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

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

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

Happy Thanksgiving!

NSS Life |
Family Matters...

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

Národné Noviny

Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 • Happy Thanksgiving!

National News
November 2021 | Number 3559 Volume 113

Christmas Ornament Contest
See Page 23 for Rules
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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**
  - Region 2, Matching Funds Fundraiser for Old Forge PTO Playground
- **January 23, 2022**
  - Assembly L075, Meeting, Time and Place TBA
- **February 5, 2022**
  - 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**
  - Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 pm
- **November 27**
  - 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
- **December 4**
  - 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
- **December 5**
  - Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, Uniontown K of C Hall at 2:00 pm
  - Assembly 0377, Annual Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA
- **December 12**
  - 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**
  - Assembly L102, Ornament Making Party, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 3:00 pm
- **November 14**
  - Assembly R059, Meeting, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA
- **January 9, 2022**
  - Assembly L102, Annual Christmas Party, Wesnak's residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm
- **January 23, 2022**
  - Assembly R059, Meeting, Prime Restaurant, (TBA)

#### AT LARGE
- **Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813**
- **November 4**
  - Assembly 0586, Meeting, Peaches and Pears Restaurant, Chicago, IL at 5:00 pm
- **November 7**
  - Assembly 0705, Meeting, Dorothy Buck’s residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
- **December 12**
  - Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Jen's Guesthouse, Willow Springs, IL at 1:00 pm
- **December 15**
  - Assembly 0381, Meeting (TBA)
- **December 24**
  - Assembly 0705, Christmas Eve Party, (Fraternal Fund Activity) (TBA)
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.

Happy Birthday 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 Kucherawy and all others celebrating wedding anniversaries this month.

Happy Anniversary 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.
Disclosure document was completed and submitted to the 3rd Quarter 2020. The Corporate Governance Annual Directors voted to keep the current interest rates the same for has an ‘A’ rating. Current Crediting Rate is 3.4%. The Di- Larry White reported that our portfolio yield is 4.64% and discussion on 1099’s and taxation. AQS Managing Directorvisor P. Ronald Cooper presented a verbal report followed by new look to our website is being developed. NSS Legal Ad discused that would be available during the pandemic. A work-from-home environment is being reported on our Cyber Security efforts to get approval in the business running. He also reported on how the agents servicing their clients/our members and potential mem-

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

2022 XXXVIII Quadrennial Convention

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Preliminary planning for our 2022 38th Quadrennial 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!
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. 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 or call him at 1-800-813-4870 or email him at: 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. 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 x 12 months x 10 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 want 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.

LIFE HINT

Life insurance clears the financial path for loved ones to carry on.

71% say they personally need life insurance, yet only

59% have coverage.

Source: 2021 Insurance Awareness Study, Life Happens and LIMRA.
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 or 724-731-0094.

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.

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

—William Arthur Ward

My friends, I hope we never forget those who paid so dearly for our freedom.

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!

Written by: History.com editors

Joanna Fuchs

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Written by: History.com editors

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

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.

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★ 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!
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 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 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 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 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 grandchildren 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

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

NATIONAL NEWS | NOVEMBER 2021
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

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 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 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 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.”
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 Lilian 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 Rossiter, 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, Cleta 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, Lilian Mount Hope, WV 12/12/2020 0774
Hoover, Gerald Martinsburg, PA 09/17/2021 0267
Horvatich, 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 Lecieburg, PA 09/23/2021 0774
Kerestan, John N Rostraver Twp, PA 09/03/2021 0377
Kovacicek, Mike Fayetteville, GA 08/29/2021 0774
Kucish, Alleta 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)

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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.

Thank you to all our military personnel for the sacrifices you have made for our freedom.
Celebrating Veterans Day 2021

The History of Veterans Day

1918

Armistice Day
President Woodrow Wilson proclaims November 11, 1918 as the first commencement of Armistice Day.

1919

Armistice Day: A Federal Holiday
On May 13, 1919, Congress passed legislation making Armistice Day, November 11, a legal Federal holiday.

1938

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

1954

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 as Armistice Day.

1968

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 95-482 that changed September 20, 1975.

1978

The Red Poppy
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 and military service organizations in the U.S.

1,000 +
Number of hospitals and medical centers the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs operates worldwide.

1930

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

* Data来源于The Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center, U.S. Census Bureau, Office of National Drug Control Policy, and The Marine Corps

144
Number of veterans and military service organizations in the U.S.
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)
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- 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

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**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 Ondrejko.

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 Kickin’ 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 comradeship 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 14 Whitehall, PA**
- **Asy 039 Uniontown, PA……..Asy 108 W. Mifflin, PA**
- **Asy 123 Coraopolis, PA……..Asy 160 Lorain, 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!**

---

**OPLATKY:**

- **Package of 5 large wafers** $4.00
- **Small wafer with Christmas Blessing ideal for placing inside Christmas cards. Available in English OR Slovak.** $2.00 ea.

**Slovak Christmas CD**

Sung and produced by the Pittsburgh Slovakians.

Features 14 traditional carols. **$15.00**

**EXCLUSIVE! Slovak Christmas CD**

Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinčík, Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols. **Limited Supply Available $15.00**

---

**Christmas Slovak Style:**

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

$12 (includes postage and handling)

---

**Available from the NSSHM Gift Shop while supplies last!**
Konope, konope, zelené konope…


O POVERÁCH SPOJENÝCH S KONOPAMI

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

Ľud náš konopu aj do hádanky vpliel. 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.
**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

**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

**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 keeping 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

**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
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Categories</th>
<th>Prize Awards</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frosty's Group (Ages 5-7)</td>
<td>First Place - $25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rudolph's Group (Ages 8-10)</td>
<td>First Place - $25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowflake Group (Ages 11-13)</td>
<td>First Place - $25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Group (Ages 14-16)</td>
<td>First Place - $25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Group</td>
<td>First Place - $50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Place - $30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Place - $20.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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 ¾ 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!
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.