



NSS Life

Family Matters...

NSS 37th Quadrennial Convention

See Page 5



NSS Heritage Museum's "Septemberfest"

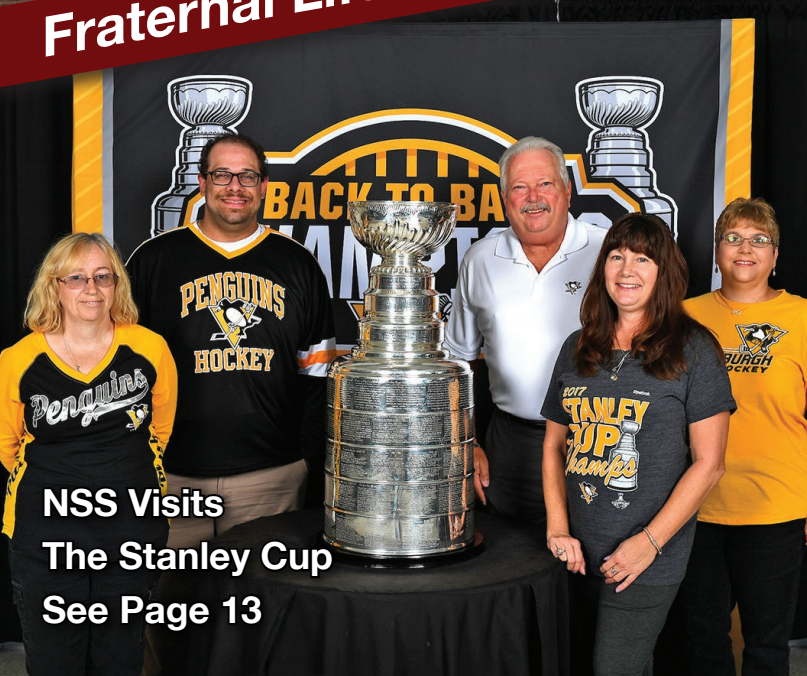


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National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Národné Noviny

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy Thanksgiving!



**NSS Visits
The Stanley Cup
See Page 13**



**Christmas Ornament Contest
Deadline December 1st, 2017**

NATIONAL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2017 | NUMBER 3511 VOLUME 109



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LORI CROWLEY

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

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

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Activities At A Glance

REGION 2

November 5
November 12
February 10, **2018**
February 15, **2018**

Assemblies L075, 0617

Region 2, Matching Funds Event, Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes-Barre, PA - 4-7:00 pm
Assembly L075, Pizza Party/Bingo, VA Medical Center at 1:30 pm
Region 2, Meeting, Perkins Restaurant, Pittston, PA (Time to be announced)
Assembly 0617, Meeting, Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA (Time to be announced)

REGION 5

November 6
November 8
December 2
December 3
December 3
March 12, **2018**
June 10, **2018**
September 10, **2018**
December 3, **2018**

Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0737, 0774

Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread, North Fayette, PA at 6:30 pm
Assembly 0123, Bingo/Pizza Night, Veterans Hospital, O'Hara Township
Assembly 0737, Meeting/Luncheon, Godor residence, N Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Christmas Luncheon, Andora Restaurant Sewickley, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park Community Room at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Summer Barbeque, Knights of Columbus Picnic Shelter at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Meeting, Eat'n Park Community Room at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Hall, Uniontown, PA at 2:00 pm

REGION 8

December 3

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

Assembly 0070, Meeting/Lunch, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 12 Noon

REGION 14

November 1
November 1
December 13
December 15
December 17

Assemblies R059, L102

Assembly R059/L102, Annual Fund Drive for Allentown Rescue Mission
Assembly R059/L102, Blessings in a Backpack Program
Assembly L102, Santa at The Emmaus Kiwanis Club
Assembly L102, Santa at the Miracle League of The Lehigh Valley
Assembly L102, Santa at the Camelot House

REGION 15

Assemblies L002, 0028

No activities at this time

AT LARGE

November 5
November 5
November 25

December 16
December 23
December 24

February 15, **2018**

Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0731, 0800, 0813

Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0813, Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Thirsty Pig, South Saint Andrews Street, 2:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Elton Beard Cabin, Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0813, Christmas Party, Farrell residence, 7:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Christmas Eve Party at Butwin Residence at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0586, Meeting, Location, date and time to be announced (Letter to member)
Assembly 0617, Meeting, Pierce Street Deli, Kingston, PA (Time to be announced)

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO

Greetings from the Home Office of NSS Life. This month we will celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th and Thanksgiving on November 23rd. In between these two dates, the Board of Directors will hold our annual meeting the weekend of November 18th. A busy time here in the office as we wind down the 2017 fiscal year. At this time let me give a shout out to all veterans that have served this country; many who have given the ultimate sacrifice, and to all currently serving in any branch of the service. I would also like to thank all police officers, firemen, EMT's, and other first responders who serve the communities we live in, and many times risk their own life to save others in time of disasters and egregious acts such as the mass shooting in Las Vegas.

The next time you come in contact with either a serviceman or a police officer, thank them for all they do; they deserve and appreciate a kind word of thanks.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Sergeant Michal Strank

After several days of bloody combat with the Japanese, six Marines raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi on the Island of Iwo Jima. Sgt. Michal Strank, a native of the Rusyn village of Jarabina, Slovakia, was the leader of this detail. He died in combat a few days later when shrapnel from an artillery shell pierced his heart. Strank embodies the idea of

the Americans about a real soldier who sacrificed his life for the noblest causes with which many Americans identify: freedom and independence. He was a strict commander who required discipline. But he also had a big heart, and he loved fun. If there was laughter, Michal was guaranteed to be there. This is how one of U. S. Marine Corps Sergeant Michal Strank's former colleagues described him in a documentary about Strank's life.

Strank was a Rusin, who immigrated to the United States with his parents at a young age. During World War II he was the commander of a U.S. Marine Corps expedition that fought on the strategic island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific. He led a squad of six Marines who raised the American flag over Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945. A photo of this event spread around the world and ultimately won the Pulitzer Prize. Let us keep the memory of Brother Strank alive by standing at attention with our hand over our heart during the playing of the National Anthem. It's the least that we can do in his honor.

Septemberfest 2017



L-R: Emily Paquet, Jackson Ghaly and Tyler Paquet.

On the 23rd of September, we held the 6th Annual Septemberfest at the Home Office with approximately 300 members and neighbors of the community attending. It was a very warm day from start to finish but all in attendance seemed to have a good time in spite of the heat. We had many vendors displaying their wares for sale, along with delicious Slovak food available for consumption. We also had entertainment provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the museum was open,

highlighted by a narrative of the wood sculpture by Dave and Ann Dayton, former owners of the wood carving. We had many volunteers working the day from the Home Office Staff and their families, Board members including Chair of the Board Joe Stefka and wife Annette, Directors Bob Katricak, Drew Wesnak and wife Sharon, Abby Gross, and John Payerchin, the Pittsburgh Slovaks, and of course, the Ondrejco Family led by Director Sue Ondrejco, daughter Susie, and husband Rudy. A special thanks to Joe Smith who annually spends the day helping set up and taking down at the end of the day, and to all who helped make the day a success. The staff raised monies to be donated to the Hurricane victims and for Blessings in a Backpack, our national charity. Pictures from the Septemberfest can be found in this issue of the National News.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday to our devoted Editor Lori Crowley, who by the way has been with the NSS in one capacity or another for 43 years. Thanks Lori for all you have and continue to do for the Society. Also celebrating birthday's this month are Home Office Staff members Patti Kropf and Amanda Felton, former Director Brian Medved, Sarah Payerchin and Lois Vandermeer.

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.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Sue Burns who is now home recovering from a recent illness.

Punography Of The Month:

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom, Secretary/Treasurer

Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



2018 Convention

Below is an introduction to the 2018 convention. Each month I will continue to provide as much information as I have available. Once again the initial convention packets, with the number of delegates you are entitled to, will be sent out the first week of January. Begin to plan and schedule your delegate election meeting. The meeting must be published in our newsletter 30 days prior to your meeting. Deadline for meeting announcement to be published in February newsletter is January 5th, and for March newsletter is February 5th. This convention may be our best one yet. You will have the opportunity to hear about achieving growth in Assets of over \$1 Billion, the successful transition to a new form of governance, the accomplishments of this very hard working and dedicated Board of Directors and much, much more. Stay Tuned Folks !!!

Condolences

This year has been a difficult one not only for the NSS but also for our extended fraternal family organizations. We have lost members, dear friends and colleagues. Once again I was saddened to hear that Greater Beneficial Union (GBU Financial Life) National Secretary/Treasurer, CEO James R. Stoker passed away after a lengthy illness. I first met Jim as I began my tenure as a National Director on the NSS Board in the early 1990s. At that time he was the Auditor for the NSS and also a tremendous help in educating me on everything pertaining to the financial side of a fraternal benefit organization. He always took the time to “teach” and if I still looked confused (which was pretty often) he would call me at my office and continue my lessons. May God keep his wife Barbara and family in his care as they go through this difficult time. Rest in Peace fraternal friend.

NSS 37th Quadrennial Convention

When: Sunday, June 24th, 2018
thru Thursday, June 28th, 2018

Where: Hershey Lodge
Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Schedule of Events:

- Meetings will begin Sunday evening June 24th, and run through Tuesday, June 26th
- Wednesday, June 27th is designated as our Fraternal Day to enjoy an excursion or just relax by the pool.
- Thursday, June 28th we check out and begin our travels home.



NSS attends the AQS Asset Management Corporate Governance Seminar in Pittsburgh, PA.



Fraternal Matters...

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



Region 5 Fraternal Night at the Slovak Christmas Pageant at Bishop Connare

Region 5 is sponsoring a fraternal night at the Bishop Connare Center, 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601 on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 5:00 pm for a Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner and Christmas Pageant. Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm in the Center's dining room followed by The Christmas Pageant, presented by the Pittsburgh Slovaks, in the Chapel. Please call Sue Ondrejco for tickets at 412-421-1204. A limited number of seats are available.

To reserve a ticket, please send the names of those attending, along with a check made payable to **NSS Region 5** to Sue Ondrejco, 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. **The deadline for reservations is Friday, November 17, 2017.**

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Region 5 President

Correction

The name of the 2nd Place winner in the Keats Division of the Poetry Contest was incorrect. The correct name is **Grey Osborn**.

Thanksgiving

To all our members, families and friends we wish you a Happy Thanksgiving holiday from the NSS Life Staff. Remember, this is a holiday to give thanks for all of our blessings. Take time to think of others who are less fortunate, especially the victims of the recent tragedies that have hit our great country. When you sit down with your families say a prayer for those affected by the hurricanes, wild fires and the senseless tragedy in Las Vegas. Hug those you love and appreciate all God's blessings.

I for one am so very grateful for the blessings in my life. Happy 25th Anniversary to my wonderful husband Greg and a very Happy Birthday to our son Alex.

Ornament Contest Deadline

Before you know it, the deadline for the Christmas Ornament Contest will be here. **December 1st** is right around the corner. This contest is open to both youth and adults. This contest is a Home Office favorite since the entire office participates in the judging. So get creative and remember...**NO kits or store bought ornaments!!**

Information Pertaining To The NSS Natural Disaster Benefit

Members who live in areas affected by natural disasters may be eligible to receive this Disaster Relief Fraternal Benefit upon meeting the following criteria:

Natural disasters include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hurricanes | <input type="checkbox"/> Earthquakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tornadoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfires |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floods | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest fires |

The following qualifications apply:

- Must be federal or state declared disaster
- Member must be in good standing
- Maximum benefit per family is \$1000 regardless of number of calamities suffered by the family and/or the number of adult members affected
- Benefit is for "out of pocket" expenses **not** reimbursed by insurance and/or relief from FEMA or other agencies
- Please send photos and/or documentation of **loss**
- The NSS shall have sole discretion in determining payees and the dollar amounts of any awards
- Disaster Relief Benefit does not cover damage resulting from water entering basement due to sewer backup or sump pump failure
- Assemblies and Regions shall be notified and encouraged to add to the award.

National Disaster Relief Benefit information provided here describes the criteria necessary to be considered for the benefit.

**Please contact Pam Blum at the Home Office for Additional Information about how to apply for this benefit.
Call Toll Free at 1-800-488-1890**

Septemberfest

Although it was an unusually warm day for the end of September the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers, vendors and 300+ guests was constant all afternoon. There were many volunteers who helped to make the day a great success, many were representing their assemblies, some were not even members! The Home Office Staff put together beautiful baskets, for a "Slovak" Auction and sold Enjoy coupon books, to benefit the recent Hurricane victims, and our National Project Blessings in a Backpack. Through their efforts and the NSS matching funds program each charitable cause will receive over \$1000.00. So, to all our Volunteers, Vendors, Board Members, Home Office Staff, and Presenters who shared their time and talents with us, we thank each and every one.

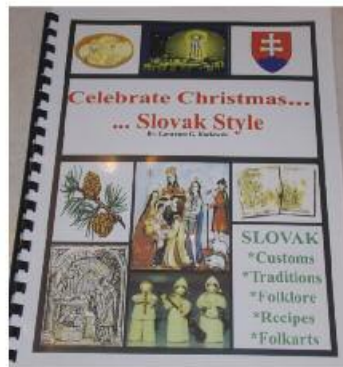
We hope to see all of you again next year on Saturday, September 22, 2018!



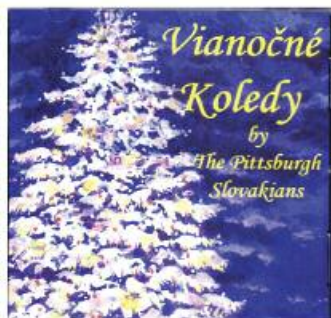
Available from the NSSHM Gift Shop while supplies last!



OPLATKY:
 Package of 5 **large** wafers **\$3.00**
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)



NEW! Slovak Christmas CD
 Sung and produced by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.
 Features 14 traditional carols. **\$15.00**

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



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



Dakujeme

In addition to all of the volunteers who help to make "Septemberfest" a success every year, we are very fortunate to have a number of generous sponsors. Our sincerest thanks to all of the following sponsors whose gift contributed greatly to the success of "Septemberfest 2017"

Platinum Sponsors

AQS Asset Management, LLC
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 Slavia Printing

Silver Sponsors

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Bronze Sponsors

NSS Assembly 617
 Ashley, PA
 Cheyrl Mushala



Is choosing a Medicare plan giving you a headache?

- Be sure you don't miss important deadlines to enroll upon turning age 65 or retirement
- Learn about the Medicare plans that are offered in your area
- Understand the differences between Medicare Parts A, B, C, D
- Learn the differences between Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Supplement (Medigap)
- Understand the different tier levels for prescription drugs and how that affects your copays
- Learn about the assistance available for those with low income and disability (Medicaid, PACE, PACENET)

At NSS Life we now have a certified Medicare Department to assist you.
Contact us to schedule a personal consultation
@ 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.



Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA

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

Current Interest Rates Effective since January 1, 2013

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

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

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

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

From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
Sales Director



2. Do you have an emergency kit? This has never been more important than now with so many natural disasters occurring. You can find good preparation information about this online.
3. What are your future plans and goals? This may seem silly but statistics tell us that people with a plan (especially if it is written) are more likely to accomplish the task than people that just "wing it."

NSS is fortunate to be working with some of the very best planners and advisors in this country. These men and women can help answer your questions and get you on the road to success.

Please contact your local representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.

Roth IRAs - If the Roth account is at least five years old and the account holder is at least 59½ when the money is withdrawn then all monies may be tax free. Roth contributions are not tax-deductible. These same contributions may be withdrawn without triggering a taxable event. However if you withdraw interest prior to age 59½ then a 10% IRS penalty may apply plus taxes. Roth accounts are different in that you may withdraw any principal paid into the account for practically any reason.

Coverdell ESA - These unique savings accounts were designed for the education market. You can put up to \$2,000 per year into an account for a youngsters between the ages of 0 to 17. If the withdrawals are used for higher education then all interest is tax-free.

Should you have any questions about these programs please contact your NSS representative.

Year End Check-Up

Fall is an ideal time of the year to review your financial well-being. A prudent person would review their situation and think about how to do better. With only a couple of months left in 2017, now is the time to make any changes. But you will have to act quickly. You may also want to formulate a plan for 2018. Here is a partial list of items that you may want to consider:

Family changes:

1. Name or beneficiary changes; marriage, divorce, death, etc.
2. Did you get married, have a new baby or retire?
3. Any significant money changes; house sale, windfall, lottery.
4. Health insurance changes and review all other insurances.

Financial changes:

1. You turned a milestone age such as: 50, 55, 59½, 62, 65, or 70½. These have implications with IRAs, Medicare, Social Security, etc.
2. Check your tax return & deductions now before year end.
3. Make any 401k, Coverdell, IRA or Roth contributions now.
4. Resolve now to do a better job with finances in 2018.

Other items:

1. Do you have a will, power of attorney and health care directive?

A Quick Tax Guide on Annuities/IRAs

The advantages of annuities and IRAs are numerous. Often mentioned is the great interest rate, strong guarantees or lifetime income possibilities. Sometimes we forget about simplicity, peace of mind and a probate free asset that passes directly to a named beneficiary. One advantage, tax-deferral is a two edged sword with taxes due at some point. Here is a quick and easy guide to taxes on annuities and IRAs generally speaking. Of course, you should always consult your personal tax professional for specific advice on how something may affect you.

Annuities - Principal is not taxed, all interest is taxable. Any withdrawals would be interest out first. Also, if you withdraw before age 59½ you may be subject to an IRS 10% early withdrawal penalty on the interest. Some exceptions may apply (death, disability, etc.) Annuities use the LIFO method of accounting; last in, first out.

IRAs - All withdrawals (principal and interest) are taxed as withdrawn. An IRS 10% penalty may apply to early withdrawals. Some exceptions to the penalty may apply. (death, disability, medical, first time homebuyer, etc. are all possible exceptions.) IRA contributions are generally tax-deductible.

Lost and Found

Impossible as this may seem, Americans misplaced \$7.76 billion dollars in 2015 alone. This statistic is according to the national Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. This is your money and you should have it instead of the state. Here are two online resources that you may check to see if there are monies out there that belong to you:

Missingmoney.com
Unclaimed.org

You may also use your resident state's website which will have a link to unclaimed property.

What if you are looking for a life insurance or annuity policy for an individual that is deceased? The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has a policy locator service that you can activate by going to this web address: <http://locator.naic.org>

Thought for the Month

If what you're doing isn't moving you towards your goals, then it's moving you away from them.

Brian Tracy
Canadian born author and motivational speaker

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Our Annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, **December 3rd** at the Knights of Columbus social hall. Festivities start at 2:00 pm. Again, we will be giving away a 32" flat screen HDTV as well as door prizes and a Chinese Auction for the NSS Scholarship Fund. Come and enjoy a free delicious dinner and fraternal fellowship with your entire family. Bring along a non-member!

Please remember the "NSS Christmas Ornament Contest" with a deadline of December 1st. Share your creative talents and earn points for our assembly. All entries are sent to a local nursing home.

Fitness Matters at the NSS. We are happy to see that some of our assembly members are participating in the "NSS Fitness Matters" program. Each new participant receives a "Welcome Kit" that includes a NSS pedometer and chart to keep track of your efforts. Contact Pam Blum at 1-800-488-1890 to enroll.

The 37th Quadrennial NSS Convention is scheduled for June 24th-28th at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA in 2018. Our assembly is eligible to send sixteen (16) delegates to the meeting. In December we will be gathering the names of those interested in attending. Give it some thought!

Here is our schedule of meetings for 2018, so mark your calendars:

Sunday, **March 12th** at Eat n' Park Restaurant Community Room at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, **June 10th** Summer Bar-B-Q at Knights of Columbus Picnic Shelter 1:00 pm.

Sunday, **September 10th** at Eat n' Park Restaurant Community Room at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, **December 3rd** Christmas Party at Knights of Columbus Social Hall at 2:00 pm.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday with your family.

John Payerchin
President



ASSEMBLY 070/C070

Brooklyn, OH

Our Christmas Party and meeting will be held on December 3, 2017 at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 12:00. 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 26, 2017 to make your reservations. If you can make a dessert dish to share, it would be appreciated. We are also collecting items for the Sunday School mitten tree.

John Karkosiak
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

The pizza party bingo we are sponsoring for the Wilkes Barre V. A. Medical Center inpatient veterans will be held on Sunday, **November 12** at 2:00 pm in conjunction with Veterans Day. Members will sponsor the bingo with canteen book prizes and then serve the veterans pizza and soda and fellowship. Members are asked to meet at 1:30 pm in the Rec Room on 2nd floor of the main entrance. For more information contact Lehrae Edwards at 570-457-8402.

Lehrae Ann Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L102

Schnecksville, PA

Assembly L102 and R059 will be doing our annual can drive to benefit the Allentown Rescue mission. Collect your non-perishable items and get them to the Wesnak's or you can call us and we will pick them up. Please have everything collected and to us by December 1st. You can call Sharon at 610-769-7006.

Also, assemblies L102 and R059 will be taking donations to our Blessings in a Backpack program. We need them by December 1st in order to get them delivered to the school for the holiday break. All donations are greatly appreciated.

It's that time of year again to get your orders in to Marge Ferri at 610-866-8945 for your holiday baked goods. Pick up will be Thursday, November 16th.

Santa and his crew from Assembly L102 will be on the move once again doing matching funds for The Emmaus Kiwanis Club for kids on December 13th, The Miracle League of The Lehigh Valley on December 15th, and Camelot House for kids on December 17th. We are polishing up the sleigh and we will be ready to fly!

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0110

New York, NY

Information about our annual Christmas Party will be in the December, 2017 issue. Time, Place, etc.

Richard DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 123

Coraopolis, PA

November is the month for giving thanks. I want to thank Bill Del Monaco for setting up the miniature golf outing. We certainly had a good time and I hope we can make this annual event and maybe even challenge some of the other assemblies to join us.

Our assembly wants to thank out veterans, police fire and first responders who keep us safe. I want to thank Mary Maniecki who does an outstanding job as our Activity Director. I want to thank Joan Smith for being such a good steward of our assembly finances. I want to thank Jill Grover (2017 Fraternalist of the Year) for all her tireless volunteer effort she puts in helping our veterans. I want to thank all of our members who participate in our activities. Let me also thank all of our members who unbeknown to others do countless works of charity and good deeds that make this a better world. I want to thank my mother Agnes Risko for all she has done for me through the years. I want to thank my sister, Leslie O'Donnell for all she has done to care for our mother.

Our assembly is sponsoring a bingo and pizza night **November 8th** at the Veterans Hospital in O'Hara Township.

It has come to my attention that one of our PVR Scholarship winners, Lauren A Kanavy who attends Allegheny College, has received the James Bennett Porter Prize which is awarded to the student with the highest average in scholarship in their class. Congratulations!

Our assembly Christmas Luncheon party has been set. The date is Sunday, **December 3rd** at 1pm. The location is Andora Restaurant on Mt. Nebo Rd. If you plan to attend please call Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546. Mary will fill you in on all the details. Please call her as soon as possible so she can confirm the number with the restaurant. You will be ask to contribute a small fee toward your meal.

Lastly, but not least, I want to thank my wife Susan for 50 years of wonderful, loving, incredible and challenging times together. It has been quite a ride. And I am thankful that I got to share it with you and continue to look forward to our future together God willing.

Let me wish each of our members and their families a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 16, 2017** at the Elton Beard Cabin in Boardman Park near Kids' Town, Boardman, Ohio from **1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**. Santa will be at the party with a gift for each youth in attendance – please RSVP to Laurie Fox by December 5th.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737

Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on **December 2, 2017** at the home of Carol Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m. 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, 2017 so we can plan accordingly.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

Members are reminded to save their spare change for the Brown Bag Program. This is our annual Matching Funds program to provide two bags of food each month for a needy senior citizen. Change will be collected until December 3rd. Mary Jo Holker is in charge of this program, as well as the Toys for Tots in conjunction with the Marine Reserves. This program will run through December 3rd as well. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held November 25th at 2:00 pm at the Thirsty Pig on South Saint Andrews Street. Volunteers will be honored for their service during the past year. All members sare invited. For information or ways to get involved with any of these events, call Mary Jo Holker at 941-473-0559.

The Christmas Party will be held on December 23rd at the Farrell residence at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided by the Assembly. Music of the season will be provided by Dan Farrell. Call Mary Joe Holker, 941-473-0559 to let us know you will be attending either of these fun activities.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 2

Hazleton, PA

Matching Funds

The event "Bone Appetit" will take place on **November 5, 2017** from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Woodlands Inn and Resort PA-315 Wilkes Barre, PA.

This event highlights fabulous food from local restaurants and wineries throughout our community and live music. For any additional information please contact Marlin Petro Wesnak at marlinsamimadi@yahoo.com

Marlin Petro Wesnak
President

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.

News from Assembly 813

For their 2017 National Fraternal Project Assembly 813 of Englewood, FL worked with the Jubilee Center of St. David's Episcopal Church to benefit children at Englewood Elementary School. The Backpack Program provides take home food for 70 kids who might otherwise be hungry on the week-ends.

The Jubilee Center gets some of the food from All Faiths Food Bank and purchases additional food to provide a healthy variety. Mary Jo Holker, representing NSS Assembly 813, worked closely with Pat Knox, of the Jubilee Center of St. David's. Volunteers meet on the first and third Wednesdays to pack the bags which are then distributed on the first and third Fridays. This on-going project has already raised \$1025 and will continue through May.

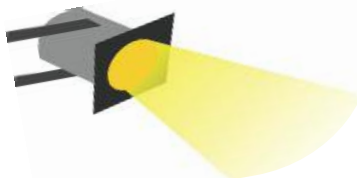


Our Assembly 813 recently participated in the 6th annual Porktoberque, a combination barbecue festival and Oktoberfest celebration. This was a Matching Funds event which raised \$1120 for the benefit of the Northview High School Cross Country team. The 23rd Squadron of the USAF also received funds from the organizer.

Kerry Farrell engineered the project, ably assisted by her husband Dan when he wasn't playing onstage with the Polka Dots. Pal anti Butch Grinles were also key to the operation. This year saw two firsts ---this year the event ran three days instead of the usual two, and it became an international event with the entry of the M&G BBQ team from the Netherlands.

Music and dancing was provided each day by the Polka Dots Band and the K-Jams gave a concert on Friday evening. Mary Jo Holker spent her time making Grandma's Pretzels and posing for pictures in her old world costume. Joey Arnold and Blaze Farrell were busy being runners and muscle power as needed.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary



Spotlight On Patti Kropf Accountant Associate

My name is Patti Kropf. I have been part of the Home Office staff since September, 2014. My job title is Accounting Associate. I assist our controller with various tasks involving accounts payable and receivable. One of my primary responsibilities involves facilitating our Direct Payment Plan, or automatic monthly bank draft program for premium payments. I am also responsible for setting up systematic payments for annuities. I assist as needed with entering premium payments and certificate loans. The most enjoyable part of my job is the people with whom I work. I am happy to be a part of the NSS family.

I like to read, and take part in book discussions with friends. I enjoy cooking, baking, and love to try new recipes. Trivia games interest me and I find it fun to play along with the contestants on Jeopardy!

My husband, Ron and I have been married for 22 years. We have three amazing children. My oldest daughter is a college student. My son is a high school sophomore, and my youngest daughter is in elementary school. With three children of varied ages and interests, we are kept busy with a wide variety of activities and events. My time is often spent cheering on a soccer game, or enjoying a school music concert. I stay active by taking brisk walks each day with our family's two very energetic dogs. My family is truly a joy and a blessing.



Assembly 731

Our attendance was down a bit for this year's Halloween Hayride, but everyone who came to the event had a great time. This event was planned for the kids, but the adults enjoyed the hayride, pumpkin patch, corn maze, and refreshments as much as the kids.



Kids anxiously waiting to load the hay wagon for their trip to the pumpkin patch.



Kaylee and Kayden Brenner found their perfect pumpkin.



Jack Gaither and Aubrieanna Martini help each other to get the biggest pumpkin they could carry and Cameron Mason manages his heavy pick. One rule for picking a pumpkin "kids must be able to carry their pumpkin from the patch to the wagon without adult help".

New Member



Congratulations to Kane and Carly Whitehouse on the birth of their daughter on July 8, 2017. Great granddaughter of Esther Vlasak, and granddaughter of Bill and Becky Sheridan and Rose Matthew.



Wishing you a Thanksgiving filled with warm moments and cherished memories.

Assembly L002

On Sunday, September 17, 2017 members of Assembly L002 attended an 11:00 am mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stratford, CT in honor of the deceased members of our Assembly. Msgr. Ernest Esposito officiated at the mass and joined us for a photograph at the front of the church. After the church service our members attended a luncheon at Vazzy's Restaurant in Bridgeport and thereafter we had our annual business meeting.



Board member Nelson Ladue is depicted (left) handing an old flag to President Ray Pistey. A couple of flags were collected from our members and were turned over to the V.F.W. for proper disposal.



Our assembly also collected food for the Sterling House food pantry in Stratford. Pictured in the photo with some of the food collected are Treasurer Kristin Toman (left), Secretary Joelle Marticek (center) and youth member Alyssa Toman (right).

NSS Meets the Stanley Cup



Phil Bourque takes time out of his busy schedule to take a picture with President David Blazek and S/T Linda Strom outside of PPG Paints Arena.



Penguins Championship Ring



Front: Linda Buono, and Donna Tenney. Back: Eric Reipole, Dave Blazek, and Lori Korte.

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Joseph & Elizabeth**

Resovsky:

The McEvoy Family 25.00

In Memory of **Alfred Gomb:**

Assembly 0617 50.00



DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

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

*Veterans Day
November 11*

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS September, 2017

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Bartell, Norman	West Palm Beach, FL	12/06/2016	0813
Bencho Jr., George B	McKees Rocks, PA	08/11/2017	0123
Blasko, Gertrude	Brownsville, PA	08/11/2017	0588
Brown, Lorraine	Greensburg, PA	08/24/2017	0377
Bryte, Eugene	Masontown, PA	09/15/2017	0774
Bungo, Jane	Braddock, PA	09/04/2017	L105
Cheslock, Teresa	Baden, PA	01/15/2016	0588
Christy, Carole	Apple Valley, CA	04/02/2017	0004
Dabill, Lawrence	Memphis, TN	08/23/2017	0588
Davis, Donald	St. Albans, WV	08/22/2017	0774
Davis, Roger A	Scottdale, PA	08/30/2017	0737
Devenny, John T	Mansfield, OH	08/29/2017	0004
Drewsey, Richard	Wallace, MI	09/04/2017	0381
Dripps, Geraldine	Pittsburgh, PA	09/05/2017	L161
Evanston, Michael	Struthers, OH	08/20/2017	0108
Flint, Ruby	Maumet, WV	07/08/2017	0774
Forker, Celia	Columbus, OH	08/14/2017	0731
Fryer, Josephine	Lake Mary, FL	08/06/2017	0586
Groves, Francis	Lodi, WI	08/04/2017	0774
Haluska, Edward	Mountain Top, PA	08/11/2017	L102
Hatrak, Gregory	Yonkers, PA	07/01/2017	L075
Herock, Beverly	Pittsburgh, PA	08/01/2017	L161
Higinbotham, Ruth	Beallsville, PA	08/28/2017	0377
Hughes, John C	Pittsburgh, PA	11/02/2015	0434
Jakubek, Judy	Struthers, OH	09/17/2017	0731
Johns, Merl	Washington, PA	01/10/2017	0588
Kelly, James C	Hermitage, PA	11/29/2015	0731
King, Pearl	Falling Waters, WV	08/18/2017	P38A
Kostelnik, Freda	Byesville, OH	09/03/2017	0004
Krajnak, Joseph	Greensburg, PA	06/21/2017	0737
Lutash, Mary	Coaldale, PA	05/15/2017	0774
Menzie, John	North Versailles, PA	11/17/2016	0737
Nekoranic, John	Myrtle Beach, SC	08/26/2017	P38A
Offen, Ruth	Mercer, PA	08/10/2017	0123
Panick, Loretta	Portage, PA	08/05/2017	0774
Parks, Brucie	Kennett Square, PA	02/09/2017	0110
Petrosky, George	Van Voorhis, PA	08/09/2017	0377
Ruede, Anita	Jackson, MI	07/20/2017	0381
Rutkowski, Helen	Elmwood Park, NJ	05/24/2017	0110
Saniga Sr., Daniel J	Coraopolis, PA	08/15/2017	L161
Saylor, William	Altoona, PA	05/31/2017	0267
Seile, Diane	Indiana, PA	07/29/2017	L105
Shelton, Jon Wayne	Henderson, NV	08/21/2017	0434
Simko, Vincent	Trumbull, CT	12/22/2016	L002
Simon Zerone, Brenda	Dunlevy, PA	08/19/2017	0039
Sisko, Margaret	Homer City, PA	06/19/2017	L105
Staab, Evelyn	Blairsville, GA	07/25/2017	0813
Starcher, Lillian	Spencer, WV	06/29/2017	0774
Stobbe, Mary	Parma Heights, OH	09/07/2016	0432
Strauch, Lloyd W	Tiffin, OH	03/27/2017	0160
Sulin, Claudia	Barberton, OH	08/21/2017	0731
Sullivan, Donald	Export, PA	06/09/2017	0737
Toth, Julia	Greensburg, PA	11/12/2016	0737
Urbano, Marsha	Coraopolis, PA	09/20/2017	0434
Washington, Richard	Philadelphia, PA	08/12/2017	0110
Whytsell, Clarice	Grantsville, WV	08/08/2017	0774
Wright, Emerson	Circleville, OH	07/27/2017	0595

November

V tomto mesiaci 23 novembra oslávim sviatok Vďaky vzdania ktorý je Štátnym i národným sviatkom v Amerike. V tento sviatok sa schádzajú rodiny i priatelia aby vďakov vzdaním za spoločným stolom preukázali úctu a vďaku Bohu za všetkú štedrosť.

Ďakujem ti Pane... .. za všetky požehnania, za dni slnečné i smutné, zamračené. ... za pokojné popoludnia i za dlhé tmavé noci. ... Ďakujem ti za zdravie i choroby, za trápenie a radosti, ktoré som mal v tomto roku. Ďakujem ti za priateľský úsmev a pomocnú ruku, za lásku, ktorú som prijal i za všetky nádherné veci. Za kvety a hviezdy, za deti a láskyplné duše.

Želame všetkým našim čitateľom radostný deň vďakyvzdania.



Pradte, pradte, pradulienky

Priadky to bola hlavná činnosť dedinských žien a dievok od neskorej jesene do skorej jari. Vždy podvečer sa schádzali u niektorej gazdinej, každá si priniesla svoj materiál a svoje náradie—teda kúdele konopí a praslicu, niektoré aj kolovrátko, iné len vretená. Mohli ta za nimi prísť aj mládenci, ale nie každý deň— všade mali tieto dni určené po svojom, ale platilo, že to nesmel byť piatok. Ak by však mládenci nechodili, dievky sa ich usilovali pričarovať zariekaním alebo drobnými magickými úkonmi, pravdaže, so žartovným nádychom. Dievčenské priadky sa nezaobšili bez zábavy, občas sa prezliekali napríklad za cigánky, do mužských šiat a podobne, niekedy navštívili inú kúdeľnú izbu. Mohli sa poskladať na pohostenie a pod vedením gazdinej si ho pripravili. Potom sa praslice a kolovraty odložili do kúta, stoličky a lavice sa dali k stenám a spievalo a tancovalo sa (pravda, len do začiatku adventu a po vianočnom období). Bola to napokon aj príležitosť na počúvanie rozprávok, miestnych príbehov o strašidlách, ale aj na spoločný spev, pre slobodných mládenčov a dievky na zblíženie a spoznávanie sa.

Sviatok Všetkých svätých

Na Slovensku má úcta k mŕtvym, návšteva hrobov príbuzných v dňoch 1. a 2. novembra veľmi dávnu tradíciu, ktorá sa udržala dodnes. Veriaci a ostatní obyvatelia prichádzajú na cintoríny, aby zapálením



sviečok či kahancov a položením kytíc a vencov k hrobu spomínali na svojich zosnulých. Táto úcta aj na Slovensku vychádza z pradávnjej slovanskej tradície jesenných pohanských sviatkov. Príchod duší zosnulých súvisel aj s blížiacou sa zimou. V európskej tradícii aj na Slovensku sa preniesol do kresťanského kalendára. Tento sviatok by mal byť našou spomienkou na blízkych, ktorí odišli z našich radov. Spomienkou na nich im vzdávame úctu za všetko, čo pre nás v živote vykonali a zároveň zostávajú v našom srdci žiť naďalej.

Inšpirácie pre pokojnejší advent

1. Cvič sa v sebaovládání.
2. Pozeranie televízie vymeň za čítanie dobrej knihy.
3. Každý deň si vyber úmysel, osobu, za ktorú sa budeš modliť.
4. Viac času venuj rodičom a súrodencom, usiluj sa byť k nim za každých okolností láskavý.
5. Cvič sa v štedrosti, obdaruj núdzných.
6. Mysli na biednych, chorých a modli sa za nich.
7. Nájdi si čas na spytovanie svedomia, preskúmanie svojich dobrých aj zlých vlastností.
8. Urob si plán, ako sa polepšiť, a modli sa na tento úmysel.



Inšpirácia

Viac času venuj rodičom a súrodencom, usiluj sa byť k nim za každých okolností láskavý.



THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS Septemberfest





THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS **Septemberfest**



2017 Christmas Ornament Contest - Deadline December 1st, 2017

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 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, 1981

On November 2, 1981, John H. Surovy, Supreme Secretary-Treasurer of the National Slovak Society died. Brother Surovy had served the Society for eighteen and one-half years as Supreme Treasurer, Supreme Secretary, and as Supreme Secretary-Treasurer when the offices were combined.

November, 1984

Robert J. Cindrlich, former United States Attorney for Western Pennsylvania, was appointed by the Supreme Assembly on November 12, 1984, to serve as Legal Counsel of the National Slovak Society. Mr. Cindrlich became the seventh Legal Counsel to serve the Society since its inception.

November, 1993

National President Joseph Stefka died on November 3, 1993. President Stefka, the fifteenth president of the Society, served as Supreme President and National President from 1978 until the time of his death. He previously served the Society as Supreme Treasurer and Elder from 1974 through 1978.

November, 1993

At the Semi-Annual Meeting of the National Assembly of the National Slovak Society on November 12, 1993, National Director Dean Burns was named by the Board of Directors in a unanimous vote to serve as the National Vice-President of the Society. Dean would serve as National Vice-President until he retired from the position in 2014. Dean had previously served the Society as a National Director from 1990 through the time of his appointment as National Vice-President.

Second Place Poetry Winners

Big Brown Bear

There once was a big brown bear
Who had lots of long hair.
He sat in a chair
In order to share.

By Grey Osborn
Assembly C813
Age 6

Butterflies

Butterflies, Butterflies everywhere.
Butterflies, Butterflies in my hair.
Some blue, some green, some yellow too.
Butterflies, Butterflies everywhere.

By Helena Dillaman
Assembly C554
Age 9



Amazing Animals

Animals are amazing things,
Birds that soar with delicate wings.

Owls that hunt all through the night,
Kingly lions roar with all their might.

Horses gallop far and wide,
While flying squirrels jump and glide.

Snakes shed their dry cracked skin,
When monkeys play and make the din.

Bunnies love to nibble grass,
Bears sleep while cold days pass.

Piglets snort and rill in the mud,
While cows all day chew their cud.

Elephants suck water through their trunk,
Sharks bite and take a chunk.

Lobsters will pinch if you go near,
Up in the north run rugged reindeer.

Crickets with the song they sing,
Animals are amazing things.

By Lydia Herbster
Assembly C434
Age 13

Pineapple

You know it's a fruit.
Isn't it so cute?

It has leaves on the top
And it's a tropical crop.

The outside texture is rough,
And the cutting is tough

When you cut out the core,
You yell, "SCORE!"

Then you can devour!
You wish you had enough to eat for an hour.

It is definitely worth biting,
The taste is so delightful!

It's so sweet that,
It knocks you off your feet!

By Jerzey Coble
Assembly C554
Age 14

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

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

Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.



Change of Address

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

Name _____

Assembly No. _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Former Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

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