



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

FEBRUARY 2025

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | NUMBER 3598 | VOLUME 117

RODINA TOHTO DOMU JE POD
OCHRANOU NÁRODNÉHO
SLOVENSKEHO SPOL-
KU, NAJSTARŠIA
A NAJPEVNEJ-
ŠIA PODPO-
RUJÚCA
ORGANI-
ZÁCIA V
AMERIKE

1890-1925

THE FAMILY OF THIS HOME IS PRO-
TECTED BY THE NATION-
AL SLOVAK SOCIETY
THE OLDEST AND
STRONGEST
SLOVAK FRA-
TERNAL OR-
GANIZA-
TION IN
AMERICA

SVOBODA · ROVNOST · BRATSTVO
LIBERTY · EQUALITY · FRATERNITY

FEBRUARY 17, 2025

FOUNDERS DAY

CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR MEMBERS & COMMUNITIES

ZALOŽENÁ
16. FEBRUÁRA 1890

ESTABLISHED
FEBRUARY 16, 1890

**Fraternalist of the Year
& Youth Achievement
Award Nomination Forms**

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Contest Rules**

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**NSS ANNIVERSARY OFFER
INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**EASY TO
APPLY
SIMPLE ISSUE**

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATION!
JANUARY – MARCH 2025**



National Slovak Society

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EDITOR

Lori Crowley
Published Monthly
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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Joseph Stefka, Jr., *FIC, President, CEO & Elder*
John G. Payerchin, *FIC, CRCMP, Secretary-Treasurer, CFO*
Robert F. Katricak, *FIC, Chairman of the Board*

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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

February 12
 April 12
 May 10
 May 17
 August 7
 November (TBA)

Assembly 0617, Meeting, Theos Metro, Kingston, PA at 1:00 pm
 Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes, Moosic, PA
 Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, KOC Hall, PA (TBA)
 Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm
 Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day (Tenatively set)
 Assembly 0617, Join Hands Day at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen

REGION 5

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

February 2
 February 2
 February 12
 February 22
 March 9
 March 9
 April 7
 April 27
 May 10
 June 8
 August 3
 September 14
 September 22
 October 12
 November 2
 December 7
 December 7

Assembly 0731, Meeting, Kathy & Jim Cessna's residence, Boardman, OH at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Salvation Army, Pack food in backpacks (2nd Wednesday every month)
 Assembly 0123, Mystery Dinner
 Assembly 0039, Lenten Dinner Meeting, Bob Evan's Restaurant, at 6:00 pm
 Region 5, Meeting, NSS Home Office, Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 pm
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Meeting/Luncheon, Domenico's, Monessen, PA at 3:00 pm
 Assembly 0123, Global Links, Pittsburgh, PA
 Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Que, Columbia Association Picnic Pavillion at 1:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Meeting/Picnic, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Fall Meeting, Bob Evan's Restaurant, (Community Room) at 6:00 pm
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Meeting/Luncheon, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
 Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbia Association Social Hall at 2:00 pm
 Assembly 0377, Christmas Party/Meeting, Hugo's, West Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

February 16

Assembly 0432, Tobogganing, Strongsville Chalet, Strongsville, Ohio at 6:00-9:00 pm

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

No Activities

AT LARGE

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

No Activities



The President's Page...

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



The weather this early January morning in the Pittsburgh area can be described as frigid! The feels like/wind chill temperatures are between 2° and 5°F this morning, warming up this afternoon to 15°F. The area is expected to experience a winter storm on Monday with significant snowfall and high winds causing potential blizzard like conditions. The good thing is that this type of weather usually only lasts in our area for another six to eight weeks. This writer is envious of our NSS members residing in areas of the South and West enjoying sunshine and warm temperatures!

In the month of February, we celebrate several holidays. On Sunday, February 2nd Groundhog Day is celebrated with large crowds gathering on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to witness the appearance of the famous prognosticator, groundhog Punxsutawney Phil. Based on today's weather, this writer is hoping Phil does not see his shadow and the winter weather will end and Spring will begin! We also celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14th. Be sure you remember that special person in your life on this day with a card, flowers, candy, dinner, or spending time relaxing and enjoying each other's company! President's Day is celebrated on Monday, February 17th, which is also celebrated as NSS Founder's Day. Our Home Office will be closed for business in observance of both President's Day and Founder's Day. Business will resume on Tuesday, February 18th.

Happy Birthday NSS! This year marks the 135th Anniversary of our founding in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the Old Allegheny section of the city, which today is referred to as the

Northside. The driving force behind the founding of the National Slovak Society of the United States of America in February 1890 was Peter V. Rovnianek, who gathered leaders from five different Slovak Societies to establish our Society. The Society was initially named The National Slavonic Society. The founders had a vision for the Society to provide protection to its widowed, its orphaned, its sick, disabled, distressed, and aged; to unite persons of Slovak ancestry; cherish the language and traditions of their ancestors; and publish and circulate Slovak literature and patronize Slovak arts and sciences. Although much has changed in the World since February 1890, the vision outlined by our founders is still a driving force of the National Slovak Society. The hundreds of thousands of members since our founding, the delegates to our 38 Quadrennial and Special Conventions, and our elected Officers and Directors have used this vision to keep the National Slovak Society a growing and strong fraternal benefit society. We currently have over 45,000 members with assets over \$1.825 billion, surplus nearing \$100 million, an increasing solvency ratio, and controlled growth with an expanding geographic footprint. Since our humble beginnings in 1890, the National Slovak Society has made exceptional progress while upholding the ideals that were critical to our founders! We continue to look forward to a bright future for the NSS and our membership!

Each year at the Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon, the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh announce the Fraternalist of the Year for the coming year. Congratulations to NSS Director Sue Ondrejco on being named the FSGP Fraternalist of the Year for 2025. Sue has not only done outstanding work as a fraternalist for the NSS but has been involved in many fraternal endeavors supporting our Slovak Heritage throughout the Pittsburgh area. She has served as a Director for the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance and is currently the President of the organization. Sue is a truly deserving candidate for the award. The Officers, Board of Directors, and the 45,000 members of the National Slovak Society are extremely proud of you! Details regarding the Testimonial Banquet honoring Sue will be published in future issues of the

National News.

The Winter Meeting (Virtual) of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2025. Please submit any items for consideration by the Board of Directors to John G. Payerchin, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO by March 7, 2025.

News of Narodniars

Special Happy Birthday wishes to my granddaughter Adalyn Bernardo! Adalyn is an outstanding gymnast winning her Level 3 Division in the USA Gymnastics Pennsylvania State All Around Championship last year and training and competing as a Level 6 gymnast this season! May your day be as special as you are!!! Also, Happy Birthday to Randi Czarney, Elaine Kucherawy, Bob Triebsch, Elizabeth Young, Don Shriver, and Linda Beno. Congratulations to former Home Office employee, **Mary Lou Chojnicki** who is celebrating her **95th birthday** on February 29th. Happy Birthday also to Philip Chojnicki, Daneille Lavin, Cooper Lavin, Maureen O'Neill, Bob O'Neill, and all other NSS members celebrating a birthday in February.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Maureen and Bob O'Neill, and all other couples celebrating a wedding anniversary this month! Enjoy your special day!

Founders Day February 17, 2025 135 Year Anniversary

Below are a list of our Society's President's from 1890 when the National Slovak Society was founded.

SOCIETY PRESIDENTS

Peter V. Rovnianek	1890-1901
Anton S. Ambrose	1901-1911
Albert Mamatey	1911-1923
Jan Krafcik	1923-1928
Jan Simko	1928-1930
George Tomascik	1930-1934
Adam Poliak	1934-1934
Nicholas Kovac	1934-1937
Jan Pankuch, Sr.	1937-1937
Wendel S. Platek	1937-1954
Paul C. Kazimer	1954-1954
Joseph Saladiak	1954-1954
Jan H. Pankuch	1954-1974
Thomas G. Gmiter	1974-1978
Joseph Stefka	1978-1993
David G. Blazek	1993-2020
Joseph Stefka, Jr.	2020-

Secretary-Treasurer's Page

John Payerchin, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Email: jpayerchin@nsslife.org



To begin this month's article, I wanted to recognize the NSS Life members and Assemblies in Southern California. We request that you keep those affected by the devastating wildfires in California in your thoughts and prayers.

As February begins, the shortest month of the year is underway, and time is progressing quickly. It has been a remarkably busy period at the home office. The policy administration upgrade to Equisoft continues, with all new life policies set to be written on the new system this month. The conversion of existing business is planned for later this year. Since the end of the year, work has been focused on year-end statements, financials, and tax data. Our 5-year risk-based examination by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department, which began in January 2024, is expected to be completed.

Preliminarily, reviewing the year-end data, we recognize our consistent growth in both membership and assets over nearly two decades. This achievement reflects the leadership and strategic direction provided by NSS Life's various executive teams, management, and advisors during this period. Our dedication to our members and their financial security remains steadfast.

In February, we observe President's Day and Founder's Day for the NSS. This year marks our 135th anniversary, a testament to the dedication of past and present leaders, employees, advisors, and especially our members. Our organization has grown from a small community of Slovak immigrants supporting each other to a continually

expanding group of members of all ethnicities and backgrounds who care for one another and their communities.

We have begun planning for our 39th Quadrennial Convention to be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio in June of 2026. The Board of Directors, executive team, and Bethany Bonnar, our Member and Community Engagement Coordinator have started the extensive work that is required to make the event a productive and rewarding event for our members. In future months you will begin to see details about the Community Service Project that will be the focus of our charitable aspect of the convention. Bethany has begun planning event options for Fraternal Day at the end of the convention.

I request that all Assemblies begin to discuss candidates and prepare for the convention delegates. This presents a valuable opportunity for our members to engage more deeply in the business aspects of NSS Life. Members will have the chance to meet the executive officers, participate in the election of the board of directors, and network with other members from across the country. Some members may feel apprehensive about possessing the requisite knowledge to fulfill the responsibilities of a delegate. However, please be assured that we provide all necessary documentation to each delegate well in advance of the convention, allowing ample time for review and preparation of any questions before the event.

If any Assembly officers have forms of any kind related to meetings, matching funds, or other assembly activities that you previously sent to Linda, please send them to me and I can make sure that they are processed accordingly. If you need forms, please feel free to download them and print them from the website or reach out to me and I will email them to you.

We welcomed a new member to the home office staff, Accounting Manager Allie Whipkey. We not only continue to grow in membership and assets but increase the infrastructure to move into the next chapter of NSS Life.

I want to acknowledge one of our Board members, Sue Ondrejco. Sue has been recognized as the Fraternal Societies of Great Pittsburgh as their Fraternalist of the Year. Sue's dedication to the NSS, fraternalism in general, and our Slovak heritage is unmatched. Sue and the entire Ondrejco family are always available and involved with events. She is beyond deserving of this honor and I am proud to work alongside her. Congratulations Sue.

This month's facts focus on February. February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. It comes from the Latin word februum, which means to cleanse or purify. Ancient Romans held purification festivals during this month. In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar added an extra day to February to complete the Julian Calendar, aligning it with the Earth's rotation and orbit around the sun.

Until next month, fuel your dreams and ignite your journey forward. Blessings to you and your families.

No matter
how long the winter,
spring is sure to follow.

- English Proverb

Happy Groundhog Day!



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...

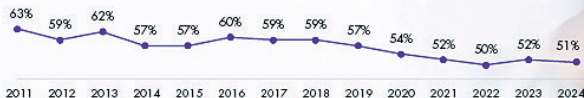
You can add money to almost any Annuity with NSS, just send us a check. Any additional funds will not increase the time period on early withdrawal penalties.

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



A majority

of American adults say they own some type of life insurance.



Source: 2024 Insurance Barometer Study, LIMRA and Life Happens.

Life Insurance Awareness Month 2024 #LIAM24

From the Sales Department...

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



I make \$1 million per year. Can I contribute to an IRA?

The answer is yes. You can have an IRA regardless of income. In fact, your income is not a factor if you have no retirement plan at work. If you have a plan at work, then there are income guidelines to deduct contributions. A married couple with a retirement (pension, 401k, SEP, 403b, etc.) plan and 2024 earnings of \$123,000 or less could contribute the maximum to an IRA for each of them. The deduction phases out with income between \$123,000 and \$143,000 and not available over \$143,000. A couple of footnotes. 1) A spouse with no income but the supporting spouse has sufficient income could contribute to an IRA. 2) Income beyond the guidelines means that contributions are not deductible, but they could still be made, and converted to a Roth IRA. 3) This paragraph refers to traditional IRAs and not Roth IRAs because they do have income limits. 4) The maximum contribution is \$7,000 per person and if age 50 or older than another \$1,000 catch-up amount. As always, NSS recommends that you consult with your tax advisor or other professional since each person's tax situation is unique.


Why Do People Need Life Insurance

The reason life insurance is needed is because none of us will live forever. More than 8,000 people die every day and about eight hundred of them die in an accident. Think about those numbers for a minute. In addition to having life insurance to pay for last expenses there are other reasons to have this valuable coverage. Many people think about life insurance when there is a life event. When they get married or divorced, buy a house, have a baby, start a business, or retire. These are all event-driven situations but anytime is good. The sooner you buy life insurance the less expensive it will be. Buying early saves you money and for a permanent plan of insurance it also gets the cash value column running and this is something useful in the long run. Life insurance is not for the deceased. It is for the loved ones left behind. It is a lump sum of money that we pay to your heirs when they need it most. It costs pennies on a dollar, but it provides peace of mind when everything else seems to be going to pieces. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office and let us give you a quote.



How to Pay off Credit Card Debt

The total credit card debt in America is \$1.6 trillion and the average credit card balance is \$8,500. If you use your card and pay it off each month – congratulations – you are in the minority. That should be everyone's goal. Carrying a balance or worse yet, only paying the minimum payment each month can turn into a real problem. For example, a \$20,000 credit card balance has a \$200 minimum payment each month. At this level it would take more than 20 years to pay off the card. Paying \$500 a month would shorten the time to 13 years. A \$600 payment would take more than 4 years, and a \$1,000 payment would take just over 2 years to pay off. So here are some suggestions. Always pay more than the minimum. Cut up the card and quit using it. Pay cash for purchases. Stop impulse buying. Go home and think about any purchase for 24 hours. Ask yourself, do I need this, or do I want this? Consider a balance transfer card. Try the snowball method if you have debt on more than one card. Pay off the smallest one first and build momentum while gaining confidence in the results. Or do the avalanche method and attack the card with the largest debt. This is not an easy task. To get out of this predicament will require discipline, commitment, and a steadfast resolve to spend no more. Another option is to contact your credit card company and ask for some help. There are also professional debt reduction services that may be helpful.



65% of employed Americans rely on workplace life insurance (theirs or another family member's) to meet their life insurance needs.

Source: 2024 Benefits and Employee Attitude (BEAT) Study, LIMRA

Thought For The Month:

Airports see more sincere kisses than wedding halls. The walls of hospitals have heard more prayers than the walls of churches. Cherish the ones you love – life is very precious.
Kelly's Treehouse

The Community Corner Stay Active with NSS Life

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



Intro

Although the word “Fraternal” can have multiple meanings, in the month of love, I’d like to highlight the adjective version that means “friendly”. The love and community we feel through friendship is truly something to be celebrated not only during February!

PVR Scholarship Applications

Applications for the PVR Scholarship are still available! To qualify for the scholarship the applicant must be the insured party on an active life insurance policy or the annuitant on an active annuity with NSS Life. The minimum amount for life insurance is \$10,000 of permanent insurance and the minimum of annuity deposits is \$5,000. To make sure you qualify and to request an application, please call 412-770-2093 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org. Completed applications are due by **May 1st, 2025**.

2025 Fraternalist of the Year Award Nomination

As a fraternal benefit society our mission calls us to “reach out to touch lives” in concern for those in need around us through our families, churches and communities. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the NSS that have gone that “extra mile” in volunteer fraternal services (i.e. meals on wheels, hospital work, visiting shut-ins, etc.). We are encouraging **all assemblies** and for the NSS membership to nominate a fellow member who is deserving of consideration for this award. Application is on page 18 in this issue.

Feeling stir crazy being cooped up inside this winter? Why not fight the winter blues by staying active with NSS Life! Our Fitness Matters program helps members of all ages stay active physically by rewarding your fitness milestones! Simply log your workouts in your complimentary NSS Fitness Logs and reach each fitness level to receive exclusive prizes! To sign up for Fitness Matters, fill out the form on page 9.

Keep the little ones busy by rewarding their reading habits with Reading Matters! Each completed book log will equal a \$50.00 donation from NSS life to the charity of your reader’s choice! The special prizes they receive for submitting each book log are the cherry on top for their efforts of reading and helping others! For more information on this member benefit, call 412-770-2093 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org.

Introducing two new Fitness Matters programs for NSS Life Members:

“CARDIO MATTERS”
and
“WORKING OUT MATTERS”

SIGN UP TODAY!

Whether you prefer to go for a jog or take a yoga class, NSS Life is here to offer you exclusive prizes for reaching your fitness goals!

FITNESS MATTERS



SIGN UP NOW!



READING MATTERS

READ LEAD SUCCEED

EMAIL BBONNAR@NSSLIFE.ORG TO BEGIN

Youth members (ages 5-18) can receive official Reading Matters Book Logs. Each completed book log will equal a \$50.00 donation from NSS Life to the charity of the reader’s choice!

Poetry/Literary Contest

If fitness isn’t your thing, you can always stretch your creativity muscles instead by entering the NSS Life Poetry Contest! Whether you grab a pencil, a quill, or sit down at your computer, you can express yourself through words for the chance to win cash prizes! All submissions can be mailed to the home office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or can be emailed to bbonnar@nsslife.org. The deadline for all submissions is **March 15th**. On page 9 is a complete list of rules and prizes.

Social Media

The best way to stay up-to-date with everything NSS Life related is by following us on social media! From important policy updates, to benefit information, and even notices on home office closures – social media is the place to be! Follow us on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)**, **Facebook (@NSS Life)** and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)** to never miss a thing!

2025 Youth Achievement Award Nomination

In 1998 The National Assembly voted to establish a “Youth Achievement Award” that is similar to our “**Fraternalist of the Year Award**” for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members under the age of 21. The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in one of the following areas: School/work, community, church and their local assembly. If you know of a youth member who is deserving of consideration nominate him for this award. Application for this award is on page 19 in this issue.

NSS Fitness Matters Program Rules

Here at NSS Life we believe that “Fitness Matters,” which is why we are happy to provide our members with an exclusive fitness program to help them stay healthy and active. We are proud to introduce two program options, so you can choose what fits your fitness lifestyle best!

The original Fitness Matters program you know and love has a fresh coat of paint and a new name! In the “Cardio Matters” program you can keep track of the miles you run/walk this year!

If miles aren’t your style, you can sign up for the “Working Out Matters” instead. In this program you can log other workouts you complete in 2025. What counts as a workout is up to you! From yoga classes, to rehabilitation stretching, to water aerobics, the possibilities are endless! This new program gives you the freedom to pick what workouts are right for you!

Each program has achievement levels, to provide you with goals to strive towards in your fitness journey. For each level you complete, you will receive an exclusive prize from NSS Life! This is a great way to prioritize your health and also get some awesome NSS goodies at the same time!

Interested in participating? Simply fill out and mail in the attached form to the NSS Home Office. You can then expect your complimentary fitness logs to arrive in the mail, and your journey can begin! Once you have completed a level, mail or email your form to Bethany Bonnar (bbonnar@nsslife.org) to receive your prize. As always, talk to your doctor before beginning a new fitness program to make sure that it is right for you.

Rules

- You must be an active NSS Life Member to participate in the Fitness Matters Program.
- Members can sign up for this program at any time during the 2025 calendar year, and all miles/workouts will be valid through 2025.
- To participate in this program, fill out the attached form and mail it into the home office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317.
- You may only participate in one program at a time.

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

NSS Fitness Matters Program Sign-up Form

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

T-shirt Size: _____ Assembly: _____

Program (Select Only One):

_____ Cardio Matters

_____ Working Out Matters

NSS 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 signed up, 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 kids 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!”

Guidelines

- 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 510(c)(3).
- Complete the sign-up 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.

NSS Reading Matters Program Sign-up Form

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

T-shirt Size: _____ Assembly: _____

Email: _____

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Our congratulations go out to our assembly president, John Payerchin for his recent appointment, by the NSS Board of Directors to the position of National Secretary/CFO. We are thrilled for him and wish him well.

Over forty members and friends came out on a cold December day to our Annual Christmas Party held at the Columbia Association (K of C) Social Hall.

Following a delicious meal, a memorial service was conducted to remember all of the assembly members that had died in 2024.

The following officers were elected for the year 2025:

President – John Payerchin
Vice President – Barbara Mulich
Secretary/Treasurer – Paul Payerchin
Trustee – Rita Leonard
Trustee – Nancy Schwer
Trustee – Barbara Gera



Winners of TV - Amanda Guthrie, son Daniel and daughter Abigail.

A 48" HD-TV was given away, and a Chinese Auction was held for the PVR Scholarship Fund and \$420.00 was collected. The afternoon concluded with raffle prizes of poinsettia plants and gift cards.



Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of these assembly members who now rest in the loving arms of the Risen Christ: Darrell Barron, Barbara Boltz, Paula Karem, Tammy Kinneer, John Sabo, Dale Schrock and Allene R. Werry.

On the second Wednesday of each month assembly members meet at the Salvation Army Center, 32 West Fayette Street to pack food items in “back-packs” for underprivileged children in the Laurel Highlands School District.

This is the NSS National Project that we support. We meet at 9:30 a.m. and are looking for volunteers.

Our first meeting in 2025 will be held on Sunday, **March 9th at Bob Evans Restaurant** community room, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 p.m. This will be our Annual Lenten Dinner. Mark your 2025 calendar today!

Keep warm and healthy,

Paul Payerchin
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Future meetings for the year of 2025:

- **April 12, 2025** - Fraternal meeting, Grandes in Moosic, PA
- **May 10, 2025** - Join Hands Day, 12:00 Noon at the KOC Hall in PA with the postal carriers.
- The fraternal summer picnic date is TBA along with the annual Veterans bingo in November.

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

Lehrae Edwards
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

I want to extend my thanks to Bill Knoll for staying on as Assembly Vice President so I can rely on him to coach and assist me in this new task and for encouraging the many worthy donations Assembly members voted to make at our December meeting.

I rather expect a cold extended winter. In spite of that, have a great Valentines Day!

Our assembly has an email address. You can write to **nss123@email.com** with your questions, suggestions etc.. Yeah, I know, "email.com." I swear that's a real email address. Try it and see.

If you don't think you have a reason to contact the Assembly, think again. As a fraternal organization, we should be finding ways to serve each other and our communities. Please share ideas

you have for service projects and fund raising activities. Tell us about organizations and programs to which you think our donations should be directed. Tell us about your service activities, even if you don't see a connection to NSS.

Do you know of an upcoming event the assembly should look into? How about items you'd like to see addressed at a meeting? Tell us about it and we'll get it on the agenda. Have you not been satisfied with our fraternal activities? Let us know what else you'd like to do. A Fraternal Assembly should feature times of fellowship. If we're not reaching you or gaining your interest, I hope you'll tell us how we can. On that topic, you can help prevent perpetual repetition of the same activities by volunteering to be Activities Director. I can suggest ways to make this look impressive on a resume.

A final plug for the email address: Send us a message and we'll save your address in our contact list. We can get you information between magazines and meetings, that way. That address again, and I swear I'm not making this up, is **nss123@email.com**

Future Events:

Join us Saturday, **February 22nd** as "Mysterys Most Wanted" presents "*Montana Marie Gets Gunned Down at Three.*" For \$25, assembly members get dinner and a hilarious show (It's \$40 for others.) There will be a Cowboy/Western costume contest, basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle and NSS will sponsor a matching fund raffle. Proceeds benefit Veterans and Children and Youth programs. Contact **Jill Grover at 412-638-7060 or email nss123@email.com** for tickets or more information.

April 1st is the nomination deadline for the Fraternalist of the Year Award and the Youth Achievement Award. Find applications at <https://nsslife.org/fraternal/forms/>

Tentatively, we will have a service opportunity at Global Links, Pittsburgh on **May 10th**. An Assembly meeting and meal will follow.

Before closing, I want to remind you that if you're involved in a fund raising project, contact the assembly to arrange NSS matching funds.

Lyle Grover
President

ASSEMBLY0377 Bentleyville, PA

Welcome to 2025! Our assembly has many activities scheduled for this year and we always welcome a new member or guest. Our members and communities are very important to us! My grandfather, Stephen Saniga, started Assembly 377 many years ago and we wish to continue his faith in the NSS and in fraternalism and good will. We hope to have more fundraising for our communities starting with a food drive for our April meeting. All members attending are asked to bring 1-2 canned goods to donate to the Washington County food bank. Also, at our April meeting, we will have nominations and election of our officers.

Our assembly always promotes and does matching funds for worthy causes in our communities. Being a member of the NSS is a privilege and with that comes opportunities for everything our organization offers such as the senior scholarship program, poetry and photography contests and many more activities. Please check out all the information on the nss website at www.nsslife.org

At our annual assembly picnic in August, please bring a dog or cat toy or food for the animals at the Washington County Humane Society as we look for other ways to help others. Any and all ideas for fundraising for a great cause will be considered at our meetings. If you do any volunteering for the NSS, as I know you do, please make sure to let us know and take a picture.

We always welcome a potential new member to our meetings and will be very happy to explain how to become a member and all the advantages it brings. All ideas for fundraising and helping others is much appreciated, too.

Our meetings for 2025 will be as follows:

- **April 27, 2025** - Meeting and luncheon at Domenico's, 1565 Grand Boulevard, Monessen, PA. at 3:00 p.m. Please bring a canned good for donation to the food bank.
- **August 3, 2025** - Meeting and picnic at Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA. at 3:00 p.m. We will have a Slovak luncheon! Please bring a dog or cat toy or food for the humane society.

- **October 12, 2025** - Meeting and luncheon at Sesame Gourmet, 2975 Washington Road, McMurray, PA. at 3:00 p.m.
- **December 7, 2025** - Annual Christmas Party and meeting at Hugo's Restaurant, 687 National Pike, West Brownsville, PA. at 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP one week prior to the events if possible to me at 724-207-3171 by text or a phone call or to our treasurer Bob Matko at 724-331-4122. We hope to see our members at these events and wish you health and happiness until then!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Come and enjoy a fun evening of tobogganing on Sunday, **February 16th, 2025** at the Strongsville Chalet, 16200 Valley Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Food and refreshments will be provided by our assembly.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist

ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

The 2025 meetings of Assembly 0588 will be held at the Stefka residence, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA on the following dates and times:

Sunday - February 2, 2025
2:00 p.m.

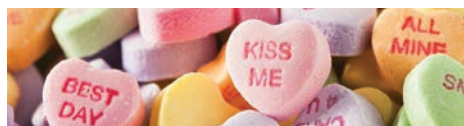
Monday - April 7, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Monday - September 22, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Sunday - November 2, 2025
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 we can plan accordingly.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary



ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

An organizational meeting for the 2025 fraternal year will be held at Theo's Metro, Kingston, PA on **February 12, 2025** beginning at 1:00 p.m. If any member plans to attend, please contact John Kurilla at 570-239-5936, 570-287-4163 or jjkurilla@aol.com

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Members are reminded that our assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, **February 2nd**, at Kathy & Jim Cessna's home, 58 Greenbay Dr., Boardman, OH at 2:00 p.m. We plan to finalize dates and details for several exciting events and community service projects in 2025. Youth and adults members are encouraged to attend this meeting to share suggestions and ideas before we finalize plans for the year.

Laurie Fox
President

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

A meeting will be held for all assemblies in Region 2 at the Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA. on Saturday, **May 17th** at 1:00 p.m. Those who would like to attend, please contact Lucy Piccoletti at 570-479-4116 or RSVP on our Facebook page at (NSS Life Region 2).

Marlin Petro Wesnak
President

REGION 5 Pittsburgh, PA

The Spring Meeting of Region #5 will be held at the NSS Home Office at 1400 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA on Sunday, **March 9, 2025**, at 1:30 p.m. Region #5 activities for 2025 will be planned. 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

Thank you to everyone who donated to NSS Life's 2024 Christmas Card Collection!

Over 3,000 cards went to over 500 Nursing Home Residents

2024 Christmas Card Donors:

- Barbara and Frank Mulich – Assembly 0039
- Nancy Ramirez – Assembly 0100
- Linda Asmonga – Assembly 0108
- Lynn Franklin – Assembly 0110
- Anne Kenderes – Assembly 0110
- Denise and Bob Benedik – Assembly 0123
- Ann and Ron – Assembly 0123
- Bethany Leins – Assembly 0123
- Jill Grover – Assembly 0123
- Dolores Smiller – Assembly 0123
- Sue Urcho – Assembly 0377
- Walter Strugula – Assembly 0432
- Gabby and Marti Pytel – Assembly 0432
- Virginia Mc Murdy – Assembly 0434
- Debi Bakowski – Assembly 0434
- Keith and Elaine Kucherawy – Assembly 0588
- Joe and Annette Stefka – Assembly 0588
- David Yefko – Assembly 0617
- Patricia Ciebien – Assembly 0705
- Marilyn Casal – Assembly 0731
- Laurie and Mike Fox – Assembly 0731
- Mary Martini – Assembly 0731
- Ida Lewis - Assembly 0731
- Cessna Family- Assembly 0731
- Jacob Shank - Assembly 0731
- Addison Draa - Assembly 0731
- Randy and Linda Estes - Assembly 0731
- Lois Kolota – Assembly 0737
- Members of Assembly 0737
- Mary Henshaw – Assembly 0774
- Arlene Cerullo – Assembly 0774
- Karen Kulak – Assembly 0774
- Jack Fisher and Elaine Yontz – Assembly 0774
- Philip Altavilla – Assembly L102
- Robert Snyder and Joy Greiner – Assembly L105
- Rebeca Czonstkowsky – Assembly L161
- Steve and Susan Kyper
- Peggy Jones
- Donna Papa
- Erin Sloane
- Kathryn Tatko and Jack Richards
- Lois Jerzewski
- Angela Fergonia
- Joyce Dietrich
- Bethany Bonnar
- Mars High School Art Club
- Delmont Presbyterian Church Preschool – Pre-K Class
- Bethel Park Rotary Club
- Musuneggi Financial Group
- Blackhawk Elementary Students
- NSS Life Home Office Staff
- Anonymous Donations
- Attendees of Christmas Around the World

Why Are There Only 28 Days in February?

Each month in the modern Gregorian calendar consists of at least 28 days. That number would be a nicely rounded 30 were it not for February. While every month besides the second in the calendar contains at least 30 days, February falls short with 28 (and 29 on a leap year). So why is the most widely used calendar in the world so inconsistent in the lengths of its months? And why is February stuck with the fewest number of days? Blame it on Roman superstition.

The Gregorian calendar's oldest ancestor, the first Roman calendar, had a glaring difference in structure from its later variants: it consisted of 10 months rather than 12. In order to fully sync the calendar with the lunar year, the Roman king Numa Pompilius added January and February to the original 10 months. The previous calendar had 6 months of 30 days and 4 months of 31, for a total of 304 days. However, Numa wanted to avoid having even numbers in his calendar, as Roman superstition at the time held that even numbers were unlucky. He subtracted a day from each of the 30-day months to make them 29. The lunar year consists of 355 days (354.367 to be exact, but calling it 354 would have made the whole year unlucky!), which meant that he now had 56 days left to work with. In the end, at least 1 month out of the 12 needed to contain an even number of days. This is because of simple mathematical fact: the sum of any even amount (12 months) of odd numbers will always equal an even number—and he wanted the total to be odd. So Numa chose February, a month that would be host to Roman rituals honoring the dead, as the unlucky month to consist of 28 days.

Despite changes in the calendar as it was altered after Numa's additions—alterations that include the shortening of February at certain intervals, the addition of a leap month, and eventually the modern leap day—February's 28-day length has stuck.



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!!**





Mary Lou Chojnicki celebrates 95 years young

Mary Lou (Olah)

Chojnicki was born on February 28, 1930 and married for 65 years to Anthony Chojnicki

(now deceased). She was blessed with two sons, Keith and Phillip, one granddaughter and two great-grandchildren which she is very proud of. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, especially her great-granddaughters. Her favorite color is purple and her food is prune perogies.

Family and friends gathered for a luncheon to celebrate Mary Lou's 95th birthday. Mary Lou has dedicated her life to helping friends, family, and senior citizens. She has earned the respect and affection of people of all ages. She is known as the "life of a party."

She belonged to the Christian Mothers Eucharistic Minister serving South Side Hospital, volunteer gym teacher at St. Matthew's grade school, sang in the choir at St. Matthew's Church till merged, and member of the FCSLA Circle 1291.

Mary Lou was employed by the NSS for 15 years in the billing department at the Southside office, Pittsburgh, PA when Joseph Stefka, Sr. was president. She retired in 1998.

She bowled for the NSS for years and eventually winning the National Ladies Doubles Championship (with partner Marian Spiecher).

She attended Region 5 picnics, (her husband Tony on the grill), Slovak Day at Kennywood Park and Septemberfest

at the office on Valley Brook Road.

She represented Assembly 0100 for many years at the conventions and also as a delegate for Region 5. At 94 she still attended Region 5 meetings, NSS events and our employee Christmas party. Mary Lou has been and still is an officer for Assembly #0100, and auditor for Region 5.

From your family, friends and members of the National Slovak we wish you good health and happiness for many years to come. God Bless.



FEBRUARY 17, 2025

Take advantage of your member discounts now

As a member of the **National Slovak Society**, you and your family are eligible for exclusive Start Hearing benefits.

% Discounts up to 48% on today's latest technology, including rechargeable hearing aids and tinnitus options

🇺🇸 Access to a nationwide network of 3,000+ hearing professionals

60 DAY 60-day risk-free trial period*



Call our Hearing Care Advisors at **(888) 705-6920** to take advantage of your exclusive discounts.

starthearing.com/partners/NSS

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*Professional service fees may apply.

National Slovak Society Heritage Museum Presents:

Kráslice Classes (Egg Decorating)

Saturday, April 5, 2025 Or Saturday, April 12, 2025

As the symbol of new life, Easter is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. It has always been celebrated with joy and accompanied by numerous colorful traditions among the Eastern Slavs.

Experience the tradition of creating a colorful Easter egg of your very own!

Local artist, Mike Yanchak will guide you step by step through the process, while discussing the origin, techniques and symbolism used in creating “kráslice,” as they are called in Slovak.

Where: National Slovak Society Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA

Time: 10 AM - 3 PM

Cost: \$40 per person (includes all materials)

Class size is limited and designed for ages 12+.

Deadline for registration is March 17, 2025

Proceeds will benefit the PVR Scholarship Fund

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED!

For more information email: nsshm.curator@gmail.com



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____


Email Address: _____

I want to attend the April 5th class _____ I want to attend the April 12th class _____

Please submit this form with your payment by March 17, 2025

Make checks payable to NSSHM

**Mail to: NSSHM
234 ILION St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207**



PVR Fund News

February has arrived, the shortest and sweetest month of the year! The PVR Fund Board of Directors wishes all our members a month that is as sweet as a box of chocolates.

As you all know, the PVR Fund's goal is to increase our fund to \$2 million by the 2026 Convention. 2026 looks a lot closer from this side of 2025 – we have only 17 months remaining, and \$337,100 left to raise! Here's how you can help:

1. Hold a fundraiser to benefit the PVR Fund in your own assemblies!
2. Designate the PVR Fund as a beneficiary on your annuity or life insurance policy!
3. Purchase a leaf or acorn for display at the NSS Heritage Museum using the order form elsewhere in this issue!
4. Fund a perpetual scholarship in your name, or in memory of a loved one.

Many of our members have been recipients of a PVR Scholarship. Even though the fund was established as a separate 501(c)(3) organization in 2004, PVR Scholarships have been awarded for over 25 years. If you are a previous scholarship recipient and you are looking for another tax write-off for 2024, please take this opportunity to make a donation!



PVR Profiles

Attention, PVR Scholarship Recipients! We'd love to hear from our past PVR Scholarship Recipients. Please send us a short note to let us know how you are doing, update us on your lives, or even to share how the PVR scholarship helped you. We would like to publish at least one profile a month. Please send your notes via email to jpayerchin@nsslife.org. Here is our latest PVR Profile:

NAME: Michael Czarney

SCHOLARSHIP FIRST AWARDED: 1999

I was honored to receive the PVR Scholarship from 1999 – 2002 to assist me with related expenses in completing my bachelor's degree from Adrian College where I studied Communications and Public Relations. Following graduation, I worked at Progressive Insurance in Michigan for 5 years before making a move back to Ohio where I entered into banking/finance, and was reunited with my wife of 12 years, Randi. In Ohio we started our family which now consists of Cash (10) and Sadie (8). Over the years my education gave me a great foundation that led me to some great jobs where I gained a variety of experiences. I have been serving on the NSS Board of Directors since 2014 and have held a number of other state fraternal and community board positions. My career has now brought me back into the education space where I work with children every day in special education. As I am entering a new adventure as a certified special education teacher, I am reminded of how important scholarships, like PVR, are to those working on their degrees. Any amount of assistance helps alleviate the financial burden that can come with higher education and as a current NSS Board Member I'll continue to do my part to support the future of the PVR Fund.

APPLY FOR
SCHOLARSHIP

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 DECEMBER 2024

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Ambrosio, Frank	Pittsburgh, PA	12/12/2024	L161
Anderson, Maxine	Markleysburg, PA	12/14/2024	0039
Azevedo, Laurenio S	Cape Canaveral, FL	09/25/2024	0800
Barker, Robert H	Wheeling, WV	11/07/2024	0774
Barner, Judy E	Harrisburg, PA	11/30/2024	L102
Bateman, Jeffrey F	Strongstown, PA	10/22/2024	0267
Bauer, Joanne B	Sarasota, FL	05/02/2024	0800
Bayless, Earl	Weston, WV	11/25/2024	0774
Beebe, Robert	Cheboygan, MI	11/27/2024	0381
Bohrer, Charlotte	Martinsburg, WV	09/26/2025	0774
Bordash, Norma J	Perryopolis, PA	12/11/2024	0377
Brangan, Charles M	Williamstown, NJ	11/21/2024	0774
Caldwell, Patricia A	Trafford, PA	11/23/2024	L105
Campbell, Mary	Moundsville, WV	09/24/2024	0774
Carpenter, Kevin	Combard, IL	04/10/2024	0586
Carroll, Barbara	Salem, WV	10/19/2024	0774
Cermak, William	Erie, PA	12/05/2024	0731
Charboneau, Eileen	Cheboygan, MI	08/02/2023	0381
Cigler, Gary G	Verona, PA	11/16/2024	L105
Cioni, Robert G	Clearwater, FL	07/11/2024	0774
Coax, Daniel W	Pittsburgh, PA	12/17/2024	0774
Corso, Vinnie	Lower Burrell	11/16/2024	L105
Cox, Ola I	Kennerdell, PA	11/17/2024	0774
Dansereau, Eva M	Easley, SC	11/02/2024	0813
Darnley, Gary	Bulger, PA	11/27/2024	0588
Day, Joanne W	Washington, PA	12/04/2024	0588
Dixon, Dolores	Markleysburg, PA	11/20/2024	0377
Donatelli, Dorothy J	Sinking Spring, PA	12/02/2024	L102
Duby, Sally A	Mio, MI	10/24/2024	0381
Dunkelberger, Donna	Pittsburgh, PA	11/17/2024	0100
Ehrhart, Elizabeth	Baltimore, MD	11/16/2024	0774
Faust, James	Butler, PA	12/14/2024	L161
Fidler, Valerie	Warrington, PA	12/02/2024	0774
Fleming, John M	Reading, PA	12/07/2024	0774
Flick, William	Butler, PA	11/02/2024	0123
Frank, Richard A	Summerville, SC	11/21/2024	0588
Frey, Julia K	Mountville, PA	12/03/2024	0267
Fye, Gary Allen	Baden, PA	12/06/2024	0123
Gerwell, Janet	McKees Rocks, PA	01/31/2023	L161
Gibson, Leona	Oceana, WV	04/27/2024	0774
Giedl, Betty Jane	Pittsburgh, PA	11/18/2024	0774
Gray Jr., Abe	Blairsville, PA	12/10/2024	0737
Greco, Angelo	West Chester, OH	12/20/2024	0123
Grinnell, Barbara	Hadley, PA	12/05/2024	0731
Hayton, Betty J	Jacksonville, FL	10/14/2024	0568
Heichel, Harry	Butler, PA	11/27/2024	0123
Hill, Nelli	Greensburg, PA	11/25/2024	0737
Hollis, Robert	Pittsburgh, PA	11/10/2024	L161
Homm, Donald	Hamburg, PA	12/15/2024	L102
Hoover, James	Johnstown, PA	12/04/2024	0737
Horan, Don Phillip	Romney, WV	08/27/2024	0774
Hunsicker, Jacqueline	Bethlehem, PA	11/21/2024	R059
Imhof, Janet	Gibsonia, PA	11/03/2024	L161
Jennings, Barbara	Ormond Beach, FL	02/19/2023	0731
Jones, Elsa	Pittsburgh, PA	12/08/2024	0100
Keller, Rita	Moon Twp, PA	11/18/2024	0123
Kime, Kathleen	Scenery Hill, PA	11/07/2024	0377
Knisely, Jacobs	Pleasant Gap, PA	11/13/2024	L040
Kramer, Frances	Mechanicsburg, PA	09/17/2024	0774
Kratina, Irene	Pittsburgh, PA	12/03/2024	0123
Krenn, Isabelle	McDonald, PA	11/16/2024	0588
Lako, Michael	Pittsburgh, PA	11/03/2024	L161
Lane Jr., Robert	Grapeville, PA	11/25/2024	0737
Lasota, Robert E	Bonita Springs, FL	12/08/2024	0813
Lazaroff, Thomas A	Pittsburgh, PA	11/16/2024	0123
Lentz, Edna M	Honey Brook, PA	11/26/2024	0774
Leslie, Edward	Glenmoore, PA	11/30/2024	0774
Lincoln, Ruth	Lemont Furnace, PA	11/14/2024	0039
Lowers, Maree	Chicora, PA	11/12/2024	L161

DEPARTED MEMBERS DECEMBER 2024 (Continued from page 16)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Machesney, Marjorie	Champion, PA	12/11/2024	0039
Mazyrka, Katherine	Kenmore, NY	11/20/2024	RO19
Mc Laughlin, Henry W	Pittsburgh, PA	12/09/2024	L161
McElravy, Karen	Chicora, PA	10/31/2024	L105
McFall, Rose	Arnold, PA	12/01/2024	L105
McGee, James	Tarentum, PA	12/11/2023	L161
McGrady, Patricia	Pittsburgh, PA	12/11/2024	L161
McWilliams, Richard	Youngsville, PA	12/02/2024	0731
Michelotti, Betty	Pittsburgh, PA	11/08/2024	0100
Mills, Ronald R	Sebring, FL	11/08/2024	0800
Mirich, Peter	Burgettstown, PA	11/23/2024	5088
Mizla, Elizabeth J	Pittsburgh, PA	12/07/2024	0100
Molnar, Helen	Hollidaysburg, PA	11/27/2024	0267
Mueller, Marlene	Toms Rivers, NJ	11/24/2024	0774
Niceswanger, Beverly	Pittsburgh, PA	11/25/2024	0123
Notareschi, Michael	Poland, OH	10/25/2024	0731
Odrechowski, Michael	Ford City, PA	11/23/2024	L105
Parker, Mary Lou	Fremont, OH	11/19/2024	0160
Pavlick, Paul	Coral, PA	10/22/2024	0774
Peiffer, Kathleen M	Huntingdon Valley, PA	11/18/2024	0110
Perry, F E	Albany, OH	11/17/2024	0595
Perry, Shirley	Corry, PA	12/17/2024	0774
Petorak, Vladimir	Dallas, PA	09/28/2024	L075
Phillips, Peggy	Sarver, PA	11/23/2024	L161
Phillips, Ronald	Morgantown, WV	11/12/2024	0774
Reed, Barbara	Warrington, PA	12/09/2024	0774
Riggi, Emma	Blairsville, PA	11/04/2024	0737
Ringer, Joan A	Fredonia, PA	12/02/2024	0731
Robertson, Walter H	Harleysville, PA	11/25/2024	RO59
Roscoe, Deborah	Waynesburg, PA	10/21/2024	0377
Rowe, John W	Leesport, PA	12/14/2024	L102
Rudisill, Paul K	New Oxford, PA	11/28/2024	0267
Sands, Joseph	Carnegie, PA	12/04/2024	0100
Scarfutti, Louis	Sheridan, WY	11/14/2024	0774
Seidel, Elizabeth	Hamburg, PA	11/23/2024	L102
Sheeler, Robert E	Somerset, PA	10/23/2024	0039
Sherman, Lois	Glenshaw, PA	12/07/2024	L161
Sickles, Joyce	Fayette City, PA	12/11/2024	0039
Simmons, Hoye A	Beverly, WV	12/02/2024	0774
Simyak, Francis	Brownsville, PA	11/25/2024	0377
Slafka, Maryann	Elizabeth, PA	12/20/2024	0737
Slater, Mary M	Mashpee, MA	12/02/2024	0774
Sliker, Elnora	Fairview, PA	11/20/2024	0774
Smith, Herbert H	Berlin, PA	12/07/2024	0039
Smith, James L	McKeesport, PA	12/08/2024	0108
Smith, Terrence	Rector, PA	11/26/2024	0737
Spiker, Marie	Canonsburg, PA	11/30/2024	0434
Spore, Alice A	Jeannette, PA	12/11/2024	0737
Stueber, Irene R	Ambridge, PA	11/27/2024	0123
Sullivan, Violet M	Youngsville, PA	12/12/2024	0731
Sutton, Patricia M	Butler, PA	11/26/2024	0123
Szives, Patricia	Millersburg, PA	10/06/2024	L040
Thomas Jr., Russell	Mohrsville, PA	12/03/2024	L102
Tordonato, Carl	Green Lane, PA	11/29/2024	L102
Tordonato, Carl	Green Lane, PA	11/29/2024	L102
Troyanovich, Rosalie	New Athens, OH	11/12/2024	0595
Tutcho, Joseph W	Pittsburgh, PA	11/06/2024	L161
Uriah, Gerald	Carnegie, PA	03/20/2024	0434
Uriah, Gerald J	Carnegie, PA	03/20/2024	0434
Valle, Joseph	Meadville, PA	11/21/2024	0731
Valuska, Shirley J	Wintersville, OH	10/06/2024	0774
Vesay, Gail	Minersville, PA	10/19/2024	0774
Wagner, Michael R	Pittsburgh, PA	11/28/2024	0123
Wallace, Irene	Warrington, PA	11/19/2024	RO59
West, Sue	Chillicothe, OH	12/03/2024	0595
Wilkinson, Carol J	Redwood City, CA	02/20/2023	0568
Wolff, Pauline R	Sewickley, PA	12/12/2024	0123
Youngerman, Joan V	Reading, PA	11/13/2024	L102
Zerby, Charles	Bridgeville, PA	12/01/2024	0434
Zvara, Josephine J	Greensburg, PA	12/19/2024	0737

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your donation may benefit your own son, daughter, niece or nephew. Every penny donated goes directly into the PVR Scholarship Fund.

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

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations December, 2024

In Memory of **Irene Tomaskovic**, A-586 who passed away last month. She was an active member of the NSS:

From Eric and Lois Tomaskovic 150.00

In Memory of **Irene Tomaskovic**:
From Linda and Tony Beno ... 50.00

In Memory of **Dr. Martin Votruba**:
From Christine and Robert Metil 50.00

In Memory of our son and brother,
Shaun Logan Crowley:
From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr., & John Crowley 20.00

In Memory of **A-0123 Deported Members**:

Thomas Boocks
Rita L. Elm
Michael P. Gibbons
Mildred M. Grove
Rene A. Guzman
Donald Hetrick
Elizabeth Ann Kovacic
Margaret Parrinello
Harry A. Wilhelm
From Assembly 0123 100.00

Donations:

Laurie Fox, Board Member 50.00
 Assembly 160 500.00
 Assembly 160 Matching Funds 500.00
 Marlene G. En Dean 400.00
 US Treasury 102.00
 Assembly 0123 Matching Funds Contribution 170.00
 Assembly 0731 Matching Funds Contirbution 200.00



NSS Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form



★ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: APRIL 1, 2025** ★

~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

PURPOSE:

As a fraternal benefit society our mission calls us to "reach out to touch lives" in concern for those in need around us through our families, churches and communities. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the National Slovak Society that have gone that "extra mile" in volunteer fraternal service (i.e. meals on wheels, hospital work, visiting shut-ins, etc.). We encourage all assemblies to seek a worthy candidate from within your assembly and for the NSS membership to nominate a fellow member who is deserving of consideration for this award.

Those worthy of nomination are NSS members who have given of their time, talents and abilities in ways that would be designated as "extra-ordinary". Through their unselfish and tireless volunteer efforts those around them have benefited significantly. These people are those that rarely say "No!" and are always willing to lend a hand. We know that they are out there and you can find them for us.

The NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" Award is a fraternal program offered by the society for the benefit of our membership and the fraternal benefit system. You as members of the NSS are encouraged to seek a deserving nominee for the highest fraternal award offered by the NSS.

ELECTION PROCESS:

Any member of the National Slovak Society can nominate a fellow NSS member to be the "Fraternalist of the Year." Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our website at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal/Forms/Fraternal Program Forms." Nominations can be made by any adult member of the NSS or through their local Assembly. This will allow more deserving members the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of others.

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

RECOGNITION:

The recipient will be announced in the "National News" and listed on our website at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal/Forms/Fraternal Program Forms," receive a congratulatory plaque and designate a charitable organization as benefactor of a \$500.00 donation. The Winner's name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Fraternalist of the Year" Award for touching the lives of those in need in their family, church and community. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Fraternalist of the Year" for going that "extra mile."

NSS Assembly/Region Member Officer Signature

Assembly/Region #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winner of the NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

NSS Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form



★ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: APRIL 1, 2025** ★

~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

PURPOSE:

The American Fraternal Alliance, through their "Americas Promise" Program, has encouraged their member societies to increase their awareness of the contributions of youth to the fraternal benefit system. In response to that challenge, the National Assembly, in 1998, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" that is similar to our "Fraternalist of the Year Award" for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members 18 years of age and under.

RATIONALE:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these four (4) areas:

- a. At their school/work b. In their community c. In their church d. In their local assembly

NOMINATION:

Youth members can be nominated by any adult member of the NSS or through their local assembly. A document detailing the qualifications of the Youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Home Office. A Youth Member may be nominated each year up through and including their eighteenth (18th) birthday or until they are selected to receive this award. Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our website at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal/Forms/Fraternal Program Forms."

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

AWARD:

The winning youth will receive **\$500.00** and will be announced in the "National News" and "Youth Circle Magazine" insert. Their name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

JUDGING:

An independent judge, appointed by the National President, will review all nominations and make a determination of the winner. The National President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service to their school/work, community, church and local assembly. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in the above categories.

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winner of the NSS "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.

DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

FEBRUÁR

Február je mesiacom lásky veď v ňom slavíme sviatok sv. Valentína, prežívame polovičku zimy a začíname sa pripravovať na prichádzajúcu jar. Február má iba 28 dní čiže krátky ale úspešny aj pre našu organizáciu a našich členov. Teda zapojte sa ku NSS- a využite benefity ako štipendium

pre mládež aj dospelých, športové akcie, rodinne výlety a predovšetkým bezpečne finančné investície pre Vás a Vašu rodinu.

16 Február Historickým Dňom Našej Organizácie



Gratulujeme našej organizácii NSS—Národnému Slovenskému Spolku ku 134-tému výročiu. Stalo sa tak 16-tého Februára v 1890 kedy sa zišli slováci v našom meste Pittsburghu na čele s pánom Rovniankom –kedy založili podporný spolok pre Slovákov v Amerike. Veríme, že zakladatelia môžu byť hrdý na NSS, organizáciu ktorá o 134 rokov od založenia prosperuje a drží sa princípov zakladateľov. Gratulujeme.



Matúšov deň 24. februára —

Bol podľa ľudových proroctiev jedinečným dňom. Ľudia verili, že vajce, ktoré v tento deň znesie akýkoľvek druh hydiny, by sa nemalo nechať vyliahnuť pretože by sa z neho vyliahol mrzák, „monštrum s 2 hlavami alebo 3 nohami alebo krídlami, alebo bez zobáka. Preto boli všetky vajcia znesené v tento deň označené, aby sa nepomiešali s inými vajčkami. Mená ako „krívajúci Matej“. Alebo „Matejova kačka“ sa používali na označenie abnormálnych zvierat a ľudí s vrodeným postihnutím.

Vo všeobecnosti bol Matúšov deň považovaný za nešťastný deň, preto sa odporúčalo nezačínať na ňom žiadnu prácu, pretože by to bolo neúspešné. Ďalej bolo zakázané šiť, prať a tkať. Počasie v deň Matúša by naznačovalo, či bude zima pokračovať, alebo či čoskoro príde jar. Vyjadrovali to prognózy ako „Ak Matuš nájde ľad, prelomí ho. Ak ho nenájde, Gregory to dokáže.“ Gregory sviatok je 12. marca a on je patrónom tesárov a mäsiarov!

2. Februára—Hromnice

Zima bola presne v polovici a ľudia sa snažili predpovedať, aké počasie ich čaká. V kresťanskej tradícii sa na hromničné sviatky v kostole posväcovali sviece. Sviečky hromničky ľudia používali a zapalovali ich počas veľkých búrkach a pohromách.

Hromnice —pol zimy.

**Ak svieti slnko na Hromnice,
hojnosť žita i pšenice.**

Mauzóleum Andrášiovcov Krásnohorské Podhradie—

Spoznaj romantický životný príbeh posledného majiteľa hradu Krásna Hôrka- grófa Dionýza Andrášiho, ktorý sa kvôli láske k opernej speváčke bez "modrej krvi" vyčlenil z hrdého šľachtického rodu. Tento pán, známy aj ako podporovateľ kultúry a chudobných, dal pre svoju milovanú Františku po jej smrti vybudovať monumentálnu hrobku--mauzóleum, ktoré nemá v Košickom kraji obdobu.



Mausoleum of the Andrasians Krasnohorske podhradie --get to know the romantic life story of the last owner of the Krasno Horka castle, Count Dionyz Andras, who, because of his love for an opera singer without "blue blood", was separated from a proud noble family. This man, also known as a champion of the culture of the poor, had a monumental tomb--a mausoleum built for his beloved Frantisk after her death, which has no parallel in the Kosice region.

**Šťastný Valentín všetkým. Užite si
výnimočný deň a nech všetkým
prinesie radosť a šťastie.**





NSS Life ANNIVERSARY OFFER PROGRAM

Family Matters...



**EASY TO
APPLY**
SIMPLE ISSUE

**SPECIAL
CONSIDERATION!**
NO MEDICAL EXAMS!

QUALITY LIFE INSURANCE • LIMITED TIME ONLY * JANUARY THRU MARCH, 2025 *

The NSS Life Anniversary Offer uses our twenty-pay life plan (however you may use the single premium plan as well). The advantages of a permanent plan include cash/loan values, reduced paid-up insurance options, dividends and more. To apply for this limited time offer, please complete the below form and return it to the home office.



NSS Life
Family Matters...

The maximum amount of insurance being offered will depend on your age:

ISSUE AGES	MAXIMUM AMOUNT
0-50	\$10,000
51-65	\$7,500
66-80	\$5,000

**See other side for complete rate listings.*

There is a limit of one policy per person. Anyone previously declined since 1/1/23 is not eligible for this program. Also excludes terminally ill, permanently disabled and others. If you purchased this plan last year you are excluded from this year's offer. Other exclusions may apply. Rates are based on age nearest birthday.

NSS Life Anniversary Offer Program

If you or someone you know may be interested in this anniversary issue offer, please provide your/their name and contact information below and we will mail an application to you/them. Complete the application and return it to the home office. Further Recommender information available on pg. 2 of this newsletter.

Prospect Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Recommender Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Twenty Pay Whole Life Insurance Policy Rates (Rates based on Age Nearest Birthday)

Twenty Pay Life (\$10,000)				
Age	Male Annual Premium		Female Annual Premium	
	Non-Nicotine	Nicotine	Non-Nicotine	Nicotine
0	\$155.70	\$0.00	\$146.60	\$0.00
1	\$157.70	\$0.00	\$148.30	\$0.00
2	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$150.20	\$0.00
3	\$162.40	\$0.00	\$152.20	\$0.00
4	\$164.90	\$0.00	\$154.40	\$0.00
5	\$167.60	\$0.00	\$156.60	\$0.00
6	\$170.30	\$0.00	\$159.00	\$0.00
7	\$173.20	\$0.00	\$161.40	\$0.00
8	\$176.10	\$0.00	\$163.90	\$0.00
9	\$179.20	\$0.00	\$166.50	\$0.00
10	\$182.40	\$0.00	\$169.20	\$0.00
11	\$185.70	\$0.00	\$172.00	\$0.00
12	\$189.10	\$0.00	\$174.90	\$0.00
13	\$192.70	\$0.00	\$177.80	\$0.00
14	\$196.50	\$0.00	\$181.00	\$0.00
15	\$200.30	\$0.00	\$184.20	\$0.00
16	\$204.30	\$0.00	\$187.50	\$0.00
17	\$208.20	\$0.00	\$190.90	\$0.00
18	\$201.30	\$228.20	\$185.50	\$211.40
19	\$203.50	\$231.40	\$188.40	\$215.30
20	\$205.90	\$235.00	\$191.20	\$219.20
21	\$208.30	\$238.60	\$194.00	\$223.20
22	\$211.00	\$242.50	\$197.10	\$227.50
23	\$214.00	\$246.60	\$200.30	\$232.10
24	\$217.20	\$251.10	\$203.60	\$236.70
25	\$220.80	\$255.80	\$207.10	\$241.50
26	\$224.70	\$260.80	\$210.70	\$246.50
27	\$228.80	\$265.90	\$214.60	\$251.60
28	\$233.10	\$271.30	\$218.50	\$256.90
29	\$237.60	\$277.00	\$222.60	\$262.40
30	\$241.90	\$282.90	\$226.90	\$268.00
31	\$246.30	\$289.00	\$231.30	\$273.70
32	\$251.10	\$295.10	\$235.80	\$279.60
33	\$256.00	\$301.40	\$240.50	\$285.60
34	\$261.10	\$307.70	\$245.40	\$291.80
35	\$266.30	\$314.20	\$250.50	\$298.30
36	\$271.80	\$320.90	\$255.70	\$304.90
37	\$277.50	\$327.90	\$261.20	\$311.90
38	\$283.50	\$335.20	\$266.70	\$319.00
39	\$289.70	\$342.70	\$272.50	\$326.50
40	\$296.20	\$350.70	\$278.40	\$334.20
41	\$302.90	\$359.10	\$284.50	\$342.10
42	\$309.70	\$368.00	\$290.80	\$350.20
43	\$316.80	\$377.20	\$297.30	\$358.60
44	\$324.10	\$386.90	\$304.10	\$367.30
45	\$331.60	\$397.00	\$311.00	\$376.30
46	\$339.30	\$407.60	\$318.10	\$385.60
47	\$347.30	\$418.80	\$325.50	\$395.20
48	\$355.60	\$430.50	\$333.10	\$405.20
49	\$363.90	\$442.90	\$340.90	\$415.60
50	\$372.50	\$456.20	\$349.10	\$426.30

Twenty Pay Life (\$7,500)				
Age	Male Annual Premium		Female Annual Premium	
	Non-Nicotine	Nicotine	Non-Nicotine	Nicotine
51	\$285.90	\$352.73	\$267.98	\$328.13
52	\$292.65	\$364.05	\$274.28	\$336.98
53	\$299.85	\$376.05	\$280.73	\$346.28
54	\$307.50	\$388.65	\$287.40	\$356.10
55	\$315.45	\$401.78	\$294.30	\$366.38
56	\$323.93	\$415.65	\$301.50	\$377.10
57	\$332.85	\$430.13	\$308.85	\$388.35
58	\$342.30	\$445.35	\$316.58	\$400.05
59	\$351.83	\$460.95	\$324.68	\$412.50
60	\$361.58	\$477.68	\$333.15	\$425.63
61	\$371.25	\$494.70	\$342.00	\$439.43
62	\$381.08	\$509.55	\$351.38	\$454.50
63	\$391.35	\$523.58	\$361.65	\$470.78
64	\$402.23	\$539.55	\$372.53	\$487.88
65	\$413.85	\$558.08	\$384.00	\$506.10

Twenty Pay Life (\$5,000)				
Age	Male Annual Premium		Female Annual Premium	
	Non-Nicotine	Nicotine	Non-Nicotine	Nicotine
66	\$284.60	\$385.45	\$263.90	\$350.40
67	\$294.55	\$400.10	\$272.15	\$364.80
68	\$305.50	\$416.70	\$281.35	\$380.60
69	\$317.95	\$434.70	\$291.65	\$397.85
70	\$331.10	\$454.55	\$303.20	\$417.20
71	\$344.60	\$475.90	\$315.35	\$437.80
72	\$359.70	\$499.40	\$328.00	\$459.75
73	\$377.65	\$522.85	\$341.90	\$482.70
74	\$397.80	\$548.95	\$356.55	\$507.20
75	\$420.15	\$574.95	\$372.30	\$535.35
76	\$444.55	\$604.65	\$390.05	\$567.10
77	\$467.45	\$638.25	\$409.60	\$601.85
78	\$491.95	\$674.80	\$430.85	\$639.65
79	\$514.95	\$715.50	\$455.00	\$680.35
80	\$538.50	\$759.40	\$481.35	\$724.65

Other modes of payment are available including: **Semi-Annual (.52) • Quarterly (.265) • Monthly (.09) (Rate x Annual Premium)**



Youth Circle Page

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

A Jolly Good Time for L-161 Members

Santa came to visit all the good members of Assembly L-161 on Saturday, December 14th at Avonworth Community Park Cabin bringing gifts for everyone.

Before his arrival members were treated to lunch and had the opportunity to win a few extra prizes during some spirited games of Santa Bingo.

An enjoyable afternoon spent meeting some new friends and catching up with old acquaintances.

Thanks to the committee: Theresa Alan, Anna Mann, Carol Lako, Sue Ondrejco, Suzy Ondrejco and Mallory Collins for coordinating the event. And of course thanks to Santa for visiting with us!

Susan Ondrejco
Secretary/Treasurer



Note of Appreciation

Dear NSS Officers,

Thank you so much for your support! I am honored to be awarded the PVR scholarship and to have been selected for the Grogan Family Scholarship. I truly appreciate the financial aid and I can now pay for my first year of college and have a start at those to follow. Thanks for helping to make my dream a reality!

Carter Fox

2025 NSS Poetry/Literary Contest Deadline: March 14, 2025

Submit either a poem or a short essay for the chance to win and have your composition featured in the *National News*! This contest is a great opportunity for NSS Members of all ages to put on their thinking caps and show off their literary talents!

The prompt for the short essay is:

"Describe your favorite Fraternal Memory with NSS Life"

The rules are as follows:

1. All NSS Youth members (ages 5-16) and Adult members can participate. Members may submit one poem **OR** one essay each.
2. Poems may be any length up to two pages double spaced. Essays must be between 250-300 words.
3. Poem Topic is chosen by individual. Essay Topic must be written in response to the prompt provided.
4. Each poem or essay **MUST** be an original work created by the member and should be typed or handwritten clearly.
5. All entries must include: name, address, phone number, age, assembly/circle number, and t-shirt size.
6. Winners of each age category will have their submissions printed in the *National News*, NSS Social Media Accounts, and NSS Website.
7. Contest shall be judged under the following ages:
 - Keats - Ages 5, 6, 7
 - Angelou - Ages 8, 9, 10
 - Frost - Ages 11, 12, 13
 - Shakespeare - Ages 14, 15, 16
 - Poe - Adult
8. Prizes awarded in each level shall be as follows:
 - First Place - \$100.00
 - Second Place - \$50.00
 - Third Place - \$30.00

All winners will also receive a certificate of achievement and an NSS Life t-shirt.

9. Deadline for submissions is **March 14th**. All entries must be mailed to:

National Slovak Society
Attn: Bethany Bonnar
1301 Ashwood Dr
Canonsburg, PA 15317

or emailed to: bbonnar@nsslife.org

10. Entries will be judged by an outside professional. Decisions made by the judge will be final in all cases.
11. The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep and publish all submissions.

Please contact Member & Community Engagement Coordinator, Bethany Bonnar at bbonnar@nsslife.org or at **412-770-2093** if you have any questions.



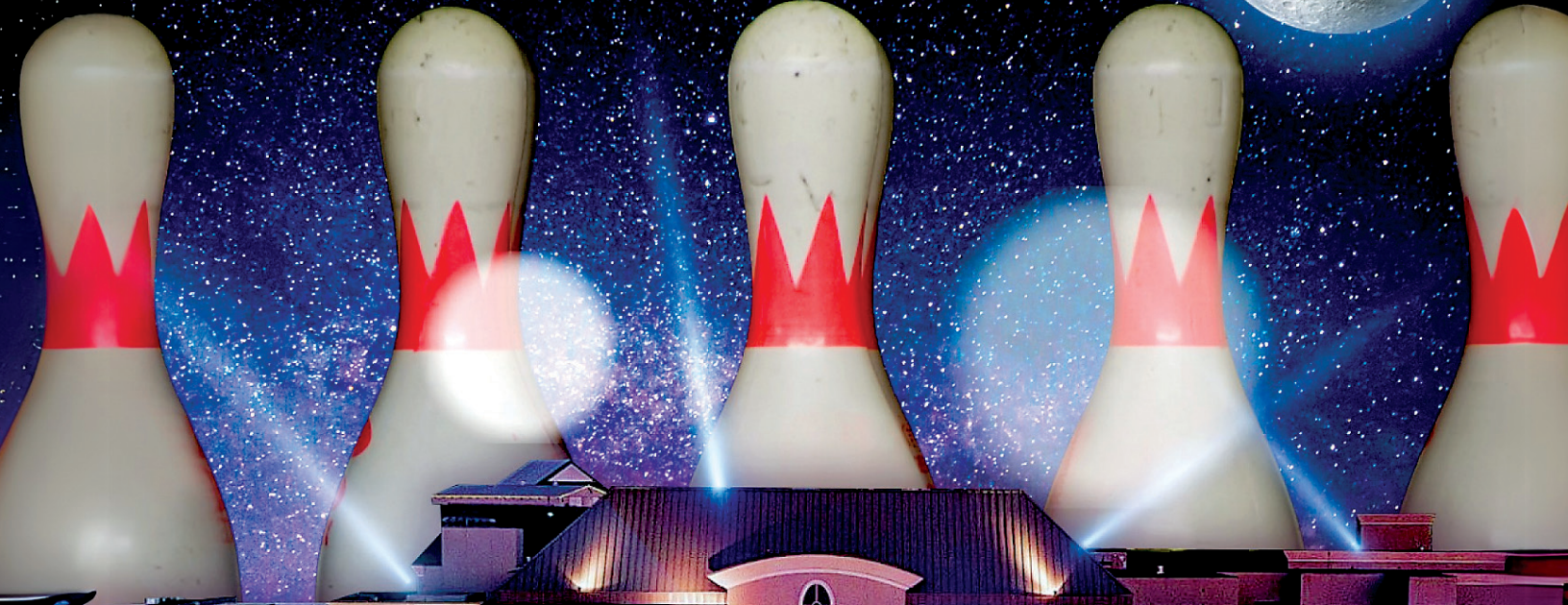
Proudly serving our members for 135 years!

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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HOLLYWOOD *Casino* AT THE MEADOWS



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210 Racetrack Road
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