



National Slovak Society

Where "Family Matters"

APRIL 2014 | NUMBER 3468 | VOLUME 106



Wishing you a Happy Easter that is just as bright and joyful as the springtime air around you.



Plan to attend NSS Life 36th Quadrennial Convention:
June 22-25, 2014
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA



National Slovak Society

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“POSTMASTER” SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD, MCMURRAY, PA 15317-3337

NSS NATIONAL OFFICERS

David G. Blazek, *FIC, National President & Elder*
Dean Burns, *FIC, Vice-President*
Linda Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer*

NSS NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Anthony Beno
Keith S. Godor
Mary Jo Holker
Robert Katricak
William B. Knoll
Susan Ondrejco
Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Drew Wesnak

NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

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Edward Havir, *Director*
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Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr., *Director*

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Spiritual Advisor

PBU HONORARY OFFICERS

Henri O. Albert, *President*
Reverend George Virchick

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...

REGION 2	Assemblies L075, 0146, 0617
April 12 April 26 May 17	Region 2, Basket/Silent Auction Fundraiser, Phoenix Performing Arts, Duryea, PA Assembly 0617, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Edwardsville, PA Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Edwardsville, PA
REGION 5	Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0283, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0700, 0737, 0774, 0809
April 27 April 28 May 10 June 8	Assembly 0123, Montour High School Musical, Kennedy Township at 2:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka Home, Slovan, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0039, USPS National Food Drive, Uniontown, PA at 10:00 am Assembly 0039, Picnic, Knights of Columbus, Uniontown, PA at 1:00 pm
REGION 7	Assemblies P09A, 0008, 0731
May 3 May 10 July 17 August 3 August 28 September 6 October 11 November 2 December 6	Assembly 0731, Join Hands Day, Poland Christian Church, Poland Township, OH at 10:00 am Assembly 0731, Pasta Dinner, Poland Christian Church, Poland Township, OH at 3:00 pm Assembly 0731, Slovak Day Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA Assembly 0731, Family Picnic, Yellow Creek Park, Struthers, OH at 1:00 pm Assembly 0731, Scavenger Hunt, Canfield Fair, Canfield, OH at 1:00 pm Assembly 0731, Trip to Akron Zoo Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farms, Lowellville, OH at 5:30 pm Assembly 0731, Meeting, Ruth Burns Residence, OH at 3:00 pm Region 7, Christmas Party, Holy Family Parish Hall, Poland, OH at 1:00 pm
REGION 8	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595
April 23	Region 8, Convention Meeting, Dr Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 6:30 pm
REGION 10	Assemblies 0065, 0586
May 8 May 18	Assembly 0065, Meeting, Riverside Restaurant, IL at 11:30 am Assembly 0586, Tentative Pre-Convention Meeting, McCook Bohemian Family Rest, IL
REGION 14	Assemblies R059, L102
April 17	Region 14, Cardinal Tomko Chapter Annual Bake Sale
REGION 15	Assemblies L002, 0028, L145
April 12	Region 15, Convention Meeting, Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, CT at 9:00 am
AT LARGE	Assemblies R019, L040, L075, 0110, 0236, 0299, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0705, 0800, 0813
March 23 April 13 April 27 May 18 June 22 June 27-29 July 5-6 August 3 October 19 December 24	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0568, Meeting & Annual Slovak Easter Mass, St John Bosco HS, Bellflower CA Assembly R019, Pascha Luncheon, SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0110, Bi-annual Weekend Outing, Villa Roma Resort, Callicoon, NY Assembly 0705, Butwin Family Reunion Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve celebration

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC
National President

Greetings from the Presidents Office! By the time you receive this April issue of the National News, I'm sure most of us will be through the Winter of 2013-14. I do remember a time though when I was finishing up my boot camp days in the Navy and was scheduled to head for home in early April from the Great Lakes area when we received a foot of snow. So let's keep hope we don't have any heavy snow storms in April.

This month we celebrate one of the most important days on the Christian calendar, which is Easter on the 20th and for our Jewish members, Passover begins on the 14th. And don't forget to take care of your Administrative Professionals, (formerly called secretaries) on the 23rd of April. I appreciate all of our staff members at the Home Office who are all professionals and do their very best to help our members and agents every day of the year. My hat is off to them!

News of Narodniars

I would like to start off by wishing a speedy recovery to Sharon Wesnak, wife of National Director Drew Wesnak, who is currently undergoing some health issues. Secondly, congratulations to Theresa and Cal Zemelman on the birth of their second child Daniel

Carter. Daniel is the 1st grandson of National Director Sue Ondrejco and her husband Rudy.

Belated 80th birthday wishes go out to Honorary PBU Officer Henri Albert who celebrated his milestone birthday back in October. Sometimes these special days sneak by me under the radar.

Celebrating birthdays this month are National Directors Drew Wesnak and Bill Knoll. Home Office staff members Lisa Shriver and Kristen Boehm, Ashley Stefka Bernardo, Dan Tanzone, Rudy Ondrejco, Rebecca Beatty, son-in-law Jeff Lavin, and granddaughters Chloe and Alexa Woods.

Best wishes to anyone else celebrating a special day in April whether it be a birthday or anniversary.

Tax Time

April 15th is not only the tax filing deadline but it is also the deadline for making a contribution to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for the 2013 tax year. Now is the time to make that contribution and you also have the option of contributing for the 2014 tax year. Contributing early is one of the best ways to take advantage of the compounding of interest you will receive to enhance your IRA accumulation potential.

Scholarships and Art Contest

Time is fast approaching if you plan on submitting an application for a NSS PVR Scholarship. All applications must be received in the Home Office by May 1, 2014.

Please contact Pam Blum for information or an application if you haven't done so already. And for our budding artists, get ready for the upcoming May Art Contest, where everyone is a winner of something whether it is money or a T-shirt.

THE OLD PATHS

*I liked the old paths, when
Moms were at home.
Dads were at work.*

*Brothers went into the army.
And sisters got married BEFORE hav-
ing children!*

*Crime did not pay;
Hard work did;
And people knew the difference*

*Moms could cook;
Dads would work;
Children would behave.*

*Husbands were loving;
Wives were supportive;
And children were polite.*

*Women wore the jewelry;
And Men wore the pants.*

*Women looked like ladies;
Men looked like gentlemen;
And children looked decent.*

*People loved the truth,
And hated a lie.*

*They came to church to get IN,
Not to get OUT!*

*Hymns sounded Godly;
Sermons sounded helpful;
Rejoicing sounded normal;
And crying sounded sincere.*

*Cursing was wicked;
Drugs were for illness.*

*The flag was honored; America was
beautiful;
And God was welcome!*

*We read the Bible in public;
Prayed in school;
And preached from house to house.*

*To be called an American was
worth dying for;
To be called an American was
worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!*

I still like the old paths the best!

***"The Old Paths" was written by
a retired minister who lives in
Tennessee.***

The Second Opinion from the Vice-President



Dean Burns, FIC
National Vice-President

Move

That is just a more polite way of telling you to get out of the way. Not out of my way, but out of your own. You and I can do anything we want as long as we have the will to do it. Most of the things which hold us back come from inside of ourselves. Once we work up the courage (determination) we are able to accomplish many things which we felt were improbable if not impossible.

Many others have said things along those lines, and sometimes it gets shortened or simplified. For example, many people say that you do not know what you can do until you try. Originally, it was. The power, which resides in man, is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he until he has tried. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.

Old English teachers like the longer more formal version, but it all means the same.

It all means that we should not talk ourselves into being afraid to take a chance because we fear failure. Most of us have lived through disappointment more than once. It is much harder to live with the knowledge that we were afraid to try. Of course, there will be times when we do go there. (Wherever there is for you.) For many of us, there will be times when we love another person or some thing and we expect that good feeling to last forever. When it doesn't then we may find solace in lyrics

from Rascal Flatts such as What Hurts The Most, that kind of fits the situation.

But I can tell you from experience, that never trying is more painful than losing someone. So figure out what is important to you and go for it. If it doesn't last, that is going to be sad, but not as bad as being close and just letting it go. If others hurt you one day, it still will be better than hurting yourself (and others). So live with the determination that all sadness in your life comes from trying and failing rather than failing to try.

Success

Nobody loses every time, although it may seem that way. Count those things which go right and be thankful for them. Remember that almost everyone can find people who are worse off or have more bad things happening in their lives than in our own. So count your other blessings as the Old Testament tells us or turn the other cheek if you prefer the New Testament.

Do things which may make you some points with the scorekeeper. Now, since it is Lent and some faiths advocate doing good works or making sacrifices as a return to God for all that has been given to us.

I know that human nature has us thinking that we just deserve the good things that happen and the bad is some kind of mistake. Don't look up and ask Why me? The simple answer is, Why not you? It will even out. After all, you are alive, so the good may start showing up any day. Be aware and be thankful.

Spring

It is here. I have been waiting so long. This winter was tough so enjoy the better weather. Spruce up the yard. (Why is the word, spruce.) That is rhetorical. Do not try to explain it to me because I don't really care. God and his partner, Mother Nature, will do their parts. Anything we can do to make the world look better is just bonus material.

Lots of things have been written about Spring. I think the poets are inspired by the concept that nature renews itself in April and May. The frozen waste

that is Winter slides slowly away as trees and grass decide that it is time for them to show off their handiwork again. As Robert Orben once wrote, Spring is God's way of saying, 'One more time!'

And God is pretty good at the one more time concept. Everywhere one looks there are examples of the rebirth. Crocuses, daffodils, and tulips spring up in the most unlikely places. I admire the volunteers that fight their way between stones and under fences with no purpose other than to beautify the world for us. Yes, planned beds are nice and add to the color, but I cheer for that stray plant or two that defies reason and logic to grow wherever it wants. I wish I could ask each one why it worked so hard just to be.

If one wanted to dwell upon the concept, it is apparent that the yearly cycle of growth and decay is a metaphor for our lives. But unlike the flowers, we only get one shot at it and we should make sure that we get it right the only time we have the experience.

Join Hands Day

The day was invented by Fraternal Benefit Societies to coordinate much of the charitable work that we all do. Get your members to do some acts of kindness for others. The possibilities are unlimited. Get a few friends and neighbors and help others. We claim that we do it, so let's make good on it.

Convention

If I keep telling everyone that the convention is coming, maybe more people will get involved. Not everyone can be a delegate, but everyone can get their concerns to the attention of a delegate or an officer. So if your ideas are not addressed, it is not our fault. That doesn't mean you will get your way, but you have no chance if we do not know about them.

We have done fairly well in the last 20 years, and I anticipate another twenty of continued growth and stability. But tell us what you would like to see and help the process along.

A Page From My Notebook.....

By Linda M. Strom, National Secretary/Treasurer
Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



Get Well

..... wishes go to Sharon Wesnak, wife of Director Drew Wesnak who spent time in the hospital and is now recovering at home.

Convention Information

This month my article will provide a recap of where we are in our convention planning.

1. In an effort to introduce the Convention and some of the topics that will be discussed and acted upon, President Blazek, Vice President Burns and I have attended several region convention meetings to provide an overview of upcoming convention activities.
2. Delegate Packets are being mailed as delegate verification forms are received.
3. Board Reports and Candidate Bios have begun to arrive.
4. President Blazek, Fraternal Activities Coordinator Pam Blum and I visited Hershey Lodge for a kickoff meeting with our Hershey Event Coordinator to solidify plans and arrange logistics, lodging and food items. Visit Pam Blum's page to see who we ran into at the Lodge.
5. Life will once again get hectic when the registration forms begin to pour in.
6. For those of you who have been chosen as delegates representing your assemblies or regions I ask that you read ALL of the information provided to you prior to the convention so you are prepared for discussion or action.
- 7. Bring all delegate information you receive in the mail to the convention as these will be your working documents. A binder will be provided for all of your papers.**

"2014 Convention" Recommender Campaign

Here is an exciting opportunity for you to help NSS while earning some extra cash. This contest is open to all members and fraternal agents of the Society. (regular agents are excluded)

From **November 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014** every recommender form you send in that is approved and issued will get you one chance in a drawing. There is no limit to how many chances you could have in the drawing. NSS will award **four (4) prizes**; one to who ever has the **most recommenders** in this seven month period; and **three (3) random winners will be drawn at the NSS convention** in Hershey, PA in June 2014. Only one prize per person. Each prize is \$250.

In addition to the convention campaign prizes, please see the back page of the magazine for a new easier recommender form. There you will find the new recommender earns \$25 (except for the youth term plan which is \$10) for all plans. You can copy this form and send in as many as you can. Good luck.

Edward U. DePersis Fraternalist of the Year

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) has named Edward "Ed" U. DePersis, longtime consultant to many fraternal benefit societies, as Fraternalist of the Year for 2014. FSGP is comprised of 17 fraternal benefit societies and nine business-associated groups which represent over one million members.

Ed has been serving the fraternal benefit society community since 1970 when he joined the Catholic Knights of St. George as corporate secretary. Ed also has been continually active in the FSGP serving in several offices, including president and spent a number of years in the commercial insurance area. In 1980, Ed joined the firm of Bruce & Bruce Consulting Actuaries and has been serving a large number of Pittsburgh/Cleveland area domiciled fraternalists. In 1996, in recognition of his contributions to the firm, the Pittsburgh office was designated as Bruce & DePersis. He has made presentations on insurance and fraternal-related topics, and has had numerous articles published in trade publications.

Ed is a proud first-generation American. His parents immigrated to the United States from Torrice, Italy, and had nine children. Ed received his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the father of four children and five grandchildren, and he has four stepchildren, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His late wife, Valerie Wojciak DePersis, was a former vice president for the Polish Falcons of America and secretary of the FSGP for 10 years. She was honored as the FSGP Fraternalist of the Year in 2006. She died of cancer in 2010. Ed is a member of many fraternalists, the Association of University People, and he was recently installed into membership in Legatus, an organization of Catholic business leaders.

Ed was honored by the FSGP at a banquet at the Sheraton-Hotel in March, 2014.

2013 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY

Net Admitted Assets:

	December 2013	December 2012
Bonds	\$696,070,146	\$623,541,210
Preferred Stocks	587,999	1,570,759
Common Stocks	925,776	591,442
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	8,821,721	7,386,404
Certificate Loans	432,546	441,415
Real Estate Occupied By Society	787,739	793,078
Cash On Deposit	11,018,128	9,331,469
Electronic Data Equipment	0	0
Uncollected Premiums	120,965	165,621
Investment Income Due	<u>8,858,510</u>	<u>7,761,460</u>
TOTALS	\$727,623,530	\$651,598,874

Liabilities and Unassigned Funds:

	December 2013	December 2012
Aggregate Reserve Deposit-type	\$658,141,000	\$599,041,260
Contracts	37,906,018	27,111,834
Certificate Claims	300,000	450,000
Commissions Due	290,000	100,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	325,000	250,000
General Expenses Due	1,429,500	1,454,600
Retained By The Society As Trustee	243,509	500,519
Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR)	3,038,000	2,284,000
Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)	4,754,665	2,876,311
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	<u>21,045,838</u>	<u>17,380,350</u>
TOTALS	\$711,697,086	\$651,598,874

Surplus Account:

	December 2013	December 2012
Beginning Surplus	\$17,530,350	\$13,619,454
Net Income	4,213,271	5,401,810
Change in Net Unrealized Capital Gains or (Losses)	22,029	2,585
Chge in Nonadmitted Assets	184,188	308,243
Change in Valuation Reserve	(754,000)	(966,400)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains and Losses in Surplus	0	(835,342)
Net Change In Surplus	<u>3,665,488</u>	<u>3,910,896</u>
Surplus At Statement Date	\$21,195,838	\$17,530,350

Summary Of Operations:

	December 2013	December 2012
INCOME:		
Premiums & Annuity Considerations	\$103,185,441	\$106,134,490
Net Invest. Income	33,995,892	31,128,114
Amortization Of Interest Maintenance Reserve	<u>(237,101)</u>	<u>(169,800)</u>
Income Sub-Total	\$136,944,232	\$137,092,804

	December 2013	December 2012
EXPENSES:		
Death Benefits	\$1,460,334	\$1,568,544
Matured Endowments	71,677	36,415
Annuity Benefits	61,849,026	65,107,124
Disability, Accident, Health Benefits	3,437	632
Surrender Benefits	2,668,062	450,390
Interest On Deposit Type Contracts	85,417	21,278
Increase In Aggregate Reserve For Life Contracts	59,099,740	57,480,416
Commissions On Direct Business	3,099,628	3,362,323
General & Fraternal Expenses	3,876,685	3,303,440
Insurance, Taxes, Licenses, Fees	<u>119,343</u>	<u>133,522</u>
Expense Sub-Total	\$132,333,349	\$131,464,084

	December 2013	December 2012
SUMMARY:		
Net Gain From Operations Before Refunds		
To Members	\$ 4,610,883	\$5,628,720
Refund To Members	<u>(346,212)</u>	<u>(257,440)</u>
Net Gain From Operations After Refunds		
To Members	4,264,671	5,371,280
Net Realized Capital Gains	<u>(51,400)</u>	<u>30,530</u>
Total Net Income	\$4,213,271	\$5,401,810

Linda M Strom
National Secretary/Treasurer

PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS February, 2014

In Memory of **John Walko:**
From Assembly 0070: 10.00

Donations:

Mary Paff 25.00
John & Joan Smolka 50.00
Randy & Sue Zaleski 75.00
Peter M Sullivan 30.00
Linda Strom 50.00

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

*Visit our website at
www.nsslife.org
for all
current information.*

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS February, 2014

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Atkins, Gladys	Monongahela, PA	01/22/2014	0377
Backowski, Anthony J	Beachwood, OH	01/03/2014	0004
Balas, Edward Thomas	Barnstable, MA	04/02/2013	0039
Blotzer, Estelle A	Wilkins, PA	11/04/2013	L105
Bradley, Betty Jane	Uniontown, PA	12/13/2013	0039
Breese, William E	Fredonia, PA	09/22/2013	P09A
Bulczak, Helen	Marietta, GA	12/31/2013	0065
Crum, Audrey M	Charleston, WV	01/26/2014	0774
Cummings, William H	Pittsburgh, PA	01/25/2014	0434
Dean, Dorene	Leechburg, PA	11/19/2013	0737
Elko, Sue	Sandston, VA	06/26/2013	0774
Foster, Joel	Dubois, PA	01/09/2014	0774
Galando, Nancy	Hempfield, PA	01/25/2014	0737
Galioto, Frank	Pittsburgh, PA	01/13/2014	0737
Gilliland, Richard D	Escondido, CA	12/15/2013	0568
Gomola, Helen	Clarence, PA	01/07/2014	L040
Greenawalt, Dorothy M	Hamburg, PA	12/16/2013	0774
Grivalsky, Joseph S	Pittsburgh, PA	02/04/2014	0100
Grubbs, James B	Creekside, PA	01/29/2014	0774
Grubert, Heinz Karl	Glendale, CA	12/16/2013	0568
Hamilton, Edna	Latrobe, PA	11/20/2013	0737
Handyside, Daniel J	Pittsburgh, PA	01/14/2014	0100
Johnson, Dolores E	Ambridge, PA	02/16/2014	0100
Kearney, Robert S	Martinsburg, PA	02/17/2013	0267
Knezo, Michael	Sarasota, FL	01/03/2014	0813
Kocay, Edward	Pittsburgh, PA	01/14/2014	0123
Krzyzewski, Francis S	Wilkes-Barre, PA	02/01/2009	L075
Krzyzewski, Paul	Plymouth, PA	07/22/2013	L075
Levdansky, Walter	Elizabeth, PA	11/25/2013	0441
Luke, Edward S	Williamsburg, VA	02/02/2014	0774
Magill, Ross	Pittsburgh, PA	01/23/2014	0700
Mahosky, Constance	N Huntingdon, PA	01/25/2014	0434
Mason, John M Jr	West Mifflin, PA	01/22/2014	L105
Miller, Harold D	Greensboro, NC	09/20/2013	0774
Molla, Dixie J	Morgantown, WV	04/02/2013	0039
Mudrovich, John P	Crown Point, IN	01/02/2014	0586
Puhalla, Albert D	Clarence, PA	10/01/2013	0774
Ronan, Dotty G	Portage, PA	01/25/2014	0038
Ross, Rita E	Oceanside, CA	01/24/2014	0039
Saich, Carl	Penn Hills, PA	02/03/2014	L105
Salafia, John J	Haddam, CT	01/18/2013	L145
Schied, Mary S	Silver Spring, MD	02/04/2014	L075
Sheets, Luther R	Port St Lucie, FL	01/02/2014	0377
Skovira, Stephen M	Larksville, PA	12/26/2013	0617
Steingart, Sidney J	Delray Beach, FL	12/24/2013	0123
Trunk, Melvin E	Portage, PA	01/08/2014	0038
Tryon, Faith	Fort Pierce, FL	12/05/2013	0813
Tyler, Catherine A	Monaca, PA	01/30/2014	0123
Vandrak, Robert F	Beaver Falls, PA	12/28/2013	0434
Weedman, William M	Algoma, WI	05/08/2013	0774
Westfall, Josephine	Spencer, WV	01/09/2014	0737
Wise, Kathleen	Charleston, WV	01/24/2014	0774
Wojtaszek, Margaret	Pittsburgh, PA	12/01/2013	L161
Yuszczuk, John T	Buffalo, NY	04/17/2012	L075

Fraternal Matters...

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



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

~Anne Bradstreet

A Slovak Tradition... The Killing of Winter!!

Traditionally observed during the season of Great Lent, peasant maidens destroy a costumed scarecrow called "Morena". She was woven of wheat and straw sheaves and dressed in local folk costume and represented "illness," "death" and "winter". Accompanied by traditional folk songs, "Morena" was paraded throughout the village until she was destroyed by either burning or drowning. This symbolic execution announced the end of winter and protection for the whole village from death and illness for the coming year. (Taken from Celebrate...Easter Slovak Style by Lawrence G Kozlowski)

2014 United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament

This year's tournament will be held April 25 & 26, 2014 at Mt. Lebanon Lanes in Pittsburgh. There is still time to register for the banquet. Call Pam at 724-731-0094.

PVR Scholarship Program

The deadline for submitting an application to be considered for this years scholarship is May 1st. Contact me at the Home Office to request an application or email me at pblum@nsslife.org.

2014 May Art Contest

This years Art Contest Greeting Card Category is to be a "Thank You" card for our Servicemen and women. The Poster Category is "When I grow up I want to be..." After the winners are determined, all of the "Thank You" cards will be forwarded to our Military that are currently deployed overseas. The deadline for the contest is May 1st, 2014.

2014 National Golf Tournament

The National Golf Tournament will be held on July 18-20, 2014 at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron OH. More information will be forthcoming.

2014 NSS Night at PNC Park



NSS is sponsoring a group baseball outing on **Friday, August 8, 2014**

Pittsburgh Pirates vs. San Diego Padres. It's a free T-shirt night and we're in the "All You Can Eat"

seats. The price of the tickets is being subsidized by Region 5 and Home Office Assembly 774. The price for members is only \$22.00 (regularly \$42.00). We have a limited amount of tickets available.

Send your check payable to: NSS Life, Attn. Pam, 351 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317. Come on out and join us for a great night of baseball and fraternalism.

LET'S GO BUGS!!!!

How Sweet It Is.....



President Dave Blazek, Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom and Fraternal Coordinator Pam Blum meet Peppermint Patti during their planning meeting with the staff at Hershey Lodge.

“Looking for Something you can count on?”



Advantages of an NSS Annuity/IRA

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

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

Current Interest Rates

Effective January 1, 2013

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

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

Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or

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



From the Sales Department...

By Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC
National Sales Director



A Special Use for Life Insurance

There are people out there that have been blessed with a special needs child. No one knows how much love, sweat and tears will go into raising that child except someone who has walked in those shoes. This child regardless of their age will probably be your dependent for life. This last point is significant because everyone dies someday. So what happens to the special needs child when the care giver is no longer around to support them?

This special needs person will still be here and need help so who will it be? Many families hope that a sibling will step in and take over the role as care giver. This would be great and hopefully if that is your plan it works out for you. But sometimes this doesn't work because of logistics, personal reasons, other family commitments and a range of other possibilities.

One idea that would certainly help is to have sufficient life insurance protection on the care giver(s). This valuable coverage would provide funds to take care of the special needs person when they are gone. Life insurance proceeds would be paid tax-free to a beneficiary for the welfare and maintenance of the special needs person. In a perfect world it would be a good idea to meet with an attorney that specializes in this particular area and get some good solid advice. An attorney could help you set up a trust to administer the life insurance proceeds. This pool of money would be protected from creditors while granting the trustee wide latitude and discretion on disbursements.

With a formal plan in place it is more likely that a family member would step forward to help. Professional care

services are also an option whenever you have the assets to pay for them.

Think about your current life insurance situation. If someone had to live the rest of their life on what insurance you have – how long would they survive; a month, a year or more? For a complete review please discuss your life insurance situation with your local NSS representative or call Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information. Remember someone special is counting on you to do the right thing.

2014 Family Matters

We are pleased to announce the 2014 Family Matters program is available only for 90 days from April 1 to June 30, 2014. This program allows members and recommenders to apply for up to \$10,000 of insurance (the actual amount is determined by age) on a simplified issue basis. The program is not for those terminally ill or permanently disabled. A person can select any of our permanent plans of insurance; whole life, twenty pay life or single premium life. Regular rates apply based on your age nearest birthday. See the back cover for more information.

New Recommender

On the back inside cover is our new recommender form. If you complete this form and the person becomes a member of NSS we will send you \$25 as a way of saying thanks.

This is an excellent opportunity to help your family and friends become members of NSS.

Members of NSS



Elder Law Management is offering discounted estate planning documents for

members living in Western PA. These important documents include Wills, Living Trust, Durable Powers of Attorney, Healthcare Directives and Living Wills.

Also offered are plans to lower potential inheritance taxes, assist with Medicaid planning and avoid Probate cost and delays. **Western Pennsylvania members can receive 10% to 15% discounts off our already competitive rates.**

For a no cost consultation call our Pittsburgh office at 412-456-4700; toll-free at 1-877-456-4700. Ask for Estate Advisor Rich Nulph.



Thought for the Month

Whether you think you can or think you can't; you're right.

Henry Ford (1863 – 1947)



Our Home Office Sales Assistant Jill Grover, along with husband, Lyle Grover, and sister, Carol Johnston took their father, Peter Longstreth (all members of Assembly 123) to the commissioning ceremony for the USS Somerset at Penns Landing in Philadelphia. The Somerset is the last of 3 Navy ships named in honor of 9/11. Peter, a WWII Navy veteran, will turned 87 on March 11th. The trip was an early birthday present. Happy Birthday Mr. Longstreth.

ASSEMBLY RO19

Buffalo, NY

Our youth fund raising project ("2 for 1") and Pascha Luncheon will be held on April 27, 2014 following Divine Liturgy. Please attend and bring a friend.

"SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Buffalo, NY. will celebrate it's 120th anniversary in September 2014.

Irine Zinter
Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Free summer picnic on Sunday, June 8th at the outdoor pavilion of the Knights of Columbus, on Gallatin Avenue Extension, in Uniontown at 1:00 pm. The picnic will feature hamburgers, hot-dog's, potato salad, baked beans, dessert, fellowship and fun!

"YouthFest 2014" is being planned for the 36th Quadrennial Convention, in Hershey, PA on June 22-25.

Please come out to volunteer for the "USPS Feed America Food Drive" on Saturday May 10th and we will be looking for you at our summer picnic on Sunday, June 8th.

John Payerchin
President

pizza party at the Wilkes Barre Veterans Administration Center Recroom on Sun. April 27 for the Community Living Center Veterans. The members will assist in the National Join Hands Day project with the Postal Carriers on May 10th at the Knights of Columbus Hall Main St. Pittston PA from noon till 5:00 p.m. The next meeting of our assembly will be held on Sunday May 18th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Grande Restaurant Birney Ave. Moosic, PA. Plans will be finalized for the NSS convention to be held in Hershey, PA and the Parade of Basket matching funds for the Catherine McAuley Center which will take place at various locations from May until Sept. The fraternal summer picnic will be held on Sun. July 27th at the Mercateli-Segilia Park Birney Ave Moosic at 1:00 p.m. featuring an old fashioned cookout and basket raffle. For more information contact Lehrae Edwards at 570-457-8402.

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039

Uniontown, PA

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to participate in the USPS National "Feed America" Food Drive on Saturday, May 10th. Volunteers should meet at the rear of the main post office, in downtown Uniontown at 10:00 a.m. This project is in conjunction with the "NSS National Feed America Project".

Our "Join Hands Day" volunteer event will be the annual Tony Bartock Golf Outing for the benefit of Special Olympics of Fayette County. The event will be held at the Springdale Golf Club on Saturday, July 14th. We will join with the local Knights of Columbus Council and the Ford Dealership in Uniontown to host the event. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m with a shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.

Our circle (youth) members are reminded of the annual May Art Contest. This year's Art Contest Greeting Card Category theme will be "Thank You" to our Servicemen and women. The Poster Category theme will be "When I Grow Up I want To Be..." Deadline is May 1st. Our assembly has had a number of past winners and we encourage our youth to enter. High school seniors are reminded that first year applications for the NSS Scholarship Program are also due on May 1st.

ASSEMBLY 065

Chicago, IL

A meeting was held on Sunday, March 2 with Assembly 586. This was a combined Region/Assembly meeting. The main topic was the convention. Further information will be in a later newsletter. Our next Assembly meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 8th at the Riverside Restaurant, at 11:30 a.m. Should there be a change, members will be notified.

We want to wish our members a very Blessed Easter and Happy Spring.

Mildred Mendel
President

ASSEMBLY 110

New York, NY

Our biannual weekend outing will be held on June 27-29, 2014 at the Villa Roma Resort in Callicoon, New York. Reservation forms will be mailed out at a later date. Please contact Maryann Malik at (516) 794-9014 for more information.

Rich DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L075

Duryea, PA

Our assembly will hold a matching funds benefit drawing for the Duryea Scouts on April 13, 2014 at the 24th Annual Blue and Gold Banquet at the Dupont Hose Company, Main St., Dupont PA. Proceeds will help send scouts to summer camp and other scouting activities from Troop 285 and Pack 375. They will host a bingo and

ASSEMBLY 123

Pittsburgh, PA

I apologize! Last month I thought the worst of winter weather would be over, I was wrong. Lets hope that now that April begins the worst is definitely over. Spring is here as is baseball season.

This is a special month as it is the birthday month of the founder of our assembly, Bill DelMonaco. He is responsible for adding many members to our assembly. He is an excellent insurance agent and he would love to hear

from you if you are in need of life insurance or annuities. Call him at 412-264-7268.

We are very lucky in that we have a new activities fraternal director Mary Maniecki. She is a wonderful person, very enthusiastic and full of good ideas for our assembly. If you have something that may be a good activity for us, don't be afraid to share that idea with Mary. You will find her friendly and willing to listen.

Our new director has arranged for us to go to the Montour High School Musical on Sunday April 27th at 2:00 p.m. The school is located in Kennedy Township. The title of the performance is "How Sweet it Was". They will present some of the most memorable musical moments of the past decade. It should be fun. It has not been decided as of this writing if we will meet beforehand for lunch or afterward for dinner. By the time you read this that will be determined. So call Mary Maniecki at 412-264-3546 by April 22nd so she can finalize the number of tickets needed. She can also give you directions and information on our restaurant selection. I should mention that Mary is hard at work setting up a tour of PNC Park for sometime this summer.

I want to wish each of you and your families a Blessed Easter.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 432 Fairview Park, OH

A meeting will be held on April 15, 2014 at the home of Rick and Nancy Fetterman at 7:30 p.m.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 568 LaCanada, CA

Delegates Nominated

A special meeting of our assembly was held on February 9, 2014 at the Castaways Restaurant, Burbank, Cali-

fornia. We discussed board reports and nominated delegates to represent our assembly at the upcoming convention.

Assembly 568 delegates will include the following members: Milan Konkol, Sr., Milan Konkol, Jr., Dusan Sabo,

Slovak Mass

Our Annual Slovak Easter Mass will be held on April 13, 2014 at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA. at 11:00 a.m. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after mass along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

Also following the festivities, members will hold a meeting to review officer reports and discuss branch activities. We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Milan Konkol
President

ASSEMBLY 586 Chicago, IL

Members of Assembly 586 spent a pleasant Sunday afternoon sharing a meal with members of Assembly 65 at the McCook Bohemian Family Restaurant in McCook, Illinois on March 2.

We held our respective meetings after dinner and decided on delegates to the convention in June. Assembly 586 will meet once more before convention time, tentatively on the 18th of May, time and place TBD.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 588 Slovan, PA

A meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2014 at the Stefka residence, 52 Spring Valley Street, Slovan, PA at 6:00 p.m.

Annette Stefka
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 617

Ashley, PA

A luncheon/meeting will be held on April 26, 2014 at the Grotto Pizza, Route 11, Edwardsville, PA at 12 Noon. We will discuss assembly business including our Join Hands Day, upcoming convention, Knoebels Park Fraternal Event and our annual donations. All members are welcomed and encouraged to attend. We'd love to have you participate in our decisions.

Review of Convention Meeting

Because of the snow and ice storm, our luncheon/meeting had to be postponed to a brunch/meeting at Rose Mary's house on Saturday, February 22, at 10:00 a.m. Our meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. We held our election of officers and the officers will remain the same. Our Annual reports were completed as well. We elected our 8 delegates to the convention. They include: George & Rose Mary Strish, John & Mary Ann Ostrowski, John & Stephanie Kurilla, Al & Gloria Gomb; our alternates are Margaret Lukas and Joanne Kovaleski.

Our next meeting will be April 26, 2014, at the Grotto Pizza at 12 Noon to discuss our Join Hands Day and our upcoming convention.

Rose Mary Strish
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 705

Seelyville, IN

Mark your calendars for the following meetings and activities.

May 18 - 1:00 p.m. at the Buck residence, Seelyville, IN

June 22 - 1:00 p.m. at the Buck residence, Seelyville, IN

July 5-6 - Butwin Family Reunion (Fraternal Activity)

August 3 - 1:00 p.m. at the Buck residence, Seelyville, IN (reunion discussion)

October 19 - 1:00 p.m. at the Buck residence, Seelyville, IN

December 24 - 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve celebration

Dorothy Buck
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 731

Lowellville, OH

Assembly 731 met on February 16th and members in attendance suggested several activities for 2014. Eldress Kathy Cessna; Fraternal Co-directors Beth & Matt Mason; and President Laurie Fox met the following week to consider everyone's ideas and were able to plan and schedule the following activities. A few more activities are still in the planning stage.

May 3 – Join Hands Day at the Poland Christian Church, 6248 Struthers Rd., Poland Township, Ohio at 10:00 a.m. Plenty of yard work and inside cleaning waiting for helping hands.

May 10 – Pasta Dinner at the Poland Christian Church, 6248 Struthers, Rd., Poland Township at 3:00 p.m. In honor of Mother's Day, the men in the group will cook, serve and clean-up for this family dinner.

July 17 – Slovak Day at Kennywood Park.

August 3 – Family Picnic at Yellow Creek Park, Struthers, Ohio at 1:00 p.m.

August 28 – Scavenger Hunt at Canfield Fair. Canfield, Ohio at 1:00 p.m.

September 6 – Trip to Akron Zoo

October 11 – Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farms, 4684 Center Rd., Lowellville, Ohio at 5:30 p.m.

November 2 – Meeting at Ruth Burns' home at 3:00 p.m. followed by craft time to make Christmas ornaments for the NSS ornament contest.

December 6 – Region 7 Christmas Party at Holy Family Parish Hall, 2729 Center Rd., Poland, Ohio at 1:00 p.m.

Reminder to anyone planning to attend any of the activities....it is very important that we have a number of people to plan for. Please contact Laurie Fox 330-536-8850; Kathy Cessna 330-559-8554; or Beth/Matt Mason 330-332-2365 or go to our Facebook page (NSS Life – Assembly #731) where you can RSVP, get updated information, and ask questions.

The following were elected to serve as 2014 Assembly officers:

Lauren Fox, President

Linda Estes, Vice-President

Ruth Burns, Recording Secretary

Michael Fox Jr., Financial Secretary

Michael Fox Sr., Treasurer

Kathy Cessna, Eldress

Beth & Matthew Mason, Fraternal Co-Directors

Lauren Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, FL

Join us for our assembly project at the Tri-State BBQ Festival which will benefit the Catholic Heart Work Camp.

The Festival runs April 11th & 12th with good food, BBQ competition, activities for children, music and other entertainment on both days. Assembly members will take part in various areas, and good help is always welcome. Contact Mary Jo Holker at 941-473-0559, to volunteer.

The assembly will be taking part in the USPS food drive in May as their Join Hands Day endeavor. They plan to support the Wounded Warrior Project and the Food Bank's Brown Bag Program as well.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 2

Hazleton, PA

Matching Funds Event

The Region 2 members will be participating in a Matching Funds event for The Phoenix Performing Arts Center located in Duryea, PA. The Phoenix PAC works with children and young adults teaching them staging, dance, singing, acting, set building and all technical aspects of theatre. Without the direction and dedication of Lee LaChette these young people would not have the opportunities to gain the experience they need to make their dreams a reality. They have presented the shows Annie, Chorus Line, Willy Wonka, Jeckle and Hyde, Spamalot, Cats, Ave Q, and many others to the community.

There will be a Basket/Silent Auction Fundraiser held on April 12, 2014 at the Phoenix located at 409 Main St Duryea PA to help to keep the doors open and give them a home on the stage. Please come out and help us support this event. If you would like any additional information or would like to make a donation please contact Reg 2 President Marlin Petro Wesnak at 570-341-6922.

Marlin Petro Wesnak
President

REGION 2

Hazleton, PA

A luncheon/meeting will be held on May 17 at the Grotto Pizza, Route 11, Edwardsville PA at 12:30 p.m. Plans for the convention will be discussed at this time. All members of Assembly 617, L075, 146, and P09M are invited and urged to attend.

Review of Meeting - February 22, 2014

A luncheon/meeting was held on February 22, 2014 at the Grotto Pizza, Route 11, Edwardsville, PA. For the election of officers, we voted to retain the same officers. The Annual Reports were completed and we also voted that our one delegate to the convention shall be our President, Marlin Petro Wesnak. We will have a Matching Fund for the Phoenix Performing Arts Centre. A donation will be given to the Annual Bowling Tournament as well. We will also make a donation to member Maggie Ostrowski, for her trip to Peru through Christendom College, during her spring break, to work at an orphanage run by the Missionary Servants of the Poor of the Third World.

After the meeting and lunch, we were given a presentation about the upcoming convention by our Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Strom and Board Director, Drew Wesnak. They brought up very good points about our by-laws concerning the governing officers. It was very informative and well done. We enjoyed their visit, their program and the door prizes they gave. We look forward to seeing them again at the convention.

Rose Mary Strish
Secretary



Rose Mary Strish, George Strish, John Ostrowski, Mary Ann Ostrowski, Stephanie Kurilla, John Kurilla, Margaret Lukas, Gloria Gomb and Joanne Kowalski.

REGION 7

Youngstown, OH

At its meeting on February 16, 2014, Region 7 members elected the following officers:

Michael Fox, President
Betty DeArcangelis, Vice-President
Lauren Fox, Recording Secretary/Treasurer
Dean Burns, Financial Secretary
Kathleen Cessna, Eldress
Beth Mason, Fraternal Director

Michael Fox will represent the Region as a delegate at the Convention in June. Secretary Linda Strom presented information about the Convention and answered questions members had.

In addition to electing 2014 officers and delegate, the membership discussed upcoming events sponsored by the NSS Home Office and suggested various ideas for Region activities. Region 7 has set Saturday, December 6th for their Christmas Party at Holy Family Parish Hall in Poland, Ohio. Additional activities will be announced as soon as information is available from the Planning Committee.

Lauren Fox
Secretary/Treasurer

REGION 8

Cleveland, OH

Region 8 (Assemblies 4, 70, 160 & 432) will be holding their semi-annual meeting and special Convention meeting hosted by Assembly 0432 on:

DATE: April 23, 2014

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

(Please note special time)

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

Officers from the Home Office in Pittsburgh will be attending this meeting to discuss the upcoming Convention which will be held at Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. Refreshments will be served.

Please call either John Karkosiak at 1-216-741-6990 or Carole Koches at 1-440-238-8287 with the number of people from each assembly that will be attending. Deadline for reservations is April 16, 2014. Hope to see everyone at this special meeting.

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary

REGION 14

Allentown, PA

A Matching Funds Project will be held with the Cardinal Tomko chapter for its annual bake sale. Contact Marge Ferri to order your kiffels, Easter bread, and nut rolls. Pick up will be April 17th, 2014. Marge's phone number is 610-866-8945.

On January 19th, Region 14 held its annual Christmas party, that was attended by National President Dave Blazek and Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom. Dave and Linda also shared information about the upcoming convention this year with everyone in attendance. A great time was had by all.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

Assembly 432 News

Our Annual Reverse Raffle was a success as we sold out the event with 200 tickets! Everyone had a great time dancing and playing games throughout the evening. Thank you to Catering by Verbas for a delicious meal that was enjoyed by all who attended.

We had another great turnout at the Strongsville Chalet, where over 100 people braved the below freezing temperatures and enjoyed a night filled with tobogganing, fun, food, and friends. The picture below shows Assembly 432 members Shawn Pytel and Amanda Copfer cruising down the icy slopes after climbing 112 steps to their launching pad! Photo was taken by Marti Pytel.



REGION 15

Stratford, CT

Officers and members within the confines of Region 15, L002, L006, 0028, L145 are invited to participate in a Meet and Greet Meeting with our National Officers, President, David G. Blazek, FIC and Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Strom on Saturday, April 12th, at 9:00 a.m at the Holy Name of Jesus School Meeting Room, Stratford, Ct.

The meeting will include, but not be limited to - Pre-Convention Details, any and all matters pertaining to the Good and Better of our Organization and a question/answer period.

In order to properly plan for this meeting which will include a continental breakfast and light luncheon, RSVP to Region 15 President Joseph Goda by Friday, April 4th at 203 378-0593.

We look forward to good representation and a successful meeting. All participants please bring non-perishable food items for a local food pantry. Zdar Boh!

Eileen Wilson
Secretary

Five Generations



Mildred (Dolly) Pakos celebrated her 90th birthday on March 2nd with a 5 generation picture. Dolly (front left) and sister Dorothy (Doe) (center) are aunts to Doris Glavan (front right), great aunts to Deb Gelenius (back left), great-great aunts to Kara Rosso and great-great-great aunts to Brody Rosso, who was born on October 15, 2013. Dolly and Doe are from a large family that have been long time members of Assembly 160 in Lorain, Ohio. Doe has been corresponding secretary for 22 years. If you have any questions, please contact Doe at 440 933-9876, or myself, Deb at 440 233-6530.

Easter Monday Tradition: The boys wake up early in the morning. They go from house to house in the village knocking on girl's doors. When she answers they douse her with water, and/or then sprinkle her with perfume. At the end of this little ceremony, called "oblievačka," the girl and her family present the boys with gifts such as, cookies, "kráslice" or a shot of home-made plum brandy (slivovica). The oblievačka lasts from early morning until evening. In some places the girls are chased with whips, which the fellows made from young saplings weeks earlier. It is all done in good fun.

The boys are expected to come to the girl's homes. Not coming, is considered an insult to the girl and her family. Married men usually don't participate in the public sprinkling of the girls, rather he sprinkles the women (wife & daughters etc..) in his own household. Long ago it was believed that whipping would bring fertile and life-giving forces from the rod to the humans, and water would ensure the girl's health and beauty. Many believe this tradition evolved from the women finding the grave of Jesus empty on Easter morning, and the roman soldiers used whips and water to disperse them.

Available from the NSSHM Gift Shop



NEW!

Egg Patterns—
Slavic Style:

Over 300 Color Egg
Decorating Patterns &
Instructions

\$12 (includes
postage and
handling)



Celebrate Easter
Slovak Style:

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

\$12 (includes
postage and
handling)

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

Easter Cheese

One of the oldest traditions is taking a basket of specially prepared Easter Foods to be blessed. Everyone puts a ham, kolbassi, Paska, Eggs and other items which will be eaten after the basket is blessed. Those things are found readily in stores, but traditional Easter cheese—Syrek or Hrutka is something that you must make, it is not found in any stores.

Syrek: 1 dozen eggs 1qt of milk 1TBSP sugar
1 tsp salt dash of allspice

1. Combine all the ingredients in a non-stick pot.
2. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture curdles.
3. Pour the mixture into a colander that is lined with cheesecloth or a flour sack towel also works well.
4. Once the mixture is drained, pick it up cheesecloth and all—and shape it into a ball by twisting the top part of the cloth.
5. Tightly tie the open end with string, placing the string very close to the top of the ball. **BE VERY CAREFUL THIS WILL BE VERY HOT!**
6. Hang over the sink until cool and all the liquid has drained. Remove the cloth when cool, wrap and refrigerate.
7. Slice to serve.

Egg - in - Wrap

Choose from



Slavic Pin Art



or Old World Designs

Sleeve of 6: \$1.50

Sleeve of 12: \$3.00

1. Use large raw, hardboiled, blown, ceramic or plastic eggs.
2. Slide egg into egg wrap.
3. Place egg on spoon.

**To Purchase items shown on this page,
Make checks payable to NSSHM
351 Valley Brook Rd.
McMurray, PA 15317**

April

V tomto mesiaci slávime najstarší a najvýznamnejší sviatok kresťanského cirkevného roka – Veľkú noc, kedy si my kresťania pripomíname umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista.

Veľkonočné symboly

baránok - je jedným zo symbolov Ježiša Krista, lebo obrazne podľa kresťanskej viery on je baránok obetovaný za spásu sveta.

križ - je najdôležitejším z kresťanských symbolov, pretože Kristus bol odsúdený na smrť ukrižovaním. Tento trest patril k trestom veľmi krutým a ponižujúcim.

ohň - veľkonočná bohoslužba sa začína zapálením veľkonočného ohňa, ktorý symbolizuje víťazstvo Ježiša Krista nad temnotou a smrťou. Od tohto ohňa sa potom zapalujú veľkonočné sviečky.

sviečka - je v mnohých kultúrach chápaná ako znamenie života. Veľkonočná sviečka symbolizuje vzkrieseného Krista - tento symbol pochádza zo starovekých osláv Veľkej noci, pri ktorých sa zapaluje sviečka (nazývaná tiež paškál) od ohňa.

Čas dani...

Do 15 apríla v Amerike sa vyrovnávame s daňovými poplatkami zo zárobku, a ak sa Vám niečo zvýši môžete to uložiť v našej organizácii. Skontrolujte rôzne plány úsporov pre dôchodok, alebo zakúpte si životnú poisťku tým sa stanete členom / členkou našej organizácie čím môžete brať účasť v aktivitách organizácie Národného Spolku.

Koncom tohto mesiaca 25 - 26 apríla kolkový turnaj - bowling.

36-sta Konvencia NSS bude od 22-heho do 25-teho Júla.

Golfový Turnaj bude 19-teho a 20-teho Júla.

Podrobnejšie informácie na www.nsslife.org alebo volajte 1-800-488-1890.

*Radujte sa, ó kresťania,
v srdciach Vašich plesajte.
Z mŕtvych povstal náš
Spasiteľ*



**Všetkým úradníkom, členom,
čitateľom a Vaším rodinám
želáme radostné Veľkonočné Sviatky**



Veľkonočný pondelok

Veľkonočný pondelok ten vchopil do dediny nebadane, ten býval zo všetkých dní najveselší. Tešili sa naň dievky i mládenci. Niesol sa v znamení oblievačky a šibačky. Veru nebolo nijakou zvláštnosťou, že mládenci začínali už krátko po polnoci. Darom sa dievčatá poschovávali, kúpači si ich vždy našli. Veľmi často im skrýše vyzradili malí chlapci, alebo aj otcovia dievok. Pri studni, na potoku, všade sa ozýval smiech, výkriky a výskot. Ale dievky sa nehnevali, lebo vedeli, že studená voda a prútený korbáč im dávajú zdravie.

Na Juraja...(24.4)

Meno Juraj je poulárnym menom v apríli a mnoho slovenských chlapcov nosi meno Juraj.

Všetkým prajeme radostný deň menin.



Youth Circle Page

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

A New Leader is Born in Circle C161



Congratulations to parents Theresa and Cal Zemelman on the birth of their first son, Daniel Carter. The proud grandparents are National Director Sue Ondrejco and Rudy Ondrejco. Cal also has a big sister at home,

Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship Fund

The **deadline** for submitting applications for scholarship grants is **MAY 1st, 2014**. Applications can be obtained from the Home Office or your local assembly. Applications and all required information is to be sent to:

PVR SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT,
351 Valley Brook Road,
McMurray, PA. 15317-3337.

Further information can be obtained by calling Pam Blum at 724-731-0094 or 1-800-488-1890 or pblum@nsslife.org.

May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. Contest is open to all members of the National Slovak Society between the ages of 5 and 16.
2. Only one entry is permitted **per member, per category**.
3. Contestants may create their artwork using: (Paint by numbers, stencils or tracing will not be accepted)
 - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera, and cesium)
 - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
 - c. Ink/Pencil
 - d. Charcoal
 - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. The Artistic and Posters categories may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes.
5. The Greeting Card category must be 5 ½ x 8 ½ folded. Please protect when shipping.
6. Each year a theme will be announced in the April Issue of the National Newsletter for the Poster and Greeting Card categories.
7. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, policy number, assembly/circle number, along with your t-shirt size and should be clearly printed on the back of each entry.
8. Please indicate t-shirt size by the following size chart available:
 - a. Youth sizes - YS and YM
 - b. Adult sizes - AS, AM, AL and AXL
9. Winners in each category will have their artwork displayed in the Youth Circle Publication. A listing of the winners will appear in the National News and will be published on the NSS website. First place winners will be highlighted on the cover of the Youth Circle Publication.
10. Contest shall be judged under the following levels and ages for all 3 categories:
 - a. Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
 - b. Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
 - c. Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
 - d. Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16*
11. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:
 - a. First Place \$50.00
 - b. Second Place \$25.00
 - c. Third Place \$15.00
12. All entrants will receive a NSS Life T-shirt.

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

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

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

****The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all entries.**

2014 Family Matters

We are pleased to introduce the new and exciting opportunity for you to purchase additional life insurance protection for you and your family. This guaranteed issue offer is available to members, their families and friends.



For a limited time (April through June 2014) you can choose any permanent plan we offer. This includes single premium, whole life and twenty-pay life. The advantages of a permanent plan include cash/loan values, reduced paid-up insurance options, dividends and more.

Complete the form below to express your interest to purchase additional life insurance and return. We will mail you a brief application along with the rates for all of the plans being offered so you can decide which plan is best for you.

The maximum amount of insurance being offered will depend on your age:

ISSUE AGES	MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF INSURANCE
0-40	\$10,000
41-50	\$7,500
51-60	\$5,000
61-75	\$5,000*

*Single Premium only.

There is a limit of one new policy per person. Any one that was previously declined since January 1, 2012 is not eligible for this program. Coverage is not available for terminally ill, and permanently disabled individuals. Rates are based on age nearest birthday.

Recommender for family and/or friends

This is a great opportunity as a member of NSS Life, to share your experience with non-members. If we issue them a policy, your recommender is worth up to \$25 as our thank you. Simply complete the new prospect recommender form below and return.



NSS Life®

Family Matters...

351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317
Toll Free: 1-800-488-1890
Email: sales@nsslife.org

2014 Family Matters Program

*Yes, I am interested in purchasing additional life insurance!
Please send me the rates.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of birth: _____

Used nicotine in the past year: Yes No

Daytime phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Optional: Recommender information for new NSS member

Prospect Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

REFERRED BY:

Member Name: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

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

Address Service Requested

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 friends and family. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward for recommending someone that we end up issuing a policy to. You will receive a \$25 recommender fee (\$10 on youth term) 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.