

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



NSS Life
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Convention ISSUE



National Slovak Society's 38th Quadrennial Convention • June 26th-30th • Hershey, PA



★ Delegate Listing and Board of Directors Candidate Biographies Included in this Issue ★



National Slovak Society

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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Linda M. Strom,
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Robert F. Katricak,
Chairman of the Board

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Susan M. Ondrejco • Karen Lynne Orban • Andrew "Drew" J. Wesnak

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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

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Could you use a little extra "Green?"

RECOMMENDER FORM

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 to whom we issue a policy. 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: _____

Please mail form to the NSS Life Home Office.

Do you need a Change of Address?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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.*

Change of Address Information:

Full Name: _____

Certificate #: _____ Assembly #: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Former Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Activities At A Glance

REGION 2

Assemblies L075, 0617

August 10	Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park (TBA)
August 13	Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm
August 14	Assembly L075, Summer Picnic, Mercatelli Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
October 22	Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm

REGION 5

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

June 12	Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Q, Columbian Association (K of C) pavillion at 1:00 pm
June 19	Assembly 0377, Annual Picnic, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm
July 15-17	National Golf Tournament, Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, Hermitage, PA
July 21	Slovak Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA
July 29	Region 5, NSS Night at PNC Park
September 1	Assembly 0731, All day Scavenger Hunt, Canfield Fair, Campsite A102
September 11	Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Inn, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
September 11	Assembly 0039, Flight 93 Dinner, (TBA)
September 12	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA (TBA)
October 23	Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm at 4:00 pm
November 5	Assembly 0731, Making Christmas Ornaments, Burns residence, Poland, OH
November 7	Assembly 0588, Meeting at Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA (TBA)
December 4	Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
December 4	Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbian Association Hall (K of C) at 4:00 pm
December 17	Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center Rotary Room, Boardman Park, OH

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

July 8	Assembly 0432, Lake Erie Crushers Game, Crushers Stadium, OH at 7:05 pm
September 25	Assembly 0432, Jet Express Lake Erie Tour, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

August 7	Assembly L102, Summer picnic, Gross residence, New Tripoli, PA at 2:00 pm
October 23	Assembly L102, Halloween costume party, Wesnak residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm

AT LARGE

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

June 5	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, PA at 1:00 pm
June 23	Assembly 0381, Meeting, Rosemary Hanlon's residence, Trenton, MI at 1:00 pm
June 25, 26	Assembly 0705, Butwin Family Reunion, Seelyville, IN (Fraternal Fund Activity) (TBA)
July 3	Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
August 21	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
September 4	Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
October 16	Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
October 23	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
December 24	Assembly 0705, Annual Christmas Eve celebration (Fraternal Fund Activity) at 6:00 pm

The President's Page...

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



The month of June will be an extremely busy month for the National Slovak Society. Several assemblies have meetings and activities planned, including an Assembly 0705 meeting on June 5th, Assembly 0039's Summer Bar-B-Q on June 12th, Assembly 0377 will hold a picnic on June 19th, Assembly 0381 will hold a meeting on June 23rd, and Assembly 0705 will hold the Butwin Family Reunion on June 25-26th.

The 38th Quadrennial Convention will convene on Sunday, June 26th and conclude on Thursday, June 30th in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Officers, Directors, Honorary Officers, and Delegates elected to represent their assemblies and regions will make decisions during the Convention which will affect the course of the Society over the next four years. One of the most important decisions facing the delegates will be the election of the Board of Directors. The Board is the governing body of the Society between conventions. The biographies of the fourteen candidates running for a seat on the Board of Directors can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *National News* along with a list of all delegates elected as representatives to the Convention. All delegates will receive their final Convention packet prior to the Convention. A great deal of information including Officer and Director reports, proposed bylaw changes, information regarding the Convention schedule, and Fraternal Day excursions will be included. Delegates, please read the material prior to the Convention to be able to make thoughtful, informed decisions. By selecting the most qualified candidates, the delegates will help

to ensure the continued growth of the Society into the future. I am looking forward to seeing all of the delegates in Hershey. Safe travels to all!

As part of the Youth Funfest at the Convention, the youth members will participate in a community service project benefiting homeless Veterans. Representatives of Veterans Outreach of PA, our chosen charity for the Convention, have been extremely helpful in coordinating the project with our Funfest Advisors. The youth will be filling donated backpacks with items most often needed by the homeless Veterans. Hershey Lodge recently donated toiletry items to place in the backpacks. Recently, a letter was mailed to all Assembly and Region contacts requesting monetary donations to purchase items for the backpacks. Please help by donating so that our Youth Funfest Community Service Project will be successful. Send any donations to the Home Office c/o Pam Blum.

On June 14th we celebrate Flag Day, so please be sure to display the Flag to commemorate the date on which the United States approved the design of its first national flag and to show your pride in our great country!

On June 19th, we celebrate Father's Day. It is a day to take time to honor our fathers and to recognize all that they have done for us. As I look back today on the many things that my father taught me, I realize the importance of his life's lessons. He taught me to always give my best effort in anything I attempted, to work hard and others would recognize my efforts and someday I would be rewarded for it, to treat others with respect even though they may be disrespectful to me, to never quit once you begin something, to abide by rules and do what is right, to always take the high road in spite of how you are treated by others, and to take pride in my Slovak heritage. His words of advice and encouragement still ring in my ears today. I have tried to live up to these lessons each day of my life. Thank you, Dad, you did a fantastic job as a teacher of life's lessons!

The 2022 National Slovak Society Golf Tournament is quickly approaching. The deadline for submitting entries is **June 27, 2022**. The deadline for hotel reservations is **June 15, 2022**. Please be sure to send in your entry forms and book your hotel reservations

at the Hampton Inn and Suites in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania, as soon as possible. Information regarding the hotel is located on the golf entry form. The Golf Tournament Weekend kicks off on Friday, July 15th with Hospitality Night at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course at 6:00 pm. Tournament play begins on Saturday, July 16th with individual handicap competition and concludes on Sunday, July 17th with a scramble event. The NSS Tournament is a handicap event and uses the Callaway Handicap System for new golfers unless they have an established USGA handicap at their home course. Golfers who have participated in past NSS Golf Tournaments will use their NSS handicap. The Sunday scramble event teams golfers of all handicaps for a fun golf day! Please plan to join us at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, Pennsylvania for a great golf weekend! A reminder that hole sponsorships are available for Assemblies, Regions, and individuals. The proceeds go directly to the PVR Scholarship Fund to help fund the education of our youth members. Please use the entry form in the *National News* to designate your hole sponsorship. The NSS Golf Tournament is annually one of our largest fundraisers for the PVR Scholarship Fund.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to Honorary Officer Justine Wesnak, Honorary Director Mary Jo Holker, Chairman of the Board Bob Katricak, Director Mike Czarney, Home Office Staff Member Jill Grover, former Home Office Staff Member Nina DeLelio, and to George Jones, Logan Triebisch, David Jancisin, Beverly Arbore, Rich Somplatsky, Joe Palko, Blaze Farrell, and all others celebrating a birthday in June. Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes to Shannon and Edwin Woods and to all others celebrating anniversaries during the month of June.



A Page From My Notebook...

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



Just Around the Corner

Greetings, I hope this article finds you and your families well, enjoying the warm and sunny weather that is hopefully on its way! Before I get into convention information, I'd like to take a brief moment to wish my brother, Joe Palko a *Very Happy* June birthday!

Happy Father's Day Dad

As my brother and I were going through our parents' home in preparation for its sale we found many items that would bring back a memory in an instant. This is so with the picture below. I don't recall ever seeing this picture. This is our dad, Joseph V. Palko, a WWII Veteran who came home from the war in 1945 and had ME! Anyway, Happy Father's Day Dad. One day we will all be together again.



Important Notice Regarding Final Delegate Packets

If you have not received your final Delegate Packet in the mail by **June 13, 2022**, please contact Pam Blum ASAP at **(724) 731-0094** or pblum@nsslife.org.

Final Convention Update – Hershey Here We Come!

1. Today is May 16, 2022, and the final Delegate Packet that contains all the important information you will need to make informed decisions for the future of the NSS is being finalized in preparation for mailing. You **must** bring this information with you to the convention. These are your working documents. As done at past conventions, if by some chance you forget or lose your packet there will be a small fee of \$5.00 to purchase another packet for your binder.
2. National Officer Convention Reports included in this packet provide information about the activities of the Board over the past (4) four years as well as their vision for the future. I commend this Board for their dedication to the society. The delegates of this convention have the difficult responsibility of selecting 9 Directors for the next four years (2022 through 2026).
3. All Petitions, Grievances, Complaints & Resolutions are to be sent to me at the Home Office no later than 15 days prior to the convention or by June 10, 2022. The committee will meet and report their recommendations to the delegates at the Convention.
4. The Bylaw Committee will be available for questions during the convention prior to the bylaw vote. Please take advantage of this opportunity to ask the committee any questions you may have pertaining to the bylaws.
5. The NSS Convention office is located on the main floor of the Hershey Lodge down the hall from the Gift Shop and Bears Den. It will be staffed daily to assist you. Please speak with those in the office through the large front window. The Office is small and does not hold very much more than the office staff, our laptops and the items needed for the convention.
6. It is important that you do not arrive at the lodge before 4:00 pm on Sunday June 26, 2022 if at all possible. Hershey Lodge experiences a large number of late checkouts which delays the preparation of the rooms for the next guest. The normal check-in time is 4:00 pm. If you arrive before the normal check-in time you will most likely have to wait in the lobby or go into the restaurants that are available for a snack while waiting for your room. Hershey has been gracious enough to provide us a place to check your luggage while waiting for your room so you don't have to drag your luggage around with you.
7. Finally, we ask that you **DO NOT** contact Hershey Lodge with questions or requests pertaining to the convention. We have been informed that they will only speak with President Stefka, Pam or me. If you have any questions before the convention, please call us at the home office. The number is **(724) 731-0094**. You may also email us at pblum@nsslife.org (Pam) or lstrom@nsslife.org (Linda).
8. **The final delegate count as of May 16, 2022 is: 195.**
9. We are very much looking forward to another great convention at the Hershey Lodge and with the outstanding management and staff you will definitely enjoy your stay. Thank you all in advance for letting us help you enjoy Hershey and most importantly, have a successful 38th Quadrennial Convention!
10. And finally, I'd like to thank Jason Burd and Pat Uffner at Hershey for working with us and making themselves available during our on-site planning visits. Stop and say "Hello" when you see them. They are two "wild and crazy" guys.

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations April 2022

In Memory of **Violet & James Grogan, Sr.:**
From Thomas Grogan..... 1,000.00

In Memory of **Grace Grogan:**
From Thomas Grogan 1,000.00

In Memory of **James Grogan, Jr.:**
From Thomas Grogan 1,000.00

In Memory of **Nancy Grogan:**
From Thomas Grogan 1,000.00

In Memory of **Paul Grogan:**
From Thomas Grogan 1,000.00

In Memory of **William Grogan:**
From Thomas Grogan 1,000.00

In Memory of **Walter Bielecki:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Patricia Bowers:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Robert McMurray:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Albert Timms:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **John Bandula:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Michael Camp:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Robert Knoll:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **George Messner:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Joseph Mussomeli:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Carole Rebich:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of **Gilbert Wilson:**
From Assembly 123 20.00

In Memory of our son and brother
Shaun Logan Crowley:
From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,
& John Crowley 20.00

Donations:
Assembly 0267 1,000.00
Assembly 0039 600.00
Start Hearing, Inc. 300.00

Here is my donation of:

\$ _____

Please issue your check to:
NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

Send to:
National Slovak Society
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

DEPARTED MEMBERS APRIL, 2022

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Abel, Jane	Dayton, OH	02/21/2020	0774
Adams, Patricia A	Uniontown, PA	04/14/2022	0039
Adkins, Lottie	Scarbro, WV	01/30/2022	0774
Archer, James	Washington, PA	01/12/2022	0588
Bakaj, Joan	Pittsburgh, PA	03/31/2022	0774
Bressler, Bethany	Taylor, PA	12/04/2021	L075
Brnusak, Anthony	Washington, PA	03/22/2022	0377
Brockmann, Grace	Granada, MN	01/18/2022	0774
Bucek, Edward	Pittsburgh, PA	12/08/2021	L161
Burkholder, Beverly	Fayette City, PA	04/16/2022	0377
Butcher, Margaret	Pittsburgh, PA	04/26/2020	0123
Cantini, Lois	New Eagle, PA	03/16/2022	0434
Cindric, Douglas	Uniontown, PA	03/11/2022	0039
DeHass, Carol	State College, PA	04/05/2022	L040
Depweg, Delma	St Marys, OH	02/28/2022	0595
Donaldson, Larry	Warren, PA	03/26/2022	R019
Dora, Peter	Stamford, CT	06/05/2017	0026
Dunn, Judith	Danville, PA	12/31/2021	0617
Durcansky, Kenneth M	Brunswick, OH	09/30/2019	0004
Endsley, Rosina	Brownsville, PA	03/26/2002	0039
Evans, Mary	Keyser, W	02/10/2022	0774
Fallon, Phyllis	West Mifflin, PA	01/16/2022	0441
Feathers, Sandra	Erie, PA	03/29/2022	0774
Fedec, Tatiana	South Palm Beach, FL	02/15/2021	R059
Fotovich, Dan	Oakdale, PA	03/28/2022	0588
Gilkeson-Porter, Delores	Pittsburgh, PA	09/03/2020	0434
Haggerty, Betty	Charlotte, NC	02/11/2022	0774
Hanick, Barbara	Pittsburgh, PA	12/12/2021	0737
Harrington, Buella	South Branch, MI	12/29/2021	0381
Heny, Gregory	Pleasant Gap, PA	03/28/2022	L040
Hess, Nancy	Kiel, WI	02/17/2022	0774
Hopkins, Carol	Elliottsburg, PA	04/05/2022	0774
Hutchinson, George	Pittsburgh, PA	04/20/2022	0100
Jarvis, Francis	Marlinton, WV	01/29/2022	0774
Jennings, Virginia	Port Townsend, WA	02/23/2022	0004
Karr, Richard	Willow Street, PA	02/07/2022	L102
Kirkland, Darwin C	Clymer, PA	08/21/2021	0774
Kozinski, Gail P	Whiting, IN	08/31/2011	0586
Krasauskis, Martha	Homer Glen, IL	03/04/2022	0586
Krasnopoler, Irving	Pittsburgh, PA	01/23/2022	L161
Kuhar, Sr., William J	Washington, PA	04/10/2022	0434
Landino, Richard	Southington, CT	09/02/2021	L002
Laurita, Jerry	Point Marion, PA	02/28/2022	0039
Lazzari, Eleanor	Belle Vernon, PA	04/18/2022	0377
Lender, Albert	Osceola Mills, PA	01/09/2022	0267
Likar, Edmund	Houston, PA	11/10/2021	0434
Maloney, Margaret	Summersville, WV	03/07/2022	0774
Maloy, Betty	Jeannette, PA	04/06/2022	0737
Marinik, Agnes	Sandusky, OH	02/02/2022	0160
Maslo, Evelyn B	Pittsburgh, PA	05/17/2021	0100
Mathews, LeRoy	North Olmsted, OH	01/18/2021	0432
McCall, Dolores	Slippery Rock, PA	04/07/2022	0731
McNeil, Beulah	Cheboygan, MI	04/13/2022	0381

DEPARTED MEMBERS APRIL, 2022 (Continued from Page 6)

Meckler, William	Pittsburgh, PA	03/06/2022	L161
Mertz, Barbara	New Holland, PA	04/07/2022	L102
Mike, Robert	Lower Burrell, PA	08/30/2020	0108
Miller, Martha	Claysville, PA	12/23/2021	0434
Mohnal, Julia	Philipsburg, PA	01/18/2021	0267
Neupert, Charles	Cabot, PA	03/26/2022	0123
OBrien, John K	Bessemer City, NC	12/28/2021	0774
Ollio, Rosemarie	Allison Park, PA	03/20/2022	0774
Ostrowski, John S	Forty Fort, PA	02/24/2022	0617
Pachuta, Josephine	Beckley, WV	03/07/2021	P38A
Paradise, Jean	Imperial, PA	03/27/2022	0774
Pastrick, John G	Munster, IN	06/01/2020	0586
Paup, Winifred	Venus, PA	04/04/2022	0774
Poklemba, Gail	Trumbull CT	02/09/2022	L002
Prisco, Elsie	Chicago Heights, IL	04/11/2021	0586
Prugh, Lawrence	Numine, PA	04/06/2022	0554
Raymond, Barbara	New Eagle, PA	03/25/2022	0377
Redmon, Lena	Pittsburgh, PA	03/31/2022	0108
Reese, Terry	Erie, PA	04/13/2022	0774
Robertson, Francis	Coraopolis, PA	03/30/2022	0588
Rohulich, George	Bobtown, PA	11/25/2021	0039
Rugg, Penny	Mill Run, PA	01/24/2022	0039
Rutherford, Edward	Pittsburgh, PA	01/13/2022	L161
Sajban, Stanley	Wildwood, MO	02/16/2022	0705
Samerdyke, Paula M	Montello, WI	03/05/2020	0432
Schaut, Barbara	McKeesport, PA	03/28/2022	L161
Seitz, Gerald	McArthur, OH	04/11/2022	0595
Sentz, Richard	Mechanicsburg, PA	11/27/2021	0267
Shaver, Mary	Rowlesburg, WV	03/14/2022	0774
Sherbondy, Virginia	Erie, PA	04/15/2022	0774
Sibert, Ray	New Oxford, PA	12/30/2021	L105
Smith, Mildred E	Washington, PA	04/05/2022	0377
Smock, Twila	Cochranon, PA	04/22/2022	0731
Sovich, Virginia	Frederick, MD	01/22/2022	0434
Stathers, Candy	Whiteville, NC	03/31/2022	0774
Stefanik, Donna	Johnstown, PA	04/17/2022	0267
Stevenson, Mary Ann	Pittsburgh, PA	04/06/2019	0813
Timko, Robert A	Parma, OH	09/25/2020	0004
Tkac, Theresa	Elizabeth, PA	02/22/2022	0039
Tompkins, Sr., Daniel J	Pittsburgh, PA	04/07/2022	L161
Tonkin, Charles	Home, PA	03/07/2022	L105
Tonkin, Mary	Clarksburg, WV	01/20/2022	0774
Toth, Margaret	Coatesville, PA	04/13/2022	L102
Velez, Andres	Erie, PA	03/27/2022	0774
Vensel, Karen	Butler, PA	08/14/2020	0123
Virgona, Domenic	Clairton, PA	03/05/2022	0441
Walentik, Nancy	Brunswick, OH	09/28/2021	0070
Weaver, Carolyn	Cochranon, PA	04/08/2022	0774
Yankuskie, Joseph	Graceton, PA	03/08/2022	0774
Yedinak, John J	Moscow, PA	11/27/2021	L075
Zadell, Margaret	Dunbar, PA	02/28/2022	0039
Zobrak, Edward	Jersey City, NJ	01/29/2022	0110
Zozula, Terry	Mt Pleasant, PA	03/24/2022	0737

A Fraternal Program For Senior Members

PURPOSE -

To encourage our older members to continue their education and to make fuller use of their leisure time.

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY -

Any life insurance or annuity member, fifty-five (55) years or older, who has enrolled and successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course. Members may submit up to two (2) applications in one calendar year.

COURSE ELIGIBILITY -

Vocational schools, community colleges and universities offer a variety of short-term courses which may include areas like computer training, cake decorating, photography, landscaping, small engine repair, ballroom dancing, etc. This program does not cover courses that assist you to maintain your current full or part-time job. (Example: We will not reimburse life insurance or real estate agents who take continuing education credits to maintain their licenses.)

PROCEDURE -

Members should enroll and pay for the course of their choice. Once the member has finished the class, they must submit an application, along with verification that the class was successfully completed, to the Home Office for approval by a National Officer. If the scholarship application is approved, the NSS will reimburse one-half (1/2) of the tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed, one hundred dollars.

INFORMATION & APPLICATION -

For an application or additional information on this NSS Scholarship for Seniors Fraternal Program, contact Pam Blum at **pblum@nsslife.org** or call the office at 724-731-0094, ext. 1010. The National Officers are the sole authority in any decisions regarding this scholarship program. Their decision is final in all cases.

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective January 1, 2020 ★

(Reaffirmed for the 2nd Qtr. of 2022)

Optimum 3 2.00%

Preferred 5 3.00%

Preferred 8 3.50%

Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4%, these plans are no longer available.

Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or
Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.



Did you know...

You can add money to almost any
Annuity with NSS, just send us a check.
Any additional funds will not increase the
time period on early withdrawal penalties.

Access your account values 24/7
by going to the website:
www.nsslife.org
and login/register as a member.



OPEN A ROTH IRA

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- * Tax Advantages
- * Competitive Interest Rates

From the Sales Department...

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



Are You A Systematic Saver?

What defines a systematic saver? Someone who puts money aside on a regular basis. This might be the person who puts \$100 a month into their IRA. Or the person who takes advantage of their company 401k match and puts 5% in every pay. Or the person that goes to the bank and puts \$10 in their savings account every payday. The definition and the act are easy to grasp and understand. However, in actual practice, it takes real discipline to save money on a regular long-term basis. So many other things seem to pop up, bills, food, dinner, etc.

There are several keys to a successful savings program. First, there must be a desire to do better. To build something for the future. Next, the commitment to put aside any amount on a regular basis requires diligence. In our crazy world everyone wants everything right now. Amazon has spoiled us in to thinking that whatever we want can be here tomorrow. When saving money, a person must be willing to sacrifice and give up some short-term reward for long term gain. Finally, the last key is to make any savings automatic. This means payroll deduction for a 401k plan or a direct deposit to a savings account. Another direct option is through a checking account.

Automatic plans are successful because you never miss the money. Long before there was a chance to spend it first, the funds were already sent to your savings account. Become a regular

saver, get started today with an NSS account. We can help you. Contact your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.

Running shoes and Life Insurance

Remember when you were a kid and received new tennis shoes. Mine were Keds and they cost \$4.99. Hope that price does not give away my age. I was 15 years old back then. There were not a lot of choices at that time. There may have been a couple of other shoes available, but I ended up with Keds because of the price. I did have a choice of black or white.

Compare those times to the choices we have today. First, there must be hundred different shoe manufacturers from specialty companies to the big names we all know: Adidas, Reebok, Puma, Brooks, Asics, New Balance, Converse, Sketchers, and the behemoth of the industry Nike. Then there are the options for sport shoes. Some are running shoes, tennis, cross trainers,

walking and more. Then there are color options, different laces, tread design and who knows what other variations. Today this is a \$70 billion industry.

This same growth phenomenon applies to life insurance. When I started out my career as a young man there were a few hundred companies offering a few plans. Whole life, paid up life, decreasing term and endowments. Today there are so many different plans to choose from. There are 747 life insurance companies of which seventy are fraternal organizations and they do more than \$3 trillion dollars of business per year. My favorite one is NSS Life.

We still offer plain, old simple products. Whole life, twenty pay life and single premium. We have a few term options; ten- & twenty-year term and a youth term plan. Our products are easy to understand and backed by guarantees. We can illustrate any of them so you can see how they would benefit you and your family. Call us, we have been around for more than 132 years. All we do is deliver quality products and services. You can count on us today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Establishing Financial Security is a Challenge Spanning All Generations

Financial insecurity is highest among Gen X (49%), followed by Millennials (44%), Gen Z (42%), and Baby Boomers (33%). And according to the survey, most households have not prepared for the loss of a primary wage earner.



Thought For The Month:

As I look back on my life, I realize that every time I thought I was being rejected from something good; I was being redirected to something better.

Slovak proverb

Fraternal Matters...

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



38th Quadrennial Convention Fund Raising Campaign

This Convention will support the Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania and the construction of the Veterans Tiny Home Village. Veterans Outreach is located on the Susquehanna River in South Harrisburg on a five acre parcel of land where the VOPA plans to build a village of 15 tiny houses surrounding a community center for homeless Veterans. This is specifically designed to meet the specific needs of homeless Veterans. VOPA's objective is to provide each Veteran with his or her own tiny home so they can feel safe and in control of their surroundings.

"Our homeless veterans don't need or want a handout. They need and want a hand UP. And that is exactly what they will get from this place and the formidable VOPA team. We the people owe to them our debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice. Through the efforts of VOPA we will be able to repay that debt to some of our veterans who are in need. I humbly ask that you also consider supporting this very worthy cause!" Wilbur E. Wolf III, Brigadier General (Retired).

At the Convention we will present a check for all donations received. Please send your donations to Pam Blum at the Home Office. Checks should be made out to "NSS" Life and on the Notes line please indicate that your donation is for "VOPA"

We welcome not only our members but others that may want to donate to also participate in this worthy cause. Thank You!

2022 National Golf Tournament

The National Golf Tournament will be held on **July 15-17, 2022** at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, PA. Accommodations will be at the Hampton Inn & Suites. The registration form and rules will be mailed to past participants and are included in this publication. If you have an interest in joining us for this most enjoyable weekend, please contact me and I will make sure you're on the mailing list.

Congratulations

The five winners from May's puzzle are:

Linda Estes	Assembly 731
Barbara Mulich	Assembly 039
Francis Sekula	Assembly 100
Tim Sweeney Sr.	Assembly 377
Monica Tompkins	Assembly 441

The winners will be added to the winners from March and April for a drawing to be held at the 38th Quadrennial Convention for a \$250 gift card for Best Buy.

Attention: PVR Renewal Reminder

All 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year students! Remember to send me your transcripts by **July 15th** to receive your next installment of the PVR Scholarship. Also, keep in mind that you must have maintained a 3.0 GPA to receive your next installment of the scholarship. Once we receive your transcript and your grades are in good standing your check will be mailed to your home address the first week of August. Deadline for transcripts is **July 15, 2022**.

Save The Date!!! July 29, 2022

NSS has reserved a block of tickets on for Friday, July 29, 2022 vs. the Philadelphia Phillies. This is headlined as the first ever "Yinzerpalooza" to celebrate everything we all love about Pittsburgh. There will be a post-game concert on the field featuring a true hometown favorite...**The Clarks!** The tickets are \$42.00 but they are being subsidized in part by Region 5 and Assembly 774 so the final cost to our members will be **\$20**. They will have a \$15 food/merchandise concession added on to the ticket. There are a limited number of tickets available, and they will be on a first come bases to **Region 5 members only**. Requests for tickets **MUST** be accompanied by your payment. Please make check payable to NSS Life and send to: Pirate Night, 351 Valley Brook Rd, McMurray, PA 15317. Tickets will be distributed closer to the date of the game.

Ten Things You'll Never Hear A Dad Say

10. "Well, how 'bout that? I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions."
9. "You know Pumpkin, now that you're thirteen, you'll be ready for un-chaperoned car dates. Won't that be fun?"
8. "I noticed that all your friends have a certain hostile attitude. I like that."
7. "Here's a credit card and the keys to my new car. Go crazy!!!"
6. "What do you mean you wanna play football? Figure skating is not good enough for you, son?"
5. "Your Mother and I are going away for the weekend. You might want to consider throwing a party."
4. "Well, I don't know what's wrong with your car. Just have it towed to a mechanic and pay whatever he asks."
3. "No son of mine is going to live under this roof without a tato. Now quit your belly-aching and let's go to the mall."
2. "Whaddya wanna go and get a job for? I make plenty of money for you to spend."
1. **And the number one thing you'll never hear a dad say:** "What do I want for Father's Day? Aahh—don't worry about that. It's no big deal." (Actually they might say this, but they don't mean it).

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Convention Delegates

BY VIRTUE OF BY-LAWS

JOSEPH STEFKA, JR.	President/CEO
LINDA M. STROM	Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
ROBERT F. KATRICAK	Chairman of the Board
MICHAEL J. CZARNEY	Director
LAUREN A. FOX	Director
ANDREA L. GARBON	Director
ABIGAIL A. GROSS, ESQ.	Director
SUSAN M. ONDREJCO	Director
KAREN LYNNE ORBAN	Director
ANDREW J. WESNAK	Director
VACANT	Director
MARY JO HOLKER	Honorary Director
PAUL M. PAYERCHIN, JR.	Honorary Director
JUSTINE WESNAK	Honorary Officer

ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Assembly Name

0039	Barbara A. Gera	0160
0039	Theodore M. Gera	0160
0039	Casey N. Lako	0160
0039	Mara K. Lako	0160
0039	Victoria J. Lako	L161
0039	Diane J. Mallick	L161
0039	Thomas G. Mallick	L161
0039	Barbara M. Mulich	L161
0039	Franklin R. Mulich	L161
0039	John G. Payerchin	L161
0039	Nancy J. Schwer	L161
L075	Dorothy J. Collins	L161
L075	Gary Collins	L161
L075	Gary A. Edwards	L161
L075	Lehrae Ann Edwards	L161
L075	Adam P. Lazar	L161
L075	Lucille M. Piccoletti	L161
L075	Thomas J. Piccoletti	L161
L075	Guy T. Pilosi	L161
L075	Linda M. Pilosi	0377
L075	Karen A. Richardson	0377
L075	Lucille Sacchetti	0377
L075	Deborah A. Wesnak	0377
L075	Samantha P. Wesnak	0377
L075	William E. Wesnak	0377
L102	Kylie M. Althouse	0377
L102	Brooke Brinker	0377
L102	Michael P. Gross	0377
L102	Kay D. Shettig	0377
L102	Chad E. Taylor	0377
L102	Emily M. Taylor	0377
L102	Carolyn S. Wesnak	0377
L102	Michael A. Wesnak	0381
L102	Paul J. Wesnak	0381
0108	Daniel P. Kralik	0381
0108	Georgiann Kralik	0381
0108	Lorraine M. Mihaljevic	0381
0108	Dale E. Strom	0381
0108	Ryan E. Strom	0434
0108	Richard W. Toth	0434
0108	Nancy S. Toth	0434
0110	Daniel J. De Sanctis	0434
0110	Lauren N. De Sanctis	0434
0110	Richard S. De Sanctis	0434
0110	Veronica De Sanctis	0434
0110	Ciro Maddalone	0434
0110	Carolyn E. Malik	0434
0110	Maryann Malik	0434
0110	Richard S. Malik	0434
0123	William J. DelMonaco	0434

0123	Valerie DelMonaco
0123	Madalynn Eger
	<i>Alt. Christine Piccolo</i>
0123	Jill Grover
0123	Lyle Grover
0123	Marcy Knoll
0123	William B. Knoll
0123	Susan Knoll
0123	Judith A. Landa
0123	Justin McGregor
0123	Kathleen L. Nych
0123	Stanley E. Nych
0123	Carol L. Johnston-Trax
0123	Terese Tuminello
0160	Rebecca Katricak
0160	James J. CZarney
0160	Jennifer M. Berner
	<i>Alt. Joshua A. Berner</i>
0160	Margaret A. CZarney
0160	John P. Katricak
	<i>Alt. Joshua A. Berner</i>
0160	Erin K. Katricak
	<i>Alt. Joshua A. Berner</i>
0160	Robert M. Katricak
	<i>Alt. Joshua A. Berner</i>
L161	Briann M. Allan
L161	Theresa A. Allan
L161	Charles Boone
L161	Monica Boone
L161	Ronald Boone
L161	Carol Casciato
L161	Joseph R. Casciato
L161	Duane F. Hovanec
L161	Lawrence Kozlowski
L161	Karen S. Lako
L161	Raymond G. Lako
L161	Timothy J. Montalbano
L161	Anna M. Ondrejco
L161	Rudolf Ondrejco
L161	Theresa M. Zemelman
0377	Carol Anden
0377	Orv Bolbrich
0377	Sonya Bolbrich
0377	Courtney K Gillispie
0377	Joanne T. Harvey
0377	William J. Harvey
0377	Donna L. Kerestan
0377	Robert W. Matko
0377	Roseanne Matko
0377	Kathleen J. Moore
0377	Robyn L. Sweeney
0377	James Zdilla
0377	Suzanne Zdilla
0381	Rosemary K. Hanlon
0381	Brian A. Medved
0381	Joanne T. Medved
0381	Martin E. Medved, Jr.
0381	Jack T. Merten
0381	Rosemarie Merten
0434	John R. Andrulonis
0434	Frances A. Blazek
0434	David G. Blazek
0434	Cathy Cilia
0434	Ruth A. Gahagen
0434	Terry L. Gahagen
0434	Robert A. Kapp
0434	Nicole R. Kearney
0434	Thomas F. Kearney
0434	Robert A. Politowski
0434	Mary A. Politowski
0434	Eric F. Riepole

0434	George W. Sirakos
0434	Joy A. Sirakos
0434	James F. Wilson, Jr.
0441	Lorraine Crowley
0441	Kevin Crowley, Sr.
0441	Kevin Crowley, Jr.
0554	Jim Stricek
0554	Ron Stricek
0568	Luba Capps
0568	Adelina Dorusinec
0568	John Dorusinec
0588	Florence R. Bebo
0588	John Bebo, Jr.
0588	Brett S. Bernardo
0588	Elaine F. Kucherawy
0588	Keith A. Kucherawy
0588	George K. Leasure
0588	Annette M. Stefka
0617	Margaret A. Gushka
0617	Robert J. Gushka
0617	John Kurilla
0617	Stephanie L. Kurilla
0617	Mary Gail Mangan
0617	Edward Ostrowski
0617	Andrea Ostrowski
0731	James B. Cessna, Sr.
0731	James B. Cessna, Jr.
0731	Kathleen Cessna
0731	Linda R. Estes
0731	Michael L. Fox, Sr.
0731	Michael L. Fox, Jr.
0731	Ida M. Lewis
0731	Mary L. Martini
0731	Matthew M. Mason
0731	Peggy Mason
0731	Mark S. Mason
0737	James M. Bench
0737	Sandra K. Bench
0737	Andrew S. Garbon
0737	Martha M. Garbon
0737	Steven A. Garbon
0737	Hilary Garbon
0737	Carol J. Godor
0737	Louella R. Miller
0737	Bernard D. Myers
0737	Eileen R. Myers
0737	Joy Palicka
0737	Judith Palicka
0774	Alan T. Burns
0774	Justina Burns
0774	Kayleigh Burns
0774	Nelson Ladue
0774	Carol Ladue
0774	John S. Orban
0774	Albert Suess
0774	Donna J. Tenney
0774	Luke A. Webb
0774	Joseph T. Senko
0813	Blaze Farrell
0813	Kerry J. Farrell
0813	Daniel Farrell
0813	Alice Kempa
0813	Mary Rachwitz

REGION DELEGATES

Region	Name
2	Marlin Petro-Wesnak
5	Joseph J. Palko
14	Sharon L. Wesnak

DAVID G. BLAZEK, FIC



In June of 2022 the National Slovak Society will hold its 38th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania. One of the duties of the delegates in attendance will be to elect the Board of Directors that will be charged with the responsibility of overseeing the effective governance of the National Slovak Society.

Having served the Society as a Director from 1986 to 1990, as Vice President from

1990 to 1993, and as President/CEO from 1993 until my retirement in November of 2020, I bring the understanding of the Society's business, commitment to the work of the Society, and the knowledge and skills in the areas of Board governance, policy, finance, programs, and personnel, necessary to serve as a Director of the NSS.

During my tenure as President, the NSS grew from \$53 million to \$1.4 billion in assets, and also grew in membership. The reason I am running for the Board is to help ensure the Society continues to grow and thrive over the next four years and longer.

A little information on my background; I was born in 1950 and have been married to my lovely wife Frances for over 26 years and we have 5 children and 8 grandchildren. After graduation from High School in 1968, I attended the University of Pittsburgh majoring in education. I then served 4 years in the U.S. Navy working as a Chinese Linguist and upon discharge, joined my father and brother in the family printing business where I worked for 20 years before coming to the NSS full-time in 1993.

I have served my former church as a Trustee and Deacon and have been involved in youth baseball, soccer, basketball and football, both as a coach and on various Boards. I also served on the Peters Township Sanitary Authority Board for 10 years, 5 of the years as Chair of the Board. I was involved on the local level serving the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh on various committees and officer positions culminating with the Presidency in 2003. I also served the American Fraternal Alliance as President of the President's section, President of the State Fraternal Alliance section as well as President of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Society.

I have enriched my business knowledge over the years by attending seminars and webinars and earned the designation of FIC (Fraternal Insurance Counselor) through course study.

I stand on my past record of service to the Society and if it be the will of the delegates, I am ready to serve the Society as a Director for the next four years and ask for your support in this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fraternally,
David Blazek

MICHAEL J. CZARNEY



My name is Michael Czarney and I have been serving as a Director for the National Slovak Society (NSS) since 2014 and would be honored to serve another term as a Director for the NSS. I believe that I have the experience, background and skills needed to not only be a valuable Director, but to also push the NSS to a thriving future and I ask for your continued support. The last four years the NSS has grown and

has reached great accomplishments even through a global pandemic. The NSS has continued to grow in size with assets approaching \$1.65 billion and is one of the top ten fraternal by assets size with growth in surplus of \$80 million and over 37,000 members. I have contributed to this growth and the success of members, and I will continue to contribute to these outstanding accomplishments over the next four years. I strongly agree with the NSS mission statement and our motto "Family Matters" and believe that my leadership abilities will contribute to our strong, growing fraternal organization.

Serving as a Director the last eight years has given me the opportunity to actively participate in numerous committees' and attend many trainings and educational forums. I have learned a great deal of knowledge which is extremely valuable to apply to my next term. Over these years I have stepped up to serve on a majority of the Board committees which has given me invaluable experience. I am currently the appointed Chair of the Compensation Committee and Technology Committee and serve on the Fraternal Growth and PVR scholarship committees. I have gladly accepted these positions and constantly go above and beyond my role on these committees. Chairing the technology committee has required a great deal of time and commitment in the face of a global pandemic and the effects it has made on technology. The committee oversees all things technology and work closely with the National Officers, CIO, and CISO. During my time on the committee the NSS has made great advances in cybersecurity, technology for a more efficient work environment, and we are implementing a new Policy Administrations System (PAS). The new PAS will not only be of great value for our employees and sales agents, but it will also be a great benefit for our current and future members. All these technology enhancements have and will add great value to the NSS, and I have been excited to help lead this effort. In addition to implementing these technology advancements, I have attended numerous AQS symposiums as well as The Board institute class and Master class hosted by the American Fraternal Alliance. My involvement in the committees and attendance at the seminars has helped me to broaden my knowledge and understanding of both the fraternal and business side to the NSS. My betterment of these areas will only help me advance the NSS with its continued growth in the future.

I have been a lifelong member of the NSS and have been active in my local assembly and at a national level. My wife Randi and our two children, Cash and Sadie, are also members and are very involved. I have a rich family history linked to NSS. My great grandfather, great uncle, grandfather, uncle, and father have all been officers of assembly 160 in Lorain, Ohio, and I am grateful and honored to help continue on with their legacy to help keep the society growing. I am currently the elder for assembly 160 and am immensely proud to hold this position. I have served as the Vice President of the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio for ten (10)

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

years prior to becoming the President in January of 2020. I am also the current President of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA), representing the NSS and have served as a First and Third Vice President and board member for the OFA over the last eight (8) years. During this time as President for different organizations and working with numerous boards, I see how important it is to be aligned and work together for a common goal. Like a lot of other organizations, I have had to work closely with my boards and organizations to adjust the way we manage business during the pandemic. This experience, along with my attendance at National Fraternal Alliance meetings and Ohio Fraternal Alliance meetings, has helped me understand the fraternal side of our Society. All of these positions have taught me numerous lessons and have given me valuable experience that I can use as a Director.

My background, education and experiences have given me strong credentials that will help me contribute to our fraternal organization. Over the past 23 years I have held positions with Charter One and in other financial institutions, and I worked in the insurance industry with Progressive Corporation. I received a Bachelor's degree in Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations from Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan. I have held my license to sell life and health variables for the State of Ohio as well as completed the Legal Principles Claims Specialist from the American Educational Institute INC. Since June 2018 I have been working as a Realtor for Howard Hanna and hold my Real estate License with the State of Ohio. Working in the Real Estate, financial, and insurance industry, I am educated with the many federal regulations and know the importance of complying with them. My financial and business skills will help me continue to provide insight and solutions to help the NSS with its continued growth.

In addition to my involvement with NSS, I am devoted to charitable work in my community. For over eight (8) years I participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, where my teammates and I raised over \$80,000 in charitable donations. I have also been involved in raising funds for St. Jude, where my wife and I raised over \$5,000 for the organization. I am also a highly active dad in the Erie Shores Early Childhood PTA, where my children are members, and my wife held a Board position. I also help coach my children's soccer teams in the Amherst Youth Soccer Association league for our community and my family are active members of GrowPoint Church.

I strongly believe that I have the fraternal, charitable, community, and business credentials to help keep the NSS growing. I want to thank all the NSS members for their prior support and ask you for your continued support for my re-election as a Director.

Fraternally,
Michael Czarney

RICHARD S. DE SANCTIS



My name is Richard De Sanctis and I respectfully present myself as a candidate for Director of the National Slovak Society.

I live with my wife, Veronica, in Tarrytown, New York just north of New York City. My two children, Lauren and Daniel, are adults and successfully managing their own careers. We have always enjoyed travel. When the kids were younger,

we took them on family vacations touring Europe. It was especially enriching to visit the countries of their heritage – Italy and Slovakia. We all got to share the pleasure of visiting the usual tourist sites but we took it a step further and visited with family still living in the towns of their grandparents' youth. It was inspiring to all of us to experience firsthand the people and culture behind the traditions that have been handed down to us from our elders.

I have been a member of Assembly 110 in Astoria, New York for more than forty years. My wife, growing up in a Slovak family in Astoria, has been a member from childhood. It was inevitable during our courtship that I would be introduced to Slovak foods, desserts and customs. Likewise, it was a rite of passage that I would purchase an insurance policy and become a member of the National Slovak Society. As we all know, this isn't just another insurance transaction; it's an invitation to join with the other members of the local Assembly - to meet regularly and to participate in fraternal events and gatherings. We continued that tradition with my children, who joined and grew up participating in NSS fraternal activities. They continue to remain active, both of them holding officer positions in our Assembly.

In 1986 I took the position of Secretary of our Assembly before eventually assuming my current position as Financial Secretary in 2009. I have enjoyed the opportunity in these positions to actively participate in managing our Assembly's affairs and to interact as our liaison with the National Office. It takes work to keep an Assembly active, and I am proud of what our membership has accomplished. Our Assembly continues to grow as we have seen the addition of many new participating members.

Our Assembly has had an active history with the National Office. As a young man I remember my father-in-law, Joseph Hruska, serving a four-year tenure as a Director. Other members of our Assembly, such as Joseph Voznik have also held National level positions over the years. It has long been a part of the heritage of our Assembly to honor the fraternal traditions of the Society and participate in its leadership. It is with this in mind that I have set out to carry on the legacy of our past members and seek election as a Director.

On a professional level, my career began when I graduated from St. John's University, with a B.S. degree in Accounting and I joined Ernst & Young, the international accounting firm now known as EY. I worked for EY for eleven years, gaining my CPA license and valuable business experience. During this early stage of my career, I also returned to St. John's for night classes to earn an MBA in Taxation. I left EY in 1989 to take a position in a financial services company, Reich & Tang Asset Management, which specialized in investment management and mutual funds. I started as a senior financial executive and eventually took on the title of Chief Financial Officer and afterward, Chief Operating Officer. My experience there was expansive. I not only had responsibility for our financial accounting, I also had active oversight over business operations, service providers, human resources, and compliance with regulations. After 26 years with Reich & Tang, I retired in 2015.

I have given much thought to the opportunity to take on the role of a director for NSS. I believe it is critical for directors to bring a range of experience to the table. NSS has been very successful and its insurance business has grown significantly. With greater size comes increased complexity and the Board of Directors provides guidance and oversight to work with management as it navigates forward. My experience in the financial services industry and working within a highly regulated environment is in direct parallel to the insurance industry. It was a key part of my job to deal with examiners from the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) and other government regulators and tax authorities. I was also part of the senior management team focused on setting business strategy and

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

looking at ways to grow our business. As a Director, I would be able to use the knowledge and experience of my career to assist the NSS as it continues to grow and prosper.

Although I am retired, I have stayed active and serve as a Director on the Board of an investment fund based in Denver, Colorado. The role of a director is engaging and a meaningful use of time. I am called upon to share my thoughts and insight to the business managers from time to time, and it is a great experience to be helpful to an organization.

With my background and experience presented for your review, I consider it an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to be considered for the role of Director for the National Slovak Society.

Fraternally,
Richard De Sanctis

KERRY J. FARRELL



Hello, I'm Kerry Farrell and like many of you, I became a member of the National Slovak Society shortly after my birth and have been an active member since that time. I've participated in countless matching funds projects, art contests, photo contests, ornament making events, and have served as a delegate to multiple national conventions since 1988. I was honored to attend the Assembly Leadership Conference as an

officer of Assembly 813, a Diamond Award recipient for many years. Previously named a Fraternalist of the Year, my love and loyalty to the NSS is apparent and I wish to be considered for a board position so I may assist the leadership and Home Office in growing our fantastic organization.

I received a bachelor's degree in economics and political science in 1995 from the University of South Florida, which I earned while working as a banker in Englewood, Florida. After the birth of our two children, Calypso and Blaze, I took some time off to be a full-time mother, which I enjoyed tremendously. Once the children were school aged, I re-entered the work force as a fund-raiser for the Wiregrass Food Bank, a local non-profit that serves the impoverished and marginalized in our community in Dothan, Alabama. After a few years doing this satisfying work, in 2009 I decided to pursue self-employment, following a few dreams I'd had of "being my own boss".

The company I founded has thrived and flourished, even growing during the pandemic (almost unheard of for a business in the hospitality/service sector)! As a successful entrepreneur and small business owner, I have a responsibility to fourteen employees who depend on the success of my business for their income. I understand what it's like to prudently manage company finances, while growing my business through promotion and marketing. My previous work in advertising, as well as my regional leadership role in the American Advertising Federation, have enabled me to utilize both traditional and non-traditional media to grow my business. I was recently inducted into the Women's Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame at Troy University and have assisted the college by speaking to future hopeful entrepreneurs.

In a civic capacity, I serve on the Historic District Merchants Association and utilize many skills I learned as an event planner to

include a diverse population in community gatherings. I am involved in the community through volunteer-ism, something taught to me at a young age through many fraternal projects, and I assist countless non-profits by contributing time, money, and goods to their causes. More importantly, as a leader in our community I have learned how to work alongside other members of different socio-economic, religious, and political backgrounds to achieve a common good.

I have been an active part of the worship team at our parish, St. Columbia Catholic Church, for the past 20 years, though I have volunteered in every parish I've attended since I was in the sixth grade. In Dothan, I have taught the youth, chaperoned mission trips, and currently play and sing in the worship and praise band for liturgies. I also volunteer in the church steel drum band, which plays secular events in the community as an outreach ministry in our mostly non-Catholic region of the state.

I feel that I am a strong candidate for the position because of my marketing, advertising, and business background. I know that I can be an asset to the board because of my ability to communicate effectively, the ability to interact authentically with people of differing life experiences, and an ability to treat everyone compassionately. I also bring to the board a positive geographical diversity, having lived in the Deep South for most of my life. Although born and raised in Northeast Ohio, having the experience of living in Florida and Alabama, and interacting with people who have been raised in a different manner than I have, has been a wonderful learning experience. Because NSS Life is a nation-wide organization, I believe I would be an ideal candidate to represent you as a member of the Board of National Directors.

Fraternally,
Kerry Farrell

LAUREN A. FOX



Greetings Executive Officers, National Directors, Honorary Officers, and Delegates of the 38th Quadrennial Convention.

My name is Lauren Fox and I am honored that the Board of Directors selected me in November, 2020 to fill a vacancy on the Board. The vacancy was created when President Dave Blazek retired, Joe Stefka was hired as the new President and Bob Katricak became Chairman

of the Board. It is a privilege to be a part of an exceptional team of directors and to have the opportunity to contribute to the continued success of the National Slovak Society. As a Director, I have attended and actively participated in all meetings of the Board. I serve on the Assembly Growth and Compensation Committees. I have successfully completed a Cybersecurity Training Course and continue with weekly updates online. As a representative of the National Slovak Society, I attended the Ohio Fraternal Alliance meeting and the AQS Symposium.

My experience with Assembly 731 began in 1996 when I was elected Assembly Secretary. In 1998, I was elected as the Assembly President, a position I still hold today. Over the past 24 years, I have been involved with organizing and assisting numerous assembly fraternal events and charitable activities creating a very active assembly helping Assembly 731 earn the Diamond Level

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

each year. I served as a delegate representing Assembly 731 at six Quadrennial Conventions since 1998. During various conventions, I have served on the Election Committee, Fraternal Committee, and Financial Committee. At the Convention in 2014, I was presented the NSS Fraternalist of the Year Award. The Conventions have given me the opportunity to learn more about the National Slovak Society's policies and goals for their future. It's a good time to meet other members and to share our experiences with each other.

Although the National Newsletter is a great tool to distribute information to members, I also rely on social media such as Facebook and email to communicate quickly and often with assembly members. Keeping our youth involved and interested is challenging at times. I feel it is important to keep our families active and to encourage the younger generations to be actively involved to prepare them to become our future leaders.

In addition to NSS, I am an active volunteer in community organizations where I have the opportunity to help make a positive difference in my community while meeting new people and working together. I am President of our local Historical Society where I also serve on all its committees, Secretary/Treasurer for Holy Family Parish Seniors Group and I'm their official Bingo caller and organizer for programs, and I am a member of our Township Park Advisory Board where I help plan improvements and additions to the Park that was established in 2005.

Before retiring in 2009, I was dedicated to my career as the Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent of the Mahoning County Schools for 35 years. I was responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Superintendent's Office, communications for the Governing Board, I supervised the secretarial staff and managed routine office tasks among support staff. I worked well independently and as a team member. During my working years, I was involved in my children's activities as a Girl Scout troop leader, advisor for teens on the county's Junior Fair Board, and as a 4-H advisor.

I am truly grateful to my husband, Mike, for his patience and support of my position on the Board and my involvement with the community and fraternal activities. Mike & I have been together since our high school days and got married in four years after graduation. We have been blessed with two daughters and a son. We raised them in the community where we both grew-up. Our children, (Beth, Becky, Mike Jr.) their spouses (Matt, Bill, Anne) and our six grandchildren (Ashlynn, Cameron, Logan, Ben, Jack, and Walter) are all members of the National Slovak Society. In addition to my immediate family, other family NSS members include sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Past generations included my great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents.

I feel my work experience, my life experiences, my involvement with fraternal activities, and my experience as a Director make me a good candidate for the Director position. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the members of the National Slovak Society for the past 18 months. I appreciate your support and consideration to elect me to serve NSS members for the next four years.

Fraternally,
Lauren Fox

ANDREA L. GARBON



My name is Andrea Garbon. I extend my sincere fraternal greetings and gratitude to the NSS Life Executive Officers, Directors, Honorary Members, Members, and Guests. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as a NSS Director for the past eight years in addition to being a life-long member of NSS Life. Life as we once knew it has significantly changed since we last met at the 37th Quadrennial Convention due to the

COVID-19 Pandemic. We are blessed to be here today and remember those who are not with us. It is always a pleasure to interact with you and to establish new acquaintances along the way. Life is a bouquet of acquaintances...those we already know and those we are about to meet all coming together.

Over the course of the last eight years serving as a NSS Director, I have diligently prepared, attended and actively participated at all regular and special meetings whether held in person or remotely. My current committee work includes Audit Committee Chairperson, Enterprise Risk Management, Membership Growth and NSS Heritage Museum Secretary. In addition to serving on these committees throughout the years I have also served on the Compensation, Assembly Growth and Fraternal Growth committees. Serving as Audit committee chairperson along with being a member of the Audit and Compensation committees over the years, I have had the opportunity to work directly with the accountants who prepare all the necessary NSS financial statements, and I also take part in the decision-making process of whether to retain the accounting firms services from year-to-year. I also participated in the Assembly Officers Seminars. American Fraternal Alliance, Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance and AQS Asset Management are some additional organizations to offer conferences and training seminars with which I have had the opportunity to participate in over the years. Additional fraternal activities include but are not limited to: Region #5 picnics and Pittsburgh Pirate baseball outings; the NSS Museum *Septemberfest* and *Christmas Around the World* events; NSS National Golf Tournaments, Slovak Radio Hour Banquets as well as local events.

It is with my sincere appreciation to you for allowing me the opportunity to introduce myself and provide some insight into my background and qualifications, and most importantly, convey my most genuine interest in the NSS Board position. I graduated magna cum laude from Seton Hill University, Greensburg, Pennsylvania achieving a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Marketing with an emphasis in accounting. My education has enriched my knowledge base, and thereby strengthened my self-confidence by instilling in me an appreciation and understanding of not only what I have learned, but also, how to process and utilize it effectively. It is this knowledge combined with experience gained from my involvement in the business community, my employment, and my participation in our local community, which has helped to define me in many ways such as the development of a strong work ethic, continued efforts to ensure well-informed decision-making and encouragement of communication skill processing. A hidden blessing of the pandemic was an opportunity to have greater involvement in my nephews personal and educational development. My employment at United Parcel Service (UPS) extended more than 10 years. The use of computerized equipment, attention to detail and efficiency are vastly import-

ant for proper management and delivery. I also served as the Tax Collector for Mount Pleasant Township for 6 plus years where my responsibilities included, but were not limited to, various accounting procedures, office management, distribution of collected funds and report compilation. For 15 years, I was employed by Latrobe Brewing Company in Latrobe, Pennsylvania where I was responsible for various production and quality control operations until the company was sold, and operations were suspended. Additional employment that coincided with the above includes Eat 'n Park Hospitality Group and United Way. Other activities and affiliations include various community and church organizations and being a member of the YWCA of Westmoreland County. The broad range of experiences has lent itself to increasing my knowledge and skill set.

It is with great admiration, respect and appreciation to my late grandfather for introducing our family to the NSS organization. We are proud to be lifelong members of this organization. Many of you have met my family over the years. My parents, Andrew and Martha, my brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Hilary, along with my nephews, Andrew and Colin. This will be my sixth convention as a delegate, having attended many other conventions as a guest with my parents and grandparents. I am currently the secretary for Assembly #737 in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania and an auditor for Region #5 McMurray, Pennsylvania having held these positions for several years. My father, Andrew Garbon, serves as the President for Assembly #737. NSS has afforded many of us with fraternal and financial opportunities over the years which is something I hope all of you and future members can have the opportunity to experience. My brother, Steve, and I were fortunate and grateful to be recipients of the NSS Scholarship Fund. We thank all of you for being such strong supporters of the scholarship fund which has benefited so many! Family is important and many have embraced this concept even more since the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. NSS Life continues to hold true to the core values established February 15, 1890, of "Family Matters".

Intense, difficult and even uncomfortable decision making can and will, take place while honoring the role of Director. It is not always easy to remove the personal elements that encompass a situation, however for me it is essential to do so to make the decision that best serves the organization, its membership, and NSS Life's future. That brings me to three very important aspects that I feel have a critical role in the decision-making process as a director.

- H – Honor the Past – It is important to not forget how this organization started, the sacrifices made by our ancestors, the life-lessons they shared with us, and how we can learn from and apply that knowledge, all of which have helped structure the NSS of today.
- R – Respect the Present – In today's world we are all faced with challenges at every aspect of our lives. We must find respect for one another and for what is going on around us. Then take that information, learn from it and apply that knowledge to make the best-informed decision for all parties involved.
- P – Prepare for the Future – Although we cannot predict the future, we can create a plan which will evolve over time. A plan which can be supportive in providing a stable environment to protect and grow the interests of the members and the society while considering investment opportunities, governance compliance and what is happening in the world around us.

I embrace my ethnicity along with the diverse ethnic cultures that are a very valuable and a growing part of the NSS Life community. My hope is to be an integral part of the board of directors, to work together for the collective effort of maintaining its legacy and for our benefit and for the generations to follow. I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you for your past support and confidence over the

years which has allowed me the opportunity and privilege to serve as a NSS Director, a position I do not take lightly. It would be an honor to continue to serve as a Director on the NSS Life Board and to be a part of a team that serves its members while working diligently to fulfill the demands imposed by the government. Although the NSS is leaps ahead of other organizations, there is still much work to be done and there are ongoing projects that I would like to actively see through their fruition.

It is at this time that I ask for your vote and continued support for the NSS Life Board of Directors. I feel that my education, employment, knowledge, skills, abilities and passion for the NSS Life organization make me a qualified candidate for the NSS Life Board of Directors. I truly appreciate your time and consideration. It is essential that we all work together to secure the future of NSS Life!

Fraternally,
Andrea Garbon

ABIGAIL A. GROSS, ESQ.



Abigail Gross is a proud Slovak who values her heritage. She has been a lifelong member of the National Slovak Society and has been honored to serve as a National Director for two consecutive terms (2014-2018 and 2019-2022). As a member of the Board, Abigail has been responsible for the effective governance of the NSS by overseeing policy and direction and supporting the society's mission and needs. Over

the past eight years, Abigail has been educated on actuarial principles, investment strategy and legislation that impacts our protected status as a 501(c)(8) organization. By serving as a National Director, Abigail has gained the knowledge and experience necessary to lead our society through the next phase of growth.

In addition to serving on the Board, Abigail is very active with fraternal events. Abigail is an active member of Assembly L102. Beyond the activities in her local assembly, Abigail makes an effort to partake in regional and national events. Although she may not be able to swing a club, she stills shows up at the golf outing to cheer on the registered participants. She brings her family to Knoebels every year for a spring picnic with Assembly 617. She also volunteers time to support our national project – Blessings in a Backpack.

Abigail has a strong educational background. She graduated from Shippensburg University with a bachelor's degree in journalism. Notably, she was the first person in her family to graduate from college. While working a full-time position in the public relations field, she earned a second bachelor's degree in psychology from Cedar Crest College. Thereafter, she received her law degree from The Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law.

Abigail began her legal career by working for a large Philadelphia-based insurance defense firm. In 2013, with experience under her belt, Abigail bravely decided to open her own law office utilizing her experience in the workers' compensation arena. For the past decade, Abigail has owned and managed a successful law practice where she represents those who have been injured at work. Abigail finds satisfaction from her work, knowing that she can use her skills and experience to help clients who find themselves in a time of need. As a practicing attorney, Abigail has a strong analytical ability.

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As a business owner, Abigail understands financial management and the importance of maintaining client relationships.

Abigail is certified as a specialist in the practice of workers' compensation law as authorized by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. She frequently appears before Workers' Compensation and Administrative Law Judges throughout Pennsylvania and has argued many cases before the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board and the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. She aggressively represents her clients, who span all corners of the job market. She is a vice-president of the workers' compensation section of the Lehigh County Bar Association and she also serves on the workers' compensation Executive Council for the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She has been continuously selected for inclusion in Philadelphia Magazine's "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer - Rising Stars" Edition, an honor held by less than 5% of practicing attorneys (2012-2018 editions); and in 2019 she was selected by the same Magazine as a "Super Lawyer." In 2016, she was selected as recipient of the Top Forty Under 40 award by Lehigh Valley Business. In 2020, she also named as a "Woman of Influence."

Beyond her professional career, Abigail's biggest source of pride is her family. Abigail is happily married to Michael, who works at a local school as a guidance counselor. Abby and Mike have been blessed with four handsome little boys (Elliot (8); Oliver (7); and Spencer (4) and Hudson (2)). Rest assured that all four boys are already members of the NSS! The family lives in New Tripoli, which is just on the outskirts of the Lehigh Valley. They have a beautiful farm where they are growing Christmas trees, gathering chicken eggs and waiting for the trees in the orchard to start producing an abundance of apples!

Fraternally,
Abigail Gross

ROBERT F. KATRICAK



My name is Robert Katricak and I am currently a National Director. I am running for my eighth term as a member of the Board of Directors. I believe that I have the background and skills for this job, and ask you for your support. During my twenty-seven years on the Board, our Society has grown from \$50 million in assets to over \$1.6 billion and has seen membership grow from about 12,000 members to over 37,000

members. I would be honored to continue to be part of the Board that keeps our Society growing not only in assets, but also in members.

I have been a lifelong member of Assembly 160 in Lorain, Ohio. I am currently the Financial Secretary/Treasurer of this Assembly, following in the footsteps of my grandfather and uncle who also served as Officers. This experience, along with my attendance at American Fraternal Alliance meetings and Ohio Fraternal Alliance meetings, has helped me to understand the fraternal side of our Society. I am a Past President of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance, representing the National Slovak Society. In 2009 I was named the Ohio Fraternal Alliance Fraternalist of the Year. I have attended AQS Insurance Symposiums, and was honored to speak on the topic of Internal Auditing at the AQS Corporate Governance Seminar.

I have taken an active leadership role in our Society. I have served on various committees as assigned as well as the Executive Committee. Beyond solely serving, I have taken leadership roles on those committees. I was Chairman of both the Audit Committee and the Compensation Committee. As Chairman of the Audit Committee, I worked closely with our External Auditors (our Certified Public Accountants), to ensure that our Society is following correct accounting procedures. As part of my duties as Chairman of the Audit Committee, I have also performed Internal Audits of the NSS.

In November 2020, I was elected Chairman of the Board by my fellow Directors. I have used my banking and accounting skills as Chairman. As the NSS has begun to invest in mortgages, my knowledge of the underwriting of mortgages has helped me recognize mortgages that are safe and viable to purchase. I make monthly visits to the Home office and attend virtual meetings. I am available by phone and email on a daily basis. I have helped set Board meeting agendas and run the Board Executive sessions. I have represented the Society at National, Regional and Assembly events. I keep my fellow Directors informed of items happening at the Home office through emails and phone calls. Throughout my term, I have successfully collaborated with President Stefka and Secretary/Treasurer Strom.

My wife Chris, our four children, daughter-in-laws, son-in-laws, grandchildren, as well as other members of my extended family are all members of the National Slovak Society. I understand the importance of my role in helping to keep the National Slovak Society strong and growing so that not only my children and grandchildren, but many generations to come can enjoy and benefit from fraternalism.

I am the Internal Auditor and member of the Executive Management team at First Federal Savings in Lorain, Ohio. In my 29 years as Internal Auditor at First Federal Savings, I have dealt with federal regulations concerning the banking industry on a daily basis. I understand the importance of complying with government regulations. This experience helps me to comprehend the multitude of regulations we face as a Fraternal Insurance Organization.

I received both a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Business Administration from Cleveland State University. I have been licensed as a Certified Public Accountant by the State of Ohio since 1980. I am also licensed as an Insurance Agent by the State of Ohio.

I believe I have the fraternal and business credentials to continue to help keep our Society growing. I thank the members of our Society for your past support, and ask for your continued support.

Fraternally,
Robert Katricak

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

KEITH A. KUCHERAWY



My name is Keith Kucherawy and I respectfully submit my name for consideration as a candidate for National Director. I possess the education, skills, and experience necessary for this position and would be honored to serve the National Slovak Society.

Since 2003, I have been actively involved in fraternal organizations such as the National Slovak Society and the Knights of Columbus. During the past

19 years, I have served in leadership positions and attended numerous fraternal activities. As a member of NSS Assembly #588, I have served as Vice President for the past nine years. I have participated in programs such as "Blessings in a Backpack" and fundraising for the Washington City Mission and local food pantries through our assembly. My wife and I have attended NSS Region 5 sponsored Pirate Baseball games, Slovak Kennywood Days and "Septemberfest" as attendees and volunteers. I have served as a Delegate to the 37th Quadrennial Convention and have been elected as a Delegate for the upcoming 38th Quadrennial Convention. I have also been appointed to serve on the Constitution and By-Laws committee for both conventions. I was recently humbled by being selected as the 2021 National Slovak Society "Fraternalist of the Year" and the 2021 Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance "Fraternalist of the Year".

My involvement with the Knights of Columbus throughout the years has provided me with numerous leadership opportunities. I have continually held leadership positions during that time including Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and 8 years as my Council's Financial Secretary. I also held various Committee Chairperson positions.

I received my Bachelor of Science and Master of Education Degrees from California University of Pennsylvania. During my Graduate Studies, I received an Education Administration certificate as a Secondary School Principal.

I am currently a retired High School Principal a position I held from 2000 through 2012. I was an educator for 35 years and served 20 years as an Administrator. During my tenure as Principal, I was responsible for the development and implementation of the school budget, management of the entire educational program including staff hiring practices, evaluation, staff development programs, curriculum development, and the scheduling of the building, as well as extracurricular activities and events. As the High School Principal, it was also essential to build positive relationships with the local businesses and the community to foster support for the school programs and activities. I also served on the School District's Long Range Strategic Planning committee to analyze data, formulate goals, develop programs, and establish criteria for the evaluation of the plan.

My family has always been an important and essential part of my life. My wife Elaine and I have been married for 44 years. Elaine and members of my extended family are members of the National Slovak Society. The NSS "Family Matters" mantra characterizes my caring, supportive, close knit family.

My retirement years have provided me with the opportunity to serve my family, friends, neighbors, and community. I have learned early in life the importance of giving back and helping others. The NSS Assembly #588, Knights of Columbus Councils #13421 and #3291, Meals on Wheels, and my Church were all instrumental in

providing many of my volunteer experiences.

I believe that my extensive background in my work experiences and fraternal activities make me an excellent candidate for a National Director for the National Slovak Society. I am a hardworking, dedicated individual who recognizes the importance of preserving the principles and standards of the NSS. My leadership skills, managerial experiences, fraternalism, and volunteering spirit would be beneficial in continuing the stability and growth of the National Slovak Society's mission, goals, and programs.

I would appreciate your support and be honored for the opportunity to serve as a National Director for the National Slovak Society.

Fraternally,
Keith Kucherawy

SUSAN M. ONDREJCO



Through her active involvement in numerous non-profit programs and her affiliation with various cultural groups and fraternalists for more than 40 years, Susan has a strong foundation in understanding the structure, operation and purpose of the fraternal benefit system.

In 1977 she began co-directing The Pittsburgh Slovak Cultural Association in 1977, and in 1979 she started co-hosting and co-producing the Western

PA. Slovak Radio Hr. In 1991 she founded the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks, a children's folk ensemble. She continues to direct all of these at the present time. She coordinated the entertainment for an international multi-fraternal festival consisting of 16 folk ensembles for several years. Susan also served as a board member of the Pittsburgh Folk Festival for 7 years, 4 of those years functioning as treasurer. She also served as President of the North Hills Junior Tamburitzan Parent Organization. Susan was called upon occasionally as a consultant to the Duquesne University Tamburitzans.

She was an original board member of the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association in 1997, and now continues to serve on the advisory board. She has been a member of the Western PA Slovak Day Committee since 1975. Since 2014 Susan has served as the ticket chairperson in addition to serving on other committees for Slovak Day now in its 99th year. She was named "Fraternalist of the Year" by the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle in 1997. Susan has been honored twice with "Medals of Honor" from the Ambassador of Slovakia because of her distinguished leadership and service in the Slovak community. Most recently in 2021, the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association recognized Susan with a Lifetime Service Achievement Award. She was honored for her lifelong service to the Slovak American community and contributions in promoting Slovak language, culture and heritage in Western Pennsylvania.

Since 2005, Susan is Treasurer of Region 5 (Pittsburgh Region). She is also Secretary/Treasurer of Assembly L-161 since 2005. She also served as Fraternal Activity Director for L-161 from 1989-2005. Susan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Duquesne University. She was employed by Magee Women's Hospital, and also worked as a private duty nurse.

After raising her family, Susan and her husband established their own business in 1994. Susan is co-owner and Secretary/Treasurer of Rudy's Auto Service, Inc. She is responsible for managing

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

the office including managing finances, payroll, and record keeping.

Susan was elected as a National Officer in August of 2006, and has been re-elected to this position at every Quadrennial Convention since. Serving as a Director for twenty-four years, she has assisted on various committees such as: Scholarship, Policy Development, Business Development, Code of Conduct, Executive Committee, Fraternal Growth, Membership Growth, Assembly Growth, Compensation, By-laws, Governance, Officer's Seminar Planning, Convention Planning and Youth Leadership. Her most notable accomplishment has been her work on the Museum Committee. The Museum was established in 2008. Susan wrote the bylaws, oversaw the development of the space, contracted the development of the space, established contacts for the sharing of exhibit items, and began outreach efforts. She is responsible for arranging tours, programs, exhibits, volunteers and keeping the financial records of the museum in order. There are now two annual events established at the museum which have proven to be very successful.

Susan has taken advantage of many educational opportunities by attending various conferences and seminars presented by the American Fraternal Alliance, Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, AQS Asset Management, ENDePersis, and Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh. She has completed the Board Institute and the Board Master Class conducted by the American Fraternal Alliance. She has served as a Board member for the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance since 2013. Susan has served on several committees for the State Alliance including: Bylaws, Projects, Scholarship, Chair of the Fraternalist of the Year ('18), Chair of Credentials Committee from 2015 to the present. Currently she serves as Secretary for the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh.

Fraternally,
Susan Ondrejco

JOSEPH T. SENKO



EDUCATION

- Duquesne University - BS in Business Administration (Accounting major)
- Robert Morris University - MS in Taxation

EMPLOYMENT

- Current
 - o Treasurer of Mt. Lebanon municipality and school district since 2013 (33,000 residents - approximately \$70 million collected annu-

- ally) - (part time) elected
- Prior
 - o Internal Revenue Service (Pittsburgh) - Revenue Agent
 - o Internal Revenue Service (National Office, Washington, DC) - Tax Law Specialist
 - o KPMG (International auditing firm, Pittsburgh office) - Auditor
 - o Chiurazzi & Senko (local public accounting firm) - Partner
 - o Joseph T. Senko & Associates (local public accounting firm) - Owner
 - o McKeever Varga & Senko (local public accounting firm) - Partner
 - o Duquesne University - Adjunct Professor of Taxes
 - o California University of PA - Adjunct Professor of Accounting

FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE (licenses/accreditations)

- Certified Public Accountant (current PA, past Ohio & DC)
- Certified Financial Planner - 29 years (past)
- Personal Financial Specialist - AICPA (current)
- Chartered Global Management Accountant (current)
- Certified Pennsylvania Tax Collector (current)

NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE/ACTIVITIES

- PA State Board of Accountancy - past Chairman
- National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) - former member
- PA Institute of CPAs (Pittsburgh Chapter) - past President
- Western PA Community Accountants - past President
- West Jefferson Hills Chamber of Commerce - past President
- Mt. Lebanon Public Library - past President
- Brashear Association - past President
- Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh - past President
- Mountain Villas Condominium Association - past President
- Parent-Teachers Guild (St. Regis School) - past President
- Boy Scout troop 62 (St. Joachim Church) - former Scout Master
- Cub Scout pack 119 (St. Paul's Cathedral) - former Cub Master
- Boy Scout troop 238 (St. Bernard Church) - former Committee Man
- Brothers Brother Foundation (rated most efficient charity in the country by Forbes magazine) - past Treasurer (16 years) - Currently serving on Advisory Board
- Mt. Lebanon Parking Authority - past Treasurer
- Music for Mt. Lebanon - past Treasurer
- Pittsburgh Youth Chorus - past Treasurer
- Denis Theatre Foundation - past Treasurer
- Pittsburgh Civitan Club - past Treasurer
- Czechoslovak Nationality Room at University of Pittsburgh - past Secretary
- VITA tax program - certified volunteer
- Junior Achievement of Western PA - former student accounting advisor
- One of the original organizers of the Mt. Lebanon Hockey Association
- Former Board member:
 - o Duquesne University Accounting Advisory Board - 21 years
 - o Duquesne University Ethics Advisory Board
 - o University Club of Pittsburgh
 - o United Neighborhood Centers of America (NY)
 - o St. Bernard Church finance council
 - o South Hills Health System Foundation
 - o Jefferson Health Services
 - o Greater Pittsburgh Non-Profit Partnership
- Former Audit Committees:
 - o First Catholic Slovak Union of the USA - Chairman for 12 years
 - o Oncology Nursing Society
 - o Allegheny County Library Association

SLOVAK PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

- Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania since 1998
- Western PA Slovak Cultural Association - Founder and Executive Director since 1998
- First Catholic Slovak Union (Branch 254) - Financial Secretary
- Friends of Slovakia (Washington DC) - Emeritus Chairman
- Jankola Library and Slovak Museum - past Vice Chairperson
- National Slovak Society Heritage Museum - past Vice President
- Jednota Properties, Inc. - past Treasurer
- Western PA Slovak Day Association (Kennywood Park) - past Treasurer

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

- Slovak Notary
- Arranged and conducted 14 tours of Slovakia (approximately 300 persons)
- Collected, reconditioned and sent 250 used computers to 43 schools in Slovakia
- Collected and sent medical supplies and equipment to 3 Catholic nursing homes in Slovakia (Bratislava, Bardejov, Svidník) operated by the sisters from the Daughters of St. Francis of Assisi.
- Sent to Slovakia over 60,000 "Children's Highlights" magazines, distributed at a conference of English teachers.
- Parachuted from 13,500 feet at the Stephan Banic festival in Greenville, PA. (Stephan Banic, a Slovak, invented and patented the original parachute in 1914.)
- Became a Slovak citizen in 2016, establishing dual citizenship

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS/ACTIVITIES

- Pittsburgh Byzantine Serra Club - (past President)
- Knights of Columbus-South Hills Council #3084 - 3rd degree member - (currently elected Advocate, past Treasurer)
- Knights of Columbus Cardinal Wright Assembly - 4th degree member
- Eucharistic Minister - St. Bernard Church
- Homebound Minister - St. Bernard Church
- Former Usher and Reader - St. Regis Church
- Former Usher - St. Bernard Church
- Former Eucharistic Minister - Saint Clair Hospital

RECOGNITION

- Presidential Medal-Slovak government's highest award bestowed on foreigners
- Slovak American of the Year-Honored by the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC
- Since becoming Slovak Honorary Consul, on 12 different occasions, awarded a medal from an official from Slovakia for outstanding work
- Fraternalist of the Year - Honored by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh
- Distinguished Accounting Alumnus - Honored by the Duquesne University accounting faculty
- Distinguished Service Award - PICPA (Pittsburgh Chapter)
- Western PA Accounting Advocate of the Year - U.S. Small Business Administration
- Pennsylvania Accounting Advocate of the Year - U.S. Small Business Administration
- Beta Alpha Psi - National Accounting Honor Society
- Beta Gamma Sigma - National Business Honor Society

Fraternally,
Joseph Senko

ALBERT J. SUESS, JR.



EXPERIENCE

2010–2022

**Slovak Catholic Sokol
Director of Sales Marketing
Passaic, NJ**

- Management and Recruitment of Licensed Life Insurance Agents/General Agents and Financial Advisors.
- Create and Sales and Marketing direction to increase sales, grow and profitability of organization. Member of Strategic Planning Team.

- Responsible for the Re-engineering of internal administration processes, selection, conversion and implementation of new administration software, creation of sales and marketing process and planning.
- Designed and developed new life and annuity plans, associated forms, and applications. Submitted and filed all forms and contracts to each state's insurance department for approval.

2002–2010

National Slovak Society

National Sales & Marketing Director

McMurray, PA

- Manage and Recruit Licensed Insurance Agents/General Agents and Financial Advisors
- Responsible for Insurance Department contract, applications and new state filings.
- Manage Sales Department, develop and administer commissions, production bonus and sales campaigns.
- Develop and implement sales and marketing plans to increase sales and grow society. Member of Strategic Planning Team.

1995–2002

Intex Corporation

Vice President Operations – Co-Owner

Pittsburgh, PA

- Established and Maintained Business Partner Relationship, with IBM, Lotus, HP, Distributors and Third-Party Software Vendors.
- Accountable for developing and maintaining strategic Business Partnerships.
- Consistently ranked 1st or 2nd in Annual Sales and Customer Satisfaction.
- Project Management, System's Design and Negotiate Contracts.
- Developed and implemented Job Cost Analysis, resulted in increased revenue.
- Made strategic corporate business decisions which produced a dramatic financial turnaround in 2001.

1979–1994

Dick Corporation

Data Center Operations Manager

Pittsburgh, PA

- Re-engineered Data Center Operations. Restructured IT department to ensure scheduling and procedural processes and ensuring data quality and developed employee career paths.
- Designed and developed Data Processing Business Recovery Plan, Data Center Facility, security and coordinated construction, PC Hardware and Software Tracking and Inventory System and implemented Automated Operations Systems.
- Created Help Desk Facility, supporting over 375 PCs, remote networks, and AS/400 users.

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

- Managed and directed multiple departments: Operations, Production Control, Technical Services, PC Hardware/Technical, Programming Departments, and Managed 50 employees.
- Facilities and Security Management.

Commercial Sales Manager

- Revamped entire concept and direction of Outside Sales and Services Group.
- Tripled sales revenue and turned into a profitable venture.
- Developed relationships within IBM, other IBM Business Partners and Third-Party Software vendors, J.D. Edwards and Tenex Systems, Inc.
- Increased group's capabilities, scope and size of projects by incorporating and managing third party contractors.

1978–1979

Triangle Systems

Operations Manager

Pittsburgh, PA

- Managed Operations Department.

1977–1978

American Water Works

Computer Operator

Pittsburgh, PA

- Operations, maintaining of computer schedule.

1968–1977

Westinghouse Credit Corporation

Operators Analysis

Pittsburgh, PA

- Developed Controls and Process of testing, releasing and scheduling of software releases.
- Revamped processing schedule reducing processing time and developed training courses.

Shift Supervisor

- Accountable for operations, maintaining schedules and employee training.

EDUCATION

- Duquesne University – Pittsburgh, PA
- Community College, Allegheny County – Pittsburgh, PA

ASSOCIATIONS BOARDS

Serve(d) on/or as:

- Bank Director/Board Secretary, United American Saving Bank, Secretary (2005–2016), Strategic Planning, Business Development, Financial Analyst and Mergers & Acquisitions.
- Board of Director, Intex Corporation, as Vice President-Secretary (1997–2002)
- Board of Directors, Slovak Catholic Sokol as Vice President and Director of Sports and Athletics (1991–1995 & 2000–2002)
- Pennsylvania Fraternal Insurance Councilors – serving as President and Vice President
- Director, Vice-President & President of Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance
- Served the Chairs & President of Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh

CERTIFICATIONS

- Licensed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Insurance Department
- Fraternal Insurance Counselor (FIC)
- IBM Business Partner Relationship:
 - o IBM e-server iSeries Sales Solutions, AS/400 Lotus Domino, IBM e-server
 - o iSeries Technical Solutions Design, AS/400 Domino, IBM Busi-

- ness Intelligence
- o Technical Solutions and IBM eBusiness Solutions Advisor.

HOBBIES AND INTEREST

- Basketball, Football, Golf and the Outdoors. Coached Grade School Basketball Team and Track and Field.

MILITARY SERVICE

- Pennsylvania National Guard, 1969–1975, Squad Leader and Training NCO.

Fraternally,
Albert Suess, Jr.

ANDREW 'DREW' WESNAK



Greetings Delegates! I have had the honor and privilege of serving the members of the National Slovak Society as Director for the past 16 years however these past four (4) years have been the most challenging. As we move into the next four there is much that remains on the Boards agenda to see to completion. Because of this I feel that my work is not yet done so, once again, I am seeking re-election to the Board

of Directors at the upcoming 38th Quadrennial Convention. I ask for the support of the Delegates of this convention in my bid for re-election.

In the past 16 years NSS has grown from \$100 million to \$1.75 billion in assets. We are in 22 states with 2 pending and have over 37,000 members. This tremendous growth has occurred through some exceedingly challenging times. I am proud to be a member of a team of Directors, Executive Officers, Asset Managers, Accountants, Actuaries, Agents, Sales Executive, and our Home Office Staff in making decisions to keep the NSS on the right track for continued success and steady growth.

Involvement in the fraternal system is strong in my family beginning with my great grandmother, grandmother, and mother who all held roles of executive leadership in the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle. Through a merger in 1997, the members of the FWSFE became members of the National Slovak Society. Since our merger I was elected to serve as President of NSS Region 14 and NSS Assembly L102 in Whitehall, PA along with serving as a member of the NSS Board of Directors. I am proud to say that with the hard work and dedication of the members and officers of Assembly L102 we have earned Diamond or Platinum Level Extra Effort awards every year since our merger with the NSS and both Assembly L102 and Region 14 continue to be very active in serving in the community.

I have attended NSS Board Meetings as required and have served on all committees as appointed by the National Officers and Chairman of the Board. For the last 8 years, I have served as a delegate to the PA Fraternal Alliance Annual meeting and have attended the NJ/NY Fraternal Alliance Annual meetings as a delegate, Board of Director, and in 2017 as its President. I am immensely proud to say that during my term as President, the NJ/NY Alliance had an extraordinarily successful year with a profitable annual meeting.

As part of board governance, it is necessary that we continue board education to stay current with issues affecting the NSS and

National Slovak Society XXXVIII Director Candidates

the fraternal benefit system. I have attended classes and/or educational seminars as approved by the NSS President & CEO and the Chairman of the Board and also those offered by the American Fraternal Alliance.

I have always been an advocate for member benefits and providing funding to our assemblies and regions so they can go forth into their communities and help those in need. It is my goal to continue to be part of the team that is responsible for this outreach to our members, their communities and others that are in need.

I am 64 years old and have been married to my wonderful wife Sharon for 32 years. Together we have a blended family of 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. I take pride in saying that we are six (6) generations of family that are ALL members of the NSS.

My career has led me in many different directions which afforded me the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge, improving my business and leadership skills along the way. I have held positions in Receiving, as Job Foreman and Estimator, gained experience in Project Management and served on the Board of Directors for Local 1522 IBEW Union of Lucent. Later, with the sale of Lucent, I joined the Construction Labor Union 1174 where I have served as a Union Job Steward, Auditor, and Sergeant at Arms.

In closing, it is my goal to use the knowledge I have gained to further the success of the National Slovak Society and to ensure that it remains a stable fraternal benefit society focused on its members, their communities while keeping an eye on what the future is to bring. Walking in the footsteps of the fraternal leaders of my family it is important for me to work diligently with the other members of the Board to manage growth to ensure that the society will continue to be a viable, strong, and well managed organization. We have come so far since the inception of a new governance structure. We have spent many hours and have accomplished much and yet there is still much work to do. I would ask for your support as I seek re-election to the Board of the National Slovak Society of the USA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Drew Wesnak

Theresa M. Zemelman



My name is Theresa Zemelman and I ask you to grant me the honor of serving as a National Director of the National Slovak Society.

I am a lifelong member of the National Slovak Society, as are my four children, my three sisters, and my parents, Rudy and Sue Ondrejco. My husband Cal and I have been married for 15 years, and we participate in many NSS fraternal events, including the coloring contest, art

contest, photo contest, assembly picnics, and Septemberfest. This is my fourth NSS convention, and my two oldest children are already attending their third convention!

My various life experiences make me a unique candidate for the Board. I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2004 and was a grateful recipient of an NSS PVR scholarship. Since 2006, I have worked for Raul V. Bravo and Associates, a transportation consulting firm, and now hold the position of Principal Engineer. I also served as National Fraternal

Activities Director for the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) from 2003 until 2007 where I was the youngest National Officer elected in the history of the FCSU. In addition to NSS and FCSU, I am also a member of Slovak Catholic Sokol, Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Finally, I was the president of my local HOA, with the responsibility of leading the Board of a large community and dealt with a variety of challenges which affected the personal lives of my constituents. My professional, fraternal, and organizational leadership combined with my engineering experience, gives me a broad perspective on both the business and fraternal aspects of fraternal organizations.

I have worked in the passenger rail industry since 2006. I have been a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in the state of Virginia for over a decade. As a PE, I am often called upon to grant final approval on complex projects and am required to take continuing education courses to keep my license. These courses include topics as varied as ethics, economics, risk management, and program management. I was a respected participant in the Engineering Task Force commissioned by the Federal Railroad Administration and helped draft regulations for inclusion in the Code of Federal Regulations that defines the requirements for new passenger rail vehicles equipped with crash energy management systems. One of my strengths as an engineer is being able to effectively communicate, explain, and resolve issues with all stakeholders. I feel that these skills will be very useful to the Board of Directors, and I'm eager to take part in the Board's deliberations.

In the role of National Fraternal Activities Director for the FCSU, I was responsible for organizing events, preparing budgets, reconciling financial statements for fraternal events, interfacing with committees and members, collecting payments, disbursing funds, and coordinating with Home Office staff. I also sat on the Board of Directors and took part in business discussions and decisions, similar to those faced by NSS. In addition to managing the annual bowling and golf tournaments hosted by the FCSU, I reinstated the traditional Family Day Picnics in Middletown, PA, which required organizing bus excursions for members and guests, an outdoor picnic for over 300 including Catholic Mass, children's games, a train ride, pony rides, picnic lunch, and music and dancing. This picnic was an enormous undertaking, but well worth the effort for all those who participated and enjoyed the event. I was an active participant at the board meetings and took advantage of the opportunities to learn about the insurance and annuity business from my fellow Board members.

Serving the community is a priority for me, one that I would like my children to inherit. Our family participates in food drives, raises funds for Make-A-Wish, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the National Zoo, collects and donates Christmas gifts for disadvantaged families, and has participated in Thanksgiving meal preparation and donation for our local homeless shelter.

I am excited at the prospect of becoming a National Director and using my various skills and experience to serve my fraternal brothers and sisters. I have seen the value of fraternal organizations such as the NSS in today's world and have benefited from them myself. I would be proud to serve as a member of the Board, and I hope that you will give me that opportunity

Fraternally,
Theresa Zemelman

NATIONAL

GOLF



NSS Life[®]
Family Matters...

TOURNAMENT

JULY 15-17, 2022

TAM O'SHANTER GOLF CLUB • HERMITAGE, PA

Annual NSS National Golf Tournament Scramble Rules

Sunday's play at the National Golf Tournament will be a Scramble using the following rules:

1. Each team will consist of four players selected by the tournament director. Selection will be made based on handicap. All divisions will be merged for the scramble.
2. The number of teams will be equal to one fourth of the number of golfers. If the number of golfers is uneven, there will be some adjustment to allow everyone to play.
3. The method of selection will be as follows:
 - a. Beginning with the lowest handicap, Captains will be selected for each team.
 - b. The number two player for each team will be placed on team in reverse order.
(Lowest handicap will be on the last team selected in the first round.)
 - c. The number three player for each team will be selected in the same order as the Captains.
 - d. The number four player will be placed in the same order as the number two players.
 - e. The order of play within a team will be determined by the Captain.
4. On every par three hole, everyone will play his/her own ball and the total of the best two (2) scores will be entered on the card.
5. Prize money will be paid to one place for each four teams entered. (16 teams = 4 places paid, etc.) Total prize money will be \$10.00 per player plus NSS matching funds for each member entered. The prize money split within a team will be adjusted to comply with the rule that guests are not eligible for NSS matching funds.

Annual NSS National Golf Tournament

Men's and Women's Official Rules and Regulations

1. The tournament is open to all members and one time guests of the National Slovak Society and its Youth Circles. There must be at least four Youth golfers officially entered to have a youth class. To protect the amateur standing of these youth, no prize money will be collected from nor paid to them.
2. United States Golf Association (USGA) and host golf course rules will govern play, except the following:
 - Jungle Golf, improve lie within 12" except in hazards.
 - Lost Ball; play from area where ball was last seen and take 1 stroke penalty.
 - Out of Bounds; play from where ball goes out and take 1 stroke penalty.
 - Ball in Water Hazard; drop where ball went in and take 1 stroke penalty.
3. Handicaps will be determined as follows:
 - A. All male regular division golfers will play in three flights as determined by handicap. The golfer's first handicap will be determined after he/she has completed 54 holes of tournament play in the NSS National Golf Tournament unless golfer has a U.S.G.A. index from their home course. The golfer's handicap will be recalculated every year based on the golfer's best 54 holes in tournament play within the last five years. The handicap will be calculated on a 90% basis. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - B. Any male golfer who has not completed 54 holes of tournament play in the NSS National Golf Tournament will be entered in the Callaway division using the NSS version of the Callaway scoring system, unless they have a U.S.G.A. index.
 - C. Senior Men's Division (65 and over) will also play using handicaps as determined above. There will be only one flight in the Senior Division unless the number of participants warrants 2 divisions. Forward tees will be used.
 - D. All female member golfers will compete with the handicap determined as above. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - E. Any female golfer who has not completed 54 holes of play in the NSS National Golf tournament will be placed in the Callaway division.
4. Classifications:

A medal play champion will be determined for 18 holes in each of the following Divisions:*

1. Men's A flight	3. Men's C flight	5. Women's B flight	7. Callaway Flight
2. Men's B flight	4. Women's A flight	6. Senior flight (age 65 and above)	

*Flight handicaps will be determined by number of entries and their handicaps.
Champion's for each flight will receive an NSS Jacket, and Prize money. Prize money will depend on the number of participants in each flight.
5. In case of a tie for first place in any flight, a sudden death playoff will be used starting on a hole acceptable to the golf course management. If weather or darkness does not permit an actual playoff, a match of cards will be used starting with the number 1 handicap hole and proceeding with number 2, 3, 4, etc. until the tie is broken.
6. All other ties will split the applicable prize money. (e.g., two people tied for second will split second and third prize money. Three people tied for second would split second, third and fourth place prize money.)
7. The prize list will be determined by the tournament manager using the money contributed by the contestants and matching money contributed by the NSS for all member golfers. As nearly as possible, there will be one prize for each four entries. NSS does not match guest prize contributions.
8. The tournament manager will schedule tee times and pairings.
9. The Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial plaque will be awarded to the men's low net winner of the 18 hole tournament. In case of a tie, the lower handicap will be the winner.
10. Golfers with long distances to travel will be given some preferential treatment for Sunday tee times, providing that the scheduling will not disrupt the efficiency of the tournament.
11. ENTRIES WILL CLOSE – **JUNE 27, 2022**

Please return the entry form on the following page to Pam Blum in the Fraternal Department at the Home Office.

National Slovak Society 56th Annual Golf Tournament July 15 – 17, 2022 Hospitality Night Friday 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Tam O'Shanter Golf Course

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course
2961 S Hermitage Rd
Hermitage PA 16148
724-981-3552

Room accommodations provided by
Hampton Inn and Suites
58 Winner Lane
West Middlesex PA 16159
724-528-3030

Please mention NSS to receive the **discounted rate**
Room Rates: \$135.00 + tax per night
Deadline for Hotel Reservations is June 15, 2022

Name	Address	Phone	E-mail	Assembly
1				
2				
3				
4				

GOLFERS: Please choose ALL that apply & indicate number participating

___ Saturday only Competition - \$55.00

___ Saturday and Sunday Competition - \$110.00 (Sunday will be a scramble)

___ Skins (Saturday Only) - \$5.00 (Optional)

___ Par 3 Challenge \$10.00 (Optional)

___ Senior Flight Men 65+ (Optional)

___ Will attend Friday Hospitality Night (**Tam O'Shanter Golf Course**)

___ Will attend Saturday Dinner (list dinner attendees)

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Deadline is June 27, 2022

Please make checks payable to: NSS Life

NSS Life
Attn: Pam Blum
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

NON-GOLFERS:

Please Choose ALL that apply & indicate number attending

___ Adult Guest Dinners @ \$30.00 (Golfers meal included in entry fee)

___ Youth (13-17) Guest Dinners @ \$20.00

___ Child (12 & under) FREE

___ Will attend Friday Hospitality Night

___ Hole Sponsor @ \$100 per hole

Name for sign: _____

\$ _____ TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM

Friday Practice Tee Times Available at 12:00 p.m.
Call the Pro Shop at 724-981-3552

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

We will be remembering our "Grand Old Flag" at our "Summer Bar-B-Q" that will be held on Sunday, **June 12th** at the Columbian Association (K of C) picnic pavilion at 1:00 pm. Delegates to the NSS Quadrennial Convention are encouraged to come for an orientation session. Bring along a non-member!

Assembly Youth members that are already receiving an NSS Scholarship are reminded that the date to send in your transcripts, to renew your scholarship is **July 15th**. You must have maintained a 3.0 GPA to receive your next check. Checks will be mailed to your home in early August.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of Clark Heist, Carmel Keefer, William Lenmer and Louis A. Salandra. May they rest in the blessed arms of the resurrected Christ.

Relief for funeral expenses related to COVID-19 death claims are available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's COVID-19 funeral assistance program. Eligible applicants can call the FEMA hotline at 1-844-684-6333.

NSS Fraternal Night at PNC Park is scheduled for Friday, **July 29th** when the Pirates take on the Phillies. Save the date and come out to the game.

Senior members! The NSS offers Senior Scholarships for those over fifty-five. You can enroll in two courses a year. Rules and regulations are on Page 7 and also on the NSS Life website.

NSS President Joseph Stefka, Jr. has announced that our assembly president, John Payerchin has been hired to work in the home office as a compliance and risk officer. We wish him well.

If you have any questions about being what is going on in the NSS or our assembly, please call me at (724) 570-1301. See you at the Summer Bar-B-Q.

Congratulations to all of our high school and college graduates.

Paul Payerchin
Secretary-Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

In July-August, our assembly will conduct a matching funds event for the

Montage Mountain Ski Patrol at their yearly golf Tournament which is held at Elmhurst Country Club. We are planning to send a team from the assembly along with a basket for their raffle. Stephanie & Joe Ciuccio are co-chairmen.

Our fraternal summer picnic will be held **August 14th** at the Mercateli Segilia Park, 4100 Birney Avenue, Moosic at 1:00 pm. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and soda will be supplied by the assembly. We will also play bingo for gift cards. Our Margaret Pilosi scholarship winner will be announced.

Nominations and election of officers will be held on **October 22, 2022** at Grandes Restaurant, 4200 Birney Avenue, Moosic at 1:00 pm. For more information contact Lehrae Edwards at 570-569-2181.

Lehrae Ann Edwards
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

On **August 7th** we will have our annual summer picnic at the Gross residence in New Tripoli, PA at 2:00.

October 23rd will be our Halloween costume party at the Wesnak home, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm.

Any questions, please call me at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Financial Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Welcome summer! Let's hope that it is a time of relaxation, fun and having your spirit recharged in a most positive way.

To all the fathers in our membership, I send wishes for a most enjoyable Father's Day (June 19th).

With the stock market acting a little crazy and bank CDs still incredibly low, now would be a good time to consider an Annuity with NSS. Get a nice safe steady return on your money. Interested? Give me a call at 724-242-5085 or call Bill Del Monaco at 412-264-7268.

In the next issue, I may be able to

give you some news from the 38th Quadrennial Convention which takes place at the end of June.

The Golf tournament is **July 15-17, 2022**. If you want to participate you need to sign up and our assembly will help you with the fees.

If you wish to attend the Pirate Game on **July 29th**, you need to call Pam at the home office for tickets. Our assembly will reimburse you part of the ticket price.

Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is Thursday, **July 21st**. Any members that are sixteen and under will be free thanks to Region 5. For those over the age of sixteen our assembly will provide a small discount toward your cost of the ticket. Call me if you want a ticket.

Have a safe enjoyable summer.

William Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Our next meeting will be held at Richardson's Park in Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm on **June 19, 2022**. We will also have a picnic and hope you can attend.

Slovak Day at Kennywood will be **July 21, 2022** and we will reimburse you for the tickets if you can attend!

Our following meeting will be held on **September 11, 2022** at 3:00 pm at Sesame Inn, McMurray, PA. And let's plan another meeting in October! Our annual Holiday party will be December 4, 2022 at 3:00 pm at Hugo's Restaurant. Best wishes for the convention in Hershey for all who are attending!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0381 Grosse Ile, MI

A meeting will be on held on **June 23, 2022** at the home of Rosemary Hanlon, 1916 Churchill, Trenton, MI. at 1:00 pm. Due to the COVID outbreak and variances we will not be holding meetings in restaurants at this time.

See you at the Convention. God Bless Everyone.

Joanne Medved
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Join us to the Lake Erie Crushers game, 2009 Baseball Boulevard, Avon, OH on **July 7th** at 7:05 pm. Contact Dave Pytel at 440-759-2148, Bill Shuttleworth at 440-465-6024, or Terri Hudak at 440-714-8902 for tickets. Prices are \$35.00 - adults; \$30.00 - children. Food is included.

The Jet Express Lake Erie Island Tour will be held on **September 25th** at 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The cost will be \$70.00 per person. If interested please call Dave, Bill, or Terri for details at the numbers above.

Shawn Pytel
Publicity & Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our Assembly 586 will not have representation at this convention for the first time in my 70-some years of membership, due to varied circumstances. We hope to have news and results of debates and votes in the earliest possible time line, either by email or texts from secretary of the assemblage in Hershey or by phone from individuals.

Our 586 group got together in a hastily called meeting to update the disappointing change in our delegates' plans. We ask the officers of the convention to make a donation to the Slovakia Ukraine refugee funds of the amount that would have been expended for our delegation to the convention in Hershey. My church in Naperville (Sister City of Nitra, Slovakia) has so far wired donations of \$95,000 to Slovakia. The amount of \$20,000 a year is required to hire a bilingual teacher to speak Ukrainian and Slovak to the refugee children already in Martin Christian school. Families there are taking refugees into their homes, thankfully.

We are preparing for the visit from Bohdan and Adrian, deans of the Martin K thru 12 schools. On May 21 they will cook dinner at my church for donations. Proceeds from the annual visit will help the Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia.

Assembly 586 decided to send a check for \$200 to NSS for the Veterans

Tiny Homes Village project that is supported by our 38th Quadrennial Convention. Our Assembly has collected and donated to the Operation Support Our Troops cause for many years. We have made visits to the warehouse in Lisle, Illinois to see shelves filled and waiting for the volunteers to pack boxes for shipping to our military wherever they are.

God be with them and with our people in America striving to help them.

Irene Tomaskovic
Vice President

ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

Our Fraternal Day will be held on **August 10th** at Knoebels Park.

Any questions, please contact John Kurilla at jjkurilla@aol.com or call 570-239-5936.

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0705 Seelyville, IN

Mark your calendars for the following events to be held in the month of **June, 2022**.

June 5 - Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

June 25, 26 - Butwin Family Reunion, Seelyville, IN (Fraternal Fund Activity)

Dorothy A Buck
Secretary

Ten Things that Require ZERO TALENT

1. Being on time
2. Making An Effort
3. Being High Energy
4. Having A Positive Attitude
5. Being Passionate
6. Using Good Body Language
7. Being Coachable
8. Doing A Little Extra
9. Being Prepared
10. Having A Strong Work Ethic

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Several local events are planned with dates and details to be announced soon. For details and updates, follow our Facebook page: NSS Life Assembly 731 and our group page: NSS Family & Friends.

We are all looking forward to a healthy, happy year and the opportunity to spend time together.

Ida Lewis
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

Assembly 813 is conducting a fund-raising project with the Jubilee Center of St. David's Episcopal Church to help feed children over the summer. "Summer Backpacks for Kids" targets children who may get food assistance at school during the school year but are food insecure during summer vacation. Ruth Hill, director of the Jubilee Center, and Mary Jo Holker, of the NSS, are teaming up in this NSS Matching Funds program to help provide food, so no child goes hungry.

Members of Assembly 813 also participated with the Letter Carriers food drive on May 14th. "Stamp out Hunger", a valuable program that was on hiatus for two years due to COVID-19, is back with proper protocol.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 2 Hazelton, PA

A meeting will be held on **August 13, 2022** at the Grotto Pizza, 337 Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 at 1:00 pm.

Lucy Piccoletti
Recording Secretary



Margaret Pilosi Scholarship Deadline July 1st

A Scholarship will be awarded yearly to a member of the NSS Assembly 0075; in memory of our late President Margaret Pilosi; the first woman President of the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle Fraternal Organization; to a member of NSS Assembly 0075, Duryea PA. The \$500.00 Scholarship is available to any senior high school member of our assembly who is entering a college or university. Applicants can apply for the scholarship by submitting an essay of at least 250-500 words about: fraternalism, Slovak heritage, civic duties or volunteerism. The essay must be typed, double spaced, and contain a separate title page with name, address, phone, age, parent's names, and the acceptance letter from the college they are attending along with their major. The Scholarship Committee will choose the recipient and present the scholarship at the fraternal summer picnic. Entries **must be submitted by July 1 of each year** to: NSS Assembly 0075 Secretary, Lehrae Ann Edwards, 65 Chittenden Street, Duryea, PA 18642-1006. Phone Number: 570-569-2181.

Assembly 0004 Bowling Results

On April 3rd, our Sunday League held its Scotch Doubles Tournament and pizza party. We had twelve (12) couples take part and six (6) couples finish in the money. The winning couple was Marilyn Genedick and Rich Durcansky with a pin fall of 636. After the pizza we did a bit of socializing and then called it a night.

The following week was our Singles Tournament, banquet and rolloff. This year there was no rolloffs. The Misfits, team members Sonia Vorell, Stephanie, Alex, and Bob Sir Louis won both halves of the schedule.

In the Singles Tournament everyone cashed but the 1st place bowlers were Sandy Walker with handicap series of 628 for the women and Alex Sir Louis had actual series of 279-668. After the banquet a short meeting was held to discuss league business.

Thanks to Mike Cotell and his staff for a delicious meal and Julie and Bud Sir Louis for taking care of the arrangements.

Trophies were handed out for individual accomplishments on the lanes. Our next event will be our Miniature Golf Tournament to be held in June at a place to be decided. If you are interested, contact Bob or Bud Sir Louis at 440-845-2616 for where, when, and directions.

Hope everyone has a great summer and most of all **STAY SAFE.**

Robert Sir Louis
League Secretary



Congratulations to Peter Merten Member of Assembly 0381

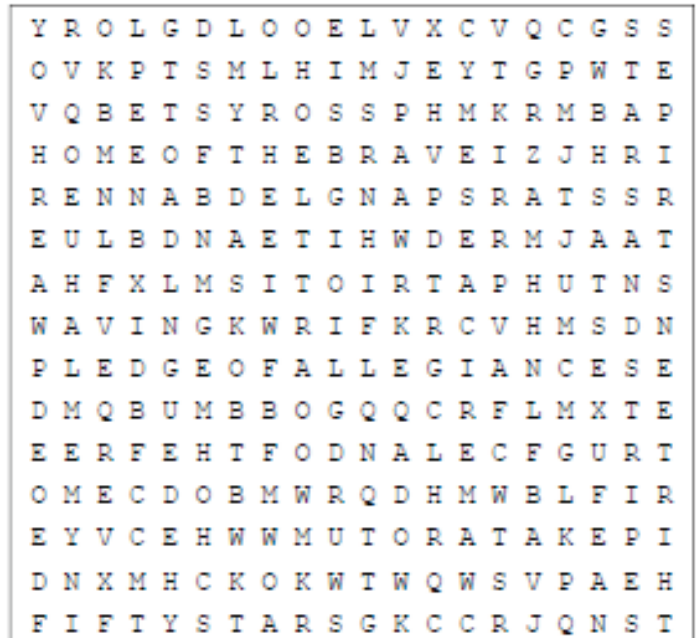


L-R: Mom, Rosemary Merten, Peter Merten, and Dad, Thomas Merten

Peter Merten, son of Assembly 381's Rosemarie and Thomas Merten, accepted his appointment to attend The United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.

We are so very proud of his hard work and dedication. Peter is the brother of delegate Jack Merten, grandson of delegate Rosemary Hanlon and great grandson of Rose and Martin Medved. Congratulations Peter.

Flag Day Wordsearch Puzzle



America
Betsy Ross
fifty stars
home of the brave
land of the free
Old Glory
patriotism

Pledge of Allegiance
red, white and blue
salute
stars and stripes
Star Spangled Banner
thirteen stripes
waving

Margaret "Peggy" Fox turns 90

Assembly 731 member, Margaret "Peggy" Fox, has been in nursing home care for the past two years but because of the pandemic during that time, visitation was not permitted. Prior to going to the nursing home, she always made sure family gathered at her house for holidays and special occasions. During the past two years she has missed all the holidays and family gatherings, she also missed the births of a new great-grandson and three great-great-children.

Recently, visitation returned to the nursing home allowing her family to **surprise her for 90th birthday**. She was surrounded by her children, 5 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, spouses and 9 great-great grandchildren for a very pleasant afternoon celebration. Margaret devoted her life to loving and caring for her family, so being able to celebrate her 90th birthday was special for everyone.

May God bless you with good health and happiness through the coming year from all of us at NSS Life.



Laurie Fox

(Peggy's daughter-in-law since 1973)



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.**

Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association

Slovaks in Western Pennsylvania prepare for 99th Annual Slovak Day Celebration West Mifflin, PA

Come celebrate with the Slovaks of Western Pennsylvania on Thursday, **July 21, 2022**, for the 99th Annual Slovak Day in Kennywood Park. Events will focus on the culture, food and spirit that is uniquely Slovak.

The festivities begin at 12:30 p.m. with games and treats for the children. The Slovak kitchen will also be open serving all the traditional favorites. Music in the food pavilion will be provided by George Batyi and friends from 1:00 until 3:30 pm. At 4:00 pm, The Eucharistic celebration will take place. This year's main Celebrant will be the Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, Bishop of Greensburg Diocese. Bishop Kulick, grew up in South-Western PA., in Leechburg, PA., where he attended St. Martha's Slovak Parish. He takes great pride in his Slovak religious & cultural traditions. He was ordained and installed as the 6th Bishop of the Greensburg Diocese on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at a special Mass in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, PA. He will be joined by Clergy from the Pittsburgh, and Greensburg, Dioceses. The Slovak Day festivities conclude with a performance by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.

Everyone must have a ticket to enter the park. Ticket prices are as follows: or anyone under age 60 the price is \$30, if you are age 60 and over the price is \$27. There are no super senior discounts this year.

To order tickets make a check payable to:

W. PA SLOVAK DAY

Mail to: **234 ILION STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15207**

Deadline for ordering tickets is **July 14, 2021**.

There is something for everyone at the 99th Annual Slovak Day in Kennywood Park: rides, games, food, ethnic vendors, music and entertainment. Join in the festivities on July 21st, and renew your Slovak spirit.

CONTACT: **Sue Ondrejco**

Phone: **(412) 953-4853**

Email: **Sue.ondrejco@gmail.com**

**YOUR ARMS ARE MY SHELTER
ASSURING ME THAT IT WILL
BE BETTER.
YOUR HAND IS MY COMFORT
LIFTING ME UP WHEN I
FALL SHORT.**

**YOUR VOICE MAKES ME STRONG
TEACHING ME WHAT'S RIGHT AND
WRONG.
YOUR SMILE SAYS IT ALL
FATHER, I LOVE YOU
MORE THEN ALL.**

Happy Father's Day!





PODPOĽANIE / Očová

99 Slovenský deň Západnej Pennsylvanie

Dávame na vedomie slovenskej verejnosti v Pgh,a okolí, že tohtoročný 99 Slovenský deň Západnej Pennsylvanie bude 21 Júla v známom Kennywood Parku. Vstupné lístky sú v predaji od členov pripraveného výboru tie si rezervujte u Sue Ondrejco na čísle 412 421-1204. Po tomto kontakte možno vložiť aj váš pozdrav alebo ohlásku do pamätnice Slovenského dňa.



Konvencia: V tomto mesiaci sa zjdeme na 38 Konvenciu Narodneho Slovensko Spolku v meste Hershey, PA od 26-teho do 30-teho Juna. Všetkým prajeme dobrého pohodlia a hlavné skvelú konvenciu.

NSS Golf: Pozývame našich členov NSS na golfový turnaj ktorý tohto roku bude od 15 –17 júla v Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, Hermitage, PA. Podrobnejšie informácie najdete na našej vebovej stránke nsslife.org.



**IF SHE CAN ROLL THESE...
... MARRY HER**

Jún



Deň Otcov 6.19

Nezabudnite v tento deň na svojho otca, venujte mu možno malú pozornosť, fotografiu v rámečku, čokoládku... Alebo sa na neho len milo usmejte a porozprávajte mu o tom, ako veľmi ho milujete, ako mu ďakujete za všetko, čo pre vás urobil, otvorte svoje srdce a do hĺbkosti svojho pohľadu prelejte všetku svoju lásku, ktorú cítite k človeku, ktorý vám spolu s vašou mamou darovali to najdrahšie - ľudský život.

Nezabúdajme ani na tých otcov, starých otcov, ktorí už nemôžu sledovať vaše kroky, tešiť sa z vašich úspechov, zahojiť rany na duši, lebo nás už predišli do večnosti. Venujme im spomienku i modlitbu.

A samozrejme, nezabúdajme ani na nášho Nebeského Otca, lebo od neho pochádza všetko, on je začiatok i koniec. "On obráti srdce otcov k synom a srdce synov k otcom..." (Mal 3,24)

Jún – mesiac Božského Srdca Ježišovo

Najsvätejšie Srdce Ježišovo! Hľa, pred Tebou na kolena padáme, aby sme ťa chválili. Tebe sa klaňali. Tebe ďakovali a aby sme Ťa odprosili za svoje poklesy. Pretože pamätáme na Tvoje predivné prisľúbenie. Voláme k tebe s úplnou dôverou: Božské srdce Ježišovo, udeľ nam všetky milosti, potrebné nášmu stavu, ako si nám to prisľúbilo, ó, Najsvätejšie a najvernejšie Srdce Ježišovo.



Božské srdce Ježišovo, daruj pokoj našim rodinám, ako si nám to prisľúbilo, ó, Najsvätejšie a najvernejšie Srdce Ježišovo.

Božské srdce Ježišovo, buď nám pomocou v práci, potechou v utrpení, ako si nám to prisľúbilo, ó, Najsvätejšie a najvernejšie Srdce Ježišovo.

Božské srdce Ježišovo, dopraj milosť vytrvalosti až do konca a dovoľ prijať sviatosť zmierenia všetkým, ktorí deväť po sebe nasledujúcich mesiacov, každý prvý piatok svätým prijímaním k Tebe sa blížia, buď im útočiskom v hodine smrti, ako si nám to prisľúbilo, ó, Najsvätejšie a najvernejšie Srdce Ježišovo. –Hlasy

Svadobné zvyky a tradície

Svadobných zvykov a tradícií máme na Slovensku veľmi veľa. Líšia sa od regiónu a preferencií mladomanželov. Mnohé páry túžia čoraz viac po moderných svadbách, nájdu sa však páry, ktoré si svoj svadobný deň bez tradícií nevedia predstaviť. Svadobné tradície a zvyky dokážu spestriť zábavu a dodať tú pravú svadobnú atmosféru. Navyše majú neopakovateľné čaro, ktoré si navždy svadobčania a aj samotný mladomanželovia uchovávajú v pamäti.



Čepčenie nevesty býval u nás jeden z najdôležitejších svadobných rituálov a zvykne sa praktikovať dodnes. Robieva sa o polnoci a ide o premenu slobodného dievčaťa na vydatú ženu. Kedysi prebiehalo až po svadobnej noci, neskôr sa pre skracovanie svadby začalo robiť počas nočnej zábavy.



Youth Circle Page

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

2022 NSS POETRY CONTEST

Deadline: August 15, 2022

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

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

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

Creative Touch



Recently, a photo was received from Circle 588 member, Bella Bernardo, wearing her “customized” NSS T-shirt. Bella used her creative skills to make the NSS T-shirt more colorful. She might have a future in fashion design! Looks great Bella!

Bella is the daughter of Ashley and Brett Bernardo, granddaughter of President Joseph Stefka, Jr. and wife Annette.



Polish Falcons National Youth Camp July 24-31, 2022

Open to NSS Youth Members

SNPJ Recreation Center
270 Martin Road
Enon Valley, PA 16120
Campers are ages 9-18
Basketball, Volleyball, Bowling,
Kickball, Ultimate Frisbee, Arts &
Crafts, Swimming, Team Challenges
all with a Survivor Team

**For more information contact
Christine Puskar
cpuskar@polishfalcons.org
412-922-2244**

Congratulations to the class of 2022



We Made It!



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

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NATIONAL

GOLF



NSS Life®
Family Matters...

TOURNAMENT

JULY 15-17, 2022

TAM O'SHANTER GOLF CLUB • HERMITAGE, PA

Hospitality Night: Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., @ Tam O'Shanter
Deadlines for: Registration: June 27 • Hotel Reservations: June 15