



NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NÁRODNÉ NOVINY | JULY 2024 | NUMBER 3591 | VOLUME 116



THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS
Septemberfest




September 28, 2024
See Page 7 for Details



NSS Senior Scholarship
Updated Rules
See Page 21



2024 NSS Photo Contest
See Page 23 for Rules



National Slovak Society

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NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Fax No: 724-731-0145

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

EDITOR

Lori Crowley
Published Monthly
Send articles for publication to:
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Deadline: 5th of preceding month

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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Theresa M. Zemelman

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

FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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

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Could you use a little extra "Green?"

RECOMMENDER FORM

As a proud member of NSS Life, 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: _____

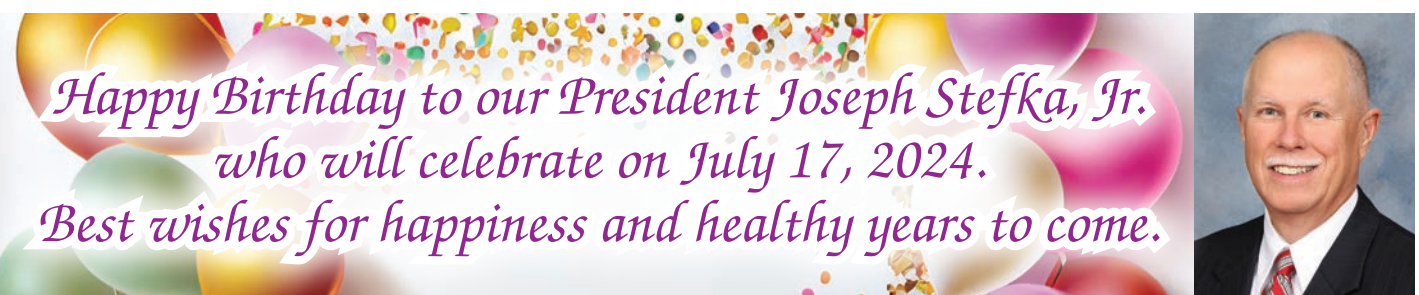
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Former Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Activities At A Glance

<p>REGION 2</p> <p>July 10 August 4 August 11 August 22 October 12 November TBA</p>	<p>Assemblies L075, 0617</p> <p>Assembly 0617, Meeting, Pierce St. Deli at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Fraternal Summer Picnic, Mercateli Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 2:00 pm Assembly 0617, Annual Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park (Pavilion D) Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Veterans Day Bingo (TBA)</p>
<p>REGION 5</p> <p>July 7 July 12-14 July 13 July 14 July 18 August 18 September 8 September 15 September 23 September 28 November 3 December 1 December 7 December 8 December 14</p>	<p>Assemblies 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774</p> <p>Assembly 0737, Meeting, Panera's at 2:00 pm National Golf Tournament, Treasure Lake, DuBois, PA Assembly 123, Volunteer at Global Links, Greentree, PA at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Assembly 0377, Annual Picnic, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm Slovak Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA Region 5, Family Picnic, Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion 16, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm 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 NSS Heritage Museum 12th Annual Septemberfest, McMurray, PA at 11:00 - 4:00 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 0123, Christmas Party, Rockefeller's Grille in Kennedy Twp 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm Assembly 0039, Annual Christmas Party, Columbia Assoc. Social Hall at 1:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 8</p> <p>July 7</p>	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>Assembly 0160, Picnic, Vermilion River Reservation, Lorain County at 11:00-1:00 pm</p>
<p>REGION 14</p> <p>August 4 September 5,6,& 7</p>	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>Region 14, Meeting/Picnic, Wesnak residence, Schnecksville, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly L102, Matching Funds, St. Ann's Church, Emmaus, PA</p>
<p>AT LARGE</p> <p>July 21 August TBA August 10 August 28 September 29 November 10</p>	<p>Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813</p> <p>Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home Seelyville, IN, at 1:00 pm Assembly 0586, Meeting (date, time & place to be announced) Assembly 0705, Reunion in Seelyville, IN (Fraternal Fund Activity) Assembly 0586, Meeting (Time and place to be announced) Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home Seelyville, IN, at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home Seelyville, IN, at 1:00 pm</p>



The President's Page...

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



During the month of July, we will celebrate our country's independence on Thursday, July 4th. The NSS Home Office will be closed for business on July 4th to allow our employees time to spend with their families. The day is traditionally celebrated with picnics, cookouts, and fireworks displays to mark our independence. Wishing all a Happy and Safe Fourth of July Holiday as we enjoy our many freedoms in this great Nation!

During the 38th Quadrennial Convention in Hershey, Pennsylvania, the National Slovak Society chose Veteran's Outreach of Pennsylvania as our Charity Project. VOPA was initiated to assist homeless veterans in the Harrisburg/Hershey area. At the time of our Convention, the vision of the organization was to create a tiny home community in the area to house homeless veterans. A tract of land was donated to the organization and the fundraising efforts began to obtain funds necessary to complete the project. The National Slovak Society was one of the first donors for the project during our Convention. Fast forward a year later to June 2023. Enough funds were donated to begin the project and ground was broken on June 5, 2023. Now one year later and two years from the date of the Convention, Tom Zimmerman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Veterans Outreach of Pennsylvania provided NSS an update regarding the status of the project. He was excited to report that the project, Veteran's Grove, has reached completion, and the first veterans will begin occupying the tiny homes on June 10, 2024. Several members of the NSS team will be in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to attend the Pennsylva-



nia Fraternal Alliance's Board Meeting and Legislative Luncheon on June 10th and 11th. We have arranged a meeting with Tom Zimmerman to discuss the project and view photos of the project in its various stages of completion. Due to privacy policies at the site, we will not be able to visit the site. Tom is not a veteran but had a vision, worked tirelessly to see the vision come to fruition, and is excited to share the story with us. He sent a few photos that have been included in this issue. A large wall in red, white, and blue is located in the community center at Veteran's Grove. On the wall are stars representing the Founding Donors. One of the stars on the wall reads - NSS Life -National Slovak Society of the USA!

Thank you to all that donated during our Convention to help make Tom's dream come true and make life better for veterans in the Harrisburg/Hershey area! What a great story for this Independence Day!

The NSS May Art Contest was once again successful. A total of 58 entries were received by the deadline and are currently being judged by an art teacher. Winners will be announced in a future issue. Thank you to all of the members that took the time to pre-



pare an entry and to be a part of this National Contest. We often hear from members not living near one of our active assemblies that they are unable to participate in local activities. All members have the opportunity to participate in our Art Contest, Poetry/Literary Contest, and Pumpkin Decorating Contest no matter where they live. Please plan to become an active member and join the competition for each contest.

The Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Slovak Society was held the weekend of May 31st – June 2nd at our Home Office in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. A great deal was accomplished by the Board during the Committee Meetings and Board Meeting. Reports from all management personnel of the Society were presented along with reports from our Legal Advisor, Asset Manager, Auditor, and Appointed Actuary. The Board of Directors voted to keep our crediting rates on our annuities the same through the end of the third quarter, with our Preferred 8 Annuity crediting rate at 6.5% for the first year, and our Optimum 3 Annuity at 5% for the initial three-year period.

The Board of Directors has visited several venues over the past three years





to assess their compatibility to serve as site for the 2026 NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention. The Board of Directors voted to return to Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio, for the 2026 Convention which will be held June 14 – June 18, 2026. The NSS held our 2010 35th Quadrennial Convention at Sawmill Creek Resort, and it was very successful. The facility has recently undergone a total renovation and has all the meeting space and room space necessary to hold our Convention. Additional information will appear in future issues of the *National News* regarding the 39th Quadrennial Convention.

The PVR Committee recommended 42 individuals for first year PVR Scholarships at the recent meeting of the Board of Directors and the Directors voted to approve each of the scholarships. Congratulations to each of our first year PVR Scholarship recipients and best wishes for success with your future education. A reminder to all current freshmen, sophomore, and junior PVR Scholarship recipients that your transcripts should be submitted by July 15th to qualify for the coming year's scholarship payments.

All preparations are complete for the 58th Annual NSS National Golf Tournament. The first entry for this year's tournament was submitted by Mike Grega of Assembly 0070 in Brooklyn, Ohio. Mike was our first entry in last year's tournament also. The weekend is a great time to enjoy golf, have fun, and spend time with other NSS members and guests from across the country. The competition will begin on Saturday with tee times beginning at 8:30 a.m. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Dubois, PA. Safe

WESTERN PA 101st SLOVAK DAY

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Kennywood Park

Discount Tickets \$33.00

(Region 5- age 16 & under Free)

Includes Admission, Rides and Slovak Day Festivities

Food Not Included

Checks should be made payable to:

Western PA Slovak Day

Mail To: Bethany Bonnar

Attn: Slovak Day Tickets

1301 Ashwood Drive

Canonsburg, PA 15317

travels!

Slovak Day at Kennywood Park will take place on Thursday, July 18th. This year will mark the 101st Anniversary of Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Come and join other NSS members and Home Office staff for a day of fun, great food, and exciting amusement park rides at Kennywood! Discount tickets may be obtained through the NSS Home Office. Region #5 will once again offer free ride tickets to the youth members of Region #5. These tickets may also be obtained through the Home Office by contacting Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to Honorary Director Ed Koches, NSS Field Development Manager Jeff DeSantes, NSS Human Resources Manager Christoher Lucas, former Home Office Staff Members Pat Glaser and LaVerne Orban, to Albert Seuss, Darryl Shingle, Michael Fox, John Orban, Terri Cooper, Chas Tabone, Jackie Reeves, Dale Blazek, and Ella Woods.

Happy Wedding Anniversary to my daughter Ashley and son-in-law Brett Bernardo, Cyndy and Bob Triebsch, Pam and Charlie Tabone, Abby and Michael Gross, Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Drew and Sharon Wesnak, Darryl and Mary Lee Shingle, and to all others celebrating a special day during the month of July.

Get well wishes to Director Keith Kucherawy as he recovers from recent surgery, also to John Bebo and Chris Lucas as they recover from recent injuries. Speedy recovery to all!

A Half Century of Dedicated Service to the NSS



Congratulations to our Editor, Lori Crowley, who has been a valued employee of the National Slovak Society since January 1974. Lori has served in a variety of roles over the years, most recently as the Editor of the *National News*. The NSS Home Office Staff gathered to recognize and honor Lori for this monumental milestone on May 14, 2024. Lori indicated that she has been employed through the terms of the last five presidents of the NSS!

President Joseph Stefka, Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Linda Strom presented to Lori on behalf of the NSS an engraved wooden tray and a gift card for reaching this milestone and being an outstanding employee for fifty years! What an accomplishment!

A cake was enjoyed by all at the celebration. Congratulations Lori from everyone at the National Slovak Society!

A Page From My Notebook...

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



NSS Elected Officers Report
Assembly/Region Officers Elected For 2023
Note that this form is to be used for both the Assemblies and Regions



Date Submitted _____ Regions/Assembly # _____

President
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Vice-President
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Recording Secretary
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Financial Secretary
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Treasurer _____

2023 Fraternal Tracking

The Fraternal Tracking Report was presented to the Board at their Spring Meeting in June at the Home Office. Checks will be cut and mailed as soon as possible. A listing of our award winners will be listed in the next newsletter.



Salmon Filet the Mister Ed Way!

No I haven't lost it. This is a personal recipe from a dear friend, and he promises that it is delicious. Here it is:

1. I was told to get a skillet with a hole in it. Now, if you know my friend you will have by now figured it out that he means a skillet WITH A LID that has a steam hole in it.
2. Purchase a square filet of salmon

3. Pat the filet with olive oil and sprinkle Seafood Seasoning on the filet.
 4. Put the skillet on HI.
 5. Place the Salmon skin side down for 1 minute or so to sear it on the skin side.
 6. Cut up Bell Peppers and Onions and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
 7. Turn temperature on LOW.
 8. Add water to the skillet and put the lid on for steam.
 9. Cook for 12 – 14 minutes.
- Email me to let me know what you think of the recipe. It is supposed to be the best for salmon even though the recipe is called "Salmon Filet the Mister Ed Way" Thank you, Ed.

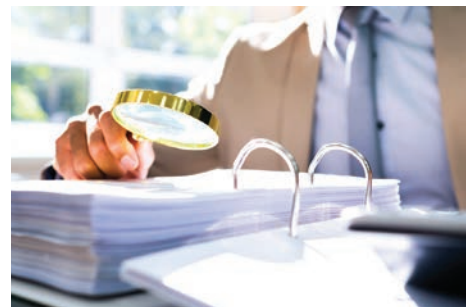
What I Know Now about Patriotism I learned from...

I have worked with Jill Grover, Sales & Marketing Assistant, for many years and I can say that not a day goes by that red, white and blue is not displayed either in her office or she is wearing the colors in support of our veterans. I asked Jill to provide me a list of activities that she is involved in "after her NSS work day is done" and I was stunned and you will be too.

1. As Community Service Chair for the state American Legion Auxiliary, she organized and collected donations of over 10,000 pairs of socks that were distributed to various veterans' hospital, nursing homes, deploying military, and homeless shelters.
2. As a member of Assembly 0123 Jill, shops, cooks, organizes, etc. every facet of the Mystery Dinner held each year raise funds for veteran projects. She also conducts a special matching funds raffle to increase monies earned for the veteran projects.
3. With both her NSS Assembly and American Legion Auxiliary she visits local veterans' hospital and state homes to conduct a bingo party with refreshments.
4. Surprisingly Jill also helps with military baby showers at the 171st Air

5. National Guard. And that isn't all...
6. She places flags on graves of deceased veterans at 2 cemeteries before Memorial Day each year.
7. She organizes, and at times cooks, at her local Legion Post 82 for groups of veterans who are bussed in from the VA and state Veterans' homes for lunch, bingo and fellowship.
8. Attends local end of annual state-wide Christmas tours of VA and State Veterans' homes along with the State Legion Commander.
9. Works with local churches and veterans' and veterans' groups to provide funds, and other support for bi-annual work camps in our area.
10. She has served as President of Carnegie Auxiliary for over 10 years, District President for 4 years for Allegheny County and served as Council President for Allegheny County.
11. Etc. etc. etc. Oh and I forgot, she is a devoted wife and partner to husband Lyle.

Jill, I am so grateful that our paths have crossed and I have had the privilege of working with such a caring human being.



The PA State Insurance Department Audit

We finally received the letter from the State Insurance Department indicating that they will begin their 5 year audit the 19th of June. This begins a stressful time as we are also juggling the implementation of Equisoft.



Region 5

Sunday, August 18, 2024



Family Picnic

Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion # 16

1 — 5 p.m.



- **FREE!**
- FOOD
- AUCTION BASKETS



Call or email Bethany Bonnar with # of Adults & Children attending:

Phone: 1-800-488-1890 or email: bbonnar@NSSLife.org

Deadline for registration Monday, August 5, 2024



Save the Date

12th Annual Septemberfest
Saturday, September 28, 2024

11 AM—4 PM

Presented by the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317

Once again we are inviting our Assemblies and Regions to be involved in helping to make this year's event another successful experience.

Become a Sponsor:



Gold... \$ 250.00 **5 Tracking Pts.**

Silver...\$ 100.00 **2 Tracking Pts.**

Bronze..\$ 50.00 **1 Tracking Pt.**



If you know a vendor or crafter who would like to participate or demonstrate their craft for the day please contact:
sue.ondrejco@gmail.com
for more information.

Space is limited.

Early Vendor registration is encouraged.

Deadline for Vendor registration is

August 10, 2024

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
NSSHM .. 234 ILION St. Pgh., PA 15207.

By participating as a sponsor your assembly will earn fraternal tracking points.

Other ways you can help:
Donate homemade baked goods
Publicize the event at your meetings &/or local papers

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.



Future of the NSS Life Online Portals

Like a road under construction, a person can expect some delays and inconvenience. As we make the change from one policy administration system to another, we have encountered some member issues when trying to access their account information through the portal. A new log in is required. A separate log in is required for life insurance policies. The view once you are logged in is different than before. We do anticipate fixing this very soon. We are also looking forward to a new, more robust, view through ManageMy (a third-party vendor) by the end of this year. Our apologies for this technical delay but rest assured we will be doing better over the remaining months of 2024.



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



A slightly different format for this page going forward. Each month we will continue to showcase life insurance and its many benefits. We will also display an annuity/IRA article to help you accumulate more money. We are now adding a financial planning article to help make your life better daily.

Life insurance

One of the best insurance products we offer is our youth term plan. This program is available to young people between the ages of 0 to 22. We offer three different face amounts: \$10,000, \$25,000, and \$50,000. The annual costs for each plan, respectively, is \$17, \$27, and \$50. Here is why parents and grandparents should buy this plan for their children.

- Having life insurance protects the child's insurability for the future.
- This is the most economical way to provide life insurance for young people.
- The plan is convertible to any other permanent plan that we offer. This option is important should the child apply for the scholarship program (which could be worth up to \$2,400; \$300 per semester, \$600 /yr. for 4 yrs.
- Allows young people to participate in our fraternal benefits program.

Annuities

Many people have IRAs and are subject to RMDs. These are required minimum distributions (RMDs) that are mandated by law when a person

reaches age 73. In 2028 that age will increase to age 74 and in 2033 it will become age 75. The reason for the increase is because people are living longer. While taxes are inevitable there are some things you can do beforehand to try and reduce your RMD amount. Here is a quick list to consider.

- Start drawing your IRA before the RMD age to reduce this figure.
- Consider a Roth conversion for some or all of the IRA monies.
- Think about a qualified charitable donation. We have a form on our website where this election may be made. A couple of guidelines, a person has to be at their RMD age and no more than \$100,000 per year may be donated.
- There is a still working exception for RMDs from a 401k plan. This exception does not apply to IRAs.
- A different longevity table may be used in the RMD calculation if your spouse is 10 years younger than you. (use the joint life table)

Financial planning

Everyone knows that you should always pay your bills on time to protect your credit. If you cannot make the full payment on a credit card at least pay the minimum. There are other tips too, but did you know that you can freeze your credit? A credit freeze allows an individual to control how a consumer reporting agency is able to sell personal financial identity data. The credit freeze locks the data at the consumer reporting agency until the individual gives' permission for the release of the data. All three credit bureaus allow this to occur at no cost to you. This also prevents unauthorized use and stops people from opening an account in your name. When you need to have your credit report run, unlock the freeze for 48 hours.

Second Quarter Leaders for 2024



Rich Nulph is the TOP PREMIUM/ANNUITIES PRODUCER for the Second Quarter of 2024. He is the founder and President of Safety 1st Retirement located in Lower Burrell, PA with six locations in the Pittsburgh area. Rich built his firm to bring a holistic approach to retirement planning. Safety is a priority in building a successful retirement plan that includes lifetime income options. The firm also provides expert support in estate planning and Medicare products. You can reach Rich and his team at **412-772-8575**. Congratulations from NSS Life on a job well done.

Congratulations to Ger Xiong being the **TOP LIFE INSURANCE/NEW MEMBER PRODUCER** for the **Second Quarter of 2024**. Ger Xiong graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh and received her Bachelor's Degree in Finance in May of 2010. Since July 2010, she has been working as a Business Development Specialist with a Community Action agency. Ger is a mother of four children, working full-time, and operates her life insurance agency in the evenings and on the weekends. She received her life insurance license in June 2015. Ger started contracting with life insurance companies in January 2016. Since then, she has built strong clienteles in the state of Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, and Michigan. Ger and her husband along with her four children enjoyed camping, traveling, hiking, and cruising together.



Thought For The Month:

Many people understand what not saying anything means, so, in effect, not saying anything says a lot.

Bill Walton (1952-2024) NBA player and TV sportscaster

The Community Corner

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



Summer is in full swing! I hope that wherever you are you are enjoying warmer weather, summer fun, and some fraternal activities! If you have some down time during these long summer days, I encourage you to check out the exclusive benefits offered to you as a member of NSS Life. At NSS, we care about your financial security as well as your family, health, and wellbeing. Our fraternal benefits are tailored to meet your needs, so don't miss out!

Senior Scholarship Updated Rules

At the 2024 Spring Board Meeting, the NSS Board of Directors voted to update the rules for the NSS Senior Scholarship program. This program allows NSS members over the age of 55 to receive reimbursement for participating in a continuing education or adult education program! Over the years members have used this benefit to participate in classes on sociology, fitness, and even safe driving!

The Board of Directors voted to change the rules so that going forward, NSS members can receive reimbursement for the full tuition of a course up to, but not exceeding, one hundred dollars (\$100.00). We saw that a lot of our members were taking classes that cost under \$100.00, so we wanted to help them cover the cost completely for those "less expensive" classes. Members can submit two Senior Scholarship Applications per year, so you still have plenty of time to take advantage of this benefit! Call 412-770-2093 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org for more informa-

tion on the scholarship, or to receive an application.



Reading Matters

Thank you to all of our NSS youth members who have already signed up for our "Reading Matters" Program! I cannot wait to see all the books you have read and learn about the charities you have selected to receive a donation from NSS Life! For any adults who may not have heard, you can sign your little ones up to receive a free book log from us here at NSS. Once they have completed the log and read all 15 books, NSS Life will make a \$50.00 donation to the charity of their choice! Sign up at any time by emailing bbonnar@nsslife.org.



PVR Scholarship Reminder

I am excited to say that the Board of Directors selected many amazing candidates to receive the PVR Scholarship for the upcoming school year. I am blown away by the promise and talent of our youth members who submitted applications. I know that the future of NSS will be bright with them in it! The scholarship recipients for the 2024-2025 will be notified via mail in the coming months! One final reminder to all current scholarship recipients that transcripts must be submitted by July 15th to receive the next installment of their scholarship.



Fraternal Programs Matter!

Reminder to all those who have signed up for Fitness Matters to keep going with your miles and workouts! You have plenty of time left in the year to reach all 4 levels and receive all the exclusive prizes! Let's see who can make it all the way to the top! Interested in signing up? Email bbonnar@nsslife.org and I'll help you find which Fitness Matters program works best for you!

Fitness isn't the only thing that matters. For the little ones, we have our Reading Matters program, where youth members can read books to work their way towards a \$50.00 donation from NSS Life to the charity of their choice! My heart truly warms when I see the causes and charities that matter to the next generation. To sign up simply email bbonnar@nsslife.org with the name, age and address of your reader!

PVR Scholarship Recipients

Current PVR Scholarship recipients MUST submit a copy of their most recent transcripts to receive their next scholarship installment for the upcoming school year. Transcripts can be unofficial, but make sure you get them sent to our new address at **1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317**. Transcripts must be received by **July 15th**.

Social Media

If you've read this far, thanks! Now that you're here, take a few quick seconds to follow NSS Life on Social Media! It's the quickest way to find out about what is going on in NSS Life. From financial updates, assembly news, and benefit details – you don't want to miss out! Follow us on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)**, **Facebook (@NSS Life)** and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)**.





Youth Circle Magazine - Summer 2024



Summer Fun

WORD SEARCH FOR KIDS

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| Sun | Flip Flops |
| Grass | Swimsuit |
| Water | Barbecue |
| Swimming | Camping |
| Hot | Sand |
| Shorts | Beach |
| Ice Cream | Vacation |
| Sunscreen | Outside |
| Sunglasses | Picnic |
| Vacation | |

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

Swimming Safety Tips

Summer is well underway. By now you've likely seen swimming safety tips. Or, sadly, you've seen news reports about people drowning. So, we want to share the following swimming safety tips:

1. Never swim alone.
2. Watch each other in or near the water. If someone is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
3. Avoid distractions when watching each other.
4. Swim in designated areas that are supervised by lifeguards.
5. If you are an unexperienced swimmer, wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets.
6. Enter the water feet first.
7. Stay away from pool drains.
8. Do not play breath-holding games.
9. Avoid alcohol when swimming. Drink plenty of water, even if you're not feeling thirsty.
10. If someone is struggling in the water, do not jump in to save them, throw a life jacket or use something to reach them.
11. Take breaks.

Anyone can drown.
Experienced swimmers.
Young children.
Teenagers.



HAVE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE SUMMER



Sports Word Scramble



1. lfog _____
2. elkbaatbls _____
3. ocserc _____
4. nntsie _____
5. balsable _____
6. teark _____
7. gbryu _____
8. botafoll _____
9. rwate oopl _____
10. igsnrwetl _____
11. hoceyk _____
12. scroasel _____
13. rkate _____
14. lbfsltoa _____
15. gwimnsim _____
16. srocs uroyctn _____
17. xoinbg _____
18. lqutlrecbaa _____
19. ivgnid _____
20. ngnecif _____

Fruits Crossword

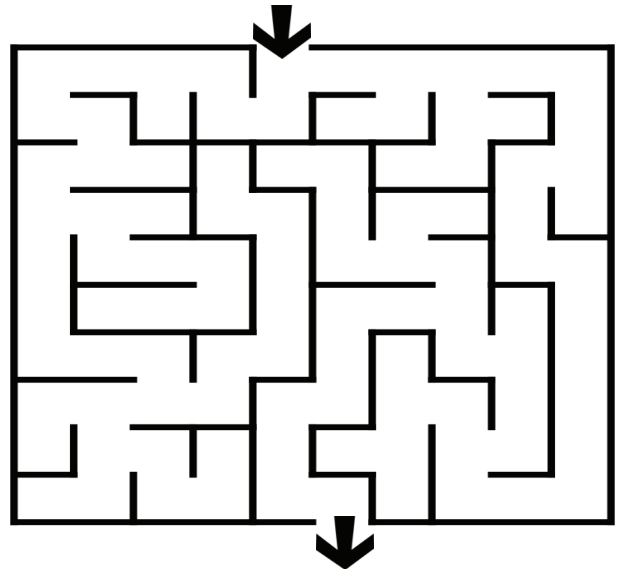
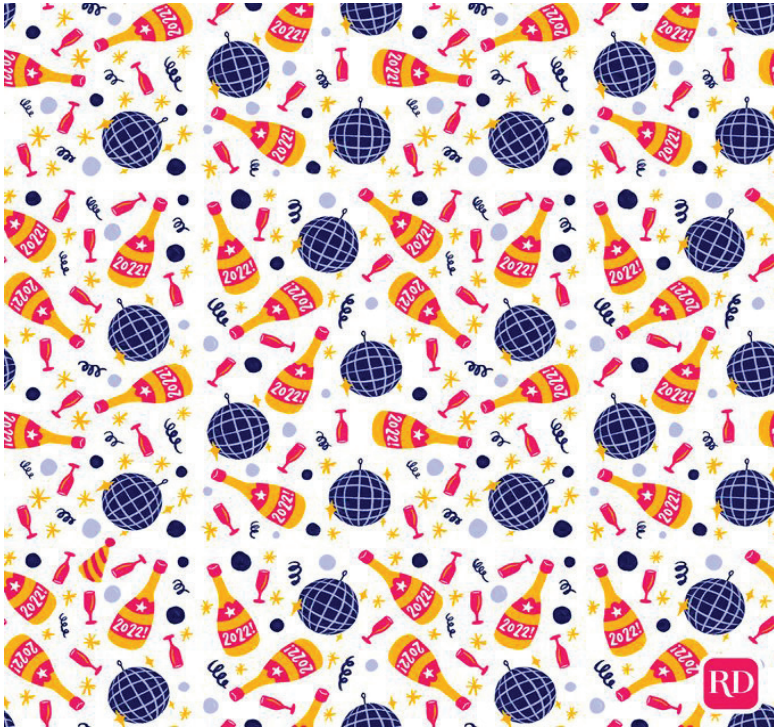
DIRECTIONS: Fill in the crossword puzzle grid with the name of each fruit following the numbers and direction indicated. Use the word bank if you get stuck.

APPLE	KIWI
APRICOT	LEMON
AVOCADO	ORANGE
BANANAS	PEAR
BLACKBERRY	PINEAPPLE
CHERRIES	RASPBERRY
COCONUT	STRAWBERRY
GRAPEFRUIT	WATERMELON
GRAPES	

Jokes

- J:** Did you hear about the kid who drank eight sodas?
A: He burped 7-Up!
- J:** Why did the cell phone get glasses?
A: Because it lost all its contacts.
- J:** What runs around a baseball field but never moves?
A: A fence!
- J:** What is brown and hairy and wears sunglasses?
A: A coconut on vacation!
- J:** What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence?
A: Time to get a new fence!

Find the Party Hat



Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.
Learning is never done without errors and defeat.

Bird Seed Ornament



Recipe:

- 4 cups of birdseed
- ¾ cups flour
- ½ cups water
- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1 packet of unflavored gelatin
- string or twine
- large bowl
- wax paper or parchment paper
- heart-shaped cookie cutter
- baking sheet
- paper straws

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix until fully combined to create a gelatin mixture. It does not matter if it is cold water or boiling water as the gelatin will set with either.

Using a spoon or your hands, gently push the birdseed mixture into the cookie cutter shape. Fill the cookie cutter to the top.



Quick Tip:

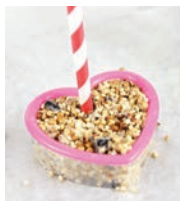
If you have metal cookie cutters, feel free to spray the inside using cooking spray or any nonstick spray, so the bird seed mixture does not stick to it. As a matter of fact, you may want to spray cookie cutters regardless of what your favorite cookie cutters are made of.

Place cookie cutter onto a piece of wax paper or small piece of parchment paper on a cookie sheet.

Insert a straw to poke a hole towards the top. Let harden at room temperature for 2 hours or more. It is best to let them harden overnight!

Make as many as you want till the birdseed is used up. Again, let dry overnight. Cut your thread approximately 1 foot. Then thread through the hole, and tie the ends together in a knot.

They attract a wide variety of birds and is a great project for those looking to learn more about all kinds of birds.



Sock Cupcake Gifts

Ingredients:

- One pair of fuzzy socks
- One red pom-pom
- Card stock – to create the cupcake liner (use a piece of 12x12 card stock scrapbook paper)
- Glue or tape
- Scissors

Sock Cupcake Directions:



Start by rolling up the pair of socks. The easiest way is to start at the toe and roll toward the ankle portion, making sure to keep the bottom flat so that the cupcake will stand upright.

Once you are done rolling grab the fuzzy socks, grab a rubber band, a piece of yarn, or a hair band and secure the rolled “cupcake” into place. If you prefer you can use two rubber bands to keep it tight.



Take the card stock and cut out a fancy design. It will be simple to draw and hand-cut a liner. The liner should be 12 inches long and 2.25 inches high.

Wrap the liner around the cupcake. If there are gaps along the top edge of the wrapper, that is OK. The liner will have a slight overlap where you’ll secure it with glue or tape. If needed, gently push down the edges of the sock to make it look like it is “puffed” over the wrapper fluff the sock to make it look the way you want.



Next, fit the fluffy pom-pom into the fold at the top of the cake as if it were a cherry topper.

That’s it, your fluffy cupcake socks are done! If you want to fancy this perfect little gift up a bit, wrap it in a cellophane bag and tie it off with some cute ribbon. Or place it in a gift box or gift bag. Either way, I am sure you will make them smile!





Sports Word Scramble



- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. lfog | golf |
| 2. elkbaatbls | basketball |
| 3. ocserc | soccer |
| 4. nntsie | tennis |
| 5. balsable | baseball |
| 6. teaark | karate |
| 7. gbryu | rugby |
| 8. botafoll | football |
| 9. rwate oopl | water polo |
| 10. igsnrwetl | wrestling |
| 11. hoceyk | hockey |
| 12. scroasel | lacrosse |
| 13. rkatc | track |
| 14. lbfsltoa | softball |
| 15. gwimnsim | swimming |
| 16. srocs uroyctn | cross country |
| 17. xoinbg | boxing |
| 18. lqutlrecaa | racquetball |
| 19. ivgnid | diving |
| 20. ngnefic | fencing |

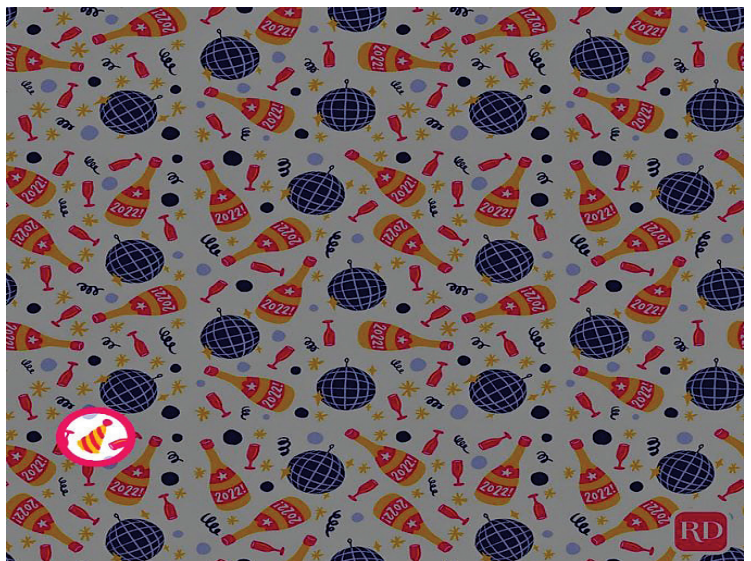
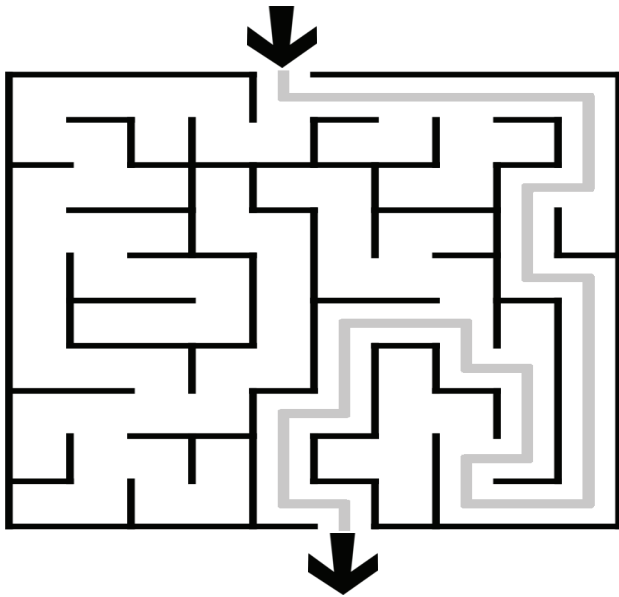
Answers-Fruits crossword Puzzle

Across

3. kiwi
4. orange
5. strawberry
6. pear
8. raspberry
9. blackberry
11. coconut
15. avocado
16. grapes
17. cherries

Down

1. pineapple
2. watermelon
4. grapefruit
7. apricot
10. bananas
12. orange
13. lemon
14. lemon



Scenes from Joint National Fraternal Bowling Tournament



ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Attention assembly members: The date for our Annual Christmas Party has been changed from **Saturday, December 7th to Saturday, December 14th**. Please be sure to mark your calendars.

Slovak Day festivities at Kennywood Park will be on Thursday, July 18th. Discounted tickets are available from our Region 5 at \$33. It includes admission and all rides. Delicious Slovak food is available at the Slovak Kitchen Pavilion. Details in the *National News* on page 10.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of Genevieve A. Guman, Elizabeth M. Jones, Alvera Mateosky, Donna P. Shrock and Genevieve M. Sherwood. May they rest in the resurrector arms of their Lord and Savior.

Plan to attend our "*Region 5 Family Picnic*" on Sunday, **August 18th**, Cedar Creek Park, just a mile north of the State Route 51 and Interstate 70 exchange from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Delicious Slovak food! Auction baskets for the PVR Scholarship Fund. Games and prizes for the whole family! Please RSVP to Bethany Bonnar at 724-731-0094.

The "*12th Annual Septemberfest*" will be held on Saturday, **September 28th** at the Slovak Heritage Museum (the old home office) from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Great Slovak food, Slovak dancers, and a variety of vendors. This is a chance to visit our Slovak Heritage Museum. Our assembly will be a sponsor of the event. See you there!

Mark your calendar for our **September 8th** dinner meeting at the Bob Evans Restaurant Community Room. We will be remembering those Americans that died on United Flight 93 on September 11th.

Remember the date for our Christmas Party has changed! Enjoy a safe July 4th with your family!

John Payerchin
President



ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Any graduating senior from Assembly L075 is eligible to receive the Margaret Pilosi Scholarship for \$500.

Please contact Lehrae Edwards at 570-569-2181 for more details and an application which needs to be returned by July 30th.

Mark your calendars for our future meetings and events:

August 4th - 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. for nominations and election of officers

November 24th- Annual Veterans Day Bingo pizza party (2nd floor rec room) at 1:00 p.m.

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

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

Assembly L102 Whitehall, PA

Happy Summer!!! Our assembly (L102) will do a matching funds with St. Ann's Church in Emmaus on September 5th, 6th, and 7th. Come on out and enjoy delicious food, bingo, a huge basket raffle, and dance along with the live music.

For further information, please call Sharon at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY R059 Whitehall, PA

Sincere thanks to Alexandra and William for hosting our last meeting in March. Our officers for this year will remain the same: President-Alexandra Keysock; Treasurer-John Lahutsky; and Secretary-Michele Guydan. New Business: Donation was made to the Lowry Family. Mother and toddler will be having liver surgery, a three month recovery is expected. Father will take a work leave to care for them and two other children. Another donation was made to Orthodox Christian Mission

Center to Guatemala towards a new Seminary Center.

Belated birthday wishes to Michele Guydan on May 5th, David Metz on June 1st, and Francine Slivka on June 4th.

Our last meeting on June 9th was held at Paula & John Lahutsky's home.

Michele Guydan
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Well, the year is half over and summer is in full bloom. If my Old Farmers Almanac is correct the heat will be getting turned up too high. Do your best to stay cool and hydrated. And check on your relatives, friends and neighbors to be sure they are safe.

Those of you who are not golfers in our assembly will now be free on Saturday, **July 13th** to volunteer at Global Links, 700 Trumbull Drive, Green Tree, PA at 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is our first event with them so let's have a good showing. In fact, members of other assemblies are also welcome to pitch in. Afterwards we will have lunch/dinner at a nearby restaurant. If you plan to attend, please call Jill Grover at 412-638-7060 or at the home office. She must give a list of attendees to Global Links. The activity there is not very physically demanding, and the place is air conditioned.

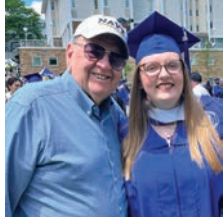
Slovak Day is Thursday, **July 18th** at Kennywood Park. If you want a ticket, please call me at 724-242-5085. Tickets for those sixteen and under are free thanks to Region 5. Anyone else in our assembly the cost is \$30. The officers have decided to buy the \$40 Kennywood tickets which can be used most other days that Kennywood is open. The \$33 ticket that is available is only good on Slovak Day, July 18th. Our assembly is paying \$10 of the cost of the \$40 ticket. This is only for members of Assembly 123. Please contact me so I can get the tickets for you. The youth ticket that is free is a \$40 ticket which can be used on days other than Slovak Day.

Don't forget to register for the family picnic on Sunday, **August 18th** at Cedar Creek Park. It is a beautiful park and there will be lots of delicious food and it is free. Call Bethany Bonner at the home office if you plan to attend.

Congratulations to our grandson LTJG Jared Leins, who just received his Navy Wings. He will be stationed in San Diego CA.



LTJG Jared Leins, grandson of Bill Knoll



Bill Knoll and granddaughter Maddie Eger

Also, Congratulations are in order for our granddaughter Maddie Eger who received her Master of Arts in Forensic and Legal Psychology.

If you are a member or know of a member who has won an award or reached some significant milestone in life let me know so they can be recognized.

Happy 248th Birthday U.S.A. In 1776, the USA gave us a gift of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Ask yourself as I ask myself what gift have I given to my country?

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Mark your calendar and join us for these events!

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 me at 724-207-3171. We hope to see you!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

Our assembly will meet on August 28, 2024. Time and place to be announced. Meantime, send our warm wishes to our members near and far.

Irene Tomaskovic
President

ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

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

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.

Special Birthday greetings to our Financial Secretary, Joe Stefka, Jr. who will celebrate on **July 17th**. Best wishes for a healthy and happy year.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our vicinity is overrun with cicadas. The month of June is very noisy with their rattle-like chirping, the air in the neighborhood is filled with thousands flying. Today a robin sat on my pergola among the grape vines catching cicadas in her beak, enjoying the meal.

While at our meeting some of our members talked about family members' graduations. And some members who were not able to attend—we pray for them. Thankfully our monthly *Narodne Noviny* is keeping all in the loop.

Our Memorial Day meeting was to honor our military and veterans, both living and those who are gone from us. We continue to collect for the troops who protect us and who appreciate the boxes OSOT sends overseas.

Our assembly also raised money for the Honor Flights which have been flying veterans of Korea and now including Vietnam to Washington DC.

Preparations for the Convention in Chicago will affect traffic and every person come August. Because of conditions in Chicago and every large city, some parts of the convention are planned to be held virtually. That will be a first. The new mayor in Chicago will be expected to cope with the huge influx of illegals and to keep secure and safe conditions for conventioners.

ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly held a business meeting followed by lunch at Theo's Metro in Kingston, PA to discuss assembly activities. Among the projects reviewed were: Matching Funds, Food Pantry, Join Hands, and PVR Scholarships along with other possible activities. Our annual Fraternal Day will be held on **August 22nd** at Knoebels Park in Pavilion D.

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, **July 10, 2024**, at the Pierce St. Deli, 517 Pierce Street, Kingston, PA at 1:00 p.m. Assembly members planning to attend these events please contact John Kurilla at 570-287-4163, 570 239-5936 or jjkurilla@aol.com

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0160 Lorain, OH

Reminder: Our assembly picnic on Sunday, **July 7, 2024** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Vermilion River Reservation - Mill Hollow Reservation Shelter #1.

If any questions, please call Bob Katricak at 440-320-6916, or Jenny Berner at 440-320-6917.

We hope to see some new faces in addition to our long-time attendees.

Jenny Berner
Recording Secretary



ASSEMBLY 0705 Seelyville, IN

Mark your calendars for the following meetings:

July 21st - 1:00 p.m. at Buck Home, Seelyville, IN

August 10th - Reunion in Seelyville (Fraternal Fund Activity)

September 29th - 1:00 p.m. at Buck Home, Seelyville, IN

November 10th - 1:00 p.m. at Buck Home, Seelyville, IN

Dorothy Buck
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0737 North Huntingdon, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **July 7, 2024**, at Panera's at 2:00 p.m.

Members who plan to attend and for further information, please call or text 412-558-0314, or leave a message (name and phone number at 724-423-3992.)

Andrea L. Garbon
Secretary/Treasurer

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

A meeting will also be held on Sunday, **August 11th** at The Grotto Pizza, Wilkes Barre, PA at 2:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be President Joseph Stefka, Jr.

Anyone wishing to attend please contact Lucy Piccoletti at 570-479-4116 by phone or text so we can plan accordingly.

Lucy Piccoletti
Secretary

Region 14 Whitehall, PA

Notice date change, typing error:

A meeting and picnic will be held on **August 4th** at the Wesnak residence, 1727 Elmhurst Drive, Whitehall, PA at 3:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be President Joseph Stefka, Jr.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

Assembly 0731

Our assembly is extremely proud of our youth member, Ashlynn Mason, who was selected for this year's Youth Achievement Award. Ashlynn is a wonderful asset to our assembly as she takes on leadership roles working with adults on behalf of our youth members. She is active in her 4-H club serving as its President, she was selected to serve on the Canfield Junior Fair Board, she is active in her Church and its youth ministry, and she is an outstanding student with goals to have a career in the medical field. Congratulations Ashlynn!!

Summer is off to a great start for Assembly 731. In early June, members enjoyed the Mahoning Valley Scrappers home opener game at Eastwood Field in Niles, Ohio. Everyone received a special Scrappy bobblehead dressed to fit the evening theme for Margaritaville tribute. Our evening started with picnic at the Field before the game which was a great opportunity to enjoy each other's company feasting on hot dogs, hamburgers, mac & cheese, cookies and soft drinks. With front row seats, the kids really enjoyed the game and even got some players' autographs after the game. The evening was topped off with fantastic fireworks display. NSS Life was recognized by the announcer during the game and everyone in our group was entered in a drawing which was won by our youth member, Walter Fox. Walter won a player's bobblehead, 4 tickets to another game, and a baseball. We're are planning to do this again on August 23rd.



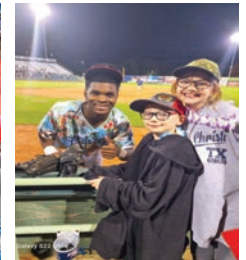
Ben and Jack Gaither, Ashlynn, Cameron, & Logan Mason, and Walter Fox at the picnic area before game time



Evie Cessna and Walter Fox enjoying their time at the game.



Jake Shank and Valerie Cessna enjoy the benefits of front row seat.



Jimmy and Valerie Cessna were excited to meet the players and get autographs after the game.

The day after the game some of our assembly members got together again for a walk through Hippely's Gardens in Columbiana, Ohio. It's a great garden area built on 3 acres of private property. The Garden has displays that delight the children as well as the adults. Following our visit to the Gardens, we headed across town for a Pizza Picnic at Firestone Park. The day ended with wiener roast and S'mores at Mike & Laurie Fox's house.

Our members have been given the following list of dates for upcoming National and Local NSS events and watch our Facebook page for details. Any members planning to attend and event, should contact Kathy Cessna 330-559-8554 or Laurie Fox 330-717-4705 to request tickets or to RSVP.

July 18 - Kennywood Slovak Day

August 12 - Assembly Help with Shoe giveaway at Chestnut Ridge Church, Hubbard, OH

August 18 - Region 5 Picnic in Belle Vernon, Pa

August 23 - Scrappers baseball and picnic, 5:30 p.m. at Eastwood Field, Niles, OH

August 29 - Assembly Scavenger Hunt at Canfield Fair, meet at Fox campsite

A-102 at 11:00 a.m. for instructions.

September 28 - Septemberfest at NSS Valley Brook Rd. McMurray. If you're working at Septemberfest then plan to be there Friday and Saturday

October 13 - Region 5 meeting at NSS office, 1400 Ashwood, Canonsburg n

October 19 - Region 5 at Irons Mill, New Wilmington, Pa

November 23 - Christmas Around the World at NSS Museum, Valley Brook Road

December 7 - Assembly 731 Christmas Party, Boardman Park

Laurie Fox, President

Assembly Activities

Assembly L102 News



L102 had a great time at the "who dunnit" mystery dinner at Fellowship manor. We won 1st place!! L102 had a good turn out for join hands day at the Butztown Post Office. We sent a huge truckload of food to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Assembly 0070 Matching Funds



Assembly 0070 President Sarah Blaine, and Vice President Ron Shimek at Dr. Martin Lutheran Church presenting a check for the Easter kolbasi sale to President Garth Moore and Pastor Eric Markovich.

You at now in the best time of your life. You have a ton of experience throughout your many years, and you still have your mind about you to understand what I'm talking about. Your wisdom is well-preserved, and your stories are still enjoyable to hear for the 100th time. Honestly, though, you've been an excellent friend. Keep it up and happy birthday!

Happy Birthday to Helen Margaret Butwin Meunier 99 years young

Helen Margaret Butwin Meunier, lifelong member of Assembly 705 in Seelyville, IN, will celebrate her 99th birthday on July 20, 2024. She is the daughter of John & Anna Butwin, founding members of Assembly 705. The Assembly along with her immediate and extended family wish her the best.

Assembly L-161 Holds Join Hands Day Event

Join Hands Day is about generations, old and new working together as volunteers toward a greater purpose for their communities. Memorial Day is a holiday set aside for honoring and mourning the military personnel who had died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



This year members of Assembly L-161, once again joined hands with, St. Gabriel VFW Post 1365, and members of Br. 2 and Br. 853 of the First Catholic Slovak Union to place flags on the graves of Veterans in Christ Our Redeemer Cemetery, (formerly North Side Catholic).

Several afternoons and evenings were needed by the volunteers to place the 5,724 flags honoring Soldiers from Korea, WWI, WWII, and Vietnam, as well as the recent wars on terrorism.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, but especially to Carol Lako, L-161 member for coordinating the efforts from ordering and picking up the flags at the County Office, to organizing all the groups involved.



IN OTHER ASSEMBLY NEWS: As a reminder all YFC members (age 16 & under) are eligible to receive a FREE ticket for Kennywood compliments of Region 5. Call Bethany at the Home Office. Likewise, any adult member of L-161 may request a FREE ticket for Slovak Day which is July 18th compliments of Assembly L-161. (a \$33 value). Those tickets are good only on July 18th. Tickets are also available which are good every day throughout the 2024 season; however, they are **NOT** being subsidized by the assembly and cost \$40. To request either ticket please send a check made payable to: **W. PA Slovak Day** and mail it to **234 ILION St. Pgh., PA 15207**.

Also, mark your calendars for the Region 5 picnic on Sunday, **August 18th**. All the details are in this issue of the magazine. It is always a wonderful event. We hope to see many of you there.

And don't forget to come out and enjoy "Septemberfest" on **September 28th**. Plenty of activities, fun for the whole family at both events. We'd love to have you.

Helen Susan "Susie" Buck Passes On

Helen Susan "Susie" Buck, lifelong member of National Slovak Society Assembly 705, passed away on April 30, 2024. Susie was the granddaughter of John & Anna Butwin, founding members of Assembly 705 in Seelyville, IN. Susie taught middle school math for 37 years and was a loving daughter, sister, aunt and cousin.

Susan will be truly missed by family members and members of our assembly. Rest in peace.

Dorothy Buck
Secretary

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!

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations May 2024

In Memory of departed members from Assembly 0123:

Robert Durand

Theodore Howe

Marlene Nagle100.00

In Memory of **George W. Snyder:**

From Darren Snyder 20.00

Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

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

Donations:

Director Theresa Zemelman.....300.00

Start Hearing, Inc.....200.00

DEPARTED MEMBERS MAY 2024

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Aul, Jerome	Pittsburgh, PA	04/26/2024	L161
Ballard, Alice	Montgomery, WV	12/21/2023	0774
Barker, Goldie	Smithville, WV	10/10/2023	0774
Bartos, Kenneth	Whiting, NJ	03/27/2024	0110
Briggs, Daniel	Union City, PA	04/23/2024	0731
Buckel, Roberta	Erie, PA	04/19/2024	0774
Carper, Gladys	Spencer, WV	04/07/2024	0774
Carper, Gladys	Spencer, WV	04/07/2024	0774
Casto, William	Ripley, WV	12/17/2023	0774
Chilcoat, Kathleen	Martinsburg, WV	03/12/2024	0774
Coe, Janyce	Beaver, PA	04/27/2024	0123
Craig, Hazel	Chicora, PA	05/03/2024	0123
Custer, Norma	Pomeroy, OH	04/20/2024	0774
Damico, Darla	Martinsburg, PA	05/11/2024	0774
Dunlevy, Daniel	Pittsburgh, PA	03/02/2024	0441
Fath, Sally	Valencia, PA	04/25/2024	0123
Fetterman, Myrtle	Elizabeth, PA	05/16/2024	0737
Fritz Jr, Clarence	Middletown, PA	05/16/2024	L102
Gentry, Dorothy	Thorndale, PA	05/18/2024	L102
Graham, Roberta	Pittsburgh, PA	05/01/2024	L161
Green, Laoretta	Washington, PA	03/30/2024	0588
Green, Philomena	Ben Avon, PA	04/27/2024	L105
Hogue, Walter	Cochranon, PA	05/05/2024	0731
Irwin, Ruth	St Marys, PA	05/04/2024	0554
Johnston, Shirley	Oil City, PA	05/20/2024	0554
Kopko, Dorothy	Stratford, CT	02/29/2024	0774
Lindamood, EC	Duquesne, PA	04/28/2024	0108
Liston, Debra	Mercer, PA	04/17/2024	0595
Lunsford, Jack	Chillicothe, OH	05/05/2024	0595
Matic, Dennis	Edwardsville, PA	04/16/2024	0617
McMeans, James	Warren, PA	05/12/2024	0554
McMullen, Ellen	Altoona, PA	05/18/2024	0774
Melslovich, Virginia	Berlin, PA	04/28/2024	0039
Miller, Charles	Duncansville, PA	04/25/2024	0267
Morgan, Doris	Shepherdstown, WV	10/03/2023	0774
Moxie, Francis	Springdale, PA	04/28/2024	L161
Musante, Carolyn	Sugar Grove, PA	04/24/2024	0554
Namesnik, Virginia	Butler, PA	05/05/2024	L161
Nicholson, Karen	Scottdale, PA	04/28/2024	0039
Novak, Grace	Fort Ashby, WV	01/30/2024	0774
Payne Jr, Robert	Erie, PA	05/18/2024	0774
Proper, Phoebe	Titusville, PA	04/30/2024	0554
Roberts, Nancy	Brownsville, PA	05/02/2024	0039
Romesburg, Mary	Kettering, OH	04/11/2024	0595
Sacco, Antoinette	Verona, PA	05/26/2024	0774
Salutric, Leah	Uniontown, PA	05/17/2024	0039
Savisky, Nancy	Milford, CT	01/03/2024	0774
Schaffer, Harlan	Quakertown, PA	04/28/2024	R059
Schweitzer, Christine	Spartansburg, PA	05/04/2024	0774
Shrewbury, Dana	Princeton, WV	04/12/2024	0774
Sikora, Carolyn	Uniontown, PA	04/17/2024	0039
Slaninka, Helen	Cleveland, OH	02/12/2024	0070
Smallwood, Barbara	Calvin, WV	04/09/2024	0774
Smith, Agnes	Amity, PA	05/02/2024	0377
Smith, Kenny	Mt Alto, WV	03/24/2024	0774
Stallard, Marian	Meadville, PA	04/25/2024	0731
Tennant, Kermit	Moundsville, WV	01/03/2024	0774
Turton, Marcella	Lorain, OH	04/16/2024	0160
Uhrin, David	Oakmont, PA	04/20/2024	L105
Watycha, Daniel	Reading, PA	05/17/2024	L102
Williamson, Rose Ann	Shoreline, WA	01/11/2024	0039
Young, Theodore	Hershey, PA	05/12/2024	L102

NSS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS A NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY 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 the **full tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed, one hundred dollars (\$100.00)**

NSS Senior Scholarship Application A Fraternal Program Of The National Slovak Society

Personal Information

Full Name _____

Address _____

Assembly Number _____ Birthday _____

Course Information

Course Name _____

School _____

Instructor _____

Beginning Date _____ Completion Date _____

Tuition For The Course _____

Verification Of Information

To the best of my knowledge the information presented above is true and accurate. I therefore make application for the National Slovak Society Scholarship for Seniors Program.

Date

Your Signature

**Return to the National Slovak Society at:
1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317**

HOME OFFICE USE ONLY
Course Completion

Enrollment Approval

Amount Paid

Júlové potešenie...

Dá sa povedať, že júl je najslávnejším mesiacom leta. Počasie je teplé, dni sú dlhé a práca je o niečo pomalšia. Organizujú sa tu grilovačky a pikniky, výlety na bicykli po krajine a letné prázdniny. Koniec leta ešte nie je v nedohľadne, takže zatiaľ sú dlhé, lenivé dni nekonečné a radostné. Všetkým prajeme dobrého zotavenia sa, šťastia, radosti, a výborný relax.



Slováci zo západnej PA oslavia v Kennywood Parku 101. výročie

Na začiatku minulého storočia mnohí prisťahovalci opustili svoju milovanú vlasť a hľadali lepšie príležitosti v novej krajine za oceánom. Mnoho Slovákov vybudovalo tento nový životpri v uhoľných baniach, mlynoch a železniaciach v Pittsburghu a juhozápadnej Pensylvánii. Napriek nebezpečným pracovným podmienkam a dlhému pracovnému času sa raz za rok stretli na verejnom mieste, aby si zaspomínali a podelili sa o svoje skúsenosti. „Kenny’s Grove“, ako bol vtedy známy, poskytol perfektnú príležitosť.

Nové storočie osláv sa začne vo štvrtok 18. júla 2024, keď Slováci z oblasti Tri-State a mimo nej opäť predstavia svoje bohaté slovenské dedičstvo celodennou oslavou v Kennywood Parku. Bude znieť slovenská hudba, ponúkať slovenské jedlá, predávať suveníry. Pre deti budú pripravené hry a ceny! Po krátkom programe popoludní sa o 4:00 p.m. bude slúžiť sv. omša v hlavnom pavilóne.

Pripojte sa k oslave 18. júla, keď sa naše dedičstvo predstaví na 101. ročníku Slovenského dňa v Kennywoode.

Vstupenky na Slovenský deň dobré LEN na 18. júla stoja 33 dolárov za kus; Flex vstupenky sú za 40 dolárov a sú dobré každý deň počas sezóny.

Pre viac informácií alebo zľavnené vstupenky kontaktujte na: Sue (412) 421-1204.



**Júl – Krásny mesiac v roku
– leto – kedy sa začína žatva
v poľnohospodárstve -.
Staré poredadlo hovorí:
“že na chleba ťažko robiť
treba.”**

Príslovie

Prelom týchto dní (25. a 26. júl) sa považoval za predel medzi letom a jeseňou, čo vyjadrovala pranostika Svätej Anna, chladná zrána. Jakubom sa končí pravé leto, Annou sa začína babie leto, ktoré postupne prechádza do jesene.

Bazilika Panny Márie na Levočskej Hore

Dominantu Levoče tvorí strmý kopec s neogotickým kostolom - Mariánska hora. Je to jedno z najstarších a najvýznamnejších pútnických miest na Slovensku. Kaplnka na Mariánskej hore bola výrazom vďaka Spišiakov za ich záchranu na tomto mieste počas tatárskeho vpádu v rokoch 1241 - 1242. Archeológovia našli hradisko na kopci hneď za Mariánskou horou, ktorý sa nazýva aj dnes Burg -Hrad. Práve tu sa mohli obyvatelia mesta zachrániť pred Tatármi v opevnenom hradisku. Na pamiatku tejto udalosti si postavili kaplnku na kopci pod hradiskom, kde konali každoročne ďakovné procesie spolu s obyvateľmi susedných obcí. Takto vznikla prvá pútnická tradícia. O rozvoj mariánskeho kultu sa pričínili minoriti, ktorí si založili v prvej polovici 14.storočia v Levoči kláštor. V roku 1984 bol kostol povýšený na malú baziliku. Mariánsku horu v Levoči navštívia každoročne tisíce pútnikov, aby tu načerpali duchovnej sily. V roku 1995 bola jedným s cieľov návštevy Svätého otca Jana Pavla II na Slovensku.

Veselým okom

Sporivý :

Len čo sa hosť ubytoval v hoteli, obloha sa zatiahla a začalo pršať. Na tretí deň zbalil kufre a rozhodol sa stráviť zvyšok dovolenky doma.

Ale veď v rádiu hlásili, že aj u vás prší, - prehovárali hosťa v recepcii.

To je pravda, ale u nás ma vyde ten dážd' lacnejšie...

Novinár spovedá herca, obľúbného najmä medzi ženami.

Keď po prvýkrát stretnete nejakú ženu, čo si najskôr všimnete?

Jej manžela.





Youth Circle Page

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

2024 NSS PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2024

Contest Eligibility:

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

Deadline:

October 31st is the deadline for all entries to be received. Mail to: NSS Fraternal Dept., 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Judging is done by an outside professional.

Contest Rules:

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

Four Categories

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

Prize List

1st Place - \$100.00 2nd Place - \$50.00
3rd Place - \$30.00 Best Overall - \$150.00

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

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

Age: _____ ATTN: Reading Matters

1301 Ashwood Drive,
Canonsburg, PA 15317

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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NSS Life
Family Matters...

TOURNAMENT

JULY 12-14, 2024

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