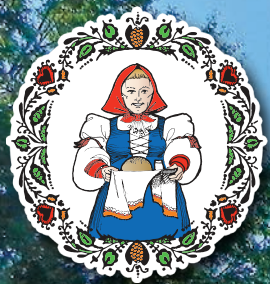




NSS Life
Family Matters...

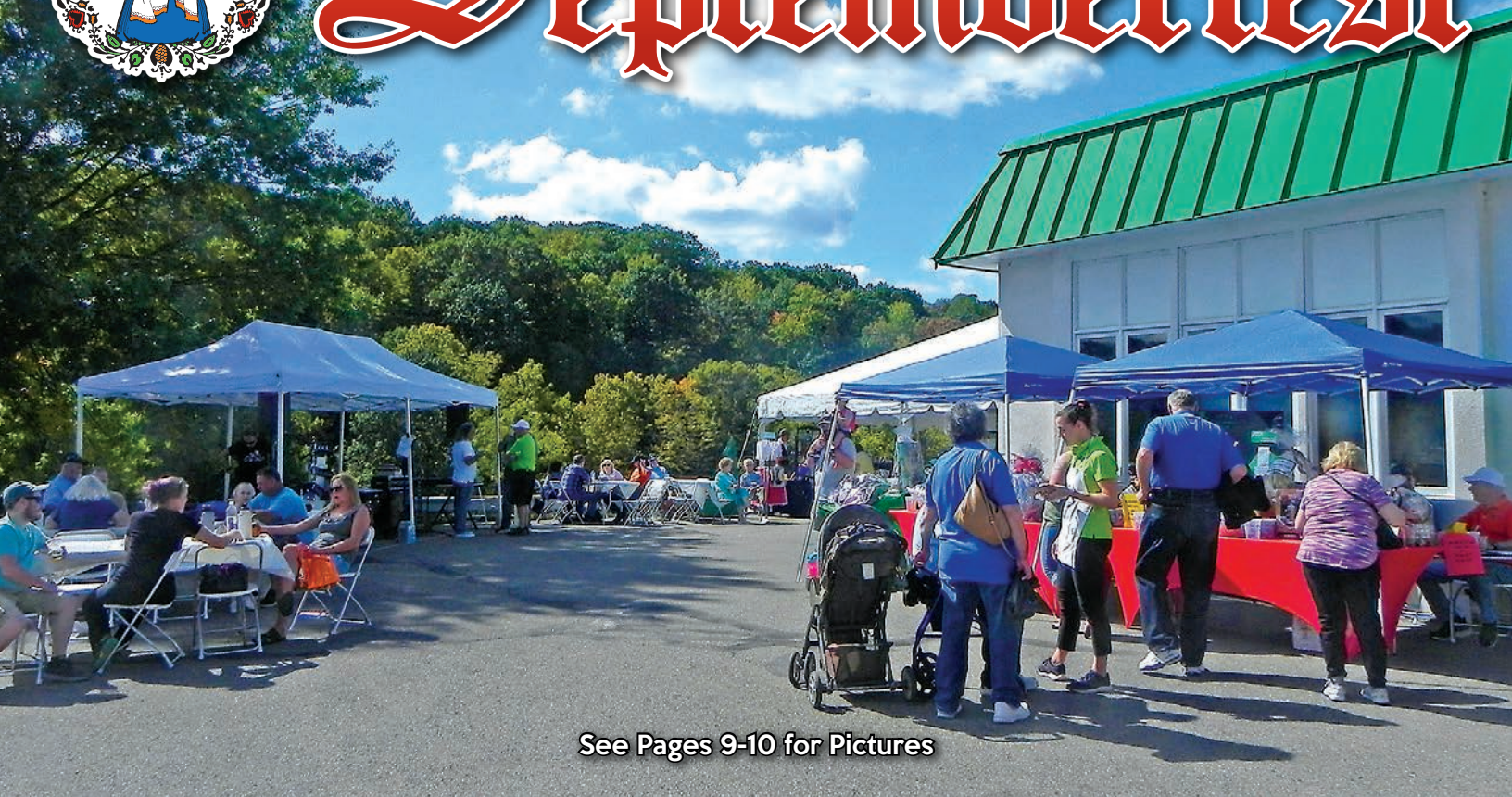
National News

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THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS

Septemberfest



See Pages 9-10 for Pictures

 **NSS Life**
Family Matters...

Poetry Contest

2023 First Place
Winners
See Page 22

2023 National Service
Christmas Card Collection
See Page 23

2023 Christmas
Ornament Contest
See Page 23



National Slovak Society

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EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY
Published Monthly
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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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Linda M. Strom,
Secretary/Treasurer, CFO
Robert F. Katricak, *FIC, Chairman of the Board*

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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

May 18, 2024

Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm

REGION 5

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

November 13
November 25
December 1
December 2
December 3
December 9
December 16
December 17

Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:30 pm
NSS Heritage Museum's "Christmas Around the World", NSS Home Office from 1:00 - 5:00 pm
NSS Christmas Ornament Contest deadline
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 0737, Holiday Meeting, Time and Place to be announced.
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center Rotary Room, Boardman, OH at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Christmas Luncheon, Rockefeller's Grill, Kennedy Twp., PA at 1:00 pm

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

November 19
December 3
December 6
February 18, 2024

Assembly 0004, Meeting, Vorell's residence, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0070, Christmas Luncheon/Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 11:30 am
Assembly 0432, Christmas Party/Meeting, Tony K's, Berea, OH at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0432, Tobogganing, Strongsville Chalet, Strongsville, OH at 6:00 pm

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

November 5
December 9

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

November 17
December 17

Assembly 0586, Christmas Activity, Francesca's, Oaklawn, IL (TBA)
Assembly 0705, Christmas Party (Fraternal Fund Activity) TBA

REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR PERSONAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION CURRENT

Please contact our NSS Life Member Services Department at 1-800-488-1890 with any of the following changes:

- MARITAL STATUS • MAILING ADDRESS • BENEFICIARY UPDATES • EMAIL ADDRESS
- IRA MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION REQUESTS • BANK ACCOUNT UPDATES FOR DEPOSITS OR WITHDRAWALS

ANY REQUESTS FOR DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE NSS FOR 2023 SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE HOME OFFICE BY: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2023.

The President's Page...

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



The month of November brings us the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 23rd. Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to pause from our hectic lives to giving thanks for the many Blessings we all have. It offers us a chance to share time with our families and to be thankful for the things that are most important to us. The Executive Officers, Board of Directors and Home Office Staff would like to wish all of you a safe and Blessed Thanksgiving Holiday.

The NSS Heritage Museum held its 11th Septemberfest on Saturday, September 30th. The weather was beautiful with sunny skies and temperatures in the mid 70's. NSS members, fellow fraternalists, and guests from the surrounding areas enjoyed a day of performances by the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Polka Classics! Visitors also enjoyed weaving demonstrations by Martin Meyer, visits to the NSS Heritage Museum, a variety of vendors with ethnic merchandise, and delicious Slovak foods and baked goods. The children's area offered a variety of games, balloon art by Giggles the Clown, and a basket raffle for those with winning game tickets. In conjunction with Septemberfest the PVR Scholarship Committee organized a basket raffle fundraiser. A total of 23 baskets and a "door prize" TV were part of the raffle. The baskets were donated by Assemblies, home office staff, and individuals. In addition, the assemblies made monetary donations for the Matching Funds Raffle. A total of \$2710 was raised prior to the matching funds. A special thank you to all that volunteered in preparation for Septemberfest, that worked throughout the event, and to those that served

on the cleanup crew. Also, a special thank you to NSS Heritage Museum curator Sue Ondrejco for planning and administering the event. Events of this magnitude take a great deal of time and effort to plan and carry out and Sue makes it all look so easy! Thank you to you and your family for the many hours in preparation to ensure the event's success! Also thank you to AQS Asset Management for sponsoring the tents for Septemberfest, and to all Assemblies, Regions, and individuals for serving as Septemberfest sponsors.

The Fall Meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Friday, November 17th through Sunday, November 19th at our new Home Office located in the Ashwood Commons Business Park in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

This will be our first Board of Directors meeting at the new Home Office. Please submit any information to be considered by the Board of Directors to Secretary-Treasurer Linda Strom by November 3, 2023.

A reminder to turn back your clocks one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5th as Daylight Savings Time ends!

The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program will host its 33rd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, November 5, 2023, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Commons Room at the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland campus. The event includes Slovak foods, cultural displays, educational lectures, craft demonstrations and vendors. The NSS will once again serve as a proud sponsor of the event. Please make plans to attend the Festival!

Veteran's Day will be celebrated on Saturday, November 11th. This is our opportunity to make the day special and to thank our veterans. It is because of their service to our Country that we enjoy the freedoms that we as Americans often take for granted. Thank you to all Veterans for your service!

The NSS Home Office will be closed for business on Thursday, **November 23rd** and Friday, **November 24th** so that our staff may enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their families.

A reminder that the Annual Christmas Ornament Contest deadline is December 1st. Please be sure to follow the rules and use your creativity as

you prepare your entries for this year's contest.

Christmas Around the World will take place at the NSS Heritage Museum located at the Home Office on Saturday, November 25th from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. and will include multi-ethnic Christmas trees on display, photos with St. Nicholas, a bake sale, children's arts and crafts, make your own oplatky, and Slovak Old World Kitchen ethnic foods. Admission is free. Make plans to join us for a great celebration.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to Director Laurie Fox, former Director Brian Medved, Lori Crowley *National News* Editor, Home Office staff members Patti Kropf and Mary Lee Shingle, to Cyndy Triebisch, Trudie Reeves, George Leasure, and to all others celebrating a birthday in November.

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to my wonderful wife Annette as we celebrate our 47th wedding anniversary this month, also to Honorary Director Tony Beno and wife Linda, and to Director Keith Kucherawy and wife Elaine and to all others celebrating a special day in November.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mary Lou Chojnicki who recently returned home from the hospital due to a fall.



A Page From My Notebook...

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



The "Lead" Project www.ourleadfamily.com



We have become a major sponsor of a program developed by Leadership-Development LLC, called "LEAD." This program, led by Judge Ron Arnoni, President of Leadership Development and Mr. Brad Killmeyer, VP & Director of Leadership Training, was developed to provide Youth with the information they need in order to be successful as they transition into adulthood. We are proud to be a sponsor in this program supporting youth and their families because "Family Matters."

The Eagle Has Landed!

"EAGER" the NSS Eagle has finally found his resting place at 1300 & 1400 Ashwood Commons, Canonsburg, PA just a few miles down the road from our Valley Brook Road office. Now starts the process of finding everything I need on a day-to-day basis.

I would like to take this time to thank John Payerchin, NSS Risk and Compliance Manager, for his dedication to making this move a success. From the minute John saw Ashwood Commons, he has worked diligently through all the details (and there were many) so that today we sit comfortably in our beautiful new building. I would also like to thank the former owners of Ashwood who worked side by side with John to make sure our purchase went smoothly.

My thanks to the following individuals who were involved in this endeavor in one way or another: President Stefka for his attention to any and all things that required accurate detail, Ron Cooper, Esq. for his expertise with all that was legal with this purchase, to Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak for his expertise in anything financial and finally to the entire Staff. I really do not know how they do it. Between performing their own day-to-day tasks, testing new Equisoft processes in preparation for Go-Live, packing up their offices to move to Ashwood and so on. Thank you for continuing to stay on top of all the details to make sure nothing is missed.



Senior Scholarship

In looking over our Senior Scholarship Program and those members that have taken advantage of the program I am surprised that since 2020 we have received and granted only twenty-seven scholarships. I am going to assume that many of our members are not aware of our NSS Scholarship for Seniors Fraternal Program.

The rules state that this program is for any life insurance or annuity member, fifty-five (55) years or older, who has enrolled and successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course. Members may submit up to two (2) applications in one calendar year.

If you are interested in a senior scholarship or need additional information, please contact our Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar 800-488-1890 at the Home Office or email her at bbonnar@nsslife.org.



WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY A
HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective October 1, 2023 ★

Optimum 3 – 5.00%

Preferred 5 – 4.00%

New Preferred 8 – 6.50%* (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.

2023 Annuity Contribution Coupon

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect on your money. Consider making your 2023 contribution as early as possible.

Name _____

Certificate No. _____ Deposit Amount _____

Traditional IRA for 2023 _____ Roth IRA for 2023 _____

If you wish to make a deposit into an existing account with the National Slovak Society (NSS Life), simply complete this coupon and return it with check payment to our Home Office.

3rd Quarter Leaders for 2023



Congratulations to **Wayne Ray** on being the **TOP LIFE INSURANCE/NEW MEMBER PRODUCER** for the 3rd Quarter of 2023. Wayne has been in the insurance business since 1971. He is well versed in life insurance, annuities and IRAs. That is also the same year he began his fire service career, an affiliation that he continues to this day. Wayne is also the Fallowfield Twp tax collector. A resident of Monongahela, PA, Wayne is married and has two daughters, four grandchildren and six great grand children. Wayne can be reached at **724-350-7263** or email him at **wayneray1@gmail.com**

Mike Saracino is the **TOP PREMIUM/ANNUITIES PRODUCER** for the 3rd Quarter of 2023. Mike is located in the Harrisburg, PA area. Mike is an independent agent and the owner of Choice Financial Services. He's been in the industry since 2002 offer a wide range of planning product to serve his clients needs. When Mike is not running his agency, you can find him at his camp enjoying the outdoors or metal detecting for treasure. Please contact Mike at **717-724-8257** or **msaracino@choicefinancialsvcs.com**.



From the Sales Department...

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



Life Insurance and Annuities (4)

This is the last article in a series that has tried to make life insurance and annuities a little easier to understand. Over the past few months, the life insurance articles covered permanent and term life insurance. The annuities covered non-qualified accounts, traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs.

This month we will explore the single premium plan of insurance and Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESA's.)

Single premium life insurance is one of the most powerful life insurance plans to consider. The appeal of this plan is the one-time payment. This makes for a completed gift if a parent or grandparent is buying this plan. For example, a \$25,000 single premium plan for a female, age 5, would run \$2,900 one-time. The beauty of using this plan for young people is four-fold. One, it makes the child a member. Two, provides valued life insurance protection at the lowest possible overall cost. Third, the plan has cash or loan values that can be accessed in the future. And fourth, if the youngster has at least a \$10,000 plan they would be eligible for our scholarship program which could be worth up to \$2,400 (\$600 per year for 4 years.)

Sometimes older people use this plan for wealth accumulation or for some smart tax planning. For example, a \$25,000 single premium for a female, age 70, would run \$15,000. Should she pass away her family would receive the death benefit tax free.

If she lives, then the cash value would accumulate to more than the premium paid over the next few years.

One other unique aspect of our single premium plan is we allow a three-pay option. This interest-free selection allows a person to make payments on their plan over the next couple of years. The 70-year-old female could pay \$5,000 per year to buy her plan. Or the 5-year-old payments would be \$963.

For a free quote or for some more ideas about how this plan could be beneficial to your family please call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office.

Coverdell ESA's (4)

The Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESA's) are unique government sponsored programs. These plans are designed to help families accumulate funds for future education costs. Contributions are not deductible; earnings accumulate tax deferred and qualified withdrawals are tax free.

Maximum yearly contributions up to \$2,000 per child up until the child turns age 18. Anyone can add money to the child's account as long as it does not exceed the maximum. Many grandparents like the idea of putting \$100 a month into this plan. Flexibility is the key and once the account is open any amount or nothing may be deposited. But the more you put it the account the better off the child will be in the future.

For example, at current rates, \$2,000 per year (or \$166 per month) for the first eighteen years would have an account value of more than \$54,000 at age 18. Any interest could be received tax-free if the money is used for higher education expenses. While this amount will not pay for the high cost of college it is a great starting point.

A couple of interesting notes. One, if the child does not use this account, it may be transferred to another sibling. Any funds not distributed by age 30 would be taxed the same as any non-qualified annuity. The value of the account from the above scenario would be more than \$90,000 at age 30. Coverdell money can also be used to pay for private high school payments.

For a complete packet of information about this program please contact your local NSS representative or the Home Office.

Thought For The Month:

"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming 'Wow! What a Ride!'"

Hunter S. Thompson

The Proud Highway: Saga of a Desperate Southern Gentleman, 1955-1967

A quarter of Gen Z adults and Millennials say not knowing how much or what kind of life insurance to buy **stops them** from getting coverage.

Source: 2023 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and LIMRA



The Community Corner

Bethany Bonnar,
Member & Community Engagement Coordinator
Email: bbonnar@nsslife.org



Thanks

Do you believe that November is a time to celebrate fall, or are you ready to jump ahead to Christmas? Regardless of if you have the Christmas lights up or are boycotting every carol until December 1st, this time of year centers around giving thanks and spending time with loved ones. I encourage you to show your appreciation not only to family and friends, but also to those around you who might not hear it as often. From coworkers, to neighbors, to people you pass on the street, a simple thank you could truly make a difference in someone's life.

I'll get the ball rolling and go first. Thank you to my family for being so supportive. Thank you to my coworkers for being so kind to me in my transition working here. Thank you to my neighbors for not getting mad when I accidentally park on the curb all the time. And thank you for reading this! Now it's your turn! Go out and share some thanks and celebrate the season!

Recent Events

The first few months of my time here at NSS have been a whirlwind of activity! Our annual Septemberfest event was a huge success filled with raffles, music and fun. I had such a great time meeting more NSS Members and filling my belly with as much stuffed cabbage as possible. A huge thank you to all who came out and enjoyed the beautiful day with us!

Additionally, I had a great time seeing all of the amazing submissions to the Photo Contest and Pumpkin

Decorating Contest. Your talent and creativity blew me away! Thank you to everyone who participated. I can't wait to see more submissions next year! Keep an eye out for the winners soon!

Get Involved

At NSS Life, helping those in need has always been a huge priority. I am very excited to announce a new opportunity where all members can help lend a hand regardless of where they live. This holiday season, NSS Life will be hosting our First National Service Opportunity, with a Christmas Card Collection. We are asking for donations of Holiday cards, letters, and artwork to be sent to the Home Office, where they will then be distributed to senior citizens in local Pittsburgh nursing homes. This is a great chance for the whole family to make a difference in someone's life and have some holiday fun! We encourage you to submit multiple donations, so that we may spread as much holiday cheer as possible. I personally am very excited and have already roped my little cousins in to help create some extra sparkly cards! See later on in this edition of the *National News* for more information!

Social Media

The holidays are always a hectic time when you have a million events to keep track of. Follow us on social media to be reminded about all your favorite NSS Events and receive updates! Not on social media? Now is the perfect time to create a profile! There, you can find exclusive resources and materials that you won't find anywhere else. Give us a follow on **Instagram (@National Slovak Society)**, **Facebook (@NSS Life)** and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)** so you never miss a thing!

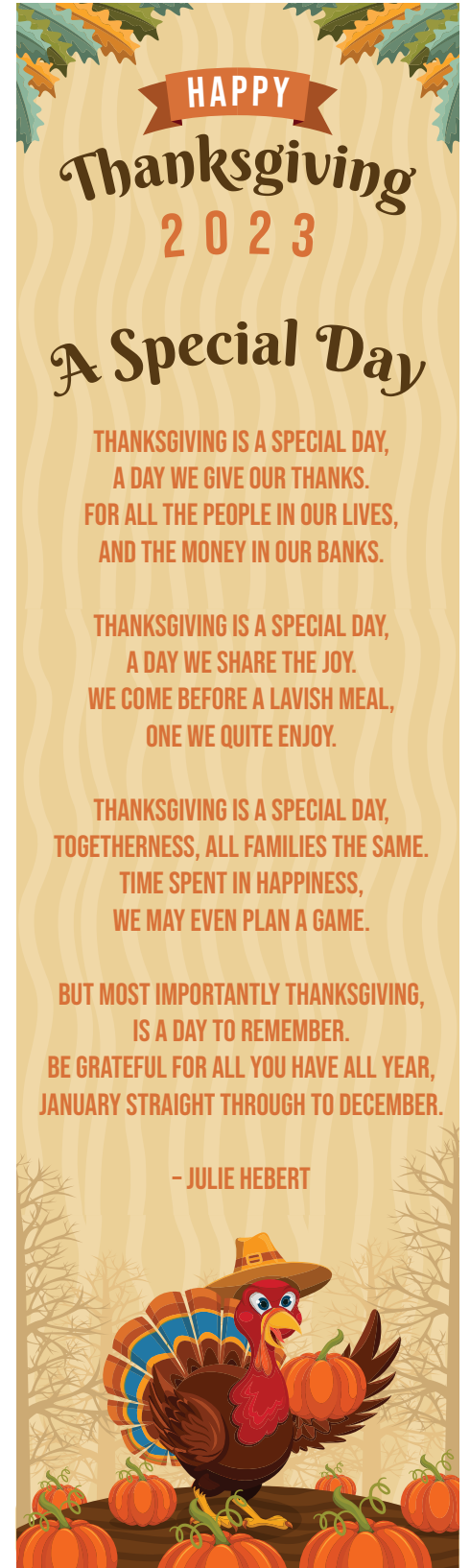
Want to be featured on our social media accounts? Email bbonnar@nsslife.org with pictures to show off what your assembly, region, or family has been up to!

Upcoming

In addition to our exciting *Christmas Card Collection*, our *Christmas Ornament Contest* is also in full swing! The deadline for submissions is December 1st, so grab some glue

and some glitter and enter today for a chance to win a cash prize!

Don't forget to clear your schedule on November 25, 2023 for the NSS Heritage Museum's "*Christmas Around the World*" celebration. Join us at the museum for an afternoon of Christmas magic featuring ethnic Christmas trees, Slovak treats, and crafts for the kids!



Scenes from the NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM'S *Septemberfest* Celebration



Director Mike Czarney and President Joseph Stefka, Jr. highlight Septemberfest sponsors



Joseph Palko and Member & Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar



A beautiful day to celebrate our Slovak history and culture at Septemberfest this year!



Heather Payerchin with Director Keith and Elaine Kucherawy selling raffle tickets



Raffle gift baskets on display donated by members and assemblies of NSS Life



Jack Slagel, Gary Pernisek and Ed Makowski entertained the crowd with various Polka tunes



Larry Kozlowski with various ethnic and Slovak themed items for sale



Danitza Nicklow, Connie Zatek & Onie Zatek representing Crafty Surprise



Bonnie Balasz & Mark Jesko embroidering Easter basket covers and decorating Easter Eggs



Judy Landa with Mancini's Bakery Paska bread



MaryAnn Goldie representing Suzy's Creations



National Sales Director Greg Felton and home office Sales Representative Joe Elliott

Scenes from the NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM'S Septemberfest Celebration



Representatives from SweetMe Confections were on hand selling sugar candies



Annuities-Transfers Representative Jennie Pernisek, George Leasure and Director Andrea Garbon



Chairman of the Board Bob Katricak, Annette Stefka and Chris Katricak selling cakes and cookies



Representatives from Rusty Gold Brewing company in Canonsburg with ice cold refreshments



Director Theresa & David Zelman along with Theresa Allan packing and serving meals



Quality Assurance Specialist Brigid Delien and Editor Lori Crowley preparing food in the kitchen



Youth attendees playing games for prizes



Fun Balloon creations by Giggles the Clown



Youth attendees with balloon hats and crowns



Youth attendees carving and decorating pumpkins with seasonal and holiday themed designs

More scenes from the NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM'S Septemberfest next issue!

Scenes from the NSS Region 5 Summer Picnic (more pictures to come next issue)



Attendees to this year's Region 5 picnic relaxing before the festivities begin



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. welcoming attendees and announcing upcoming Region 5 events



Raffle baskets provided by Region 5 assemblies



Attendees lining up for the lunch buffet



Director Laurie Fox led the Bingo proceedings



Giggles the Clown adding final touches to a balloon sculpture



A tent was setup next to the pavilion to host various kids games youth attendees could participate in to win raffle tickets to be pulled later in exchange for various prizes



Some of the prizes youth attendees could win by participating in the various kids games



Youth prizes being handed out to winners at the end of the picnic



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. and wife Annette, Director Keith Kucherawy, Annie and Suzie Ondrejco helped pull ticket numbers and pass out raffle baskets to winners

Scenes from the 2023 NSS Life Golf Tournament Banquet



L-R: Terri Cooper and President Joseph Stefka, Jr. celebrate their birthdays together at the banquet



During the banquet, a bag of new golf clubs was given away as a final prize after raffle gifts had been given away. Attendees who had their names randomly drawn would obtain one of the accompanying golf clubs/bag as their token to participate in the reverse raffle (names could be drawn more than once). As club numbers/the bag are drawn, the holder of said club/bag must return their club to the bag until only one participant is left holding the bag with clubs



Shawn Pytel celebrating after winning the reverse raffle



Brian Martz was the luckiest participant, having 3 opportunities to win the final prize



Shawn Pytel was the final holder of a golf club, thus winning the new clubs and bag

Final Scenes from the 100th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park



David Zelman enjoyed watching the Pittsburgh Slovaks perform at Kennywood. David is the son of Theresa and Cal Zelman and grandson of Sue and Rudy Ondrejco.



Display of various Slovak garments and crafts



5 o'clock Mass took place on the main stage during Slovak Day at Kennywood



Musical performances of traditional Slovak and Polka tunes were played during intermissions



Slovak Ambassador Radovan Javorčík was present to welcome attendees at Slovak Day



Directors and Officers of NSS Life in attendance were recognized on stage for their contribution

ASSEMBLY 0004 Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **November 19, 2023** at Sonia Vorell's residence, 18088 Boston Road, Strongsville, Ohio at 2:00 p.m.

We look forward to be seeing you then.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Over twenty members came out to our third quarter meeting at the Bob Evans Restaurant in Uniontown, PA. This was our annual opportunity to remember our fellow Americans that died on United Flight 93 near Shanksville, PA. A memorial was held reading the names of the passengers and crew. We welcome our new Member & Community Engagement Coordinator to our NSS family. Bethany Bonnar is our national "fraternal" program director. She started at the beginning of September. Her bio is in the last issue of the "National News". We have extended an invitation to Bethany to come to our Annual Christmas Party.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family of Ralph Franks, Justine Hadenak and Mary Mansell. May they rest in the arms of the Resurrected Christ.

The "Christmas Around The World" sponsored by your NSS Heritage Museum, at the home office will be held on Saturday, November 25th. There will be crafts, pastries, Christmas decorations and a visit from Saint Nicholas for the kids. Learn about all of those old Slovak Christmas customs. This is the Thanksgiving break for the kids, come and enjoy the fun!

Remember the Christmas Ornament Contest on December 1st. Rules and regulations are in the latest issue of the "National News". Get your creative juices flowing and get us some fraternal points!

Our next meeting will be our Annual 2023 Christmas Party at the Columbian Social Hall in Uniontown, PA. **PLEASE NOTE:** the date has been moved from Sunday to SATURDAY, **December 2nd** at 2:00 pm. Mark your

calendar! See you there.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving celebration with your family!

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY 70 & C70 BROOKLYN, OH

Our assembly will be having our Christmas Luncheon and Meeting on **December 3rd**, at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at 11:30 a.m. This will be a catered event so we will have to know your food choice if you plan to attend. Call John Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 for your reservations by November 26th. If you are able, desserts would be appreciated.

John Karkosiak
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

On **December 9th**, we will sponsor matching funds for the annual Troop 316 Chili and Craft Fair at Ladore Lodge Honesdale from 9:00-5:00 p.m.

Plans will be finalized for next year's meetings with our Fraternal Dinner in January, 2024. For more information contact Lehrae Edwards at 570-569-2181.

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

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

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

Let me first offer my congratulations to our six members who have received the PVR scholarships: Morgan Dixon, Aleah Dudek, Gregory Hillman, Alexander Noble, Ethan Opiela, and Ezmeralda Schaub. May your time in college prove to be enjoyable and beneficial.

Also, a special message of congratulations is to Assembly 123 member Kevin Jones who had the lowest actual score in the golf contest - 73!! That is hitting them, Kevin!

Congrats to Jackson Ghaly for his excellent work at Allegheny County Camp Cadet. Jackson is a fine young man who we can expect to hear good things about in the future.

This is the month to give thanks, so I'll take this opportunity to name a few but not all that certainly deserve it. Bethany Leins who told me she is volunteering at the USO at Raleigh-Durham International Airport. Many of the young recruits come through there experiencing their first flight and first time away from home. Let me also thank Marcy Knoll and her daughter Maddie Eger who took part in a fund-raising walk for the Lupus Foundation. It was also a Matching Fund event for our assembly.

Remember NSS matches up to \$500 if you raise money for your charity. Call me or Jill Grover if you need the paperwork to qualify.

I want to thank all those who volunteered at the World Vision warehouse. There were two young members, Jonah DelMonaco and Emma Heisel, grandchildren of Vice President Bill DelMonaco who did excellent work. We appreciate that they gave up their free time on a Saturday to give us ole folk a hand.

I'm looking forward to a big turnout, like last year, for our Assembly Christmas luncheon. It starts at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, **December 17th** at Rockefeller's Grille in the Kennedy Plaza. Fellowship and good food are on the menu. There is a \$10 per person charge for members to be paid in advance. For nonmembers, the cost is \$20. This is so we get a commitment as to the attendance and we can give an account to the restaurant. This money will go to the Greater Pittsburgh

Food Bank. Send your check payable to: NSS Assembly 123, mail to either Bill Knoll, 543 Pioneer Lane, Freedom, PA 15042 or to Jill Grover, 114 Fayette Ave., Oakdale, PA 15071. I hope to see you there. We will also doing a collection for the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank at the event.

Many thanks to all the people who make my job as President easier and more pleasant. Wishing each of our members a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 3rd** at Hugo's Restaurant, 687 National Pike, West Brownsville, Pa at 3:00 p.m. And as always, please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Our Annual Christmas Meeting will be held on **December 6, 2023** at Tony K's, 841 W Bagley Road, Berea, Ohio 44017 at 6:00 p.m. RSVP by December 1st to Dave Pytel at (440) 759-4558, Bill Shuttleworth at (440) 465-6024, or Terri Hudak at (440) 714-8902.

You don't want to miss this event! Tobogganing on **February 18, 2024** at Strongsville Chalet, 16200 Valley Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The price will be \$15/per person. Unlimited rides down the toboggan chutes, food, drinks, snack and desserts included! RSVP by February 1st to Dave Pytel at (440) 759-4558, Bill Shuttleworth at (440) 465-6024, or Terri Hudak at (440) 714-8902.

Shawn Pytel
Publicity & Social Media



ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our assembly in Illinois will come together to plan for the future of our part of the fraternal National Slovak Society of the United States.

Our celebration of Christmas will be held at Francesca's on 95th which is recommended by many. The date is Friday, **November 17th** at 4:00. We'll celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year 2024 and honor our veterans by continuing to donate to Operation Support Our Troops.

Our next meeting will be held on **March 1, 2024**, time and location to be announced? Let's pray for a good year for all of us and the greatest country on earth, God bless the USA.

Irene Tomaskovic
President

ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

A meeting will be held on **November 13th** at Joe & Annette Stefka's, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonsia, PA at 5:30 p.m.

If attending, please call Annette at 724-407-3591.

Annette Stefka
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0737 North Huntingdon, PA

A holiday meeting will be held on Saturday, **December 9, 2023**. For further information, please call/text 412-588-0314 or leave a message at 724-423-3992 no later than November 20, 2023.

Hope to see you there.

Andrea L. Garbon
Secretary/Treasurer

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

Region 2 will hold a meeting on Saturday, **May 18, 2024** at 1:00 p.m. at Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre PA. 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) Congratulations to the newly reelected Officers.

Marlin Petro Wesnak
President

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**.

NOVEMBER 5, 2023



MORE THAN A DAY

As Thanksgiving Day rolls around,
It brings up some facts, quite profound.
We may think that we're poor,
Feel like bums, insecure,
But in truth, our riches astound.
We have friends and family we love;
We have guidance from heaven above.
We have so much more
Than they sell in a store,
We're wealthy, when push comes to shove.
So add up your blessings, I say;
Make Thanksgiving last more than a day.
Enjoy what you've got;
Realize it's a lot,
And you'll make all your cares go away.

- Karl Fuchs

News From Assembly L102



Assembly L102 members had a great time at our summer picnic



Our matching funds project for ALS was a huge success. They raised the largest amount ever for such worthy cause.

Assembly L102 advertising at our local youth athletic fields





Nov. 5, 2023

12 p.m.-4 p.m. Cathedral of Learning Commons Room
University of Pittsburgh (Oakland)

- **Ethnic Food**
(Klobasa, Halušky, Holupki, Pirohy, Pastries & Cookies)
- **Cultural Displays & Lectures Shop**
- **Slovak and East European Import Vendors**
(Crafts, Gifts, Food & More)
- **Musical and Folk Dance Performances**

 facebook.com/SlovakHeritageFestival
 youtube.com/SlovakHeritageFestival

Assembly 731

Several members of Assembly 731 gathered together at the Mahoning County's Canfield Fair for a Scavenger Hunt around the Fairgrounds and then enjoyed retreating from the heat to the comfort the Cessna and Fox campsites. This is an annual activity that gives us an opportunity to enjoy the experience of the Fair and fun time around the campsites.

Two weeks after the end of the Fair time, we enjoyed a weekend camp trip to Camp Frederick in Rogers, Ohio. This event almost didn't happen because we didn't get the interest we were hoping for but those who came are already talking about doing it again next year. Families had an opportunity to hike the nature trails through the hilly forest and along the three creeks on the 100-acre camp to enjoy a variety of ecological features including glacial rocks, meadows and fields. As they explored the area, they were asked to gather bark, sticks, leaves that they would use to create a "wish boat". The wish boat project became a fun competition and individuals got the opportunity to make a wish as they sailed their boat down the creek. It was a great adventure watching as they encouraged their boat to sail before sinking....some did make it downstream and out of sight.

Another project everyone enjoyed was tie-dyeing their camp shirt. We ended up with a wide variety of colors and designs. Ice cream social night was a huge success with an array of toppings to please all. We almost got rained out from having a campfire but the rain let up long enough for an evening campfire with singing and s'mores. Everyone enjoyed the great meals prepared by our adult members. We will definitely add this event to our successful adventures and hope more will join us next year.

Each year our assembly donates to "Operation Evergreen", a program that helps send cheer in the form of a live Christmas tree to U.S. military personnel serving overseas in a way to honor them for the job they perform. In addition to the monetary donation, members are asked to make ornaments or garland that will sent with the trees. Members must get their ornaments to Laurie Fox by November 1st so can be delivered in time to go with the trees when they are shipped. Each tree requires a minimum of 48 ornaments and 35 ft of garland. Decorations cannot include any food items or live plants.

Camp Frederick is hosting a Christmas Festival on Saturday, December 9, 4:00-8:00 pm and Assembly 731

members plan attend to enjoy a Christmas evening with Live Nativity, Santa' House, caroling, games, crafts, tree lighting and cookie decorating. Thousands of Christmas lights will decorate the buildings and trails. Many of the activities will be held outside so everyone be sure to dress for the weather. A barbeque dinner will be available in the Lodge. The cost is \$10 per car.

The assembly's annual Christmas party will be held in the Rotary Room of the Lariccia Center in Boardman Park on Saturday, **December 16th**, at 2:00 p.m. Members and family will enjoy a visit from Santa, a Gift Raffle, caroling, crafts, and refreshments. Each family is asked to bring a gift for the raffle...tickets will be sold with proceeds going to a needy family to help make their Christmas special.

Laurie Fox
President



Samples of some of the Wish Boats



Walter, Elijah, Cameron, and Jimmy waiting patiently to launch Wish Boats float down the creek.

Launching Wish Boats

Kids and adults enjoyed tie dyeing their shirts.



Tie Dye Group



Some of the shirts hanging out to dry



NSS Assembly 731 Family Camping Adventure - September 2023



- 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

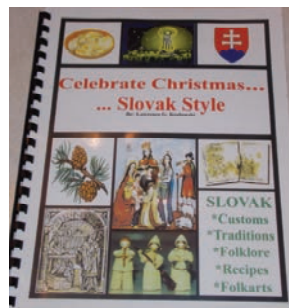
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



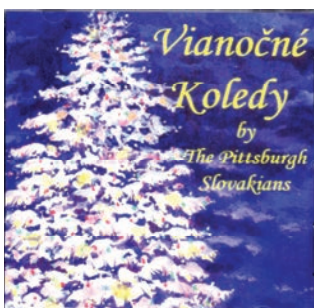
Available from the NSSHM Gift Shop while supplies last!



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



Christmas Slovak Style:
Remembering the Priceless Treasures of Christmases Past and an Inspiration for Christmases of the Future
\$12 (includes postage and handling)



Slovak Christmas CD
Sung and produced by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Features 14 traditional carols. \$17.00



EXCLUSIVE! Slovak Christmas CD
Sung and produced by the Carmelite Fathers in Lorinčik, Slovakia. Features 21 traditional carols.
Limited Supply Available \$17.00



Make checks payable and mail to:
NSS Heritage Museum 351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317



Notes of Appreciation

Dear Mr. Stefka:

I would like to thank you, the NSS Life Board of Directors, Executive Officers and members of the National Slovak Society for awarding me the PVR Scholarship. This will help a lot towards my education at Slippery Rock University. Thank you again for this generous gift and the opportunity to help pay for my college education.

Dante DeFelices

Dear NSS:

I want to extend a thank you and I am very honored and grateful to have been selected as recipient of the Stephen J. Trusik Perpetual Award and the PVR Scholarship Grant. I want to thank you for the generosity as it is a great help to me financially.

Valentina Gulino

Dear Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so much for awarding me another \$600.00 Scholarship to help with my sophomore year of college. The NSS gift is a huge help to me as I continue my academic and athletic pursuits at Pitt. I greatly appreciate your support.

Eben McIntyre

Dear NSS Life,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the PVR Scholarship Grant and Mary Mravec Award.

I am an upcoming freshmen at Florida International University, majoring in Marketing. This generous scholarship grant means so much to me. It will assist in helping me purchase textbooks and an iPad for my studies.

Thank you again for your thoughtful gift. I am grateful to have been selected as a recipient of both scholarships.

Nicole Powell

DEPARTED MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2023

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Alameda, Iris	Bethlehem, PA	09/09/2023	R059
Arbuckle, Richard	Greenville, PA	09/16/2023	0731
Baer, Linda	Jamison, PA	09/21/2023	R059
Barletta, Mary A	Homer City, PA	08/26/2023	0774
Belt, Ellen	Windsor Twp, OH	12/11/2004	0004
Blend, Margaret	Buckhannon, WV	08/07/2023	0774
Boerschinger, Patricia	Green Bay, WI	06/23/2023	0774
Bombich, Herbert	Gibsonia, PA	07/04/2023	L161
Bonaroti, Jason	Springdale, PA	08/10/2023	L105
Bostelle, Stefan	Douglassville, PA	09/04/2023	L102
Boyer, Jane	Littleton, CO	04/18/2020	0236
Burns, Carolyn	Tucson, AZ	02/09/2023	0813
Burns, James L	Coraopolis, PA	08/01/2023	0123
Carapellotti, Vince	Aliquippa, PA	07/08/2023	0123
Carvell, Rose	North Port, FL	11/26/2022	0434
Cassel, Barbara	Harrisburg, PA	08/24/2023	L102
Chontos, Donna M	Junction, PA	09/12/2023	0377
Christman, Hazel	Bucyrus, OH	07/09/2023	0160
Clark, Theresa J	Uniontown, PA	12/27/2022	0039
Cole, Mary L	Evans City, PA	09/01/2023	0774
Coleman, Joel David	Lithia, FL	03/30/2022	0813
Costa, Michael	Coal Center, PA	09/09/2023	0377
Criner, Delores	Freeport, PA	08/11/2023	L105
Cullen Sr., Paul R	Palm Harbor, FL	07/25/2023	0100
Cunningham, Wythel	Fruitport, MI	06/15/2023	0381
Custer, Evelyn	Fremont, OH	09/16/2023	0160
Da Canal, Helen	St Marys, PA	07/01/2021	0554
Davis, Adelaide	Pittsburgh, PA	09/04/2023	0100
De Luca, Pauline	Aliquippa, PA	07/25/2023	0108
Deuel, Richard	Wauwatosa, WI	08/28/2023	0774
Dunn, Bernadette	Altoona, PA	09/21/2023	0267
Dysard, Connie	Clearfield, PA	08/12/2022	554
Eddy, George	Scott Depot, WV	12/16/2022	0774
Elgin, Thomas G	Indiana, PA	09/08/2023	0737
Fisher, Donna	Hamlin, WV	02/20/2023	0774
Fonner, John B	Prosperity, PA	01/15/2017	0588
Ford, Velda	Princeton, WV	05/27/2023	0774
Furbee, Martha	Morgantown, WV	11/16/2022	0774
Furmanek, Walter	Washington, PA	09/05/2023	0377
Galie, Patricia	New Kensington, PA	12/13/2022	L075
Geisler Jr., Richard J	Washington, PA	07/13/2023	0434
Gordon, Loretta	Allison Park, PA	08/21/2023	0123
Gray, Nancy	Youngstown, OH	09/18/2023	0731
Haggard, Gertrude	Ambridge, PA	09/20/2023	0123
Harbison, Charles	Oil City, PA	09/08/2023	0731
Hasbrouck, Lorin	Corry, PA	09/18/2023	0731
Helland, Eric	Menomonee Falls, WI	01/11/2022	0774
Helmick, Bernard	New Creek WV	08/02/2023	0774
Hendrickson, Louise	Beaver, PA	09/18/2023	0123
Hepner, Betty	Wyomissing, PA	09/28/2023	L102
Hilgert, Gladys	Mogadore, OH	07/17/2023	0731
Hoette, Anita	Klamath Falls, OR	11/13/2020	0568
Holden, Christine	Washington, PA	07/03/2023	0588
Holquist, Marcia	Sewickley, PA	09/03/2023	0123
Hovanec, Francis	Bridgeville, IL	01/14/2022	0586
Hovermale, Joan	Berkeley Springs, WV	07/19/2023	0774
Hudimac, Agnes	Portage, PA	08/30/2023	0267
Hutchinson, Naomi	Craigsville, WV	09/05/2023	0774
Hyland, Carrie	Mooresville, NC	08/19/2023	0774
Iezzi, Nancy	Birdsboro, PA	09/19/2023	L102
Irwin, James	Canonsburg, PA	09/06/2023	0434
Janetka, John	Philadelphia, PA	08/20/2023	R059
Effers, Dorothy	Bethesda, OH	09/09/2023	0774
Jester, Wilfred	Jefferson Hills, PA	09/13/2023	0108
Karlip, Herb	Lancaster, PA	08/06/2023	L102
Kavcar, Richard	Plainfield, IL	06/05/2022	0432
Kay, Darlene Ruth	Butler, PA	07/09/2023	0100
King, Margaret A	Meadville, PA	09/22/2023	0731
Kohle, Barbara E	West Mifflin, PA	05/16/2023	0100
Kuhn, June	Munhall, PA	07/07/2023	0441
Kuntz, Doris	Lilly, PA	08/12/2023	0267
La Fortune, Esther	San Pierre, IN	08/13/2023	0813
Ladley, Ruth	Pittsburgh, PA	09/14/2023	0108
Lehning, Mary	Dearborn Heights, MI	09/12/2023	0774
Leonard, Priscilla	Coraopolis, PA	04/20/2023	L161

DEPARTED MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 2023 (continued from page 18)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Lindsly, Janet	Cleveland, OH	04/06/2023	0004
Lutz, Raymond	North Huntingdon, PA	09/08/2023	0737
Lynn, Isabelle	Rostraver Twp, PA	09/14/2023	0377
Malesick, Beatrice	Mingo Junction, OH	09/21/2023	0588
Malik, Dolores	Carmichaels, PA	09/07/2023	0737
Mann Sr., Herbert H	South Park, PA	08/05/2023	0434
Mann, Neal	North East, PA	08/21/2023	0774
Marcum, Virginia	Huntington, WV	05/13/2023	0774
Marsh, Margaret	Columbus, OH	06/27/2023	L161
Martino, Lucille	Gibsonia, PA	01/21/2022	0434
Mc Adarra, Sharon	Pittsford, PA	09/02/2023	0617
Mc Carthy, Carol	Hazleton, PA	09/29/2023	L102
Mc Cluskey, Thomas	Cecil Township, PA	06/04/2023	0588
Mc Coy, Jack	Corry, PA	09/01/2023	0554
Mc Gee, George	Naperville, IL	04/07/2023	L161
Mc Michael, Robert	Naples, FL	01/24/2021	0800
Mc Millen, Chester	Clarion, PA	07/16/2023	0774
McKinney, Herbert	Beckley, WV	08/25/2020	0774
Messer, Gary	Julian, WV	04/05/2023	0774
Mihalik, John	Mount Carmel, PA	05/10/2023	0774
Miller, Louise A	Pittsburgh, PA	09/15/2023	0774
Miska, Richard	Fort Myers, FL	05/08/2023	0737
Mulgrave, Margaret	Vernon Hills, IL	08/07/2023	0100
Mulvehill, Sophie	Johnstown, PA	09/04/2023	0039
Myers, Robert J	New Ringgold, PA	08/31/2023	L102
Necheff, Steve S	Cheswick, PA	09/18/2023	L161
Noyes, Elbert	Pembroke, NH	07/03/2023	0774
Ondick, Richard	Land O Lakes, FL	08/19/2023	0441
Oris, Richard	O'Fallon, MO	01/23/2022	0039
Ostrander, Peter	Uniontown, PA	09/05/2023	0039
Parchuke, Victoria	Homer City, PA	09/17/2023	0267
Pease, Jennie	Westfield, MA	04/13/2023	0774
Plouse, Edgar	Palmyra, PA	09/07/2023	L102
Price, Cheryl	Berkeley Springs, WV	08/21/2023	0774
Proper, James	Oil City, PA	09/22/2023	0554
Quist, Donald	Mc Bain, MI	07/23/2023	0381
Reed, George A	Hadley, PA	08/25/2023	0731
Revinski, Jason	Mount Carmel, PA	08/15/2023	0617
Riegel, June	Douglasville, PA	09/20/2023	L102
Roberts, Cornell	Laurel, MD	09/01/2023	0774
Rostich, William	New Salem, PA	09/02/2023	0039
Rudy, Glenn	Jonestown, PA	08/10/2023	0774
Saloutos, Helen	Baraboo, WI	06/20/2022	0774
Saylor, Kenneth	Pittsburgh, PA	08/26/2023	0123
Scarfo, Mary Ann	Carnegie, PA	11/23/2022	0434
Schmidt, Narcisa	Portage, WI	06/09/2023	0774
Schnoll, Shirley	Houston, TX	07/25/2023	0774
Scott, Otis	Richland Center, WI	05/24/2023	0774
Shetzer, Janet	Clyde, OH	08/22/2023	0774
Shober, Terry	Everett, PA	09/12/2023	0039
Simpkins, Penny	Mystic, CT	04/01/2023	L161
Smith, Larry	Wilmington, OH	12/15/2021	0160
Smith, Marilyn C	Prospect, KY	07/12/2023	L161
Snyder, Patsy	Imperial, PA	08/21/2023	0123
Snyder, Rodney	Leighton, PA	09/03/2023	L102
Soltis, George J	Greensburg, PA	09/15/2023	0737
Sonsalla, Dean	Baraboo, WI	02/19/2023	0588
Stawiany, Rosanne	Coraopolis, PA	09/05/2023	0123
Stephan, Carolyn	Wharton, OH	11/26/2021	0160
Stetz, Robert	Drums, PA	06/24/2015	L102
Strish Jr., George	Ashley, PA	06/22/2023	0617
Sullivan II, John B	Rochester, PA	04/04/2023	0123
Swandiak, Emily	Mountaintdale, NY	11/29/2020	0110
Teno, Martha	Coaldale, PA	05/31/2023	0774
Tumpa, Paul	Linesville, PA	07/24/2023	0267
Vang, Chong	Stockton, CA	08/28/2023	0568
Varner, John D	Indiana, PA	05/19/2023	0774
Volchko, Lena	Pittsburgh, PA	10/05/2021	0813
Vue, Justin T	Eau Claire, WI	08/04/2023	0774
Wheeler, Eula	Liberty Twp, OH	09/26/2022	0595
Whiting, Dollie	Elizabeth, PA	08/11/2023	0039
Willingham, Michael	Leighton, PA	09/02/2023	L102
Winkler, Hazel	Winter Park, FL	07/15/2023	0813
Wright, Lester	Cochran, PA	09/01/2023	0731
Yaratch, Dolores	Warren, PA	08/18/2023	0774
Yelenac, Edward	North Myrtle Beach, SC	02/20/2023	0774



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:

\$ _____

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 September, 2023

In Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,
& John Crowley 20.00

Donations:

Director Susan Ondrejco 100.00
 Assembly 0774 Golf
 Matching Funds 500.00
 Assembly 0774, Septemberfest
 Matching Funds 169.00
 Assembly 0070,
 Matching Funds Contribution ... 75.00
 Carl Trunko 50.00
 President Joseph Stefka, Jr.
 and wife, Annette 50.00

THANK YOU!

The NSS PVR Scholarship Fund Board of Directors would like to extend sincere thanks to all the members and assemblies who donated funds or baskets for the raffle held at Septemberfest on September 30, 2023. We are grateful for their generous support!

The following members and assemblies donated a total of \$1,925 directly to the PVR fund, and will receive credit for matching funds:

Assembly 004	Assembly R059	Assembly L075
Assembly L102	Assembly 110	Assembly 434
Assembly 554	Assembly 617	Assembly 705
Assembly 774	Linda & Ryan Strom	

The following members and assemblies donated baskets as prizes for the annual PVR Fund Basket Raffle held during Septemberfest, and will receive matching funds credit for the event:

Assembly 108	Assembly 123	Assembly L161
Assembly 441	Assembly 586	Assembly 588
Assembly 731	Assembly 737	Mike & Laurie Fox
The Home Office Staff	Keith & Elaine Kucherawy	

Also, a big thank you to the volunteers who staffed our booth, including Heather Payerchin, Laurie Fox, and Elaine Kucherawy. We couldn't have done it without you! We hope to continue to work with all of you to reach our goal of fully funding the PVR Scholarship Fund by Convention 2026!

November 11, 2023



Veterans Day is a day for Americans to honor and thank our veterans. It is also a day for Americans to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all United States veterans, both male and female.

Notice of Upcoming Changes to the Online Agent & Member Portals

Over the upcoming months, we will be launching new versions of the Agent and Member portals. These new portals are a temporary solution as we work towards the final completed portals that are planned for launch next year. Should you need help with accessing the new portals, account creation, or have inquiries regarding specific account information please contact the home office and we will try to aid you with your issues to the best of our abilities.

We will continue to update you with further information on the new portals in future newsletter issues. We humbly ask for your patience and understanding during this transition period as we work towards completion of this project. We're confident the final result will be worth the wait!

Judge Ron Arnoni's Leadership Corner

Distracted Driving - Be Safe

"Sadly, I regularly see the consequences of distracted driving in my courtroom. This behavior is about to pass DUIs for fatalities in motor vehicle accidents.

A snap chat picture, Facebook post or text message is not worth losing your life or others.

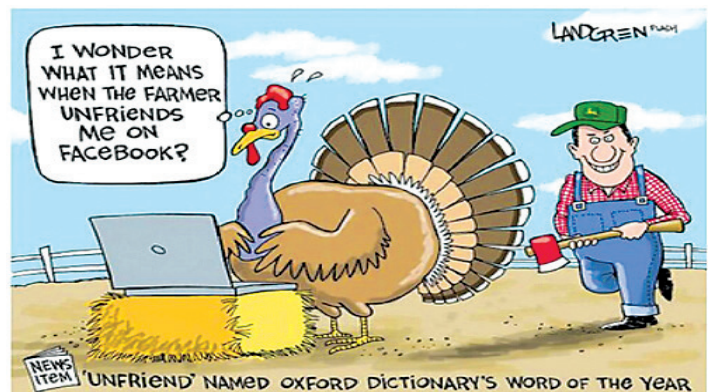
Wait to send these different forms of communication until you are parked or at your destination.

Don't Text and Drive, Stay Alive."

Follow on Instagram



www.OurLeadFamily.com





*Želame všetkým našim
čitateľom
radostný deň vďakyzdania.*

November má krásu, ktorú je ľahké vidieť. Mesiac karminových západov slnka, lúčiach sa vtákov, víriacich jesenných listov oranžovej, červenej a zlatej farby.

Nech sú vaše srdce a myseľ dostatočne otvorené na prijatie požehnaní tohto mesiaca.

November je ideálny mesiac na to, aby sme si pripomenuli, že máme byť vďační za veľa pozitívnych vecí, ktoré sa dejú v našom živote.

Vždy je za čo ďakovať. Tiež by sme všetci mali účasť na štedrosti láskavosti, radosti, pokoja a dobrého zdravia.

Veľa požehnaní všetkým našim členom.

Slovenský festival pri PGH univerzite

Pozývame, Slovákov a Slovenky na slovenský festival pri PGH univerzite čo bude na 5. novembra čo pripravuje Slavík Department a študenti Slovenského štúdia.

Vstupné na festival je zdarma, prebieha od obeda do 4-tej po obede. Môžete nažívať z výstavy slovenských vecí, pochútnať jedla na slovenský spôsob a prípadne si i zaspievať počas vystúpenia slovenských súborov.

Významne dni v novembri:

1. november -- Deň všetkých Svätých Svätý deň—Vzdávame úctu všetkým ktorí žili vzorným životom, kladieme vence na hroby našich zosnulých.

2. november — V rímskokatolíckej cirkvi je tento deň venovaný "dušičkam".

11. novembra— sv. Martin. Príslovie hovorí že ak na deň sv. Martina sneží prichádza na bielom koni vďaka vianoce budú na biele a ak je to opačne že na Martina prší vianoce budú biele.

25. novembra—sv. Katarína, vďaka od tohto dňa (pretože dni sú veľmi krátke a nastávajú dlhé večere) potrebné konzumovať veľa cesnaku jednak nadobudnúť antibiotiku proti chrípke a v poverách vďaka aby Váš príbytok nenavštevovali strigy—bosorky.

30. novembra — sv. Ondrej, Vďaka ak na Ondreja boli kvapky vody na stromoch, to malo znamenať že na stromoch bude hojná úroda, ak na Ondreja hrmí vďaka bude málo orechov.

V ten deň dievčence na vydaj robili cesto do ktorého zavili kúsok papiera s menom chlapca a tie potom varili vo vracej vode. Prvá cestonina čo vyšla na povrch—dievča vybralo z hrnce a meno chlapca vďaka je jej snúbenec.

**Ondreju, Ondreju—na teba olovo lejú,
daj mi v noci znať,
s kým ja budem pri oltári stáť.**



*Pre Boha je advent tiež časom očakávania...
Čaká na Teba.*

Svätý Martin je patrónom chudobných



Doposiaľ nie je známe, v ktorom deň sa 11. novembra pripomína sv. Martin z Tours narodil, bolo to však údajne v roku 316 v Sabarrii (dnes Szombathely v Maďarsku). Na priane svojho otca sa stal dôstojníkom rímskeho jazdectva v Gálii. Jeden mrazivý večer však zmenil jeho život, keď sa podelil so žobrákom o svoj plášť, ktorý rozťal mečom. V

noci sa mu potom zjavil Kristus odtý v darovanej polovici plášťa. Martin opustil armádu, nechal sa pokrstiť a stal sa pustovníkom.

Skromný, múdry a vážený Martin bol v roku 371 vysvätený za biskupa v Tours a diecézu dovedol k nebyvalému rozmachu.

Martina nazývali biskupom chudobných a keď zomrel, na jeho pohrebe 11. novembra sa zišli davы ľudí, medzi nimi asi 2-tisíc mníchov. K jeho atribútom patrí žobrák, plášť, malomocný, kôň a hus (podľa legendy sa vďaka ukryl medzi krdel' husí, keď nechcel prijať hodnosť biskupa). Je patrónom okrem iného aj vojakov, jazdcov, kováčov, tkáčov, krajčirov, vinárov, pastierov, hostinských, cestujúcich, chudákov a žobrákov, zajatcov, abstinentov, domácich zvierat a husí.

—Pravda.sk

Pranostiky na mesiac november

Ak kvitnú v novembri stromy, bude zima trvať až do mája.

Na začiatku novembra sa teplo so zimou háda.

Studený november – zelený máj.

Keď na svätého Ondreja sneží, sneh si dlho poleží.

First Place Poetry Contest Winners

Summer Fun

Summer is a time,
where we enjoy the sunshine.

There are many fun things to do.
Like visiting the ocean blue.

We visit the amusement park and stay all day.
It's fun when school doesn't get in the way.

By my pool is where I like to be,
enjoying a nice cold glass of Iced Tea.

But most of all, I get to sleep in and wake up
slow, because luckily, I have nowhere to go!

Mariah Cherevka
C108, Age 8

Firework Flashbacks

Fireworks propel me back to a much simpler time.

A time that was carefree and full of dreams.

Endless days and nights of laughter.

Times that I thought would never end,
but in a flash of light were gone.

It's amazing how quickly they came to an end
just like the fireworks,
that lit up the sky on a warm evening in July.

Denise Benedik
0123, Age 55

A Little Black Dot

A few days ago, I spotted a little black dot.

It didn't belong in my yard.

And it was especially hot.

When I got near,

It got startled.

And ran in fear.

Day after day, night after night

This new little visitor,

Ran from me with all his might.

With a few little treats,

And a bit of patience,

He showed me he loved to eat.

Sometimes you'll never know what the Universe sends,

And in a matter of hours,

You have a best friend.

So, this little kitten who is all black,

Will always know a home with love,

And his favorite snack.

Anthony Cherevka
C108, Age 13





Youth Circle Page

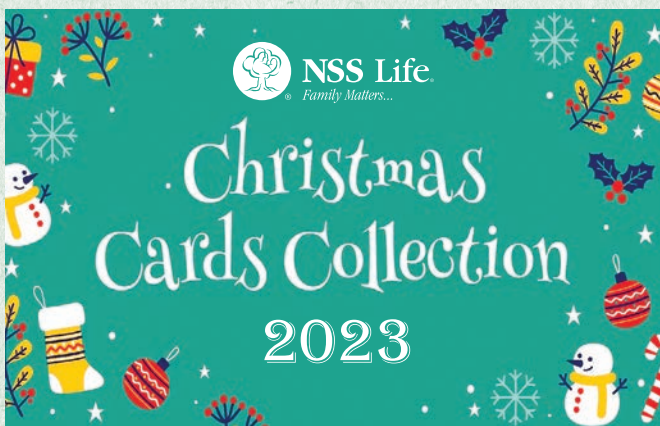
Youth Circle of National Slovak Society • 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317

CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION & NATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

DEADLINE DECEMBER 8TH, 2023

- The holidays can be one of the hardest times of the year for senior citizens who are isolated in a hospital or nursing home environment. Help us spread some holiday cheer this year by participating in NSS Life's First National Service Opportunity! National Service Opportunities are a new way for you to get involved with NSS community Outreach by participating in events, collections and fundraising events from anywhere in the country.
- For the inaugural initiative, NSS Life is asking members like you for donations of Christmas cards/ letters/artwork that will be distributed to isolated seniors living in nursing homes in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Write a letter wishing the reader a happy and healthy holiday season! Have the little ones paint a picture or make a heartfelt card! All donations will be sure to make a huge difference in someone's morale. Members are permitted and encouraged to send as many cards as they wish. The more creative and personal the better!
- Mail in all submissions to the home office at: 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Don't worry about the envelope! Santa's Elves over at the Home Office will package them in new envelopes and address them to seniors in need. Please include your name on a separate sheet of paper, so that all participants in this initiative can be properly thanked and recognized in a following edition of the *National News*.

Deadline for submissions is December 8th, 2023.



2023 Christmas Ornament Contest Deadline: December 1st, 2023

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:

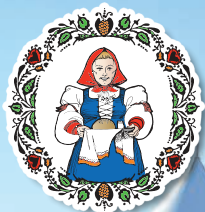
Prize Awards:

Frosty's Group (Ages 5-7)	First Place - \$25.00
Rudolph's Group (Ages 8-10)	First Place - \$25.00
Snowflake Group (Ages 11-13)	First Place - \$25.00
Santa Group (Ages 14-16)	First Place - \$25.00
Adult Group	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, 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317.** BE SURE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING.

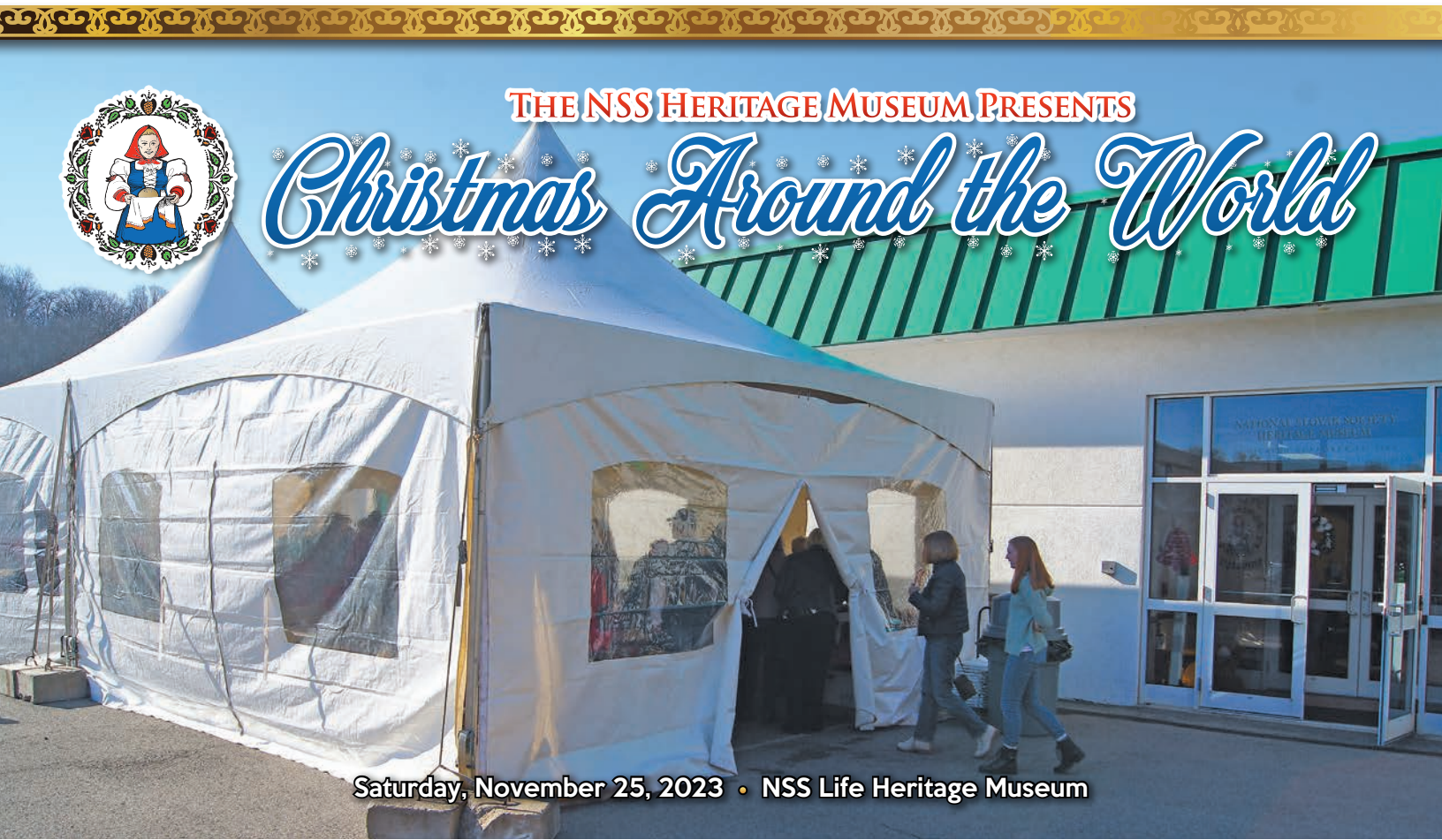
National Slovak Society
(USPS 0371-140)
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS

Christmas Around the World



Saturday, November 25, 2023 • NSS Life Heritage Museum

