

Family Fun Day Carnegie Science Center April 4th, 2020 See Page 9

Sophia Hudak Honorary **Tribunal Member** 1932-2019

OKOKOKOKOKOKOKO

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

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Christmas Ornament Contest See Page 10 for Winners

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890

Celebrating our 130th Anniversary!

Learn more about our

"2020 Vision" Campaign

National Slovak Society Board Vacancy Notice See Page 5 for Details

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY

FEBRUARY 2020 | NUMBER 3538 VOLUME 112



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LORI CROWLEY
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ROCWMAS HONORARY OFFICER

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

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Activities At A Glance

REGION 2 February 22 April 5 May 9 May 16 August 9 October 18 November 15	Assemblies L075, 0617 Assembly 0617, Working Lunch Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Rt. 11, Edwardsville, PA at 12:30 pm Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Postal Worker's Food Drive, Knight's of Columbus, Pittston, PA, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Assembly L075, American Heart Association Heart Walk at PNC Field, Moosic, PA Assembly L075, Fraternal Summer Picnic, Mercateli-Segilia Park, Moosic, PA Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Bingo Pizza Party with Veteran's at Wilkes Barre VA Center at 2:00 pm		
REGION 5 February 1 February 18	Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774 Assembly 0731, Meeting, Home of Ruth Burns at 3:00 pm Assembly L161, Meeting, LongHorn Steakhouse, Waterfront in Homestead, PA at 6:30 pm		
February 24 February 28 February 29 March 8 March 21 March 22	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread Community Room, North Fayette, PA at 6:00 pm Region 5, Hibernation Celebration, Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, Southside, PA at 11:00 am Assembly 0123, Buffet Dinner/Play, Crafton American Legion Hall at 6:00 pm Assembly 0039, Lenten Dinner, Eat n' Park Restaurant at 6:00 pm Assembly 0123, Volunteering at World Vision in Sewickly at 9:30 am Assembly 0377, Meeting/Brunch, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 2:00 pm		
April 4 April 20 June 14 June 14 September 13 September 13	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Carol Godor's residence, North Huntingdon, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread Community Room, North Fayette, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Q, K of C Picnic Pavilion Assembly 0377, Annual Picnic at Richardson's Park at 3:00 pm Assembly 0039, Remembering Flight 93, Eat n' Park Restaurant Assembly 0377, Meeting/Lunch, China City Buffet, Washington, PA at 3:00 pm		
September 21 November 16 December 6 December 6 December 6	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread Community Room, North Fayette, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread Community Room, North Fayette, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0377, Annual Holiday Gathering at Canon's Chophouse, Canonsburg, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, K of C Social Hall Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Elton Beard Cabin at Boardman Park at 1:00 pm		
REGION 8 February 11 February 16 April 5 May 22-25 June 16 September 4-7 September 15 December 15	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595 Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence at 7:30 pm Assembly 0432, Tobogganing, Strongsville Chalet, Strongsville, OH Assembly 0004, Scotch Doubles Assembly 0432, Camping Memorial Weekend, Rustic Lake Campground, Sullivan, OH Assembly 0432, Meeting, Shuttleworth residence at 7:30 pm Assembly 0432, Camping Labor Day weekend, Rustic Lake Campground, Sullivan, OH Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence at 7:30 pm Assembly 0432, Meeting, at Tony K's and Christmas Party to follow, Berea, OH at 7:30 pm		
REGION 14	Assemblies R059, L102 No Activities at this time		
REGION 15	Assemblies L002 No Activities at this time		
AT LARGE March 1 March 25 June 16 September 17 December 19	Assemblies R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813 Assembly 0586, Meeting, (tentatively) at 4:00 pm (Place TBA) Assembly 0381, Meeting, Savannah's, Jefferson Ave., Trenton, MI at 1:00 pm Assembly 0381, Meeting, Hungarian Rhyapsady, Northline Rd., Southgate, MI at 1:00 pm Assembly 0381, Meeting, location and time TBD Assembly 0381, Meeting, location TBD at 4:00 pm		

From The President's Desk...



David G. Blazek, FIC President, CEO

Greetings from the desk of the President as we wind our way through the winter months here in the Northeast. In checking the activities at a glance, I see three activities that might be of interest to members in the areas they are being held. Region 5 is holding it's second annual Hibernation Celebration on February 8th, Assembly 432 will be Tobogganing on February 16th, and Assembly 0123 will be attending a Dinner/Play on the 29th of the month.

This month, we celebrate Valentine's Day on Friday, the 14th so make sure to remember to treat your love to some flowers, candy, or a romantic dinner. Last year Americans sent 150 million cards, gave 36 million boxes of chocolate and 180 million roses to love ones! Few people know that the holiday traces back to a real St. Valentine, who was a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in the 3rd century. At that time, Claudius II, Emperor of the Roman Empire, pronounced a decree outlawing marriage because it was having a disefforts for more soldiers to fight his wars. Claudius was upset that so many young men were desiring to marry and have families rather than go to war. In response to this, St. Valentine begins secretly marrying young couples. For this crime, St. Valentine was captured, tortured and beheaded on February 14th around 270 A.D.

On February 17th we celebrate President's Day, as well as NSS Founder's Day. President's Day which honors Presidents Washington and Lincoln in particular, but it is also a good reminder for us to be in prayer for our leaders. No political leader can save us nor be the solution to the spiritual problems our nation faces, but leaders do have a significant impact upon our nation and on our individual lives. Our nation has a great heritage, but our future hangs in the balance. In observation of Founder's Day, our office will be closed on the 17th. 2020 marks our 130th Anniversary which is quite a milestone. We are in the process of preparing the annual statement, but I can tell you we had another great year in growth of assets and new members. Our assets should be over \$1.3 Billion. I'd like to take this opportunity to give our Home Office Staff a shout out for the great job they have done in 2019.

News Of Narodniars

My deepest sympathies to NSS Editor, Lori Crowley, her husband K.C. and the entire Crowley family on the recent passing of their son Shaun.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sophia Hudak, Honorary Tribunal Member. Sophie passed on December 23rd at the age of 87. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to her entire family. She was an active member of the NSS for many years, and always had a smile on her face when our paths crossed. May her soul rest in peace.

Happy Birthday wishes to former Home Office Employee Mary Lou Chojnicki, and her son Philip, to Maureen and Bob O'Neill, Adalyn Bernardo, Linda Beno, daughter Danielle Lavin and Grandson Cooper Lavin. Happy wedding anniversary to Helen and Dominick Sokolovic, Veronica and Cliff Moeller, and Maureen and Bob O'Neill and to all others celebrating in February. Speaking of Cliff Moeller, Congratulations on being name The Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year!

IRA Deadline Approaching

If you have not made a contribution to an Individual Retirement Account in 2019, there are good reasons you should consider doing so before April 15, 2020. IRA's allow you to set aside money for your retirement, or qualified education expenses, and they can provide you with valuable tax advantages. An IRA has the benefit that its earnings and gains are not taxed until distribution or, in some cases, they are not taxed at all if the funds are distributed according to the rules. There are limits on the amount you can contribute to an IRA each year but you can still make a contribution to a 2019 IRA by April 15th without affecting the amount you can contribute in 2020. The National Slovak Society offers several types of IRA products, including Traditional and Roth IRA's, and Coverdell Educational Savings Accounts. Please contact our Sales Department with any questions you may have.

Assembly And Region Events

marriage because it was having a dismal effect on his insatiable recruitment efforts for more soldiers to fight his wars. Claudius was upset that so many young men were desiring to marry and have families rather than go to war. In response to this, St. Valentine begins secretly marrying young couples. For this crime, St. Valentine was captured, tortured and beheaded on February 14th around 270 A.D.

Each year, I submit Goals I have for the upcoming year to the Board of Directors for the operation of the Society. One of my goals for 2020 is to attend more fraternal Assembly and Region events throughout NSS land. If you have an event in the planning in 2020, let me know when and where it will be held, and I will try and work my schedule so that I may attend the event. Getting out and attending your local events would give me an opportunity to speak with members and get a feel for what we are doing well and what we can be doing better. So, if you could invite me to your functions, I can accomplish one of my fraternal goals. One last note... the Board is planning on holding an Assembly Officers Seminar in the Fall of 2020, in conjunction with our Fall Board Meeting. More

Punography Of The Month:

The other day I held the door open for a clown. I thought it was a nice jester!

National Slovak Society Board Vacancy

Due to the resignation of Alan T. Burns from the Board of Directors of the National Slovak Society, a vacancy currently exists for the remainder of the term of the current Board of Directors which expires on October 31, 2022. The Board of Directors is seeking to fill the vacancy as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, Article 6. Board of Directors, Section Q Resignations, Removals, and Vacancies, with a qualified candidate as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws, Article 6. Board of Directors, Section E. Qualifications.

In addition, the Board of Directors has prepared a Board of Director Job Description detailing the major responsibilities; meeting time and commitment; term; expectations for directors; and knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to function effectively as a member of the Board of Directors, which may be obtained electronically by contacting Joseph Stefka, Jr. at jstefka@nsslife.org.

Applicants for the position should send a cover letter and résumé outlining his/her qualifications to Joseph Stefka, Jr. Chairman of the Board, National Slovak Society, ATTN: Board Vacancy, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, Pennsylvania 15317, or by email to jstefka@nsslife.org.

Applications must be post marked, or submitted electronically by February 24, 2020.

Article 6. Board of Directors, Section Q Resignations, Removals, and Vacancies:

"Any vacancy occurring in the Board shall be filled by the Directors at their next regular meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors from the pool of Adult Benefit Members then in good standing and otherwise qualified."

Article 6. Board of Directors, Section E. Qualifications:

"In order to be eligible for election as a Director, the nominee must be an Adult Benefit Member, in good standing of the Society. The Board then serving at the time of the Convention may establish recommended minimum criteria for prospective Directors, such as educational background and job experience. These criteria shall be based on the complexity and magnitude of the business and affairs of the Society."

National Slovak Society Board Vacancy

February, 2020



NSS Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2020

In compliance with Article 6, Item A of the By-Laws, the following is a list of the 2020 Board of Directors meetings. At these meetings, all matters concerning the welfare of the society will be considered and acted upon.

Winter Meeting
Spring Meeting
Summer Meeting
Fall Meeting

March 6, 2020 May 20-24, 2020 August 8, 2020 November 13-15, 2020

Current Interest Rates Effective January 1, 2020

Optimum 3 2.00%

Preferred 5 3.00%

Preferred 8 3.50%

Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4%, these plans are no longer available. Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.



Did you know...

You can add money to almost any
Annuity with NSS, just send us a check.
Any additional funds will not increase the
time period on early withdrawal penalties.

by going to the website:

www.nsslife.org

and login/register as a member.





From the Sales Department...

Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC, Sales Director Email: gfelton@nsslife.org



Triple Your Savings

Here is a great idea. Why not triple your savings when it comes to your child's future education. The idea is simple. Use a life insurance plan, a Coverdell education savings account and the NSS scholarship program to maximize monies for the future. The amount of money paid can be flexible to fit any budget.

For example a \$200 monthly payment would break down as \$167 into the Coverdell ESA and the remaining \$33 into a life insurance plan. So when this child turns age 20, there would be around \$63,000 that could be used for higher education purposes. In addition, this youngster would be eligible for our scholarship program which could be worth up to \$2,000 (\$500 per year over four years.)

Here are the important features of this idea:

- If the monies in the Coverdell account are used for higher education purposes then there would be no taxes on the interest earned in this account.
- The life insurance plan also has cash or loan values that may be accessed. However, life insurance also has options for a paid-up policy with no further payments.
- This youngster would also be eligible to participate in our scholarship program which currently awards up to \$500 per year so over four years this can be worth up to \$2,000.

Continued above...

In addition this program allows for some flexibility (especially with Coverdell deposits.)

The example given uses a \$200 a month deposit. Your local representative can help you find the right figure for your budget. We can do anything from \$10 per month to hundreds of dollars. Obviously the more you can put in the more money this child will have later in life.

Albert Einstein once said that compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. It is amazing how money accumulates over time. Don't wait for the right moment. Get started now! Take advantage of the New Year. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the home office for more information. Let us help your child or grandchild on the road to success.



New Retirement Rules

The world gets a little more complicated every day despite our best intentions to try and keep things simple. Take the IRS code for instance. Back in 1913 when it first became effective it was two pages. Today there are more than 75,000 pages of instructions.

Congress passed the SECURE Act at the end of 2019. This new legislation makes some significant changes to retirement plans and some other areas that affect taxpayers. Here is a partial list:

- The required minimum distribution (RMD) age has increased to age 72. It used to be age 70½. People who are already age 70½ in 2019 must still take their RMDs.
- Under the old law a person could not contribute to their traditional IRA after age 70½. That age limit has been eliminated. Individuals may contribute to their traditional IRA at any age as long as they have earned income. The same rule applies to Roth IRA contributions.
- New rules for inherited retirement accounts. Under the old rule a beneficiary could "stretch" the proceeds over their lifetime. This had many advantages. The new rule is allows for a maximum of ten years only. An exception will apply for spouses. The new rule does not affect any existing plans. This new rule will only apply to accounts inherited in 2020 or later.
- Another exception to the penalty–free withdrawal list of IRAs includes up to \$5,000 for birth or adoption expenses. New parents can withdraw this sum for their accounts up to the first year after birth or adoption.

Some of the other provisions include simplifying retirement plan access for small employers. A new rule where retirement plans will give lifetime monthly estimates as to how long those funds may last. This is good since it will help people see where they are and then they can decide what needs to be done in the future.

NSS does not give tax or legal advice. This is a brief highlight of the SECURE act. Individuals should always contact their tax or legal advisor for specific information about their particular situation.

Thought For The Month:

People don't decide on their future. They decide on their habits. Then their habits define their future.

Anonymous





Fraternal Matters...

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

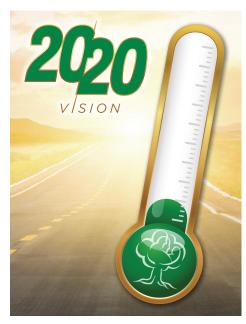


PVR Scholarship

We are currently taking requests for 2020 PVR Scholarship applications. Please call the home office and ask for Pam to receive your application via mail/email. The completed applications are due by **May 1, 2020**.

PVR Fundraising

As you have seen in the last issue of the *National News*, we have officially kicked off our "2020 Vision" campaign for the PVR Scholarship fund. If you would like to donate to a worthy cause, please consider this important fund. The PVR Scholarship fund has allowed us to award numerous scholarships to our young members for post-secondary education. We need to continue to keep the fund growing so that it does not become depleted. It is too important for the future of our youth, to not give it the attention it deserves.



NSS Life 2020 Family Fun Day

This year our Family Fun Day will be held at Carnegie Science Center in downtown Pittsburgh! We are looking forward to a great day of fun, exploration, and food! The event will be from 11am-5pm. Families are free to explore the science center at their leisure. The cost for admission is \$10 per person. This includes access to the following:

- 4 exhibit floors in Carnegie Science Center
- Highmark SportsWorks (located right next door to the Science Center). It is
 one of larger science and sports exhibitions in the world, with over 30 interactive experiences in which visitors can participate. SportsWorks features
 three themed areas: Physics of Sports, LifeWorks, and Sports Challenge.
- Submarine Tour (weather permitting)

We will also include a delicious catered lunch for everyone to enjoy, as well. Please join us for an entertaining day at Pittsburgh's most visited museum!

We are currently taking requests for National Bowling Tournament

Please join us for our joint National Bowling Tournament at Brookgate Lanes, in Cleveland, Ohio! This event will take place May 15th-17th. We will be joining our fellow fraternals, which include the Greek Catholic Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). If you enjoy bowling and are looking for a fun outing to attend, please join us. You won't be disappointed!



2020 Family Fun Day

Carnegie Science Center Saturday, April 4th, 2020 11:00am - 5:00pm

Please join us for an exciting day at one of the best museums in Pittsburgh! Located at 1 Allegheny Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212, our event will begin at 11am and end at 5pm. Members can explore the Science Center at their own leisure. A catered lunch will be provided to all guests in attendance. The cost to attend will be \$10/person. We anticipate both a fun and educational day for everyone! Please complete the registration form below if interested in attending. Please note, there is *limited availability*, thus a maximum of 6 tickets per registration can be issued. These tickets will be available at the registration table upon arrival at Carnegie Science Center.



★ MUST BE AN NSS MEMBER TO ATTEND★

Name	Address	Ph. #	Assembly #
1			
2			
# Adults:			
# Youth (ages 15 and und	er):		

Please return this form with payment **no later than Friday, March 13th** to:

NSS Life

Attn: Fraternal Dept. 351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317

Please make checks payable to "NSS Life"

**If interested in staying overnight, NSS Life is holding a block of rooms at the Hyatt Place Pittsburgh North Shore. This hotel is only a few blocks from Carnegie Science Center. The room rate will be \$129/night + \$22.00 for parking. Please call Hyatt Reservations @ 800-993-2213 and use Group Code G-NSSS to book. The block of rooms will be released on March 20th to the general public.

(Side note for any baseball fans...if you are staying overnight, the Pittsburgh Pirates play the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday, April 5th @ 1:35pm at PNC Park!)

For additional information, please contact Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org or Amanda Zinn at azinn@nsslife.org.

2019 Christmas Ornament Contest Winners



Frosty Group - Ages 5-7 Maxwell Edwards - Assembly C075



Rudolph Group - Ages 8-10 Mia Tenney - Assembly C105



Snowflake Group - Ages 11-13 Jacob Ostrowski - Assembly C617



Santa Group - Ages 14-16 Ben Ostrowski - Assembly C617



Adult Group - 1st Place Mary Wozniak - Assembly LO40



Adult Group - 2nd Place Rhonda Felton - Assembly 0434



Adult Group - 3rd Place Mike Fox - Assembly 0731

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ASSEMBLY 0004 Parma, OH

Our next event will be our Scotch Doubles tournament to be held on April 5, 2020. Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun event.

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Attention all parents of senior high school students! The deadline for your child's applications for an NSS Scholarship is May 1st. Your child can receive a \$500.00 scholarship, each year, for four years. Don't miss the deadline.

Did you ever want to try one of those intricately designed "Kraslice" Easter eggs but never got around to trying? The NSS Heritage Museum is holding a seat just for you on Saturday, February 29th. Now you can make your very own for only \$20.00 for materials. Class starts at 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Deadline is February 14th.

Our congratulations go out to our NSS Sales Director, Greg Felton who recently was chosen as the "Fraternalsit of the Year" by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh, a fraternal association of fraternals in the Pittsburgh area. This is a great honor to be recognized by your peers in the fraternal industry.

Saturday, April 4th is "NSS Family Fun Day" at the Carnegie Science Center on Pittsburgh's North Shore. More information is elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, our prayers for a rapid and full healing go out to the wife of our Chairman of the Board, Joseph Stefka, Jr. Annette is recovering from shoulder surgery, so keep her in your prayers.

Our first meeting in 2020 will be on Sunday, March 8th at the Eat'n Park Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm. This will be our "Annual Lenten Dinner". Come and enjoy the fraternal fellowship around a delicious meal.

When was the last time that you checked your insurance or annuity beneficiary designations? Chances are they are out of date!

> John Payerchin President

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

We will attend the Region 2 meetings in February and August at Perkins Restaurant in Pittston.

Members will meet on Oliver Sir Louis April 5, 2020 at the Grande's Restau-Treasurer rant Birney Ave Moosic for the spring meeting at 1:00 pm. A matching fund will take place for Avoca Boy Scout Troop 316 who are selling Gertrude Hawk candy bars.

> Members will participate in the Postal Workers Food Drive May 9, 2020 from 10:00 am-5:00 pm assisting with unloading trucks and sorting canned goods at the Knights of Columbus Center in Pittston.

> Members will walk in the American Heart Association Heart Walk at the PNC Field in Moosic on May 16, 2020 and conduct a matching fund for them by donating a basket for their raffle.

The Leaf will hold their Fraternal Summer Picnic at the Mercateli-Segilia Park in Moosic in August 9, 2020. Members are reminded to bring a basket for the raffle and a dish for the table. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be provided by the Leaf.

The Leaf will conduct a matching funds for the Catherine McAuley Center show your love ones that you care; a in Scranton. The Leaf will purchase a cooler filled with Beach items like chairs, towels, snorkels and games. Members will sell tickets at the Luzerne County Fair in September.

The October meeting is set for October 18, 2020 at 1:00 pm at Grande's Restaurant for nominations and election of officers.

Members will attend the Region 2 matching funds Bone Appetit for the SPCA at the Woodlawns in Wilkes-Barre sound organization. in November. The St. Cats and Dogs fund-raiser TBA.

The members will celebrate Veterans Day with the Veterans at the Wilkes-Barre VA Center on November 15 at 2:00 pm with a bingo pizza party.

Secretary



ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Why is February the shortest month, maybe because everyone is in a hurry to get winter over with? But they felt guilt about making it too short so they added an extra day every four years. This is that year and it also coincides with presidential election years.

Please don't forget to call Jill Grover at 412-638-7060 if you are going to attend the play and dinner sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. For the minimal cost of \$15 you get a delicious buffet dinner and see hilarious play "Robin Hood Isn't Lookin Too Good". This all happens on Saturday, February 29th (the extra day) at 6PM at the Crafton American Legion Hall. This is a matching fund event for our assembly.

February 14th is Valentine's Day named for St. Valentine. Who was this guy and why does he get a day? He was a priest who defied Roman law and married many young lovers which kept the men out of the army who only wanted single men. The emperor wasn't too happy so he beheaded Valentine.

Now I don't want you to lose your head but it is incumbent on you to card, flowers and candy are usual. You might want to make a call or pay a visit to someone who is ill or shut in and in need of a reminder that they are loved and not forgotten.

February 17th is President's Day but at NSS it is also Founder's Day. It celebrates the day in 1890 that NSS was chartered. You should be proud that you are members of such a long-lasting historic and financial

Congratulations to our assembly members Leslie O'Donnell, Mariah Scalise and Niko Scalise who were winners in the photo contest!

As you plan ahead mark your calendar for Saturday, March 21st. Our Lehrae Edwards assembly will be volunteering at World Vision in Sewickley. Show up at 9:30 am then after two hours of fun sorting and packing we will head to Eat'n Park for lunch and a short business meeting. Call me at 724-242-5085 for confirmation of your attendance and directions if needed. We hope to see you there!

Continued on next page...

Today I received an email from a friend of mine; yes I have a few friends. cookie table. It was a copy of a long letter which I will spare you of, but it ended with a list of the six best doctors in the world. I will give you free access to them: sunlight, rest, exercise, diet, self-confibring all your ideas for any fundraisers dence, and friends.

President

bring a dozen cookies for our famous

I hope all members can attend our meetings and please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171 or if you have any questions. Until then, stay safe and or other ways to make our membership Bill Knoll grow and prosper in the New Year!

The following meetings for 2020

March 25, 2020 at 1:00 pm,

Savannahs, Jefferson Ave. Trenton, MI.

June 16, 2020 at 1:00 pm, at

September 17, 2020, time and

December 19, 2020, at 4:00 pm

Hungarian Rhyapsady, Northline Rd.,

ASSEMBLY 0381

Grosse, IL

are as follows:

Southgate, MI.

Joanne Medved

Camping Labor Day Weekend -Rustic Lake Campground from September 4-September 7, 2020. 44901 New London Eastern Rd, Sullivan, OH 44880.

Meeting at the Pytel's on **September 15, 2020** at 7:30pm.

Meeting at Tony K's on December 15, 2020 at 7:30pm and Suzanne Skrypak Christmas party to follow. 841 W Bag-President ley Rd, Berea, OH 44017.

It saddens me to announce the passing of one of Assembly 432's most Active and Delightful members, Sophia Hudak. "Aunt Sophie," as she was known by many of us, will be missed dearly at our future events and meetings. Aunt Sophie always had a twinkle in her eye, and a smile on her face. Our prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

> **Shawn Pytel** Publicist & Social Media

ASSEMBLY L161 Pittsburgh, PA

Be our guest for the first meeting of 2020 which will be held on Tuesday, February 18 at the Longhorn Restaurant, 410 Waterfront Dr. (West Homestead) at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for the next 2 years, and discuss ideas for activities and community projects for the year. Please try to attend and become active in our assembly.

Please email Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com or call 412-421-1204 if you plan on attending by February 13th so that the appropriate reservations can be made at the restaurant. Hope to see some new faces--you are only a stranger once!

> Sue Ondrejco Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0432

Fairview Park, OH

location to be determined.

location to be determined.

Fraternally yours,

The following are a summarization of our events for the coming year.

Meeting at the Pytel's on February 11, 2020 at 7:30pm

Tobogganing at Strongsville Chalet on February 16, 2020! Located at 16200 Valley Pkwy, Strongsville, Ohio 44136. Join us for our annual event that includes food, drinks, friends, family and fun! Remember, no more carrying your toboggan up the hill as of the last few years, so multiple rides are much easier than before. Please RSVP to one of the officers below by February 10th.

Bill Shuttleworth - 440-465-6024 Teri Hudak - 440-888-8595 Dave Pytel - 440-777-4054

Camping Memorial Weekend -Rustic Lake Campground from May 22-May 25, 2020. 44901 New London Eastern Rd, Sullivan, OH 44880.

Meeting at the Shuttleworth's on June 16, 2020 at 7:30pm.

ASSEMBLY 0588 Slovan, PA

Meetings will be held at Panera Treasurer Bread Community Room located at 250 McHolme Drive, Pittsburgh, PA (North Fayette), at 6:00 pm on the following dates: Monday, February 24, 2020; Monday, April 20, 2020; Monday, September 21, 2020; and Monday, November 16, 2020.

> Please plan to attend the meetings and become active Assembly 588 members.

> > **Annette Stefka** Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Join us for a Brunch buffet on March 22, 2020 at 2:00 pm at Hugo's restaurant at 687 National Pike, Brownsville, PA and a meeting to plan events for the year.

We will hold our annual picnic at Richardson's Park on June 14, 2020 at 3:00 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert and your frisbee or baseball. Families and pets welcome!

Join us at China City Buffet on September 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm at 800 Wildflower Circle, Washington, PA for a luncheon and meeting to discuss assembly business.

Our annual holiday gathering will be held on December 6, 2020 at 3:00 pm at Canon's Chophouse, 1900 Main Street, Canonsburg, PA. Please

ASSEMBLY 0617/C617 Ashley, PA

A working lunch meeting will be held at the Grotto Pizza, Route 11 Edwardsville, PA on Saturday, February 22, 2020, at 12:30 pm. Planning and scheduling of yearly events, along with fraternal business will be the main topics for the meeting.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting. Reservations and additional information can be obtained from John Kurilla at 570-287-4163.

> John Kurilla Vice President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Meeting on Saturday, **February 1, 2020** at 3:00 p.m., at the home of Ruth Burns to elect officers and plan for 2020 events. Our youth will also meet to plan youth activities for the year. Following the meeting, we'll enjoy playing cards and board games.

Our Christmas Party will be held at Boardman Park in Elton Beard Cabin, on Sunday, **December 6, 2020** at 1:00 pm.

Laurie FoxPresident

Assembly 0004 Activities

On December 8, 2019, we held our Christmas Luncheon and our Sunday League knockdown for the First Half Winners. We enjoyed the fine buffet prepared by Mike Cottrell and his staff. Everyone received lottery tickets in addition to ten additional prizes which were raffled off.

The rolloff was between Misfits and Spares and Strikes. The Misfits were the winners. The team members were Stephanie and Bob Sir Louis, Sonia Vorell and Mike Chahulski.

Oliver Sir Louis Treasurer

Assembly 0381 Elected Officers

At our December meeting, the following officers were elected to represent Assembly 0381:

President, Martin E. Medved; Vice President, Rosemarie Merten; Treasurer, Joanne Medved; Secretary, Brian Medved; Elder, Rosemary Hanlon; and Elder, Jack Merten.

Joanne Medved Treasurer

Assembly 0588 Elected Officers

Assembly 588 held its final meeting for 2019 on November 18, 2019. The assembly elected officers for two years and set meeting dates for the coming year. The officers elected for 2020-2022 are as follows:

President, John Bebo, Jr.; Vice President, Keith Kucherawy; Recording Secretary, Annette Stefka; Financial Secretary, Joseph Stefka, Jr.; and Activities Director/Eldress, Florence Bebo.

Annette Stefka Secretary



Assembly 0813 News

The end of the year is always a great time for reflection for members of Assembly #813. It's a busy season with several projects wrapping up and a couple of fun get-togethers.

Our "Toys for Tots" was a big success and we operated it in two areas. In Dothan they collected two boxes of new toys and several hundred dollars in cash. Toys were also donated by nearly 100 bikers who held a bicycle parade led by Dan Farrell in his decorated, lighted Jeep. In Englewood another box of toys were collected to ensure a good Christmas for many more children.

The Brown Bag Program of the Wiregrass was the recipient of \$80 collected as spare change by our members. This money will provide for two bags of food each month for a year for a senior citizen who is "food poor". We have worked with David Hanks at the Food Bank for years to help senior citizens.

At Englewood Elementary School we support the Englewood Lunch Angels program to make sure every child gets a healthy lunch. Mary Jo Holker presented a "Matching Funds" check to PTA President Desiree Skadal as they took time out from helping children shop at the Eagle store.

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner concluded as usual with desserts and drinks by the bonfire. It's a great time to catch up with what's going on in everyone's life.

The Christmas party was well received. Everyone like the NSS night lights sent from the home office. Kids of all ages liked the Slinky and jump ropes.

At a business meeting held December 26th, all officers were reelected.

Wishing all NSS'ers and their families a blessed and healthy 2020.

Mary Jo Holker Secretary



Blaze Farrell, Kerry Farrell, Dan Farrell, Mary Jo Holker, and Caly Farrell donate toys to "Toys for Tots".



Mary Jo Holker presenting check to PTA President, Desiree Skadal.

WHO, WHEN, WHY >>>>>>>

INCREASE IN BUYING LIKELIHOOD DUE TO LIFE CHANGES

Several different life events can greatly increase buying likelihood.

















PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of Velma Csuy and
August DiMarzio, Jr.:
From Assembly 0123 40.00
In Memory of Janice Cielinski:
From Assembly 0586 25.00
In Memory of Joseph Tomaskovic:
From Assembly 0586 100.00
Donations:
Assembly 0070 50.00
& Matching Funds 50.00
Assembly 0588 250.00
& Matching Funds 250.00
Assembly 0110 250.00
Assembly 0737 300.00
Assembly 0160 400.00
& Matching Funds 400.00
Anonymous 1,000.00
R.D. Hoag & Associates, LLC 2.000.00

DONATE TO THE PUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

Here is my donation of:

\$ _______.
Please issue your check to:
 NSS PVR Scholarship Fund
And send to:
 National Slovak Society
 351 Valley Brook Road
 McMurray, PA 15317

Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., **MUST BE** received by the Home Office no later than the **5th of the 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.

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS December, 2019

Name City and State Date of Death Assembly Anderson, Patricia Belle Vernon, PA 11/08/2019 0377 Balt, Mary Behrendt, Susan O4/18/2019 0374 Benson, David Corry, PA 08/21/2019 0377 Benson, David San Fransisco, CA 04/22/2019 0377 Benson, David San Fransisco, CA 04/22/2019 0554 Borsh, Eleanore Dunedin, FL 11/10/2019 L161 Byrnolfson, Leon Bukovac, Jennie Dunbar, PA 11/20/2019 0554 Burton, Norren Menomonee Falls, WI 07/30/2019 0774 Chernert, Vera West Newton, PA 10/29/2019 0737 Corena, Joan Slatington, PA 10/09/2019 0377 Corena, Jarene Gonosburg, PA 10/09/2019 0377 Corey, Lydia Greensburg, PA 11/22/2019 0737 Czajkoski, Steve Greenslei, PA 11/13/2019 0108 Dileva, Jerome Gibsonia, PA 03/11/2019 0108 E	ı		December, 201	9	
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This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr.

Chairman of the Board

February, 1985

Assembly 432 held it Annual Dinner-Dance Fundraiser at St. Gregory's Hall in Lakewood, Ohio. Over 200 guests attended the event.

February, 1990

Edward Kovac died on February 10, 1990. Edward was a distinguished editor of several Slovak publications and served as the editor of the National Slovak Society's *National News* from 1975 to 1988.

February, 1990

Sophie Masloff, Mayor of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, officially proclaimed February 17, 1990, as N.S.S. Day in Pittsburgh recognizing and honoring the 100th Anniversary of the National Slovak Society's founding in Pittsburgh. She presented the Proclamation at the 100th Anniversary Banquet.

February, 1995

The National Slovak Society instituted the Active Assembly Program to recognize and provide financial incentives to assemblies that met qualifications during the previous year. Assemblies that qualified based on meeting and activity criteria for either the Platinum Level Award of the Diamond Level Award would receive additional funding from the National Assembly.

A Hibernation Celebration!

Sponsored by Region 5

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall

2912 E. Carson St. Southside, PA 15203 11 A.M.

\$10/Adult member, \$5/ Child includes Lunch and all activities

**PVR Scholarship recipients who graduated 2016 thru 2019 will be guests of Region 5

Deadline for Reservations is Friday, January, 17, 2020

Please make checks payable and mail to: NSS Region 5 234 ILION ST. PGH, PA. 15207

Please indicate number of Adults atte	nding	@ \$10	
Please indicate number of Children (under age 10)		@ \$5	
Please indicate number of PVR Scholarship Recipients		(FREE)	
	-	TOTAL:	
*Name	* Phone: or email	97	
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**REQUIRED



National Slovak Society Heritage Museum Presents:

Kráslice Class ~ Saturday, February 29, 2020

As the symbol of new life, Easter is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. It has always been celebrated with joy and accompanied by numerous colorful traditions among the Eastern Slavs.

Experience the tradition of creating a colorful Easter egg of your very own!

Local artist, Mike Yanchak will guide you step by step through the process, while discussing the origin, techniques and symbolism used in creating "kráslice," as they are called in Slovak.

Where: National Slovak Society Heritage Museum

351 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA

Time: 10 AM - 2 PM

Cost: \$20 per person (includes all materials)

Class size is limited and designed for ages 12+.

Deadline for registration is February 14, 2020



Name:	
Phone Number:	{ * * }
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Email Address:	
l Please submit this form with your payment by February 14, 2020 Make checks payable to NSSHM	
Mail to: NSSHM	
234 Ilion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207	1 State of



Február



130 Výročie NSS - "Gratulujeme"

V tomto mesiaci Národny Slovenský Spolok (NSS) slávime 130 rokov od nášho začiatku (1890) ako organizácia vzájomnej pomoci svojím bratom a sestram združený jednou organizáciou nezaležiac na vierovyznaní. V tom čase 1890 naš národ bol ako manority pod vládou Rakúsko Uhorska a veru v rodnej zemi pod Tatrami bolo zakázane učiť a publikovať v Slovenskej reči. Novo prisťahovaný Slováci sa ocitli v novej zemi—Slobody – kde sloboda slova, písma, a publikácie je realitou "Tu nám maďari nemohli zakázať po Slovensky." Tento pocit že sme slováci, môžeme slobodne sa združovať, pisať knihy, novíny atď – vábil národ k spolupatričnosti. Keď Peter Rovnianek zvolal prvú konvenciu 16 Februára 1890—tu začala prvá kapitula nášej organizácie pod heslom "Bratsvo-Rovnosť-Sloboda." O historii a pokroku NSS sa dá veľa písať práve tak ako život človeka. Sú dni a roky výborne a plodne, čásom je to trocha opačné. Je však pravdov a dôkazom že naše roky boli a sú plodné vidieť to z počtu náších členov, a z finacii ktoré sú rekordné.

Predpoklad zakladateľov je veľkou realitou, a aj splnenie túžob že spolupatričnosťou v slobodnej krajine dokážeme že raz aj naša otčina, - rodná zem aj tam zavíta sloboda, čo je tiež realitou už vyše 27 rokov.

Dnes naša organizácia má focus viac menej na svojích členov- ponúkame životnú poistku, šporenie pre dôchodok rôznych-typov, študentom ponúkame príspevky na štúdia, finančné úspory ktoré si uložite u nás vám platíme pekné úroky, robíme i matching funds, pre akcie naších členov.

To čo nám podali naši otcovia je našou cťou dokazujeme to krásnym múzeom pri hlavnom úrade kde máme i peknú knižnicu a prekrásne rezbárske dielo znázorňujúc život Slovenského ľudu.

Sme hrdý odkiaľ sme a čo všetko robíme pre členov NSS- pod znáčkou "Family Matters." Sme veľka rodina NSS ktorá tohto času napomáha rodinému životu naším členom a občanom Ameriky.

Valentín je sviatok krásny, preži si ho v láske, šťastí. Žiadne slzy, lásky veľa, to Ti dnes zo srdca želám.

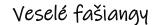
14.Február

Sv. Cyril a Metod

Oslavujme hvezdy jasné Cyrila a Metoda, tieto z hora hvezdy jasné slovenského národa. Vrúcne zaznej v národe jediný všetkých hlas:

Sväty Cyril a Metod, orodujte za nás.





Ani sme sa nenazdali a po vianočnom období nám pomaly klope na dvere Veľká noc. Ešte pred ňou je tu však obdobie fašiangov. To každoročne trvá od príchodu Troch kráľov až do polnoci pred popolcovou stredou. Už od nepamäti sa toto obdobie spája s ľudovou zábavou, výborným jedlom a pitím.

Fašiangy means carnival and it is similar to Mardi gras. Happy groups of costumed and masked youths walk through the village playing music. They dress up as many different characters. Consuming huge amounts of food and drink are very much a part of Fašiangy celebrations. Fašiangy is a time of fun and foolishness before the Lenten season begins.





Záhorie/ Jablonica Sviatočný kroj vydatej ženy. Prvá polovica 20. Storočia

Special occasion Costume of a married woman from the first half of the 20th century

-Foto: Peter Benkus



Youth Circle Page

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

Walter Clark Ladue

Walter Clark Ladue of Stratford, CT was born on August 20, 2019. He is accompanied by his older brother Victor Douglas Ladue (age 4).

Walter and Victor are the sons of Jeffrey Douglas Ladue and grandsons to Nelson and Carol Ladue of Assembly L002.



Thank You's

Dear National Slovak Society:

Thank you very much for giving me a scholarship this year. Currently, I am studying Music Education at Duquesne University with a piano focus.

I just finished up my first semester in college, and I made the Dean's List. Thank you for all you have done, I truly appreciate it.

Katelyn Denman

Valentine's Day Wordsearch

Find these words in the wordsearch puzzle below.

pink white card
love letter holiday cupid
candy red heart
love mailbox sweetheart

Valentine's Day arrow



Ε H E AD Н T R N P В Ν R W F A B Q W E R E H Н R B X F R B



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Could you use a little extra "green?"

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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*.

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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.