



NSS Life.

Family Matters...

Youth Achievement &
Fraternalist of the Year
Award nomination
forms inside:
Pages 9-10



Discover your "Pot of Gold" with an NSS Life Annuity!

Národné Noviny

PVR Scholarship Program first year applications due May 1st, 2016
Now available for purchase "The National Slovak Society History: Volume II": See page 15

The
National Slovak Society



NSS Life.
Family Matters...

History: Volume II
1990 - 2015

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NATIONAL NEWS

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National Slovak Society

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Olga Kasnot, *President*

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

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Activities At A Glance

REGION 2	Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617 No activities at this time
REGION 5 March 5 March 6 March 6 March 16 March 20 March 22 April 25 May 7 June 19 July 17 September 19 November 21 December 4	Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774 Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor residence, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm Region 5, Meeting, Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0123, Pizza/Bingo Event, Heinz Veterans Hospital, Aspinwall, PA at 7:00 pm Assembly 0377, Meeting, Grand China Buffet, Washington, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0123, Volunteers-World Vision Warehouse, Sewickley, PA at 9:30 am Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0039, Volunteers-Main Post Office (loading dock) Uniontown, PA at 10:00 am Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Q, Knights of Columbus Hall at 1:00 pm Assembly 0039, Tony Bartock Golf Outing, Springdale Golf Club Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall at 2:00 pm
REGION 7 December 17	Assemblies P09A, 0731 Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH at 2:00 pm
REGION 8 March 30 April 10 May 15	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595 Assembly 0004, Scotch Doubles Tournament, Yorktown Lanes at 3:30 pm Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15 pm Assembly 0004, Meeting, Havir residence, Westlake, OH at 2:00 p.m.
REGION 14	Assemblies R059, L102 No activities at this time
REGION 15	Assemblies L002, 0028 No activities at this time
AT LARGE January-March March 13 March 20 April 8-9 April 10 May 14 June 24-26	Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813 Assembly 0813, Make Every Can Count Project, Habitat for Humanity Assembly 0586, Meeting/Dinner, Bohemian Garden Restaurant, Downers Grove at 2:00 pm Assembly 0568, Slovak Mass, Pope John Paul II Polish Center at 1:00 pm Assembly 0813, Tri-State BBQ Festival Assembly 0110, Meeting, Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY Assembly 0813, Join Hands Day Project (Stamp out Hunger) Assembly 0110, Villa Roma Resort Weekend, Callicoon, NY

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Greetings from the the Home Office where today; Ground Hog Day, the temperature in the Pittsburgh area is forecast to be in the mid 50's. I'm sure Mother Nature is playing a game with us and winter will be back soon.

This month starts off with the celebration of Slovak Day on March 5th at the Slovak Gardens in Winter Park Florida. It is a day of good food, entertainment and camaraderie, so if you are in the Orlando Florida area in early March, plan to attend this fun event. The Annual Meeting of the Garden members will be held the following day.

On Saturday March 13th, don't forget to turn your clocks forward in observance of the start of Daylight Saving Time. I always remember what to do with the clocks by the saying "Spring forward and Fall back".

Easter comes early this year, falling on March 27th. On behalf of my entire family, the Board of Directors, and the Home Office Staff, I would like to wish each of you a most blessed Easter. The offices will be closed on Good Friday, March 25th and Easter Monday, March 28th in observance of the Easter holiday.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday to Carole Koches, Kelsey Marshall, Peter Longstreth and Home Office Staff member Lori Korte, and to anyone celebrating a birthday in March.

Best wishes for a speedy and full recovery go out to National Director Drew Wesnak, Peter Longstreth, and Lyle Grover, who have recently had some health issues.

Frequently Asked Questions About The NSS

(continued from previous issue)

Q: Can I participate in any NSS assembly or region event?

A: Yes, as long as you are a member of the National Slovak Society, you can participate in any activity or meeting that any other assembly or region may be holding. Regarding our National bowling and golf outings, you may bring a non-member one time, after which they will have had such a great time that they will want to join the NSS so they can participate in future events.

Q: What is an Assembly?

A: An assembly is a group of NSS members from a designated area that holds meetings, elects officers, conducts social activities and sporting events as well as provides charitable support to the community. Without our assemblies, the NSS would not be considered a fraternal benefit society.

Q: What is a Region?

A: A region is a group of NSS assemblies from a designated area that holds meetings, elects officers, conducts social activities and sporting events as well as providing charitable support to the community.

Hopefully over the past few issues, this series has answered some of the questions you may have about the society but never asked.

Punography Of The Month:

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

Prince of Peace Parish

Prince of Peace Parish will host the Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on Saturday, March 19, 2016, at St. Adalbert Church, South 15th Street, on Pittsburgh's South Side. Come share in the celebration of the rich Slovak religious culture and traditional Easter customs. The day begins at 10:45 a.m. with recitation of the rosary, followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. After Mass, everyone is invited to the Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) for a complementary Slovak Easter breakfast and the opportunity to experience a bit of Slovakia at Easter-time. Sample delicious traditional foods enjoyed in a typical Slovak village on Easter morning: paska (sweet bread), sunka (ham), kolbasy (sausage) sirek (cheese), hrin (beets and horseradish) and kolace (nut and poppyseed rolls). Browse authentic Slovak treasures -- books, crystal, linens, dolls, pottery and costumes and learn a bit of the history, daily life and customs of our Slovak ancestors. Watch various craftpersons demonstrate their art, including dying colorful Easter eggs (pysanky), spinning thread, weaving palms or stuffing kolbasy. Shop the Slovak Bale Sale for homemade nut and poppy seed rolls, paska and cookies.

A basket filled with Slovak delights will be raffled, and a "Slovak Auction" is also planned. Selected imported gifts of Slovakia will also be available for sale. **ADMISSION IS FREE**, but donations are very much appreciated. To make a donation or request further information, please call Connie Zatek at (412) 657-6364.



Tax Deadline Fast Approaching



It's that time of year and we are a little over one month from the tax filing deadline which is also the deadline for making contributions to an IRA for the 2015 tax year. If you haven't made your 2015 contribution, now is the time.

Also, to maximize the power of compounding, it's a good idea to make the 2016 contribution early to help enhance your IRA's accumulation potential.

NSS Office Staff - Who's Who.....

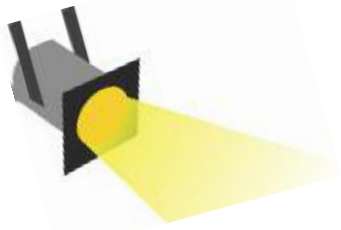


Seated L-R: Ginny McMurdy, Linda Strom, Tracey Bastaroli, Jill Grover, Pam Blum, Linda Buono, and Kristen Boehm. Standing: L-R: Ryan Strom, Joe Elliott, Brigid Delien, Rick Toth, Pat Glaser, Patti Kropf, Lisa Shriver, David Blazek, Donna Tenney, Amanda Felton, Lori Korte, Greg Felton, Cindi Salat, Eric Riepole, Janine Hannan, and Lori Crowley.



Spotlight On Cynthia "Cyndi" Salat

Underwriter/Sales –



I have had the opportunity to work with NSS Life for approximately 15+ years. As part of the sales department, my primary function is reviewing and underwriting life insurance applications for consideration of an offer of insurance. I'm also a licensed sales agent, authorized to sell life insurance and annuities. During my time at NSS, I have worked with awesome members and agents which have made my time here gratifying.

I have a wonderful husband, 2 beautiful daughters and 5 lovable grandchildren. I enjoy my Friday night visits with friends, Ray and Ruth Ann, and periodic visits with Garry and Debi – all members of NSS. Examples of true fraternalism in my life has come from two special people – Dick and Frances; they are always doing what they can to help others.

When I have time off, I look forward to going to Lancaster, PA, eating at Shady Maple Smorgasbord and going to Sight and Sound Theatre to see a play.

Important to me is my good health, my faith, my family and my friends.

Things You Should Notify NSS About

1. Change of address and phone number.
2. Change of name if you get married or divorced.
3. Beneficiary change if one of your named beneficiaries has passed.
4. Any change in Banking information if you receive payments or make automatic payments.
5. The addition of a named POA (Power of Attorney).



Top 5 Reasons To Have An Annuity With NSS

- Strong current interest rates (as high as 3.5% interest)
- Tax-deferred** interest (no taxes due until money is withdrawn)
- A **lifetime** minimum guarantee of 2.0% (on the Preferred 5 & 8)
- No** sales charges, fees or annual expense costs
- Flexibility and the option to receive **lifetime** payments

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

Semi-annual annuity statements will no longer be sent in July of each year. We will now send an annual statement inJanuary..... only. You may access your account values 24/7 by going to the website: www.nsslife.org and log in/register as a member.

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



Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA

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

Current Interest Rates

Effective January 1, 2013

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

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

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

Did you know....

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

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

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



Retirement Planning

Lately, there has been a lot of articles about retirement planning. Probably because there are more than 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day. This trend is supposed to continue for at least another ten years or more as the boomer generation transitions from working years to retirement.

Statistics tell us that most people when they retire want to stay where they are and in their own home. But for some of you that think you would like to retire to a warmer climate or a golf community here is some information for you to consider.

The following states have no state income tax so you may save some money here: Alaska, Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Nevada, Wyoming and Washington.

These states have no sales tax so you may save money here too: Alabama, Delaware, New Hampshire, Montana and Oregon.

These are the states with the lowest property taxes: Alabama, Delaware, Hawaii, Louisiana, West Virginia & Wyoming.

Only four states impose an inheritance tax and they are: Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska and Pennsylvania.

These are the states with the healthiest people: Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota and Utah.

So if you were planning on moving somewhere these are the states that would cost you the most money when all things are considered. This includes cost of living, real estate taxes, home prices, sales taxes, etc.: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey and New York.

Armed with all of this information you might ask, what is the best place to retire to? Some of the great overall retirement states include: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. Some make this list because of their warm cli-

mate; Arizona and Florida. Some are winter wonderlands such as Colorado, Idaho and Utah. Some are just nice temperate places like Iowa and Virginia. No matter what you decide the important factor is your happiness. Of course health and family considerations play a big part in any decision. May your retirement years be long, healthy and happy.

Thought for the Month

*May your troubles be less,
May your blessings be more.
And may nothing but happiness
come through your door.*

Slovak proverb

2015 4th Quarter Leaders

Congratulations to our 2015 4th quarter leaders. Both share some interesting points. They are both perennial leaders and have been in the magazine before. Both qualified for our Punta Cana leader's trip, both are MDRT members and both gentlemen are from the great state of Ohio.



Our **TOP PREMIUM** producer is Howard C. Bluhm of Maumee, OH. Howard has been in the insurance profession for 38 years and is a 37 year member of the million dollar Round Table. Howard has been married for 39 years to his college sweetheart Karen. They have been blessed with 2 children, Brian and Andrea; a daughter-in-law Betsy, a son-in-law Matt and 2 grandchildren. To contact Howard, please call his office at 419-893-2233 or email him at hcbluhm@bex.net.

Our top **NEW MEMBER** producer is Scott Lunsford of Chillicothe, OH. Scott has been with NSS for years. His practice focuses on retiree's and pre-retiree's. Scott does 401(k) rollovers and quite a bit of final expense insurance. Scott can be reached at 740-779-0246 or email him at scottlunyard@hotmail.com



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)
- Contact the Medicare Department for assistance @ 1-800-488-1890**



Fraternal Matters...

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



Happy St. Patrick's Day

- Irish Blessing

*May your glass be ever full.
May the roof over your head
be always strong.
And may you be in heaven half
an hour before the devil knows
you're dead.*

Luck of the Irish

NSS Ambassadors Program

This is our personal invitation to you to join our community, demonstrate your skills to lead and help build the NSS Ambassadors Program. Check us out today!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NSS-Ambassadors-1729759350592285/>

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/nss_ambassadors/

Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/NSSAmbassadors>

Blog:
<http://nss-ambassadors-blog.tumblr.com/>

2016 Fraternalist of the Year and Youth Achievement Award

The deadline for submitting a nomination for these awards is **April 1st**. We are asking all Assemblies to nominate at least one deserving member. The nomination forms are on page 9 & 10 of this issue.

PVR Scholarship

Attention 2016 graduating seniors. NSS is accepting requests for applications for the PVR Scholarships. The scholarship is for \$500 per year for a total grant of \$2,000. Below are the guidelines that you must meet to in order to be eligible.

The student must be a member of the National Slovak Society (NSS) for a minimum of two (2) years prior to receiving a PVR Scholarship Grant. Membership will be verified by the Home Office.

The minimum amount of insurance required for eligibility is \$10,000.00 of PERMANENT life insurance or \$5,000.00 of annuity deposits. The insurance must be in force at time of application and be maintained throughout the scholarship period.

Please contact me, Pam Blum, at 724-731-0094 or email me at pblum@nsslife.org to see if you qualify. **Deadline for Applications is May 1, 2016**

Additional Scholarships Available

If you are a high school senior and reside in one of the following states please contact me for information regarding additional scholarship opportunities in your state; The New England States, Michigan, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

2016 United Slovak Fraternal Bowls Tournament:

This year's tournament will be held April 22-23, 2016 at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus OH. The deadline to register for bowling is **March 4th** and the deadline for hotel reservations is **March 22nd**. This is a really great weekend with lots of bowling, food & friends. Whether you're a serious bowler or not (I'm the not) come join us for a fun weekend!! If you have any questions please feel free to call Pam 724-731-0094.

2016 May Art Contest

The May Art Contest is right around the corner, so it's time to get out those art supplies and put on your creative hat. This year's Greeting Card Category is "Happy Father's Day". Make Dad a card and I will make sure it gets returned in time for Father's Day. The Poster Category is "What I Love about the United States of America". **The deadline for the contest is May 1st.**

2016 National Golf Tournament

This year we will be celebrating "50 Years of Golf". The National Golf Tournament will be held on July 15-17, 2016 at the Treasure Lake Golf Courses located in DuBois, PA. More information will be forthcoming but make sure to mark your calendars now so you "save the date". This is a great family destination with 9,000 acres, three lakes, beaches, playgrounds, indoor and outdoor pools and of course two beautiful golf courses. Visit their web site at treasurelakepoa.com and see for yourself.

NSS Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form



~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

The National Fraternal Congress of America, through their "Americas Promise" Program, has encouraged their member societies to increase their awareness of the contributions of youth to the fraternal benefit system. In response to that challenge, the National Assembly, in 1998, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" that is similar to our "Fraternalist of the Year Award" for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members 18 years of age and under.

RATIONALE:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these four (4) areas:

- a) At their school/work b) In their community c) In their church d) In their local assembly

NOMINATION:

Youth members can be nominated by any adult member of the NSS or through their local assembly. A document detailing the qualifications of the Youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Home Office. A Youth Member may be nominated each year up through and including their eighteenth (18th) birthday or until they are selected to receive this award. Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Forms".

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

AWARD:

The winning youth will receive \$500.00 and will be announced in the "National News", the "Youth Circle Magazine" and listed on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Youth Achievement Award". Their name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

JUDGING:

An independent judge, appointed by the National President, will review all nominations and make a determination of the winner. The National President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service to their school/work, community, church and local assembly. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in the above categories.

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING RECENT PHOTOGRAPH

The winner of the NSS "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

NSS Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form



~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

PURPOSE:

As a fraternal benefit society our mission calls us to "reach out to touch lives" in concern for those in need around us through our families, churches and communities. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the National Slovak Society that have gone that "extra mile" in volunteer fraternal service (i.e. meals on wheels, hospital work, visiting shut-ins, etc.). We encourage all assemblies to seek a worthy candidate from within your assembly and for the NSS membership to nominate a fellow member who is deserving of consideration for this award.

Those worthy of nomination are NSS members who have given of their time, talents and abilities in ways that would be designated as "extra-ordinary" Through their unselfish and tireless volunteer efforts those around them have benefited significantly. These people are those that rarely say "No!" and are always willing to lend a hand. We know that they are out there and you can find them for us.

The NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" Award is a fraternal program offered by the society for the benefit of our membership and the fraternal benefit system. You as members of the NSS are encouraged to seek a deserving nominee for the highest fraternal award offered by the NSS.

ELECTION PROCESS:

Any member of the National Slovak Society can nominate a fellow NSS member to be the "Fraternalist of the Year". Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Forms". Nominations can be made by any adult member of the NSS or through their local Assembly. This will allow more deserving members the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of others.

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

RECOGNITION:

The recipient will be announced in the "National News" and listed on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternalist of the Year", receive a congratulatory plaque and designate a charitable organization as benefactor of a \$500.00 donation. The Winner's name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office and will also have their name placed into nomination for the National Fraternal Congress of America "Fraternalist of the Year" Award.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Fraternalist of the Year" Award for touching the lives of those in need in their family, church and community. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Fraternalist of the Year" for going that "extra mile".

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winner of the NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

Matching Funds Project Assembly 432

Assembly 432's Tobogganing outing was a hit again this year! We had over 150 people for this event, which might be a record! We had people from as far as Florida at the Strongsville Chalet! Thank you all for joining us. We cannot wait to see you next year!



L-R: Ed and Carole Koches, John Karkosiak presenting Matching Funds checks from Assembly 70 and Region 8 to Cleveland Food Banks Jo Clemens.



Deck Hockey Champions

The "Assault" deck hockey team sponsored by Assembly 0039 has won another championship in the deck hockey league at the Hot Shots Recreation Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Congratulations guys!



Scenes from Assembly L102 Activities



Santa and his crew from L102 helping the Kiwanis Club of Emmaus celebrate Christmas.



Camelot House welcomed Santa and his family to their annual Christmas Party.



Santa, Mrs. Claus with Snowflake, Buddy, Sparky and Scooter, the elves helping to make dreams come true at the Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley's Christmas party.



Drew Wesnak and Mike Slivka from Region 14 unloading can goods that were collected and then delivered to The Allentown Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission feeds the homeless people of the Lehigh Valley and helps them to better themselves to find jobs and get back on their feet.

Region 14 Christmas Party



Members of Region 14 at the annual Holiday Party held at Drew and Sharon Wesnak's house.

Congratulations To Laura Poliziani



Senior Laura Poliziani was recognized during an assembly recently at Keystone Oaks High School for receiving the Allegheny Health Network Extra Effort

Award, presented by KDKA's sportscaster Bob Pompeani. The award recognizes students who excel in the classroom, in athletics, and in the community. A check in the amount of \$200.00 was also presented to the school's athletic fund in her honor.

Laura is the captain of both the Volleyball and Softball teams for the 2015-2016 season, a WPIAL all-section softball player, Senior Class Vice President, Vice President of NHS, and was a member of Keystone Oak's Homecoming Court this past fall. She currently maintains a 4.6 GPA for the year and has participated in community service for the Greentree Athletic Association and Camp Invention. She has been accepted to the University of Pittsburgh to study Pre-Dentistry for the 2016 fall semester. Laura is the daughter of Laura and Wayne Poliziani of Greentree and is a member of Assembly 434.

Assembly 0434 Member Helps To Save Life



Christopher Elish, Assembly 0434 and four other people received certificates of commendation from Canonsburg Borough Council for rescuing a

Canonsburg man who nearly drowned at Town Park Pool over the summer.

Christopher Elish and other lifeguards, and pool-goers rescued 36 year old Albert Johnson after he was found in the deep end of the pool July 31st. Elish, who was off duty that day, was swimming with a friend and during the 10-minute adult swim period they spotted Johnson at the bottom of the pool. Elish and a friend pulled Johnson from the water and carried him to the side of the pool, where they used a CPR mask.

After help from an emergency nurse and a respiratory therapist, who just happened to be there with their children, they began chest compressions until the ambulance arrived. "He was unconscious and definitely wasn't breathing when we got him out of the water," said Elish, a senior at Canon-Mac.

The group worked well together to save Johnson. He has fully recovered.

Former Director Caroline Kucan Passes

Caroline Kucan, age 98, of Uniontown, PA passed away Tuesday, December 29, 2015. Caroline was born on August 9, 1917 in Leckrone, PA. She was the daughter and fourth child of Paul and Caroline (Skapik) Kukan. She was an excellent student who skipped the third grade and was a graduate of German Township High School in McClellandtown, PA.

Her dream of becoming a school teacher went unfulfilled because of the Great Depression, but she had a lifelong dedication to education in all its forms. She worked at the Uniontown Hospital and in the medical field for over forty years. In semi-retirement she worked at the Hopwood Tourist Office and the County Green Thumb Program.

Among her many community services, she was active in the Southwestern PA Area Agency on Aging and Fayette County Community Action, whose Community Service Award was presented to her in 2005.

She was also a member of the National Slovak Society. She served on the Board of these organizations and others for many years. Caroline was also an excellent seamstress and quilter, and enjoyed her work with the Third Presbyterian Church Sewing Group.

Caroline is survived by her children, John P. Bederka, Ph.D., and Louise B. Hammer, Ph.D., along with their children Sabra Bederka, RN, Bryce Bederka, M.D. (wife Christina and daughters Audrey and Caroline), Alexander Bederka, Esq., Lydia Bederka, PhD. (husband Jason Dunn), Rebekah Maccaby (husband Ben and son John), and Owen Hammer (wife Tarry Kang). Her brother, Steve Kukan of Bedford, Ohio, survives her, as do her nieces and nephews. Her good friends, Betty Yelenick, RN, and Capt. Earl R. Riffle, USN (Ret.) as well as her friend and dedicated caregiver, Connie Williams also survive her. She was preceded in death by her parents and siblings: Irma Kukan, Paul Kukan, Jr., Ann Kukan Genduso, John Kukan and Helen Kukan Smith. Also preceding her in death were her son-in-law Prof. Darrell P. Hammer and her daughter-in-law Mary F. Bederka.

John R. Malik, Sr.



On January 24, 2016, John R. Malik, Sr., President of Assembly 110, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 71. John had been a longstanding member of Assembly 110. He

was the son of the late Joseph and Anna (Slovacek) Malik, who were both of Slovak descent. John lived most of his adult life in service to his country and his community. He served as a United States Marine and fought in the Vietnam War. Upon his return from his tour of duty he married Maryann (Hruska) Malik with whom he had two sons, John, Jr. and Richard. Brother John worked proudly as a Police Officer and later a Detective in the NYPD. He bravely responded to the aid of many during the 9/11 attacks in lower Manhattan. In addition, John found the time to support the active participation of his two sons in the East Meadow Fire Department where he obtained honorary status for his support. Many of us will never bear the weight of uniformed service and yet John wore two over the course of his life. It was a great honor to his family to see him receive formal tributes from both the NYPD Honor Guard at his funeral service and the US Marine Corps Honor Guard at his burial. These were elite and professional units providing him with the honorable send-off he greatly deserved.

After his retirement from the NYPD, John lived his last years in the more peaceful enjoyment of his family and grandchildren, Richard and Alianna, the two children of his son Richard and daughter-in-law Carolyn.

John had long served Assembly 110 as an officer and ascended to the presidency two years ago. He was honored to have the responsibility to represent our Assembly at the National Convention last year.

John will mostly be remembered for telling colorful stories of his various experiences from all phases of his life. His favorite pastimes were fishing, hunting and periodic trips to Atlantic City. He will be missed by all but he passes from this life having given so much of his own life to help and protect others. His service to all will be eternally appreciated. Rest in peace Brother John R. Malik, Sr.

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

January, 2016

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Angert, Donald	Indiana, PA	12/07/2015	0038
Beck, William	Rural Valley, PA	12/01/2015	0554
Bentz, Barbara	Leesport, PA	11/15/2015	L102
Bomberger, Frances	Pickerington, OH	11/23/2015	0595
Bosh, Helen	Charleroi, PA	12/29/2015	0377
Burkholder, Geraldine	McClellandtown, PA	01/11/2016	0039
Cogar, Helen	Davin, WV	11/28/2015	0774
Deller, Raymond	Pittsburgh, PA	11/03/2015	0100
Demshar, Marlene	Rock Springs, WY	01/09/2016	0774
Eyth, Bernard D	Carnegie, PA	01/07/2016	0434
Franklin, Josephine	Export, PA	10/17/2015	L105
Furin, George E	North Huntingdon, PA	12/24/2015	0434
Geyer, Alene	Butler, PA	01/11/2016	0123
Gray, Virginia B	Pittsburgh, PA	01/06/2016	0434
Grayson, Mary	Dravosburg, PA	11/01/2015	0441
Grove, Donna J	Johnstown, PA	11/24/2015	0038
Hager, Ann	Hamlin, WV	09/26/2015	0774
Heil, Flora M	Pittsburgh, PA	08/15/2015	0283
Jackson, Mary J	Hershey, PA	11/05/2015	R059
Jackson-Murray, Joe Ann	Akron, OH	10/07/2015	0731
Jenkins, Merle	Amity, PA	12/06/2015	0377
Kellmer, Claude	Nanticoke, PA	01/11/2016	0146
Kinge, Shirley	Decatur, GA	09/20/2015	0774
Kollar, Mary	Trenton, MI	05/13/1997	0381
Le Cureux, Louis	Cheboygan, MI	12/19/2015	0381
Lengyel, Elmer	Pittsburgh, PA	01/06/2016	0108
Madden, Mary	Westminster, CO	11/22/2015	0774
Mihelic, Stephen J	Landrum, SC	10/31/2015	0432
Miller, Rose S	McKeesport, PA	06/25/2015	0441
Minutella, Ann	Little Falls, NJ	07/16/2015	0110
Ondrus, Paul	Boiling Springs, SC	08/17/2011	0432
Papa, Santo	Monroeville, PA	10/10/2015	L105
Papaleo, Holly J	Oak Lawn, IL	11/25/2015	0586
Pucak, Donna	North Fort Meyers, FL	11/30/2015	0774
Refice, Arthur	Aliquippa, PA	11/18/2015	0123
Restano, Joseph	Verona, PA	12/29/2015	L105
Reynolds, Mary	Powhatan Point, OH	12/24/2015	0774
Richnafsky, Cynthia	Masontown, PA	03/06/2015	0039
Rochester, Sarah M	Monroeville, PA	07/26/2015	L105
Rome, Rita	St Petersburg, FL	09/09/2015	0813
Ross, Jane	Ashland, WI	12/31/2015	0774
Ruzomberka, Edward	Pittsburgh, PA	04/19/2015	0700
Saalbach, Betty P	Bethel Park, PA	11/24/2015	0434
Salyards, Carol	Plainville, CT	01/05/2016	L102
Schuster, Joseph	Lawrenceville, NJ	10/21/2014	0110
Seale, William	White Oak, PA	01/03/2016	0434
Semach, John	New Middletown, OH	12/28/2015	P09A
Sibiski, Dorothy	Little River, SC	12/10/2015	L002
Smith, Margaret	Midland, MI	12/03/2015	0381
Stana, John S	Easton, PA	01/08/2016	R059
Staszewski, Joan	Hamilton, NJ	10/28/2015	0774
Stricek, John S	Curwensville, PA	11/17/2015	0554
Strohl, Julia	Allentown, PA	12/01/2015	R059
Terrett, David	Long Grove, IL	01/14/2014	0813
Tury, Joseph	Warren, OH	01/06/2016	P09A
Verba, Evelyn	McKeesport, PA	12/13/2015	0108
Wharrey, Dorothy	Pittsburgh, PA	12/25/2015	0123
Williams, Robert	Cement City, MI	01/02/2016	0774
Workman, Virginia	Holden, WV	12/10/2015	0774

Being A Leader Has Nothing To Do With Age, But Everything To Do With Drive

An Introduction to the NSS Ambassadors Program

Depending on who you ask, the definition of what or who a leader is can vary. Growing up, we often look to the authoritative figures around us as leaders. But does being a leader really have anything to do with age? Definitely not.

With Millennials numbering 83.1 million and Generation Z (Post-Millennials) 60 million, we represent roughly 45 percent of the Nation's population. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's The Millennial Generation Research Review, popular opinion is that Millennials are more caring, community oriented, and politically engaged than previous generations. Similarly, Generation Z is part of a generation that is global, social, visual and technological. We also score higher on such traits as extroversion, self-esteem, self-liking, high expectations, and assertiveness.

Realizing this, the National Slovak Society (NSS) recently launched the NSS Ambassadors Program (ages 13 and above) and hopes to create a platform where youth members can prosper through peer-to-peer learning, fun activities, and exciting opportunities. NSS President and CEO, David G. Blazek explains:

Why was the NSS Ambassadors Program started?

The Board made the decision to start the program realizing that the future of the organization is dependent on having young people involved both as members with life and annuity policies and as volunteers for worthy causes in their communities.

What outcomes and objectives do you expect to achieve with the NSS Ambassadors Program?

We would like to make sure participants in the Program are made aware of what and who NSS Life is and all that we do that helps to make life better for organizations and people living in their community.

What do you want participants to get out of their involvement with the Program?

An increased knowledge of NSS Life, what we do, why we are in existence, and a connection with other youth of similar ages that are interested in giving forward for the benefit of them and their communities.

How did you get involved with NSS Life?

I have been a member since childhood as my parents purchased a life policy for me. But as for my involvement in serving the organization as a Director, Vice-President and President, I was actually recruited by my predecessor to get involved on the Board level.

How is the NSS Life mission important to you?

The mission is very important to me as I along with my fellow Board Members are the people that developed our Mission Statement which reads: "Providing our fraternal family members financial security via life and annuity products, while offering charitable, cultural, social and educational opportunities that benefit them and their communities." This statement is how I try to manage the company.

If there was a movie produced about your life, who would play you and why?

Tom Sellick because he is of Slovak and Scotch decent and he has a mustache.

If you were on an island and could only bring three things, what would you bring?

My wife, children and grandchildren because as our motto states "Family Matters."

If you could give one piece of advice to the NSS Ambassadors, what would it be?

When you were born, you cried and your family and their friends rejoiced; live your life so that when you die, you can rejoice and the people around you will cry.

What does Siri call you?

A few years ago, in addition to serving as President of the NSS, I was President or Chair of two or three other organizations at the same time so a good friend of mine gave me the nickname "Big Dog" which is the name Siri calls me. David G. Blazek is President and CEO of NSS Life and recently launched the NSS Ambassadors Program for youth members. You can check out our website, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, and like us on Facebook.

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations January, 2016

In Loving Memory of our nephew and Godson, Kevin Semelsbergen:	
From Honorary Director Ed Koches and wife Carole	100.00
In Memory of Helen Cirrioncione:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
In Memory of Margaret Knox:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
Donations:	
Assembly 0110	250.00
Bernadine F Brown	25.00
Randy & Sue Zaleski	75.00
Anonymous Donation	5.00




Memorial Tree Leaf Donations January, 2016

In Honor of my wife, Janet Nolder:	
From James Nolder	500.00



DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

Name: _____

Assembly: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

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

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

March, 1917

National Slovak Society member, Margaret Krsak, of Assembly #33, was named the Queen of a "great exposition" in San Francisco, California. President Woodrow Wilson met Margaret during the exposition and wrote to the NSS: "It gives me real pleasure to send through Miss M. A. Krsak my very warm greetings of a genuine admirer of the Slavonic people. I write this with my best wishes for Miss Krsak herself, whom it has been a pleasure to meet."

March, 1937

National Slovak Society President Nikolas Kovač died. He was elected President on May 1, 1934.

March, 1978

Negotiations for the acquisition of the building for the Home Office located at 2325 East Carson Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania were tentatively concluded.

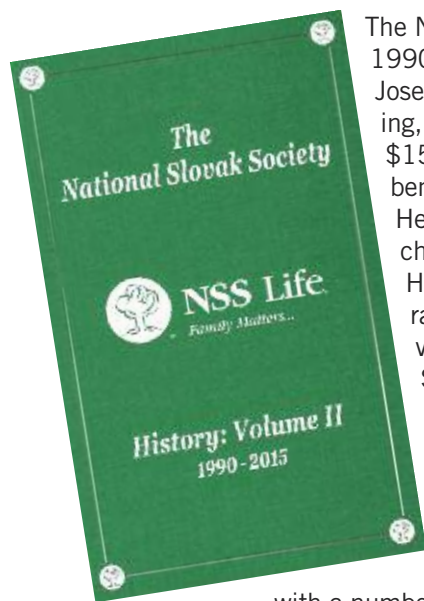
March, 1983

National Slovak Society President Joseph Stefka was honored as Fraternalist of the Year by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh at a banquet held in Munhall, Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh proclaimed March 14th as Slovak Independence Day at the request of the National Slovak Society. President Joseph Stefka and Secretary-Treasurer Paul Godor attended the signing of the proclamation at the Capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

NSS History - 1990-2015

By Joseph Stefka, Jr., Chairman of the Board



The National Slovak Society History: Volume II 1990 - 2015, authored by Chairman of the Board Joseph Stefka, Jr., and published by Slavia Printing, is currently available for sale, at a cost of \$15. The proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the PVR Scholarship Fund and the NSS Heritage Museum. To obtain a copy, send a check payable to "NSS" to Pam Blum at the Home Office, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337. The 203 page second volume of the history of the National Slovak Society is arranged chronologically, encompassing the first twenty-five years of Society's existence in its second century as a fraternal benefit society. Important events, member accomplishments, Society progress, and milestones in the history of the NSS are recorded in the volume, along with a number of photographs.

An excerpt from the conclusion of the National Slovak Society History: Volume II reads: "The National Slovak Society has for the past 125 years, provided a means of financial security for its members. From its humble beginnings in February, 1890, to the present day, the Society has not only endured, but has prospered. Change has been a constant over the history of the Society but has greatly accelerated in the past twenty-five years. However, the Society has remained vigilant in protecting the financial, fraternal, and heritage interests of its membership. This has not happened by chance. The Society has had the benefit of leadership throughout its history with foresight and dreams to place the National Slovak Society in the forefront of fraternal benefit societies across the nation."



*Visit our website at
www.nsslife.org
Have you Signed
Up A New
Member Recently?*

Appreciation Letter

Dear President Blazek:

I would like to sincerely thank you, the entire NSS Board of Directors and the family of Dr. John Gulash for selecting me as a recipient of the PVR Scholarship grant as well as the Dr. John Gulash Perpetual Award.

I have completed my first semester at the University of Vermont as a Neuroscience major and am pleased to report

that I have achieved the Dean's List. Additionally, as a Community Service Scholar at the University, I have been able to continue my commitment to volunteerism and community service within the Burlington, VT area.

Thank you once again for your generous financial support towards my higher education.

Matthew A Borges

Know your Slovak Easter Words:

Veľka noc - Easter

Veľkonočný pozdrav - Easter greetings

Kvetná nedeľa - Palm Sunday

Zelený štvrtok - Holy Thursday

Veľký piatok - Good Friday

Biela sobota - Holy Saturday

Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych - Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Šunka - ham

Kraslice - colored Easter eggs

Baranok - little lamb

Križ - cross

Paska - Easter bread

Syrek - Easter cheese

Klobasa - kolbassi

Chren - horseradish

Pôst - Lent

Svätená Voda - holy water

Svätenie košíkov - blessing of Easter baskets



Did you know...?



More than 1 billion Easter eggs are hunted in the United States each year in parks, back yards, and on the White House Lawn.

Americans spend 2 billion dollars on Easter candy, and eat 7.1 billion pounds of Easter candy each year!

Most children (74%) eat the ears of their chocolate bunny first. 13% eat the feet first, and 10% eat the tails first.

60 million chocolate bunnies are sold each Easter.

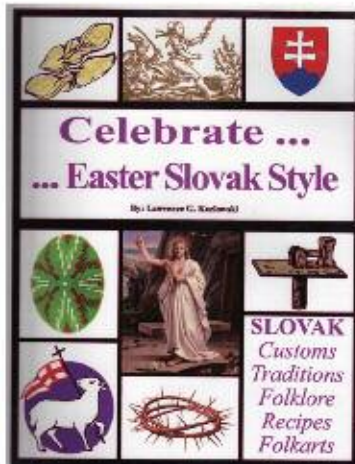
The most popular Easter candy is chocolate eggs.

After chocolate, the most popular Easter candy is marshmallow peeps. 600 million are sold each year!

The most favorite jellybean flavor is cherry (20%), followed by strawberry (12%), grape (10%), lime (7%), and blueberry (6%).

70% of kids, ages 6-11, say they prefer to eat Easter jellybeans one at a time, while 23% say they eat several at once. More boys (29%) eat a handful than girls (18%).

118 million Easter cards will be exchanged this year.



Easter Slovak Style:

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

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

Available as a book.

To Purchase items shown on this page,

Make checks payable to NSSHM
351 Valley Brook Rd.
McMurray, PA 15317

Egg - in - Wrap

Choose from



Slavic Pin Art



Old World Designs

Sleeve of 6: \$1.50

Sleeve of 12: \$3.00

1. Use large raw, hardboiled, blown, ceramic or plastic eggs.
2. Slide egg into egg wrap.
3. Place egg on spoon.
4. Dunk into boiling water until wrapper shrinks around egg.

Our Customs & Traditions

By Sue Ondrejco

One of the most solemn and ancient rituals observed by Slovaks the world over is the blessing of Easter foods. Early Sunday morning the girls and women prepare a basket of symbolic foods to be taken to church to be blessed and eaten to celebrate the great feast of Jesus Resurrection. Each basket is beautifully decorated and covered with a beautifully embroidered or crocheted cloth. A blessed candle is placed in the basket and lighted during the ceremony as a sign of "Christ the Light of the World"



A traditional Slovak Easter Basket also includes:

COLORED EGGS / MAĽOVANÉ VAJIČKA - Brightly colored and decorated the eggs are symbolic of Jesus Resurrection from the tomb on Easter Sunday; and of new life.

EASTER BREAD / PASKA - This sweet, rich yeast bread is symbolic of Jesus the Bread of Life. The bread is often ornamented with a cross of dough in the center surrounded by a circle of plaited dough symbolizing the crown of thorns.

PASTRIES / KOLAČE - Specially baked holiday butter and egg rich pastries filled with fruits and nuts symbolizing the many gifts from God and the sweetness of the resurrection.

SMOKED HAM, SAUSAGE AND BACON / ŠUNKA, KLOBASA, SLANINA - These meat products symbolize the sacrificial animals of the old testament and the sacrifice of Jesus. Ham was the most popular main dish meat because of its richness and symbolized the great joy and abundance of the Easter celebration. Spicy pork sausage with a garlic flavor is indicative of God's favor and generosity. A piece of smoked bacon cured with spices is added to remind us of God's overabundance of mercy toward us.

EASTER CHEESE / SYREK / HRUTKA - Made from milk and eggs and shaped into a ball this bland but sweet tasting cheese is to remind us that as Christians we should use moderation in all aspects of our lives.

HORSERADISH- CHREN - Represents the bitter herbs used by the Hebrews during their flight from Egypt, and the bitter herbs used during Jesus' final celebration of the Passover meal.

BUTTER / MASLO - Shaped into a lamb figure to remind us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

SALT / SOL - Salt is blessed because it is a fundamental seasoning and preservative necessary to sustain life. It is also symbolic of prosperity and justice, for it is Christ who sustains us to eternal life.

Of course regional differences both here in America and in Slovakia may dictate other various additions such as wine, vinegar, or veal. Remember, since all the foods are blessed none is to be wasted.



One of the most prized possessions of many with roots in the Slavic countries of Eastern Europe is the Easter basket cover. These covers usually have symbols related to the Resurrection and the celebration of Easter. In many families, the cover is passed from generation to generation. The most common element found on Easter basket covers is the cross, the symbol of the resurrection. Pussy willows, and other spring flowers, as well as kraslice are also used in the designs. Quite often, the cover will carry the message of the resurrection in the language of the owner. Embroidery is the most common method used for making these covers, because many become family heirlooms. The design variations are quite extensive, and seldom will you find two embroidered covers that are identical. Each cover makes a unique statement about the owner's heritage and beliefs. If you are lucky enough to have an Easter basket cover I hope you will use it to cover your basket and continue this special custom.

ASSEMBLY 004

Parma, OH

Bowling

Our 6th Annual Scotch Doubles Tournament will be held on March 30th at Yorktown Lanes at 3:30 p.m. This a fun event bowling 3 games switching partners. Practice will be allowed prior to the start of competition. After bowling, pizza, pop and coffee will be served and winners announced. Cost will be \$12.00 per bowler. The results will be published in the newsletter. Contact Bob or Bud Sir Louis, if you would like to bowl, at (440) 845-2616. Deadline for entries will be March 13th.

Bob SirLouis
Fraternal Director

Meeting

A meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, 2016 at the residence of Mildred Havir, 1744 Westhill Blvd., Westlake, OH. at 2:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Our response to the NSS National Project to feed the hungry will be to help the USPS letter carriers to collect food for the Fayette County Food Bank. Volunteers are asked to meet at the main post office, loading dock, in Uniontown at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 7th.

Attention youth members!! The NSS is starting a new youth program for members thirteen (13) years or older for the launch of a new Youth Leadership Program: #NSS LEAD. If you are interested, send your e-mail address to pblum@nsslife.org for more information.

Our Summer Free Bar-B-Q will be held on Sunday, June 19th at the Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion starting at 1:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, rigatoni, rolls, dessert and beverages will be served.

High school seniors! Now is the time to contact the Home Office about applying for the NSS Scholarship for the fall. All of the rules and regulations are on the NSS website: nsslife.org. Last year we had four members receive the \$2,000.00 scholarship. It helps pay for the books! Deadline is May 1st!!!!

Our "Join Hands Day Project" will be conducted jointly with the local Knights of Columbus Chapter 1275 at the Annual Tony Bartock Golf Outing. Springdale Golf Course will once again host the event on Sunday, July 17th. Profits from the event go to support Easter Seals, Fayette County Special Olympics and the local battered women's shelter.

Mall walkers or "Silver Sneakers" or anyone that walks for exercise; the NSS has a "Walking Program" that provides special gifts as well as "fraternal points" for our assembly. We have a number of assembly members that are participating. Contact Pam Blum in the Home Office to sign-up.

Check out the new NSS Life Anniversary Insurance Program that offers our 20-Pay Life and Single Premium Plans with face amounts depending on age.

For those that like to plan ahead: our annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 4th starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Fellowship Hall.

The next business meeting of the assembly will be on Sunday, March 6, 2016 at the Eat n' Park Restaurant Community Room, in Uniontown, at 6:00 p.m. Come join us for dinner.

May you and your family have a blessed and joyous Easter celebration!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 0070

Brooklyn, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 12:15 p.m. We will make plans for our picnic in June. Refreshments will be served.

Mary Ann Karkosiak
President

Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., must be received by the Home Office no later than the **5th of the preceding month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article in a timely manner. Our email address is: info@nsslife.org

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

A meeting will be held on April 10, 2016 at the Grande's Restaurant, Birney Ave., Rt. 11, Moosic, PA at 1:00 p.m. Plans will be discussed for Join Hands Day, Wilkes Barre V A day for bingo and a pizza party for our veterans, and the fraternal summer picnic to be held in the summer at the Mercatelli-Segelia Park, Birney Ave Moosic, PA. Members will bring a covered dish and a raffle basket and the officers will take care of the drinks, hotdog's and hamburgers.

The members made plans to hold their annual matching funds event for the Duryea Scouts by selling tickets and hosting the raffle at the Blue and Gold Banquet to be held on April 17, 2016 at the Dupont Hose Company Main St. Dupont, PA at 1:00 p.m. Cub Scouts will cross the bridge into the Boy Scout troop.

The Margaret Pilosi Scholarship Committee wants to remind any High School Senior who is a member of Assembly L075 and who will graduate this June is eligible to receive a scholarship. This one time yearly award of \$100 was established to honor the 1st woman President of a Fraternal Society and former member of our assembly, the late Mrs. Margaret Pilosi. To obtain the scholarship members must submit a written essay of 250-500 words chosen from the following categories: Fraternalism, Slovak Heritage, Civic Duties or Volunteerism. It must be double spaced, typed and contain a title page on a separate paper with your name, address, phone number, age, parents name, and college they will be attending in the fall. The committee will judge the essays on neatness, presentation, content and subject accurateness and the winner will be asked to read their essay at the summer meeting where the award will be presented by our President and Committee Members. Please submit our report by July 1, 2016 to: Lehrae Ann Edwards 65 Chittenden St. Duryea, PA 18642-1006. For more information contact Lehrae at 570-457-8402.

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0110

New York, NY

A meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th at Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY. Mark your calendars for our Villa Roma Resort Weekend in Callicoon, New York on June 24-26, 2016. Anyone interested, please contact Maryann Malik at 516-794-9014 for further information.

Rick DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

As we get ready to welcome spring, let me offer you a few opportunities to do some volunteering. On Wednesday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. our assembly will host a Pizza and Bingo event at Heinz Veterans Hospital in Aspinwall. If you would like to join us call Jill Grover at 412-638-7060 for details. On Tuesday, March 22nd at 9:30 a.m. we are scheduled to volunteer for two hours at the World Vision warehouse in Sewickley. Afterward we will have lunch and have a short business meeting. If you would like to join us (we can use your help), call Joan Smith at 412-778-0431.

Speaking of volunteering, Judy Landa, one of our most faithful members is in need of help at the Bake Sale during Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on Thursday July 14th. This would entail at most two or three hours of your time. Your admission to the park and dinner ticket would be paid by the assembly. If you would like to help give Judy a call at 412-322-5168.

The NSS Bowling Tournament is April 22nd and 23rd in Columbus, Ohio. The NSS Golf Tournament is July 15th - 17th at Treasure Lake in Dubois, PA.

If any of our members are planning on participating give me a call at 724-242-5085. Our assembly will help subsidize your fee.

For the last few issues you haven't seen Mary Maniecki, our activity Director's name as the contact person for our various activities. The reason is Mary has been very devoted physically and emotionally taking care of her husband Stan, who has been waging a courageous battle against cancer. This has put a great strain on Mary, as you can

imagine. But, Mary continued to be strong and positive even as Stan continued to weaken. Stan passed away on January 30th. We will miss his smiling face and wit at all our future meetings and conventions. Please keep Stan and Mary in your prayers.

May I wish each of our members a Blessed Easter!

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 377

Bentleyville, PA

Our first meeting of the year 2016 will be held on Sunday, March 20th at Grand China Buffet, 301 Oak Spring Road, Washington, PA 15301 at 3:00 p.m.

Please attend to celebrate our Silver designation and to plan for this year! Election of officers will also be held. RSVP to me at 412-439-2795. Hope to see you there.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 568

LaCanada, CA

Slovak Easter Mass

Our Annual Slovak Easter Mass will be held on Sunday, March 20th at Pope John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA. Mass will begin 1:00 p.m. and a Slovak lunch will be served after mass along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

Also, following the festivities Assembly 568 members will hold a meeting to review officers reports and discuss assembly activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Milan Konkol
President

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

ASSEMBLY 586

Slovan, PA

A Czech-style dinner and meeting will be held on Sunday, March 13th at the Bohemian Garden Restaurant in Downers Grove at 2:00 p.m. We will also have our collection for Operation Support Our Troops America. Hope to see you there.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2016, at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, 6225 Quarry Rd., Lowellville, OH at 2:00 p.m. Details will be announced at a later date.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737

Westmoreland County, PA

Our next meeting will be held on March 5, 2016 at the home of Paul J Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m.

Please plan on attending as all business for 2016 will be discussed.

Paul J Godor
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

We will again be supporting Catholic Heart Work Camp through the NSS Matching Funds program. The event will be the *Tri-State BBQ Festival* on April 8th and 9th. There are various opportunities for volunteers so let us know your preference. Kerry Farrell is the contact person, 334-718-2416.

Our Join Hands Day project will be the *"Stamp Out Hunger"* campaign on May 14, 2016. This is in association with the National Association of Letter Carriers, and is the largest one day food drive in the country. Mary Jo Holker is the contact person (941-473-0559) for those interested in participating in this very fulfilling program.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

MarecPrivítajme jar

Jar je pred dverami, svet sa prebúda a s ním aj naša radosť z teplejších dní. Slnko a príroda nás lákajú viac von a máme väčšiu chuť do činnosti, telo si vyžaduje viac pohybu. Jarné obdobie sa spája aj so sviatkom Veľkej noci, oslavovaním, radosťou.



Posledný sneh už sa topí, slniečko viac ohrieva, nezostanú ani stopy, to je ale nádhera! Príroda sa zobúda, všetko krásne kvitne, snežienka je prvý kvet, čo nám náladu zdvihne.

Autor: Zuzana Špačková



v pôste

Ked hovoríš:....

“Neviem ako vyriešiť moje problémy...”

Boh ti hovorí

“Ja vediem tvoje kroky” (príslovia 3,5-6)

Ked hovoríš:...

Je to nemožné....

Boh ti hovorí

“Čo nie je možné ľuďom je možné Bohu” (Lukáš 18,27)

Ked hovoríš:...

“Som veľmi unavený...”

Boh ti hovorí

“Ja ťa občerstvím.” (Matúš 11, 28-30)

Ked hovoríš:...

“Neviem ako ísť ďalej...”

Boh ti hovorí

“Ja ti ukážem cestu.” (Žalm 32,8)

Všetkým úradníkom, členom,
čitateľom a Vaším rodinám
želáme



Radujte sa ó
kresťania, v srdciach
Vašich plesajte! Z
mŕtvych povstal náš
spasiteľ, Aleluja
spievajte.

Morena naša, kde si prebývala...



Morena symbolizovala zimu, preto ak ľudia chceli, aby prišla jar, museli ju utopiť v potoku alebo upáliť. Mala podobu slamenej figúry oblečenej do ženských

šiat, ktorú niesli mladé devy so spevom k potoku.

Z ľudovej múdrosti...

Ak marec stiahol kožúch, apríl po ňom rád siahne.

Na Gregora (12.marec) mrcha gazda, kto neorá.

Po svätom Jozefovi (19.marec) baranček na vršok vyskočí.

Na zvestovanie Panny Márie (25.marec) každá lúka ožije.

NSS LIFE ANNIVERSARY OFFER PROGRAM



NSS Life
Family Matters...

We are pleased to introduce this new and exciting opportunity for you to purchase additional life insurance protection for you and your family.

This simplified issue NSS Life Anniversary Offer is available to members, their families, and friends.

The maximum amount of insurance being offered will depend on your age:

ISSUE AGES	MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF INSURANCE
0-50	\$10,000
51-65	\$7,500
66-75	\$5,000

*See back of page for complete rate listings.

There is a limit of one policy per person. Anyone previously declined since 1/1/12 is not eligible for this program. Also excludes terminally ill, permanently disabled, those on SSI and any mentally impaired individuals. If you purchased this plan last year you are excluded from this year's offer. Other exclusions may apply. Rates are based on age nearest birthday.

OFFERING QUALITY LIFE INSURANCE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!

FEBRUARY 1ST, 2016 TO MARCH 31ST, 2016

The NSS Life Anniversary Offer uses our twenty-pay life plan (however you may use the single premium plan as well). The advantages of a permanent plan include cash/loan values, reduced paid-up insurance options, dividends and more.



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Recommender for Family and Friends

This is a great opportunity as a member of NSS Life to share your experience with non-members. If we issue them a policy, your recommender fee is worth up to \$25 as our thank you.

I would like to recommend a family member or friend!

Prospect name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Daytime phone number: _____

REFERRED BY:

Member name: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

The National Slovak Society of the USA

351 Valley Brook Road • McMurray, PA 15317-3337 • 1-800-488-1890 • sales@nsslife.org

Twenty Year Life Insurance Policy Rates

Twenty Pay Life \$10,000		
Age	Male Annual Payment	Female Annual Payment
0	68.70	58.20
1	70.30	59.50
2	72.10	61.00
3	73.80	62.50
4	75.90	64.20
5	78.00	65.80
6	80.40	67.00
7	82.90	69.60
8	85.60	71.70
9	88.30	73.70
10	91.10	75.90
11	94.20	78.40
12	97.40	80.80
13	100.50	83.20
14	103.70	85.90
15	106.70	88.50
16	109.90	91.30
17	113.00	94.10
18	116.30	97.00
19	119.70	100.10
20	123.00	103.20
21	126.50	106.70
22	130.20	110.00
23	134.20	113.60
24	138.40	117.40
25	142.90	121.30
26	147.50	125.40
27	152.40	129.60
28	157.70	134.20

Age	Male	Female
	Annual Payment	Annual Payment
29	163.30	138.70
30	169.00	143.40
31	174.90	148.60
32	181.30	153.70
33	187.80	159.20
34	194.90	164.80
35	202.00	170.70
36	208.00	175.90
37	214.30	180.80
38	221.10	186.50
39	227.90	192.00
40	234.70	197.40
41	241.90	203.10
42	249.70	209.10
43	257.20	215.10
44	265.30	221.30
45	273.50	227.40
46	281.90	233.80
47	290.90	240.70
48	300.20	247.50
49	309.10	254.50
50	317.80	261.80

Age	Male	Female
	Annual Payment	Annual Payment
54	262.13	220.65
55	268.20	226.80
56	274.73	232.65
57	281.85	237.60
58	289.20	242.55
59	297.30	248.10
60	305.78	253.80
61	314.78	260.03
62	324.75	267.00
63	335.03	274.13
64	346.05	281.78
65	357.83	290.03

Twenty Pay Life \$7,500		
Age	Male Annual Payment	Female Annual Payment
51	244.58	202.05
52	250.20	207.83
53	256.05	214.13

Twenty Pay Life \$5,000		
Age	Male Annual Payment	Female Annual Payment
66	247.05	199.25
67	256.20	205.70
68	266.40	213.15
69	277.55	221.40
70	289.25	230.25
71	302.00	240.10
72	316.10	251.25
73	330.70	263.10
74	346.70	276.45
75	363.20	290.45
76	380.65	305.70
77	399.80	322.75
78	419.95	341.15
79	441.70	361.40
80	465.40	383.75

Other modes of payment are available including: **Semi-Annual (.52) • Quarterly (.265) • Monthly (.09) (Rate x Annual Premium)**



Recommender for Family and Friends

This is a great opportunity as a member of NSS Life to share your experience with non-members. If we issue them a policy, your recommender is worth up to \$25 as our thank you.

I would like to recommend a family member or friend!

Prospect name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Daytime phone number: _____

REFERRED BY:

Member name: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

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NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A Fraternal Benefit Society

Application for Life Insurance

NSS Life Anniversary Offer

Assembly/Circle #: _____

Certificate #: _____

1. Proposed Insured: [] Male [] Female Height: _____ Weight: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Full Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Social Security #: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____ Is the applicant a member of the National Slovak Society? [] Yes [] No If not, applying for membership.

2. Plan: [] Twenty Pay Life [] Single Premium Face Amount: \$ _____ Payment: \$ _____ Bill To: [] Owner [] Proposed Insured [] Parent: _____ Will the insurance applied for replace or change any existing life insurance or annuity? [] Yes [] No If yes, show the name of the Company and the Policy Number(s): _____ * Dividends will buy Paid Up Additions unless another option is elected.

3. Beneficiary: Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship: _____ Address: _____ Social Security #: _____ Beneficiary: Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship: _____ Address: _____ Social Security #: _____ Contingent: Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship: _____ Address: _____ Social Security #: _____ Applicant/Owner: Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Relationship: _____ Address: _____ Social Security #: _____

3. Health Questions: 1. In the past five years, has the Proposed Insured: received diagnosis or treatment from a physician; or, been confined in a medical care facility for: high blood pressure; diabetes; cancer; epilepsy or mental disease; nervous disorder; or any disease or disorder of the heart, kidney, bladder, or lungs? [] Yes [] No 2. Has any member of the medical profession ever diagnosed any person to be covered as having, or treated any applicant for AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) or ARC (AIDS Related Complex)? [] Yes [] No 3. Details, any Yes answer for questions 1 or 2 above. Show: condition; dates; and name, address and phone number of physician and medical care facility.

Except as may be provided in a Conditional Receipt, bearing the same date and payment as shown in this application, no insurance will take effect unless and until: (1) this application is approved by the National Slovak Society of the United States of America; (2) a certificate of life insurance is issued; and (3) the full first premium is paid. All such conditions must be met while the health and other factors affecting the insurability of the Proposed Insured remain as described in this application. The above answers are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am enclosing the initial premium and understand that: the insurance applied for will become effective on the date this application is approved by the Home Office of the National Slovak Society of the USA; and, a certificate is issued and delivered to the proposed insured, while the health and insurability remain as stated in this application. Should the application be declined, the amount paid will be returned in full. I hereby authorize and instruct any licensed physician, medical practitioner, hospital clinic or other medically related facility, insurance company, the Medical Information Bureau or other institution or person that has any records or knowledge of me or my health (or of my family members) to give the Underwriting Department of the National Slovak Society of the USA or to its re-insurers, such information so that they can evaluate my application for benefits. Such information may not be given to anyone else unless I authorize it in writing. I may revoke this authorization at anytime, but if I do not, it will expire twenty-four (24) months from this date. I may receive a copy of this form if I request it anytime. Signed at: _____ This _____ day of _____, 20____ Proposed Insured (Age 18 or older) _____ Owner, if other than Proposed insured _____ Witness (Licensed Agent and Number where required) _____ Parent or Legal Guardian (Required if Proposed Insured is under Age 18) _____ Agent's Statement: To the best of your knowledge and belief, will the insurance applied for replace or change any existing insurance annuity? [] Yes [] No If Yes, any replacement regulations must be complied with.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 1166

Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.



Change of Address

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

Name _____

Assembly No. _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Former Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

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