

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

MAY 2025

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Tam O'Shanter of Pa

NSS National Golf Tournament • July 18-20, 2025 • Tam O'Shanter Golf Course • Hermitage, PA

See Pages 9-11





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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
May 10	Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, KOC Hall, Pittson, PA at 12 Noon
May 17	Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm
June 8	Region 2, Moosic 5k Run/Walk at 9:00 am
July 10	Assembly 0617, Meeting, Amber Donia Bakery, Kingston, PA at 1:00 pm
July 26	Region 2, Concert for Paws II, Lighthouse Inn, W. Wyoming, PA at 4:30 pm
August 7	Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park, at 12:30 pm
November (TBA)	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
May 1	Assembly L161, Meeting, Dukes Upper Deck, Homestead, PA at 7:00 pm
May 4	Assembly 0737, Meeting, Time and place to be announced
June 8	Assembly 0731, Golf Outing, Bedford Trails, Lowellville, OH
June 8	Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Que, Columbia Association Picnic Pavilion at 1:00 pm
June 20	Region 5, Pirate Night, PNC Park at 6:40 pm
June 20	Assembly 0731, Picnic/Baseball Game, Niles, OH at 5:00 pm
June 14	Assembly 0123, Global Links, Pittsburgh, PA at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
July 17	Slovak Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA
July 18-20	NSS National Golf Tournament, Hermitage, PA
August 3	Assembly 0377, Meeting/Picnic, Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm
September 14	Assembly 0039, Fall Meeting, Bob Evan's Restaurant, (Community Room) at 6:00 pm
September 22	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
October 12	Assembly 0377, Meeting/Luncheon, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
October 12	Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm, Poland, OH
November 2	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
December 7	Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbia Association Social Hall at 2:00 pm
December 7	Assembly 0377, Christmas Party/Meeting, Hugo's, West Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
December 7	Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, OH
REGION 8	Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595
May 11	Assembly 0004, Meeting, Vorell residence, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 pm
June 10	Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00 pm
June 21	Assembly 0432, Mini Golf, Fore Corners, Parma, OH at 2:00 pm
September 16	Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00 pm
December 8	Assembly 0432, Meeting/Christmas Party, Tony K's, Berea, OH at 7:00 pm
REGION 14	Assemblies R059, L102
May 11	Assembly L102, Join Hands Day Butztown Post Office at 12 noon.
May 15	Assembly L102, Matching Funds, Fellowship Manor Theater at 5:00 pm
May 25	Assembly L102, Ironpigs Baseball Game, Coca-Cola Park, Allentown, PA at 6:30 pm
June 16	Assembly L102, Matching Funds, Golf Tournament for Fellowship Manor
August 9	Assembly L102, Summer picnic, Gross's residence, Tripoli, PA at 2:00 pm
AT LARGE	Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813
May 4	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN t 1:00 pm
May 22	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
June 14	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
July 20	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
August 17	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 2:00 pm
September 28	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
October 27	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
November 16	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
November 26	Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL (TBA)

The President's Page...

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



The month of May brings us several holidays. Mother's Day is celebrated on May 11th, Armed Forces Day is celebrated on May 17th, and Memorial Day is observed on May 26th.

Mother's Day is a day designated to honor mothers for all the special things they have done throughout our lives. The special bond between a mother and her children begins at birth and develops and deepens as the years go by. Little daily tasks to make the life of their child special and meaningful are done routinely. As each of us grew older, we began to realize the importance of the sum of all the things that our mothers did for us. The life lessons that mothers teach to their children play an important role in the life of the child and make each of us a better person as we become adults. Please take time on Mother's Day to express your gratitude to your mother for all the special moments, life lessons, and love that she shared with you. Please let your mother know how much she is appreciated and make her day as special as she has endeavored to make each day for you! Be sure to pause and remember those mothers that are no longer with us. Their love and life lessons will continue in us forever!

Memorial Day is a day established to remember all the brave United States service men and women who have died serving our country to preserve the freedoms we all enjoy. The day also marks the unofficial beginning of the summer season and often involves families and friends getting together for cookouts. While enjoying the fun on that day, please be sure to remember the real reason for the holiday and honor those that gave the ulti-

mate sacrifice for our Country. The NSS Home Office will be closed for business on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.

The Virtual Winter Board Meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Saturday, March 22, 2025. The Directors were provided with written reports from all NSS Department Managers. Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar presented a virtual report regarding the past, present, and future initiatives for the department; Sales Director Greg Felton presented an in-person report on Sales and future considerations; CPA Don Reddinger presented a virtual overview of the 2024 Annual Statement; and Asset Manager Larry White presented a virtual report regarding investments; and NSS Legal Advisor Ron Cooper presented an in-person legal report. The Board of Directors voted to reduce the crediting rate for the Preferred 8+ First Year Bonus Rate to 6.0 % and the Optimum 3 crediting rate to 4.75% beginning on April 1st. The new rates can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *National News*. The Directors also approved three applications for funding as a fraternal benefit in the NSS Disaster Relief program.

The Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, **May 30, 2025**, through Sunday, **June 1, 2025**. If you have any items to be considered by the Board of Directors, please submit them to NSS Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin by May 16, 2025.

The 59th Annual NSS National Golf Tournament will be held **July 18 – 20, 2025**, at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course located in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. NSS Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar has all plans for the exciting weekend in place. Lodging for the tournament will be at the Hampton Inn in West Middlesex, Pennsylvania. The weekend will kick-off with practice rounds on Friday afternoon followed by Hospitality Night and Qualifying Rounds for the Putting Contest at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. This is the 10th time that Tam O'Shanter has been the site of the NSS National Golf Tournament. The website for Tam O'Shanter indicates that it is 'Proud to be rated a four-star golf course by Golf Digest and considered "One of Pennsylvania's Fin-

est Public Courses".' The staff at Tam O'Shanter has always been exceptional and made each of our tournaments at the location an enjoyable experience! Saturday will be an 18-hole handicap event and Sunday will be an 18-hole scramble event. The Saturday evening Annual Golf Banquet will be held at the Corinthian located in nearby downtown Sharon, Pennsylvania. The Board of Directors has again continued an incentive to increase attendance for golfers and non-golfers for the weekend. The entry form, tournament rules, and details regarding the tournament appear elsewhere in this edition. Please make plans to join us for an exciting weekend of fun, golf, and fraternalism at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in July.

A reminder that the May Art Contest deadline is May 31st. Parents and grandparents, please encourage our youth members to enter the contest and earn points for your assembly in the Active Assembly Growth Extra Effort Awards. The additional money earned by the assembly in the program will help to provide future events and activities for your assembly. The May Art Contest also has an Adult Category again this year. Please remember to send in your entry for the contest by the deadline.

News of Narodniars

Happy May Birthday wishes to our retired NSS Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Linda Strom, to Home Office staff members Pam Blum, Elizabeth Branimarti, and Maureen Schantz; to our Legal Advisor Ron Cooper, Patty Graham, Kayla Whitlach, Michael Gross, Sharon Wesnak, Florence Bebo, Cathy Cilia, Tom Kearney, and all other NSS members celebrating a birthday during the month of May!

Happy Anniversary wishes to everyone celebrating a wedding anniversary during the month of May! Enjoy your special day!



Secretary-Treasurer's Page

John Payerchin, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Email: jpayerchin@nsslife.org



As the temperature begins to rise and the sun begins to shine brighter and longer, school is finishing, Memorial Day will kick off the 'Unofficial' start of summer! Vacations and time with family and friends are at the forefront of our minds. Take the time to reflect on the mission of NSS, *"To provide our fraternal family with a sustainable measure of financial security via life and annuity products: while offering charitable, cultural, social and educational opportunities that benefit our members and their communities."* We provide the peace of mind for you to enjoy these important events in your life.

What may seem like an unremarkable moment in your life could be etched in the minds of others. We all have memories from our childhoods of family picnics, or a trip to an amusement park, or your annual trip to beach, or something as simple as sitting on the back porch or around the campfire. Our parents and grandparents may think an event was just another picnic or cookout, but we remember the kite flying or model rocket launches or making piñatas. Take the time to enjoy your family, friends, and your life. Every day we become more connected and dependent on technology. We lose the chance to create these moments not only for ourselves, but for our kids and grandkids. Can you imagine Grandpa rocking on the back porch watching TikTok instead of being the 'umpire' for your Wiffle Ball game? Or Grandma taking selfies in the kitchen instead of showing you how to make her famous meatballs?

It sounds so simple to do but difficult to achieve. We have the oppor-

tunity to make these memories with our family and friends now. And these memories do not need to be recorded on a cell phone but recorded in our memories because of the feelings they generate in the moment. Many of us 'record' these moments instead of living them. Is it nice to say we have these things recorded but how many of us actually go back and watch them? Where will these videos be in 10, 20 or 30 years? The memories will be forever.

In honor of Memorial Day, I want to thank all of former and current veterans. The sacrifices they and their families have made are immeasurable. Memorial Day is for remembering the fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for their God, their Country, and their families. We can never take for granted the bravery these men and women exhibited.

NSS Life continues to focus on and partner with veteran's groups in various ways. We applaud the directors, staff, and members that support these organizations on a local, regional, and national level. If you are interested in becoming more involved in supporting our efforts, please reach out to me and I will be happy to help.

I grew up in Uniontown, PA, the birthplace of General George C. Marshall. In 1947, as Secretary of State, he attended the Moscow Foreign Ministers Conference. Europe was not recovering as had been hoped. So, he gathered experts to create the Policy Planning Staff to create a plan to rebuild Europe after 6 plus years of war. After a June 1947 Harvard speech delivered by Marshall in which he laid out the details, the 'European Recovery Program' was presented to Congress and passed just 10 months later in March of 1948. The 'Marshall Plan' as it became known, is credited with saving Western Europe.

General Marshall is the first 5-star general in the history of the United States Army. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, Henry H. Arnold, and Omar Bradley complete the list of the five generals to be recognized as 5-star generals.

Enjoy the beginning of your summer. Enjoy your family and friends. And remember to disconnect from technology and reconnect to your world. God bless.



Did you Know? Facts about Memorial Day

American flags are flown at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day and then raised to full-staff for the rest of the day as a symbol of the nation's resilience and determination.

The National Moment of Remembrance was established by Congress in 2000 as a way to encourage Americans to pause for one minute at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to remember and honor the sacrifices of those who died in service to the country.

The red poppy has become a symbol of Memorial Day. This tradition dates back to World War I when a poem called "In Flanders Fields" described red poppies growing on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia is one of the most famous military cemeteries in the United States. It was established during the Civil War, and today it is the final resting place for more than 400,000 military veterans and their families.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day, and it was first observed on May 30th, 1868. One hundred years later in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which made Memorial Day a federal holiday that always landed on the last Monday of May.

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective April 1, 2025 ★

Optimum 3 – 4.75%

Preferred 5 – 4.00%

New Preferred 8 – 6.00%* (For First Year Only)

Existing Preferred 5 – 4.00% • 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.

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

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professionals

 **60-day risk-free trial period***



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From the Sales Department...

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



Consolidate Your IRAs

Some people have ten or more IRA accounts. It is easy to accumulate these because of the different jobs a person may have had over their working career. There are no rules as to how many accounts a person can have. This is OK with the government and maybe while working. However, it may become more problematic once a person retires. At age 73, the RMDs (required minimum distributions) begin. Our RMD paperwork is six pages, and we send that out every mid to late January. Where this can get confusing is when a person gets multiple RMDs from us, their bank, their broker and maybe someone else. Add aging into the mix and record keeping becomes a cumbersome process. To calculate the RMD, first, add up all of the IRA monies using the previous Dec. 31st balance. Then apply the age related factor from the IRS table and divide. For example: \$150,000 in IRA monies at age 73, apply the factor of 26.5 and this RMD is \$5,661 for the year. This withdrawal can come out of one account or multiple accounts. Consolidating your IRA accounts into one has some advantages. One statement, less paperwork, simplicity for heirs and peace of mind. The process is easy, and we would be glad to help you do this. Make your life simple – call us.

Always Buy at Least \$10,000 of Life Insurance

This is an important topic. Always buy at least \$10,000 of permanent life insurance from NSS. The reason, this is the minimum amount needed to qualify for our scholarship program along with two years of membership. The scholarship program is a liberal program that can provide up to \$2,4000 in aid (\$300/semester over four years.) Having at least this much insurance provides the youngster with a triple advantage. They have life insurance protection. They can apply for the scholarship program. They can participate in all of the other benefits we offer. And finally, the policy's value may also be utilized. Obviously, the larger the face amount the more cash or loan values that are building up inside of the policy.

Using current inflation numbers, \$10,000 purchased for a youngster today would lose half of its value in twenty years. We have to think about these purchases for the future and create a plan that young adults will keep in later years. For more information, or a free quote, please contact your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office.



Saver's Credit

The Saver's Credit gives a special tax break to moderate income taxpayers to help them save money for retirement. An important change in 2025 for some IRA and Roth participants. The income limit to claim the Saver's Credit is increasing to:

- \$79,000 for married couples filing jointly, up from \$76,500.
- \$59,250 for heads-of-household, up from \$57,375
- \$39,500 for single tax filers, up from \$38,250

The Saver's Credit provides a tax credit equal to 10%, 20% or 50% of the contributions you make to a 401(k) or other eligible retirement plan. The maximum credit is \$1,000 for single tax filers or \$2,000 for married joint filers. Since credits reduce taxes on a dollar-for-dollar basis, they can be very valuable, and a higher income limit to qualify means more people will benefit.

Each of these changes can help you to increase your retirement savings by enabling larger contributions and better tax breaks. If you can, take advantage of the opportunity to max out your tax-advantaged 401(k) contributions to set yourself up to have plenty of financial security as a retiree.

A quarter of Gen Z adults and Millennials say not knowing how much or what kind of life insurance to buy **stops them** from getting coverage.

Source: 2023 Insurance Barometer Study, Life Happens and LIMRA

LH.

Thought For The Month:

Today, you are the opening verse of the first page in the first chapter of endless possibilities for your future.

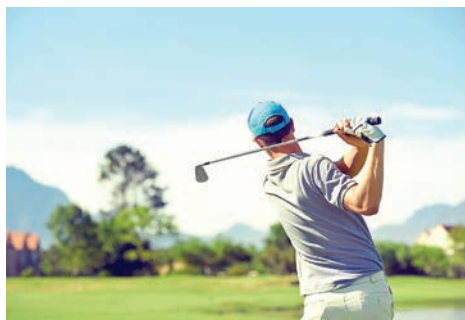
Rudyard Kipling – English journalist (1865-1936)

The Community Corner

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



As the days start to get warmer and longer, what better way to spend those extra hours of daylight than by getting involved with your NSS Life Community! We have many exciting events in store for the next few months, and I encourage you to participate! From our National Golf Tournament to the May Art Contest, and even Region 5 Night at PNC Park, there is something for the whole family! See below for more information on all the fun we have in store!



2025NSS National Golf Tournament

Springtime means that the annual NSS Golf Tournament is right around the corner! This year's golf tournament will be held at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, PA on **July 18-20th**. Join us for a fun-filled Friday night at Hospitality night, where you can enjoy dinner and compete to participate in the Putting contest! Grab your clubs on Saturday and Sunday to golf 18 holes and compete to win the top prizes! Relax on Saturday night at the Tournament Banquet, where we come together to have fun and raise money for the PVR Scholarship Fund!

Sound like fun? See later on in this edition for a complete list of Golf Tournament Rules and the entry form!

PVR Scholarship Renewal

Parents, if your child is a current PVR Scholarship Recipient, listen up! In order for your scholar to receive their next scholarship installment for their upcoming fall semester, they must submit a copy of their most recent transcripts! The transcripts do not have to be official copies – unofficial is perfectly fine! Mail a hard copy to our office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or email a digital copy to bbonnar@nsslife.org. Deadline for scholarship renewal is July 15th.



Region 5 PNC Pirates Night

Baseball season is here and so is Region 5 Night at PNC Park! Join your fellow NSS Life members in cheering on the Buccos on Friday, **June 20th** vs the Texas Rangers at 6:40 p.m.! Stay after the game for a spectacular fireworks show! Call 412-770-2093 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org to reserve

your tickets! Please make checks payable to "NSS Life." All tickets will be mailed out closer to the event date. See more information later on in this edition! Please be aware that tickets are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.



May Art Contest

There is still time to grab your crayons and paint and enter the 2025 Art Contest! Mail or drop off your masterpieces to 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg PA 15317 by the **May 31st deadline!** Remember to indicate whether you would like to have your artwork returned to you after judging, or if you would like to have it donated to residents of a local nursing home! Our friends at the nursing home are very excited to view all of the beautiful works of art created by you and your NSS Life Friends! A complete list of contest rules can be found later on in this edition.



Social Media

From upcoming events, to important policy information, our social media accounts are the best way to stay up to date on everything going on at NSS Life. Give us a follow-on Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety), Facebook (@NSS Life) and LinkedIn (@NSS Life) to make sure you never miss a thing!

Join us!

For a Tee-Riffic time!

July 18-20, 2025

59th Annual

NSS Golf Tournament

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course

Hermitage, PA

- **Larger Prize Payouts**
- **\$25 Discount (Members) each day you golf!**
\$15 Discount (Guests)
- **Putting contest, Skill prizes, & Skins (Optional)**
- **1st day Tournament play – 2nd day Scramble**
- **Guests welcome**
- **All proceeds benefit the PVR Scholarship Fund**
- **Don't Golf? Outside excursions will be available! Stay tuned for more info.**



Annual NSS National Golf Tournament Scramble Rules

Sunday's play at the National Golf Tournament will be a Scramble using the following rules:

1. Each team will consist of four players selected by the tournament director. Selection will be made based on handicap. All divisions will be merged for the scramble.
2. The number of teams will be equal to one fourth of the number of golfers. If the number of golfers is uneven, there will be some adjustment to allow everyone to play.
3. The method of selection will be as follows:
 - a. Beginning with the lowest handicap, Captains will be selected for each team.
 - b. The number two player for each team will be placed on team in reverse order. (Lowest handicap will be on the last team selected in the first round.)
 - c. The number three player for each team will be selected in the same order as the Captains.
 - d. The number four player will be placed in the same order as the number two players.
 - e. The order of play within a team will be determined by the Captain.
4. On every par three hole, everyone will play his/her own ball and the total of the best two (2) scores will be entered on the card.
5. Prize money will be paid to one place for each four teams entered. (16 teams = 4 places paid, etc.) Total prize money will be \$10.00 per player plus NSS matching funds for each golfer entered

Annual NSS National Golf Tournament

Men's and Women's Official Rules and Regulations

1. The tournament is open to all members and one time guests of the National Slovak Society and its Youth Circles. There must be at least four Youth golfers officially entered to have a youth class. To protect the amateur standing of these youth, no prize money will be collected from nor paid to them.
2. United States Golf Association (U.S.G.A.) and host golf course rules will govern play, except the following:
 - Jungle Golf, improve lie within 12" except in hazards.
 - Lost Ball; play from area where ball was last seen and take 1 stroke penalty.
 - Out of Bounds; play from where ball goes out and take 1 stroke penalty.
 - Ball in Water Hazard; drop where ball went in and take 1 stroke penalty.
3. Handicaps will be determined as follows:
 - A. All male regular division golfers will play in three flights as determined by handicap. The golfer's first handicap will be determined after he/she has completed 54 holes of tournament play in the NSS National Golf Tournament unless golfer has a U.S.G.A. index from their home course. The golfer's handicap will be recalculated every year based on the golfer's best 54 holes in tournament play within the last five years. The handicap will be calculated on a 90% basis. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - B. Any male golfer who has not completed 54 holes of tournament play in the NSS National Golf Tournament will be entered in the Callaway division using the NSS version of the Callaway scoring system, unless they have a U.S.G.A. index.
 - C. Senior Men's Division (65 and over) will also play using handicaps as determined above. There will be only one flight in the Senior Division unless the number of participants warrants 2 divisions. Forward tees will be used.
 - D. All female member golfers will compete with the handicap determined as above. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - E. Any female golfer who has not completed 54 holes of play in the NSS National Golf tournament will be placed in the Callaway division.
 - F. Junior Golfers will use the NSS version of the Callaway Scoring System. Forward tees will be used.
4. Classifications:

A medal play champion will be determined for 18 holes in each of the following Divisions:*

1. Men's A flight	3. Men's C flight	5. Women's B flight	7. Callaway Flight
2. Men's B flight	4. Women's A flight	6. Senior flight (age 65 and above)	

*Flights will be determined by number of entries and their handicaps. Champion's for each flight will receive an NSS Jacket, and Prize money. Prize money will depend on the number of participants in each flight.
5. In case of a tie for first place in any flight, a match of cards will be used starting with the number 1 handicap hole and proceeding with number 2, 3, 4, etc. until the tie is broken.
6. All other ties will split the applicable prize money. (e.g., two people tied for second will split second and third prize money. Three people tied for second would split second, third and fourth place prize money.)
7. The prize list will be determined by the tournament manager using the money contributed by the contestants and matching money contributed by the NSS for all golfers. As nearly as possible, there will be one prize for each four entries.
8. The tournament manager will schedule tee times and pairings.
9. The Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial plaque will be awarded to the men's low net winner of the 18 hole tournament. In case of a tie, the lower handicap will be the winner.
10. Golfers with long distances to travel will be given some preferential treatment for Sunday tee times, providing that the scheduling will not disrupt the efficiency of the tournament.
11. ENTRIES WILL CLOSE – **JUNE 25, 2025**

Please return the entry form on the following page to Bethany Bonnar in the Fraternal Department at the Home Office.

National Slovak Society

59th Annual Golf Tournament

July 18-20, 2025

Hospitality Night: Friday 6:00-9:00 pm
Tamie Grille at Tam O'Shanter

Tam O'Shanter Golf Course
2961 S. Hermitage Rd.
Hermitage, PA 16148
724-981-3552

Friday Practice Tee times Available at 12:00 pm.
You must call the pro shop and schedule yourself.
Practice rounds not included in tournament fees.

Hampton Inn and Suites Sharon
58 Winner Lane
West Middlesex, PA 16159
724-528-3030

Mention "NSS" to receive the discounted rate

Room Rates: \$189.00 + tax per night

Deadline for Hotel Reservations is June 18, 2025

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Assembly	Saturday Golf	Sunday Golf	Skins	Par 3	Friday Hospitality	Saturday Banquet

NSS Golfers

____ Saturday Only - \$36.00
____ Saturday & Sunday Scramble \$72.00
____ Skins (Saturday Only) - \$5.00
____ Par 3 Challenge - \$10.00
____ Senior Flight Men 65+

Guest Golfers

____ Saturday Only - \$65.00
____ Saturday & Sunday (Scramble) \$92.00
____ Skins (Saturday Only) - \$5.00
____ Par 3 Challenge - \$10.00
____ Senior Flight Men 65+

Non-Golfer Guests

Please choose **ALL** that apply and indicate the number Attending

Name(s): _____

____ Adult Friday Hospitality Night Attendees
____ Youth Friday Hospitality Night Attendees
____ Adult Saturday Banquet Attendees
____ Youth Saturday Banquet Attendees

\$ _____ TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM

Please make checks payable to: **NSS Life**

Attn: Bethany Bonnar - 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317

____ Hole Sponsor @ \$100.00 per hole

Name for Sign: _____

Due June 25, 2025

ASSEMBLY 0004 Parma, OH

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 11, 2025** at Sonia Vorell's residence, 18088 Boston Road, Strongsville, OH at 2:00 p.m.

Sonia Vorell
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Congratulations! Our assembly was awarded the Titanium Award for our fraternal work in 2024. Thanks to you our members, we achieved this highest award given by the society through the Assembly Growth Program. Your participation at meetings and fraternal activities helped us win. Keep it up in 2025.

In response to the recent fires in California and flooding on the East Coast, we have made a donation to the NSS Disaster Relief Fund of \$100.00. Mark your calendar for our Summer Bar-B-Q that will be held on Sunday, **June 8th** at the Columbia Association picnic pavilion. We celebrate Flag Day as we remember "Old Glory." Festivities start at 1:00 p.m. With great food, prizes and fraternalism. Members and non-members are invited.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of Michael Butchock, Jr., Mildred L. Denner, Ruth Evans, Letica Lucas, Carl Sargent, Jr. and Judith Spaw. May they rest in the arms of the resurrected Christ.

EARN US SOME POINTS!! Enter the May Art Contest. Levels for ALL ages. Get your creative juices flowing and send in your art work. Deadline: **May 31st.**

For our senior members, the NSS Scholarship Program for Seniors is an opportunity to complete a continuing education course and be reimbursed for your cost up to \$100.00. More information is on the NSS Website: nsslife.org.

See you at the Summer Bar-B-Q on Sunday, **June 8th** starting at 1:00 p.m. Bring along another family member or friend.

Enjoy Spring.

Paul Payerchin
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY RO59 Bethlehem, PA

We made plans for a Matching Funds event, a hot dog luncheon to be held at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, on **May 4, 2025**, to benefit the Miracle League of Northampton County.

"Special" birthday greetings to Michele Guydan who will celebrate on May 5th.

Michele Guydan
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our assembly has quite a few events scheduled, so mark your calendar so you don't miss any of them.

May 11th - "Join Hands Day" at the Butztown Post Office at 12 noon.

May 15th - "Matching Funds" at Fellowship Manor for their "Mystery Dinner Theater" at 5:00 p.m.

May 25th - Annual outing, Ironpigs baseball game at Coca-Cola Park, Allentown, PA at 6:30 p.m.

June 16th - "Matching Funds" golf tournament for Fellowship Manor.

August 9th - Summer picnic at Mike and Abby Gross's residence, New Tripoli, PA. at 2:00 p.m.

All members are welcome. Any questions, please call Sharon Wesnak at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Remember your mother on Sunday May 11th which is Mothers' Day. (Guys, I know "my wife isn't my mother," but you need to rethink the implications of that stance.)

Please observe Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th. This isn't "Veterans' Day." Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives to defend The Constitution of The United States and the people thereof. Flags should be at half-staff in the morning. At noon, they go back up. This symbolizes our pledge to carry on in the lives for which they fought. My feeling, as former Infantry, is that you should spend the

morning in observance and that it is, indeed, appropriate to celebrate life and liberty the rest of the day. Your BBQ isn't an insult to fallen veterans; just don't make it the focus of the whole day, please.

Assembly 123 will gather at Global Links on **June 14th**, at 1:00 p.m. A meeting will be held afterwards at a restaurant. We accept input as to where you want to meet and eat. Email nss123@email.com. As always, we welcome your ideas for activities, service projects etc.

Our Secretary/Treasurer and my wife, Jill Grover is expected to be in Presbyterian Hospital for a long recovery. She's doing well. We appreciate your prayers for her wellbeing.

I hope to see you at Global Links.

Lyle Grover
President

ASSEMBLY L161 Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting will be held on **May 1, 2025**. at Dukes Upper Deck, 122 W. 8th Ave Homestead, PA 15120 at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com. if you plan to attend the meeting.

Sue Ondrejco
Secretary/Treasurer

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 Road, 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 Road, Berea, OH at 7:00 p.m.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist & Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0617

Ashley, PA

Recently Assembly 617 held its annual Easter lunch at the Pierce St. Deli, Kingston. The Assembly members enjoyed the lunch social and the sharing of Easter candy.

The Assembly also conducted a brief review of upcoming Assembly 617 events. Among the events discussed were the litter cleanup of both the Back Mountain and Susquehanna River trail. Also reviewed were the annual Fraternal Day at Knoebels Park on **August 7, 2025**, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Basket Raffle to benefit member Father John Ostrowski's mission in El Salvador will also be part of the day. Members of the Assembly wishing to donate a basket, please contact John Kurilla. Reservations for Fraternal Day will close on July 30, 2025.

A meeting will be held at Amber Donia Bakery Kingston on **July 10, 2025** beginning at 1:00 p.m. Members planning to attend Assembly 617 events, please contact John Kurilla at **570-239-5936 – 570-287-4162** or jjkurilla@aol.com

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731

Lowellville, OH

Our next Assembly sports outing will be on **June 20th** when we go to the Eastwood Field in Niles, Ohio for a Mahoning Valley Scrappers game against Maryland's Frederick Keys. The teams are a collegiate summer baseball of the MLB Draft League. Prior to game at 7:00 p.m. we will meet in the picnic area at 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. for a picnic meal. Fireworks display will take place on the field following the game.

This event is free for our assembly members and tickets will be distributed to those requesting tickets from Laurie Fox (330-717-4705).

Kathy Cessna
Youth Programs Organizer



ASSEMBLY 0731

Lowellville, OH

Mark your calendars for our assembly activities:

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 0737

N. Huntingdon, PA

A meeting will be held on Sunday, **May 4, 2025**. For further information, please call or text at 412-558-0314. You can also leave a message at 724-423-3992.

Time and place will be determined at a later date.

Andrea Garbon
Treasurer-Secretary



ASSEMBLY 813

Englewood, PA

The Wire Grass Food Bank Brown Bag Program will benefit from this program for seniors wherein those enrolled get extra bags of food in the third week of each month for a year. The third week is when many of the seniors' shelves are getting bare. Mary Jo Holker once again is working with Director David Hanks. The drive will run from **April 1st to June 15th** and is a Matching Funds project.

Another Matching Funds project, under the leadership of Kerry Farrell, is the "Cork Pull" project to benefit the Catholic Social Services on **September 20th** at the Thirsty Pig. Kerry will be working again with Stephanie Cronin of the CSS. They are hoping to be as successful as last year's program, and as much fun. We are always thankful for Kerry allowing us full use of her place of business.

We are considering other projects for later in the year, but this should keep us busy for a while.

All meetings for the year of 2025 are listed under Activities At A Glance. Also, all meetings will be held at 443 Rowland Road, Dothan, AL.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary-Treasurer

Have you signed
UP a
New Member?

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).

Also, Region 2 will be conducting a Matching Funds to support the local Moosic Parks. Move with Moosic 5k Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, **June 8, 2025** and start at 9:00 a.m. The event will kick off in our community and all proceeds will be used to rejuvenate or update our Borough Parks. To join the walk you can sign up at runsignup.com/movewithmoosic.

After the race a celebration will take place at the Moosic Youth Center. For more information please contact Marlin Petro Wesnak, Region 2 President at 570-815-5035.

We would like members from Region 2 to join us for Concert for Paws II at the Lighthouse Inn, West Wyoming, PA on Saturday, **July 26th** from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This year's event will benefit The SPCA of Luzerne County, Whiskers World of Plains, PA, and St. Cats & Dogs of Nay Aug Zoo. Like last year, we will have live music by Riptide, great gift basket raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. Admission is free! You can contact any member if you would like to make a donation or attend.

Marlin Petro Wesnak
President

NSS Night at PNC Park



Join the members from NSS Region 5 on Friday, **June 20th** at 6:40 p.m. to catch the Pirates take on the Tampa Bay Rays at NSS Night at PNC Park! Tickets are only \$25.00 per ticket, thanks to Region 5 and Assembly 774 helping to subsidize the cost!

Members from all Assemblies in Region 5 are eligible to attend (0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, and 0774). Tickets also include a \$10.00 food/merchandise concession credit (per ticket).

To reserve tickets or receive more information contact Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar at bbonnar@nsslife.org or at 412-770-2093. A limited number of tickets are available and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Requests for tickets must be accompanied by payment. Please make checks payable to: **NSS Life** and mail to **1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 (Attention: Pirates Night)**.

Bethany Bonnar
Member and Community Engagement Coordinator

Assembly 731 Event

Assembly 731 members and friends enjoyed an exciting evening watching the Youngstown Phantoms win their hockey game against the Fargo Force at the Youngstown Covelli Centre. Everyone had a lot of fun being together with great front-row seating to watch the Eastern Conference Tier 1 Junior Hockey teams' competition.

Kathy Cessna
Youth Programs Organizer



NSS adult and youth members enjoying the hockey game.



Jimmy Cessna's Uncle Aaron explains some of the details of the game.



Keeping with the Hawaiian theme of the night, members were spotted wearing leis.

Assembly 813 News

Our assembly has adopted the Wright Star of Dothan, AL for a Matching Funds Project. This is a new endeavor for us, a program that provides free tutorial services to enhance reading, math and social skills at no charge for students in grades three to five. Forty-five to fifty students are enrolled for the June 10th program which also provides after school snacks for the students. It is supported by grants and in-kind donations. Mary Jo Holker will be the NSS presence working with Sandra Wright at the Beverlye School, which is where this summer program will be held.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary-Treasurer

"When you are looking at your mother, you are looking at the purest love you will ever know."

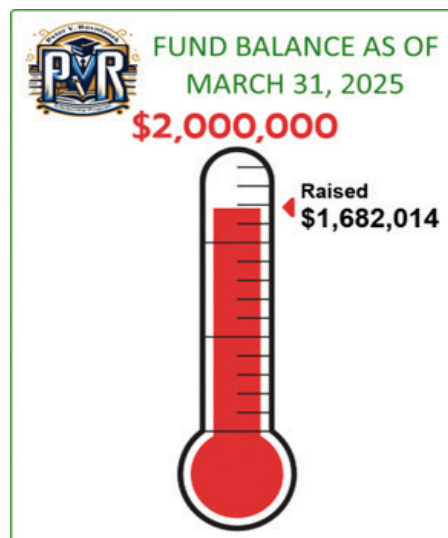
PVR Fund News

The month of May brings us warmer weather, blossoming flowers, and thoughts of the summer to come. The PVR Fund Board of Directors wishes all our members who are mothers, aunts, Godmothers, or fairy Godmothers, a happy Mother's Day. We hope that your day is filled with love and gratitude – and some big hugs and kisses!

Thanks to our assemblies and our donors, we are only **\$317,985.47** away from our \$2 million goal. We have 14 months left before the 2026 convention, which is our goal's deadline.

As we are going to press, we've learned that several of our vendors have made recent donations to the PVR Fund to help us reach our goal. Many thanks go out to Alexander & Company, AQS Management, and Equisoft for their support and their generous donations. Look for these donations to be reflected in next month's total!

Looking for an easy fundraising idea for the PVR Fund? Now that the weather is warming up, you can hold a charity walk! Collect an entry fee, sell customized t-shirts or water bottles, and collect pledges to raise money for the PVR fund. This type of fundraiser is eligible for matching funds from the Home Office, up to \$500. If you'd like guidance when planning a fundraiser in your assembly, contact Bethany (bbonnar@nsslife.org) at the Home Office. Written guidelines and matching funds forms can be found on our website under "Fraternal -> Forms."



Thank you to our corporate donors!

Alexander & Company
Advertising and Marketing



PVR Profiles

Attention, PVR Scholarship Recipients! We'd love to hear from our past PVR Scholarship Recipients and update our database with your current contact information. 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: John Payerchin, Jr.

SCHOLARSHIP FIRST AWARDED: 2021

Greetings, my fraternal family! My PVR path is slightly different than most. I took my first college classes at age 46! My son John and daughter Mackenzie had already graduated college before my first class. All my classes were online. I started during COVID. Sitting in my basement for hours on end. Writing papers, recording speeches, and taking tests and exams. What an adventure. I completed my journey, 3.5 years and 122 credits later with a bachelor's in business management.

What took me so long? After high school I went straight into the workforce. With hard work, dedication, a great support system, and amazing mentors along the way, I had advanced myself and my career. But I always felt some sense of emptiness for not starting, let alone completing my degree.

With the push of confidence from my wife, Heather, I started. My first set of classes included 'Intro to College' along with classmates as young as 16. The first assignment; write an essay on the biggest difference between high school and college. Well for starters, I had a 28-year gap. No internet, no email, no laptops, definitely no Google, no cell phones. OK, maybe the 'brick' phones or Motorola bag phones, which cost a whopping \$0.40 per minute to use for calls only. No mobile data, and texting was still another 10 years away. When apps meant appetizers. K-Mart and Sears were still in business, and KFC was still Kentucky Fried Chicken. Wow, I sound like my parents....

Being honest, I didn't even think about the PVR Scholarship initially. Then my father reminded me. My scholarship helped me complete my journey with books and on-line resources for software for things like labs and testing.

Your donations matter and make a difference. As part of the PVR Committee and working in the home office, I have the unique opportunity to see, hear, and read about the impact your donations make with our members. Just as I could finally see the finish line towards the end of college journey, NSS Life can see the goal line for the PVR Fund. But this line is not the end, just the initial goal. We will continue to raise funds, allowing us to make a difference in our members' educational journeys. No matter what their age.

God Bless,
John Payerchin

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 MARCH 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Ansell, John Henry	Dawson, PA	02/04/2025	0039
Bahurinsky, David	Meadville, PA	03/07/2025	0731
Balakier, David	Ashley, PA	03/02/2025	0617
Ball, Leonard	McKees Rock, PA	02/19/2025	0100
Barger, Joan	Karns City, PA	03/08/2025	L161
Bebo Jr., John	Avella, PA	02/19/2025	0588
Belmonte, Linda	Honey Brook, PA	03/09/2025	L102
Blackwell, Darrell	Bluefield, VA	10/10/2023	0774
Bottar Jr., Martin	Vienna, OH	03/04/2025	0731
Brightmeyer, Doloris	Ford City, PA	03/16/2025	L161
Cairns, Patricia	Atglen, PA	03/15/2025	L102
Chan, Peggy	Monessen, PA	02/26/2025	L105
Charnovich, Richard	Brownsville, PA	02/27/2025	0039
Clauser, Henry E	Butler, PA	02/26/2025	0554
Cook, Diana	Oceana, WV	12/22/2024	0774
Coss, Paulette	Middletown, DE	03/15/2025	0774
Cramer, Jerry	Ford City, PA	03/26/2025	L105
Cummings, Helen	Monongah, WV	02/01/2025	0774
Day Jr., Stephen C	Washington, PA	03/11/2025	0588
De Santi, Joseph	Erie, PA	03/10/2025	0774
Detweiler, Ruth	Palmyra, PA	03/15/2025	L102
Donovan, Evelyn	Morgantown, WV	01/19/2025	0774
Draskovic, Janet	Cranberry Twp, PA	08/01/2024	L161
Draskovich, Jean	Greensburg, PA	02/21/2025	0737
Fanell, Barbara	Greensburg, PA	02/17/2025	0774
Filer, Donald L	Mercer, PA	01/14/2025	0731
Fontalbert, Margaret	South Charleston, WV	02/09/2025	0774
Frame, Toka	Rainelle, WV	04/14/2024	0774
Fry, Donna	Springdale, PA	02/24/2025	L105
Funtal, Joseph	Pittsburgh, PA	02/16/2025	L161
Giordano, Theresa	Erie, PA	02/17/2025	0774
Girts, Donna	Kersey, PA	03/01/2025	0554
Gorney, James A	Mingo Junction, OH	11/01/2024	0774
Green, Kathleen B	Strasburg, PA	05/06/2024	L102
Greiner, Martha	Wheeling, WV	02/22/2025	0774
Gudewicz, Martin J	Pittsburgh, PA	03/01/2025	L161
Halas, Carolyn J	McKeesport, PA	11/26/2023	0737
Hoffman, Anna Mae	Berkley Springs, WV	02/06/2025	0774
Homentosky, Marie	Eynon, PA	01/17/2025	L102
Hoover, Dorothy	Erie, PA	02/16/2025	0774
Hughes, Francis	Tyrone, PA	02/19/2025	0267
Jasko, Barbara	Brick Twp, NJ	06/18/2024	R059
Jeffcoat, Carol A	North Huntingdon, PA	02/08/2025	0737
Judy III, Robert	Smithfield, PA	02/27/2025	0039
Kalinosky, Dorothy	Springdale, PA	02/22/2025	L105
Killingsworth, Deloris	Point Pleasant, WV	02/01/2025	0774
King, Dennis Lee	Catawba, NC	03/01/2025	0774
Kinner, Charles E	Elizabeth, PA	02/12/2025	0737
Kintzel, Keith	Reading, PA	03/04/2025	L102
Klebanski, Norbert	Pittsburgh, PA	03/20/2025	0123
Klingensmith, Lucille	Champion, PA	02/22/2025	0039
Kosiba, Walter	Strongsville, OH	01/16/2025	0432
Kozak, Sandra	Conway, PA	03/09/2025	0123
Kronk, Edith	Freedom, PA	03/20/2025	0123
Kulback, Margaret	Johnstown, PA	02/05/2025	0774
Kulback, William	Johnstown, PA	09/19/2022	0774
Lawson, Denise	Erie, PA	02/16/2025	0731
Lear, Andrew	Pittsburgh, PA	03/22/2025	0123
Lee, Richard	Erie, PA	02/21/2025	0731
Levandosky, Stanley J	Belle Vernon, PA	06/02/2024	0377
Lizurick, Albert	Brownsville, PA	02/05/2025	0774
Lopus, Hiroko	Corry, PA	02/10/2025	0774
Loughner, Mary	Jeannette, PA	03/09/2025	0737

DEPARTED MEMBERS MARCH 2025

(Continued from page 16)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Lowery, Patricia	Beckley, WV	02/20/2025	0774
Luckey, Corinne	Connellsville, PA	10/16/2024	0039
Machey, Elizabeth	Hazel Twp, PA	10/20/2024	L102
Mako, Helen	Wolfeboro, NH	01/10/2025	0110
Marinelli, Mary Louise	Pittsburgh, PA	03/08/2025	0434
Mason, Marcella	Baden, PA	03/06/2025	0123
Master, William E	Warren, OH	01/24/2025	0554
Mc Cafferty, Joseph	Pipersville, PA	02/15/2025	R059
Melnik, Patricia	Butler, PA	03/26/2024	0123
Mennen, Steven	Corry, PA	03/04/2025	0554
Miller, Julia	Cambridge Springs, PA	03/15/2025	0774
Minardi, Thomas	Easton, PA	02/24/2025	R059
Moerder, Mark	Minersville, PA	02/23/2025	L102
Nave, A Ramona	Bedford, PA	01/17/2025	0039
Nemzek, Marilyn	West Covina, CA	05/20/2024	0568
Oliveri, Jacqueline L	Munhall, PA	03/11/2025	0108
Orban, Laverne	Troy, OH	02/28/2025	0774
Packe, Joan K	New Stanton, PA	03/11/2025	0737
Paff, Donald E	Beaver Falls, PA	02/26/2025	0123
Palmer, Mary	Pence Springs, WV	01/24/2025	0774
Palmiscno, Ethel	Salina, PA	03/10/2025	L105
Palmiscno, Joseph	Salina, PA	02/25/2025	L105
Parkinson, Kenneth A	Mc Murray, PA	03/15/2025	0434
Pasternock, Opal	Springhill, FL	02/01/2025	0774
Patrick, Louise	Pittsburgh, PA	02/17/2025	0774
Paulovich, Steve	Saxonburg, PA	02/17/2025	0123
Phillips, Helen M	Belleville, IL	02/18/2025	0586
Piotrowski, Marcella	Pittsburgh, PA	03/21/2025	0100
Popovich, Esther	Allison Park, PA	10/20/2024	L161
Rearick, Donald	Summerfield, FL	03/05/2025	0800
Richards, Daniel	Corry, PA	01/22/2025	0774
Rick, Tina	Union City, PA	03/18/2025	0774
Risbon, Judith	Johnstown, PA	03/01/2025	0737
Robinson, Russell	Erie, PA	02/24/2025	0731
Ruby, George	Sheakleyville, PA	02/28/2025	0731
Saniga, George T	Pittsburgh, PA	02/24/2025	0434
Schnader, Barbara	Mohnton, PA	02/25/2025	0774
Schweinebraten, Billy R	Washington, PA	03/14/2025	0377
Scott, Robert W	Erie, PA	03/12/2025	0774
Shaver, Daniel	Waverly, OH	11/12/2024	0595
Smith, Virginia	Hummelstown, PA	03/11/2025	L102
Snyder, Rudy	Erie, PA	02/11/2025	0774
Sprouse, Thelma	Welch, WV	01/08/2025	0774
Stasik, Gail M	West Mifflin, PA	03/19/2025	0441
Stern, Vada	Martinsburg, PA	02/13/2025	0774
Suder, Francis	Meadville, PA	03/08/2025	0731
Turner, Iva Charlene	Cochranton, PA	03/07/2025	0731
Villars, William	Culloden, WV	01/04/2025	0774
Vitale, Rose Marie	Venetia, PA	03/14/2025	0434
Waldemyer, Jane	Prospect, PA	02/21/2025	0774
Wallace, Patricia	Moundsville, WV	01/18/2025	0774
Wapiennik, Carl	Belle Vernon, PA	03/01/2025	0377
West, Dorothy	Wheeling, WV	02/17/2025	0108
Wickline, Helen	Ronceverte, WV	01/16/2025	0774
Williams, Peggy A	Cement City, MI	02/24/2025	0774
Wobrak, John J	West Mifflin, PA	03/14/2025	0441
Yedlock, Theresa	Ashley, PA	01/19/2025	0617
Yoder, Charles	Pottstown, PA	03/06/2025	L102
Young, Joseph	Erie, PA	03/05/2025	0774
Young, Laura Anne	Cleveland, OH	03/02/2025	0070
Zawacki, Dorothy	Uniontown, PA	03/03/2025	0774
Zehnacker, Marianne R	Mercer, PA	03/05/2025	0731
Zerby, Claude E	Dornsife, PA	03/12/2025	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 February, 2025

In Honor of Assembly 123 Departed Members from December, 2024 and January, 2025..... 200.00

William Flick

Gary Allen Fye

Angelo Greco

Harry Heichel

Rita Keller

Irene Kratina

Thomas Lazaroff

Beverly Nicewanger

Irene Stueber

Patricia Sutton

Michael R. Wagner

Pauline R. Wolff

May F. Barr

Dolores A. Block

Wayne P. Brumagin

Patricia Ecoff

Karen C. Gladony

Thomas Lodovico

Phyllis E. McCrea

Larry Mertz

Robin M. Showalter

Carolyn A. Tankosh

James Woodford

In Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,

& John Crowley..... 20.00

Donations:

Start Hearing, Inc. 50.00

Director Laurie Fox 50.00

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 or text 978-894-6622**. For a day-by-day itinerary and photos of past tours, visit **www.slovakiaheritage.com**.



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!!**

Slovaks of Western PA to Celebrate 102nd Anniversary in Kennywood Park

At the beginning of the last century, many immigrants left their beloved homeland in search of better opportunities in a new land across the ocean. Many Slovaks built that new life in the coal mines, mills and railroads of Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Despite the dangerous working conditions and long working hours, once a year they came together in a public place to reminisce and share their experiences. "Kenny's Grove" as it was known back then provided the perfect opportunity.

Slovaks from the Tri-State area and beyond will once again present our rich Slovak heritage with a day long celebration in Kennywood Park on Thursday, **July 17th**. Slovak music will be heard, Slovak dishes will be offered, and souvenirs will be sold.

The Slovak kitchen will begin serving favorite home-made traditional food at 12:30 p.m. There will be games and prizes for the children as well! Musical entertainment will be provided by the "*Gypsy Strings*" throughout the afternoon. Following a short program in the afternoon, Clergy from the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Dioceses' will join to celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Pavilion. Songs and dances representing our rich cultural heritage will round out the day with a program by the "*Pittsburgh Slovaks*."

Join the celebration on July 17th as our heritage is showcased at the 102nd Slovak Day in Kennywood. For more information or discount tickets contact **Mary Lou at: (412) 462-1957 or Sue at: (412) 421-1204**.

Information Ticket Order Form

Make all checks payable to:

Western PA. Slovak Day Association

Number of Slovak Day Tickets

(Good on July 17th ONLY)

of Slovak Day tickets at \$33.00 each: _____

Number of FLEX Date Tickets

(Good for ALL Summer)

of Slovak Day tickets at \$40.00 each: _____

Total Payment: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail order form to: Sue Ondrejco
234 Ilion Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15207



First Place Poetry Contest Winners

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

First Place Winner

Keats Category

By Ellie Kowalishen

I sit and don't know what to write
Should it be funny or cause a fright?
Should it be happy or should it be sad?
Should it be good or should it be bad?
I know it's all above because
I write it with Valentine love.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

First Place Winner

Angelou Category

"The Seasons"

By Maria Cherevka

In winter, it seems like I wake up at night,
And dress for school by my little night light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed in the day.

Winter, Summer, Spring and Fall
I like the seasons,
I like them all.

Some are warmer
And especially kids have fun.
Everyone comes out
To play in the sun.

Sometimes we see a lot of snow,
Other times our sleds become dusty.
In the end, it can't be predicted - no one really knows!

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

First Place Winner

Poe Category

"The Dancing Accountant"

By Andrew Karkosiak

A dancing accountant swings across the
room
As the music goes -
Beep and boop
Here, a modernist man - through and
through -
One who rejoices in symmetry
On each and every...

Wednesday afternoon.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

First Place Winner

Frost Category

"Lego Time"

By Christian Cole

Tiny bricks of every hue,
In scattered piles, they wait for you.
A world of wonder, small but grand,
Created by my own two hands.

Red and orange, green and yellow bright,
A million ways to build the night.
A castle, car, or spaceship high,
A dream that might touch the sky.

Click, snap, they fall in place,
Each piece a step in time and space.
A tower rises, strong and true,
Hues of all colors, even blue.

The walls grow tall, the roads unwind,
A jungle or city on my mind.
That dances in a thousand ways,
Through quiet nights and busy days.

And when the tower is done and still,
The joy remains, the endless thrill.
For in each Lego, small and neat,
A world of endless dreams complete.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

First Place Winner

Shakespeare Category

"Saving Our Planet"

By Anthony Cherevka

We must take care
And be sure to share
Our world is our home,
We are not here alone

Enjoy the fresh air
And take time to stare,
At the beautiful flowers
Who are loving the April Showers.

Everything we have done,
Could impact everyone.
That plastic, paper and toxic waste
Could affect us all the way into space.

Let's come together with one common goal
To help our world heal as a whole.
We can save our future generations and animals
of all kinds
By coming together to help our planet shine.

Second Place Poetry Contest Winners

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Second Place Winner

Keats Category

"Baking"

By Caroline Bernardo

Brownies
Apple Pie
Kitchen
Ingredients
Nut Free Cookies
Gourmet

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Second Place Winner

Angelou Category

"Mema"

By Harmony Isabella Ward

Mema, I love you
Even if we aren't together...
When I'm playing
I know you are by my side
At the swings...
Going down the slide,
You are there to catch me...
We can have so much fun playing together...
Even though you are in Heaven now,
You are always by my side.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Second Place Winner

Shakespeare Category

"Ice Hockey"

By Carson Bernardo

Ice Hockey is truly fun.
You can even play it in the sun.
I go out to the pond and play one on one.
Sticks and skates are everywhere.
Pucks are flying through the air.
The day of hockey has come to an end,
A great day with all of my friends.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Second Place Winner Frost Category

"To The Cat" by Alison Nye

Lola, when I first met you
you were black and white,
still young.
I ran over to you
as you hid
from me.
I was confused,
you were scared
Until I started petting you,
and you started purring.

Dear Lola, near the end you were so defensive.
You would hide
And you would hiss at
Almost
Everyone.
You were so soft, and I wish that when
I get home that you'll be back
Waiting
For me.

You were still black and white, but you had grey hairs
I petted you,
I took videos
I did anything to keep your memory
Alive.
I just want to say
Goodbye
One
Last
Time.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Second Place Winner Poe Category

"The Mice After Christmas" by Jacob Ostrowski

'Twas the night after Christmas and all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, except every mouse.

When the family had left, the mice jumped with glee,
"The house is ours to do with as we please!"

They scampered around in search of some food,
For they were in a most hungry mood.

The children made sure that the mice were well fed,
By every Cheerio and cracker that they shed.

The mice opened the fridge and to their surprise,
Beef Wellington lay before their eyes.

They searched through cabinets great and small,
And then they found the alcohol.

The mice then proposed a toast,
To the generosity of their host.

"The family has been too kind to us, but we know what we must do.
We will leave them a gift or two."

They pooped in the cellar, they pooped on the floor,
They pooped in the pantry, and in the sock drawer.

When the family came home, there was a great scream,
But there was not a mouse to be seen.

Finally they caught one with a shout
And all then cried, "Throw it out!"

Mother picked it up between finger and thumb,
The children not daring to look at what Mommy had done.

When Father heard the news, he said in boast,
"Finally, that rodent is toast!"

But in the ceiling above and the basement below,
The mice were breeding, Ho, ho, ho!

Third Place Poetry Contest Winners

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Third Place Winner

Angelou Category

"I am From"

By Avery Jones

I am from juicy chicken nuggets and saucy pasta
From running around and dancing
From the smell of mom's brownies, the pine tree,
and swaying leaves
I am from "Love you too!" "Come here!", and
"Hello!"
From mom, dad, Mimi, grandma, grandpa, and
papap
From Dorchester Avenue
I am from sleepovers at my grandparent's house

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Third Place Winner

Frost Category

"Safe in My Home"

By Timothy Jaster

The snow is blowing
As strong winds wail,
Snug in my home
I'm safe from the gale.

Warm fire is crackling
It's heating my toes,
Outside it is howling
Trees casting shadows.

I crawl into bed
As I hear the trees moan,
Yet know that I'm safe
Protected in my home.

NSS LIFE 2025 POETRY & LITERARY CONTEST

Third Place Winner

Poe Category

"August 12th"

By Ashlynn Mason

I still hear your laughter in the wind,
a distant echo, growing thin.
But no matter how hard I try,
I can't bring back our last goodbye.

August 12th - I hate that day,
the moment you were torn away.
I wish I'd called, I wish I'd known,
I wish you didn't feel alone.

Your smile, so bright, could light the dark,
now just a memory, a missing spark.
I replay the jokes, the late-night calls,
The way your laughter filled the halls

But now the world just feels so wrong,
like you were meant to stay this long.
I'd give it all to hear your voice,
to change that night, to change your choice.

I miss you more than words can say,
and though you're gone, I hope you stay -
in every laugh, in every light,
in every star that fills the night.





Máj je plný všetkého, čím je jar taká výnimočná. Dni sú teraz dlhé a teplé a teplota býva naozaj príjemná, niekde medzi jarou a letom. Po týždňoch lejakov je máj plný krásnych kvetov v mnohých farbách. Aj keď je máj často vnímaný ako „brána do leta“, v posledných zostávajúcich jarných dňoch je stále čo oceniť.

Maj....Mesiac Lásky.



Máj sa vo všeobecnosti považuje za obdobie lásky a zrodu nového života. Všetko živé, čo prišlo na svet v máji, malo sa zdarne vyvíjať. Májová zeleň bola symbolom sily a dobrého rastu.

“Kde je láska, tam je život.”

-Gándhi

Západná Pensylvánia
102. Slovenský deň

štvrtok 17. júla 2025

Kennywood Park

Vstúpenky do parku:

V deň Slovenského Dňa 7/17/25 — 33 dolárov

Vstúpenky platné počas sezony — 40 dolárov

Možno použiť kedykoľvek

(Región 5 - vek do 16 rokov zdarma)

Zahrňa vstupné, jazdy a
Slávnosti Slovenského dňa
Jedlo nie je zahrnuté

Šeky vystavte na:

W. PA Slovak Day

Poštou na: NSS LIFE

Attn. Tickets

1300 Ashwood Dr.

Canonsburg, PA 15317



Deň matiek

Nápad oslavy Dňa matiek do Československa prišiel okolo roku 1918, keď krajinu navštevovalo veľa ľudí z USA, medzi nimi i sociálne pracovníčky. Ideu šírila Čs. ochrana matiek a detí, Červený kríž, Sokol, Orol, katolícké spolky i niektoré ženské komisie pri politických stranách.

V druhu nedeľu v Máji slávime deň Matiek a k tomuto sviatku pripájame aj peknú báseň všetkým matkám.

Ku dňu matiek

Mama! Chcem Ti ďakovať za každý jeden deň. Preto začínam už dnes.

V nedeľu kyticu kvetov, kus čokolády, najvrúcnejší bozk, silné objatie.

V pondelok veľká vdaka za lásku.

V utorok za každú pomoc od teba prijatú.

V stredu za každú minútu, ktorú so mnou si, aj keď ťa nevidím.

Vo štvrtok odpustenie za všetko, čím som ti nechcela ublížiť.

V piatok slová *Lúbim ťa.*

V sobotu slza šťastia za to, že Ťa mám.



Májové pranostiky

Ak v prvý májový týždeň pršalo, dážď bol predzvest'ou bohatej úrody.

Chladný máj, jahody zrelé na Turíce, jasný Urban vínom naplní pivnice.



Youth Circle Page

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

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.

Note of Appreciation

Dear NSS Life Region 5 Officers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I want to sincerely thank you for your continued scholarship support. Your generosity has allowed me to focus on my education with less stress on financial burdens, and for that, I am truly grateful.

I am excited to share that I have made the Swanson School of Engineering Honor Roll, and I am working hard in hopes of making the Dean's List at the end of the semester. My studies in physics and mathematics have been both challenging and rewarding, and I have been thoroughly enjoying my time in Oakland, taking advantage of everything the area has to offer.

This summer, I am looking forward to taking ECE 402, which will allow me to deepen my understanding of electrical and computer engineering concepts. I am eager to continue building my knowledge and gaining valuable experience that will help me in my academic and professional journey.

Your support has been invaluable in helping me pursue my academic and career goals, and I am incredibly fortunate to be a recipient of your generosity. Thank you again for your encouragement and investment in my future.

Timothy Logan Driscoll

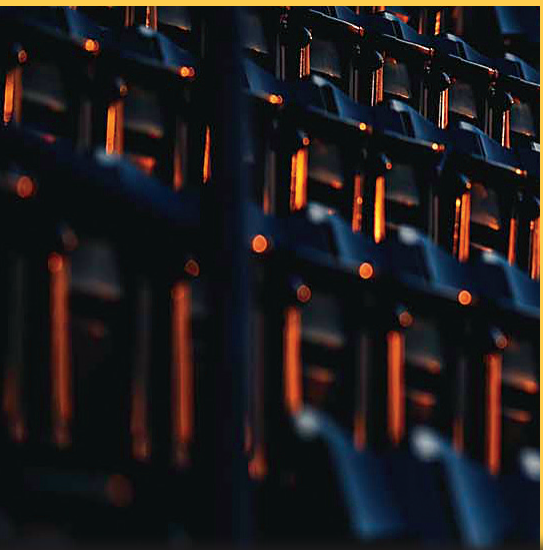
"Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth."


— Chanakya



National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 1166






NSS Life

Family Matters...

REGION 5

PIRATES NIGHT

at

PNC PARK

HOME OF THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES

June 20, 2025

