



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

# Národné Noviny

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | AUGUST 2023 | NUMBER 3580 | VOLUME 115

# Sweet Summer Time



2023 NSS Photo Contest



THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS  
**Septemberfest**

September 30, 2023



NSS Region 5  
Pirates Night at PNC Park



# National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at McMurray, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices  
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## 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*

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Keith A. Kucherawy • Susan M. Ondrejco • Andrew "Drew" J. Wesnak

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Edward Koches, *Director* • Paul Payerchin, Jr., *Director*

### FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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

FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

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## Could you use a little extra "Green?"

### RECOMMENDER FORM

As a proud member of NSS Life, there is no better time than now to share your experience with family and friends. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward for recommending someone to whom we issue a policy. You will receive a \$25 recommender fee (\$10 on the youth term product) for each person that becomes a member.

#### Recommender Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Prospect Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail form to the NSS Life Home Office.

## Do you need a Change of Address?

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please use this form to register your change of address for the *National News* and mail to the Home Office. Upon receipt of this form completed in its entirety, the staff will immediately implement the change. *Thank you.*

#### Change of Address Information:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly #: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Former Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities At A Glance

### REGION 2

#### Assemblies L075, 0617

August 5  
August 6  
August 17  
August 19  
October 14

Region 2, Meeting/Election of Officers, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm  
Assembly L075, Fraternal Summer Picnic, Mercateli-Segilia Park, Moosic, PA (TBA)  
Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park at 1:00 pm  
Assembly 0617, Meeting, Avenue Diner, Wyoming, PA at 1:00 pm  
Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm

### REGION 5

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

August 6  
August 13  
August 20  
September 10  
September 17  
September 18  
September 22-24  
September 30  
October 29  
November 13  
December 2  
December 3  
December 16

Assembly 0377, Gateway Clipper Cruise, Pittsburgh, PA 6:30-8:30 pm (arrive by 6:00 pm)  
Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest, St. Matthias Church, Youngstown, OH  
Region 5 Family Picnic, Cedar Creek Park Pavilion #16, Belle Vernon, PA, 1-5:00 pm  
Assembly 0039, Remembering Flight 93, Bob Evans Restaurant, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 pm  
Assembly 0123, Miniature golf outing, Neville Island (next to the golf dome) at 1:00 pm  
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 pm  
Assembly 0731, Family Camping Weekend, Rogers, OH  
NSS Heritage Museum's Septemberfest, NSS Home Office, McMurray, PA, 11-4:00 pm  
Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Inn, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm  
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 pm  
Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbia Association Event Center at 2:00 pm  
Assembly 0377, Meeting, Hugo's Restaurant, West Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm  
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center Rotary Room, Boardman, OH

### REGION 8

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

August 25  
September 24

Assembly 0432, Night at the Ballpark, 7:05 pm  
Assembly 0070, Meeting/Pot Luck Luncheon, Dr. Martin Luther Church.

### REGION 14

#### Assemblies R059, L102

September 4  
September 23  
October 22  
November 5  
December 9

Assembly L102, Summer picnic, Gross residence, New Tripoli, PA at 2:00 pm  
Assembly L102 Matching Funds, Pig Roast at the Kuhnsville Hotel all day  
Assembly L102, Halloween Party, Wesnak residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 pm  
Assembly L102, Christmas ornament making party, Wesnak residence at 2:00 pm  
Assembly L102, Matching Funds, Breakfast with Santa (TBA)

### AT LARGE

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

August 17  
August 20  
October 22  
December 17

Assembly 0586, Meeting, Chicken Basket, Joliet Road, Willowbrook, IL at 4:00  
Assembly 0705, Meeting at the Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm  
Assembly 0705, Meeting at the Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm  
Assembly 0705, Christmas Party (Fraternal Fund Activity) TBA

## DEADLINE FOR PUBLICATION

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., **MUST BE** received by the Home Office **no later than the 5th of the month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article and photos in a timely manner and space permitting.

Also, all articles should be **typewritten in regular type or emailed to the Home Office**.

## The President's Page...

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



It has been almost twenty years since the National Slovak Society moved to our current Home Office on Valley Brook Road in McMurray. The current Home Office Building was purchased and on October 24, 2003, the move occurred and business at Valley Brook Road resumed on Monday October 27, 2003. Four years prior, the NSS moved from our Home Office location on East Carson Street on Pittsburgh's Southside to leased space in the Southpointe Business Complex because as National Secretary-Treasurer Paul M. Payerchin, Jr. wrote in the *National News*, "We needed larger office space as we were growing." The Home Office had been moved to East Carson Street on June 1, 1979, from its former location on Court Place in downtown Pittsburgh.

When the building on Valley Brook Road was purchased in 2003, the National Slovak Society was much different than it is today. The building which is just over 10,000 square feet was spacious enough to house the thirteen full-time NSS employees, have a Board of Directors Meeting Room, storage area, and the Society was able to lease space to another business which occupied nearly one-third of the building's space. In 2008, approximately one-half of the storage area was converted to house the NSS Heritage Museum. At the time of the purchase the assets of the NSS were at \$173,165,926, surplus equaled \$3,952,845, premium amounted to \$57,578,232, with 16,930 members, 23,794 certificates, and 320 independent agents. In 2002, the Society began an aggressive advertising campaign which was one of the factors

contributing to the phenomenal growth in the NSS over the next twenty years. Today the Society is the eighth largest fraternal benefit society in the United States with assets at \$1,762,019,273, surplus equaling \$91,894,286, premium of \$218,833,341 with 39,910 members, 48,086 certificates, and 1,421 independent agents. The volume of business over the past two years has exceeded 5,000 new policies each year, a 78% increase over the average number of new policies for the previous ten years. Today, the Home Office has twenty-eight full-time and two part-time employees. We are currently in the process of converting our policy administration software system. The new policy administration software system will require several new technology/business positions based on recommendations from our Chief Information Officer Alan Burns and the Project Management Team. The current Home Office has no available office space for additional employees. Today, we face the same problem the NSS experienced in 1999 and again in 2003. NSS outgrew our Home Office. In addition, the NSS Heritage Museum has outgrown the space available and has been limited in developing additional displays and hosting events.

In August of 2022, based on projections for necessary personnel in the future, an analysis of the current facility was conducted. The possibility of adding minimal office space within the building was researched and would not provide the employee workspace needed for the future and allow for growth. The Board of Directors suggested looking for new office space in the Washington County area. In February 2023, a possible location was found, and the Board of Directors authorized the Executive Officers to begin negotiations for the purchase of the new office space. On June 6, 2023, the closing occurred. The new Home Office facility is located just five miles from our current location in the Ashwood Commons Business Condominiums Complex on Route 19 in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. Once the move takes place, the current Home Office on Valley Brook Road will not be abandoned as plans are to keep the NSS Heritage Museum in the facility and expand the amount of available area for displays and events. Septemberfest and Christmas Around

the World celebrations will continue as they have in the past at the Valley Brook location. Additionally, some current Home Office staff will remain at the Valley Brook location to provide a daily presence at the building.

A firm date for the move to the new facility has not been set but tentatively it will occur in October. The logistic coordination for the move is ongoing. The new space will provide employee office space to accommodate the needs of the NSS with increased staff into the future.

The Home Office Staff is extremely excited about moving to the new facility. Currently, most of our employees work in cubicles. The new facility will provide offices for each employee with a conference room and Board of Directors Meeting Room. We are excited and looking forward to moving to our new Home Office and continuing to offer excellent service to our nearly 40,000 members and 1,421 independent agents. Additional information regarding the move will be provided in future issues of the *National News*.

The Summer Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2023. Any information for consideration at the meeting should be submitted to Secretary/Treasurer Linda Strom at the Home Office by August 11th.

A reminder that the NSS Poetry Contest deadline for entries is August 15, 2023. Parents and grandparents please encourage our youth members to submit an entry for the contest. All youth members entering will receive an NSS T-shirt. Once again, our adult members are encouraged to submit an entry for the Poe Category. This is an opportunity for members regardless of their location to take part in an NSS National Fraternal Activity.

Region #5 will hold a Picnic at Cedar Creek County Park on Sunday, August 20, 2023. The picnic will be held at Pavilion #16 starting at 1:00 p.m. The picnic is free to NSS members, but registration is required through Director Laurie Fox at [lfox@nsslife.org](mailto:lfox@nsslife.org). The deadline to register is August 7, 2023. Hope to see you at the Region 5 Family Picnic.



## News of Narodniars

My deepest sympathy to the Havir family on the recent passing of Mildred Hair, wife of the late National Director Edward Havir. Millie was an active member of Assembly 4 and will be missed by all. May God provide peace and comfort to the Havir family at this most difficult time.

Special Happy Birthday wishes to my granddaughters Bella Bernardo and Caroline Bernardo. Hope you enjoy your birthdays, and they are as special as you both are!

Happy Birthday to Honorary President Dave Blazek, to our Home Office Graphic Design and Social Media Specialist Ryan Strom and to Riley Conner Home Office Claims Associate, to Jan Amick, Andrew Blazek, 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 Director Theresa Zemelman and husband Cal, Editor Lori Crowley and husband Kevin, to our Compliance and Risk Manager John Payerchin and wife Heather, and to Danielle and Jeff Lavin. Best wishes to all others celebrating an anniversary during the month of August!

## NSS Life Future Home Office



The view from the upper lot of our new NSS Life home office



The view from the lower lot of both new NSS Life buildings

## Youngstown's 18th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE!



The 18th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest will be held on Sunday August 13, 2023, on the grounds of St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish at 2800 Shady Run Rd, Youngstown, Ohio 44502.

As usual, the day starts off with a Slovak/English Mass at 10:30am at St. Matthias Church (915 Cornell Ave across the lot from the festival) and continues after Mass in the parking lot until 5:00pm.

The food will be served outside. We will have pick up outside and we will have tents with tables for you to eat under. The meals will be ordered ahead so we can plan how many to get ready. Call ahead to order at the office phone number 330-788-5082. Taste of Slovakia Dinner: \$12 with holubky (stuffed cabbage), potato/cheese pirohy (bandurky a syr), halušky (sweet cabbage and dumplings), a cucumber salad (uhorkovy šalát) and roll and butter (chlieb a maslo). Klobasa Sandwich Dinner: \$10 includes a large klobasa with Father Jerek's special sauerkraut sandwiches, bag of chips and a large delicious homemade cookie.

Also available on the grounds will be Slovak Chicken fingers with special slaw and pickle (\$5) and Salvadoran Papusas (fried onions, cabbage and cheese in a handmade tortilla) (\$3) and a great selection of Slovak baked goods including kolace and kiffles, and so much more will be in the bakesale.

There will be Slovak items and books for sale. There is also a great Slovak Heritage corner showing many beautiful items on display such as authentic Slovak kroj (folk costumes), maps, corn husk dolls, photos, books, embroidery and informational items (like free Slovak recipes!)

Of course, there is also a wonderful basket auction, a 50/50, and a cash raffle with total \$2000 in prizes from \$50 to \$1000. (The cash raffle tickets will also available if you call the office number)

We will have musical entertainment by the Del Sinchak Band, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There's even room to dance! So you know the music will be wonderful!

So come celebrate our Slovak heritage with great food, great music and great friends!

For more information just give me a call at 330-549-3760 or email me at [loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com](mailto:loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com)!

By Loretta Ekoniak



## A Page From My Notebook...

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



## Our Condolences

We send our condolences to Mark Havir, Assembly 0004, Parma, OH and to the entire Havir family on the passing of Mildred Havir wife of past NSS Director Edward Havir. Mildred was an active member of Assembly 0004 as was husband Ed. They were always at NSS events no matter where the event was held, especially bowling!



## Policy Administration Project (Equisoft)

We have so many projects going on at one time in the Home Office that time goes by very quickly. The first phase of our Policy Administration system migration to Cloud technology is scheduled to go live the weekend of September 8th. CIO Alan Burns and his project team, Toni Schuster and Brandon Nichols have put in an enormous amount of hours up to this point and we anticipate many more. Thanks to Al and his team of consultants for keeping this massive endeavor moving forward. It has not always been an easy road to travel. And I especially want to thank the entire NSS staff for their efforts in the testing and validation of new processes and making time to attend critical meetings to pass along their knowledge of current processes to make sure nothing is missed.

## Best's Review

Each year Best's Review Magazine comes out with their List of the Top 200 US Life/Health Insurers ranked by admitted assets for the year(s) being reported. In their July 2023 issue they reported the following: In 2021 NSS ranked 138th with Total Admitted Assets of 1,648,444 (000); and in 2022 NSS moved up two percent and ranked 136th with Total Admitted Assets of 1,762,019 (000); a 6.9% change over 2021. We are confident that this growth pattern will continue.

## 2022 Fraternal Tracking Results Coming Soon

The results of our 2022 Fraternal Tracking have taken a while to complete. There were many more activities that had to be added to the results such as logging the attendees who attended our 2022 38th Quadrennial Convention. Even with Hurricane and Tornado destruction in the South, our assemblies and regions increased their activities by providing aid to those who realized various types of loss.

At their Spring Meeting the Board of Directors voted to increase the value of each Extra Effort Award. The new award amounts will be used to calculate your 2022 Diamond, Platinum, Silver, and Titanium awards. Upon achieving the Extra Effort points required the awards will now be as follows: Silver will require 50 points earning \$300; Platinum will require 75 points earning \$500; Diamond will require 100 points earning \$700 and the newest award, Titanium, will require 150 points and earn \$1,000. You will be surprised how many of our Assemblies have earned awards and those who have reached the top.

## NSS is Growin' and a Movin'

Earlier this year an opportunity arose to possibly purchase a new office building, still in Washington County for property tax savings, which would allow for much needed expansion, and much more. After several months of discussions; several trips for viewing the new office building; much deliberation on price, size, and expansion; many meetings with the building owners and our own legal counsel, etc. etc.; an offer was submitted to and accepted by the owners, and contracts/agreements approved by the NSS Directors. We now begin the immense task of planning to move. I'm sure that every month the magazine will contain updates on where we are in planning the move. Stay tuned.



Region 5

Sunday, August 20, 2023



Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion # 16

1 — 5 p.m.



- FREE!
- FOOD
- AUCTION BASKETS



By "Giggles the Clown"

Call, text or email Laurie Fox with # of Adults & Children attending:

330-717-4705 or LFox@NSSLife.org

Deadline for registration Monday, August 7, 2023



SEPTEMBERFEST 2023

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Presented by the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum

11 AM—4 PM

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



This year will mark our 11th 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. 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. Early Vendor registration is encouraged. Deadline for Vendor registration is August 10, 2023.**

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.

# Current Interest Rates

★ Effective July 1, 2023 ★

**Optimum 3 – 4.25%**

**Preferred 5 – 4.00%**

**New Preferred 8 – 6.00%\*** (For First Year Only)

\*Current projected renewal rate of 4.25% for Preferred 8  
(Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4.25%, 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.



## OPEN A ROTH IRA

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

- \* Tax Advantages
- \* Competitive Interest Rates

MYTH:  
**I don't need life insurance until I am older**

**FACT:** Life insurance is significantly less expensive for the young and healthy. Buying a policy can protect the financial security of your loved ones.

#HelpProtectOurFamilies  
#LIAM2022



Source: 2022 Insurance Barometer Study, LIMRA and Life Happens



## From the Sales Department...

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



## Primer On Life Insurance And Annuities.

### Life insurance 101 –

This month begins our series of basic education of the life insurance and annuity marketplace. We begin with life insurance, which is the greatest financial instrument ever devised. Life insurance rates are based on several factors: age, sex, nicotine use, and health. The younger a person is the less expensive their insurance. Females are less expensive to insure since they live on the average about five years longer than males. A non-nicotine user is less expensive to insure than a smoker. And finally, health is a big factor. The healthier a person is the less expensive their insurance costs.

The beauty of life insurance is that anyone can buy it by completing an application and paying the first payment. This usually means that the person is immediately insured. The cost is pennies on the dollar. As an example, a male, age 35, could buy a \$100,000 whole life plan for less than three cents a day. If they lived to age 95, the most they would have paid towards the policy is \$60,000 but it is worth \$100,000 plus.

When a person buys a permanent plan of insurance (whole life, twenty pay, variable, universal, indexed, etc.) part of every premium goes to pay for the cost of your insurance or the death benefit. The balance is used to build a cash reserve. Over the years, the insurance company invests these reserves and with interest they can pay

the claim someday in the future. Permanent plans work best when kept for a number of years, at least ten or more.

Most people think about life insurance when some major life event occurs, birth, marriage, new home, divorce, or death. Life insurance is unique in that it buys you time. If you live long enough probably all your hopes and dreams will come true. But sometimes bad things happen to good people. Their life is cut short by any number of things, but their family still needs them and their income. No one can replace the person, but we can replace some of the monetary loss.

Permanent plans provide some benefits whether a person lives, dies, or quits paying their premiums. If they die, we pay the claim. If they live, they could use the cash account. And if they quit paying there are other options such as a reduced paid-up insurance amount or extended insurance options.

We would love to give you a no obligation quote so you can see how life insurance can help you and your family. Please call your NSS representative or our office for more information.

### Annuities 101 –

What is an annuity? It is a contract between you and the insurance company (NSS Life) to provide you with income or interest now or in the future. Most people like these key features of annuities:

- Tax-deferral – taxes are not due until the interest is withdrawn.
- Competitive yield – our best rate is 6.0% interest on a new Preferred 8 account.
- Strong minimum guarantees – current contracts have a 3.0% min. interest rate.
- Avoids probate when paid to a named beneficiary.
- Safety and liquidity

NSS currently offers four different annuities. Our Preferred 8 currently pays 6.0% interest guaranteed for the first year. The Preferred 5 currently pays 4.0% interest (rate may change quarterly). The Optimum3 is paying 4.25% guaranteed for the first three years. And our single premium immediate annuities (SPIAs) have all kinds of options for payouts.

Annuities are designed for savings towards retirement. A person can start accumulating money by making monthly or annual payments to an annuity. Many people open an account with a lump sum. Some withdraw their interest every month or so. Others are content to let their account grow.

Our annuities work for almost everyone. They are a conservative way to save money for the future. If the goal is long term, then an annuity may be for you. To see how these favored programs can work for you and your family, please contact your local NSS representative or the Home Office for more information.

Tax notice - One foot note about annuities from the IRS. If you withdraw money and you are underage 59½ then a 10% early withdrawal penalty applies to any interest.



### Thought For The Month:

*Today I want you to think about all that you are instead of all that you are not.*

*Slovak proverb*

**L-R: Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak receives his Fraternal Insurance Counselor pin from Greg Felton, NSS Sales Director. He passed a series of tests and has the experience requirement to be awarded this designation and honor. He joins a group of other NSS FICs including Joe Stefka, John Payerchin, Greg Felton, Jeff DeSantes, Rick Toth and David Blazek.**

## Fraternal Matters...

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



## PVR Scholarship Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS to the fifty-seven First 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 2023 grants will be mailed from the Home Office early in August.

## Art Contest

The artwork submitted for the **May Art Contest** is currently at the judges. Results will be published in the next issue of the *National News*.

## Upcoming Contests

The deadline for the upcoming Poetry Contest is **August 15th**, so get your entries in!

Later in the fall will be the Photo Contest, where entries are due by **October 31st**.

# PIRATES

## Region 5 Pirates Night

On Friday, June 30th Region 5 held its annual Pirates Night at PNC Park and what a night it was. NSS had 150 people there to cheer on the Pirates against the Milwaukee Brewers to a nail-biting win in the 9th inning. It was a great night to enjoy our beautiful city.

## Lead Program

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors approved a new partnership between NSS Life and the **LEAD Program**.

**LEAD** stands for Leadership Education Accountability Direction

Judge Ron Arnoni and Brad Killmeyer created the “LEAD” program and leadership training services to prevent problems before they occur and to encourage those in need to seek appropriate help. Everyday Judge Arnoni sees in his courtroom how our youth, their families and our communities are negatively impacted when young people make poor decisions. They aim to empower our youth with the necessary leadership skills and education to make responsible decisions and become productive members of society.

## “Be a Leader, Not a Follower”

is an assembly they present at schools all over the Western PA area. They have supported 40+ school districts with over 100 Leadership Programs.

- Ideal for Grades 6th – 12th
- 60-minute program
- Interactive
- Accomplished Guest Speakers
- Three Tier Program covering: Substance Abuse, Social Media (cyberbullying, internet safety), Leadership Skill (accountability, goal setting, decision making)

If you would like to learn more about the program or see if they can schedule an assembly program, please contact Pam Blum 724-731-0094 or email me at pblum@nsslife.org

The Gulf Building was lit up right in front of us in the Pittsburgh skyline. Several people asked what the different colors on top of the building mean, so here is a fun fact about the famous building and its weather beacon.

## The weather, according to the Gulf Tower

The temperature will be displayed on the top three floors

RED: 80° +
ORANGE: 66° - 79°
AMBER: 50° - 65°
LIGHT BLUE: 33° - 49°
MEDIUM BLUE: 0° - 32°
DARK BLUE: BELOW 0°

Precipitation will be represented by the 41st floor

RED PURPLE: ABOVE .25 INCHES
BLUE PURPLE: .25 INCHES AND BELOW

Humidity will be represented by the 40th floor

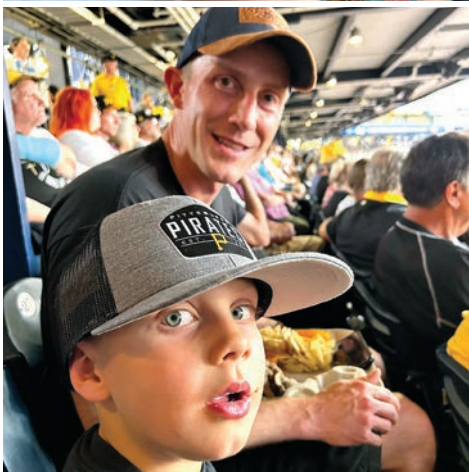
DARK GREEN: 50 PERCENT AND ABOVE
LIGHT GREEN: BELOW 50 PERCENT

Wind speed will be represented by the 39th floor

MAGENTA: MORE THAN 10 MPH
PINK: 10 MPH AND LESS



# NSS Region 5 Pirates Night at PNC Park



## ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA



A beautiful summer day greeted over forty of our members and friends that gathered for our Summer Bar-B-Q at the Columbia Association Picnic pavilion for our quarterly meeting and to celebrate our American flag. Food on the grill is always best. Each family went home with an American flag. The assembly agreed to support the "Blessings-In-A Backpack" program being sponsored by the local Uniontown Salvation, for the summer months. We raised \$250.00 that will be matched by the home office.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of Anthony E. Bartock, Jr., Charles Daniels, James Dayoob, Kaitlynn Rusnock and Goldie Stromick. May they rest in the arms of the Resurrected Christ.

Our Region 5 Summer Picnic will again be held at the Cedar Creek Park, just off of Route 51 near Belle Vernon on Sunday, **August 20th**. Free food! Bingo! Fun for the whole family. Look for Pavilion #16. Call Laurie Fox at 330-717-4705 and let her know you are coming. I will be looking for you! Our National Heritage Museum will sponsor their annual *Septemberfest* on Saturday, **September 30th** at the home office. Festivities start at 11:00 a.m. Great Slovak food, Slovak dancers, ethnic vendors. Come see our Slovak Heritage Museum and the beautiful wood carving. Our assembly is helping to sponsor the event.

We need you to enter each of these fraternal contests so that we are credited with "fraternal tracking points". The *NSS Poetry Contest*: deadline August 15th and the *NSS Photo Contest*: Deadline October 31st. Get your creative juices flowing.

At our next meeting, we will be honoring those brave individuals that perished on Flight 93 on September 11th. We will meet on Sunday, **September 10th** in the community room of

the Bob Evans Restaurant. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.

Have a great summer vacation with your family,

**John Payerchin**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0070 Brooklyn, OH

A meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon will be held at Dr. Martin Luther Church on September 24, 2023. Please call John Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. Side dishes or desserts would be appreciated.

**John Karkosiak**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

The fraternal summer picnic will be held on **August 6th** at the Mercateli Segilia Park, Birney Avenue, Moosic, PA. A meeting will be held on **October 14, 2023** at the Grandes at 1:00 p.m.

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

**Lehrae Edwards**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our assembly will have their summer picnic on **September 4th** at the Gross's residence, New Tripoli, PA at 2:00 p.m. Bring your swim suits and join in the fun.

Mark your calendar for our future events so you don't miss them:

**Saturday, September 23rd:**

Matching Funds, Pig Roast at the Kuhnsville Hotel all day for the benefit of ALS

**Sunday, October 22nd:**

Halloween Party at the Wesnak residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 5th:**

Christmas ornament making party at the Wesnak's residence at 2:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 9th:**

Matching Funds "Breakfast with Santa" for the Hokey AA football team.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Below are some dates to remember and put on your calendar. **August 15th** is the deadline for the *NSS Poetry Contest*. Surely some of our members have that special talent with words to submit an entry.

Then Sunday, **August 20th** is the Region 5, of which Assembly 123 is part of, family picnic at Cedar Creek Park located in Rostraver Twp, Westmoreland County. It is a beautiful park and there is plenty of good food and fun. It is also a good chance to meet some of the members of other assemblies. Details for registering are in the *NSS National News* magazine.

Sunday, **September 17th** is the Assembly 123 miniature golf outing. The course location is in Neville Island behind the Robert Morris Ice Complex and next to the golf dome. Golf is free also pizza and drinks will be provided after golf. Tee off time is 1:00 p.m. Lots of fun for the family. Please call Bill Del Monaco at 412-264-7268 to let him know you will be attending.

Saturday, **September 30th** is *Septemberfest* from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Home office in McMurray, PA. This is a special event sponsored by the Slovak Heritage Museum. This event is both educational and entertaining. It will be well worth your time. I was at the NSS night at the Pirate game against the Milwaukee Brewers. The game started ugly and the bullpen had been bad and getting worse. I decided to leave and beat the traffic. It was a full house and I had given up hope. I didn't want to get home late. I had no faith that the Pirates would come back. You know what happened next, a walk off home run in the 9th inning and the Pirate win and perhaps their most thrilling game of the year. I confess no hope, no faith, so please have some charity and forgive me.



I would like to give a big shout out to one of our youth members Ty Robbins. He is now ranked the top water ski jumper in the men's 14 and under in not only the USA but the World. Wow that is something special! Enjoy the rest of summer.

**William Knoll**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA



Members attending our annual picnic.



A dedication was held of the Memorial bench for Irene and Milton Saniga at the picnic.

Below are the remaining meetings we have for this year. And as always, please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171.

### Sunday, August 6th:

Gateway Clipper Cruise Pittsburgh, Pa at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Arrive by 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, October 29th:

Sesame Inn, 2975 Washington Road, McMurray, Pa at 3:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 3rd:

Hugo's Restaurant, 687 National Pike, West Brownsville, Pa at 3:00 p.m.

**Suzanne Skrypak**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

**DATE CHANGE** - Assembly 432's "Night at the Ballpark". We will be going to a Lake Erie Crushers game on **August 25th** at 7:05 p.m. (Gates Open at 6:00 p.m.) Food will be included. Contact Dave Pytel at (440)759-4558, Bill Shuttleworth at (440) 465-6024, or Terri Hudak at (440)714-8902 for tickets.

We look forward to seeing you all.

**Shawn Pytel**  
Publicity & Social Media



## ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

A meeting will be held on Thursday, **August 17th** at Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, Route 66, Joliet Road, Willowbrook, IL. at 4:00 p.m. The restaurant was featured on a Food Network TV show a few years ago. Their location is on the pathway across America, the iconic Route 66.

Our agenda includes a discussion about Matching Funds. We will collect socks and canned goods and treats for our men and women in the United States military overseas. God bless them and bring them home soon.

**Irene Tomaskovic**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

A meeting will be held on **September 18th** at Joe & Annette Stefka's, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for our next meeting: **November 13th**. All meetings will be held at the Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA. If attending, please call Annette at 724-407-3591.

**Annette Stefka**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly notes with great regret the passing of George Strish long time leader and officer of the Assembly. George passed away on June 22, 2023, he will be greatly missed. The assembly extends condolences to George's family.

The assembly has two important upcoming projects. The Assembly plans a Basket Raffle for a Matching Funds Project in August. This project will aid Father John Ostrowski a member of the assembly with his work in El Salvador. The baskets will be on display at the Assembly's Fraternal Day. Any member interested in donating a basket is asked to contact John Kurilla.

**Assembly 617's Fraternal Day will take place on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at Knoebles Park at 1:00 p.m. Reservations for Fraternal Day will close on August 9, 2023.**

Any member of the assembly that wishes to donate a basket, or make a reservation for Fraternal Day please contact John Kurilla at 570-287-4162, 570-239-5936, or [jjkurilla@aol.com](mailto:jjkurilla@aol.com)

**John Kurilla**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH



### ... Final Reminder ...

A Family Fun Camping Weekend is planned for **September 22-24, 2023** at Camp Frederick located at 6996 Millrock Rd., Rogers, Ohio. Rogers is located in Columbiana County, Ohio near the Pennsylvania and West Virginia borders making it easily accessible many members in other assemblies. Assembly 731 has made arrangements to utilize the camp's lodge and nice cabins with twin-size bunk beds sleep 10. The adventure will begin on Friday, September 22 with registration 5:00-7:00 p.m. along with a pizza and ice cream social. All day Saturday will be dedicated to fun adventures geared for the family. Sunday will include half day activities with check-out at 3:00. The assembly will provide 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 2 evening meals plus snacks and beverages.

For additional information and registration form contact Laurie Fox at [lfox@nsslife.org](mailto:lfox@nsslife.org) or call/text to 330-717-4705. **We must have a final count by August 12.**

**Laurie Fox**  
President

## REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

A meeting will be held on **Saturday, August 5, 2023** at Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 p.m.

Election of officers will be held for the upcoming 2024 year. Those who would like to attend please contact Lucy Piccoletti at 570-479-4116 or RSVP on our Facebook page at (NSS Life Region 2).

**Marlin Petro Wesnak**  
President

## SIMPLY SLAVIC



Loretta Ekoniak, President of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley displayed the groups' collection of a variety of Slovak items.



"Rosina" represents a family table where you could gather around for a shot of a favorite whiskey or vodka.



Kathy & Jim Cessna shared a delicious Steel City Chimney Cake (also known as Kúrtoskalács) is a Transylvanian confection pastry now popular in Hungary and surrounding regions.

NSS is a sponsor for the Simply Slavic Heritage Festival in Youngstown, Ohio. Assembly 731 members enjoyed the live music, folk dance performances, homemade authentic ethnic food, educational exhibits, and ethnic vendors. Several groups represented the origins of the region's Slavic ancestors from Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Carpatho-Rusyn, Croatia, Czech Republic, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine. Thousands of people enjoyed the 2-day festival on the streets of downtown Youngstown.

## Assembly 110 Biannual Weekend



Another successful year for having our biannual weekend outing at Woodloch Pines in Hawley, PA during the weekend of June 9-11, 2023. This was a great opportunity to get the gang together since our members have scattered across the country. While many of our active members live in the tri-state area around New York City, we had members making their way from as far as Boston in the east, Los Angeles in the west, Houston in the southwest and a few other places in between. It was good to see everyone and reminisce about parents and grandparents who worked so hard to build the legacy of our Assembly. A new generation is growing up with fond memories and strong traditions as they participate in NSS organized events.

**Richard De Sanctis**  
Financial Secretary

## News from Assembly 586

As we continue to do, we took collected items to Operation Support Our Troops Lisle warehouse last week. Though our donation was not as large as before, we were heartily thanked by the volunteers pictured who pack the boxes for mailing overseas.



The Mega Garage sale held at my church in June netted over \$53,000 from a huge effort from weeks of work by more than 200 volunteers. Eighteen or more charities will share in the bounty. Among them will be Mission Slovakia fund which has refugee Ukrainian children and families included in education, housing, health care in Martin, Slovakia. When I asked the Dean of the Christian Studies "what do they anticipate from Putin" he answered that in addition to the worry, they take one day at a time and hope for the best.

A group from my church in Naperville has traveled to Slovakia for the 25th anniversary celebration of the Center for Christian Education in Martin.

In 1999, our first trip as missionaries to Slovakia, the schools were the dream of dedicated Slovaks. Joe, Janet and I were part of their group at a little Slovak church having strudel while hearing their plans for education in a Christian school. Those dreams largely came true!

**Irene Tomaskovic**  
President

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# In Memoriam of George A. Strish, Jr. Assembly 0617



George A. Strish Jr., 81, a lifetime resident of Ashley, passed away peacefully at his home Thursday, June 22, 2023.

He went on to pursue

his lifelong ambition of following in his parents footsteps and became a licensed funeral director in 1963, graduating from Eckel's College of Mortuary Science, Philadelphia, and was affiliated with his parents in the family business. He was a funeral director for over 60 years. He also attained his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from King's College in 1972. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves from June 1967 to March 1972. Together with his sister, Deborah, and sons, George III and Eric, they continued the George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home legacy. George was devoted to his profession and dedicated his life to helping people in their time of need.

He was a member of the National Slovak Society and named Fraternalist of the Year in 2006. He was an antique car collector and enthusiast. He was also a gifted vocalist and in his younger years sang at many weddings of friends, funerals and events. He will long be remembered for his kind and loving ways and devotion to his profession.

Preceding him in death were his beloved wife of 51 years, Rose Mary Krupa Strish, in 2020; brothers, Robert J. Strish, in 1956, and Norman J. Strish, in 2007.

Surviving are sons, George A. Strish III and his wife, Carlee, Mountain Top; Kenneth J. Strish and his wife, Ellen Brennan, Berwick; and Eric R. Strish, and his wife, Amanda, Mountain Top; eight grandchildren, Maria Rose, George IV, Anthony, Donato, Noah, Samuel, Eric Paul and Luke Strish; sister, Deborah Strish Katra and her husband, Jeff, Hunlock Creek; and numerous nieces and nephews.



## DEPARTED MEMBERS JUNE, 2023

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Adams, Martha	Harts, WV	05/14/2023	0774
Albert, Shirley	Wintersville, OH	03/31/2023	0774
Anderson, Karl	Erie, PA	06/14/2023	0595
Armentrout, Mark	Elkins, WV	04/06/2023	0774
Artz, Ernest	Pottsville, PA	06/19/2023	L102
Astolos, Charles J	Saltsburg, PA	05/19/2023	L161
Bailey, Shirley	Fleetwood, PA	05/25/2023	L102
Bean, Cheryl	Mercer, PA	06/06/2023	0731
Bernard, Charlotte	Indiana, PA	06/01/2023	L105
Bradica, Joann	Belle Vernon, PA	05/11/2023	0377
Brady, Noreen	Acme, PA	05/09/2023	0039
Brumfield, Charlotte	Glenwood, WV	06/06/2023	0774
Buterbaugh, Edwin	Indiana, PA	04/27/2023	0554
Camberg, Lawrence	Valencia, PA	06/07/2023	0123
Carpico, Bernadette	Mingo Junction, OH	06/25/2023	0588
Chamberlin, Mary	Pittsburgh, PA	05/16/2023	L161
Chambers, Shirley	Bruceton Mills, WV	04/05/2023	0588
Cheesman, Evelyn	Natrona Heights, PA	10/05/2021	L105
Childs, Margaret	Uniontown, PA	06/20/2023	0039
Coddington, Margaret	Monroeville, PA	05/29/2023	L105
Corvino, Patricia	Greensburg, PA	06/02/2023	0737
Dalessio, Frank	Beyer, PA	05/17/2023	0774
Deaton, Irene Vensko	Uniontown, PA	01/19/2023	0039
DiCiero, Richard	Aliquippa, PA	05/14/2023	0123
Doyle, James MG	Russell, PA	06/05/2023	0554
Echard, John	Williamsburg, PA	06/21/2023	0267
Edwards Jr., Peter S	McMurray, PA	06/13/2023	0434
Egner, Bernard	Irvine, PA	05/31/2023	R019
Fankhauser, Gladys	Clayton, MI	04/05/2023	0381
Fellows, Veronica	Norfolk, CT	09/17/2018	0028
Felton, Josephine	McDonald, PA	05/26/2023	0588
Frey, Jay M	Mountville, PA	04/27/2023	0267
Gaich, Daniel	Hunker, PA	06/22/2023	0737
Gelli, Mary	Monessen, PA	05/24/2023	0377
Ghidella, Regina	Gig Harbor, WA	05/28/2018	0774
Gibson, Jeannine	Tyrone, PA	06/08/2023	0774
Gigliotti, Colleen	Murrysville, PA	05/31/2023	L105
Gill, Andrew	Bensalem, PA	12/24/2022	R059
Glick, Mary G	Leola, PA	05/11/2023	L102
Glunt, Gladys	Newry, PA	04/23/2023	0267
Godleski, Helen	Oakdale, PA	05/29/2023	0123
Gordon, James F	Avella, PA	06/03/2023	0588
Griffith, Susan	Erie, PA	05/13/2023	0774
Haines, Roxanne	Pittsburgh, PA	05/29/2023	L161
Halfhill, Randy	Connellsville, PA	05/17/2023	0039
Hanna, George	Hurricane, WV	05/25/2023	0774
Harris, Mickalina	Monessen, PA	06/21/2023	0377
Hartnett, Patrick	Warren, PA	05/22/2023	0554
Hoover, Dale	Martinsburg, PA	06/07/2023	L040
Hospodavis, John	Masontown, PA	05/31/2023	0039
Hrivnak, Edward	Berea, OH	02/05/2021	0432
Hughes Jr., Harry F	Uniontown, PA	05/18/2023	0039
Hummer, Jon	East Millsboro, PA	05/23/2023	0039
Irish, William	Erie, PA	05/30/2023	0774
Jamesson, Thomas S	McKeesport, PA	06/03/2023	0441
Johnson, David E	Fairmont, MN	02/03/2023	0774
Jones, David Quinn	St Pauls, NC	01/25/2023	0774



## DEPARTED MEMBERS JUNE, 2023

(continued from page 16)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Jones, Jean E	Washington, PA	04/17/2023	0377
Justice, Phyllis	Charleston, WV	05/03/2023	0774
Kavanagh, Joan	Suffield, CT	03/31/2023	0774
Keener, Gale	Washington, PA	02/22/2023	0588
Kelly, Harold D	Cumberland Twp, PA	05/26/2023	0039
King, Leroy E	Corry, PA	06/11/2023	0731
Kristoff, Pamela	Springdale, PA	05/05/2023	L161
Kummick, Norma	Coral, PA	06/08/2023	0737
Kunkle, Martha	Altoona, PA	06/05/2023	0774
Kupsh, Harry	Reedsville, WI	05/22/2023	0774
Kwapien, Constance	California, PA	04/10/2023	0377
Lefcakis, Anthony	Oakmont, PA	06/19/2023	L161
Lesko, Linda	Vandergrift, PA	04/23/2023	L105
Lieu, Phoi NMI	Pittsburgh, PA	05/29/2023	0100
Lindell, Janet	Gibsonia, PA	03/22/2023	0123
Linsensbigler, Lillian	Apollo, PA	06/21/2023	L105
Lowe, Elmer	Warrior Run, PA	05/25/2023	0617
Maropis, Marguerite	Burgettstown, PA	12/29/2022	0588
Martin, Patricia A	Clarksburg, OH	05/28/2023	0595
Miller, Jolene	Union City, PA	04/26/2023	0554
Miller Sr., Kenneth W	Carlisle, PA	06/18/2023	0774
Mioduszewski, Shirley	Erie, PA	06/12/2023	R059
Moore Jr., John P	Smock, PA	06/06/2023	0039
Neizmik, Nicholas	West Mifflin, PA	06/11/2023	0441
Niedermeier, Ruth	Pittsburgh, PA	05/25/2023	0774
Nimeh, Kamal	Whitehall, PA	05/25/2023	R059
Nusser, Patricia	Pittsburgh, PA	06/17/2023	0100
Oressie, Cecelia	Bradenton, FL	05/29/2023	L102
Pace Sr., Robert L	Mint Hill, NC	03/14/2023	0774
Patterson, Rose Mary	San Antonio, TX	06/26/2022	0586
Pavone, Francine	Republic, PA	05/27/2023	0039
Perez, Edith	Doylestown, PA	06/15/2023	R059
Perkovich, Audrey	Smiley, TX	05/06/2023	0586
Popik, Edith	Belle Vernon, PA	05/01/2023	0377
Provenza, Vincent	Oakmont, PA	06/18/2023	L161
Purvin, Donald	Shavertown, PA	06/15/2022	0617
Raciborski, Bessie	McDonald, PA	06/08/2023	0588
Rios, Ivan	Vineland, NJ	06/10/2023	0774
Robinson Williams, Gloria	Portsmouth, VA	05/24/2023	0774
Salak, Frank	Monessen, PA	06/08/2023	0377
Schmidt, Cathleen	Pittsburgh, PA	06/08/2023	0100
Scribe, George	Pittsburgh, PA	05/14/2023	0434
Simkovic, Andrew	Carmichaels, PA	06/21/2023	0039
Snyder, Walter	Dallastown, PA	02/10/2023	L102
Sochovka, Barbara	Nashville, TN	05/26/2023	L075
Spence, Carol	Shippenville, PA	04/17/2023	0554
Tumminello Sr., Joseph	Shillington, PA	05/20/2023	0774
Webster, Deborah	Glendale, AZ	02/16/2023	0774
Weekley, Mary	Dover, PA	04/17/2023	L102
Willis, Timothy	Independence, WV	04/11/2023	0039
Wolfe, Patricia	Moundsville, WV	05/28/2023	0774
Wright, Bobby	Knightdale, NC	11/11/2022	0774
Yacovone, Gregory	Ludlow, MA	03/30/2023	0774
Yoder, John	Meadville, PA	05/31/2023	0774
Zacherl, Charles	Strattanville, PA	02/11/2023	0554
Zulian, Clara	Coraopolis, PA	07/10/2021	0737

## DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

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

Here is my donation of:

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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, 2023



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  
Director Theresa Zemelman .... 200.00  
Sally Ann Tyler ..... 50.00  
Director Michael Czarney ..... 50.00  
Director Keith Kucherawy ..... 50.00  
Director Theresa Zemelman .... 300.00  
Director Laurie Fox ..... 50.00  
Director Abigail Gross ..... 50.00



# August

...lenivé letné popoludnia, pikniky v parku, cvrlikanie cvrčkov v lese, svetlušky v tme, zdriemnutie premietaných na verandách, prechádzky po pláži, vlhde večery, obloha bez mráčika, hviezdy na dosah, kanoistika na tichom jazere, hojdiacie siete v tieň — Toto sú jednoduché poklady, z ktorých sa tvoria augustové dni!

## Jozef Murgaš – významný slovenský vynálezca



August je národným mesiacom vynálezcov a 20. august je národným dňom rozhlasu. Vynález rádia sa datuje do konca 19. storočia. Pri vytváraní tohto dôležitého média zohralo úlohu množstvo vynálezcov. Aby sa rádio stalo realitou, bolo potrebných množstvo vynálezov a objavov. To zahŕňa spôsoby a technológie prenosu a prijímu. Rádio sa trochu vyvinulo z telegrafu a telefónu, pričom bezdrôtový telegraf priamo prispel

k jeho vynálezu.

Jozef Murgaš ako prvý človek na svete uskutočnil bezdrôtový prenos ľudského hlasu, ktorý sa stal základom bezdrôtového prenosu a vysielania pre rádio. Princíp tohto prenosu sa dodnes používa pre analógové rozhlasové a televízne vysielanie. Jozef Murgaš bol vynálezca, politik, signatár, reverend, kňaz, umelec a maliar. Priekopník bezdrôtovej komunikácie, ktorý si svojimi patentmi získal uznanie celého sveta a jeho prínos pre svet je nesporný.

Národný deň rozhlasu oslavuje veľký vynález a komunikačné médium. Pocta p. Murgas je súčasťou Múzea národného slovenského kultúrneho dedičstva, ako aj ďalších slovenských vynálezcov.

Ďalší dôvod prísť v sobotu 30. septembra na Septemberfest a preskúmať múzeum kde máme vystavu aj iných vynálezcov, a užiť si všetky ostatné slávnosti, ktoré sa v ten deň konajú.

## NSS Region 5 výročity výlet



Pozývame našich členov Regionu 5 na výročity výlet (piknik) na 20 augusta. Výlet-piknik bude v cedar creek park pavilion 16 začiatkom od 1 pm poobede. Prosíme ohláste sa u Laurie Fox že koľky prídete aby sa organizujúca skupina mohla dobre pripraviť. 1-330/717-4705.

Pozývame Vás na "Septemberfest 2023

Ktorý sa prevedie 30 Septembra pri hlavnom úrade.

## Záhorie: Kde všade naokolo sú zázraky

Zahorie kedysi v centre Auto-Uhorska, je teraz „krajom za horami“, kde čas plynie o niečo pomalšie. To, čo by mohlo byť predmetom posmechu, sa však môže ľahko zmeniť na výhodu. Pokojná atmosféra



Záhoria je ideálna na meditáciu a jeho pútnické miesta Mariánka a Šaštín ročne navštívia tisíce pútnikov,

niektorí aj zo zahraničia.

Obec Mariánka takmer okamžite po odchode z Bratislavy ponúka jasný protijed na mestský život. Jeho hlavným lákadlom pre peších turistov sú nádherné lesy Malých Karpát, ale pre pútnikov je to socha Madony z 13. storočia a prameň zázračnej vody.

Mariánka je najstarším pútnickým miestom na Slovensku (ako aj v bývalom Uhorsku), ktorého zázraky zaznamenali pátri pavlíni z neďalekého kláštora. Podrobnosti o ďalších zázrakoch – vrátane príbehov o uzdravení a ochrane počas rôznych vojen – sú vyryté do mnohých plakiet v lurskej jaskyni. Neďaleko sa nachádza aj kalvária z roku 1936 a šesť starších kaplniek, ktoré ohraničujú cestu k zázračnému prameňu.



Krojované bábätká- Monika Klučiarová





# Youth Circle Page

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

## 2023 NSS POETRY CONTEST

**Deadline: August 15, 2023**

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.

## New Member - Hazel Whitehouse



Welcoming Assembly 774's, **Hazel Kane Whitehouse** to the Youth Circle!

Hazel Kane Whitehouse of Middlefield, CT was born September 4, 2022. She is the daughter of proud parents, Carly & Kane Whitehouse and Great-granddaughter of Esther Vlasak of Elroy, Wisc. Hazel has 2 big sisters Remi Michelle & Farrah Christine.

Welcome to NSS to sweet baby Hazel.

We'd like to extend an apology to Hazel's family for the lateness of this submission to the *National News* magazine.

## 2023 NSS PHOTO CONTEST

**Deadline: October 31, 2023**

### 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      Babies      Animals  
Architecture (Bridges, Buildings, and Interiors)

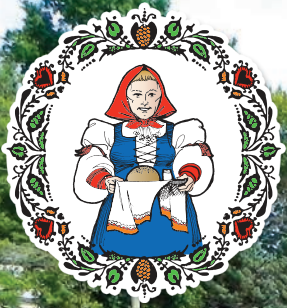
### Prize List

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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THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS  
**Septemberfest**

Saturday, September 30, 2023 • NSS Life Home Office

