



**NSS Life**  
Family Matters...

# National News

MARCH 2025

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**HOLLYWOOD**  
*Casino*  
AT **THE MEADOWS**



**2025 National Bowling Tournament • May 16 & 17, 2025**

**210 Racetrack Road**

**Washington, PA 15301**

25 miles southwest of Pittsburgh

**NSS Disaster Relief Fund  
Southern California Wildfires**

Pages 5-6

**National Bowling Tournament  
Registration Form and Rules**

Available to Download on our Website &  
Will be Included in our April Newsletter

**Literary/Poetry Contest  
and Art Contest Rules**

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# National Slovak Society

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## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

### EDITOR

Lori Crowley  
Published Monthly  
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Canonsburg, PA 15317

**Deadline: 5th of preceding month**

### 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

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

Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes, Moosic, PA  
 Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, KOC Hall, Pittson, PA at 12 Noon  
 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

March 9  
 March 9  
 March 11  
 March 22  
 March 29  
 April 7  
 April 27  
 May 10  
 June 8  
 June 8  
 June 20  
 August 3  
 September 14  
 September 22  
 October 12  
 October 12  
 November 2  
 December 7  
 December 7  
 December 7

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  
 Meeting, Agent Advisory Council, Home Office  
 Board of Directors Winter Meeting, Home Office  
 Assembly 0731, Phantom Hockey, Cevelli Center, Youngstown, OH at 6:00 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 0731, Golf Outing, Bedford Trails, Lowellville, OH  
 Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Que, Columbia Association Picnic Pavillion at 1:00 pm  
 Assembly 0731, Picnic/Baseball Game, Niles, OH at 5:00  
 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 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm, Poland, OH  
 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  
 Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, OH

### REGION 8

### Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

April 6  
 June 10  
 June 21  
 September 16  
 December 8

Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 11:00 am  
 Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00  
 Assembly 0432, Mini Golf, Fore Corners, Parma, OH at 2:00  
 Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00  
 Assembly 0432, Meeting/Christmas Party, Tony K's, Berea, OH at 7:00

### REGION 14

### Assemblies R059, L102

No Activities

### AT LARGE

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

March

Assembly 0800, Garage Sale, North Fort Myers, Florida at 9:00



## The President's Page...

**Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC, President, CEO**  
Email: [jstefka@nsslife.org](mailto:jstefka@nsslife.org)



A huge Groundhog Day gathering occurred early this Sunday morning on Gobblers Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, as Punxsutawney Phil emerged from his den and saw his shadow. According to Phil we will have six more weeks of winter weather. After a January with many snowy days and temperatures much below normal, this writer was hoping for the opposite prognostication from Phil. Looking forward to warmer temperatures and sunshine in the months to come!

On January 14, 2025, the National Slovak Society was honored to have visitors from the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C. visit our NSS Heritage Museum for a tour. The new Deputy Chief of Mission Matúš Hutka and Cultural and Public Diplomacy Counselor Stanislava Buchtová visited the Museum along with Honorary Pennsylvania Slovak Consul Joe Senko. The group was greeted by this writer, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin, and NSS Director and Heritage Museum Manager Sue Ondrejco. The first-time visitors to the Museum from the Embassy were impressed and donated several books from Slovakia for the Museum library. It was a great opportunity for the NSS to highlight our Museum and to discuss how we could work together in the future to promote our Slovak culture and heritage, keep abreast of current happenings in Slovakia, and participate in events at the Embassy. The day concluded with a luncheon for the visitors at a local restaurant. A photo of the group appears at the end of my article. During the month of March, we begin the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday on March 5th, celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, and

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday March 9th at 2:00 a.m. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour or you will be late for church that morning!

The Board of Directors Winter meeting will be held on Saturday, **March 22, 2025**. If you have any items you would like the Board to consider at the Winter Meeting, please submit them to our Secretary/Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin at the Home Office by March 7, 2025.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the recent wildfires in Southern California. NSS Assembly 568 is located near Los Angeles, California and many assembly members live in the area. If you have been affected by the wildfires, please let us know at the Home Office by contacting Executive Assistant Mary Lee Shingle ([mshingle@nsslife.org](mailto:mshingle@nsslife.org)) or Member and Community Coordinator Bethnay Bonnar ([bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org)) by email or calling 1-800-488-1890. In March of 2018, the NSS Board of Directors adopted a Disaster Relief Policy which provides a fraternal benefit to members affected by natural disasters like the wildfires. Information regarding the policy and how members can apply for funding through the Disaster Relief Policy is located in this issue and will also be placed on our website. The Executive Officers recently met and funded donations to two agencies in Southern California providing immediate aid to the victims of the recent wildfires.

Our next Agent Advisory Council Meeting will be held on **March 11th** in the Home Office. The group comprised

of some of our top producing agents meets quarterly to discuss ways to improve our sales processes, meet key Home Office personnel, and help NSS Life meet future milestones in our Strategic Business Plan.

The Fraternalist of the Year and Youth Achievement Award nominations are due on April 1st. We encourage each assembly to nominate a deserving member from your assembly for consideration for each of the awards. We have so many members that devote hours of their time volunteering to make their communities better places to live. Assembly leaders, please take the time to complete a nomination form to recognize those that have gone the "extra mile" to help others!

A reminder that the NSS Poetry/Literary Contest deadline is March 15th. Please be sure to follow the rules and submit your entry in either category. The contest is open to members of all ages!

## News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to NSS Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin, to NSS Directors Andrea Garbon and Theresa Zelman, to Home Office staff members Anaya Hall and Theresa Jacobs, to Jim Arbore, Carole Koches, and all others celebrating a birthday in March.

Happy Anniversary to all couples celebrating their special day in March!



**Members of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C. visiting the NSS Heritage Museum on January 14, 2025. (L-R); Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania; Stanislava Buchtová, Cultural and Public Diplomacy Counselor; Matúš Hutka, Deputy Chief of Mission; Joseph Stefka, Jr. NSS President; John G. Payerchin, NSS Secretary-Treasurer; and Sue Ondrejco, NSS Director and Museum Manager.**

# Letter from the President



**NSS Life.**

© Family Matters...

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**Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC**  
President/CEO

February 13, 2025

Re: NSS Disaster Relief Fund

Dear NSS Member,

Recently many areas of California were impacted by devastating wildfires, resulting in losses of property and lives. As a valued member of the National Slovak Society Family, we want you to know that we care and are willing to help provide support in this time of great need. Please call or send us a note to let us know you are okay and if you have been directly affected by this recent disaster. Please share this information with other members of your family or other NSS members who may have suffered losses in your area and might not receive this message due to the circumstances following the wildfires.

If you have suffered a financial loss not covered by insurance, the NSS Board of Directors in 2018 established a Natural Disaster Relief Fund available to all members as a fraternal benefit. The amount of the relief fund set by the Board of Directors is limited, so the number of awards and the amount of each award will be dependent upon the total number of claims submitted. We trust that any amount we are able to pay will help in some way. A summary page is included outlining the qualifications and criteria necessary to be considered for an award from the NSS Natural Disaster Relief Fund. We encourage you to apply for the award if you qualify.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, your family, friends, and others who may have been impacted by the wildfires.

Fraternally,

Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC

President & CEO

## Information Pertaining to the NSS Natural Disaster Benefit

Members who live in areas affected by natural disasters may be eligible to receive this Disaster Relief Fraternal Benefit upon meeting the following criteria:

Natural disasters include, but are not limited to:

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Wildfires
- Forest fires

The following qualifications apply:

- Must be federal or state declared disaster.
- Member must be in good standing.
- Maximum benefit per household is \$5000 regardless of number of calamities suffered by the family and/or the number of adult members affected.
- Benefit is for “out of pocket” expenses not reimbursed by insurance and/or relief from FEMA or other agencies
- Disaster Relief Application must be filed with the President or Secretary/Treasurer within 90 days of the occurrence.
- Photos and/or documentation of loss must accompany application.
- The NSS shall have sole discretion in determining payees and the dollar amounts of any awards.
- Disaster Relief Benefit does not cover damage resulting from water entering basement due to sewer backup or sump pump failure.
- Assemblies and Regions shall be notified and encouraged to add to the award.

How to apply:

- Contact the home office for a Disaster Relief Fraternal Benefit application.
- Mail the completed application with documentation of loss to:

**NSS Life**  
1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

For additional info about this benefit, please contact our Member & Community Engagement Coordinator, Bethany Bonnar at (412) 770-2093 or [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org)

## Celebrate World Hearing Day with Better Hearing

March 3rd is World Hearing Day. Organized every year by the World Health Organization (WHO), World Hearing Day aims to raise awareness on how to prevent hearing loss and promote better hearing healthcare around the globe. This year, the theme of World Hearing Day focuses on including hearing healthcare in overall health check-ups, like at your primary care appointments.

For years, research has shown a relationship between untreated hearing loss and other health issues like diabetes, heart disease, risk of falling and, predominately, cognitive decline. On top of that, in a 2018 study, participants who wore hearing aids were less likely to have gone to the hospital or emergency room the year prior. Better hearing can lead to better overall mental health as well. People with untreated hearing loss are more likely to experience loneliness and social isolation<sup>5</sup>. After all, hearing is an integral part of communication and connecting with others. When we hear our best, we are more alert, engaged, and independent.

Hearing loss can be caused by many things — noise, genetics, medication, or even something as simple as ear-wax. You’ll never know until it is evaluated by a hearing professional. Hearing should be as routine a check-up as the rest of your health and well-being; do you know what your hearing is? If not, World Hearing Day is the perfect day to find out!

Visit Start Hearing to learn more and take advantage of significant hearing aid discounts.

Call our Hearing Care Advisors at  
**(888) 705-6920**  
to take advantage of your exclusive discounts.  
[starthearing.com/partners/NSS](http://starthearing.com/partners/NSS)

**START**  **HEARING**

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## Secretary-Treasurer's Page

**John Payerchin, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO**

Email: [jpayerchin@nsslife.org](mailto:jpayerchin@nsslife.org)



Spring is right around the corner... so I keep telling myself. With the first Day of Spring Thursday, March 20th, we look forward to warmer weather, longer days, vacations, and family time. Daylight Savings Time also begins on Sunday, March 9th this year. And on March 17th we celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

As we end the first quarter of 2025 already, the accounting department, actuaries, and audit firm have been working on the end of year 2024 financials. They are set to be completed after I complete this article and will update you all next month. We continue to work on the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance exam that will be wrapping up in the next few weeks.

We received special visitors to the NSS Heritage Museum since my last article. Guests from the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., Stanislava Buchtová, Cultural and Public Diplomacy Counselor along with Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Matúš Hutka spent time in the museum. It was an amazing tour. Along with hearing their appreciation for the collection, the amazement of the wood carving, we discussed ways that we can work together to promote Slovak culture in America. I extend my personal thanks to both Stanislava and Matúš for their time and generosity.

The assembly packets have all been sent and should have been received by the appropriate assembly officer. If you did not receive a packet with updated forms, notices and important information related to your assembly reporting for 2025, please contact me and we will work to get you the material. All updated forms are also available on the website, [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org).

March also brings us the first board meeting of 2025. On March 22nd, the board will meet for our "winter" meeting. I have been working with the board and various committees on tasks and projects determined at the fall meeting in November. As a member of the PVR Scholarship Committee, I want to remind members, region and assembly leaders that we are working towards our goal of \$2 Million by the convention in June of 2026. Theresa Zemelman, the PVR President, has done an outstanding job updating members in the monthly magazine. Please be sure to track our progress and help us reach this goal. Something as simple as mailing a check to the Home Office for PVR Scholarship Fund or even naming the PVR Scholarship Fund as a beneficiary on your annuity can make a BIG difference in the lives of our members as they strive to complete their degrees.

Life insurance should be a valuable tool used by any person looking to start or complete their financial goals. As much as 40% of Americans do not have life insurance. 33% of insured Americans feel they are underinsured. Life insurance is not as complicated as it may seem. Contact your agent or the Home Office and allow us to show you how easy and inexpensive coverage can be. The death benefits are tax free, if taken as a lump sum. Protect your family and loved ones from financial burden when you are gone.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, your facts this month are related to St. Patrick himself. His birth name was Maewyn Succat, before he changed it to Patricius, meaning 'nobleman'. He was actually not born in Ireland but taken there as a slave as a teenager. He came back after becoming a priest in France and wore blue not green. He has never been formally canonized by the Catholic Church. But that will not prevent many Irish, and non-Irish, lads and lassies from raising a pint or two on Tuesday, March 17th.

And until next month, remember NSS Life can help you achieve peace of mind by providing financial security for today and tomorrow! God bless you all.

## 2025 Slovakia Heritage Tour

Let 2025 be the year you discover your Slovak homeland and reconnect with your family roots. Travel through the ever-changing landscapes. Rediscover the traditions you remember from childhood. Learn about Slovakia's history and why so many families left this beautiful country to settle in America. Walk your family's village streets and reconnect with the family who stayed behind.

Enjoy all of this and more – festivals, castles, music, outdoor heritage museums, the Tatry mountains – as a part of the popular **Fall Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 12-21**, or the new **Spring Slovakia Heritage Tour, June 20-29, 2025**.

"No matter how many generations their family has been in the States, Americans still have a longing to reconnect with their roots...the people, places, and lives that came before. It's in our DNA," said Judy Northup-Bennett, a Slovakia travel consultant who helps people with their Slovakia travel plans. Judy founded the Slovakia Heritage Tour in 2011 with Peter and Jane Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours who now operate the tours.

Judy said people love the relaxed pace of the small-group tour that people can personalize to meet their own travel plans. They have a very good success rate in working with travelers before the tour on genealogical research and reconnecting with relatives that stayed in Slovakia. "People like getting off the beaten-track where they can experience their own family history as well as tour Slovakia and meet Slovaks today."

For more information on these heritage tours and to discuss your personal family travel plans, please contact **Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144, [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com) or text 978-894-6622**. For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com).



# 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](http://www.nsslife.org) and login/register as a member.



### Key factors that affect the price of long-term care insurance:



Your age



Your health



The benefits you choose



**No one can prepare you for the death of your spouse, but having *life insurance* meant we could continue on with the life that Josh and I had begun.**

Liz Fiedler, whose husband died at 39





## From the Sales Department...

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



Roth IRA. A person must have earned income to contribute to a Roth. There is no age limit. So, a 15-year-old working a summer job may contribute and a 90-year-old part time employee may also contribute to a Roth. The maximum contribution is \$7,000 per year plus an additional \$1,000 (catch-up) if age 50 or older. A Roth IRA may be better suited for a young person because it has withdrawal options that a traditional IRA does not have. There are income guidelines for contributions. The key to receiving tax-free monies is two-fold. One, the account must be at least five years old and two, withdrawals should occur after age 59 ½. NSS always recommends that you consult with your tax advisor to see how this may work in your particular situation.

## Debit vs Credit Card



After a nice dinner at a restaurant, the bill arrives. Do you pay with a credit card or a debit card? The correct answer is at the end of this paragraph. The pros and cons of using a debit card. The bill is paid because the money comes out of your checking account. There is no big bill at the end of the month, no interest charges, and no late fees. A debit card does nothing to help your credit score. One final caveat about a debit card, don't use it if it is leaving your sight. The waiter that takes your card in the back to process could also use a skimmer to copy your info. If you use a payment device right on your table, then either card is acceptable. When using a credit card your liability is usually limited to \$50 thereby providing better fraud protection. If you usually pay your credit card bill in full each month then use the card. This helps with your credit score and if using a rewards card could have some other benefits. Do keep in mind that it is easy to overextend yourself with a credit card. Do not use it when you are trying to pay off a previous balance. Which card do you use? Probably the credit card. It is safer and provides you with an added layer of security.

## Life Insurance

A recent study by the Life Insurance Marketing and Research Association (LIMRA) concluded that more than 48 million Americans need some or more life insurance. 29 million people want to buy but they have questions. In the past year only 3 million bought more life insurance. Life insurance does a couple of amazing things for people.

**One** - It protects families from financial ruin.

**Two** - Life insurance steps into the picture with money after something bad has happened.

**Three** - Life insurance allows families to remain in their world to grieve and recover on their own timeline. And finally, life insurance is the sincerest love letter ever written to your family. Today, a life insurance policy has never been less expensive or easier to obtain.

Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for a free quote.

## Roth IRA

With the tax deadline quickly approaching many people may be thinking of IRAs and Roth IRAs. Know that you may be eligible to contribute to one or the other or both within the guidelines. Up until the tax deadline (April 15th) a contribution may be made for 2024 and/or 2025. People who need the tax deduction will probably choose the traditional IRA. Those who want tax-free monies later on will select a Roth IRA. Here is some basic information about



### Thought For The Month:

*"The secret to living well and long; 'eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure,'"*

*Tibetan proverb*

## The Community Corner

**Bethany Bonnar,**  
Member & Community Engagement Coordinator  
Email: [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org)



Looking for a way to kick the winter blues? NSS Life is here to (spring) break you from that winter slump with plenty of fun activities and events! See below for just a few ways to get involved! Check out NSS Life on social media (on **Instagram as @NationalSlovakSociety**, **Facebook as @NSS Life**, and **LinkedIn @NSS Life**) for even more event and activity information!

## 2025 National Golf Tournament

**Notice:** On the Dates to Remember insert attached inside the February issue of the *National News*, the dates for the 2025 National Golf Tournament were incorrect. The correct dates for the tournament are **July 18th-20th**. We are reprinting the correct calendar on the following page of this issue for members to remove and replace the previous calendar for ease of use. We apologize for the confusion and hope to see you at the event!

## 2025 National Bowling Tournament

Mark your calendars for the 2025 National Bowling Tournament! The tournament will be held at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows in Washington Pennsylvania. Teams will compete in the evening on Friday, **May 16th** and doubles/singles will compete in the morning on Saturday, **May 17th**. Come together with the members of GCU, SCS, and of course NSS Life for a weekend of fun and fraternalism!

You do not have to be a competitive (or even competent) bowler to participate! If you are participating “just for fun” feel free to leave the bowling information (like Highest Average and USBC Number) blank on the entry form. Registration form and Rules will be included next month in the April *National News* as well as downloadable on our website. Whether you’re coming to take home the top prize, or you just want to have some laughs with your NSS friends, we hope to see you there!

## 2025 Fraternalist of the Year Nomination

We are also currently accepting applications for 2025 Fraternalist of the Year Award! This annual award is given to an adult member of NSS Life who has showcased an outstanding commitment to volunteerism and activism. The winner of this award will also be featured in the *National News* and on our social media accounts. Additionally, the winner will receive the opportunity to select a charity to receive a \$500.00 donation made in their honor from NSS Life. See later on in this newsletter for the nomination form and more details. Completed nomination forms are due by **April 1, 2025**.

## 2025 Youth Achievement Award

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2025 Youth Achievement Award. This prestigious award is presented each year to an incredible young leader who has excelled in their commitment to their school/job, community, and church. NSS Life Members aged 18 and below are eligible to be nominated for this award and must be nominated by another member of NSS Life. Parents –if you AND your child both are NSS Life Policy Holders, we encourage you to nominate them for this award! Share with us the achievements of the outstanding young person in your life for the chance to be featured in a future edition of the *NSS National News* and on all NSS Social media platforms. The winner of this award will also receive a cash prize of \$500.00! The nomination form can be found later in this newsletter and is due by **April 1, 2025**.

## Senior Scholarships

At NSS Life, we encourage our members to be life-long learners. To encourage this, we offer all members ages 55+ to be reimbursed (up to \$100.00) for the tuition of a continuing education or adult education class! In your area, many local institutions will offer classes on painting, history, film, and more! The opportunities to learn are endless, and NSS Life is here to support your pursuit of knowledge! Members can complete up to two applications per calendar year, and the applications can be submitted at any time. The reimbursement application can be found online at [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org) or is available upon request by emailing [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org).

## Poetry/Literary Contest

The deadline for the contest is **March 15th**. There's still time to sit down and express yourself through words for a chance to win a cash prize. All submissions can be mailed to the home office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or email it to [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org). Rules can be found in last months issue.

## Social Media

If you've been putting off following NSS Life on social media – today is the day to change that! It's the best place to be to hear about what's happening both financially and fraternally at NSS Life! Follow us on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)**, **Facebook (@NSS Life)** and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)** to stay up to date on all things NSS.

### SIGN UP NOW!



READING MATTERS



READ LEAD SUCCEED

EMAIL [BBONNAR@NSSLIFE.ORG](mailto: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!



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

**2025**

# **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

**March 14th: Poetry Contest Deadline**

**April 1st: Youth Achievement Award  
& Fraternalist of the Year  
Nomination Forms Due**

**May 1st: PVR Scholarship Program  
First Year Applications Due**

**May 16th-17th: National Bowling Tournament  
Hollywood Casino at the Meadows  
Washington, PA**

**May 31st: Art Contest Deadline**

**July 18th-20th: NSS National Golf Tournament  
Tam O'Shanter Golf Course  
Hermitage, PA**

**July 15th: PVR Scholarship Program  
Renewal Transcripts Due**

**September 27th: NSS Heritage Museum Presents  
"Septemberfest"**

**October 31st: Pumpkin Decorating Contest  
and Photo Contest Deadlines**

**November TBD: NSS Heritage Museum Presents  
"Christmas Around the World"**

**December 1st: Christmas Ornament Contest Deadline**

**December 8th: Christmas Card Collection Deadline**

# 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 "extraordinary". 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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## ~ 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**

## ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

I want to begin by thanking Bethany Bonnar, our Member & Community Engagement Coordinator for sending hundreds of Christmas cards for our residents, in our eight nursing households here at Passavant Lutheran SeniorLife. Many of the residents do not have visitors and so the cards were a welcomed invitation to celebrate Christmas.

Parents and grandparents, the NSS program **"Reading Matters"** is an excellent opportunity to support your child's or grandchild's reading skills. Reading offerings (logs) are sent to your child. When the reading log is completed, it can be redeemed for a \$50.00 donation to the charity of your choice. More information in the *National News*.

Seniors, don't forget that scholarships are available to continue your education. A \$100.00 reimbursement is available for a completed and approved course. More information on the NSS Life website.

Our first meeting in 2025 will be held on Sunday, **March 9th** in the community room of the Bob Evans Restaurant in Uniontown starting at 6:00 pm. This will be our Annual Lenten Dinner. We are turning our clocks AHEAD on March 9th. Don't be late for the meeting. I hope to see you there to plan for 2025.

Stay warm and healthy,

**Paul Payerchin**  
Secretary/Treasurer

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## ASSEMBLY 0070 Brooklyn, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **April 6th** in the meeting room of Dr Martin Luther Church 4470 Ridge Rd, Brooklyn, Ohio at 11:00 a.m.

We will provide updates and plan activities for 2025. Refreshments will be served.

Please contact John Karkosiak at (216-741-6990) if there are any questions. Thank you.

**John Karkosiak**  
Treasurer

## ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA



Assembly L075 conducted matching funds for the Montage Mt. Ski Patrol for the third year. We made a basket, sponsored a Hole on Sept. 22nd and VP Lucy Piccoletti attended the dinner. She is with John Foster, Chairman and Joe his Co-Chair presenting the check. Nominations & election of officers were held at the October meeting. Congratulations to our current officers as they will continue for another two years. Installation of officers was held at the January Fraternal meeting: President, Gary Edwards; Vice President, Lucy Piccoletti; Sec/Treasurer, Lebrae Ann Edwards; and Installing officer, Marlin Petro-Wesnak, Region 2 President. Absent were: Fraternal Director William Wesnak and Hospitality Youth Director Patricia Gorgol. Marlin presented the assembly with a Thank You Card from the children of the Greenwood School for their angel tree gifts. Marlin, Lucy and Lebrae are with their shopping carts full of clothes & candy, and with the toy bags from five below. They also wrapped and sorted the gift bags for distribution.



Bone Appetite matching fundraiser for Region 2 was held on November 3rd at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre for the SPCA. A basket was sent for the event and members in the photo attended the dinner.

We sponsored a corn hole fundraiser for the Old Forge Diamond Devils softball team at Montage Mt. Veterans Day pizza party and bingo was on November 24th at the Wilkes-Barre VAMC. We provided pizza, holiday snacks and drinks during bingo for the Veterans and canteen books for each Veteran that attended.

In December we conducted our annual matching funds for Avoca Boy Scout Troop 316 at the Ladore Lodge Craft fair where we sold chili and hot dogs for the troop. Shown in are Lebrae Edwards and Dorothy Collins with Brandon Collins Scoutmaster and several Scouts.

We will conduct a matching funds for the Moosic Red Wings Softball Team on Feb. 1 for their Night at the Races by sponsoring a race and several members purchased horses to sponsor the girls.

Future dates for the 2025 year: **April 12, 2025**, Meeting at Grandes in Moosic, Join Hands Day **May 10, 2025** at noon at the KOC Hall in Pittston with the postal carriers, The fraternal summer picnic date is TBA along with the annual Veterans bingo on October 11, 2025 and in November.

For more information contact Lebrae Edwards 570-569-2181

**Lebrae Edwards**  
Treasurer



## ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

**Happy Spring, everyone!**

Just a few agenda items:

- Our Activities Director seat is still vacant.
- Nominations for Fraternalist of the Year and Youth Achievement Award are due April 1st (<https://nsslife.org/fraternal/forms>)
- Assembly 123 will meet **May 10th**, after serving at Global Links. Contact us for details at [nss123@email.com](mailto:nss123@email.com)

As always, we welcome your ideas for activities, service projects etc.

**Lyle Grover**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

**Welcome Spring!** Remember **April 1st** is the deadline to nominate a member for fraternalist of the year so please consider nominating that special person!

A meeting and luncheon will be held on **April 27, 2025** at Domenico's, 1565 Grand Boulevard, Monessen, PA at 3:00 p.m. Please bring a canned good for donation to the food bank.

Please RSVP one week prior to the meeting if possible to me at 724-207-3171 by text or a phone call or to our treasurer Bob Matko at 724-331-4122. Our future meetings are listed under Actiities At A Glance.

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

Mark you calendars for all of our meetings and activities for the year of 2025.

**June 10th** - Meeting at the Pytel residence, 25680 Timber Cove, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00 p.m.

**June 21st** - Fore Corners Mini Golf, 12980 W Sprague Rd, Parma, OH at 2:00 p.m. *Members age 17 and Under Play FREE! We will also pay for an ice cream treat at DQ after your*

*round! Come to this event. You don't want to miss it!*

**September 16th** - Meeting at the Pytel residence, 25680 Timber Cove, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00 p.m.

**December 8th** - Annual Christmas Party and Meeting at Tony K's, 841 W Bagley Rd, Berea, OH at 7:00 p.m.

**Shawn Pytel**  
Publicist & Social Media

## ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

A meeting will be held on Monday, **April 7th** at the Stefka residence, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 p.m. If you are planning to attend, contact Annette at 724-407-3591 so we can plan accordingly.

**Annette Stefka**  
Recording Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Mark your calendars for our assembly activities we have scheduled so far for 2025:

**March 29th, 6:00 p.m.** - Phantom Hockey game at Covelli Center, Youngstown, Ohio. Limited number of tickets available for \$10 per person which includes admission, party on the ice with hot dog, popcorn and pop. Contact Kathy Cessna for tickets.

**June 8th, all day** - Golf Outing at Bedford Trails, Lowellville, Ohio - Fundraiser to help support the efforts Mahoning County's Canfield Fair Junior Fair Board program called "Please Stay", focused on awareness, support, and prevention of youth suicides. Golfers and helpers needed.

**June 20th - 5:00 p.m.** - Picnic and Scrappers Baseball game at Eastwood Field, Niles, Ohio. Contact Laurie Fox to reserve ticket. (Free for assembly 731 members, \$25 for non-members)

**October 12th, 4:00-7:00 p.m.** - Halloween Hayride at Countryside Farm, Poland, Ohio (Free for members)

**December 7th, 2:00 p.m.** - Christmas Party at Rotary Room in Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, Ohio (Free for members - watch for details late summer.)

**Laurie Fox**  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0800 Bonita Springs, FL Winter Garage Sale

The Matching Funds project will be held on **March 1st** to help support All Saint Byzantine Catholic Church, North Fort Myers, Florida. Members and friends of the National Slovak Society will be on hand to help to sell all the many treasurers we have for sale.

Thanks to everyone in advance for making this a great success.

**Gary Cepko**  
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



## News from Assembly 0731

Officers and members met at the Cessna residence and spent a couple hours discussing and planning activities for this year. Each assembly officer and family in attendance received a nice 2025 wall calendar that was pre-printed with all NSS home office, Region, and Assembly events and deadlines. Everyone was encouraged to attend the events and to participate in all the contests. As we add new activities, members will be notified and can add to the calendar throughout the year. The calendar is loaded with photos taken at past events.

We approved donations to local charitable organizations: Operations Evergreen to help send Christmas Trees to troops overseas; Rosalie's Forever Footprints to help sponsor Santa's Express trip through local neighborhoods; Salem First Friends Church Youth Ministry to help support their Mission trip to Johnstown, PA this year; "Please Stay" Golf Outing to help support a program to help bring awareness and prevention of youth suicides.

We discussed ways to be involved with community non-profits such as: serve meals at Rescue Mission and/or St. Vincent DePaul Society, assist with collections to help women and families at Sojourner and/or Beatitude House, work with a Veterans group to place flags at cemeteries Memorial Day weekend, contribute to the efforts of Brightside Project to distribute food and necessities to those in need, help with fundraising for Please Stay Golf Outing and Youth Ministry Mission Trip, Chestnut Ridge Church shoe giveaway, Thanksgiving dinner, and Crossroads Church food & clothing drive.

Youth involvement during the meeting: New youth members were welcomed. Their names were entered into a drawing and one-year-old Johnny Fellows name was drawn to be the winner of a NSS sweatshirt. Youth members prepared 60 Valentines for local nursing home residents.



Winner of NSS sweatshirt.



Some members gathered for a photo showing their new 2025 calendar.



As in our past February meetings, after lunch attendees celebrate NSS Founders Day with cake.



Valentines prepared by our youth members for nursing home residents.

## Scenes from Assembly L102



Santa and Mrs. Claus were at the Matching Fundraiser for Camelot for kids. They were beyond excited and we had a great time at Camelot for childrens Christmas party.



Our national project for backpacks help to feed a lot of the less fortunate kids to have food over their holiday break.





## PVR Fund News

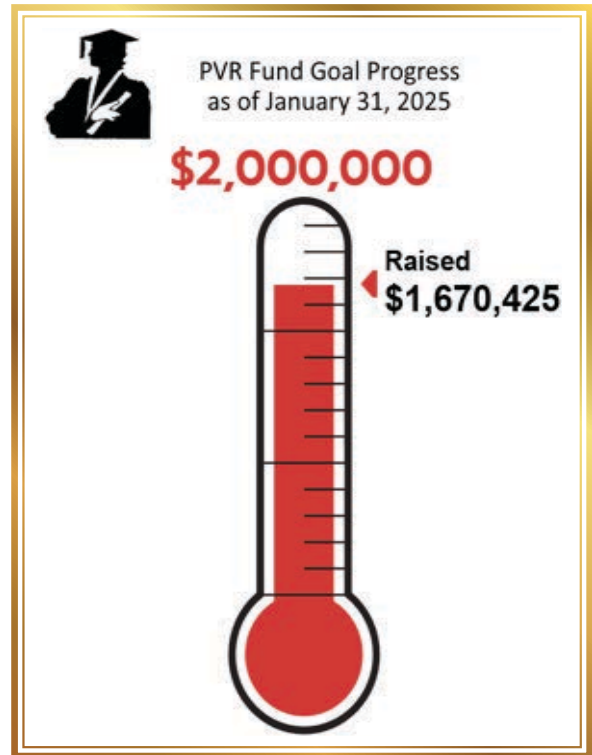
The year is Marching right along! The PVR Board sends thoughts of warm spring days to come to our members. Even though Spring officially starts this month, we all know that nature *marches* to the beat of her own drum!

Many thanks to all those who have donated to the PVR fund. The PVR Fund Board's goal is to increase our fund to \$2 million by the 2026 Convention. We are 16 months away, with **\$329,575** left to raise!

One of the best ways to help the PVR Fund is to hold a fundraiser to benefit the PVR Fund in your own assemblies. Hold a raffle, a fun run, or a bake sale, or other local event. These types of fundraisers are eligible for matching funds from the Home Office, up to \$500. See the guidelines for matching funds events, and the form to use when applying for matching funds, on our website under "Fraternal -> Forms."

You can also help by designating the PVR Fund as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy or annuity, by purchasing a leaf or acorn for display at the NSS Heritage Museum, or by funding a perpetual scholarship.

Many of our members have been recipients of a PVR Scholarship. The fund was established as a separate 501(c)(3) organization in 2004, but PVR Scholarships have been awarded for over 55 years, as you'll see from this month's PVR Profile. Thank you for your continued support!



## 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](mailto:jpayerchin@nsslife.org). Here is our latest PVR Profile:

**NAME: Joseph Stefka, Jr.**

**SCHOLARSHIP FIRST AWARDED: 1970**



I was one of three recipients of the NSS Scholarship (PVR) in June 1970, receiving a one-time scholarship of \$250. The Scholarship program was initiated at the 1966 Quadrennial Convention. The NSS Scholarship was awarded based on an essay that was submitted to the Supreme President of the NSS. I was able to find the essay that I wrote which was published in the June 15, 1970 Volume of the *Národné Noviny* in the NSS Heritage Museum Library. My essay focused on the development and growth of the Society from its inception, the ideals upon which the Society was founded, its impact on Slovak families, my involvement and my family's involvement in the NSS, and the importance of youth involvement to preserve the Society into the future. The essay ended with the following: "...we young American Slovaks should strive to uphold all the ideals and principles of the National Slovak Society. If we are to survive as a Society, based on the founding traditions as set forth by our founders, we must get involved alongside our leaders. We must be proud of our Slovak heritage and we must do our share to make our Society bigger and better than ever."

At the time of the essay, I had no idea where my career would take me. The scholarship helped me to buy books for my freshmen year at Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in education. Yes, two semesters of books cost \$250! Today, one book might cost that much. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and completed a Master of Education degree at IUP. I worked in the field of education for the next thirty-five and a half years. My positions included classroom teacher, guidance counselor, assistant principal, principal, central office administrator, and the last ten years as Superintendent of Schools, which required an additional certification and an additional 59 graduate credits. My involvement nationally with the NSS began in 1986 as an elected member of the NSS Tribunal; as a Director from 1990 through 2020, including six years as Chairman of the Board; and as your President & CEO since November 2020.

I think about the concerns facing fraternal benefit societies today and many are similar to those in the early 1970's. Growth, youth involvement, and making our cherished Society bigger and better than ever. When I wrote the essay as a high school senior, I had no idea that today I would be working with my fellow Executive Officers and Board of Directors, sharing my pride in the Society and helping to make the NSS the fraternal leader that it is today.

## 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](http://www.nsslife.org)**

## DEPARTED MEMBERS JANUARY 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Adams, Olga A	Weirton, WV	01/25/2025	0108
Albright, Shirley A	Markleton, PA	01/06/2025	0774
Aregood, Sandra	Orwigsburg, PA	12/31/2024	L102
Arnold, Shirley	Estes Park, CO	11/17/2024	0236
Balaz, Carol	Washington, PA	01/21/2025	0108
Baldauff, Mark J	Pittsburgh, PA	01/11/2025	0434
Barr, Mary F	Bethel Park, PA	08/30/2024	0123
Bickel, Patricia	Franklin, PA	01/07/2025	0731
Bicko, Mary	Johnstown, PA	12/12/2024	0267
Blobner, Albert	Pittsburgh, PA	12/28/2024	L161
Block, Dolores A	Beaver, PA	01/11/2025	0123
Boggs, Clarence	Spencer, WV	12/08/2024	0774
Bowers, Doyle Eugene	Winter Haven, FL	06/17/2024	0813
Brumagin, Wayne P	Butler, PA	11/05/2024	0123
Brunner, Richard	Gilbertsville, PA	12/24/2024	L102
Buttermore, Elma L	Zelienople, PA	12/24/2024	0774
Calcara, Janet K	Charleroi, PA	01/12/2025	0377
Carpinelli, Kimberly	Greensburg, PA	12/25/2024	0737
Carstetter, Richard H	Lower Burrell, PA	12/13/2024	L105
Chanda, Margaret	Amityville, NY	03/27/2024	0110
Cherry, Anne L	Leechburg, PA	01/11/2024	0774
Coghill, Leona M	Oak Brook, IL	01/16/2024	0586
Cooper Sr, Robert	Hickory, PA	12/11/2024	0774
Cooper, Clyde	Birdsboro, PA	01/23/2025	L102
Cordisco, Chiara Malta	Bentleyville, PA	01/05/2025	0377
Cotter, Velia M	Pittsburgh, PA	12/31/2024	0100
Cover, Maxine	Altoona, PA	12/28/2024	0267
Crosby, Richard	Gaithersburg, MD	12/30/2024	0737
DeCecco, James	Apollo, PA	12/14/2024	L105
Decker, Alvin P	McKeesport, PA	01/10/2025	0100
DeFresco, Virginia	Birdsboro, PA	01/19/2025	L102
Dery, Ann Margaret	Tucson, AZ	05/30/2024	0774
Diana, Phillip J	Pittsburgh, PA	12/30/2024	L161
Dinh, Lien Thi	Middletown, PA	01/20/2025	L102
Donahoo, Ellen	Scenery Hill, PA	01/21/2025	0377
Ecoff, Patricia	Sewickley, PA	12/09/2024	0123
Edeburn, Grace	Pittsburgh, PA	12/25/2024	0100
Ernst, Mary	Pittsburgh, PA	01/12/2025	0100
Evans, Mary V	Mingo Junction, OH	01/09/2025	0588
Ferraro, Thomas	Butler, PA	01/13/2025	0123
Fisher, Nancy Jane	Monroeville, PA	01/16/2025	L105
Flynn, Dorothy	Pittsburgh, PA	12/19/2024	L161
French, Alice Kammerer	Greensburg, PA	12/12/2024	0737
Galdony, Karen C	Monaca, PA	11/26/2024	0123
Giesey, Rita	Ligonier, PA	12/12/2024	0737
Gordick, Patricia	Weatherly, PA	12/19/2024	L102
Greco, Cheryl	Seneca, SC	12/25/2024	0731
Guterry, Janet E	Ford City, PA	03/08/2024	0554
Haefner, Hazel M	Cranberry Twp, PA	10/12/2024	L161
Hartley, John	Charlestown, WV	12/07/2024	0774
Hepler, Betty	Apollo, PA	12/19/2024	L105
Hileman, Blanche E	Kittanning, PA	10/22/2024	L105
Hodder, Calvin	Canonsburg, PA	01/07/2024	0434
Hrutkay, Laura T	Bentleyville, PA	01/06/2025	0377
Huffman, Caroline K	Saltsburg, PA	01/08/2025	L105
Indyk, Angeline	White Oak, PA	11/28/2024	0737
Jarecki, Elaine	Bridgewater, NJ	12/09/2024	R059
Johns, Krisha	Herminie, PA	01/19/2025	0737
Johnson, James B	Washington, PA	11/08/2024	0588
Johrde, Charlene H	Bedford, NH	08/22/2019	0434
Jones, George	Pittsburgh, PA	12/23/2024	0588
Jurkovic, Roxie	Erie, PA	12/26/2024	0774
Kalenak, Mary	Mt Pleasant, SC	12/24/2024	0774
Kauffman, Linda	Blandon, PA	01/04/2025	L102
Keifer, Gloria	Doylestown, PA	01/12/2025	R059
Kelley, Candis A	Monongahela, PA	01/09/2025	0377
Kemmery, Arvida	North Huntingdon, PA	12/22/2024	0737
King, Laurie	Lower Burrell, PA	12/23/2024	L105
Kobli, Ronald	Erwinna, PA	12/12/2024	R059
Kolb, Rita Joan	Wilton, CT	01/11/2025	0774
Labruzzo Sr, Norman	Meadville, PA	01/06/2025	0554
Lafferty, Paula	Altoona, PA	01/21/2025	0267
LaQuay, Thurstia	Timberlake, NC	01/02/2025	0774
Lario, Edward M	Belle Vernon, PA	12/18/2024	0377
Lebbano, Carole M	Indiana, PA	12/31/2024	0554
Lee, Elden W	Jackson, MI	11/20/2024	0381
Lindsey, Wynne	Seminole, FL	01/17/2025	0800
Lloyd, Patricia J	Westover, PA	12/06/2024	0554
Lodovico, Thomas	Beaver, PA	12/16/2024	0123
Loughry, Daniel J	Greensburg, PA	12/18/2024	0737
Luchsinger, Donna Lee	Blairsville, PA	10/11/2024	0774
Lundberg, Michael	Warren, PA	12/28/2024	0731
Macdonald, Angus	Bethel Park, PA	12/27/2024	0434

# DEPARTED MEMBERS JANUARY 2025

(Continued from page 18)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Mako, Helen	Wolfeboro, NH	01/10/2025	0110
Marino, William	Colliers, WV	11/05/2024	0774
Marti, M Jean	Pittsburgh, PA	01/18/2025	0100
Matus, Janice	Monongahela, PA	10/25/2024	0377
Mazur, Elizabeth	Green Valley, AZ	11/16/2024	0381
Mc Allister, Marion C	Romeo, MI	01/07/2025	0381
Mc Anallen, Jean E	Washington, PA	03/11/2024	0588
Mc Beath, Terry	Findlay, OH	01/14/2025	0160
Mc Crea, Phyllis E	Cabot, PA	12/17/2024	0123
Mc Daid, Glenn E	Eighty-Four, PA	10/28/2024	0434
Mc Kinney, Dorothy E	Allison Park, PA	01/09/2025	0108
Mc Mahon, Alice O	Whiteland, IN	12/31/2024	L105
McLaughlin, Antionette	Donora, PA	01/11/2025	0377
McLaughlin, Rebecca	Marlinton, WV	09/28/2024	0774
Melnick, Julia A	Indiana, PA	01/09/2025	0737
Meloni, Luigina	Cheswick, PA	01/20/2025	L161
Mertz, Larry	Bethel Park, PA	01/12/2025	0123
Mico, Angela	Pittsburgh, PA	12/11/2024	L161
Miller, Catherine	Cochran, PA	12/28/2024	0731
Minch, Joseph W	Mingo Junction, OH	01/25/2025	0774
Minchak, Helen	Yonkers, NY	11/04/2024	0110
Mirich, Iris	Burgettstown, PA	12/08/2024	0588
Nicodemus, Joann	Charleroi, PA	01/21/2025	0377
Nurse, Patricia A	Grosse Pt Woods, MI	06/10/2023	0381
Oehmke, George Roger	Hudson, PA	02/15/2024	R059
Olhanoski, Al	Drums, PA	11/12/2024	0281
Ondick, Richard A	Land O Lakes, FL	08/19/2023	0441
Orris, Mary E	Saxonburg, PA	12/18/2024	0100
Pakenas, James	Warminster, PA	12/22/2024	R059
Palahunik, Michael	Moon Twp, PA	11/18/2024	L161
Palo, Vincent R	Republic, PA	12/04/2024	0377
Parker, Shirley Y	Mohnton, PA	12/29/2024	L102
Pashakarins, Kimberly	Apollo, PA	12/09/2024	L105
Pesek, Joseph R	Mercer, PA	12/12/2024	0731
Pienody, Paul C	Greensburg, PA	12/09/2024	0737
Polcha, Nancy	Indiana, PA	12/17/2024	L105
Pruden, Beryl Jean	Hamilton, TX	06/13/2024	0774
Ray, Marie	Greensboro, NC	12/06/2024	0774
Reed Sr, John	Coburn, PA	12/25/2024	L040
Reppert, Donna	Rostraver Twp, PA	12/06/2024	0377
Ridenour, Esther M	Scottdale, PA	01/07/2025	0039
Robinette, Berylene	Bluefield, WV	12/16/2024	0774
Rodgers, Arlene R	New Castle, PA	12/23/2024	0731
Rogers, Dennis J	Erie, PA	11/23/2024	R059
Rolewski, Bernadette	Pittsburgh, PA	01/06/2025	L161
Rubin, Bonita	Pittsburgh, PA	01/03/2025	0100
Rupinsky, M Darlene	Export, PA	01/03/2025	L105
Schappell, Barbara	Leesport, PA	01/12/2025	L102
Scott, Bernice	Pittsburgh, PA	01/07/2025	L161
Seaman, Loretta L	Pittsburgh, PA	12/24/2024	0108
Sebek Jr, John	Sevierville, TN	06/26/2024	0586
Shanks, John	Waverly, OH	01/13/2025	0595
Showalter, Robin Marie	Carnegie, PA	12/28/2024	0123
Smith, Gerald	Cabot, PA	12/23/2024	0123
Smith, James	Jeffersonville, PA	11/10/2024	0595
Smorada, Dennis	Uniontown, PA	12/30/2024	0039
Staab, Esther I	Cranberry, PA	01/20/2025	0731
Stahl, Margie	Port Matilda, PA	12/19/2024	0267
Stini, Caroline A	Marshfield, WI	08/21/2024	0774
Strong, Phyllis A	Mattoon, IL	01/13/2025	0586
Sullivan, William L	Meadville, PA	12/03/2024	0731
Sumney, Scott	Scenery Hill, PA	01/22/2025	0377
Swan Jr, Stanley	Live Oak, FL	12/09/2024	0377
Swoffer, David	Wernersville, PA	12/22/2024	L102
Sypek, Linda	Agawam, MA	01/11/2025	0774
Tankosh, Carolyn Ann	Aliquippa, PA	12/05/2024	0123
Taub, Sandra	Philadelphia, PA	12/07/2024	0774
Tomaskovic, Irene A	Darien, IL	10/30/2024	0586
Underwood, Latricia	Marlinton, WV	12/06/2024	0774
Uram, Martin	Pittsburgh, PA	12/17/2024	0100
Urbanski, Norman	Glassport, PA	01/14/2025	0108
Vassalotti, Catherine R	Warrington, PA	01/18/2025	L102
Vesio, Dominick V	Rostraver Twp, PA	01/12/2024	0377
Wallace, Faith	Monessen, PA	12/31/2024	0377
Walsh, Shirley M	Marshfield, WI	10/02/2024	0774
Ward, James K	Claysville, PA	12/21/2024	0588
Wertz, Lee E	Tyrone, PA	11/25/2024	0267
West, Bob	Rocky Hill, CT	12/25/2024	0813
Whiting, Dollie M	Elizabeth, PA	08/11/2023	0039
Woodford, James	Freedom, PA	01/09/2025	0123
Woosley, Mary	Lorado, WV	11/26/2024	0774
Yackimowicz, Jessica	Kingston, PA	11/17/2024	0617
Youndt, Janet	Mohrsville, PA	01/06/2025	L102
Yurchak, Marie	Tamaqua, PA	12/27/2024	0774



## 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.
4. Your donation is tax deductible.

## PVR Scholarship Fund Donations January, 2025

In Memory of **Irene Tomaskovic:**  
From Assembly 0586.....200.00

In Memory of **Elizabeth "Betty" Fund:**  
From husband Fred Fundy ..25.00

In Memory of **A-0123 Departed Members:**  
**Gail W. Druga**  
**Martha J. Pietsch**  
**Red Steinacker**  
From Assembly 0123.....100.00

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

**Donations:**  
Assembly 0039 Christmas  
Party .....440.00  
Assembly 0039 Matching  
Funds Contribution.....440.00  
Assembly 0731 .....200.00  
Assembly 0731 Matching Funds  
Contribution .....200.00  
Assembly L075 ..... 20.00



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](mailto: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***





## Čo nás čaká tento mesiac?

Mesiac, kedy k nám prichádza jar, je konečne tu a my si myslíme, že sila prichádzajúceho slnka zdvihne nielen nášho ducha, ale aj náladu.

Čas nových začiatkov - Sny môžu byť znovu prebudené a môžeme byť vedení k nasledovaniu mágie farebných kvetov a spievajúcich vtákov.

### Veľky pôst

40 dní je rozumná miera. Mnoho veľkánov a múdrych ľudí uznávalo, že miera 40 dní je zdravá miera pre telo i dušu.

40 dní púšte,

40 dní ticha,

40 dní samoty so sebou i s Bohom,

40 dní dôverného rozhovoru duše s Bohom,

40 dní osvieženia,

40 dní zriekania sa falošných ciest a nepodstatných vecí.

Stalo by to za úvahu, čo z tých 40-tich dní, ktoré sú pred nami, urobíme. Či sa skutočne vedome necháme viesť Duchom, či sa dáme vyviesť na púšť.

### Gazdovská Múdrost'

Aj boháč sa môže stať chudobným.

Aj ten najsmutnejší vtáčik si niekedy zaspieva.

Ani malá lož sa nevypláca.

Boháč má priateľov všade, a chudobný ich nemá ani medzi svojimi.

### 8. Marec - MDŽ

Európania slávia medzinárodný deň žien 8-meho marca - veru aj na slovensku v tento den vzdávajú hold matkám-ženám. Deti sa učia básničky aby matky a ženy pekne oslovili, muži však gratulujú ženám kýticou.



### Morena naša, kde si prebývala...

Príchod najkrajšieho ročného obdobia bol na území Slovenska oddávna spájaný s rôznymi ľudovými tradíciami.

Jednou z nich, ktorá má korene ešte

v predkresťanskom období, je vynášanie

Moreny (Marmurieny,

Mureny), slamenej figuríny odetej do ženských šiat.

Morena symbolizovala slovanskú bohyňu zimy a smrti. Morenu nosili ľudia po dedine a nakoniec podpálil a hodili ju do potoka.

Verili, že takto odoženú od seba choroby, ba aj smrť. Tento zvyk si možno vykladať rôzne. Podľa jedných slamená figurína

symbolizovala zimu, ktorej odchod mal otvoriť cestu pre nástup jari a po nej leta. Podľa iných bola Morena zosobnením smrti a jej likvidácia mala zabezpečiť prosperitu celej obci. A pre staré

dievky bol tento zvyk veľmi dôležitý. Museli pozorne sledovať, na ktorú stranu Morena bude plávať a pri ktorej strane sa

zastaví. Ak to bolo blízko nejakej chalupy a býval v nej slobodný mládenec, ten jej mal byť aj súdeným.

Zvyk rozlúčky so zimou a privítania jari sa na Slovensku uchoval aj po prijatí kresťanstva. „Morena, Morena! Za koho's umrela?"



### Výraznejšie dni v Marci

14. Marec – Vyhlásenie prvej Slovenskej Republiky (1939)

19. Marec - Méno Jozef

Na Jozefa slniečko dáva chlieb a vínečko.

### Jánošíkovská legenda



Zbojníctvo má v slovenskom folklóre osobitné postavenie a najmä jánošíkovská tradícia sa rozvila do nebyvalých rozmerov. Ľudia videli v Jurajovi Jánošíkovi symbol slobody a odporu voči sociálnej nespravodlivosti.

Jánošíkovskú tému možno nájsť azda vo všetkých umelckých prejavoch. Objavuje sa vo výsostne ľudových i moderne spracovaných piesňach, povestiach, rozprávkach, básniach a románoch. Výjavy zo zbojníckeho života boli najmä v minulosti námietom obrazov maľovaných na sklo, keramických a rezbárskych prác a výzdob z najrozmanitejších predmetov-črpákov, valašiek, fujar a pod.



# Youth Circle Page

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

## 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 hand-written 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 - \$30.00All 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 15317or emailed to: [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto: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](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org) or at **412-770-2093** if you have any questions.

## 2025 May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

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

Age Groups:

  - Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
  - Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
  - Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
  - Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16\*
  - Warhol - Adult (Age 17+)
10. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:
  - First Place..... \$100.00
  - Second Place..... \$ 50.00
  - Third Place..... \$ 30.00

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

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

Judging will be done by an outside professional.

Decisions of the judge shall be final in all cases.

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

## Letters 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**

Dear PVR Committee:

Thank you so much for the gift it is greatly appreciated. College is going well, I am having lots of fun and enjoying the fact that I am able to receive higher education. Thank you again!!

**Lauren Mahoner**

Dear PVR Committee:

My name is Christina Mahoner. I was chosen to receive a PVR Scholarship from the NSS. I appreciate this and will help me with expenses as I go on my college journey which has been so amazing. Thank you! Have a great weekend. Go Eagles!

**Christina Mahoner**

Dear President Stefka and PVR Committee:

Thank you for the educational stipend. Your continued support is greatly appreciated while I continue to pursue my degree as a student athlete.

**Arlo McIntyre**

Dear NSS:

I am writing to express my gratitude for granting me the NSS Life PVR Scholarship for the past four years. Your investment in my education and generosity means so much to me. I am very appreciative for the financial support to help me achieve my academic goals. I am currently a second semester senior who will graduate this spring. After graduation, I plan to attend medical school to become a doctor of Osteopathic medicine. Thank you again for the financial assistance and support the past four years.

**Julia Strine**

## New Youth Members Where Family Matters



**Charolette P. Faett**, Assembly #0586 was born on December 3, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois. The proud grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Norman Faett. Congratulations to mom and dad.

## Assembly 0377



Our assembly welcomes a new member thanks to the generous and loving gift of NSS member Kathleen Moore. She gifts her fourth great-grandchild life insurance. Pictured is **Kathleen with her newest great-granddaughter, Dolly Grace**. Dolly is the daughter of current members Courtney and Huey Gillispie, granddaughter of members Jodie and Michael Korpus. A special thank you to Kathleen for insuring her great-granddaughter. Also, congratulations to Courtney and Huey Gillispie.

## What is Ash Wednesday?

In 2025, like in every year, Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. It always falls six and a half weeks before Easter, beginning the Lenten season of preparation for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**Origin** - Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th century. Yet, the tradition of receiving ashes has even earlier roots — to the ancient Hebrew custom of clothing oneself in sackcloth and dusting oneself with ashes as a sign of penance. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on March 5, 2025.

APPLY FOR  
**SCHOLARSHIP**

National Slovak Society  
1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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*Family Matters...*



FOUNDED IN **1890**, SERVING OUR  
FAMILIES FOR OVER **135 YEARS**



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