



NSS Life

Family Matters...

COUNTDOWN TO THE

NSS LIFE

37TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

HERSHEY LODGE, HERSHEY, PA | JUNE 24-28, 2018

54 Days Until Convention



National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Národné Noviny

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy Memorial Day

NSS National Golf Tournament
Friday-Sunday, July 13-15, 2018
See pages 9-10 for Details

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351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

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FRISE and PAU merged with NSS in 1997
ROMANAS merged with the NSS in 1998

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Mother's Day
May 13, 2018

Memorial Day
May 28, 2018

Activities At A Glance

<p>REGION 2</p> <p>August 12 August 18 October 14 November</p>	<p>Assemblies L075, 0617</p> <p>Assembly L075, Summer picnic, Mercatelli-Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Region 2, Meeting, Perkins, Pittston, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Wilkes-Barre V A Bingo Party (Time/Date to be announced)</p>
<p>REGION 5</p> <p>May 6 May 12 June 2 June 10 June 15 June 23 July 19 September 10 September 22 October 28 December 2 December 3</p>	<p>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0737, 0774</p> <p>Assembly 0377, Meeting, Hibachi Buffet, Belle Vernon, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0123, Play at Beaver High School Assembly 0737, Meeting, Carol Godor's residence, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly 0039, Summer Barbecue, Knights of Columbus Picnic Shelter at 1:00 pm Region 5, NSS Pirate Night at PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA Assembly 0039, Relay For Life Walk, Fayette Campus, Penn State at 10:00 am Slovak Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park Community Room at 6:00 pm Septemberfest, Home Office, McMurray, PA Assembly 0377, Halloween Party, Time/Place to be announced Assembly 0377, Holiday Party, 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>June 9</p>	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>Assembly 070, Picnic/Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 5:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 14</p> <p>May 12 June 3 July 22 September 16 November 3</p>	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>Assembly R059, Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Program Assembly R059, Coffee Hour/Meeting, Church Hall, North Hampton, PA Assembly R059, Meeting, Swarynski's residence, North Hampton, PA (TBA) Assembly R059, Meeting, Slivka residence, Bethlehem, PA (TBA) Assembly R059, Hot Dog/Coffee Hour, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church (TBA)</p>
<p>REGION 15</p>	<p>Assemblies L002, 0028</p> <p>No activities at this time</p>
<p>AT LARGE</p> <p>May 19 May 26 June 3 June 8-10 June 10 June 30-July 1 August 12 September 2 October 21 November 4 December 1 December 24</p>	<p>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813</p> <p>Assembly 0731, Dinner/Dance, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH at 5:00 pm Assembly 0813, Spring Social, Thirsty Pig, at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0110, Bi-Annual Fraternal Weekend, Woodloch Pines Resort, Hawley, PA Assembly 0381, Meeting, Hungarian Rhapsody, Southgate, MI at 3:00 pm Assembly 0705, Butwin Family Reunion, Seelyville, IN Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA (TBA) Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA (TBA) Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Stambaugh Room. Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration, 6:00 pm (Fraternal Fund Activity)</p>

NSS National Convention - June 24th - 28th

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Greetings from snowy McMurray Pennsylvania as I pen this article for the May issue. Hopefully as you are reading this, there will be no snow on the ground where you live. Actually, today is the first full day of spring but Mother Nature must have forgotten to check her calendar because she produced a full day of snow in our area and even more snow as you travel east. She does have a sense of humor sometimes. Speaking of Mothers, this month we celebrate Mother's Day on May 13th, a day to honor our Mothers, whether they are with us or have passed. On Monday, May 28th, we celebrate Memorial Day; a day to honor the veterans that gave their life serving our country so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. Some people take freedom for granted and many complain about our country in many ways, but don't forget this - The United States of America is a pretty nice place to live compared to many other countries in the world. We are blessed to be called Americans.

News Of Narodniars

Happy Birthday to our Secretary/Treasurer/CFO Linda Strom, Honorary Director Joseph Tomaskovic Jr., Home Office Staff members Pam Blum, Ginny McMurdy and Eric Riepole, Legal Advisor Ron Cooper, Andrew (Bucky) Wesnak, Cathy Cilia, Sharon Wesnak, Patty and Kayla Jo Graham, Shaun Crowley, Cindy and Gary Robinson, Barb Wilcock, Cyndi Resosky, Mary Cambest, and John Bluemle. Also celebrating are Brandon Marshall, Lindsay McMillan and Tom Kearney. Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes to Nicole and Tom Kearney and to all others celebrating a special day in May. Continued best wishes for a speedy recovery for Annette Stefka, Sue Burns and Ron Cooper.

What Other Countries Think Of Americans

Americans are pretty darn popular: After visiting other countries, we were often blown away by how receptive its' citizens were to us as Americans. We thought that foreigners hated loud, rude and pretentious Americans. But as a country, we have found that we're generally quite well-loved. The United States offers a plethora of aid during times of crisis all around the world. We boost economies with our tourism and we stand for progressive human rights like marriage and gender equality, and freedom of speech, which makes us pretty admirable among our world peers. As individuals, we also tend to be friendly and generous tippers, adding to our likeability. We're obsessed with variety: When foreigners visit stores in America, they're often puzzled by the variety of choices. We have entire rows of breakfast cereals and sodas in every conceivable flavor. Clothes come in every color of the rainbow and we import cars from other countries just in case the USA-made choices aren't quite to our fancy. We're not happy unless we have 16 options of anything we could ever want, which comes as a shock to visitors who may be used to small local markets with limited options.

The metric system: This one baffles everyone. Why doesn't America use the metric system like everyone else does? Enough said.

Supersize me: Everything from our trucks to our fast food comes in a jumbo version in The States. Many Americans strive to have the biggest something or other, and foreigners find it egregious. Apparently, to other countries, the American motto is "go big or go home", and we excel at the former!

We handle money differently: Many foreigners are confused as to why all of our money is the same color and size, making it indistinguishable from each other. And when they can pull together the correct amount of cash, the total cost is typically more than expected. Stores in the U.S. aren't required to include taxes on the price tags of items, and restaurants do not include tip into the bill. This is not commonplace in other countries where most prices are all-inclusive.

Our vanity is confusing: Many foreigners believe Americans are shallow and vain, only caring about pop culture and material things. But people I've spoken to have realized this is a generalization of the American public. In fact, most are shocked, once they get to this country, to see people walking around in public places like grocery stores in their pajamas!

Our love of disgusting foods is...well, disgusting: Other countries don't quite have the obsession with processed, unhealthy foods that Americans do! No one seems to understand it. There are even YouTube channels devoted to foreigners trying much loved American staples like Cheez Whiz and Spam, with none ending well.

Our work/life balance is way off: Americans are notoriously overworked and tend to be perceived as robots, exhausted robots. Citizens of other countries tend to think we equate our career with our self-worth, which may not be far from the truth. We not only put in abundant hours at the office compared to other countries, but we also tend to power through breaks, like eating lunch at our desks. We even have a habit of leaving unused vacation time on the table at the end of the year. People in other countries don't understand why Americans work so hard for their employers, especially since they have the perspective that this country doesn't even care about its workers. America has a family leave policy that is woefully lacking and a healthcare system that is abysmal compared to other industrialized nations, yet Americans seem to thrive in this bustling, overworked environment.

Patriotism is far and wide: In other countries, flags are usually only flown at places of political or historical importance and are not too often seen elsewhere. In America, we plaster our flag just about everywhere. We have "I love America" bumper stickers, proudly sport swim shorts covered in the American flag and we happily hang flags at our houses just to show our patriotism. While most foreigners find that to be an endearing quality, others think it's a bit much.

Punography Of The Month:

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on a head."

(Continued on Page 15)

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



Happy Mother's Day

First let me say that I miss my Mom and am wishing her a Very Heavenly and Happy Mother's Day. I'd like to also wish all our NSS Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, Caretakers and all others who are "mothers" to someone special a Wonderful and Blessed Day.

There is no love, like a mother's love
no stronger bond on earth...
like the precious bond that comes from God,
to a mother, when she gives birth

A mother's love is forever strong,
never changing for all time...
and when her children need her most,
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
for all the tears and heartache,
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
a mother's love lives on...
through many generations,
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
for they love with a higher love...
from the power God has given,
and the strength from up above.



Convention Update to-the-Minute

1. By this time you receive the May issue of the newsletter, President Blazek, Chairman of the Board Joseph Stefka, Jr. and I will have visited several of our Regions to present information about our upcoming convention.

2. The First Delegate Packet was mailed on March 28th, the Thursday before Easter Sunday. All elected delegates should have received this first packet by now. It contains Convention Registration Forms to be filled out and returned to my office no later than April 30th. Information pertaining to Fraternal Day and our efforts to help support a local organization helping disadvantaged children is also included. Do a Google Search on Aaron's Acres to learn about the organization we have chosen and the wonderful work they do.

3. The April 30, 2018 deadline for receipt of biographical reports (Bio's) from those interested in running for a seat on the Board has passed. All candidate Bios received have been forwarded to the Nominating Committee. They will be published in the June Newsletter and included in the Final Delegate Information Packet to be mailed the first week of June.

4. As of April 4, 2018 our Delegate Count is a whopping: **234**.

5. Once again we are having a basket raffle at the Convention to raise funds for our PVR Scholarship Fund which benefits our young adults who are continuing their education after high school and also the NSS Heritage Museum that provides a look into our heritage. We are once again asking our Assemblies and Regions to donate a basket for the benefit of both. If your travels do not permit you bringing a basket please consider a monetary donation. More information to come in the Final Delegate Packets to be sent in May.

6. A listing of all delegates to the 37th Quadrennial Convention will be included in the June issue of the Newsletter.

7. All Petitions, Grievances, Complaints & Resolutions must be submitted to my office no later than June 8, 2018. The committee will meet and report their findings at the convention.

8. REMINDER: Bring all delegate information you receive in the mail to the convention as these will be your working documents. A binder will be provided for all of your papers.

Life Insurance Needs Worksheet

This worksheet can help you get a general sense of how much life insurance you need to protect your loved ones, assuming that you died today. Before buying any insurance products, you should consult with a qualified insurance professional for a more thorough analysis of your needs.

Years	Factor
10	8.8
15	12.4
20	15.4
25	18.1
30	20.4
35	22.4
40	24.1

Income

- Total annual income your family would need if you died today.** What your family needs, before taxes, to maintain its current standard of living (Typically between 60%-75% of total income). \$ _____
- Annual income your family would receive from other sources.** For example, spouse's earnings or a fixed pension.¹ (Do not include income earned on your assets, as it is addressed later in the calculation). \$ _____
- Income to be replaced.**
Subtract line 2 from line 1. \$ _____
- Capital needed for income.**
Multiply line 3 by appropriate factor in Table A. Factor _____. \$ _____

Expenses

- Funeral and other final expenses.** Typically the greater of \$15,000 or 4% of your estate. \$ _____
- Mortgage and other outstanding debts.**
Include mortgage balance, credit card balance, car loans, etc. \$ _____
- Capital needed for college.**
(2007-2008 average 4-year cost: Private, \$146,210; Public, \$61,499²).

	Estimated 4-Year Cost	Appropriate Factor in Table B	NPV		
Child 1	_____	X _____	= _____	+]	→ \$ _____
Child 2	_____	X _____	= _____		
Child 3	_____	X _____	= _____		

- Total capital required.** Add items 4, 5, 6 and 7. \$ _____

Assets

- Savings and investments.** Bank accounts, money market accounts, CDs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, etc. \$ _____
- Retirement savings.** IRAs, 401(k)s, SEP plans, SIMPLE IRA plans, Keoghs, pension and profit sharing plans.³ \$ _____
- Present amount of life insurance.** Including group insurance as well as insurance purchased on your own. \$ _____
- Total income producing assets.**
Add lines 9, 10 and 11. \$ _____
- Life insurance needed.**
Subtract line 12 from line 8. \$ _____

¹ Social Security benefits, which may be available, have not been factored into this calculation.

² *Trends in College Pricing*, 2007, The College Board. Costs reflect total charges, which include tuition, fees, room and board.

³ Distributions from most retirement savings plans are subject to ordinary income tax rates.

Note: These tables help you determine Net Present Value (NPV), the amount of capital required today to satisfy future income or college cost needs, given an assumed investment return of 6%, inflation of 3% for living costs and 5% for college costs.

Prefer to Use an Online Calculator?

Visit the nonprofit LIFE Foundation's Life Insurance Needs Calculator at www.lifehappens.org/lifecalculator

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

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



A Stream of Income?

So often we focus on our flagship annuity products, the Preferred 5 and 8, probably because they pay the highest rate of interest. But we have another annuity option that is just as important. Our Single Premium Immediate Annuity or SPIA can be an important part of any 21st century retirement plan. Here is how a SPIA works. A person deposits a lump sum into the SPIA. Then we calculate a monthly income based on your age and/or how long you want to receive payments. For example, a \$100,000 deposit could pay a lifetime income of \$557 per month for a male, age 65. A little less for females since they live a few years longer than men. Or this same amount could pay \$953 for ten years (120 months) only – with no lifetime option.

All of this is important when trying to create a monthly income stream. We have some people who use SPIAs because they are under age 65, retired early, and need to have an income until they reach Social Security retirement age. We have older clients who use SPIAs to create a lifetime income so they don't run out of money by living too long.

Here is another great idea for how and when to use a SPIA. A person age 62 has retired but doesn't want to draw their Social Security early because this would result in a 30% decrease from their normal retirement amount. Using some other asset (savings, Roth, IRA) they deposit \$88,000 into a SPIA that will pay them \$1,000 a month for eight years. So this income allows a person

to wait until age 70 to draw on their Social Security when it has reached its maximum value. The Social Security income at different ages is \$900 per month at age 62, \$1,200 per month at age 66 and \$1,600 at age 70.

This scenario works out great in the long run. If you have a long lifeline and good genes then maybe this is worth considering. Generally speaking a person has to live more than 15 years to make up the money difference between drawing Social Security early at age 62 and waiting for normal retirement.

To summarize here is what SPIAs can do:

- Establishes a regular and systematic monthly income that you can't outlive.
- Allows for a greater withdrawal rate compared to other options.
- Safe, low risk investment with a guaranteed rate of interest.

Is a SPIA right for you? Talk to your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office to see how this plan can work for you and your family.

Insurance as Easy as 1, 2, 3

A recent article by the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association (LIMRA) revealed a few interesting facts about consumers and their attitudes about life insurance. Most people don't have more or any life insurance because they think it may be too expensive. In fact, when asked, consumers overestimated the cost by four times the actual amount. Surprisingly, more than half of the purchases were event triggered. That means that something occurred in a person's life i.e.: marriage, divorce, death, etc. In fact, 25% of the purchases were made with the idea of protecting or covering a mortgage.

This is easy for NSS because we have two products that could be used for this purpose. Both our ten or twenty year term plans are so inexpensive. As an example, a \$100,000 of ten year term insurance for a male, non-nicotine user, monthly rates would be:

Age 35 - \$11/month

Age 45 - \$18/month

Age 55 - \$33/month

Rates for females would be slightly less. Rates for nicotine users would be more. Rates for the twenty year term would be more also because of a longer coverage period. Other amounts and plans are also available.

This is a simple and easy way to get started with a life insurance plan. Term insurance is the least expensive plan to start. Our plans are renewable and convertible so there are future options if needed. A key benefit of life insurance is that proceeds when paid to a beneficiary are tax-free and probate-free.

Don't wait a minute longer. Please call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office to get a free quote. We would be glad to help protect you and your family – it's as easy as 1, 2, and 3.

Thought for the Month

If you did all the things that you are capable of – you would literally astound yourself.

Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

8 in 10

Americans **overestimate** the true cost of life insurance.

4 in 10

wished their spouse or partner **had more** life insurance.

People cite

"replacing income"

as a top reason for owning life insurance.

Fraternal Matters...

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



2018 May Art Contest

Attention all NSS Youth Members...
 The deadline for the contest is May 31st. The Poster Category theme is **"My Favorite NSS Activity is..."** Show us your creativity and put into pictures your favorite memory of a fun NSS activity.

Congratulations

The 5 winners from April's Hersheys 2018 word search were:

Robin Shindeldecker	P38A
Jo Detter	267
Donna Gazboda	377
Thomas Marticek	L002
Kathleen Moore	377

Congratulations and Good Luck on this months Chocolate Word Search.

Count Down to Convention

This month's activity is Chocolate Word Search. In order to give everyone a fair chance, we will pick 5 names from all correct entries received in the Home Office by May 14th. The 5 names drawn will be added to the winners from the previous months for a drawing to be held at the 37th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey. The winner need NOT be present to win. Note: Officers, Board Members, Employees and their immediate families **are NOT eligible**. Mail your completed word search to:

NSS Life Word Search
 c/o Pam Blum
 351 Valley Brook Rd
 McMurray PA 15317

Chocolate

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

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| rolos | milka | munchies | lion bar |
| daim | bounty | milkybar | kinder buenos |
| buttons | caramel | revels | kinder hippos |
| malteasers | mintstels | kit kat | kit kat chunky |
| galaxy | creme egg | lint | chocolate fingers |
| areo | fudge | double decker | magic stars |
| freddo | chomp | curly wurly | diary milk |
| kinder | smarties | milky way | wispa |
| twix | mars | ripple | flake |
| twirl | cruchie | m&ms | toffee crisp |

National Slovak Society
53rd Annual Golf Tournament
 July 13 – 15, 2018
 Hospitality Night Friday 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
 Tam O'Shanter Golf Club

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course
 2961 South Hermitage Rd
 Hermitage, PA 16148
Room accommodations provided by
 Park Inn by Radisson
 3377 New Castle Rd
 West Middlesex, PA 16159
 (724) 528-2501
 Please mention NSS to receive the **discounted rate**
 Room Rates: \$94 + tax per night
Deadline for Hotel Reservations is June 14, 2018

	Name	Address	U.S.G.A. Index	Phone	E-mail	Assembly
1						
2						
3						
4						

GOLFERS: Please choose ALL that apply & indicate number participating

- ___ Saturday only Competition - \$55.00
- ___ Saturday and Sunday Competition - \$110.00
- ___ Skins (Saturday Only) - \$5.00 (Optional)
- ___ Par 3 Challenge \$10.00 (Optional)
- ___ Senior Flight Men 65+ (Optional)
- ___ Will attend Friday Hospitality Night (**Tam O'Shanter Golf Course**)
- ___ Will attend Saturday Banquet (list dinner attendees)

1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Deadline is **June 20, 2018**

Please make checks payable to: **NSS Life**

NSS Life
 Attn: Pam Blum
 351 Valley Brook Road
 McMurray, PA 15317

NON-GOLFERS:

Please Choose ALL that apply & indicate number attending

- ___ Adult **Guest Dinners** @ \$30.00 (Golfers meal included in entry fee)
- ___ Youth (13-17) **Guest Dinners** @ \$20.00
- ___ Child (12 & under) **FREE**
- ___ Will attend Friday Hospitality Night

___ **Hole Sponsor @ \$100 per hole**

Name for sign: _____

\$ _____ **TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM**

Friday Practice Tee Times Available at 12:00 pm
 Call the Pro Shop at 724-981-3552

Annual NSS National Golf Tournament

Men's and Women's Official Rules and Regulations

1. The tournament is open to all members and one time guests of the National Slovak Society and its Youth Circles. There must be at least four Youth golfers officially entered to have a youth class. To protect the amateur standing of these youth, no prize money will be collected from nor paid to them.
2. United States Golf Association (USGA) and host golf course rules will govern play, except the following:
 - Jungle Golf, improve lie within 12" except in hazards.
 - Lost Ball; play from area where ball was last seen and take 1 stroke penalty.
 - Out of Bounds; play from where ball goes out and take 1 stroke penalty.
 - Ball in Water Hazard; drop where ball went in and take 1 stroke penalty.
3. Handicaps will be determined as follows:
 - A. All male regular division golfers will play in three flights as determined by handicap. The golfer's first handicap will be determined after he/she has completed 72 holes of tournament play in the NSS National Golf Tournament unless golfer has a U.S.G.A. index from their home course. The golfer's handicap will be recalculated every year based on the golfer's best 72 holes in tournament play within the last five years. The handicap will be calculated on a 90% basis. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - B. Any male golfer who has not completed 72 holes of tournament play in the NSS National Golf Tournament will be entered in the Callaway division using the NSS version of the Callaway scoring system.
 - C. Senior Men's Division (65 and over) will also play using handicaps as determined above. There will be only one flight in the Senior Division unless the number of participants warrants 2 divisions. Forward tees will be used.
 - D. All female member golfers will compete with the handicap determined as above. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - E. Any female golfer who has not completed 72 holes of play in the NSS National Golf tournament will be placed in the Callaway division.
4. Classifications:
 - A. A medal play champion will be determined for 18 holes and 36 holes in each of the following Divisions: *
 1. Men's A flight
 2. Men's B flight
 3. Men's C flight
 4. Women's A flight
 5. Women's B flight
 6. Senior flight (age 65 and above)
 7. Callaway Flight*Flight handicaps will be determined by number of entries and their handicaps. Champion's for each flight will receive an NSS Jacket, and Prize money. Prize money will depend on the number of participants in each flight. An individual winning his flight in both the 18 hole and 36 hole tournament will only receive one jacket but will receive the prize money for both tournaments.
5. In case of a tie for first place in any flight, both in the 18 hole and 36 hole tournament, a sudden death playoff will be used starting on a hole acceptable to the golf course management. If weather or darkness does not permit an actual playoff, a match of cards will be used starting with the number 1 handicap hole and proceeding with number 2, 3, 4, etc. until the tie is broken.
6. All other ties will split the applicable prize money. (E.g., two people tied for second will split second and third prize money. Three people tied for second would split second, third and fourth place prize money.)
7. The prize list will be determined by the tournament manager using the money contributed by the contestants and matching money contributed by the NSS for all member golfers. As nearly as possible, there will be one prize for each four entries. NSS does not match guest prize contributions.
8. The tournament manager will schedule tee times and pairings.
9. The Joseph Stefka Sr. Memorial plaque will be awarded to the low net winner of the 36 hole tournament. In case of a tie, the lower handicap will be the winner.
10. Golfers with long distances to travel will be given some preferential treatment for Sunday tee times, providing that the scheduling will not disrupt the efficiency of the tournament.
11. **ENTRIES WILL CLOSE – JUNE 20, 2018.**
12. Please make checks payable to: **NSS**
Attn: Pam Blum
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

Donations:

Irine Zinter 50.00



Memorial Tree Leaf Donations March, 2018

Donation from:

John and Joanne Rohrer 500.00



Region 5 & Assembly 774 Sponsor NSS Night at PNC Park

Region 5 & Assembly 774 are sponsoring a group baseball outing on Friday, June 15th, 2018. Come join us as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Cincinnati Reds. The "All You Can Eat" seats are no longer offered but the tickets are loaded with \$10 that you can use towards concessions. This is a Free T-shirt Friday and a Dollar Dog Night. The price of the tickets are being subsidized by Region 5 and Home Office Assembly 774. The price is only \$22.00 (regularly \$42.00). We have a limited number of tickets available. You must be a member of Region 5 in order to attend this event. Send your check (payable to NSS) and the names of those attending to: NSS Life, Attn: Pam Blum, 351 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317. Come on out and join us for a great night of baseball and fraternalism. LET'S GO BUCS!!!!

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS March, 2018

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Acord, Bernice	Bolt, WV	02/01/2018	0774
Alexander, Marcus	Martins Ferry, OH	02/27/2018	0160
Allred, Mason	Greensboro, NC	03/04/2018	C774
Barto, Mary	Plains, PA	03/02/2018	0617
Butterworth, Lucy	Bristol, PA	08/25/2017	L102
Cavinee, DeeAnna	Pittsburgh, PA	11/22/2017	L161
Clowney, Nancy	Kannapolis, NC	02/14/2018	0774
Conkle, Dorothy	Washington, PA	02/08/2018	0377
Connell, Charles R	Philadelphia, PA	03/11/2018	R059
Cook, Robert	Fredericktown, PA	09/29/2017	0377
Coombs, Edna	Beaver Falls, PA	03/07/2018	0123
Crumbling, William H	York, PA	02/27/2018	L102
Davis, Cynthia	Washington, PA	10/26/2017	0377
Deligne, Helen	Ansted, WV	01/03/2018	0774
Dingle, John	Meadowlands, PA	03/10/2018	0434
Durnell, Genevieve	Ona, WV	02/04/2018	0554
Dzuban, John P	Norvelt, PA	01/19/2018	0737
Fetchick, John	Wilkes Barre, PA	02/27/2018	0671
Garlick, Sr., Ray R	South Connellsville, PA	02/22/2018	0039
Hammitt Sr., Robert A	Belle Vernon, PA	02/19/2018	0377
Hartos, Lawrence	Duquesne, PA	03/18/2018	0441
Henry, Jr. Robert	Blairsville, PA	01/17/2018	0108
Jones, John	Bentleyville, PA	01/06/2018	0588
Jordan, Ann	Monongahela, PA	01/23/2018	0377
Katarincic, Grace	Zelienople, PA	02/07/2018	0123
Keeser, Frank	Belleville, IL	03/05/2017	0705
Klimek, Henry	Dupont, PA	02/21/2018	L102
Kosh Jr., Michael	Pittsburgh, PA	03/06/2018	0434
Kovach, Barry	Philipsburg, PA	01/20/2018	0774
Krcelich, Genevieve	Isabella, PA	02/16/2018	0039
Kristofik Jr., Stephen J	Tarentum, PA	03/03/2018	L161
Lemak, Virginia	Pittsburgh, PA	03/14/2018	0100
Lesko, Bernard	Dalton, PA	02/01/2018	L102
Lukac, William	Uniontown, PA	02/11/2018	0039
Lynch, Phyllis	Prospect, CT	11/06/2017	0774
Maleyrick, Franklin	Cadiz, OH	01/09/2018	0595
Matzus, Nora	Fairchance, PA	03/08/2018	0039
McGrady, Frank	Pittsburgh, PA	03/15/2018	L161
McKnight, Robert	Irwin, PA	03/12/2018	0737
Mihalik, Dorothy	Lorain, OH	02/28/2018	0160
Peterson, Florence	Turtle Creek, PA	02/13/2018	0434
Petri, Sandra	Kenosha, WI	07/13/2016	0774
Phillips, Janice	Toledo, OH	10/21/2017	0160
Redshaw, Donald R	Monroeville, PA	01/25/2018	L161
Reed, George Ann	Mentor, OH	08/29/2017	0610
Roucroft, Frank	Fairless Hills, PA	04/26/2017	R059
Ruch, Joseph G	Allentown, PA	01/06/2018	R059
Seeley, John	Jackson, MI	01/18/2018	0381
Shiring, Edward	McMurray, PA	02/27/2018	0434
Stone, Otis	Goven, WV	01/10/2018	0774
Vojtek, Edward	Mansfield, OH	01/20/2018	0441
Wattras, Anna Belle	Meadville, PA	11/28/2017	L040
Wierzbicki, Antonia	Bridgeport, OH	02/23/2018	0774
Wills, Pauline	Gallager, WV	02/07/2018	0774
Xiong, Ker	Appleton, WI	02/16/2018	0774
Zavodny, Emil	Naples, FL	01/13/2018	0070

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

At our recent Pre-Lenten Dinner meeting, we elected fourteen delegates to attend the 37th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, PA. We also voted to donate \$100.00 to "Aaron's Acres", the designated fundraising campaign at the convention. Also, we will be taking out a full page congratulatory ad in the convention souvenir book.

It was also decided to support the "2018 Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament" by sponsoring two lanes at the Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA.

Congratulations to Mary Jo Dolan, who was a winner in the "Hershey's Chocolate Candy" Contest. Assembly members can enter each month, in the contest. I encourage more of our assembly members to participate.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, **May 12th**. We will be assisting the local U.S. Letter carriers in their food collections to combat hunger. We meet at the rear of the main post office in downtown Uniontown at 10:00 am. This is our NSS National Project event to "Stamp Out Hunger".

First time NSS scholarship recipients are reminded that May 1st is the deadline to apply for a scholarship. Even if you missed the deadline in the past, you are still eligible to apply for this coming Fall. All rules are on the NSS website: nsslife.org and in the "National News" magazine.

Senior scholarships for those fifty-five years or older are available if you wish to improve your life. Seniors are eligible, twice a year, for a \$100.00 scholarship upon successful completion of the course. Contact the home office for more information.

Youth, the May Art Contest is coming up quickly. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to have their children and grandchildren enter. Everyone receives a prize for entering!

Don't forget to plan for our Summer Bar-B-Q on Sunday, **June 10th** at the picnic pavilion of the Knights of Columbus starting at 1:00 pm. We will be honoring our flag in anticipation of Flag Day.

Happy Mother's Day

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY R059

Whitehall, PA

During the lenten period, our members have immersed themselves in services, helped with fish dinners and pierogi making.

Our remainder of the year's schedule is as follows:

May 12 - Participation in the Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger program

June 3rd - Sponsor a Coffee Hour at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 1301 Newport Avenue, North Hampton. Proceeds to go to the North Hampton Food Bank. **Meeting will immediately follow instead of at the Keysock residence.**

July 22 - Meeting at Michael and Martha Sawarynski's residence, North Hampton, PA.

September 16 - Meeting at Michael and Francine Slivka's residence, Bethlehem, PA.

November 3rd - Hotdog/Coffee Hour Social at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, 980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA.

Our delegates are looking forward to attending the upcoming National Convention.

Special birthday greetings to: William Keysock (April 22) and Francine Slivka (June 4). May God Grant you many years of Good Health and Happiness. For any information, you may contact Michele at 610-262-2045.

Michele Guydan
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 070/C070

Brooklyn, OH

A picnic and meeting will be held on Saturday, **June 9, 2018** at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at 5:00 pm.

Call John or Mary Ann Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 if you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly. Side dish or desserts would be appreciated.

John Karkosiak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

Mark your calendars for our meetings in **2018**:

August 12 - Summer picnic at Mercateli-Segilia Park, Birney Ave. Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm. Members are asked to bring something for the table and a raffle basket item. Refreshments will be provided by the assembly.

October 14 - Meeting at Grande's Restaurant Moosic at 2:00 pm.

November - Date to be announced for the Wilkes Barre VA Bingo Pizza Party

Lehrae Ann Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 100

Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting was held on Saturday, February 25, 2018 at the President's residence, at 1:00 pm to elect delegates to the 37th Quadrennial Convention.

The following delegates will represent our assembly: Keith Chojnicki, Melinda Chojnicki, Philip Chojnicki, and Mary Lou Chojnicki.

Mary Lou Chojnicki
President

ASSEMBLY L102

Schneeksville, OH

Our assembly is doing a Matching Funds for "The Shoes that Grow" from "Because International". The shoes are designed to grow with the child, adjusting and expanding and lasting for years. These shoes help the children living in poverty to keep them healthy, in school and in a position to exceed. Just a few more months and they will be shipped for distribution.

Once again L102 and R059 will join forces to help stamp out hunger for Join Hands day on **May 12th** at the Butztown Post Office. Food collected will be distributed to local churches to help replenish their pantries to help the less fortunate.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 110

New York, NY

Our bi-annual Fraternal weekend will be held on Friday, **June 8th** to Sunday, **June 10th**, 2018 at Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, PA. A luncheon meeting will be held on the premises on the afternoon of Saturday, **June 9th**.

Additional information is available from Diana Voda (973) 857-8904.

Rick DeSanctis
Secretary

This is my first Mother's Day since I lost my mother. She was a very good mother. I just hope I was a son she could be proud of. God bless all our members who are mothers. If your mother is still alive, please don't forget to tell her you love her and thank her for putting up with you.

Unofficially summer begins with Memorial Day. Hopefully the rain will be over. Enjoy your summer. How about those Pirates?

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

What a nice turn out for our volunteer work at World Vision. I want to thank everyone who came. It was nice to see our younger members participate Kurtus Mastandrea and Brady Baranowski. I hope that more of our younger members can take part in some of our upcoming events.

Yes, one thing that is available for our younger members this month is the Art Contest. There are cash prizes awarded to the top three places in each category. So get out your crayons and get busy. Mom and Dad's encourage your kids to become young Rembrandts!

Mary Maniecki is arranging for our assembly to see a play Saturday, **May 12th** "Something to Hide" presented by the Bobcat players at Beaver High School. Seating is very limited so it will be first come (call) first served to get a ticket. The play is a British thriller along the lines of Alfred Hitchcock mystery. You can read about this online. If you are interested plan to meet beforehand for dinner at a local restaurant and then head to the play. Tickets for the play will be paid for by the assembly. You must call Mary at 412-264-3546. There are only a few tickets.

The NSS golf tournament is **July 13-15** at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, PA. If any of our members are interested in participating give me a call at 724-242-5085. The assembly will help subsidize your fees. Also, Thursday, July 19th is Slovak Day at Kennywood. All of our members sixteen and under can get a complimentary ticket courtesy of Region 5. Give me a call if you would like a ticket.

ASSEMBLY 377

Bentleyville, PA

Our future meetings are as follows:

May 6 2018- Meeting/lunch at Hibachi Buffet, 160 Sara Way Belle, Vernon, PA. at 3:00 pm. Help us plan other activities for our assembly. Hope to see you there!

October 28- Halloween party at 3:00 pm. Location to be announced.

December 2- Holiday party at 3:00 pm. Location to be announced.

Please try to attend.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 381

Grosse Ile, MI

There will be a meeting of delegates attending the convention in Hershey, PA on Sunday, **June 10, 2018** at the Hungarian Rhapsody, Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan at 3:00 pm.

Please contact Joanne Medved at 734-676-2199, or email: jtm1849@gmail.com to RSVP.

Joanne Medved
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 554

Curwensville, PA

A meeting will be held on **September 2, 2018** at the home of Jim Stricek, 135 McCullough St., Dubois, PA at 2:00 pm. Please contact Jim Stricek at 814-590-7021 or at assembly554@gmail.com if you are attending this meeting. Also, mark you calendar for our next meeting which will be on **November 4, 2018**.

Jim Stricek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 586

Chicago, IL

Members met in February and voted on delegates to the quadrennial convention. Traveling to Hershey and representing us will be Tess Buc, Fred Iszowska, Dorothy Volk and Barbara and Chuck Hamernick. We wish all our mothers, grandmothers and godmothers a Happy Mothers Day.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 705

Seelyville, IN

Please mark your calendars for meetings and events for 2018:

June 3 - 1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

June 30/July 1- Butwin Family Reunion Seelyville, IN (Fraternal Fund Activity)

August 12 - 1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

October 21-1:00 pm at the Buck home Seelyville, IN

December 24 - 6:00 pm Annual Christmas Eve Celebration (Fraternal Fund Activity)

Dorothy Buck
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

You don't want to miss the following events so mark your calendar for:

Saturday, May 19th - 5:00-9:00 pm

Dinner & Dance for all ages at Lowellville Rod & Gun Club
6226 Quarry Road
Lowellville, Ohio

Saturday, December 1st - 1:00-3:00 pm

Christmas Party
Stambaugh Room, Boardman Park,
375 Boardman-Poland Road
Boardman, OH

Laurie Fox
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 737

Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on **June 2, 2018** at the home of Carol Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm.

We will be finalizing plans for the convention as well as setting dates for our next meetings.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

On **May 12th** Assembly 813 members will be helping with the Letter Carriers annual "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. Locally, the Englewood Bible Church is the place to get involved, but members may help out in other places. Check with your local US Post Office.

The Spring Social, originally scheduled for May 19th, has been changed to **May 26th** at The Thirsty Pig, South Saint Andrews Street, at 2:00 p.m. Kerry Farrell is the contact person for this event.

For the National Project, we have again chosen the Back Pack Program of the Jubilee Ministry of St. David's Episcopal Church. We will be getting the next school year off to a good start shortly after school has started. Mary Jo Holker will work with Pat Knox of St. David's Jubilee Center Outreach Ministry. This is an ongoing project to ensure children of low income families do not go hungry on the weekends.

Members are asked to look over these opportunities to get involved to see where they'd like to help. Contact Mary Jo Holker, 941-473-0559, for more information.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 2

Our next meeting will be on **August 18, 2018** at 1:00 pm at Perkins in Pottston, PA.

Rose Mary Strish
Secretary

37th Quadrennial Convention Fund Raising Campaign in support of Aaron's Acres

Embracing Possibilities Beyond Disabilities



"Since 1998, Aaron's Acres has provided children and young adults with special needs something very unique – possibility. The possibility to learn, to grow, and to succeed despite any challenges. With every family we serve, our goal is always the same: to provide social and recreational programs that nurture important socialization and communication skills. All children regardless of ability can partake in the Aaron's Acres experience."

Each convention NSS selects a local charity to support in the area around the site of the Convention. This year we have selected Aaron's Acres. Please go to this link <https://aaronsacres.org> to learn more about the organization and their amazing camp. If you can find it in your heart to be a part of this effort please send your donation to Pam Blum or Linda Strom at National Slovak Society, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317. Checks should be made payable to "NSS". Also, please write 'Aarons Acres' in the Memo line at the bottom of the check.

This fundraiser will run through the Convention where we plan to present a check for the funds raised to a local representative of the charity during the Convention.



Assembly 123



Members of Assembly 123 who matched wits with each other on game day. Everyone was a winner.



What Is Memorial Day?

Memorial Day is a United States national holiday, commemorating those who have died in military service to their country. It is observed annually on the last Monday of May.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day - an occasion to decorate the graves of the war dead - and was created in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Observances are held at military graveyards, cemeteries and memorials, and military themed parades are held across the country. The holiday is also associated with the Indianapolis 500 car race which is held on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day. Memorial Day, and the long weekend that it creates, is generally seen to mark the beginning of the summer season (while Labor Day marks the end).

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

May, 1891

The second convention of the National Slovak Society was held in Hazelton, Pennsylvania. During the convention, on May 25, 1891, National Slovak Society leaders agreed to establish a literary supplement, the Narodny Kalendar.

May, 1893

Delegates of the 4th Convention of the National Slovak Society voted to send \$1,200 to boost cultural societies in repressed Slovakia.

May, 2000

On May 19, 2000, Rosemary Strish of Assembly 617 was named the Fraternalist of the Year for 2000.

May, 2006

The National Slovak Society announced a website domain change to comply with the tax-exempt status of fraternal benefit societies. The new NSS website would be www.nsslife.org.

Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6 pm, will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as local officials. A reception will follow the formal program.

Admission for this memorable event is \$35 each (NO tickets will be printed). Admission can be purchased from Carol Hochman at carolh1541@aol.com or from Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to WPSCA and mail to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admissions will be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by May 15th.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and



handling. They will also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above. A poster (11x17) of the Pittsburgh Agreement will also be on sale at this event for \$10.00 or through the contacts listed above. Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton is \$169.00 a night plus tax. The Hampton



can be contacted at 412-288-4350 or you can book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 a night plus tax. Their phone number is 412-232-0200. At either hotel, just mention you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Cutoff deadline is May 2, 2018. A symposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the University of Pittsburgh in Room 4130 of Posvar Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be: Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Siavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University. If you have any questions, you can contact Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412-855-6581 or Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

President's Desk

(Continued from Page 4)

WHAT IS A MOTHER

It takes a Mother's Love to
make a house a home,
A place to be remembered,
no matter where we roam...
It takes a Mother's patience
to bring a child up right,
And her courage and her cheerfulness
to make a dark day bright...
It takes a Mother's thoughtfulness to
mend the heart's deep hurts,
And her skill and her endurance to
mend little socks and shirts...
It takes a Mother's kindness to
forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble and
bow her head in prayer...
It takes a Mother's wisdom to
recognize our needs,
And to give us reassurance by her
loving words and deeds...
It takes a Mother's endless faith,
her confidence and trust,
To guide us through the pitfalls of
selfishness and lust...
And that is why in all this world
there could not be another.
Who could fulfill God's purpose
as completely as a mother!



100 Years Young



**James
Hagsky**

James is a long time member of Assembly 108 and also a retired steel worker of 40 years. He lives in East McKeesport, PA.

A celebration will be held on May 19th celebrating his 100th birthday. You are loved very much by your daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Best wishes for good health and happiness in the years to come.

2018 CONVENTION CAMPAIGN

Here is an exciting opportunity for you to help NSS while earning some extra cash. Here is our pre-convention contest for all recommenders and fraternal agents only to celebrate our 2018 Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, PA.

From **December 1, 2017** through **May 31, 2018 (6 months)** every eligible recommender or application written will earn you prize chances. NSS will award four prizes: one for the person with the most recommenders or applications. Then three random prize winners will be chosen by drawing at the convention. You earn one chance for the first recommender/app, two for the second one, three for the third, and so on. (i.e. 5 recommenders would get you 15 chances)

So the more recommenders/applications you submit the greater the number of chances you will have to earn a prize:

1st Prize.....\$500
2nd, 3rd & 4th Prize.....\$250 per person

Only one convention campaign prize per person. To submit fill out the Recommender form on the back cover of this newsletter. Winners need not be present.

All eligible recommenders will receive \$25 (\$10 on youth term apps). This is a great time to share your NSS experiences with family and friends. Good luck to you!



Above are a few of the homes in Slovakia

2018 Consular Tour Of Slovakia

August 13 - August 26, 2018

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has prepared a deluxe 15 day tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Poland and Hungary. This is the only tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Presov. At no extra cost, Joe has included two nights in Poland and two nights in Hungary. The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,300 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

2018 Slovakia Heritage Tour

September 7-16, 2018

Experience Slovakia's culture and history, up close and personal on the 2018 Slovakia Heritage small-group tour. Genealogical research and ancestral visits available. For details: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, 978-544-5144 or slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com

Slovak Heritage Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association presents the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7:00 pm at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 (412-531-1912).

May 7, 2018 - Weddings in Slovakia
Back by numerous requests, Otilia Golis will repeat her presentation of a wedding in Slovakia.

June 4, 2018 - History of the Pittsburgh Agreement
Rich Kocur will give an in-depth presentation of the history of the Pittsburgh Agreement with some little known facts.



Máj

*Kráča slnko po oblohe, usmieva sa veselo,
rozspievať všetky vtáky asi sa mu zachcelo.
Usadí sa slnko zlaté na kraj každej vetvičky,
naučí sa všetky noty prvej jarnej pesničky.*



Ku dňu matiek...

Druhá májová nedeľa nám každoročne pripomína jeden z najkrajších darov, ktoré tu na zemi človek má: dar starostlivej a milujúcej matky. Tohto roku pripadá **Deň matiek** na 13. mája.



Mamičke

Za tvoju nehu, za tvoju lásku,
za noci prebdené, za každú vrásku.
Za stovku rozprávok, objatí a bozkov,
patrí ti mamička veľká náruč kvetov.
Slová vdáky a lásky povedať ti chcem,
že ťa mamka veľmi ľúbim a za všetko ti
ĎAKUJEM!



Svätá Žofia ľan rozsieva

Pre predpoveď úrody bol pre poľnohospodára najdôležitejší 15.máj — deň Žofie. Podľa pranostiky *Žofia víno vypíja a dobrý ľan dáva*. Preto sa mohlo udržať ešte studené počasie s nočnými mrazmi, ktoré mohli uškodiť predovšetkým viniciam. Tento deň ľudia považovali za najhodnejší na siate ľanu a konopí, ktoré mali byť husté a dlhé, ako vraj boli vlasy Žofie. Vzbílené kvalitné plátno bolo pýchou a meraldnom schopností každej gazdinky.

Dôležité dni Poznačte si kalendár...

31.5 oslávime sviatok Decorácie zdobenia hrobov padlých hrdinov ktorý položili svoje životy za slobodu.

24—28.6 37 Konvencia NSS bude v Hershey, PA. Podrobnejšie informácie na www.nsslife.org.

13—15.7 Golfovy Turnaj , Hermitage, PA

19.7 95th Slovenský Deň v Kennywood Parku

22.9 Septemberfest festival v našom muzeu McMurray.



Máj, mesiac lásky...

Už veľa, veľa rokov je tradíciou, že sa v mestách aj na dedinách robia zábavy a veselice a stavajú sa Máje, vždy poslednú aprílovú noc. Taktiež si mnohí z Vás určite spomenú aj na tradíciu, keď mládenci stavali máje dievčinám, ktoré veľmi ľúbili a svoju lásku im prejavili postavením krásne vyzdobeného Mája v okolí ich domčeku. Je to jeden z najkrajších mesiacov v roku, keďže sa sním veľmi úzko spája práve slovo láska. Každý z nás po nej túži, každý z nás onej sníva, každý z nás ju chce cítiť... Pretože práve v tento mesiac ju pociťujeme oveľa silnejšie a intenzívnejšie. Ďalšou tradíciou bolo a stále je pobožkať svoju milú, či milého pod rozkvitnutou čerešňou. Hovorí sa, že dievčina, ktorú milí pobožká pod čerešňou sa do roka vydá alebo že pár, ktorý sa takto pobožká bude naplnený láskou a spokojnosťou, dokonca že počne dieťaťko. Pranostík na tento mesiac je veľmi veľa a nádherných zvyklostí ešte viac. Želáme veľa, veľa čistej a úprimnej lásky. Aby Vaše očka žiarili šťastím, aby Vaše srdiečka naplnila radosť a pokoj a aby ste nekonečné šťastie a dni plné úsmevu prežívali nielen dnes, zajtra alebo tento mesiac, ale pozbytok Vášho života.



Kralovna maja

Mesiac máj, ako najkrajší mesiac v roku, u nás sa odjakživa spájal s menom Panny Márie.

*Kvetinky májové, Márii sa kloňte, zvončeky hájové,
Márii zazvoňte, vzdajte česť a úctu najčistejšej Panne,
proste ju, nech na nás z výšin neba zhladne.*

*Konvalinky biele, fialky voňavé k ozdobe oltára hojne
prinesieme; a kiezby sme zniesli všetky sveta kvety, by ťa
ozdobili tvoje verné deti.*

13 mája je výročný deň prvého zjavenia Panny Márie v r. 1917 vo Fatime.



Congratulations



Joseph Bastaroli

Joseph Bastaroli, son of Jerry and Tracey (home office employee) Bastaroli, received the Joe Iagnemma Memorial Scholarship awarded by South Fayette's Lions Wrestling Parents Association on April 4, 2018. Joseph has been wrestling since the age of 4 missing only one year due to a broken wrist. During this time he has accomplished a variety of awards and titles on all levels—County, Tri County, Sectional, WPIAL and Regionals. He will be attending Robert Morris University this fall to pursue a major in Accounting and a minor in Finance. Good Luck and Congratulations Joseph from the NSS.

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

2018 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST

Deadline: August 15th, 2018

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, Youth Circle Magazine, 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.



Jokes of the day

*What do you get when you cross a Jamaican and a ginger?
Gingerbread mon!*

*What's the difference between Batman and a robber?
Batman can go into a store without robin!*

*How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time?
He's Dublin over with laughter!*



Youth Circle Page

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

May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. Contest is open to all members of the National Slovak Society between the ages of 5 and 16.
2. Only one entry is permitted **per member, per category**.
3. Contestants may create their artwork using:
 - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera, and cesium)
 - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
 - c. Ink/Pencil
 - d. Charcoal
 - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. The Artistic and Posters categories may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes. (Paint by numbers, stencils or tracing will not be accepted)
5. The Greeting Card category **has been eliminated**.
6. Each year a theme will be announced in the April Issue of the National Newsletter for the Poster. The theme this year is **"My Favorite NSS Activity is**
7. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, policy number, assembly/circle number, along with your t-shirt size. This information should be clearly printed on the back of each entry.
8. Please indicate t-shirt size by the following size chart available:
 - a. Youth sizes - YS and YM
 - b. Adult sizes - AS, AM, AL and AXL

9. Winners in each category will have their artwork displayed in the National News and will be published on the NSS website.
10. Contest shall be judged under the following levels and ages for all 3 categories:
 - a. Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
 - b. Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
 - c. Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
 - d. Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16*
11. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:

a. First Place	\$50.00
b. Second Place	\$25.00
c. Third Place	\$15.00

12. All entrants will receive a NSS Life T-shirt.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING PROCESS

Deadline for entries to the Home Office is May 31st. Either mail or deliver artwork to: NSS Life, c/o Fraternal Department, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray PA 15317
Decisions of the judge(s) shall be final in all cases.

***In the event the First place winner in the Artistic Category - Van Gogh Level either enters an accredited Art School or pursues Art as a career in college, he/she will be awarded a one-time \$250.00 Art Scholarship provided that the student meets all the NSS PVR Scholarship rules and regulations.**

****The National Elder of the National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all displays or winning entries. Artwork will only be returned by request.**



2018 Scholarships

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five year members of the National Slovak Society, Assembly 160.

The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com. Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

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.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____



Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.

Change of Address

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

Name _____

Assembly No. _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Former Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

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