



# National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

NOVEMBER 2015 | NUMBER 3487 VOLUME 107



NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS  
**Septemberfest**

Picture Collage  
Inside!

**Christmas  
Ornament**  
Contest Deadline  
Coming Soon!  
December 1st,  
2015



# National Slovak Society

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## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

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Joseph Stefka, Jr., *Chairman of the Board*  
Linda M. Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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

### Inside this Issue...

#### Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance ..... 3

#### From the Executive Officers

President's Column..... 4

#### NSS Financial Matters

Financial Matters ..... 5  
Annuity Interest Rates ..... 6

#### NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director..... 7

#### NSS News/Activities

Fraternal Activities Coordinator ..... 8  
American Hearing Loss ..... 9  
Septemberfest Photos ..... 10-11  
Assembly Photos ..... 12-13  
Museum Minutes ..... 15

#### Assembly News

Meeting Notices ..... 18-20  
Departed Members ..... 17  
PVR Donations ..... 21

#### Youth Circle

Thank You Letters ..... 17  
Ornament Contest Rules ..... 21  
Poetry Winners ..... 22

#### Národné Noviny

Na Advent ..... 14  
Primator mesta Prešov v Pgh ..... 14  
VÝZNAMNE DNI V NOVEMBRI.14  
Slovak Fashion Night v New Yorku.14



# *Activities at a Glance...*

<b>REGION 2</b>	<b>Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617</b>
November 24	Assembly 0617/C617, Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, Ashley, PA at 7:00 pm
<b>REGION 5</b>	<b>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774</b>
November 6	Assembly L161, Meeting, Ondrejco residence (time to be announced)
November 16	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm
December 6	Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Social Hall at 2:00 pm
December 6	Region 5 Slovak Christmas Pageant, Greensburg, PA at 5:00 pm
December 12	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor residence, N Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
<b>REGION 7</b>	<b>Assemblies P09A, 0731</b>
November 8	Assembly 0731, Making Christmas Ornaments, Poland Christian Church, Lowellville, OH at 2 pm
December 5	Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH (2:00-5:00 pm)
<b>REGION 8</b>	<b>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</b>
November 15	Assembly 0004, Meeting, Havir residence, Westlake, OH at 2:00 pm
November 16	Assembly 0160, Toys for Tots Night
December 5	Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Gemini Center, Fairview Park, OH at 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
December 6	Assembly 0070, Christmas Party/Meeting, 12:15 p.m. - Call the Karkosiaks at 216-741-6990
December 15	Assembly 0160, Fun Frolic Night
December 31	Assembly 0432, New Year's Eve Party, Shuttleworth residence
January 29, 2016	Assembly 0160, Annual Dinner/Meeting, 6:00 pm (Place to be announced)
<b>REGION 14</b>	<b>Assemblies R059, L102</b>
November 1-11	Assembly L102, Kolachi Bake sale - Call Marge Ferri at 610-866-8945
<b>REGION 15</b>	<b>Assemblies L002, 0028</b>
	No activities at this time
<b>AT LARGE</b>	<b>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813</b>
November 8	Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
December 6	Assembly 0813, Appreciation Dinner, Ruby Tuesday's at 7:00 pm
December 13	Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Bohemian Garden, Downers Grove at 2:00 pm
December 23	Assembly 0813, Christmas Party, Farrell residence (Time to be announced)
December 24	Assembly 0705, Butwin Christmas Eve Party at 6:00 pm

## From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC  
National President

Greetings from the Home Office. We are in the middle of the fall season; a beautiful time of the year, but beware in the Northeast that winter is not too far away. In looking at the upcoming Assembly and Region events, I don't see a lot of activity but the National Assembly will be holding our Fall Board Meeting November 6, 7 and 8th at the Home Office in McMurray, PA. November 1st marks the end of Daylight Saving Time, and on November 11th, we celebrate Veterans Day.

Thank you to all of our members who have served in the Armed Forces and to our active duty members; Thank you for your service. I always try to thank active military members during my travels. Next time you see someone in uniform, extend a thank you to them; they really do appreciate it.

November 26th is Thanksgiving and on behalf of the NSS Board of Directors, the Home Office Staff and my family, I would like to extend a very Happy Thanksgiving to each of you. And if you live in the Western PA area and are a hunter, be careful on the Monday when deer season opens.

## Frequently Asked Questions About The NSS

*(Continued from last issue)*

### **Q: What products do you offer?**

A: The National Slovak Society offers its members two types of life insurance coverage; permanent and term. Permanent plans of insurance build cash and loan values; while term plans offer the most protection for the lowest cost.

The Society also offers to our membership, two types of tax deferred annuities; qualified and non-qualified. Qualified annuities are funded with pre-tax dollars; while non-qualified annuities are funded with after-tax dollars.

### **Q: What is an NSS annuity?**

A: Its a contract between you and us that provides you with a guaranteed future income in exchange for payments you make to your account. It's a long term way of planning for the future, particularly for your retirement. Both IRS Qualified and Non-Qualified annuities are available in an NSS Annuity Contract.

### **Q: How do I become a member?**

A: All you need to do is purchase either a life insurance policy or an NSS annuity, and apply for membership. As long as you maintain an active policy with the NSS, you will remain a member of the Society.

### **Q: Do I have to be Slovak to become a member?**

A: The answer is no; membership in the Society is open to anyone who purchases either a life insurance policy or an NSS annuity, and believes in the Society Mission Statement.

*(To be continued next issue)*

### **Adult Truth Of The Month:**

*I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong brothers and sisters.*

## News of Narodniars

We were saddened to hear of the passing of some longtime Narodniars recently; namely Bill Janega from Assembly 0028 in CT, Robert Bindas from Assembly P09A in Ohio, and Robert Brown from Assembly 0123 in Pennsylvania. These gentlemen were at many of our conventions in the past and very active in their local assemblies. Deepest sympathies go out to the Janega, Bindas and Brown families on their loss.

Celebrating Birthdays this month are Editor Lori Crowley, Home Office Staff members Patti Kropf and Amanda Felton, former national Director Brian Medved, Sarah Payerchin and Shirley Brindzak.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries are Chair of the Board Joe Stefka and wife Annette, Jodi and Rick Onder, and Honorary Director Tony Beno and wife Linda. Congratulations to all others celebrating in the month of November.

SECOND QUARTER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT - NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

Net Admitted Assets:

	June 2015	December 2014
Bonds	\$814,798,681	\$763,035,867
Preferred Stocks	600,000	500,000
Common Stocks	608,672	617,669
Mortgage Loans on		
Real Estate	9,068,672	9,192,464
Certificate Loans	634,687	559,368
Real Estate Occupied		
By Society	755,706	766,384
Cash On Deposit	14,050,547	17,498,596
Electronic Data Equipment	0	0
Uncollected Premiums	120,287	96,042
Investment Income Due	<u>10,292,432</u>	<u>9,659,931</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$850,929,574</b>	<b>\$801,926,321</b>

Liabilities and Unassigned Funds:

	June 2015	December 2014
Aggregate Reserve	\$764,970,000	\$722,215,500
Deposit-type		
Contracts	44,139,455	37,906,018
Certificate Claims	250,000	250,000
Commissions Due	70,000	361,200
Refunds Due and Unpaid	360,000	360,000
General Expenses Due	1,224,000	1,259,200
Retained By The Society		
As Trustee	60,123	104,229
Asset Valuation		
Reserve (AVR)	3,848,200	3,552,000
Interest Maintenance		
Reserve (IMR)	4,937,230	5,217,079
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	<u>30,900,566</u>	<u>28,068,630</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$850,929,574</b>	<b>\$801,926,321</b>

Surplus Account:

	June 2015	December 2014
<b>Beginning Surplus</b>	\$28,218,630	\$21,195,838
Net Income	3,409,490	7,532,478
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	(101,354)	(92,971)
Chge in Nonadmitted Assets	(180,000)	97,285
Change in Valuation		
Reserve	(296,200)	(514,000)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains		
and Losses in Surplus	0	0
Net Change In Surplus	<u>2,831,936</u>	<u>7,022,792</u>
<b>Surplus At Statement Date</b>	<b>\$31,050,566</b>	<b>\$28,218,630</b>

Summary Of Operations:

	June 2015	December 2014
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Premiums & Annuity		
Considerations	\$73,033,697	\$111,728,468
Net Invest. Income	19,981,936	38,060,741
Amortization Of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	<u>343,102</u>	<u>170,477</u>
<b>Income Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$93,358,735</b>	<b>\$149,959,686</b>

	June 2015	December 2014
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Death Benefits	\$2,605,174	\$3,617,970
Matured Endowments	10,513	35,231
Annuity Benefits	40,058,131	66,547,314
Disability, Accident,		
Health Benefits	2,496	102
Surrender Benefits	286,697	660,498
Interest On Deposit		
Type Contracts	(5,300)	11,917
Increase In Aggregate		
Reserve For Life		
Contracts	42,754,500	64,074,500
Commissions On		
Direct Business	1,797,352	2,969,614
General &		
Fraternal Expenses	2,157,798	3,657,034
Insurance, Taxes,		
Licenses, Fees	<u>125,586</u>	<u>374,121</u>
<b>Expense Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$89,792,947</b>	<b>\$141,948,301</b>

	June 2015	December 2014
<b>SUMMARY:</b>		
Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds		
To Members	\$3,565,788	\$8,011,385
Refund To Members	<u>(162,848)</u>	<u>(356,263)</u>
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds		
To Members	3,402,940	7,655,122
Net Realized		
Capital Gains	<u>6,550</u>	<u>(122,644)</u>
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>3,409,490</b>	<b>\$7,532,478</b>

Linda M Strom  
Secretary/Treasurer, CFO

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

**IMPORTANT  
PLEASE READ**

Semi-annual annuity statements will no longer be sent in July of each year.

We will now send an annual statement in .....January..... only.

You may access your account values 24/7 by going to the website:

[www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org) and log in/register as a member.

**Current Interest Rates**

**Effective January 1, 2013**

<b>Preferred Choice</b>	<b>1.00%</b>
<b>Optimum 3</b>	<b>2.00%</b>
<b>Preferred 5</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>Preferred 8</b>	<b>3.50%</b>

\*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 could 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.**



**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



## From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC  
National Sales Director



## Some Basic Rules of Finance

Everyone wants to have more money. Money represents freedom and independence. Here are a few tips that can help you accumulate more money for all the “what if’s” that are out there waiting for you:

- Spend less than you earn.
- Get rid of the credit cards and high interest debt.
- Track all your expenses for a month so you know where the money is going.
- Then create a budget and stick to it.
- Participate in your employers 401k or other savings plans
- Go grocery shopping with a list and don’t be afraid to use coupons.
- Plan and think about how taxes affect your situation. Open a Roth IRA.
- Buy insurance to cover the big disasters that could happen to you. (life, home, auto)
- Annually check your net worth (assets – liabilities = net worth)
- Make a plan or a goal for savings, retirement, etc.

If you follow these few suggestions I guarantee that one year from now you will be in better financial shape.

## 5 Excuses Why I Haven’t Bought More Life Insurance

Everyone knows they probably need more life insurance. This financial product is the greatest tool ever design to protect families. Life insurance creates cash for your family at a moment’s notice. A recent survey of potential insurance buyers that procrastinated on the purchase had the following excuses –

- **It’s too expensive.** - The reality is life insurance has never been less expensive. People are living longer and this helps keep premiums down. On the other side of the coin, not having adequate insurance protection could cost your family thousands of dollars. So is it expensive – the answer is no. A \$100,000 term policy for any non-smoker under the age of 40 is less than \$15 per month.
- **I haven’t got around to it.** - There are no guarantees in life so you should not procrastinate. As you get older the rates go up, your health may change or you may get a job/vocation that charges more money for the additional risk (coal miners, private pilots, racing cars, etc.).
- **I prefer to put my money elsewhere.** - This might work if you live long enough. But of all the things to gamble on is it worth your family’s future? You start an alternate savings account and put money in for the next ten years. You were putting a couple of hundred dollars in per month and now the account is worth more than \$30,000. The next day you get hit by a bus? Hey, that \$15 a month term policy would have paid your spouse \$100,000 and that’s a whole lot more than \$30,000.
- **I worry about making the wrong decision.** - That is why it is important to speak with an insurance professional. NSS has many qualified representatives that would be happy to help you.
- **I have insurance at work.** - That’s great, many employers offer insurance so take advantage of it. What you need to keep in mind is that group insurance is only good while you are working. If you become disabled, quit or retire than it ends. It is also unlikely that your group insurance would be sufficient to cover your personal situation.

A long time ago I learned that one excuse is as good as another. The point is – it is just an excuse. You have to take responsibility for your situation. Do the right thing and make sure your family is protected. Call us and we will be happy to help you.

## Home Office Holiday Hours

November 26 & 27, 2015	Thursday/Friday	Thanksgiving
✓✓✓✓✓December 11, 2015	Friday	<b>Last day to request checks in 2015</b>
December 24 & 25, 2015	Thursday/Friday	Christmas
December 31, 2015	Thursday	New Year’s Eve
January 1, 2016	Friday	New Year’s Day

### Thought for the Month

*Success is never final; failure never fatal. Its courage and perseverance that counts.*

**Glenn Tilton CEO – Continental**

## Fraternal Matters...

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



*Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.*

*~ William Arthur Ward*

## 2016 Tournaments

**Golf** - Treasure Lake in Dubois, Pennsylvania has been selected as the site of the 2016 Golf Tournament. Please mark your calendars for July 15-17, 2016 and come help us "Celebrate 50 Years of Golf". Treasure Lake is a family vacation paradise and one of the best kept secrets in PA. With 9,000 lush, hilly acres, three lakes, two golf courses, and both an indoor and outdoor pools. So even if you're not a golfer there is plenty of things to do for the



entire family. More details about this fun filled weekend will be forthcoming in future issues, so stay tuned.....

**Bowling** – As of today's date, the exact location and date for the 2016 Bowling Tournament have not been finalized. Look for the information in the December issue.

## Happy Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving holiday season is the time to take a moment, and give thanks for all the blessings in your life.

November is one of my favorite months, not just because of Thanksgiving (although that's part of it) but because it is also my son Alex's 22nd birthday and my wedding anniversary. I am so very very thankful for these two amazing men in my life.

# Have A Blessed Thanksgiving

## Ornament Contest Deadline

Before you know it, the deadline for the Christmas Ornament Contest will be here. December 1st is the deadline for submissions to this year's contest. This contest is open to both youth and adults. All ornaments will be distributed to a local nursing home to be placed on a Christmas tree.

## Photo Contest

The results of this year's Photo Contest along with the winning pictures will be featured in the December issue of the National News. I am happy to report that we had 169 entries this year. I am sure the Judge is having a very difficult time choosing winners. Good luck and thank you to all of our members that took the time to submit an entry.

## Recipe's Needed

Beginning in December we would like to start publishing some of our member's favorite recipes. With that being said, I need your help.

Please take a moment and send in your favorite recipes (the more Slovak or ethnic the better). Either email me at pblum@nsslife.org or mail them to NSS Life, Attn: Pam, 351 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317.



# Side Effects of Hearing Loss

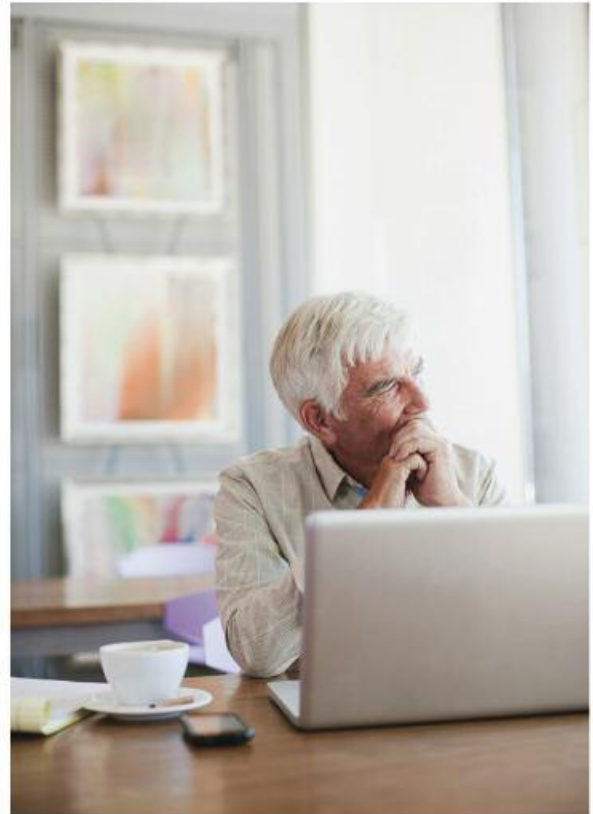
It should come as no surprise that hearing loss can result in anxiety and feelings of isolation if left untreated. But there are other consequential side effects that are less obvious or well known.

**Fatigue** — Research shows that, with untreated hearing loss, the sheer effort it takes to communicate can cause fatigue, as the person needs to concentrate harder to participate in conversations.

**Earning Power** — Studies by the Better Hearing Institute show that people with untreated hearing loss lose up to \$30,000 annually, depending on their degree of hearing loss.

**Dementia** — A study by Johns Hopkins University reports that seniors with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retain their hearing.

The National Slovak Society (NSS Life) has recently partnered with American Hearing Benefits so that NSS Life members may enjoy the benefits of hearing help at a discounted rate. With today's advances in hearing science and technology, there's no longer a reason to let hearing loss affect you or those you care about the most.



---

To learn more about your benefit or to schedule a **FREE CONSULTATION**,  
Call **1.888.705.6920** or visit **[www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS](http://www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS)**

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THE NSS HERITAGE  
**September**







STAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS  
**emberfest**







As a member of the the National Slovak Society (NSS Life), you and your family are eligible for American Hearing Benefits™.

American Hearing Benefits offers:

- ▶ **Discounts on today's latest technology**, including hearing aids, tinnitus treatment and hearing protection products
- ▶ **FREE** annual hearing consultations
- ▶ Access to a nationwide **network of 3,000+ hearing locations**
- ▶ **FREE** one-year supply of batteries (40 cells per hearing aid purchased)
- ▶ One year of **FREE office visits** (limit of six)
- ▶ **60-day trial period\***
- ▶ **FREE Deluxe Warranty Plan**, including loss and damage\*
- ▶ **Financing plans** available (subject to credit approval)

**NOW AVAILABLE!**  
**DISCOUNT HEARING BENEFITS**

To learn more or to schedule your **FREE CONSULTATION** visit  
[www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS](http://www.AmericanHearingBenefits.com/partners/NSS)

— or —

Call 1 (888) 705-6920



A Starkey® Hearing Technologies Program



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### Assembly 731 - Summer Activities



Join Hands Day. Planting flowers with members and Girl Scouts at the Poland Historical Society's Little Red Schoolhouse.



Youth head out for the Canfield Fair Scavenger Hunt. (Ashlynn Mason, Marlie Applegarth, Josie Applegarth, and a friend)

### Assembly 160 Summer Picnic Review



Thank you to the members who attended our Assembly 160 summer picnic. We lucked out with beautiful weather. We were able to pry the little ones off of the playground long enough to eat. Thank you to our grillers; Bob Katricak, Jim Czarney, and John Katricak and to our event photographer Michael Czarney! A great time was had by all!

Visit our website at  
[www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org)  
Have you Signed  
Up A New  
Member Recently?



## Assembly L075 Summer Fun

Members of Assembly L075 met at the Mercateli Sepilia Park in Moosic, Pa for their annual summer picnic. Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak cooked hamburgers and Assembly L075 President Gary Edwards cooked hot dogs with the assistance of Region 2 President Marlin Petro-Wesnak. Members in attendance brought goodies for the buffet luncheon and a basket for the raffle. Marlin conducted bingo and a great time was had by all.



Shown in attendance are: youth members Adam and Allie Lazar with Secretary/ Treasurer, Lehrae Ann Edwards. Row 2: Gary and Dorothy Collins, President Gary Edwards, Patricia Gorgol, Vice President Lucy Piccoletti, Debbie Wesnak, and Joseph and Catherine Janichko. Row 3: Samantha Wesnak, Cherylinn Harrington, Madison Petro, Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak, Region 2 President Marlin Petro-Wesnak and Matthew Edwards.



## ASSEMBLY 731 - THREE GENERATIONS

In the early 1900's Jan Andrez Balaz and Maria Justina Kluchar came to the United States from different regions of the area now known as Slovakia. The two eventually met each other in Struthers, Ohio and got married in 1907. Like so many other immigrants at that time, the pronunciation and spelling of their names became Americanized so they became known as John Andrew Bolash and she would be called Mary. Both were active members of NSS. Together John and Mary Bolash raised nine children and over the



past 108 years, the family has grown to include hundreds of descendants. Some of John & Mary's descendants gathered together this summer at a Region 7 picnic. NSS family members traveled to Struthers, Ohio for the event from Arizona and Florida and enjoyed a weekend together. Activities during the weekend included a golf outing on Friday, a visit to the Struthers Historical Society Museum Saturday morning followed with a picnic at Mauthe Park in Struthers, and on Sunday a trolley ride through the local Mill Creek Park. It was a great weekend enjoyed by many.







**Všetkým členom NSS a Vaším rodinám želame krásny sviatok plný radosti, vzájomnej lásky a porozumenia pri spoločnom stole na Deň Vďakyzdania.**

V tomto mesiaci 26 novembra oslávime sviatok Vďakyzdania ktorý je Štátnym i národným sviatkom v Amerike.

V tento sviatok sa schádzajú rodiny i priatelia aby vďakov vzdáním za spoločným stolom preukázali úctu a vďaku Bohu za všetkú štedrosť.

Tento sviatok je v poradí druhým po Vianociach na vzájomné stretnutie sa rodín a ak stretnutie nedovoli aspoň si jedno druhému zvonila telefonom na pár slov.

Dovoľte aby sme sa aj my poďakovali Bohu za jeho štedrosť a dobrodenia—hoci žijeme v ďalekom kraji od rodiska predsa máme veľa i zo slovenských zvykov a podujatí—kde sa stretávame, kde si zaspievame, kde sa i radujeme, i zasmejeme a cestou slovenských relácií počujeme aj našu slovenskú reč. Hrdo môžeme spievať i hymnu Amerických Slovákov: Hej Slováci ešte naša slovenska reč žije—a bude žiť navcky.

## NA ADVENT

Na stole venček, štyri sviečky,  
vôkol neho stoja deti všetky.  
Vysvetľuje otec, mama:  
Deti, venček je znak strateného raja  
a sviečky značia príchod Pána.  
Každý týždeň otec jednu zapáli,  
aby sme Ježiška na modlitbách čakali.  
Keď posledná dohorí,  
brána neba zas sa otvorí.  
Pridu Vianoce,  
z neba znova k nám  
zostúpi Ježiš,  
Kristus Pán.



## Slovak Fashion Night v New Yorku oslavuje desiate narodeniny: La Rena na prestížnom newyorskom týždni módy

V preplnenom newyorskom megaklube Space Ibiza na Manhattane oslávila počas víkendu americko-slovenská Nadácia +421 svoje desiate narodeniny.

Presne toľko rokov dáva mladým slovenským umelcom a dizajnérom šancu predstaviť svoju tvorbu americkému publiku na tradičnej veľkej módnej prehliadke pod názvom Slovak Fashion Night.

Na jubilejnom ročníku Slovak Fashion Night 2015 sa predstavila aj etablovaná slovenská dizajnérka Renata Kliská, tvoriaca pod značkou La Rena. —facebook



Foto:  
Nadia Tavod,  
Marek Lukac

## Primator mesta Prešov v Pgh

Pripravný výbor radio vysielania v Pittsburghu čo možno počuť aj cez internet kdekoľvek po svete na [www.wpitam.com](http://www.wpitam.com), v každú nedeľu od trictej do štvrtej po poludni, a potom potrebné kliknúť na "listen live", v nedeľu 11. októbra pripravili 33 stretnutí sa Slovákov v Meste Pittsburgh. Milé prekvapenie urobili aj návštevníci z Prešova na čeli s novou primatorkou pani Ing. Andrea Turčanová. Mesto Prešov a Pittsburgh sú sesterské mesta a naša organizácia NSS—je veľmi hrdá na prekrásnu drevorezbu čo máme v našom múzeu ved' práve majstri z Prešova to vyrezávali.



Na snímke zľava, Sue Ondrejco, Keith Godor, Linda Strom, pani Ing. Andrea Turčanová, primator mesta Prešov, a Andrea Garbon

## VÝZNAMNE DNI V NOVEMBRI:

1. november -- Deň všetkých Svätých Sviatocný deň—Vzdávame úctu všetkým ktorí žili vzorným životom, kladíme vence na hroby našich zosnulých.

2. november — V rímskakatolíckej cirkvi je tento deň venovaný "dušičkam".

11. novembra— sv. Martin. Príslovie hovorí že ak na deň sv. Martina sneží prichádza na bielom koni vraj vianoce budú na blate a ak je to opačne že na Martina prší vianoce budú biele.





# Museum Minutes... 11/15

## Septemberfest 2015

What a spectacular event! The 450+ members and friends who attended were amazed and impressed with the wood carving. Our thanks to Anne & Dave Dayton and friend Ruth Ann who made themselves available to tell the story of this amazing masterpiece and to answer questions. In addition to viewing the wood carving there was continuous entertainment, craft and cooking demonstrations along with 11 vendors and of course, Slovak food and pastries. There are many volunteers to thank for making the day an overwhelming success. We will acknowledge them in a future issue of "Museum Minutes". We would like to thank the following sponsors:

**Platinum Sponsors:**

AQS Asset Management LLC  
NSS Life

**Gold Sponsors:**

Assembly 39, Uniontown, PA  
Assembly 105, Monroeville, PA  
Assembly L-161, Pittsburgh, PA  
Assembly 737, Greensburg, PA

**Bronze Sponsors:**

Andrew Yonek, Bethel Park  
Don & Mary Paff, Beaver Falls, PA

A special thank you to Assembly 774 who organized a matching funds basket raffle for Septemberfest and raised a total of \$801.00 for the Museum.



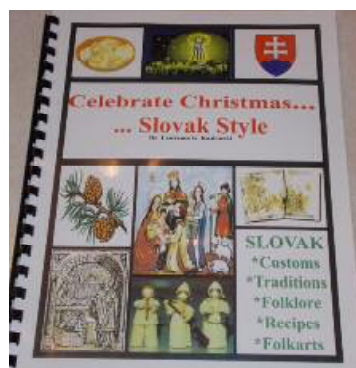
**Available from our Gift Shop while supplies last!**

**OPLATKY:**

Package of 5 large wafers \$2.00

Small wafer with Christmas Blessing ideal for placing inside Christmas cards.

Available in **English OR Slovak.**  
Please specify. \$1.00 ea.



**Christmas Slovak Style:**

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

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

Available on CD or as a book. Please specify which format you prefer when ordering.

**Make checks payable and mail to:**  
**NSS Heritage Museum**  
**351 Valley Brook Rd.**  
**McMurray, PA 15317**

*Margaret Ann (Mikolaj) - Assembly 0004*

*Sixth Anniversary*

**ROSES**

*If Roses grow in heaven Lord please pick a bunch for me  
place them in my Margie's arms and tell her they're from  
Tell her we love her and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile,  
remembering her is easy, we do it every day but there's an  
ache within our hearts that will never go away.*



*We miss your gentle being, smile, and sincere concerns,  
Husband Bob, sons Bob and Christopher*

**SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS  
A Fraternal Program**

**PURPOSE ~**

To encourage our older members to continue their education and to make fuller use of their leisure time.

**MEMBER ELIGIBILITY ~**

Any life insurance or annuity member, fifty-five (55) years or older, who has enrolled and successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course. Members may submit up to two (2) applications in one calendar year.

**COURSE ELIGIBILITY ~**

Vocational schools, community colleges and universities offer a variety of short-term courses which may include areas like computer training, cake decorating, photography, landscaping, small engine repair, ballroom dancing, etc. This program does not cover courses that assist you to maintain your current full or part-time job. (Example: We will not reimburse life insurance or real estate agents who take continuing education credits to maintain their licenses.)

**PROCEDURE ~**

Members should enroll and pay for the course of their choice. Once the member has finished the class, they must submit an application, along with verification that the class was successfully completed, to the Home Office for approval by a National Officer. If the scholarship application is approved, the NSS will reimburse one-half (1/2) of the tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed, one hundred dollars.

**INFORMATION & APPLICATION ~**

For an application or additional information on this NSS Scholarship for Seniors Fraternal Program, contact Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org or call the office at 724-731-0094, ext. 1010. The National Officers are the sole authority in any decisions regarding this scholarship program. Their decision is final in all cases.



## APPRECIATION LETTERS

Dear Mr. Blazek and the PVR Scholarship Award Program members,

My name is Paige Michael and I want to express my appreciation for your generous first installment scholarship award of \$500.00. This scholarship couldn't have come at a more opportune time. I encountered many additional and unplanned expenses during the month of August 2015, this Fall term being my first semester of in-depth nursing courses. After completing the Bachelor's of Nursing at Penn State Erie, the Behrend campus, I plan to continue on to receive my PhD in nursing, hopefully at the Main Campus.

The PVR Scholarship Program is a valuable tool toward the completion of my personal higher education goals, as well as many other students in your nationwide Assemblies. Again, thank you so very much for your ongoing support!

**Paige Michael**  
Assembly R019



Dear NSS,

Thank you for awarding me the PVR and Perpetual scholarships. I am very honored to receive these scholarships and thank everyone who has made this possible. I greatly appreciate it.

**Sara Getsy**



Dear NSS,

Thank you so much for the scholarship. It will help tremendously with my schooling. It is greatly appreciated.

**Haley Perry**

## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS September, 2015

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Baker, Dora A	Belle Vernon, PA	08/24/2015	0377
Barcheski, Michael F	Moon Twp, PA	10/09/2014	0123
Barton Sr., William R	Victor, WV	08/08/2015	0774
Bednar, Joseph M	McKees Rocks, PA	07/22/2015	0123
Belski, Houston	Uniontown, PA	07/31/2015	0377
Bindas, Robert L	Poland, OH	07/28/2015	P09A
Bleacher, David E	Mountville, PA	03/02/2015	L040
Bondy, James	Moreland Hills, OH	07/24/2015	0267
Bradbury, Sara	Logan, WV	08/02/2015	0774
Bradshaw, Matthew	Simla, CO	08/28/2015	0236
Brinsky, Bernard D	Bethel Park, PA	04/28/2015	0588
Cacolice, Grace F	Monroeville, PA	08/07/2015	L105
Chernak, John P	Topton, CT	06/23/2015	0028
Drogan, Richard	Rockaway, NJ	07/16/2015	0110
Drop, Jean	Monessen, PA	07/04/2015	0377
Faison, Helen S	Pittsburgh, PA	07/16/2015	L105
Farley, Eula M	Marmet, WV	08/06/2015	0774
Fisher, Willard	Sarver, PA	09/13/2015	L105
Fusco, Phyllis	Florence, SC	07/02/2015	0737
Gaidos, James	Monongahela, PA	08/20/2015	0377
Geisler, Ruth H	McKees Rocks, PA	01/15/2015	0283
Gironda, Joseph	White Oak, PA	07/01/2015	0108
Gorka Jr., Karol E	North Braddock, PA	02/23/2015	0108
Hagosky, Helen R	East McKeesport, PA	08/25/2015	0108
Hantz, Margaret	Redford, MI	12/05/2014	0377
Henderson, Myrna	Huntington, WV	09/16/2015	P38A
Hromanik, Edward C	Parkville, MD	08/11/2015	0108
Janega, William	Seymour, CT	09/06/2015	0028
Jones, Clair R	Homer City, PA	08/16/2015	0267
Katula, George	Pittsburgh, PA	08/10/2015	0434
Kleinedler, Edward	Benwood, WV	08/14/2015	0774
Koncos, Daniel M	Parma, OH	09/09/2015	0070
Lewis, Clair E	Homer City, PA	08/21/2015	0774
Littva, Arthur	Tinley Park, IL	02/19/2009	0586
Luykx, Louis	Kiel, WI	02/02/2015	0774
McDonald, Carole S	Bentleyville, PA	09/08/2015	0377
Meagher, Helen	Dunedin, FL	08/13/2015	0813
Milo, Teresa	Stratford, CT	12/01/2014	0028
Morgan, Camille	Chester, PA	07/14/2015	0774
Parsons, Lewis R	Elkview, WV	09/02/2015	0774
Pearce, Joann	Pittsburgh, PA	08/05/2015	0700
Pollock, Robert	Hummelstown, PA	06/30/2015	0737
Puhak, John	Hermitage, PA	03/29/2015	0100
Reash, Betty Lou	Clarion, PA	03/27/2015	0554
Rice, Mona J	Mercer, PA	08/13/2015	0731
Roman Jr., Michael	Buffalo, OH	11/03/2007	0432
Roman, Eleanor	Pleasant City, OH	06/04/2002	0432
Sarosy, Anne Z	Colorado Springs, CO	08/04/2015	0004
Struett, Margaret	Valley Cottage, NY	04/15/2014	0110
Taccki, Margaret	Clarks Summit, PA	08/26/2012	L075
Tallman, Marilyn L	Willowbrook, IL	11/17/2014	0586
Tomastick, Anita V	Joliet, IL	08/01/2015	0586
Wagner, Barbara J	White Pigeon, MI	12/14/2014	0774
Wallbrown, Denver R	Point Pleasant, WV	08/13/2015	0774
Wanta, Leroy	Junction City, WI	07/29/2015	0774
Zaczyk, Helen	Moon Twp, PA	03/09/2015	0554



## ASSEMBLY 004 Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at Mildred Havir's, 1744 Westhill Boulevard, Westlake, OH at 2:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Sonia Vorell**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 039 Uniontown, PA

Congratulations to our youth members that were winners in the recent NSS Poetry Contest. In the Frost Category, Casey Lako won first place and Julia Rayman was a second place winner. Great job!!!

Adults and youth remember to enter the NSS Christmas Ornament Contest – December 1st. Great monetary prizes awarded for ALL ages!!! You cannot win if you do not enter!!!! All ornaments are donated to a local nursing home after the judging. Many of our members have won in the past, so let's keep the streak going!!!!

If you want to know ALL the information about your policies, you can access your membership account by registering on the NSS website member portal: [nsslife.org](http://nsslife.org) and log in. Your account is available 24/7/365.

Ladies, the home office is soliciting your favorite Christmas recipes (the more Slovak the better) for publication in the monthly magazine. Don't wait, send them in today!!

Our annual "Christmas Party" will be held on Sunday, December 6th at the Knights of Columbus Social Hall, North Gallatin Avenue Extension at 2:00 p.m. Once again, we will be chancing off at 32" HD-TV (if we get a good Black Friday deal it may be larger) for the benefit of the NSS Scholarship Program. There will be a Chinese/Slovak auction as well as many door prizes and gift cards!!! Mark your calendar TODAY!!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we wish you all a blessed holiday celebration with your family and pray for those who do not enjoy the largess nor the freedoms that we share.

**John Payerchin**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 070/C070 Brooklyn, OH

Our Christmas Party and meeting will be held on December 6, 2015 at 12:15 p.m. If you plan to attend you must make reservations so we can plan accordingly with the cater. Call John Karkosiak or Mary Ann Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 on or before November 30, 2015 to make your reservations. If you can make a dessert dish to share, it would be appreciated. We are also collecting for the Sunday School mitten tree.

**Mary Ann Karkosiak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our assembly is sponsoring a bake sale as a matching funds project for the Cardinal Tomko Chapter. Anyone interested in ordering Kolach, please call Margaret Ferri at 610-866-8945. Pick up is a week before Thanksgiving at St. John the Baptist Church, Front Street, Allentown, PA.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 123 Coraopolis, PA

Last month our assembly lost one of our finest members, Bob Brown. He was a small quiet man with a big heart. But in so many ways Bob was a giant, this is how he was characterized by the pastor of his church, St. James in Sewickley. He was a pillar of his parish and a giant in service to others.

Bob was NSS Fraternalist of the year in 2013. He certainly earned this honor. It is impossible to list all the organizations for which Bob volunteered. Just to mention a few; St. James food bank, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Sewickley Men's Club, World Vision and numerous church and community activities.

He was named Sewickley Man of the Year because of all his volunteer work. His efforts continued even in his last few years as he battled cancer.

We will miss Bob. He embodied the true spirit of Fraternalism which is one of the pillars of NSS. He and his wife Caroline attended many of our assembly meetings and activities, participating and traveling to many of the conventions. I hope there are many among us who will be inspired by Bob's example and life. There are many worthwhile organizations that can benefit from more people volunteering their time. We offer our condolences to Bob's wife Caroline and their children Tim and Tracie and their families.

November 11th is Veterans Day, how can we thank those who served enough? We can't.

I wish each of our members a Happy Thanksgiving. We have been blessed to live in a time of great plenty. That being the case our assembly had made donations to several food banks so that those less fortunate can also have a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Bill Knoll**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 160 Lorain, OH

Our assembly has set dates for our annual fall and winter events. We collected for the PVR Scholarship Fund at our last meeting. Each member is asked to donate generously to our national scholarship fund.

November 16th will be our Toys for Tots night. Each member is asked to bring an unwrapped gift or monetary donation to help spread a little holiday cheer to needy children in the area. Last year, we were able to raise over \$400 in gifts and donations. Please help us do even better this year!

December 15th is our annual "Fun Frolic" Night. December's meeting will also be our annual charity event, a wonderful tradition that once again gives our members a chance to show their generosity.

Our Annual Dinner will be held on January 29, 2016, starting with a brief meeting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be followed by hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and then a sit down dinner. We hope to see many familiar faces (and some new ones!) at this event.

**John P Katricak**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY L161

### Pittsburgh, PA

The final meeting for our Assembly will be held on Friday, November 6, 2015 at the Ondrejco residence, 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Susan Ondrejco**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 432

### Fairview Park, OH

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park, Ohio from 12-5:00 p.m. Swimming is from 12 to 2:00 p.m. RSVP to Dave Pytel at 440-777-4054 or Tony Beno at 216-226-7005 or Bill Shuttleworth at 440-331-6997 by November 30, 2015.

Reminder - Our New Year's Eve Party will be held at the home of Bill & Sue Shuttleworth on December 31st.

**Shawn Pytel**  
Publicist

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## ASSEMBLY 586

### Chicago, IL

Our annual Christmas party will be held on December 13th at Bohemian Garden in Downers Grove at 2:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there.

**Janet Tomaskovic**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 588

### Slovan, PA

A meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Stefka residence, 52 Spring Valley Street, Slovan, PA. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect assembly officers for the next two years and to plan events and activities for the members of our assembly for 2016. Please try to attend and become active in our assembly.

**Annette Stefka**  
Recording Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 617/C617

### Ashley, PA

The Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Leo's/ Holy Rosary Church, 33 Manhattan Street, Ashley, PA for the Ashley Food Pantry. The pantry is a branch of the CEO Northeast PA Regional Food Bank of Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Ashley branch includes those families in the zip code 18706 who are in need of help. All local churches join together to thank God for our blessings and share some of those blessing with the less fortunate.

At the service everyone is invited to bring bags of groceries to donate to the food pantry and at the service our Assembly 617 takes up the monetary collection for them. This is our assembly's Matching Fund for this year.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY 737 - Westmoreland County, PA

Our next meeting will be held on December 12, 2015 at the home of Paul J. Godor, 9280 Clubview Dr., North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m. This will be our Christmas meeting and luncheon. If you will be attending please call 724-863-9662 by December 4, 2015 so we can plan accordingly. Election of Officers will be held. All members are urged to attend.

**Paul J Godor**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 731

### Lowellville, OH

As the year winds down to the final few months, Assembly 731 members have some great memories about the activities they enjoyed this year and look forward to upcoming events this Fall and Winter. Their annual Halloween Hayride in October is always an enjoyable event for both the kids and the adults. Picking a pumpkin in the field and bringing it back for carving or painting creates memories of a lifetime. Of course, the corn maze, games and refreshments are always an enjoyable part of the evening.

Upcoming events include time together at the Poland Christian Church, 6248 Struthers Rd., Lowellville, Ohio on Sunday, November 8th, at 2:00 p.m. when we will have supplies available to members to make ornaments for the NSS Ornament contest. We will take this opportunity to have family movie time with a movie that we're sure everyone will enjoy to get them into the Christmas Spirit while munching on popcorn and sipping hot chocolate after their ornament is finished.

Our Christmas Party will be held at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, 6225 Quarry Rd., Lowellville, Ohio on Saturday, December 5th, 2:00-5:00 p.m. This year we will feature our youth on stage as they perform singing, dancing, and/or a Christmas Skit. We are in the process of encouraging our youth to share their special talents. In addition to the stage entertainment, Santa will pay a visit with a gift for each child. Each family is asked to bring blankets, sheets, towels, hats, gloves, or coats that will benefit the Mahoning Valley Rescue Mission in their efforts to help the homeless this winter.

**Laurie Fox**  
President



## ASSEMBLY 813

### Englewood, FL

Save your change for the annual Brown Bag project, a Matching Funds project which provides food for needy seniors throughout the year. The collection runs through November 30th. Results will be announced at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, which will be held December 6th, at 7:00 p.m., at Ruby Tuesday's.

The Christmas party will be held on December 23rd, at the Farrell residence. For more information on these events, or to let us know you will be attending, please call Mary Jo Holker, secretary, at 941-473-0559.

**Mary Jo Holker**  
Secretary

## REGION 5 - Pittsburgh, PA

### Fraternal Night at the Slovak Christmas Pageant at Bishop Connare Center

Region 5 is sponsoring a fraternal night at the Bishop Connare Center, 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, Pa on Sunday, December 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. for a Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and Christmas Pageant. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. in the Center's dining room followed by The Christmas Pageant, presented by the Pittsburgh Slovaks in the Chapel. The pageant begins with a reenactment of superstitious customs practiced in the weeks before Christmas. This is followed by the customary visit from the Betlehemci or Jaslickari. This is the story of four brothers who are shepherds and the gifts they bring to the Christ Child. The cost of a ticket for dinner and the Christmas Pageant for members 12 and older is \$10.00 and tickets for children 3-11 are free. The cost for any non-member is \$22.00 for anyone 12 or older and \$10 for children 3-11. A limited number of seats are available.

To reserve a ticket, please send your reservation request with the names of those attending, along with a check payable to NSS Region 5 for the cost of your tickets, (\$10 for members 12 or older; members 3-11 are free; \$22 for non-members 12 or older; and \$10 for non-members 3-11 to: Sue Ondrejco, 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. The deadline for reservations is Friday, November 20, 2015. Please join s for the Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and Christmas Pageant.

**Joseph Stefka, Jr**  
Region 5 President

## Assembly L002 News

### Windsor, CT

A mass was attended at Holy Name of Jesus Church followed by a luncheon and meeting at Vazzy's Restaurant.

Members brought used or torn American Flags for proper disposal by the local VFW. Members also brought non-perishable food items which were donated to the Sterling House of Stratford, CT.

**Kristin Toman**  
Secretary



## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations September, 2015

In Memory of **Donald Adams & Vera Pachasa:**

### Donations:

Rosalie Troyanvich	25.00
Assembly 0617 (50/50 at Knoebels Park	76.00
George Strish III	50.00
Ed Ostrowski	25.00
District 5	264.00
Matching Funds from District 5	264.00

## 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

## 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. Also, all articles should be typewritten in regular type and original photos submitted. Our email address is: **info@nsslife.org**

## 2015 Christmas Ornament Contest

Time is running out to make and meet the deadline for your Christmas Ornament. Get out your glue guns and glitter and create a winning ornament today! The rules are as follows:

1. The contest is open to all NSS members. In addition, we are inviting each region, assembly, our Home Office Staff, and even our Board Members to participate.
2. Entries should be no larger than 5" High; 5" Wide and 5" Deep. The base can be in any shape so long as it stays within the above measurements. You can glue objects to make your ornament decorative (we encourage you to be creative!) Some examples are: glitter, ribbon, stars, cotton balls, etc... **Please submit original handmade ornaments only. Ornaments made from kits will be disqualified.**
3. All entries must include your name, address, age, youth circle number or assembly number and phone number on a separate sheet of paper. Youth members should also list their shirt size (Youth: YM, or Adult: AS, AM, AL, AXL). If you are an adult, please include which group you are entering as either a member, your assembly, or your region.
4. All winners in each group will have their names appear in the "National News". In addition a picture of your ornament will appear in the Winter issue of the "Youth Circle Magazine", as well as on the website. All entries will be distributed to a local nursing home to be placed on a Christmas Tree. You can send in more than one ornament for distribution purposes--the more we have the prettier the tree will be! In the event you send more than one, please note which ornament you would like to have entered into the contest to be judged.
5. The contest shall be judged under the following categories and prize awards:

### Our Youth Members

Frosty's group - Ages 5, 6 and 7

Rudolph's group - Ages 8, 9 and 10

Snowflake group - Ages 11, 12 and 13

Santa group - Ages 14, 15 and 16

### Prize Awards

First Place - \$25.00

First Place - \$25.00

First Place - \$25.00

First Place - \$25.00

### Prize Awards

First Place \$50.00

Second Place \$30.00

Third Place \$20.00

### Our Adult Members

6. Entries must be mailed, or hand-delivered to the NSS Home Office by the **deadline of December 1st** of each year. Please mail to: **National Slovak Society ATT: Ornament Contest, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337. BE SURE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING.**

## FAMOUS SLOVAKS IN AMERICA

(Translated by request from the July 2015 Noviny)



**Audrey Hepburn (1929 –1993)** One of the most recognizable faces in films in the second half of the 20th Century. Her Original name was Edda van Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston. Her roots in Slovakia are from the village Kovarce, near Topolčany, where her grandfather Joseph Ruston operated a sugar factory. Later, the family moved to Vienna where her father, a banker married Baroness Ella van Heemstra. Actress Audrey Hepburn starred in more than 30 film projects.



**Tom Selleck (1945)** American film actor and film producer. His father Robert Selleck was born in Eastern Slovakia, while his mother had Scottish roots. According to one source, he was baptized in the Orthodox Church. He gained his greatest popularity from the criminal detective series *Magnum*.

## SLOVAK HOLLYWOOD



**Steve McQueen (1930 –1980)** American Film Actor.

His original name was Stefan Ihnat. Both parents came from Slovakia and settled in Indiana. After settling in the United States they took the name McQueen. His father Andrew, came from the village Jastrabie, near Michalovce. Steve was one of the main characters in the film *The Magnificent Seven*, which brought him legendary fame.



**Angelina Jolie (1975)** American Actress, past model. She is one of the most beautiful women of the world. In addition to her work as an actress and model she is widely known for her work with the UN Refugee Agency. She inherited her Slovak genes from her father's side of the family- Actor Jon Voight. Her Grandfather emigrated from Košice.



## 2015 Poetry First Place Winners

### KEATS GROUP AGES 5, 6 & 7

#### Dance

by: Brooke Janosek  
Age 6 - Circle C432

Dreaming of dancing on stage  
Always practicing  
Never stop dancing  
Circles around everyone  
Everyone has fun

### ANGELOU GROUP AGES 8, 9 & 10

#### If I Could Be A Dolphin

by: Maya McDonnell  
Age 9 - Circle C617

If I could be a dolphin  
I would swim, play, and hunt all day.  
I would make clicks and whistles  
To tell my friends "hurry up" and "let's play"  
If I had a choice to be a monkey or a frog  
I would pick a monkey.  
But a monkey and a dolphin?  
I would pick a dolphin!

### FROST GROUP AGES 11, 12 & 13

#### Skyrocket

by: Casey Lako  
Age 13 - Circle C039

We walked around the park for a while  
Kennywood made my friends smile  
The wind blew as a rollercoaster raced by  
Rollercoasters were the most popular rides  
We stopped by the skyrocket, a rollercoaster  
It raced around like a wild bulldozer  
I was afraid to get on  
My heart raced and was not calm  
Finally, I decided to sit on a red, hard seat  
My heart pumped a fast beat  
The announcer slowly counted down  
Then, the coaster started off with a sound

It picked up at full speed  
I was riding a scary rollercoaster indeed  
The skyrocket went up the first hill  
Then it went down with a cold chill

Wind blew in my pale face  
The ride was smooth with grace  
A blur of blue soon brushed by  
This was not bad I thought with a sigh

The coaster twisted upside-down  
Then it curled around and around  
Finally the ride stopped spinning  
The coaster was swaying and swinging

The coaster then hit some large bumps  
They felt like little thumps  
The ride finally came to a stop  
Then we all quickly got off

I could not believe what I had done  
I had ridden a coaster that spun  
I stood there with a proud look  
A little courage was all it took

### SHAKESPEARE GROUP AGES 14, 15 & 16

#### The Weed Whacker

by: George A. Strish IV  
Age 14 - Circle C617

I am the weed whacker, a whacker of weeds  
I will take care of your weed whacking needs  
I whack and I whack for as long as I please

It sounds cheerful, right  
But it is my plight  
Eons ago I had lost my choice  
Now I no longer have reason to rejoice

Some people notice, they stop and ask why I whack  
I say "For the weeds never stop their endless  
barrage and attack"  
They say then just stop, I tell them I shan't  
I whack the weeds for those who just can't

FOR IF I DO NOT WHACK  
THE WEEDS WILL ATTACK  
AN NO ONE BUT ME HAS THE GUTS TO FIGHT BACK  
IT IS A THANKLESS JOB BUT I DO NO BAIL  
IF THE WEED WHACKINNG STOPS THE WORLD  
WILL JUST FAIL

**In the next issue we  
will print the 2nd Place  
Winners and 3rd Place  
will be in the January,  
2016 issue.**



NSS Life  
Family Matters...

## TROPICAL VACATION OFFER



Punta Cana

We're excited to offer YOU our members this opportunity for the experience of a LIFETIME!

### DESTINATION:

One week all-inclusive trip to the **Dreams Punta Cana Resort & Spa** in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. Preferred club deluxe tropical rooms w/pool view. Includes express check-in/out and free wifi service.

### DATE:

Sunday, April 3rd, 2016 – Sunday, April 10th, 2016.

### TRAVEL:

Charter airfare direct from Pittsburgh to Punta Cana included. Travel arrangements provided by Apple Vacations.

### PRICE:

**\$1,800.00** per person (Based on double occupancy).

**Limited number of rooms available on a first come, first served basis.**

We are excited about this trip and pleased to offer this opportunity to our members and their families. Contact **Connie Tortoreti** at (412) 714-4489 or at **unlimitedtravel97@gmail.com** for any questions.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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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.