



**NSS Life**

® Family Matters...

NSS Poetry Contest: 2nd Place Winners  
See Page 22 for Poems



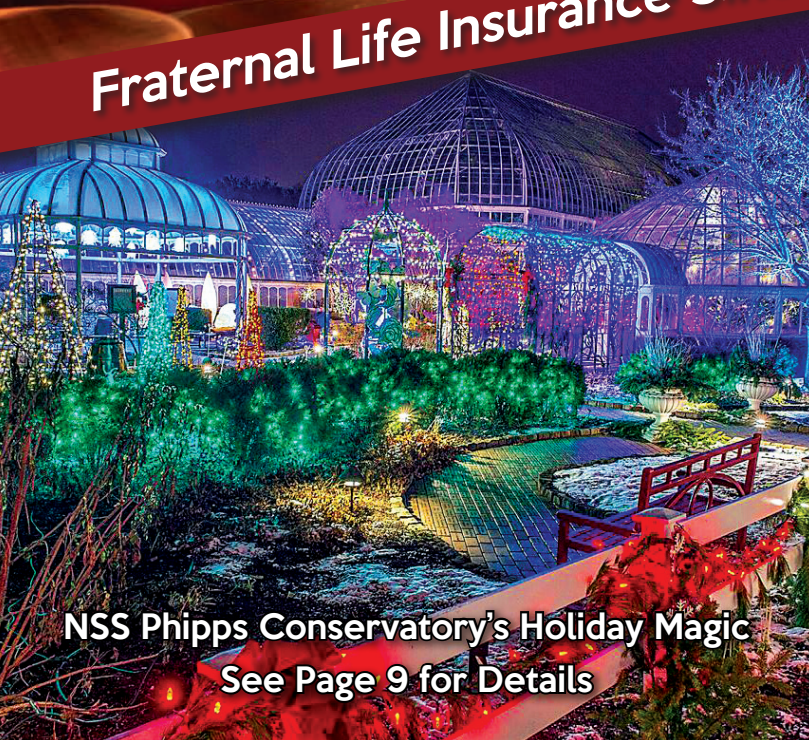
THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS  
**Septemberfest**

NSS Heritage Museum's "Septemberfest"  
See Pages 10-11

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

*Národne Noviny*

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy Thanksgiving!



NSS Phipps Conservatory's Holiday Magic  
See Page 9 for Details



Christmas Ornament Contest  
See Page 23 for Rules

**NATIONAL NEWS**  
NOVEMBER 2021 | NUMBER 3559 VOLUME 113





# National Slovak Society

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



## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

### EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY  
Published Monthly  
Send articles for publication to:  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317-3337  
**Deadline: 5th of preceding month**

### NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joseph Stefka, Jr., *FIC, President, CEO & Elder*  
Linda M. Strom, *Secretary/Treasurer, CFO*  
Robert F. Katricak, *Chairman of the Board*

### NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael J. Czarney  
Lauren A. Fox  
Andrea L. Garbon  
Abigail A. Gross, Esq.  
Susan M. Ondrejco  
Karen Lynne Orban  
John G. Payerchin  
Andrew "Drew" J. Wesnak

### NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

Anthony Beno, *Director*  
Mary Jo Holker, *Director*  
Edward Koches, *Director*  
Paul Payerchin, Jr., *Director*

### FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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

FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

## Inside this Issue...

### Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance.....3

### From the Executive Officers

The President's Page.....4  
Secretary/Treasurer's Column.....5

### NSS Financial Matters

Annuity Interest Rates.....6

### NSS Sales Department

National Sales Director.....7

### NSS News/Activities

Fraternal Activities Coordinator .....8  
Phipps Conservatory Holiday Magic Notice  
and Application.....9  
Septemberfest '21 Photos .....10-11  
Christmas Around The World.....15  
Departed Members.....16-17  
Veterans Day Infographic .....18  
Start Hearing .....19  
Septemberfest '21 Fraternalism in Action.....20  
Second Place Poetry Winners.....22  
Christmas Ornament Contest Rules.....23

### Assembly News

Assembly Meetings.....12-13  
Assembly Photos.....14  
PVR Donations.....16

### Národné Noviny

Všetko na svete môže človek zastaviť...21  
MYŠLIENKY o Adventne .....21  
Sviatok Všetkých svätých .....21  
Konope, konope, zelené konope... .....21  
Time table in Slovak.....21

## 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!**

## Activities At A Glance

### REGION 2

### Assemblies L075, 0617

December 1-14th  
January 23, **2022**  
February 5, **2022**

Region 2, Matching Funds Fundraiser for Old Forge PTO Playground  
Assembly L075, Meeting, Time and Place TBA  
Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes Bare, PA at 1:00 pm

### REGION 5

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

November 1  
November 27  
December 4  
December 4  
December 4  
December 5  
December 5  
December 12

Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 pm  
Christmas Around The World, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA 1:00 - 5:00 pm  
Phipps Conservatory's Holiday Magic at 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Family Center, Boardman Park at 6:00 pm  
Assembly 0737, Meeting, Carol Godor's residence, North Huntingdon, PA at 1:00 pm  
Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, Uniontown K of C Hall at 2:00 pm  
Assembly 0377, Annual Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA  
Assembly 0123, Christmas Party, J.W. Hall's Steak and Seafood Inn at 1:00 pm

### REGION 8

### Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

November 21

Assembly 0004, Meeting, Vorell's residence, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm

### REGION 14

### Assemblies R059, L102

November 7  
November 14  
January 9, **2022**  
January 23, **2022**

Assembly L102, Ornament Making Party, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 3:00 pm  
Assembly R059, Meeting, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA  
Assembly L102, Annual Christmas Party, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm  
Assembly R059, Meeting, Prime Restaurant, (TBA)

### AT LARGE

### Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813

November 4  
November 7  
December 12  
December 15  
December 24

Assembly 0586, Meeting, Peaches and Pears Restaurant, Chicago, IL at 5:00 pm  
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Dorothy Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm  
Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Jen's Guesthouse, Willow Springs, IL at 4:00 pm  
Assembly 0381, Meeting (TBA)  
Assembly 0705, Christmas Eve Party, (Fraternal Fund Activity) (TBA)





## The President's Page...

**Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC, President, CEO**  
Email: [jstefka@nsslife.org](mailto:jstefka@nsslife.org)



Septemberfest 2021, a family fun-filled event was held on September 25th and marked the 9th year of the festival. The event, which was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was very successful with almost 300 attendees throughout the day. Septemberfest was filled with a variety of craft and cooking demonstrations, performances, vendors, games for children, a raffle of donated baskets, and delicious Slovak food! The day was made possible by a number of sponsors and volunteers. Volunteers included Executive Officers and members of the Board of Directors and their spouses, Home Office staff members, and assembly volunteers. Thank you to the NSS advisors, assemblies, regions, and individuals for your sponsorship of the event. A special thank you to NSS Heritage Museum Curator and NSS Director Sue Ondrejco for organizing the event each year. Also, thank you to the entire Ondrejco family for the tremendous amount of work preparing for the day.

We at the NSS were saddened to hear that Ann Dayton, one of the previous owners of the Slovak woodcarving now in our Heritage Museum, passed away in June. Ann and her husband Dave were present at each of the Septemberfest events since the NSS purchased the structure from them and provided those viewing the woodcarving a history of the woodcarving and its various unique features. Ann will be greatly missed by all that knew her and especially by everyone at NSS. A special thank you to Dave Dayton for continuing to bring the woodcarving to life with the stories behind its origin

and the cultural and geographical features of Slovakia by volunteering at Septemberfest again this year.

The University of Pittsburgh will be hosting its annual Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, November 7, 2021, beginning at 1:00 pm. The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program and the Slovak Student Club originated the festival nearly 30 years ago. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, the Slovak Heritage Festival will be held virtually for the second year in a row and live streamed on Facebook and You Tube. The National Slovak Society has been a proud sponsor of the event over the years. The festival will include cultural and educational lectures, musical and folk-dance performances, and craft demonstrations. Make plans to join the festival virtually!

A reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Remember to set your clocks back one-hour. On November 11th we celebrate Veteran's Day and honor American veterans of all wars. Please take time on November 11th to reach out and thank veterans for their service to our country. Our country enjoys the freedoms we have because of the brave efforts of veterans throughout our nation's history. Let them know how much their service is appreciated! Thanksgiving is celebrated on November 25th this year. Wishing all our members and their families a safe, healthy, and Happy Thanksgiving as we celebrate with family and friends giving thanks for all of our Blessings! The Home Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November

25th - 26th so that our staff can enjoy the holiday with their families. The Board of Directors will meet for the Fall Meeting on November 12th - 14th at the Home Office. If you have items that you would like the Board of Directors to consider at the meeting, please submit them to Secretary-Treasurer Linda Strom.

## News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes are sent to Director Laurie Fox, former Director Brian Medved, our Editor of the National News Lori Crowley, Home Office staff members Patti Kropf and Amanda Zinn, and to Cyndy Triebsch, Trudy Reeves, George Leasure and to all other members celebrating a birthday in November.

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to my wife Annette as we celebrate 45 wonderful years, also to Honorary Director Tony Beno and wife Linda, Keith and Elaine Kuchera and all others celebrating wedding anniversaries this month.

Get well wishes go out to Bob Triebsch for a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. Hope to see you up and about quickly!

Deepest sympathy to Home Office staff member Linda Buono and her family on the passing of her mother, Shirley Bour, and to our past President Dave Blazek, his wife Fran, and their family on the passing of Fran's father Dan Gimiliano. Dan was a World War II Veteran and attended NSS events over the years. May God provide Peace and comfort to all of you at this most difficult time.



*Happy  
Thanksgiving  
To All Members*

*From Directors and Employees of NSS Life*



## A Page From My Notebook...

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



## 2022 XXXVIII Quadrennnial Convention

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Preliminary planning for our 2022 38th Quadrennnial Convention began with a visit to the Hershey Lodge on Tuesday October 5, 2021. This visit is always the most important as we go over the agenda covering each minute of the Convention with our Hershey Convention Services Manager Jason Burd. The 2022 Convention will be kicked off with Delegate arrival on Sunday June 26, 2022 and end with departure on Thursday June 30, 2022.

Each month we will continue to provide as much convention information as we have available. The initial convention packets will be sent out no later than the first week of January 2022. Keep checking the Newsletter for convention updates.

Begin to plan and schedule your delegate election meeting and make sure it is published in our newsletter at least 30 days prior to your meeting. This convention may be our best one yet. You will have the opportunity to hear about our Growth in Assets, Membership, and licensed States; an IT initiative to migrate to Equisoft (a Policy cloud-based system); new NSS Executive Leadership; new additions to the Board and Staff; development of Business Policies; A successful 2019 PA Insurance Department Audit; and much, much more. Stay Tuned Folks!

## Recap of the 2020 Spring Board of Directors Meeting

**2020 Spring Board Meeting** was opening and called to order by Chairman of the Board Joseph Stefka, Jr. He welcomed Karen Lynne Orban who was recently elected to the Board. President & CEO David G Blazek called upon Director Katricak to give the opening prayer and hold a moment of silence for all deceased members. President Blazek asked Legal Counsel P. Ronald Cooper to perform the swearing in of Karen Lynne Orban as NSS Director. The Roll Call was taken, and the meeting Agenda adopted. Minutes of the meeting were approved with corrections. Acquisitions, Disposals and Mortgages were presented and approved/adopted.

Fraternal Activities Coordinator Pam Blum presented her report. Sales Director Greg Felton presented the Sales Report stating that we are now licensed in 6 new states (Arizona, Maryland, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Texas) with 2 others (Virginia and Minnesota) pending approval. COVID-19 is still an issue in planning fraternal events. Sales Director Felton complimented the NSS Officers on the decisions they made during COVID-19 to keep the business running. He also reported on how the agents are servicing their clients/our members and potential members.

NSS Advisors were appointed for 2021. CIO Alan Burns reported on our Cyber Security efforts to get approval in the state of Virginia. A work-from-home environment is being discussed that would be available during the pandemic. A new look to our website is being developed. NSS Legal Advisor P. Ronald Cooper presented a verbal report followed by discussion on 1099's and taxation. AQS Managing Director Larry White reported that our portfolio yield is 4.64% and has an 'A' rating. Current Crediting Rate is 3.4%. The Directors voted to keep the current interest rates the same for the 3rd Quarter 2020. The Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure document was completed and submitted to the

PA Insurance Department. This was a huge undertaking with many staff involved. The Board reviewed the 2019 Annual Statement and the 2020 1st Quarter Statement. The update of the Vestibule is making it a safer area when entering the building.

All Board Committees presented their reports. The Assembly Growth Committee presented and reviewed a very sparse Fraternal Tracking Report as not many activities were held. The Fraternal Growth Committee approved all petitions and reviewed the NSS Strategic Plan. The Membership Growth Committee reported on the status of licensing in various states and the affect of COVID-19 on Sales. The 2020 Anniversary offer ended with only 18 policies. NSS CPA Firm H2R CPA reviewed the end December 31, 2019 Audit Report, internal controls, and the Governance Report.

A Museum Report was presented by Museum Committee President John Payerchin and Museum Curator Susan Ondrejco. The Board voted to postpone Septemberfest until next year due to COVID. The PVR Committee reviewed the PVR Bylaws and found that a future review will be required. The Board reviewed the 2020 PVR Scholarship Awardees and the nine (9) Special Scholarship Awardees presented by the PVR Committee.

The Governance Committee presented the Governance Report where various recommendations were presented and, after discussion, were subsequently approved by the Committee. Following this the ERM Committee presented several policies to be voted upon. The Risk documents were also reviewed. NSS Appointed Actuary Ed Cowman presented his Actuary Report at this time. Director Czarney reported that we continue to remain on the same course. There are no changes to the Strategic Plan currently. Director Czarney moved for adjournment, seconded by Director Payerchin. President Blazek adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.





# 2021 Annuity Contribution Coupon

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect on your money. Consider making your 2021 contribution as early as possible.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Traditional IRA for 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Roth IRA for 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 3rd Quarter Leaders for 2021



**John Kinney** is the **TOP PREMIUM/ANNUITIES PRODUCER** for the 3rd Quarter of 2021. John is the AVP at Infirst Financial and has 38 years of financial services experience. He is well qualified and service oriented and always takes care of his clients. He is a Penn State graduate, active in his community and enjoys any outdoor activities. Please reach out and congratulate John or contact him to help you; office phone 724-349-3006, Ext. 247 or email him at: [kinneyj@infirstfinancial.com](mailto:kinneyj@infirstfinancial.com). Congratulations John for a job well done.

Congratulations to **Dr. Chong Chang Her** on being the **TOP LIFE INSURANCE/NEW MEMBER PRODUCER** for the 3rd Quarter of 2021. 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 31 years. For any question, please go to [www.Hmoobinsurance.com](http://www.Hmoobinsurance.com) or call him at 1-800-813-4870 or email him at: [ccher61@gmail.com](mailto:ccher61@gmail.com)



## 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.



## From the Sales Department...

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



## Life Insurance and Divorce

Since the year 2000, the actual number of marriages and divorces has declined in America. The sad news is that almost 50% of marriages end in divorce. This number is higher if this is your second, third or fourth marriage. There is a wide array of reasons and statistics covering this topic. Some are religious, ethnic, race and employment status. In the end divorces happen. Obviously, if you are in a situation and considering divorce, a good attorney is the most important person to consult with to protect your interests.

This brief discussion focuses on life insurance and divorce. A couple of key points are worth covering. The first is the cash value of any life insurance policies. This amount is a hard asset and should be counted as such and split equally.

Next, is the beneficiary designation. Most policies will list the spouse as beneficiary but now this person is your ex-spouse. The rules in 26 states automatically revoke the ex-spouse as beneficiary. However, the other 24 states do not. One of the first things to be done, is to determine the correct or new beneficiary. Usually this will be a new person probably some other relative. Sometimes, especially when children are involved, an ex-spouse may want to be relisted as beneficiary to protect their children's interest. This might be to support childcare payments or other arrangements. In this example

the ex-spouse should be re-listed as beneficiary so that there is no question as to the intent.

Another factor to consider is the amount and payment of any life insurance. For example, a \$500 monthly child support payment for the next ten years might be backed up with a \$60,000 life insurance policy. This way if the payor dies, the money will still be paid. ( $\$500 \times 12 \text{ months} \times 10 \text{ year} = \$60,000$ ). Other coverages to consider might be college costs or home ownership.

Finally, who pays the premiums? The best choice would be the person that stands to gain the most or the beneficiary. Other arrangements can be made depending on the circumstances especially if one spouse works and the other does not.

Divorce is a complicated and emotional step in anybody's life. By all means get the support needed by meeting with an attorney, your tax advisor/CPA, other consultants and your local NSS representative to make sure the life insurance portion is handled appropriately.

## How Much Can I Spend In Retirement

Have you ever heard of the 4% rule? How about the 25x rule? Both are general rules of thumb related to retirement income. The 4% rule is the amount you might withdraw from principal when retired. In theory withdrawing this amount should allow you to never run out of money. Of course, the word never in this context probably should not be used. For example, a retirement nest egg of \$100,000 and withdrawing 4% or \$4,000 would leave \$96,000 to continue earning interest. Assume that the money is in our Preferred 8 earning 3.5% interest. If all factors remain the same, then the money would last for fifty years or more. That same money in the market might have different results. A rising stock market might allow larger withdrawals, but a decreasing market may cause smaller withdrawals or none at all.

How about the 25x rule. This one is also used in retirement planning. A person wants to retire. They want a monthly check for \$1,000 to supplement their income. Then they ask this question. What amount would I have to have saved so I could withdraw a \$1,000 a month? The answer is easy – it is the inverse of the 4% rule or 25x the annual withdrawal amount. So, to withdraw \$12,000 a year or (\$1,000 per month) times 25 = \$300,000. These are conservative numbers, but no one wants to be in a position to run out of money at age 85.

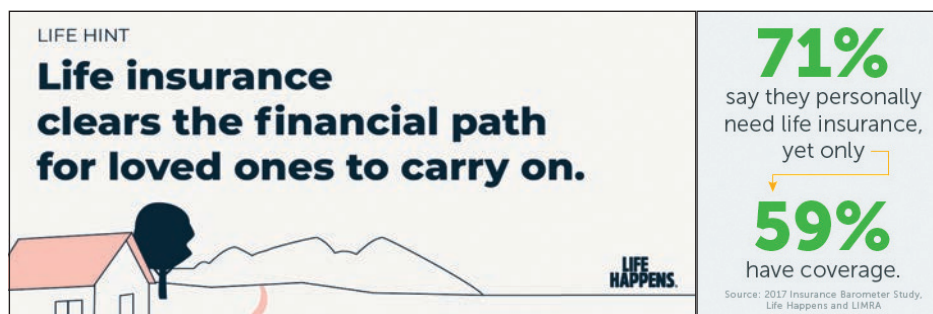
Armed with this knowledge a person can decide if they are on track for a comfortable retirement or not. Some of the steps to help you get on track would be:

- Eliminate debt
- Take full advantage of any programs at work (401k)
- Open an IRA, Roth IRA or an annuity.
- Pay yourself first

All of these steps will make your future brighter. NSS can help you with some of these items by using our great product portfolio. Call us for more information.

### Thought For The Month:

*I am not what happened to me. I am what I choose to become.*





## Fraternal Matters...

**Pam Blum, Fraternal Activities Coordinator**

Email: [pblum@nsslife.org](mailto:pblum@nsslife.org)



*Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.*

*—William Arthur Ward*

Veterans Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

## When Is Veterans Day?

- Veterans Day occurs on November 11 every year in the United States in honor of the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day.
- In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.
- In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11, due to the important historical significance of the date.
- Veterans Day commemorates veterans of all wars.

- Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and World War II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.
- Every Veterans Day and Memorial Day, Arlington National Cemetery holds an annual memorial service. The cemetery is home to the graves of over 400,000 people, most of whom served in the military.



## Veterans Today

The military men and women who serve and protect the U.S. come from all walks of life; they are parents, children, grandparents, friends, neighbors and coworkers, and are an important part of their communities. Here are some facts about the veteran population of the United States:

- 18.2 million living veterans served during at least one war as of 2018.
- 9 percent of veterans are women.
- 7 million veterans served during the Vietnam War.
- 3 million veterans have served in support of the War on Terrorism.
- Of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II, about 325,000 were still alive as of 2020.
- 2 million veterans served during the Korean War.
- As of 2019, the top three states with the highest percentage of Veterans were Virginia, Wyoming, and Alaska.

**Written by: History.com editors**

## 2021 Ornament Contest

The 2021 Christmas Ornament contest deadline is December 1, 2021. It is never too early to start thinking of creative ideas for the perfect ornament! This contest has been a huge success in years past. We are looking forward to another wonderful year!

## Phipps Conservatory's Holiday Magic Information Update...

Our event at Phipps on Saturday, December 4th 2021 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm will be held in the Special Events Hall. There will be no tickets distributed in advance for this event. We will have a registration table set up to check people in upon their arrival. Due to COVID restrictions there will be timed entry into the conservatory...this will give us plenty of time to visit with friends and enjoy light refreshments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [pblum@nsslife.org](mailto:pblum@nsslife.org) or 724-731-0094.

## Thanksgiving Feasting

*When the Halloween pumpkins  
are gone,  
And the leaves have all fallen  
to ground,  
When the air has turned windy  
and cold,  
Then Thanksgiving will soon  
be around.*

*Thoughts of loved ones all  
feasting together,  
Pleasant pictures from past  
times appear  
To dwell in each heart and each mind--  
Then Thanksgiving is finally here!*

*The kitchen has scrumptious aromas,  
The dining room looks oh, so fine,  
Decorations with pilgrims and turkeys,  
And now we are ready to dine!*

*First the napkins are placed on  
our laps;  
Now the prayer for the meal to  
be blessed,  
Then we stuff the good food in  
our tummies,  
And we hope for it all to digest!*

**Joanna Fuchs**



**"Evening at Phipps Conservatory's Holiday Magic"**  
**Saturday, December 4, 2021 • 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm**  
**1 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**



**NSS Life**  
*Family Matters...*

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.



NSS will be meeting in the **Special Events Hall** to socialize and enjoy light refreshments from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. The remainder of the evening you are on your own to explore the Conservatory. The cost for members is **\$20.00**.

For additional information, please contact Pam Blum at [pblum@nsslife.org](mailto:pblum@nsslife.org).

Name	Address	Ph. #	Assembly #	Name	Address	Ph. #	Assembly #
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	4. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	5. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	6. _____	_____	_____	_____

**★ MUST BE AN NSS MEMBER TO ATTEND ★**

Please return this form with check payable to "NSS Life" **no later than Monday, November 15th** to: **NSS Life**  
**Attn: Fraternal Dept.**  
**351 Valley Brook Road**  
**McMurray, PA 15317**

**ATTENTION - ALERT**  
**REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION**

THE NSS SUGGESTS THAT YOU TAKE YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD) FOR 2021 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
PLEASE FINALIZE YOUR RMD WITHDRAWAL BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER, 2021. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT!





# THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS Septemberfest



Director Sue Ondrejco presents a check from Assembly L161 to NSS member and former three-time Major League Baseball All-Star Frank Thomas. At 93 years old, Frank was in attendance to speak with attendees and sign autographs and other memorabilia with all proceeds going to charities for kids.







# THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS Septemberfest





## ASSEMBLY 0004 Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **November 21, 2021** at Sonia Vorell's residence, 18088 Boston Road, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm. See you there.

**Sonia Vorell**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

We recently learned of the death of Anthony "Tony" Bartock who was a patron of our assembly and great personal friend. Tony was a winner of the "NSS Fraternalist of the Year" award for all of his work within the NSS and the local community. He previously was an agent for the NSS as well as working with the local Council of the Knights of Columbus. We joined with Tony and the Knights for our annual "Join Hands Day" event, a golf outing that supported Special Olympics, Easter Seals and the local battered women's and men's shelters. We will miss him, his smile and tireless energy.

Congratulations to Valentina Gulino who won first place in the recent "NSS Poetry Contest". Her winning poem was entitled, "A Journey Through Last Year; Starting March 13, 2020". Well done!

Our secretary and myself attended the "2021 Septemberfest" at the home office. God blessed us with a beautiful day. The museum is a great gift to our society and Sue Ondrejco, the curator needs to be commended for the magnificent job she is doing to promote our Slovak heritage. The food was delicious, the vendors had a wealth of treasures to display, and the music and dancers made your blood surge. A wonderful renewal of who we are as Slovaks!

Do not miss the upcoming "Christmas Around the World" that will be hosted by the NSS Museum on Saturday, **November 27th** 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Good food, crafts and much, much more!

It is not too soon to start planning for your entry into the NSS Christmas Ornament Contest. Rules are in the latest issue of the "National News". Your entry helps our assembly gain points

for annual awards!

The NSS Quadrennial Convention is coming up in 2022 in "Chocolate Town U.S.A." Hershey, PA. We are looking for delegates to represent our assembly. More information at our Christmas Party. Think about it!

Our Christmas Party/Dinner will be held on Sunday, **December 5th** at the Columbia Association (K of C) Social Hall starting at 2:00 pm. Mr. Greg Felton, our NSS Sales Director will be our guest. Good food, door prizes, gifts and fraternal fun!

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 Thanksgiving celebration with your family.

**John Payerchin**  
President

## ASSEMBLY R059 Bethlehem, PA

Our first meeting of 2021 was held on September 12th at the home of William and Alexandra Keysock. It was such a joy to finally be able to spend time together.

Donations were made to the Allentown Rescue Mission, International Orthodox Christian Charities for Hurricane Relief, Orthodox Christian Mission Center, and New Bethany Mission Center. Congratulations to Patrick Phillips, Jr., Andrew Sawarynski and Anthony Sawarynski for receiving NSS scholarships as they continue their education.

A coffee hour/meeting will take place on Sunday, **November 14th** at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, 980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA following Divine Liturgy. Proceeds will be donated to St. Herman's Orthodox Seminary in Alaska in memory of Archbishop David. Many of our members are involved with making pierogi at their churches.

Our next meeting will be held on **January 23, 2022** at Prime Restaurant where election of officers will take place.

Special birthday greetings to: Protodeacon Michael Sawarynski on November 8th and Dorothy Stafiniak on November 20th. May God Grant You Many Blessings!

**Michele Guydan**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

In the new year, a meeting will be held on **January 23, 2022**, location TBA for the election of delegates to the NSS Convention in Hershey, PA, June 26-30, 2022. For more information contact Lehrae Ann Edwards at 570-569-2181.

**Lehrae Ann Edwards**  
Secretary/Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

A Christmas ornament making party will be held at the Wesnak's, 1727 Elmhurst Drive, Whitehall, PA on **November 7th** at 3:00 pm. Let's get creative, bring some supplies to put together your ornaments.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on **January 9, 2022** at 2:00 pm also at the Wesnak's.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Just a quick reminder there are a few spots available for our Christmas luncheon on Saturday, **December 12th**, at J.W. Halls Steak & Seafood Inn at 1:00 pm. It is conveniently located in the Hopewell Shopping Center on Broadhead Rd. If you would like to attend please call me at 724-242-5085 so I can finalize arrangements. There is no cost for Assembly 123 members but a \$5 donation for the food bank is requested. You also have to make a choice of chicken, fish or beef for your entrée.

November 11th is Veterans Day so let us not forget and pay respect to all our veterans especially any in our assembly. We appreciate your service and we thank you for any sacrifice you have made.

This is the month to give thanks. Let me thank any of our members who took part in any of our activities or helped out in any way it has been a challenging several years. Let me single out our Secretary/Treasurer Jill Grover



for without her efforts not much would be accomplished, thank you Jill.

May Thanksgiving Day this year be a special family day for all. Hopefully the COVID virus will have sufficiently subsided that this Thanksgiving can be celebrated with great joy and camaraderie.

May I encourage those of you with creative skills and a little time to enter the NSS Ornament Contest.

As a little Christmas gift, any of Assembly 123 members who sign up for the "Evening at Phipps Conservatory Holiday Magic" event on Saturday, **December 4th** will have their fee refunded by the Assembly. It sounds like a very nice event. I hope to see many of you there. No time to waste so send in your fee and information to the home office.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

**William Knoll**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

If you plan on attending the Phipps Conservatory Holiday Magic on **December 4th**, our assembly will reimburse the members that attend. Be sure to call the Home Office before the **deadline of November 15th** for reservations. Also, please call me and let me know you will be attending at 724-207-3171.

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on **December 5th** at Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm. Please bring a dozen of cookies for our cookie table. RSVP as soon as possible to me for **BOTH**, the Holiday Magic, and the party. Hope to see you there.

**Susan Skrypak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0381 Grosse Ile, MI

Our next meeting will be on **December 15, 2021**. Times and locations will be forthcoming. Please stay safe. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

**Joanne Medved**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Assembly 586 members appreciate meeting with each other now more than we did while being virtual participants for months. Thoughts of infection from the virus was on everyone's minds. Now patients are given meds and treatments that conquer the worst of the symptoms so we venture back slowly to life as we enjoyed it.

Janet and I met recently with other board members at a quarterly meeting of the Slovak American Charitable Association and heard from another member about her friend visiting here from Chile. They are shopping for sheets, towels, non-perishable food, paper goods, etc., in large quantities to send home. Though shipping costs are exorbitant, that is the only option. When we said we thought that was primarily the situation in socialist Venezuela, we were told Chile also has empty shelves everywhere. First-hand information from South America, I have not heard much about their lives until now. In the United States we can join fraternals like our National Slovak Society. We can worship as we want, buy what we can afford, an attribute instilled in most of us by our Slovak roots and our parents.

At our Oktoberfest meeting and activity at Highlander House Fred Olszowska gave us his news: both his granddaughters are expecting great-grandchildren to add to Fred's family. Happy news!

A meeting will be held on **November 4th** at Peaches and Pears Restaurant, 6435 West Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois at 5:00 pm. Our annual Christmas party will be held on **December 12th** at Jen's Guesthouse, 8989 Archer Avenue, Willow Springs, Illinois at 4:00 pm. We all hope that the health of our members enables them to be with their NSS friends on these dates. Food and friends! Join us!

Always thankful for God's blessings, Hope you were able to join us at our last meeting on September 23rd. God bless.

**Irene Tomaskovic**  
Vice President

## ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

A meeting will be held on Monday, **November 1, 2021** at the Stefka residence, 5007 Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 pm. Any questions, please call 724-407-3591.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

**Annette Stefka**  
Recording Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, PA

Our annual Christmas Party will be held on **December 4th** at Lariccia Family Center in Boardman Park at 6:00 pm. Santa will be there with gifts for the kids, we'll have a basket raffle, games, and refreshments.

Whenever planning to attend Assembly activities, it's important to call or text Laurie Fox at 330-717-4705 at least one week before the event date.

**Laurie Fox**  
Recording Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0737 North Huntingdon, PA

**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



.....





## REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

A meeting will be held on **February 5, 2022**, at Grotto Pizza, 337 Wyoming Valley Mall Wilkes Barre, Pa. 18702 at 1:00 pm. SNOW date February 12th 1:00 pm at the Grotto. Please read your NSS Magazine in case we need to reschedule.

Region #2 will be holding a Matching Funds Fundraiser for the Old Forge PTO Playground, the basket raffle is schedule for **December 1st to the 14th**, If you would like to donate a Basket or gift card for this fundraiser please contact Lucy Piccoletti 570-479-4116.

**Lucy Piccoletti**  
Recording Secretary

## Assembly 813 Matching Funds Project

Assembly 813 finished another successful project in cooperation with the Jubilee Center at St. David's Episcopal Church. The summer backpack program provides food for children in need.

We received \$2,000 from the Englewood Lions Club with monies raised from an on-line raffle. The Jubilee Center was one of three non-profits to receive monies. The Englewood Women's Association and other local groups also participated bringing the total to \$2200. This is a Matching Funds project with the NSS.

Ruth Hill, Administrator at the Jubilee Center, says the figures remain about the same as last year when we provided 450 bags. The distribution of food, as well as fund raising efforts, will continue through the school year. We really don't want to see any child go hungry.

**Mary Jo Holker**  
Secretary

## Assembly 377



Just a few of our members who attended our last meeting in September at the Sesame Inn.

## Assembly 160 Family Fun Day



**Bob Katricak**, Chairman of the Board and his family and grandchildren also celebrated Family Fun Day at their hotel. They visited Pittsburgh to attend our Family Fun Day at the Carnegie Science Center in September.

## NSS HOME OFFICE BIRTHDAYS



**Linda Buono, Tracey Bastaroli, Greg Felton, Alan Burns, and Donna Tenney** celebrating their birthdays in September.



**Riley Partyka, Rick Toth, and Joe Elliott** celebrating their birthdays in October.





## Donate to the NSS Heritage Museum with Every Amazon Purchase!



AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the NSS Heritage Museum every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the NSS Heritage Museum.

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will be prompted to select a charitable organization to receive donations from your future eligible AmazonSmile purchases. Select the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum. Amazon will remember your selected charity whenever you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) or with AmazonSmile activated in the Amazon Shopping app, and then every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

**Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday,  
November 7, 2021, at 2:00 A.M.**

**On Saturday night, set your clocks  
back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour)  
to "fall back."**



**1:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

- Multi-Ethnic Christmas Trees on Display
- Make Your Own Oplatky Christmas Wafers
- Photo with St. Nicholas - Bring Your Camera
- Old World Bake Sale - Cookies, Cakes & Pastries
- Kid's Arts & Crafts - Make Your Own Cards
- Slovak Old World Kitchen - Ethnic Foods
- Slovak Folk Museum & Slovak Gift Shop
- Handcarved Animated Nativity Display

**FREE ADMISSION - FAMILY FUN**

**National Slovak Society  
Heritage Museum  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317  
For information call: 1-800-488-1890**





## DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Here are four good reasons why making a donation makes sense...

1. Every penny donated goes directly into the PVR Scholarship Fund.
2. Your contribution will help our young members achieve their academic goals.
3. Your donation may benefit your own son, daughter, niece or nephew.
4. Your donation is tax deductible.

Here is my donation of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please issue your check to:

**NSS PVR Scholarship Fund**

And send to:

National Slovak Society  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317

## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations

In Memory of **Deloris Pfaff:**

From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Helen Hruska:**

From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Anthony Gregory:**

From Assembly 0123..... 20.00

In Memory of **Shaun Logan Crowley:**

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin, Jr.,  
& John Crowley..... 20.00

In Memory of **Joseph & Elizabeth**

**Resovsky:**

From McEvoy Family ..... 25.00

In Memory of **Lois Grogan:**

From Thomas Grogan ..... 1000.00

In Memory of **Lillian Grogan:**

From Thomas Grogan ..... 1000.00

**Donations:**

Joseph Chorney ..... 25.00

Karen & Robert Pary ..... 100.00

Septemberfest..... 263.00

Matching Funds from

Assembly 0774 ..... 263.00

*November 11th  
Veteran's Day*

## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

September, 2021

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Alexander, James L	Meadville, PA	09/04/2021	0731
Altenbaugh, Dorothy	Rochester, PA	09/08/2021	0123
Anderson, Edith	Indiana, PA	09/01/2021	L105
Angelo, William Thomas	Elizabethtown, PA	08/18/2021	L102
Baker, David C	Butler, PA	08/28/2021	0123
Betty, Frances	Butler, PA	08/08/2021	0123
Bosch, Gerald	Kalamazoo, MI	02/18/2020	0381
Brent, Sr., Gary E	Danville, PA	08/17/2021	0617
Burk, Edith	Tarpon Springs, FL	08/22/2021	0813
Cable, Carol	Mercer, PA	07/07/2021	0737
Cameron, Arnold	Rositer, PA	08/22/2021	0554
Carney, William	Shelocta, PA	09/02/2021	L105
Carroll Sr, John T	Auburn, PA	08/21/2021	L102
Ciszewski, Elizabeth	DeTour Village, MI	06/08/2021	0381
Conrad, Helen	Indiana, PA	09/11/2011	L105
Cook, Mary Lou	Mullens, WV	08/10/2021	0774
Cosentino, Joseph	Lower Burrell, PA	08/20/2021	0774
Coughanour, Helen	Rostraver Twp, PA	08/29/2021	0737
Cunningham, James	Belle Vernon, PA	05/27/2021	0039
Dane, Roger	Washington, PA	07/30/2021	0588
Degenhart, Emily	Hazletown, PA	08/31/2021	L102
Edwards, Donald F	Furlong, PA	09/15/2021	R059
Elko, Michael	Monroeville, PA	06/30/2021	L105
Ferguson, Stanley	Wyoming, WV	07/30/2021	0774
Fetchko, Marcella	Josephine, PA	08/14/2021	0774
Florek, Barbara	Anthem, AZ	09/03/2021	0737
Gazella, Evelyn	Pittsburgh, PA	07/24/2021	0434
Goldizen, Clea	Maysville, WV	07/14/2021	0774
Gomez, Lucille	St.Petersburg, FL	07/01/2020	0813
Gorski, Gretchen	Imperial, PA	11/29/2020	0441
Hamilton, Betty	New Brighton, PA	09/06/2021	0123
Hamilton, Lynette	Meadville, PA	09/01/2021	0731
Haynes, Charles	Bessemer City, NC	08/09/2021	0774
Hennessy, Rose Ann	Clarendon, PA	09/18/2021	0554
Herrle, Barbara	Bethel Park, PA	07/14/2021	0434
Hooker, Lillian	Mount Hope, WV	12/12/2020	0774
Hoover, Gerald	Martinsburg, PA	09/17/2021	0267
Horvatic, John	Beaver, PA	09/09/2021	0123
Houston, Thelma	Pittsburgh, PA	08/07/2021	0100
Hughes, Sr., Thomas A	Dellslow, WV	09/09/2021	0774
Jaster, Noah	New Lothrop, MI	08/24/2021	0381
Johnson, Betty J	Pittsburgh, PA	08/26/2021	L161
Jones, Wallace	Philadelphia, PA	09/03/2021	R059
Kabay, Lorraine	Lower Burrell, PA	03/19/2021	L105
Kanaval, Josephine	Manalapan, NJ	07/09/2012	0110
Kepple, Betty	Leechburg, PA	09/23/2021	0774
Kerestan, John N	Rostraver Twp, PA	09/03/2021	0377
Kovacicek, Mike	Fayetteville, GA	08/29/2021	0774
Kucish, Alleeta Mae	Fairmont, WV	08/14/2021	0774
Lacey, Gerald	Brownsville, PA	08/06/2021	0377
Lane, Norman	Transfer, PA	08/30/2021	0774



## OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS CONTINUED

September 2021

(Continued from Page 16)

Lokant, Helen	Oak Hill, WV	08/23/2021	0774
Love, Eugene	York, PA	08/19/2021	L102
Macko, Thomas W	McKeesport, PA	02/21/2021	0108
Matzik, Dolores	Altoona, PA	09/10/2021	0267
Mavrogianis, Iphigenia	Powder Springs, GA	08/02/2021	0774
May, Eugene	Lady Lake, FL	07/07/2021	0813
McBride, Carole	Beaver Falls, PA	07/06/2021	0123
McBroom, Lois	Raliegh, NC	09/17/2021	0774
McElhinny, Earl J	Pittsburgh, PA	08/08/2021	0737
McFarland, Sandra	Rossiter, PA	07/22/2021	0554
McPhedran, Martha	Pleasant Ridge, MI	08/19/2021	0381
Mease, Ruth	West Lawn, PA	09/16/2021	L102
Meyers, Walter	Jefferson Hills, PA	09/20/2021	0108
Michalek, Clement	Franklin, OH	11/27/2018	0432
Morris, Marsha	Worthington, OH	02/06/2019	0731
Nay, Harry	LaCrosse, WI	07/24/2021	0774
Nelson, Noah Ray	Fombell, PA	07/19/2021	C123
Paddock, Diana	Gordonsville, VA	09/12/2020	0774
Palahunik, Irene	McKees Rocks, PA	11/09/2020	L161
Pendolino, Salvatore	Meadville, PA	09/20/2021	0731
Perry, Robert A	St. Petersburg, FL	07/01/2021	0813
Prusko, Joanne	Glassport, PA	08/08/2021	0108
Shultz, Mary T	Eighty Four, PA	09/02/2021	0377
Skodak, Barbara	Greensburg, PA	08/24/2021	0737
Socie, Carmella	Clearfield, PA	08/02/2021	0554
Stavish, Robert	Swoyersville, PA	08/29/2021	0617
Suska, Minnie S	McMurray, PA	06/20/2021	0441
Thompson, Patricia D	Marietta, GA	08/18/2021	0774
Tkocs, Thomas	Pittsburgh, PA	08/22/2021	L161
Truxal, Ellen	Pittsburgh, PA	09/01/2021	L105
Van Doren, Elsie	Lake Mary, FL	01/03/2017	0774
Vitale, Cynthia	Sterling Heights, MI	08/14/2021	0381
Walls, Mary	Estes Park, CO	07/29/2021	0236
Wheeler, Daniel	Kenneth City, FL	04/16/2021	0774
Wicker, Katherine	Centre Hall, PA	08/28/2021	L040
Wiggins, Geraldine	Lancaster, PA	08/28/2021	L102
Wilhelm, Rita	Lebanon, IL	05/15/2021	0705
Yates, Henry	Bentleyville, PA	09/14/2021	0377
Yurick, Richard T	Murrysville, PA	04/10/2021	0737
Zuchero, Rosemarie	Meadville, PA	09/10/2021	0554

## DAN S. GIMILIANO



Assembly 0434 member Dan Gimiliano of Castle Shannon, PA passed away on October 8, 2021 at 98 years young. Beloved husband of the late Evelyn (Eirkson) and Betty; loving father of Fran (Dave) (former President of NSS Life) Blazek, Joy (George) Sirakos, Ruth (Terry) Gahagen, Mary (Bob) Politowski and the late Jim (survived by Sandy) Gimiliano; stepfather of Mark Evans; proud Pap of 14 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; brother of Dell Bodner and the late Sabatine, Joe, Nin, Pete, John, Sam and Gen.

Also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Dan also served in the **26th Infantry Division, WWII**. He was loved by so many and will be truly missed. May he rest in eternal peace.





# CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY 2021

## THE HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY



★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

## ORIGINS

**1918** 11th Hour - 11th Day - 11th Month  
On November 11, 1918, fighting ceases during World War I when an armistice goes into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This day is celebrated worldwide and comes to be known as the end of "the war to end all wars."

**1919** Armistice Day  
President Woodrow Wilson proclaims November 11, 1919 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day.

**1938** Armistice Day: A Federal Holiday  
On May 13, 1938, Congress passes legislation making Armistice Day, November 11, a legal Federal holiday.

**1954** Armistice Day Becomes Veterans Day  
Veterans of World War II and the Korean War, in addition to veterans of World War I, are now being honored on Armistice Day. So, on June 1, 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

**1968** The Uniform Holiday Bill  
On June 28, 1968, the Uniform Holiday Bill is signed, moving the observance of Veterans Day from November 11 to the fourth Monday in October, effective in 1971. However, many states did not agree with this transition and continued to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11 because of its historic significance to Armistice Day.

**1971**

**1972**

**1974**

**1975**

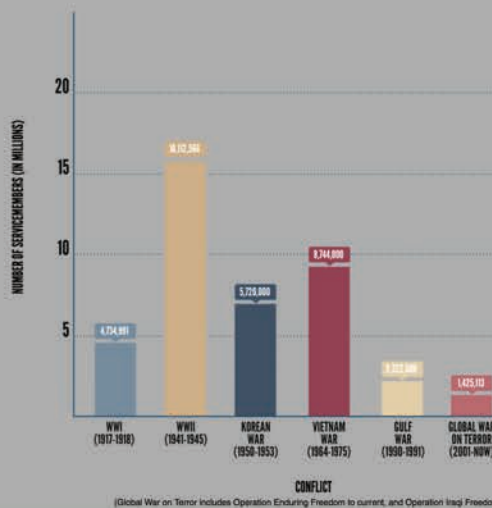
**1978** The "Return" of Veterans Day  
In 1978, the annual observance of Veterans Day returns to November 11 after President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479) on September 20, 1975.

**Legend:**  

 Celebrates Veterans Day Fourth Monday in October (Blue)  
 Celebrates Veterans Day November 11 (Red)

**Quote:**  
*"...the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory..."*  
 - President Woodrow Wilson, 1919

## TOTAL U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS BY WAR (WORLDWIDE)\*



RED POPPY

## THE FLOWER OF REMEMBRANCE

The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance among the allied countries after Col. John McCrae, a surgeon with Canada's First Brigade Artillery, wrote a poem expressing his grief over the rows and rows of poppies among the graves of soldiers who had died on Flanders' battlefields during World War I. Today, veterans organizations around the U.S. distribute poppies as a tribute to those who gave their lives in service of our country.

## VETERAN STATISTICS



**22 MILLION+**

Number of veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



**2.1 MILLION**

Approximate number of veterans in California, the most of any U.S. state.



**2.2 MILLION+**

Number of World War II veterans who went to college on the G.I. Bill.

**1 MILLION+**

Number of veterans who are currently receiving education benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



**1,000+**

Number of hospitals and medical centers the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs operates worldwide.



**144**

Number of veterans and military service organizations in the U.S.



**1930**

Year the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs was created.

\* Total Servicemembers By War (Worldwide) graph figures as of May 2015. Sources: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Defense; Defense Manpower Data Center; U.S. World War I Centennial Commission; U.S. Army Center of Military History. Photo Sources: Official U.S. Navy file photo, www.navy.mil. Infographic by Annalisa Underwood, Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division.





Exclusive Benefits Available!  
Call today  
**(888) 705-6920**

As a Member of **National Slovak Society**, you and your family are eligible for **exclusive** benefits from Start Hearing.

You and your extended family members have exclusive access to free hearing consultations and discounts up to 48% off all levels of hearing technology through Start Hearing.

Call **(888) 705-6920** to take advantage of your member discounts today:

**Valuable Benefits Include:**



**Hearing Health**

- FREE annual hearing consultations for you and your family
- Access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing professional locations



**Better Hearing**

- Advanced technology, including Bluetooth® compatible and rechargeable options
- 60-day risk-free trial period



**Ongoing Value**

- Up to a 3-year supply of FREE batteries (40 cells per hearing aid purchased per year)
- FREE deluxe warranty plan\* (including loss and damage)
- A year of FREE office visits (up to six visits)

Call our Hearing Care Advisors at

**(888)705-6920**

to take advantage of your exclusive discounts.  
[starthearing.com/partners/NSS](http://starthearing.com/partners/NSS)

**American  
Hearing Benefits**  
HAS CHANGED TO



**START  
HEARING**

\*Professional service fees may apply. The Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. and any use of such marks is under license. Start Hearing and Start Hearing logo are trademarks of Starkey Laboratories, Inc. ©2021 Starkey Laboratories, Inc. All Rights Reserved. 7/21 TJAD3165-00-EE-HB



## ***Fraternalism in Action*** **Septemberfest '21**

While festive music and the scent of sauerkraut and sautéed onions wafted through the air, the outdoor space surrounding the home office building brought **Septemberfest '21** to life. Volunteers, vendors, and guests (280+), all seemed excited and eager to socialize and enjoy the activities being presented throughout the day. Of course there were the usual activities at the event: the marketplace with a panorama of unique gift items, crafters demonstrating their knowledge and passing it on to those visitors who were interested in learning these skills, and the youngsters were kept busy in the children's area playing games, having their faces painted, or having a balloon sculpture made for them by "Giggles the Clown."

Of course the most popular areas of the event were the Slovak Café and bake sale. Our desserts were plentiful and delicious! Thanks to our talented NSS bakers: **Theresa Allan, Monica Rodacy Boone, Kathy Cessna, Linda Collins, Lori Crowley, Linda Estes, Laurie Fox, George Ann Kralik, Ida Lewis, Mary Martini, Sue & Suzy Ondrejco.**

In addition to all of these features and activities, our fraternal spirit was on proud display. Everyone came together united by a common interest, created and fostered friendships working side by side, thus supporting our fraternal mission.

A special guest at this year's event was NSS member and former professional baseball star Frank Thomas. He was a three-time All-Star and had his best season in 1958 when he hit 35 home runs and drove in 109 runs. At 93 years old, he was signing autographs and other baseball memorabilia with all proceeds going to Camp Happy Days—Kids Kick-in' Cancer and Courageous Kidz, a safe haven for children with cancer.

Also, Assemblies 588, 731, L-161 and the Home Office

Staff joined together and provided over 20 baskets for a raffle. Assembly 744 held a special raffle for a grille and accessories. The proceeds from all the raffles were matching funds projects and help fund the 175 PVR scholarships that are awarded every year.

Through our displays, exhibits, demonstrations, and camaraderie we hope our guests discovered the beauty of our Slovak heritage and the true meaning of fraternalism. Special thanks to all of our vendors, demonstrators and our more than 50 volunteers. We appreciate your gift of time, energy and enthusiastic support.

We would also like to thank the following sponsors for their generosity, which made it possible to provide the "extra" features for our event:

**AQS Asset Management LLC**  
**National Slovak Society of the USA (NSS Life)**  
**H2R CPA**  
**Slavia Printing**  
**Bill Linnert, Jordan Tax Office**  
**Western PA Slovak Cultural Association**  
**Joe & Terri Elliott**  
**Drew & Sharon Wesnak**  
**Laurie & Mike Fox**  
**NSS Region 5 Pittsburgh, PA**  
**Region 14 Whitehall, PA**

**Asy 039 Uniontown, PA.....Asy 108 W. Mifflin, PA**  
**Asy 123 Coraopolis, PA.....Asy 160 Lorrain, Ohio**  
**Asy 588 Avella, PA.....Asy 731 Lowellville, Ohio**  
**Asy L102 Whitehall, PA.....Asy L161 Pittsburgh, PA**

Last but not least, many thanks to the officers and home office staff, especially Eric Riepole for their cooperation and support. Thanks again to everyone!

**Looking forward to seeing you next year on**  
**Saturday, September 24, 2022**  
**for our 10th Septemberfest!**

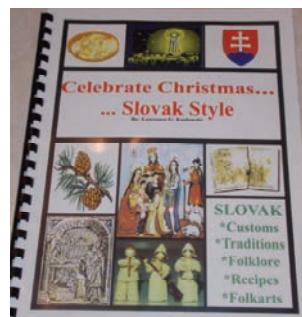
### **Available from the NSSHM Gift Shop while supplies last!**

#### **OPLATKY:**

Package of 5 **large** wafers **\$4.00**

**Small** wafer with Christmas Blessing ideal for placing inside Christmas cards. Available in **English OR Slovak.**

**Please specify. \$2.00 ea.**



#### **Christmas Slovak Style:**

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

**\$12 (includes postage and handling)**

#### **Slovak Christmas CD**

Sung and produced by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.

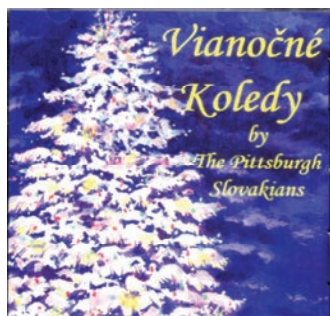
Features 14 traditional carols. **\$15.00**

**EXCLUSIVE! Slovak Christmas CD**

Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinčik,

Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols.

**Limited Supply Available \$15.00**





# November

## MYŠLIENKY o Adventne

Na konci cesty nie je cesta, ale cieľ.  
Na konci zimy nie je zima, ale jar.  
Na konci noci nie je noc, ale svitanie.  
Na konci adventu nie je advent,  
ale Narodenie Pána.  
Na konci smrti nie je smrť, ale život.

## MYŠLIENKA pre Teba:

Všetko, čo robíme, je iba kvapka v mori, ale keby sme to nerobili, ta kvapka by tam chýbala.  
Bl. Matka Tereza

## Uloha pre Teba:

Počas adventu využijem každú príležitosť ku konaniu dobra.  
Ktora sa mi ponukne.



## Konope, konope, zelené konope...



Konope siata a ľan sú tradičné technické plodiny slovenského vidieka. Na našom území sa pestovali odnepamäti. Do ľanového plátna sa zaodievali už starí Slovania. V stredoveku patrili dávky týchto plodín medzi povinnosti poddaných voči ich zemepánom. Úroda ľanu aj konopy nielenže zabezpečovala našim predkom väčšinu materiálu na výrobu

odevu a textilu pre domácnosť, ale pomerne skoro sa časť z nej aj predávala.

## O POVERÁCH SPOJENÝCH S KONOPAMI

Pilné gazdinky majú radosť, keď sa im konope podaria a husté i vysoké narastú, a radi majú fašiangovníkov čo najvyššie vyskakujúcich, aby im konope tak vysoko narástli.

Ľud náš konopu aj do hádanky vpletol. Taká rozšírená hádanka je:

*“Na hore konopa, na konope hlina, na hline zelina, na zeline sviňa.”* Hora znamená drevený stôl;  
konopa = obrus na stole; hlina = misa hlinená;  
zelina = varená kapusta; sviňa = pečená bravčovina.

*Všetko na svete môže človek zastaviť. Každý pohyb, každý nepokoj, čo však nezastaví, nespomalí, je čas. Čas plynie ako rieka nášho života. Míňa sa deň za dňom, rok za rokom a my sa v určitých chvíľach zastavíme.*

*Je to ozaj krásou, že v Amerike si berieme jeden deň v roku a zasväcujeme ho Bohu ako vd'aku za všetky jeho dobrodenia a za požehnanie ktoré z jeho štedrosti požívame každý deň. V tento deň sa schádzajú za stôl plný rôzneho jedla a lásky celé rodiny.*

*Bože všemohúci d'akujeme ti za jedlo, za krajinu, i za požehnanie tvoje. Amen.*

*Želame všetkým našim čitateľom  
radostný deň vd'akyvzdania.*

## Sviatok Všetkých svätých

Návšteva cintorínov na Všetkých svätých patrí najstabilnejším tradičným prejavom všetkých vrstiev spoločnosti. Podľa prastarých predkresťanských predstáv sa duše mŕtvych zúčastňovali na všetkých významnejších udalostiach v živote rodu. V 8 storočí určil pápež Gregor IV sviatok Všetkých svätých na 1. november, ktorý mal byť spomienkou na známych kresťanských svätcov. Tento zvyk sa postupne rozšíril a v kalendári sa zakotvil 2. november ako Pamiatka zosulných (Dušičky). Na tieto dátumy sa časom preniesli niektoré tradičné prvky, ktoré sprevádzali duchovný kontakt s mŕtvymi. Podľa starších zvykov sa v noci z 1. na 2. novembra na stole nechávala časť večere a na hrobch sa zapalovali sviečky. Kladenie vencov a kvetinová výzdoba na cintorínoch patrí k novším tradíciám.

—Malý Lexicón Ludovej Kultúry Slovenska



## Time table in Slovak

**Za chvíľu = in 30 minutes**

(za χvi:lju)

“in a moment”

**Som tam o 5 minút = in 1 hour**

(som tam o pæ:tj minu:t)

“I’m there in 5 minutes”

**Už idem = at home, dressing up**

(uzh idjem)

“I’m coming already”

**Som za rohom = still at home, just coming out**

“I’m around the corner”



Facebook/daily Slovak memes



# Second Place Poetry Contest Winners

## Rosie

Rosie is my Sweetie,  
She's nice and sweet.  
A Black and white kitty,  
Who sleeps at my feet.  
She checks on me in the morning,  
And even late at night.  
I love her so much,  
Because we never fight.

**Mariah Cherevka**  
C108, Age 6

## An Old Pine Tree

An  
Old  
Pine Tree sits  
at the top of the drive.  
Pine needles fall to the ground.  
Oh so sad, looking at its bare dead branches.  
This morning it may fall, any day, it may fall.  
I remember playing with its pinecones, but now,  
no  
more  
pine  
cones.  
Soon the wind will blow it down.  
When? Is the question.

**Christian Cole**  
C774, Age 8

## Up at Bat

I'm up at bat  
the bases are loaded  
one good hit and this game is over  
first ball strike  
second one ball  
I can do it, that I know  
fastball coming straight down the line  
swing and connect  
CRACK!  
It's a homerun  
I knew I could do it  
because I am  
Zack!

**Zachary Martini**  
C731, Age 11

## What do I see as I ride my bike on my way to work?

I see the morning sun,  
shining brightly on this glorious day,  
Filling the pale, blue sky with its thin,  
golden rays.  
I also see the small, silver moon,  
Which will disappear behind a sort,  
pink cloud very soon.  
As I turn my eyes toward the ground,  
I see a most magnificent brown and white hound.  
There along the road-side are seven hives of bees,  
And down the road a little are beautiful tall trees.  
Just past the trees, are acres of corn,  
That smell so sweet in the chill of the morn.  
The work is hard, the hours long,  
But when I am finished, I'll sing a song.

**Ben Ostrowski**  
C617, Age 16

## Dancing Through the Years

There once was a little girl, She loved going to dance to twirl  
When she was only three, She fell in love with the art you see  
Ever since that first class, It was her favorite thing to make time pass  
What started as a class one day a week, Quickly became an  
everyday streak  
When she was six, She was working on her leaps and kicks  
Working hard to become her very best, She learned to never  
put her passion to rest  
Her first solo was tap, She loved hearing the audience clap  
Performing was her favorite thing, Especially her costumes  
with all of the bling  
When she was nine, She moved up the dance line  
The more serious it became, The more she had set to aim  
When she was twelve, She had all of her trophies on shelves,  
She loved the moments competing on stage, Dance was keep-  
ing her more and more engaged  
When she was fifteen, The dance studio was her favorite scene  
Long nights spent on the dance floor, To perform for three  
minutes to hear the audience roar  
When she was eighteen, It was time for her final routines  
Living in every last moment, Coming close to her college enrollment  
Although when she grows up she wants to be a surgeon  
Dance shaped who she was as a person  
She knew she wanted to continue to dance  
Being on her college dance team gave her that chance  
Now at nineteen years old, She reflects on the moments that  
gave her her mold  
She may be at college but she will never forget it  
She stands on the field and dances, Hail to Pitt

**Giavanna Gulino**  
0039, Age 19





# Youth Circle Page

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

## 2021 Christmas Ornament Contest Deadline: December 1st, 2021

Start thinking about what kind of ornament you are going to make this year. Get out your glue guns and glitter and create a winning ornament today!

The rules are as follows:

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

### Member Categories:

Frosty's Group (Ages 5-7)  
Rudolph's Group (Ages 8-10)  
Snowflake Group (Ages 11-13)  
Santa Group (Ages 14-16)  
Adult Group

### Prize Awards:

First Place - \$25.00  
First Place - \$25.00  
First Place - \$25.00  
First Place - \$25.00  
First Place - \$50.00  
Second Place - \$30.00  
Third Place - \$20.00

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

## Congratulations to the Zemelman Family



David Michael Zemelman, member of Assembly L161 was born on September 17, 2021. He joins two sisters and a brother. The Proud grandparents are Sue Ondrejco, Director of the NSS and her husband Rudy.

## Patriotic Pretzel Rods

### Ingredients

- 2 Cups – white candy melts
- 1 Cup – blue candy melts
- 1 Cup – red candy melts
- Star sprinkles (sort out the white ones)
- Pretzel rods



### Directions

- Microwave the candy melts until melted
- Lay a piece of parchment paper down on the table
- Dip the pretzel rod  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way down in the white chocolate & place onto parchment paper
- Once the chocolate is hardened, dip the end of your white pretzel rod into blue chocolate, place on parchment paper and sprinkle stars on the blue chocolate while its still soft
- Drizzle melted red chocolate over the white part of the pretzel rod using a plastic bag and let harden before serving
- Enjoy!





National Slovak Society  
(USPS 0371-140)  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317-3337

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 1166

## 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. \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate 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.