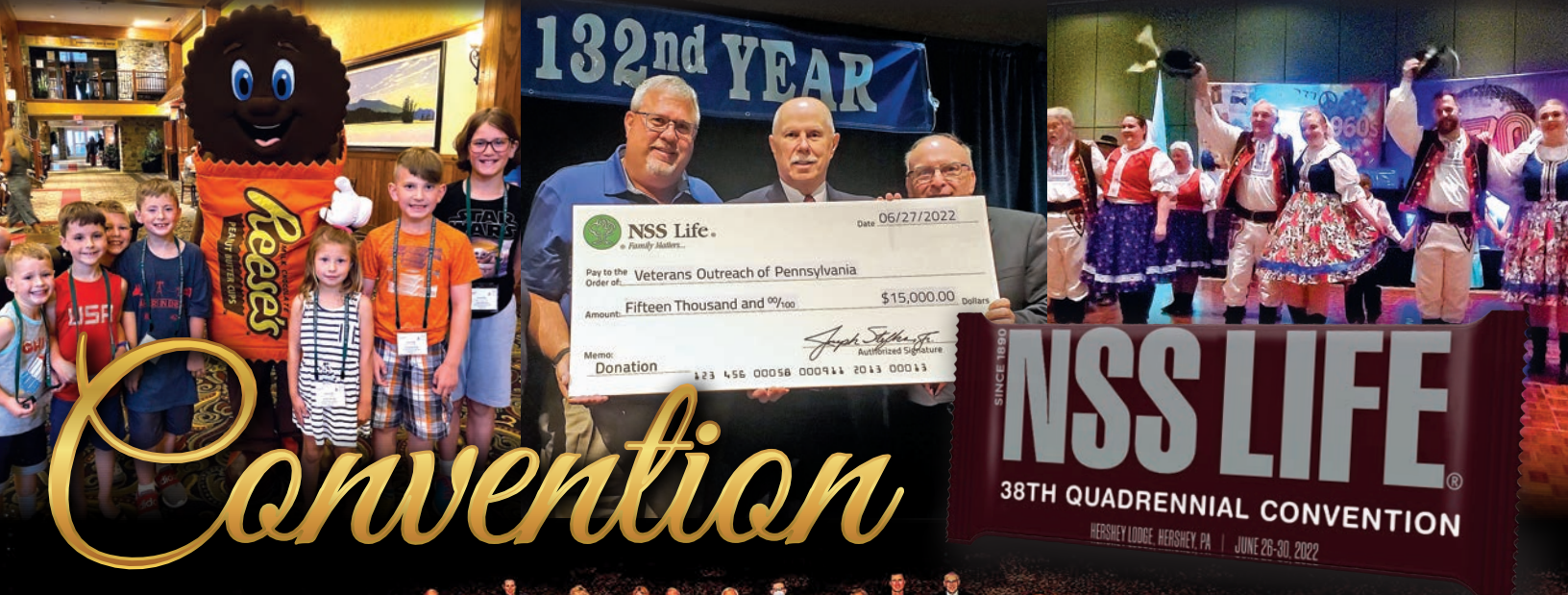




**NSS Life**  
Family Matters...

# Národné Noviny

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | AUGUST 2022 | NUMBER 3568 | VOLUME 114



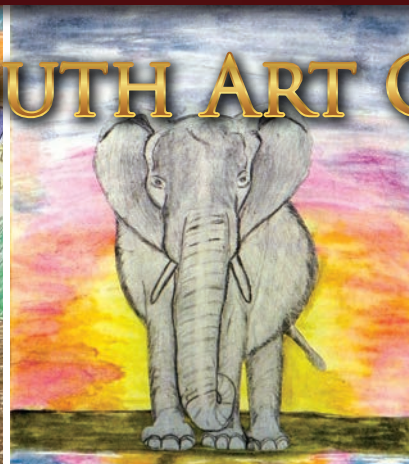
# Convention



Scenes from the National Slovak Society's 38th Quadrennial Convention • See Pages 11-15



Picasso (Age 5-7)  
1st Place • Ryan Tompkins



Rembrandt (Age 8-10)  
1st Place • Timothy Jaster



Michelangelo (Age 11-13)  
1st Place • Tanner J. Hamilton



Van Gogh (Age 14-16)  
1st Place • Addison Draa





# National Slovak Society

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



## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

### EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY  
Published Monthly

Send articles for publication to:  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317-3337

**Deadline: 5th of preceding month**

### NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joseph Stefka, Jr., *FIC,*  
*President, CEO & Elder*

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

Robert F. Katricak,  
*Chairman of the Board*

### NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

David Blazek, *President* • Anthony Beno, *Director* • Mary Jo Holker, *Director*  
Edward Koches, *Director* • Paul Payerchin, Jr., *Director*

### FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

Justine Wesnak, *President* • Reverend Monsignor Thomas V. Banick, *Spiritual Advisor*  
FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

## Inside this Issue...

### Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance..... 3

### From the Executive Officers

The President's Page..... 4-5  
Secretary/Treasurer's Column..... 6

### NSS Financial Matters

Annuity Interest Rates..... 8

### NSS Sales Department

Recommender/Change of Address Form..... 2  
Current Interest Rates..... 8  
Second Quarter Leaders..... 8  
National Sales Director..... 9

### NSS News & Activities

PVR Scholarship Donations..... 7  
Fraternal Activities Director..... 10  
Departed Members..... 7 & 16  
Convention Photos..... 11-15  
Recipes..... 16-17  
Assembly Meetings..... 17-19  
Assembly News/Photos..... 19  
Region 5 Picnic..... 20  
Heritage Museum Septemberfest Ad..... 20  
Art Contest Winners..... 22  
Poetry Contest Rules..... 23  
Photo Contest Rules..... 23

### Národné Noviny

Septemberfest 2022..... 21  
Lipový kvet..... 21  
Pranostiky na mesiac august..... 21  
O Našej 38 Konvencii..... 21  
NSS Region 5 výročný výlet..... 21

## 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 Amusement Resort at 12:00 Noon.
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
August 29	Assembly L075, Matching Funds Event, Elmhurst Country Club
October 22	Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
November 6	Assembly L075, Holiday Get Together, Woodlands Inn, Wilkes Barre, PA (TBA)

### REGION 5

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

August 21	Region 5, Family Picnic, Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion 16 (1:00 pm - 5:00 pm)
August 21	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Cedar Creek Park (prior to picnic)
September 1	Assembly 0731, All day Scavenger Hunt, Canfield Fair, Campsite A102
September 10	Assembly 0123, Miniature Golf, Neville Island at 12:00 Noon.
September 11	Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Inn, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
September 11	Assembly 0039, Flight 93 Dinner and meeting, Bob Evans Restaurant at 6:00 pm
September 12	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA (TBA)
October 2	Slovak Radio Hour Annual Dinner Dance (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 6	Annual Slovak Festival at Pitt University, Oakland, PA (TBA)
November 7	Assembly 0588, Meeting at Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA (TBA)
November 26	Christmas Around the World at NSS Home Office, McMurray, 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

August 24	Assembly 0004, Meeting, Vorell's residence, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm
September 18	Assembly 0070/C070, Meeting/Luncheon, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH following 11:00 am mass
September 25	Assembly 0432, Jet Express Lake Erie Tour, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### REGION 14

#### Assemblies R059, L102

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

August 21	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
August 24	Assembly 0586, Meeting, Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, Westmont, IL at 4:30 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](mailto:jstefka@nsslife.org)



As I sit at home in my office writing this column, I am still recuperating from the last nine days spent in Hershey for the Spring Board Meeting, preparation for the 38th Quadrennial Convention, and the Convention which was held June 26-30th. The days were extremely busy for all involved. The Spring Meeting of the Board Of Directors was held on Friday and Saturday prior to the start of the Convention in Hershey, and as usual, much was accomplished. Committees of the Board of Directors held meetings prior to arriving at Hershey due to the condensed two-day meeting schedule and reported back to the Board at the meeting. Following the Board of Director's Meeting on Saturday, the 38th Quadrennial Convention Committee on Credentials met to plan for the registration of delegates which would begin on Sunday afternoon.

The 38th Quadrennial Convention began with delegate registration on Sunday afternoon, followed by meetings of the various Convention Committees. A total of 192 delegates were in attendance including two Officers, eight Directors, three Honorary Officers, and 179 Assembly and Region delegates. In addition, a total of 82 guests were in attendance during the Convention. The opening session of the Convention began on Sunday evening with a Memorial Service in memory of Honorary Officer Dean Burns, Honorary Tribunal Member Sophia Hudak, Honorary ROCWMAS President Olga Kasnot, Honorary Director Joseph Tomaskovic, Jr., and the 3,398 members who have passed on since our last Convention. The Convention elected two Vice-Chairs for the Convention, Chairman of the

Board Robert Katricak and Director Andrew "Drew" Wesnak. The Board of Directors had previously appointed this writer to serve as the Convention Chairman.

Sunday also marked the beginning of the 38th Quadrennial Youth FunFest. Youth FunFest advisors Ashley Bernardo, Randi Czarney, Kristen Katricak, and Heather Payerchin had an educational, fun, and rewarding schedule of events planned over the course of the Convention for the 38 Youth Circle members in attendance. Activities included red, white, and blue painting of small houses which were used to collect donations for the Convention Special Charity Project Veteran's Outreach of Pennsylvania; trips to the Hershey Park Zoo and The Hershey Story Museum; a Slovak craft project led by Larry Kozlowski; chocolate bingo; and a community service project filling bags for homeless Veteran's with much needed supplies that were donated to Veteran's Outreach of Pennsylvania to distribute to homeless Veteran's along with a card from one of our Youth Circle members. Thank you to all Assemblies, Regions, individuals, and to Hershey Lodge for the monetary and supply donations to fill the bags to help our homeless Veteran's.

Sunday evening concluded with an ice cream social and a "Meet the Candidates" Night.

Monday's sessions included reports from the Committee on Constitution and By-laws, our Society Actuary Edward Cowman, our CPA/Auditors Cara Colavita and Joseph Dickert, the Committee on Budget and Finances, and the Committee on Nominations. A total of fourteen candidates were presented as the slate eligible for election to the position of Director. Each candidate was given an opportunity to speak to the delegates for two minutes outlining their qualifications and why they should be elected as a Director. A representative from Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania, Tom Zimmerman presented information regarding the organization and a brief video regarding their project for homeless Veteran's in the region. Following his presentation, a check for \$15,000 was presented to the organization from the Society by this writer, Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom, and Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak. The check was the result of generous donations from our

Assemblies, Regions, Society Advisors, individual delegates, the Society, and money collected by the Youth FunFest participants during the Convention. The Committee on Litigation and Appeals, the Committee on Officer's Reports, Committee on Petitions, Grievances, and Resolutions, and the Fraternal Activities Committee reported to the delegates. Following the close of Monday's afternoon session, the Committee on Elections met with advisors, Parliamentarian and Legal Advisor P. Ronald Cooper, and CPA/auditors Cara Colavita and Joseph Dickert to plan for the election of Directors which would take place on Tuesday morning. On Monday evening, a Fraternal Night was held at the AACA Antique Auto Museum located in Hershey, with a 50's Theme! A majority of our delegates and guests attending the Fraternal Night were dressed in 50's style clothing. The food, music, and dancing were great, and the evening was enjoyed by all in attendance!

The Convention concluded on Tuesday, with the election of the Board Of Directors for the next four years. Congratulations to Michael Czarney, Lauren Fox, Andrea Garbon, Abigail Gross, Esq., Robert Katricak, Keith Kucherawy, Susan Ondrejco, Andrew "Drew" Wesnak, and Theresa Zelman who were elected by the delegates to serve as Directors and will take office on November 1st. Theresa Zelman will begin serving immediately as a Director and will serve the remainder of the term of John Payerchin until October 31st as she received the highest number of votes of anyone not currently serving on the Board of Directors. Thank you to all of the candidates that were nominated and ran for a seat on the Board of Directors. The Convention Delegates voted to bestow the title of Honorary President on our past President David G. Blazek. Congratulations Dave! The Convention Banquet was held on Tuesday evening and included a wonderful performance by the Pittsburgh Slovaks under the direction of Rudy Ondrejco, Sue Ondrejco, and Suzie Ondrejco; a Keynote Speech from Allison Koppel, CEO of the American Fraternal Alliance; the Installation of the Board of Directors by Honorary Director Mary Jo Holker; recognition of the Youth FunFest advisors and participants; a basket raffle benefiting the PVR Scholarship Fund, which raised



\$3,680; and a night of dancing. Thank you to all Assemblies, Regions, individuals, and Hershey for donating baskets for the raffle. It was truly a successful fundraiser for the PVR Scholarship Fund!

Wednesday was Fraternal Excursion Day with delegates and guests attending trips to Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Hershey Park. Attendees reported that the excursions were very successful and very enjoyable!

Conventions of this magnitude take a tremendous amount of planning and preparation. The Convention business sessions ran smoothly as did the associated events. Thank you to all that helped make the 38th Quadrennial Convention such a success including Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom, Chairman of the Board Robert Katicak, Executive Assistant Pam Blum, Compliance and Risk Manager John Payerchin, the Board of Directors, Honorary Officers, FunFest Advisors, Home Office staff members, Graphic Designer and Social Media Specialist Ryan Strom, Editor Lori Crowley, our Convention pianist Dan Farrell of Assembly 813, Convention musicians Casey and Mara Lako of Assembly 039, my wife Annette for her assistance throughout our time at Hershey, and the staff at Hershey Lodge. We worked closely with personnel from Hershey Lodge prior to and during the Convention. I would personally like to thank Patrick Uffner, Sales Manager, Jason Burd, Convention Services Manager, and Michele Maxwell, Group Reservations Manager of Hershey Lodge for making sure that everything was in place and that events ran smoothly. The three of you, and the staff at Hershey Lodge did another outstanding job in making our Convention a huge success. To paraphrase an old saying, "It takes a village to hold a successful Convention!" Thank you to all who were part of the "village."

The Summer Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on August 20th. Any information for consideration at the meeting should be submitted to Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom at the Home Office by August 12th.

Region #5 will hold a Picnic at Cedar Creek County Park on Sunday, August 21, 2022.



## News of Narodniars

Special Birthday wishes to my granddaughters Bella Bernardo and Caroline Bernardo. Hope your birthday is as special as you both are! Happy Birthday to our newest Honorary Officer, Honorary President Dave Blazek, to our Home Office Graphic Design and Social Media Specialist Ryan Strom, to Jan Amick, Andrew Blazek, Carol Godor, Brady Kearney, Logan Kearney, Hudson Lavin, Jack Reeves, Dustin Shriver, Charlie Tabone, Pam Tabone, and all others celebrating a birthday in the month of August!

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

## 50's Night at the Hershey AACA Auto Museum





## A Page From My Notebook...

**Linda M. Strom, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO**  
Email: [lstrom@nsslife.org](mailto:lstrom@nsslife.org)



## Convention Recap...

Well, another Convention has come and gone. This convention was by no means less exciting or less surprising. I would like to first of all thank each and every person that was involved in the planning and execution of this event. It takes a boatload of people to coordinate each minute of the event. Once again, the staff at the Hershey Lodge outdid themselves. I heard many great comments about the venue, menus, room locations, etc. To Jason, Patrick, Michelle, Josh, Alan, and so many others that made the convention a success you have my gratitude. Thank you once again for the many hours I know you spent so that the NSS could go about the business of the convention and not the planning. And here on the home front I would be remiss if I did not thank Pam Blum, Fraternal Activities Coordinator, who along with President & CEO Stefka played an integral part in coordinating the detail of the convention as a whole.

The business of the convention was extremely well planned and followed the agenda as presented. Thank you to President & CEO Joseph Stefka, Jr. and Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak for developing a complete agenda which successfully addressed the business of the convention including the review and revision, where necessary, of the NSS By-Laws.

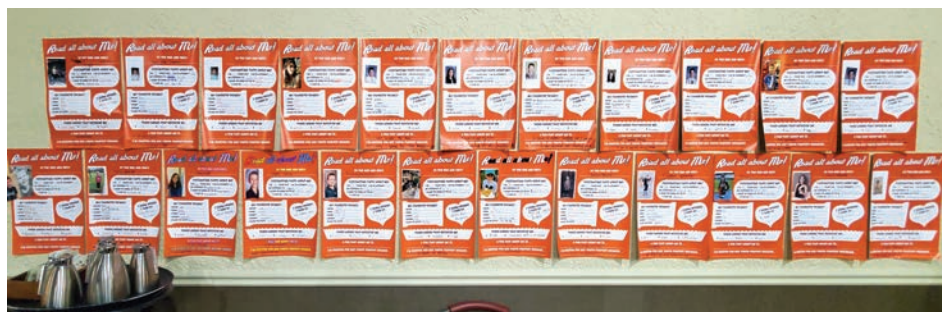
The main purpose of the NSS Quadrennial Convention is to elect Nine Directors from a slate of Delegates approved by the Nominating Committee

to lead the Society for the next four years. This is a bitter sweet event as Board members must leave their seat on the Board up to the Delegates to determine who is most qualified and will take a seat on the Board for the next four years. I would like to take this time to say THANK YOU to each and every Delegate that attended this convention. It was quite obvious that you read the reports sent to you prior to the start of the convention and came prepared to work. The reports I refer to are not only the biographies of the Delegates who are running for office but most importantly the Business reports which tells you what the Board has accomplished and what it wants to accomplish in the future.

The nine-member Board of Directors, elected by the Delegates of the 38th Quadrennial Convention, is made up of seven Directors currently seated on the Board and two new Directors, Teresa Zemelman, Assembly L161 and Keith Kucherawy, Assembly 0588. They will fill two current vacancies on the Board. One vacancy was occupied by Director Karen Lynne Orban who has decided to retire from the Board and focus on her family and managing the family business in Florida with her husband John. Karen, we will miss you. You brought years of experience to the Board. You made a difference. I would like to also congratulate former President & CEO David G. Blazek for having the title of Honorary President bestowed upon him by the Convention. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

And finally, there is one more person to thank and that is NSS Compliance and Risk Manager and former Director John Payerchin who played an enormous role in the planning and organization of the convention. John, I am forever grateful for all of your help and for sharing your expertise with us. Welcome aboard!  
**ILYJ.**

## Memories from the 38th Quadrennial Convention



**Participants in the Kids FunFest during the convention created personal posters with information about them and their interests. Pictured on display in the dining hall.**



**Georgiann and Dan Kralik pictured together during 1950's Night at the Hershey AACA Antique Auto Museum**



**Director Drew Wesnak and wife Sharon pictured together after the conclusion of the 38th Quadrennial Convention banquet**





## DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Here is my donation of:

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

Please issue your check to:

**NSS PVR Scholarship Fund**

And send to:

National Slovak Society  
351 Valley Brook Road  
McMurray, PA 15317



## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations June 2022

In Memory of **Mary Ann Karkosiak:**

From husband, John ..... 100.00

n Memory of **Donald Kolecky, Jr:**

From John & Becky Kresovsky . 75.00

In Memory of **Julia Stiebeling:**

From Assembly 070 ..... 20.00

In Memory of **Margaret Butcher:**

From Assembly 123 ..... 20.00

In Memory of **Charles Neupert:**

From Assembly 123 ..... 20.00

In Memory of **Karen Vensel:**

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:**

Thomas & Lynda Ritter ..... 500.00

## REMINDER

### Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., **MUST BE** received by the Home Office no later than the **5th of the month.**

## DEPARTED MEMBERS JUNE, 2022

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Abraham, Debra	Sagamore Hills, OH	05/20/2022	0432
Aldridge, Mary	Londonderry, OH	05/20/2022	0595
Alexander, John P	Uniontown, PA	06/01/2022	0377
Barron, Verda A	New Brighton, PA	06/27/2022	0123
Bell, Virginia	Blairsville, PA	06/18/2022	0774
Bingham, Laughvon	Stockton, CA	05/15/2022	0568
Briggs, Eric	Hickory, PA	03/02/2022	0588
Brown, Alfred	Murrysville, PA	05/15/2022	L105
Brubaker, Joyce	Washington, PA	03/27/2022	0588
Bumbera, Vera	Upper St Clair, PA	05/26/2022	0588
Burnette, Gladys	Cochranton, PA	06/04/2022	0731
Carben, Patricia	Butler, PA	06/18/2022	0123
Carney, Mary	Elizabeth, PA	06/05/2022	0441
Craska, Richard P	Pittsburgh, PA	05/26/2022	L106
Dandrea, Jane	Hopwood, PA	05/27/2022	0039
Eastep, William D	Williamsburg, PA	05/21/2022	0267
Ferenczi, Patrice	Charlotte, NC	10/23/2021	0774
Ferrara, Marlene	Blairsville, PA	03/04/1935	L105
Filardi, Anthony	Pittsburgh, PA	04/25/2022	0434
Fisher, Cynthia L	Creekside, PA	06/05/2022	L105
Gayman, Charles	Washington, PA	06/06/2022	0434
Gladys, Glenda	Johnstown, PA	06/17/2022	0737
Graham, Nellie	Pittsburgh, PA	06/08/2022	0100
Gregory, Bradley	Summersville, WV	04/04/2022	0774
Harmon, James	Dayton, OH	01/13/2022	0595
Harrison, William K	Gilbertsville, PA	05/28/2022	R059
Homerosky, Elizabeth	Washington, PA	09/02/2021	0441
Hoover, Cecelia	Martinsburg, PA	05/25/2022	0267
Hyduke, Marlene M	Pittsburgh, PA	06/21/2022	L161
Imhof, Robert	Gibsonia, PA	04/16/2022	L161
Jasper, Betty	Verona, PA	04/26/2022	L105
Kline, Miriam	Bernville, PA	06/01/2022	L102
Kocan, Mary	Uniontown, PA	06/12/2022	0039
Kropf, Ernest	Butler, PA	05/31/2022	0123
Krupa, Marinette	Corry, PA	06/15/2022	0774
Kundrat, Amalia	Pittsburgh, PA	04/15/2022	0441
Kuppertz, Janice	Clarendon, PA	04/15/2021	L040
Leslie, Roberta K	Coraopolis, PA	04/03/2022	0123
Markiewicz, Barbara	West Mifflin, PA	04/14/2022	0441
McAfoos, JoAnn	Mount Lebanon, PA	05/20/2022	0434
McCandless, Patricia	Prospect, PA	06/20/2022	0731
McClellan, Michael D	Oakboro, NC	05/23/2022	0774
McConnell, Jack A	Darlington, PA	06/27/2022	0731



# Current Interest Rates

★ Effective January 1, 2020 ★

(Reaffirmed for the 3rd Quarter 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. You can access your account values 24/7 by going to the website:

**[www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org) and login/register as a member.**

## *2nd Quarter Leaders for 2022*



**Nicholas Carini** is the **TOP PREMIUM/ANNUITIES PRODUCER** for the Second Quarter of 2022. "Nicholas Carini knew early on in his life he would pursue a career in the financial services industry just as his dad, Jack. He graduated from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Financial Planning. Nicholas is now the co-owner of Carini Financial, LLC where he manages individuals and small businesses with their financial planning needs. To further his commitment to his clientele, Nicholas went on to earn his Certified Financial Fiduciary® designation and is currently enrolled in The American College of Financial Services pursuing the CFP®, ChFC®, and the CLU® designations. When he is not working he enjoys spending time with his wife, Gabrielle, son, Brooks, and dog, Rosie, as well as working in his woodshop and garden."

Congratulations to **Ger Xiong** on being the **TOP LIFE INSURANCE/NEW MEMBER PRODUCER** for the Second Quarter of 2022. Ger was born in Thailand and came to the United States when she was ten years old. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Ger is a mother of four children and is currently working as a Business Developer and selling life insurance part-time since 2016. Because of her expertise in the business and financial industries she sees the struggles of many average American families. With the uncertainty of the current economic situation and inflation rising one of the most important things was life insurance coverage on herself and her family. Life insurance will provide for income loss in case of a tragic event and lessen financial burdens, and eliminate stress on her family. Ger Xiong offers a variety of life insurance products such as Term, Permanent Life, Whole Life, Universal Life, and Guaranteed Issue Products. Please contact Ger Xiong at 920-579-7327 or email at **[gerx1981@gmail.com](mailto:gerx1981@gmail.com)** for more information.





## From the Sales Department...

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



## Wait Until Age 70 To Collect Social Security?

There are a few key ages when dealing with Social Security (SS). This wonderful program was started by President Roosevelt in 1935. Social Security pays out billions of dollars every month to retirees, the disabled and survivors. It is a mainstay of American life and a vital link to people's prosperity. More than 65 million people receive checks totaling \$100 billion dollars each month.

Our brief discussion will focus only on the retirement aspect of SS. Know that, if fully covered, a retirement benefit may be received between the ages of 62 to 70. Age 62 is the earliest a payment could be received but it would actuarially be reduced by about 30%. Age 70, is the latest a person should wait, and that check will be about 24% larger than the normal retirement date amount. There is no bonus beyond age 70. Ideally, the goal is to wait until your full retirement age which is currently age 66 (born before 1954) but depending on your date of birth, this date is extended by 2 months for those born between 1955-1960. So the normal retirement age for a person born in 1960 is 67.

Each year you wait between normal retirement age and age 70 adds an 8% increase to your monthly check. This adjustment is an amount that would be hard to earn anywhere else on a guaranteed basis. If your health permits, your employed and enjoy working then by all means wait until age 70 before

collecting your SS. If there are health issues, poor family history of longevity, unemployment, or money concerns then consider taking your SS earlier. It is easy to say wait for more money but there are other factors to consider in this all-important decision: your spouse, their age, children, disability, and other income sources.

For simplicity assume that a person age 66, retires and their full retirement check amount is \$1,000 per month. Had they retired at age 62, their check would have been \$700. If they wait until age 70, their check would be \$1,360. As you can see, when you take your SS payments makes a difference. According to SS, the actual average retirement check last year was \$1,537 and more people took their check at age 62 than any other age.

Want to know more? Contact your local NSS representative for some helpful advice.

## Want To Help Your Children?

A silly question, of course, everyone wants to help their children. As parents our goal is to equip our prodigy so that they are better off than we are. Here is one idea that might work well under the right circumstances.

How about making your child's Roth IRA contribution each year? So here is the ideal situation. A parent has the means to pay for a Roth each year. It does not have to be the full \$6,000

– it could be \$1,000 or anything in between. In fact, the child could also contribute just as long as the total does not exceed the \$6,000 maximum. The child must be employed since they need earned income to be eligible for a Roth IRA account. Using the term child here is not a youngster but a young adult maybe between the ages of 25 to 45, who is spending most of their money on living expenses, cars, house, children, etc. By the time they get around to having some disposable income, it may be too late. They may also not have the cash to put in a Roth account.

Here is the beauty of this plan. The parent was going to save the money regardless of where they deposited the funds. It may have been in their IRA or their annuity. At some point in the future the children are going to inherit this money. If it is IRA money, assuming lump sum distribution, then the children will owe taxes on the entire amount. Since they are probably still working and in a higher tax bracket, they will lose a significant amount of the funds to taxes. If the money is in the parent's annuity, the children will owe taxes on the interest plus inheritance taxes. This is another situation where the savings left to your family will be negatively impacted by taxes.

The simple solution, give the children the money now! Put it in a Roth account and they will have access to the principal early on and if they follow the guidelines tax-free money later. A win-win for you and your heirs.

### Thought For The Month:

*Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*

*St. Francis of Assisi (1181 to 1230 A.D.)*

# 106 million

adults are in need of life insurance—or more of it





## Fraternal Matters...

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



## Countdown to Convention

CONGRATULATIONS go out to Jacob Semon from Assembly L075. Jacob is the Grand Prize winner of the drawing held at the 38th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey for a \$250 Best Buy Gift Card. Jacob was one of the winners in May for our Countdown to Convention contest.

## Upcoming Contests

The deadline for the Poetry Contest is **August 15th** so get your entries in. Don't forget we added an adult category!!

This fall will be the Photo Contest and the entries are due by **October 1st**. We will end 2022 with the Ornament Contest with a deadline of **December 1st**.

## PVR Scholarship Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS to the 42-1st year PVR Scholarship recipients, all applicants were approved by the Board of Directors at the spring Board meeting!! Their photos will appear in the September issue of the National News. The checks for 2022 grants will be mailed from the Home Office early in August.

## New Perpetual Scholarship

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors approved a new Perpetual Scholarship in the name of the **"Grogan Family Scholarship"**. Mr. Thomas Grogan has made numerous donations to the fund in honor of his parents and all of his siblings and for that we are very grateful. This now brings the number of Perpetual Scholarships to ten.

## Region 5 Picnic

The annual picnic of Region 5 will be held on Sunday, August 21st at the Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion 16 Westmoreland County, PA at 1:00-5:00 pm. This picnic was not held last year because of COVID so we are looking forward to an excellent turnout this year.

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to retired president, Dave Blazek who will be celebrating on August 3rd, 2022. Best wishes for a healthy and happy year.

**Before summer comes to an end, you can squeeze in a few more fun activities and celebrations. Here are 31 reasons to celebrate during the month of August.**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 National Girlfriends Day	2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day	3 National Watermelon Day	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day	5 Work Like a Dog Day	6 National Root Beer Float Day	7 International Beer Day every First Friday
8 International Cat Day	9 National Rice Pudding Day	10 National S'mores Day	11 Son and Daughter Day	12 Baseball Fans Day	13 National Filet Mignon Day	14 National Creamsicle Day
15 National Relaxation Day	16 National Bratwurst Day	17 National Black Cat Appreciation Day	18 National Fajita Day	19 National Potato Day	20 National Bacon Lovers Day	21 National Spumoni Day
22 National Bao Day	23 National Sponge Cake Day	24 National Waffle Day	25 National Whiskey Sour Day	26 National Dog Day	27 National Banana Lovers Day	28 Red Wine Day
29 Lemon Juice Day	30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day	31 Eat Outside Day				



# 2022 National Slovak Society 38<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention Attendees



## NSS 38<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention Sign-In & Convention Hall Floor



Members Margaret Czarney, Lori Crowley, Karen Orban and Lehrae Edwards aiding sign-in for the arriving delegates of the 38th Quadrennial Convention



Convention delegates receiving their convention related materials at sign-in



The convention hall floor prior to opening session



The main stage and dais at the 38th Quadrennial Convention



# NSS 38<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention Regular Sessions, Dining & Misc.



President Joseph Stefka, Jr.



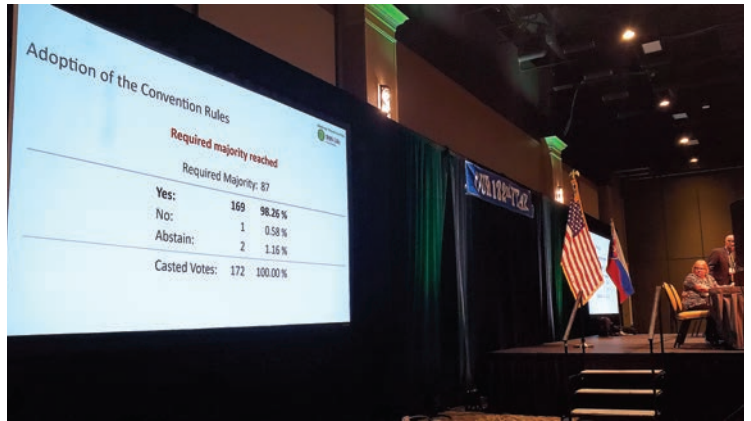
Secretary-Treasurer Linda Strom



Parliamentarian Ronald Cooper and Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak



Regular sessions taking place in the main convention hall



Electronic voting results were displayed live during sessions



Tom Zimmerman, President and co-founder of Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania provided attendees an introduction to his organization



NSS Life presented a \$15,000 donation to Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania towards funding their future goals and initiatives



Past winners of the NSS Life Fraternalist of the Year award in attendance at the 38th Quadrennial Convention



Past winners of the NSS Life Youth Achievement award in attendance at the 38th Quadrennial Convention





Members Casey and Mara Lako of Assembly 0039 provided wonderful intermission musical accompaniment



The main dining hall where breakfast and lunch were served



Members John Bebo, Jr. and wife Florence of Assembly 0588

## NSS 38<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention Hershey AACA Museum 50's Night



Various antique vehicles on display at the Hershey AACA Antique Auto Museum



Miniature town and train replica on display



Director Lauren Fox with husband Mike



Attendees could take pictures of themselves with various 1950's themed props



Member George Leasure of Assembly 0588 enjoying the antique vehicles on display



Members dressed in their finest 1950's inspired attire enjoyed a dinner buffet with a DJ providing music from the 1950's



Members dancing and enjoying the festivities and 1950's tunes



# NSS 38<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention Banquet, Dance & Basket Raffle



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. addressing attendees of the 38th Quadrennial Convention banquet



Allison Koppel, CEO of the American Fraternal Alliance was in attendance and offered congratulations and encouragement to NSS Life



The "Pittsburgh Slovaks" Pittsburgh's oldest Slovak cultural organization provided dance and entertainment for those in attendance



The newly voted Board of Directors are sworn-in by Honorary Officer Mary Jo Holker and will officially take office in November, 2022



Members in attendance at the 38th Quadrennial Convention banquet



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. and aides handout raffle baskets to winners during the banquet





# Scenes from the NSS 38<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention Kids FunFest



Youth members in attendance at the 38th Quadrennial Convention with Hershey mascot



Youth members participating in the 38th Quadrennial Convention kids FunFest



Kids FunFest participants creating personal posters about themselves for display



Kids FunFest participants created among other projects, patriotic themed bird houses to be donated to a local American Legion



Kids FunFest participants visited among other excursions the local Hershey ZooAmerica wildlife park



Kids FunFest participants created Slovak Christmas Manger Ornaments



Kids FunFest participants were presented certificates at the banquet



## DEPARTED MEMBERS JUNE, 2022 (Continued from Page 7)

McCormick, Charles	Rochester, PA	06/23/2022	0123
Mears, Michelle	Pittsburgh, PA	04/03/2022	0100
Meckstroth, Jean	Hillsboro, WI	04/17/2022	0774
Merolillo, Peter	West Mifflin, PA	05/17/2022	0377
Milkovich, John	Wilkes Barre, PA	05/27/2022	0617
Miller, Andrew L	Knox, PA	05/03/2022	0554
Musselman, Charles	Martinsburg, PA	06/16/2022	0267
Myers, Lois	Cross Lanes, WV	01/31/2022	0774
Norris, Helen	Granite Falls, NC	04/15/2022	0774
Perkins, Gary A	Elyria, OH	05/13/2022	0160
Persson, Paul F	Agawam, MA	04/05/2022	L002
Petring, William	Altadena, CA	01/15/2022	0568
Picio, Jack	Washington, PA	08/22/2021	0588
Poliak, Linda	Freedom, PA	06/14/2022	0123
Puher, Dorothy	Morgantown, WV	03/28/2022	0774
Racketa, Norma	Hermitage, PA	05/06/2022	0731
Raviola, James	Pittsburgh, PA	04/22/2022	L161
Redfearn, James	Monroe, NC	06/04/2022	0774
Reitlinger, Randy	Glenshaw, PA	06/02/2022	L161
Robinson, Edward	Rochester, PA	06/12/2022	0123
Robinson, Patricia	Youngwood, PA	12/21/2021	0737
Romanowicz, Wendalyne	Erie, PA	05/20/2022	R019
Saley, Francis	West Palm Beach, FL	04/15/2022	0434
Sanford, Darlene M	East Vandergrift, PA	05/26/2022	L105
Scheese, Donald H	Elmer, NJ	01/29/2022	0774
Schweinsberg, Sally	New Brighton, PA	06/16/2022	0123
Shirley, Jettrude A	Indiana, PA	06/16/2022	0774
Shore, Stephen	Erie, PA	06/05/2022	0774
Siudak, Frank	Lublin, WI	05/14/2022	0774
Skinta, Kathryn	Coraopolis, PA	06/12/2022	L105
Smyksy, Catherine	Oakdale, PA	05/31/2022	0123
Speicher, David H	Frombell, PA	05/19/2022	0731
Stejbach, Nancy	North Providence, RI	05/28/2022	R019
Stroyen, Nina	Cherry Hill, NJ	04/23/2020	0617
Stupavsky, Mary A	Benwood, WV	03/07/2022	0774
Syplywchak, Verna	Monongahela, PA	03/13/2022	0377
Talpas, Gary	Canonsburg, PA	06/09/2022	0588
Timko, Joan	Pittsburgh, PA	02/14/2021	0100
Typinski, James	Gaylord, MI	03/13/2022	0381
Whitehead, JoAnn	Washington, PA	06/09/2022	0434
Whitmore, Keith	Duquesne, PA	06/08/2022	0108
Winkler, Theresa	Fleming Island, FL	10/30/2021	0813
Zelazny, Jr., John	Venice, FL	01/08/2022	0800
Zwar, James	Byron Center, MI	06/02/2022	0381

## Pickled Watermelon

### Ingredients

- 9 cups water
- 1/2 cup salt
- 11 cups watermelon pieces (cut from rind, seeded, and cut into 1-inch cubes)
- 2-1/2 cups white vinegar
- 5 cups sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

### Instructions

In a large bowl, stir the water and salt together. Add the watermelon and let stand overnight. Drain the watermelon, rinse, and drain again. In a large saucepan, combine the vinegar, sugar, cinnamon stick, ginger, and lemon juice. Bring to a boil and add the watermelon. Return to a boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Remove the cinnamon stick. Loosely pack the watermelon into jars. Return the syrup to a boil and boil for 30 minutes. Pour over the fruit in the jars and seal. Process in a boiling-water bath for 15 minutes.

## Zucchini Bread

Although there are many zucchini bread recipes around, this one might just be our favorite! It's easy and fast and freezes well.

### Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups unpeeled, coarsely grated zucchini
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease two 9x5x3-inch loaf pans. In a large bowl, beat the eggs until light and fluffy. Add the sugar, oil, zucchini, and vanilla extract, and mix lightly but until well blended.
2. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, salt, baking powder, baking



soda, and cinnamon, and mix well. Stir the flour mixture into the egg-zucchini mixture, stirring until well blended. Fold in the nuts.

3. Divide the batter evenly between the two pans and bake for 1 hour, or until a knife or toothpick inserted in the middle of one of the loaves comes out clean.

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## ASSEMBLY 0004 Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **August 21, 2022** at Sonia Vorell's residence, 18088 Boston Road, Strongsville, Ohio at 2:00 pm.

**Sonia Vorell**  
Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

They kept coming and coming and coming! Over forty members and friends came out to share in our "Summer Bar-B-Q" to celebrate "Old Glory" for Flag Day. We had to go out and buy more food!! What a wonderful fraternal event! Thanks to all that came.

Our delegation to the 38th NSS Quadrennial Convention enjoyed a great learning experience about the workings of the NSS and the warm fellowship and fraternalism of members. A report will be shared at our September meeting.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of Mary Bidish, Anthony J. Bucci, Jack Cramer, James E. Franks, and Donald Simpson. May they rest in the blessed arms of the resurrected Christ.

Our Region Five is holding a "Family Picnic" on Sunday, **August 21st** at the Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion #16 from 1:00-5:00 pm. The park is located just north of the intersection of Route 51 & Interstate 70 in Belle Vernon, PA. Free food, bingo, clowns, etc. Call the Home Office to register at 1-800-488-1890.

Parents and grandparents! The "NSS Youth Poetry Contest" deadline is August 15th. Encourage your children and grandchildren to sharpen their pencils and submit an entry. All rules are in the *National News*. Everyone receives a NSS t-shirt.

It is not too early to mark your calendars to attend the "10th Annual Septemberfest" at the Home Office on Saturday, **September 24th**. Festivities start at 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Great Slovak food, crafts, auction bas-

kets, Slovak dancers and much, much more. Come see the largest Slovak wood carving in the U.S.

Our "Remember Flight 93" third quarter assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, **September 11th** at 6:00 pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** we have changed the location for our meeting. We will now meet in the social room of the Bob Evans Restaurant on West Main Street. Mark your calendars!

Grab your cameras. Search your old photos. The "2022 NSS Photo Contest" is coming in October. Great prizes for youth and adults.

If you have any questions about what is going on in the NSS or our assembly, please call me at (724) 570-1301. See you at the Region 5 "Family Picnic" on **August 21st!**

**Paul Payerchin**  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## ASSEMBLY 070/C070 Brooklyn, OH

This is our first time together since COVID regulations were imposed.

Assembly 0070 and C70 will have a meeting and luncheon on **September 18, 2022** at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Rd., Brooklyn, Ohio after church at 11:00 am. Call John Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 if you plan to attend. We will be having chicken and will need to plan accordingly. Side dishes and dessert would be appreciated.

**John Karkosiak**  
Treasurer

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## ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Thru the month of August, our assembly is continuing to 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, PA at 1:00 pm. Please bring a food item for the table and a basket. 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.

Our Fraternal Holiday Get together will be held at the Bone Appetite sponsored by the SPCA at the Woodlands Inn, Route 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA on **November 6th, 2022**.

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

**Lehrae Ann Edwards**  
Treasurer

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## ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our annual summer picnic will be held at the Gross residence in New Tripoli, PA on **August 7th** at 2:00 pm.

Mark your calendars for our Halloween costume party at the Wesnak home, Whitehall, PA on **October 23rd** at 2:00 pm.

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

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Financial Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

As summer quickly slips away we reach the month of August named for the great Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus. August is also the last month to get away for a vacation with the family and the month to do back to school shopping. Make it an enjoyable month for yourself.

One thing you can do to make it enjoyable is to attend the Region 5 picnic which will be held Sunday afternoon, **August 21st** at Cedar Creek County Park in Rostraver, Westmoreland County. It is a beautiful park with lots of good food and friendly people. There are ample recreational facilities or you can enjoy bingo in the pavilion. This is free to all Region 5 (which includes our assembly 123) members. Please bring a guest if you think they may have interest in becoming a member of NSS.

I just returned from the NSS Quadrennial convention in Hershey PA. It was well organized and ran smoothly. For me it was both enjoyable and informative. The speakers emphasized that NSS is well run and financially strong. Your money is safe and secure. The key



note speaker pointed out that NSS, like other fraternal organizations, do so much more than other insurance companies. We have a charitable and social side which also sets us apart.

It was a pleasure meeting Stanley and Kathleen Nych (of our assembly) and Justin McGregor and family. They live a little distance from our home base in Coraopolis but they proved to be attentive and valuable delegates. Also I got to see Carol & Joe Casciato who are in assembly L161. They are the first two people I sold and made members when I first became an agent with NSS.

While at the convention I got a surprise and a great burden was put on me. One Heather Payerchin of the blue hair and several other delegates not of our assembly came up to me and told me they read my article every month and think it is worthwhile and they enjoy it and encouraged me to continue. Little did I know that anyone read these words. Heather I'll try my best.

At the convention a donation was made to a fund for homeless veterans in the Harrisburg area. At our last assembly meeting it was voted to donate \$250 to this effort.

Assembly 123 and I want to congratulate the two new board members elected at the convention; Keith Kuchera and Theresa Zemelman. They join the seven returning members to make up the Board of Directors. Congratulations to all, we wish you much success. Enjoy the rest of summer!

Mark your calendar for miniature golf on **September 10th** at the Neville Island Miniature Golf Course (by the Robert Morris Ice Complex) at 12:00 Noon. Assembly members are free and guests five dollars each. There will be pizza and drinks after golf. Please call if you would like to attend at 724-242-5085 or 412-264-7268

**William Knoll**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

A meeting will be held on **September 11, 2022** at 3:00 pm at Sesame Inn, McMurray, PA. Our annual Holiday party will be held on **December 4, 2022** at Hugo's Restaurant, Browns-

ville, PA at 3:00 pm.

**Suzanne Skrypak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

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 Pytel at 440-759-2148; Bill Shuttleworth at 440-465-6024; or Terri Hudak at 440-714-8902 for details.

**Shawn Pytel**  
Publicity & Social Media

## ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

A meeting will be held on **August 24th**, at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont at 4:30 pm. This is the last Czech-style restaurant in our area and is struggling to remain open and we like to meet there to have a meal and help our fellow Slavic people. Plans for our matching funds reachout, (many are being considered) and our Christmas get together will be decided. Decisions affecting our members from the Hershey convention are anticipated.

Our check for \$200 was sent as a Assembly 586 donation for the worthy cause of Veterans Homes.

Good luck to the newly elected board members. God bless them and our National Slovak Society. And always, bless America and our troops. our National Slovak Society. And always, bless America and our troops.

**Irene Tomaskovic**  
Vice President

## ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly recently met at Pierce Street Deli for a business meeting, followed by a luncheon social. The assembly addressed numerous programs and issues of concern to the assembly.

An important part of the meeting was the assembly's honoring John Ostrowski, an outstanding member of Assembly 617 who recently passed away with a memorial donation to the

Diocese of Cleveland's mission in El Salvador. The mission in El Salvador is led by John's son Father John Ostrowski.

Our assembly will hold the annual Fraternal Day at Knoebels Amusement Resort on **August 10, 2022** beginning at noon in Pavilion D. The assembly will provide ride tickets, hoagies, and bottled water to Assembly 617 members. Reservations can be made with John or Stephanie Kurilla at 570-287-4163, 570-239-5936 or email [jjkurilla@aol.com](mailto:jjkurilla@aol.com).

The annual Matching Funds Basket Raffle to raise funds for the assembly's long standing El Salvador mission project will be on display at the Fraternal Day and tickets will be available. Anyone wishing to donate a basket or gift for the project, please contact John or Stephanie Kurilla.

In other business the assembly co-sponsored the Bratislava Boys Choir from the Slovak Republic. The choir gave concerts in both Kingston, and Scranton. The Join Hands activity will be in October at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen. Assembly 617 made a donation to the upcoming national convention Youth Program. The assembly will take a survey of members at Fraternal Day to gauge interest in an early holiday get together. In October the assembly hopes to visit the Rev. Jozef Murgas (Slovak pioneer in radio) Room housed at King's College Wilkes Barre. Assembly 617 recently participated in several community, and fraternal events.

Assembly members attended the NSS convention held recently in Hershey and participated in the work of the convention. Members who represented Assembly 617 at the convention were, Marge and Bob Gushka, Gail Mangan, Edward and Andrea Ostrowski, and John and Stephanie Kurilla.

The Assembly also took part in the 144th Annual Commemorative Service of the Revolutionary War Battle of Wyoming which occurred on July 3, 1778. The Assembly joined with over fifty fraternal, military, civic organizations along with battle family decedents in presenting floral tributes in honor of those that fought and died at the battle.



Floral tributes placed at the battle monument.

**John Kurilla**  
President



## ASSEMBLY 0737 Westmoreland County, PA

A meeting will be held on **August 21, 2022** at Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion #16. This will be held one hour prior to the District 5 picnic.

Please be on time so we can have a brief meeting and enjoy the picnic afterwards.

**Carol Godor**  
Treasurer

## 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

## August Happenings

*"After Lammas Day, (August 1st) corn ripens as much by night as by day."*

- **August 1**, traditionally known as Lammas Day, was a festival to mark the annual wheat and corn harvest. Lammas also marked the mid-point between the summer solstice and autumn equinox, and was a cross-quarter day.
- **August 1** is a Civic Holiday in many parts of Canada. Celebrations and names for this holiday vary across the country. For example, in Alberta, it's celebrated as Heritage Day, while in British Columbia, it's known as British Columbia Day!
- **August 10th** is St. Lawrence's Day. "Fair weather on St. Lawrence's Day presages a fair autumn."
- **August 11th** marks the end of the Dog Days of Summer, which began on July 3.
- **August 17th** is when the Cat Nights begin, harking back to a rather obscure Irish legend concerning witches; this has also led to the idea that a cat has nine lives.
- **August 19th** brings National Aviation Day, chosen for the birthday of Orville Wright who piloted the first recorded flight of a powered heavier-than-air machine in 1903.
- **August 24th** is St. Bartholomew Day. "At St. Bartholomew, there

comes cold dew."

- **August 26th** is Women's Equality Day, which celebrates the 1920 ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment and, with it, women's right to vote in the United States.

## Assembly 0070 Matching Funds



L-R: Officers of Assembly 0070, John Karkosiak, Treasurer; and Sarah Blaine, President. Council President for Dr. Martin Luther Church accepting check is Garth Moore; and Pastor Erik Markovich, Pastor of Dr. Martin Luther Church.

Assembly 0070 Officers presenting a matching funds check from the Easter Kolbassi Sale that was made this year.

## Follow the School Bus Laws!



## Assembly L102 Activities



Youth members had another successful Easter egg hunt.



Join Hands Day at the Butztown post office. Members helped unload the trucks of food to be distributed to local food banks.



Assembly L102 members had a blast at the Iron Pigs baseball game. The kids and adults loved the fireworks after the game.

## Slovak Festival, Sterling Heights, Michigan

The 32nd annual Parish Slovak Festival will be held Saturday & Sunday, August 27 & August 28, at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan (about 25 miles northeast of Detroit).

Join us as we celebrate our Slovak heritage with ethnic food, imported beer & liquor, a Slovak Heritage Room, and live entertainment including Slovak folk dancers. There is fun for the entire family with an active Children's Area for all ages. Plus a parish festival raffle with a top prize of \$5,000. Holy Mass in Slovak at 11:30 am on Sunday. (Note: Mass is celebrated in Slovak each Sunday at 11:30 am)

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314. For more information on the festival please call 586-726-6911 or go to [www.saintcyriils.church](http://www.saintcyriils.church)



Region 5

Sunday, August 21, 2022



Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion # 16

1 — 5 p.m.



- FREE!
- FOOD
- AUCTION BASKETS



By "Giggles the Clown"

Call Linda Strom at the Home Office to Register: 1-800-488-1890

Deadline for registration Monday, August 8, 2022

SEPTEMBERFEST 2022

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Presented by the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum

11 AM—4 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



This year will mark our 10th annual event at the museum. We would like to have as many of our Assemblies and Regions be involved in helping to make this year's event another successful experience. We are looking to provide more entertainment for EVERYONE. As always we need many volunteers to help in various ways throughout the day. **If you know a vendor or crafter who would like to participate or demonstrate their craft for the day please contact:**

**sue.ondrejco@gmail.com** for more information. **Space is limited.**

Here are some other ways you and/or your Assembly can help: Donate homemade baked goods  
Volunteer an hour or two \*\*\* Publicize the event at your meetings &/or local papers

OR

**Be a Sponsor Gold \$250 ... Silver \$100... Bronze \$50**

Checks should be made payable and mailed to: **NSSHM .. 234 ILION St. Pgh., PA 15207.**  
By participating as a volunteer OR as a sponsor your assembly will earn fraternal tracking points.



# August



**Ej leto leto, leto horúce  
páslo dievčatko volky na líce  
jak vola tak kriči  
kto mi moje štyri volky navraci.**

## “Septemberfest 2022” v Našom NSS Múzeu

Viete, že naša organizácia NSS—otvorila svoje Národné múzeum v čom máme krásne kroje úkážky zručnosti nášho pracovitého ľudu, knihy, časopisy, a tiež i hystóriu našej organizácie—počiatkom myšlienky zakladateľov Narodného Spolku (rovnoprávnosť a samosprávu nášmu Slovenskému národu) a celý pokrok za vyše 130 rokov existencie ba aj splnenie cieľa zakladateľov. Veríme, že i vy sa pridete pozrieť do nášho múzea a možno prinesiete ideu ale aj vzácnu slovensku vec na displej pre múzeum.

A čo viac pozývame Vás na septembroví festival čo bude na 24 septembra tu v našou múzeu. V múzeu sa budete môcť pokochať aj “**krásnemu rezbárenskému dielu**” ktoré má vyše 80 mechanických pohybov.

Ozaj krása, a hrdosť nášmu múzeu.

Počas septembrového festivalu sa bude podávať i jedlo ako haluški, palačinky, pyrohy atď. Tiež pre prítomných bude i zábava slovenským folklórom—tancem a spevom, a možno poniektorý z Vás si zakúpi i suveníri. **Vstupné zdarma.**

Rezervujte si dátum a dovidenia na 24 septembra.

## Lipový kvet

Na Slovensku ľudia oddávna uctievali lipu ako strom slovanskej vzájomnosti, priateľstva. Lipa je strom lásky. Možno práve preto ľudia odvodili symbol srdca z tvaru lipového listu.



Poznámka: Ak zozbierate lipový kvet hneď po odkvitnutí a necháte ho vysušiť na slnku môžete z neho uvariť výborný chutný čaj.

## Pranostiky na mesiac august :

Keď je v prvom augustovom týždni teplo , bude biela zima.

Suchý august - suché víno , mokrý august - vodnaté víno.

Čo august nedopečie , to september nedovarí.

Aký je august posledný deň, taká má byť celá jeseň.



## O Našej 38 Konvencii

Ďakujeme všetkým delegátom ktorý sa zúčastnili na 38 Konvencii NSS v Hershey, Pennsylvania. Veríme, že všetci ste mali dobrú pohodu a stretnutie sa s bratmi a sestrami našej organizácie.

Ďakujeme za znovuzvolenie Direktorov: Robert Katricak, Ondrej Wesnak, Zuzka Ondrejco, Andrea Garbon, Michal Czarney, Abigail Gross, Lauren Fox a novozvolený Tereza Zemelman a Keith Kucherawy.

Tentokrát mali sme i stretnutie mladej generácie z ktorých dúfame, že raz sa stanú lídrami našej organizácie.

Ďakujeme aj tým ktorý kandidovali a mali snahu a im to nevyšlo— azda na budúce.

Nech naše Motto: **Bratstvo, Rovnosť, Sloboda** panuje v našich srdciach aby sme spoločne kráčali vpred a robili dobro pre ľudsku spoločnosť.

## NSS Region 5 výročity výlet

Pozývame našich členov Regionu 5 na výročity výlet (piknik) na 21 augusta. Výlet-piknik bude v cedar creek park pavilion 16 začiatkom od 1 pm poobede.



Prosíme ohláste sa u Linda Strom v hlavnom úrade že koľky pridete aby sa organizujúca skupina mohla dobre pripraviť. 1-800-488-1890

## Stare pravdi zo Zemplina

Čhto probuje, ňebanuje.

Jaki človek? Taka bešeda.

Z krasnej misky še nenaješ.

Obecunka šaľenomiu radosc.



**Krojované bábätká —vzácný pohľad!**



## 2022 Youth Art Contest Winners



**Ryan Tompkins - Assembly C441**  
1st Place Picasso Level



**Jacob Ohana - Assembly C004**  
2nd Place Picasso Level



**Mariah Cherevka - Assembly C108**  
3rd Place Picasso Level



**Timothy Jaster - Assembly C381**  
1st Place Rembrandt Level



**Stephen Jaster - Assembly C381**  
2nd Place Rembrandt Level



**Christian Cole - Assembly C774**  
3rd Place Rembrandt Level



**Tanner James Hamilton - Assembly C731**  
1st Place Michelangelo Level



**Zach Martini - Assembly C731**  
2nd Place Michelangelo Level



**Gweneth King - Assembly C731**  
3rd Place Michelangelo Level



**Addison Draa - Assembly C731**  
1st Place Van Gogh Level



**Jacob Ostrowski - Assembly C617**  
2nd Place Van Gogh Level



**Emily Paquet - Assembly C588**  
3rd Place Van Gogh Level





# 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:

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

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

## 2022 NSS PHOTO CONTEST

**Deadline: October 31, 2022**

### Contest Eligibility:

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

### Deadline:

**October 31st** is the deadline for all entries to be received. Judging is done by an outside professional. Please mail to: National Slovak Society, Fraternal Activities Coordinator, 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317-3337

### Contest Rules:

- Must be a member before October 1st
- One entry per category
- Any size photo up to 8 x 10, unmounted in black and white or color  
(No touch-up or computer enhanced photos permitted)
- Name and address should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper, along with information where the photo was taken. **Do not write on your photo!**

### Four Categories

Scenic	Patriotic
Animals	NSS Convention

### Prize List

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

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



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

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