



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | OCTOBER 2022 | NUMBER 3570 | VOLUME 114

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



2022 Photo Contest
See Page 27 for Rules



NSS Heritage Museum's
Christmas Around the World
See Page 5 for Details



2022 Christmas Ornament
Contest
See Page 27 for Rules



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 Page 6

NSS Financial Matters

Annuity Interest Rates..... 8

NSS Sales Department

Recommender/Change of Address Form 2
National Sales Director..... 9

NSS News & Activities

Christmas Around the World..... 5
Assembly/Region Awards..... 6
Region 5 Picnic Photos..... 7
Fraternal Activities Director..... 10
Convention PVR Donations..... 10
PVR Scholarship Donations 11
Departed Members..... 11-12
Fall Youth Magazine..... 13-16
Recipes 17
Assembly Meetings..... 18-19
Assembly Activities..... 20-22
PVR Thank You's..... 21
Poetry Contest Winners..... 24-26
Photo Contest Rules..... 27
Ornament Contest Rules..... 27

Národné Noviny

Slovensky Festival pri Univerzite Pittsburg 23
Jablko - symbol večného zdravia 23
Zabíjačková večera v Slovenskej
záhrade vo Winter Park, FL..... 23

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

October 19
October 22
November 6

Assembly 0617, Meeting, Grotta Pizza, Edwardsville, PA (TBA)
Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly L075, SPCA Bone Appetite Fund Raiser, Woodlands Inn, Wilkes Barre, PA (TBA)

REGION 5

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

October 2
October 9
October 22
October 23
November 5
November 6
November 7
November 26
December 4
December 4
December 11
December 17

Region 5, Meeting, Home Office, McMurray, PA at 1:00 pm
Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance, Westwood Golf Course, West Mifflin, PA at 4:30 pm
Assembly 0123, Tour of St. Nicholas, Millvale, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm at 4:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Making Christmas Ornaments, Burns residence, Poland, OH
Annual Slovak Festival at Pitt University, Oakland, PA at 12:00 pm
Assembly 0588, Meeting at Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA (TBA)
Christmas Around the World at NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA (TBA)
Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbian Association Hall (K of C) at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Christmas Luncheon, Rockefeller's Grill, McKees Rocks, PA at 1:30 pm
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center Rotary Room, Boardman Park, OH

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

October 19

Region 8, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, OH at 7:00 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

October 15
October 16
October 23
November 20
December 24

Assembly 0813, Matching Funds project, Thirsty Pig, Dothan, AL (TBA)
Assembly 0554, Meeting, Stricek's residence, DuBois, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0586, Get Together, Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook, IL (TBA)
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 hot daytime temperatures and humid nights of August and September give way to seasonable days and cool nights as the month of October arrives. Nature gives us one last reminder of its beauty as the leaves turn colors before falling and leaving the trees barren for the winter season. The month of October brings us the Columbus Day holiday on October 10th and Halloween on October 31st. NSS has Halloween Treat Bags available for assemblies to distribute to their Circle members. Please contact Pam Blum by email (pblum@nsslife.org) at the home office to request the treat bags for your assembly.

During the month of October, the Executive Officers and Directors of the National Slovak Society participate in the Annual Meetings of the various state fraternal alliances. The New Jersey/New York Fraternal Alliance will hold its Annual Meeting on October 6th in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Ohio Fraternal Alliance will hold its meeting on October 15th in Independence, Ohio. The Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance will hold its meeting October 16th-18th in Hershey, Pennsylvania. State fraternal alliances are trade organizations supporting the work of fraternal benefit societies such as the NSS. The Annual Meetings are focused on providing the attendees with recent information on state and Federal regulations, insurance department and NAIC announcements, investment opportunities, and a chance to network and share ideas with fellow fraternalists. Currently NSS Executive Officers, Directors, and Home Office Staff Managers serve in leadership positions with the following fraternal

Alliances. NSS Honorary Officer Justine Wesnak serves the NJ/NY Fraternal Alliance as a Nominating Committee Member, and this writer serves as the Second Vice-President. NSS Director Michael Czarney serves as the President of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance and Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak serves as the Treasurer. NSS National Sales Director Greg Felton serves as the President of the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance, Director Sue Ondrejco serves as a Director of the PFA, and NSS Compliance and Risk Manager John Payerchin also serves as a Director of the PFA. The leadership abilities of our Executive Officers, Directors, and Home Office Managers are not only evident and recognized through the NSS but also by the delegates of the various fraternal alliances in electing them to leadership positions. Congratulations to all and thank you for serving on the State Fraternal Alliance Boards.

The September issue of the *National News* contained a summary of the financial results of the Society's second quarter. The first two quarters of 2022 are the two most successful quarters in the Society's 132-year history! Net Admitted Assets increased to \$1,730,903,599. Net Income was \$10,419,456. Surplus increased by \$7,782,502 to a total of \$88,724,314. To put these two quarters in perspective, when compared to the entire year of 2021, which was an outstanding financial year for the NSS, Net Income for 2021 was \$11,649,196. NSS is approaching that total in the first two quarters of 2022! The Board of Directors continues to follow our Strategic Business Plan and is focused on building membership and surplus. Surplus is the safety margin for our members money. For every dollar, a member currently has invested in the NSS, the NSS has \$105.40 to fund that liability. The goal of the NSS has been to provide protection for our member's money while offering competitive rates on our annuity products. At the recent Summer Board Meeting, the Board of Directors raised the crediting rate for our currently available annuity products effective September 1st. The new rates not only affect new business being written on these products but also applies to the same products members currently hold with the NSS. The new rates for our annuity

products appear elsewhere in this issue of the *National News*.

Nationwide, supply chain issues have affected businesses and individuals. Surely, a Society that sells life insurance and annuities would not be impacted by these issues! The NSS has not been immune! Technology supply issues continue to be a problem as orders for technology equipment and supplies are often delayed or cannot be filled as ordered. Another facet of the NSS facing supply chain issues is the printing of our publications. Since the beginning of the year, our printer has experienced a shortage of the type of paper on which we print our monthly *National News*. This is a nationwide paper shortage! Early this Spring, we were not sure we were going to be able to print an issue due to the lack of the type of paper needed. Luckily, paper was found from a paper distributor in Michigan! The amount of paper available each month barely meets the amount needed to print the monthly issue. This has also impacted the printing of the Annual Year In Review publication. The amount of paper needed to print both a monthly issue of the *National News* and the *Annual Year in Review* has not been available. We recently received word from our printer that paper for the *Annual Year in Review* was obtained and the publication will be printed after a delay since the Spring of 2022.

Congratulations to the 43 PVR First Year Scholarship recipients whose photos appeared in the September issue of the *National News*. Good luck as you begin your collegiate careers this fall!

A reminder that the deadline for all NSS photographers to submit an entry for the Annual Photography Contest is October 31st! The categories for this year's Photography Contest include Scenic, Animals, Patriotic, and NSS Convention. Please follow the rules published in the *National News* and enter your photographs by the deadline and your assembly will receive points toward the Active Assembly Awards Program.

Region #5 of Pittsburgh held its annual picnic on August 21, 2022, at Cedar Creek County Park. The event was a great success with 104 Region 5 members in attendance. Attendees were treated to a delicious luncheon, bingo games, cornhole competition,

Giggles the Clown balloon art, sack races, and a basket raffle benefiting the PVR Scholarship Fund. The basket raffle raised a total of \$966 with the addition of the Matching Funds program to support the PVR Fund. Thank you to all that attended, those that helped prepare prior to the picnic and throughout the day, and to individuals and assemblies that donated baskets to support the raffle. Region 5 presented a bouquet of flowers and a gift to Region 5 Auditors Carol Godor and Mary Lou Chojnicki on the occasion of their recent birthdays.

News of Narodniars

We were saddened to hear the shocking news that Joanne Medved, Assembly 0381 passed away suddenly on September 12th. Joann is the mother of former Director Brian Medved. Joann and Brian attended our last convention in Hershey, PA. Further news will be in the *National News* next month. Our deepest sympathy to her husband Marti and son Brian.

Special Happy Birthday wishes go out to my grandson Carson Bernardo as he enters the teenage years! Also, to Honorary Director Tony Beno, Home Office Staff members Joe Elliott, Riley Partyka, and Rick Toth and to Alexa Triebisch, Jessica Dvorsak, John Dvorsak, George Batyko, Bob Kapp, Nicole Kearney, and Irene Tomaskovic. Happy Birthday to all others celebrating a birthday in October.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Honorary Director Ed Koches and wife Carol, Honorary Director Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. and wife Susan, Barb and Todd Wilcock, and Melinda and Keith Chojnicki. Best wishes to all other celebrating an anniversary this month.

Donate to the NSS Heritage Museum with Every Amazon Purchase!



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

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

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

N.S.S. Heritage Museum Presents ...

Christmas
Around the World

Saturday, November 26th, 2022



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

FREE ADMISSION - FAMILY FUN

National Slovak Society
Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Road
McMurray, PA 15317

For information call: 1-800-488-1890

 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

A Page From My Notebook...

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



Slovak Passports Still Among the Ten Strongest

The Slovak passport remains among the strongest in the world based on the latest international ranking. Slovak passport holders are able to travel without a visa to 182 countries. Altogether, another 29 countries scored similar points, placing in the top ten in the latest edition of the Henley Passport Index. This is an original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa, based on data from the International Air Transportation Association (IATA).

Last year, Slovakia made changes to its citizenship legislation, removing some restrictions from access to a Slovak passport. Descendants of Slovaks living abroad have been pushing to remove the residency requirement from the law, the main obstacle they now see in their access to Slovak citizenship. One change is that people who accepted citizenship of another country can keep their Slovak one, if they fulfill the condition of residence in that country at least five years prior to obtaining citizenship. But the law also makes it easier for people who descended from Slovak ancestors to gain citizenship.

Descendants of people who emigrated from Slovakia or Czechoslovakia in the last country spoke up against the requirement of legal residence in Slovakia when they requested Slovak citizenship.

Congratulations to NSS Assemblies and Regions

Our Assemblies and Regions are awesome! I have just finalized the 2021 Tracking report and you all have outdone yourselves once more. If you recall Fraternal Tracking is used to track all the events, both fraternal and community based. Via a calculation, points are assigned to each activity submitted to my office. All activity points are accumulated and, according to the rules of Fraternal Tracking and the Board of Directors, are awarded the Diamond, Platinum, or Silver 'Extra Effort' award. These awards are earned by assemblies that go above and beyond for their members and their communities and awards them additional funding. This funding is over and above the Fraternal Allowance allocated each year to each Assembly and Region to provide funding for their activities.

The following are the Assemblies that have achieved a 2022 Diamond, Platinum, or Silver award:

DIAMOND AWARDS

PLATINUM AWARDS

SILVER AWARDS

ASSEMBLY	NAME	ASSEMBLY	NAME	ASSEMBLY	NAME
L075	Duryea, PA	0039	Uniontown, PA	0108	Homestead, PA
L102	Schnecksville, PA	0123	Coraopolis, PA	0586	Chicago, IL
0160	Lorain, OH	0774	McMurray, PA		
L161	Pittsburgh, PA				
0588	Avella, PA				
0617	Ashley, PA				
0731	Lowellville, OH				

The Fraternal Tracking information gathered for 2021 shows an increase in fraternal acts and funds raised. This is a credit to those leaders who kept their assemblies and regions going providing activities for their members, support for those in need and events that bring their members and communities together. The Green AFA Activity report that is sent into my office at year end shows that in 2021 our assemblies and regions alone spent \$112,493 in community service and fraternal events. Thank you and Congratulations.

The Youth Funfest, which was organized so that our youth would also have a place to learn and have fun. In attendance were 30 of our youth who were introduced to their Slovak Heritage, learned what it means to volunteer and help those less fortunate and how to have fun and make new friends. Let us know if your Funfest Youth member enjoyed their time in FunFest, what they liked the best and do THEY have any ideas for another Funfest. You can email me at: lstrom@nsslife.com and we will include their comments in a future issue of the Youth Section in the NSS Magazine.

In closing I want to extend my condolences to the family of Joanne Medved, Assembly 0381, Grosse Il, MI, who unexpectedly passed away on Monday, September 12th. Marti, Brian and family, you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Region 5 Picnic



Members arriving to picnic pavilion



Youth members swinging on swing sets



Members playing a game of Cornhole



Members awaiting the ticket selection of the Chinese Auction



Giggles the Clown providing entertainment



Dinner is served!



Snacks provided by attendees for all to eat



Laurie Fox calling Bingo numbers



Birthday Girls: Carol Godor & Mary Lou Chojnicki



Youth and Adult members running the sack race



Youth winner of sack race

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective September 1, 2022 ★

Optimum 3 2.25%

Preferred 5 3.25%

Preferred 8 4.00%

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

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

- * Tax Advantages
- * Competitive Interest Rates

From the Sales Department...

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



Fortitude

What do all of these people have in common? Read the list below and take a guess.

In Business:

Frank Buhl, Mark Cuban, Henry Clay Frick, Joe Hardy, Charles Hall, H.J. Heinz, James Laughlin, Richard Mellon, Willard Rockwell, Charles Schwab, B.F. Skinner, George Westinghouse, Edgar Thompson.

In the Entertainment industry:

Marty Allen, Christine Aguilera, Jimmy Stewart, Charles Bronson, Rege Cordic, Michael Keaton, Charles Grodin, Sharon Stone, Bobby Vinton, Shirley Jones, Scott Glenn, Frances McDormand, Brent Michaels, Barbara Feldon, Frank Gorshin, George Romero, Perry Como, Jeff Goldblum, Gene Kelly, Henry Mancini, Tommy Dorsey, Julie Benz, Joe Manganiello, Fred Rogers, Zachary Quinto, and Andy Warhol.

In Sports:

Kurt Angle, Dan Marino, Joe Montana, Aaron Donald, Russ Grim, Mike Ditka, Honus Wagner, Bill Cowher, Joe Namath, Ty Law, Tony Dorsett, Jim Kelly, Arnold Palmer, Stan Musial, Ken Griffey, Jr., Art Rooney, and Bruno Sammartino.

Believe it or not all of these people were born in western PA. This story is not about the area as much as it is about our heritage. This list of impressive people didn't get their brain power, work ethic, ingenuity or athletic ability from the three rivers. Nor from the smokestacks of all the mills, or dust from the mines, that once dominated the area.

Most of these people grew up

around fathers that worked in mines or mills. Their mothers probably filled in the roles when the wars started. Otherwise, most moms stayed home and raised children. Although during war time most men and many women served in the armed forces.

This was a different era and life was hard. People worked long hours, had a garden and made just enough money to make ends meet. Immigrants at the time made a trip to a new land, not knowing anyone in order to make a new and better life. They thought the streets were paved with gold and were surprised that they were not.

However, these stories are not just from Pittsburgh. This is the story from every town across this great country. We could make a list of people from Cleveland, Chicago, California or Florida. What lesson did these youngsters learn? That hard work, saving your money and believing in yourself were keys to the future. These traits are still at work today. NSS can help you with one of these traits – saving money. Call your local NSS representative, or Joe Elliott in the home office for more information.

Life Insurance and Charitable Giving

Life insurance is a huge asset class in the U.S. There is more than \$20 trillion dollars of death benefits that will be paid out someday. Roughly \$66,000 for every person in the country. Even with this large amount, Americans are still under insured by an estimated \$12 trillion.

Here are a few ideas about charitable giving. First, is a person interested in making a donation to their favorite charity. Next, would they like to use a new or existing life insurance policy to accomplish this task. Would they like to make a significant lump sum donation someday?

Here is a list of ways life insurance could figure into your charitable giving plans:

- Buy a new policy and make the charity the owner and beneficiary.
- Give a current policy to the charity by making them the owner and beneficiary.
- Use a paid-up life insurance policy for the donation. Using these ideas a person can make periodic pay-

ments to a plan to someday replace all of the money that they have been giving to charity on a systematic basis. Lump sum donations are a possibility too.

This article only briefly touches on life insurance and giving. What about our assets; stocks, bonds, property, etc. Anything is possible!

Electronic Application Tool

The NSS is excited to announce the upcoming implementation of an Electronic Application tool that will transform the way our member Agents do business. The e-App assures that Annuity and Life Insurance applications are submitted "In Good Order" which means policies are issued much faster, thus providing critical coverage and peace of mind to our members.

This is just step one in The NSS Life journey of Digital Transformation to focus on our members and be easier to do business with.

Thought For The Month:

Live every moment as though you are late for the last train.

*Colson Whitehead, writer
(1965 – present)*



Fraternal Matters...

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



Happy Halloween!!!

Upcoming Contests

Hurry...there is still time to submit a photo for the NSS Annual Photography contest. It is open to all members regardless of age. However, photos must be taken by the member submitting it. The deadline for submissions is October 31st.

Now is the time to start thinking and making your Christmas Ornament. Get out your glue guns and glitter and create a winning ornament today!!! The deadline for the contest is December 1st.



PVR Donations from 38th Convention

Anden, Carol	\$100.00	In memory of grandchildren recipients
Anonymous	\$20.00	
Assembly 0381	\$500.00	In memory of all deceased members
Assembly 0554	\$225.00	
Assembly 0588	\$200.00	In memory of all deceased members of Assembly 0588
Assembly L075	\$100.00	In memory of Margaret Pilosi and all deceased members of Assembly L075
Assembly L161	\$1,000.00	In honor of past President Mike Lako, Jr. & In memory of all deceased members Assembly L161
Blazek, David	\$100.00	In honor of our parents
Blum, Pam	\$100.00	In memory of Greg Blum
Burns, Alan	\$100.00	In memory of Dean and Nancy Burns
Czarney, Mike	\$100.00	In honor of my mother
DeSanctis, Richard	\$100.00	In honor of parents
Garbon, Steven	\$200.00	
Godor, Carol	\$1,000.00	In memory of Paul Sr., Paul Jr., and Keith Godor
Gross, Abigail	\$100.00	In honor of grandparents
Grover, Jill	\$200.00	In memory of Peter Longstreth & Kyle Ghaly
Katricak, John P	\$100.00	
Katricak, Robert F	\$100.00	
Knoll, William	\$50.00	
Kucherawy, Keith	\$100.00	In memory of parents Albert & Charmaine Kucherawy
Medved, Joanne	\$500.00	In memory of Rose and Martin Medved
Miller, Louella	\$25.00	
Orban, Karen	\$100.00	
Payerchin, Jr., Paul	\$25.00	
Payerchin, John	\$100.00	
Pilosi, Guy	\$145.75	
PVR Basket Raffle	\$3,660.00	
Region 2	\$125.00	In memory of Rose Mary Strish
Region 5	\$500.00	In honor of all members of Region 5
Sacchetti, Lucille	\$25.00	
Stefka, Annette	\$100.00	In memory of Joseph & Kathryn Stefka, John & Eleanor Dvorsak, David Stefka & Debbie Schwab
Stricek, Jim	\$10.00	
Toth, Richard	\$100.00	
Wesnak, Andrew	\$50.00	
Wesnak, Justine	\$100.00	In honor of husband Bucky Wesnak
Wesnak, Michael	\$20.00	In honor of Bucky Wesnak
Wesnak, Sharon	\$200.00	
Wesnak, William	\$125.00	In honor of Bill & Rita Wesnak; Andrew "Bucky" Wesnak uncle; Shauna Harrington Mita - niece
Wilson Jr, James F	\$100.00	
Zemelman, Theresa	\$500.00	In memory of Michael Lako from Susie & Annie Ondrejco, Gina Montalbano & Theresa Zemelman
Total PVR Donations	\$7,345.75	Thank you to all who graciously donated to funding future PVR scholarships



*Life insurance—
an easy decision*

Life Happens.™

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND



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 August 2022

In Memory of Nancy Walentik:	
From John Karkosiak	20.00
In Memory of Verda Barron:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Patricia Carben:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Ernest Kropf:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Roberta Leslie:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Charles McCormick:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Linda Poliak:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Edward Robinson:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Sally Schweinsberg:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Catherine Smyksy:	
From Assembly 123	20.00
In Memory of Randall Reuff:	
From Assembly 070	20.00
In Memory of Fred Olszowka:	
From Assembly 0586	100.00
In Memory of Joseph & Elizabeth Resovsky:	
From McEvoy Family	25.00
In Memory of our son and brother Shaun Logan Crowley:	
From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr., & John Crowley	20.00
Donations:	
H2R	5,800.00
George Sirakos	10.00
Tom & Linda Ritter	20.00

DEPARTED MEMBERS JULY, 2022

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Albrecht, Eugene	Reading, PA	04/27/2020	L102
Allen, Dudley	Springport, MI	05/17/2022	0381
Anderson, Donald V	Indiana, PA	08/15/2022	L105
Anderson, Thomas M	Pittsburgh, PA	05/22/2022	0434
Ashbrook, Dorothy J	Wheeling, WV	07/22/2022	0108
Asbury, Elizabeth	Oak Hill, WV	08/01/2022	0774
Basham, Ardythe	Meadville, PA	08/09/2022	0731
Battitori, Richard	Brockport, PA	08/19/2022	0554
Beachly, Grace	Uniontown, PA	07/03/2022	0039
Bell, Linda	Springdale, PA	07/05/2022	L105
Bender, Thomas	Ambridge, PA	07/14/2022	0123
Bennett, Gilbert	Hinton, WV	06/26/2022	0774
Bentley, Barbara	Mars, PA	07/14/2022	L161
Berin, Ada	West Hartford, CT	07/28/2022	0028
Blasco, James	Pittsburgh, PA	08/03/2022	0100
Branas, Joseph	Somerset, PA	06/22/2022	0737
Broderick, Elizabeth	Verona, PA	07/28/2022	L105
Buffo, Mary	Whitehall, PA	07/01/2022	0434
Bull, Leslie	Aliquippa, PA	06/07/2021	0123
Buzalka, Charles	Perryopolis, PA	08/08/2022	0774
Byrd, Mary	Martinsburg, WV	06/23/2022	0774
Canzano, Gloria	New Alexandria, PA	08/07/2022	0588
Carr, Kevin	Washington, PA	08/03/2022	0588
Chura, Richard	Indiana, PA	05/02/2019	0774
Cichowicz, Ann	Gibsonia, PA	06/28/2022	0774
Clark, John W	Connellsville, PA	07/18/2022	0039
Coleman, Mary	Monessen, PA	08/09/2022	0774
Collins, David	Switzer, WV	02/06/2022	0774
Cook, James	Pottsville, PA	07/19/2022	0774
Coratto, Rose	Industry, PA	11/04/2021	L161
D'Antonio, Richard J	Bentleyville, PA	08/08/2022	0377
Daykon, Bennett	Jeannette, PA	08/18/2022	0737
Deeter, Freida	Marion Center, PA	07/31/2022	0554
DeSalle, Tamara L	Baden, PA	01/08/2022	0123
DimattEo, Ralph	Pittsburgh, PA	09/21/2021	0100
Dimon, Andrea	Madison, PA	08/09/2022	0737
Dobos, Beverly	Poland, OH	07/28/2022	0731
Duffield, Artley	Gassaway, WV	07/04/2022	0774
Edman, Edith	Parkersburg, WV	10/08/2021	0774
Ehrman, Charles	Brackenridge, PA	07/07/2022	L105
Emery, Bonnie	Martinsburg, WV	05/03/2022	0774
Fine, Nancy	Eighty Four, PA	08/15/2022	0434
Fox, Harold N	Danville, PA	10/02/2021	0774
Foytick, Carol	Pittsburgh, PA	07/24/2022	0100
Gebhart, Barbara	Carlisle, PA	08/11/2022	0774
Grossett, Doreth	Sunrise, FL	05/01/2022	0813
Guigley, John	Mohnton, PA	08/04/2022	L102
Guinther, Carl	Bernville, PA	08/21/2022	0737
Gunderson, Jerry	Wausau, WI	04/10/2022	0774
Hall, Jean	Indianapolis, IN	01/30/2022	0705
Hall, Richard L	New Salem, PA	07/27/2022	0039
Herndon, Shirley	Garland, TX	05/19/2022	0774
Higgins, Dorothy	Warren, PA	07/28/2022	0554
Hilliard, Pauline	Hagerstown, MD	08/18/2022	0774
Hilty, John	Apollo, PA	08/02/2022	L105
Hixon, Tammy	New Geneva, PA	12/14/2021	0039
Hobday, Barbara	Bruceton, Mills, WV	07/03/2022	0774
Hollingsworth, Jr., Gordon	Longs, SC	08/01/2022	0774
Hursen, Thomas	Glenshaw, PA	08/19/2022	0123
Iskowitz, Richard	Wernersville, PA	08/10/2022	L102
Keller, Terrie	Penryn, PA	08/04/2022	L102

DEPARTED MEMBERS

JULY, 2022 (Continued from Page 11)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Kovacac, Ann	Aliquippa, PA	08/05/2022	0123
Kovalchik, Isabel	Byesville, OH	11/13/2021	0432
Kropf, Mercedes	Butler, PA	07/09/2022	0123
Lang, Michael J	Valencia, PA	06/24/2022	0100
Lathrop, Lorraine	Mattoon, IL	08/30/2021	0586
Levengood, Frances	Birdsboro, PA	08/25/2022	L102
Marino, Patricia	Evans, WV	02/06/2022	0774
McClelland, Barbara	N Ridgeville, OH	06/29/2022	0432
McCoy, Theodore	Lititz, PA	07/08/2022	L102
Messenger, Frances	Ripley, WV	07/27/2021	0774
Metrick, Lillian	Boca Raton, FL	06/25/2022	0800
Moody, Daryl	New Stanton, PA	08/05/2022	0377
Morris, Wade	ST Alban, WV	02/20/2022	0774
Mox, William	Wheeling, WV	07/26/2022	P38A
Nemergut, Paul	Bridgeport, CT	05/09/2022	0028
Nowicki, Edward	Heidelberg, PA	07/22/2022	L161
Nunn, Lahoma	Sod, WV	11/10/2021	0774
Painter, Edith	Birdsboro, PA	07/24/2022	L102
Pitonyak, Maxine	Erie, PA	07/25/2022	0554
Prall, Betty	West Newton, PA	08/14/2022	0737
Rakowski, Ronald	Erie, PA	08/22/2022	0774
Ramsdill, Virginia	Saginaw, MI	06/02/2022	0381
Ravey, Evelyn	Cheswick, PA	08/06/2022	0774
Recinos, Joel	San Gabriel, CA	12/27/2021	0568
Redmond, Edward	Gary, WV	03/19/2022	0774
Richard, Earlene	Clarksville, PA	08/03/2022	0774
Salafia, Joseph M	Middletown, CT	06/02/2022	L002
Schaut, John W	McKeesport, PA	08/06/2022	L161
Schubert, Ida	Warrington, PA	07/28/2022	R059
Seaholm, Robert	Vandergrift, PA	07/10/2022	L105
Shrontz, Zeta	Washington, PA	07/17/2022	0588
Sines, Mary	Mercer, PA	05/20/2022	0731
Sleppy, Ruth Ann	Erie, PA	07/29/2022	R019
Smakosz, Irma	New Brighton, PA	08/20/2022	0123
Smith, Martha J	Reading, PA	06/27/2022	L102
Snyder, Betty	Martinsburg, WV	06/21/2022	0774
Socie, John	Edinburg, PA	07/28/2022	0731
Soleau, Elizabeth	Orefield, PA	07/02/2022	0774
Stanley, Kenneth	Montville, OH	06/21/2022	0004
Stoudt, Nancy	Reading, PA	07/29/2022	0774
Stricker, Raymond	Charleston, WV	10/29/2022	0774
Swatt, Anthony	Trumbull, CT	07/16/2016	L002
Sweet, Elaine	Springdale, PA	08/25/2022	0588
Tarazano, Anna	Rochester, PA	08/05/2022	0123
Tauber, Margaret	White Oak, PA	06/29/2022	0108
Taylor, Frederick	Pulaski, PA	07/11/2022	0731
Terle, Edward	Pittsburgh, PA	07/30/2022	L161
Uram, Lynn	Eighty Four, PA	01/06/2022	0377
Vandermeer, Elaine	Bethel Park, PA	07/17/2022	0434
Vasques, Adolph	Monongahela, PA	07/26/2022	0377
Vazzana, Dolores	Pittsburgh, PA	01/05/2022	L161
Valla, Catherine	Charleroi, PA	08/19/2022	0377
Victor, Jr., Alfred	Hummelstown, PA	07/28/2022	L102
Volchko, Lena	Pittsburgh, PA	10/05/2021	0100
Way, Erika	Waterford, PA	08/11/2022	0774
Weiler, Faith	Warrington, PA	08/19/2022	0774
Willms, Richard	Waterford, WI	03/11/2022	0774
Wiwel, Anna	Springdale, PA	08/22/2022	L105
Wiwel, Richard	Springdale, PA	08/08/2022	L105
Zenk, Robert W	Glenshaw, PA	07/10/2022	0108

IN MEMORIAM



Fred Olszowka
August 7, 1937-July 24, 2022

On Sunday, July 24, 2022, our hearts were shattered. Our beloved Dad and Pa, Fred Olszowka, age 84 joined his high school sweetheart and wife, Lorraine (Kolanko) in heaven. They met while Laurie and her father were shopping for a Christmas tree where Fred worked. She always said that year was the ugliest tree because she couldn't take her eyes off of him. Loving father of Kathy (Tim) Hensley, Sue (Tim) Saffran, Therese (Archie) Prado, Janice Olszowka (Mike) and Tony Olszowka.

Devoted Pa to Lauren (Bill) Whims, Sarah (Alan) Salazar, Juan, Mateo, Belle, the late Alyssa, and the late Rachel Prado. Cherished Great-Pa to Kaelin Whims, Lucas Salazar, and Adelyn Whims. Dear brother to the late Ronald Olszowka and James Olszowka. Fond uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Fred cherished time with his family and he hosted many gatherings for holidays, birthdays, and get-togethers at his home both in Chicago and Orland Park.

Fred was a retired lather with Local 74-L. He spent his retirement tinkering with computers, various hobbies, and tasks around the house or watching Wheel of Fortune. He spent many years of service as an officer in the Slovak Catholic Sokol, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and National Slovak Society, Assembly 586 Sargent of Arms.

Fred was the patriarch of his family. He was our "go to" in all aspects from home repairs, financial questions, to family history. He could always be counted on and his presence will be greatly missed.





Autumn Word Search

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

See how many of these autumn related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Autumn | 5. Raking | 9. Gourds | 13. Corn |
| 2. Fall | 6. Harvest | 10. Football | 14. Maize |
| 3. Leaves | 7. Pumpkins | 11. Season | 15. Yellow |
| 4. Colors | 8. Apples | 12. Scarecrow | 16. Orange |

What is the Fall season?

Fall, also known as “autumn” in other parts of the world, is one of the four seasons in the Northern Hemisphere. It falls between summer and winter. During this season, the temperatures gradually grow cooler, causing striking changes in the natural world, such as the falling of leaves.

Depending on how far north of the Equator you live, fall can also bring shorter days and longer nights. The sun rises later and sets earlier.

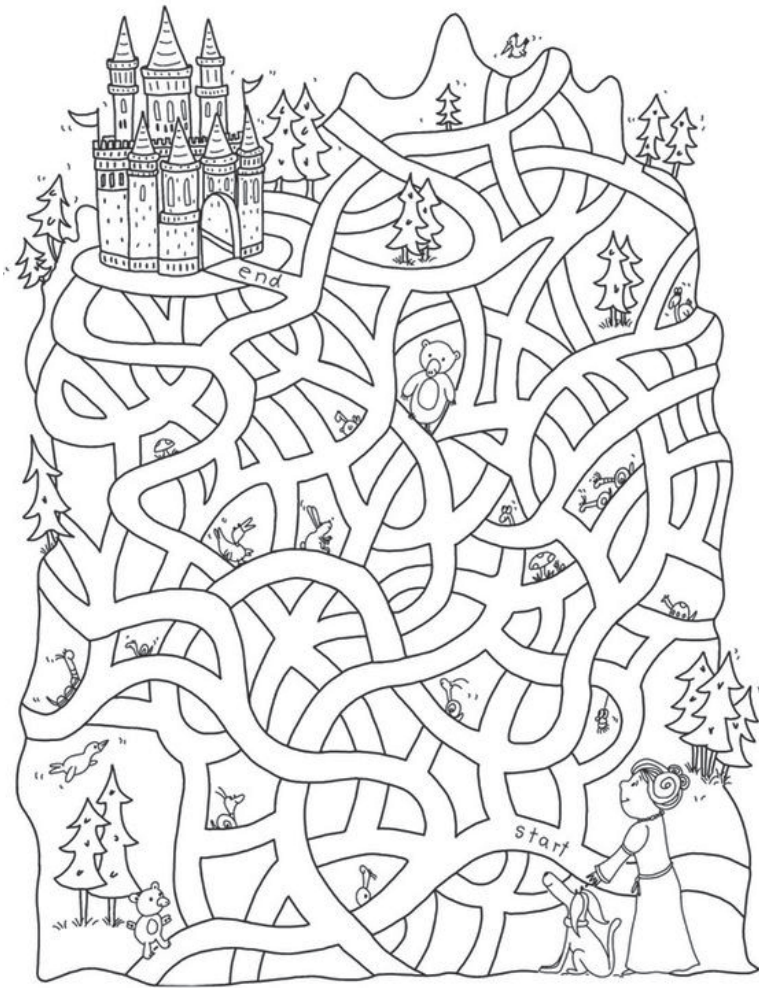
Because of the cooling weather, fall is traditionally the time of harvesting crops before the winter freeze. Having grown big throughout the summer, they have to be removed from the fields before they start to rot. This leads to a wonderful display of pumpkins, corn, and other fall delicacies in your local grocery stores.

When is the Fall season?

Fall officially begins on the fall equinox, also known as the autumnal equinox. This occurs on September 22nd every year, and is universal across the Northern Hemisphere.

This is known as the astronomical start of fall. It depends on the alignment of the planet with the sun. The autumnal equinox marks when the Sun crosses over an imaginary extension of the Equator into outer space, traveling north to south. It is the direct opposite of the vernal equinox, which takes place in spring.

Help the little girl find her way home Coffee Can Scarecrow



Supplies

- Coffee can
- 2 sheets tan felt
- 18" twine
- Raffia
- 2 silk flowers
- Small rap of orange felt
- 2 large mismatched buttons
- Instant grab glue
- Small straw hat
- Scissors



Put lid on coffee can. Cover coffee can with tan felt using craft glue. Place coffee can on its side and use instant grab glue or E6000 to pipe on the mouth.



Cut twine to fit on the glue smile and press in place. Cut remaining twine into one-inch pieces. Use instant grab glue to attach to the smile in a stitch type fashion.



Cut a triangle from orange felt and use instant grab glue to attach to the face above the smile. Use instant grab glue to attach two buttons for eyes.



Stand coffee can up and pipe a generous amount of craft glue onto the coffee can lid. Cut raffia into 18" lengths and place on top of lid, covering the lid (be sure the raffia lines up properly with the facial features!). Let dry. Glue the hat onto the raffia hair and glue 2 silk flowers to the hat.



That's it, you're finished! You can display your new scarecrow as a centerpiece for your family's holiday table.

Slumber Party Cake

- 1 box Super Moist white cake mix
- Water, vegetable oil and egg whites called for on cake mix box
- 1 can (8.4 oz) Icing buttercup yellow
- 5 large marshmallows, flattened
- 5 creme-filled peanut butter sandwich cookies
- 1 can (8.4 oz) Icing meadow green
- Easy Flow decorating icing (any colors)
- 1 container (1.25 oz) Decorating Decors stars



1. Heat oven to 350°F. Grease bottom only of 13x9-inch cake pan with shortening or cooking spray. Make and bake cake as directed on box for 13x9-inch pan. Cool 10 minutes. Run knife around sides of pan to loosen; remove from pan to cooling rack. Cool completely, about 1 hour.
2. Frost top one-third of cake with yellow cupcake icing to make bedding sheet. Place flattened marshmallows on sheet for pillows; place cookies on top of pillows for heads.
3. Frost remaining cake and over sandwich cookies with green cupcake icing to make blanket, leaving tops of cookies unfrosted for faces. Pipe hair and faces on cookies, using decorating icing.
4. Outline blanket with frosting, using star tip; sprinkle with stars. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD PUZZLE 2

Look at the numbers on the pictures and write the Halloween vocabulary in the crossword puzzle

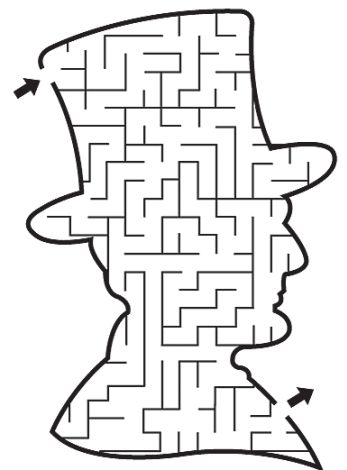
Jokes about Food, Nature, and People

- Q:** Where do you learn to make banana splits?
A: At sundae school.
- Q:** Why did the melon jump into the lake?
A: It wanted to be a water-melon.
- Q:** Why did the cookie go to the doctor?
A: It was feeling crumb-y.
- Q:** Why did the banana go to the hospital?
A: He was peeling really bad.
- Q:** Where do hamburgers go to dance?
A: They go to the meat-ball.
- Q:** How does the ocean say hello?
A: It waves.
- Q:** What did the tree say to the wind?
A: Leaf me alone!
- Q:** What's the worst thing about throwing a party in space?
A: You have to planet.
- Q:** How do you know when the moon has had enough to eat?
A: When it's full!
- Q:** Why did the policeman go to the baseball game?
A: He'd heard that someone had stolen a base!
- Q:** Why did the golfer wear two pairs of pants?
A: In case he got a hole in one.
- Q:** What do you call two guys hanging on a curtain?
A: Kurt and Rod!

Abraham Lincoln Maze



Can you spot the difference between these two pictures? There are eight of them.



Trivia Answers

How many pups are there in Paw Patrol? Six pups
 Name Harry Potter's Mom and Dad: James & Lily
 What is Mickey Mouse's dog called? Pluto
 What is the largest cat in the world? The tiger
 How many bones are there in a shark? None
 How many hours a day do Koalas sleep? 18-22 hours
 What do you call a baby Kangaroo? Joey
 The name of Anna's sister in Frozen? Elsa

Crossword Puzzle Answers

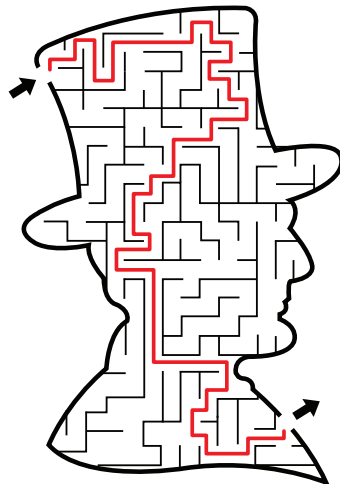
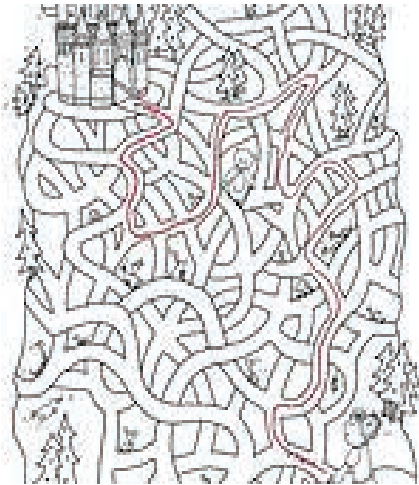
Across

2. Owl
4. Black Cat
6. Spider
7. Mask
10. Cauldron
12. Spell
14. Spooky Tree
15. Potion
16. Sweets

Down

1. Zombie
3. Frankenstein
5. Devil
8. Mummy
9. Vampire
11. Death
13. Monster

Answers to Mazes



Clothespin Christmas Soldiers

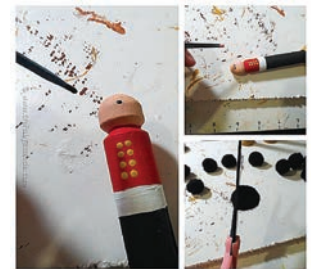
Supplies

- Wooden Doll Pin Stands
- Wooden Doll Pins
- Toothpicks
- White craft glue
- Hot glue gun
- Medium black pom-poms
- Americana Acrylic Paint
- Cool White
- Antique Gold
- Ebony Black
- Flesh Tone
- Baby Pink
- Santa Red



Place each doll pin into a doll pin stand to make them easier to work with.

1. Use a paintbrush to paint the head of the doll pin with Flesh Tone.
2. Use a paintbrush to paint the top section of the doll pin, about 1/4" above where the pin splits, with Santa Red.
3. Use a paintbrush to paint the belt on with Cool White, just below the red jacket and above the split.
4. Turn the doll pins upside down so that the head is inserted into the doll pin stand.
5. Use a paintbrush to paint the remaining doll pin (legs) below the belt with Ebony Black.
6. Use a paintbrush to paint inside the split of the doll pins.
7. When everything is dry, remove the doll pins from the stands. Use a paintbrush to paint the stands with Antique Gold.
8. Use a toothpick dipped in Antique Gold to add eight buttons to the black jacket in four rows of two.
9. Use any paintbrush to add white glue to the inside of the doll pin stands and insert the soldiers into the stands.
10. Use a toothpick to dot on Ebony Black for eyes and the end of a paintbrush to add Baby Pink for the cheeks.
11. Carefully trim one side of a black pom-pom to make one side flatter. Use hot glue to attach the flat end of the pom-pom to the top of the soldier's head, adding a little hot glue to the sides as well so that you can press the sides of the hat in place.



Football Appetizers

Hot Sweet Chili Meatballs

These sweet, tangy, saucy meatballs are great as an appetizer or a quick weeknight main.

Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground turkey
- 1 1/2 cups RedHot Sweet Chili Hot Sauce, divided
- 1/3 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup finely chopped cilantro
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 teaspoons finely minced fresh ginger
- 1/2 teaspoons salt



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix ground turkey, 1/4 cup of the Sweet Chili Sauce, panko, cilantro, green onions, egg, ginger and salt in medium bowl until well blended. Shape into 1-inch meatballs. Arrange in single layer on large foil-lined baking pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray.
2. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until cooked through; turning half way through cooking.
3. Transfer meatballs to large bowl. Add remaining Sweet Chili Sauce and toss to coat. Serve immediately (makes 24 servings).

Buffalo Chicken Nachos



Ingredients

- 2 cups shredded or chopped cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup RedHot Buffalo Wings Hot Sauce
- 1 bag (10 ounces) tortilla chips
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Toss chicken and Hot Buffalo Wings Sauce to coat.
2. Arrange chips on large shallow baking pan or pizza pan. Layer with chicken mixture and cheese.
3. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted. Serve with desired toppings, such as sour cream, salsa, guacamole, sliced black olives or sliced jalapeños. Drizzle with additional RedHot Sauce, if desired (makes 4 servings).

Halloween Treats

Peek-A-Boo Rice Krispies Treats



Ingredients

- 3 TBSP butter or margarine
- 1 package (10 oz., About 40) Jet-Puffed marshmallows or 5 1/2 cups mini-marshmallows
- 6 cups Kellogg's® Cocoa Krispies® cereal
- Vanilla frosting
- Food coloring
- 36 Candy eyes
- Red sprinkles

Directions

1. In a large saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Add marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat.
2. Add Kellogg's® Cocoa Krispies cereal. Stir until well coated.
3. Using buttered hands, shape cereal into 2-inch balls. Flatten slightly. Cool completely.
4. Tint frosting with food coloring. Spread a circle of frosting on each cereal ball. Top with candy eyes. Shake red sprinkles on top. Let stand until set.

Candy Corn Popcorn Balls

Ingredients

- 8 cups popped light butter microwave popcorn (about 1 [3-ounce] bag)
- 1 cup candy corn
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 (10-ounce) marshmallows
- Cooking spray



1. Combine popcorn and candy corn in a large bowl.
2. Melt 1/4 cup butter in a large saucepan over medium heat; stir in 1/4 teaspoon salt and (10-ounce) bag marshmallows. Reduce heat to low; cook for 7 minutes or until the marshmallows melt and the mixture is smooth, stirring frequently.
3. Pour marshmallow mixture over popcorn mixture, stirring to coat well. Lightly coat hands with cooking spray; shape popcorn mixture into 20 (2-inch) balls.

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Mark your calendars for our Annual Christmas Party on **Sunday, December 4th**. The Columbian Association (K. of C.) Social Hall on North Gallatin Ext. will host our event starting at 2:00 p.m. Door prizes, Chinese auction, 43" HDTV, giveaways, fun and fellowship.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of Martha Frazee, Wayne Martin, Dolores McConville, Ronald Perry, and Michael Pisani, Jr. May they rest in the blessed arms of the resurrected Christ.

Our congratulations go out to these young members of our assembly that have been awarded an NSS Scholarship: Julia Rayman, Ty Rayman and Analise Younkin. Also, to Katherine Payerchin, from Assembly 123 who was awarded the *Perpetual 125th Anniversary Scholarship*. We wish them all great success in their college experience.

Grab your cameras. Search your old photos. The "2022 NSS Photo Contest" is this month. Great prizes for youth and adults. Also, our assembly receives points for every member that enters. Deadline is October 31st.

The home office is now offering you the opportunity to access your annuity account online 24/7. Just go to www.nsslife.org and log-in. Look for the member log-in icon. If you have an annuity, try it out.

Now is the time to start planning for your ornament for the upcoming coming NSS Ornament Contest. Deadline is December 1st. Rules are in the "National News".

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

Watch out for those "trick n' treaters"!

Paul Payerchin
Secretary-Treasurer

Life hint

Life changes quickly. An annual policy review of your insurance policies is a smart thing to do.



ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Nominations and election of officers will be held on **October 22, 2022** at Grandes Restaurant, 4200 Birney Avenue, Moosic at 1:00 p.m.

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

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our annual Halloween costume party will be held at the Wesnak home, Whitehall, PA on **October 23rd** at 2:00 p.m. Any questions, please call me at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Financial Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

While we here in Pittsburgh are aware that three or four gloomy months lie ahead, nature also gives us one of the most beautiful months of the year. October offers mostly clean air days with a palate of color on full display. Enjoy! There is no charge for our members.

If you want to get out and learn something about the historical site in Pittsburgh please join us on **Saturday, October 22nd**. We will visit St. Anthony's Chapel home to over 5,000 relics. St. Anthony's is located at 1704 Harpster Street, Troy Hill 15212. Our private docent tour starts here at 10:30 a.m. Afterwards at noon, we will go to St. Nicholas Church located at 24 Maryland Avenue, Millvale, PA 15209. A docent will also greet us there to talk about this Croatian Catholic Church and the beautiful Maxo Vano murals. I had an email from Bill Kurtek who pointed out to me that was not the first Croatian Church in the US or Pittsburgh. He is very knowledgeable on the subject and maybe he can join us. Bill

I'd love to meet you and buy you lunch! Afterwards we plan to have lunch at Penn Brewery 800 Venial Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. It is located not far from the church. In fact it is only a few blocks from the location where NSS was founded in 1890. Transportation and lunch is on you own. Our group size is limited to 25, so reservations is a must. Don't miss out! Call or text Jill at 412-638-7060 or email: igrover@nsslife.org.

I want to give a shout out to our eight members who will be receiving first year PVR Scholarships: *Kathryn Beyer, Alyvia Cox, Kaitlyn Fedorak, Lauren Kirsch, Katherine Payerchin, Mike Sirianni, Will Sirianni, Mercedes Volzer*. We wish you well in your studies and life pursuits.

The Christmas party and luncheon is **Sunday, December 11th**. Hopefully everyone who attended last year's luncheon will come this year because we have a minimum requirement of forty attendees. There will be a charge of \$10 for members of assembly 123 or \$20 for non-member guests. You will be getting a wonderful luncheon at Rockefeller's Grille, 1833 McKees Rocks Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136. I would like you to pay in advance so we can get an idea of our anticipated attendance. Send check payable to NSS Assembly 123 and mail to either myself Bill Knoll, 543 Pioneer Lane, Freedom, PA 15042 or Jill Grover, 114 Fayette Street, Oakdale, PA 15071. Please plan to attend and end this year on a high note.

Don't forget to enter the Photo contest. Deadline is October 31st. Surely we have a few photo bugs among our members. You help our assembly by entering and you could win some money. The Ornament contest is coming soon and the deadline for that is December 1st. Don't we have some crafty people in our membership? Give it a shot.

Wishing you all the best.

William Knoll
President

"Expect the best,
plan for the worst,
and prepare to
be surprised."

DENIS WAITLEY

LIFE
HAPPENS

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Our annual Holiday party will be held on **December 4, 2022** at Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 p.m.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our members decided as a group to celebrate together on **Sunday, November 20, 2022** at 12 noon. We will meet at Drury Lane Theater in Oakbrook to see a play and have dinner.

Reservations will be necessary by November 1st, and we ask for that to be done by email or text to **janetjet24@gmail.com**. Looking forward to being together.

Irene Tomaskovic
Vice President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Our assembly is hosting a Halloween Hayride on **Sunday, October 23rd**, at Countryside Farm, 4686 Center Road, Lowellville, OH at 4:00 p.m. Our members have enjoyed getting together for this Fall event for the past several years and we're looking forward to doing it again this year. We'll have hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick a pumpkin, walk through the corn maze and play games. Youth members can invite a friend. Refreshments will include hot dogs, chili, popcorn, beverages and sweet treats. Everyone must RSVP to Kathy Cessna at 330-559-8554 by October 12th.

Kathy Cessna
Fraternal Youth Coordinator

ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

We will be working with the Catholic Social Services for a Matching Funds project on **Saturday, October 15th**. The project is called "Tailgate to

Go" and will furnish meat and buns for four pork sandwiches, baked beans and coleslaw for four.

In football happy Alabama this will occur on an SEC Saturday when the Alabama teams are both playing away. It's a perfect day to stop by the Thirsty Pig at St. Andrews and pick up soul satisfying food for four for only \$25.

Celeste Kelly heads up the Catholic Social Service crew and Kerry Farrell will provide the fixings. Call Kerry at 334-718-0559 to place an order, or contact Celeste at Catholic Socials Services at St. Columbia Church.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

The Region 2 will participate in the SPCA Bone Appetite Fund Raiser on **Sunday, November 6, 2022** at The Woodlands in Wilkes Barre, PA. We will be doing a matching funds and donate a basket. Assembly L075 members will attend and sponsor members. Assembly L075 also will make a basket for the event. Please watch our Facebook Page for upcoming details until then and SAVE the date.

We are also waiting on St Cats and Dogs to announce the date for Santa Pet Photos and will participate in that even in December as a matching funds.

For more information contact Marlin Petro Wesnak at **marlinsamimadi@yahoo.com** or **NSS Life Region 2** on Facebook.

Marlin Petro-Wesnak
President - Region #2

REGION 5 Pittsburgh, PA

The fall meeting of Region #5 will be held on **Sunday, October 2, 2022**, at 1:00 p.m. at the Home Office, McMurray, PA. Our agenda includes discussing activities for the remainder of 2022 and 2023. All assemblies in Region #5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
President - Region #5

REGION 8 Cleveland, OH Notice - Date Changed

Attention assemblies #4, #70, #160, and #432. Finally we will have our first meeting of Region #8 since our last meeting in October 2019 due to the Pandemic!

A meeting will be held on **October 19, 2022** at Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. (**please note TIME and DATE change!**)

This meeting will be hosted by Assembly #70. Election of officers will be held along with plans for upcoming events for 2023.

Hope to see all assemblies from our region at this meeting.

Carole Koches
Secretary

REGION 5 Annual Picnic

One hundred four members of Region 5 enjoyed a Sunday afternoon together at Cedar Creek Park in West moreland County. The picnic was a huge success with 11 assemblies in Region 5 represented. Following a delicious picnic lunch, members enjoyed playing Bingo with winners taking home a restaurant gift certificate. A basket raffle was held with some great prize baskets going home with several members. The raffle raised \$966.00 for the PVR scholarship. Some members participated in a Sack Race and some played corn hole but everyone enjoyed spending time together on a beautiful summer day. Photos of Region picnic can be found on page seven of this newsletter.

Laurie Fox, Director
Assembly 731 Member

Life hint

The money from a life insurance policy is almost never subject to federal income taxes.



Assembly L075 Matching Funds

Assembly L075 conducted a matching funds event for the Montage Ski Patrol on August 29th at the Elmhurst Country Club. We sponsored a hole, sent in a basket for the raffle, sent our assembly chair people Steffie and Joey Ciuccio to the event along with a few members in attendance, and sponsored a captain Member Matthew Edwards and his crew to golf.



Shown in the picture are: sitting; Joey Ciuccio, Co-Chairman, Tom and Lucy Piccoletti, our Vice President; Stephanie Ciuccio, Co-Chairwoman and Sec/Tr Lehrae Ann Edwards. Standing is our golf crew: Aaron McNeal, Mark Greines, Jordan Reedy and Captain Matthew Edwards with member Dorothy Collins.



The check presentation will be sent to John Foster but we wanted to include him in our story; Shown are Captain Matthew Edwards, VP Lucy Piccoletti, John Foster Ski Patrol President, Lehrae Ann Edwards-Sec/TR and our co chair people Stephanie and Joseph Ciuccio. The monies raised will be used to update training and for new equipment.



The Captain and his crew receiving gifts and baskets.



Our sponsor sign was placed at 3 different holes



Members of Assembly L075 attended the wedding of member Michael Piccoletti and Bridget Coffee Piccoletti on August 20th in Carbondale. Shown sitting are: Stephanie Ciuccio-sister of the groom, Michael and Bridget Piccoletti, President Gary Edwards. Standing: Samantha Wesnak, VP Lucy Piccoletti-Mother of the Groom, region 2 President Marlin Petro-Wesnak, Patricia and Richard Gorgol, Matthew Edwards, Joey Ciuccio, Adam Edwards, Lehrae Ann Edwards-Sec/Tr, Godmother of the Groom Karen Richardson, Adam and Allie Lazar and Father of the Groom Tommy Piccoletti. Absent was Dominic and Gabriel Piccoletti.

Assembly 617 Fraternal Day & Matching Funds Day

Fraternal day for our assembly was held at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, Pennsylvania. The assembly provided hoagies, bottled water, and books of ride tickets for the members. Members brought food items to share with the group.

A brief meeting of the assembly was held to update members of the assembly on past and future activities of the assembly. Special congratulations were given at the meeting to *Jacob Ostrowski* for his 2nd place award in the Van Gogh level of the NSS Art Contest.

The assembly's Matching Funds Baskets Raffle were on display for the members to view. Again this year a special prize of an artisan handmade hammock from El Salvador donated by Father John Ostrowski, a member of our assembly. The assembly supports Father Ostrowski's mission in El Salvador with fund raising projects. This year the hammock was won by Margaret Lukas. The youth circle participated in a game to guess the amount of money, comprised of dimes, nickels, and pennies in a jar. This activity was organized by Margaret Lukas. The assembly also celebrated the birthday of member Gail Mangan, an organizer of Fraternal Day with a birthday cake which was shared with group.

Everyone had a great time enjoying fraternity, the park, and rides. Looking forward to next year.

Assembly 617 will meet on **October 19, 2022** at Grotto Pizza, Edwardsville, PA.

Joseph Kurilla
President

60th Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Hanka and Milan Konkol for celebrating their 60th **Wedding Anniversary**. The celebrants are shining examples for younger generations of living together through good and bad times.

Milan is the Financial Secretary of Assembly 568, La Canada, California. Best wishes to the both of you for good health for many years to come.

PUR Correction

We were notified that in the September, 2022 newsletter, Michael and Bridget DiVencenzo received scholarship awards but were listed as being members of Assembly 773. They are members of **Assembly 731**.

Our apologies to Assembly 731 for this error.

Lori Crowley
Editor

PUR Thank You's

Dear Mr. Stefka,

I thank you for choosing me to receive this scholarship. It will definitely help me as a broke college child. I will use it wisely. Thank you again.

Jonathan Sims

Dear Mr. Stefka,

I am very appreciative of receiving the PUR scholarship. It has been very helpful for my college education over the past four years.

Joey Testa



Members attending Fraternal Day.



Gail Mangan with her birthday cake she shared with everyone.



Matching Fund baskets were on display to view.

Home Office Birthdays



Jill Grover celebrating her June birthday.



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. celebrating his July birthday.



Assembly 0731

The Chestnut Ridge Church of God in Hubbard, Ohio, held their annual **"Back-To-School Tennis Shoe Giveaway"** on August 15th. During the four-hour giveaway, more than 500 pairs of shoes were distributed to school age children from surrounding school districts during the 3-hour giveaway. Shoes were neatly displayed, organized and labeled with sizes. It was a heartwarming experience to see the joy of children receiving new shoes. The parents/guardians with the children were very grateful for the opportunity to get new shoes for their children. This program relies on donations to purchase the shoes and the \$2,000 donation from NSS this year is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers helping with this project was to help children choose their shoes and to make sure they fit properly.

Laurie Fox, President
Assembly 731



Volunteers included Assembly 731 members, Chestnut Ridge Church of God Pastor Rob McFarland, Sue Burns, Kathy Flickinger and Assembly 731 Officers Ida Lewis, Linda Estes, Kathy Cessna and Director Laurie Fox.



Assembly 731 officers are L-R: Ida Lewis, Secretary; Linda Estes, Vice President; Kathy Cessna, Fraternal Youth Coordinator, and Laurie Fox, President .



Over 500 pairs of shoes were displayed and labeled with the size.



Slovak Heritage Festival at University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program will present its annual Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, November 6th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room in Oakland.

As in past years, the program will include Slovak food, musical performances cultural displays and lectures.

The Slovak food will include kielbasa, halusky, halupki, pirohi, and pastries. The Slovak musical performances will be throughout the afternoon.

For more information, please contact: slovakheritagefestival@gmail.com

Slovak Heritage Programs

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will once again present the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, Mount Lebanon, PA. 15228, 412-531-1912. It is free to both members and non-members.

November 7th - "Slovak Nativity Sets"

Once again Larry Kozlowski will make another hands on presentation. This time he will show us how to make Slovak Nativity sets out of paper. Materials will be provided.

December 5th - "Show-N-Tell"

Because of the popularity of this program in prior years, we are again asking you to bring your memorabilia from Slovakia- photos, books, souvenirs, etc. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate.



Október



Jeseň so sebou prináša veľkolepú šou. Stromy budú čoskoro žiarit farbami spolu s nadýchanými oblakmi na modrej oblohe – to je to, čo robí z jesene nádhernú časť roka. Mnohí ju dokonca považujú za najkrajšie ročné obdobie. Opísal ju takto aj George Cooper vo svojej slávnej básni. Október usporiadal oslavu, prišli stovky listov – gaštany, duby a javory, listy každej slávy. Slečna Slniečko rozprestrela koberec svojich lúčov a všetko bolo veľkolepé, slečna Počasie viedla tanec, Profesor vietor viedol kapelu. V tomto ročnom období je úžasné stráviť čas vonku, a preto využite niektoré zo skvelých aktivít, ktoré sa dejú v tomto ročnom období.

Slovensky Festival pri Univerzite Pittsburg

Pozývame, slovákov a slovenky na slovenský festival pri pittsburghskej univerzite ktorý bude 6-teho novembra. Pripravuje ho Slavik Department. Vieme, že PGH univerzita je jediná v Amerike čo dostáva grant na vyučovanie štúdia slovenského jazyka kde študenti môžu získať kredity k maturite.

Pri tejto univerzite je založená i slovenská základňa ktorú financuje 5 slovenských organizácii vrátane našej NSS.

Vstupné na festival je zdarma, prebieha od obeda do 5-tej po obede. Môžete obdivovať výstavu slovenských vecí, ochutnať jedlá na slovenský spôsob a prípadne si i zaspievať počas vystúpenia slovenských súborov.

Jablko - symbol večného zdravia

Jablko je spomínané už pri vyhnaní Adama a Evy z Raja, jablká sú jedným z najstarších, najchutnejších ale aj najzdravších druhov ovocia. Slovensko je doslova posiate tisíckami jabloní, ktoré práve teraz, na jeseň, prinášajú svoje plody. Na to, aby sa dostali na náš stôl teda nepotrebujú precestovať tisícky kilometrov, stačí zájsť do záhradky a odtrhnúť si priamo zo stromu chutné jablčko, ktoré v sebe skrýva veľa vitamínov a predobru chuť.

Z jablka možno vyrobiť mnoho druhov jedál napríklad: vyborný koláč zo šťavy vína, alebo džús, jablkové pyrô, atď. Možno poznáte i peknú pieseň ako:

**Červené jablčko v oblôčku mám
Koho rada vidím, tomu ho dám
A ja tá, môj milý, veľmi milujem
Ja ti to jablčko z lásky darujem ...**

Here is a recipe for an easy traditional Slovak apple cake. It consists of a cinnamon apple filling between two layers of dough. From the Slovak Cooking.com website. It is based on a recipe from sme.sk.

Ingredients: 400g flour (~4 cups), 2 sticks (250g) butter, 1 cup (100g) powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon baking powder, 2 eggs, 2 tablespoons milk if needed, 2 lbs apples, vanilla sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon

Prep Time: 2 hours

Sift the **flour** and add sliced **butter**, **eggs**, and **powdered sugar**.

Turn ingredients into dough. Add **milk** if needed.

Cut dough into two halves and roll out one with the help of wax paper. Transfer to a baking pan.

Next grate the **apples** and mix in **cinnamon** and **vanilla sugar** to taste.

Transfer the apple filling over the dough layer.

Next roll out the second piece of dough. Carefully transfer over the apples.

Bake in an oven preheated to 390F for about half an hour, until the dough is done.

Let cool down and slice into squares. Top with powdered sugar. Enjoy!



Pod'akovanie za úrodu 2022 Pribylina

Už samotný ruženec môže urobiť zázraky vo svete i vo vašom živote.

V októbri sa modlíme spolu posvätený ruženec.

Mesiac október je zasvätený modlitbe posvätného ruženca.



Zabijačková večera v Slovenskej záhrade vo Winter Park, FL

SLOVAKFEST 2022 bude v sobotu 15. októbra o 2.00 hodine v veľkej spoločenskej hale v Slovenskej záhrade, 3110 Howell Branch Road, vo Winter Park, FL. Podávané budú zbojnícka pečienka so zemiakmi, kyslá kapusta, klobásy a slovenské koláče. Vstupné je \$20.00. Počas popoludnia bude hrať slovenská ľudová hudba. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie na tel. č. 407-677-6894, alebo slovakgardenwinterpark@gmail.com



First Place Poetry Contest Winners

My Friend

I have a friend who's name is Steve,
He is very little and doesn't like to leave.
Peanuts are his favorite food,
And a full belly puts him in a good mood.
This little guy visits every day,
And taps on our window with one thing to say.
He says, "Hi, this is squirrel Steve and this peanut I will borrow",
"But don't be sad, because I will see you tomorrow."

Mariah Cherevka
C108, Age 7

Corgis

Corgis are cute, corgis are fun,
Corgis look like bunnies when they run.
They have pointy ears and a pointy snout,
But a long, wagging tail they go without.
With their big, brown eyes and their short, stubby legs,
Surely your heart will melt when one begs.
These small, little creatures are so filled with joy,
If you were to get a few of your own,
happiness would be a corgi-tied home.

Miriam Ostrowski
C617, Age 11

At the Campground

At the campground, we have lots of fun,
We swim, hike and sometimes we run.
Bike riding is the best cruising around the lake;
But only if I choose what bike to take.
We fight over the colors we want to ride,
And then I'm off; with Levi by my side.
Fishing in the lake we get lots of fish
And then my Pa cooks them and puts them on my dish.
In the camper we have 4 bunk beds
Careful not to bump our heads.
Top or bottom, left or right,
Who cares as long as we sleep all night.
Cooking on the campfire we make hot dogs
S'mores are better when the fire burns big logs.
Inspired by the Campground I just want to say
Thanks Pa for always letting me stay.

Maxwell Edwards
C075, Age 10

My Debut

I'm Nobody! Do you watch me too?
A film reel passes. a silent reflection-
Of passive speciation. a still statue.
Do they see more than a companion?
Do they remember the little things-
Moments perceived as warnings?
Collecting and storing the seemingly insignificant-
For my incandescent debut!

Addison Draa
C731, Age 14

All My Grandkids

We don't always get to pick them out like in a store
Sometimes they come in a package, through a special door.
Babies in hospitals; kicking and fussing while holding them tight,
Or simply walking along with their parents in the warm sunlight.
Their smiles and their attitudes stop you dead in your tracks
Some things they say are neither fiction nor facts.
Stages of life that we all go through from babies to toddlers to teens
No matter what or how they always cause a scene.
They grow so fast they make your head spin
No matter the situation they won't let you win.
From kindergarten to graduation and college
Their brains are just bursting with knowledge.
They grow so quick in the blink of an eye
Here one minute and then they're off with a teary goodbye.
A home a new family and the cycle begins anew
But I wouldn't trade anything for just one more minute with all of you.

Gary Edwards
L075, Age 69

Second Place Poetry Contest Winners

Grapes-Grapes-Grapes

Grapes-Grapes-Grapes,
on the vine.
You can make them,
into wine.
Some of mine have crazy shapes,
but my favorite are still Cotton Candy grapes.

Dominic Piccoletti
C075, Age 6

A Poem to Daddy

I'm glad god chose you for my dad,
if only for a while.
You taught me, shaped me, grew me up,
the best way you knew how.
You scolded me with love, which i didn't understand,
but only for a while.
To prepare me for life's hard road ahead,
which I've stumbled upon right now.
I thank you dad for taking the time,
if only for a while.
For showing the responsibility of,
a dad's love for his child.
You dwell with the heavenly father now dad,
and even though it makes me sad.
But only in just a little while,
we'll meet again someday.
Because Jesus Christ provided the way.
And now Dad I say farewell,
but only for a while.
I know you'll be at heaven's gate,
to greet me with a smile!


Lived 1942 to 1994

Lou Ann F. Nestor
0434, Age 61

Competition Day

About to go on stage,
As ready as I can be,
About to cheer my HEART out with the rest of my team,
Stunts up in the air so high,
Tumbling across the floor,
Judges watching carefully.
We get off the stage and wait suspensefully,
Now it is time to get our results ...
WE WON FIRST PLACE!
Our team is jumping with excitement,
We get our medals and say,
WE DID IT!!!

Bella Bernardo
C588, Age 11



Make the easy decision to protect your loved ones with life insurance.

ROSELYN SÁNCHEZ

actress, producer, mother and spokesperson
for Life Insurance Awareness Month

Life Happens.™

Roselyn Sánchez is the national spokesperson for Life Insurance Awareness Month 2022, and her services were retained by Life Happens. Neither she nor Life Happens endorse any insurance company, product or advisor.

Third Place Poetry Contest Winners

Dogs

Dogs are cute,
Overly playful,
Great friends,
Soft and snuggly!

Adalyn Bernardo

C588, Age 7

Technology

I was told there was a time,
where the pace wasn't so fast.
People had a chance,
To let loose, talk and relax.
Now cars can drive themselves,
And our phones allow us to "stay in the know".
Our locations are monitored,
Even when we don't give permission to do so.
I'm told school was different back in the day,
and assignments weren't graded through the iPad.
Time was spent without the use of screens,
while using a pencil and a notepad.
I'm not sure if it's better to be so connected,
and have all of our data stored,
But if I didn't have all these things to keep me busy,
Might I be bored?

Anthony Cherevka

C108, Age 12

Turning an Injury into a Learning Opportunity: A Haiku

On Valentine's Day
My year was completely changed
My ACL tore
Dramatic, it sounds
But to a striving athlete
Your world is just crushed
There were only days
Before the competition
Four to be exact
I heard the loud pop
It was during my solo
I knew it had tore
I am a dancer
I spent all year practicing
And it was over
When I was told that
It completely tore in half
I saw no future
I had only heard
About what this injury
Does to mental health
Now I'm five months out
And I am proud to say that
It made me stronger
Instead of sadness
I showed grit and discipline
I am prospering
I no longer feel
Burnt out or mentally drained
I have come to peace
Instead of getting
Angry and depressed with it
I just worked harder
Missing a whole year
Of competitions and dance
Was so difficult
I was at home and
Just learning to walk again
While my team was there
You do not realize
How not dancing for a year
Can be so awful
But when you have dance
For many hours each night
You simply feel lost
I just had to learn
What to do without dance class
Since I was injured
The surgery was
Brutal and devastating
And also quite long
The physical part
Of getting all the strength back
Takes quite the patience
This time without dance
Helped me to better myself
And my mental health
This journey has been
Long, rewarding, and a test
Of dedication
I am so grateful,
Not because I got injured,
But for how I've grown

Valentina Gulino

0039, Age 17



Youth Circle Page

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

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.**

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. Email submissions are accepted but it is recommended that physical photo submissions are the preferred entry type as the judging will be done with physical prints of photos and we cannot guarantee quality prints of email submissions. (No touch-up or computer enhanced photos permitted)
- Name and address should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper or included in email submission, 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 or call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 if you have any questions.

2022 Christmas Ornament Contest

Deadline: December 1st, 2022

Now is the time to start thinking and making your Christmas Ornament. Get out your glue guns and glitter and create a winning ornament today!

The rules are as follows:

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

Member Categories:

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

Prize Awards:

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

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

NSS Heritage Museum's

Christmas Around the World

Saturday, November 26, 2022 • NSS Life Home Office


MIKULÁŠ

The legend of Mikuláš is an ancient one, dating back to the 4th century. It is a story of a bishop who was known for his kindness and generosity. He was often seen in the night, wearing a red and green robe, and carrying a staff. He would visit the homes of the poor and the sick, and bring them gifts and food. The story of Mikuláš is still told in many parts of the world, and is a popular tradition during the Christmas season.



LUCIA

December 13 is celebrated the feast of St. Lucia. According to custom, young girls in traditional garb of white dresses, bring to bed and after their night's sleep will be during the evening mass. These girls, called St. Lucia girls, are named in honor of St. Lucia, the patron saint of the blind. The tradition is still observed in many parts of the world, and is a popular tradition during the Christmas season.



JASLIČKARI
OF THE SHEPHERD & FOLLOWS

The legend of the shepherds is a story of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is a story of the shepherds who were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. They were told by an angel that the Messiah had been born, and they went to the manger to see the baby Jesus. The story of the shepherds is still told in many parts of the world, and is a popular tradition during the Christmas season.

VIANOČNÝ VÍNS
Traditional Christmas Greeting

