2021 ART CONTEST WINNERS

- Picasso (Age 5-7)
  1st Place • Jason Morris II

- Rembrandt (Age 8-10)
  1st Place • Anthony Cherevka

- Michelangelo (Age 11-13)
  1st Place • Grace Her

- Van Gogh (Age 14-16)
  1st Place • Benjamin Ostrowski

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Back to School Time!

NSS Heritage Museum's "Septemberfest"
Saturday, September 25, 2021
See Page 10 for Details

Family Fun Day
Carnegie Science Center, Pittsburgh, PA
Saturday, September 11, 2021
See Page 9 for Details
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NSS Website: www.nsslife.org
REMINDER

The “Assembly Officers Seminar” on Friday and Saturday, August 6th and 7th has been canceled. A session will be held at the Quadrennial Convention in 2022 with topics similar to the Assembly Officer Seminar.

Keep Our Kids Safe
Slow Down
School Is Back In Session
August is “Back to School” month and this year it takes on a whole new meaning. The 2020-2021 school year was like none ever experienced by students, parents, school administrators, and teachers. Schools across the Nation faced an ever-changing environment and restrictions due to the pandemic. A variety of different approaches to educating students were employed at various times throughout the school year. Some students were able to attend school in-person for some period of time, others learned remotely through lessons delivered over the Internet, some students worked through information sent home by the schools, and others learned through a hybrid model, part in-person and part remote learning. The challenge was immense for not only the school districts but for parents and students as well. Technology became a necessity and students in some rural school districts with limited broadband service were not able to participate in learning through lessons streamed from the school. Academics were not the only area related to education to be affected. Activities and sports were either limited or canceled. Graduation ceremonies were also different as districts were challenged to find ways to make the ceremonies meaningful but safe. Students and parents are looking forward to students returning to full-time in-person learning for the new school year as school district personnel prepare to greet them with a smile, one that will be visible, as the new year begins.

The Summer Meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Friday, August 6th at the Home Office. Please forward any items you would like the Board to consider at the meeting to Secretary-Treasurer Linda Strom. We are looking forward to once again hosting the meeting at the Home Office in McMurray, Pennsylvania. AQS, the Society’s asset management company will be hosting its annual Insurance Symposium, on Thursday, August 5th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. The Board of Directors will be attending the Symposium which offers training on a wide variety of topics related to investment and the insurance industry, presented by speakers from various parts of the country. Continued training is essential for the Officers and Board of Directors of the Society as economic conditions change, government regulations change or increase, and the insurance industry provides new guidelines. The Society, from its adoption of the Board Governance model by the delegates at the 36th Quadrennial Convention in 2014 has placed board education and training in the forefront of initiatives annually. In addition to the Symposium, members of the Board of Directors and the Officers have participated in a variety of in-person training and webinars to deepen their knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of their positions in the Society. The training is essential to maintain an effective Board Governance model and to maintain the Society’s successful financial status.

Planning for the 38th Quadrennial Convention continues at the Home Office to ensure that everything runs smoothly next June in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Assemblies and Regions will receive pertinent information as the Convention draws closer. It is not too early to begin planning for the Convention by reviewing and discussing the By-laws at local meetings to ascertain if any recommendations for changes need to be submitted to the Committee on Constitution and By-laws prior to next year’s Convention. Also, please be sure to follow the guidelines for an active assembly to qualify for sending delegates to the Convention. Convention representation by all assemblies and regions is important for a successful Convention.

Congratulations to the National Slovak Society’s 2021 Fraternalist of the Year, Keith Kucherawy who was nominated by Assembly 588. Keith is a dedicated fraternalist serving the Society, his community, and his Church. Also, congratulations to Adam Lazar the Society’s Youth Achievement Award Winner for 2021, nominated by Lehrae Ann Edwards. Adam is actively involved in his community, his school, and Circle L075. His scholastic, volunteer, and scouting accomplishments are outstanding. Thank you to all assemblies that submitted a nomination for the two awards this year. It is great to recognize and reward individuals like Keith and Adam for their dedication.

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will hold its annual Dinner-Dance Fundraiser on August 29th at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA. Information on the event can be found on Page 10 in this issue. The Slovak Radio hour show is hosted each Sunday, by NSS Director Sue Ondrejco and her husband Rudy.

A reminder to any members planning on attending the 2021 Fun Day at Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that the deadline for registrations is August 27, 2021. The registration form is located elsewhere in this issue. The NSS Poetry Contest deadline is August 15th. Anyone planning on submitting an entry should do so by the deadline. This is another chance for the adult and youth members of our Society to participate in a national contest. Parents and grandparents, please encourage our youth members to take part in the contest.

Special Happy Birthday wishes to my granddaughters Bella Bernardo and Caroline Bernardo. Happy Birthday wishes to my predecessor, former President Dave Blazek, our Home Office Graphic Design and Social Media Specialist Ryan Strom, and to Carol Godor, Dustin Shriver, Jack Reeves, Pam Tabone, Charlie Tabone, Andrew Blazek, Jan Amick, Logan Kearney, Brady Kearney, and Hudson Lavin.

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes to our Editor Lori Crowley and husband Kevin and to Danielle and Jeff Lavin. Best wishes to all others celebrating a birthday or anniversary during the month of August!

Deepest sympathy to Home Office staff member Linda Buono and her family on the passing of her father, Richard Bour. Richard was an Army veteran serving our Country during the Korean War. May God provide Peace and comfort to all of you at this most difficult time.

www.nsslife.org | NSS LIFE
2021 1st Quarter Financial Statement Recap
Statement as of March 31, 2021

Net Admitted Assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonds</td>
<td>$1,355,947,852</td>
<td>$1,357,426,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Stocks</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Stocks</td>
<td>6,854,273</td>
<td>6,065,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Loans on Real Est.</td>
<td>63,507,580</td>
<td>32,451,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate Loans</td>
<td>948,400</td>
<td>893,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Est Occupied by Society</td>
<td>632,915</td>
<td>638,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Deposit</td>
<td>50,487,528</td>
<td>36,578,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Invested Assets</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncollected Premiums</td>
<td>470,034</td>
<td>306,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income Due</td>
<td>15,714,762</td>
<td>14,380,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,496,563,344</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,450,739,940</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities & Unassigned Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Reserve</td>
<td>$1,336,977,000</td>
<td>$1,295,552,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposit-type Contracts</td>
<td>67,222,903</td>
<td>65,253,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate Claims</td>
<td>475,000</td>
<td>550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions Due</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds Due and Unpaid</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>760,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Exp Due</td>
<td>1,604,200</td>
<td>1,733,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained by Society as Trustee</td>
<td>91,611</td>
<td>109,306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Valuation Resv (AVR)</td>
<td>11,289,000</td>
<td>10,358,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Maintenance Resv (IMR)</td>
<td>5,754,410</td>
<td>5,581,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency Reserve</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unassigned Funds</td>
<td>72,129,221</td>
<td>70,532,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,496,563,345</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,450,739,940</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surplus Account:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginning Surplus</td>
<td>$70,682,199</td>
<td>$64,096,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>2,093,673</td>
<td>7,840,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Net Unrealized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Gains or (Losses)</td>
<td>432,829</td>
<td>281,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Nonadmitted Assets</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>(9,315)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in Valuation Reserve</td>
<td>(930,500)</td>
<td>(1,526,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate Write-ins for Gains</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Losses in Surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Change in Surplus</td>
<td>1,597,022</td>
<td>6,585,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Surplus At Statement Date</strong></td>
<td><strong>$72,279,221</strong></td>
<td><strong>$70,682,199</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Operations:

**INCOME:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premium &amp; Annuity Considerations</td>
<td>$69,945,207</td>
<td>$191,259,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>15,873,710</td>
<td>60,715,911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amortization of Interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Reserve</td>
<td>143,265</td>
<td>505,857</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$85,962,182</strong></td>
<td><strong>$252,481,110</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXPENSES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death Benefits</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,921,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matured Endowments</td>
<td>37,557</td>
<td>31,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity Benefits</td>
<td>35,496,923</td>
<td>104,412,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Benefits</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>5,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrender Benefits</td>
<td>535,286</td>
<td>515,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest On Deposit Type Contr for Life Contracts</td>
<td>1,425,000</td>
<td>120,889,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions On Direct Business</td>
<td>1,861,338</td>
<td>4,921,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Fraternal Expenses</td>
<td>1,358,190</td>
<td>5,383,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insur, Taxes, Licenses, Fees</td>
<td>54,896</td>
<td>242,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expense Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$83,684,246</strong></td>
<td><strong>$243,335,217</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUMMARY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar 2021</th>
<th>Dec 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Gain From Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before Refunds To Members</td>
<td>$2,277,936</td>
<td>$9,145,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund To Members</td>
<td>(212,324)</td>
<td>(739,190)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Gain From Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Refunds To Members</td>
<td>2,065,612</td>
<td>8,406,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Realized Capital Gains</td>
<td>28,061</td>
<td>(566,477)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,093,673</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,840,226</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surplus At Statement Date: $72,279,221

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.

OPEN A ROTH IRA

with NSS Life.

* Tax Advantages
* Competitive Interest Rates
What’s the Difference?

What is the Difference Between Policies

Sometimes people want to know the difference between a whole life, twenty pay and a single premium life plan. The difference is quite simple. It has to do with the amount of each payment and how many payments each plan requires.

All three of these plans are permanent insurance options. This means that the payment will never change (increase or decrease), the death benefit will be there for your lifetime and if anywhere along the way you quit making payments there are other options. These might be cash, reduced paid-up insurance or extended insurance.

The difference really comes down to the payment and the number of payments. A whole life policy would have the lowest payment, but premiums would be payable for the longest period or for your entire life. A single premium plan would have the largest payment, but that payment would only be made one-time. A twenty pay would fall somewhere in between the other two examples. The twenty pay would have a higher payment than whole life but only for twenty years and then the policy is paid up. Here is an example of each using a Male, age 35, and $10,000 of insurance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>$10,000 Whole Life</th>
<th>$10,000 20 Pay</th>
<th>$10,000 SPWL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 yrs.</td>
<td>$1,750 CSV $601</td>
<td>$2,490 CSV $1,104</td>
<td>$2,850 CSV $2,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 yrs.</td>
<td>$3,500 CSV $1,860</td>
<td>$4,980 CSV $3,315</td>
<td>$2,850 CSV $4,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 65</td>
<td>$6,250 CSV $3,800</td>
<td>$4,980 CSV $5,238</td>
<td>$2,850 CSV $6,135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(CSV = cash surrender value)

As you can see in the above example, a larger payment also equates to a larger cash value in the policy. Look at the single premium at age 65, the payment was a one-time $2,850 but the current cash value is $6,135 at age 65. In the long run, the single premium is the most economical plan to buy. In the short run, if a person were to die early then the whole life plan would provide the best net return. Since none of us have a crystal ball and we do not know when our last day will be; we should buy the plan that best suits our budget. This way no matter what happens to you and when – the insurance will be there.

Why You Should Consider a Roth Conversion

The number one reason to consider a Roth conversion is the fact that all monies will be tax-free at some point. The number one disadvantage is taxes will be due on any converted amount. Knowing these two facts, now we can dive into this process a little deeper.

If a person believes that tax rates will be increasing. Or if you think you will be in a higher tax bracket when you retire then a Roth conversion is the option to consider. First, assume your IRA has a $100,000 account balance. When converting this amount taxes will be due. On a $100,000 the taxes could be 24% or more which is about $24,000. To get the maximum benefit from your conversion any taxes due should be paid from other sources. They could be deducted from your IRA proceeds but then some advantages are lost. Another key point is Roth conversion do not have to be all or nothing. Working with your tax advisor a figure of $20,000 might be the right number and then you convert that amount each year over the next five years. Any converted amount should be left alone for five years before accessing the funds.

Some reasons to not convert your IRA include the following: your future tax bracket at retirement will be lower than your current tax bracket. Also, if you do not have the cash to pay any taxes due then some of the conversion advantage will be lost. If all of the funds will be needed within five years or the beneficiary is a charity you may want to hold off on any conversion.

A Roth IRA is a powerful tool to help you build retirement security. Young people should start one of these ASAP because of the many advantages. NSS recommends that you consult with your tax advisor before doing any conversion because each person’s situation is unique and different. For more information talk to your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office to see how this plan can work for you.

Thought For The Month:
What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?
Robt Schuller (1926-2015) Author and televangelist
Poetry Contest
You still have time to enter into the Poetry Contest. Adults and children are all welcome. Deadline is August 15, 2021.

PVR Scholarship Recipients
CONGRATULATIONS to the 48 1st year PVR Scholarship recipients, all applicants were approved by the Board of Directors at the May board meeting!! Their photos will appear in the September issue of the National News. The checks for 2021 grants will be mailed from the Home Office the first week in August.

Region 5 Picnic
Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, a decision was made to NOT hold a Region 5 summer picnic this year. Region 5 will be looking to do some type of event around the holidays. More details will be forthcoming.

Upcoming Contests
This fall will be the Photo Contest and the entries are due by October 31st. We will end 2021 with the Ornament Contest with a deadline of December 1st.

"Evening at Phipps Conservatory’s Holiday Magic"
Saturday, December 4, 2021
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm
A favorite Pittsburgh holiday tradition, the season isn’t complete without a visit to Phipps’ Winter Flower Show and Light Garden, and this year’s show will be the biggest and brightest yet! With dazzling holiday displays, a newly renovated and illuminated Palm Court, and fun surprises at every turn, Phipps’ Holiday Magic truly captures the magic of the holidays, making memories that will last a lifetime. This year’s show will include a remarkable display of holiday trees, including a majestic 22-foot Fraser fir glowing brilliantly over the Victoria Room’s reflecting pond. Plus, enjoy Phipps’ signature floral delights, including amaryllis, orchids and thousands of poinsettias, as well as exquisitely detailed props, with one amazing new display after another. Plus, in Phipps’ Outdoor and Discovery Gardens, the Winter Light Garden will sparkle with luminous orbs, trees, fountains, a tunnel of lights and all-new ice tower prisms resembling frosted windowpanes that are sure to mesmerize visitors. More information will be available in the next issue of the National News.

Happy Birthday to Andy Warhol
Born Andrew Warhola, Andy was born on August 6, 1928. His parents, Julia and Ondrej Warhola were Carpatho-Rusyns who immigrated from what is now known as eastern Slovakia. He grew up during the Great Depression in the urban surroundings of the smoky industrial city known as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
At an early age he showed a wonderful talent for drawing. Andy attended Schenley High School and graduated at the young age of 16 in 1945. He was the first member of his family to ever go beyond a high school by attending Carnegie Institute of Technology (currently known as Carnegie Mellon University). He then moved to New York City to pursue the world of art.
Andy Warhol was an artist, filmmaker, photographer, author, editor, and cultural icon and had an illustrious career as one of the most famous artists of our time. (Think Campbell’s soup and Marilyn Monroe). In 1987 Warhol was hospitalized to have an infected gall bladder removed. Though the routine operation was successful, he died mysteriously during the early morning of February 22, 1987. He was 58 years old. Andy Warhol was laid to rest alongside his parents, Julia and Andrej Warhola, at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Cemetery in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania The Cemetery is a 5 minute walk from my house, there is a 24/7 camera on his gravesite and you can see it live by going to www.warhol.org.

A HUGE Happy Birthday goes out to retired NSS President, Dave Blazek. Hope the coming year is filled with joy and laughter.
2021 Family Fun Day

Carnegie Science Center
Saturday, September 11, 2021
11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Please join us for an exciting day at one of the best museums in Pittsburgh! Located at 1 Allegheny Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, our event will begin at 11:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. Members can explore the Science Center at their own leisure. A catered lunch will be provided to all guests in attendance. The cost to attend will be $10/person. We anticipate both a fun and educational day for everyone! Please complete the registration form below if interested in attending. Please note, there is limited availability, thus a maximum of 6 tickets per registration can be issued. These tickets will be available at the registration table upon arrival at Carnegie Science Center.

★ MUST BE AN NSS MEMBER TO ATTEND ★

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Ph. #</th>
<th>Assembly #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Adults: _____
# Youth (ages 15 and under): _____

Please return this form with payment no later than Friday, August 27th to:
NSS Life
Attn: Fraternal Dept.
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Please make checks payable to *NSS Life*

**If interested in staying overnight, NSS Life is holding a block of rooms at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott, 223 Federal Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. This hotel is only a few blocks from Carnegie Science Center. The room rate will be $149/night + $18.00 for parking. Please call 412-323-9005 for reservations and mention NSS Life to receive the discount rate. The block of rooms will be released on August 27, 2021 to the general public.**

(Side note for any baseball fans...if you are staying overnight, the Pittsburgh Pirates play the Washington Nationals, Saturday & Sunday, September 11th & 12th, @ 6:35 pm at PNC Park!)

For additional information, please contact Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org.
SEPTEMBERFEST 2021
Saturday, September 25, 2021
Presented by the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum
11 AM—4 PM
351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

This year will mark our 9th annual event at the museum. We would like to have as many of our Assemblies and Regions be involved in helping to make this year’s event another successful experience. Once again we will provide more entertainment for the children with games, crafts, etc. Therefore we will need many volunteers to help in various ways throughout the day. **If you, or your assembly would like to manage a game/craft for the day please contact: sue.ondrejco@gmail.com.**

Here are some other ways you and/or your Assembly can help:
- Donate homemade baked goods, volunteer an hour or two, publicize the event at your meetings and/or local papers. Remember, it is a great way to show everyone what the NSS is all about!

Assemblies and Regions or individuals can also support the event through one of the following levels of sponsorship:

- $100 ...Gold
- $50...Silver
- $25.....Bronze

Send your donation and makes checks payable to: NSS Heritage Museum 234 ILION St. Pgh., PA 15207

By participating as a volunteer or as a sponsor your assembly will earn fraternal tracking points.

Vendor spaces are available although limited. For more info contact sue.ondrejco@gmail.com

Mark your calendars to join us for our annual “Christmas around the World” Celebration Saturday, November 27,2021

38th Annual Western PA Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will proudly sponsor its 38th Annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, August 29, 2021. This annual celebration of friends is one of the major fundraising events for the Slovak Radio Hour, hosted by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, and heard each Sunday from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm on AM 73 WPIT, 96.5 FM and worldwide via wpitradio.com. This year’s festivities will take place at the Westwood Golf Club in West Mifflin, PA. The facility is handicapped accessible and there is plenty of free parking. Friends are invited to gather for a cash bar social at 4:30 pm; and a bountiful buffet dinner which will be served at 5:00 pm. Entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure will be by Gypsy George Batyi and the Gypsy Strings. All seats are reserved, only advance reservations are accepted. Reservations are $40.00 each, if purchased by August 14, 2021. After August 14th the cost is $45.00 each. Reservations will be accepted by mailing a check made payable to: W. PA. Slovak Radio HR. and mail them to: 234 Ilion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. We hope to see you there on Sunday, August 29th.

PVR Appreciation Letter

Dear National Slovak Society:
Thank you so much for the generous financial support and investment in my future. The PVR Scholarship has provided me with the encouragement and support to obtain my degree in Biology and a minor in Spanish, and has lead me to pursue a career as a Physicians Associate (PA). I will be attending University of Alabama at Birmingham PA Program this fall and am working to obtain my masters. It is my hope that after graduating I may be able to give back to others and create a lasting impact just as the NSS has done for me. It is truly a blessing to have received this scholarship over the past four years and I can’t thank you enough.

Sincerely,
Calypso J. Farrell
Everyone knows that Sue Ondrejco is a wonderful cook. Her stuffed cabbage is to die for! So it is only fitting that Sue won the NSS Assembly 774 raffle of a large Blackstone griddle. This raffle supported the PVR Scholarship Fund. Everyone is waiting their turn to go over to Sue’s for a cookout.

Join Hands Day is about generations, old and new working together as volunteers toward a greater purpose for their communities. Memorial Day is a holiday set aside for honoring and mourning the military personnel who had died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

This year members of Assembly L-161, joined hands with, St. Gabriel VFW Post 1365, St. Cyril Boy Scout Troop #348, Scout Troop #81 from Wexford, PA, Cub Scout Troop #935 also from Wexford, PA and members of Br. 2 and Br. 853 of the First Catholic Slovak Union to place flags on the graves of Veterans in Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, (formerly North Side Catholic).

Several evenings were needed by the volunteers to place more than 5,300 flags honoring Soldiers from Korea, WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, as well as the recent wars on terrorism. Many thanks to all the volunteers, but especially to Carol Lako, L-161 Vice President for coordinating the efforts from ordering and picking up the flags at the County Office, to organizing all the groups involved.

The NSS Home Office recently welcomed back our receptionist Ginny McMurdy from extended leave due to recovery from surgery. Welcome back Ginny!
**ASSEMBLY 0004**
Fairview Park, OH
A meeting will be held on Sunday, August 22, 2021 at Sonia Vorell’s residence, 18088 Boston Road, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm.
We look forward to seeing you then.
*Sonia Vorell*
Secretary

**ASSEMBLY 0039**
Uniontown, PA

*Members of Assembly 0039*
*Celebrate Flag Day*
A beautiful summer day greeted over thirty members that came out to our Summer Bar-B-Q to celebrate and honor our flag. During the meeting, following a delicious BBQ the members heard an update about what is happening around the NSS.
Our “Join Hands Day” celebration will be again supporting the Tony Bartock Golf Outing on Sunday, August 8th at the Duck Hollow Golf Course. Profits from the tournament help to assist Fayette County Special Olympics, the men’s and women’s shelters in Uniontown.
Approval was given to support the upcoming NSS National Golf Tournament with signage at a tee and green. Parents and grandparents, the NSS is sponsoring a “Family Fun Day” at the Carnegie Science Center on the North Side of Pittsburgh. The event is from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, September 11th.
Parents! There are some wonderful prizes awaiting your child in the “NSS Poetry Contest”. Rules are in the latest issue of the “National News” and the deadline is August 15th!
Mark your calendars for our upcoming “Flight 93 Memorial Dinner” at the Eat’n Park Restaurant on Sunday, September 12th at 6:00 pm. Come and help us remember our fellow Americans who gave their lives for us.
If you have any questions about our meetings or programs, call me at (724) 366-4100, or our secretary at (724) 570-1301. Have a safe and enjoyable summer with your family.
*John Payerchin*
President

**ASSEMBLY L075**

Our Fraternal Summer Picnic will be held on August 29, 2021 at the Mercatelli-Segilia Park, 3900 Birney Ave, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm.
The next meeting is October 17, 2021 at Grande’s Restaurant, 4200 Birney Avenue, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm. For more information contact Lehrae Ann Edwards at 570-569-2181.
*Lehrae Ann Edwards*
Secretary/Treasurer

**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. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

**ASSEMBLY 0123**
Coraopolis, PA
I want to give a shout out to my sister, Leslie O’Donnell. Her birthday was last month but I didn’t mention that in my article however August 1st is Sisters Day and August 13th is Left Handers Day. I would like to say happy belated birthday Leslie and thanks for being such a fine left handed sister!
There are a few days left to get your poem in before the August 15th deadline. Surely some of you have the ability to make magic with your words. Give it a try.
Are you ready for the Assembly 123 Miniature Golf Tournament? It is more of an outing. Miniature golf rules apply. Each person keeps their own score and you must have fun and not laugh at other golfers. If need be you can get someone else to bend down and get your ball out of the hole. This is why it is good to have at least one person under the age of twelve to be in your party. Mark your calendar for August 28th at the Neville Island course by the Robert Morris Ice complex and the large enclosed golf driving range at 1:00 pm. Assembly members are free guests five dollars each. There will be pizza and drinks after golf. Please call if you would like to attend at 724-242-5085.
Our assembly has decided to give twenty dollars to the PVR fund for each of our members that pass away each month. Unfortunately most of these members are not known by me or most other members because of our large and wide spread membership but we would like their families to know they are remembered.

There is one member I want to offer a few words for, Helen Huska of Midland PA who passed away at the age of 96. She was someone who attended many of our assembly activities. She brought with her a smile, kind spirit and a sense of enjoyment. We would like to extend our condolences to her devoted daughter Christine Huska.

**www.nsslife.org | NSS LIFE**
There are two events in September that NSS is sponsoring that are extremely worthwhile. The Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, September 11th at the Carnegie Science Center. For the young ones the Sportworks can be a blast. Saturday, September 25th is Septemberfest 2021 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This takes place at the home office of NSS and the location of the Slovak Heritage Museum, McMurray PA. You’ll find the museum quite interesting and I’m sure there will be good Slovak food available. I encourage our members to attend both these events. Enjoy what is left of summer, and God Bless.

William Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377
Bentleyville, PA

If you plan on attending Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 11th, Assembly #377 will reimburse our members if they purchase the tickets through the home office.

A meeting will be held on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at the Sesame Inn, 2975 Washington Road, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm. As always, please RSVP if attending at 724-207-3171 or email me at susanne.skrypak@gmail.com.

Also, we encourage your participation in our fraternal activities such as the Senior Scholarship, Matching Funds, Poetry Contest, and Photo Contest. There are many benefits to being a member!

We welcome suggestions for meeting sites now that many places are reopening. Please bring any ideas to our meeting for that and any community projects or fund raising events we can participate in.

Susan Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0432
Fairview Park, OH

A meeting will be held at the Pytel Pool on August 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm. This will be our FIRST meeting in person since COVID!

We hope to see you there, as your input is always welcome and valued!!

Shawn Pytel
Publicist & Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0554
Curwensville, PA

Mark your calendars for the following meetings for the year of 2021:

- September 5th
- October 17th

All meetings will be held at Jim Stricek’s residence, 135 McCullough Street, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm. All members are urged to attend.

For more information, you can contact Jim at 814-590-7021 or email: assembly554@gmail.com

Jim Stricek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0586
Chicago, IL

Back to normal in Illinois!!!!! We’re hoping we’re not being too optimistic, but normal sounds good after so many months.

Again my car has essentials and useful items loaded and ready to deliver to the location used by Operation Support Our Troops. It’s an ongoing project of NSS Assembly 586. Volunteers in the warehouse will pack boxes to ship to our troops. We like the feeling of thanking them for their service.

Carol Godor
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0737
North Huntingdon, PA

Meetings will be held on October 16, 2021 and also December 4, 2021 at the home of Carol Godor, 9280 Clubview Drive, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm.

If you plan on attending the December 4th Christmas meeting, please let me know by November 26, 2021 so we can plan accordingly.

We have a lot of business to discuss since the virus has held us back for a year. Hope to see you all at the meetings.

Carol Godor
Treasurer
ASSEMBLY 0813
Englewood, FL

NSS Assembly #813 is again working with St. David’s Episcopal Church to provide nourishing food for children through the Jubilee Center Kids Summer Backpack Program. This summer program began June 1st and will run through August 11th when school will resume.

Last year we distributed 450 bags. Each child in a family receives a bag. This year we have packed 250 bags and anticipate 150 more will be packed. We also plan to participate in the Lunchroom Angels fund once school begins. We firmly believe no child should go hungry.

Toys for Tots remains on our list of projects during the winter months and our participation in the Brown Bag Program of the Wiregrass provides food for seniors. They shouldn’t go hungry either.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 2
Hazleton, PA

A meeting will be September 25, 2021, at Pierce Street Deli 517 Pierce St, Kingston, PA at 1:00 pm. Please read your NSS National News in case we need to cancel.

Lucy Piccoletti
Recording Secretary

REGION 5
Pittsburgh, PA

Meeting Notice

The fall meeting of Region #5 will be held on Sunday, October 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the NSS Home Office in McMurray, PA. Plans for Region #5 activities for the remainder of 2021 will be discussed. All assemblies in Region #5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
President
Region #5

(Continued on Page 15)
Consultations are provided, access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing treatment and hearing protection products. Additionally, free annual hearing health screenings are available to our members discounts on select services. These include hearing aids, tinnitus management, and hearing protection products.

If interested, please visit: https://www.starthearing.com/

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Greg Blum:
From Assembly 0434 ......... 100.00
In Memory of Shaun Crowley:
From Assembly 0434 ......... 100.00
In Memory of Peter Longstreth:
From Assembly 0434 ......... 100.00
In Memory of Bucky Wesnak:
From Assembly 0434 ......... 100.00
In Memory of Mary Shemancik:
From Assembly 0123 ......... 20.00
In Memory of Odessa Shaver:
From Assembly 0123 ......... 20.00
In Memory of Peter Longstreth:
From Assembly 0123 ......... 20.00
In Memory of Charles Hamilton:
From Assembly 0123 ......... 20.00
In Memory of Shaun Logan Crowley:
From Kevin, Lori, Kevin, Jr., and John Crowley ......... 20.00
In Memory of our Deceased Assembly 0004 members:
From Assembly 0004 ......... 100.00

Donations:
John Payerchin ....................... 50.00
Drew Wesnak ....................... 50.00
Patricia Butwin ..................... 32.94

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

NATIONAL NEWS | AUGUST 2021
Where's our Flying Car Future?

Maybe it's finally a little closer. AirCar, a prototype car-plane-thing from Klein Vision made a trip between Nitra and Bratislava airports in Slovakia. After 35 minutes in the air, and making the landing, its inventor clicked a button, the wings tucked in and he drove the car home straight from the tarmac. The company has worked on hybrid aircraft for more than 30 years. With 142 successful landings and 40-plus hours of test flights under its belt, Professor Stefan Klein is convinced that his third prototype is ready to go into pre-production.

What's particularly interesting compared to other flying vehicles is this is very much a car (with a BMW petrol engine inside), not a drone or a vertical take-off and land (VTOL) machine. It's more like a plane and requires a runway to get into the sky.

For the next stage, Klein wants to almost double the horsepower of the engine and believes the vehicle will be eligible for aircraft certification from European aviation regulators. Oh yes, along with an M1 road permit for when the wheels hit the ground.

In reality, getting there could still prove a challenge. The company will have to tread a fine line between a light aircraft and a more substantial vehicle with health and safety precautions built-in. However, there are signs that regulators are coming round to the idea of flying cars. In the US, the Federal Aviation Administration recently granted Terrafugia’s roadable airplane a special certificate in the light sport category (S-LSA), making it legal for flight. -- Mat Smith

NSS Region 5 Pirates Night and Fireworks

NSS members in attendance at Region 5’s Pirates Night at PNC Park.

Our NSS Cleveland fans came to support their Indians team on NSS Region 5’s Pirates Night at PNC Park. The game was so exciting winning and losing, but luckily the Pirates won 11-10.

Photo 1: Director Laurie Fox and her husband Mike drove into Pittsburgh and brought quite a few of Cleveland Indians fans with them.

Below Photo 2: Mike Fox, Jr. and wife

Below Photo 3: Quite a few Cleveland Indians fans enjoying the game.

Submitted by Susan Ondrejco
Augusť — krásny mesiac v roku kúpeme sa na potoku

— Zuzana Vanousova

Kedž ja na Toriše nožki umivala, popod mojo nožki ribka preplavala.
Plavaj ribko, plavaj, popod bistro vodu, šak kebi ja mohla, plavala bim s tebu.

Pápež potvrdil návštevu Slovenska, známy je už aj presný dátum

Navštívi Bratislavu, Prešov, Košice a Šaštín.

„Som rád, že môžem oznámiť, že od 12. do 15. septembra, keď Pán Boh dá, pôjdenom na Slovensko, pôjde o pastoračnú návštevu,” uviedol pápež František.

„Zo srca cajíme všetkým, ktorí pripravujú túto cestu a modlim sa za nich. Pomôžem sa všetci za túto cestu a za osoby, ktoré pracujú na tom, aby to zorganizovali,” dodal pápež František. — Jurko Jurkovičová, TASR, SITA

O znaku Slovenska

Podľa starej legende PRVÝ VRCH znamená vieru v Boha nebeského i vieru, s ktorou ho ľud slovenský uznava za svojho veľkého vládca.

DRUHÝ VRCH predstavuje nádej, že pán dá slovenskému ľudu sílu i milosť, aby mu, verne a vytrvalo slúžil. Za to ho po smrti obdarí kráľovstvom nebeským. Taktiež tento vrch predstavuje aj mohutnosť nádeje v krajišiu a pokojnejšiu buducnosť národa pod Tatrami. Je to aj túžba v samostatný a samobytý život.

TRETÍ VRCHOL je láskas. Láska k Bohu, vlasti svojeti. Láska ku priateľom i ne priateľom. Láska k Bohu je aj mučenictvom spečatená, láskas k svojeti sa neváhala obetovať na oltár vlasti, láskas k blížnym miluje všetkých ľudí dobrej vôle.

DVOVITÝ KRIŽ ukazuje veľkosť utrpenia, ktoré musel dobrý slovenský ľud dosiať podstúpiť. Trpel za Boha, keď sa pred rokmi k nemu prihlásl,trpel za slobodu, o ktorú ho bezcitne olúpili. Trpel, ale neskal a nepoddaival sa. Čím vážší bol boilost, tým vrúcnejšia bola jeho láskas k Najvyššiemu a nádeje vo vitazstvo spravodlivosti. To je ozajstný dvojkríž. Kríž lásky a utrpenia, kresťanstva a rodoľubstva.

Na bratislavskom letisku pristálo prvé lietajúce auto

Let z Nitry trval 25 minút.

BRATISLAVA. Lietajúce auto AirCar po prvý raz pristálo na medzinárodnom letisku v Bratislave. Prototyp, ktorý má za sebou už takmer 50 hodín letových skúšok, bez problémov absolvoval približne 80-kilometrový presun z letiska v Nitre cestovnou rýchlosťou 170 kilometrov za hodinu. Informoval o tom konštruktér a vedúci celého projektu Štefan Klein.

Premena z lietadla na automobil bežne použiteľný v cestnej premávke trvá približne dve a pol minúty. Kedy bude možné si AirCar objednať, zatiaľ nie je jasné. Prvý prototyp musí dokončiť povinných 50 hodín letových skúšok a potom Klein pripravuje postavenie druhého prototypu s pozmeneným dizajnom a vykonnejším pohonom, čo umožní podstatné zvýšenie cestovnej rýchlosti. Ten už bude pripravený na medzinárodné certifikácie Európskou agentúrou pre bezpečnosť letectva (EASA). — sme.sk

Pozývame Vás na “Septemberfest 2021”
Ktorý sa prevedie 25 Septembra pri hlavnom úrade NSS
Všetci sú Vitaný
2021 Youth Art Contest Winners

Jason Morris II - Assembly C731
1st Place Picasso Level

Thomas C. McGovern - Assembly C123
2nd Place Picasso Level

Jacob Katricak - Assembly C160
3rd Place Picasso Level

Anthony Cherevka - Assembly C108
1st Place Rembrandt Level

Rose Katricak - Assembly C160
2nd Place Rembrandt Level

Silas Cannon - Assembly C731
3rd Place Rembrandt Level

Grace Her - Assembly C774
1st Place Michelangelo Level

Allie Lazar - Assembly C075
2nd Place Michelangelo Level

Caden Huettler - Assembly C774
3rd Place Michelangelo Level

Benjamin Ostrowski - Assembly C617
1st Place Van Gogh Level

Adam Lazar - Assembly C075
2nd Place Van Gogh Level

Natalie Goldsworthy - Assembly C108
3rd Place Van Gogh Level
2021 NSS PHOTO CONTEST
Deadline: October 31, 2021

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

Deadline:
October 31st is the deadline for all entries to be received. Judging is done by an outside professional.

Please mail to:  National Slovak Society, Fraternal Activities Coordinator, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Contest Rules:
• 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
Scenic
Patriotic
Animals
Hometown Pride

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

Please contact Fraternal Activities Coordinator, Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org or call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 if you have any questions.

2021 NSS POETRY CONTEST
Deadline: August 15, 2021

This is a great opportunity for parents and assembly officers to encourage our youth to utilize their thinking caps, sharpen those pencils and put those poetic thoughts on paper. The poetry submitted should display an honest and true effort of creativity and unique artistic vision. The rules are as follows:

1. Contest is open to all NSS Youth members ages 5 to 16, as well as Adult members.
2. Poem may be any length up to two pages double spaced.
3. Topic is chosen by individual.
4. Each poem submitted MUST be an original work created by the member and should be typed or handwritten clearly.
5. All entries must include: name, address, phone number, age, assembly/circle number, along with your t-shirt size chosen by the following sizes available:
   Youth Sizes - YS and YM
   Adult Sizes - AS, AM, AL and AXL
6. Winners in each category will have their poetry printed in the National News, Youth Circle Magazine and on the NSS Website.
7. Contest shall be judged under the following ages:
   Keats - Ages 5, 6, 7
   Angelou - Ages 8, 9, 10
   Frost - Ages 11, 12, 13
   Shakespeare - Ages 14, 15, 16
   Poe - Adult
8. Prizes awarded in each level shall be as follows:
   First Place - $50.00 & Certificate of Achievement
   Second Place - $25.00 & Certificate of Achievement
   Third Place - $15.00 & Certificate of Achievement
9. Deadline for entries to the Home Office is August 15th. Entries must be mailed or delivered to: National Slovak Society
   ATT: Pam Blum, Fraternal Activities Coordinator
   351 Valley Brook Road
   McMurray, PA 15317
10. Entries will be judged by an outside professional. Decisions made by the judge will be final in all cases.
11. The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all the poems.

Please contact Fraternal Activities Coordinator, Pam Blum at pblum@nsslife.org or call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 if you have any questions.
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.