



NSS Life

Family Matters...

NSS 37th Quadrennial Convention

June 24th-28th, 2018

Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA

See Page 4 For Details

National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Národné Noviny

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy Fourth of July!



**United Slovak Fraternal
Bowling Tournament**

See Page 6 For Results & Pictures



2017 Youth Achievement Award Winner
2017 Fraternalist Of The Year
See Page 11 & 16 For Details



NATIONAL NEWS

JULY 2017 | NUMBER 3507 VOLUME 109



National Slovak Society

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EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY

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351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

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

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

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

FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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

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>July 27 August 6 August 20 October 22</p>	<p>Assemblies L075, 0617</p> <p>Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Amusement Park Assembly L075, Picnic, Mercatelli-Segelia Park, Moosic, PA Assembly L075, Bingo/Pizza Party, Wilkes Barre, V A at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 5</p> <p>July 9 July 21 August 20 - UPDATE September 10 September 18 September 23 November 6 December 3</p>	<p>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0737, 0774</p> <p>Assembly 0039, Join Hands Day Event, Springdale Golf Club Assembly 0588, Fraternal Night, Old Schoolhouse Players Theater, Hickory, PA at 7:30 pm Region 5, Picnic, Cedar Creek Park, Activities Center/Pavilion 19, Noon - 6:00 pm Assembly 0039, Meeting, (Stuffers Club-9/11 Dinner) Eat'n Park, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Time/place to be announced 6th Annual Septemberfest, Home Office, McMurray, PA Assembly 0588, Meeting, Time/place to be announced Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 8</p> <p>July 16</p>	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>Assembly 0004, Meeting, Havar's residence, Westlake, OH at 2:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 14</p> <p>July 30 August 13 October 1</p>	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>Assembly R059, Meeting, Sawarynski's residence at 1:00 pm Assembly L102/Assembly R059, Summer picnic, Wesnak's residence, 2:00 pm Assembly R059, Meeting/Fundraiser, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, following Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>REGION 15</p>	<p>Assemblies L002, 0028</p> <p>No activities at this time</p>
<p>AT LARGE</p> <p>July 2 July 14 July 30 August 11 August 13 August 13 August 30 September 3 September 17 September 17 October 8 October 11 November 5 November 5 November 5 December 16 December 24</p>	<p>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813</p> <p>Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0731, Meeting/Lunch, What's Cooking, Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm Assembly 0731, Bus Trip, Niagara Falls Assembly 0731, Picnic, Guilford Lake State Park, Lisbon, OH at Noon Assembly 0586, Summer Outing, Joliet Ballpark Assembly 0813, Members Social Event, Adventure Golf Assembly 0731, Mahoning County Canfield Fair, Fox's Campsite Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0110, Meeting, Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY at 3:00 pm Assembly 0731, Hayride, Countryside Farm, Lowellville, OH at 4:00 pm Assembly 0731, Meeting/Lunch, Kravitz Cafe, Mill Creek Park Fellows Riverside Garden-1pm Assembly 0110, Christmas Luncheon, (Time/place to be announced) Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Elton Beard Cabin, Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Christmas Eve Party at Butwin Residence at 6:00 pm</p>

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

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Sastin, Skalica, Trencin, Bojnice, Rajecke Teplice, Cicmany, High Tatras, Levoca, Kezmarok, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kocise, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Presov.

The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two meals daily, four-star hotels, airconditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For cost and a more detailed itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Summer greetings from the Desk of the President. In checking the calendar, we will be celebrating the 4th of July this month which falls on a Tuesday, so the Home Office will be open on Monday the 3rd, closed for the holiday and back open on Wednesday, July 5th. This month we will be hosting our annual golf outing the weekend of July 14, 15, and 16, at Firestone Farms Golf Course in Ohio. We would love to have you attend this fun filled weekend. So if any of you are golfers and have never attended one of our golf outings, why not make an effort to attend this year. You don't have to be a single digit handicapper to play; we have golfers of all skill levels that participate and have a great time. Also this month, the Annual Slovak Day will be held on Thursday, July 20th at Kennywood Amusement Park in West Mifflin. If you are in the Tri-State Pittsburgh area, I look forward to seeing you at Kennywood Park. I along with staff members will be serving the delicious Slovak food at the kitchen pavilion; there will be games for the young folks along with celebration of mass and entertainment. I also read in the Activities section, Assembly 0671 will be having a Fraternal Day at Knoebels Amusement Park on July 27th.

Punography Of The Month:

The fattest knight at King Arthurs round table was "Sir-Cumference". He acquired his size from too much pi.

2018 NSS Convention

Please mark your calendar for next year's Quadrennial Convention which will be held in Hershey, PA from Sunday June 24th through Thursday, June 28th. Similar to our last convention in 2014, we will be meeting at the Hershey Lodge. Their facilities are very accommodating for not only our business sessions but also for breakout rooms, for committee meetings and the sleeping accommodations are excellent. The Board has started planning for the convention and at our most recent meeting, I was honored to be appointed to serve as the Chair of the convention. Previously the By-laws designated that the President would chair the convention but at the last convention the By-laws were amended to state that the Board would appoint the Chair of the convention. The 2018 Convention will be the 7th convention that I will have served as the Chair, and I have enjoyed every one of them and look forward to next years. I am anticipating a smooth convention that probably won't have many By-Law changes as we basically rewrote them last convention. Looking forward to it and next June will be here before you know it; so mark your calendar.



Veteran of Valor



World War II veteran Don Gimiliano, 94 of Whitehall, center shares a laugh with Vietnam veteran George Coppola after Mr. Gimiliano was presented with a quilt and pillow case from the North Pittsburgh Quilts of Valor during a May 4th ceremony in his honor at Gianna Via's Restaurant in Whitehall. Mr. Gimiliano served in a field artillery unit during the Battle of the Bulge. Members of the North Pittsburgh Quilts of Valor create quilts to honor veterans.

NSS Activities

It's great to look in our monthly publication and read all the activities that are planned by our Assemblies and Regions. These activities are what a fraternal organization is all about along with volunteer efforts. Our mission statement reads: To provide our fraternal family with a sustainable measure of financial security via life and annuity products; while offering charitable cultural, social and educational opportunities that benefit our members and their communities. What could be any better than getting together with brothers and sisters for a fraternal function, be it a picnic, swimming party, golf outing, dinner or a dance. On the national level we hold a bowling and golf tournament that I look forward to attending each year. These events should be growing in attendance each year but they haven't. Bring your friends to one of these events even if they are not a member, (they can participate one year as a guest) and I promise you that they will want to join the NSS not only so they can participate the next year, but because they will have met many nice people and made new friends. We need to get our youth involved in attending these functions also. There are currently only a handful of younger members that are involved in either bowling or golf. We should have many more. Lets make it happen!

News of Narodniars

We were saddened to hear that Honorary Officer Henri Albert passed away the first week of June, 2017. Henri was a true fraternalist. Deepest sympathies go out to the entire Albert Family.

Happy Birthday to NSS Chair of the Board Joseph Stefka, Honorary Director Ed Koches, Home Office staff members Pat Glaser and Jeff DeSantes, former staff members Stacey Boury Shun, Albert Suess, and Laverne Orban, members John Martincheck, my brother Dale Blazek, Father-in-Law Dan Gimiliano, Greg Blum and granddaughter Ella Woods.

Happy wedding anniversary wishes to all who are celebrating this month. Speaking of weddings, I would like to congratulate one of our staff members; Amanda Felton on her marriage to Matthew Zinn on July 7th. Wishing the newlyweds many years of Happy Wedded Bliss.

FIRST QUARTER 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT - NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

Net Admitted Assets:

	<u>March 2017</u>	<u>December 2016</u>
Bonds	\$1,007,710,816	\$985,156,489
Preferred Stocks		
Common Stocks	1,407,198	1,305,635
Mortgage Loans on		
Real Estate	6,079,431	6,137,977
Certificate Loans	718,335	723,674
Real Estate Occupied		
By Society	754,836	733,928
Cash On Deposit	23,468,703	19,521,014
Electronic Data Equipment	0	0
Uncollected Premiums	150,762	165,120
Investment Income Due	<u>13,569,727</u>	<u>11,788,643</u>
TOTALS	\$1,053,859,808	\$1,025,532,480

Liabilities and Unassigned Funds:

	<u>March 2017</u>	<u>December 2016</u>
Aggregate Reserve	\$938,763,500	\$913,883,000
Deposit-type		
Contracts	56,686,600	54,913,000
Certificate Claims	175,000	225,000
Commissions Due	100,000	140,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	435,000	425,000
General Expenses Due	1,742,700	1,748,000
Retained By The Society		
As Trustee	12,584	152,161
Asset Valuation		
Reserve (AVR)	5,869,200	5,543,500
Interest Maintenance		
Reserve (IMR)	4,733,688	4,939,745
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Fund	45,191,536	43,413,074
TOTALS	\$1,053,859,808	\$1,025,532,480

Surplus Account:

	<u>March 2017</u>	<u>December 2016</u>
Beginning Surplus	\$43,563,074	\$36,158,022
Net Income	2,057,807	8,321,678
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	49,327	259,765
Chge in Nonadmitted Assets	(2,972)	320
Change in Valuation		
Reserve	(325,700)	(1,176,700)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains		
and Losses in Surplus	0	0
Net Change In Surplus	<u>1,778,462</u>	<u>7,405,052</u>
Surplus At Statement Date	\$45,341,536	43,563,074

Summary Of Operations:

	<u>March 2017</u>	<u>December 2016</u>
INCOME:		
Premiums & Annuity		
Considerations	\$39,014,577	\$165,020,054
Net Invest. Income	12,133,520	45,330,095
Amortization Of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	<u>137,674</u>	<u>648,623</u>
Income Sub-Total	\$51,285,771	\$210,998,772

	<u>March 2017</u>	<u>December 2016</u>
EXPENSES:		
Death Benefits	\$1,327,260	\$4,621,954
Matured Endowments	3,593	28,218
Annuity Benefits	20,160,212	84,872,077
Disability, Accident,		
Health Benefits	848	4,287
Surrender Benefits	209,395	53,510
Interest On Deposit		
Type Contracts	1,814	14,849
Increase In Aggregate		
Reserve For Life		
Contracts	24,880,500	102,894,000
Commissions On		
Direct Business	1,103,740	4,262,800
General &		
Fraternal Expenses	1,362,375	4,721,753
Insurance, Taxes,		
Licenses, Fees	<u>67,176</u>	<u>178,778</u>
Expense Sub-Total	\$49,116,913	\$202,152,226

	<u>March 2017</u>	<u>December 2016</u>
SUMMARY:		
Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds		
To Members	\$2,168,858	\$8,846,546
Refund To Members	(102,148)	(419,194)
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds		
To Members	2,066,710	8,427,352
Net Realized		
Capital Gains	(8,903)	(105,674)
Total Net Income	\$2,057,807	\$8,321,678

Linda M Strom
Secretary/Treasurer,CFO

Congratulations to the following NSS Bowlers: Inky Kolečky from Assembly 432 who finished in 4th place in the Women's Singles and 1st place in the Women's Senior event and to George Svec who finished 15th in the Men's Singles and 4th place in the Men's Senior event.

Also congratulations to "The Defenders" (Pam Blum, Sue Ondrejco, Annette Stefka and Linda Strom) who won the "Better Luck Next Year" for the 2nd year in a row as last place for the Team event.



Fraternal Matters...

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



NSS Fitness Matters.....

Sign up for NSS Life's Fitness Matters Walking Club by sending your name, mailing address and Assembly number to Pam Blum, Fraternal Activities Coordinator at pblum@nsslife.org or by calling me at 724-731-0094. You will receive a free NSS Life pedometer and a mileage chart to help you track your progress. You are responsible for keeping track of your own mileage.

Congratulations

Birthday Wishes

Special Happy Birthday wishes go out to my husband Greg on July 24th...wishing you a day as amazing as you!!

Reminders....

The deadline for submitting transcripts for renewal of the PVR Scholarship is **July 15th**.

The deadline for submissions to this year's Poetry Contest is **August 15th**.



Congratulations to Jill Grover, Home Office Sales Assistant, for being chosen as this year's NSS Fraternalist of the Year. We surprised Jill with a cake at the Home Office to announce her award. Jill was nominated by Bill Knoll President of Assembly 123. Jill has asked that the donation of \$500, to be made in her honor, be split between Heroes Supporting Heroes and the American Legion Auxiliary. Both of these organizations are near and dear to her heart.

Also, congratulations to Josie Applegarth this year's Youth Achievement winner. Josie was nominated by Laurie Fox, President of Assembly 731. Josie will be receiving a \$500 award for being chosen as this year's winner. I would like to also mention that Josie has also been chosen as a PVR Scholarship recipient. Both of these ladies demonstrate the true spirit of Fraternalism. Congratulations!!

NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

JULY 14-16, 2017



THE LINKS AT FIRESTONE FARMS

105 St. Andrews
Columbiana, OH 44408

Friday Fraternal Hospitality Night:
6:00PM - 9:00PM

Saturday ONLY Competition: **\$55.00**
Saturday & Sunday Competition: **\$110.00**

Accommodations by: Das Dutch Village Inn
150 E. State Route 14
Columbiana, OH 44408

Room Rate: **\$108.00+Tax Per Night**
Deadline for NSS Block Rate is **06-15-17**

Banquet price included for member golfers
Non-golfer and guest banquet price: **\$30.00**

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

Did you know....

You can add money to almost any Annuity with NSS-just send us a check.

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

Current Interest Rates

Effective since January 1, 2013

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

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

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

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



IRA Money at Retirement

IRAs are wonderful programs that have helped millions of people save money towards their retirement. Both traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs have their advantages. The key points are that both provide a systematic savings method and some tax-advantages.

When discussing IRAs and retirement there are some key ages to keep in mind. They are 59½, 62-67, and 70½. The first number is how old you must be to avoid the 10% early withdrawal IRS penalty. The next set of numbers (62-67) is when you may take either early or normal retirement. Probably your Social Security payments will begin at that same time, however, you may delay to age 70. And finally at age 70½, you must begin your required minimum distributions from your IRA account.

So now that you are retired and looking forward to the golden years, let's address some tax planning. When you retire and depending on your income, a portion of your Social Security income may be taxable. A good CPA or tax advisor can advise you about this formula and why it is important to know the number. Once you learn that number, some tax efficient planning can begin.

Hypothetically: it may be possible to make a \$5,000 IRA withdrawal along with your Social Security and other income and the withdrawal will cost you practically nothing because of the income and your tax bracket. However, in

this made up example, a \$6,000 withdrawal will cost you \$500 more in taxes. So armed with this information you may want to start making some withdrawals now before you get locked into RMDs at age 70 1/2. This is a good starting point to figure out how much to withdraw, while keeping taxes at a minimum. Paying taxes on some of your IRA money prior to age 70½ may be more beneficial to you in the long run. At this point, it may be a good idea to explore a Roth conversion in whole or in part. Again, your tax advisor/CPA will prove to be quite helpful.

More than 4,000 baby boomers are turning age 70½ every day. A great idea for this group is to take their required minimum distributions (RMD) and use them to create tax free monies for their heirs. This can be done in a couple of different ways. First, with a lump sum withdrawal from an IRA and purchase a single premium whole life (SPWL) plan of insurance. Or use the annual RMD amount to buy a traditional whole life product. For example: A \$2,000 RMD for a male, age 71, would buy him a \$38,000 traditional whole life policy. In this way, we were able to leverage a \$2,000 payment into a \$38,000 death benefit which is 19X the initial deposit. Using life insurance can create a win-win situation for you and your family.

Contact your local NSS advisor or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.

Thought for the Month:

If it is important to you – you will find a way. If not – you'll find an excuse.

Slovak Proverb

How Much is Enough?

About 38% of Americans believe they would feel the financial impact from the death of the primary wage earner within a month of their passing.¹ When you consider all the things that life insurance proceeds need to fund and how long the money will be needed, you begin to realize that your true need for coverage is often 10 or 15 times your gross annual income, sometimes more.

Insurance Proceeds Can Fund Many Types of Expenses

Immediate Expenses

- ✓ Funeral costs
- ✓ Uncovered medical expenses
- ✓ Mortgage
- ✓ Car loans
- ✓ Credit card debt
- ✓ Taxes
- ✓ Estate settlement costs

Ongoing Expenses

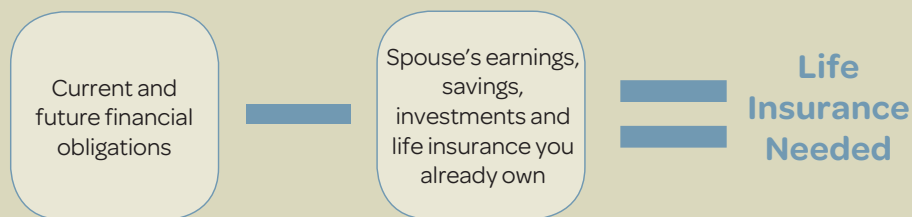
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Utilities
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Health care
- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Insurance

Future Expenses

- ✓ College
- ✓ Retirement

¹ The 2016 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and LIMRA

Calculating Your Life Insurance Needs



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of Paul J Godor :	
Nina DeLiello	25.00
Renee Kessler	50.00
In Memory of Mary Carter:	
Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Irene Kelley:	
Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Mary Rose:	
Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Anthony Casciato:	
Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Della Smith:	
Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Emeric Kravec:	
Michael and Judy Andresky	50.00
In Memory of my Parents, John & Margaret Doslak:	
Marie and Dick Schweinberg	50.00
In Memory of Paul Godor , a wonderful man who will be missed by family and friends:	
Sandra Smales	50.00
Anonymous Donation	5.00



Memorial Tree Leaf Donations May, 2017

In Memory of Thomas G. Gmitter:	
From Nephew Thomas J Gmitter	250.00
In Memory of Paul Godor:	
From Donald Reddinger and Joseph Dickert	250.00



Memorial Tree Acorn Donations May, 2017

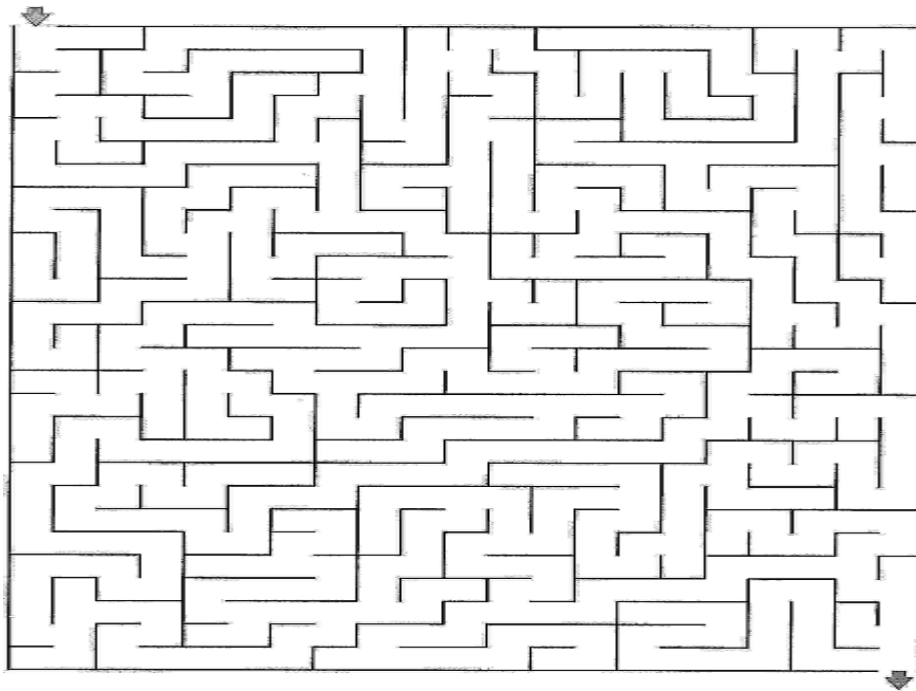
In Honor of Linda M Strom, 2017 FSGP Fraternalist of the Year:	
From Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh	\$1,000.00

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS April, 2017

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Allen, Sally	West Middlesex, PA	04/07/2017	0731
Amico, Jennie	Groveville, NJ	08/26/2014	0110
Baker, Edna	Seminole, FL	12/14/2016	0813
Belcher, Iris	Bud, WV	04/05/2017	0774
Biagini, Adeline	Donora, PA	03/17/2017	0377
Blankenship, Darrell	Beckley, WV	02/24/2017	0774
Blasko, Lawrence	Westlake Village, CA	08/26/2014	0568
Callison, Hubert	Hillsboro, WV	02/17/2017	P38A
Comstock, Sally	Washington, PA	03/31/2017	0588
Cowfer, Dolores	Osceloa Mills, PA	04/09/2017	0774
Dalsanto, Evelyn	Old Forge, PA	04/24/2017	L075
Dickman, Theodore	Dillsburg, PA	04/19/2017	L102
Fisher, Frederick	Charlotte, NC	04/22/2017	0774
Flint, Alma	Nitro, WV	05/08/2017	0774
Germain, Joan	Lake Ariel, PA	01/17/2017	L075
Greer, Winford	Richlands, NC	03/18/2017	0774
Grohol, Irene	Hazleton, PA	05/01/2017	L102
Haver, Kathleen	Monroeville, PA	04/10/2017	L105
Jamison, Janet	Ft Myers, FL	08/14/2016	0800
Juenemann, Aenne	Oakmont, PA	04/11/2017	L105
Kaib, Ethelda	Butler, PA	02/24/2017	0731
Karpa, Rose	Coraopolis, PA	04/22/2017	L161
Kravec, Emerick	Charleroi, PA	04/16/2017	0377
Kurfess, Dina	New Port Richey, FL	10/12/2016	0813
Lamb, Lloyd	Murrysville, PA	02/28/2017	L105
Lillemon, Arlene	Wauwaukee, WI	04/27/2017	0774
Lower, Leroy	Marion, OH	05/07/2017	0160
Macioce, Phillip A	Mt Lebanon, PA	02/24/2017	0434
Martin, John	Pittsburgh, PA	05/04/2017	0434
Masolotte, Kathleen	Erie, PA	05/05/2017	0123
Mollohan, Meredith	Winfield, WV	04/22/2017	0774
O'Brien, Edna	Bessemer City, NC	12/31/2016	0774
Poklembo, Joseph	Labrobe, PA	04/02/2017	0737
Polomick Jr., William	Lake St Louis, MO	03/22/2017	0774
Richter, Flora	Martinsburg, WV	03/29/2017	P38A
Rueth, Harold	Jefferson, WI	03/20/2017	0774
Schaeffer, Joann	Bethel Park, PA	03/31/2017	0434
Shawver, Gary	Reedsville, PA	05/05/2017	0774
Shearer, Ervin	York, PA	04/09/2017	0774
Stevens, Vicki	Crawfordsville, IN	03/30/2017	0705
Stockdale, Loreen	Punxsutawney, PA	03/03/2017	0554
Sucharsky, Walter	Crivitz, WI	05/08/2017	0774
Sugent, Cheryl	Jeannette, PA	04/11/2017	0737
Swan, Nancy	Allison Park, PA	04/15/2017	0434
Tarhanich, Donald	Plymouth, MI	04/05/2017	0381
Timchak, Agnes	Wilmington, DE	04/22/2017	0774
Tipton, Melvin	Peebles, OH	05/10/2017	0595
Tremonti, Roland	Bridgeville, PA	04/24/2017	0434
Turner, Theron	Chalk Hill, PA	04/18/2017	0039
Visser, Larry	Washington, PA	02/19/2017	0588
Watson, George	Canonsburg, PA	04/23/2017	0434
Weaver, Robert	New Bethlehem, PA	04/29/2017	0123
Willson, Dorothy	Pittsburgh, PA	02/24/2017	L105
Yanni, Christine	Washington, PA	07/22/2016	0434
Yurko, James	Valencia, PA	03/31/2017	0123
Zurawski, Adeline	Schererville, IN	04/26/2017	0586



Youth Circle Magazine - Summer 2017



Special Quotes

"Today a reader,
tomorrow a leader."



"Do not give up, the
beginning is always
the hardest."

Assembly 731

These kids took advantage of the paint, chalk, markers and paper to get creative for the art contest. When they were done, they enjoyed spray-painting t-shirts which they wore while playing in the rain.



Ashlynn & Cameron Mason and Ben & Jack Gaither sporting their painted t-shirts.



Ben Gaither



Cameron Mason

HARRY POTTER Characters

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

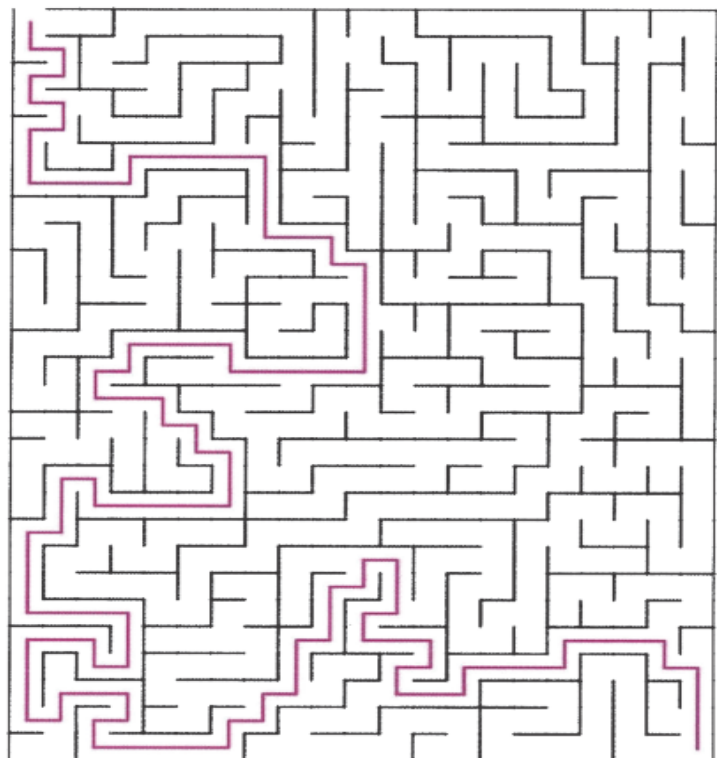
HARRY POTTER
HERMIONE
RON
DUMBLEDORE

SNAPE
VOLDERMORT
QUIRREL
HAGRID

MCGONAGALL
MALFOY
DUDLEY
FILCH



**Enzo Scalise of
Assembly 123
"Swings for the Fences."**



Make A Scarecrow

2 x pairs of stockings
string or gardening twine
sewing or darning needle
permanent marker

2 garden stakes nailed in a cross formation

straw stuffing
old pillow case
buttons for eyes
old clothing: pants, shirt, hat



INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill stockings or tights with the straw. Pack it nice and tight so your scarecrow is not floppy.

Stuff your pillowcase for the head.

Tie pillow case bottom up so the straw does not fall out.

Tie stockings together, across each other so one acts as arms and the other acts as legs. You only need the arm stockings half full so they sit shorter than the legs.

Sew the buttons onto the pillow case for eyes.

Draw other features onto the face.

Tie the head onto the body with the string or twine.

Dress the scarecrow in the clothing you have chosen for him.

Tie the scarecrow onto the garden stakes with the arms attached to the horizontal stake and hit it into the ground.

Add a hat and you have a scarecrow to scare away any birds bothering your garden.

Notes: You can make your scarecrow any size you wish. Your clothes will work well. Add straw under the hat with some glue for some great hair.

Make Your Own Pinata Animal

Making a pinata can be a great fun project to do on a rainy summer day. You will love painting, decorating and filling the pinata with treats before the fun of cracking it open again.



Balloons

White paper

Paintbrush

Newspaper

Sticky tape

Streamers, googly eyes, pipe cleaners - whatever you need for embellishing your

Craft glue

Paint

animal

INSTRUCTIONS:

Blow up your balloon/balloons. It depends on what kind of animal you want to make. You may need a large one for the body and a smaller one for the head. Tie them together, and using a bit of tape securing the head to the body. Or you may need just one balloon, if you are going to make a jellyfish, like the sample above.

To create a tail, ears, beak - or any other small part of the animal you have chosen to make - use cardboard to cut out the shape and stick to the balloon with tape.

Tear the newspaper into pieces. Squeeze the craft glue into a small container and water down until it is runny like paint.

Apply glue to the balloon using the paintbrush, then paste the pieces of newspaper to the balloon. Try and do one layer at a time until you have built up about four layers.

The final layer should be torn white paper, to make painting easier.

Set the pinata aside to dry for a couple of days before painting.

When the paint is dry, cut a 6cm flap in the top using a craft knife (this will burst the balloon) and fill with treats. Tape the flap closed, string the pinata up to a tree or a clothesline and the fun begins cracking it open.

Learning Slovak: Most of these words and phrases are used in everyday conversations, so they might come in handy if you are chatting with someone in Slovak.

English

Slovak

Greetings:

Hi!	Ahoj !
Good morning!	Dobré ráno !
Good evening!	Dobry večer !
Welcome! (to greet someone)	Vitaj ! (formal: Vitajte)
How are you?	Ako sa máš ? (formal: Ako sa máte ?)
I'm fine, thanks!	Mám sa dobré, ďakujem.
And you?	A ty? (formal: A vy?)
Good/ So-So.	Dobré / Ani (zlé), ani (dobré)
Thank you (very much)!	Ďakujem (veľmi pekne) !
You're welcome! (for "thank you")	Ne máš za čo ! (formal: Ne máte za čo !)
Hey! Friend!	Hej ! Priateľ'u (Kámo) !
I missed you so much!	Veľmi si mi chýbal/+a feminine) !
What's new?	Čo nové ?
Nothing much	Nič nové
Good night!	Dobrú noc !
See you later!	Tak zatiaľ !
Good bye!	Dovidenia

Asking for Help and Directions:

I'm lost	Som stratený (feminine : Som stratená)
Can I help you?	Môžem vám pomôcť ?
Can you help me?	Môžeš (formal : môžete) mi pomôcť ?
Where is the (bathroom/ pharmacy)?	Kde je (kúpeľňa / lekáreň) ?
Go straight! then turn left/ right!	Choďte rovno! Potom dolava/doprava !
I'm looking for john.	Hľadáme Johna.
One moment please!	Moment, prosím !
Hold on please! (phone)	Počkajte, prosím !
How much is this?	Kol'ko to stojí ?
Excuse me ...! (to ask for something)	Prepáčte...!
Excuse me! (to pass by)	Pardón!
Come with me!	Pod' so mnou !

Joke Time

Q: How does a squirrel end a prayer?

A: Almond!

Q: What starts with P and ends with E and has lots of letters?

A: Post Office.

Q: What starts with E, ends with E, and has only one letter in it?

A: Envelope.

Q: What can you give and keep at the same time?

A: A cold!

Jill Grover 2017 NSS Fraternalist of the Year



Jill Grover of Assembly 123 has been selected as the 2017 NSS Fraternalist of the Year. Jill has served as President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82 in Carnegie, PA for the past 7 years. She has simultaneously served at the county level as Sgt At Arms, 1st Vice President, Keystone Girls State liaison and member of the Allegheny County Youth Achievement Dinner Committee. At the state level, she has served as Western Section Americanism Chairman, Constitution and By-Laws Chairman, Community Service Chairman and is entering her second two year term as District President of Allegheny County as a member of the state executive committee.

Jill is very active in fund raising for veteran causes including Housing for Homeless Veterans and Smart Homes for Veterans. She can be found volunteering her time at various veteran affairs such as visits to the hospital where she arranges bingos and parties. She also arranges craft events for women veterans.

Jill also organizes Assembly 123 visits to the Veteran's Hospital where they sponsor a Bingo and Pizza Night as well as a Christmas party.

Jill is also very active in her church, Crossroads United Methodist Church in Oakdale. She participates in her women's small group which has provided meals for the staff of a local crisis pregnancy center and created and distributed blankets to patients undergoing chemo and dialysis. She has been involved in West Allegheny Work Camps, coordinating her Auxiliary Unit to provide and serve snacks for the youth and adult volunteers who come from across the county to perform work on homes of veterans, the elderly and low income. This past year she coordinated and staffed a lounge area for the adult camp leaders and obtained enough outside donations so as to not detract from the overall budget. She works with Heroes Supporting Heroes to help find volunteers and funding to assist veterans and has herself cleaned and painted a veteran's apartment, who was in danger of eviction.

Jill used a week of her vacation time to volunteer as a counselor and then staff member for the American Legion Auxiliary's Keystone Girls State Program, a week long program which teaches civics and Americanism to young women. When Assembly 123 volunteers at World Vision Warehouse, Jill once again used her vacation time to join in.

This is truly the Fraternal Spirit.

Another thing that Jill has done that few people know about is that she has financially and emotionally helped a young single mother with two small children who was in a very dire situation. She helped her find housing and often babysat her children while Mom went to school. "Mom" just graduated from the local community college as a Surgical Technician and recently started a new job at a local hospital.

Jill has been married to Lyle for 26 years, they are the proud parents of Alyson, Josh, Shayla, Kyle, Ben, and Brianna and Grandparents of Tristen and Jackson. Jill has been employed at the Home Office of the NSS as a Sales Assistant for the past ten years. We are very proud to announce **Jill Grover as the 2017 NSS Life Fraternalist of the Year.**



Assembly/Region Fraternal Allowances and Diamond, Platinum and Silver Awards

The 2017 Assembly and Region Fraternal Allowances, for activities in 2016, were approved by the Board at their June 2-3, 2017 board meeting. Also approved were the "Extra Effort" Diamond, Platinum and Silver awards in appreciation for the extra efforts of assemblies and their leaders on behalf of their members. Total Fraternal Allowance funds approved by the Board was \$103,296 with \$7,800 approved for the Diamond, Platinum and Silver awards.

Congratulations to the following "Extra Effort" award winners:

<u>Diamond</u>	<u>Platinum</u>	<u>Silver</u>
0070 Brooklyn, OH	0039 Uniontown, PA	0004 Parma, OH
L075 Duryea, PA	0123 Coraopolis, PA	0108 Homestead, PA
L102 Schnecksville, PA	0432 Fairview Park, OH	L161 Pittsburgh, PA
0160 Lorain, OH	0588 Slovan, PA	0586 Chicago, IL
0434 McMurray, PA	0774 McMurray, PA	
0617 Ashley, PA		
0731 Lowellville, OH		
0813 Englewood, FL		

Linda Strom
Secretary/Treasurer, CFO

Save the Date

Septemberfest 2017

Saturday, September 23, 2017

NSS Life

*351 Valley Brook Road
McMurry, PA. 15317*

ASSEMBLY 0004/C004

Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 16th, 2017** at Mildred Havar's, 1744 Westhill Boulevard, Westlake, Ohio at 2:00 pm. This is our Semi-Annual Audit Meeting and all reports will be due at this time. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. See you there.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Thank you to those that came out in support of our "Stamp Out Hunger" event as we supported the local USPS letter carriers in their collections of food for the Fayette County Food Bank.

We need volunteers for our **Join-Hands-Day** event in support of the Tony Bartock Golf Outing on Sunday, **July 9th** at the Springdale Golf Club. We "**Join Hands**" with the Uniontown Council of the Knights of Columbus. The event benefits Fayette County Special Olympics, Easter Seals and the local Women's Resource Center. Registration starts at 7:30 am.

Those assembly members who are currently receiving an NSS scholarship are reminded that the renewal deadline for this fall is July 15th. No renewal checks will be issued after September 15th for any reason.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **September 23rd** to attend the 6th Annual "Septemberfest 2017" at the NSS Heritage Museum in the home office. The day includes Slovak cooking and craft demonstrations, Slovak dance performers, Slovak food, vendors and much, much more. Festivities start at 11:00 am and continue till 4:00 pm. Also, featured will be the largest animated wood carving in the United States!

Youth, begin to get your poetry skills together for the NSS Poetry Contest. The deadline is **August 15th**. Rules and regulations are in the last issue of the "*National News*" or on the NSS website: nsslife.org.

Our next meeting is Sunday, **September 10th** in the Community Room of the

Eat n' Park Restaurant at 6:00 pm. Come and enjoy a free meal and join our "Stuffers Club"!

"The honor of a nation is its life" –

Alexander Hamilton

Take time to celebrate your freedoms on July 4th!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY R059/RC59

Whitehall, PA

Mark your calendars for our next meetings:

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

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

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

Elizabeth Sabol
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

Our fraternal summer picnic will be held on Sunday, **August 6th, 2017** at the Mercateli-Segelia Park, Moosic, PA.

Members will bring a covered dish and items for the Chinese auction, conducted by Marlin Petro Wesnak Region 2 President. Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak and President Gary Edwards will cook up hamburgers and hot dogs for the members. The Margaret Pulosi Scholarship winner will be announced and bingo will be played for prizes. Any questions, please call Lehrae Edwards at 570-457-8402.

We will host a bingo and pizza party for the veterans at the Wilkes Barre V A 2nd floor recreation room on **August 20th, 2017** at 2:00 pm.

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

Lehrae Ann Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0110

New York, NY

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 17, 2017** at the Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY at 3:00 pm. Mark your calendars for **November 5th, 2017** for our Christmas luncheon, place and time to be determined.

Richard DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

It is hard to believe that half the year is over but it seems to happen that way every year. We will try to keep you busy and interested for the balance of the year.

John Adams was the one who recommended that July 4th be a day of great celebration with parades and fireworks. I'm sure he would be proud of us, we really know how to celebrate our nation's birthday. Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is **Thursday, July 20th**. If any of our members are interested in going please let me know ASAP. Our assembly subsidizes part of the ticket cost. I must know soon so I can get you the tickets. My number is 424-242-5085. Speaking of Kennywood, Judy Landa, one of our most enthusiastic members, helps out serving food on Slovak Day. She is looking for a few volunteers to help her, two hours maximum. Admission to the park and parking expense will be reimbursed. Call Judy if you can help at 412-322-5168. She will give you all the details and she promised to make it fun.

If you want to participate in the NSS golf tournament **July 14-16**, once again let me know. Our assembly will help with the cost for our members.

At this time I want to give a big "**Congratulations!**" to member Jared Leins. He received the "Extra Effort" award from his local TV station in Raleigh NC. He is the captain of the high school baseball team, who were the league champions plus he carries a 4.7 GPA in school. He has accepted an appointment to the Naval Academy where he will be studying engineering and play baseball. As his grandfather all I can say is how unbelievably proud I am of him.

Did I tell you that going to an Escape Room could be fun? Well let me tell you that those of us who went to the West

Hills Escape Room had a ball. If you have a group of five to ten people (each escape room has different minimums and maximums) I would highly recommend it. It is a good way to build teamwork and camaraderie.

Saturday, **August 5th** is the Region 5 picnic held at lovely Cedar Creek Park in Rostraver. All our members are welcome.

In **September** we want to go to the City Theater on the South Side to see the hilarious performance of "Late Night Catechism". Whether you went to Catholic school or not you'll thoroughly enjoy yourself. If not, you'll probably not go to heaven. If you are interested in going, let Mary Maniecki know 412-264-3546.

Just a few more items to keep Mary busy, if you have interest later this year in playing a round of miniature golf suggested by Bill Del Monaco with ice cream afterward. Please let Mary know so we can gauge interest.

There is also the possibility in **October** of taking a 90 minute boat ride on Lake Arthur at Moraine State Park if we can get enough interest. Please call Mary and let her know. We have to make reservation well in advance.

Enjoy the summer don't forget to wear sunscreen.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 554

Curwensville, PA

Our next meeting will be held on **July 2, 2017** at the home of Jim Stricek, 135 McCullough Street, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm. For information and directions contact Jim at (814) 590-7021 or assembly554@gmail.com

Jim Stricek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 586

Chicago, IL

A summer outing is being planned as our next activity. Sam Tidaback, 586 member, is catching for the Joliet Jackhammers baseball team and we will organize a trip to the Joliet ballpark on **Sunday, August 13**. Hope to see many 586'ers there!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 588

Slovan, PA

Fraternal Night at the Old Schoolhouse Players Theater

Assembly 588 is sponsoring a fraternal night at the Mount Pleasant Township Community Center in Hickory, Pennsylvania to watch the Old Schoolhouse Players perform the musical, *My Fair Lady*. Any member of Assembly 588 interested in attending *My Fair Lady* on Friday, **July 21, 2017**, at 7:30 pm, should contact Annette Stefka at 724-687-7914 by July 14, 2017, to reserve a ticket. Assembly 588 will provide a ticket free of charge to any Assembly 588 member wishing to attend the performance. The Assembly has reserved a limited number of tickets for the musical. Tickets will be available on a first call basis. Remember – one ticket per member. **Don't forget to call prior to the deadline of July 14th to reserve your ticket.** Join us for a great night of theater and fraternal fun in Hickory, Pennsylvania on July 21st.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 617/C617

Ashley, PA

Matching Fund

Assembly 617 will sponsor a Basket Raffle and 50/50 Drawing from July through August 26th. This will be our Matching Fund Project for the support of the missions in El Salvador. Our assembly member, Rev. John Ostrowski, is the pastor of the San Pedro Parish in Teatepepue, El Salvador. He serves there through the Cleveland Diocese Latin American Mission Team. The Basket Raffle and chances for the 50/50 will be available at our assembly's Knoebels Fraternal Picnic on **July 27, 2017**. Father John and the people of El Salvadore appreciate all the support they have received from the NSS. Hopefully we can make a generous donation again this year.

Rose Mary Strish
President

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Assembly 731 had to cancel some events earlier this year. Our Easter Egg Hunt and Join Hands Day project that were scheduled at the Poland Christian Church were canceled because the church has dissolved and was sold to a private owner in April. The Church provided us with space for Christmas parties, dinners, and meetings. We in turn, helped with their yard work and inside cleaning. We are grateful for the partnership we've shared over the years. It was with much sadness that we've lost our connection with the Church. The Church is donating all the proceeds from the sale of the building, property and its treasury to the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley. A new Rescue Mission is being built in Youngstown and their chapel will recognize The Poland Christian Church as a donor for supporting the chapel.

Some assembly members were able to Join Hands with the Poland Historical Society to plant flowers at the Little Red Schoolhouse which is a short distance from the Poland Christian Church and they have agreed to help water and maintain the flower beds during the summer.

Some exciting activities we have planned for the last half of the year. **Friday, July 14, 2017 – 1:00 p.m.** – Business meeting and lunch at the What's Cookin' Restaurant, 6007 South Ave., Boardman, Ohio. We will be finalizing plans for summer and fall activities. Following the meeting, we will visit the Valley Marketplace next to the restaurant for Amish dessert and shopping.

Sunday, July 30 – Tuesday, August 1 – Several members are joining a 3-day bus trip to Seneca Niagara to enjoy Niagara Falls and the casino. The bus will leave from Boardman, Ohio at 7:15 a.m. and make a passenger pick-up stop in Warren at 7:45 am. The cost is \$250 per person, double occupancy at Seneca Niagara hotel with \$165 bonus given to each person for slot money and food vouchers. The bus will also stop at Seneca Allegany on the return trip. If others are interested in going on the trip, they should contact Carnation, U.S. Coach Tours at 877-202-4169.

Friday, August 11, 2017 – Noon until Sunset - Picnic, Swimming, Games, Fishing, and Pontoon Boat Ride at Guilford Lake State Park in Lisbon, Ohio. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be cooked on site. Each family is asked to bring a side dish to share. We have rented a pavilion but

there is no electricity so don't bring something that needs to be heated. If you bring something that needs to be kept cold, you must bring it in a cooler with ice. Also, each family must bring their own table settings (plates, napkins, silverware) and their own beverage (no alcohol). Please RSVP to Laurie Fox 330-536-8850 by August 5th.

Wednesday, August 30 – Monday, September 4, 2017

Make plans to meet at the Fox Campsite during Mahoning County's Canfield Fair for refreshments and a break from walking around the Fairgrounds. We'll have a Scavenger Hunt ready for each day during the Fair to give everyone an opportunity to participate on a day they are able to attend the Fair.

Sunday, October 8, 2017 – 4:00 -6:00 pm

Halloween Hayride, Corn Maze, Pumpkin Decorating, Refreshments, Games at Countryside Farm, Lowellville, Ohio. This activity is free for NSS members. There will be an \$8.00 charge for non-members. Please RSVP to Laurie Fox 330-536-8850 by October 5th.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 – 1:00 pm

– Business meeting and lunch at Kravitz Cafe located in the Davis Education & Visitor Center at Mill Creek Park Fellows Riverside Garden. We will be finalizing plans for the Christmas Party and preparing for 2018 activities. Following the meeting we will have an opportunity to tour the Gardens and enjoy the fall flowers.

Saturday, December 16, 2017 – 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

- Christmas Party at the Elton Beard Cabin in Boardman Park near Kids' Town, Boardman, Ohio. This is a new building for holding our Christmas Party and is about half the size we've had in the past. Therefore, we regret that we need to limit attendance to members and their immediate family (immediate family is parents/guardian of youth members and minor children of adult members). Santa will be at the party with a gift for each youth in attendance – please RSVP to Laurie Fox by December 5th. Additional details about the Christmas Party will be announced in the Fall.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737 North Huntingdon, PA

Our next meeting will be held on August 20, 2017 at Noon preceding the District 5 picnic at Cedar Creek Park.

NOTICE: This year it will be at the Activity Center and Pavilion 19.

All assembly business will be discussed at this time. Come to the meeting and enjoy the picnic afterward.

Carol J Godor
Treasurer



Assemblies L102 and RO59



Our assembly did a Join Hands Day with our local post office for "Stamp out Hunger". We unloaded food collected by the mail carriers, separated and reboxed everything and sent it to local food banks. The food banks are always appreciative for anything they receive because there are so many families in need.

Also, mark your calendars for an upcoming event for Assembly L102 and RO59. Our summer picnic will be held on August 13th at the Wesnak house at 2:00pm. Everyone is welcome!!

Assembly 813 News

On May 6th members of Assembly 813, Englewood, FL participated with the USPS Letter Carriers' Stamp out Hunger annual food drive. At the Englewood Bible Church the work went very smoothly because joining in for the first time were Key Club members from Sarasota, Port Charlotte, Englewood and North Port schools. Those young people were very efficient, giving the older folks

from St. Raphael Church, St. David's Church, the Englewood Bible Church and the NSS a little time to relax. The total weight of the food donated was not available when this was written, but Louis Carbone, head of the effort, guessed it was probably more than last year. Other Assembly members participated in their own local food drives.

The Spring Social was held on May 20th at The Thirsty Pig. The weather was wonderful and we had a number of guests join us for lunch and games.



Assembly 813 recognized graduating high school seniors Joseph Arnold and Caly Farrell, who

were in attendance, and Grace Holker who was unable to attend. They will be heading off to college this fall and we wish them all great success.

An officers' meeting was held on May 22nd to set plans for the future. St. David's Episcopal Church, through its Back Pack Ministry, was chosen as the program for our National Project. The Back Pack Program provides nutritious weekend meals for low income families who attend Englewood Elementary School. Kid friendly food is purchased from All Faiths Food Bank and delivered on Fridays to ensure no child goes hungry over the weekend. Mary Jo Holker will be working with Pat Knox of St. David's Jubilee Center Outreach Ministry. They will meet in late July to get the program started shortly after school is back in session. We will also be conducting a fund raiser for the Northview High School cross country team in late September at Porktoberque under the direction of Kerry Farrell. We will again participate in the Brown Bag Program for needy seniors and Toys for Tots in early December. More information on those projects later.

The next social event for members will be **August 13th** at Adventure Golf. Please try to attend. Fun and food will be available for all. Please call Mary Jo Holker at 941-473-0559 for more information on any of these events and projects.

Mary Jo Holker, Secretary

Four Generations on Memorial Day



NSS Home Office employee, Jill Grover, District President for Allegheny Co., American Legion Auxiliary with her father, WW II Navy Veteran, Peter Longstreth, husband, Lyle Grover, Legion Commander Post 171, son US Army Reservist and OEF veteran Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Ghaly and grandson Jackson Ghaly participated in their community's Memorial Day Services in Oakdale.

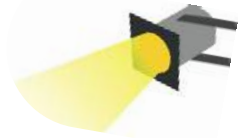
**87th Annual
Slovak-American Day
July 30th, 2017
Croatian Park
9140 South 76th Street,
Franklin, WI
Park opens at 11:00 am - Free Admission**

Congratulations to Jared Leins



Jared Leins of Assembly 123 will be joining the Naval Academy in the fall. He is pictured with his mother and father, Bethany and Larry Leins. He is the grandson of Bill and Susan Knoll.

Spotlight On Linda Buono Member Services Assistant



Hello, in the office, I am known as Little Linda. I have been with NSS Life since September, 2013. I started out as a temporary employee for 1 month but to my surprise I became a permanent fulltime employee in December, 2014.

I work in the Claims Department. Some of the duties I perform are preparing the paperwork for cash withdrawals, cash surrender, death claims, and transfers. In the office, I am known as the one who coordinates most of the themed lunches and fun work activities. I have been married for 34 wonderful years to my husband Patrick, and we have 2 sons Patrick and Jeremy, they are both Eagle Scouts and graduates from CALU. On my down time I enjoy going camping, kayaking, watching the Washington Wild Things and playing cards with my family.

Assembly 586

Great news from three of our PVR Scholarship recipients!

Adam Cielinski recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of Kentucky, Lexington. He has accepted a summer internship at PriceWaterhouseCooper's Chicago, IL. office before he returns to U of K in the fall to complete his Master of Science in Accounting Degree as well as completing the CPA exam.



Adam & Avery Cielinski with their giant bronze Wildcat

His sister, Avery Cielinski, completed her freshman year as a pre-nursing student, making the Dean's List both semesters. She applied and was accepted to the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, an exceptional honor as only 200 students per year are accepted into the program.



Tyler Christensen with Logan, her new Corgi puppy

Tyler Christensen, University of Iowa, has again pulled straight A's as she has every semester of college. She will graduate early with a double major in December. Tyler's sister Alisa has just graduated from Bartlett High School with honors. But we won't brag about her unbelievable stats until she hears her own news about the NSS PVR scholarship!

Finally, we have good and bad news about scheduling our next activity. In the last issue we said we would plan for a baseball outing to the Joliet Slammers to cheer on our 586 member Sam Tidaback at his job behind the plate. First, the bad news is that Sam is not with that team anymore; the good news is that he has signed with the Colorado Rockies and is now playing in their system. Congrats again, Sam!

Happy Independence Day to all and God Bless America!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

July, 1889

"Lodge No. 4" of Garfield, Ohio, was founded on July 28, 1889, as the "First National Slovak Benefit Society of Cleveland, Ohio," and became NSS Assembly 4, with the founding of the National Slovak Society at the Society's first convention on February 16, 1890.

July, 1976

A Special Meeting of the Supreme Assembly was held to discuss the Canadian Situation Status Report. The small Canadian membership of the National Slovak Society had become an issue for the Society due to increasing regulatory concerns and cost. The Society was investigating transferring the members to another fraternal benefit society with membership in Canada.

July, 2006

The 34th Quadrennial Convention convened in Williamsburg, Virginia, with 231 delegates present. A total of fourteen delegates ran for the eight National Director positions. A total of six ballots were needed to fill the eight vacancies.

July, 2012

The National Slovak Society and the First Catholic Slovak Union held a Joint National Golf Tournament at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, Pennsylvania.

2017 Youth Achievement Winner Josie Applegarth



Josie Applegarth, a member of Assembly 731, is the 2017 NSS Youth Achievement Award winner. As a member of Assembly 731, Josie has been active for several years attending events and meetings. Over the years, Josie has grown from being an attendee to a helper. She has been one of Santa's elves at the Christmas parties, has led the younger children during scavenger hunts, helped with Easter egg hunts, and also Join Hands Day activities. She is a wonderful role model to the younger children in her assembly.

Josie is a senior at Springfield High School in New Springfield, Oh, where she maintains a 3.75 GPA. She was inducted into the high school's Academic Hall of Fame, the National Honors Society, and received an academic letter each year of high school. Her peers and teachers voted her Prom Queen and Homecoming attendant. Josie plans to attend Youngstown State University and is considering a career in the medical field.

Josie's extra-curricular activities include Spanish Club, Science Club, Ski Club, Junior Achievement, Prom Committee and Float Committee. Josie is on the basketball team and is a pitcher and co-captain for the varsity softball team. During her senior year, Josie has helped with Junior Olympics, she tutors students and helps teachers at the Springfield local elementary school.

Josie's good spirit and acts of kindness go beyond her school and the Assembly and into the community where she lives. She has served food at a soup kitchen at St. Paul's Catholic Church and helped serve breakfast to families during Santa's visit at St. Paul's. Josie has participated in the community street cleanup and local food drives. She helped set up the Salvation Army Angel Tree and distributed Angel Tree cards at Springfield High School.

Josie is the daughter of Laurie and Tod Applegarth. She has a younger sister, Marlie and a younger brother Tod. Josie is truly an inspiring young lady who is dedicated to her family, school, community and NSS Assembly. We are proud to announce *Josie Applegarth as the 2017 NSS Youth Achievement winner.*

Assembly 123 Members Fraternal Night Out



Members of Assembly 123 using their Houdiniesque skill with one minute to spare successfully escaped the Deception Room.



Members of Assembly 123 at Heirloom Restaurant in Beaver before their evening at the theater.

94th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood

The 94th annual American Slovak Day will be celebrated on Thursday, July 20, at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh. The Slovak kitchen opens at 12:30 p.m.

The program at Main Pavilion #5 includes the following:

- 12:30 p.m. Children's games and treats
- 2:00 p.m. Children's folk dance performances
- 4:00 p.m. Eucharistic Celebration
- 5:00 p.m. Slovak folk entertainment by the "PAS" Ensemble and the "Pittsburgh Slovaksians"

Everyone over age 3 **MUST** have a ticket to enter the park, whether you ride or not.

The ticket prices for this year are as follows:

UNDER age 55;	\$26
55 -69:	\$15
SUPER SENIOR 70+:	\$11

They are good any week-**DAY** until September 17, 2017. However, on a week**END** or Holiday, you will have to pay an additional charge at the gate.

All tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets can or will be left for pick up at the park.

Tickets may be ordered by sending a check made payable and mailed to:

**W. PA Slovak Day Assoc.
234 ILION St.
Pgh., PA 15207**

For more information, contact Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com or (412) 421-1204.

NSS Region 5 (Pittsburgh) is offering free tickets to YFC members (age 16 and younger). Contact Pam Blum at the Home Office for details.



Girl Scouts visit the NSS Heritage Museum

Recently Girl Scout Troop 16241 of the South Hills visited the NSS Heritage Museum. The girls were first given a tour of the museum, which included various handouts such as important facts about Slovakia, Slovak Hockey players in the NHL and other cultural information. Then they had the opportunity to make a traditional Slovak paper cutting. A craft which is found in numerous cultures that is still practiced today. Next, they participated in making "čeregi" or "dough knots" as they are sometimes called. Of course the best part was tasting the treats!

The troop leader Mrs. Cheryl Maher said that the afternoon was "amazing" and certainly helped fulfill her goal of having the scouts learn about different cultures.



To arrange a group program as described above please visit the NSS Life website .



Júl

Júl je najteplejší a často i najbúrlivejší mesiac aj v ovocnej záhrade. Spája sa s vrcholom letného obdobia.

Leto — čas nového chleba

Leto a skorá jeseň sa niesli v znamení roľníckych prác, predovšetkým žatvy. Žatevné práce sa jednotlivých oblastiach Slovenska začínali v rozličných termínoch, ale už na sviatok svätej Margity (13.júla) sa vravievalo “Svätá Margita vodí žencov do žita” a všeobecne v júli vraj “Prepelica volá žencov do žita”.

Naši predkovia chápali žatvu ako jednu z najväznejších udalostí hospodárskeho roka, takže všetky žatevné práce sa celkom prirodzene začínali modlitbou, prosbou a Božiu pomoc a požehnanie ich doterajšieho úsilia: Buď pochválen Pán Boh náš, že pomáha-haš v tento čas žitko zožať, poviazať, do stodoly pozvážať.” Dobre bolo, keď si gazda v nedeľu pred žatvou vyšiel do poľa a mohol si povedať: “Pšenica, že by sa koleso mohlo o ňu oprieť”.



Golfovy Turnaj

Naša organizácia v tento mesiac pripravuje Golfový turnaj od 15 júla do 17 júla.

Podrobnejšie info nájdete v Anglickej časti, alebo na webovej stránke www.NSSLIFE.org



Júl – Krásny mesiac v roku – leto – kedy sa začína žatva v poľnohospodárstve -. Staré porekadlo hovorí: “že na chleba ťažko robiť treba.”

Výraznejšie dni v Júli

1. Júla — Deti na slovensku začínajú letnú dovolenku—prázdniny.
3. Júl – Na slovensku v známej Levoči na víšku sa koná veľký odpust na ktorý putujú peši i dnes ľudia zo Slovenských dedín až 40-50 km. Tento odpust návštevuje približne 300 až 500-600 tisíc pútnikov.
4. Júl – Deň Americkej samostatnosti.
5. Júl – Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda na slovensku je to Kresťanský Sviatok a tiež i Štátny Sviatok.

Slovenský deň v Kennywood Parku

Oznamujeme Slovákom a Slovenkám v PGH, a okolí, že 94 Slovenský deň západnej PA bude vo štvrtok 20 júla v zábavnom parku Kennywood.

Program Slovenského dňa sa začne od pol jednej budú detské hry, o druhej vystúpia folklórom tí najmenší. Sv. Omša bude po anglicky o 4-tej po poludní a po bohoslužbe vystúpia folklórne súbory Pgh Slovákov a PAS.

Po celú poobede budú podávať chutné Slovenské jedlá.

Vstúpenky do parku môžete si ich zaobstarat' od Sue Ondrejco po telephone na čísle 412 421-1204.

Príslovie

Prelom týchto dní (25. a 26. júl) sa považoval za predel medzi letom a jeseňou, čo vyjadrovala pranostika Sväta Anna, chladná zrána. Jakubom sa končí pravé leto, Annou sa začína babie leto, ktoré postupne prechádza do jesene.



Mesiac júl čas prázdnin a dovolenky. Prajeme aj Vám dobrého zotavenia sa z každodennej práce a námahy. Pijte vodu tá je najzdravšia.

SPOZNÁŠ SLOVENSKÉ MESTÁ PODĽA JEDINEJ INDÍCIE?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.Rodisko Eudovíta Štúra
Dobrá voda
Uhrovec
Zlaté Moravce | 3. Sídlo Štátnej mincovne
Banská Bystrica
Zvolen
Kremnica |
| 2.Najvýchodnejšia gotická katedrála v Európe
Košice
Nová Polhora
Dargov | 4. Jediný gejzír na Slovensku
Herľany
Michalovce
Prešov |

Odpoveď: 1. Uhrovec; 2. Košice; 3. Kremnica; 4. Herľany



Youth Circle Page

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

PVR Scholarship Renewal Applicant Continuation Rules

Students must submit verification of continuing education enrollment from attending school by submitting a transcript of their grades indicating you have maintained a 3.0 GPA, to the NSS Scholarship Department at the conclusion of EACH school year before they will be considered eligible to receive payment for a second, third, or fourth year grant. These transcripts must be received by **JULY 15TH. NO EXCEPTIONS, THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.** Do not rely on parents, friends, or your agent to get your information in. If your paperwork is not in the home office by the deadline you will not receive a check!

If you are transferring to another school, you **MUST** notify the NSS Home Office **IN WRITING** by sending in an acceptance letter to prove you will be attending a new school full time, by **JULY 15TH, BEFORE** checks are issued. No renewal checks will be issued after September 15th of each year for any reason.

Junior Pittsburgh Slovakians

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

2017 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

Deadline: August 15th, 2017

This is a great opportunity for parents and assembly officers to encourage our youth to utilize their thinking caps, sharpen those pencils and put those poetic thoughts on paper. The poetry submitted should display an honest and true effort of creativity and unique artistic vision. The rules are as follows:

1. Contest is open to all NSS Youth members ages 5 to 16.
2. Poem may be any length up to two pages double spaced.
3. Topic is chosen by individual.
4. Each poem submitted **MUST** be an original work created by the member and should be typed or hand written clearly.
5. All entries must include: name, address, phone number, age, assembly/circle number, along with your t-shirt size chosen by the following sizes available:
 - Youth Sizes - YS and YM
 - Adult Sizes - AS, AM, AL and AXL
6. Winners in each category will have their poetry printed in the National News, and on the NSS Website.
7. Contest shall be judged under the following ages:
 - Keats - Ages 5, 6, 7
 - Angelou - Ages 8, 9, 10
 - Frost - Ages 11, 12, 13
 - Shakespeare - Ages 14, 15, 16
8. Prizes awarded in each level shall be as follows:
 - First Place- \$50.00 & Certificate of Achievement
 - Second Place- \$25.00 & Certificate of Achievement
 - Third Place- \$15.00 & Certificate of Achievement
9. Deadline for entries to the Home Office is August 15th. Entries must be mailed or delivered to:
 - National Slovak Society
 - c/o Fraternal Department
 - 351 Valley Brook Road
 - McMurray, PA 15317
10. Entries will be judged by an outside professional. Decisions made by the judge will be final in all cases.
11. The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all the poems.

Please contact Fraternal Activities Coordinator Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org or call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 if you have any questions.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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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.

