



NSS Life
® Family Matters...

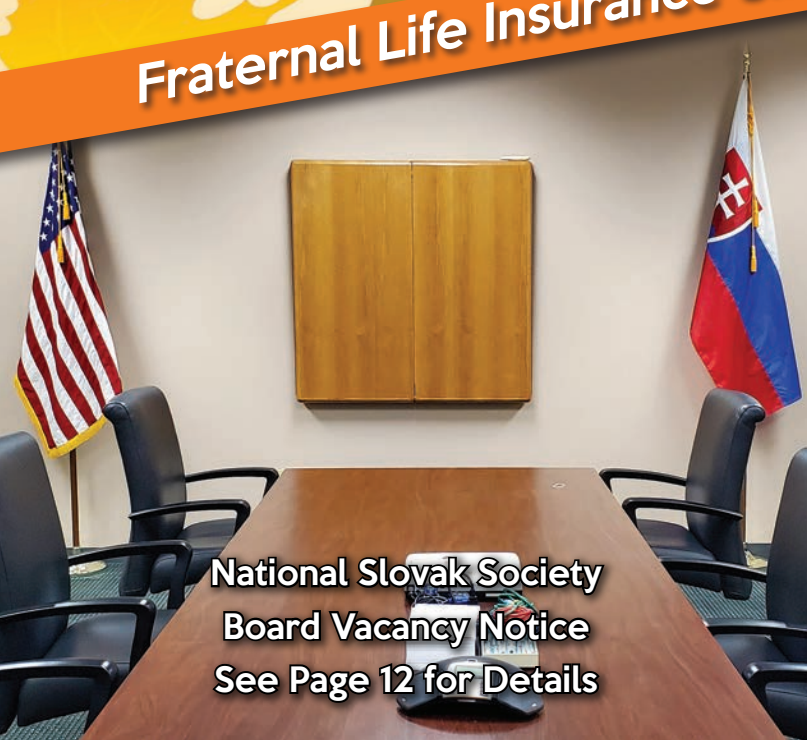
NSS Home Office
Lobby Renovation



The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Národné Noviny

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Autumn is Here!



National Slovak Society
Board Vacancy Notice
See Page 12 for Details



2020 NSS
Photo Contest
See Page 19 for Rules

NATIONAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020 | NUMBER 3545 VOLUME 112



National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at McMurray, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices
Owned and Published by the



NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Organized February 16, 1890
351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337
USES 0371-140 - ISSN: 0027-7940
Phone: (724) 731-0094 -- E-Mail: info@nsslife.org
NSS Website: www.nsslife.org
Fax No: 724-731-0145

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

Michael Czarney

Andrea Garbon

Abigail Gross

Robert Katricak

Susan Ondrejco

Karen Orban

John Payerchin

Joseph Stefka, Jr.

Drew Wesnak

NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

Anthony Beno, *Director*

Mary Jo Holker, *Director*

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

Inside this Issue...

Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance.....3

From the Executive Officers

President's Column 4 & 12

Secretary/Treasurer's Column 5

NSS Financial Matters

Annuity Interest Rates 6

NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director.....7

NSS News/Activities

Fraternal Activities Coordinator 8

Septemberfest Cancellation 8

Birthday Photos.....9

NSS Board Vacancy.....12

WPA Slovak Radio Dinner Dance12

Assembly News.....13

NSS History.....13

Departed Members.....14

Renovation of NSS Lobby15

Labor Day Recipes.....16

Return to Schhol during COVID-19.....18

Letters from Scholarship Winners19

Photo Contest Rules19

Assembly News

Assembly Meetings10-11

PVR Donations.....14

Národné Noviny

Jeseň je najlepši čas na prechádzky,
relax, pohodu.....17

Mariánska jeseň.....17

Slovensko—zaujímavosti.....17



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

September 13
September 20
September 21
September 26
October 11
October 23
November 7
November 16
December 6
December 6
December 6

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

Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Q, Uniontown Columbian Association (K of C) Pavilion 1:00
Assembly 0377, Meeting, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Panera Bread Community Room, North Fayette, PA at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Miniature Golf Outing, Neville Island Course at 1:00 pm
Slovak Radio Dinner Dance, Westwood Golf Club, West Mifflin, PA at 4:30 pm
Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm in Poland Township
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
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

REGION 8

September 4-7
September 12
September 15
November 17
December 15

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

Assembly 0432, Camping Labor Day weekend, Rustic Lake Campground, Sullivan, OH
Assembly 0070, Potluck Dinner/Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH
Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence at 7:30 pm
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

September 19

Assemblies R059, L102

Assembly L102, Matching Funds Basket Bingo, Emmaus Community Park at 1:00 pm

REGION 15

No Activities

Assemblies L002

AT LARGE

September 6
September 17
October 17
October 18
October 25
December 19
December 24

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

Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0381, Meeting, Location and time to be determined
Assembly 0813, Shrimp Boil, Thirsty Pig, Time to be determined
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



From The President's Desk...



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

Greetings from the Desk of the President. As I write this month's article, I am hoping that the Covid-19 virus increases have slowed down, and the entire country is starting to get back to some normality. I am sure parents with children would like to see their children back in school after a long summer break. At the time of this writing, I see that there are some events scheduled for September - Assembly 0039 will be holding a Bar-B-Q, Assembly 0070 a meeting and Pot Luck Dinner, Assembly 0123 a miniature golf outing, and Assembly 0432 will be having a Camping Labor Day weekend. Hopefully, these events will be able to be held.

This month we will celebrate Labor Day on the 7th, Patriot Day on the 11th, Peace Day on the 21st, and Autumn begins on the 22nd. Labor Day is a long holiday weekend that marks the end of summer with backyard barbecues, a final summer getaway, or shopping. The foundation for observing Labor Day is to pay tribute to working men and women in the U.S. and Canada. During the 19th century, many people, including children, worked seven days a week. The workday was 12 hours long. Most Americans endured these harsh, unsafe, working conditions to try and earn a living. Some worked on farms, while others worked in mines or factories. The tasks were often physically demanding, yet offered poor pay. In New York in 1879, a woman working as a dressmaker in a factory averaged between 33 and 58 cents per day. Although only a small number of workers joined various labor unions, the idea of organized labor

was growing. Labor leaders in the late 1800's suggested a Labor Day event to show the solidarity of labor unions and support for America's laborers. Wishing each of you a Happy Labor Day!

News Of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Honorary Officer Paul Payerchin, past Director Gary Cepko, Sales Director Greg Felton, Controller Donna Tenney, Home Office staff members Linda

Buono, Tracey Bastaroli, and Alan Burns, members Mary Cambest, Millie Havir, John Palko, Michael Eubank, Chris Katricak, Susan Knoll, and to grand-daughter Charlotte Lavin and son-in-law Edwin Woods.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries this month are Bob and Chris Katricak, Monica and Frank Stanitski, and my wife Fran and I who are celebrating our Silver Anniversary.

Congratulations to all others celebrating a special day this month.

Slovak Animated Wood Carving Narrative

(First of a two part story)

As most of you may know, a few years ago the National Slovak Society was fortunate to be able to obtain our animated wood carving from Anne and Dave Dayton. I would like to tell you how this wood carving came to be.

In December of 2000, Anne and Dave opened a retail store in Grove City, PA called Slovak Folk Crafts, to sell assorted handcrafts imported from Slovakia. In November 2001, Dave attended a conference near Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, with a colleague by the name of Miro, a native Slovak. While attending the conference, Miro said to Dave, "I have something to show you after this conference is over that is more beautiful than our Tatra Mountains." The Tatra Mountains, situated in north central Slovakia on the border with Poland, are the highest part of the larger Carpathian mountain range and the geographic pride and joy of the Slovak people. Therefore, Dave knew he was about to see something extremely unusual and spectacular.

Miro took Dave to see an animated wood carving display, called "Slovensky Betlehem," in the small village of Rajecka Lesna in western Slovakia. That animated display is 28 feet wide (left to right) x 8 feet deep (front to back) x 10 feet tall (at the back) and was carved by one man, Master Jozef Pekara. It took him 15 years to carve it and he donated it to his local parish saying, "This is for my Lord."

Dave asked Miro if it would be possible for him to meet Master Pekara. He promptly made some inquiries, placed a telephone call and talked to Master Pekara who said he could meet with them that day, which they did. After getting acquainted with Master Pekara, Dave asked him, with Miro translating, if he would consider making a similar but smaller display for America. The big smile that came upon Master Pekara's face indicated to Dave that he was definitely interested in such a project. However, he replied, "At 81 years of age, he was too old to carve another display." Without hesitation, Miro asked Master Pekara if he would be willing to design a display for America if some younger Slovak carvers did the carving. Master Pekara was immediately receptive to this idea; however, he explained he did not know of any other wood carvers in Slovakia capable of doing the kind of detailed wood carving required for this type of project. Miro suggested the names of two excellent carvers in eastern Slovakia from whom we were buying wood carvings for the Slovak Folk Crafts store. Since Master Pekara didn't know the two men Miro was recommending, Master Pekara agreed to travel to eastern Slovakia – a six-hour train trip one way – to see their work.

Master Pekara was very impressed with the work of both these wood carvers. In fact, a couple years later, Master Pekara told Dave he didn't realize there were such good wood carvers in eastern Slovakia since, historically, the best wood carving in Slovakia was done in the western part of the country. Master Pekara agreed to design a display for Dave and Anne and get the parts needed

(Continued on Page 12)

2020 2nd Qtr Financial Statement Recap

Statement as of June 30, 2020

	June 2020	Dec 2019
Net Admitted Assets:		
Bonds	\$1,308,929,132	\$1,267,124,662
Preferred Stocks	1,000,000	1,000,000
Common Stocks	4,775,171	4,102,008
Mortgage Loans on Real Est	15,719,578	6,425,306
Certificate Loans	938,814	882,616
Real Est Occupied by Society	648,931	659,609
Other Invested Assets	499,475	
Cash on Deposit	23,954,308	22,955,087
Electronic Data Equipment		
Uncollected Premiums	283,792	143,840
Investment Income Due	14,855,937	14,606,350
TOTALS	\$1,371,605,138	\$1,317,899,478

Liabilities & Unassigned Funds

Aggregate Reserve	\$1,226,033,000	\$1,175,308,000
Deposit-type Contracts	62,020,695	61,776,371
Certificate Claims	600,000	450,000
Commissions Due	130,000	275,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	690,000	650,000
General Exp Due	1,654,100	1,712,000
Retained by Society as Trustee	71,636	105,154
Asset Valuation Resv (AVR)	8,832,400	8,832,000
Interest Maintenance Resv (IMR)	4,983,083	5,339,330
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	66,440,224	63,301,623
TOTALS	\$1,371,605,138	\$1,317,899,478

Surplus Account:

Beginning Surplus	\$63,451,623	\$57,303,849
Net Income	2,932,166	8,245,469
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	(431,434)	624,914
Change in Nonadmitted Assets	(6,731)	5,370
Change in Valuation Reserve	(400)	(1,885,000)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains		
and Losses in Surplus	645,000	(842,979)
Net Change in Surplus	3,138,601	6,147,774
Surplus At Statement Date	\$66,590,224	\$63,451,623

Summary of Operations:

INCOME:

Premium & Annuity Considerations	\$87,375,528	\$117,265,425
Net Investment Income	30,069,344	56,411,081
Amortization of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	242,746	448,541
Income Sub-Total	\$117,687,618	\$234,125,047

EXPENSES:

Death Benefits	\$3,944,958	\$6,952,244
Matured Endowments	14,774	11,395
Annuity Benefits	53,452,264	108,950,633
Disability Benefits	3,186	6,025
Surrender Benefits	310,379	947,973
Interest On Deposit Type Contr	5,083	10,768
Increase In Aggregate Reserve		
for Life Contracts	51,370,000	97,953,021
Commissions On Direct Business	2,232,323	4,905,195
General & Fraternal Expenses	2,602,193	4,978,732
Insur, Taxes, Licenses, Fees	157,176	557,156
Expense Sub-Total	\$114,092,336	\$225,273,142

SUMMARY:

Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds To Members	\$3,595,282	\$8,851,905
Refund To Members	(339,849)	(640,220)
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds To Members	3,255,433	8,211,685
Net Realized Capital Gains	(323,267)	33,784
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$2,932,166	\$8,245,469

LIFE'S NEW MILESTONES



72% of Americans say financial security is an important act of love



A Page From
My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

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



Start Your IRA Now

There are several good reasons why a person should have an IRA and why they should start sooner than later. The best reason is attributed to Albert Einstein who once said; "Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. Those that understand it earn it and those that don't pay it."

Here is a simple explanation of this concept. Two young ladies, one age 25 and the other age 35. Both decide to start an IRA and put \$5,000 a year into the account. The 25-year-old; starts an account and pays \$5,000 each year for the next ten years. Then she stops and never puts another penny in the account. At current rates, at age 65 her account value would be \$402,697. Keep in mind that she only put in a total of \$50,000 and compound interest has done the rest of the work. The 35-year-old woman puts \$5,000 into her account and puts that amount in every year until she turns age 65. She has put \$150,000 in her account and the value at her age of 65 is \$267,147. The moral of the story is the sooner the better.

A couple of other points to consider: Usually an IRA would be tax-deductible by following the guidelines. This means tax savings for you. Of course, when you withdraw money it will be taxable and an early withdrawal penalty may apply prior to age 59½. Sometimes a person may not be eligible for a traditional IRA because they make too much money and/or they have a pension plan at work. In those cases

where they exceed the income limit, make a non-deductible IRA contribution. Also, depending on income a person may be eligible for a Roth IRA contribution which has a much higher income threshold.

Most people believe that there must be earned income to have an IRA. While that is generally true there is one exception and that is for a non-working spouse. This person may be eligible for a spousal IRA if their partner has earned income and meets the guidelines.

The final point to consider is retirement security. Most people when they retire are going to rely on income from Social Security, a company pension plan and personal savings. This latter category might include rental income, savings accounts, 401K money, a second home and IRAs. An IRA is one of these sources that could make the golden years a little more comfortable. An NSS IRA could be turned into a lifetime income stream too. The possibilities are endless so start something now!

Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information and see how we can help make your future a little brighter. Also, check with your tax advisor since this is general information. Your particular situation may be different and need expert help.

Thought For The Month:

*People change best by feeling good, not by feeling bad. By B.J. Fogg
Author of Tiny Habits; and how little things celebrated can make a big difference
in a person's life.*

Single Premium Whole Life

NSS does millions of dollars in business with this one product. It is popular for young and old. The single premium whole life plan, hereafter referred to as SPWL is a permanent plan of insurance. This means it has the follow characteristics:

- Provides lifetime protection.
- A one-time payment pays up the policy for life.
- This plan has cash or loan values for future needs.
- This plan is eligible for dividends which add to the policy's values over time.

One of the most attractive benefits of the SPWL is the fact that it is the most cost-efficient way to purchase life insurance. This means that you pay the least amount of money for the most protection in the long run. For example: a female, age 35, non-smoker wants to compare the difference between a \$100,000 SPWL and a \$100,000 whole life plan. The SPWL cost \$20,278 one-time and it is completely paid for. The \$100,000 whole life plan costs \$877 per year. This payment is due every year from age 35 to age 100+. The whole life plan has a lower annual premium but it would only take 24 years before the total cost exceeds the one-time payment on a single premium plan of insurance.

This plan is ideal for young people. A \$10,000 plan or more not only make a person an insured member of NSS but also make them eligible for our scholarship program which is currently worth up to \$2,000 (\$500/year over 4 years.) We also have quite a few seniors using this plan to minimize taxes to their heirs and/or for wealth transfer purposes. Here is how this could work for a female, age 70. She has a 100,000 in an annuity (half of the value is interest) and she plans on leaving this to her family. We take the money out of the annuity now and pay the taxes. Withhold \$10,000 for taxes and use the \$90,000 balance to buy a SPWL. Assuming she is in decent health this deposit would buy her more than \$160,000 of life insurance. Any time after the second policy year she would have more cash value than she paid in premiums. If she dies her family receives a much larger amount (\$160,000) tax free. That is the beauty of life insurance and why no other financial product can replicate this unique feature. One final advantage to our single premium. We allow the one-time payment to be made in three equal installments. A \$1,200 single payment could have three annual \$400 payments. Call your local NSS representative for more information or a free quote.

Fraternal Matters...

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



PVR Scholarship

Once again, we are honored to financially assist our youth members on their college journeys. This year, NSS Life was able to give a total of \$101,400 to our deserving college students. For your reference, the breakdown for the 2020-2021 school year is as follows:

Year	# of scholarships awarded
1st	50
2nd	62
3rd	48
4th	41

As always, we would like to thank those of you who have supported, and continue to support, our PVR Scholarship Fund. Your contributions truly make a difference for the sustainability of the fund. Thank you!

2020 Photo Contest

Our annual photo contest is quickly approaching! We are excited to introduce a few new categories this year. Please see below for details. All members and agents are eligible to enter. The deadline to submit your photo/photos is October 31, 2020. Remember, each member/agent is allowed one entry per category.

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!

Labor Day

On Monday, September 7th, our nation will celebrate Labor Day! This end of the summer holiday honors all of those who work hard throughout the year. This kind of hard work and dedication make the U.S.A. the wonderful, successful nation that it is. Please take this time to rest, relax and recharge. We would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

PA Fraternal Alliance 2020 Scholarship Program

The Scholarship Committee of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance is announcing that the 2020 applications are now available for the annual Scholarship Program.

Applicants must:

- Be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance.
- Be a 2020 high school graduate attending an accredited college, university, trade school, etc. in the summer/fall of 2020 as a full-time student (twelve semester credits).
- Obtain a recommendation letter from their Fraternal Benefit Society.
- Submit a 500-word essay on: “What does fraternal mean to you? What would you do to increase the relevance of fraternal to you and your peers?”

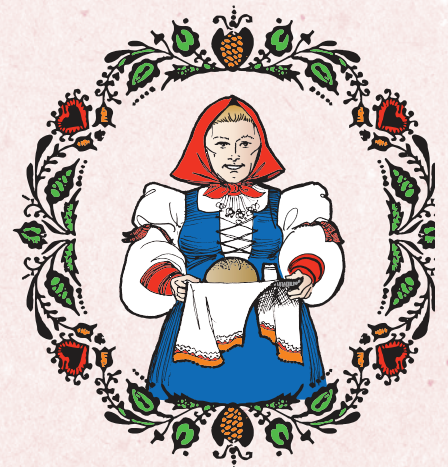
At least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded. Additional scholarships may be awarded depending upon available funds. The deadline to submit applications is October 1, 2020.

If interested, please contact Pam (pblum@nsslife.org) or Amanda (azinn@nsslife.org) in the fraternal department for an application.

Septemberfest 2020

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 Annual “Septemberfest”** this year. We feel it was necessary to minimize possible exposure and health risks to you, our guests, and our volunteers. We sincerely appreciate that you have been supportive and cooperative of this festival over the years.

We look forward to hosting this popular event next year when the current health crisis will, hopefully, be behind us.



Birthdays Celebrated During COVID-19



President Blazek celebrating his 70th birthday on the golf course but unfortunately at the Home Office on August 3rd with his NSS employees! Please notice the sand trap on the right corner made out of cinnamon and sugar and his golf cart on the left.



During COVID-19 we had many employees who celebrated their birthdays without their fellow employees. So everyone received their own cake to take home and share with their family.

What Is Labor Day and Why Do We Celebrate It?

Always held on the first Monday in September, Labor Day is a U.S. national holiday. This year it is on Monday September 7, 2020. For many people, it's a symbolic end of summer and start of the school year, celebrated with barbecuing and shopping.



However, it was envisioned as a celebration of the American worker and the great American work ethic. The holiday's founders back in the late 1800's envisioned a different sort of holiday. It was a creation of the labor movement. The first Labor Day celebrations were parades to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by festivals for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. Speeches by prominent union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics, and government officials were also given.

In the U.S., the first Labor Day parade was on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a legal national holiday.

Labor Day was all about the great American worker, the driving engine behind the most productive economy in the world, and the American work ethic which led to one of the highest standards of living in the world. All of this came out of a belief in economic and political democracy. Of course, Labor Day not only celebrated the American workers, but also protected their quality of life, addressing the problems of the day—from long working hours to no time off.

Who "Invented" Labor Day?

Labor Day was the idea of Peter J. Maguire (although recent research has shown that it might have been his brother Matthew's idea), a labor union leader who in 1882 proposed a celebration honoring the American worker. Peter Maguire was the general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor. The date chosen was simply "convenient." Peter Maguire suggested that this date would nicely fall "nearly midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving."

Recent research indicated that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What we do know is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and made it happen!

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

NOT CANCELED!! Our "Summer Bar-B-Q" on Sunday, September 13th at the Uniontown Columbian Association (formerly K of C) picnic pavilion is still happening! We will be practicing "family" social distancing, as well as requiring all who attend to wear a mask! We will be remembering the crew and passengers of "United Flight 93". Come for great fraternal fun and excellent food! See you there!

Our congratulations go out to **Giavanna Gulino** who was awarded an NSS PVR Scholarship at the recent board meeting. Giavanna is a pre-med student and will attend the University of Pittsburgh.

Also, at that board meeting, our assembly was awarded the "Platinum" designation as an outstanding assembly for 2019. We thank all of you that participated in our fraternal activities that made this award possible.

You can earn fraternal points for our assembly!! Begin to gather your photographs for the upcoming "NSS Photo Contest". Four categories: Oh Baby, Home or Backyard, Nature and Pets will be judged. The deadline for your entry is October 31st. Be sure to enter. Great prizes! The corrected rules and regulations are printed on Page 19 of this issue.

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" HD-TV set as well as a large number of gift cards and door prizes.

Social "family" distancing and masks will be require!! Mark your calendars!

Our prayers of hope and strength go out to the families of Mary R. Strcula and Wilfred Saxe who recently passed away. May they rest eternal!

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

Pray that our children will be able to go back to school safely!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 0123

Coraopolis, PA

Yeah! We are going to have our miniature golf outing on Saturday, **September 26th** at 1:00 pm at the course on Neville Island. There is no charge for members. A member may bring one guest at no charge. You may wear a mask especially if you don't social distance. This sporting event has been cleared with Governor Wolf. Give me a call at 724-242-585 if you plan to participate. It is time to get out of the house and get some fresh air.

Once again our assembly qualified for the highest award level, Diamond. That was made possible by many of you who took part in various activities such as the photo contest and just to name a few participants: Lyle Grover, Pete Longstreth, Theresa Novak, Heather O'Donnell, Mariah Scalise, Brianna Scanlon, the Art Contest we had Vianna Kamenar and the Hoang's. Participating in the Senior Scholarship Program we had Ed & Ruth Bailey, Christine Piciolo, Patricia O'Malley and Christine Huska. Thank you to all who took part. I couldn't name you all but your participation is much appreciated.

Congratulations to our six members who qualified for the PVR Scholarship; Jeremiah Brosovic, Roman Giacomino, Nathan Kirsch, Abigail Lherbier, Melanie Pendel and Elizabeth Reynolds. The whole assembly wishes you well and much success in all that you pursue towards furthering your education.

I want to thank two of our members Judy Landa and Terri Tuminello

who volunteered at the Slovak Kitchen at Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Despite the virus and the heat they were able to keep the Slovak Day tradition alive and well.

Last month we lost one of our cherished members, Marilyn Cameron who attended so many of our events with her dear companion, Pete Longstreth and his family. May she rest in peace.

If any of our members are in need of help please let me know. In the spirit of fraternalism the assembly will do what it can to be of assistance in a time of need.

Life may be full of changes but remember we start and end with Family! Be safe and God Bless.

William Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377

Bentleyville, PA

Our next meeting will be held on **September 20, 2020** at 3:00 pm. We will meet at Richardson's Park off of Frye Avenue in Bentleyville for a picnic. Food and drinks are provided and pets are welcome! There is a large ballpark, playground and a babbling brook with a walking trail. Please note that if there are any questions, to notify me at 724-207-3171 as it can be postponed again if health concerns warrant it.

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



ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

For the following events, please contact your assembly secretary to confirm they will occur on that date.

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

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

Meeting at Tony K's on **December 15, 2020** at 7:30 pm and Christmas party to follow at 841 W Bagley Rd, Berea, OH 44017.

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 meetings will be held on the dates listed below.

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

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

Annette Stefka
Secretary

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 0586 Chicago, IL

It's August as I write this from Illinois where both the weather and the virus conditions change constantly.

To stay in touch, our church sends emails with sermons and services we receive and appreciate. A recent email included pictures and news of our mission partners, the Bible College in Martin Slovakia. It's now a K thru 8 grade school and a high school which had its first graduating class. Below is a picture of some of the students in Martin.



Our church supports them and sends a mission group regularly to Slovakia. A yearly fund raiser dinner hosted by Our Saviours and cooked by the deans of the Martin schools is a tradition here. Every year the food is a delicious surprise.

All the trips our family made to Nitra and Martin with our church friends meant so much to my husband Joe. Today he's gone from us for a year. It was a pleasure to send help last year from the donations in Joe's name to them from our family and friends. Joe loved Slovakia, the birthplace of his parents and mine.

We are still looking forward to better times when Assembly 586 will again be able get together. God bless us all and our wonderful country.

Irene Tomaskovic
Vice-President

ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

Our assembly has been active despite the pandemic. We just have to work in a different way to accomplish our goals. Our "Feeding the Children" project has had remarkable success, already garnering double the hoped for donations set at the start of this Matching Funds project.

Ruth Hill, Administrator of the Jubilee Center Ministries at St. David's Episcopal Church, received an \$880 donation from the Englewood Community Coalition to get the project off to a flying start. The Community Presbyterian Church, from their Special Activities account, added another \$400 and an anonymous donor sent \$1000 in memory of her son.

The project will continue through September and donations are still needed, according to NSS representative Mary Jo Holker.

"Our next Matching Funds project will be a Shrimp Boil to benefit the Catholic Social Services. Kerry Farrell is coordinating this event at the Thirsty Pig on **October 17th**. There will be live music at the Pig Pen to enhance the atmosphere. The Dothan area bike clubs have planned a fun ride in concert with this benefit for CSS. More information is available at 941-473-0559.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

National Slovak Society Anticipated Board Vacancy

The Board of Directors of the National Slovak Society elected current Director Joseph Stefka, Jr. as President/CEO of the Society with an effective date of November 1, 2020. The Board of Directors anticipates a vacancy to occur upon his resignation from the Board. The Board is seeking to fill the anticipated vacancy for the remainder of the term of the current Board of Directors which expires on October 31, 2022. The vacancy will be filled as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, Article 6. Board of Directors, Section Q Resignations, Removals, and Vacancies, with a qualified candidate as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws, Article 6. Board of Directors, Section E. Qualifications. In addition, the Board of Directors has prepared a Board of Director Job Description detailing the major responsibilities; meeting time and commitment; term; expectations for directors; and knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to function effectively as a member of the Board of Directors, which may be obtained electronically by contacting Joseph Stefka, Jr. at jstefka@nsslife.org.

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

Applications must be post marked, or submitted electronically by October 1, 2020.

Article 6. Board of Directors, Section Q Resignations, Removals, and Vacancies - "Any vacancy occurring in the Board shall be filled by the Directors at their next regular meeting, or a special meeting called for that purpose. Any vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors from the pool of Adult Benefit Members then in good standing and otherwise qualified."

Article 6. Board of Directors, Section E. Qualifications - "In order to be eligible for election as a Director, the nominee must be an Adult Benefit Member, in good standing of the Society. The Board then serving at the time of the Convention may establish recommended minimum criteria for prospective Directors, such as educational background and job experience. These criteria shall be based on the complexity and magnitude of the business and affairs of the Society."

From The President's Desk Slovak Animated Wood Carving Narrative

(continued from page 5)

for the animation, provided these two younger wood carvers agree to do the carving under Master Pekara's direction.

With Miro working as the intermediary, doing the necessary translations and talking to the three Slovak craftsmen on Dave's behalf, they began an email dialogue. Dave and his wife Anne sent Miro suggestions of what they would like to have included in the display. He translated their requests into Slovak and forwarded that information to Master Pekara, who replied to Miro with suggestions of what he thought should be included in the display. Master Pekara made a detailed sketch of what the display would look like to be certain that everyone involved in the project knew what was going to be included in the display.

Contracts were prepared in English, translated into Slovak, signed by the three carvers, and returned to the Dayton's in the Fall of 2002. Construction began immediately. Surprisingly, the Dayton's learned later that the carvers started on the project before the contracts were signed because they were so excited about creating this wood carving display. Master Pekara calculated ahead of time that it would take them 2 ½ years to complete this project and that is exactly how long it took.

(to be continued in October issue)

David Blazek
President

Punography Of The Month:

*I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman,
"Where's the self-help section?" She said if she told me it
would defeat the purpose.*

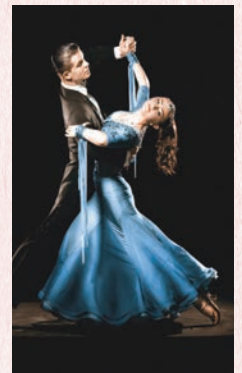
38th Annual Western Pa Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will celebrate its 38th Annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, **October 11, 2020** at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA.

Cash Bar 4:30 pm
Buffet Dinner 5:00 pm

After dinner Music by:
"Gypsy Strings"

For more information call
Sue Ondrejco
at 412-421-1204.



News from Assembly L075

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our members have been practicing social guidelines and have not met. Several things have happened since March and hopefully we will get back in the swing of things in the future.

Members were unable to physically walk in the American Heart Association Heart Walk at the PNC Field in Moosic on May 16; so we participated individually by virtual walking to conduct our matching funds for them and by donating a basket for their raffle which they raffled at their clinic raising over \$1,000. Vice President Lucy Piccoletti and Sec/Tr Lehrae Ann Edwards met at the Clinic with Chairman Maureen Legg to present the matching funds check for the Heart Walk.

On June 8, 2020 our youth member Adam Lazar obtained his Eagle Scout Rank via zoom virtual Board of Review. Congratulations Adam from all our members. He is the last Eagle Scout #29 from the Duryea Troop 285 and the Zoom Eagle for Avoca Troop 316 many Eagles. A reception will be held later in the year (TBA).

The assembly cancelled their Fraternal Summer Picnic at the Mercateli-Segilia Park in Moosic in August and we were unable to conduct a matching funds for the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton so our assembly will send a donation instead in memory of the late Lucille Ward.

The meeting for October at Grande's Restaurant for nominations and election of officers pending Covid-19 guidelines will more than likely now be held in January. Members will be informed via phone or facebook weather or not the meeting will take place at a later date.

The Region 2 meeting for August was cancelled and February 2021 meeting is also TBA, matching funds Bon Appetite for the SPCA at the Woodlawns in Wilkes Barre in November; the St. Cats and Dogs fundraiser; and the Veterans Day celebration at the Wilkes Barre VA Center in November are all on TBA status.

For more information contact Lehrae Ann Edwards at 570-569-2181.



Assembly 0123

Protecting themselves and wearing their masks from the Covid 19 virus, our members Terri Tuminello, and Judy Landa continued to keep Slovak Day alive and volunteered in the food kitchen at Kennywood Park.

This Month in National Slovak Society History

Joseph Stefka, Jr.

Chairman of the Board

September, 1970

The PVR Scholarship Fund reached a total of \$7,174.33 on September 25, 1970.

September, 1982

The XXVIII Quadrennial Convention was held in Cleveland, Ohio, from September 13-16, 1982. The delegates of the Convention elected Joseph Stefka as Supreme President; Paul J. Godor as Supreme Secretary-Treasurer; John J. Doslak as Supreme Vice-President; Rudolph Faix, John Gastan, Thomas Gmiter, Edward Havir, Joseph Hruska, Milan J. Krupa, Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr., and Joseph Voznik as Trustees.

September, 1994

National Slovak Society Secretary-Treasurer Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Fraternal Congress of America at its Annual Meeting.

September, 1996

Honorary Tribunal Member Julius J. Harbulak died on September 15, 1996. Julius had served the National Slovak Society as a Trustee from 1962-1974. He was elected as a Tribunal Member in 1978 and served in this capacity from 1978-1982.

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

July, 2020

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Anderson, Donna O	Monroeville, PA	05/25/2020	0774
Beachler, Fondella	Pennsboro, WV	06/11/2020	0774
Bean, Donna	Hazleton, PA	04/28/2020	L102
Beavers, Birdie	San Antonio, TX	05/02/2020	0774
Benson, Beatty	Arlington, TX	06/19/2020	0774
Birch, Mary Lou	Marianna, PA	05/24/2020	0434
Boland, Margaret	Dunmore, PA	09/02/2019	L075
Boyer, Jane	Littleton, CO	04/18/2020	0236
Brown, Susan K	Greensburg, PA	06/16/2020	0737
Campbell, Jeanette	Cheboygan, MI	06/12/2020	0381
Chester, Edward A	Eighty Four, PA	07/05/2020	0774
Colebank, Edward	Masontown, PA	06/26/2020	0039
Copley, Nechama	Bloomfield Hills, MI	05/14/2020	0381
Crouse II, Hugh W	Mansfield, OH	06/04/2020	0731
Davies, Ellen	Indiana, PA	07/03/2020	L105
Dellick, Paula	Youngstown, OH	06/14/2020	0731
Dillman, Charles	Wilkes-Barre, PA	07/10/2020	0617
Farren, Victoria	Portage, PA	06/28/2020	0774
Ferri, Margaret	Bethlehem, PA	06/29/2020	L102
Frost, Mary Margaret	Elizabeth, PA	05/21/2020	0441
Giameos, Freda	Canonsburg, PA	07/10/2020	0434
Gonda, Anna	Youngstown, OH	07/15/2019	0731
Gorring, William R	Coraopolis, PA	06/25/2020	0123
Graham, Virginia	Craigsville, WV	06/12/2020	0774
Haney, Mary M	Washington, PA	06/12/2020	0588
Holowell, Connie	Clearfield, PA	07/07/2020	0554
Jackman, Marion	Baden, PA	01/11/2020	0123
Katsavos, Aphrodite	Largo, FL	02/01/2020	0813
Kaufax, Sandra	Rockville, MD	04/17/2020	0100
Kedzierski, Mary	Freedom, PA	05/09/2020	0123
Keyser, Joseph W	Everson, PA	06/11/2020	0039
Knoble, Kodi	Lancaster, WI	06/27/2020	0774
Koenig, Marie	Kiel, WI	06/09/2020	0774
Kristoff, Edward	Springdale, PA	06/29/2020	L161
Krupa, Joseph G	St. Albans, VT	07/07/2020	0774
Lacny, Edward	St. Clair Shores, MI	05/18/2020	0381
Larocco, Leslie	Columbus, OH	04/30/2020	0432
Leonard, Shirley	Harrisburg, PA	07/03/2020	0774
Lewis, Lois	Monroeville, PA	07/26/2020	L105
Lubanski, Harry	Fountain Valley, CA	03/11/2020	R059
Martisek, Nick	Joliet, IL	01/02/2018	0586
McAnallen, Lucille	Butler, PA	04/18/2020	0731
McKee, Geneviave	Oceana, WV	06/14/2020	0774
Middledorf, Gretchen	Estes Park, CO	02/04/2020	0236
Mihal, Bessie	Akron, OH	06/06/2020	0070
Mitchell, Mary	Waterford, PA	06/14/2020	0737
Novak, James	Plain City, OH	07/06/2020	0039
Parker, Phillip C	Plymouth, WI	07/22/2020	0774
Pudlak, Marlene	Stow, OH	06/23/2020	0434
Rettinger, Jr., James J	Coraopolis, PA	12/14/2019	0123
Rideout, Stanley	Sewickley, PA	01/22/2019	L161
Sackmann, Pearl	Stetsonville, WI	05/30/2020	0774
Satzger, Linda	Pittsburgh, PA	05/15/2020	L105
Scott, Pearl	Apollo, PA	05/14/2020	L105
Soster, Fay	Tarentum, PA	06/18/2020	L105
Sprowls, James C	Claysville, PA	06/04/2020	0588
Tokash, Mary	No Hanover Twp, NJ	06/25/2020	L075
Welch, Gregory J	Coatesville, PA	06/22/2020	0123
White, Nancy	Huntington, WV	06/05/2020	0774
Wood, Marion	Midland, MI	03/03/2020	0381
Zastawa, Walter	Pittsburgh, PA	07/08/2020	L161
Zelenka (Zell), Lois	Westlake, OH	04/28/2020	0004

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Deported Member Jarrod Bowers:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member Gene Fraiser:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member William Howells:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member Marlene Hudac:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member Ann Lopic:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member Margaret Pace:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member Eva Valentik:**
 From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Deported Member Josephine Berwick:**
 From Assembly 0070..... 20.00

In Memory of **my Dad, Jacob Hudacek:**
 From Joanne Burkhart..... 20.00

In Memory of **Our Brother, Shaun Crowley:**
 From Kevin & John Crowley . 20.00

In Honor of **Laurie Fox:**
 From 0774 50.00

Donations:
 Linda L. Lesnak..... 50.00
 Michael Czarney 50.00
 Abigail Gross 50.00
 Robert Katricak 50.00
 Joseph Stefka, Jr 50.00
 Andrew Wesnak 50.00
 John G Payerchin..... 50.00
 Ed & Karen Nissley 100.00

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Here is my donation of:
 \$ _____
 Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund
 And send to:
 National Slovak Society
 351 Valley Brook Road
 McMurray, PA 15317

Renovation to the NSS Home Office Lobby

As we continue to learn from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and how its effects complicate day to day plans of businesses, how best to prepare for future impacts has been at the forefront of NSS policy discussion over the recent months. To tackle one aspect of future safety and security issues, the Board and President Blazek approved a renovation of the front lobby entranceway of the home office. The new front lobby includes reinforced glass and electronic locking doors among other safety features, bolstering security control for employees and future visitors to the home office.



Labor Day Recipes

Brown Sugar Applewood Ribs

Ingredients

2 slabs ribs (spare or baby back)
1½ cups your favorite BBQ sauce

Dry Rub

¼ cup dark brown sugar
2 tbsp garlic salt
4 tsp chili powder
1 tsp black pepper
½ tsp celery salt
¼ tsp red pepper
¼ tsp cinnamon

Liquid Seasoning

½ cup apple cider
½ cup brown sugar

Instructions

In a small bowl, combine the dry rub ingredients and mix well. Generously apply the dry rub to both sides of the ribs.

Build a charcoal fire situating the coals on only one side of the grill, leaving the other side void. Preheat the grill to 250°F.

Place the ribs over the void side of the grill, close the lid and cook the ribs for 2 hours 15 minutes.

Remove the ribs from the grill. Place each rack of ribs meat-side down on its own doubled aluminum foil square. The foil should be large enough to completely wrap each rib. In a small bowl, mix the apple cider and brown sugar. Pour 1/2 cup of the liquid over each rib. At the same time, tightly wrap and seal each rack of ribs with aluminum foil. Place the wrapped ribs back on the grill over the void side of the grill for 1 hour.

Remove the ribs from the grill, unwrap each rack of ribs and discard foil. Brush both sides of the ribs with your favorite BBQ sauce, and place the ribs back on the grill for 5 minutes, or until sauce caramelizes. Remove from the grill, cut and serve warm.



Jalapeño Poppers

Ingredients

10 fresh jalapeños, seeded and halved lengthwise (Add a portion of the seeds to stuffing mixture for extra spicy heat)

1 can Rotel, drained and placed on paper towels to soak up any extra juices and par dry (too much juice will compromise the stuffing consistency)

1 block cream cheese, softened
½ lb your favorite ground sausage (we love green onion sausage!)
½ lb thin sliced bacon
salt
fresh ground black pepper

Instructions

Combine cream cheese, Rotel, salt, pepper to taste.

Fill jalapeños with cream cheese mixture.

Form small log with ground sausage, placing it onto cream cheese mixture.

Place bacon strip on cutting board and press/stretch out gently with hands. (Thinning out bacon will ensure a crispy grilled product and make bacon go further. Depending on size of jalapeños you may only use 1/2 a strip per popper.)

Wrap jalapeños with bacon, making sure your bacon strip ends on the bottom (jalapeño side).

Grill until bacon is crispy and meat is cooked through. Once you place your jalapeño poppers (jalapeño side down) on grill, LEAVE IT ALONE until your bacon gets a solid seal. Rotating your poppers too early will make your bacon come apart. Shifting poppers around (not turning over) as needed to ensure bacon is crisping up evenly.



Pita sandwiches

Ingredients

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 teaspoon dill weed
1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
4 whole pita breads
1-1/2 cups fresh baby spinach
1 pound shaved fully cooked ham
1/2 pound thinly sliced Monterey Jack cheese

Instructions

Mix first four ingredients. Carefully cut each pita horizontally in half; spread 2 tablespoons mixture onto each cut surface.

On four pita halves, layer spinach, ham and cheese. Top with remaining pita halves. Cut each sandwich into four wedges; secure with toothpicks.

Ham & Cheese Crescent Bundles

Ingredients

1 package (8 ounces) refrigerated crescent rolls
1/2 cup spinach dip
4 slices black forest ham (about 4 ounces)
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°. Unroll crescent dough and separate into 4 rectangles; press perforations to seal.

Spread each rectangle with 2 tablespoons dip to within 1/2 in. of edges. Top with ham and cheese. Roll up jelly-roll style, starting with a short side; pinch seam to seal. Cut each roll crosswise into thirds; place in greased muffin cups, cut sides down.

Bake until golden brown, 12-15 minutes. Run a knife around edges to remove from pan.



Jeseň je najlepší čas na prechádzky, relax, pohodu. Keď začne zo stromov padať prvé ohnivé lístie a vetvičky kríkov pospájajú pavučinkové nite babieho leta, nadíde čas na dlhé, tak trochu i meditatívne prechádzky prírodou so sprevádzaním usmievajúceho slniečka. Pozvánky nám posiela jesenný vzduch, obťažkaný vôňou dozretých plodov, všakovakých húb i voňavého sena v krmelcoch. Dokážeme odolať? Istotne nie. Sústredene obdivujeme pod stromami, papradím a šuštiacimi listami farebné dary jesene. Oddýchnuť si pri ohníku a zahodiť do neho všetky svoje starosti a problémy. Jeseň je výborné obdobie na púšťanie šarkanov, cyklistické túry. Človek sa potom vracia domov s dobrým pocitom sviežosti. Pobyt na čerstvom vzduchu urobí dobre telu aj duši.

Jeseň prichádza vždy v rovnakom období, ale je vždy iná.

Slovensko—zaujímavosti

1. Slovensko je krajina automobilov. Na 1000 obyvateľov pripadá 100 aut. A teda ide o najväčšieho producenta aut vzhľadom na počet obyvateľov.

Slovakia is a country of cars. There are 100 cars per 1000 inhabitants. And so it is the largest car producer in terms of population.

2. 90% Slovákov má minimálne vzdelanie druhého stupňa. Je to najvyššie percento v EU (spolu s Českom, Poľskom a Slovenskom).

90% of Slovaks have a minimum secondary education. It is the highest percentage in the EU (along with the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia).

3. Najstaršia lekáreň bola otvorená v roku 1649 na hrade Červený Kameň.

The oldest pharmacy was opened in 1649 at Červený Kameň Castle.

Myšlienka...

*Všetci by chceli zmeniť celý svet,
ale nikto nepremýšľa o tom, že zmení seba.*



Foto: Roman Krnáč J. Hraško —FB

September

Mariánska jeseň

Od polovice augusta do konca októbra sa v rímskokatolíckom cirkevnom kalendári stretáva štyri mariánskych sviatkov. Mimoriadna úcta k Panne Márii prekvitala na Slovensku už od najstarších čias. Pôvodný vysoký počet mariánskych sviatkov (vo svetovom rámci takmer tisíc) sa po Druhom vatikánskom koncile v šesťdesiatych rokoch minulého storočia znížil a mnohé majú len miestny charakter. Mariánsku zbožnosť si s veľkou vrúcnosťou osvojili najširšie vrstvy slovenského obyvateľstva. Je to forma hlbokého a citovo obsažného prežívania viery.

Jesenné mariánske sviatky:

Narodenia Panny Márie 8. septembra

Najsvätejšieho mena Márie 12. septembra

Sedembolestnej Panny Márie 15. septembra

Panny Márie Ružencovej 7. októbra



Eléna Siskova

Vínohrad dobre rodí,
keď doňho hospodár
často chodí. —Zahorie

Returning to School During COVID-19

The latest American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advice says children learn best when they are in school. Schools provide more than just academics to children and adolescents. In addition to reading, writing and math, children learn social and emotional skills, get exercise and access to mental health support and other things that cannot be provided with online learning. For many families, school is where kids get healthy meals, access to the internet, and other vital services. However, returning to school in person needs careful steps in place to keep students and staff safe.

To stay safe, there are a number of steps schools should take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. They include:

Physical distancing. The goal should be to stay at least 6 feet apart to help prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. However, spacing desks at least 3 feet apart and avoiding close contact may have similar benefits for students—especially if students wear cloth face coverings and do not have symptoms of illness.

Teachers and staff, who are likely more at risk of getting COVID-19 from other adults than from children at school, should stay the full 6 feet apart from each other and students when possible. Teachers and staff should also wear cloth face coverings and limit in-person meetings with other adults.

When possible, outdoor spaces can be used for instruction and meals. Students should also have extra space to spread out during activities like singing and exercising.

Cloth face coverings & hand hygiene. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is important for everyone. In addition, all adults should wear cloth face coverings. Preschool and elementary students can benefit from wearing masks if they do not touch their mouths or noses a lot. Secondary school students should wear cloth face masks, especially when they can't stay a safe distance apart.

Classroom changes. To help limit student interaction outside the classroom, schools can:

Have teachers move between classrooms, rather than having students fill the hallways during passing periods.

Allow students to eat lunches at their desks or in small groups outdoors instead of in crowded lunchrooms.

Leave classroom doors open to help reduce high touch surfaces such as doorknobs.

Temperature checks and testing. COVID testing of all students is not possible for most schools. Taking students' temperature at school also may not always be feasible. Schools should establish ways to identify students with fever or other symptoms of illness. They can also frequently remind students, teachers, and staff to stay home if they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or have any signs of illness.

Cleaning and disinfecting. Schools should follow CDC guidelines on proper disinfecting and sanitizing classrooms and common areas.

Other considerations

In addition to having plans in place to keep students safe, there are other factors that school communities need to address:

Pressure to catch up. Students may not have gained as much from distance learning. Some students may not have had access to computers and internet. Schools should be prepared to adjust curricula and not expect to make up all lost progress. It is important to balance core subjects with physical education and other learning experiences.

Students with disabilities. The impact of schools being closed may have been greater for students with disabilities. They may have a difficult time transitioning back to school after missing out on instruction time as well as school-based services such as occupational, physical and speech-language therapy and mental health support counseling. School should review the needs of each child with an Individual Education Program before they return to school, and providing services even if they are done virtually.

Behavioral health/emotional support. Your child's school should anticipate and be prepared to address a wide range of mental health needs of students and staff. Schools should provide mental health support to any student struggling with stress from the pandemic and recognize students who show signs of anxiety or distress. Schools also can help students with suicidal thoughts or behavior get needed support.

Nutrition. Many students receive healthy meals through school meal programs. More students might be eligible for free or reduced meals than before the pandemic. Schools should provide meal programs even if the school closes or the student is sick and stays home from school.

Students at higher risk. While COVID-19 school policies can reduce risk, they will not prevent it entirely. Even with safety steps in place, some students with high-risk medical conditions may need to continue distance learning or other accommodations. Talk with your pediatrician and school staff (including school nurses) to determine if your child can safely return to school.

Returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic may not feel like normal – at least for a while. But having safety plans – and making sure schools have the resources needed to follow them – can help protect students, teachers, staff, and families.

(Reprinted from AAP)



Youth Circle Page

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

Appreciation Letters

Dear Scholarship Department:

I am writing to thank you for selecting me as a recipient into the Peter V. Rovnianek (PVR) Scholarship. I was very thrilled to learn that I was selected as a recipient of your scholarship.

As a Penn State Fayette Nursing student and as my third year has come to an end, I am already becoming successful in my endeavors and proving what I am capable of. I plan to pursue a career as a registered nurse in critical care upon graduating from Penn State Fayette. My longterm goal is to obtain my MSN to become a nurse practitioner in emergency medicine. Thanks to your staff, I am now a step closer to that goal. Becoming a recipient of your scholarship program was very important to me because I am in need of financial assistance.

Again, I can't thank you enough for providing me with this scholarship, you have lightened the stress of financial need which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to try even harder. I am blessed to say I am living my dream in Penn States College of Nursing and I will strive in every circumstance to achieve great things as a student. Once again, thanks for choosing me as a recipient of your scholarship. I'm very excited to finish my studies as a Nittany Lion. Enclosed is an unofficial transcript to prove I am maintaining a 3.0 and verification of continuing my education. Thanks again and God Bless!

Kalsie Walker

Dear President:

I'm writing to let you know I graduated from Pittsburgh Technical College on July 7, 2020 with my Associate Degree in Nursing. I wanted to thank you and the NSS Life for my PVR Scholarship throughout my college education, it has been much appreciated!

Lauren Thomas

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I am truly honored to be chosen as a recipient of this scholarship. It will be a tremendous help with the costs of college. I am very appreciative.

Joel Dean

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I want to extend a thank you for selecting me as the NSS Life Scholarship recipient. I am so honored and much obliged for this scholarship.

Giavanna Gulino

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

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.