



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | APRIL 2024 | NUMBER 3588 | VOLUME 116



Spring IS
IN the Air

Financial Statements

2023 Annual
Financial Statement Recap

See Page 5

2024 NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT Pittsburgh MAY 17-18 2024

NSS Joint National
Bowling Tournament
Pittsburgh, PA, May 17-18

Bowlero See Pages 9-10
PITTSBURGH (formerly AMF Noble Manor Lanes)

MAY ART CONTEST

Deadline May 31, 2024

See Page 23



National Slovak Society

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EDITOR

LORI CROWLEY
Published Monthly
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1301 Ashwood Drive
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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joseph Stefka, Jr., *FIC, President, CEO & Elder*
Linda M. Strom,
Secretary/Treasurer, CFO
Robert F. Katricak, *FIC, Chairman of the Board*

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

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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, now is the best time to share your experience with family and friends. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward (\$25 or \$10 for a youth term product) for recommending each person we issue a policy.

Recommender Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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

April 13
 April 18
 May 18
 August 11
 August TBA
 October 12
 November TBA

Assembly L075, Fraternal Dinner Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
 Assembly 0617, Meeting, Theos Metro Restaurant, Kingston, PA at 1:00 pm
 Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm
 Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly L075, Fraternal Summer picnic (TBA)
 Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
 Assembly L075, Veterans Day Bingo (TBA)

REGION 5

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

April 7
 April 13
 April 15
 April 17
 May 5
 May 17-18
 May 18
 June 9
 June 21
 July 12-14
 July 14
 July 18
 September 8
 September 15
 September 23
 November 3
 December 1
 December 7
 December 7

Assembly 0737, Meeting, Panera Bread at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0731, 50's Sock Hop, Christian House Home Health Living, E. Palestine, OH
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
 Assembly 0123, Volunteering, Veteran Hospital, Aspinwall, PA at 7:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Meeting, Foster House, Belle Vernon, PA at 3:00 pm
 2024 Annual Joint Bowling Tournament, Bowlero Lanes, Pittsburgh, PA
 Assembly 0123, Volunteering, Global Links, Greentree, PA from 10:00 am to noon
 Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Q/Flag Day, Columbia Assoc. Pavillion at 2:00 pm
 Region 5, Night at PNC Park, Tampa Bay Rays at Pirates, PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA at 6:40 pm
 National Golf Tournament, Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA
 Assembly 0377, Annual Picnic, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm
 Region 5, Slovak Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA
 Assembly 0039, Fall Dinner/Flight 93 Memorial Service, Bob Evans at 6:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Gourmet Restaurant, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Meeting, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
 Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Boardman Park's Lariccia Center Rotary Room (TBA)
 Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, Columbia Assoc. Social Hall at 1:00 pm

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

April 14
 April 17

Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 11:00 am
 Region 8, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, OH at 6:00 pm

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

April 21
 May 25

Assembly L102, Matching Funds, Bingo for Hockey AA, American Club, Coplay, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly L102, Iron Pigs Baseball game, Call Sharon Wesnak 610-769-7006

AT LARGE

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

April 1

Assembly 0568, Meeting, 1004 Foothill Boulevard, La Canada, CA at 12:30 pm



EARTH DAY

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024



The President's Page...

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



Spring officially began on March 19th, but April is the month in the Pittsburgh area in which the grass begins to turn green and grow, spring flowers are in bloom, and the leaves on trees begin to sprout. The warmer days and nights are welcomed after the colder winter months. High school and youth Spring sport seasons are in progress during the month.

Dates to remember in April include April Fool's Day on April 1st, Federal Income Tax due date on April 15th, Joint Bowling Tournament entries are due April 15th, Earth Day on April 22nd, and Administrative Professional Day is celebrated on April 24th.

A reminder that Federal income tax is due on Monday, April 15th. You have until April 15th to contribute to your current NSS IRA or open a new NSS IRA for the tax year 2023. Our current annuity rate for a new Preferred 8 is 6.5 % for the first year and Optimum 3 yield 5.00%!

As the NSS Corporate Governance Model has evolved since its inception at the 2014 Convention, education and training of the Officers, Board of Directors, and Home Office Staff has been an integral component. Each year NSS Officers, Board, and staff attend or take part in online education and training programs to further their knowledge of the operation of fraternal benefit societies, regulations related to fraternal, insurance industry developments, investment and finance. The education and training assists everyone in keeping up with the latest developments. During the month of April two significant education programs will be attended by Officers, members of the Board of Directors, and Home Office

Staff. The first is the AQS Insurance Symposium which is sponsored annually by AQS Asset Management, our asset management company. The one-day symposium offers presentations on a wide range of topics focused on the insurance industry, investment, and the economy. The second is the American Fraternal Alliance Spring Symposium which will focus on two separate education/training tracks, Fraternal/Communication and Governance, over a two-day period. Speakers and interactive workshops will provide attendees with relevant information regarding the successful operation of a fraternal benefit society. It also gives the attendees an opportunity to interact with fraternal and insurance industry peers from across the country to gain insight into how other fraternal operate.

It is time to begin planning your creation for the May Art Contest. The deadline for submitting entries to the Home Office for the contest is May 31st. Once again, an adult category is part of the contest. Assembly officers, parents, and grandparents, please encourage our youth members to participate in the contest. All entrants will receive an NSS Life T-shirt. The monetary prizes for the winning entries have been increased. Please check the rules for the contest located elsewhere in this issue.

Attention high school seniors, the deadline for applying for the PVR Scholarship is May 1st. Guidelines were included in the March issue of the *National News*. Please be sure to complete the PVR Scholarship application and submit it by the deadline. The PVR Scholarship has been a part of the National Slovak Society since 1966. This is an opportunity to get additional funds to help with your college expenses. If you have not requested an application and are interested in applying, please contact NSS Member and Community Engagement Coordinator

Bethany Bonnar at 412-770-2093 or by email at bbonnar@nsslife.org.

The National Slovak Society continued its controlled growth in 2023 despite the challenges presented by increasing Federal Reserve rates and their affect on the investment markets. In addition, the Board of Directors raised crediting rates on NSS annuities during the year providing members with additional increases in earnings. Each increase affects the spread between what we are able to earn on our investment portfolio and what we pay to the holders of our products. Our Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Linda Strom will provide details of the 2023 Annual Financial Statement elsewhere in this issue. A few highlights of the statement include the following. NSS Admitted Assets increased to \$1,806,044,969. Premium for 2023 increased to \$244,904,409, an increase of 11.9%. Net Income for the year was \$5,981,020, prior to capital and surplus adjustments. Surplus increased to \$94,858,419. The NSS Solvency Ratio increased to 105.54. The solvency ratio is the safety margin for our members' money. NSS membership also increased in 2023 marking the nineteenth consecutive year of growth!

Each year in February, the National Slovak Society participates in the annual rating surveillance process with the Kroll Bond Rating Agency. The NSS Officers and Home Office Staff submit information to the KBRA rating team relevant to our operation, governance, technology, investments, strategic plan, and personnel. The management presentation to the KBRA rating team occurred on February 22nd and included the Executive Officers, Society advisors, and Home Office staff. KBRA issued their rating for 2024 on March 1, 2024. The National Slovak Society KBRA insurance financial strength rating (IFSR) for 2024 was affirmed as BBB+ with a Stable outlook.

News of Narodniars

Happy April Birthday wishes to NSS Directors Keith Kucherawy and Drew Wesnak, former NSS Director Bill Knoll, Home Office Staff Members Bethany Bonnar, Krista Freund, Lisa Shriver, and Sue Urcho, to my daughter Ashley Bernardo, to Rudy Ondrejco, Jeff Lavin, Alexa Woods, Chloe Woods, and to all others celebrating a birthday in April!

Happy wedding anniversary wishes to all NSS couples celebrating in the month of April!

Get well wishes to Lori Crowley, Rhonda Felton, and John Payerchin as they recuperate from recent surgeries. Hope you all get well quickly!

2023 Annual Statement Recap

Statement as of December 31, 2023

	Dec 2023	Dec 2022
Net Admitted Assets:		
Bonds	\$1,574,225,871	\$1,547,459,334
Preferred Stocks	4,086,280	4,256,840
Common Stocks	7,211,402	7,212,701
Mortgage Loans on Real Est.	130,050,075	120,892,952
Certificate Loans	970,114	972,228
Real Est Occupied by Society	3,292,610	595,544
Cash on Deposit	67,365,335	60,312,219
Other Invested Assets	0	1,646,896
Uncollected Premiums	188,692	234,171
Investment Income Due	18,654,590	18,436,388
TOTALS	\$1,806,044,969	\$1,762,019,273

Liabilities & Unassigned Funds

Aggregate Reserve	\$1,619,692,000	\$1,575,671,000
Deposit-type Contracts	66,067,814	71,800,238
Certificate Claims	500,000	925,000
Commissions Due	594,000	375,000
Refunds Due and Unpaid	1,180,000	1,000,000
General Exp Due	2,376,000	1,990,000
Retained by Society as Trustee	98,535	139,849
Borrowed Money & Interest	0	0
Asset Valuation Resv (AVR)	16,080,300	13,542,800
Interest Maintenance Resv (IMR)	4,597,901	4,681,099
Contingency Reserve	150,000	150,000
Unassigned Funds	94,708,419	91,744,286
TOTALS	\$1,806,044,969	\$1,762,019,273

Surplus Account:

Beginning Surplus	\$91,894,286	\$80,941,812
Net Income	5,981,020	17,443,981
Change in Net Unrealized		
Capital Gains or (Losses)	338,748	(2,217,550)
Change in Nonadmitted Assets	(818,135)	(3,277,156)
Change in Valuation Reserve	(2,537,500)	(996,801)
Aggregate Write-ins for Gains and Losses in Surplus		
Net Change in Surplus	2,964,133	10,952,474
Surplus At Statement Date	\$94,858,419	\$91,894,286

Summary of Operations:

INCOME:

Premium & Annuity Considerations	\$244,904,409	\$218,833,341
Net Investment Income	86,810,661	81,575,937
Amortization of Interest		
Maintenance Reserve	695,444	392,944
Aggregate Write-ins for Misc Inc	0	410,245
Income Sub-Total	\$332,410,514	\$301,212,467

EXPENSES:

Death Benefits	\$13,178,693	\$12,075,549
Matured Endowments	18,997	42,321
Annuity Benefits	251,615,462	155,488,617
Disability Benefits	4,584	5,342
Surrender Benefits	623,097	645,831
Interest On Deposit Type Contr	16,296	12,831
Increase In Aggregate Reserve for Life Contracts	44,021,000	100,677,500
Commissions On Direct Business	6,431,258	6,409,626
General & Fraternal Expenses	9,224,284	7,519,923
Insur, Taxes, Licenses, Fees	232,165	218,768
Expense Sub-Total	\$325,365,836	\$283,096,308

SUMMARY:

Net Gain From Operations		
Before Refunds To Members	\$7,044,678	\$18,116,159
Refund To Members	(1,186,893)	(985,225)
Net Gain From Operations		
After Refunds To Members	5,857,785	17,130,934
Net Realized Capital Gains	123,235	313,047
TOTAL NET INCOME	\$5,981,020	\$17,443,981



A Page From
My Notebook...

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

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective January 1, 2024 ★

Optimum 3 - 5.00%

Preferred 5 - 4.00%

New Preferred 8 - 6.50%* (For First Year Only)

Existing Preferred 8 - 4.25%

(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.



Did you know...

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

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



OPEN A ROTH IRA

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

- * Tax Advantages
- * Competitive Interest Rates

From the Sales Department...

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



Last Chance for IRAs

As you read this there is little time left to make a contribution to an IRA to help with your 2023 taxes. Below is a chart with a lot of information about all of the rules and guidelines as they pertain to IRAs.

Here is the quick summary. A person can put up to \$6,500 into their IRA if they have sufficient earned income and meet the guidelines. If the person is age 50 or older then another \$1,000 may be deposited as a "catch up" provision. The beauty of putting money in an IRA assuming it is deductible, then the government is helping subsidize your retirement. Assume you put in \$7,500 and you are in the 22% tax bracket. By making that contribution you probably saved \$1,650 in taxes.

At retirement or when you start to take money out of your IRA account every penny will be taxable. There are some rules like money withdrawn before age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty. There are some exceptions to the penalty. Or you must start making required minimum distributions at age 73.

Here are a few other important points. There is no age limit to the IRA program. If you are working and your spouse is not, then you may be able to make a contribution on their behalf. We have some people who are retired, working part time and they make at least \$15,000 a year. They can put that entire amount into their IRAs, \$7,500 for the working spouse and \$7,500 for the non-working spouse.

The unique timing of the IRA program allows you to make a 2023 contribution up until April 15th. And you

could also make your 2024 contribution now. The 2024 amount has been increased (indexed for inflation) and is now \$7,000 if under age 50 plus the \$1,000 catch up amount if age 50 or older for a total of \$8,000.

Right now a couple could put \$31,000 into their IRA. (\$7,500 for each of them in 2023 and \$8,000 for each of them in 2024.)

Important IRA Info for 2024 and 2023

Below is an update of certain IRS limit changes due to cost-of-living increases and a summary of recent law changes.

IRA Changes for 2024
Income Limit Level Changes: Single Taxpayer Eligibility Phase out \$77,000 to \$87,000
 Married Taxpayer Eligibility Phase out \$123,000 to \$143,000

Roth IRA Changes for 2024
Income Limit Level Changes: Single Taxpayer Eligibility Phase out \$146,000 to \$161,000
 Married Taxpayer Eligibility Phase out \$230,000 to \$240,000

Please see below for more detailed information

Traditional and Roth IRA		
IRA Annual Contribution Limit:	2024	2023
Contribution Limit	\$7,000	\$6,500
50+ Catch-up	\$1,000	\$1,000
AGI Limits for Deductible Contributions to a Traditional IRA		
Active Participants in Employer Plans		
Married Filing Jointly	\$123,000-\$143,000	\$116,000-\$136,000
Married Filing Separately	\$0-\$10,000	\$0-\$10,000
All Others	\$77,000-\$87,000	\$73,000-\$83,000
Nonparticipant Married to Active Participant	\$230,000-\$240,000	\$218,000-\$228,000
Neither Spouse is Active Participant	No Limit	No Limit
AGI Limits for Roth IRA Contributions		
Married Filing Jointly	\$218,000-\$228,000	\$218,000-\$228,000
Married Filing Separately	\$0-\$10,000	\$0-\$10,000
All Others	\$146,000-\$161,000	\$138,000-\$153,000

Charitable Giving with Life Insurance

Life insurance is the greatest financial product ever devised. With the payment of a few dollars, an instant estate is created that is immediately payable upon a person's demise. We have paid claims to beneficiaries when only one payment was made on a policy.

Most people tend to think about life insurance around events. Things like marriage, the birth of a child, buying a home, starting a business, death, divorce and more; all of these would cause a prudent person to consider what they have in the way of life insurance.

One area that really works out well is charitable giving. If you are inclined to give money to your favorite charity (church, school, service organization, etc.) then a life insurance plan could provide the charity with a substantial wind fall. For example, a person might be giving \$100 a month to the local food bank. If you are passionate about helping the food bank you might divert some or all of that payment into a life insurance plan. At age 35, that amount as a life insurance premium would buy a \$100,000 policy. At death, we would pay the charity that amount of money. That is significant and perhaps they could do more with a lump sum. Once the policy is purchased, the charity as the owner would be able to use the policy's cash or loan values. They may even use the dividends along the way for some reason.

There may also be some tax advantages but check with your tax professional for that info since everyone's tax situation is different.

If you would like to see an illustration on how this idea might work for you and your favorite charity, please contact your local representative or Joe Elliott in the Home office.

Thought For The Month:

Chance is the first step you take; luck is what comes afterward.

Amy Tan, Writer

The Community Corner

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



Spring is my favorite time of year! The warmth and greenery of spring is deeply appreciated after a long winter (at least here in Pittsburgh)! As the days get longer and warmer, I encourage you to break free from your winter hibernation and get involved in your local community and in your NSS Life community! Our local assemblies have plenty of events for you to “spring” into! If you’re unsure about what assembly you’re in, you can always call or email the home office, and we can help you learn how to get involved! Even on a national level NSS Life has new programs and benefits coming to life this spring! Check out our newest Youth program “Reading Matters” down below!



Reading Matters

NSS Life is dedicated to helping our younger members develop into upstanding citizens of tomorrow. We believe that being young doesn’t mean you can’t make a difference in the world! We are very excited to present our newest youth member program: Reading Matters! All youth NSS Members aged 5-18 are now able to fill out an official NSS Reading Matters Book Log to keep track of their reading journey! The best part? For every book log completed, NSS Life will make a dona-

tion to a charity of the child’s choice! Once their log is completed, all they have to do is find a charity that means something to them, and NSS will make a donation in their honor. Parents, this is a perfect way to get your children involved in learning about giving back to their communities (and turn them away from screens and towards books!). See later on in this edition for more information and a sign-up form!

Contests

We have recently wrapped up this year’s Poetry and Literary Contest! Thank you to everyone who sent in their poem and essay submissions! I am continuously impressed by the talent of the NSS Life community and can’t wait for the winners to be announced!

Don’t fret! Another NSS Contest is already here! We are currently accepting submissions for the 2024 Art Contest! Send in your artistic creations to the home office by May 31st for the chance to win cash prizes and have your artwork feature in the *National News!* The rules are the same, but we have made a small change to what happens after the winners have been selected! You can now choose to have your artwork donated to a Nursing Home where it will be given to a resident as a gift. You can still request to have your artwork shipped back to you, or you can consider sharing your talents with someone to brighten up their day! Make sure to specify with your submission if you would it to be returned or donated after judging. See later in this edition for a complete list of rules.



2024 National Bowling Tournament

It’s not too late to grab some friends and sign up to participate in this year’s National Bowling Tournament in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! On May 17th and 18th members from NSS Life, GCU, and SCS will join together

at Bowlero Pittsburgh for a weekend of competition and camaraderie. Sign up for team, doubles, and singles events to compete for the top prizes (and bragging rights)! With Hospitality Night (May 17th) and a Social Cocktail Hour (May 18th), there’s even plenty of fun for those who prefer to leave the bowling to the pros. Sign-up form is on page 9 and also can be found on our website (www.nsslife.org) and are due by April 15th.

Youth Achievement and PVR Scholarships

We’re coming close to the deadline for PVR Scholarship Applications, but it’s not too late to take advantage of the financial help NSS Life offers its youth members! Call **412-770-2093** or email bbonnar@nsslife.org to learn more about the PVR Scholarship and request an application! Completed applications for the 2024-2025 school year are due by May 1st, so act fast! Reminder to all current PVR recipients to submit your most recent transcripts once you’ve finished your spring semester!



Social Media

From fraternal program updates to important member notices, social media is a great way to stay up to date on any changes here at NSS Life. Give us a follow-on:

Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)
Facebook (@NSS Life) and
LinkedIn (@NSS Life) to make sure you never miss a thing!



“Love yourself first, and everything else falls into line. You really have to love yourself to get anything done in this world.”

— **Lucille Ball**

No applications will be accepted after April 15, 2024

NSS Life NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT
A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF GCU, NSS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
 "USBC MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED"
 AMF Bowlero Pittsburgh Lanes ⇄ Pittsburgh, PA
 Friday, May 17 & Saturday, May 18, 2024

No applications will be accepted after April 15, 2024

Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for the bowlers to be registered in the tournament. League bowlers must submit a copy of their league average sheet with their application.

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	NSS TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2022-23 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events

Please check one: Men's Events Women's Events

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENTS—SATURDAY, MAY 18
 9 AM 12:30 PM

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 17

Hospitality Meal Served 5 PM at Bowlero Pgh. Lanes Bowling Begins at 6:30 PM All Teams

Team Name: _____
(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____

Name of your Local USBC: _____

Association Secretary: _____

Address: _____

Make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: NSS Life

Mail to: NSS Life Fraternal Dept., 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317.
 Important: Every Individual and Captain on this entry agrees to relinquish his rights to prize money if it should be found that any information herein is false.

Financial Totals for this Application	
___ Singles Event	@ \$23 ea. = \$ _____
___ Doubles Event	@ \$23 ea. = \$ _____
___ Team Event	@ \$23 ea. = \$ _____
___ All Events	@ \$5 ea. = \$ _____
___ Reception Fee (Optional) ...	@ \$0 ea. = \$ _____
___ Reception Fee (Guests)	@ \$65 ea. = \$ _____
Total Enclosed \$ _____	



Hospitality Questionnaire for the 2024 GCU, NSS & SCS Joint Bowling Tournament

*Please complete and return this questionnaire
with your bowling application.*

Bowler Name: _____

Friday Evening Buffet (*Free for Bowlers*)

____ I will have a guest at the Friday Evening Buffet at Bowlero-Pittsburgh on Friday, **May 17, 2024**. Enclosed is my payment of **\$15.00 per guest** for the Friday Buffet.

Friday Buffet Guest _____

Friday Buffet Guest _____

Saturday Evening Bowlers' Cocktail Reception

Hot and Cold Hors D'oeuvres and two-hour Open Bar.

____ **YES**, I will attend the Bowlers Reception at the DoubleTree Greentree Hotel at 5:30 PM on Saturday, **May 18, 2024**.

____ I will have a guest(s) at the Reception on Saturday, **May 18th**. Enclosed is my payment of **\$65 per guest** for the Reception.

Saturday Guest _____

Saturday Guest _____

Saturday Guest _____

____ **NO**, I will not attend the Reception on Saturday, May 18, 2024

Do you or your guests have any dietary restrictions? If so, please explain:

Return this form with your bowling application by April 15, 2024.

Thank You!





Youth Circle Magazine - Spring 2024



Spring Word Search with Riddle

Find the words in the Word Search. Color each word a different color. When you have found them all, go across the rows and write the letters that are left on the lines below. This will give you a spring riddle.



butterfly



snail



cloud



kites



flowers

c	w	h	y	r	k	a	r	c
e	l	f	l	a	i	b	o	a
d	w	o	e	i	t	u	f	t
r	r	s	u	n	e	t	l	e
a	l	a	z	d	s	t	o	r
g	s	n	a	i	l	e	w	p
o	y	b	t	h	e	r	e	i
n	w	y	i	a	r	f	r	l
f	o	e	a	r	l	i	s	l
l	r	w	a	y	d	y	s	a
y	m	i	n	b	e	d	s	r



dragonfly



worm



rain



bird



caterpillar

----- ?

Answer: -----

Spring Activities

Visit a Pet Farm

This is the perfect time of year to visit a pet farm. After the long winter, the kids will love to run around the farm, taking in all the delights of spring. Feed a bottle to a baby lamb or cup a baby chick in your hand.

Feed the Ducks

It's migrating season! All of the ducks and other birds are heading back home, so bring some cooked rice or birdseed to a pond or ravine near you and feed them a tasty snack.

Go For a Spring Walk

Head out for a family walk together and see what signs of spring you can find together. It could be buds on trees, new flowers appearing, baby lambs or the sound of a cuckoo.

Rock Painting

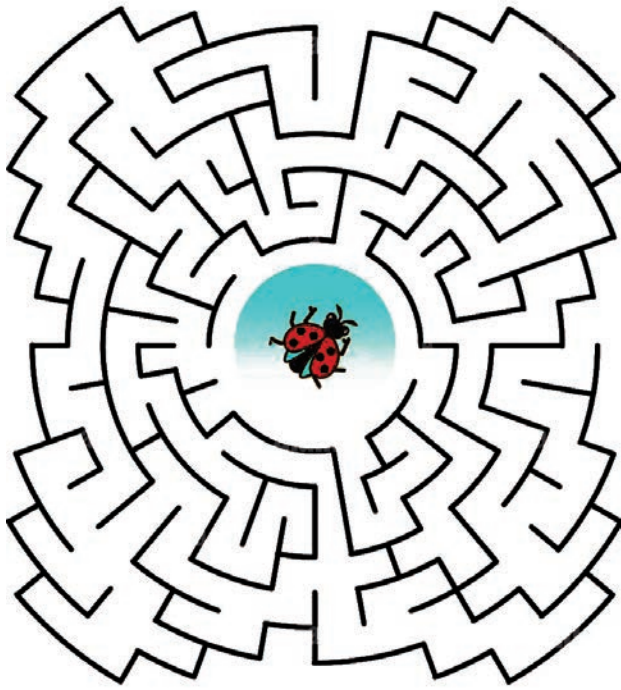
Collect smooth rocks, clean them, and let them dry. Paint the rocks with your favorite designs or messages.



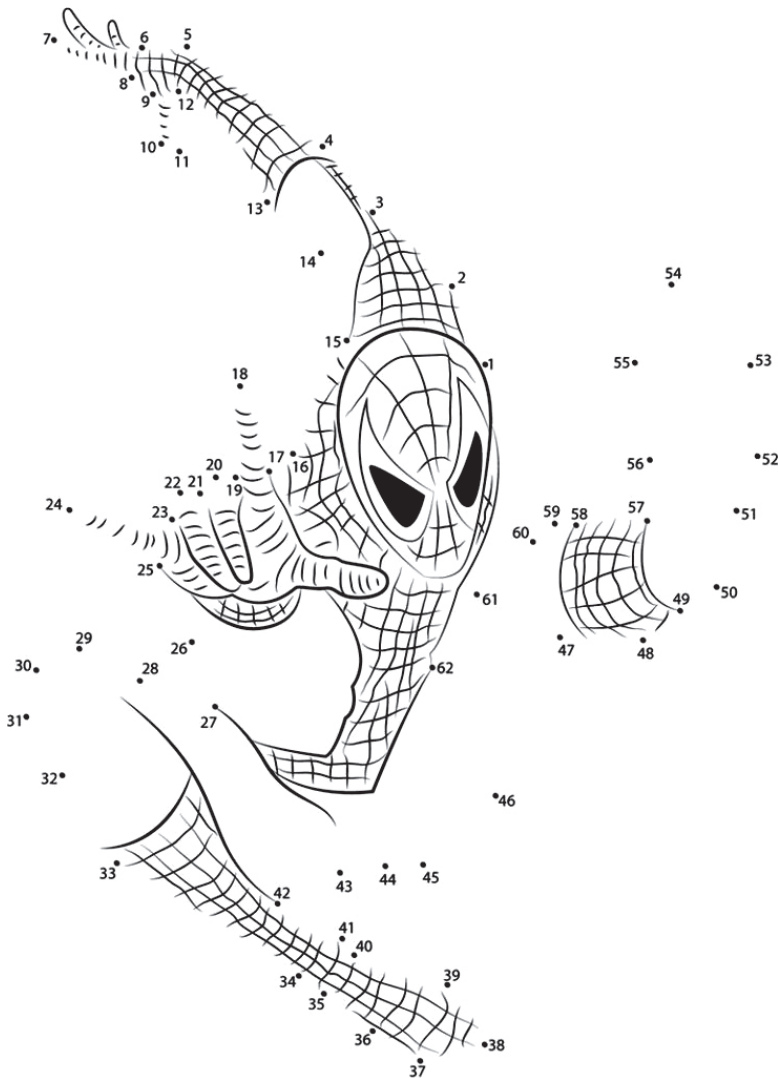
Play Hide-and-Seek

Who doesn't love this classic game? Springtime means you can head outside for an epic, neighborhood round of hide-and-seek!

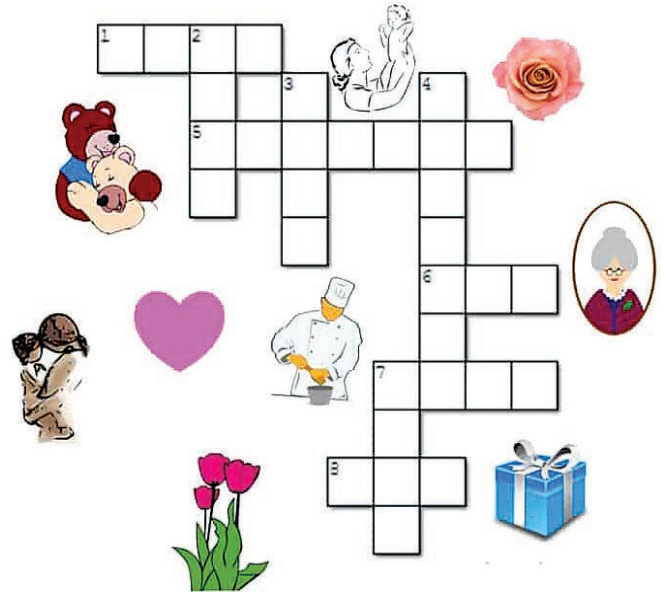
Help the little ladybug fly out of the maze.



CONNECT THE DOTS



Mother's Day Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. I love ____ and kisses from my mom.
5. Mom plants ____ in her garden.
6. Happy Mother's ____.
7. I will make my mom a Mother's Day ____.
8. ____ is short for mother.

Down

2. This is another word for a present.
3. I ____ my mom.
4. I call my mom's mom and my dad's mom ____.
7. My mom is a great ____. I love everything she makes.

SPRING *word scramble*

- UBSDGYAL _____
- BIBART _____
- SASGR _____
- GIPCRHNI _____
- DESES _____
- ZEREBE _____
- NISUHESN _____
- TELFRISEBTU _____
- WONABIR _____
- ADGERN _____
- YINRA _____
- FOLIDAFD _____
- CICPNI _____
- MRAW _____
- LESPTA _____
- OELSRWF _____
- KHISCC _____
- LOSBMSOS _____
- PITLUS _____
- ENEGR _____

WORD BANK:

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| BLOSSOMS | DAFFODIL | LADYBUGS | RAINY |
| BREEZE | FLOWERS | PASTEL | SEEDS |
| BUTTERFLIES | GARDEN | PICNIC | SUNSHINE |
| CHICKS | GRASS | RABBIT | TULIPS |
| CHIRPING | GREEN | RAINBOW | WARM |

Egg Carton Bird Feeder

Materials Needed:

- Egg Carton, String, Scissors
- Glue, and Bird Seed

Instructions:

1. Carefully cut off top of egg carton and punch hole in four corners.
2. Cut two pieces of string about a foot long each.
3. Thread string through holes diagonally and tie ends into knots over corners. Use a dab of glue for extra security.
4. Add bird seed and enjoy the birds!



Pom Pom Caterpillar Craft



- Colored craft paper (green for the leaves)
- Large pom poms
- Small googly eyes
- Scissors
- Glue
- Hole Punch

Instructions

Cut out a leaf pattern on your green colored craft paper. Make sure to keep your leaf larger than you will want your caterpillar.

Using the hole punch, punch out a few holes around the edges of your leaf. (This will be the "bite" marks from your caterpillar.)

Now, using a green marker, draw the leaf veins onto your leaf pattern.

Next, grab your pom poms and start making your caterpillars. You can create all solid caterpillars, but you could mix up the colors too! Glue your pom poms side by side. Use 4 for each of the caterpillars. Allow to dry completely.

Now glue 2 googly eyes onto the front, top of your first pom pom.

Now glue your caterpillar craft onto your leaf and allow to dry.

Enjoy your adorable pom pom caterpillar!



Colander Plant

Wrap one colander handle tightly with a half-yard of twine, pushing pieces together as you go to avoid gaps. Once covered, tie off and add a dab of glue to secure. Knot a yard of twine at each end of the handle. Repeat entire process with opposite handle. Next, line the colander with sheet moss and fill with potting soil and seasonal plants. (You can use ferns and pansies.) Tie four lengths of twine together and hang.



Grow Egg Cress Heads



Basics needed for this activity: Egg, Felt tip pen, Cotton, cress seeds.

Clean and dry the eggshell. Cress is an absolute cinch to grow – your cress seeds will grow in cotton. Place cotton in the bottom of the shell and make a face on the egg shell. Afterwards place a few seeds on top of the cotton. Water well. Place on a window seal for light and sun. The cress should start to sprout after one day. Add a small amount of water everyday so they don't dry out.



Upcycle Welly Boots

Gather any old welly boots you have outgrown. Poke a few drainage holes in the bottom of them and then fill them with some compost. Choose which flower seeds you would like to plant.

Place them along your path or outside your front door. You will love to see these old wellies blooming!

How to make new friends

It's important for all of us to have friends; people who care about us and make us smile. Whether you're feeling lonely, starting a new school or just open to exploring new friendships, here's how you can make new friends.

Meet other people

Joining a club, youth group, online forum or getting involved in an activity you enjoy is a great way of meeting new people. It's also a boost to your confidence to do something you love! Do some research about what's available in your area, and choose something that interests you. If you are unsure of where to start, ask someone to help you, or ask others for ideas.

Help other people

Volunteering in your local community can be a great way to meet other people.

Be a great listener

Introduce yourself to new people, ask questions about them, really listen to their answers and look for common ground.

Show you're open with your body language

If you look like you're trying to make yourself as small as possible, or you look threatening, people might not want to talk to you. Our tips on being assertive can help you practice your body language to show others that you're open to talking and friendship.

Make an effort

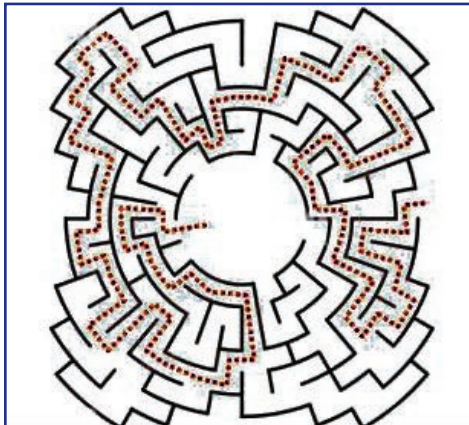
Don't wait for others to arrange something. Ask your new friends if they'd like to hang out! Invite them to take part in activities with you.

Be a good friend

Be a good friend to your new friends. Be trustworthy, listen to them, be respectful and supportive.

Choose good friends

You deserve good friends. Surround yourself with people who make you feel good, and don't pursue friendships with people who don't.



Jokes and Riddles

Q: What kind of key never unlocks your door?

A: A monkey!

Q: Why do graveyards have fences?

A: People are dying to get in!

Q: What did mama corn say to her kids?

A: Has anyone seen Pop-corn?

Q: What building in town has the most stories?

A: The library!

Q: What musical instrument is kept in your bathroom?

A: A tuba toothpaste!

Q: Why couldn't the pony finish his song?

A: He was a little hoarse.

Q: How do you stop a bull from charging?

A: Take away all his credit cards!

Q: Where do bees stop for bathroom breaks?

A: BP stations.

Q: Why was the computer rushed to the hospital?

A: It had a virus!

Q: Why did the painting end up in jail?

A: It was framed!

Q: Why did the old man put his money in the freezer?

A: He liked cold hard cash!

Q: Why couldn't the pirate play a game of cards?

A: Because he was sitting on the deck!

Q: Why is everyone tired on the 1st of April?

A: Because they've been Marching for 31 days.

Q: Why did Mickey Mouse fly to space?

A: Because he wanted to find Pluto!

Q: What is the end of everything?

A: The letter "g"

Q: What word is pronounced the same if you take away four of its five letters?

A: Queue

Q: I am a word that begins with the letter "i." If you add the letter "a" to me, I become a new word with a different meaning, but that sounds exactly the same. What word am I?

A: Isle (add "a" to make "aisle")

Q: What word in the English language does the following: The first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four letters signify a great person, while the entire word signifies a great woman. What is the word?

A: Heroine

Q: What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat and 2/4 goat?

A: Chicago

Q: What word of five letters has one left when two are removed?

A: Stone

Answers To Mothers Day Puzzle

Across

1. hugs
5. flowers
6. day
7. cake
8. mom

Down

2. gift
3. love
4. grandma
7. cook

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Thirty of our members came out to our 2024 first quarter assembly business meeting. This was in conjunction with our annual Lenten dinner at the Bob Evans Restaurant. President John Payerchin gave an update of what is happening in the society and the home office.

At our annual meeting, in December, these members were elected into office for 2024:

President: John Payerchin

Vice-President: Barbara Mulich

Secretary-Treasurer: Paul Payerchin

Trustees: Rita Leonard, Nancy Schwer, Tom Soltis

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of members Kathryn Cahn, Kenneth Hollis, Kenneth McFrye, Frances Oravets, and Susan Payerchin. May they rest in the loving arms of their Resurrected Lord and Saviour.

High school seniors are reminded that applications for a first year NSS Scholarship are due in the Home Office by **May 1st**. The rules for application are on the NSS website under "Forms". Call Bethany Bonner at 412-770-2093 for assistance.

It is not too earlier to start thinking about attending NSS Pirate Baseball Night at PNC Park. The date is **June 21st**. Mark your calendar! Last year was a blast with the Pirates winning in the ninth inning!

Our next meeting will be our "Summer Bar-B-Q" on Sunday, **June 9, 2024** at the Columbia Association (K of C) picnic pavilion starting at 2:00 pm. We will be honoring "Old Glory" with a flag celebration. Last year, we had the most members attend ever. We will be looking for you.

Remember April showers bring May flowers!

John Payerchin
President

**Have You Signed
Up A New
Member Lately?**

ASSEMBLY 0070 Brooklyn, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 14, 2024** at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at 11:00 am. We will be planning events for the year of 2024. Refreshments will be served.

Call John Karkosiak for any questions at 216-741-6990.

John Karkosiak
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Future meetings for our assembly will be:

April 13th - Fraternal Dinner at Grandes Restaurant, Birney Avenue, Moosic, PA. at 1:00 p.m.

May 11th - Postal carriers Join Hands Day, KOC Hall, Pittston, Meals on Wheels

August 4 - Fraternal summer picnic, Mercateli Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 p.m.

October 12th - Meeting at Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 p.m.

November - Annual Veterans Day Bingo party for Veterans Day. *Date to be announced*

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

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our assembly will be doing a matching funds for Hockey AA. A Designer purse bingo will be held at the American Club in Coplay on **April 21, 2024**. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. and games begin at 3:00 p.m.

On **May 25th**, our assembly will host an outing to the Iron Pigs baseball game. If interested please contact Sharon Wesnak at 610-769-7006. More info to follow.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Since Easter was early this year by now you should have put aside your Lenten sacrifices. Also, gone are your dreams of playoffs for the Steelers and Penguins.

Rejoice spring is here! My tree is full of birds and flowers are coming up and baseball season has started. Now you can dream of playoffs for the Pirates.

Our assembly has two volunteer activities coming up. On Wednesday **April 17th** at H.J. Heinz Veteran Hospital in Aspinwall, it will be Bingo night with refreshments beginning at 7 p.m. Then on Saturday, **May 18th** we will be sorting medical equipment at Global Links in Green Tree from 10:00 a.m. to noon, with lunch afterwards and a meeting. If you can volunteer for either or both of these events, please call Jill Grover at 412-638-7060. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

If any of our members are going to participate in the Bowling tournament on May 17 & 18, please give me a call at 724-242-5085. Our assembly will subsidize your fees. This year the location is right here in Pittsburgh.

Hopefully we will have some artists to take part in the Art Contest. There are any number of contests, events, and fund raisers available to members. For more details, read the article in the magazine by Bethany Bonnar or call the home office. She is the new person at the home office in charge of these types of things. She is very helpful and full of ideas.

I want to wish good luck to member Gayle Knoll (no relation) at the upcoming Three Rivers Quilters Quilt Show. I am sure her entry made with love and dedication is a winner. Also, our own Teri Tuminello will also be having an entry in the North Pittsburgh Quilters Quilt Show. We certainly have some very creative and inspiring quilters in our assembly. I'm sure there are probably some of whom I am unaware of. I'm going to save all my praise for the dedicated work that Linda Strom does each day for NSS and the help she has given me and our assembly always without complaint until the end of the year when her retirement becomes official. Until then I'll keep up my regular badgering. Enjoy and relish each day of spring. Don't forget to pay your taxes!

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Mark your calendar and join us for these events!

May 5, 2024 - Meeting at Foster House, One Cook Road, Belle Vernon, PA at 3:00 p.m.

July 14, 2024 - Annual picnic at Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 p.m.

September 15, 2024 - Meeting at Sesame Gourmet, 2975 Washington Road McMurray, PA at 3:00 p.m.

December 1, 2024 - Meeting at Hugo's Restaurant, 687 National Pike Road, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 p.m.

At each meeting we discuss assembly business and ways to help the community and stay involved with the NSS. As always, please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171. We hope to see you!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0568 LaCanada, CA

Our meeting will be held on **April 1st, 2024** at 1004 Foothill Boulevard, La Canada, CA at 12:30 p.m.

Feel free to attend.

John Dorusinec
President

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our collection for Operation Support Our Troops goes on. We continue to ask for donations at our next meeting on **April 12th**. God bless our troops and our United States of America. Our National Slovak Society just received a grateful letter for matching funds the OSOT received. Our troops deserve our help in this small way.

Irene Tomaskovic
President



ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

All of our meetings will be held at the Stefka residence located at 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, Pennsylvania on the following dates and times:

Monday, April 15th - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, September 23rd - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 3rd - 2:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend the meetings and become active Assembly 588 members. Please contact Annette at 724-407-3591 if you are planning on attending a meeting so she can plan accordingly.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly will conduct a business meeting on **April 18, 2024** at Theos Metro Kingston at 1:00 p.m.

Members planning to attend please contact John Kurilla at **570-287-4163** - **570-239-5936** - jjkurilla@aol.com.

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Adult and youth Assembly 731 members are planning a fun afternoon for the residents of the Christian House Home Health and Assisted Living in East Palestine, Ohio.

On Saturday, **April 13th**, we will convert their dining area into a 1950's Soda Fountain Shop for a special 50's Sock Hop. Music for the afternoon will include the top hits popular in the 1950's and we'll help them with some dance moves. The Soda Fountain will surely be the highlight of the afternoon as we provide milkshakes, sundaes, and root beer floats. Of course, we will be decked out in favorite 50's clothes. The Christian House will continue the theme through dinner with burgers, hot dogs, and fries.

Laurie Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 0737 North Huntingdon, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 7, 2024** at 2:00 p.m. at Panera. Our agenda includes discussing all of our assembly business. Members who plan to attend or for further information, please call or text 412-558-0314 or leave a message at 724-423-3992.

Andrea L. Garbon
Treasurer/Secretary

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

Region 2 will hold a meeting on Saturday, **May 18, 2024**, at 1:00 p.m. at Grotto Pizza, 337 Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

A meeting will also be held on Sunday, **August 11th** at The Grotto Pizza where our President Joseph Stefka will be attending at 2:00 p.m.

Those wishing to attend either meeting please contact me (Lucy Piccoletti) 570-479-4116 by phone or text so we can plan accordingly.

Lucy Piccoletti
Secretary

REGION #8 Cleveland, Ohio

Assemblies: #4, #70, #160, and #432
Guest speaker for this meeting will be NSS President Joseph Stefka, Jr.

This semi-annual meeting of Region #8 will be hosted by Assembly #160 and will be held:

DATE: **April 17, 2024**
LOCATION: Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church
4470 Ridge Road
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144
TIME: **6:00 p.m.**
(PLEASE NOTE TIME)

President Stefka will be attending our Regional meeting to discuss plans to *"Improve Region and Assembly education, support, communication, and participation for the upcoming years."* This is part of NSS Strategic Plans for the years 2024-2028. Time will be allotted for questions and input from the members of this meeting.

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

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary

50's Sock Hop at Christian House Soda Fountain Shop

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 starting at 2:00 p.m.

MUSIC **Kelly & Co.**

ICE CREAM & SWEETS
Provided by NSS Assembly 731 and Rowdy Roosters 4-H Club

MILKSHAKE - Choice of Chocolate ~ Vanilla ~ Strawberry

SUNDAE - Vanilla ice cream with choice of toppings:
 Chocolate or caramel, chopped peanuts or pecans, sprinkles, whipped cream, cherry on top

ROOT BEER FLOAT - Root Beer and vanilla ice cream

VANILLA ICE CREAM ~ CUPCAKE

DINNER
Provided by Christian House at 4:30 p.m.

HAMBURGER ~ HOT DOG ~ FRIES

Dates To Remember For Deadlines

- April 1st:**
 Youth Achievement Award
 Fraternalist of the Year
 Nomination Forms
- May 1st:**
 PVR Scholarship Program First Year
 Applications Due
- May 17th-18th:**
 National Bowling Tournament
 Bowlero, Pittsburgh, PA
- May 31st:**
 Art Contest Deadline
- June 21st:**
 NSS Pirates Night at PNC Park
- July 12th-14th:**
 NSS National Golf Tournament
 Treasure Lake Golf Course
 DuBois, PA
- July 15th:**
 PVR Scholarship Program
 Renewal
- September 28th:**
 NSS Heritage Museum
 Presents "Septemberfest"
- October 31st:**
 Pumpkin Decorating Contest
 and Photo Contest
- November 30th:**
 NSS Heritage Museum
 Presents
 "Christmas Around the World"
- December 1st:**
 Christmas Ornament Contest
- December 8th:**
 Christmas Card Collection



Thank You

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the gift from the Home Office, many get well wishes and cards, flowers and thoughtful prayers on my behalf. Bless you.

Lori Crowley
 Editor

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. No Exceptions!**

NSS Life
 Family Matters...

Proud Major Sponsor of the "LEAD" Program

Building Strong Communities One Student and Family at a Time!

Scan to Learn How Our "LEAD" Program Inspires Positive Change in the Region!

Created By
 Judge Ron Arnoni and National Youth Speaker Mr. Brad Killmeyer

www.OurLeadFamily.com

Scholarship For Senior Members A Fraternal Program

PURPOSE -

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

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY -

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

COURSE ELIGIBILITY -

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

PROCEDURE -

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

INFORMATION & APPLICATION -

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

DEPARTED MEMBERS FEBRUARY 2024

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Alcorn, Georgia	Vandergrift, PA	01/29/2024	L105
Babuscak, Robert	Uniontown, PA	12/01/2023	0039
Balkovec, Frank	Pittsburgh, PA	01/09/2024	0100
Barner, Pauline	Youngsville, PA	02/17/2024	0551
Barnett, Joann	Schuykill, PA	01/21/2024	L102
Beddow, Caroline	Amity, PA	12/25/2023	0588
Bender Sr., George	Monroeville, PA	12/22/2023	0123
Blanner, Eileen	Murrysville, PA	11/03/2023	L105
Boretsky, Marie	Pittsburgh, PA	10/15/2023	L161
Boykan, James	Beaver Falls, PA	02/14/2024	0123
Bridge, Stephen	Bradenville, PA	01/25/2024	0774
Brown, Elaine	Washington, PA	11/16/2023	0588
Bubblo, Dolores	Wyoming, PA	11/23/2023	L075
Cattley, David	Moon Township, PA	01/11/2024	0123
Chamberlin, Mary	Pittsburgh, PA	05/16/2023	L161
Chambers, Barbara	Whitehall, PA	02/08/2024	L102
Christian, Louise	Pittsburgh, PA	01/30/2024	0123
Cindrich, Anita	Boston, PA	02/10/2024	0737
Cindrich, Rose	Aliquippa, PA	01/22/2024	0123
Cochran, Nancy	Oil City, PA	02/02/2024	0554
Collins, Arvid	Aliquippa, PA	01/03/2024	0123
Cushman, Lesley	Monessen, PA	01/22/2024	0377
Cuthbertson, Carol	Pasadena, CA	01/05/2024	0568
Dickson, Mildred	New Kensington, PA	02/10/2024	L105
Drake, Marion	Windsor, WI	10/15/2023	0774
Dunn, Dorothy	Gibsonia, PA	02/20/2024	0123
Dutter, Walter	Kingston, PA	01/29/2024	0617
Engle, Betty Lou	Reynoldsburg, OH	12/09/2023	0434
Flom, Annabelle	Pittsburgh, PA	01/14/2024	L161
Florek, David	Lower Burrell, PA	02/01/2024	L105
Fong, William	Delmont, PA	12/23/2023	L105
Foytick, Joseph	Pittsburgh, PA	01/13/2024	0100
Furman, Dale	West Newton, PA	01/25/2024	0737
Fusek, Steve	Chicago, IL	04/23/2021	0586
Gailey, Barbara	Moon Township, PA	12/30/2023	0123
Gaiser, Rebecca	Chicora, PA	02/10/2024	L161
Genday, Eva	Pittsburgh, PA	01/31/2024	L161
Gileot, Paul	Anita, PA	11/11/2023	0554
Gore, Rufus	Merrill, WI	09/27/2023	0381
Gray, Gary	Luther, MI	12/27/2023	0381
Hackett, Marjorie	Warren, PA	01/14/2024	R019
Hamilton, Carol	Ridgeley, WV	12/01/2023	0774
Hanayik, James	Parma, OH	09/09/2013	0267
Hancock, Ronald	Snow Shoe, PA	01/07/2024	L040
Hanna, Sylvia	Pittsburgh, PA	01/10/2024	L161
Hanyo, Donald	Pittsburgh, PA	12/25/2023	0737
Harbert, Wanda	Monongah, WV	11/12/2023	0774
Hartley, Gloria	Roscoe, PA	01/21/2024	0377
Heath, Katherine	Spring Creek, PA	01/02/2024	0554
Hilarie, Irene	Donora, PA	06/25/2023	0434
Hillegass, Janice	McKeesport, PA	02/23/2024	0108
Holcomb, Naomi	Indore, WV	12/25/2023	0774
Holland Jr., Gregory	Pittsburgh, PA	12/18/2024	R059
Hull, John	Latrobe, PA	01/28/2024	0737
Jameson, Dorothy	Franklin, WI	12/07/2023	0774
Johnson, Bernadette	Bentleyville, PA	02/20/2024	0377
Kawalec, Theresa	Clearwater, FL	12/11/2023	0813
Kemp, Jean	Erie, PA	02/07/2024	R019
Kifer, June M	Erie, PA	12/29/2023	0731

DEPARTED MEMBERS FEBRUARY 2024 (continued from page 18)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Kilmer, Marie	New Ringgold, PA	02/01/2024	L102
Konrad, John	Pittsburgh, PA	02/01/2024	L161
Kopko, Theresa	Hanover Township, PA	01/16/2024	0617
Kough, Eugene	Clearwater, FL	12/11/2023	0813
Kuklias, Debra Lynn	East Vandergrift, PA	02/01/2024	L105
Kusnak, Thomas	Mars, PA	01/31/2024	0123
Lambert, Charles	Elwood City, PA	01/18/2024	0731
Lapinski, Helen	Baden, PA	02/20/2024	0123
Lasher, Neva	Union City, PA	02/12/2024	0731
Leonard, Clifford	Jeannette, PA	12/10/2023	0737
Lody, John	Stoystown, PA	01/25/2024	0039
Loren, George	Allison, PA	01/03/2024	0123
Marcischak, Anita	Houston, PA	02/18/2024	0434
Mayse, Budge	Clarksburg, WV	10/07/2023	0774
Mc Clure, Suzanne	North Huntingdon, PA	01/31/2024	0737
Mc Vay, Lana	Appleton, WI	01/28/2023	0774
McNulty, Pauline	South Park, PA	01/28/2024	0434
McShane, Patricia	Glassport, PA	10/29/2005	0108
Milestone, Anne	Warrington, PA	02/11/2024	R059
Minardi, Betty	Monessen, PA	01/23/2024	0774
Mizner, Patricia	Meadville, PA	01/23/2024	0731
Moore, Laura	Latrobe, PA	01/05/2024	0737
Morrison, Mary Ann	Pittsburgh, PA	02/17/2024	0100
Murray, Judy	Minot, ND	02/13/2024	0774
Nowakowski, Dolores	South Park, PA	12/18/2023	0100
O Connell, Patrick	Pittsburgh, PA	02/01/2024	L161
Painter, Richard	Elizabeth Twp, PA	10/22/2022	0434
Parise, John Joseph	Meadville, PA	02/22/2024	0731
Peluso, Tamara	Pittsburgh, PA	12/31/2023	0100
Persson, Roy	Farmington, PA	01/19/2024	0039
Pursglove, Mary	Bethel Park, PA	01/26/2024	0434
Retmyer, Ralph	Pittsburgh, PA	01/24/2024	0108
Rombold, Margaret	Zelienople, PA	02/21/2024	0123
Rose, Helen	Stoneboro, PA	02/10/2024	0731
Shearer, Louis	Mc Keesport, PA	01/25/2024	0108
Shubert, Virginia	Stoystown, PA	02/08/2024	0039
Shuttleworth, Catherine	Wampum, PA	02/11/2024	0123
Siess, Dorothy	Allison Park, PA	02/12/2024	L161
Souchak, Dorothy	Pottsville, PA	02/08/2024	L102
Stephenson, Joan	Sarver, PA	01/21/2024	0700
Stone, William	Graterford, PA	01/29/2024	R059
Syphers, James	Uniontown, PA	01/08/2024	0039
Takos, Angelo	Pittsburgh, PA	01/20/2024	L161
Thomas, Constance	Philadelphia, PA	02/08/2024	R059
Topola, Dylan	Independence OH	01/12/2024	0070
Vallo, Dolores	Kulpmont, PA	01/28/2024	0774
Volpe, Patricia	Elizabeth, PA	01/20/2024	0441
Wagenknecht, Catherine	Hamilton, IN	12/30/2023	0381
Wanielista, Robert	Pittsburgh, PA	01/14/2024	0100
Washlohn, June	Erie, PA	02/18/2024	0731
Wehrer, Shelley Ann	Burgettstown, PA	09/18/2023	0588
Wenchoski, James	Bellaire, OH	02/12/2024	0705
Wiley, Philip	Pottstown, PA	02/17/2024	L102
Zaronsky, Geraldine	Acme, PA	01/12/2024	0737
Zeh, William	Monessen, PA	02/13/2024	0774
Zihlavsky, Paul	Warren, MI	12/31/2023	0381
Zurick, Joseph	Pittsburgh, PA	01/19/2024	0100

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.

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 February 2024

In Memory of the following members
from **Assembly 0123:**

Esther Baun	20.00
Robert C. Brown	20.00
Edward Cetnarowski	20.00
Dorothy Filbert	20.00
Lois Glas	20.00
Barbara A. Henry	20.00
Joan C. Holbert	20.00
Stella Maharg	20.00
Karen S. Miller	20.00
John Verbish	20.00
Joy A. Waros	20.00
Grace Weiland	20.00

In Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

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

Donations:

Bill Wesnak III	20.00
Sue Ondrejco, Board Member	100.00
Assembly 0588.....	250.00

Assembly Activities

Assembly L102 Christmas Party



Assembly 0377



A productive and successful meeting was held at the Olive Garden for our members in February.

Assembly 0586 News

Chicago Tribune headline reads “Buoyant Bratislava an urban success story” by national travel writer Rick Steves. The 1/2 page article tells about the collapse of communism in 1989 Slovakia’s new government began rebuilding restoring Old World Bratislava.

When our missionary group first came to Slovakia in 1999, the capital and towns we worked in were not attractive. Every year after our first working visit, there was a very different look and feel about Slovakia. It was our privilege to help build a church in Nitra and to be involved in the beginning of a school in Martin.

Another article headlined “History lives in Prague’s Castle Quarter” a few weeks later is featured in the Tribune. A beautiful memory for me is of St. Vitus Cathedral’s huge stained glass window by Mucha, world renowned Czechoslovak artist. Our family is proud of the home of our ancestors and to have it featured as a beautiful country to visit.

Our collection for Operation Support Our Troops goes on. We continue to ask for donations at our next meeting on April 12th. God bless our troops and our United States of America. Our National Slovak Society just received a grateful letter for matching funds the OSOT received. Our troops deserve our help in this small way.

Irene Tomaskovic
President

Assembly L075



We sponsored a matching funds for the WB VAVS committee to support veterans activities in the WBVA at Buff City Soaps. They made a patriotic soap just for our fundraiser.

L-R: Lehrae Ann Edwards & Dorothy Collins, Alice Keiner VAVS Chairman and Lisa Urban WBVA Rec officer

We conducted our annual Veterans Day Pizza party bingo for the veterans at the Wilkes-Barre VA. November 12 in the CLC community living center 3rd Floor dining area. We played Bingo with canteen books for the Veterans and soda and pizza.



Guy and Linda Pilosi with Veterans Jeff and Cliff

November 12 the Bone Appetite matching fundraiser for the SPCA sponsored by Region 2 at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre and donated a dog Lottery Basket. Shown are members: Jim & Jo Carol Buckley, Dorothy & Gary Collins, Adam Lazar, Richard & Patricia Gorgol, Matthew Edwards, Region 2 President Marlin Petro-Wesnak, S/T Lehrae Edwards, Allie Lazar, Adam Edwards, Karen Richardson, President Gary Edwards and Franchesca Pintha.

On December 9th, we sponsored matching funds for the annual Troop 316 Chili and Craft Fair at Ladore Lodge Honesdale.

Lehrae, Marlin Petro Region 2 President and VP Lucy Piccoletti purchased a sweat outfit, a toy, and some nutritional snacks for the 2 children at the South Side Head Start Scranton for their Angel tree as new Assembly L075 sponsors.

We packed the outfits and added NSS name tags. We visited the school and read a story at their Pajama day party and presented each child with their presents.

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

Lehrae Edwards
Treasurer



Assembly 0731 News

Assembly 0731 met at 6:00 p.m. on February 18, 2024, at the Georgeann Center in Boardman, OH.

Officers were re-elected to serve for two additional years: Laurie Fox, President; Linda Estes, Vice-President; Ida Lewis, Recording Secretary; Mike Fox Sr., Treasurer; Mike Fox Jr., Financial Secretary; Beth and Matt Mason, Co-Directors for Fraternal Activities; Kathy Cessna and Mary Martini, Co-Directors for Youth Programs; and Ashlynn Mason, Youth Activities Coordinator.

We discussed a variety of options for fraternal activities in 2024. The Fraternal team will meet in March to finalize plans and set dates for Assembly members to enjoy. Members were encouraged to follow the assembly social media and the NSS news magazine for updates. Community service participation will include sponsoring a 50's Sock Hop with Soda Fountain theme at the Christian House nursing home in East Palestine, Ohio, helping with shoe give-away and serving Thanksgiving dinner at the Chestnut Ridge Church of God in Hubbard, Ohio, and doing yard work at the Poland Township Park and Poland Historical Society in Poland, Ohio.

Members were reminded of the many Region 5 opportunities they could attend this year including Kennywood Slovak Day on July 18, Pirates Baseball game on June 21, and Family Picnic in August. They were encouraged to attend Region 5 meetings.

Members were also reminded to participate in all national NSS contests and events including the Bowling and Golf tournaments, and to support the PVR scholarship fund. Nominations for the Youth Achievement Award and Fraternalist of the Year were discussed.



A light dinner was available for meeting attendees followed with "NSS Founders Day" celebration cake.

Ida Lewis
Secretary

April Calendar

- April 1st**
All Fools' Day—otherwise known as "April Fools' Day." Where did this silly day come from?
- April 22nd**
The start of Passover, which begins at sundown.
- April 22nd**
Earth Day. To celebrate, see some Earth Day ideas and activities.
- April 24th**
The birthday of Robert B. Thomas, the founder of The Old Farmer's Almanac!
- April 28th**
National Arbor Day.

Assembly 0377 Welcomes Three New Members



Assembly 0377 welcomes three new members thanks to the generous and loving gift of NSS member Kathleen Moore. She gifts her three great grandchildren life insurance.

Pictured is Kathleen, Madelyn, and Alexander Gregus. Along with Huey Gillispie, son of current members Courtney and Huey Gillispie, grandson of members Jodie and Michael Korpus. Welcome to the NSS Life family.

Pittsburgh Slovaks

The Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks will be accepting new members. If your children or grandchildren, age 6 and up, like to sing and dance it is a perfect opportunity for them not only to learn about their heritage but to gain self-confidence, and make long lasting friendships. There is no tuition or fundraising involved. If you know anyone who might be interested and would like more information, have them contact Sue at **(412) 421-1204** or send an email to: sue.ondrejco@gmail.com



Čo je na apríli také výnimočné?

V apríli je niečo energizujúce. Dni sa predlžujú a oteplujú, stromy začínajú kvitnúť a divá zver sa zobúda zo zimného spánku.

Nech vám tento mesiac dá silu, trpezlivosť a pokoj. Nech každý aprílový deň naplní vaše dni nádejou, slnkom a energiou.

Všetkým našim členom prajeme krásny mesiac, veľa zdravia a šťastia.



Deň Zeme 22. apríl

Deň Zeme vznikol ako reakcia na rozsiahle poškodzovanie životného prostredia. Iniciátorom bol environmentálny aktivista, senátor Spojených štátov z Wisconsinu, Gaylord Nelson. Tento deň sa začal oslavovať od roku 1970. Jeho cieľom je pripomenutie si našej závislosti na cenných daroch poskytované Zemou. Je potreba si uvedomiť, že zemské zdroje nie sú nevyčerpatel'né, a preto sa treba venovať otázkam životného prostredia a prostredníctvom spoločného celosvetového úsilia chrániť jej poklady pre budúce generácie ľudí a ostatných tvorov žijúcich na Zemi.

Sv. Juraj sa slávi 24. Apríla

Juraj sa zobrazuje ako rytier na koni, ktorý doráža draka. Toto zobrazenie sa zakladá na legende, podľa ktorej mal Juraj zabiť draka. Drak znepokojoval Jurajovo rodné mesto Selena. Požíral ľudí a robil zle. Keď raz mal kráľ obetovať svoju krásnu a dobrú dcéru drakovi, aby dal pokoj mestu, vtedy – keď už išla k obludě – zrazu pricválal rytier a draka porazil a zabil. Tým rytierom bol sv. Juraj. Samozrejme, že ide o legendu, ktorá sa nezakladá na pravde. Ale symbolicky má svoj zmysel. Drak predstavuje diabla, ktorý naozaj jestvuje a robí zle, duchovne požiera ľudí. Sv. Juraj bol ten, ktorý proti nemu odvážne bojoval av boji s ním aj položil svoj život. Je patrónom rytierov a vojakov. Méno Juraj je populárnym ménom v apríli a mnoho slovenských chlapcov nosí méno Juraj.



Všetkým prajeme radostný den menín.



Pranostiky o počasí - apríl



Začiatkom apríla opil'uj suché konáre , budú dobre lekváre. Ak apríl pekný , máj bude ružový.

Slovákov, ktorí zmenili svet...



**Maria Henrietta
Chotekova....**

**zmenila svet novymi
odrodami ruži.**

Máriino celé meno je grófká Henrieta Hermína Rudolfina Fernanda Mária Antónia Anna Chotková z Chotkova a Vojnínu. Ľudia si ju však pamätajú ako „grófkú ruží“.

Svoj čas radšej trávila v ružovej záhrade ako na ligotavých večierkoch, kde sa preberali najnovšie klebety.

V roku 1914 bol začiatkom krvavej prvej svetovej vojny, ktorá uvrhla Európu do chaosu. Na polievanie ruží nebol čas. Po skončení vojny ružový sad bol v zlom stave. Pokúsila sa navrátiť slávu zašlých dní, ale povojnové roky boli ťažké. Pôdu bolo treba na pestovanie jedla, nie ruží.

Mária sa snažila vrátiť život do normálnych koľají, ale potom prišla ďalšia svetová vojna. Zničila všetko, čo zostalo z nádherného sadu i kaštieľa. Podobný osud zasiahol mnohé rodiny aj z iných kútov sveta.

Bola to smutná kapitola dejín. Napriek tomu však Mária robila všetko, čo bolo v jej silách, aby urobila svet krajším a nežnejším. Jej meno bude navždy zapísané v mnohých odrodách ruží, ktoré sú venované jej pamiatke.

*Read more in a new book: [50 Slovaks who changed the world](#). Stories are written in both English & Slovak. Available on Amazon, or Barnes and Noble.





Youth Circle Page

Youth Circle of National Slovak Society • 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Reading Matters Program

NSS Life is proud to announce the newest benefit for our Youth Members, Reading Matters, where you can complete reading logs for charity! All members aged 5-18 are eligible to receive official NSS Life Reading Matters Book Logs, where each completed book log will equal a \$50.00 donation from NSS to the charity of the reader's choice! Whether it be a local animal shelter or a national environmental charity, you can now read your way towards helping a cause that means something to you!

Once a youth member is registered, they will receive their official Reading Matters Book Log in the mail. Then, all they have to do is read! Once the log is completed, simply fill out the Charity Selection Form included with the log with the charity you wish to receive the donation. Once submitted, NSS Life will make a \$50.00 donation to the selected charity in honor of your *Super Reader!* Readers will receive a complimentary prize and certificate from NSS Life thanking them for reading for a good cause! Youth members can sign up to participate at any time during the calendar year and may complete two book logs per year.

Our teenage members can use this as a way to begin or continue their journey into community service and support causes that they feel passionate about! Parents, this is a great opportunity to not only encourage and reward reading, but also to introduce your children to charity and what it means to give back! Fill out the registration form below to start your little ones down the path towards making a difference and becoming a *Reading Matters "Super-Reader!"*.

Rules

- Must be a NSS Life member aged 5-18 to participate.
- For children under the age of 14, parents must sign the form to act as confirmation that all books listed were read.
- Participants may submit up to 2 completed Reading Matters Book Logs per calendar year (charities can be the same or differ per log).
- Charities chosen as donation recipients must be designated as a 501(c)(3).
- Complete the registration form included in this edition and mail to 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org to receive your complimentary reading logs and charity selection form.

Contact Member and Community Engagement Coordinator, Bethany Bonnar, with any questions at 412-770-2093 or bbonnar@nsslife.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Assembly: _____ Mail to: NSS Life
ATTN: Reading Matters

Age: _____ 1301 Ashwood Drive,
Canonsburg, PA 15317

2024 May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. You must be a member of the National Slovak Society to participate. Youth members (ages 5-16) and adults are eligible to participate.
2. Only one entry is permitted per member.
3. Contestants may create their artwork using:
 - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera and cesium)
 - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
 - c. Ink/Pencil
 - d. Charcoal
 - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. Paint by numbers, stencils, or tracings will not be accepted.
5. The Artwork may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes.
6. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, assembly. Please have this information clearly printed on the back of each entry.
7. All entries will receive a complimentary NSS Life T-shirt. All participants should include their youth or adult T-shirt size.
8. If you wish to have your artwork returned to you following judging, please specify alongside your submission. The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all entries that do not include a request to be returned. All artwork that does not include a request to be returned will be donated to a local nursing home.
9. Winners in each age group will have their artwork displayed in the *National News* and will be published on the NSS Life Website and Social Media accounts.

Age Groups:

- Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
- Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
- Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
- Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16*
- Warhol - Adult (Age 17+)

10. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:

- First Place..... \$100.00
- Second Place..... \$ 50.00
- Third Place..... \$ 30.00

Deadline for entries to the Home Office is May 31st.

Either mail or deliver artwork to: National Slovak Society
Attn: Fraternal Department
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Judging will be done by an outside professional. Decisions of the judge shall be final in all cases.

*In the event the First place winner in the Artistic Category - Van Gogh Level either enters an accredited Art School or pursues Art as a career in college, he/she will be awarded a one-time \$250 Art Scholarship provided that the student meets all the NSS PVR Scholarship rules and regulations.

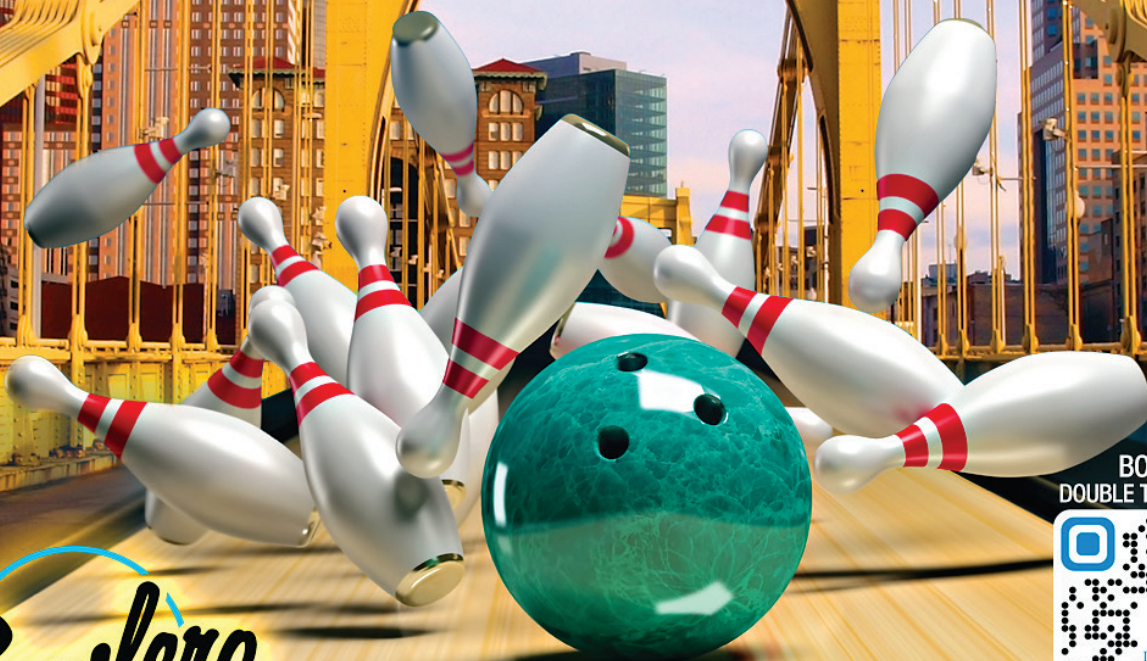
National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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Pittsburgh

MAY
17-18
2024



Bowlero
PITTSBURGH (formerly AMF Noble Manor Lanes)

BOOK ROOM
DOUBLE TREE - GREENTREE

