



NSS Life

Family Matters...

**2016 Christmas Ornament
Contest Deadline:
December 1st, 2016**



2016 Heritage Museum "Septemberfest"

See pages 10-11 for photos



National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Národné Noviny



Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy Veterans Day



We Salute Our Veterans

Story on page 5

NATIONAL NEWS

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National Slovak Society

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LORI CROWLEY

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351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

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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

Annuity Interest Rates 6

NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director 7

NSS News/Activities

Fraternal Activities Coordinator 5
New Member 5
Veterans Day Tribute 5
Museum Holiday Gift Shop Supplies 9
Project - Enjoy Coupon Book 14
Assembly Activities/Photos 15
NSS History 18

Assembly News

Departed Members 8
PVR Donations 8
Assembly Meetings 12-13

Young Folks Circle

NSS Youth Ambassadors 17
Ornament Contest Rules 18
Second Place Poetry Winners 19

Národné Noviny

Zamyslenie na Advent 16
Božký dar vd'ačnosti 16
Zomrel prvý slovenský prezident
Michael Kováč 16
Významne dni v novembri 16
Sviatok Všetkých svätých 16

Activities At A Glance

<p>REGION 2</p> <p>November 22 February 11, 2017</p>	<p>Assemblies L075, 0617</p> <p>Assembly 0617, Thanksgiving Service, St. Leo's/Holy Rosary Church at 7:00 pm Region 2, Meeting at Perkins Restaurant. (Time to be announced)</p>
<p>REGION 5</p> <p>November 21 December 3 December 4 December 4</p>	<p>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774</p> <p>Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread, 250 McHolme Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15275 at 6:30 pm Assembly 0737, Meeting/Christmas Luncheon, Paul Godor's, N Huntingdon, PA at 2:30 pm Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall at 2:00 pm Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Ichiban's Restaurant, Washington, PA at 3:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 8</p> <p>November 20 December 4 December 11 December 20 February 25, 2017</p>	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>Assembly 0004, Meeting, Mildred Havir residence, Westlake, OH at 2:00 pm Assembly 0070/C070, Christmas Party, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Gemini Center, Fairview Park, OH 1:00 - 5:00 pm Assembly 432, Meeting, Time and place to be announced Assembly 432, Annual Reverse Raffle</p>
<p>REGION 14</p>	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>No activities at this time</p>
<p>REGION 15</p>	<p>Assemblies L002, 0028</p> <p>No activities at this time</p>
<p>AT LARGE</p> <p>November 6 November 13 November 15 November 27 December 17 December 24</p>	<p>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813</p> <p>Assembly 0731, Meeting, Poland Christian Church, Lowellville, OH at 2:00 pm Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly R019, Meeting, Milo's Restaurant, 11:00 am Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Klas Restaurant, Cicero, IL at 2:00 pm Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, Lowellville, OH at 2:00 pm Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 6:00 pm</p>

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our members, friends and family.

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Greetings! Fall is here in all its splendor with the changing leaves and the brisk fresh air. With it brings a few days of importance; namely Daylight Saving Time ends on the 6th of the month so you can have an extra hour of sleep. If you don't turn your clocks back, you will be in church on Sunday an hour early. On November 11th we celebrate Veterans Day, followed on the 12th and 13th by our Fall Board Meeting. And last but not least, Thanksgiving will be celebrated on the 24th of the month. Our office will be closed on the 24th and 25th in observance of Thanksgiving. Wishing each and every member a Happy Thanksgiving.

In Honor of Veterans Day

This is an account of a little known ceremony that fills the halls of the Army corridor of the Pentagon with cheers, applause and many tears every Friday morning.

It is 110 yards from the E ring to the A ring of the Pentagon. This section of the Pentagon is newly renovated; the floors shine, the hallway is broad and the lighting is bright. At this instant, the entire length of the corridor is packed with officers, a few sergeants and some civilians, all crammed tightly, three and four deep against the walls. There are thousands of people lining both sides of the hallway. Moderate conversations flow in a low buzz. Friends, who may not have seen each other for a few weeks, or a few years, spot each other, cross the way and renew their friendship. Everyone shifts to ensure an open path remains down the center.

At 10:36 hours: The clapping starts at the E-ring. That is the outermost of the five rings of the Pentagon and it is closest to the entrance to the building. This clapping is low, sustained and

hearty. It is applause with a deep emotion behind it as it moves forward in a wave down the length of the hallway. A steady rolling wave of sound it is, moving at the pace of the soldier, an enlisted man in a wheelchair. He is the first. He is missing the greater part of one leg, and some of his wounds are obviously not yet healed.

Captains, majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels meet his gaze and nod as they applaud, soldier to soldier. Six years ago, those lining the hallways were somewhat different. The applause a little wilder. Now almost everyone lining the hallway is, like the man in the wheelchair, also a combat veteran. The soldiers wheelchair is pushed by a full colonel, behind him, and stretching the length from Rings E to A, come more of his peers, each private, corporal or sergeant assisted as needed by a field grade officer.

11:00 hours: Twenty-four minutes of steady applause. For twenty-four minutes, soldier after soldier has come down this hallway - 20, 25, 30...Fifty-three legs come with them, and perhaps only 52 hands or arms, but down this hall came 30 solid hearts. They pass down this corridor of officers and applause, and then meet for a private lunch, at which they are the guests of honor, hosted by the generals. Some are wheeled along, some insist upon getting out of their wheelchairs, to march as best they can with their chin held up, down this hallway, through this most unique audience. Some are catching handshakes and smiling like a politician at a Fourth of July parade. More than a couple of them seem amazed and are smiling shyly.

There are families with them as well, the 18-year-old war-bride pushing her 19-year-old husbands wheelchair and not quite understanding why her husband is so affected by this, the boy she grew up with, now a man, who had never shed a tear, is crying...the older immigrant Latino parents who have, perhaps more than their wounded mid-20's son, an appreciation for the emotion given on their sons behalf. No man in that hallway, walking or clapping, is ashamed by the silent tears on more than a few cheeks. An Airborne Ranger wipes his eyes only to better see. A couple of the officers in this crowd have themselves been a part of this parade in the past.

These are our men, broken of body they may be, but they are our brothers, and we welcome them home. This parade has gone on every single Friday, all year long, for more than four years!

God bless all those who have served our great country.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday to Editor Lori Crowley, Home Office Staff members Patti Kropf and Amanda Felton, former Director Brian Medved, Shirley Brindzak and Sarah Payerchin.

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

Thanksgiving Poem

(The following poem was a favorite that the late Pastor of my church used to read at every Thanksgiving Service)

*Said old gentleman Gay,
on a Thanksgiving day:
If you want a good time,
then give something away.
So he sent a fat turkey to shoemaker Price,
And the shoemaker said: What a big bird!
How nice!
With such a good dinner before me,
I ought To give Widow Lee the small
chicken I bought.
This fine chicken, oh, see! ...
said the sweet Widow Lee,
And the kindness that sent it,
how precious to me ..!
Ill give washwoman Biddy
my big pumpkin pie ..
And, oh sure, Biddy said ..
tis the queen o all pies!
Just to look at is yellow face,
gladdens my eyes!
Now, its my turn, I think,
and a sweet ginger cake
For the motherless Finnigan children, I'll bake.
Cried the Finnigan children ...
Rose, Denny and Hugh:
It smells sweet of spice, and well carry a slice
To little lame Jake, who has nothing that's nice..
Oh, I thank you and thank you!
said little lame Jake,
What a bootiful, bootiful, bootiful cake!
And oh, such a big slice! Ill save all the crumbs,
And give them to each little sparrow that comes
And the sparrows, they twittered,
as if they would say,
Like old Gentleman Gay ..
On a Thanksgiving Day,,,
If you want a good time,
then give something away...*
(Author Unknown)

Punography Of The Month:

*Why were the Indians here first?
They had reservations.*

Fraternal Matters...

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



Blessings in a Backpack - NSS Service Project

The National Slovak Society (NSS Life) is the oldest Slovak fraternal in the United States. Today, NSS life provides both life insurance and annuity coverage to over 30,000 members. As a fraternal benefit society, in addition to our financial products, we offer members aid and assistance in times of need as well as exciting fraternal activities.

Each year the NSS Board of Directors select an organization or worthy cause to support. This year, as our National Project, the Board has chosen to support the Blessings in a Backpack program. Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for school children across America who might otherwise go hungry.

In today's world with our busy day to day lives, it is hard to believe there are many children that are going through their lives without basic necessities.

These children are not statistics, they are our children's friends and classmates and members of our community.

The Blessings program allows volunteers to gather and pack food items such as macaroni and cheese, pudding cups, applesauce, granola bars and crackers to be sent home with children who may not always have enough food at home. In addition, some programs also provide basic needs such as deodorant, underwear, and other necessary hygiene items. Some Blessing programs also have the capability to provide holiday or emergency food pantries to aid families in need. Please check with your local assembly to see how they are providing for the Blessings program in your area.

If you would like to donate directly to the Blessing program, please send checks made payable to: NSS Life C/O Pam Blum 351 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA 15317.

NSS is a non-profit organization therefore your donation is tax deductible. Together, we can keep our children from going hungry.

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

William Arthur Ward

NSS welcomes New Member Elsie McMillan



Elsie's proud parents are Lindsay and Sean McMillan; and grandparents are Dale and Debi Blazek. Elsie's great-great-grandparents were Anna and Paul Blazek, two of the original founding members of the Slovak Gardens in Winter Park, Fla. Elsie Rebecca McMillan was born on August 29, 2016.

Veterans Day November 11

Veterans Day Tribute

As we take time again this year on November 11th to honor and thank all of our military I would like to say "Thank You" to a very special Vet, **Dan Gimiliano my DAD.**



Being drafted into the Army at 18 years old in 1941, he served under General Patton, Division 26, the Yankee division as an Artillery Sergeant. His Division traveled through many countries, Luxemburg, Austria, Czechoslovakia,

Rhineland and Central Europe. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of Northern France. He was honorably discharged with a Bronze Star in 1945. My Dad is 93 years young and lives in his own apartment and has many interesting stories about WW II which is a special gift to give to our younger generation.

So, to my Brother-in-law, Terry Gahagen, my nephews Brian Gahagen and RJ Politowski, and a very special man my husband, David Blazek "Thank You" for your sacrifice and service so we can live the life of freedom as we do.

I SALUTE YOU
Fran Blazek

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



Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA

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

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

Current Interest Rates

Effective January 1, 2013

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

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

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

Did you know....

You can 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.

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



The Many Tax-Advantages of Life Insurance

Life insurance is a unique financial instrument. Our government believes so strongly in this product that it merits special consideration in the tax code. Here are a few items for your consideration.

- The death benefit paid to a beneficiary is **tax-free** money.
- The cash values of a life insurance policy may be **tax-free** if they do not exceed the premiums paid. If they do then any excess is taxable.
- Loans against life insurance policies are generally **not a taxable** event.
- Dividends on life insurance are **tax-free**. (Interest on dividends is taxable)
- A life insurance policy may be exchanged for another life insurance plan or an annuity on a **tax-deferred** basis – this is called a 1035 exchange.
- Life insurance policy non-forfeiture values increase every year. After the first few years, this yearly increase is greater than the payment, yet these accumulations are **tax-deferred**.

No other financial product receives this special tax treatment. The reason is life insurance is vital to the welfare of a family. Protecting families is what we do. We can design a plan for you regardless of age (we insure up to age 90.) We can custom design a plan to fit any budget. Call your local NSS representative or the Home Office and ask for Joe Elliott for more information.

As year-end quickly approaches, the 2016 tax year will soon be history. By April 15th you will have filed your return and thought of some things you wish you would have done differently. So before that window closes let's review a short list of items that may be helpful.

- Review your potential tax liability and perhaps increase your withholding rate.
- Pay attention to what Congress decides to do after the election since sometimes there are tax changes approved at year end.
- Gather up or collect your documents so you know what you have and what may be needed.
- Make any charitable donation before year end. (The NSS PVR scholarship is a great idea)
- Accelerate any deductions (state tax, mortgage interest, etc.)
- Defer any income, bonuses and/or gains if possible.
- Manage your capital gains and losses for maximum effect.
- Review all of your documentation so you will be prepared.

Like the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." So it is with your taxes. Take a little time now to make sure things go well later. Please consult with your tax professional or other advisors for information that is timely and appropriate for your situation. NSS assumes no liability for tax or legal advice.

Thought for the Month - A Riddle

"Of all the things in the world, which is the longest and shortest, the quickest and the slowest, the most divisible and the most extensive, the most disregarded and the most regretted, without which nothing can happen, which devours everything that is little, and gives life everything that is great?"
From "The Book of Fate," written by Voltaire in the 17th century: The answer is time. Nothing is longer, since it is the measure of eternity.

2016 3rd Quarter Sales Leaders

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



Our top **NEW MEMBER** producer for the 3rd Quarter is **Nouchao Her**. Nouchao recently relocated to Oklahoma, but continues his business in the states of MI, WI, OH, PA, CA and CO. He has 16 years of life insurance experience and has been with NSS Life since 2011. Honest and always ready to provide life insurance solutions to members. If you are looking for life insurance coverage for you or your loved ones, please contact Mr. Her at his Toll Free Number: 866-317-1514 or email him at: NOUCHAOHER@GMAIL.COM.

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of Susan Hrusik:	
From Assembly 0586	50.00
In Memory of Irene Boor:	
From Assembly 0586	25.00
In Memory of Joseph & Elizabeth Resovsky:	
From McEvoy Family	25.00
In Memory of Harry Anderson:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
In Memory of Roland Delaney:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
In Memory of Stanley Maniecki:	
From Assembly 0123	20.00
In Memory of Keith Godor, Director:	
Crowley Family	50.00
Assembly 0441	100.00
Dave & Fran Blazek	100.00
Michael Czarney	50.00
Linda Strom	68.77
Ed DePersis Fraternal Consulting LLC	50.00
Assembly 0123	50.00
Joseph Elliott	100.00
Alan Burns	50.00
Donations:	
Rudolph Pallan	200.00
American Hearing Benefits	100.00
Assembly 0377	250.00



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

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS September, 2016

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Barbarich, Anna	Clark, NJ	09/02/2016	0110
Boettcher, Eleanor	McMurray, PA	09/15/2016	0434
Bolduc, Thomas	Breinigsville, PA	07/29/2016	L102
Chiappetta, Donna	Bridgeville, PA	04/22/2016	0434
Conn, Richard	Margate, NJ	09/04/2016	0774
Danchenko, Natalie	Bethlehem, PA	07/26/2016	R059
Friend, Florence	Delray Beach, FL	09/06/2016	0800
Geier, Jerome	Struthers, OH	07/29/2016	0731
Gibson, Charlotte	Gaithersburg, MD	08/20/2016	0774
Gilchrist, David	Elizabeth, PA	04/03/2016	0737
Godor, Keith	North Huntingdon, PA	09/05/2016	0737
Gossman, Thomas	Elizabeth, PA	06/29/2016	0434
Greer, Charlotte	Elrama, PA	09/02/2016	0434
Haky Jr., Stephen	Uniontown, PA	08/30/2016	0039
Hauer, Richard	Lebanon, PA	09/14/2016	L102
Hertzog, Darryl	Danville, PA	09/03/2016	0617
Hradil, Pete	Sturgeon, PA	08/12/2016	L161
Jenkins, Thomas E	Shavertown, PA	09/05/2016	0617
Kotora, Michael	Clifton, NJ	06/22/2016	0110
Kovacicek, Louis	Washington, PA	09/17/2016	0588
Mielnicki, Edward	Pittsburgh, PA	06/24/2016	0100
Minarik, Richard	Oak Lawn, IL	05/10/2016	0586
Minday, Jane	Charlotte, NC	08/22/2016	0774
Molchany, William	North Catasauqua, PA	08/01/2016	0617
Morgan, Edna	Belmont, NC	07/29/2016	0774
Neely, Doris	Harrisburg, PA	08/12/2016	0774
Nutz, Isabelle	Midland, PA	09/05/2016	0100
Overand, Marjorie	Fontana, CA	08/26/2016	0377
Polochko, Michael	Latrobe, PA	08/07/2016	0737
Rusnak, Catherine	El Cajon, CA	08/22/2016	0586
Sacco, Olga	Oakdale, PA	08/27/2016	0588
Schiffer, Mildred	Monongahela, PA	08/18/2016	0377
Schmidt, Dick	Concord, NC	08/29/2016	0774
Svetlovski, Leonard	Swoyersville, PA	06/05/2016	L075
Synuria, Mary	Medina, OH	09/11/2016	0377
Vaughan, Arlie	Marlinton, WV	08/21/2016	0774
Walker, Ruth	Washington, PA	08/12/2016	0588
Wyant, Ralph D	Proctorville, OH	12/19/2015	0774
Zielinski, Walter	Reading, PA	03/26/2016	L102

*Margaret Ann (Mikolaj) - Assembly 0004
ROSES*

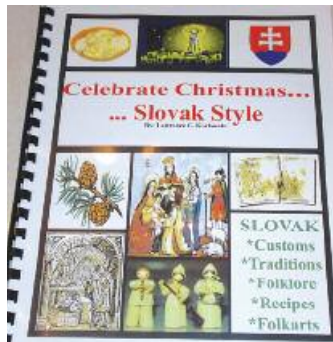
*If Roses grow in heaven Lord, please pick a bunch for me,
place them in my Margie's arms, and tell her there from us.
Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile,
ache within our hearts that will never go away.*

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



Available from the NSSHM 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



Christmas Slovak Style:
Remembering the Priceless Treasures of Christmas Past and Inspiration for Christmases of the future
\$12.00 (includes postage and handling)

EXCLUSIVE! SLOVAK CHRISTMAS CD
Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinčik, Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols. Limited Supply Available \$15.00



NEW! SLOVAK CHRISTMAS CD
Sung and produced by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Features 14 traditional carols. \$15.00



Make checks payable to: **NSS Heritage Museum, 351 Valley Brook Road McMurry, PA 15317**

NSS Heritage Museum Donations

Assembly 554	\$100.00
Dean Miller	\$ 50.00
Mary Wloczewski	\$ 25.00
Assembly 737	\$100.00
Assembly 434	\$300.00
Home Office Matching Funds	\$300.00
Assembly 377	\$250.00
Marilyn Cameron	\$ 25.00
Spivak Family	\$ 25.00
Assembly L-102	\$150.00
Assembly 441 IMO Marie Palko	\$ 50.00
Joseph Kovalyak	\$ 20.00
American Hearing Benefits	\$100.00
Total	\$1,495.00

Through your generosity we are able to purchase storage containers for our artifacts that we have gathered over the years. In addition it also makes it possible for us to purchase additional pieces for our collection. Všetkým srdečne D'akujeme.

Folk dance wows crowd at Slovak festival in Peters Township

Juraj Adamik performs at Slovak Septemberfest in Peters Township. Long before there were chainsaws, a woodsman wielded an ax. It's also a handy tool for folks other than lumberjacks. Shepherds of Slovakia used it to extricate the flock from brush or to chop up a fallen tree blocking a steep path. Some of them must have had quite a bit of time on their hands as they watched those sheep graze, because they developed a repertoire of fancy footwork known as ax dances.

Juraj (pronounced YUR-eye) Adamik, a native of Slovakia's capital city, Bratislava, performed with the Duquesne University Tamburitians and he is now director of choreography for the Junior Tamburitians of South Hills.

During the last weekend of September, the National Slovak Society's annual Septemberfest in McMurry, Adamik juggled up to three of the wooden tools while leaping like an acrobat.

It was a receptive audience. Slovak ethnicity is quite common in the greater Pittsburgh area. According to the 2009 American Community Survey of the United States Census, there were approximately 801,000 people of Slovak heritage living in the United States. Of these, 43 percent reside in the north-eastern states, with Pennsylvania ranking first among those with Slovak ancestors. A display at the museum of the National Slovak Society depicts Slovak folk hero Juro Janosik holding an ax. When he's not playing traditional Slovakian instruments or dancing, Adamik is literally trying to cure cancer.

At the beginning of an interview Adamik took a quick call updating him on the status of his laboratory samples. Having gotten his degree in biological sciences, he is now a post-doctoral associate at the University of Pittsburgh Hillman Cancer Center.

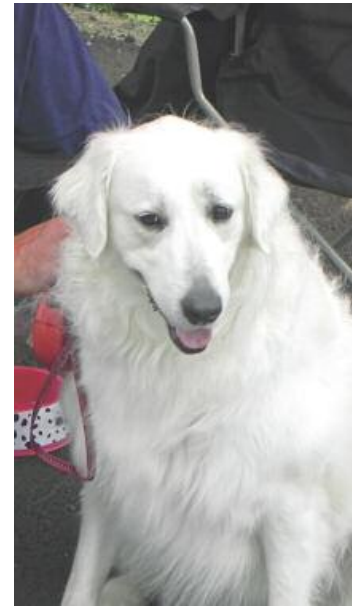
How do these two pursuits dovetail? "As a researcher, it helps me relieve a bit of stress, and after a long day in the laboratory, relax," he said.

Reprinted with permission from the Observer Reporter
By Barbara S. Miller
Staff writer

Scenes from Septemberfest



Scenes from Septemberfest



ASSEMBLY 0004

Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at Mildred Havir's residence, 1744 Westhill Boulevard, Westlake, Ohio.

All look forward to seeing you there.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY R019

Buffalo, NY

A general meeting followed by an **"In Appreciation"** luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at Milo's Restaurant at 11:00 am.

All members are welcome.

Linda Mucyn
President

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

We had an excellent turnout for our dinner celebration on the Fifteenth Anniversary of 9/11 at the Eat n' Park Restaurant. All in attendance were inducted into the Assembly 0039 *"Stuffer's Club"* to prepare our mailing for our annual *"Christmas Party"*.

Our annual *"Christmas Party"* will be held on Sunday, December 4th starting at 2:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus fellowship hall. Once again, we will be chancing off a large screen HD TV along with a Chinese Auction for the PVR Scholarship Fund and numerous door prizes. Mark your calendar for an afternoon of fun and fraternalism. Dinner and festivities are FREE, even for non-members. Bring one along!!

Remember that the Annual NSS *Christmas Ornament Contest* deadline is December 1st. For those of you with creative juices flowing through your body, this is your opportunity to make a distinctive holiday ornament. All ornaments are donated to a local nursing home after the contest. Rules and regulations are on the NSS website at: nsslife.org.

Our schedule of meetings for 2017 is as follows:

"Pre-Lenten Dinner" - Sunday, February 26th in the community room of the Eat n' Park Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm.

Free "Summer Bar-B-Q" - Sunday, June 11th at the Knights of Columbus picnic pavilion starting at 1:00 pm.

"Remember 9/11 Dinner", and "Stuffers Club" Meeting - Sunday, September 10th in the community room of the Eat n' Park Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm.

Annual **"Christmas Party"** - Sunday, December 3rd at the Knights of Columbus social hall starting at 2:00 pm.

Take time on Friday, November 11th to remember all of our veterans and those on active duty who are responsible for the freedoms that we so much enjoy.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving celebration with your family. Pray for those that will not share the largess that we have. Volunteer at a local soup kitchen!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 070/C070

Brooklyn, OH

Our Christmas Party and meeting will be held on December 4, 2016 at Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH. If you plan to attend you must make reservations so we can plan accordingly with the caterer. Call John Karkosiak or Mary Ann Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 on or before November 30, 2016 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.

John Karkosiak
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

November 9th our assembly will host a bingo and pizza night at the Heinz Veteran Hospital in Aspinwall. This twice yearly event is arranged by Jill Grover who does so much for our veterans. We are so glad she is a member of 123.

Don't forget November 11th is Veterans Day. Please remember in your thoughts and prayers all the veterans past and present who served and serves us still. Their many sacrifices are under appreciated so easily. We salute you and thank you. I want to call to your attention two of our veterans for a special mention: Pete Longstreth who is very active in our assembly and my uncle Nick Risko who will be 92 next month and served in the Pacific Theater with distinction during WWII.

We want to congratulate Alexander Noble, age 13, who was one of the first place winners in the poetry contest. Poetry can be such a beautiful way to express your thoughts and feelings. Keep up the good work Alexander.

Now some important dates, due to some hard work by Mary Maniecki, our Christmas year end event is all set. Sunday, December 18th at 2 pm, a tour of the Merrick Art Gallery in New Brighton (1100 5th Ave.) has been arranged. The Merrick will be decorated for the holidays and is a quite nice boutique gallery. Then at 4 pm we have reservations at the Grand Valley Inn, Route 51 in Fallston, PA for our Christmas dinner and celebration. The Grand Valley Inn is located about two miles south on Route 51 from the Chippewa exit of 356. I'm quite sure you'll enjoy the food. You will have a choice of pork, chicken or fish. And surely a good time will be had by all.

If you plan on attending you must send \$10 to Mary Maniecki, 210 Westminster Dr., Moon Twp. PA 15108 by Saturday December 10th. This allows us proper planning and locks in your commitment. Make checks payable to NSS Assembly 123. For more information and directions you can call Mary at 412-264-3546 or me at 724-242-5085.

Before I finish, I want to make a few comments on Keith Godor, NSS Director, who passed away recently. I had the privilege of serving with him as a Director. We were both new but I recognized right away that he took the position very seriously and he worked hard to become knowledgeable. NSS has lost a dedicated and conscientious Director. My condolences to the society and his family.

Wishing all of you a very happy and blessed Thanksgiving Day.

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 October meeting. You can still bring a monetary donation to help support our national scholarship fund.

November 15, 2016 will be our Toys for Tots night. Each member is asked to bring a donation or an unwrapped gift to help spread a little holiday cheer. Last year, we were able to raise over \$400 in gifts and donations for underprivileged children in our area. Please help us do even better this year!

"Fun Frolic" night will be December 20, 2016. This will also be our annual charity event. Please stop by our fall meetings to find out how to help this year's charity.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Dinner which will be held on January 17, 2017. We will start with a brief meeting at 6:00 pm, 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, II
Vice-President

ASSEMBLY 377

Bentleyville, PA

Our Holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 4th at Ichiban's, 371 Washington Road, Washington PA 15301 at 3:00 pm. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. A meeting will be held before dinner. I hope you can join us! RSVP to me at 412-439-2795.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 432

Fairview Park, OH

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on December 11, 2016 at the Gemini Center, 21225 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 in the Event Room at 1:00 pm. Swimming will be from 12pm - 2pm. The Center's Rules for swimming are as follows: **Children ages 7-9** - A parent must be on the pool deck while their child is in the pool.

Children 6 & Under - A parent must accompany child in the water.

A dinner will be served and also a special visit from Santa Claus! Santa will be passing out gifts for children ages 15 and younger.

The assembly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 (Time and place to be announced). Mark your calendars for our Annual Reverse Raffle on February 25, 2017.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 554

Curwensville, PA

A meeting will be held on November 13th, 2016 at Jim Stricek's, 135 McCullough Street, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm.

For information and directions, call Jim at (814) 590-7021 or email at assembly554@gmail.com.

Jim Stricek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 586

Chicago, IL

After participating in a fun October-fest meeting and activity we're planning to have our Christmas party at the historic Klas Restaurant in Cicero, Illinois, on November 27th at 2:00 pm.

We wish our fellow narodniars a Happy Thanksgiving!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 617

Ashley, PA

Matching Fund

Our Assembly Matching Fund Project will be for the Ashley Food Pantry covering the zip code 18706. This Pantry is a branch of the Northeast Regional Food Bank of Wilkes-Barre, PA. We will participate in the Annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on Tuesday November 22, 2016 at 7p.m. at St. Leo's/Holy Rosary Church, 33 Manhattan St. Ashley, PA. Our local churches join together to thank God for our blessings and to share those blessings with those less fortunate. At the service we collect

a monetary offering and donate non perishable groceries and place them at the altar for those in need.

Rose Mary Strish
President

ASSEMBLY 731

A meeting will be held on Sunday, November 6th, at the Poland Christian Church, 6248 Struthers Rd in Lowellville, Ohio at 2:00 pm. Following the meeting, we will provide craft items to make ornaments for the **NSS Ornament Contest**. A Christmas movie will be shown that we're sure the entire family will enjoy to get them into the Christmas Spirit while working on ornaments. Refreshments will be served.

Our **Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at the Lowellville Rod & Gun Club, 6225 Quarry Rd., Lowellville, OH. from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Details will be announced at a later date. 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. Please RSVP to Laurie Fox (call: 330-536-8850 or email: lamlfox@zoominternet.net) before December 10th.

ASSEMBLY 737

Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on December 3, 2016 at the home of Paul J Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 2:30 pm.

All assembly business will be discussed at this time including election of officers.

Following the meeting we will have a Christmas luncheon. If you plan on attending, please call 724-863-9662 by November 18, 2016 so we can plan accordingly.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

Enjoy it today...
enjoy it all year!

2017
enjoy
COUPON BOOK

enjoy
Saving Money
with Valuable ~
Discounts and Offers
all over town - all year!
only \$30

As part of our NSS National Project, “Blessings in a Backpack,” NSS Life is selling Enjoy coupon books. The books are filled with valuable money saving coupons for casual and upscale dining as well as discounted admissions to venues and services that benefit the entire family. The coupons in the book are only valid for the Pittsburgh area market place.

The cost of the book is \$30.00, plus \$3.00 shipping if needed. **All of the proceeds will benefit Blessings in a Backpack to help support needy children that may not have enough food at home on the weekends.**

Your support for this most worthwhile cause is greatly appreciated. Please email: lkorte@nsslife.org for orders and delivery arrangements.

News from Assembly 731



James Cessna, Jr., Jessica Cessna and their children Valerie and Jimmy; Beth Mason and her children Ashlynn and Cameron; Rachel Draa and her daughter Addison enjoyed time together at the Fox campsite following their Scavenger Hunt day at the Fair.



Zachary Martini enjoyed the prizes at the Scavenger Hunt.

Several NSS members and their friends met at Mahoning County's Canfield Fair and enjoyed a Scavenger Hunt adventure organized by Assembly 731. Originally, the date for Youth Day was Thursday, September 1, but many of the local children had school so we extended the Scavenger Hunt to participate during their visit to the Fair on the weekend. The Scavenger Hunt encourages participants to visit barns, buildings, and displays that they might have missed during a walk through the Fairgrounds. Participants gathered at the Laurie & Mike Fox Campsite at the end of their Hunt day for prizes and refreshments. Special thanks to the NSS home office for providing great prizes that everyone enjoyed.

Laurie Fox
President



Assembly 123 Activity



Members of Assembly 123 enjoyed a tour of Pittsburgh on Molly's Trolley on a beautiful day.

Assembly 813



Mary Jo Holker presents a check to Janae Boyer for "Kids Needs of Englewood" as part of the national project, Blessings in a Backpack.

44th Annual March For Life Washington, D.C.

For years, members of the Slovak/Catholic fraternal organizations (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union) have participated in this peaceful demonstration showing our support of and respect for the unborn. Our March for Life will be held on **Friday, January 27, 2017** in Washington, D.C.

Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Area

A bus will leave Wilkes-Barre at 7 a.m. from the park and ride located on Route 309 in Wilkes-Barre Township. A second pick-up will be at St. John's Bosco Church on Route 93 leaving Hazleton approximately 7:30 a.m. Local branches and districts may sponsor the cost of members wanting to attend. Anyone interested in attending can call Theresa Kluchinski at 888-834-6614 or 570-823-3515 or e-mail

Theresa@lpsc.org for more information. Cost is \$55; this includes bus, snack on the bus, and dinner buffet at the Mountain Gate Restaurant on the way home.

Theresa A. Kluchinski

National President
Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union



NOVEMBER

Zamyslenie na Advent

Mnohé naše domácnosti v týchto dňoch zdobí adventný veniec.

Kruh, symbolizujúci večný kolobeh energie v živote a horiace sviečky ako symbol Znovuzrodenia. Zapálením prvej sviečky iniciujeme v sebe schopnosť vzpriamiť sa, zdvihnúť hlavu a zapáliť božiu iskrú vo svojom srdci. Druhá sviečka nás nabáda k náprave svojej životnej cesty - byť si vedomí svojho poslania, žiť život, ktorý mám žiť. Tretia sviečka vyjadruje vďaku za svoj život, ktorý dokážem prežívať s láskou. Zapálením štvrtej sviečky vyjadríme vďaku za tých, ktorí nás v živote sprevádzajú a môžeme sa nich spoľahnúť.



Želám vám, aby ste sa v tomto adventnom čase dokázali aspoň trochu priblížiť k mysleniu, ktoré oslobodzuje.

Toto krátke zamyslenie pre Vás pripravila MUDr. Emília Luknárová

Zomrel prvý slovenský prezident Michal Kováč

BRATISLAVA. Prvý porevolučný prezident Slovenskej republiky Michal Kováč zomrel v stredu večer (5.10.16) vo veku 86 rokov na zlyhanie srdca.



Kováč bol prezidentom v zložitom období rokov 1993-1998, kedy sa zvädzal bezohľadný a doslova surový zápas o vnútorný charakter a budúcnosť Slovenskej republiky na mape Európy a sveta, napísal na svojom Facebooku súčasný prezident Andrej Kiska.

"Pán prezident Kováč v tomto zápase obstál a svojím pôsobením pomohol Slovensku nezísť úplne z cesty, ktorá nás potom postupne priviedla do európskej rodiny slobodných národov a štátov".
—Sme.sk

Navštívte nás na NSSLIFE.org

Božský dar vd'ačnosti

Srdce sa stáva vd'ačným tým, že vyjadrujeme vd'ačnosť svojmu Nebeskému Otcovi za Jeho požehnanie a tým, ktorí sú okolo nás za všetko, čo prinášajú do nášho života.

Bože všemohúci ďakujeme ti za rodinu, za krajinu, za jedlo, i za požehnanie tvoje. Amen.

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



Významne dni v novembri:

30. novembra — sv. Ondrej, Vraj ak na Ondreja boli kvapky vody na stromoch, to malo znamenať že na stromoch bude hojná úroda, ak na Ondreja hrmí vraj bude málo orechov.

V ten deň dievčence na vydaj robili cestu do ktorého zavili kusok papiera s menom chlapca a tie potom varili vo vracej vode. Prva cestonina čo vyšla na povrch – dievča vybralo z hmca a meno chlapca vraj bude jej snúbenec.

*Ondreju, Ondreju—na teba ol'ovo lejú,
daj mi v noci zňať, s kým ja budem pri oltari stáť.*

Inšpirácia:

Je obrovský dar mať niekoho, kto ti podá ruku, objíma ťa a utrie ti slzu, keď ti práve nie je do smiechu.

Sviatok Všetkých svätých

Návšteva cintorínov na Všetkých svätých patrí najstabilnejším tradičným prejavom všetkých vrstiev spoločnosti. Podľa prastarých predkresťanských predstáv sa duše mŕtvych zúčastňovali na všetkých významnejších udalostiach v živote rodu.



V 8 storočí určil pápež Gregor IV sviatok Všetkých svätých na 1. november, ktorý mal byť spomienkou na známých kresťanských svätcov. Tento zvyk sa postupne rozšíril a v kalendári sa zakotvil 2. november ako Pamiatka zosulných (Dušičky). Na tieto dátumy sa časom preniesli niektoré tradičné prvky, ktoré sprevádzali duchovný kontakt s mŕtvymi. Podľa starších zvykov sa v noci z 1. na 2. novembra na stole nechávala časť večere a na hrobch sa zapalovali sviečky. Kladenie vencov a kvetinová výzdoba na cintorínoch patrí k novším tradíciám.
—Malý Lexicón Ludovej Kultúry Slovenska



NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM SEPTEMBERFEST

Held in McMurray, PA, NSS Ambassadors participated in a day of fun and Slovak cultural activities including cooking demonstrations, crafts, puppet shows, traditional food and dance. Specifically, the Ambassadors organized and managed the kids' corner where youth attendees could choose to have their face painted, color, create a parachute, play a Slovak stamp game, and decorate a traditional honey cake.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

<http://nsslife.org/fraternal-programs/nss-ambassadors/>

2016 Christmas Ornament Contest - Deadline December 1st, 2016

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).
4. All winners in each group will have their names appear in the "National News". In addition a picture of your ornament will appear 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, & 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

Our Adult Members

Prize Awards

First Place \$50.00
 Second Place \$30.00
 Third Place \$20.00

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.**



This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board

November, 1908

A coal mine explosion occurred in Marianna, Pennsylvania, killing 129 coal miners including eleven members of the National Slovak Society.

November, 1933

Peter V. Rovnianek, founder of the National Slovak Society, died at his home in Hornitus, California at the age of 66.

November, 1966

The P.V. Rovnianek Scholarship fund had accumulated a total of \$3,552.00 since its inception at the 1966 Convention.

November, 1997

Dr. Helen Gurson, Medical Advisor of the National Slovak Society died. Dr. Gurson had served as the Society's Medical Advisor from 1980 until the time of her death.

November, 2008

The National Slovak Society opened the NSS Heritage Museum with a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 15, 2008. The museum was dedicated in memory of Andrew Chengery who proposed the idea of a heritage museum at the 2002 Convention.



Youth Circle Page

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

Second Place Winners of Poetry Contest

2nd Place – Keats Dolphins

Dolphins play with their friends.
They are funny mammals.
They can swim to the bottom of the ocean.

Brooke Janosek
C432 - Age 7

2nd Place – Angelou The Duck

O my duck you fly so high,
And come back down from the sky.
When you land you splash in the water,
While nearby swimming is your daughter.
What a beautiful sight to see,
a mother and daughter swimming so free!

Chloe Woods
C434 - Age 10

2nd Place – Frost The Lonely Flower

I am on a train that's on the track.
Off we go clickity-clack.
By the track there is a lumber-jack.
There is a tree so the axe-man goes whack!
Then he goes thwack!
The tree thinks, "I'm under attack!"
The tree goes down with a final hack
He splits it up, and packs it in his sack.
He loads the bag on a box car on the track.
The train puffs away leaving the lumber-jack.

Benjamin Ostrowski
C617 - Age 11

2nd Place – Shakespeare Mount Everest

The mighty mountain looked like a giant.
Tomorrow we are to begin our climb.
One step at a time, slowly we climb up.
Stopping to rest, one of us dies.
Now there is only 8 of us left.
Will we succeed in our goal to reach the top?

Battling the elements, we reach the top.
We have conquered the mighty sleeping giant.
Climbed up the steep and dangerous slopes.
Now I experience a downward climb.
One of us slips, and falls to their death.
We find another way, but we have to go up.

Slowly and steadily we climb back up.
We have to climb up and over the top.
We move very slowly so no one dies.
We find another route, over a rocky giant.
On our way down, we act like we're climbing.
Turning every direction finally left.

On our way down, we find food that was left.
Yay. We are so hungry, we eat it up.
This will last us for the rest of our climb.
We stand on a drop off at the top.
Something is walking below, like a giant.
Everyone makes sure they will not die.
Everyone makes sure they will not die.
We get to a "Y" and we turn left.
Below us the boulders look giant.
Rising higher and higher, they climb up.
We climb another hill and reach the top.
Now begins our final downward climb.

As we begin our final climb,
Our spirits do not begin to die.
As we look back, we catch a glimpse of the top.
Only 1300 feet left.
We only have one more hill to climb up.
The last decent looks like a giant.

Reaching base camp, we did the giant climb.
We had 2 deaths, but our spirits were up.
We reached the top, but we left 2 friends back.

Charles Boone
L161 - Age 16

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

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Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.



Change of Address

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

Name _____

Assembly No. _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Former Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

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