



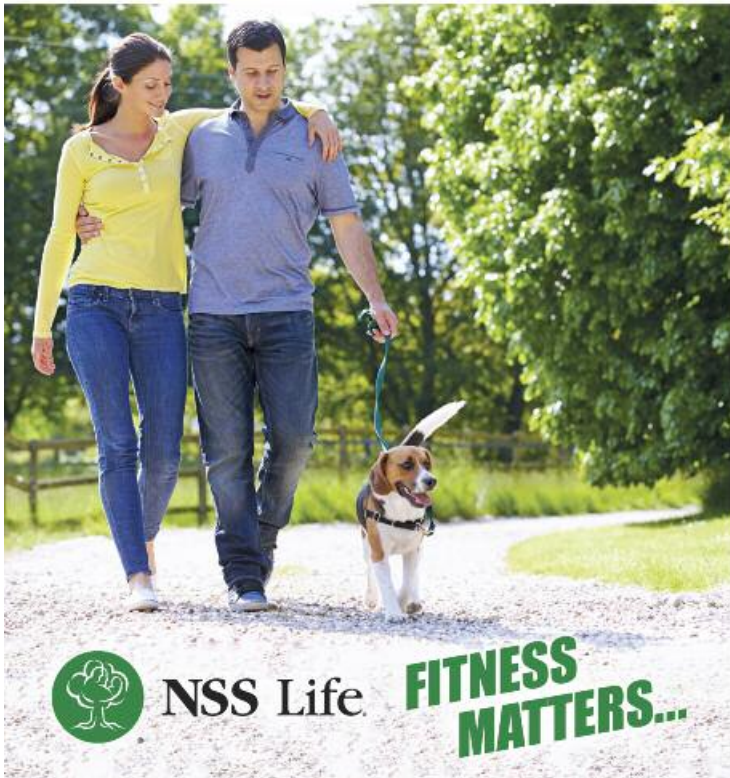
# National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

OCTOBER 2015 | NUMBER 3486 VOLUME 107



New American Hearing Benefits Offer • Photo Contest deadline extended to October 15th



NSS Life.

**FITNESS MATTERS...**



 **American**<sup>™</sup>

HEARING BENEFITS

SEE PAGE 9



# National Slovak Society

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## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Organized February 16, 1890  
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Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

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Published Monthly  
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NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

### NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

David G. Blazek, *FIC, President & Elder*  
Joseph Stefka, Jr., *Chairman of the Board*  
Linda M. Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer*

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Andrea Garbon  
Keith S. Godor  
Abigail Gross  
Robert Katricak  
Susan Ondrejco  
Drew Wesnak

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Dean Burns, *Vice-President*  
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### PBU HONORARY OFFICERS

Henri O. Albert, *President*

### ROCWMAS HONORARY OFFICER

Olga Kasnot, *President*

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

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# Activities at a Glance...

<b>REGION 2</b> October 17	<b>Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617</b> Assembly 0617, Join Hands Day, Back Mountain Scenic Trail at 9:30 am
<b>REGION 5</b> October 4 October 7 October 9 October 11 October 11 November 6 December 6 December 12	<b>Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774</b> Region 5, Meeting, Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly 0123, Volunteering at World Vision Center at 9:30 am Assembly 0588, Fraternal Night, Mt. Pleasant Township Com. Center at 7:30 pm Western PA Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance, Westwood Golf Club, W Mifflin, PA Assembly 0377, Meeting, Gateway Clipper, Pittsburgh, PA at 11:30 am Assembly L161, Meeting, Ondrejco residence (time to be announced) Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Knights of Columbus Social Hall at 2:00 pm Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor residence, N Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
<b>REGION 7</b>	<b>Assemblies P09A, 0731</b> No activities at this time
<b>REGION 8</b> October 10 October 21 December 5 December 31	<b>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</b> Region 8, Hayride, Richardson Farms, Medina, OH at 12-5 pm Region 8, Semi-Annual Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 7:30 pm Assembly 0432, Christmas Party, Gemini Center, Fairview Park, OH at 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Assembly 0432, New Year's Eve Party, Shuttleworth residence
<b>REGION 14</b> October 11 October 25	<b>Assemblies R059, L102</b> Region 14, Matching Funds, St. John's Slovak Church, Allentown, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly R059, Luncheon (after Mass), St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA
<b>REGION 15</b>	<b>Assemblies L002, 0028</b> No activities at this time
<b>AT LARGE</b> October 17 October 18 October 18 November 8 December 6 December 13 December 23 December 24	<b>Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813</b> Assembly 0110, Meeting, Bohemian Hall, Astoria, NY at 4:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly R019, Chinese Auction/Meeting, Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church at 12 Noon Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0813, Appreciation Dinner, Ruby Tuesday's at 7:00 pm Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Bohemian Garden, Downers Grove at 2:00 pm Assembly 0813, Christmas Party, Farrell residence (Time to be announced) Assembly 0705, Butwin Christmas Eve Party at 6:00 pm



## From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC  
National President

Greetings from the Home Office of the National Slovak Society as we begin what to me is a nice season; namely Fall. The only drawback to Fall is what follows; Winter. But for now let's enjoy the beautiful colors of the leaves changing and the cool nights which are great for sleeping. This month in addition to Assembly and Region Meetings, Assembly 0123 will be volunteering at the World Vision Center, the Western PA Slovak Radio Hour will hold their Annual Dinner Dance on October 11th, Region 8 has a hayride scheduled for October 10th and Assembly RO59 will hold a luncheon after mass on October 25th.

In addition to NSS activities, State Fraternal Alliances will be held at different times of the month. Ohio, New Jersey/New York, and Pennsylvania all will hold their annual meetings in October and the NSS will be represented at each of these meetings by different Board members.

Also this month, a sister Slovak fraternal, The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association will be holding their quadrennial convention in Louisville, KY.

We wish them the best in all their deliberations.

## Frequently Asked Questions About The NSS

In my job as President of the Society, I am often asked questions about our organization. Starting with this article, I will share some of the questions asked and the answers that are given to members and potential members.

### Q: What is a Fraternal Benefit Society?

**A:** A fraternal benefit society (fraternal) is a non-profit, mutual aid organization that: **(1)** insures members and their families against death, disease and disability, and **(2)** maintains an active assembly system. Fraternal Benefit societies bring together individuals with a common bond and provide them with the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to their local communities and American society. The common bond between members can be based on religious beliefs, gender, occupation, ethnicity, physical condition or value system. These unique organizations, many of which having been serving their members for over 100 years, offer members a variety of fraternal benefits, such as scholarships, educational publications, travel opportunities and discount programs. The altruistic efforts of fraternal benefit societies are primarily funded by the sale of life insurance and other financial services products to their members.

Many societies have their roots as mutual aid organizations - founded to serve the needs of immigrants and other under served groups before the days of government and employer based health care and retirement programs. Today the focus of fraternal benefit societies is less on who we are and more on what we do. For instance, fraternal society members have maintained and supported homes for the aged, undertaken Habitat for Humanity projects, provided welfare services, and given material and financial assistance to the victims of many natural disasters. All fraternal benefit societies must comply with state and federal regulations, with regard to their financial services, and must be licensed by the insurance department of the state or states in which they operate. Fraternal benefit societies are recognized as 501(c)(8), not for profit fraternal organizations, by the Internal Revenue Service.

**(To be continued next issue)**

### Adult Truth Of The Month:

*How many times is it appropriate to say What? before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?*

## News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday to Honorary Vice President, Dean Burns, Honorary Officer Henri Albert, Honorary Director Tony Beno, George Batyko, Irene Tomaskovic, Bob Kapp, JoAnna Lloyd, Carson Bernardo, Cathy Fox, Home Office staffers Joe Elliott, and Rick Toth and to daughter Nicole Kearney.

Happy Anniversary to Carole and Ed Koches, Barb and Tod Wilcock, Susan and Paul Payerchin and to all others celebrating a special occasion this month.

As promised last issue, I am reporting on the birth of another grandchild for me and my wife Fran. On August 20th, Brady Francis Kearney was born, weighing in at 6 lbs 14 oz. Baby, mother and father are all doing well. Brady becomes our 8th grandchild to date; we have 4 granddaughters and 4 grandsons now. We are very blessed.

## A Page From My Notebook.....

By Linda M. Strom, National Secretary/Treasurer  
Email: [lstrom@nsslife.org](mailto:lstrom@nsslife.org)

## Condolences

My deepest sympathy goes out to Assembly PO9A Officer Betty DeArcangelis and family on the passing of her brother, and President of Assembly PO9A, Robert Bindas. May God grant you peace.

## Minutes of the 2015 Board Meeting

The 2015 Summer Board Meeting was opened and called to order on August 15, 2015. Chairman of the Board Joseph Stefka, Jr. appointed President David G. Blazek as chair for the meeting. All Board members, Legal Counsel and Consultants were present either at the Home Office or via Teleconference. All Bond Sales, Exchanges and Purchases and Mortgages through June 30, 2015 were reviewed and/or ratified. Minutes of the Spring 2015 Board Meeting were approved. Sales Director Greg Felton presented the Sales Directors Report highlighting: 2015 Second Quarter Sales; Policy, Member and Sales Comparisons; Membership; New Agents; New Business and Growth since 2001. CPA Donald Reddinger presented an Overview of the 2nd Quarter of 2015 which showed Net Income of \$3.4M, Total Assets of \$850.9M and Surplus of \$30.9M. The Fraternal Directors Report, presented recapped events of 2015. President Blazek asked NSS Asset Manager Larry White (AQS) to present his report. Portfolio Metrics show a Book Yield of 5.07%. We continue to maintain our current interest rates. Our average crediting rate continues to hover around 3.40% resulting in a gross annuity margin of 1.67%.



Annuity Interest Rates were reviewed and a motion was made to keep the rates the same for the 4th Quarter of 2015. Under Old Business the following was presented and/or acted upon: an update on the Youth Leadership Program provided by Director Alan Burns, reported that 6 or 7 individuals indicated their interest in filling out the project RFP, Chairman Stefka reported that the History Book is in final proof, Director and Museum Curator Sue Ondrejco, provided a brief report on upcoming events for the Museum. Set up of the Slovak Wood Carving has been completed and a Media Event is being planned for September along with a "Septemberfest" event highlighting its new home at NSS. Committee charter development was also reviewed. Under New Business a Long Term Care program for staff was discussed and several Petitions were acted upon.

The Fall Board meeting will be held Saturday, November 7, 2015. The Bond Audit will take place Friday, November 6, 2015.

## American Fraternal Alliance

Last month the Executive Officers, Chairman of the Board and several Board Members attended the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. This year we were excited to support two of our new Board members who were requested to be a part of the new AFA Innovation Forum focused on youth involvement. Our new Board members also attended the AFA

## 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](mailto: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.

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

**IMPORTANT  
PLEASE READ**

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

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

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

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

**Current Interest Rates**

**Effective January 1, 2013**

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

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

Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or

Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.

*Did you know....*

You could make an additional deposit to almost any Annuity with NSS-just send us a check. Any additional funds will not increase the time period on early withdrawal penalties.



**Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA**

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



## From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC  
National Sales Director



## Ask Me About the 7% Solution

Now, if that was all you heard on a radio or TV ad what would you think they are talking about? Most people think they are talking about earning 7% interest. In today's challenging times that would be a fantastic rate of return. Recently, NSS has had a couple of people take money from their existing accounts (some of which were earning 4.0% interest) and roll the money over to the 7% solution.

One of these programs works like this: You deposit \$100,000 into an immediate annuity and at age 65, for a male, the monthly payout would be \$601 per month.  $\$601 \times 12 \text{ months} = \$7,212$ . This amount represents 7.2% on a \$100,000 deposit and thus your 7% solution. Yes, you are getting a monthly income but your lump sum is gone. You also are not getting 7% interest – you are getting 7% return on the deposit because it is the actuarial calculation for a lifetime income starting at age 65.

This so called 7% solution is really a marketing gimmick. You can get pretty pictures, nice graphs and fancy words to dress this thing up but it should be exposed for what it really is – a deplorable misuse of the public's trust. The old adage if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is; absolutely applies in this case.

This client could have left their money in an NSS annuity and earned 3.50% interest which would be about \$3,500 at the end of one year. This client could have chosen to annuitize their account and drawn the \$601 per month for the rest of their life. In this

case once they lived past fourteen years or age 79 they would be drawing more out of their plan than they ever put in.

My point is simple. Deal with agents and companies that you know. The annuity business is a little bit like the old Baskin Robbins ice cream store.

Remember they had 31 flavors.

There are that many choices when you look at some of these annuities – fixed, indexed, variable, and immediate with options galore.

NSS is plain vanilla ice cream. Our product is straight forward. You put money in and earn interest. There are

no fees, charges or expenses to manage or maintain your account. There is an early withdrawal penalty and that is clearly marked in brochures, on the website and in the policy.

For more information about earning money the old fashioned way - please contact your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office.

### Thought for the Month

*Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.*

**Dennis Kimbro – author and writer**



## Savings Guide

Would you like to save more money for some future purpose? I'm sure the answer is yes – everyone wants and needs more money. It is a good idea to have a goal in mind; whether it is for retirement, college savings or something else. Here is a handy little chart showing what happens if you save \$100 a month at 3% interest (which is what our Preferred 5 contract is paying). Over a long period of time it is reasonable to expect some changes so I also show what would happen at 2% and 4% interest. Would you like to retire in twenty years with \$100,000 nest egg? Then you will need to save \$305 per month at 3% interest. This calculation was completed by dividing \$100,000 by \$32,832 = \$305. Try it for yourself, this part is easy. Next, you need to set up an account and start saving money. NSS can help you with IRAs, Roth IRAs and annuities.

### \$100 per month

	2%	3%	4%
5 years	\$ 6,305	\$ 6,465	\$ 6,631
10 years	\$13,273	\$13,975	\$14,726
15 years	\$20,972	\$22,698	\$24,610
20 years	\$29,481	\$32,832	\$36,679
25 years	\$38,883	\$44,602	\$51,415
30 years	\$49,274	\$58,276	\$69,408

## Fraternal Matters...

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



## Trick or Treat

NSS has a supply of Halloween Trick or Treat bags available. If your assembly or organization is having a Halloween party and need bags for the ghosts and goblins to collect their goodies give me a call or email me at [pblum@nsslife.org](mailto:pblum@nsslife.org)

## Holidays in October

There are two holidays celebrated in October in the United States: Columbus Day and Halloween.

Columbus Day is on October 12, although it is celebrated on the second Monday of the month. Halloween is on October 31st.

Columbus Day recognizes the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in America. It became a federal holiday in 1937, although it has been celebrated unofficially since the late 18th century.

Halloween is celebrated on the eve of the Christian holiday of All Hallows' Day. This was traditionally a day for remembering the dead. In the United States, it is typically celebrated by dressing up in costumes, telling scary stories and eating candy.

## Photo Contest Extended

We have extended the deadline for the photo contest to October 15, 2015. Be sure to use this extra time and mail in your entry.

## Think Pink...

## The Best Protection is Early Detection!!

The fight against breast cancer takes place every day. National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, in October, is an opportune time to renew your commitment to raise awareness, honor and support patients, survivors and their families, and further the efforts of caregivers and researchers dedicated to treating and curing this disease.

All women can get breast cancer – even those with no family history of the disease. Learn about breast cancer and take control of your health by following the American Cancer Society's breast cancer screening guidelines:

### Age 40 and over:

Mammogram and clinical breast exam yearly

### Age 20's and 30's:

Clinical breast exam about every 3 years

### Starting in 20's:

Choose whether or how often to do breast self-exam.

If you think you are at a higher risk for Breast cancer, talk with your doctor about your history and what options are right for you.

## Poetry Contest

Congratulations to the 2015 Poetry Contest winners listed below. What an awesome job each and every one of you did on your poems. This year we had a total of 24 entries. The first place winners will be published in next month's edition of the National News. I want to thank everyone for their continued participation in our fraternal contests and I encourage your participation again next year.

## 2015 Poetry Contest Winners

### Keats - Ages 5-7

First Place:	Brooke Janosek	Assembly C432
Second Place:	Sam Strich	Assembly C617
Third Place:	Anthony Cherevka	Assembly C108

### Angelou - Ages 8-10

First Place:	Maya McDonnell	Assembly C617
Second Place:	Giovanni Ferary	Assembly C774
Third Place:	Benjamin Ostrowski	Assembly C617

### Frost - Ages 11-13

First Place:	Casey Lako	Assembly C039
Second Place:	Julia Rayman	Assembly C039
Third Place:	Isabella Ferary	Assembly 0774

### Shakespeare - Ages 14-16

First Place:	George Strish IV	Assembly C617
Second Place:	Blaze Farrell	Assembly C813
Third Place:	Cariana Shultz	Assembly C102



# Side Effects of Hearing Loss

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

American Hearing Benefits offers:

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

## NOW AVAILABLE! DISCOUNT HEARING BENEFITS

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

— or —  
Call 1 (888) 705-6920



A Starkey® Hearing Technologies Program



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### *Jason Shipbaugh PVR Recipient Assembly 586*



Happily, another of our PVR scholars is doing extremely well in his education and career. Jason Shipbaugh, past PVR scholarship recipient and grandson of 586 member Jan Cielinski, received his doctorate degree in physical therapy on May 21, 2015 from Midwestern University in Downers Grove, IL. He is now a licensed physical therapist employed by RehabCare in the south suburbs of Chicago. Good work, Jason, and good luck to you!

### *Memories from 2015 Slovak Day*



Assembly 588 members Keith Kucherawy, Joe Stefka, Jr., Carson and Brett Bernardo trying to recruit a new NSS member, Cowboy Joe, at Kennywood Park on Slovak Day.



Assembly 588 members Joe Stefka, Jr., wife Annette, and grandchildren Carson and Bella Bernardo enjoying the Kangaroo ride at Kennywood Park on Slovak Day.



Assembly 588 members Elaine Kucherawy and Annette Stefka taking a break near the Slovak Flags at Kennywood Park on Slovak Day.



President Dave Blazek and NSS employee Rick Toth help in the kitchen on Slovak Day.



## Assembly 123 Matching Fund Event



Bill Knoll, President of Assembly 123 presents a \$400 Matching Fund check to Jill Grover, President of the Carnegie American Legion Auxiliary. Funds will be used for veterans and their families.

## Assembly 617/C617 - Knobels Fraternal Day

We had the perfect day for a picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park, Elysburg, PA. We welcomed 54 members of assembly 617/C617 and 10 potential future members on August 13, 2015. For our fraternal day, we were honored to have Abigail Gross, our new Director and her family join us for the day. After introducing her, we had a short meeting and remarks from Abigail about how well our society is doing.



Hoagies, which were supplied by the assembly, and desserts and snacks brought by our members made up a quick lunch. Members were given free park ride tickets compliments of the assembly.

We had a 50/50 raffle for the PVR Scholarship Fund and our winner was Julia Glowacki. Margaret Lukas donated jars with change in it. The two winners who guessed the correct amount of change were: Darienna Ondeck and Elizabeth Ostrowski.



Everyone had a great time. Some of our members stayed till the park closed. Hopefully more members will come next year to join in the fun.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
President



## Our Future Leaders of NSS Life



Assembly #123 newest member is Jayden Kai Ravida being held by his big brother Ryan.



Brady Francis Kearney was born on August 19th at 6 lbs. 14 oz. Proud parents are Nicole and Tom Kearney, and grandparents are Dave and Fran Blazek. Brady also has a brother at home!



Hudson Frank Lavin was born on August 12th at 9 lbs. Hudson is the 3rd child of parents, Danielle and Jeff Lavin. Proud grandparents are Dave and Fran Blazek. To the left, Brady Kearney and Hudson are cousins.



# Október

V opojnej vôni zrelého ovocia, v lahode nového vína, v teple babieho leta a v objatí hýrivých farieb stromov je nám predstava zimy ešte dosť vzdialená.

Naši starkí sa však týmito skvostnými darmi desiateho mesiaca v roku nedali priveľmi očariť a aj nám odkazujú že v októbri sa zem od zimy zatvára. Zároveň ale platí generačná skúsenosť, že október už býva studený, ale nikdy nie hladný. Úroda je pod strechou a zásobárne plné, za čo v chrámoch ďakujeme Bohu. Je čas vinobrania, hodov a posledných veselíc pod holým nebom.

## Mesiace Sv. Ruženca

Od Roku 1716 oslavuje celý katolícky svet 7. október ako sviatok Ružencovej Panny Márie.

Desiatok či venček sv. Ruženca venujme denne Matke Božej ukončiac veršíkom:

O Mária ružencova naša patronka, my sa k tebe utiekame čista panenka.

Ty si Matka dobrotiva patronka ľutostíva, oroduj vždy za nás všetkých u svojho syna.



## OTÁZKY A ODPOVEDE —HISTÓRIA

1. Ktorý strom bol už 19. storočí považovaný za symbol Slovákov?
2. Aké bolo pôvodné povolanie Milana Rastislava Štefanika?
3. Ako sa nazývala prvá dohoda medzi americkými Slovákami a Čechmi o spoločnom postupe v boji za vznik Československa?
4. Ktorý nitriansky vládca nechal v roku 828 na našom území postaviť prvý kresťanský kostol?

~~~~~  
*1. Lipa 2. Astronóm—venoval sa jej prof. I. Lipa 3. Clevelandská dohoda—podpísaná 22. októbra 1915. 4. Príbina—bol zrtaven prvým strednej a východnej Európe.*



Jeseň v Bojniciach

Galeriaslovakia.sk

## 130 Rokov od Vydavania Slovenských Novín

Tohtu roku 2015 si pripomínáme 130 rokov od začiatku vydavania americko slovenských novín. Prve číslo vyšlo 21. októbra 1885 ako hektograf –bulletin tu v Pittsburghu. Noviny boli písane po šarišsky.

## Slovenský Festival pri Univerzite Pittsburgh

Pozývame, Slovákov a Slovenky na slovenský festival pri Pittsburgh univerzite čo bude na 1. veku novembra čo pripravuje Slavik Department a študenti Slovenského štúdia.

Vieme, že PGH univerzita je jediná v Amerike čo dostáva grant na vyučovanie štúdia slovenského jazyka kde študenti môžu získať kredity k maturite.

Pri tejto univerzite je založená i slovenská základina ktorú financuje 5 slovenských organizácií vrátane našej NSS.

Vstupné na festival je zdarma, prebieha od obeda do 5-tej po obede. Môžete užívať z výstavy slovenských vecí, pochutnať jedla na slovenský spôsob a prípadne si i zaspievať počas vystúpenia slovenských súborov.

## DOŽINKOVÉ VENCE NA SLOVENSKU



Púchovská Dolina



Liptov



Tekov

Prinášanie a ozdobovanie posledného snopu, viazanice, kytice či venca odpradáva symbolizovalo ukončenie žatvy. Tento obrad stáročiami prerástol do osláv "dožinkov". Dojímavosť ich vo svojich Spievankách opisuje aj Ján Kollár: „Mládenc nesie zástavu. Bývala to najčastejšie veľká hodvábná šatka na žrdi. Jej vrchol bol vyzdobený kytkou z kvetia a klasov. Popri ňom ide panna, ktorá má na hlave veniec z najkrajších stebiel obilia a kláskov.“

## ASSEMBLY R019 Buffalo, NY

On Sunday, October 18, 2015 a Chinese Auction and luncheon will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church at 12:00 p.m. This is our annual fundraiser. All are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

**Linda Mucyn**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY 039 Uniontown, PA

Congratulations to our young adult members that were awarded an NSS scholarship from the NSS Scholarship Fund: Anthony Agostini, California University of PA; Maggie Agostini, Penn State University; Nicholas Agostini, Florida Gulf Coast University and Jessica Yenny, Penn State Fayette Campus. We are proud of each of you! Good luck in your studies!

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

The NSS wants to get you fit!! Sign up for the new "NSS Life's Fitness Matters Walking Club" and receive a free pedometer and mileage chart to track your efforts. Call Pam Blum at 724-731-0094 for more information.

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

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

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

Watch out for those trick n' treaters this Halloween. We want all of our members and friends to have a safe celebration!

**John Payerchin**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY R059 Whitehall, PA

Our assembly will host a hot dog luncheon on Sunday, October 25, 2015, to benefit a local soup kitchen where church members volunteer after Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, 980 Bridle Path Rd. Bethlehem, PA 18017.

A meeting will be held after the luncheon. For more information, please call (610) 266-7346.

**Nancy A Sabol**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 123 Coraopolis, PA

On Wednesday, Oct. 7th at 9:30 a.m. our assembly will be volunteering at the World Vision warehouse in Sewickley. We do sorting and packaging of new clothes which are sent to needy people overseas. This event will take about two hours and afterwards we will have lunch and a meeting-compliments of our assembly at Eat'n Park, Ohio River Blvd., Edgeworth, PA. All are welcome and we can sure use the help. If you can join us please call

Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546. She will fill you in on all the details and directions. Please seriously consider participating in this worthwhile project.

What certainly should be a national holiday is National Pierogi Day on October 8th. If you show up to help at World Vision, I will see that you get a free dozen of pierogis. Shame on you if you have never tried a pierogi!

Our assembly had two matching fund events, one to benefit the Veterans the other for the American Diabetes Association. Thanks to two of our members; Jill Grover who hosted the bowling event for the Veterans and new member Laure Van Norden who took part in the walk for Diabetes. The home office was able to match their efforts with a \$400 check for each organization.

Congratulations and best of luck to two of our members: Paige Lherbier and Haley Perry who qualified for the PVR scholarships. Also, our assembly will be sending each of them a check for \$100 to help with their college expenses.

The PVR scholarship is a wonderful program that provides \$500 per year for four years to NSS members who attend schooling beyond high school. If you have any children or grandchildren who might benefit, give me a call at 724-242-5085 or call agent Bill Del Monaco at 412-264-7268.

If any members are ill we wish you a speedy recovery and a return to full health.

**Bill Knoll**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY L161 Pittsburgh, PA

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

**Susan Ondrejco**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 377

### Bentleyville, PA

Assembly #377 will have a meeting on the Gateway Clipper on Sunday, October 11th. We will meet at 11:30 at the dock, 350 West Station Square Drive, Pittsburgh, PA. 15219. I will distribute the tickets there. It will include a brunch and we will have a meeting to discuss future fraternal activities. Please join us!

Please RSVP to me at 412-439-2795 by September 30th. All members are welcome and I hope to see you there!

**Susan Skrypak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 432

### Fairview Park, OH

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on December 5, 2015 at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park, Ohio from 12-5:00 p.m. Details to follow.

Also, mark your calendar for our New Year's Eve Party at the home of Bill & Sue Shuttleworth on December 31st.

**Shawn Pytel**  
Publicist

## ASSEMBLY 586

### Chicago, IL

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

Assembly 586 met for a meal and business meeting on Sunday, 9/6, and once again we collected and brought items to send to our troops overseas.

Happy Birthday to my mom, Irene Tomaskovic, on October 12. She's the best!

**Janet Tomaskovic**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 588

### Slovan, PA

#### **Fraternal Night at the Old Schoolhouse Players Theater**

Assembly 588 is sponsoring a Fraternal Night at the Mount Pleasant Township Community Center in Hickory, PA to watch the Old Schoolhouse Players perform the play, *The 39 Steps*. Any member of Assembly 588 interested in attending the performance of *The 39 Steps* on Friday, October 9, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., should contact Annette Stefka at 724-947-9471 by October 6, 2015, to reserve a ticket. Assembly 588 will provide a ticket free of charge to any Assembly 588 member wishing to attend the performance. The Assembly has reserved a limited number of tickets for the play. Tickets will be available on a first call basis. Remember – one ticket per member. **Don't forget to call prior to the deadline of October 6th to reserve your ticket.** Join us for a great night of theater and fraternal fun in Hickory, PA on Friday, October 9th.

**Annette Stefka**  
Recording Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 617/C617

### Ashley, PA

#### **Join Hands Day**

Because our members were unable to do our Join Hands Day at the McAuley House this year, we picked another Join Hands Day project. We will do a fall cleanup at the Back Mountain Scenic Trail. Members are to meet at the Knights of Columbus, Luzerne on Saturday, October 17th at 9:30 a.m.

If you plan on helping with the cleanup, please call Rose Mary at 570-825-3681 by October 12th. After the cleanup we will enjoy some refreshments.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 737

### Westmoreland County, PA

Our next meeting will be held on December 12, 2015 at the home of Paul J. Godor, 9280 Clubview Dr., North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 p.m. This will be our Christmas meeting and luncheon.

If you will be attending please call 724-863-9662 by December 4, 2015 so we can plan accordingly. Election of Officers will be held. All members are urged to attend.

**Paul J Godor**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 813

### Englewood, FL

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

The Christmas party will be held on December 23, at the Farrell residence.

For more information on these events, or to let us know you will be attending, please call Mary Jo Holker, secretary, at 941-473-0559.

**Mary Jo Holker**  
Secretary

*Visit our website at*

*www.nsslife.org*

*Have you Signed*

*Up A New*

*Member Recently?*



## REGION 2

### Hazleton, PA

A meeting/luncheon was held at the Pierce St. Deli, Kingston, PA on August 8, 2015. Seven members of Assembly 617 and seven members of L075 were in attendance. Reports were given by each assembly. Both assemblies had representation at our society's 125th banquet, attained the diamond tracking level, and did many projects and also gave donations in the name of the society.

Our president, Marlin Petro Wesnak, will create a facebook page for our region this year, to try to get the word out to more members about our society and its functions. President Marlin spoke about her daughter's trip to Europe with her college. The photos were outstanding and we are proud of what she is doing.

**Rose Mary Strish**  
Secretary

## REGION 5

### Pittsburgh, PA

The fall meeting will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. at the NSS Home Office in McMurray, PA. Plans for Region #5 activities for the remainder of 2015 will be discussed. All assemblies in Region #5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

**Joseph Stefka, Jr**  
President

## REGION 8

### Cleveland, OH

The semi-annual meeting of Region 8 which includes Assemblies: 004, 0070, 0160, and 0432 will be held on

**DATE:** October 21, 2015

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Dr. Martin Luther Church  
4470 Ridge Road  
Brooklyn, OH 44144

Assembly 4 will be hosting this meeting. Hope to see all of you there!

**Carole Koches**  
Recording Secretary

## REGION 8

### Cleveland, OH

Fall will soon be fast approaching and Region #8 will be having their 1st Regional Hayride! All of the assemblies that are part of Region #8 which is 004, 070, 160, and 432 are invited to join us along with your family and friends:

**DATE:** Saturday, October 10, 2015

**PLACE:** Richardson Farms  
6874 Lafayette Road  
Medina, Ohio 44256

**TIME:** Noon to 5 PM

**COST:** Adult Members \$7.00  
Adult Non-members \$8.00  
Ages 5 to 16 Members \$5.00  
Ages 5-16 Non-members \$6.00  
Under 5 - **FREE**

We will have a pavilion, food, corn-hole, and if the little ones want they can wear their Halloween costumes! During the hayride, each wagon will stop, so you can pick your very own pumpkin!

We are requesting that assembly members bring desserts.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY** calling either John Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 or Carole Koches at 440-238-8287 **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 28, 2015!!**

Let's make this a great fall celebration for Region #8.

**Carole Koches**  
Recording Secretary

## REGION 14

### Allentown, PA

Region 14 will be doing a matching funds for a Longaberger/Vera Bradley basket bingo on October 11th. This event will be held at St. John's Slovak Church, Allentown, PA. Doors open at noon and the fun begins at 1:00.

This will benefit The Cardinal Tomko Chapter. For more information contact Marg Ferri at 610-866-8945.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## Christmas Oplatky

*Oplatky*, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 26 until December 18, 2015. The *Oplatky*, five in one package are thermal sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upwards depending upon the number of packets ordered and the rising costs of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to **Jankola Library** is expected before receiving an order. For more information or to place an order contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

## Western PA Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will host its 33rd Annual Dinner-Dance on **Sunday, October 11, 2015**, at Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA. It is handicapped accessible and there is plenty of free parking. It is a great opportunity to meet other friends who also enjoy the Radio Hour every week. Your support is needed at this event, which is the largest fundraiser to benefit the radio hour throughout the year. Tickets are **\$45.00 per person**.

It is a wonderful evening, beginning with cocktails, followed by a delicious buffet dinner, and all your favorite Slovak melodies provided by "Kontakty" from New Jersey. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening on Sunday, Oct. 11th. For more information or to reserve a ticket call Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204.

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour is heard in the Tri-State area every Sunday afternoon from 3 – 4 p.m. (Eastern time) on station AM 73 WPIT. The program is also streamed live on [www.wpitam.com](http://www.wpitam.com) also at 3 p.m. Eastern time.

## Margaret Jane (Rippel) Tignanelli 1909-2015



Margaret Jane (Rippel) Tignanelli, 105, passed away on June 9, 2015 in Mt Vernon of Elizabeth. She was a retired teacher for the

Forward Township School District, with fifteen years of service and the oldest member of Bethesda United Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth. Born July 15, 1909 in Elizabeth Township, she was one of thirteen children of the late William C. and Gertie (Tarr) Rippel.

She was the wife of Joseph A Tignanelli. She and Joe had a small farm where she enjoyed gardening, flowers and was especially known for her baked buns, pies, cakes and cookies. Every Fall she and her friends made apple butter in a large copper kettle. She will be missed by all who loved her.



## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS August, 2015

| Name                 | City and State      | Date of Death | Assembly |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| Bobrovsky, Caroline  | Cleveland, OH       | 08/05/2015    | 0070     |
| Burkhart, John Bryce | Lexington, NC       | 07/21/2015    | 0774     |
| Christman, Robert    | Erie, PA            | 08/07/2015    | 0731     |
| Druciak, Helen       | Fayette City, PA    | 07/02/2015    | 0377     |
| Ellis, Helen         | Fraziers Bottom, WV | 07/08/2015    | P38A     |
| Fedele, Joseph       | Dania, FL           | 06/15/2015    | 0800     |
| Fenedick, Theresa    | St Clair, PA        | 07/16/2015    | 0617     |
| Freeman, Betty       | Greensburg, PA      | 07/17/2015    | 0737     |
| Gavol, John          | Wausau, WI          | 07/11/2015    | 0774     |
| Halluska, Helen T    | Monroeville, PA     | 07/17/2015    | 0737     |
| Havir, Edward        | Westlake, OH        | 05/10/2015    | 0004     |
| Holly, Zelma A       | Oak Hill, WV        | 06/30/2015    | 0774     |
| Jarrell, Roy H       | Fayetteville, WV    | 07/20/2015    | 0774     |
| Joyce, James F       | Pittsburgh, PA      | 03/29/2014    | 0774     |
| Kandrak, Mary        | Barrington, NJ      | 05/29/2015    | L002     |
| Kolar, Margaret      | Ruffs Dale, PA      | 08/03/2015    | 0737     |
| Kryder, Eileen       | Fort Wayne, IN      | 07/03/2015    | 0705     |
| Langdon, Joyce J     | Mt Vernon, IL       | 07/22/2015    | 0705     |
| Leonhardt, Sandra R  | Freeland, MI        | 07/03/2015    | 0381     |
| Maxwell, Frederick   | Cheboygan, MI       | 07/23/2015    | 0381     |
| McGill, Kevin W      | Monongahela, PA     | 08/14/2015    | 0588     |
| Oluich, Catherine    | Conklin, NY         | 05/04/2015    | L075     |
| Painter, James C     | Summerville, SC     | 03/29/2015    | 0554     |
| Popelas, Eva J       | Roscoe, PA          | 06/11/2015    | 0377     |
| Schroeck, Richard J  | Erie, PA            | 08/05/2015    | 0432     |
| Sestok Sr., Frank    | Palmerton, PA       | 04/27/2015    | L102     |
| Smith Jr., Perry C   | Washington, PA      | 07/10/2015    | 0588     |
| Stashick, Donna M    | Uniontown, PA       | 09/20/2003    | 0039     |
| Terwilliger, Anna    | Vestal, NY          | 02/17/2015    | L075     |

## Fall Board Meeting in November

In compliance with Article 6, items F & H, of the By-Laws, the National Assembly shall meet on:

**Saturday, November 7, 2015**

**9:00 a.m.**

**NSS Home Office**

**351 Valley Brook Rd**

**McMurray PA 15317**

All members of the National Assembly including David Blazek, President, Linda Strom, Secretary/Treasurer, Directors: Alan Burns, Michael Czarney, Andrea Garbon, Keith Godor, Abigail Gross, Robert Katricak, Susan Ondrejco, Joseph Stefka, Jr, and Andrew Wesnak as well as Legal Advisor Ronald Cooper, shall attend this meeting.

At this meeting, all matters relevant to the welfare and best interest of the Society that fall into the Scope of the By-Laws as they appear to the National Assembly shall be acted upon.

### Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., must be received by the Home Office no later than the **5th of the preceding month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article in a timely manner. Also, all articles should be typewritten in regular type and original photos submitted. Our email address is: [info@nsslife.org](mailto:info@nsslife.org)

## Letters of Appreciation

Dear Mr. Blazek:

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the Scholarship Committee for selecting me to receive this scholarship award for this year.

I am honored to have been selected amongst all the other applications you would have received for this scholarship opportunity. The support and generosity of my family and friends along with the scholarship awards I have received has not only helped me and my family financially, but has given me the opportunity to attend the University of my Choice, Robert Morris and begin the next chapter in my upper education.

Please accept this letter as confirmation that your check was received and will be given to Robert Morris University upon my return to school this fall.

**Christian Sciacca**

Dear Mr. Blazek and PVR Scholarship Board,

Thank you very much for supporting me again this year with the money you so graciously sent me. I am heading into my final year of my undergraduate degree in Kinesiology at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, with high hopes of becoming a physical therapist. I sincerely appreciate all the financial help this scholarship has provided me the past 4 years. Thank you again!

**Grant Holker**  
Assembly 813

Dear Mr. Blazek,

Thank you so much for awarding the \$500 PVR Scholarship. I appreciate it very much and it will definitely benefit me as I further my education this year at the University of Vermont.

**Cassandra Tarbell**  
Assembly 554

Dear Mr. Blazek, NSS Staff, and NSS Contributing Members,

Thank you so much for the PVR Scholarship. As a college student entering her last year, every penny helps to pay towards the rising cost of an education. I will be using this scholarship to pay for required textbooks.

Time flies, as I blinked and I am already a senior! School is going very well, and I am excited to begin my senior year as well as my job search. Completing college is important to me, and the PVR Scholarship helps me to do that.

Thank you again! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**Alison Hosko**  
Assembly 123

Dear National Slovak Society PVR Scholarship Program,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for being awarded my third installment of my scholarship award for my studies at Marywood University. I will continue to persevere to attain my goals. This award is most appreciated.

**Joseph Gorgol**  
Assembly L075

Dear President Blazek:

I would like to thank you and the entire NSS Board of Directors for selecting me as the 2015 NSS Life Youth Achievement Award Winner. This is truly a great honor.

I will be attending the University of Vermont in the Fall as a Neuroscience major and have been named a Community Service Scholar in recognition of my commitment to volunteerism and community service. I look forward to continuing my academic career as well as volunteer and community service efforts and will keep the National Slovak Society abreast of my future endeavors.

Thank you once again for your support and recognition.

**Matthew A Borges**

## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations August, 2015

|                                                             |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| In Memory of <b>Marie Palko:</b>                            |        |
| Assembly 0039                                               | 50.00  |
| In Memory of <b>Charles Huckstep Jr:</b>                    |        |
| From Assembly 0123                                          | 20.00  |
| In Memory of <b>Stephen Korba:</b>                          |        |
| From Assembly 0123                                          | 20.00  |
| In Memory of <b>Assembly 0004 Deceased Members in 2014:</b> |        |
| From Assembly 0004                                          | 100.00 |
| <b>Donations:</b>                                           |        |
| Rosalie Troyanvich                                          | 25.00  |



## LEAF DONATIONS August, 2015

|                                        |        |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| In Memory of <b>Edward Havir</b>       |        |
| From Assembly 0004,<br>Cleveland, Ohio | 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





# Youth Circle Page

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

## Attention

Please attach this form to the **BACK** of your photograph.

**Entry Deadline – December 1st, 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

Choose Shirt Size:

- Youth Small
- Youth Medium
- Adult Small
- Adult Medium
- Adult Large
- Adult X-Large

## Junior Pittsburgh Slovakians

*We'd like you to become a part of our performing ensemble!*

- \* Learn to sing, dance &/or play the violin.
- \* No experience necessary, we'll show you!
  - \* Meet new friends
  - \* Learn about your Slovak Heritage!
  - \* Perform at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival, Slovak Day, Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt as well as other events!

We are now accepting new members and would like to invite you to come and find out what we are all about! For more information, call **Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204** or e-mail: [sue.ondrejco@gmail.com](mailto:sue.ondrejco@gmail.com)

## 2015 Christmas Ornament Contest

It's not too soon to starting thinking about what kind of Christmas Ornament to create. Get out your glue guns and glitter and create a winning ornament today! The rules are as follows:

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

### Our Youth Members

- Frosty's group - Ages 5, 6 and 7
- Rudolph's group - Ages 8, 9 and 10
- Snowflake group - Ages 11, 12 and 13
- Santa group - Ages 14, 15 and 16

### Prize Awards

- First Place - \$25.00
- First Place - \$25.00
- First Place - \$25.00
- First Place - \$25.00

### 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.**



NSS Life  
Family Matters

## TROPICAL VACATION OFFER



**Punta Cana**

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

### DESTINATION:

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

### DATE:

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

### TRAVEL:

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

### PRICE:

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

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

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

NSS Life • 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337 • (724) 731-0094 • [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org)



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.