



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | OCTOBER 2024 | NUMBER 3594 | VOLUME 116

happy Halloween



2024 NSS Golf Tournament
Pages 9-10



President Joseph Stefka, Jr.
Visits Slovakia
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2024 Christmas Ornament
Contest
Page 23



National Slovak Society

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Lori Crowley
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Canonsburg, PA 15317
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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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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

October 12
November 3

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

October 6
October 19
November 3
November 8
November 8
November 23
December 1
December 7
December 8
December 14

Region 5, Date Changed, Meeting, Home Office, Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 pm
Region 5, Fall Fun Event, Iron's Mill, New Wilmington, PA 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka's residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Volunteer at World Vision, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Assembly 0774, Wheeling Nailers, Wesbanco Arena, Wheeling, W. VA at 7:10 pm
Christmas Around The World, NSS Museum, McMurray, PA
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 2:00 pm

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

October 16

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

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

October 20

Assembly R059, Matching Funds, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church

AT LARGE

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

October 25
November 10
December 6

Assembly 0586, Meeting, Jameson's, Downer's Grove (TBA)
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home Seelyville, IN, at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0586, Christmas Party, Maggiano's Restaurant, Oakbrook, IL. (TBA)



Deadline For Publication

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

Also, all articles should be **typewritten in regular type or emailed to the Home Office. No Exceptions!**

The President's Page...

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



The month of October is a busy month with NSS activities and contests. The Pumpkin Decorating Contest takes place as well as the NSS Photography Contest. Please make sure to enter the contests and earn tracking points for your assembly. The points help each assembly to reach the various award levels and provide additional funding for assembly activities. Region #5 will hold an event at Irons Mill Farmstead on October 19th. Information regarding the activities and contests can be found elsewhere in this issue. Halloween treat bags are available for NSS assemblies to distribute to our youth members. Please contact NSS Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar by email (bbonnar@nsslife.org) at the home office to request the treat bags for your assembly.

October 30th will mark the one-year anniversary of the move to our new Home Office located in Ashwood Commons. The additional office space allowed the Society to reorganize offices and personnel to promote efficiency. The facility at 1301 Ashwood Drive contains twenty-five offices, a conference room, and a Board of Directors Room. Executive Officers, accounting, and operations personnel are in the building along with our in-house agent. 1403 Ashwood Drive, the facility next door contains offices for our National Sales Director, sales staff, our graphic design/website/social media associate, and our editor. In addition, 1403 Ashwood Drive contains a recently completed training area that will be used for in-house staff training, future agent training, and for meetings of our

newly formed Agent Advisory Council. Our former Home Office at 351 Valley Brook Road is home to our information technology department and the NSS Heritage Museum. With additional space available at Valley Brook due to the move to Ashwood Commons, we were able to provide an area for expansion of our NSS Heritage Museum. The area will double the available space for the Museum and allow more room for additional exhibits, classes, and activities. The area was recently prepared for expansion and cleared of former office cubicles, painted, and the carpeting cleaned. The expanded area was utilized for the NSS Heritage Museum's Septemberfest celebration.

At the Summer Board Meeting, the Board of Directors voted to hold an Assembly Officer Seminar in 2025. The Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe will be the site of the event which will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2025, with out-of-town attendees arriving in the Pittsburgh area on Friday, March 28th. The seminar will provide for Assembly Officers from across the country to travel to our Home Office area for a day of training, activities, and updates on the status of the National Slovak Society. Details regarding registration, attendance, travel, and an itinerary will be forwarded to each Assembly soon to allow time to plan to attend. The past Assembly Officer Seminars have been informative, educational, and entertaining. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. Your role as assembly officers and the continued success of each of our assemblies is important! The Assembly Officer Seminar will help to provide ideas for the future and support our strategic business plan adopted in 2023.

The Board of Directors, at the Summer Board Meeting, also voted to keep the annuity crediting rates the same effective October 1st. The rates offer an opportunity to invest in our qualified and non-qualified annuities, earning competitive rates. It is not too early to start thinking about placing money in an IRA for the 2024 tax year. Talk to your NSS agent or call our home office and speak with our in-house agent, Joe Elliott. In addition, the Board of Directors voted to increase the amount of the fiduciary bond for NSS officers, directors, and employees from the current \$1,250,000 to

\$1,500,000 as recommended by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to meet the guidelines from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

On August 11, 2024, this writer traveled to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to provide a presentation and attend a meeting of Region #2. Region #2 President Lucy Piccoletti presided over the meeting prior to my presentation on the status of NSS operations, finances, and the future. The meeting was well attended and the input and questions during the presentation were valuable. Thank you to all that attended the meeting.

Region #5 held its annual family picnic on Sunday, August 18, 2024, at Cedar Creek County Park in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The weather prediction for the day was a 60% chance of rain. However, the day turned out to be beautiful with bright afternoon sun! A total of 173 Region #5 members registered for the event and the attendance at the picnic was great. A large number of first-time attendees were present for the picnic. The day consisted of games and prizes for the youth members, a catered picnic buffet, bingo games, and a matching funds basket raffle benefiting the PVR Scholarship Fund. Assemblies 108, L161, 441, 588, 731, and 737 contributed seventeen baskets for the raffle raising a total of \$885 and with NSS Matching Funds the total donated to the PVR Fund was \$1770. Thank you to all that attended the picnic, everyone that volunteered prior to the event and during the picnic, and to the assemblies that donated baskets for the raffle to make the day special. It was great seeing such a large turnout for the picnic and Region #5 plans to rent a larger pavilion for next year's family picnic as interest continues to grow.

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will hold its annual fundraising Dinner Dance on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at Stratigos Banquet Center in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. This is the largest single fundraiser for the program and helps to fund it throughout the year. Please help support the program which promotes our Slovak Heritage!

(Continued on Page 15)

A Page From My Notebook...

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



When I Began...

I began as NSS Secretary/Treasurer at the Reorganizational Meeting in November 2006. The following is a short list of events and activities that were held and published in the *Národné Noviny* at that time:

- The NSS Heritage Museum received its' first funding with a check in memory of Andrew Chengery, a member of NSS Assembly 0108 and a true Narodniar.
- My first Board Meeting as Secretary/Treasurer of the NSS was held.
- Member Floyd McKain was presented with the Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Plaque for the male who shoots the best low net score at the NSS National Golf Tournament.
- We continue to learn about our new merger partners with articles from Olga Kasnot, Honorary ROCWMAS President and Justine Wesnak, Honorary FSWFE President.

NSS Life Growth

The NSS has grown tremendously in membership and assets since 2006. There are some things that never change:

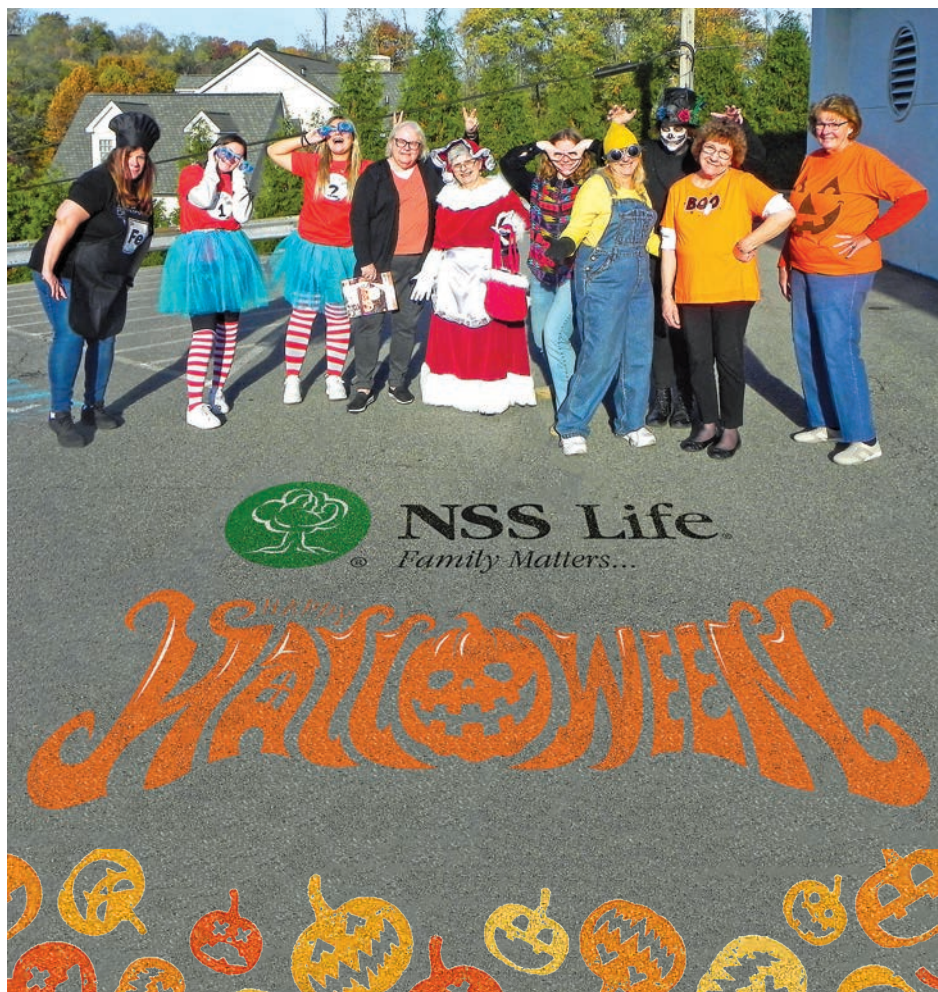
1. Have you reviewed your Beneficiaries and made any necessary changes?
2. Did you change your address or phone number?
3. Scholarship Applications will begin to be emailed/mailed to those who have requested them.
4. Don't forget to get your Grades from your high schools.
5. We upgraded our technical environment and would like you to provide us with your email address. The use of email will provide you with faster responses to important questions you have. You don't have to wait for answers to your inquiries such as the status of a policy.



Going Back in Time

I decided to go back in time and see what was going on in 1994 when I was first elected by the Convention to a seat on the Board. This was to be an enormous endeavor for me as there was so much to learn before my first official board meeting in November. The Reorganizational meeting of the Board of Directors convened in November 1994 at our Carson Street Home Office in Pittsburgh. I will never forget that first board meeting, walking into the Board room and saying to myself "what were you thinking?" Then a familiar face came in, put down his books and said "Sit down in this chair, listen and shut-up. You may be President one day"... scared the "you know what" out of me! But I did just as he said that whole day. I was even afraid to go to the ladies room. However he became my mentor and my friend. There was not one day that I didn't learn something from him.

Hey, Mr. Godor, Look at me! I listened to every word you said. In fact, I'm proud to say that I followed in YOUR footsteps...I have the honor of holding "your" position now!



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.



2024 Annuity Contribution Coupon

Any time is a good time to invest, but investing earlier can maximize the compounding effect on your money. Consider making your 2024 contribution as early as possible.

Name _____

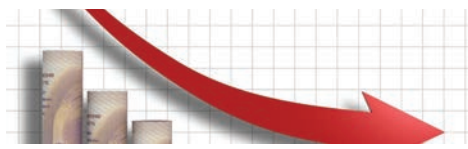
Certificate No. _____ Deposit Amount _____

Traditional IRA for 2024 _____ Roth IRA for 2024 _____

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

From the Sales Department...

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



Rates Are Falling, Now What?

Interest rates have started to fall, especially at your local bank. Earlier this year those interest rates were higher and available for a longer period. The good news is NSS still has some great options for your consideration. Our best rate on a new Preferred 8 account is 6.5% interest guaranteed for the first year. Subsequent years will pay whatever the prevailing rate is for that product which is currently 4.25%. This plan has a lifetime minimum guarantee of 2.0% and features all of the usual advantages of annuities including; tax-deferral, 10% penalty-free withdrawals, probate-free, waiver of surrender charges at death or for a nursing home, lifetime options and more.

Our other popular choice is the Optimum3 annuity. This plan is paying 5.0% interest guaranteed for the first three years with options thereafter.

When you talk about interest rates it is always a mixed bag of news. Low rates are good for borrowers. It should mean more homes and cars being purchased. The interest rate on credit cards may be lower too. Overall, lower rates should help the economy. Whereas higher rates are good for savers and can be beneficial in the fight to lower inflation. Now is a great time to take advantage of our rates and make the most of your money.

Do I Have to Take an RMD?

Yes, if you own a traditional IRA and turn age 73 this year, then you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your account. This actuarial number uses your account balance from the previous year to come up with the figure. For example, an IRA owner at age 73 with a \$100,000 IRA account would use the 26.5 figure and when you divide $100,000 / 26.5 = \$3,774$. This is the minimum required by law. More can always be taken. Some of our members do not want to take their RMD so one of the options is to make a charitable donation. We have a form for this process. Another option is to create a larger, tax-free account using life insurance. Use the RMD to make your life insurance payments. At age 73, either a male or female could easily buy \$50,000 of life insurance and have some RMD money left over. Someday your heirs will receive the proceeds from the insurance. This tax-free cash may be helpful in offsetting some of the taxes due on IRAs. These ideas are useful, but we always recommend that you check with your tax professional to see how this may affect your particular tax situation.

Financial Planning

An Empower research article finds 37 percent of Americans would not be able to cover an unanticipated expense over \$400. Twenty-one percent say they do not have any emergency savings at all. While 62 percent believe it is a priority to have "dedicated" emergency savings, 47 percent say they are not able to put savings aside because their typical monthly expenses are too high. Within the last year, 25 percent of respondents withdrew funds from their emergency savings to help cover their everyday living expenses. Some people have been tapping their 401k accounts through loans. Overall, Americans' median amount of emergency savings is \$600. If you are not in the group with at least \$600 in savings, it is imperative that you take steps to get there ASAP. The easiest method is to set up a direct deduction from either your pay check or your bank account and put \$50 into a savings account. Do this for so many months until the goal is reached.



Here's a scary thought...More than half (52%) of Americans are not on track to comfortably pay for their retirement.

Source: Fidelity® 2022 Retirement Analysis, February 23, 2023.

Thought For The Month:

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) Professional tennis player

The Community Corner

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



'Tis the season to pumpkin spice up your life by participating in NSS Life's awesome fraternal benefits! Be "scare"-full that you don't miss out on any of the fun contests, events, service opportunities, and programs listed below! They are all fa-boo-lous!

Septemberfest Success!

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with Septemberfest last month! Our NSS Life family joined together with the local community to celebrate Slovak culture, support the NSS History Museum, and raise money for the PVR Scholarship Fund! With dancing, games, and great food, it was a great day to be part of the NSS Life family. Don't be too sad if you couldn't make it because the celebrations will begin again at Christmas Around the World on November 23rd.



Pumpkin Decorating Contest

As the days get colder, we get closer and closer to the deadline for the **2024 Pumpkin Decorating Contest!** This contest is the perfect chance to "carve" out some fun for the whole family! All NSS members can enter one painted and one carved pumpkin for

the chance to win cash prizes! Email your pumpkin photos to bbonnar@nsslife.org or mail to 1301 Ashwood Dr, Canonsburg PA 15317. Please include the age of each carver/painter so that they can be placed in the Youth (12 and under) Teen (13-17) or Adult (18+) age group! Don't forget that the prize money has increased since last year! Now, 1st place will win \$100.00, 2nd will win \$50.00, and 3rd will win \$30.00. Try your best to win the coveted "Best Overall" Award, where the winner will be awarded \$150.00! All pumpkins must be submitted by October 31st.

Photo Contest

If you aren't feeling "gourd" about your artistic abilities, then maybe the photo contest is more up your alley! Grab a camera or even your cell phone and snap some pics to enter into the **NSS Photo Contest!** This year's categories are: Scenic, Babies, Animals, and Architecture. Again, you can submit all photo entries through the mail (to 1301 Ashwood Dr, Canonsburg PA 15317) or by email to (bbonnar@nsslife.org). Members can enter one photo per category for the chance to win cash prizes and have their photo featured on the cover of a future edition of the *National News!* All photo submissions are due by October 31st, so grab a camera soon! See later in this edition for a complete list of rules!

Reading Matters

I wanted to take the chance to share one of the many amazing responses we've seen from NSS members participating in our Reading Matters program. Once a youth member completes their Reading Matters Book Log, they are able to choose any charity to receive a donation from NSS Life. A few months ago, 12-year-old Anna chose to have NSS Life make a donation to the Cleveland Animal Protective League. Anna asked to have this donation made in memory of her uncle Donald J. Kolecny Jr. (1/28/1976-1/18/2022), who loved dogs and cats. Anna's choice not only touched our hearts but helped the CAPL in their mission to save animals. If your little one would like to have their donation made in someone's honor, all you have

to do is include that information on the "Charity Selection Form" included in their Reading Matters Packet. To sign a child up to participate in Reading Matters, simply email bbonnar@nsslife.org or call 412-770-2093, and I'll help you get started!

2024 Christmas Card Collection

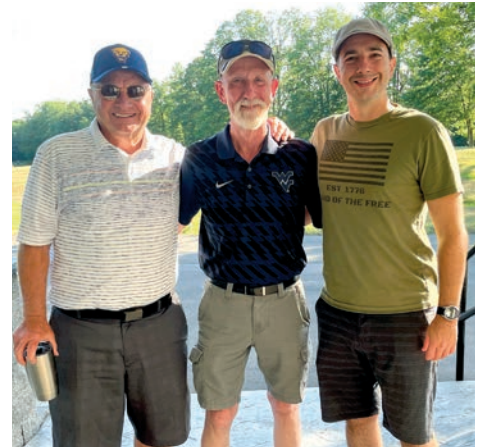
While I guess you could say it's beginning to look a lot like Halloween right now, we are already gearing up for our second annual NSS Christmas Card Collection. Last year we asked members like you to donate letters, artwork, and cards to be donated to nursing home residents around the Pittsburgh area. We received an absolutely incredible response and distributed over 1,200 cards to residents in 4 nursing homes! This year we are hoping to donate 2,000 cards, so we need your help! This is a great chance to get involved in NSS Life if you happen to live far away from an active assembly! We even accept donations of blank Christmas cards! Our home office staff members will add heartfelt messages to blank card you have lying around your house or have picked up from the dollar store! However, we do love if you are able to take a few moments to write to someone who needs some holiday cheering up. You don't have to be an NSS Life member to donate! We will graciously accept cards from family, friends, students, members of your church or community! All cards can be dropped off or mailed to the NSS Home Office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 by December 8th. It's never too early to lend a hand!

Social Media

Want a sneak peek to see if your pumpkin or photo was a winner? Then give us a follow on our social media accounts! All NSS contest winners are posted online early, just in case you can't wait for the National News to arrive! Give us a follow on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)**, **Facebook (@NSS Life)** and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)** to find out first!



2024 National Golf Tournament Hospitality Night



2024 National Golf Tournament Banquet Photos



2024 National Golf Tournament Banquet Photos




Home office Sales agent Joe Elliott was the winner of the golf bag & clubs reverse raffle

Former winners of the Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award in attendance at the banquet.

Assembly 774 Event

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!



VS TROIS-RIVIERES LIONS

Friday, November 8th - 7:10pm

Wesbanco Arena, Wheeling, WV

Tickets: \$10.00 each

Call 412-770-2093 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org to reserve tickets

checks payable to: NSS Life Assembly 774

REGION 5 FALL FUN EVENT



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH

10AM-9PM - 252 GREENFIELD RD, NEW WILMINGTON, PA 16142

Adult Member Tickets: \$5.00
 Youth Member Tickets (16 and under): Free!

Call 412-770-2093 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org to reserve tickets (limited availability)

Please include # of youth tickets with payment (checks payable to NSS Life Region 5)





Youth Circle Magazine - Fall 2024



FALL

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

- BIRDS
- BRISK
- CHANGING
- CLOUDS
- COAT
- COLD
- COLORS
- CORN
- CROPS
- FOOTBALL
- FROST
- GOURD
- HARVEST
- HEATER
- JACKET
- LEAVES
- MIGRATE
- NOVEMBER
- OCTOBER
- PUMPKINS
- RAKE
- SCARECROW
- SEASON
- SWEATER
- TREES
- WIND

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



Ghost Chocolate Milk



Ingredients:

- Chocolate Milk
- Marshmallow Fluff
- Spoon
- Black permanent marker
- Clear plastic cup

Instructions:

On the inside of a clear plastic cup, smear marshmallow fluff in the shape of a ghost. Add 3-4 ghosts per cup. Use a black markers on the outside of the cup to draw ghost eyes and a mouth on top of the marshmallow fluff. Add chocolate milk to the cup and enjoy!

DEADLINES

December 1st:
Christmas Ornament Contest

December 8th:
Christmas Card Collection



FALL WORD SCRAMBLE



LEPAPS _____

NOCRA _____

QUSASH _____

REINOBF _____

FLAE _____

UNMTUA _____

OTOBFLAL _____

ESRET _____

DEIHYAR _____

STERHAV _____

KNPIUPM _____

NOCR _____

OALWHLNE _____

RAOHCDR _____

WORD BANK

pumpkin
leaf
trees
football
Halloween
apples
squash
corn
autumn
acorn
bonfire
hayride
harvest
orchard



Spooky Witches' Fingers



Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup whole almonds
- Seedless strawberry jam or red
- Decorating gel, as needed

Directions

Place softened butter, sugar, egg, almond extract, and vanilla extract in a mixing bowl; beat together with an electric mixer until smooth. Gradually add flour, baking powder, and salt, continually beating until combined; refrigerate dough for 20 to 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. . Lightly grease baking sheets.

Remove dough from refrigerator in small amounts. Scoop 1 heaping tea-spoon at a time onto a piece of waxed paper. Use the waxed paper to roll the dough into a thin finger-shaped cookie. Press one almond into one end of each cookie to give the appearance of a long fingernail. Squeeze cookie near the tip and again near the center of each to give the impression of knuckles. You can also cut into the dough with a sharp knife at the same points to help give a more finger-like appearance. Arrange the shaped cookies on the baking sheets.

Bake in the preheated oven until the cookies are slightly golden in color, 20 to 25 minutes.

Remove the almond from the end of each cookie; squeeze a small amount of jam or red decorating gel into the cavity; replace the almond to cause the jam to ooze out around the tip of the cookie. **Tip:** If the dough gets warm after working with it, pop the bowl full of dough or the baking sheet filled with the rolled fingers into the fridge or freezer to chill the dough.

Thanksgiving in Slovakia

A last-minute, improvisational guide to the American holiday abroad.

FIRST, come to terms with the fact that there are places in the world that don't know anything about Thanksgiving or why it is celebrated. Don't be offended when people stare at you after mentioning the phrase "Turkey Day" — they just don't get it, kind of like how you don't get their Easter tradition of dousing girls with water and whipping them with willow branches through the streets of Bratislava. Consider the regional specificity of the Thanksgiving holiday as a proud example of your own heritage.

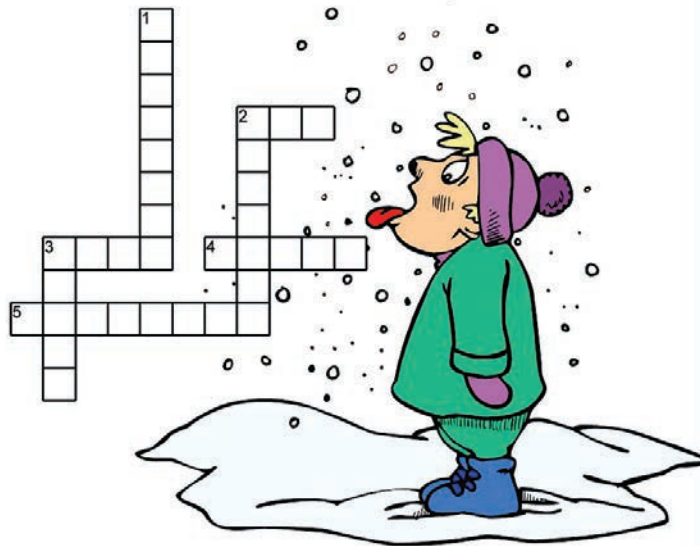
Figure out a menu that will show your new Slovak friends how Thanksgiving is your most favorite holiday in the world. Feel slightly intimidated that many Slovaks make their meals from scratch, so obviously instant mashed potatoes will not do (not that they really exist in Slovakia...). The trepidation wears off as you recall that part of Thanksgiving's charm is having an excuse to eat everything in sight.

Either serve turkey, or don't serve turkey, but definitely do NOT serve chicken.

Purchase the following: a sack of potatoes, a pound of Gouda cheese, some

(Continued on Page 14)

Winter Weather!



Across

2. ___ is very slippery and dangerous when on the sidewalk or street.
3. This fluffy white stuff falls from the sky.
4. This unpleasant stuff is a cross between snow and rain.
5. Wear these on your ears to keep them warm.

Down

1. This big vehicle clears the snow from the streets.
2. These long stems of ice can form on the edges of a roof.
3. Wrap this around your neck to feel cozy when it's cold outside.



Pasta Christmas Trees



Move over, blue spruce! This is a whole new Christmas tree idea. Spray paint uncooked pasta noodles in green and silver and hot glue the pasta together to form tree shapes. Don't forget the bow-tie noodle on top!

Paper Plate Angel



Hark, the paper plate angels sing! For this Christmas decoration idea, paint a paper plate blue and cut it into three pieces to form the dress and wings. Attach yellow construction paper to a white plastic spoon as hair and glue together. This is the

easiest Christmas craft you can make.

Spot The Difference

Find 7 differences between the two pictures



Christmas Masks



Decorate your masks this year for the ultimate holiday cheer. Glue on pom-poms and cotton fluff for a bona fide Santa's beard.

Christmas Tree Ornament

This homemade Christmas tree ornament is the gift that will keep on giving. Paint three thick popsicle sticks green and once dry, glue them together to form a triangle. Then, decorate using buttons, a star sticker on top, and a piece of recycled cardboard as a stump.



Santa Puppets

First, cut out a triangle using red construction paper and glue to a popsicle stick. Then glue half a cupcake wrapper to make Santa's beard, a white circle to form his head, and add a small white circle on top to complete his hat.



dried pasta, a bunch of string beans, dinner rolls, red current jam (substitute for cranberry sauce), and what is hopefully a can of mushroom soup. Lug it all back to your flat from the Tesco two miles away. Question the omácka, a plastic quart of congealed brown goo, handed to you by the butcher. Hopefully, it will pass as gravy. Forget the turkey entirely, because turkeys are hard to find in Slovakia. Explain to your friends that the sides are the best part of any Thanksgiving dinner anyway and that no one admits it, but the turkey really is irrelevant. Also tell them that, despite turkey being more of an 'ensemble member' than the 'star of the show,' substituting a roast chicken is not acceptable.

Either serve turkey, or don't serve turkey, but definitely **do NOT** serve chicken.

Set aside about two hours to cook everything. Of course that's a realistic time frame! Back in the US, you show up at your aunt's house and eat dinner two hours later — why wouldn't it be the same abroad? Go through your pots and pans and realize that, due to the solitary lifestyle you've led thus far in Slovakia, you have exactly one of everything — one fork, one knife, one spoon, one plate, one pot, one cup, etc. Panic as the potatoes boil and figure out how you can create green bean casserole without using a casserole dish. Frantically text your Slovak friends to bring a set of flatware with them to tonight's feast. They'll reply "to nic" (no problem) and offer to bring extra wine. Accept this offer, and unwind with some shots of hruška spiš (pear brandy). Thanksgiving is supposed to be glorious, not stressful.

Your guests arrive two hours later. Luckily, your best friend from college has also decided to visit you for the holiday. She's a tiny girl from South Carolina with very little travel experience who somehow managed to find her way to the doorstep of your rural flat despite her lack of Slovak language skills. Figure that using her to entertain your guests while you continue to cook can be her way of saying "thanks for letting me sleep on your couch during my first time ever in a foreign country!" Sigh, relieved as you listen to cheerful banter drifting in from the living room. She's doing just fine.

Set the table with mismatched cutlery, pour everyone a drink. Strategically place the mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, green bean casserole, and the rest of the dishes in a way that would make the Slovak version of Martha Stewart proud. Taste the omácka — yes, it's gravy, although the origin of animal drippings is uncertain.

Enjoy the meal you worked so hard to create, and relish in the cross-cultural conversation that ensues. Explain how after dinner, everyone sits in front of the television to watch American football, and then takes a nap. It's just how things are done. Yes, this is definitely part of the tradition. No, it's not considered rude to fall asleep in front of your 90-year-old grandmother.

At the end of the night, sit on your couch with a belly full of Slovak-infused Thanksgiving dishes. High-five your American friend — she did a great job making the Slovaks laugh by pantomiming Sponge Bob Square Pants all night. Feel lucky that you have such a diverse group of people to entertain, and be thankful for the opportunity to live in a country where, despite your terrible hostess skills, dinner always begins with the same toast:

Dobrá chuť! — Enjoy your meal.

Jokes

- J** What do you call a smart-alecky butterball?
A A fresh turkey.
J What do you call a silly male turkey's behavior?
A Tomfoolery.
J In what state did the pilgrims arrive?
A Exhaustion.
J Where did the pilgrims learn to play music?
A The School of Plymouth Rock.
J What do you call an attractive pilgrim?
A A Puri-ten.
J What do you get when you cross burrowing insects with pilgrims?
A Ant-cestors.
J How can you be naked and dressed at the same time?
A Ask a turkey.
J What do you call pilgrims who like to boogie?
A Dancestors.
J What event was held on the Mayflower the day after Thanksgiving?
A A Black Friday sail.
J What do you get when you cross a butter substitute with a funny joke?
A A ghee slapper.
J What do you get when you cross an ornamental container with a brass instrument?
A A horn-ucopia.
J What did the turkey say to the computer?
A Google, google, google!
J What Arthurian palace rarely served turkey?
A Ham-elot.
J What's the best way to stuff a turkey?
A Serve him lots of pizza and ice cream!
J What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?
A Squash.
J Why did the mashed potatoes cross the road?
A To get to the other sides.
J Why shouldn't you look at the turkey dressing?
A Because it will make him blush.

Knock Knock Jokes

Knock knock! Who's there? Beets!
Beets who? Beets me!

Knock knock! Who's there? A titch!
A titch who? Bless you!

Knock knock! Who's there? Dwayne.
Dwayne who? Dwayne the bathtub, I'm drowning!

Knock knock! Who's there? Boo.
Boo who? Oh no, why are you crying?!

Knock knock! Who's there?
Annie. Annie who?
Annie one going to open the door?

The President's Page...

(Continued from Page 4)

The University of Pittsburgh will host its annual Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, November 3, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning on the University of Pittsburgh campus. The event offers a variety of exhibits, Slovak food, and entertainment. The National Slovak Society continues to be an annual sponsor of the event. Make plans to attend the event!

The month of October is also a busy month for the various state fraternal alliance annual meetings, including New Jersey/New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Several NSS Executive Officers, Honorary Officers, and members of the Board Of Directors serve as state fraternal alliance officers, board members, and committee chairs. The meetings provide for ongoing educational programs and an opportunity to network with other fraternal leaders from across the country. Details regarding the meetings will be published in a future issue.

News of Narodniars

Special Happy Birthday wishes to my grandson Carson Bernardo who recently began his freshmen year of high school! October birthday wishes to Honorary Director Tony Beno, Home Office Staff members Joe Elliott, Riley Daugherty, Rick Toth, and Tipton Wallace also to Alexa Triebisch, Jessica Dvorsak, John Dvorsak, George Batyko, Bob Kapp, Nicole Kearney, and Irene Tomaskovic. Happy Birthday to all others celebrating a birthday in October.

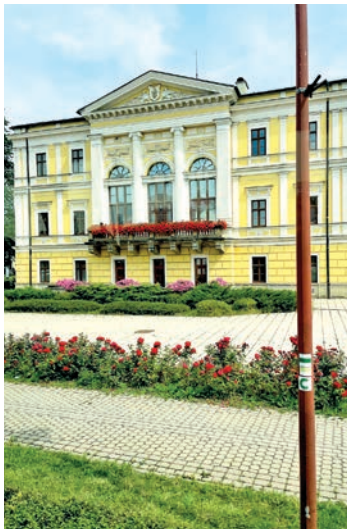
Happy Anniversary wishes to Director Laurie Fox and husband Mike, Honorary Director Ed Koches and wife Carol, Barb and Todd Wilcock, and Melinda and Keith Chojnicki. Best wishes to all others celebrating an anniversary this month.



President Joseph Stefka, Jr.'s Trip To Slovakia with wife Annette



President Joseph Stefka, Jr., Mayor Pavol Becarik, Annette Stefka at Spišská Nová Ves Townhall



Spišská Nová Ves Townhall



Ceremonial Reception Luncheon at Reduta Concert Hall in Spišská Nová Ves



Bratislava Castle Gardens



Ceremonial Presentation by Spišská Nová Ves Mayor Pavol Becarik in the Townhall



Toast by Mayor Pavol Becarik



Presentation of NSS History Books to Justin Sedlák, Slovak Republic National Council (Parliament) Member at Welcome Dinner in Pezinok.



National Council Member Justin Sedlák, daughter Terezka, and wife Lubica.



Slovak Republic Parliament Building in Dubcek Square adjacent to Bratislava Castle



Slovak Republic National Council Member Offices in Bratislava Castle.

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Over thirty members gathered in the Bob Evans Restaurant Community Room for our third quarter business meeting. At this meeting we recognize those passengers that died on United Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, PA on September 11, 2001.

Now is the time to start gathering your photos for the "NSS Annual Photo Contest" in October. Rules are in the latest issue of the "National News." For every entry you make, we receive award points. Another contest in October is the Pumpkin Decorating event. This is open to all ages and genders.

Because it was such a success last year, the home office will be conducting another "Pumpkin Decorating Contest" with the deadline being October 31st. All the rules are in the "National News." We receive award points when you enter!

Attention: The date for our Annual Christmas Party has been changed from Sunday, December 8th to Saturday, December 14th at 2:00 pm. We will again be giving away a large screen HD-TV. Please be sure to mark your calendars. We will be looking for you. Happy Halloween,

John Payerchin
President

ASSEMBLY R059 Bethlehem, PA

We will hold a matching funds coffee hour on Sunday, **October 20, 2024**, at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church following the Divine Liturgy to benefit the St. John Chrysostom Academy, a classical Orthodox School in Bethlehem PA.

Michele Guydan
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Mark your calendars for our future meetings and events:

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 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Well members, here we are in October, one of the nicest months in Pittsburgh. The trees are so colorful before all the leaves begin to fall. It can be an enjoyable time for a walk in the park. We have the end of baseball season at least for the Pirates. Football season is in full swing and hockey season starts this month, time to enjoy.

Here is some good news. We are going to do some volunteering at World Vision. We are scheduled for Friday, **November 8th** from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. However, there are some caveats. World Vision has at times not gotten enough donations for extra volunteers to work. Therefore, we are limited to fifteen people. The first to call will be chosen and will be the lucky ones to go to Eat'n Park afterwards for a free dinner. Please call me at 724-242-5085 or Jill Grover at the home office or 412-638-7060. Be one of the lucky fifteen.

It is also not too early to call and say you will attend the Christmas luncheon and party on Sunday, **December 8th** at 1:00 p.m. at Rockefeller's Grill. A donation of \$15 is asked of each person who attends. No inflation, same as last year. We need to let Rockefeller's know how many will attend so they can prepare adequate food. There is a minimum of forty that we must pay for.

It is time for any members who are interested in serving as officers in our assembly to come forward. Please let me or Jill know so that an election can be held. Some of the offices are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Activity Director. It would be good for us to add new blood and innovative ideas to this assembly's future leadership. So please consider stepping out of the shadows and let us know of your interest.

You may not know that October

12th is Saving Day. It is always good to save, and I would recommend either starting an annuity with NSS or adding to one if you already have one. It is a safe way to save with very competitive interest rates.

Please get your photos in by the end of the month. Prize values have been increased. Even if you do not win your entering helps our assembly. See the rules in the magazine. Questions?? Call Bethany Bonnar at 412-770-2095 or bbonner@nsslife.org

Bill Knoll
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

A meeting will be held on **December 1, 2024** at Hugo's Restaurant, 687 National Pike Road, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 p.m.

At each meeting we discuss business and ways to help the community. As always, please RSVP at 724-207-3171 or Bob Matko at 724-331-4122.

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0586 Chicago, IL

Our assembly 586 had a happy meeting in a lovely place with good food. Lots of talk, a welcome newcomer, and a possible new member-in-waiting as the meeting went on.

As always we were graced by a prayer from our Agent Orange veteran Chuck Hamernick, and his wife, our treasurer Barb.

Our next meeting will be held on **October 25th** at Jameson's in Downers Grove, and our Christmas party will be held on **December 6th** at Maggiano's in Oakbrook.

We read of Lori Crowley's achievement of many years with the National Slovak Society office (thank you, John Payerchin). Lori does a big job which takes hours of prep and loss of sleep I'm sure. She's one of my faves.

We will remember our armed forces with prayers for their safety on Armistice or Veterans Day. On Armistice Day peace was declared on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

My father, George Antol, and Joe's father were in that "war to end all wars," and my husband served as Navy corpsman in the Pacific in WW2. His brother Frank served in the Army in WW2. We fly our flag proudly. God bless America and keep us safe.

Irene Tomaskovic
President

ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

A meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 3rd** at the Stefka residence, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, Pennsylvania at 2:00 p.m. Please plan to attend our meetings and become active members. Contact Annette at 724-407-3591 if you are planning on attending she can plan accordingly.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0705 Seelyville, IN

A meeting will be held on **November 10th** at the Buck's residence, Seelyville, IN. at 1:00 p.m.

All members are welcome.

Dorothy Buck
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

Following is the list of activities that our Assembly 813 will participate in the next few months.

Brown Bag Program for Wiregrass (they do this every year)

October 19th - Cork Pull at the Thirsty Pig, for Catholic Social Services, 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

October & November - Thanksgiving Baskets for Needy, contact Dan Farrell, Assembly 813 President

October 15th-December 3rd - Toys for Tots Collection, see Blaze Farrell for Dinner with Knights of Columbus

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary-Treasurer

REGION 2 & ASSEMBLY L075 Hazelton, PA

Save the Date - SPCA Bone Appetite

Region 2 will participate in the SPCA Bone Appetite Fund Raiser on Sunday, **November 3, 2024** at The Woodlands in Wilkes Barre, PA. Region 2 will be doing a matching funds and donating a basket. Assembly L075 members will attend and make a basket for the event. Members please continue to watch our Facebook Page for upcoming details. Until then SAVE the date.

Members can contact Marlin Petro directly for more details. RSVP date by October 11th.

Marlin Petro
President - Region 2

REGION 5 Pittsburgh, PA

Change of Date - Meeting Notice

The date of the fall meeting of Region #5 has been changed and it will be held on Sunday, **October 6, 2024**, at 1:30 p.m. at the NSS Home Office, 1403 Ashwood Drive in Canonsburg, PA. Plans for Region #5 activities for the remainder of 2024 will be discussed. All assemblies in Region #5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting.

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
President - Region 5

REGION 8 Cleveland, OH

Attention Assemblies #4, #70, #160, and #432

The semi-meeting of Region #8 will be held on **October 16, 2024** at Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. (please note time)

This meeting will be hosted by Assembly #0070.

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

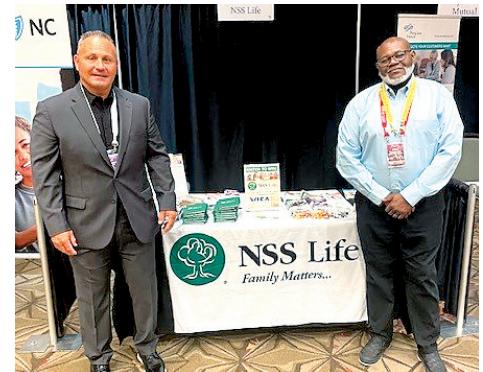
Carole Koches
Secretary

New Member



Silas Henry Weaver arrived on September 16, 2024, at 6lbs. 4oz. Silas is the son of Sarah and Micheal Weaver. Proud grandparents are Brigid (home office employee) and Bernie Delien.

Messner Top Producer Seminar



Jeff De Santes, NSS National Field Development Manager attended the Messer Top Producer Summit in Charlotte, NC with our NSS Exhibit. Left: Jeff De Santes with Christopher Middleton, Director of Agent Services.



Left: Jeff De Santes with Micah Mathews, Vice President of Marketing.

40th Western PA. Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance

Contact: **SUE ONDREJCO**
Cell **412-953-4853**

Mark your calendar for the 40th W. PA. Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance. The annual event will be held on **Sunday, October 13th** at the Stratigos Banquet Center, 131 Colonial Manor Road, North Huntingdon, PA 15642. The venue is handicap accessible, and there is plenty of free parking.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:00 p.m. followed by a sit down dinner at 5:30 which will include Wedding Soup, a duet plate of: Sliced Sirloin of Beef w/Mushroom Sauce & Stuffed Breast of Chicken w/Country Stuffing, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, and Seasonal Grilled Vegetables. There will be a cash bar.

"Kontakty" will treat guests to the songs and music of Slovakia as well as other popular dance favorites throughout the evening. For more information or tickets contact Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204. Tickets are \$60.00/person if purchased by September 26th. After September 26th tickets are \$65.00/person. Deadline for tickets is October 1st. All seats are reserved, no tickets will be sold at the door.

This annual celebration of friends is the major fundraising event for the Slovak Radio Hour heard each Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can tune in to AM 73 WPIT on your radio or simply download the free app from the Apple App Store, or google play and just say Alexa play **WPIT RADIO!**

Your continuing support for our Slovak culture is encouraged and very much appreciated.

PVR Appreciation Letters

Dear NSS Life:

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship you have awarded to me. The PVR Scholarship will bolster my college experience and lift some stress off my shoulders. Your kindness is deeply appreciated.

Sydney Grosholz

Dear NSS Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so much for kindly renewing the PVR Scholarship that is helping to fund year three of my education at the University of Pittsburgh. Your generosity has lightened my load as I finance the pursuit of my bachelor's degree, and I'm deeply grateful for your support.

Eben V. McIntyre

Dear NSS:

Thank you for the NSS PVR Scholarship. This is a huge honor and will help me greatly with my studies at the University of Vermont.

Madeline Forrest

Dear NSS Life:

I wanted to take the time to express how appreciative I am for the scholarship funds over the last four years. In addition to earning a bachelor in safety management, a minor in environmental science, and a certificate in sustainability at SRU, I've also had the opportunity to travel to Italy with the SRU Safety Department. We visited several cities and towns, the Lunborghini, Ferrari, and Duesti plants. I also completed a 12 week Internship with Howmet Aerospace in Barberton, OH. All of these have been incredible learning opportunities that I'm not sure would have been possible without the generous scholarship.

Eva King



*Congratulations to George and Anna Gidias
on their
65th Wedding Anniversary*

Assembly 0705 - Family Reunion Seelyville, IN

Assembly 705 played host to the Butwin Family Reunion in August. The reunion was held in the backyard of the home that John & Anna Butwin, founding members of A-705, lived in and raised their family. That family has grown over the years as they love to come back to the family homestead for the reunion. With 89 family members in attendance, a great day was spent visiting, playing and getting to know one another. A group gathered the night before to set up the tent, tables, and chairs. An opinion ceremony followed by a family picture led to the first activities of the day. An 8 team corn hole tournament was played. Ken Buck and Maci Buck, (Assembly 705) member came out victorious. A bounce house was set up for the children and it was active all day. A lunch from Subway was delivered with sandwiches, chips, fruit and cookies. A highlight came when the ice cream truck came. Everyone was able to choose a treat. A video created by Mary Ellen Buck, Treasurer, A-705 highlighting past reunions through video clips and photos was shown in the house throughout the day. Bingo was played and there lots of winners that were able to make their own picks for a prize. Our two oldest members, Helen M Meunie and Betty Butwin were among the winners, and Jack Butwin, a member of the younger generation served as Bingo caller. A dinner of pork, grilled chicken, cheesy potatoes, green beans and mac & cheese was served by Kleptz Restaurant, a local eatery in Seelyville. After din-

(Continued on Page 19)

Assembly Activities

News From Assembly L075



Detective Kyle Gilmartin's matching funds check was presented to Sgt. Nick Hurchick for the FOP Wellness fund by Co- Chairman Linda Pilosi from Assembly L075.

For Join Hands Day on May 11 members of Assembly L075 assisted the Postal Carriers and the Pittston meals on wheels with their food drive. Shown are Adam, Lehrae, & Maxwell Edwards, Dorothy Collins, Linda and Guy Pilosi and President Gary Edwards, absent from the photo was Gary Collins.

Dorothy and Adam and our members helped inside sorting food. Maxwell from our Youth Circle L075 unloaded the mail trucks and delivered the food to the sorters.

Buckets for Bradley Edwards fund raiser was held on June 1st for Matching Funds and the check was presented to Melissa Edwards, his daughter by the late Bradley Edwards' brother President Gary Edwards Assembly L075 and the Old Forge Golf Tournament Scholarship matching funds check was presented by Vice President Lucy Piccoletti.

Assembly L075 will conduct a matching funds for the Montage Mt. Ski Patrol for the 3rd year. A basket will sponsor a hole to send a captain & crew to the Blue Ridge Gold Tournament on September 22nd.

The Fraternal summer picnic was held on August 4, 2024 at Mercateli-Segilia Park in Moosic. Fraternal Director Bill Wesnak served as the chef along with Gary Collins. Members brought food and a basket raffle was held. Youth Circle member Cambrie Wesnak made pictures during the meeting and showed off her talent. Shown are members present; President Gary & Lehrae Edwards, Secretary/Treasurer; Patty Ann Gorgol, Hospitality & Youth Director; Gary & Dorothy Collins, Tommy Piccoletti, Marlin Petro-Region 2 President, Billy Wesnak III, and Cambrie Wesnak, Vice President-Lucy Piccoletti, Richard Gorgol, Ashley and Kallin Wesnak, Debbie & Bill Wesnak-Fraternal Director, Guy & Linda Pilosi and Cherelynn Harrington. Absent from the photo was Sami Wesnak.

Nominations & election of officers will take place at the October 12th meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Grandes Res-



taurant on Birney Avenue. Moosic Bon Apetite Matching Fundraiser for Region 2 will be held on November 3rd, at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre for the SPCA. A basket will be donated and members will also attend the dinner. Veterans Day pizza party and bingo is set for November 24th at 1:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Wilkes-Barre VAMC. Pizza, drinks, and canteen books will be provided during bingo for the Veterans. Shopping for the 2nd annual Christmas Angels' Program will be in November with delivery in December for the South Side Head Start.

Events will be announced at the October meeting along with dates for the 2025 year.



Assembly 0004 Parma, OH

On Sunday, June 23rd, Assembly 0004's annual mini golf outing took place at Fore Comers Mini Golf.

While the golfers dodged a few raindrops, others socialized in the pavilion. Gail Di Giovine, for women and Craig Bowman for men had low scores. After golf everybody went across the street to Rock Creek for lunch.

Assembly 0705 - Family Reunion

(Continued from Page 18)

ner, there was more visiting and conversations. Soon after, the tables and chairs were returned to the garage and the tent was taken down. Plans are to meet again in the summer of 2026 in Seelyville.

Jim Jones, President, A-705
Dorothy A. Buck, Secretary, A-705



Helen M. Meunier and Betty Butwin, daughter and daughter-in-law of John and Anna Butwin.



Jack Butwin
Bingo caller

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, he/she 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)**

**For more information, you may find it on our NSS Life website:
www.nsslife.org**

DEPARTED MEMBERS AUGUST 2024

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Alfonsi, Liberata	Pittsburgh, PA	08/13/2024	0774
Anderson, Rita	Pittsburgh, PA	08/09/2024	0377
Andrew, Carl E	Lehighton, PA	08/14/2024	L102
Ankney, Duane	Derry, PA	08/14/2024	0737
Banas, Thomas E	Highland, IN	07/28/2024	0586
Beatty, William	Schuylkill, PA	07/06/2024	L102
Beistel, Dennis	Rostraver Township, PA	07/18/2024	0377
Berdar, Barbara	Uniontown, PA	07/11/2024	0039
Bischoff, Betty	Wilmington, DE	12/03/2023	0731
Blankenbiller, Lester	Narvon, PA	08/25/2024	L102
Bohin, Karen S	Butler, PA	07/23/2024	0123
Boltz, Julia M	Johnstown, PA	08/13/2024	0774
Boucher, Alice	Berks, PA	07/11/2024	L102
Bradley, William D	Beaver, PA	08/08/2024	0123
Broderick, Jerome P	Verona, PA	07/12/2024	L105
Bromberg, Johanna	Clearwater, FL	05/11/2024	0813
Broscoe, James R	Hermitage, PA	07/30/2024	0123
Brownlee, Robert	Washington, PA	06/25/2024	0588
Burke, Gale H	Charlotte, NC	07/21/2024	0774
Burkholder, Virginia J	Blairsville, PA	08/08/2024	L105
Carper II, Joseph	Altoona, PA	08/12/2024	C039
Carter, Barbara A	Toronto, OH	06/18/2024	0588
D Errico, Elio J	Pittsburgh, PA	05/10/2024	0100
Dachisen, Harry H	Denville, NJ	08/04/2024	0110
Donovan, Donna	Pittsburgh, PA	06/23/2024	L161
Eicher, Naomi	Mill Run, PA	07/25/2024	0039
Endy, John L	Coopersburg, PA	08/17/2024	R059
Fetherman, John G	Wernersville, PA	05/12/2024	L102
Fredmonski, Michael A	Greenfield Twp, PA	06/26/2024	L075
Galiardi, James	Johnstown, PA	08/13/2024	0737
Gerda, Gloria	Rostraver Township, PA	07/30/2024	0377
Gerges, Daniel	Berks, PA	08/03/2024	L105
Glassford, Jo Ann	Clymer, PA	08/16/2024	0267
Goff, Mona	Weston, WV	06/30/2024	0774
Gordon, Lori	Harrisburg, PA	04/28/2024	L102
Graper, Lawrence Paul	Martinsburg, PA	07/27/2024	0267
Gronsky, Joseph	Pittsburgh, PA	08/05/2024	0434
Guendel, Jorge Mauricio	Los Angeles, CA	08/02/2024	0568
Guy, Dwain R	Wampum, PA	07/22/2024	0731
Hatlapatka, Charlotte	Fayette, PA	12/10/2022	0039
Hegner, Leo	Beaver Falls, PA	06/11/2024	0123
Himmer, Shirley L	Bridgeville, PA	05/26/2024	0588
Hix, William T	Winston Salem, NC	07/19/2024	0774
Hnatik, Frank	Monongahela, PA	07/05/2024	L161
Howe, Gary L	St Petersburg, FL	05/20/2024	0774
Howell, Rose	Sterling Heights, MI	04/09/2023	0381
Huey, Dorothy M	Hamburg, PA	08/21/2024	L102
Hyk Jr., Joseph	Beaver, PA	07/12/2024	0123
Irwin, Barbara	Canonsburg, PA	08/26/2024	0434
Jankowski, Carol	Lower Burrel, PA	07/24/2024	L105
Jewell, Richard C	Wexford, PA	08/10/2024	0123
Keller, Lois A	St Clairsville, OH	08/01/2024	0595
Kendall, Zahn	Leechburg, PA	08/22/2024	L105
Kennedy, Mary	Claysville, PA	08/09/2024	0434
Keslar, Harry T	Scottdale, PA	08/08/2024	0737

DEPARTED MEMBERS AUGUST 2024

(Continued from page 20)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Kettering, Valeria	Greensburg, PA	07/27/2024	0737
Killen, John L	Bradbury, CA	05/27/2024	0568
Kissingger, Carol	Berks, PA	08/03/2024	L102
Klingensmith, Bernice	Ford Cliff, PA	08/08/2024	L105
Kosco, Stella B	Belle Vernon, PA	08/14/2024	0377
Krasa, Keith	Conneaut Lake, PA	08/20/2024	0731
Kriley, Grace M	Butler, PA	07/18/2024	0123
Krotchko, Mark	Salisbury, PA	06/24/2024	0774
Lefevre, Vikci	New Castle, PA	08/10/2024	0731
Leggett, Donna	Clarksburg, WV	04/15/2024	0774
Levdansky, Irene	Elizabeth, PA	06/19/2024	0441
Maertz, Jerome P	Reedsville, WI	09/08/2023	0774
Malarbi, Rocco Gene	Monongahela, PA	07/31/2024	0377
Malecki, Geraldine	Butler, PA	08/06/2024	0123
Marchione, Helen M	Pittsburgh, PA	08/19/2024	0774
May, Louise	Imperial, PA	08/18/2024	0123
Mazik, David M	Export, PA	07/27/2024	0774
Mc Afoose, Nancy	Indiana, PA	07/09/2024	0774
Mc Shea, Jean	Pittsburgh, PA	08/18/2024	L161
Miles, Leon M	Greensburg, PA	08/03/2024	0737
Miller, Josephine	Franklin, PA	08/06/2024	0731
Mills, Marjorie A	Natrona Heights, PA	07/26/2024	L105
Moskey, Walter	St Clairsville, OH	07/27/2024	0588
Ott, MaryLou	Washington, PA	07/31/2024	0588
Pallan, Rudolph	Pittsburgh, PA	04/30/2024	0100
Parfitt, Janice	Elkins, WV	06/27/2024	0774
Passa, Ellen C	Shadyside, OH	07/21/2024	0588
Paulsen, Virginia	Butler, PA	08/08/2024	0123
Perrine, Lenora	Morgantown, WV	06/06/2024	0774
Petrick, John	Cambria, PA	07/03/2024	L105
Pistner, Cheryl	Elk, PA	08/06/2024	0554
Presto, Freda	Cambria, PA	07/18/2024	0267
Price, Robin A	Mount Pleasant, PA	08/18/2024	0737
Reaser, Marjorie	Glenville, WV	08/05/2024	0774
Reinersmann, Regina	McKeesport, PA	07/11/2024	0434
Rinehart, Carolyn	Struthers, OH	12/22/2021	0731
Rowell, Jerry R	Pittsburgh, PA	07/07/2024	L105
Russlee, Donald C	Toronto, OH	05/07/2024	0731
Schmill, Shirley M	Manitowoc, WI	08/04/2024	0774
Seifert, Harvey F	Reading, PA	08/07/2024	L102
Senko, Donna	New York, NY	04/04/2014	0100
Sheaks, Barbara J	Lake Ann, MI	08/09/2024	0381
Shuba, Mary Jo	New Salem, PA	07/19/2024	0377
Skamai, Anna J	Kittanning, PA	08/09/2024	L105
Stahley, Donald	Ottsville, PA	07/30/2024	R059
Stevens, James R	Land O Lakes, FL	07/01/2024	0813
Stubbs, Margaret	Elk, PA	07/20/2024	0554
Suchar, Betty	Warren, PA	08/08/2024	0554
Supples, Betty	Ambridge, PA	08/03/2024	0123
Talmoniti, Rose	Canonsburg, PA	08/22/2024	0434
Upright, Nancy	Kearneysville, WV	06/27/2024	0774
Washell, Robert	Concord Township, OH	11/26/2023	0267
Wheeler, Betty	Lucasville, OH	06/17/2024	0595
Wiggins, Bradley	Indiana, PA	08/08/2024	0267
Wills, Bernice	Erie, PA	07/31/2024	0731
Wilmont, Helen	Apollo, PA	07/31/2024	L105
Wolfe, Helen	Naples, FL	06/06/2024	R059
Wright, Mary	Coraopolis, PA	07/10/2024	0123
Wyke, Lois M	Baden, PA	08/04/2024	0123
Zajdel, Alan	Lilly, PA	03/15/2024	0774
Zenk, Barbara A	Glenshaw, PA	10/19/2023	0108

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.

Please issue your check to:

NSS PVR Scholarship Fund

And send to:

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive,
Canonsburg, PA 15317



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations August 2024

In Memory of departed members from Assembly 0123:

Philomena Buterbaugh

Joseph Fabri

Linda Hinchberger

Willard L. Horr

Jon Ibella

Rose Ann Brenzy

Evelyn L Piroli

Michael Suhan 100.00

In Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,

& John Crowley.....20.00

Donations:

Contribution from NSS Life for Scholarships.....5,000.00

Assembly R059 Matching

Funds..... 100.00

2024 Golf Tournament Par Three

Challenge..... 190.00

Linda Strom, Secretary/Treasurer.50.00

Joseph Stefka, Jr., President..... 50.00

David M. Komlenic.....25.00

Total5,535.00



Október je mesiac, kedy nám najmenší vetrík dáva sprišku jesenného lístia. Dožinky sa oslavujú so všetkými pokladmi z polí a záhrad, ktoré sa nazbierali, zatiaľ čo letné vtáky odlietajú. Dni sa krátia a noci sú svieže. Jeseň, vítame ťa a na tvoje žiarivé farby budeme spomínať počas

Gaštany sú azda odpradávnym symbolom jesene.



Mnoho ľudí ich zbiera každoročne po celý život. „Pamätám si to, akoby to bolo včera. Keď ucítim vôňu jesene, spomeniem si na detské časy v škôlke, keď sme chodievali na gaštany a javorové listy a vyrábali sme z nich zvieratká,“ zaspomínala si študentka Daniela Toráčová (22) z Martina. Jeseň klope na dvere. Hoci podľa kalendára je ešte leto, počasie nám tvrdí opak. Príroda rovnako. Gaštany, symboly jesene, už padajú.

Foto: Paula Beinsteinova

Mesiac október je zasvätený modlitbe svätého ruženca

Mesiac október katolíci zasväcujú Matkej Božej motlíbou sv. Ruženca. Prípojte sa k modlitbe veď dobré skutky sa zídu neskôr. Ó, Kráľovná presväteho ruženca, v týchto časoch skúšok a zmätku, vypros mi, skrze vzácnu krv svojho Syna, odpustenie za moje hriechy, spásu mojej duše a potrebné prostriedky na jej zabezpečenie. Chráňte moju rodinu pred nebezpečenstvami, ktoré nás obklopujú a udržujte nás v bezpečí pod svojou ochranou.



Streda 4. októbra je sviatkom svätého Františka z Assisi.

Svätý František bol bohatým mladým mužom, ktorý slúžil ako vojak a bol vojnovým zajatcom. Počul Božie volanie a stal sa jedným z najuctievanejších katolíckych svätých. Navrhol prvý set Narodenia a bol prvým zaznamenaným človekom, ktorý prijal Stigmata, Kristove rany. Je patrónom ekológov, obchodníkov a zvierat. Počas svojho života si vypestoval hlbokú lásku k prírode, mnohí hovoria, že by sa dal považovať za pôvodného zástancu dňa Zeme.



Október - mesiac úcty k starším

Nieto krajšieho obdobia v prírode, ako je jeseň
keď vietor sa hrá s krásne sfarbenými listami.

Nieto krajšieho a jemnejšieho pohladenia,
ako pohladenie starého otca či starej mamy,
nieto šťastnejších chvíľ, ako keď sú s nami.

Radvaň nad Laborcom

OKTÓBER v pranostikách

Dobre je, keď v októbri list zo stromu padá,
ten rok požehnaný cestu si hľadá.



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

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2024

Description:

Carve out some time for some Halloween fun and submit a photo of your Halloween Pumpkin creations for a chance to win some fa-boo-lous prizes! Winning submissions will also be featured in the *National News!*

Contest Eligibility:

The Second Annual NSS Pumpkin Decorating Contest is open to all members, regardless of age. The decorated pumpkin must be created by the member submitting it.

Submission Deadline:

October 30th is the deadline for all submissions to be received. Submissions may be made online or through mail. Please mail to: National Slovak Society, Member and Community Engagement Coordinator, 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Online submission may be made by direct messaging any of our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and X) or by emailing directly to bbonnar@nsslife.org. Judging will be completed by an outside professional.

Contest Rules:

- Must be a member before October 1st
- One entry per category: Painted or Carved
- Age Groups: 12 and Under, 13-17, 18+

Please include your name, address, age, and assembly number along side your submission photo.

Prize List:

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

Please contact the Member and Community Engagement Coordinator, **Bethany Bonnar**, at bbonnar@nsslife.org or call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 Ext. 1010 if you have any questions.

2024 Christmas Ornament Contest

Deadline: December 1st, 2024

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

The rules are as follows:

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

more than one ornament for distribution purposes--the more we have the prettier the tree will be! In the event you send more than one, please note which ornament you would like to have judged.

5. The contest shall be judged under the following categories and prize awards:

Member Categories:	Prize Awards:
Frosty's Group (Ages 5-7)	First Place - \$50.00
Rudolph's Group (Ages 8-10).....	First Place - \$50.00
Snowflake Group (Ages 11-13).....	First Place - \$50.00
Santa Group (Ages 14-16).....	First Place - \$50.00
Adult Group	First Place - \$100.00
	Second Place - \$60.00
	Third Place - \$40.00

6. Entries must be mailed, or hand-delivered to the NSS Home Office by the deadline of December 1st of each year. Please mail to: National Slovak Society ATT: Ornament Contest, 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. **BE SURE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE RULES CAREFULLY SO YOU DO NOT LOSE POINTS IN THE JUDGING.**

