and Sister Therese Marques. The basket is donated in memory of former McAuley Center worker, the late Lucille Ward from Assembly L075.

We will sponsor a backpack matching funds for the Head Start School in Moosic, PA.

We will donate food vouchers for Ray's Market in Old Forge to be distributed to the 20 children currently enrolled in the Head Start program there during the Christmas season to purchase food for the holidays. Matching funds will benefit the Holy Rosary School in Duryea where we will purchase the vouchers to help children there with cost of tuition.



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of Alice Barnes: Assembley 0123	20.00
In Memory of Pauline Donnelly: Assembley 0123	20.00
In Memory of Kevin Hudac: Assembley 0123	20.00
In Memory of Ethel Quinn: Assembley 0123	20.00
In Memory of Robert Schneiderlochner: Assembley 0123	20.00
Donations:	
Rick Fetterman	25.00
Marlene G Endean	100.00
Steven and Hilary Garbon	100.00



DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

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

Name: _____

Assembly: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

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

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS October, 2017

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Aldridge, Charles	Point Pleasant, WV	07/29/2017	0774
Alexander, Conrade	New Kensington, PA	10/08/2017	0434
Bailey, James	Glen Allen, VA	08/23/2017	0123
Bauer, Betty	Naples, FL	03/21/2017	L075
Bier, Jean	Meadowlands, PA	11/25/2016	0588
Blackmore, Burdell	Craigsville, WV	08/17/2017	0774
Bobek, Frank	South Amboy, NJ	03/17/2017	0110
Burdi, Ann	Darien, IL	09/19/2017	0774
Cheripka, Joan	Hershey, PA	10/08/2017	0774
Cribbs, Berness R	Cabot, PA	09/03/2017	0774
Davison, Edith	Hermitage, PA	09/20/2017	0731
Devenney Sr., John P	Washington, PA	09/26/2017	0588
Doty, Charles R	Monongahela, PA	09/29/2017	0377
Draskovic Sr., David M	Pittsburgh, PA	08/01/2017	L161
Fenedick, Mary	New York, NY	09/21/2017	0617
Gallagher, Joanne L	Troy, OH	09/07/2017	0731
Green, Marie B	Cowen, WV	09/06/2017	0774
Gromley Jr., Elmer	Mahaffey, PA	08/05/2017	0554
Hammer, Louise	Uniontown, PA	08/19/2017	0039
Harte, John	Duarte, CA	12/03/2016	0568
Haynes, Rodney	Circleville, OH	09/15/2017	P38A
Jason, Henry	Pittsburgh, PA	09/19/2017	0100
Jones, Donna	Homer City, PA	08/13/2017	0267
Kassebaum, Marlene	Belleville, IL	08/05/2017	0705
Khal, Mary Ann	Myerstown, PA	10/10/2017	L102
Kotcho, Paul	Peckville, PA	09/04/2017	0774
Lentz, Robert W	Charlotte, NC	02/07/2017	0774
Lloyd, Charles	Canonsburg, PA	10/02/2017	0434
Lowder, Irene	Oakboro, NC	08/24/2017	0774
Mc Laughlin, Eleanore	Pittsburgh, PA	09/18/2017	0588
Miedel, Frank	Latrobe, PA	09/28/2017	0737
Modrak Jr., Frank M	Weston, FL	08/21/2017	0737
Mohrbacher, Walter C	Beaver Falls, PA	10/18/2017	0123
Rogers, Jimmy	St Albans, WV	09/30/2017	0774
Roy, Lucille	Huntington, WV	09/07/2017	0774
Selvig, Janice	Madison, WI	09/12/2017	0774
Sheridan, Margaret E	Moon Twp, PA	02/07/2015	0100
Singer, Marsha	West Newton, PA	10/19/2017	0737
Stoker, James R	Pittsburgh, PA	09/18/2017	0434
Susko, Andrew	West Caldwell, NJ	03/14/2017	0731
Tapajna, Frank J	Cleveland, OH	09/23/2017	0432
Toth, Gary	Canfield, OH	07/07/2017	0731
Vokes, Connie	Clearfield, PA	10/03/2017	0554
Voza, Helen	Leechburg, PA	09/16/2017	0737
Wagner, Jacob	Hermitage, PA	08/04/2017	0731
Wanta, Gladys	Junction City, WI	10/04/2017	0774
Wychooskie, Brian	Duryea, PA	09/22/2017	L075
Zalewski, Mildred	Ashley, PA	09/29/2017	0617

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

December, 1917

The National Slovak Society had 42,328 members; assets valued at \$1,243,765.52; and paid benefits of \$373,865.05 to its members as of December 31, 1917.

December, 1981

Supreme President Joseph Stefka and his wife Kathryn were guests of Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh and his wife Ginny at the Governor's Mansion in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, following completion of decorating the Slovak Christmas Tree at the William Penn Museum's Ethnic Christmas Display.

December, 1982

District #5 Activities Director David Blazek announced that on December 5, 1982, District #5 held their 28th Annual YFC Christmas Party with 125 youth members in attendance.

December, 1994

National Secretary-Treasurer Paul J. Godor retired. Paul served the Society as Second Vice-President after being elected at the XXV Quadrennial Convention in 1970. Paul would serve in that capacity until his election as First Vice-President in 1978. He became Acting Secretary-Treasurer of the Society in 1981 and later was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer at the XXVIII Quadrennial Convention in 1982.



In recognition of Veterans Day and the ongoing 75th anniversary of World War II, Peter Longstreth of Assembly 123 was honored and celebrated on Nov. 5th, along with 41 other WWII veterans in a special ceremony at Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall. Peter is an active assembly member and father of home office employee, Jill Grover.

Spotlight On Ryan Strom Social Media Coordinator and Graphic Designer



Hello, my name is Ryan Strom. I joined the NSS staff in September, 2014 as the Graphic Design/Social Media Coordinator. My responsibilities include among other things, designing the NSS National News monthly cover as well as aiding our editor with any print related materials for each issue, maintaining the NSS website along with our presence on the various social media platforms, creating/updating designs for various print advertisements we place in outside fraternal publications, etc. I enjoy working on the monthly newsletter covers the most, as they allow the most freedom for creative expression out of the content we create.



Some personal history includes attending Baldwin/Whitehall school district (fellow alumni including among others NSS President, Dave Blazek), as well as graduating from Robert Morris University with degrees in Graphic/Web Design. Prior to working at the NSS I was employed at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as a Production Tech in the Advertising Department, where I worked on creating the various ads and outside print materials that are packaged within the daily paper. Finally, I'm proud to be a lifelong member of the NSS as is the majority of my family, as we have attended/participated in many of the various annual contests/events that have been held over that time. As such I'm thankful to continue contributing to the success of the NSS and hope to further benefit the society and its members as we move into the future. Thank you for reading.



Greg Felton, NSS Sales & Marketing Director at the Genealogy Conference 2.



DECEMBER

December je mesiac očakávaní, túžob a prianí, darčiekov, Vianoc a rozlúčky so starým rokom.

December je mesiacom dlhých temných večerov, krátkych dní s nízkou oblohou a prvým snehom.

December je mesiacom darčiekov, rozjasnených detských očí, krásnych vianočných sviatkov lásky, pokoja, viery a mieru. Budme k sebe milí, tešme sa z maličkostí, z toho, čo máme, zo svojich najbližších.

Vianočný darček

Dievčatko pripravovalo vianočný darček. Balilo škatuľku do veľmi drahého zlatého papiera. Použilo ho neprimerane veľa a k tomu pridalo množstvo všelijakých ozdôb a farebnej stužky.

Čo to robíš? vyčítal jej príkro otec. Toľko papiera vyjde na zmar. Vieš, koľko to stojí?

Dievčatko si škatuľu pritlačilo k srdcu a so slzami v očiach sa stiahlo do kúta. Na Štedrý deň pricupkalo k otcovi ako vtáčatko a podalo mu škatuľu v zlatom papieri ako dar.

To je pre Teba ocko zašepkala. Otec znežnel. Bol asi pritvrďý. Veď to bol darček preňho. Pomaly rozviazal stužku, trpezlivo rozbaľoval zlatý papier a pomaličky, pomaličky otvoril škatuľu. Bola prazdna!

Neprijemné prekvapenie roznieťilo jeho výbušnosť:

To si premárnila všetok papier a stužky, aby si zabalila prázdnu škatuľu?!

Dievčatku slzy opäť zaplavili očká: Ale, ocko, škatuľa nieje prázdna. Vložila som do nej milión božtekov!



Vinšujem vám v tieto vianočné sviatky, Pána Krista narodenia. Dobrého zdravička a na stôl chlebička, do duše radosti, do srdca svornosti. Anjel pokoja nech medzi vami prebýva a láska Krista



Svätá Barbora (4. decembra)

Na sviatok svätej Barbory sa praktizovali zvyky spojené s ľúbostnou magiou. Typické pre tento sviatok boli *barborky*. Z čerešne si dievčatá odrezali konáriky avložili ich do vody. Dievčina, ktorej konárik do Vianoc rozkvitol, sa mala do roka vydať. Na východnom Slovensku si každý z rodiny dal do vázičky do okna svoju vlastnú čerešnovú vetvičku a ten, komu najskôr vykvitla, mal najdlhšie žiť.

Pamätate sa?

Veľa tajomného a slávnostného bolo vo zvykosloví zimného obdobia. Ale najkrajšie zvyky, obyčaje, obrady a úkony predsa len patrili k Vianociam. Aj v tej najchudobnejšej chalupke sa zdobí stromček, rozvoniavali opekance, kapustnica.

V podvečernom tichu prichádzajú na rad spomienky. Darmo mavnete rukou, darmo odhaňate spomienky na svoje detstvo, opäť sa vrátia. Každé jedlo na štedrovečernom stole malo svoju symboliku. Zdravé jablka a orechy veštili zdravie v rodine, cesnak mal magickú moc nad chorobami. Med bol znamením lásky v rodine, znakom hojnosti zas bol mak. Na slávnostne prestretom stole, čo ako chudobnom nesmel chýbať chlieb a hrstka obilia. Pamätate sa? Pri teplom kozube sa začínajú odvíjať spomienky.

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 pocuť cestou internetu.

WPITAM.COM a potrebné kliknúť na “listen live.”

Veselé Vianoce

*Želá - Hlavný úrad
Narodného Slovenského Spolku*



Photo Contest Winners

★ Overall Winner Featured On Front Cover ★



NSS Activity: 1st Place
Laurie Fox - Assembly 731



NSS Activity: 2nd Place
Monica Boone - Assembly L161



NSS Activity: 3rd Place
Ruth Burns - Assembly 731



Animal: 1st Place
Marti Pytel - Assembly 432



Animal: 2nd Place
Erin Sturga - Assembly 774



Animal: 3rd Place
Laurie Fox - Assembly 731



Human Interest: 1st Place
Lehrea Edwards - Assembly L075



Human Interest: 2nd Place
Kerry Farrell - Assembly 813



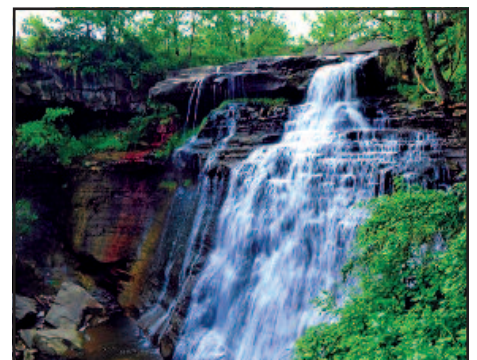
Human Interest: 3rd Place
Linda Buono - Assembly 434



Scenic: 1st Place
Niko Scalise - Assembly C123



Scenic: 2nd Place
Blaze Farrell - Assembly 813



Scenic: 3rd Place
Katherine Karkosiak - Assembly 0070

Third Place Poetry Winners

My Dog

I had a dog
He jumped over a log
And ate a frog
In the fog.

By Brandt Vocelka
Assembly C813
Age 5

Cinquain Poem About My Brother

Brother
Crazy and loud
Plays and dances and hits
Cute, cuddly
Brandt

By Camille Vocelka
Assembly C813
Age 9



Volunteering For Vets

I'm patiently waiting for next year
I'm going to jump and cheer.
I'll be old enough to actually volunteer.
I can't wait for the war stories I will hear.

I can go to the V.A. to help the vets
Let me tell you about some that I've met.
Gordon likes to sing his songs
Up and down the hall all day long.

Richie likes to smoke outside
And comment on the bikes I ride.
Bingo is Frank's favorite game
He always plays his card the same.

Bernie likes to eat all the snacks
But his favorite is cookies and Jax.
Ron is the first for everything
He really acts like he's the King.
There are just a few of the vets
My Nana's friends that I have met.

By Adam Lazar
Assembly C075
Age 13

As They Fall

One by one,
They land on the grass.
They fill up the yard,
And pile up in a mass.

They settle on sidewalks,
Like leaves in the fall.
Blown up by the wind,
Twisting snow in a ball.

They float against windowsills,
For children to watch.
While warm drinks are served,
Like caramel and butterscotch.

By Meghan Jezik
Assembly C110
Age 14

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

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Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.



Change of Address

Please use this form to register your change of address for the National News and mail to the Home Office. Upon receipt of this form completed in its entirety, the staff will immediately implement the change. *Thank you.*

Name _____

Assembly No. _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Former Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., MUST BE received by the Home Office no later than the 5th of the month. Every effort will be made to publish the article and photos in a timely manner and space permitting. Also, all articles should be typewritten in regular type.