



NSS Life
Family Matters...

PVR Scholarship Program
First Year Applications
Due May 1st, 2021

May Art Contest
Deadline May 31st, 2021
See Page 23 for Rules

Stay
Safe



NSS Life
Family Matters...
Peter Vitazoslav Rovnianek
Scholarship Fund
APPLICATION FOR A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

To be eligible, applicants must submit the following with this completed application:
 < High school Transcript or, if attending college, College Transcript
 < Proof of Acceptance to accredited school
 < Resume or biographical sketch
 < Senior Yearbook Photo for publication (photo will not be returned)
 < Proof of Fraternal Activity, Community Service or Volunteer Activity with signed verification from an Assembly Officer or an adult in charge where the community service or volunteer work is performed.

I, _____ hereby make application for a Scholarship Grant a member of the National Slovak Society through Assembly No. _____ Certificate No. _____

Home Address _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail address _____ Phone Number _____ Date of Birth _____

High School: _____

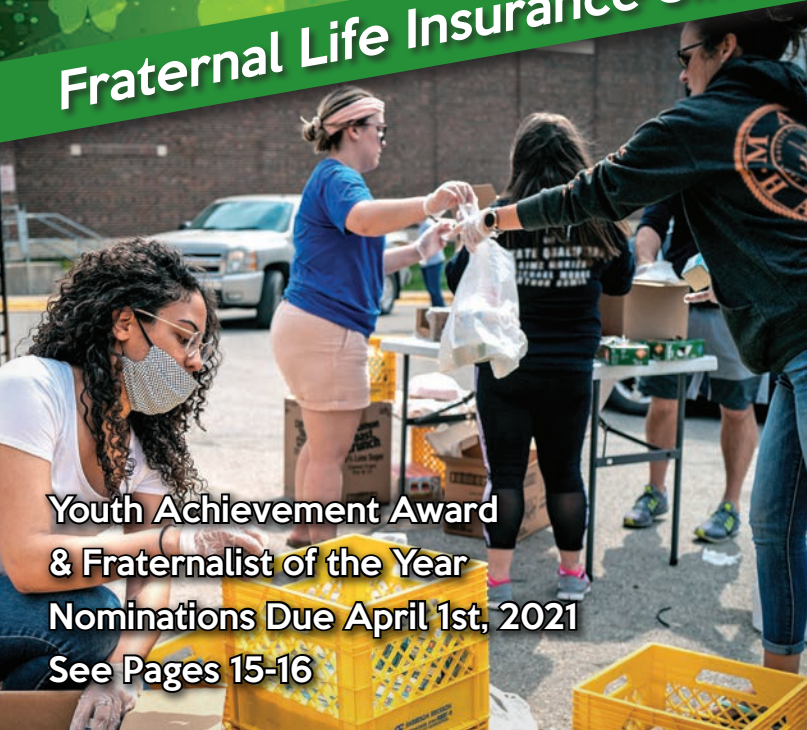
School Address: _____

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

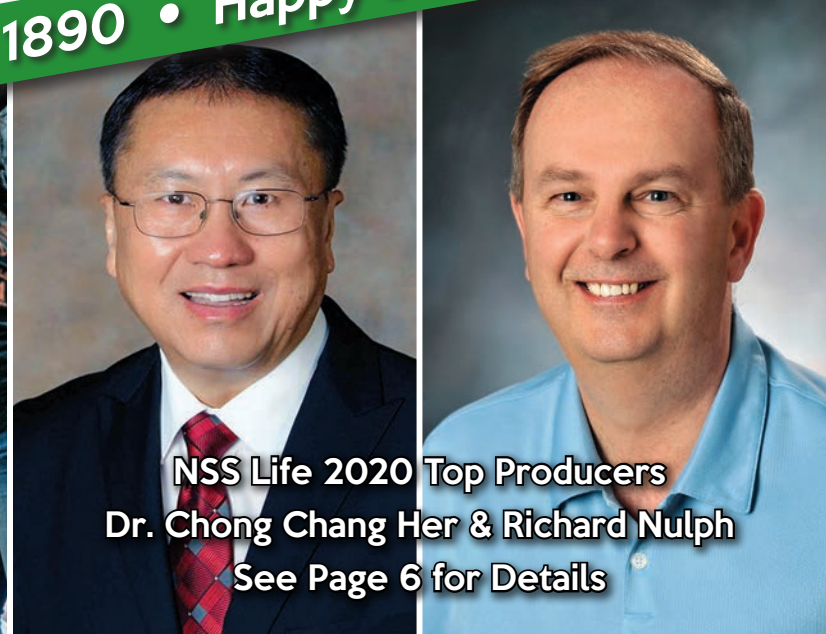
Národné Noviny

Spring Youth Circle

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy St. Patrick's Day



Youth Achievement Award
& Fraternalist of the Year
Nominations Due April 1st, 2021
See Pages 15-16



NSS Life 2020 Top Producers
Dr. Chong Chang Her & Richard Nulph
See Page 6 for Details

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EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY

Published Monthly

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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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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 Page.....4

Secretary/Treasurer's Page.....5

NSS Financial Matters

Annuity Interest Rates.....6

Production Leaders for Year 2020.....6

NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director.....7

Anniversary Offer.....7

NSS News/Activities

2021 Dates to Remember.....3

Fraternal Activities Coordinator

& Fraternal Assistant.....8

Memoriam - Andrew Wesnak.....9-10

Heritage Museum Easter.....10

Spring Youth Circle Magazine.....11-14

Departed Members.....20-21

Palacinky Recipe.....21

May Art Contest Rules.....23

Assembly News

Youth Achievement Award Form.....15

NSS Fraternalist of the Year Application.....16

Assembly Meetings.....17-19

PVR Donations.....20

Youth Circle Page.....23

New Member.....23

Národné Noviny

Maľba na skle.....22

Medzinárodný deň žien 8. marec.....22

Pre Študentov.....22

Winter Meeting Board of Directors

Saturday, March 6th, 2021

Activities At A Glance

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

REGION 2 April 11 April 24 May 8 May 15	Assemblies L075, 0617 Assembly L075, Meeting, Terry's Diner, Moosic, PA at 2:30 pm Region 2, Meeting, Terry's Diner, Moosic, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, Postal Carriers (Tenative) Assembly L075, American Heart Association Walk, PNC Field, Moosic, PA (Tenative)
REGION 5 March 14 March 21 June 13 June 27 September 12 September 26 December 5 December 5	Assemblies P38A, 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774 Assembly 0039, Lenten Dinner, Eat'n Park, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0377, Meeting, Atria's, Washington Road, McMurray, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0039, Flag Day/Summer Bar-B-Q, Uniontown Col. Assoc. Hall at 1:00 pm Assembly 0377, Annual Picnic, Richardsons Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0039, Flight 93 Remembrance Dinner, Eat'n Park, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm Assembly 0377, To Be Announced Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, Uniontown Col. Assoc. Hall at 2:00 pm Assembly 0377, Annual Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA
REGION 8	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595 No Activities
REGION 14	Assemblies R059, L102 No Activities
AT LARGE	Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813 No Activities

2021

NSS Life
Family Matters...



NSS 2021 DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

April 1st: Youth Achievement Award & Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Forms Due

May 1st: PVR Scholarship Program First Year Applications Due

May 31st: Art Contest Deadline

June 18th: NSS Pirates Night *
PNC Park - Pittsburgh, PA

July 9th-11th: NSS National Golf Tournament *
Kensington Golf Club
Canfield, OH

July 15th: PVR Scholarship Program Renewal Transcripts Due

August 15th: Poetry Contest Deadline

September 11th: Family Fun Day *
Carnegie Science Center
11:00am - 5:00pm

September 25th: The National Slovak Society Heritage Museum Presents "Septemberfest" *
11:00am - 4:00pm

October 31st: Photo Contest Deadline

December 1st: Christmas Ornament Contest Deadline

December 4th: Evening at Phipps Conservatory *
4:00pm - 7:00pm

* Dates are tentative, determinant on potential cancellations due to the COVID-19 Pandemic complications.

The President's Page...

Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC, President, CEO
Email: jstefka@nsslife.org



Greetings from our Home Office in McMurray, Pennsylvania. The month of March is a month of transition in regard to weather. With winter winding down, and spring on the horizon, the weather in the Pittsburgh area in March is really unpredictable. People often say that in Pittsburgh, you can witness all four seasons in a single day! That is never more evident than in the month of March often with a great fluctuation in temperatures and types of precipitation. The good news is that it only lasts a month.

In the month of March, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th and the first day of Spring on March 20th. Remember that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one-hour. Also, since Easter falls on the first weekend of April this year, I would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Happy Easter from my family, the Officers and Board of Directors, and the NSS Home Office Staff.

The Board of Directors will meet virtually on Saturday, March 6, 2021 for the Winter Board Meeting. The Board last met in person at the Winter Meeting in March of 2020. Thanks to technology and remote meeting software, the Board of Directors and our advisors have been able to meet virtually and keep the Society moving in a positive direction throughout the pandemic.

Assembly 39 of Uniontown is holding a Lenten dinner on Sunday, March 14th. Due to the pandemic, the restrictions that have been imposed by state and local governments regarding gathering, and the limited capacity at restaurants have hampered the efforts

of NSS Assemblies and Regions to hold physical meetings and activities over the past year. However, it is great to see local assemblies holding meetings virtually using technology or by telephone to conduct business. Assemblies and regions have also continued to support organizations within their communities assisting those in need through donations. Keep up the great work! Our help is needed more than ever!

A reminder to all assembly officers and members that nominations for the NSS Fraternalist of the Year close on April 1st. Please take the time to recognize a member who goes the extra mile in volunteering and doing good deeds in your community by nominating them for the NSS Fraternalist of the Year. A nomination form is included in this issue of the National News and is also available on the NSS website.

The NSS Youth Achievement Award nominations are also due by April 1st. Once again, assembly officers and

members may nominate any NSS member 18 or younger for this award. It is based on youth members who do outstanding work at their school, in their community, in their church and in their local assembly. Take the time to recognize a youth member of your assembly deserving of the award. The winner will receive \$500. Remember they are the future leaders of your assembly and the NSS! This form is also included in this issue of the National News and is on the NSS website.

News Of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to NSS Directors Andrea Garbon and John Payerchin, Home Office Staff member Lori Korte, and to Peter Longstreth, Enice Boyde, Jim Arbore, and Carol Koches. Best wishes to all other NSS members celebrating a birthday or anniversary in March!



Congratulations to Alexa M. Triebisch of Assembly 0588 Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Scholarship Recipient



Alexa M. Triebisch, member of Assembly 588, recently was awarded a scholarship by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance. She is the daughter of Cyndy and Bob Triebisch also members of Assembly 588.

Annually, the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance awards a scholarship to a deserving senior. The individual must be a resident of Pennsylvania and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance. The candidates must submit an application outlining their scholastic achievements, extracurricular school activities, civic activities, and fraternal benefit society activities and

complete an essay related to fraternalism.

Alexa was also awarded one of the PVR Scholarships by the National Slovak Society last Spring. She graduated from Burgettstown High School in 2020 with a 3.9 GPA. Alexa was highly involved in scholastic activities while attending Burgettstown High School, including Varsity Cheerleading, National Honor Society, Prom Committee, Yearbook Committee, and High School Musicals. She participated in volunteer work and community service activities throughout her high school career, including volunteering at Our Lady of Lourdes Fish Fry, serving as a volunteer coach for the Burgettstown Lions Youth Football Cheerleaders, serving as a volunteer at Blood Drives at the High School, volunteering at a Memorial Scholarship Basketball Tournament Fundraiser annually, and volunteering annually for the Burgettstown Food Drive. Alexa has been involved in activities sponsored by Assembly 588, Region 5, and contests sponsored by the National Slovak Society.

She is currently in her freshmen year at Robert Morris University majoring in Secondary Education/History. Alexa earned a 3.93 GPA in her first semester. Congratulations Alexa! We wish you continued success at Robert Morris University!

A Page From My Notebook...

Linda M. Strom,
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Email: lstrom@nsslife.org



ANNUAL REPORTS

Assembly/Region Annual Reports and Forms

This year's delivery of the annual packet is a bit different. The USPS has been impacted by the pandemic and it was found that bulk and large mailings were being delayed in their delivery. I was hesitant in sending our packets via USPS, so I decided to "Email" the Annual Packet to each Assembly and Region since I have email addresses for those that have provided them to me on the annual Elected Officers form each year. There were only 7 assemblies that did not have an email address, so they received the forms via USPS. The reason for this emailing was to get the 4 (four) most important forms to you quickly. These forms have been made writable so it should make life easier for those that fill them out each year. Thank you to those that have already returned the forms to me via email. This tells me that my email was received by the recipients chosen. Please update me with any email address changes for future mailings.

2021 Assembly Officers Seminar

Yes, it is still scheduled for August 6th, 2021. Keep your fingers crossed that we can soon be together and enjoy the seminar.

2020 Financials

I would like to thank those individuals that have spent endless hours closing 2020 and moving forward into 2021. Thanks to: NSS Controller Donna Tenney for her efforts in the financial close of 2020. She and her staff, Lori and Patti, make it look easy. I would also like to thank Don Reddinger, CPA, H2R; Edward Cowman, NSS Appointed Actuary, Miller/Newberg; and AQS Managing Directors Larry and Byron White and their staff for their expertise assisting in the financials.

NSS Customer Supervisor and IT Admin Lisa Shiver must also be commended. Her hours both in the office and working from home are extreme. Thank you Lisa for all you do to make sure our members have the information they need, specifically RMD's and 1099's. Those of you who have needed help in signing on to our Member or Agent Portals, because of the implementation of 2-factor authentication, have most likely spoken with Lisa. This has been an intense project, but she has somehow managed to help every member as quickly as possible and continue with her year-end responsibilities.

Finally, I would like to congratulate President Stefka for a successful transition as President & CEO of the NSS. We are all looking forward to seeing what the new year brings and what new challenges arise.

Busy Times at NSS

I cannot remember when the office has been so busy. Fall 2020 for the NSS is about closing the current year and getting prepared to move forward into the new year. With no surprises! Of course, that never happens. President Stefka held a Staff meeting outlining current projects, future projects, staffing, and commented on his first three months in office. Sounds like we are going to be VERY busy.



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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.



Congratulations to our NSS Leaders for the Year of 2020!



Rich Nulph is the TOP PREMIUM/ANNUITIES PRODUCER for the entire year of 2020. He is the founder and President of Safety 1st Retirement located in Lower Burrell, PA with six locations in the Pittsburgh area. Rich built his firm to bring a holistic approach to retirement planning. Safety is a priority in building a successful retirement plan that includes lifetime income options. The firm also provides expert support in estate planning and Medicare products. You can reach Rich and his team at **412-772-8575**. Congratulations from NSS Life on a job well done.



Congratulations to Dr. Chong Chang Her on being the TOP LIFE INSURANCE/NEW MEMBER PRODUCER for the entire year of 2020. Dr. Chong Chang Her came to America in April 1980 as a refugee from Laos to Thailand and then to the United States of America. He is the President of Hmong-American Insurance Services, Inc. since 1991. Dr. Her believes the future of the life insurance products should be diversified and flexible for our customers. Our customers should be able to make choices and choose the right product for them. By making that decision, Dr. Her decided to form his agency to meet that challenge. Dr. Her has been serving as an independent insurance agent for 29 years. For any question, please go to **www.Hmoobinsurance.com** or call him at 1-800-813-4870 or email him at: **ccher61@gmail.com**
Well done from NSS Life!

From the Sales Department...

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



What are Dividends?

Sometimes at the home office we get this question, "What are dividends?" Technically, a dividend is an overcharge of the payment by the insurance company and then after expenses any amount not needed is returned as a dividend.

Here are a few facts about our dividends. They are not guaranteed. They are projections based on a multitude of factors including interest rates, expenses and mortality. Dividends are usually paid on permanent policies, i.e., whole life, twenty-pay life and single premium. Usually not paid on term policies and annuities.

When a dividend is declared, that amount is credited to your policy. We offer several different dividend options:

1. **Paid-in cash.** A check is sent each year for the declared amount of the dividend.
2. **Left at interest** – this option works more like a savings account. The dividend earns interest each year. Eventually when the interest becomes \$10 or more, we must send a 1099-int for that amount and you owe taxes on that amount. It is important to remember that the taxes are on the interest not the dividend itself.
3. The dividend may be used to **pay future premiums** as they come due.
4. The dividend can buy **paid-up additions (PUAs)**. This is by far the number one choice among our members. Based on the age and sex; for example, a \$10 dividend might buy a \$40 PUA. This PUA amount will be

added to your policy face amount and paid to your beneficiary someday.

Over the years dividends have a way of enhancing your policy values. In time this can make a significant difference in your plan. An illustration will always show how this could work to your advantage.

Why Do People Around The World Buy Life Insurance

Life insurance is one of the greatest products ever devised. It is unique because with a small payment a person could be insured for thousands of dollars instantly. Some believe that the purpose of life insurance is to protect a mortgage, guarantee a business loan, provide liquidity or leave a legacy to heirs. While all of these are true, here are some interesting facts compiled by the titans of the life insurance industry.

According to Metropolitan, Prudential, New York Life and Northwestern Mutual, most of the life insurance bought in the U.S. was to pay for funeral expenses and pay off any remaining debts. This makes sense since the average cost of a funeral is between \$7,000 - \$12,000 depending on where you live and other factors. This is an

expense that must be paid quickly. Interestingly, the remaining debt average is \$145,000 per person. The median number is \$67,000 which means there are as many people with more than that amount as there are with less. So, based on the average numbers a person needs about \$80,000 of life insurance protection.

We are just one country with our views and beliefs. So how do others around the world feel about life insurance? In checking with the world heavyweights (i.e.: AXA, Allianz, China Life and Ping) most of their policy holders bought life insurance for two reasons, to supplement retirement income and the other to replace lost wages for the family. The insurance face amount when paid to a beneficiary could be paid in monthly installments to replace the income lost from the demise of the wage earner. Years later, at retirement, the cash value of this policy could be converted to a monthly income to supplement any pension income.

No matter where you live around the world, life insurance has many practical uses. NSS can help you with your life insurance needs and questions. Please contact your local representative for some guidance in this area.



Here's why you should take advantage of our Anniversary Offer. Offer ends March 31st!

(Rates are going up later this year, 2021. Don't wait!)

- **No Medical Exam!**
- **Liberal underwriting**
- **No waiting periods**
- **Regular rates**
- **Easy application process**

See January or February issue for Anniversary Offer sign-up form.

Thought For The Month:

*The most important investment you can make is in yourself.
Your potential exceeds your reality. Your best asset is yourself.*

Warren Buffet – Billionaire Businessman

Fraternal Matters...

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



Amanda Zinn, Fraternal Assistant
Email: azinn@nsslife.org



PVR Scholarship

The PVR Scholarship was named after NSS founder, Peter Vitazoslav Rovnianek. Founded in 1966, the scholarship has been a way for the National Slovak Society to show continued support for education. The success of this program is evident by the hundreds of scholarships that have been awarded to our youth members over the years. Over the past 10 years, we have awarded approximately \$740,000 in grant money to many of our deserving members.

To qualify, the following criteria need to be met:

1. Must be a member of NSS Life for at least two years.
2. Must have a minimum of \$10,000 in an active whole life insurance policy or \$5,000 in an active annuity policy.
3. Must be attending a college/university, junior college, trade, technical, nursing, business school or other institutions that are approved by the NSS Board of Directors.
4. If a scholarship is awarded, the student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher, and be enrolled full-time, to continue receiving the scholarship each consecutive year.

A maximum of \$2,000 can be awarded over four (4) years (\$500/year) for those that are eligible. **The deadline for 1st year recipients is May 1, 2021. NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please contact Pam or Amanda at the home office to request an application.

Dear NSS Life Scholarship Committee,

I was one of your college scholarship recipients from 2016 to 2020. In May of 2020 I graduated from Penn State's Smeal College of Business with a Bachelors degree in Finance. Following graduation, I started my career with Ernst & Young as a Financial Services Consultant. Throughout my four years at college, this scholarship helped me to buy books and supplies for my classes. Thank you all for awarding me this scholarship. It had a great impact on my college career and I will forever be grateful to have been a recipient.

Cameron Morgan

Carnegie Science Center (Update)



Please mark your calendars! The new date for our Family Fun Day at Carnegie Science Center is now **Saturday, September 11, 2021** from 11am-5pm. Please keep in mind that this outing is only open to members of our organization. Members are those that have their own individual policy with NSS Life. More details about the event to follow in upcoming issues of the magazine. Please continue to check back for details!

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. We would like to wish our fellow Irish members (and even those that are not but still celebrate anyway) a happy and safe holiday.

Holiday Fun Facts:

Legend has it that wearing green on St. Patrick's Day will make you invisible to leprechauns, who like to pinch anyone they see. And no one wants to be pinched, so wear green on this holiday, even if you are not of Irish decent!

Shamrocks are the national flower of Ireland. Legend says that each leaf of the clover has a meaning: Hope, Faith, Love and Luck.

Spring

The first official day of Spring is Saturday, March 20, 2021. Springtime is symbolic of fresh starts, new beginnings, and rebirth. There is an abundance of growth in nature. The grass is now green and growing, flowers are in bloom, baby birds and other wildlife are being born, the sun begins to make more appearances (at least in some parts of the country) and the fresh air truly smells its sweetest. This is a special time of year to reflect and give thanks for the wonderful blessings that surround us each day. They may be the simple things but aren't those always the best things?



In Memoriam Andrew (Bucky) Wesnak

By Justine Wesnak, Spouse

This tribute to Bucky, is given on behalf of our sons, Drew, Michael and Paul; however, it's an open LOVE letter to My Bucky from me. It seemed that everyone who knew Bucky also loved him. This is a celebration of his life that was so full of his compassion and love for all his family and friends, but most of all for me and our three sons. We all were so lucky to have had him in our lives for so many years.

As I was planning this eulogy; to pay tribute to my sweetheart at his funeral Mass; I was thinking about the wonderful 63 years we were blessed to share in marriage. Since my memories were jumping off in all directions; I decided to commit my memories onto a type written page. However, you might want to fasten your seat belts, it still may be a bumpy ride.

He was born on May 19, 1937 in Scranton, PA and slipped away on December 24, 2020 surrounded by his loved ones at home, "his castle", in Schnecksville, PA. If you wish to read about his affiliations in his formal obituary, please Google: Weir Funeral Home, obituaries, and select Wesnak.

Most NSS members know how he helped two of our Board Members, me and now Drew, with all of our Slovak projects. He was Russian and Polish and a Slovak by marriage. Many will remember having seen Bucky as a delegate to conventions and at special events, and participating in sports competitions since 1997 when NSS took FSWFE as a merger partner.

Like the rest of us, Bucky had much joy in his life, but he also had some sadness and hard times. His grandchildren loved to hear stories about his youth and childhood. He told them he was a lucky little boy because Bill Martin, the man across the alley, drove him to Nay Aug Park, almost every day in the summer. It was a great place; there was a swimming pool as big as a large pond. He got to feed the Tigers, and his best friends were Tilly the elephant and Jacko the donkey. As a special treat he even got to ride them sometimes.

He told the grandchildren how his Dad had worked so hard in the mines to put food on their table; and how

his mom stretched that food into the hot and delicious meals they delighted in smelling the minute they walked through the front door. He also told them how he and his brother and sisters also helped. They each had assigned chores.

From the time he was 12, for several hours each day in the summertime, he pushed a wheelbarrow nearly a mile to fill it with the large lumps of coal that had fallen on the tracks from railroad cars. Then he pushed his heavy load home and unloaded it into the "coal cellar" before he went out to play baseball in the field with his friends.

In the fall, each evening, he would crack a few of those lumps of coal into pieces suitable in size to burn in their old fashioned furnace and coal stove in the kitchen. He said there never was enough heat in the bathroom and bedrooms on the second floor. He was grateful for his perzinna, (a heavy quilt filled with feathers), that kept him warm at night.

Before dark, he was allowed to meet his friends at the field where his mother thought they were playing baseball. She didn't know; it was sand lot, tackle football until he came home with four of his front teeth missing. She scolded him, saying she didn't sign papers for him to play football; with protective gear because he had been too small for high school football. He was too small, I saw his school pictures. His friends felt he was strong and tough enough for any sport.

When his young listeners began to feel sorry for him and the hard life he had as a boy, he said he had been very happy. I believe that Bucky taught them a great lesson when he said, "What I didn't have, I never missed, and I appreciated and enjoyed everything else". He was never envious of others and always shared their joy when he learned of their new possessions or accomplishments.

Although he was handsome and well-built when I married him, afterward he grew to be 2 inches taller and an even more gorgeous hunk. His mom always said I married the boy for the man I knew I could make of him. I would teasingly remind him of that and he'd always tell me that I should have stopped feeding him before he became the Pillsbury dough boy.

Bucky was more spiritual than religious. However, at the Russian Orthodox Church, where he was raised, he

served as an altar boy for many years. Then one day, when he was about 16, after walking around the altar in a haze of incense for hours, as he did every Sunday, he fainted!

When in high school we dated but I didn't want to go steady. Then one evening when he walked me home after a dance, he put his foot down. He didn't propose he gave me an ultimatum, his usual way to win our arguments. He wanted my promise to be his steady girl until we would walk back down the aisle together as a married couple. If I refused he'd leave and that would be the end of our relationship.

Although I felt like I loved him, I wasn't totally sure, but I knew he would walk away, and that I certainly didn't want. So, I said I would but first I needed to ask him if he'd be willing to convert to Catholicism. His answer was yes, your masses are much shorter and I have nothing against the Pope. I'll convert as soon as we're married. He did. For all the years Bucky and I were married he knelt by our bedside every night and prayed for 20 minutes or more.

As a matter of fact, it was a few months ago, when he was praying that he said, "Honey I don't know who I pray for, I'm confused". I told him to ask God to bless all the people he loved and to direct his prayers. The next day I made an appointment with the doctor to find out if Bucky had some memory problems. He was diagnosed with having early Alzheimer's. Thank God he always remembered us, and everything about the past. His problem seemed to be more of confusion than memory loss. Sometimes he was like a little boy asking me what time of the day it was or if he should do something or other. Michael would tell him that we were going for a ride. From that moment on, every once in a while; in a singsong, childish way; he'd keep repeating, "We're going for a ride today, we're going for a ride today". It broke my heart. Sometimes I'd look at him and know that the strong mind that he always had was slipping. However, it was never too bad, thank you Lord. He still had his sense of humor and would come out with something funny in answer to what was said, just as he had in the past.

Bucky never was a huggy, kissy kind of guy; that was my department,

(Continued on Page 14)

Andrew Wesnak

(continued from Page 13)

but his love and compassion showed in all his actions. He was there for me and our boys through thick and thin. He was great in the sports he played and naturally he was gun ho in teaching the boys all he knew. However, I had to take care of the rest. He did a wonderful job; the boys were great sportsmen and brought home more trophies than we knew could have satisfied anyone's wishes. Guess who got to dust them?

When it came to the birds and the bees, when I said it was his job, he told me I had a better way with words. When it came to them learning to drive, he said I had more patience. However, he took part in teaching his granddaughter Emily how to drive. I guess he mellowed. He often reminded her, teasingly, about the time she came to a covered bridge and they were airborne till they landed on the other side.

We had a great time with our children and grandchildren. We were young enough to join them in playing all kinds of sports and especially in having fun on the beach and riding waves during the vacations we took at Stone Harbor, NJ. A lot of family and special friends often joined us on an alternating basis. We rented a 5 bedroom apartment with a lot of extra pull out, sleeper couches

and floor space for the youngest kids. We worked our way from 2 weeks to the whole month of August.

After he retired in 1989 he and I took many cruises and vacations. Every year we'd spend several months in sunny Florida; and 3 weeks, every 2 years, in either the Bahamas or Hawaii. We always thanked God for providing a great life for us to enjoy; most often surrounded by our family

Bucky passed away on Christmas Eve, his most favorite day of the year. The whole family was always around; cooking and doing last minute preparations for our Slovak, "Holy Supper". Thankfully, we each had a private moment with him through-out the day. We always reminded the children that we were celebrating the Birthday of Jesus. We always took Him from our Manger display and put Him in the center of our table so that everyone; from the youngest to the oldest; could, in turn, kiss Baby Jesus and wish him a Happy Birthday. Because Bucky was too weak and I wouldn't leave him, we didn't make it to the table. He wanted me to recline next to him so he could hold my hand. It was at 9 o'clock; after everyone came in to say thank you and goodnight; that I felt his hand go limp in mine. We believe he was taken on Angels' wings for an express flight to

heaven, to arrive just in time to be with Jesus for His birthday at midnight.

It was truly the love, kindness and compassion in his heart that made Bucky such a great man. And now, after 63 wonderful years; it's time for me to say thank you and goodbye to Bucky; my friend, companion and the love of my life. Watch over all of us honey, Do videnia (until we meet again). May you rest in peace.

Here's Why Easter's Date Changes Every Year

Easter Sunday changes dates year-to-year. This year, Easter is on Sunday, April 4, 2021. The holiday coincides with the vernal equinox, which welcomes spring in the northern hemisphere. All of the celebrations leading up to Easter also change dates.

Springtime is a welcomed sign after the long days of winter: warmer weather, freshly sprung flowers, and, for those who celebrate, the arrival of Easter Sunday. Unlike Christmas, which falls on the same date each year, Easter and the celebrations leading up to it change dates every year. So you may find yourself wondering how the date of Easter is determined. So we're answering your burning questions about why Easter changes dates.



Easter Slovak Style:

Remembering the Priceless Treasures of Easters Past and an Inspiration for Easters of the Future

\$12 (includes postage and handling)

To Purchase items shown on this page,
Make checks payable to NSSHM
351 Valley Brook Rd.
McMurray, PA 15317

Egg - in - Wrap

Choose from



Slavic Pin Art



or Old World Designs

Sleeve of 6: \$2.00

Sleeve of 12: \$3.50

1. Use large raw, hardboiled, blown, ceramic or plastic eggs.
2. Slide egg into egg wrap.
3. Place egg on spoon.
4. Dunk into boiling water until wrapper shrinks around egg.



Easter Word Search



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

Basket
 Bonnet
 Bunny
 Candy
 Chicks
 Chocolate
 Daffodil
 Decorate
 Ducks



Dye
 Easter
 Egg Hunt
 Eggs
 Family
 Flowers
 Grass
 Happy
 Jellybeans

Lily
 Parade
 Peeps
 Rabbit
 Spring
 Sunday
 Tradition
 Tulips



Decorating Easter Eggs

Rubber band Design Eggs

Instructions:

Wrap elastic rubber bands around hard-cooked eggs, then drop them in the food-coloring dye.

Remove the eggs; pat dry with paper towel; remove the rubberbands when eggs are dry.

The parts of the egg covered with rubber bands will not be colored.

You can STOP at this point or—once the rubber bands are removed, you can drop the egg into a different color dye.

Shiny Easter Eggs

Instructions:

Mix SWEETENED condensed milk with food coloring.

Paint with brushes or Q-tips.

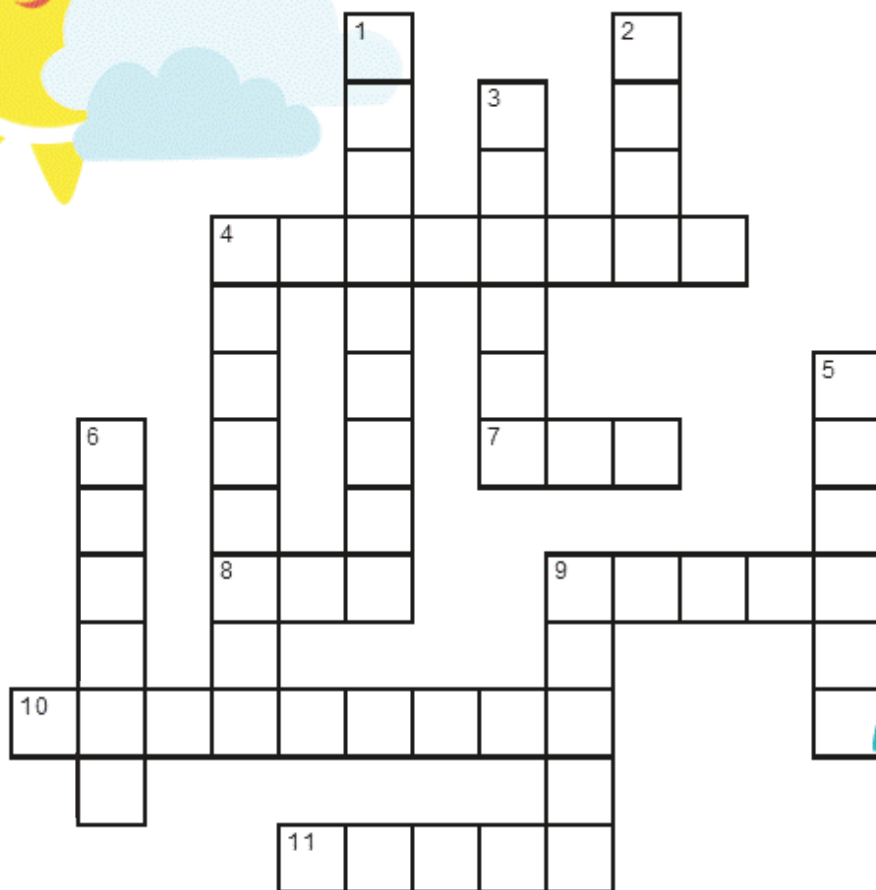
Crayon Resist Eggs

Instructions:

With crayons, draw dots, line shapes, and swirls on the Easter eggs before placing them in the dye.

The wax will resist the dye and your picture will show through.

Easter Crossword



ACROSS

- 4. You might do this to eggs for Easter
- 7. A hen makes this
- 8. Used to color eggs
- 9. The hen's baby
- 10. Colorful candy you might find in an Easter basket
- 11. Peter Cottontail is one

DOWN

- 1. Eggs might be made from this
- 2. Look for eggs
- 3. Easter Day event
- 4. Yellow or white spring flower that grows from a bulb
- 5. What the Easter Bunny brings
- 6. A pretty hat worn on Easter
- 9. Don't eat too much of this or you might get a belly ache



Spring Jokes

- Q: Does February like March?
A: No, but April May.
- Q: When do monkeys fall from the sky?
A: During APE-ril showers.
- Q: What do you get when two plants kiss?
A: Tulips!
- Q: What goes up when the rain goes down?
A: Umbrellas.
- Q: What falls but never gets hurt?
A: The rain!
- Q: What did the tree say to spring?
A: What a re-leaf!
- Q: What did the dirt say to the rain?
A: If this keeps up my name will be mud.
- Q: Why is spring a great time to start a gardening business?
A: Because it's the season when you can really rake in the cash.
- Q: Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?
A: It lost its petals.
- Q: What did the big flower say to the little one?
A: You're really growing, bud!

- Q: What's a baby chick's favorite plant?
A: Egg-plants!
- Q: What is the best flower for a boy to give his mom?
A: A son-flower!
- Q: What type of bird should you never take to the bank?
A: A rob-in.
- Q: Why are frogs so happy?
A: They eat whatever bugs them.
- Q: Why did one bee tease the other bee?
A: Because he was acting like a bay-bee!

Easter
WORD SCRAMBLE

1. ebftrluyt _____
2. worfel _____
3. rctaro _____
4. eksbat _____
5. geg ntuh _____
6. ejlly aebn _____
7. earest geg _____
8. tiulp _____
9. htcooleca _____
10. nnuby _____
11. ancyd _____
12. adeetorc _____
13. iehd _____
14. draape _____
15. tresea uynnb _____
16. gge yed _____
17. tsaere arssg _____
18. ckhci _____
19. itlsacp geg _____
20. sppee _____

NAME: _____
SCORE: _____

- Solution to
Word Scramble
1. butterfly
 2. flower
 3. carrot
 4. basket
 5. egg hunt
 6. jelly bean
 7. easter egg
 8. tulip
 9. chocolate
 10. bunny
 11. candy
 12. decorate
 13. hide
 14. parade
 15. easter bunny
 16. egg dye
 17. easter grass
 18. chick
 19. plastic egg
 20. peeps

Solution to Crossword Puzzle

Spring Bunny Flower Pot Gumball Machine

Materials:

- Small flower pots
- Small candy jars with lids (Dollar Tree)
- Small wood drawer knobs
- Strong, multi-purpose glue
- Chalky finish paint
- Foam brush
- Foam bunnies
- Floral moss
- Hot glue and glue gun
- Decorative ribbon

Instructions:

Begin by painting the flower pot, candy jar lid, and wooden knob with the chalky finish paint.

Next, place floral moss into the bottom of the candy jar.

Put hot glue onto the bottom of the foam bunnies and press them into the floral moss that's in the bottom of the candy jar.

Put the lid on the candy jar, and glue the finial or knob to the top.

Flip the dry, painted flower pot over and cover the bottom with glue.

Use a glue for adhering all kinds of things – even glass and terra cotta!

Press the candy jar onto the glue and let it sit, untouched, for the time indicated on the glue packaging. This will make sure that the glass and terra cotta properly bond to one another.

Add some decorative ribbon where the two meet for a cute, final touch!



Help Mom wrap the green utensils in an orange napkin tied with an orange ribbon. Put them in a basket and they look like carrots.

Baby Bunny is sleeping



NSS Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form



NSS Life
Family Matters...

★ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: APRIL 1, 2021** ★

- RULES AND REGULATIONS -

The National Fraternal Congress of America, through their "Americas Promise" Program, has encouraged their member societies to increase their awareness of the contributions of youth to the fraternal benefit system. In response to that challenge, the National Assembly, in 1998, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" that is similar to our "Fraternalist of the Year Award" for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members 18 years of age and under.

RATIONALE:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these four (4) areas:

- a) At their school/work b) In their community c) In their church d) In their local assembly

NOMINATION:

Youth members can be nominated by any adult member of the NSS or through their local assembly. A document detailing the qualifications of the Youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Home Office. A Youth Member may be nominated each year up through and including their eighteenth (18th) birthday or until they are selected to receive this award. Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Forms".

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

AWARD:

The winning youth will receive \$500.00 and will be announced in the "National News", the "Youth Circle Magazine" and listed on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Youth Achievement Award". Their name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

JUDGING:

An independent judge, appointed by the National President, will review all nominations and make a determination of the winner. The National President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

- The following must be signed by Nominating Member -

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service to their school/work, community, church and local assembly. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in the above categories.

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING RECENT PHOTOGRAPH

The winner of the NSS "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

NSS Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form



NSS Life
Family Matters...

★ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: APRIL 1, 2021** ★

~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

PURPOSE:

As a fraternal benefit society our mission calls us to "reach out to touch lives" in concern for those in need around us through our families, churches and communities. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the National Slovak Society that have gone that "extra mile" in volunteer fraternal service (i.e. meals on wheels, hospital work, visiting shut-ins, etc.). We encourage all assemblies to seek a worthy candidate from within your assembly and for the NSS membership to nominate a fellow member who is deserving of consideration for this award.

Those worthy of nomination are NSS members who have given of their time, talents and abilities in ways that would be designated as "extra-ordinary". Through their unselfish and tireless volunteer efforts those around them have benefited significantly. These people are those that rarely say "No!" and are always willing to lend a hand. We know that they are out there and you can find them for us.

The NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" Award is a fraternal program offered by the society for the benefit of our membership and the fraternal benefit system. You as members of the NSS are encouraged to seek a deserving nominee for the highest fraternal award offered by the NSS.

ELECTION PROCESS:

Any member of the National Slovak Society can nominate a fellow NSS member to be the "Fraternalist of the Year". Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Forms". Nominations can be made by any adult member of the NSS or through their local Assembly. This will allow more deserving members the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of others.

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

RECOGNITION:

The recipient will be announced in the "National News" and listed on our web site at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternalist of the Year", receive a congratulatory plaque and designate a charitable organization as benefactor of a \$500.00 donation. The Winner's name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office and will also have their name placed into nomination for the National Fraternal Congress of America "Fraternalist of the Year" Award.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Fraternalist of the Year" Award for touching the lives of those in need in their family, church and community. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Fraternalist of the Year" for going that "extra mile".

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winner of the NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

National Slovak Society of the USA 351 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA 15317 Phone (724) 731-0094 Fax (724) 731-0145

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 14th at Eat'n Park Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm. This is our Lenten meal together. Masks and social distancing are required. Because we were unable to hold our annual meeting, at the Christmas Party, we will be electing officers at our upcoming meeting in March.

Currently our officers are as follows:

President: John Payerchin
Vice-President: Timothy Schwer
Secretary: Paul M. Payerchin
Treasurer: Nancy Schwer
Trustees: Rita Leonard, Anthony Bartock, Thomas Kocis, and Mackenzie Zigler

Our sympathies go out to the families of Leona Eberhart and Lenora Hanuschock who recently found rest in the loving arms of the Resurrected Christ.

Pray for those who suffer from the virus and their family members. We are happy to hear that Mr. William Knoll, President of Assembly 123 is out of the hospital and recovering at home from the virus.

Congratulations to our board member and agent, Tom Kocis for winning the recent insurance quiz sponsored by the NSS Sales Department. Great job Tom!

Parents and grandparents, remember that the deadline for new scholarship applications, for the upcoming Fall semester, from the PVR Scholarship Fund are due by May 1st. No exceptions!

Slovak Easter gifts are available from the NSS History Museum. Offerings are in the last issue of the "National News".

We will be looking for you on **Sunday, March 14th** at Eat'n Park. Please be sure to read the NSS magazine in case we have to cancel. Also, check the announcements in the local Herald-Standard or on WMBS-Radio 590.

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 blessed Lenten journey!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic; our members have not met in 2020. Several plans for this year 2021 are in the works and will hopefully take place with masks and social distancing. We held our election of officers at the January 24th meeting at Terry's Diner and after the meeting the officers were installed. 2020-2021 officers are:

President: Gary Edwards
Vice President: Lucy Piccoletti
Secretary /Treasurer: Lehrae Ann Edwards
Fraternal Director: Bill Wesnak, Jr. (absent from the photo) and Hospitality Youth Director: Marlin Petro-Wesnak
Installing officer: Dorothy Collins



Our next meeting is set for **Sunday, April 11, 2021** pending COVID-19 restrictions and with our masks at 2:30 pm at Terry's Diner, 4811 Birney Avenue, Moosic. PA.

The assembly will sponsor a matching funds for Avoca Troop 316 for their Gertrude Hawk Candy Bar sales that will take place **February 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021**.

Members are tentatively planning to physically walk in the American Heart Association Heart Walk at the PNC Field in Moosic on **May 15th**; we are donating a basket for their raffle and conducting a matching funds for them. Vice President Lucy Piccoletti and Stephanie Ciuccio will Co-Chair the event with more news to be announced for the Holy Walkamolies Team Assembly L075.

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 1st Zoom Eagle for Avoca Troop 316 many Eagles. A reception will be held later in the year TBA pending COVID restrictions.

We were unable to conduct a matching funds for the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton last year so the assembly sent a \$100 donation in memory of the late Lucille Ward.

We are awaiting news of the postal carriers Join Hands Day Saturday, May 8, 2021, the Parade of baskets for the Summer and the VA Veteran's Bingo in November as we receive them.

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

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Some good news, the vaccine is out and some of you hopefully have been vaccinated. Maybe the end of this pandemic is in sight. Let us hope so. Also daylight saving time begins March 14th so with more daylight we can all put the gloom of 2020 behind us.

I had an idea for an assembly outing. Let's go to a movie. Yes the theaters are open but as of now the number of people who can attend is limited. Planning is preliminary. The movie would not be until April or May, probably on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The assembly would pay for the ticket and a bag of popcorn. You would have to trust me or a committee of a few to select the movie. The theaters don't know what is available a month or two in advance. What theater? Now I am considering a few; Cranberry or Robinson. We would be limited to twenty people so the first twenty of you who call me at 724-242-5085 to sign up will be the ones to be invited to attend. This also lets me know who reads the magazine. More details next month.

Every year NSS has two awards: The Youth Achievement Award and the Fraternalist of the Year. These individuals have done outstanding work in their church, community or with the assembly. There are details in the magazine. In the past our assembly has had several winners. If you know of an individual that you consider worthy please send in their nomination or notify me so I can nominate them.

I want to congratulate my daughter Mariah Scalise and my grandson, Niko Scalise for being winners in the photo

contest. I had nothing to do with the judging.

Perhaps you saw headlines in February's magazine that Life Insurance rates will be increasing. This is the result of very low interest rates and the decreasing of life expectancy caused by the opioid epidemic and now the COVID virus. If you need insurance and who doesn't and have been delaying, now is the time to act before the rates increase which will take place over the next six months or so. This is true for all companies not only NSS. Remember once you start a life insurance policy the rates can never be increased so lock in now. You can call me at 724-242-5085 or Bill DeMonaco 412-264-7268 for more details. To any of our members who are ill may you soon enjoy the blessings of good health. May God bless and keep each of you safe.

William Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

I want to announce the event dates we will have this year pending the pandemic and state regulations do not cause us to cancel meetings. I hope we can meet and conduct normal assembly business this year God willing. If you have any questions about the meetings, please call me at 724-207-3171 or email me at suzanne.skrypak@gmail.com. Please bring your new ideas for fundraisers and charities that may need our help more than ever this year! I do wish to continue to have our meetings and I hope we stay healthy as we do our best to keep safe!

March 21st- Please note we will meet at 2:00 pm on this date. The meeting/luncheon will be at Atria's, Washington Road, McMurray, PA.

June 27th- We will have our annual picnic at Richardsons Park in Bentleyville at 3:00 pm. Please bring your pet and grandchildren. Fishing is available and there is a baseball field and playground. If you want to bring a dessert, that would be great! I know we have the best bakers!

September 26th - TBA, suggestions for a location are welcome.

December 5th- We will have our annual Christmas party at Hugo's restaurant in Brownsville. Please bring a dozen cookies for our cookie table.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

It's below-freezing temps and snowflakes galore here and thankfully much appreciated sunshine on some winter days in Illinois. But more than weather, the concern and conversation is the coronavirus vaccine. Distribution information has Illinois ranked 46th in our 50 states. People are spending hours and days on websites to register. Chicago's mayor appears on the national news many times begging the teachers union to "come to the table". Taxpayers hope for good news from the governor to allow our children to go back to school and for the vaccine distribution to have a plan.

Our Saviour's Church in Naperville is a partner of Holy Spirit in Nitra and with the Bible College and K-12 schools in Martin, Slovakia. Connections among us all are constant. Our church reached out to Janet, asking her for the recipe for orechovnik she has baked for our fundraisers to be included in the email which goes out to our members weekly. Because the yeast dough has to raise several times and the directions are not simple, Janet instead sent the Slovak ingredient list and method Grandma Antol showed us to make the palacinky we loved. Along with pictures this Slovak favorite recipe went out to our members in the weekly email. **(Recipe printed on Page 21)**

Our Hamernick Volk families told us of their annual assembly line in making holiday pierogi. We were happy to hear from the Beno family who began their cooking by making 14 dozen pierogi and then nut, mak, and fruit rolls. In Slovak we called those desserts zavinaky. Linda and Sarah must have had very little rest.

We hoped by this time to be able to designate a meeting time and place. Unfortunately that is not the case because of the slow and random vaccine distribution. We are told again to be

patient and to expect more vaccine appointments to be available in March. Maybe an Easter meeting will bring us all together.

Meanwhile we will continue to collect for the troops. Our National Slovak Society Assembly 586 received thanks for the donation and matching fund recently sent. American troops have been sent to Syria again by the new president and will appreciate the boxes. Illinois National Guard men and women have been called back to duty and they too need our thoughts and prayers. God bless all our military and keep them safe.

Until next time, God willing, Zbohom.

Irene Tomaskovic
Vice-President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Assembly 731 members are hopeful for a good year to enjoy activities together. A few events have been scheduled but will be contingent upon COVID restrictions. We will discuss and plan other activities when we meet on February 13th. Some ideas we have been tossing around are a bus trip to tour Cleveland sites, Easter Egg Hunt, fishing derby, summer picnic, movie under the stars, and swim party.

Saturday, May 1st, 10:00 am— Join Hands with Poland Township Park, youth groups, and adults to prepare areas in the park for summer fun. Following our work session, participants will enjoy gathering for pizza at a local pizza shop.

Saturday, October 23rd, 5:00 pm— Halloween Hayride at Countryside Farm, Lowellville, OH. In addition to the hayride, kids and their adult will be able to pick a pumpkin, walk the corn maze, play games and refreshments, and enjoy activities provided at Countryside. Wearing a costume is optional but always fun for everyone.

Saturday, December 4th, 6:00 pm— Christmas Party in the Rotary Room of the Lariccia Family Community Center in Boardman Park. Additional details about the party will be shared at a later date.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

The year 2020 was not a very good year for any of us, but Assembly 813 finished up in a good way. Actually in several good ways.

Our Toys for Tots collection made many youngsters' Christmas more enjoyable for them and for us.

The spare change we collected for the past several months went to the Brown Bag Program at the Wiregrass Food Bank. Our \$80.00 donation will result in a senior citizen receiving two extra bags of food each month for a year. We feel good about that!

Due to the coronavirus our Christmas party was low key, with some attending by phone or Facetime. All officers were reelected for another two years. We presented a monetary gift to two of our young men, Joseph Arnold and Chase Berger, who have chosen to serve their country in the United States Army. We thank them for their service and wish them well.

Hopefully we will all be able to get together soon. Wishing everyone a wonderful, healthy 2021.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

Congratulations to Stephanie and Joseph Ciuccio

Amid the gloom of the COVID Pandemic where many of their regular fraternal meetings and activities were cancelled or postponed; was a brilliant ray of sunshine as members of NSS Assembly L075 got together to participate in the celebration of the wedding of two of their members. Stephanie Piccoletti and Joseph Ciuccio were married on Dec. 5, 2020 at the Bear Creek Mt. Resort in the Poconos.

Stephanie is the daughter of Lucy and Thomas Piccoletti, Assembly L075 members and Joseph is the son of Louis and Joanne Ciuccio of Old Forge. Stephanie a member since birth; married her Old Forge High School Sweetheart Joseph. She was Miss Devilette and he was on the football team and they have been inseparable ever since. She is a Marywood College graduate who is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Joey a graduate of the University of Scranton and American Academy McAllister Institute is a funeral director with the Louis V. Ciuccio Funeral Home. They are both volunteers with the National Ski Patrol at Montage Mt.



Shown are members of Assembly L075 who participated in and shared Stephanie's day. Lucy Piccoletti-Mother of the Bride, Gary Edwards, Assembly L075 President, Adam Edwards (Uncle), Allie Lazar, Lehrae Ann Edwards Secretary/Treasurer and Aunt who gave the dinner blessing, Matthew Edwards (Uncle), Tom Piccoletti, Father of the Bride, Joseph Ciuccio Groom, Stephanie Piccoletti-Ciuccio Bride, Adam Lazar, Karen Richardson, Marlin Petro-Wesnak Godmother of the Bride, Dominic and Gabriel Piccoletti, nephews of the bride and ring bearers and their mom Laura Knecht and dad, Michael Piccoletti, Brother of the Bride was Best Man.

Our assembly members had such a wonderful time social distancing and celebrating the newlyweds and we would like to congratulate Stephanie and Joe and send them Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Married Life.

Lehrae Edwards

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

Our next meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 24, 2021** at 2:00 pm at Terry's Dinner, 4118 Birney Avenue, Moosic, Pa. 18507. Election of Officers will take place at this meeting.

All members are encouraged to attend this meeting, however we are staying updated with the current situation so please check your news. If at any time we feel that we can not provide a safe environment for this meeting it will be cancelled, also due any state recommendations.

If planning on attending please RSVP to Lucy Piccoletti at 570-479-4116 call or text with number attending **by April 18th.**

Lucy Piccoletti
Secretary

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. There will be no exceptions!!** Every effort will be made to publish the article and photos in a timely manner and space permitting. **Also, all articles MUST be typewritten in regular type.**

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

January, 2021

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Acord, Doris	Summersville, WV	11/14/2020	P38A
Balog, Gloria	Belle Vernon, PA	12/12/2020	0377
Barkovich, Patricia	Pittsburgh, PA	11/06/2020	L161
Barlas, Dorothy	Munhall, PA	12/20/2020	0108
Barnes, Donald E	Piqua, OH	09/05/2020	0595
Barry, James	Sandy Ridge, PA	01/06/2021	0774
Beaner, Susan	Summerville, SC	12/12/2020	0774
Bearer, Patricia	Carnegie, PA	12/22/2020	0434
Besermin, George	Kingston, PA	12/19/2020	L102
Bestvina, Joseph	Clymer, PA	11/16/2020	0774
Bias, Mary	Julian, WV	12/08/2020	0774
Blickley, Sr., John	Schuylkill Haven, PA	12/26/2020	0774
Boban, John	McKees Rocks, PA	12/21/2020	0100
Bonga, John	Forest Hills, PA	01/19/2020	0108
Booton, Birchie	Lavalette, WV	11/12/2020	0774
Breen, Patricica	Fairfax, VA	12/14/2020	0731
Buonanno, Sr., Joseph	Pennsauken, NJ	06/02/2020	R059
Campbell, Kevin	Neptune Cy Borough, NJ	12/12/2020	0774
Carter, Elzy	Cool Ridge, WV	11/30/2020	0774
Cernik, Dorothy	Wauwatosa, WI	09/10/2020	0774
Chess, John	Hadley, PA	01/10/2021	0731
Coffield, Virginia	Wahington, PA	12/27/2020	0588
Colavita, Dominick	Denville, NJ	06/17/2020	0774
Conti, Leonard	Plum Boro, PA	11/11/2020	L105
Crothers, Ruth	Wisconsin Dells, WI	11/08/2020	0774
Cuppert, Thomas	Chillicothe, OH	10/21/2020	0595
Danowski, Dolores	Erie, PA	12/29/2020	0774
Debacco, Angela	Greensburg, PA	12/13/2020	0737
Dwulit, Mary	Pittsburgh, PA	12/16/2017	L161
Donia, Samuel	Somerset, PA	12/15/2020	0039
Duris, Vincent	Clifton Heights, PA	12/08/2020	R059
Dzambo, Mary	Pittsburgh, PA	12/22/2020	0737
Ferency, Alfred	Delmont, PA	11/01/2020	0737
Fergelec, Stephen	North Huntingdon, PA	11/17/2020	0434
Filutze, Frank	Ripley, NY	01/19/2021	0774
Finkley, Mildred	Portage, PA	11/16/2020	0737
Fleischmann, E Gene	Pittsburgh, PA	01/08/2021	0774
Fox, Ernie	Spencer, WV	12/20/2020	0774
Fox, Veronica	Portage, PA	12/09/2020	0737
Franceschi, Aldo	Cummings, GA	10/24/2020	0774
Gilkeson, Fredrick	Rainelle, WV	11/23/2020	0774
Gleason, Robert	Erie, PA	12/31/2020	0774
Grazier, Norman E	Oakmont, PA	01/04/2021	L105
Gulla, Irene	Swoyersville, PA	10/09/2020	L102
Hazlett, Sandra	Altoona, PA	01/02/2021	0267
Herrick, Sr., James T	Aliquippa, PA	01/08/2021	0123
Higgs, Dorothy	Trafford, PA	11/28/2020	0737
Hoch, Patricia	Harrisburg, PA	12/30/2020	0774
Hollinger, Richard	Palmyra, PA	12/07/2020	0267
Kempf, Darlene	Carlisle, PA	12/06/2020	0267
Kiefer, Ronald	Wapakoneta, OH	11/30/2020	0731
Kirk, Russell	Blacksville, WV	10/30/2020	0774
Kovalcik, Kenneth	Tiltonsville, OH	12/11/2020	0441
Lackner, Ernestine	Charleroi, PA	12/28/2020	0774



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Andrew (Bucky) Wesnak, Jr.:**

Assembly L102	500.00
Jamie Paranicas	150.00
Andrew & Sharon Wesnak ..	100.00
Edwin R. Jacobson.....	100.00
Judy Thomas, Robin Smith, Bonnie & Bob Holden, & Joyce Hunter	50.00
Patricia & James Sweeney ...	50.00
Guy & Linda Pilosi	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Horn.....	50.00
Richard & Sandra Cabrera ...	50.00
The Ondrejco Family	50.00
Gwen Herzog	25.00
Francine & Michael Slivka ...	20.00

In Memory of **Margaret Ferri:**

From Assembly L102	500.00
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In Memory of **Greg Blum:**

From Home Office Staff.....	250.00
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In Memory of **Shaun Logan Crowley:**

From The Ondrejco Family...	50.00
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In Memory of **Shaun Logan Crowley:**

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin, Jr., and John Crowley.....	20.00
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In Memory of **Ernest H Brown:**

From Assembly 0123	20.00
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In Memory of **Kyle Ghaly:**

From Assembly 0123	20.00
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In Memory of **Lillian McWilliams:**

From Assembly 0123	20.00
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In Memory of **Arvin Sorge:**

From Assembly 0123	20.00
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In Memory of **Jean Urbanczyk:**

From Assembly 0123	20.00
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In Memory of **Janet L Seltzer Nolder, deceased wife:**

From James H Nolder.....	300.00
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Matching Funds:

From Assembly 0070, Brooklyn, OH.....	75.00
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Donations:

Ed & Nick DePersis. ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting LLC	750.00
Anonymous	250.00

OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

January, 2021

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Leech, Elmer	Washington, PA	12/22/2020	0588
Lehner, Dennis	Traverse City, MI	12/05/2020	0381
Levin, Mark	Canton, GA	12/29/2020	0800
Livolsi, Dolores	Pittsburgh, PA	11/13/2020	L161
Logerquist, Barbara	Fenton, MI	10/26/2020	0774
Lombardo, Mary	Erie, PA	01/11/2021	0554
Maki, Dorothy	Monessen, PA	01/12/2021	0377
Mannarino, Carol	Erie, PA	12/29/2020	0774
Marcinak, Joseph	Sterling Heights, MI	04/12/2018	0381
Marshall, Bonnie	Home, PA	12/27/2020	0554
Martsof, Albert	Butler, PA	12/17/2020	L161
McDowell, Audrey	Uniontown, PA	09/30/2020	0039
McRill, Carolyn	Arlington, OH	11/30/2020	0160
Miller, Robert V	Berlin, PA	01/03/2021	0039
Nicholas, Robert	Campbell, CA	12/13/2020	0568
Pampuch, Edward	Cheswick, PA	01/17/2021	0774
Peebles, Nancy	Vanderbilt, PA	12/08/2020	0039
Peffer, Andrew	Aaronsburg, PA	12/07/2020	0774
Peterson, Jr., Russell L	Salem, NJ	09/24/2020	R059
Petrillo, Linda	Douglasville, PA	01/07/2021	L102
Petroff, Carmen	Baden, PA	11/19/2020	L161
Pisarski, Ann	Portage, PA	12/21/2020	0774
Platek, Joseph	Baltimore, MD	12/09/2020	0100
Plyler, Dale	Weirton, WV	11/11/2020	0774
Price, Harris	Allison Park, PA	12/27/2020	L161
Probert, Pamela	Windber, PA	01/11/2021	0774
Reinhart, Burdell	Lehighton, PA	01/04/2021	0774
Resovsky, John R	Warren, MI	11/22/2020	0381
Rhoades, James	Clarion, PA	12/18/2020	0774
Rogers, June	High Point, NC	05/31/2020	0774
Rosner, William G	Hopwood, PA	12/17/2020	0039
Sammons, Elizabeth	Wattsburg, PA	01/09/2021	0554
Santarelli, Barbara	Jessup, PA	09/05/2017	L102
Smith, Mary Anne	Eighty Four, PA	10/28/2020	0377
Sneeringer, Diana	Butler, PA	12/22/2020	0123
Solosky, Patricia	Worthington, WV	11/11/2020	0774
Spangler, Daniel	York, PA	12/28/2020	0813
Stasheff, Anna	Lansdale, Pa	12/10/2019	R059
Tanahotoe, Sandra	Bluffton, SC	03/05/2020	0617
Tost, Shirley	Indiana, PA	12/27/2020	L105
Tresatti, Leonard	West Newton, PA	01/13/2021	0377
Uhnak, Mary	Port St Lucie, FL	10/24/2019	0774
Volansky, John	West Middlesex, PA	12/28/2020	0100
Vukich, Agnes	Donora, PA	12/23/2020	0377
Welliver, Jr., William F	Bloomsburg, PA	12/06/2020	0617
Whitmore, Juanita	Shepherd, MI	11/23/2020	0381
Will, Arlene	Chillicothe, OH	01/24/2020	0774
Wineland, Daniel	Monongahela, PA	12/29/2020	0774
Wuchevich, Joan	Pittsburgh, PA	12/14/2020	0108
Wydo, Barbara	Wilkes Barre, PA	01/06/2021	0617
Yurky, Joseph	Philipsburg, PA	02/01/2020	0774
Ziak, Rose Mary	Lowell, IN	12/13/2020	0586

PALACINKY

Recipe

Everyone who's been to Slovakia has experienced having palacinky (thin filled pancakes, but we won't call them by that French word) for dessert. My grandma used to make these for her family: my mom, her sister and their dad, as a Depression-era supper. Hers were crispier, larger and more substantial than the dainty ice-cream-filled ones you'd find in Nitra or Martin and just one can make a very filling meal, especially on a meat-fasting day.

Mix together 2 cups flour, 2 cups of milk, 2 eggs and a little salt together into a thin batter. Heat a large skillet until it's hot and chuck in a knob of butter or margarine (it should be hot enough to sizzle up and steam). When the butter calms down, pour in a ladle full of batter and tilt the pan in all directions to spread it thinly. I like to cook at a medium-to-high heat so there are some browned crispy spots. When the top is no longer liquidy, flip the palacinka with a spatula to its other side.

Slide it onto your plate, spread on a diameter of cottage cheese and another of your favorite jam (apricot is the best) on top of that, roll it up and enjoy a delicious frugal American Slovak supper.

Janet Tomaskovic
Assembly 0586



St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. Interestingly, St. Patrick was not an Irish man. It is believed that he was born in England. St. Patrick was a missionary of the Catholic church. He believed God was calling him to go to the Irish people and convert them to the Christian faith. At the time of St. Patrick, the Irish people were still living in the Iron Age. St. Patrick went among the Irish people for thirty or forty years. It has been recorded that he used the shamrock as an example of the trinity. March 17th marks the date of his death. Many Irish people today attend church services and parades on St. Patrick's Day in honour of their patron saint.

Marec je tu a začína záhradárska sezóna!

Na tento mesiac každý záhradkár už netrpezlivo čaká. Predlžujú sa dni, teploty pomaly stúpajú a priaznivé počasie láka začať s prvými prácami.



Maľba na skle



Obrázky maľované na skle boli obľúbené na slovenskom vidieku hlavne v 19. storočí. Viseli v kúte izby, spravidla nad stolom, kde sa rodina stretávala pri jedle. Ústrednou témou týchto obrázkov boli náboženské výjavy. Postupne však začali ľudoví maliari zobrazovať aj bežný život ľudu alebo hrdinské témy. Ľudia obľubovali maľby na skle hlavne pre ich pestrosť, farebnosť a trvanlivosť. Prinášali si ich z púti alebo ich kupovali do daru pri významných udalostiach. Maľby na skle boli maľované prevažne temperovými farbami, do ktorých sa vmiešavali vaječné žĺtky. Farby sa nanášali na rubovú stranu skla.

Na strednom Slovensku sa vyskytovala okrem prevládajúcej náboženskej témy najmä jánošíkovská tematicka. Najčastejšie bol Jánošík zobrazovaný so svojou družinou, tancujúc alebo preskakujúc vatru. Jedinečnosť týchto obrázkov spočíva hlavne vo výbere témy, ktorá sa nikde inde v Európe nevyskytovala.

Medzinárodný deň žien 8. marec

Tento sviatok dával mužom skvelú príležitosť, ako sa odmeniť ženám za ich celoročnú „drinu“, veď ŽENA je slovo, ktoré skrýva v sebe čarokrásu, duchaplnosť i zmyselnosť. Bez našich žien by bol svet pustý ako lúka bez kvetov, ako nočná obloha bez hviezd či ako srdce bez lásky.



Tohto roku si pripomínáme 82. výročie od vzniku Prvej Slovenskej Republiky



14. Marec je významným dňom v Slovenskom Kalendári keď pomocou Amerických Slovákov v roku 1939 vtedajší novozvolený prezident Slovenskej Republiky Dr. Jozef Tiso vyhlásil Slovensko za samostatný štát, čo trval iba počas druhej svetovej vojny do roku 1945.

Svätý Otec František vyhlásil osobitný rok Sv. Jozefa

Modlitba pápeža Františka k sv. Jozefovi

Slávny patriarcha sv. Jozef, ktorého moc dokáže urobiť možnými veci nemožné, príd' mi na pomoc v týchto chvíľach úzkosti a ťažkostí. Vezmi pod svoju ochranu situácie tak ťažké a náročné, ktoré ti zverujem, aby mali šťastlivé vyriešenie. Môj milovaný Otec, všetku svoju dôveru vkladám do teba. Nech sa nepovie, že som ťa vzýval márne; a pretože ty všetko môžeš u Ježiša a Márie, ukáž mi, že tvoja dobrota je taká veľká ako tvoja moc. Amen.

Svätý Jozef, správca Božích pokladov a patrón celej Cirkvi, oroduj za nás.



Marec 19. meno Jozef

Deň učiteľ'ov slavíme 28. marca.



Viete že dobrý učiteľ je ten ktorý otvára dvere k poznaniu, a vedomostiam a rozvoju žiaka. Preto ak máte takého sprievodcu učiteľa venujte mu aspoň jedno poďakovanie ku dňu učiteľ'ov. Ďakujeme všetkým učiteľom za ich záslužnú prácu.

Pre študentov

V tomto čase roka naši mladí ktorí tohto roku ukončia High School si vyberajú vysokú školu — college a odbor čo budú študovať. Pripomínáme Vám, že našim členom NSS ponúkame štipendium za návštevu vysokej školy a za dobré známky. Viac info je na Vebb.Nsslife.org. Zas vy ktorý ste finančne v dobrom stave môžete prispieť na PVR Peter V. Rovnianek Scholarship čo pomôže mladej generácii.





Youth Circle Page

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

May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. Contest is open to all members of the National Slovak Society between the ages of 5 and 16.
2. Only one entry is permitted per member, per category.
3. Contestants may create their artwork using:
 - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera and cesium)
 - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
 - c. Ink/Pencil
 - d. Charcoal
 - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. The Artwork may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes. (Paint by numbers, stencils or tracing will not be accepted)
5. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, policy number, assembly/circle number, along with your t-shirt size. This information should be clearly printed on the back of each entry.
6. Please indicate t-shirt size by the following size chart available:
 - a. Youth sizes - YS and YM
 - b. Adult sizes - AS, AM, AL and AXL
7. Winners in each category will have their artwork displayed in the National News and will be published on the NSS website.
8. Contest shall be judged under the following levels and ages for all 3 categories:
 - a. Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
 - b. Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
 - c. Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
 - d. Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16*
9. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:
 - a. First Place \$50.00
 - b. Second Place \$25.00
 - c. Third Place \$15.00
10. All entrants will receive a NSS Life T-shirt.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING PROCESS

Deadline for entries to the Home Office is May 31st. Either mail or deliver artwork to:
NSS Life
c/o Fraternal Department
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Decisions of the judge(s) shall be final in all cases.

*In the event the First place winner in the Artistic Category - Van Gogh Level either enters an accredited Art School or pursues Art as a career in college, he/she will be awarded a one-time \$250 Art Scholarship provided that the student meets all the NSS PVR Scholarship rules and regulations.

**The National Elder of the National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all displays or winning entries. Artwork will only be returned by request.

Welcome to the NSS Jayden Julian Felton



Jayden Julian Felton was born on September 14, 2020 weighing in at 8lb, 1oz. This adorable little guy is the grandson of National Sales Director, Greg Felton and Rhonda Felton, his spouse. Jayden resides in Roswell, GA with his father and mother, Matthew and Maria Felton. We would like to welcome Jayden to the NSS Life family!

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.