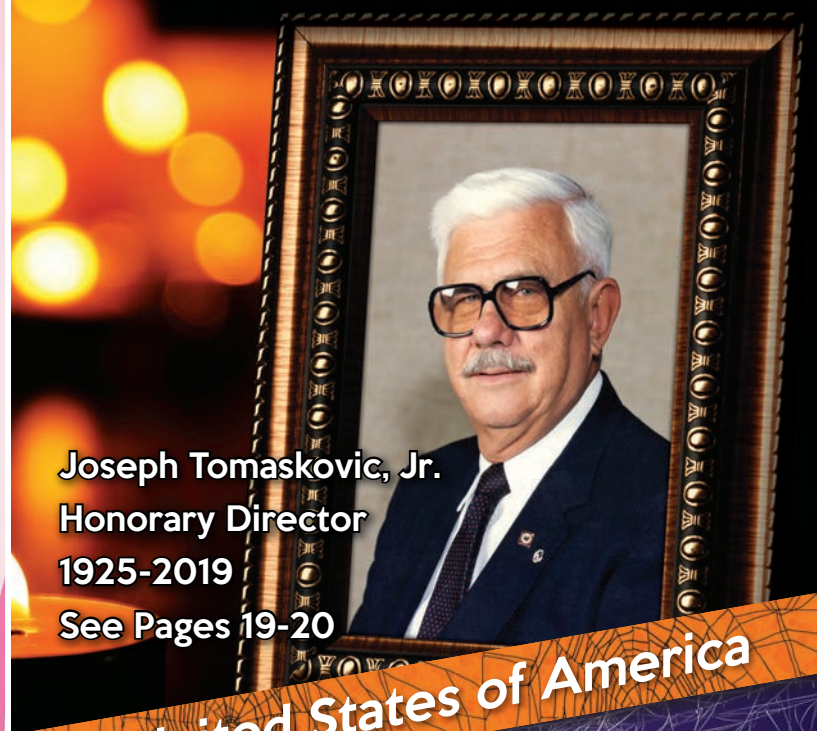




NSS Life
Family Matters...

**BREAST
CANCER**
awareness month

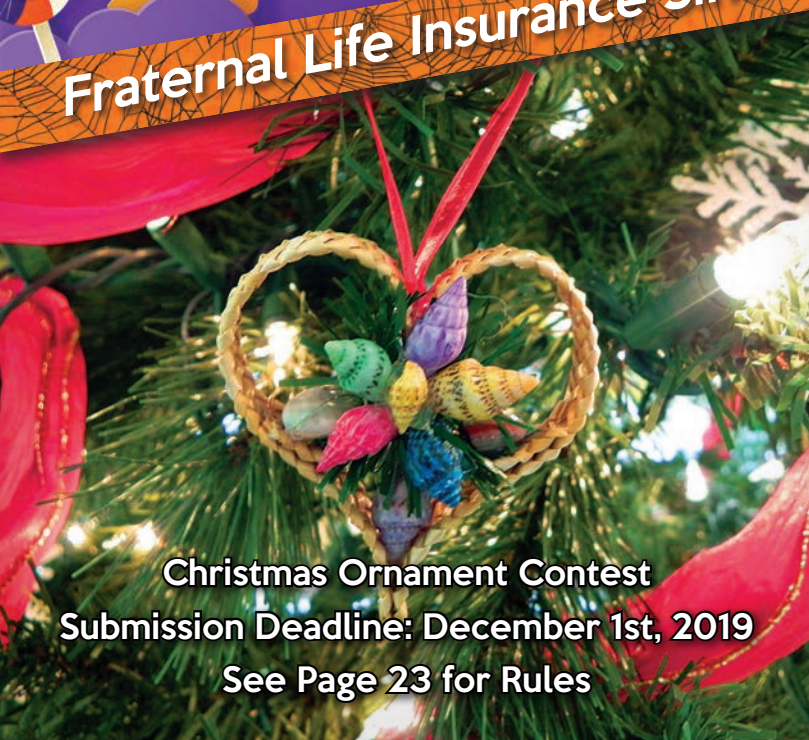


Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr.
Honorary Director
1925-2019
See Pages 19-20

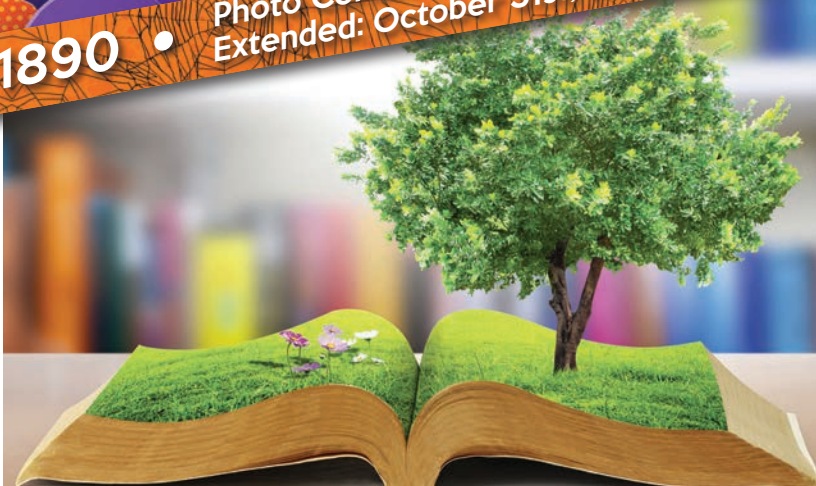
The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

National News

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Photo Contest Submission Deadline
Extended: October 31st, 2019



Christmas Ornament Contest
Submission Deadline: December 1st, 2019
See Page 23 for Rules



Youth Poetry Contest 1st Place Winners
See Page 21 for Poems

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY
OCTOBER 2019 | NUMBER 3534 VOLUME 111



National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at McMurray, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices
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Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY

Published Monthly

Send articles for publication to:

351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Deadline: 5th of preceding month

NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

David G. Blazek, *FIC, President, CEO & Elder*

Joseph Stefka, Jr., *Chairman of the Board*

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

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Burns
Michael Czarney
Andrea Garbon
Abigail Gross
Robert Katricak
Susan Ondrejco
John Payerchin
Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Drew Wesnak

NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

Anthony Beno, *Director*
Mary Jo Holker, *Director*
Sophia Hudak, *Tribunal Member*
Edward Koches, *Director*
Paul Payerchin, Jr., *Director*

FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

Justine Wesnak, *President*
Reverend Monsignor Thomas V. Banick,
Spiritual Advisor

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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Editor's Note: Correction for 2nd Quarter Financial Report

In last month's issue, in the 2nd
Quarter Financial Statement, there
was an error in the Dec. 2018
Increase in Aggregate Reserve for
Life Contracts amount. It should
read **\$75,285,000.**

Activities At A Glance

REGION 2

October 30
November 3
November 10

Assemblies L075, 0617

Assembly 0617, Join Hands Day, St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 4:00 pm
Region 2, Bone Appetit, Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes Barre, PA at 4:00 pm
Region 2, Purse Bingo, Eagle McClure Hose Company, Old Forge, PA at 1:00 pm

REGION 5

October 5
October 6
October 13
October 19
October 27
November 16
November 30
December 1
December 1
December 15

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

Assembly 0737, Meeting, Godor's residence, N. Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0377, Meeting, China City Buffet, Washington, PA at 3:00 pm
Region 5 Meeting, NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0123, World Vision Warehouse, Sewickley, PA at 9:30 am
Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance, Westwood Golf Club, W. Mifflin, PA at 4:30 pm
Fall Board Meeting, NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA
Assembly 0737, Meeting/Christmas Party, Godor's residence, N. Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, K of C Hall at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0377, Annual Holiday Party, Cannons Chophouse, Canonsburg, PA at 3:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Christmas Party, Camody's Restaurant, Neville Island, PA at 1:00 pm

REGION 8

October 7
October 16
October 27
November 17

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

Assembly 0432, Meeting at Dave Pytel's residence at 7:00 pm
Region 8, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 7:30 pm
Assembly 0432, Fall Festival, Rockin-R-Ranch, Stanton, OH at 12 Noon
Assembly 0004, Meeting, Sonia Vorell's residence, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm

REGION 14

October 20
November TBD
December 8

Assemblies R059, L102

Assembly R059, Hot Dog Luncheon, St. Nicholas R O Church, Bethlehem, PA at 11:00 am
Assembly R059, One Can Help Food Drive (Date, Time & Location to be announced)
Assembly R059, Meeting, Keysock's residence

REGION 15

Assemblies L002

No Activities at this time

AT LARGE

October 5
October 12
October 27
October 27
November 10
December 7
December 21
December 24

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

Assembly 0554, Meeting, Jim Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0586, Meeting/Activity, Home Run Inn, Darien, IL at 11:45 am
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Halloween Party, Georgeanna Parker Center, Boardman Park 6-8:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Meeting/Christmas Craft, Boardman Library, 2:00-4:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Boardman Park, Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0381, Meeting, Sibley Gardens, Trenton, MI at 4:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration, Buck's residence at 6:00 pm

From The President's Desk...



**David G. Blazek, FIC
President, CEO**

Greetings from the Home Office as we begin the last quarter of 2019. Fall is in full swing and is a beautiful time of the year with the leaves turning and the fall foliage. For me, the only drawback to fall is what follows, winter! Winter is great for those of our members who like winter activities such as skiing, sledding and skating, but for me it means cold, cold, and more cold. Four different seasons are what we have in the tri-state Pittsburgh area. I really enjoy three out of the four seasons, so I can't complain.

This month is a very busy month for me as I will be attending two state Fraternal Alliance meetings. New Jersey/New York will meet October 10th, and Pennsylvania will be meeting October 20th through 23rd. Serving as President for the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance this year, is our very own Chair of the NSS Board, Joe Stefka. He will be supported by NSS Director Sue Ondrejco, who is a Director on the PFA Board, and Greg Felton, NSS Sales Director who serves as 2nd Vice President of the PFA. Brother Joe has planned a great agenda of speakers which will be educational and beneficial for all in attendance.

In addition to many assembly and region meetings this month, Assembly R059 will hold a Hot Dog Luncheon on the 20th, Assembly O432 will hold a Fall Festival at Rockin-R-Ranch on October 27th, and the same day, Slovak Radio Hour in Pittsburgh will hold their annual Dinner Dance for those of you in the local Pittsburgh area.

News Of Narodniars

Celebrating Birthdays this month are Honorary Director Tony Beno, Home Office staff members Joe Elliott, Rick Toth and Riley Partyka, members Bob Kapp, Irene Tomaskovic, George Batyko, Cathy Fox, JoAnna Lloyd, Carson Bernardo, and daughter Nicole Kearney.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Susan and Paul Payerchin, Carole and Ed Koches, Barb and Tod Wilcock, and Melinda and Keith Chojnicki.

Best wishes to all other members celebrating a special occasion this month.

I am sorry to report that our Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom was in a car accident recently and suffered a serious neck injury. She is doing okay and hoping that the bones heal on their own as opposed to having surgery. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers. She is working from home for the near term. If you would like to send her a note, her email address is lstrom@nsslife.org.

Continued wishes for a speedy and full recovery go out to Rose Mary Strish and to all other NSS members that are ill or injured.

The Slovaks of America

Starting with this issue and continuing in future issues, I am going to share an article that was written by our founding father Peter V. Rovnianek. This article was sent to me by Rose Mary Strish.

In the building of the skyscrapers of New York and Chicago; as principal developers of the coal mines of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Illinois, in the steel industries encompassing Pittsburgh; in the mines, farms and factories of the middle west; as workers in the iron mines of the Messaba Range; in their diligence on the prairies of Minnesota and Arkansas; - as pioneers and buckling too in the developing of California and Florida - these all laud the virtues of the Slovak sons and daughters, bespeak their traits of honesty, hard work, genial hospitality and inborn childish faith in the God of their fathers.

Upwards of a million Slovaks pledge allegiance to the Stars and Stripes (about one-third of the entire population of the nation). As immigrants they bear proof of quick amalgamation with spiritual and material

progress of America's ideals of freedom. Who are the Slovaks?

As we celebrate this "Century of Progress of America" there is also now a celebration taking place in the ancient City of Nitra, once the old capital of the Great Moravian Empire, to commemorate eleven centuries since the establishment of the first Christian cathedral of the Slovak people.

From the tenth century the history of the Slovaks is closely linked with that of the Hungarian kingdom. The first king of Hungary, Saint Stephen, whose mother was a Slavic princess, inherited Slavic blood and characteristics. The coronation robes of this king, still preserved in the church of the royal palace at Buda, bears the embroidered inscription of the old Slavic tongue "Gospodi Pomiluj" (Be merciful, oh Lord).

During ten centuries of the Hungarian kingdom, the Slovak influence predominated and gave the country many of its prominent warriors, diplomats, ecclesiastic dignitaries and scientists. Foremost, among its heroes and known to all Americans is Kossuth, the liberator of the Magyars, and revered as the George Washington of the Magyars, who was of Slovak stock. His mother, a Slovakian, could speak only the Slovak tongue. The greatest of Hungary's revolutionary poets, Petofi, whose original name was Petrovic, also had a Slovak mother.

The French revolution at the end of the 18th century changed this nation's thoughts and attitudes. Shackles of class distinction were broken. The slogan 'Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood' sprouted and rooted itself into nationalistic spirit. In Hungary, which was a polyglot nation, the dead Latin language gave way to the awakening Magyar and advanced an ideal of a monoglot kingdom, and on its funeral pyre were to be offered up the traditions and tongues of all non-Magyar nationalities, regardless of their being in the majority. The treachery of the Habsburg dynasty whose Hungarian crown was saved to them by Slavic blood, gave away the non-Magyar elements to the mercy of the Magyar chauvinists, who proceeded unmercifully to eradicate all Slovak souls.

But the thrust missed its aim. The Slovak emigrants of the United States stepped forward to succor, to keep alive their peoples in the throes of the tyrant until the debacle of the world war.

(to be continued next issue)

Punography Of The Month:

If there was someone selling marijuana in our neighborhood, weed know about it.

The Western PA Slovak Radio Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will sponsor its 37th Annual Dinner-Dance celebration on Sunday, **October 27, 2019**. This annual gathering is the major fundraising event for the Slovak Radio Hour, hosted by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, and heard each Sunday from 3 to 4 pm on AM 73 WPIT, 96.5 FM and worldwide via wpitam.com.

This year's festivities will take place at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA. The facility is handicapped accessible and there is plenty of free parking. Friends are invited to gather for a cash bar social at 4:30 pm; and a bountiful buffet dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$40.00 each, if purchased by October 14, 2019. After October 14th the cost is \$45.00 each. Advance reservations only. All seats are reserved.

Following dinner, George Batyi and the "Gypsy Stringz" will treat guests to the songs and music of Slovakia.

Bring a friend and enjoy the evening supporting the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour.

Western PA Slovak Cultural Association Slovaktober Fest

Come and join us at the Slovak Sokol Hall, 2912 East Carson Street, Southside, PA on Friday, October 18th, 2019 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Slovak beer, buffet dinner, dancing and entertainment is included in the cost of the ticket. There will also be a cash bar. Tickets are \$30.00 members and \$35.00 non-members.

For more information or tickets, please call 412-243-3734 or email: apavlak@gmail.com



United Slovak Societies NSS Assembly 0160 Halloween Party

The United Slovak Societies will host a children's HALLOWEEN COSTUME BOWLING PARTY, on Sunday, **October 27, 2019** beginning at 1:00 pm at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, Ohio. This event is for children ages 16 and younger, or any member of the American Slovak Club. **Members of NSS Assembly and Circle 160 Lorain, Ohio are eligible to attend.** There is no charge for this event but reservations are required. For reservations, please call Pam at 440-245-5146.

Fall Language Classes

The Slovak language classes this fall will be for intermediate and advanced students only. Tuition is free for everyone. The class schedule will be as follows:

When: Every Wednesday, Sept. 18th - Oct. 30th
Time: 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm
Where: South Side Public Library
2205 Carson Street
Instructor: Bozena Hilko
Reservations: Reserve a place at bozi@comcast.net



Christmas Around the World

Saturday, November 30th, 2019

- Celebration of Christmas viewed through multiple cultures from around the world.
- Christmas trees on display decorated in varying cultural styles and traditions.
- Refreshments will be served at event.

Current Interest Rates Effective July 1, 2018

Optimum 3	2.00%
Preferred 5	3.25%
Preferred 8	3.75%

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.

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



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From the Sales Department...

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



Create Your Own Pension Plan?

Remember the good old days when workers retired and could expect to receive a company pension in addition to their Social Security benefits? Most companies have since abandoned their traditional retirement plan for a 401k. These plans are great but they rely on the employee to fund them properly. Always be sure to put in enough to get your employer's match.

Another smart move on your part is to start or continue contributing to IRAs. Traditional IRAs will allow a tax-deduction by meeting certain criteria. A Roth IRA also has some rules that need to be followed in order to receive tax-free interest in the long run.

Another option would be to open an annuity. This tax-deferred savings program earns a competitive rate of interest with a minimum guarantee.

All of these are excellent options but there is another plan that is widely available and has no rules or restrictions. This one is a personal life insurance plan. For example, a male, age 35 sets up a plan and pays \$200 per month. This plan has the following benefits:

- Coverage for this person would be \$222,000 of life insurance protection.
- Builds a residual cash or loan account that may be accessed in the future.
- Earns dividends

The number one benefit of this plan is the \$100,000 of cash value at age 65. This happens to be the age when many people think about retiring. So this person could utilize these funds and create their own retirement account with the money. Besides the lump sum option; here are some possible payouts on this amount of money:

1. \$380 lifetime income guaranteed for at least twenty years.
2. \$1,000 per month income for nine and a half years.
3. Or any other combination of time and money that you want to receive.

The secret is to put something away, the amount doesn't matter. This example used \$200/month? A person can use \$50, \$500 or any other number. Your age and the amount of money being deposited will determine the future value. So how much money do you want at retirement age? Remember, all that is going to be there someday when you are older is what you send on ahead now as a younger person.

Tax Advantages of Life Insurance

Insurance is a unique product and as such, it receives some beneficial tax treatment by our government. Some may wonder why but the answers are really very simple. The insurance industry is the largest buyer of bonds in America and in fact they bought more than half of all bonds issued. They invest hundreds of billions of dollars each year which helps our economy. In total the insurance business has \$7.2 trillion dollars invested. There are 781 insurance companies in the U.S. and 76 of them are fraternal organizations. They employ more than 2.6 million people. Other than the federal government, the insurance industry provides more money to American's every day in one form or another. Here are some interesting facts:

- More than \$224 million dollars a day is paid out to people from their annuity accounts.
- More than \$210 million dollars a day is paid out to beneficiaries from life insurance policies.
- Another \$52 million / day in disability benefits and \$3 million/per day for long term care.

The insurance industry is paying almost \$500 million a day to policyholders or about \$182 billion per year. No other business other than the federal government pays out so much money to help people. So what does this mean to you? Believe it or not this favorable treatment finds its way down to us on an individual basis. Here are a few important points to keep in mind when reviewing your life insurance contract.

- The life insurance death benefit when paid to your beneficiary is tax-free.
- The accumulation of cash values year over year grow on a tax-deferred basis. Should you surrender the contract any gain over premiums paid would be taxable.
- A loan against a policy can occur with no tax ramifications.
- Any dividends your policy earns are tax-free. If you dividend option is accumulate with interest than any interest is taxable.
- Insurance proceeds that are paid to a named beneficiary are also probate free since they pass by contract law.



L-R: Bill Rice, a Principal at Messer Financial Group and Jeff DeSantes, NSS Field Management Director attending their top producer summit and marketing our products.

Punography Of The Month:

It's not what happens to you; but how you react to it that matters.

Epictetus – Greek philosopher (50 A.D. – 135 A.D.)

Fraternal Matters...

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



2019 Photo Contest

The 2019 Photo contest deadline is 10-31-19. There are four categories which include Animal, Scenic, Hometown Pride, and Patriotic. Hometown Pride and Patriotic are the two new categories for this year. Limit is one entry per category. Each year we receive awesome photos for this contest. We are excited to see what 2019 will bring!

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is an important time during the year where we honor lives lost, promote early detection, and support those impacted by breast cancer by raising awareness and money for ongoing research. One of the simplest ways to raise awareness is by wearing the pink ribbon. The ribbon represents your support for ongoing research to find a cure for breast cancer. Another easy way to support breast cancer awareness month is by decorating your home or office with pink flowers. Little things such as these are a reminder of loved ones who may have passed, are currently cancer-free, or who are battling the disease today. If you have a family history of breast cancer, we encourage you to take action and make an appointment to visit your doctor. Early detection and prevention are key!



**BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS**

Heritage Museum Donations

If you are interested in helping to support our Heritage Museum and enjoy shopping online at Amazon, we have great news for you! AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a foundation that will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice. The National Slovak Society Heritage Museum is one of the many 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations on the site to select. If interested, please go to smile.amazon.com to sign up before you begin shopping. Once you make an eligible

purchase, 0.5% of the purchase will be donated to the Heritage Museum! AmazonSmile will remember your selection, so the next time you visit the site, you can skip the sign up and just start shopping!

2019 Ornament Contest

The 2019 Christmas Ornament contest deadline is December 1, 2019. It is never too early to start thinking of creative ideas for the perfect ornament! This contest has been a huge success in years past. We are looking forward to another wonderful year!

Happy Halloween

The Skeleton Dance

From *Super Simple Songs - Halloween*

Chorus:

Dem bones, dem bones, dem dancing bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dancing bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dancing bones.
Doin' the skeleton dance.

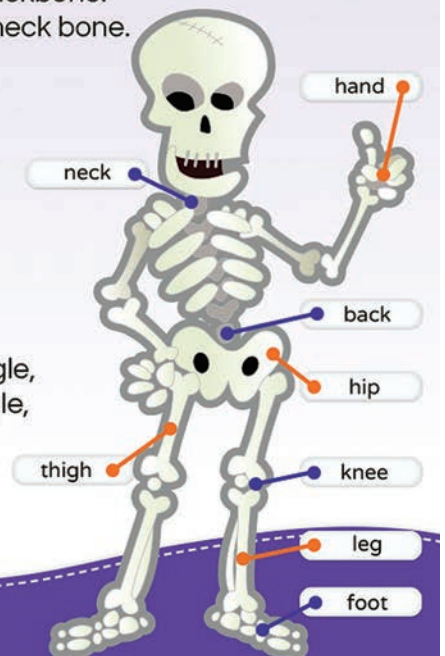
The foot bone's connected to the leg bone.
The leg bone's connected to the knee bone.
The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone.
Doin' the skeleton dance.

The thigh bone's connected to the hip bone.
The hip bone's connected to the backbone.
The backbone's connected to the neck bone.
Doin' the skeleton dance.

Shake your hands to the left.
Shake your hands to the right.
Put your hands in the air.
Put your hands out of sight.

Shake your hands to the left.
Shake your hands to the right.
Put your hands in the air.
Wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle,
wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle, wiggle,
wiggle, wiggle...wiggle your knees.

(repeat chorus)



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Charles Berger, Ersilia Casciao, David Gordon, Nicholas Risko, Marilyn Stephenson:**

Assembly 0123 100.00

In Memory of the **Malik and Hruska Families:**

Maryann Malik..... 100.00

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Here are five 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.

YES, I want to help our young members attain their academic goals.

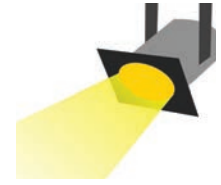
Here is my donation of:

\$ _____

Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

And send to:
National Slovak Society
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Spotlight on New NSS Employees



Hi, my name is David Banks and I am a Customer Service Representative here at NSS Life. Although I have only been with NSS for about 2 months, I have over 14 years of experience in the annuity and defined benefit pension market.

My duties include verifying new annuity applications for accuracy, entering policies into our system, receiving and entering funds to complete policy processing, answering phone calls pertaining to new business and assisting with printing and mailing policies and entering comments into

our system as well as other related duties.

When I am not here at NSS, I am probably spending time with my wife of 11 years, Mindy, and our two children, Sydney, 10, and Austin, 9. My son Austin is very active with both baseball and basketball, which we all enjoy watching him perform. My daughter Sydney is learning to play the violin and we have already seen her perform in 2 recitals, with more to follow.

As a family, we like to travel, often to the Allegheny Mountains near Tionesta, PA where my brother has property and a campground. We like to spend time at the source of the Allegheny River and Tionesta Lake when we are there. Working at NSS Life, "Where family matters," has truly been a gratifying and rewarding experience for me and I look forward to many successful years here.



Hi there! My name is Riley. I just recently joined the NSS team this past August! I am very excited to be a part of this company. I am the Premiums Associate. My day to day tasks include processing payments for premiums, loans and annuities, but I am still learning much more!

I went to Peters Township High School and then attended Davis and Elkins College where I received a scholarship to play soccer until an injury sidelined me. I then transferred to Slippery Rock University and just graduated this past December with a B.S. in Environmental Studies

and Sustainability. I am a huge hockey fan. I love the Pittsburgh Penguins! I also love my Pitahoula puppy, Luna. She is a mix between a Catahoula Leopard Dog and a Pit Bull. Luna is my second rescue because my mom decided she wanted Maggie, the first one I rescued because she is so sweet. I currently reside in Peters Township.

REMiNDER



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.

Fraternal Department



Great News...the NSS Fraternal Department has doubled in size!!! With addition of Amanda Zinn, we've gone from a staff of one to two!! Amanda previously worked as a Customer Service Assistant here at NSS Life for the past four years and now brings her talents over to the Fraternal Department. Welcome Amanda, I'm so happy to have the opportunity to grow the Fraternal Department with you. Amanda is available anytime to answer your questions and help in any way she can. She can be reached at azinn@nsslife.org or 724-731-0094 Ext. 1026.

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

October, 1959

Assembly 160 celebrated its 65th Anniversary with a banquet at the American Slovak Home in Lorain Ohio. Assembly 160 was founded on October 14, 1894. Supreme President John H. Pankuch was the principal speaker at the event. John J. Katricak, President of Assembly 160, served as the chairman of the committee that organized the event. Frank Katricak served as the toastmaster at the banquet.

October, 1969

District #8 held a Golf Jamboree at Springvale Country Club located in North Olmsted, Ohio, on October 9, 1969, with 26 golfers competing. George Joseph had the low gross score of 78. Thaddeus Kusak won the handicap division with a net score of 68.

October, 1979

The National Slovak Society was a part of a history making event in Washington, D.C. on October 6, 1979. Supreme President Joseph Stefka and his wife Kathryn were guests of President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter at a reception at the White House in honor of Pope John Paul's visit. It marked the first time in United States history that a Pope visited the White House.

October, 2009

National Slovak Society National Director Robert Katricak was named the "Fraternalist of the Year" for Ohio by the Ohio Fraternal Congress at its annual meeting on October 3, 2009.

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS August, 2019

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Anaya, Griselda	Crown Point, IN	07/22/2019	0705
Aveni, Doreen	Coraopolis, PA	08/05/2019	0123
Bado, Frank	Racine, WI	08/07/2017	0774
Bailey, Clara	Charleston, WV	08/05/2019	0774
Balogh, Michael J	Herminie, PA	07/15/2019	0737
Biehn, Byron	Union Grove, WI	05/04/2019	0774
Brennan, Bernard	Aliquippa, PA	05/14/2018	0588
Burnett, Donald	Rehobeth, MA	06/04/2019	0731
Caplan, William	Pittsburgh, PA	08/05/2019	0774
Cole, William	Pittsburgh, PA	03/28/2019	0108
Cook, Mary Lou	Marion, OH	06/22/2019	0595
Delane, Raymond	Summerfield, FL	07/15/2019	0377
Dwyer, Marcella	East Hartford, CT	06/15/2019	L002
Ehland, Ronald	Pittsburgh, PA	04/25/2019	0434
Gethoefer, Josephine	St Petersburg, FL	07/18/2019	0813
Gorman, Bernice	Shermans Dale, PA	04/26/2016	0267
Hazlinsky, Elizabeth	Irwin, PA	03/25/2019	0737
Hoggatt, Dorothy	Fort Myers, FL	07/14/2019	0800
Hughes, Pearl	Beckley, WV	06/20/2019	0774
Jelus, Alma Betty	Mount Carmel, PA	07/28/2019	0774
Johnson, Barbara A	Bethel Park, PA	07/15/2019	0434
Kapustik, Richard	WestLake, OH	01/27/2019	0432
Knight, J Richard	McKeesport, PA	06/14/2019	0108
Knight, Verna	McKeesport, PA	02/24/2019	0108
Kondas, Andrew	Windber, PA	02/10/2019	0774
Kozuch, Elizabeth	McLean, VA	12/01/2018	L102
Lauko, Emil	Swansea, IL	07/31/2019	0705
Lawson, Mary	Plymouth, MI	07/12/2019	0381
Ligi, Christine	Madison Heights, MI	07/22/2019	0381
Little, Albert	Jeannette, PA	05/13/2019	0737
Livengood, Mary	Butler, PA	07/13/2019	0123
Loring, Richard	Oil City, PA	06/07/2019	0554
Mazur, Richard	Baden, PA	08/15/2019	0123
McFadden, Evelyn	Grove City, PA	07/08/2019	0731
Milholland, Don	Greensboro, NC	02/12/2018	0774
Minno, Joseph	Monessen, PA	01/29/2019	0377
Morrow, Ralph E	Moon Twp, PA	06/25/2019	L161
Novak, Mary	Middleburg Hts., OH	07/15/2019	0039
Phillips, Patricia	Diamond Bar, CA	07/20/2019	0568
Pollack, Goldie	Duquesne, PA	06/20/2019	0108
Povse, Virginia	Pittsburgh, PA	06/05/2019	L105
Redshaw, Ruth	Monroeville, PA	04/23/2019	L161
Rother, Rodger	Pasadena, CA	07/10/2019	0568
Rubrake, Kenneth	Columbia City, IN	06/10/2019	0705
Scott, Jack	Round Lake Park, IL	05/11/2019	0586
Silverio, Sandra	McKeesport, PA	05/30/2019	0108
Smith, Sr., Lyle C	Corry, PA	08/07/2019	0774
Steinbeck, Crystal	Youngstown, OH	05/30/2019	0731
Stroud, Catherine	Cabot, PA	08/14/2019	0774
Tomaskovic, Jr., Joseph	Darien, IL	08/05/2019	0586
Ulizio, Louis	Rochester, PA	04/30/2019	0123
Webb, Julian K	Columbia, SC	07/20/2019	0774
Zoscak, Joseph	Glassport, PA	07/09/2019	0813



Witches' Brew

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the words in the grid. Look for them in all directions, including diagonally and backwards. Use the words to make up the ingredient list for Macbeth's witches' brew.

- ADDER'S, BAT, BLIND
- WORM'S, DOG, DRAGON,
- EYE, FENNY SNAKE, FILET,
- FORK, FROG, HEMLOCK, LEG,
- LIZARD, MUMMY, NEWT,
- ROOT, SALT SEA, SCALES,
- SHARK, SLIP, STING, TOAD,
- TOE, TONGUE, TOOTH,
- WITCH'S, WOLF, WOOL, YEW

S	L	I	P	C	N	E	W	T	L	C	O	R	S	U	A	F	Z	L	M	I
L	O	L	A	T	V	N	G	R	I	G	O	R	F	W	O	D	F	S	T	T
T	F	X	Z	Q	L	T	P	V	Z	R	N	W	O	V	T	O	R	A	G	O
M	U	L	E	I	N	N	H	C	A	U	S	O	E	N	R	V	F	L	E	O
L	J	A	R	O	D	N	D	U	R	U	L	S	R	K	F	Q	D	T	W	T
U	Z	Q	O	L	Y	E	W	A	D	O	A	O	N	E	L	J	L	S	C	H
O	R	F	D	D	B	Z	W	T	V	M	R	B	T	M	I	W	F	E	R	B
U	I	M	N	Q	N	W	W	O	Q	H	Y	Y	Z	W	Z	I	E	A	R	G
M	Q	L	J	S	Y	X	S	A	J	S	U	X	T	A	M	T	T	O	X	N
A	E	O	P	N	N	E	B	D	S	U	M	T	V	L	T	C	U	T	T	I
G	S	K	E	Q	Y	W	L	E	H	G	Y	R	S	A	P	H	A	A	E	T
D	Y	R	U	N	W	F	M	R	K	T	V	C	O	J	G	S	Q	B	L	S
B	S	A	U	B	C	Z	I	I	P	A	A	F	Q	W	O	J	N	G	I	A
Y	K	P	M	M	D	F	L	F	I	L	N	G	X	H	D	S	B	H	F	X
N	C	O	J	T	K	R	W	W	E	D	B	S	Y	X	N	N	T	O	O	R
O	O	A	W	Q	O	V	O	S	R	M	U	G	Y	H	I	B	I	J	Q	S
G	L	U	R	I	F	N	T	L	B	Z	O	Y	U	N	Z	Z	V	L	N	R
A	M	E	S	Y	Y	Q	G	W	P	J	V	X	Y	U	N	V	A	B	B	E
R	E	M	U	M	M	Y	A	U	O	L	L	C	H	B	X	E	S	G	I	D
D	H	K	R	A	H	S	A	U	E	A	C	U	M	W	O	L	F	X	R	D
H	R	Q	T	T	O	Y	R	D	N	Y	C	A	Z	K	E	Y	E	N	W	A

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ | |



Halloween Jokes

What would you get if you crossed a vampire and a teacher?

Lots of blood tests!

Why did Dracula's mother give him cough medicine?

Because he was having a coffin fit.

What did Dr. Frankenstein get when he put a goldfish brain in the body of his dog?

I don't know, but it is great at chasing submarines.

Why wasn't there any food left after the monster party?'

Cos everyone was a goblin.

Why did the vampire's lunch give him heartburn?

It was a stake sandwich.

Dracula decided he need a dog, which breed did he choose?

A bloodhound.

What would you call the ghost of a door-to-door salesman?

A dead ringer.

What do skeletons always order at a restaurant?

Spare ribs!

Who was the most famous French skeleton?

Napoleon bone-apart.

Who won the skeleton beauty contest?

No body.

What is a vampires favorite holiday?

Fangsgiving.

What do skeletons say before they begin dining?

Bone appetite!

What is a ghouls favorite drink?

Slime juice

What does Mrs Ghost serve for dessert?

Ice scream.

What do fishermen say on Halloween?

'Trick-or-trout!'

Where do spooks go to post a parcel?

The ghost office.

What did the vampire say to the Invisible Man?

'Long time, no see!'

Why is Dracula so unpopular?

Because he's a pain in the neck!

What runs around a cemetery but doesn't move?

A fence!

Why do demons and ghouls hang out together?

Because demons are a ghouls best friend! (Diamonds ... Girls!)

What did the mother ghost say her children?

'Don't spook until you're spoken to.'

Halloween Milk Jugs Ghosts Project

Items needed for this project:

- Empty Milk jugs
- Sharpie marker
- Pencil
- Knife
- Rocks
- Mini-lights

1. Clean out your empty milk jug.
2. Draw out your Halloween face using a pencil and then complete the face with a permanent sharpie marker. The big one called the Sharpie Pro works very well for this.
3. On the opposite side of the face, cut a 3 sided opening flap just about 2 inches wide and 2 inches tall.
4. Place a few rocks in the bottom of your milk jugs to weigh them down. They are so light that if someone bumps them they will fall. Or if you place them outdoors you don't want them to blow away.
5. In the same opening, add part of the string of lights in it. Then lead the lights to the next opening. You can add about 5 to 7 lights in each jug.

That's it! You have super cute Milk jug Halloween decorations for your home! Enjoy!



Brain Jello Recipe

This brain Jello recipe will scare and delight your guests. Once you learn how to make the gross-yet-cool brain using this set of simple instructions, you can adapt it to suit your tastes. Many people like green brains, for example, in which case you'd simply substitute the strawberry flavor with lime. You can also use peach- or watermelon-flavored gelatin to get a more "natural-looking" brain.



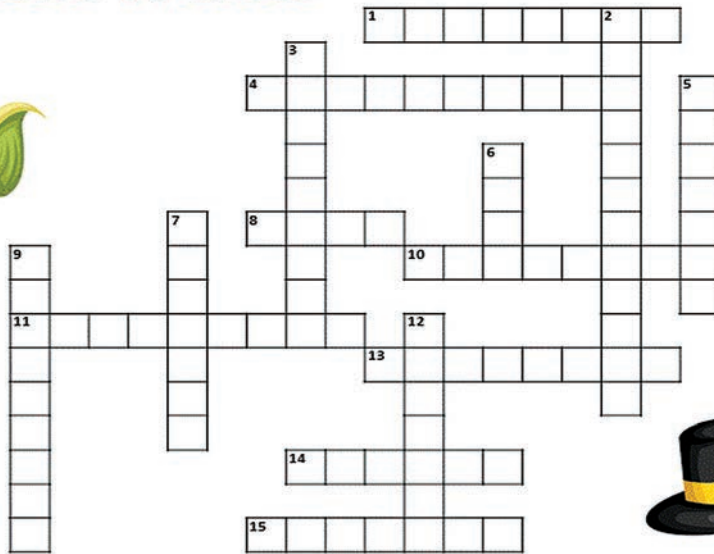
Ingredients

- 1 (3-ounce) package strawberry Jello
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 2 cups frozen whipped topping (thawed)

Steps to Make It

1. Spray a brain Jello mold or brain ice cube mold with cooking spray.
2. Mix the gelatin and boiling water, stirring until all crystals are completely dissolved. Stir in cold water. Place mixture in the refrigerator for 1 hour—you want the Jello to be thickened but not firm.
3. Beat whipped topping into thickened Jello with an electric mixer until well-incorporated. Pour the mixture into the brain mold, leaving about 1 inch between the top of the Jello and the top of the mold.
4. Place brain mold in a dish with sides, such as an 8x8-inch dish or a pie pan, to stabilize it and return to the refrigerator. Refrigerate Jello brain mold until firm, between 4 and 24 hours.
5. Run a knife around the edges of the mold to loosen. Invert the brain mold onto a plate and serve.
6. Enjoy!

Thanksgiving Crossword



Across

1. First village established by the Pilgrims
4. Symbol of abundance and nourishment
8. An essential grain in the New World diet
10. Literally, travelers going to a holy place
11. The Pilgrims' boat
13. 16th and 17th century English Protestants
14. The traditional holiday bird
15. Indian who taught the Pilgrims many things

Down

2. 4th Thursday of November
3. A traditional Indian dwelling
5. Gathering of crops
6. Season for harvesting
7. Country the Pilgrims left behind
9. Indian tribe that was present at the first Thanksgiving
12. Bright orange squash used to make pie



Turkey Muffins

What you need:

- Pumpkin muffins
- Red apple
- Green apple
- Sliver of carrot
- Squeezable icing-eyes

From each apple, cut a slice from the side of the apple. Set flat and cut squared-off, tapered feathers. Cut a small beak from a thin slice of carrot. Make a slit in the end of a green grape and dab off excess moisture. Insert beak into grape. Poke small ends of feathers into muffin and set head on muffin, resting on the muffin paper.

Once assembled, add tiny dot eyes with icing.

Pumpkin Rice Krispie Treats

Traditional Rice Krispies treats are tinted orange, shaped into rounds and topped with a pretzel stick and shaped green candy, such as airheads (or green fondant). Servings: 6

Ingredients

- 6 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- 1 (10 oz) pkg. mini marshmallows
- 3 pretzel rods, end portions broken off into 2-inch pieces (6 pieces)
- 6 mini green airheads or green fondant
- Non-stick cooking spray
- 3 Tbsp salted butter
- Orange gel food coloring

Instructions

Measure out Rice Krispies cereal and pour into a bowl. Melt butter in a 4 quart non-stick saucepan or pot over medium-low heat. Add marshmallows and stir and as they begin to melt start adding in the gel food coloring until desired color is achieved. Stir constantly until marshmallows have melted.

Remove from heat then immediately pour in Rice Krispies cereal and gently stir and fold with a spatula until cereal is evenly coated. Let mixture cool slightly (until it's cool enough to handle with your hands). Spray hands with non-stick cooking spray then shape Rice Krispie treat mixture into balls about the size of a baseball, then insert 1 piece of the pretzel rod into the top center and reshape the pumpkin as needed. Transfer to a plate or dish sprayed lightly with cooking spray. Beginning on one side of the airhead candy cut out a leaf shape with clean scissors then use the remaining portion of the piece of candy to roll and shape into a thin rope shape then twist into a vine shape (or just shape the fondant accordingly, no cutting required).

Place candy on the sides of each pretzel on the pumpkin (as pictured). Repeat with remaining candy. Store in an airtight container.



Pom-Pom Turkeys

Here's what you'll need:

- Yarn {brown}
- Pipe cleaners for the legs
- Colored foam for the feathers, beak, and wattle
- Googly-eyes
- Hot glue



Let's get started! First we're going to make the pom-pom. You are going to wind the yarn around your hand or fingers until you have the desired density. Pull the yarn off and lay it on top of a piece of yarn that you will use to tie up the bundle. Place the pipe cleaner across the bundle the opposite direction of the piece of yarn. This will be the turkey legs and we want it nice and secure. Pull up the piece of yarn from both sides and tie VERY TIGHTLY several times. Flip the bundle over and repeat.

Next we are going to cut the loops. Slide scissors

up under the loops and cut all the way around. Loops will hide so be on the lookout for them! After you have all the loops cut it's time to make the feet. Use a second pipe cleaner to form the feet and twist the legs pipe cleaner around the feet to secure.



Hand Prints

Now it's time for the fun part! Place their hand on the colored foam and trace around your hand. Cut out the hand and use it for a template to cut out two other colors of foam.



Glue the hand prints together, fanning them out slightly to create the look of turkey feathers. Glue the hand prints to the back of the turkey.

Now it's time to add the googly eyes. Cut out a yellow or orange triangle for the beak and use red foam for the wattle. And you're done! So cute right? There are also eyes with eyelashes! Pom Pom Turkeys are a fun and easy craft for Thanksgiving!



Maze

Find your way thru your milkshake. You know you can do it.



ASSEMBLY 004 Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at Sonia Vorell's, 18088 Boston Road, Strongsville, Ohio at 2:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 039 Uniontown, PA

Our "Annual Christmas Party" will be held on Sunday, **December 1st** at 1:00 pm. NSS Board Member Susan Ondrejco and her husband, Rudy, will present a program celebrating our Slovak heritage along with some Slovak dancers.

Congratulations to Abigail Urban who won 3rd Place in the Poetry Contest. We would like to see more members participate in the contests. You could be a winner and earn a little extra \$\$\$ and gain points for our assembly.

The Photo contest has been extended to **October 31st**.

Start gathering your thoughts and ideas for the *Ornament Contest*. The deadline is **December 1st, 2019**. All of the information is elsewhere in this issue.

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY RO59 Bethlehem, PA

We are well into Autumn now. School has opened and routines have returned!

Events and meetings for the remainder of 2019 are:

October 20th - Hot Dog Luncheon, Proceeds to the Allenton Rescue Mission and a meeting afterwards at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church;
November (entire month) - One Can Can help Food Drive; and on **December 8th** - Meeting at Keysock residence. Additional information, please call 610-262-2045.

Michelle Guydan
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

We would love to see you on Saturday **October 19th** at 9:30 am at the World Vision Warehouse in Sewickley really Aleppo township. We will spend a few hours here doing a little packing, and then we will have lunch at Eat N Park and have a brief business meeting. This is perfect volunteer fraternalism. Are there any high school students who need hours of community service to graduate? Well, join us and get a free lunch.

It has been decided that we are having the Assembly Christmas Party and Luncheon on Sunday, **December 15th** at Carmody's Restaurant at 4905 Grand Ave, Neville Island. The time is 1:00 pm. If you plan on coming only bring smiles and \$10 per member of Assembly 123. Guests, non-members, are welcome but their cost is \$25. If you plan on coming you must let Mary Maniecki know before December 1st and make arrangements with her about paying. There will be a buffet dinner with plenty of food. There is a cash bar. Also, they have many T.V.s if you choose to watch the Steeler game. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The Assembly received a few thank you notes from our PVR scholarship recipients. We certainly appreciate that. Please remember that those two words: "Thank You", may get you further in life than some of what you learn in college and it costs so little.

Speaking of cost, I went to buy a candy bar and it was \$1.99, say two dollars. Wow, I remember working in my father's grocery store and selling the same candy bar, slightly bigger, for five cents. What does that tell you? I'm old, yes it was over fifty years ago but will that same candy bar fifty years from now cost \$40? What I'm getting at is that things in the future will cost more than they do today, maybe a lot more. So, you better start planning and saving now. One good way is with a safe NSS annuity. You could put this annuity in a Roth IRA and you have tax deferred growth and tax free withdrawals. If you are interested you can call me at 724-242-5085, or Bill Del Monaco at 412-264-7268.

Last month I wrote about Ty Robbins, ten years old, who had won the Northeastern Water Ski Championship. He went to the National finale in Florida. Ty came in first in the Slalom portion and second overall for his age group. There are two other portions of the contest, tricks and ski jump.

CONGRATULATIONS TY!!

Enjoy this month as we slip into autumn with all its beautiful colors. Best wishes to any members celebrating a birthday or anniversary this month, may it be special.

A big hearty BOO! To any of you Halloween buffs.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 377 Bentleyville, PA

A meeting will be held on **October 6th**, at China City Buffet in Washington, PA at 3:00 pm, and mark your calendar for our holiday party, **December 1st** at Cannon's Chophouse, Canonsburg, PA at 3:00 pm.

Please call Suzanne at 724-207-3171(new number) for any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 381 Grosse Ile, MI

A meeting will be held on Saturday, **December 21, 2019** at Sibley Gardens, 916 West Jefferson, Trenton, Michigan, at 4:00 pm. Please call Joanne Medved at 734-676-2199 to reserve.

Joanne Medved
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 432 Fairview Park, OH

A meeting will be held on **October 7, 2019** at Dave and Marty Pytel's at 7:00 pm.

(continued next page)

ASSEMBLY 432 Fairview Park, OH

Please join us on **October 27th** for our NEW Fall Festival at Rockin - R - Ranch, 9066 State Route 252, Columbia Station, Ohio 44028. 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. Costume characters, music, kids activities, hayrides, free pumpkin, face painting, etc. Food and beverages will be provided. **YOU MUST RSVP NO LATER THAN October 21, 2019.**
Bill Shuttleworth - (440) 465-6024 or Teri Hudak - (440) 888-8595; or Dave Pytel - (440) 777-4054.

Bring the kids for a guaranteed fun time!

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 554 Curwensville, PA

A meeting will be held on **October 5, 2019** at Jim Stricek's house, 135 McCullough Street, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm. For more information, contact Jim Stricek at (814) 590-7021 or at assembly554@gmail.com

Jim Stricek
Secretary-Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 586 Chicago, IL

Our next meeting and activity will be held on **October 12, 2019** (tentatively) at Home Run Inn, Darien, IL at 11:45 am. This will be a fund-and items-gathering activity for our troops.

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 617/C617 Ashley, PA

Assembly 617 will hold a Join Hands Day at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen, 39 East Jackson St., Wilkes Barre on **October 30th** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Assembly members will help prepare and serve at the kitchen. The assembly will also help cover the cost of the meal for that day. Make plans to attend and help.

Members are asked to call John Kurilla at 570-287-4163 if they plan to attend and for more information.

John Kurilla
Vice President

ASSEMBLY 731 Lowellville, OH

Mark your calendar for our current events:

Halloween Party at Georgeanna Parker Center in Boardman Park - Sunday, **October 27th**, 6:00-8:00 pm.

Meeting and Christmas craft at Boardman Library - Sunday, **November 10th**, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Christmas Party, Boardman Park Stambaugh Room, Saturday, **December 7th**, 1:00-3:30 pm.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 737 Westmoreland County, PA

Our next meeting will be held on **October 5, 2019** at the home of Carol Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm.

Mark your calendars for **November 30, 2019** at 1:00 pm for a Christmas party following our meeting at Carol Godor's. If you plan on attending please call Carol at 724-863-9662 by November 22nd, so we can plan accordingly.

We will be having election of officers as well as discussion about events for the year.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

Region 2 will sponsor a Matching Funds Event to help raise money for the SPCA of Luzerne County. The event "Bone Appetit" will take place on Sunday, **November 3, 2019** from 4:00 to 9:00 pm at the Woodlands Inn and Resort PA, 315 Wilkes Barre, PA. Single tickets and reserved tables for 8 will be available. This event highlights fabulous food from local restaurants and wineries throughout our community and live music. Please come out and help us support this "Purrfect" event.

Also in support of the function Assembly L075 will be sponsoring a table. The SPCA will place our Name and Logo at the event and in it's video presentation.

For tickets you may contact Marlin Petro Wesnak via email at: marlinsamimadi@yahoo.com from now till October 13, 2019.

Region 2 will also sponsor a matching funds event to help raise money for St Cats and Dogs of Nay Aug on Sunday, **November 10, 2019**. A Purse Bingo will be held at the Eagle McClure Hose company in Old Forge, PA. Tickets are \$20 in advance and doors open at 11:00 am and BINGO starts at 1:00 pm.

For tickets you may contact Marlin Petro Wesnak by October 13th, 2019. You may also contact us on Facebook NSS Life Region 2.

Marlin Petro Wesnak
Secretary

REGION 5 Pittsburgh, PA

The Fall meeting will be held on Sunday, **October 13, 2019** at the NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm. Plans for Region 5 activities for the remainder of 2019 will be discussed. All assemblies in Region 5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
President
Region 5

REGION 8 Cleveland, OH

Region #8 (Assemblies #4, 70, 160, & 432) will be holding their semi-annual meeting on **October 16, 2019** at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 7:30 pm.

Please plan on attending this meeting as we will be setting activities for 2020.

Assembly #4 will be hosting this meeting.

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary
Region 8

Assembly L102

Fraternal Honorary President of the FSWFE Justine Wesnak posing with L102's two newest members, Hudson Gross and mom Abby, National Director and MacKenna Althouse and mom Kylie who are Justine's great-granddaughter and great-great granddaughter.



We had a great turnout for our annual summer picnic. Our group from L102 supporting breast cancer awareness with a matching funds.



Assembly L102 welcomes our newest member, MacKenna Jade Althouse. She is the daughter of member Kylie. She has a big brother Jameson and a big sister Lilliana, who are also members. MacKenna was born on July 26, 2019.

Assembly 617/C617

Fraternal Day for our assembly was held at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pennsylvania on August 8, 2019. The assembly provided hoagies, bottled water, and ride tickets to members. Members also brought desserts, and snacks to share with the group. We were happy to have Father John Ostrowski, a member of our assembly, join us from El Salvador. The assembly supports Father Ostrowski's mission with a Matching Funds project. Father John thanked the assembly for the support given, and gave a brief review of the mission's activities.

A brief assembly meeting was held to update members on past activities of the assembly and future activities. It was a great fun, family and fraternal day.



Matching Fund

Assembly 617 held a Matching Fund Basket Raffle through the month of July and the first week of August for the Mission in El Salvador. Our member Father John Ostrowski has been serving in El Salvador for the Cleveland Latin American Mission Team at San Pedro Parish in Teatepeque. Father John has witnessed the extensive poverty in that area of the world. Our Matching Fund will help the people with their life struggles. Father has expressed to us the great value of our support.

The drawing of the winners was held on August 9, 2019. We wish to thank everyone who donated baskets, purchased tickets and gave cash donation for this worthy cause.

John Kurilla
Vice President

Congratulations to Ty Robbins Assembly 0123

Ty Robbins took **First Place as National Champion Water Ski Slalom Division** recently in Florida. He is the son of Doug and Cynda Robbins and also a member of Assembly 0123. The NSS is so proud of you and your accomplishments. We can not imagine how hard you have worked, and hours you have spent practicing. Keep in touch with the NSS about all of your accomplishments. Congratulations Ty, and keep up the good work!!



Assembly 0039



After our meeting our Stuffers Club were enjoying themselves stuffing our assembly envelopes. This is what I call "Fraternalism."

Region 5 Picnic



Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr. NSS Honorary Director Passes On



Our dad died on Monday morning, August 5. He was so tough and survived so many hospital admissions that we were sure he had nine lives, then 18, then 27, until he finally gave up. Joe Tomaskovic was born in his parents' flat at 38th and Sacramento on the southwest side of Chicago. No fancy hospital for him. Later his brother, Frank, and sister, Irene, made them a family of five.

Joe turned out to be a very tall, very strong boy who was able to push his dad down the block in a wagon when he was just 18 months old. Had lots of adventures in his schools, driving through his neighborhood at age 12 and taking the streetcar to Chicago's ball parks with the Knothole Club.

His dad's youngest sister had settled in Endicott, NY. Joe Sr. loved having a good car to drive with his family to New York state to visit Mary and her large family. The young first cousins always had fun spending time together, whether in New York picnicking, swimming and enjoying lots of soft drinks from Uncle Alex's soda bottling company or visiting in Chicago and taking day trips to Riverview Amusement Park. Dad told us of times when they had to stop the car on the way back from NY to pick mushrooms with his mother, who was a mushroom identification expert, as most Slovak women were. Their car would be loaded with mushrooms in the trunk, on the dash and even on the back deck of the car, all the way home.

Joe went to St. Procopius High School for Boys in the faraway town of Lisle, sleeping in the attic dormitory with the other boarding students. He didn't distinguish himself as a model student, but he was a star baseball player. The St. Louis Cardinals scouted him but the world at war had other designs on America's young men. On December 8, 1941 Joe and three other students cut classes and hitchhiked to the recruiting station in nearby Naperville, Illinois. They were promptly told to finish school and come back in a year and a half.

After transferring to and graduating high school from St. Rita, a local Chicago Catholic high school, Joe was drafted into the U.S. Navy, attending boot camp at Great Lakes and chosen to attend Navy gunnery school because of his marksmanship skill. Fate intervened as the Navy lost huge numbers of medics on Guadalcanal and Joe was diverted to corpsman school.



He was trained as a hospital corpsman and served at Naval Station Honolulu. A short hitch on the aircraft carrier Saratoga CV-3 followed, then he had a longer assignment at Naval Air Station Johnston Island in the far western Pacific. He would later regale his kids with tales of his escapades in the Navy, high school and his amateur driving experiences as well. He was always able to entertain an audience with his stories.

Studies at the University of Illinois funded by the GI Bill followed for Joe, where he lived in a Quonset hut under the stadium bleachers with fellow former GI's. He told us how he would occasionally enjoy a Steak 'n Shake burger and Chili Mac three ways.

Joe's aspirations to be an architect lasted only a year, however, as his father needed him and his brother Frank in the family's carpentry and general contracting business. They both rose through the ranks as apprentices, journeymen and master carpenters. Joseph Tomaskovic & Sons General Contractors built hundreds of fine custom homes in the Chicago and Northwest Indiana area as well as doing commercial and industrial carpentry and home renovation, additions and repairs.

Joe met his future wife, Irene Antol, in 1950 at a dance at Stefanik Hall in Chicago and was prompted to ask her to dance by his dad, who loved the idea of Joe going out with a Slovak girl. They were engaged five months later and were married on September 17, 1950, in the Antol's Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church.

They started a family, having three children, Janet, Eric and John, all of whom were raised in the Lutheran denomination at Joe's wish. Being the parent who was the point of the spear, he drove us to Sunday school and attended church with us every week. Or, we attended church with him. It seemed that every Sunday we had to race to Sunday school in order to arrive on time, listening on the AM car radio to the end of the Czechoslovak Radio Hour. If we heard the beginning of Chet Schaefer's Polka Hit Parade, we knew we had made ourselves late again.

When his father passed away in 1966 Joe continued doing his job of carpenter and ran the business end of the company, spending long evening hours estimating and figuring jobs and doing tons of paperwork. His mother, Veronika Kmetko, was lost and lonely without having her husband at home so her eldest son made it his responsibility to visit every weekday evening and weekends to do repairs, take her shopping and keep her company.

Having been raised by Slovak parents who had taught their own first-generation American kids how to survive the Great Depression, we, Joe Jr.'s family, lived frugally but always well and always had the best-built house on the block, built by our dad and his brother and their dad, too. Because of work there weren't too many vacations taken and certainly none involving train or air travel or trips to Disneyland. But we were able to roam our neighborhood without fear, so we spent summers outside on our bikes and often in our cousins' pool or our other cousins' neighbor's pool.

Our dad loved to build and make things for us. He could build anything and we received many gifts of bookcases, doll house, multi-level garages with working pulley-driven elevator and in our backyard, a large playhouse on a con-

(continued on next page)

crete slab with real windows, shingled roof and Dutch door. If it had been insulated we could have lived in our playhouse.

We have lots of memories of playing in that back yard in Chicago, planting tomatoes and cucumbers in the black garden soil that Dad and Grandma Antol had amended over the years with garden sludge hauled in bushel baskets from afar. Joe and his mother-in-law collaborated on many projects including fermenting their own sauerkraut, making sausage, painting and wallpapering kitchens, bathrooms and also the rooms in that dollhouse. They had nice, agreeable relationships, Joe and his in-laws. On one of the very early vacations we did take to Michigan, there were five of us; Dad, mom, three-year-old kid, mother-in-law and his sister-in-law, Evelyn. Good times.

Our Dad was a great joiner who belonged to many fraternal organizations. His own father had belonged to the National Slovak Society for many years and so did his sons and his daughter, also an Irene, and each of his nine grandchildren belong with their parents. Joe Jr. was a member of Assembly 586, the national Supreme Tribunal, a National Director for many years, then a lifetime honorary director. He was very passionate about the NSS, always championing the importance of keeping our Slovak heritage alive as well as fighting against injustice encountered during the NSS's old days.

Joe loved to travel to conventions and speak his mind during business sessions. He founded the Chicago NSS bowling league in the late 1940s and organized the 10 teams that bowled every Friday night. Many tournaments were bowled, traveling in cars or vans with teammates to Pennsylvania, Ohio and Las Vegas. They had BIG fun over the years.

To his Catholic mother's chagrin, Joe became a Mason, a Master Mason, then a Medinah Shriner, belonging to the group's Chanter's singing group. He was a member of the Judd Kendall VFW Post, the Czechoslovak Society of America and several other Slavic fraternal organizations, too.

In the late 1990s Joe and Irene joined Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (OSLC) in Naperville, which city happened to be sister city to Nitra, Slovakia. One Sunday while attending service, a man named Gene Ryan addressed the congregation about his calling to help to build a church in Nitra. Joe, Irene and daughter Janet enthusiastically made the trip in 1999.

The OSLC pastors were right - mission trips change your life. The Tomaskovics would travel on five missions, expanding from Nitra to Martin, Slovakia, helping build a Bible college, Lutheran elementary school, bringing clothing to orphanages in both cities and helping to create a beautiful back yard from a jungle at a women and children's shelter. We were happy to have such fulfilling travel experiences, even if the locations we saw were not the glamorous European tourist cities; the people we met on mission trips always made us feel welcome and at home in their homes and churches.

Besides building things, our dad loved to play Slovak songs on his record player, later a cassette player. One of his best-ever experiences in life happened at the Slovak wedding of the dean of the Bible College in Martin, SK, where he was able to sing and dance those favorite folk

songs to a Gypsy band with pals Adrian and Bohdan. He danced a little too enthusiastically for his age but knew all the lyrics.

After learning to work in stained glass and setting up shop in his basement making suncatchers, windows, lampshades, vases and other objects, he began his last project of making small glass crosses, which he brought to church for a meeting of our mission group. He proudly gave one to each person who would be traveling. They were a success and from then on, Joe would hit the cross factory in his basement shop every evening, cutting, grinding, foiling and soldering literally thousands of crosses, some made from glass rescued from windows in the old Bethany church that became the site of Celebration in Naperville. He also made countless trips to the art glass store for more glass, foil, tools and solder. He never accepted payment for any of the 5,000-plus crosses Irene estimates he'd made over 15 years which he happily gave away. He especially loved to give a cross to a child after church service. Joe volunteered at Hinsdale Hospital, too, always giving a cross to a new mom and baby he would wheel out as they left for home.

Another special glass project he loved to spend hours working on was the brain child of his friend and fellow mission worker, Jan Dusek. The group of glass aficionados she organized and taught spent many weeks creating a large mosaic glass cross of pieces of many colors. It stands catching the sunlight in a window of the Celebration church.

Always a history buff, the ability to visit the land of his ancestors was a dream come true for Joe; on one side trip away from work projects we visited some Tomaskovics in the village of Šintava, Joe's dad's birthplace. The only person at home that afternoon was 20-year-old Lucia, who was suspicious of strange Americans claiming to be relatives. She finally believed us and brought out a family photo album with pictures of ourselves and our Chicago Tomaskovic family pasted to its pages. Later that evening her parents came to the goulash party we were attending. Peter had brought the photo album and removed two pictures of Joe's grandparents for us to take home with us. Dad was beside himself with happiness that day, finding Slovak relatives some of his family's history. His home office housed a collection of books about Slovakia, which grew with every trip to Europe.

After his traveling days came to an end, he survived several trips to the ER, hospital admittances and nursing home stays for physical therapy. He was tough as nails, mostly, but lost a little of himself with each medical event. Dad had been happily surprised when he actually made it past his 55th birthday, because he had a premonition that 55 would be the end of his road. His parents died at 69 and 75, so he was happy to have reached his 70th year, his 80th, when we had a big Bohemian restaurant party, and his 90th. He was the last surviving member of his family at age 94 at his most recent birthday on May 3. He was one of the Greatest Generation and finally surrendered on the morning of August 5. We know he's with God and has been reunited with his dear parents, brother and sister, parents-in-law and brothers-in-law. We'll all miss him but we know that he's not in pain anymore and is very, very joyful.

First Place Poetry Contest Winners

Summer

Summer is sand between your toes,
Kennywood fries,
And chlorine in your eyes.

Summer is cool
Like the waves
In a sea-blue wave pool.

Summer is fun at Kennywood Park
On the soaking Pittsburgh Plunge
And scary Noah's Ark.

Summer is playing with a friend,
Lemonade stands with cousins,
And memories that never end.

Madelyn Hill
C-161, Age 7

Super Squirting

Squirting my Pappy is so much fun.
My Super Soaker makes him run.
At last, when I am all done,
he needs to sit and dry in the sun.

Carson Bernardo
C-588, Age 9

The Family Toolbox

My family is a toolbox,
Strong and useful.
My Mother is the nails,
Holding everything in place.
My Dad is a screwdriver,
Willing to fix all problems.
Ella is the box,
Always thinking she is most useful.
Alexa is a drill,
Loud but always there.
My dog Roxy is a battery,
Small, but often helpful.
My puppy Boone is a handsaw,
Sharp and quick.
I am sandpaper,
Tough on one side, soft on the other.
Working as a team,
We accomplish all things together.

Chloe Woods
C-434, Age 13

Free

First Amendment protects

Principle that supports

Freedom of Expression

Everyone has the right to hold opinion

Censorship

Cherish the right to Freedom of Speech

Participation "people-power"

Right to speak and the right to be heard

Entrusted in our Constitutional Law

Opinion

Expression through various media

Societies that are hopeful

People are treated equally

Culture support

Individuals act voluntarily

Freedom to obtain power

To fulfill their own potential

Humanity



Mason Kraeer
C-377, Age 14

Október—Dožinkové Slávnosti

Po ukončení zozbierania všetkého obyľia ženci a žnice urobili z obyľia krásny veniec a odovzdali ho hospodárovi so slovami:

Milý pán hospodár, milá pani hospodárka, už sme vám požali, kde ste len čo mali. Keď sme to spravili, veniec sme uvili, s ním sa k vám ponáhľali, ako sme vládali. By sme vám s láskou odovzdali tento dar. By ste boli toľko rokov zdravi, koľko je v tomto venci trávy, by ste mali toľko pekných dietkov, koľko je v tomto venci kvietkov. By ste nám dali toľko litrov piva, koľko oči sa tu na vás díva, by nás pani hospodinka obdarila aspoň súdkom vinka. Preto milý náš pán hospodár, primijte vdačne tento od nás dar.

A veru aká bola žatva taký bude i „Chlieb nás každodenný“... Dala by sa o ňom napísať báseň, zložiť pieseň, či len povedať niekoľko obyčajných slov. Lebo zrod chleba bol oddávna veľkým tajomstvom. Spomeňme si na našich predkov, ktorí skôr ako začali žať, pokľakli a pomodlili sa. Keď začínali krájať chleba - prežehnali ho a skôr ako ho vložili do úst ho pobozkali. Chlieb nebol len jedlom, ale vždy aj „Božím darom“, nemali by sme na toto zabúdať ani dnes.



Slovensky Festival pri Univerzite Pittsburg

Pozývame, slovákov a slovenky na slovenský festival pri pittsburghskej univerzite ktorý bude 3-teho novembra. Pripravuje ho Slavik Department a študenti Slovenského štúdia.

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

Pri tejto univerzite je založená i slovenská základňa ktorú financuje 5 slovenských organizácii vrátane našej NSS.

Vstupné na festival je zdarma, prebieha od obeda do 5-tej po obede. Môžete obdivovať výstavu slovenských vecí, ochutnať jedlá na slovenský spôsob a prípadne si i zaspievať počas vystúpenia slovenských súborov.



Stretnutie sa Slovákov v Pittsburgu

Oznamujeme Slovákom a Slovenkám a priateľom Slovákov, že výbor Rádio Clubu západnej PA pripravuje stretnutie sa Slovákov v Pittsburgu čo sa prevedie na 27-teho oktobra vo Westwood Golf Klube, vo West Mifflin.

Lísky sú k dostaniu od členov prípravného výboru alebo urobte si rezerváciu u Sue Ondrejco na čísle 412 421-1204. Vstupné zahrňuje večeru a celovečernú zábavu keď do tanca bude vyhrávať skupina “Gypsy Stringz”.

Pozývame, všetkých Vás a Vaše rodiny.

Slovenské vysielanie možno počuť každú nedeľu na rádio stanici WPIT 730 AM od 3-tej do 4-tej popoludni z mesta Pittsburgu. Keď žijete mimo Pittsburgu možno to počuť cestou internetu. www.wpitam.com. Treba kliknúť na “listen live.”

Včelie úle



Včelárstvo patrilo medzi tradičné doplnkové zamestnania ľudí a keďže med bol minulosti jediným dostupným slavidlom, bol veľmi cenený. Pôvodne sa chov včiel zakladal na prenášaní častí kmeňov s včelími hniezdami do blízkosti ľudských

obydlí. Najstaršie formy úľov sú drevené kláty a koše, z ktorých sa med a voština vyberali aj za cenu vyhubenia včiel. Neskôr sa pre včely začali vyhotovovať trvalé úle z rôznych materiálov:



drevené, prútené či slamené. Slamené úle sa zvykli natierať rozmočenou hlinou zmiešanou s plevami ako ochrana proti chladu, vlhku a hlodavcom. Na čelnej strane sa umiestňovala farebná reliéfná výzdoba. Mnohí včelári sa v minulosti uplatnili aj ako rezbári pri výrobe drevených úľov.

**Včelár starosť nemá,
keď včelám cukor nedá.
Keď im dá, starosť má –
veď nedobry rôčik má.**

Mesiac október je zasvätený modlitbe svätého ruženca

Mesiac október katolíci zasväcujú Matkej Božej motlíbou sv. Ruženca. Prípojte sa k motlitbe veď dobré skutky sa zídu neskôr.



Pranostiky

Ak je október veľmi zelený, bude potom január hodne studený.

Ak opadá lístie do polovice októbra, bude mokrá zima.

Ak skoro v októbri sneh padá, bude mäkká zima.

Keď sa drží list v mesiaci októbri na stromoch pevne, to znamená krutú zimu.

Mnoho dažďa v októbri, mnoho vetrov v decembri.



Youth Circle Page

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

2019 Christmas Ornament Contest Deadline: December 1st, 2019

Now is the time to start thinking and making your Christmas Ornament. Get out your glue guns and glitter and create a winning ornament today!

The rules are as follows:

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

The contest shall be judged under the following categories and prize awards:

Member Categories:	Prize Awards:
Frosty's Group (Ages 5-7)	First Place - \$25.00
Rudolph's Group (Ages 8-10)	First Place - \$25.00
Snowflake Group (Ages 11-13)	First Place - \$25.00
Santa Group (Ages 14-16)	First Place - \$25.00
Adult Group	First Place - \$50.00
	Second Place - \$30.00
	Third Place - \$20.00

5. Entries must be mailed, or hand-delivered to the NSS Home Office by the deadline of December 1st of each year. Please mail to: National Slovak Society ATT: Ornament Contest, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337. BE SURE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING.

2019 NSS Photo Contest Deadline: October 31st, 2019

Contest Eligibility:

The NSS Annual Photography Contest is open to all members regardless of age. The photos, however, have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).

Deadline:

October 31st is the deadline for all entries to be received. Judging is done by an outside professional. Please mail to: National Slovak Society, Fraternal Activities Coordinator, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Contest Rules:

1. Must be a member before October 1st.
2. One entry per category.
3. Any size photo up to 8 x 10, unmounted in black and white or color (No touch-up or computer enhanced photos permitted).
4. Name and address should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper, along with information where the photo was taken.

DO NOT WRITE ON YOUR PHOTO!

Notice: New Categories

Four Categories:

- Scenic
- Animals
- Patriotic
- Hometown Pride

Prize List:

1st Place	-	\$50.00
2nd Place	-	\$25.00
3rd Place	-	\$15.00
Best Overall	-	\$75.00

Could you use a little extra “green?”

Recommender

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Send form to Joe Elliott at the Home Office.

Change of Address

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

Name _____

Assembly No. _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Former Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

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