



NSS Life
® Family Matters...

Good Luck President
David G. Blazek!
Enjoy Your
Well Deserved
Retirement and
Thank You for
27 Years of
Exemplary
Leadership!

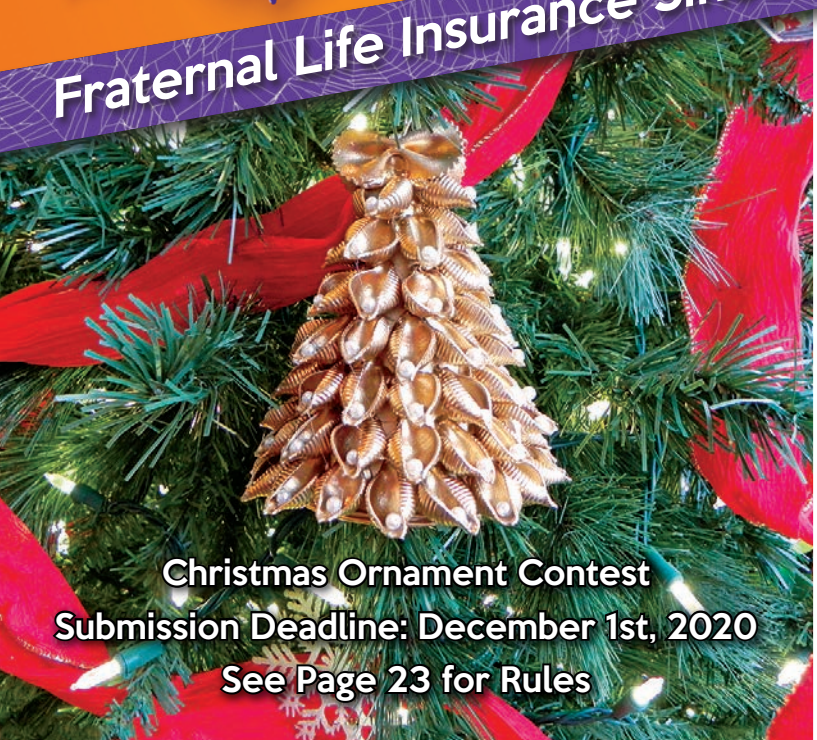


The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

National News

HALLOWEEN
TRICK OR TREAT PARTY
OCT 31

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Fall Youth Circle Inside



Christmas Ornament Contest

Submission Deadline: December 1st, 2020

See Page 23 for Rules

Poetry

Youth Poetry Contest: 1st Place Winners
See Pages 20-22 for Winning Poems

NÁRODNÉ NOVINY

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National Slovak Society

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LORI CROWLEY

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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

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

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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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osídlenie s pred 1 600 rokov 19



Activities At A Glance

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, please check with your assembly president or secretary to be sure the event will still occur on the date shown.

REGION 2

October 18
November 15

Assemblies L075, 0617

Assembly L075, Meeting, Grande's Restaurant (TBA)
Assembly L075, Bingo Pizza Party with Veteran's at Wilkes Barre-VA Center (TBA)

REGION 5

October 11
October 23
October 31
November 7
November 16
December 1
December 6
December 6
December 6
December 7

Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774

Cancelled - Slovak Radio Dinner Dance
Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm in Poland Township at 5:30 pm
NSS Photo Contest Submission Deadline
Assembly 0731, Make Christmas Ornaments, Location and time to be determined
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread Community Room, North Fayette, PA at 6:00 pm
NSS Christmas Ornament Contest Submission Deadline
Assembly 0377, Annual Holiday Gathering at Canon's Chophouse, Canonsburg, PA at 3:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, Uniontown Columbian Association Hall at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Elton Beard Cabin at Boardman Park at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0737, Christmas Meeting, Godor residence, N. Huntingdon, PA

REGION 8

November 17
December 15

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

Assembly 0004, Meeting, Location and time to be determined
Assembly 0432, Meeting, Tony K's and Christmas Party to follow, Berea, OH at 7:30 pm

REGION 14

No Activities

Assemblies R059, L102

REGION 15

No Activities

Assemblies L002

AT LARGE

October 15
October 17
October 18
October 25
December 19
December 24

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

Assembly 0813, Fun Ride
Assembly 0813, Shrimp Boil, Thirsty Pig
Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0381, Meeting, 4:00 pm - Location to be determined
Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve Celebration at 6:00 pm

Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance **CANCELLED** to April, 2021

Since the COVID-19 virus crisis has impacted the greater Pittsburgh area and the surrounding counties for the past few months, it is with tremendous regret that we have made the difficult and disappointing decision to **CANCEL the Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance** this year. We sincerely appreciate that you have been supportive and cooperative of this banquet over the years.

We look forward to hosting this popular event next year on **Sunday, April 18, 2021** when the current health crisis will, hopefully, be behind us.

From The President's Desk...



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

Greetings to each of you as I come into your home via my article for the last time. As you know, I will be retiring at the end of the month which is bittersweet in the fact that I have enjoyed serving as the President of the National Slovak Society for the past 27 years. I will miss working with my staff as well as seeing members throughout the year at different events. But it is time; Fran and I need to spend more time with our family which is spread over the East coast, and we need to work on our golfing skills. I would like to take this time to thank Fran for all the support and attendance at NSS events she has given me over the past 27 years. I am sure you have heard the saying that behind every good man is a great woman and Fran fits that description to a T. If anyone would like to contact me after October, my personal email address is **DGB803@gmail.com**. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Looking ahead, I see a few assembly meetings scheduled and a hayride scheduled for Assembly 0731. Also happening this month is Columbus Day on October 12th, the same day as Canada's Thanksgiving Day, and National Bosses Day on the 16th. Also, this month the NJ/NY Fraternal Alliance and the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance will be holding their annual meetings.



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 others celebrating a special occasion this month and for good health the rest of the year!

My deepest sympathy goes out to the Strish Family on the passing of Rose Mary Strish, President of Assembly 617. I would also like to extend my condolences to the Cheberenchick and Cooper Families on the passing of Michael Cheberenchick, father to Terri Cooper, wife of NSS Legal Counsel Ronald Cooper.

Slovak Animated Wood Carving Narrative

(Continued from September Issue)

Because the only workshop available to these three wood carvers was a one-car garage, Master Pekara designed this display so it could be built and shipped in five separate sections. Each section was built as if it were the entire display, complete with its (own transformer and drive mechanism for that section.) When a section was completed, it was thoroughly tested by running the animation non-stop for one month to be certain it was working properly and reliably. The display was then put in a protective wooden crate which was placed in a large metal shipping container and loaded on a ship. About one month later that shipping container arrived at the Slovak Folk Crafts store in Grove City. All the Dayton's had to do was unload the wood carving section from the shipping container, remove the protective crating, slide that section into place, plug in the power cord, and turn on the electricity.

The five sections of this display came in six-month intervals with the first section arriving in February, 2003 and the last section arriving in May, 2005. Fortunately, very little damage was done to any of the five sections in transit from Slovakia to the United States. Repairs were made quickly.

The entire display is hand-carved from basswood – also called linden. Linden is the national tree of Slovakia probably because it is so plentiful there. The display depicts folk life as it existed in Slovakia for centuries and is laid out as a map of Slovakia with activities situated, left to right, according to where they most commonly occur in the country. For example, the pottery-making scene is located on the far-left side of the display because Modra, the village best known for pottery making in Slovakia is situated in western Slovakia. The large buildings across the back of the display are scale model replicas of actual buildings in Slovakia. They are placed in the display according to where they are situated – east to west – in the country.

This unique work of art is 17 feet wide (left to right) by 6 feet deep (front to back) x 8 feet tall (at the back). There are 82 moving figures in the display powered by six windshield wiper motors for Volvo trucks or buses.

The large manger scene situated in the center is the focal point of the entire animated wood carving display. Perhaps the most unusual and unexpected figure in the entire display is a small boy situated in the manger directly in front of baby Jesus. This small boy is barefoot, humble in means and in spirit, on his knees unworthy and portrays Master Joseph Pekara as a child. His left hand is planted firmly on the ground to brace himself, while his outstretched right arm is fully extended, bearing a priceless gift for the Christ child; a wheeled, wooden horse given to Joseph the boy, by his craftsman father, a prized possession that he cherished, cradled, played with almost every day when he was a child. It was a truly special Christmas gift from one child to another.

Another scene in the display shows a shepherd watching his flock of sheep with the help of his dog. Behind him, a bear has stolen a ship and is being chased by another dog, a man waving an ax, and a small boy carrying a stick

(Continued on Page 10)

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO



A Special Message from my Notebook...

As we begin to turn our thoughts to the future of the National Slovak Society we must first celebrate the past and the leaders that have paved the way to prosperity. The NSS has been very fortunate to have had many leaders who all had the same goal in mind and that is to provide for family and community, today and in the future. Throughout the history of NSS each President, through their leadership, and those around them, influenced the growth of the society.

A period of outstanding growth began (1978-1993) where Assets grew from \$11.1 million to over \$54.1 million. On February 17, 1990 at the time of the 100th Anniversary of the National Slovak Society, President David G. Blazek held the office of National Director and at the 30th Quadrennial Convention in August of that same year, was elected as National Vice-President. Also at this convention National President Joseph Stefka was re-elected to his 4th term as National President. Sadly, in November of 1993 the Society learned that National President Stefka had passed away. National Vice-President David G. Blazek was immediately sworn in as the 16th National President of the National Slovak Society. This was the beginning of consistent year over year growth in assets, membership, growth in sales and increased visibility in the community through a new marketing initiative proposed to the Board of Directors by National President Blazek.

At this point I offer my own comments as 1990 also begins my tenure as a National Director and later, National Secretary-Treasurer working alongside National President Blazek. I recently came across this quote **“A leader takes people where they want to go. A GREAT leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but OUGHT TO BE”**. Regarding President Blazek’s 27 years of leadership, many times he “took the road less traveled”, took chances, accepted the help of his peers, introduced new ideas, was not afraid to be different and he never looked back. As stated previously, when he assumed the Presidency in 1993, NSS Assets were over \$54.1 million. At the January 6, 1995 Reorganizational Board Meeting, President Blazek opened the meeting by saying **“It must be a total cooperative effort by each and every Board member. The future of the Society is in our hands for the next four years. We were elected to do a job and with the right attitude of cooperation and hard work, we will get the job done”**. As a result, beginning with Assets of \$54.1 Million at year end 1993, the Society ended 2019 with Assets over **\$1.3 Billion!**

At the November 2019 Fall Board of Directors Meeting, President Blazek informed the Board of Directors of his intention to retire as President & CEO of the National Slovak Society of the USA. His legacy is one that we, as members of the National Slovak Society should be proud to have experienced and to have had the privilege to know him both personally and professionally. Speaking for myself, I was elected by the Convention as a National Director in 1990 and in 2006 was elected as National Secretary/Treasurer which is the position I still hold today. I have worked with or for President Blazek for over 29+ years!

Dave, I have learned much more than I would have ever anticipated from you. I have learned never to drink coffee before driving to Harrisburg, and with that I have learned where every turnpike rest area is and, I have also learned a few words in Mandarin! Enjoy a well-deserved retirement with many hours on the golf course! It has been an honor to have worked with you. God Bless.

Condolences...

We at NSS were saddened to hear of the passing of Rose Mary Strish, President of Assembly 0617 in Ashley, PA and Vice President of NSS Region 2. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her husband of 51 years, George, and the entire family. I had spoken with Rose Mary several times during her illness and never once did I hear anything but laughter and kindness in her voice. We spoke of fun times at past Conventions and at Assembly Officers Seminars. To me, Rose Mary is the epitome of kindness, compassion and happiness. I will miss you, my friend.

Rose Mary became involved in NSS when her father was President of Assembly 0617. She assisted him with the running of the assembly and then became its president. Through her efforts many other family members became involved at the local level. A member of the former St. Ann’s Guild and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Rose Mary was also an active volunteer at local church bazaars.

She was an active delegate to NSS Conventions which is where I first met her many years ago. Not only was she a leader back home but she always offered to help anywhere she could during conventions. Because of her unselfish involvement in the NSS and being a respected community leader, recognized as a sympathetic listener and a Good Samaritan, the National Slovak Society chose Rose Mary as its 2000 Fraternalist of the Year and honored her at a dinner held at Southpoint Golf Club in Pittsburgh, PA in conjunction with the annual meeting of the NSS Board of Directors. Husband George was also present when Rose Mary received a plaque commemorating the occasion.



NSS 2000 Fraternalist of the Year Rosemary Strish pictured with President David Blazek.

God Bless, Rose Mary. I know you already have everyone around you laughing!

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.

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



2020 Annuity Contribution Coupon

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect
on your money. Consider making your 2020 contribution as early as possible.

Name _____

Certificate No. _____ Deposit Amount _____

Traditional IRA for 2020 _____ Roth IRA for 2020 _____

If you wish to make a deposit into an existing account with the National Slovak Society (NSS
Life), simply complete this coupon and return it with check payment to our Home Office.

From the Sales Department...

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



Covid-19; How has this changed life insurance?

We certainly are in some unprecedented times with the Covid-19 crisis. This pandemic has caused a lot of people to think about their finances. A recent survey by Life Happens concluded that a little more than 30% of people think that life insurance is at the top of their list right now. It is sad that an event like this causes us to rethink our mortality.

Now is certainly a good time to apply for life insurance. Rates are probably as low as they are going to get. In fact, next year governing bodies may direct the insurance industry to raise rates because of the low interest rate environment we are experiencing.

Apply now because your health may never be better. Some of the factors that an underwriter may look at include:

- Your current health; how healthy are you?
- Any underlying medical conditions; heart disease, cancer, etc.
- Any travel plans – especially foreign travel, this may cause a delay.

From the NSS perspective we have been busy issuing life insurance contracts for people. We would be happy to provide you with a free quote and some information. Call your local representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.

Changes Have Difficult Effects

What is the one constant in this crazy world? Change! It is inevitable. Everything changes. Cars improve and become safer to drive. OSHA enacts rules to make workplaces safer. Computers keep coming up with faster processors to make work easier. Leadership changes, family dynamics, the Covid-19 crisis, and the list goes on and on.

Here is a little story about changes. Look at what happens to three ordinary items; an egg, a carrot and a coffee bean when placed in a pot of boiling water. After a few minutes, the egg becomes hard. The carrot becomes soft and the coffee bean changes the water to coffee. We can apply this scenario to our daily lives. When changes occur do we become hard and steadfast against changes like the egg. Do we become soft and say “whatever” like the carrot. Or do we become like the coffee bean and embrace the change and make the best of it by turning one thing into something else and maybe better.

The point here is simple. Try not to get caught up in the drama of a particular situation. Life is too short to worry about the egg and the carrot. Think about the coffee. The aroma and the taste of a fresh brewed cup of joe. That is how we should look at every change whether it is an obstacle or an opportunity. You are the one that makes that determination.

Do you know what else changes? Your financial picture. Maybe now would be a good time for a review.

What to do with the Money?

Currently the U.S. population is around 323 million people. Of this number 50 million are age 65 or older. Believe it or not 10,000 people retire (turn age 65) every day. Most of them do not have a financial advisor. Why is this fact important? Because many of these people will be facing the biggest (six figures or more?) decision of their life. They will have to decide what to do with their 401k account or lump sum pension. In many cases this amount of money may be more than their house or car cost.

The first and most important realization is that this sum of money should last a lifetime. With a large sum it would be easy to think that you could do this or that with the money but remember retirement is a long time. Preservation of capital is of paramount importance. On average a person age 65 can look forward to another 18 years (for men) and 20 years (for women) of longevity. Knowing these facts should help you make better decisions about your money. There are thousands of investment options available to you believe it or not. A good financial advisor can help guide you through these choices. Their experience and knowledge will help create a secure and enjoyable retirement. Under their guidance and by following a plan your account can last forever and maybe even grow over time.

NSS has the pleasure to work with hundreds of these individuals. Many times an NSS IRA is the best choice. Why an IRA annuity and what are the advantages?

1. These accounts will earn a competitive rate of interest.
2. There are minimum guarantees with a strong track record of performance.
3. Flexibility to allow monthly income or lump sum withdrawals to suit your needs.
4. Peace of mind – knowing that no one has ever lost money with us.
5. Stability – no wild ups and downs with your account value (i.e. stock market).
6. No annual fees or maintenance charges. 100% of your money is earning interest for you!

Contact your local NSS representative for more information. Or if you don't have an advisor and would like to work with one in your area; call us and we will find the closest one to you.



A graphic with the word "ATTENTION!" in large, bold, red letters with a black outline, set against a blue background with a white dot pattern.

Member and Agent Portal Users

NSS has made a few changes to improve how we protect your personal information online. Some of you may have already noticed the changes. Below is a summary of those changes put into place along with some detailed information that may be helpful.

We have added Multi-factor Authentication to our member and agent portals as an additional layer of security. Each portal user should have a unique email address and phone number so we can send you a one-time passcode (OTP) before entering the portal. If you have not already done so, the first time that you log on, you will receive the OTP via a text message to the phone number located in your user profile. The default option is to receive the one-time passcode via text message. If you do not have a phone number listed, you will receive the OTP via email at the email address on your user profile.

If you would like to change your default option, you can do that on the OTP screen, by selecting 'Use alternative method to receive OTP'. Once the options come up, select the option that you prefer and be sure to also check the box 'Set as Default'. This is the only way to update how you receive the OTP when your log into the portal.

Once you have successfully logged on to the portal using the OTP, please review your user profile and make any necessary changes to your phone number and email address.

Please note the following:

- Users sharing the same email address AND phone number will be permitted to use text message, phone call, or email to receive the OTP when you log into the portal.
- Users sharing the same email address but having different phone numbers, will be required to update your default OTP option to use the email method only.
- Users sharing the same phone number but having different email addresses, will be required to update your default OTP option to use the email method only.

We have also rolled out a stronger password policy for the member and agent portals. If you have not already done so, you will be asked at your next login to update your password. The password will need to be at least 8 characters long and will require at least one lower case letter, one upper case letter, one number, and one special character.

We also updated the links to our portal login pages. If you have the login screen saved in your favorites or bookmarked and are receiving a big OOPS! please go back to our home page at www.nsslife.org and **click on either member login or agent login** and this will direct you to the new portal login pages.

As always, we take the security of our member's and agent's information very seriously. We recognize these changes create a slight inconvenience to you, but they are effective countermeasures against unauthorized access to your information.

Lisa Shriver

Assistant Controller/Supervisor, Member Services

Appreciation Letters

Dear Mr. David G. Blazek,

I am writing to thank you for the generous PVR Scholarship of \$500 that I was awarded for the third year. I am very appreciative to receive the scholarship this year. This is helping to make my dream of attending Pennsylvania State University a reality. I will be starting my junior year at PSU to continue my studies in mathematics in a few short days. I will continue to work hard and study hard.

Sara Holden

Dear NSS Life,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Assembly 065 of Chicago Perpetual Award and the Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship Grant.

This award and scholarship grant will enable me to work towards my degree at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. I have decided to pursue a degree in General Management and perhaps in the near future minoring in relation to sports. I have passion in both sports and business, so I have decided that the combination of the two is the career choice for me.

The Assembly 065 of Chicago Perpetual Award and Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship Grant will lighten my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Thank you again and I will be sure to submit the required paperwork at the end of the school year to fulfill the requirements in order to receive my additional installment of the three remaining grants.

Clayton Coble

Dear NSS,

I wanted to take the time to thank you for the \$500.00 scholarship. This money will help me continue my education in public relations and journalism and lead me into a better future.

Amelia Reilly

NSS Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your support of me over the past 4 years. NSS has been a large part of my life for as long as I can remember. Every summer my family would pack up and drive from South Carolina to Villa Roma for an NSS weekend and what felt like a reunion. I am so lucky to continue such a positive relationship with NSS during my time as a student. I am especially grateful to NSS for allowing my 4th installment to be put to law school. I worked hard to graduate undergrad early and am so thankful NSS allowed me to still receive my 4th installment as I continue my studies towards my Juris Doctorate. Thank you for your support both now and over the years.

Rachel Sims



Fraternal Matters...

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



Halloween

October is the month where fall is finally in the air! The breeze feels crisp, leaves are a beautiful mix of reds, yellows, & browns, and apple pies/strudels/cakes are the go-to dessert after dinner. And this year of all years, choosing a Halloween costume couldn't be any easier...just put on your mask, and out the door you go! We'd like to wish everyone a happy Fall and safe Halloween.

Photo Contest

Our annual photo contest is quickly approaching, so dig deep and find your inner photographer! We have four categories to choose from.... enter one or enter all! The categories are as follows:

1. **Oh Baby** – Babies are so loveable, huggable, and photogenic! This category is open for any adorable baby picture you have, ages 0-24 months.
2. **Home or Backyard** – Given the social distancing and stay-at-home orders we have become so accustomed to this year, we would like to see your best 'at home' photos...either inside or out!
3. **Nature** – This beautiful category will include photos that showcase wildlife, flora, waterscapes, and landscapes.
4. **Pets** – If you have a great photo of your furry friend, we would love to see it...we know you have a lot!

Just remember, only one photo per category can be entered, per person. Please remember to send in your photos by the end of this month. **The deadline is October 31st!**



Ornament Contest

You may or may not want to hear this, but Christmas is right around the corner. And you know what that means...it's time for the yearly NSS Life ornament contest! This contest always showcases the amazing talents of our members. Start thinking about what you would like to create now because the deadline is December 1, 2020. We look forward to your entries!



Slovak Apple Cake - Jablkový Koláč

Makes one 9 x 13-inch pan

4 cups all-purpose flour (or 2 cups white whole wheat + 2 cups cake flour)
1 cup cold unsalted butter (2 sticks 1/2 pound)
1 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 eggs
2 tablespoons milk, or more as needed

2 pounds apples
1/2 cup sugar
2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon cinnamon

1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon milk

Preheat oven to 375. Lightly spray a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.

Stir or whisk together in a large bowl the flour(s), confectioners' sugar, salt and baking powder. Cut in, as for pie dough, the butter. In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs and milk,

While it seems that families are spending more time together lately, why not put that time to good use?

Old Fashioned Skills that Kids Need to Know

1. How to write a letter
2. How to make a phone call
3. How to take a message
4. How to converse with an elder
5. How to play with a baby
6. How to sew on a button
7. How to genuinely apologize
8. How to hammer a nail
9. How to introduce yourself
10. How to notice the needs of others
11. How to make scrambled eggs
12. How to balance a checkbook
13. How to write a thank you note
14. How to do laundry
15. How to garden
16. How to fix something
17. How to plan a healthy meal
18. How to hang a picture
19. How to wash dishes
20. How to budget

(To be continued in next month's issue)

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr., Chairman of the Board

October, 1906

Four assemblies were founded as part of the National Slovak Society in October, 1906. The new assemblies included: Assembly 559, Colorado City, Colorado, on October 30, 1906; Assembly 560, Piney Fork, Ohio, on October 17, 1906; Assembly 561, Hooversville, Pennsylvania, on October 7, 1906; and Assembly 562, Allentown, Pennsylvania, on October 14, 1906.

October, 1965

National Slovak Society District #2 celebrated the Society's Diamond Anniversary with a gala banquet on October 31, 1965. Milan Krupa served as the Toastmaster of the banquet. Supreme President John H. Pankuch provided the principal address at the banquet focusing on the importance of District #2 in the founding of the Society.

October, 1966

The National Slovak Society Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship fund which was established at the 24th Quadrennial Convention reported a balance of \$3,476.60. The goal of the fund was to reach \$100,000.

October, 2014

The Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance named National Slovak Society Secretary-Treasurer Linda M. Strom as its 2014 John Jordan Upchurch Award winner at its Annual Meeting in October, 2014. The award is given by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance to recognize distinguished and exemplary service to fraternalism. During the presentation of the award, Linda was described as "very deserving of the award having demonstrated her leadership on the local, state, and national levels of the fraternal system." Linda became the fourth NSS officer to receive the award.

President's Desk

Slovak Animated Wood Carving Narrative

(continued from page 5)

who is going to "finish off" that bear! Also included in the display are men and women involved in activities such as harvesting potatoes, cutting and raking hay, making pottery, scutching flax, spinning the flax into thread, and using the thread to weave it into linen on a loom.

Many visitors told the Dayton's it is very difficult to describe this remarkably creative display to someone who has not seen it – it must be seen to fully grasp its beauty and unique nature. When people return to see the display a second or third time, they often comment about seeing things in those subsequent visits they did not see on their previous visits. Some visitors are so surprised at this fact that they adamantly insist that the display had changed since the last time they had visited.

Due to the constraints of the Corona Virus, the Museum is currently closed, but we hope to have it open as soon as possible. This fantastic display will be available to be seen by you, as members of the National Slovak Society, and will be opened to the public for viewing by appointment only.

Please call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 to schedule a visit to our museum and to see what is believed to be the largest animated wood carving in North America.

David Blazek
President

PUNOGRAPHY OF THE MONTH:

How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?



Halloween Party

We're having a Halloween party at school. I'm dressed up like Dracula. Man, I look cool! I dyed my hair black, and I cut off my bangs. I'm wearing a cape and some fake plastic fangs. I put on some makeup to paint my face white, like creatures that only come out in the night. My fingernails, too, are all pointed and red. I look like I'm recently back from the dead. My mom drops me off, and I run into school and suddenly feel like the world's biggest fool. The other kids stare like I'm some kind of freak—the Halloween party is not till next week.



Youth Circle Magazine - Fall 2020



Thanksgiving Day Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Far from fashionable
4. Month of Canada's Thanksgiving
9. Actress Ling
10. Ornamental Thanksgiving staple
13. Healer
15. Earl "_____" Hines
18. Famous stone
22. 2009 animated hit
23. Home to the town of Turkey

25. "___ my!"

26. Denial
28. Light brown
31. Stone Age comic
33. America's favorite Thanksgiving pie, per a 2018 poll
38. Utilize
40. First department store to sponsor a Thanksgiving Day parade
41. Extreme

DOWN

1. "____ Hear a Waltz?"
2. Tie the knot
3. Thumbs-up vote
4. Trash-can dweller
5. Fantasy publisher
6. King of music
7. Singer's tool
8. ___ Tin Tin
11. Hoops group
12. "___ bin ein Berliner"
14. Hun honcho
15. More delicate
16. Careful spending
17. Dumas swashbuckler

19. Yours and mine

20. Star Trek officer
21. Sega rival
24. Half a Latin dance
27. ___ lazuli
29. Harrison's breakout role
30. Japanese pond fish
31. Creepy crawler
32. CBS drama franchise
34. Hawaiian string instrument
35. Debtor's initials
36. Sajak or Boone
37. Historic time
39. Dorothy Gale's aunt



Pumpkin Roll



Give your extra toilet tissue a festive look this holiday. Place the roll inside a plastic bag and push the corners into the cardboard tube and fluff it. This will give you a more full looking pumpkin. (A) Place roll in the center of a 22 by 18 inch piece of fabric, gather the fabric around it, and tuck the edges into the top hole. B) For a stem, roll a strip of brown paper bag and glue the edge. C) For a vine, glue one end of a 12 inch green pipe cleaner to a green felt leaf, then curl the pipe cleaner around the stem. Insert the stem in the hole.



Outdoor Fall Activities

Home school Nature Table - Fall is a great time to update your nature table. Get some creative ideas on collecting and displaying nature items. Why not try making an autumn seed collection, or seeing how many types of leaves you can find.

Geocaching - While the weather is still fair, why not do some autumn geocaching walks.

Help the Birds - Fall is a good time to make a bird table, or some bird feeders.

Foraging - Fall is a great time to explore nature's harvest. If you look carefully you should find blackberries, elderberries, rosehips, crab apples, sloes, hazelnuts and sweet chestnuts. Be sure you are not picking something poisonous. If you want to play safe, why not stick to blackberry picking and make some sugar free jam.

Mushroom Hunting - Go mushroom hunting during the fall. Not for eating, but to take photographs of as many different varieties of fungi as we can. Make a large collage or use them in a lapbook.

Home schooling Photography - Another great project to start in the fall, is to begin photographing the same tree once a week. It is a wonderful way of bringing the changing of the seasons to life.

Make a scarecrow - Collect together some old clothes, and stuff with straw to make your own scarecrow. You can leave him to guard your garden, or use him as your Halloween decoration.

Plant a Tree - Why not try planting some of the autumn seeds you find and see if you can grow your very own tree.

Fly a Kite - Take advantage of blustery winds to make and fly your own kite.

Fall Words Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
4				26									19				24								



A _____ N
 4 11 13 10 19
 A _____ E
 4 6 6 17 26
 _____ N
 11 13 10 19
 E _____ N
 26 2 23 21 19 13 3
 _____ A
 12 13 13 20 7 4 17 17
 A _____ E
 22 4 9 10 21 25 26
 A _____ E
 16 4 11 14 26 20
 E A _____ E S
 17 26 4 8 26 24
 A _____ E
 15 4 6 17 26
 _____ N
 6 23 15 6 14 21 19
 A _____ E
 10 4 14 26
 S A _____ E
 24 11 4 10 26 11 10 13 5
 S N _____ E
 24 23 19 12 17 13 5 26 10
 _____ E
 20 23 10 14 26 9

Pumpkin Maze



- Q: How many months of the year have 28 days?
- A: All of them! Every month has *at least* 28 days.
- Q: It belongs to you, but your friends use it more. What is it?
- A: Your name.



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

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

CHRISTMAS
 COOKIES
 FAMILY
 HOLIDAY

MISTLETOE
 NUTCRACKER
 ORNAMENTS
 PRESENTS

REINDEER
 SANTA
 STOCKING
 TREE



Funny Jokes

Q: Why did the bacon laugh?
A: Because the egg cracked a yolk.

Q: Two pickles fell out of a jar onto the floor. What did one say to the other?
A: Dill with it.

Q: What did the baby corn say to its mom?
A: "Where is pop corn?"

Q: What kind of nut always seems to have a cold?
A: Cashew!

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?
A: Because it wasn't peeling well.

Q: What did the frog order at the restaurant?
A: French flies and a diet croak.

Q: Where does the Easter Bunny like to eat breakfast?
A: IHOP.

Q: What do cows like to put on their sandwiches?
A: MOOstard.

Q: What candy do you eat on the playground?
A: Recess pieces.

Q: Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?
A: Because she was stuffed.

Q: What did Batman say to Robin before they got in the car?
A: "Robin, get in the car."

Q: What's green, red, orange, purple, blue, and yellow?
A: Colors.

Q: Why did the giraffe get bad grades?
A: She had her head in the clouds.

Q: Why did the teacher put on sunglasses?
A: Because her students were so bright.

Q: What is brown, hairy, and wears sunglasses?
A: A coconut on vacation.

Bottlecap Christmas Ornament

Before you know it Christmas will be here so let's start thinking about making a Christmas ornament for your tree. The bottlecap ornament is easy to make for all ages and makes great Christmas gifts. The supplies needed are: bottle caps, white, black, orange, and red acrylic paint, paint brushes, a ribbon, hot glue gun and glue sticks, buttons, and scissors. Paint the inside of each bottle cap white letting dry every coat. Glue three bottle caps to a piece of ribbon and with each other. Form a loop with the top of the ribbon and glue in place. Use the end of a paintbrush or a toothpick to paint eyes, a nose, mouth and buttons on your snowmen. If you like, you may add some sparkle Mod Podge at this stage. Now tie a ribbon or yarn between the first and second bottle caps to make a scarf and accent with a button.



Answers to Puzzle, Maze, & Cryptogram

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



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
4	7	11	25	26	12	18	22	21	16	14	17	15	19	13	6	2	10	24	20	23	8	5	3	9	1
<p><u>A C O R N</u> 4 11 13 10 19</p> <p><u>A P P L E</u> 4 6 6 17 26</p> <p><u>C O R N</u> 11 13 10 19</p> <p><u>E Q U I N O X</u> 26 2 23 21 19 13 3</p> <p><u>F O O T B A L L</u> 12 13 13 20 7 4 17 17</p> <p><u>H A Y R I D E</u> 22 4 9 10 21 25 26</p> <p><u>J A C K E T</u> 16 4 11 14 26 20</p> <p><u>L E A V E S</u> 17 26 4 8 26 24</p> <p><u>M A P L E</u> 15 4 6 17 26</p> <p><u>P U M P K I N</u> 6 23 15 6 14 21 19</p> <p><u>R A K E</u> 10 4 14 26</p> <p><u>S C A R E C R O W</u> 24 11 4 10 26 11 10 13 5</p> <p><u>S U N F L O W E R</u> 24 23 19 12 17 13 5 26 10</p> <p><u>T U R K E Y</u> 20 23 10 14 26 9</p>																									

The History of the Christmas Stocking

It's not clear when hanging stockings became a Christmas tradition, but it can be dated back to as early as 1823, from the famous poem *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, with the line "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care."

According to legend, the tradition of hanging Christmas stockings comes from the fourth century and involves the man Santa Claus is based off, St. Nicholas. While passing through a town, Nicholas heard of a man who was grieving the loss of his wife, as well as his poor fortune, unable to pay a dowry for his three daughters' potential suitors. Upon hearing the news, legend states Nicholas sneaked in to the man's home — or climbed down the chimney — and dropped gold coins in the daughters' stockings, which were hanging by the fireplace to dry. The poor man, too proud to accept donations, could pay dowries for his daughters.

As the story spread, families began putting gifts in stockings to mimic receiving good gifts from Santa Claus.

In another version of the story, gold balls were placed in the stockings. This turned into the tradition of putting oranges in stockings, which resemble gold but are much more affordable to the general public.

The tradition of putting coal in stockings comes from Italy, where La Befana, an elderly woman who is said to be searching for the three wise men and baby Jesus, left candy for the nice children and coal or dark candy for the naughty children on her travels.

Returning to School during Covid-19

Keep hands clean

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before and after eating, coughing/sneezing, or adjusting a face mask. To prevent rushing, it is suggested washing hands for as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice. When hand-washing isn't available, they suggest that you use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Also, you should avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Schools should encourage routines that encourage frequent hand-washing and following good hand hygiene practices, such as asking students to cover their mouths and noses with their elbows or tissues when they cough or sneeze and then wash their hands.

If you are attending in-person schooling, develop daily routines before and after school that foster healthy habits, such as packing a back-up face mask and hand sanitizer in the morning and washing your hands as soon as you come home.

Clean and disinfect

Whether you are being schooled at home or at school, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces can help reduce the risk of illness. This includes frequently touched items such as doorknobs, faucets, keyboards, tablets and phones.

ASSEMBLY 0004 Parma, OH

Please contact your assembly secretary to confirm the date of the meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on **November 17, 2020**. Location and time will be announced. Please plan to attend.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

We have begun plans for our annual Christmas Party that will take place on Sunday, **December 6th**. We will again gather in the social hall of the Uniontown Columbian Association (formerly K of C) at 2:00 pm. Mr. Greg Felton, CLU, ChFC, our NSS Sales Director will be our guest and will share what is happening with annuity and insurance sales. Again, we will be giving away a 42" HDTV set as well as a large number of gift cards and door prizes provided by the home office. Social "family" distancing and masks will be required!! Mark your calendars!

You can earn fraternal points for our assembly!! Begin to gather your photographs for the upcoming "NSS Photo Contest". There are four categories: Oh Baby, Home or Backyard, Nature, and Pets that will be judged. The deadline for your entry is **October 31st**. Be sure to enter. Great prizes! Rules and regulations are printed on Page 23 of this issue.

Now is the time to begin getting those creative juices flowing and start planning your entry into the NSS Christmas Ornament Contest. The December deadline will be here before you know it.

Our prayers of hope and strength go out to the families of Edward Colebank, Joseph W. Kaiser and James Novak who recently died. May they rest eternal before God's throne!

Finally, our assembly members wish to send a message of God Speed and best wishes to our National President, David Blazek and his wife Fran for their many years of faithful service to the NSS and the fraternal community. Your leadership has brought the

society from an obscure Slovak society to one that now meets the financial and fraternal needs of over thirty-two thousand members. Thank you!

If you have any questions about our meetings or programs, call me at (724) 570-1301 and our president at (724) 366-4100.

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

To say this is one odd year would be an understatement. It is a year you'll always remember but want to forget. As of this writing sports are back but no fans or very few. Thank goodness for TV and books. We all hold our breath that there isn't a serious outbreak and another shut down.

October 28th is the anniversary of Jonas Salk's birthday who you all know here in Pittsburgh came up with the polio vaccine. This terrible disease especially hit children and we may know someone of this date who suffered the effects of it. Thankfully it is now almost entirely eradicated worldwide. Hopefully there will be another Jonas Salk type who will come up with a vaccine for our current virus. Until then wear your mask, social distance, wash your hands and be smart.

This is the month for you to get your photos in for the annual NSS Photo Contest. Our assembly, due to people moving and insurance sales to some relatives, happens to have members spread far and wide. We have members in many parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Colorado and even Hawaii. In fact we may now have some out of the country. I know it is impossible for many of you to take part in most of our activities but you can take part in the Photo Contest.

You may win a cash prize, get your picture and name in the magazine and receive a congratulatory letter from me. This year there are four categories; Oh Baby, Home or Backyard, Nature and Pets. Get busy snapping!

October 31st as you know is Halloween. The origin of Halloween and many of its customs can be traced to Samhain, an ancient pagan Celtic fes-

tival that is Gaelic for "summers end" a day to bid good-bye to warmth and light.

At the end of this month an era in NSS history will end with the retirement of President Blazek. His tenure had been marked by an unparalleled growth and recognition for our society. Our assembly wants to thank you Dave for your leadership and we wish you well in retirement.

Keep safe and be well. God Bless you.

William Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Our annual holiday gathering will be held on **December 6, 2020** at Canon's Chophouse, 1900 Main Street, Canonsburg, PA at 3:00 pm. Please bring a dozen cookies for our famous cookie table.

Please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171 or if you have any questions.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

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.**



ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Please contact your assembly secretary to confirm the meeting.

Our next meeting and our Christmas party to follow will be held on **December 15, 2020** at 7:30 pm at Tony K's, 841 W Bagley Rd, Berea, OH 44017. Hope to see you there.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist & Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0588 Slovan, PA

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, please contact **Assembly 588 Recording Secretary Annette Stefka at 724-407-3591 to confirm the meeting.**

A meeting will be held on **November 16, 2020**, at 6:00 pm at Panera Bread Community Room, 1250 McHolme Drive, Pittsburgh, PA. (NorthFayette)

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

Annette Stefka
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our National Slovak Society's members of Chicagoland's Assembly 586 extend **best wishes to President Dave Blazek** at this year of his retirement. For Dave, "retired" will most likely mean "retreaded".

There were many ways Joe and I were able to re-tool as volunteers what we had learned during our working lives. Habitat for Humanity with NSS friends, Mission Slovakia in Nitra and Martin many times with our church friends. Experiences which have given us memories never to be forgotten. Challenges and opportunities to influence others, as our pastor many years ago asked. And as another pastor later told our missionary group, "the trips to Slovakia will change your lives". She was right. Helping to build the first new church in Nitra for people who had lived under Communism more than 40 years was awesome. And seeing the

Martin Bible College helped to grow and evolve into a Christian school, Kindergarten through High School, made us all grateful, as were the students and parents.

Dave, you and Fran are wished good health and the opportunity to have great experiences by your friends in Assembly 586. You always were available for a call from us. Joe spoke of you as a friend for the many years he knew you.

If you'd like to join the mission group from Naperville to Slovakia for a life-changing experience they would welcome you. Nech sa páci! Whatever you do, let us all know with a note to Narodne Noviny for publication.

You will be missed and remembered as the president who helped our NSS grow from a fraternal organization of **\$53,000,000 to more than \$1,300,000,000. That's billion with a "B"!** Best wishes.

Irene Tomaskovic
Vice-President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Assembly 731 is still planning to hold its Halloween Hayride Party on Friday, **October 23rd** at Countryside Farm in Poland Township. Of course, there's always the possibility of last minute cancellation because of the COVID virus situation. Every year we encourage the kids to dress-up in the Halloween costumes and we look forward to seeing their costumes this year.

This year, to add a little extra protection we are encouraging all attendees to wear a mask. We will provide disposable masks to those planning to attend a few days before the event to give everyone time to design their own unique mask. Be sure to contact Laurie Fox at 330-536-8850, to make arrangements to get a mask.

Please plan to arrive at the Farm by 5:30 p.m. There will be plenty of outdoor activities to enjoy such as the corn maze. The hayride wagon will begin our trip from the pavilion to the pumpkin patch at 6:00. Following the hayride we will enjoy a bonfire, refreshments and games. Please RSVP to Laurie Fox by October 18th.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 0737 Westmoreland County, PA

Our Christmas meeting will be held on **December 7th** at Carol Godor's, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA.

If you plan to attend, please call Carol Godor at 724-863-9662 no later than November 20, 2020, so we can plan accordingly.

Due to the virus, we haven't had meetings this year, so there are a lot of things to discuss.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

We will be teaming up to raise funds for Catholic Social Services during October. On Thursday, **October 15th**, there will be a "Fun Ride" for SAM biking enthusiasts with prizes awarded.

On Saturday, **October 17th**, the fun and fundraising continues with a "Low Country Boil" at the Thirsty Pig. Andy Jones will provide live music in the Pig Pen. All proceeds will go to benefit the work of Catholic Social Services. Kerry Farrell of the NSS will be working with Celeste Kelly, Director of CSS on both projects. For more information or to make a donation, please call Mary Jo Holker at 941-473-0559.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary



Mary Jo Holker presenting a Matching Funds check to Ruth Hill, Jubilee Center Administrator while some of the Jubilee Center crew looks on.



OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

August, 2020

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Bailey, Ida	Tipp City, OH	07/31/2020	0123
Balaz, Rita	Pittsburgh, PA	07/25/2020	0108
Baughman, Jack	Jacksonville, FL	04/30/2020	0813
Bella, Donna	Pittsburgh, PA	02/25/2020	0100
Benyo, Paul	Fort Worth, TX	01/22/2020	0381
Bickel, Philip	Carnegie, PA	03/27/2020	L161
Cameron, Marilyn	Carnegie, PA	07/24/2020	0123
Carlos, Cecile	Coraopolis, PA	07/21/2020	0123
Carrington, Arnold	Philadelphia, PA	06/01/2020	0774
Chapman, Mildred G	Beaverdale, PA	08/11/2020	0737
Chapman, William W	Beaverdale, PA	07/25/2020	0737
Collins, Betty	Lake, WV	06/22/2020	0774
Copenhaver, Charles	Hawthorn, PA	07/24/2020	0554
Date, Myra	Houtzdale, PA	08/01/2020	0774
Demas, Melba Irene	Alma, MI	01/27/2020	0381
Dzurenko, Maria	Albany, OR	07/24/2020	L075
Edgar, Wreatha	Upland, CA	06/15/2020	0568
Fekete, Agnes	Pittsburgh, PA	08/20/2020	0774
Finney, Harry J	Canonsburg, PA	08/10/2020	0434
Harchar, Joseph	Clairton, PA	09/25/2019	0434
Hargraves, Thomas	Philadelphia, PA	07/29/2020	0774
Hoffman, Odette	Mechanicsburg, PA	08/03/2020	L102
Huff, Marian	Rochester, PA	07/27/2020	0123
James, Richard	Pittsburgh, PA	01/26/2020	L105
Karnash, Rita	Glassport, PA	08/22/2020	0108
Kovalyak, Irene	Bethel Park, PA	02/14/2020	0774
Krajewski, Virginia	Phoenix, AZ	04/15/2020	0774
Krug, Ruth Ann	Westlake, OH	07/12/2020	0004
Kundrat, John	Wyoming, PA	08/11/2020	0617
LaRiccia, Anthony	Girard, PA	07/19/2020	0731
Leavor, Gary	Rostraver Township, PA	07/27/2020	0377
Lightcap, Anna	Kittanning, PA	08/25/2020	L105
Lipp, Wallace R	Uniontown, PA	08/17/2020	0039
Longmeyer, Marlene	Manitowoc, WI	07/14/2020	0774
Madsen, Richard	Grove City, PA	07/06/2020	0731
Makri, Robert	Roseland, NJ	07/31/2020	L102
Matrise, John	Milwaukee, WI	07/21/2020	0774
McClure, Loma	Fredonia, PA	06/21/2020	0731
Moore, Nola P	Waverly, OH	02/05/1900	0595
Petney, George	Portage, PA	08/10/2020	0737
Polnar, Margaret	Monroeville, PA	09/24/2019	L105
Rebrick, Charles	Latrobe, PA	04/25/2020	0737
Scobel, John	Springdale, PA	07/24/2020	L105
Shaw, Vivian L	Moundsville, WV	08/04/2020	0588
Shumaker, Audrey	New Bethlehem, PA	05/04/2020	0554
Sokolowski, Annie	Union City, PA	12/10/2019	0123
Strasser, Joanne	Erie, PA	07/02/2020	L161
Szelc, Patricia	Pittsburgh, PA	04/22/2020	L105
Tillett, Carolyn	West Mifflin, PA	07/10/2020	0441
Toland, Anthony	Avon, CT	03/28/2020	0110
Turner, William	Kenova, WV	06/01/2020	0774
Vihlidal, Mary	Bentleyville, PA	08/18/2020	0774
Vindivich, Mike	Perryopolis, PA	07/28/2020	0039
Walker, Denise	Pinckney, MI	06/15/2020	0731
Walsh, Armin	Marshfield, WI	02/28/2020	0774
Ward, Walter	Sarasota, FL	12/05/2019	0800
Wilkinson, Patricia	Huntersville, NC	07/29/2020	0774
Wood, Kenneth	Pennsville, NJ	05/14/2020	0774
Woodworth, Dewey	Hillsboro, NH	06/28/2020	0813
Woronowicz, Regina	Wilkes Barre, PA	07/22/2020	0617
Young, Mary	Corry, PA	08/21/2020	0595
Zalewski, Janice	Brunswick, OH	03/20/2020	P38A
Zielinski, Bruno	Ft Myers, FL	08/08/2020	0800
Zinn, Earl	Spring Grove, PA	07/23/2020	L102

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Deported Member**

Michael Cheberenchick:

From Executive Officers & Board of Directors of NSS Life 100.00

In Memory of **Deported Member**

President of Assembly 0617, Rose

Mary Strish: 100.00

From Executive Officers & Board of Directors of NSS Life 100.00

In Memory of **Todd Glaser:**

From John & Heather Payerchin and children..... 150.00

In Memory of **Shaun Crowley:**

From NSS Home Office Staff 550.00

In Memory of **Shaun Crowley:**

From John & Heather Payerchin and children..... 150.00

In Memory of **Shaun Crowley:**

From Mom & Dad, Lori & Kevin Crowley..... 20.00

In Memory of **Marian Hayduk:**

From Assembly 0123 20.00

In Memory of **Mary Hrinia** 20.00

From Assembly 0123 20.00

In Memory of **Matilda Tehorik:**

From Rick & Nancy Fetterman 50.00

Donations:

Karen Orban..... 50.00

Assembly 0434 250.00

DONATE TO THE PVR 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.

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

In Memoriam

Margaret A. Ferri - Papal Medalist



Margaret A Ferri

This tribute to Margaret Ferri will be a combination of her obituary and the eulogy I delivered at her funeral mass.

Margaret A. Ferri 91, of Bethlehem PA, passed away on June 29, 2020. She is survived by her devoted husband of 67 years, John Ferri. Marge was a secretarial graduate of Bethlehem College and later, in 1975 she received her para legal certification. She worked as a secretary and para legal for several law firms from

October 1975 until her retirement in 2007.

Marge was a lifetime member of St. Cyril and Methodius parish; now Incarnation of Our Lord parish where she served as a committee secretary for 25 years. Marge was a member of all of our Slovak fraternal organizations. She was a lifetime member of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and served as secretary of its local branch 134 for 51 years, treasurer of its Lehigh Valley district for 22 years and national public relations director for 24 years. Marge was an active and dedicated volunteer for various charitable organizations, and especially enjoyed sponsoring fundraisers for them.

In addition to her husband John, Marge is survived by two sons, John Andrew and his wife Christie; David Anthony and his wife Vanessa, and a daughter, Patricia Ann and her husband Dr. Rand Kienzle and six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Eulogy

This is a synopsis of my tribute to Marge given at her funeral mass.

We are gathered together to celebrate the life of my dear friend, Marge Ferri. She was a wonderful, religious woman, full of compassion, generosity and kindness. She gave unselfishly from a heart filled with love and from the best of her countless talents to her family and all who were privileged to be part of her life. She worked tirelessly for many charitable organizations, volunteerism was her middle name.

When my position as full-time President/CEO of the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle became more demanding of my time, especially to travel, I asked Marge to take over my duties as president of the Slovak Catholic Federation [SCF's] Cardinal Tomko, Lehigh Valley Chapter. I persisted, but it took two years for me to convince her to take over my duties, and that was probably because I convinced her it could be a temporary position. She served "temporarily", with her usual efficiency and dedication for 25 years.

Among the Slovak organizations to which Marge belonged was our own National Slovak Society; she and John were convention delegates. I'm proud to say that our organization gave matching funds to the four events Marge

chaired every year, to raise funds for the Slovak Catholic Federation's Cardinal Tomko Chapter.

Although Margaret was a pure breed Slovak, she never forgot that John was an Italian. Their work for each other's pet charities was weighted in favor of Marge's Slovaks, however, she made sure to help John raise funds for the Italian clubs to which he belonged. This terrific couple worked very well together, especially for their church, as well as religious and fraternal organizations.

My observation of their combined efforts prompted me to petition Cardinal Joseph Tomko to consider both of them for the papal medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (in recognition of their work for the Church and the Holy Father). Cardinal Tomko agreed that they were certainly worthy and he was successful in having the Holy Father approve the presentation of the medals. It was my pleasure to have been chosen to make the presentation on April 26, 2009 at the 57th national convention banquet of the SCF held in Bethlehem.

There is total secrecy during the selection of medal recipients. The medals are the highest honor given to lay people and are rarely presented. Therefore, when I announced that the medals would be presented and to whom, banquet attendees were joyfully surprised but none more so than Marge and John Ferri. Second to their beloved family, their medals have been a source of their greatest pride.

Marge performed her many duties almost to the end when God took her home. Thank you, Marge, for living an exemplary life worth celebrating. God bless. May you rest in peace.

Justine Wesnak

Honorary President of the FSWFE

SLOVAK
HERITAGE
FESTIVAL

2020 Virtual
Edition

Sun, Nov 1, 2020 LIVE at 1 p.m.

Watch on your desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile phone:

facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival

Videos hosted on YouTube & FACEBOOK

- Musical and Folk Dance Performances
- Cooking and Craft Demonstrations
- Cultural and Educational Lectures

Follow our Facebook page for updates and more information. [Facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival](https://facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival)

Október

Farebná jeseň

Jeseň krásna je,
farby skutočne skrýva v sebe.
Kto by sa netešil kráse jej
kto nepozná zákutie žiarivých farieb?



Kráčam cestou listovou,
vystlatá je farebným lístím.
Vo vzduchu cítiť chladný vánok,
chce sa dotknúť každého z nás.



Pomaly lístie padá
a započúvam sa do jemných tónov.
Vďaka ti, Bože za farebnú jeseň
za krásu vôkol nás.



Spomienky nás prenasledujú,
na letný čas smiechu a zábavy.
No teraz je tu jesenný čas
- na všetko krásne v nás.



135 Rokov od Vydavania Slovenských Novín

História Slovenského novinárstva v Amerike začína v roku 1885, keď Ján Slovenský a Július Wolf vydali (hektografom) v Pittsburghu prvý časopis—Bulletin vyšlo 22 čísiel. Prvými tlačenými novinami sa stali Amerikánsko-slovenské noviny (1. číslo vyšlo 21. októbra 1886). Tak sa začínali písať dejiny slovenského novinárstva v Amerike, ktoré sa stalo jedným z hlavných pilierov americko-slovenského národného života.

Poznámka: Náš zakladateľ Peter Rovnianek ktorý prispieval článkami do týchto novín vtedy ešte ako študent v Clevelande žiak seminára.

V centre Spišských Vlách objavili osídlenie pred 1 600 rokov

Najväčnejší je nález rímskej mince zo štvrtého storočia.

SPÍŠSKÉ VLACHY. Centrum mesta Spišské Vlaky v okrese Spišská Nová Ves bolo osídlené už vo štvrtom storočí. Archeológovia objavili nálezy staré 1 600 rokov. Dokladujú život v meste na sklonku sťahovania národov. Medzi najstaršie nálezy patrí rímska minca cisára Constantiusa II., ktorý vládol v rokoch 337 – 361 n. l.

Výskum bývalej radnice

Archeologický výskum prebiehal od októbra 2019 do marca 2020 v prístavbe kostola Nanebovzatia Panny Márie v Spišských Vlachoch.

Prístavbu miestni poznajú ako starú radnicu. Išlo o výskum v súvislosti s obnovou pamiatky.

„Skúmali sme dve sondy. V tej prvej sme odkryli objekt z doby rímskej. Tu sa našla spomínaná minca zo 4. storočia. V druhej sme odkryli nálezy, ktoré súviseli s výstavbou a prestavbou objektu. Išlo o staršie vstupy do objektu, zvyšky drevenej podlahy z druhej polovice 18. storočia alebo vykurovacie zariadenie objektu,“ priblížila vedúca archeologického výskumu Mária Hudáková z Múzea Spiša v Spišskej Novej Vsi.

—Mária Šimoňáková, Spis.korzar.sme.sk

Mesiac október je zasvätený modlitbe svätého ruženca

Kto sa zbožne bude modliť ruženec, dostane všetko, čo bude od mňa žiadať.



Myšlienka na október....

V mesiaci októbri začínajú dlhšie večere deň sa kráti. Azda nájdeme viac času na čítanie dobrej knihy. Dobrá myšlienka je aby sme si prezreli naše doklady, osobne investície, poisťujúce certifikáty či nám stačí životná poistka - či treba niečo zmeniť, zýšit' atď.

Veď začína jeseň— a nietorým i jeseň života.

Veľke "Srdečne Ďakujeme"

Srdečmu vďaka vyslovujeme nášmu milému prezidentovi NSS, Panovi David Blažek za jeho námahavu prácu za 27 rokov čo venoval našej organizácii. Keďže Pán Blažek sa rozhodol začiatok nového života v dôchodku želáme mu všetko iba to najlepšie čo život môže dať. Ďakujeme Vám Pán Blažek.



Archeologists discovered a Roman coin and remnants of an ancient pub while renovating this extension of the Virgin Mary of the Assumption Church, known as Old Town Hall, in the Slovak Town, Spišské Vlaky.

First Place Poetry Contest Winners

Frog in the Pool

There was a Frog,
In Grandma's Pool
He should be on a Log,
Where he would be Cool!

Dominic Piccoletti
LO75, Age 5

The Head of the Household

Wise is the head of the household.
As he stands so strong and bold,
He proves he is the leader of his house,
And would do anything for his kids and spouse.
Growing up on a farm, he helped all day.
With milking cows and cutting golden hay;
And being the oldest of eight,
Enabled him to acquire this trait.
Because Christ's love is so ample,
He loves all and follows Christ's example;
He leads with humility, and therefore,
His children see him as a mentor.
Wise is the head of the household,
Because he clings to Christ his Stronghold;
None could replace this godly man;
He leaves a legacy for his clan!

McKenna Coots
C-554, Age 16

Break a Leg

Back in the days, when I was in school plays,
"Break a Leg," they would say,
which means do good today.
Well, it finally came true,
and hit me out of the blue.
Not in a play did it take place;
but on a baseball field at third base.
A tall kid stepped on my right foot,
and I heard my bones go caput.
Fractured 2 metatarsal bones,
and I limped all the way home.
Now on my foot is a green colored cast;
I'm sure it won't be my last.
For the next few weeks on the bench I'll sit,
And cheer on my teammates when they get a hit.
It's going to be a long hot summer this year;
But now I know; you will never hear me cheer –
"Break a leg," - it's already done.
Because a broken leg is just not fun.

Maxwell Edwards
LO75, Age 8

My Little Girl

No diamond, no ruby, no emerald, no pearl,
Is as precious to me as my little girl.
One day she's a tomboy so rough and so tough,
The next she's a lady wanting makeup and stuff,
And when you are Daddy and you must discipline,
The task becomes harder when she flashes that grin.
Her blankie so special, it goes everywhere,
At nighttime she cuddles it so close and so dear.
She loves our two cats, but wants one of her own,
I say yes you can have one when you're fully grown.
She's already five, the days pass in a whirl,
Wasn't it yesterday when the doctor announced "it's a Girl"?
It's a feeling so special, a feeling so right,
When she snuggles real close and hugs me real tight.
It won't be much longer when I can tuck her in bed,
So I'll cherish those moments in the years just ahead.
Maybe an actress, a doctor, or a ballerina she'll be,
But "My little Girl" is what I'll always see.

Patrick Collins
L161, Adult

Ode to Butter

So creamy and smooth, So golden and sweet
So deliciously filling, What we love to eat!
Piled high on potatoes, Slathered on toast,
Dripping off corn, We eat the most!
Beaten with Sugar, Icing on cake,
Fried with pierogies, In all we make!

Jacob Ostrowski
C-617, Age 12

Second Place Poetry Contest Winners

Slovak Day at Kennywood

First my mom says we have to go.
It's time to get ready for the show.
I get dressed in special shirt and pants.
Then I get ready to do my dance.
First I skip then I hop
Next I spin and do not stop.
People clap when the show is done.
We leave the stage to go have fun!

Stanley Steindl
C-161, Age 6^{1/2}

Football during the Quarantine

We get our temperatures checked and keep our
masks on,
Football during the quarantine,
We make sure we're all six feet apart,
We try our best with all our heart.
We sanitize the equipment after each use,
Football during the quarantine,
Everyone works together as a team,
And they usually call me the "Lazar Beam."
I hope we can get a season this year,
Football during the quarantine,
Let's help stop the spread,
And finally put COVID-19 to bed,
Football during the quarantine.

Adam Lazar
LO75, Age 16

Squirrel Steve

I love my squirrel friend,
Who visits every day.
He runs up to the window,
to ask if I can play.
Eating from his picnic table,
a diet of corn and seeds.
His belly is never hungry,
because he's my friend, Steve.

Anthony Cherevka
C-108, Age 10

Mama

A daughter of young immigrant parents, you see
Her family's last century voyage from the towns of Italy
For freedom and education were calling to them
And Brier Hill beckoned of generations and friends
Our mother was nurtured to cook from the heart
To her, food was a blessing, a comfort, an art
To be tasted with neighbors and stranger and all
No matter how great or number so small
Holiday gatherings and feasts of the Church
She labored long hours on meals from the hearth
A death or a birth, our mother would share
Homemade sauces and soups, these gifts she did bear
All Sundays at midday, feasts fit for a king
She had worshipped the secrets her father did bring
The aromas, the hues, the textures and more
Our senses transport to a time we adored
The stained, handwritten notes of weights and good measure
Kept tenderly as our silver and gold-our very own treasure
Never go empty-handed, tho the gift will not last
An offering of food links the present and past
Those following shall reap a great bounty from this
Traditions of stories - her recipes gift and enrich
We are to be salt - to flavor lives of others
To strengthen, to comfort - magnificent mothers
Lessons of life through the breaking of bread
Thank you, Mama...the kitchen left nothing unsaid
For our mother knew well of faith, family, and friends
Would sustain memories for the heart - never to end.

Mary Jo Olson
0731, Age Adult

Cheerleading

A new season has begun,
Time to have some fun.
Everybody's straight,
All tight in the air,
While the football players are trying to play fair.
We'll cheer them on loud,
And so will the crowd.
Cheering, I'll always remember,
Until we start again in September.

Allie Lazar
LO75, Age 13

Third Place Poetry Contest Winners

Sandcastles

The sand is white.
The ocean is blue.
I like making big sandcastles,
With you!

Adalyn Bernardo
C-588, Age 5

The Sun

The blinding sheen of the sun dipped sand
The seaweed washed ashore by the vague whispers of the wind.
The summer's shine visible by the red faces
and shoulders, arms and backs.
Children laugh, while birds sing; as they play along the beach.
Summer was gone, but has finally returned-
Finally and fully.
The days stretch longer than they did before,
Blessing us with just a bit more.
The laughter filled days are almost enough-
Enough to keep the fear at bay.
But we will not give into the darkness looming just out of reach.
For the bird's will keep singing,
And the children's laughter will for ever fill the air-
As long as the sun is still there.

Helena Dillaman
C-554, Age 12

Tacos

Tacos are yummy so says my tummy
Hard or soft it doesn't matter
Beef or chicken?
I'll take the latter
Add some cheese please
Jack or cheddar?
Either one makes it better
Lettuce, tomato, sour cream, geeze
Hold the beans and give it a squeeze.
Tacos are yummy that's what I said
Tacos Tacos are in my head

Ryan Ravida
0123, Age 8

All In

What happened to our country? Things seemed to be okay.
And then we turned around, it changed in just one day.
We couldn't seem to agree on even just one thing.
The sun would rise and then would set,
more division it would bring.
This isn't how it should be.
Have we not learned from the past?
We need to come together. This hatred should not last.
An enemy has attacked us. We need to stand as one.
To find the best solution and do what must be done.
Put down your verbal weapons, they serve no purpose here.
We must remain focused and show the world we care.
Rebuild those frayed relationships, join forces in this fight.
United we can do this. We can work to make things right.
Kindness, empathy, and compassion are what we need today.
Close your eyes, pray for peace, let the hatred melt away.
Remember what unites us, choose love over hate.
We must do this now. We have no time to wait.
God is giving us a challenge. It is one that we can win.
Have faith in others, open your heart, together we are all in.

Diane Moeller
0774, Adult

Polish Chickens

Polish chickens are funny little creatures,
For they have the most unusual features.
Some have beards, their hats are quite poofy,
Which make them look rather goofy.
They wear a coat of silver and gold,
These funny little chickens have beauty untold.

Ben Ostrowski
C-617, Age 15



Youth Circle Page

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

2020 NSS PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2020

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
ATT: Pam Blum, Fraternal Activities Coordinator
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Contest Rules:

- Must be a member before October 1st.
- One entry per category.
- Any size photo up to 8 x 10, unmounted in black and white or color (No touch-up or computer enhanced photos permitted).
- 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!**

Four Categories

Oh Baby

Home or Backyard

Nature

Pets

Prize List

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

2020 Christmas Ornament Contest

Deadline: December 1st, 2020

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.
5. 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

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

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.