

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

JUNE 2025

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | NUMBER 3602 | VOLUME 117



102ND SLOVAK DAY

102nd Western PA Slovak Day • Kennywood Amusement Park, West Mifflin, PA • July 17, 2025

See Page 20



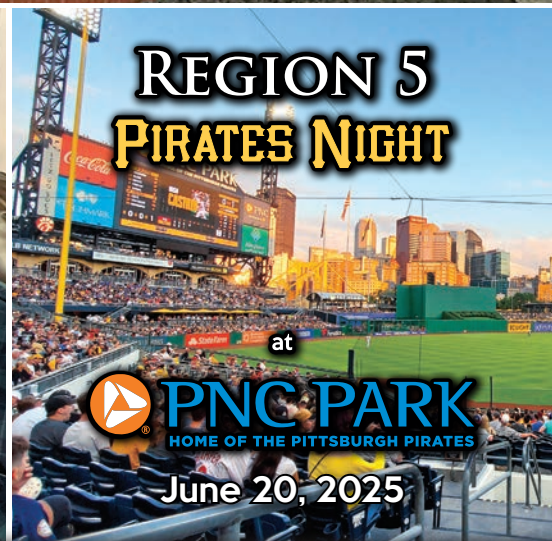
**2025 NSS National
Golf Tournament**
Tam O'Shanter Golf Course
Hermitage, PA

See Pages 9-11



**2025 NSS
Fraternalist of the Year &
Youth Achievement Award**

See Page 12



**REGION 5
PIRATES NIGHT**



PNC PARK
HOME OF THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES

June 20, 2025



National Slovak Society

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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

June 8
July 10
July 26
August 7
November (TBA)

Region 2, Moosic 5k Run/Walk at 9:00 am
Assembly 0617, Meeting, Amber Donia Bakery, Kingston, PA at 1:00 pm
Region 2, Concert for Paws II, Lighthouse Inn, W. Wyoming, PA at 4:30 pm
Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park, at 12:30 pm
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

June 8
June 8
June 14
June 20
June 20
July 17
July 18-20
August 3
September 14
September 22
October 12
October 11
November 2
December 7
December 7
December 6

Assembly 0731, Golf Outing, Bedford Trails, Lowellville, OH
Assembly 0039, Summer Bar-B-Que, Columbia Association Picnic Pavilion at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Global Links, Pittsburgh, PA at 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Region 5, Pirate Night, PNC Park at 6:40 pm
Assembly 0731, Picnic/Baseball Game, Niles, OH at 5:00 pm
Slovak Day, Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA
NSS National Golf Tournament, Hermitage, PA
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 4:00-7:00 pm
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbia Association Social Hall at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0377, Christmas Party/Meeting, Hugo's, West Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, OH

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

June 10
June 21
June 22
September 16
December 8

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

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

June 16
August 9

Assembly L102, Matching Funds, Golf Tournament for Fellowship Manor
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

June 14
July 20
August 17
September 28
October 27
November 16
November 26

Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0813, Meeting, Farrell residence, Dothan, AL at 6:00 pm
Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck residence, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
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 June marks the end of the school year for most students and the beginning of the summer break. It means more children on bicycles, playing in yards and playgrounds, and walking along streets and roads. Please be extremely cautious while driving during the next few months to ensure the safety of our youth. Flag Day is celebrated on June 14th and Father's Day is celebrated on Sunday, June 15th.

Please make sure that you let your father know how special he is and how grateful you are for all the things he has done for you. The love a father shares with his children is often demonstrated through the things he does each day to make life special for them. Looking back on some of the little things my father did over the years for and with me have left memories in my grateful heart! Remembering my first fishing experience, my first Pirates baseball game, my first Steelers football game, receiving my high school diploma from our school board president, my Dad, his warm hug when I left for college, and his encouragement to strive to be my best in everything that I attempted. All these things were done with love. My father did not say I love you son very often, but his actions throughout my life did! Happy Father's Day in Heaven, Dad!

It is not too late to plan to join your fellow NSS Golfers at the 59th Annual NSS National Golf Tournament **July 18 – 20, 2025**, at Tam O'Shanter of PA Golf Course in Hermitage, PA. The deadline for entering the tournament is June 25, 2025, and the entry form appears elsewhere in this issue. The deadline for hotel reservations at the

Hampton Inn and Suites is **June 18, 2025**. The weekend is always enjoyable with the opportunity to play golf, share memories with fellow NSS golfers, enjoy great food and refreshments, win some prizes or gift baskets, participate in non-golf activities, and most of all support our PVR Scholarship Fund. This is the largest fundraising event held each year in support of the program. The money collected from raffles, hole sponsorships, tournament sponsors, the annual putting contest, the reverse club raffle, and the par 3 challenge all go toward the PVR Scholarship Fund. If your Region or Assembly has not sponsored a hole or donated a basket for the Slovak Auction Raffle at the Golf Banquet, please do so before the deadline. The goal set at the last convention to reach the \$2 million mark for the PVR Scholarship Fund by the end of 2026 is just 18 months away. If you have any questions, regarding the tournament or donations for the basket raffle, please contact our Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar by email at bbonnar@nsslife.org. We are looking forward to another successful NSS National Golf Tournament and PVR Scholarship Fundraiser.

The 39th Quadrennial Convention of the National Slovak Society will be a year away upon receipt of this issue of the *National News*. Preliminary arrangements have been made regarding the venue for the event which will be held at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio, **June 14 – 18, 2026**. The next twelve months will be an extremely busy time for the Home Office, Board of Directors, and also Region and Assembly Officers as preparations for the Convention will be on-going. Deadlines that are outlined in the By-Laws will need to be adhered to in regard to many facets of the Convention. The Executive Officers and Member and Community Engagement Coordinator of the Society visited Sawmill Creek in early May and met with our contacts to begin the detailed planning of the event in regard to housing, meals, meeting spaces, and activities. The resort has undergone a complete renovation over the last several years and will be an excellent venue for the Convention. Information regarding the Convention will appear in future issues with relevant details, procedures, and

timelines. It is not too early for Regions and Assemblies to begin thinking about delegates for the Convention. This is one of the most important roles for Region and Assembly members every four years. The decisions made by the delegates representing the members of their Region or Assembly will guide the Society for the four years following the Convention. We are looking forward to representation from each of our Regions and Assemblies at the Convention.

The month of June will be extremely busy for our Regions and Assemblies as many activities are scheduled. Region 2 will hold a 5K Run/Walk on June 8th, Region 5 will hold its annual Night at PNC Park as the Pirates take on the Texas Rangers on June 20th. Assembly 0731 will hold a benefit golf outing on June 8th, Assembly 0039 will hold its annual Summer Bar-B-Que on June 8th, Assembly 0123 will hold a volunteer day on June 14th, Assembly L102 will hold a matching funds golf tournament on June 16th, and Assembly 0432 will hold a Mini Golf outing on June 21st. Please contact your assembly for details on the events being held in June if you would like to participate.

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to Honorary Officer Justine Wesnak, Honorary Director Mary Jo Holker, Chairman of the Board Bob Katricak, Director Michael Czarney, Home Office Staff Members Max Abusara and Jill Grover, Cal Zemelman, Logan Triebisch, David Jancisin, Beverly Arbore, Rich Somplatsky, Joe Palko, Blaze Farrell, Keith Chojnicki, and all others celebrating a birthday in June.

Happy Wedding Anniversary Wishes to Director Mike and Randi Czarney and to Shannon and Edwin Woods and all others celebrating anniversaries during the month of June.

Home Office Staff Member Jill Grover recently underwent surgery and is recuperating. Wishing Jill a speedy recovery. Get well soon!

Recently, Mary Lou Chojnicki passed away. Mary Lou was a valued NSS employee for fifteen years and an officer in both her Assembly and Region #5. My deepest sympathy to the Chojnicki family. May God provide Peace and comfort to the family at this most difficult time.

Secretary-Treasurer's Page

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



With the beginning of the June, we are approaching the finish of the first 6 months of 2025! The year is flying by, summer is in full swing, vacations are happening, and the kids are home for the next two plus months. I hope that all of you get to spend time with family and friends whether it be on vacation, at the pool, or even on the back deck.

There are many upcoming NSS Events in the summer months. For more details on events below, including event times and registration, please refer to Bethany Bonnar's page or the Assembly and Region Events section at the back of this newsletter.

- Region 2 Matching Funds Event – 5K Moosic Run/Walk Benefiting the Moosic Parks.
- Region 5 Pirate night at PNC Park on Friday, June 20th against the Texas Rangers.
- Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on Thursday, July 17.
- Region 5 Picnic at Cedar Creek Park on Sunday, August 17.
- PVR Scholarship Renewals are due back into the Home Office by July 15.
- National Golf Outing at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Sharon, PA held July 18-20.
- Region 2 Concert for Paws II Event at the Lighthouse Inn located in West Wyoming, PA supporting the Luzerne County SPC, Whiskers World of Plains, PA, and St. Cats & Dogs of Nay Aug Zoo on July 26th.

The executive officers and some of the Board of Directors attended the AQS Symposium and the AFA Spring Symposium. These events keep us up to date on industry trends, regulations, and provide an opportunity for us to network and collaborate with other

fraternals across the US and Canada. The AQS event provided speakers on topics such as artificial intelligence, regulatory, business planning, investment and market trends, and fraternal peer data reviews.

The AFA Spring Symposium provided two tracks this year, Governance and Fraternal. The Governance track included content related to board stewardship, projecting expertise and confidence for better outcomes, executive and employee recruitment, retention and compensation and ERM strategies. The Fraternal track included topics related to video skills for success, social media impact, reimagining the chapter system, fraternal department changes, and stronger communities through powerful member events.

The board of directors will meet at the end of May, and I will provide a recap in next month's issue. Along with the 1st quarter financials and results of the 2024 audit being completed now.

We have all heard of the 'Dog Days of Summer,' but do you know the origin of the phrase? The days refer to July 3rd through August 11th and have nothing to do with 'Man's Best Friend.' Sirius is named the 'dog star' and appears to rise just before the sun near the end of July. The Greeks and Romans referenced this time at the hottest time of the year and created the term.

Your June Riddle:

Born from breath and woven of thread,
I usually fly in the day and sleep
in the garage or the shed.
I dance with the sky,
yet tether to ground,
My silence is song
when no voices are found.
I am chased by children
but never afraid,
My spine is of sticks,
and my soul is handmade.
I fall with no sorrow,
I rise with no will,
A prisoner of freedom,
held perfectly still.

What am I?

The answer will be in the **July issue...**

But for every correct answer, I will place your name in a drawing and pull a winner of some NSS merchandise

and recognition in next month's issue!

Until then, may you enjoy your summer, create memories, travel safely, and God bless you and your families!

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

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective May 1, 2025 ★

Optimum 3 – 4.75%

Preferred 5 – 5.50%* (For First Year Only)

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.



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Class of
2025
CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES
★★★★★★★★

HERE IS SOME FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANNING ADVICE TO HELP YOU!

1. Create a **FINANCIAL PLAN** and a **BUDGET**.
2. Follow the **50/30/20 RULE FOR SUCCESS**. This method divides your funds into three categories. **50%** for **BILLS**, **30%** for **DISCRETIONARY SPENDING** and **20%** for **SAVINGS**. Follow this rule and you will always have money.
3. Pay bills **ON TIME** and **PROTECT** your **CREDIT**.
4. Build an **EMERGENCY FUND**.
5. Buy **LIFE INSURANCE** because **NOBODY KNOWS** the **FUTURE**.

From the Sales Department...

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



there are a myriad of options for all the different types of annuity plans and riders available in the market place. Finally, when the proceeds are paid to a named beneficiary the proceeds can avoid probate, thus protecting your heirs.

Annuities are one of the greatest methods to accumulate money. In fact, after Social Security, American insurance companies paid retirees the second most amount of money. That is why we celebrate the month of June as National Annuity Awareness Month. To specifically raise awareness of the unique characteristics of an annuity. To let people know that an annuity should be part of any good financial plan in whole or part. For more information about how annuities work and how they can help you, please contact your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office.

(youth term, 10- & 20-year level term) all have been priced to provide the maximum insurance coverage for the least amount of money. Life insurance is a great financial tool that when used properly, allows you to enjoy more of your income. Life insurance provides a person with peace of mind. Life insurance has never been more affordable. Call us at the Home Office for more information or a free quote.

How To Create An Emergency Fund

One of the basic tenets of any financial plan is to have an emergency fund. If you have funds already in a savings account somewhere then that would be fine. Otherwise, decide on a goal of between 3 – 6 months of living expenses as your target. Start small, automate the savings, and keep the money in the bank or a high-yield money market account so it is readily available. This fund should be for real emergencies. As your account builds up, start to increase the amount of money you are saving. Watch spending and consider creating a budget. Only tap the account for real emergencies and replenish any amount withdrawn. This is a basic step but one that is fundamental to any solid financial plan.

8 in 10

adult Gen Zers feel pressure to be **more ahead financially** than they are.

Source: Adulthood Across Generations, Life Happens, Sept. 2024



42% say adulthood is **harder** than they anticipated, with 71% saying it's **harder than it was 10 years ago.**

Source: Adulthood Across Generations, Life Happens, Sept. 2024



June Is National Annuity Awareness Month

The word annuity is a funny word. Who came up with that word? Why don't we use the word savings or something similar? Believe it or not, at one time, only financially savvy people knew about annuities. Today because every company offers them the opposite is true and everyone knows something about annuities.

Here are a few facts about annuities. They are savings programs offered by insurance companies. They feature tax-deferred interest so your account may grow faster. They pay competitive interest rates and have a strong guarantee. Many people use the lifetime payments associated with annuities to help fund their retirement goals. Others like the fact that fixed annuities are safe, stable and don't fluctuate like their 401k account. Add in fact that

Life Insurance Is Less Expensive

There are all kinds of questions that come up when people think about buying life insurance. What kind to buy, how much to buy? What company and more? One question that is easy to answer is when I should get more life insurance. The answer is right now because you will never be any younger. Probably you will never be any healthier. Insurance is priced based on your age, interest rates, and mortality. Currently, life insurance rates are at an all-time competitively low rate. Whether a person is looking at a permanent plan of insurance (whole life, single premium) or one of our term plans

People would rather **spend \$15/month on life insurance (59%)** than on a standard **Netflix subscription (23%).**

Source: Adulthood Across Generations, Life Happens, Sept. 2024



Thought For The Month:

I would rather regret the things I've done, than the things I never did or even tried.

Lucille Ball - TV actor and comedian (1911-1989)

The Community Corner

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



Whether you're celebrating that school is out for the summer or if you are simply "shell-ebrating" the warm weather, NSS Life has everything you need to make some waves this summer! There's nothing like summer in the Steel City, so join us for some fun around Pittsburgh with our Region 5 Pirates game and Kennywood Slovak Day! Not near PA? Check out the other awesome NSS Activities happening in your area!

PVR Scholarships

Thank you to all scholarship applicants who applied for the 2025-2026 PVR Scholarship! Take my word for it – they are an outstanding group of incredible young adults! We cannot wait to announce them in an upcoming edition of the *National News*! All current scholarship recipients must submit a copy of their most recent transcript to renew their scholarship for the upcoming school year. 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 by **July 15th**.

Reminder that if your PVR Scholar is transferring to a different school, or changing institutions for a graduate degree, to include proof of acceptance to the new institution! That way we can make sure their check is made out correctly! Reach out to the home office with any questions you may have regarding PVR Scholarships.



2025 NSS National Golf Tournament

Grab your clubs and mark your calendars for the 2025 NSS National Golf Tournament! Join us at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, PA on **July 18-20th** for a fun-filled weekend! There is still time to sign up to compete in the golf competition! We are once again excited to offer an alternative activity for our non-golfers! Email bbonnar@nsslife.org or call 412-770-2093 for more details on the non-golfer activity and to sign up! Whether golf is your game or not, we will all come together to celebrate our fraternal bond at Hospitality Night on Friday night, and at the Tournament Banquet on Saturday night! Contact the NSS Home Office with any questions or for more information!



Kennywood Slovak Day

Summertime means Kennywood time (at least it does if you're from the 'burgh)! Join our NSS Life family at Slovak Day at Kennywood on

Thursday, **July 17th**! In addition to all your Kennywood favorites like Potato Patch Fries, the Steel Curtain, and the Phantom's Revenge, we'll be serving up traditional Slovak food and having music and dance performances! Tickets to the Park for Slovak Day only are \$33.00 each! Flex tickets that can be used any day of the 2025 season are available for purchase at \$40.00. Call 412-770-2094 to request tickets or for more information!

Region 5 Youth members **under age 16** are eligible for a free ticket to Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. Please email: bbonnar@nsslife.org or call 412-770-2093 with the names and number of tickets. **Membership will be verified** before tickets are mailed.

These tickets are good thru September 7, 2025.



Social Media

Want to have early access to the winners of the May Art Contest? Here's a hint: you can find them on our social media accounts! Give us a follow-on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)**, **Facebook (@NSS Life)** and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)** to see if your artistic creation was a winner!

5 Lessons in Life from Dr. Suess

1. Today you are You, that is truer than true.
There is no one alive who is Youer than You.
2. Why fit in when you were born to stand out?
3. You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
4. Be who you are and say what you feel,
because those who mind don't matter and
those who matter won't mind.
5. Today I shall behave, as if this is the day
I will be remembered.

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? Join us as we attend a local Art workshop (See info below)

2025 National Golf Tournament - Non-Golfer Activity

For those planning on attending the 2025 Golf Tournament (who plan on leaving their clubs at home!), join us for a **Tour of Amish Country!** Your personal tour guide will lead you on a drive through the Amish Countryside where you will learn about the Amish lifestyle and visit farms, bakeries, and quilt shops!



Please complete and return this registration form to Bethany Bonnar at the NSS Home Office at: 1301 Ashwood, Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317

Saturday, July 19th - 10:00am

*Limited spots are available! Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis.
Registration forms must be accompanied by payment*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reservations are \$13.00 per person. Please make checks payable to: NSS Life

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

____ Hole Sponsor @ \$100.00 per hole

Name for Sign: _____

\$ _____ TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM

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

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

Due June 25, 2025

2025 Youth Achievement Award Winner Maya McDonnell



Maya has been a lifetime member of Assembly 617, participating and helping with Fraternal Day at Knoebels Grove almost every year. Not being much of a poet, she has submitted several works for the art and ornament contests and even won once or twice!

Maya is an active member of her church of St. Matthew's. She first helped the parish as an altar server for six years and now teaches religious education to kindergarten and first graders in her last two years of

high school. She also participates in seasonal decorating of the church and classrooms, Letters to Santa, and serving at Community Meals. This year she won the annual Bishop's Youth Award, given to 8th and 12th graders, nominated by the parish pastor. These youth have demonstrated "actively pursuing the four pillars of word, worship, community, and service."

In her neighborhood in the Pocono mountains, it was Maya's idea for her family to host high school international exchange students. The first was for six months with a student from Germany with Youth For Understanding. The second was for two weeks with the German American Partnership Program. Her family also hosted children from the Fresh Air Fund for many summers. This program matches youth from the inner cities of the New York metropolitan area with families from "the country." Perhaps that is why Maya was open to the joy (and challenges!) of sharing their home and lives with strangers. Whether the students came from Queens or Kaiserslautern, Maya tried her best to help them feel part of the family, school, and community. As a testament to their continuing friendships, she has been invited to visit these student's families and has already purchased her ticket to Europe after graduation.

Hopefully travel plans can include Slovakia!

She assists neighbors in feeding and walking their pets (except for the fish) and watering their plants. She even started her own micro business called "Got Gardening?" Once she could get her working papers, she was first employed at a local ice cream shop and cafe for a year and a half and now has been working for over a year at Great Wolf Lodge as a food and beverage attendant.

Maya is a very busy senior at East Stroudsburg South High School. She has been playing in the band since the third grade, but it was in high school that she switched from trombone to tuba. She has played with the Tri-County and District Bands, and this year, Regional Band. All of these require multiple auditions, time away from home and school, and a certain amount of discipline to make amazing music with musicians from many different high schools. She is a member of DECA, an international career and technical high school student organization. She attended one of their conventions in Hershey, PA, and twice won awards in the Hospitality and Tourism category for her yearly presentations.

For the past four years, she has been active in the Four Diamonds Mini-THON, which raises funds to support children and their families struggling against childhood cancer. This year she is in second place for fund-raising so far! Throughout her high school years, Maya has earned her place in the National Honor Society by staying in the top ten percent of her class and serving as its Activities Coordinator. In addition to taking honors and AP courses, she has earned credits for future college courses. She has also received several Student of the Quarter and Music Department awards.

This past year, Maya is a member of the Future Educator Cohort, a pilot program to introduce high school seniors to a career in education. They are paired with veteran teachers in the area and have weekly visits with different schools and grade levels. She was also instrumental in creating a video for younger grades to learn about the Cohort. As senior vice president, she has been active in fundraising, decision making, and advocating for the Class of 2025. She is very involved in after-school sports, late summer through late spring, as a team captain for both the cross country and track and field teams, often placing in the 4x800 relay, 1600 and 3200m races. Last year, her times qualified her for track and field Districts and Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

2025 Fraternalist of the Year Jim Bench



A retired professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, James M. Bench, or Jim as he prefers, has spent a considerable portion of his life helping others. When asked why, his response is consistent, explaining that his Slovak grandmother had always insisted that he help others, especially Slovaks.

A proud United States Army veteran, he became active with the Blairsville VFW, participating in the annual community fair as well as other post activities including playing on the VFW fast pitch softball team. His community activities continued to accelerate especially following his return to Pennsylvania after a short absence. In the small community of Derry, PA, Jim became actively involved in the annual church fundraising fair as well as donating prize vegetables from a prolific garden. Coaching Little League and Teener League Baseball also became a priority and lasted for many years.

A chance meeting with a young Slovak exchange student returning to Slovakia after a year in the USA revealed that she had no idea of Slovak/American organizations or Slovak/Americans. This led to the immediate development of the "Bench Slovensky Den" or Bench Slovak Day held in their residence in Derry, PA. Slovak exchange students were invited to the affair. Transportation was provided, as was much food and merriment. The presence of an honored guest, such as an important elected official, prominent entertainer, fraternal leader, or Slovak embassy diplomat led

to situations of great advantage for many of the students. The Bench Slovensky Den continued for over 10 years, ending when privacy regulations made it too difficult to identify the Slovak students. However, the many positive results were long lasting. There was no organizational support, and the associated costs were absorbed by the Bench Family. Another project was the clothing shipments to the mostly Slovak smaller villages. Another project was the clothing shipments to the mostly Slovak smaller villages. Under an arrangement with a large department store, seasonal clothing was available at dramatically reduced prices. The cost of goods and shipment were borne by Jim and his wife Kay.

In the interim, Slovak Folk and entertainment groups were finding their way to the USA. Unfortunately, some were ill advised relative to the size of the USA and associated costs such as travel, food, and accommodations. A tremendously talented family of eleven, which included nine children, along with parents visiting western Pennsylvania stayed with the Bench Family for over a week. Their stay included assistance with contacting and scheduling performances along with transportation to the performance sites. Another group of forty were fortunate to have had an entire weekend of food prepared and delivered by the Bench team of Jim and Kay. Other groups were accommodated and also assisted with finding entertainment sites in order to perform and earn money.

Steve Bacon, who founded the Youngstown, OH, Spisska Nova Ves Sister City Program was persistent in inviting Jim to join the program as a board member. Friendly persistence from Steve Bacon and Judge John J. Leskovyansky, followed by a phone call, advised Jim of his selection to the Board. Although the selection was without application, it led to a very active schedule lasting over two decades. During that time, Jim served as Director, Vice President, and ultimately President. The numerous activities of the Youngstown Sister Cities Program would rival any existing programs. Programs include a survey with Spisska Nova Ves that resulted in a request for teachers of English. Our response was forty-two teachers of English in 1991-1998. A major program of medical supplies and equipment was one of the major projects. The value of the shipments exceeded \$15 million. Most of the equipment came from closed Veterans Hospitals in the Ohio area. Financial assistance to pay for a pump used to contain flooding by the fire department was appreciated, as was financial assistance in establishing an emergency warning system throughout the city.

Following the dramatic and highly damaging hurricane in the Tatra Mountains, funds were donated to replace trees that were destroyed. With the kind assistance of a local business, numerous shipments of beautiful evening gowns have been a major activity with the amount of formal wear in the thousands. To support these endeavors, fundraising is a major activity and the Slovak Fraternals have been generous and gracious in responding to our requests.

The annual Tour of Slovakia is a program that entails time, effort, and an abundance of patience. The total of 21 tours with 596 tourists would ordinarily require a Tourist Agency. However, the tours originally initiated by Steve Bacon were eventually entrusted to Jim and Kay Bench. In addition to a highly attractive tour of Slovakia, assistance was provided to families searching for relatives, some with little or no contact in 100 years.

The Bench activity program over the years has also included helping Slovaks interested in immigrating to the USA, and providing the sponsorship required. The activities of the Sister City program not included in this report are available to the interested parties.

Finally, as a proud Veteran, Jim is a life member of the VFW and also belongs to most of the Slovak Fraternals, including NSS Life. He takes solace in looking up to heaven and stating. "Bubba, I tried."

Kraslice Class - Egg Decorating



Classes were held on April 5th and April 12th at the NSS Heritage Museum in McMurray. Local artist, Mike Yanchak, was the instructor at both sessions. He told the attendees about the origin, techniques and symbolisms used to create "kraslice." The process can be used on raw eggs, egg shells that have had the egg removed or hard boiled eggs. At this class, cleaned out egg shells were used. Mike guided the attendees through a step by step process to create their own colorful Easter egg. Everyone followed his instructions but all eggs turned out to show their individual levels of artistic skills. All were beautiful and unique. If you missed this year's class – watch next year's calendar of events and plan to attend to learn how to create these beautiful Easter eggs. Proceeds from the class registration will benefit the PVR Scholarship Fund.

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!!**

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Congratulations to all those who are graduating from any level (pre-school, elementary school, middle school, high school, college or trade school). We wish you well!

A GREAT DEAL! See the Pittsburgh Pirates play the Texas Rangers at a discounted price of only \$25.00, which includes a \$10.00 food or souvenir voucher. Date is Friday, **June 20th** at 6:40 pm. Tickets are limited. More information in the *National News*. Sponsored by Region Five.

Do you like good Slovak cooking? Then **"Slovak Day"** at Kennywood Park is the place to be. Thursday, **July 17th** is your opportunity to attend at a discounted price. A sign-up form is in this issue. Tickets are limited so order today!

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of John Henry Ansell, Richard Chanovich, Robert Judy III, Corinne Luckey and A. Ramona Nave. May they rest in the loving arms of the resurrected Christ.

Youth assembly members, who are currently on an NSS PVR Scholarship, the deadline to renew your scholarship is July 15th! A copy of your most recent transcript is required!

Take the opportunity on Sunday, June 15th to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance for fathers both living and deceased.

Our next assembly meeting will be on Sunday, **September 14th**. We will meet in the community room of the Bob Evans Restaurant in Uniontown at 6:00 pm. As in the past, we will be remembering those who died on United Flight 93 on September 11th. See you there.

Happy Father's Day,

Paul Payerchin
Secretary



ASSEMBLY 0070 Brooklyn, OH

A meeting and picnic will be held on **June 22, 2025** at Dr Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn Ohio at 11:00 am. The meeting will be combined with a picnic, where we will provide the main course. Please RSVP to John Karkosiak of your chicken meat preference by calling **216-741-6990** by June 15th. Side dishes and/or desserts would be appreciated.

John Karkosiak
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Mark your calendar for the following events:

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

Assembly 123 will gather on **June 14th**, at 1:00 p.m at Global Links. A meeting will be held thereafter at an area restaurant. We accept input as to where you want to meet and eat. Email me at **nss123@email.com**.

It's also Flag Day on June 14th and remember your father on Father's Day, June 15th.

Secretary/Treasurer and my wife, Jill Grover is recovering on schedule. There's a good chance she can be home by June. We appreciate your continuing prayers.

I hope to see you at Global Links.

Lyle Grover
President



ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Our next meeting is our annual assembly picnic on **August 3rd** at Richardson's Park, Bentleyville, PA where our assembly started at 3:00 p.m.! One of our members, Andy Sabo, suggested we add Slovak food to the menu. There will be stuffed cabbage, pierogies and kielbasa and sauerkraut and other picnic food. Come to enjoy the day and bring a new member! Also, please bring a dog or cat toy or a can of food to donate to the Humane Society of Washington County.

With summer coming and good weather, we look forward to the Pirates baseball game with Region Five and Slovak Day at Kennywood.

On **October 12th** a meeting will be held at Sesame Gourmet Restaurant at 3:00 p.m. which is always a good time. We like to ask about the Chinese New Year and the staff likes to talk about it!

Our annual Christmas party will be held at Hugo's Restaurant, West Brownsville, PA on **December 7th** at 3:00 p.m. Make sure to donate Christmas cards or make an ornament for the contest if you are interested. In addition, we will have a very special surprise this year at the party so mark your calendars!

Please RSVP to me for all meetings by calling or texting me at 724-207-3171 or email me at **suzanne.Skrypak@gmail.Com** at least a week in advance if possible.

Until we meet again, be safe and stay healthy! We do appreciate all of our members very much!

Best regards,

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 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

A meeting will be held on **July 10, 2025** at AmberDonia Bakery in Kingston, PA beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Reminder to members of the assembly that Fraternal Day will be held on **August 7, 2025**, and that reservations end on July 30, 2025.

Any member planning to attend the meeting and Fraternal Day please contact John Kurilla at **570-287-4163, 570-239-5936** 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 813

Englewood, FL

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.

Mary Jo Holker
Secretary-Treasurer

REGION 2

Hazleton, PA

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 reju-

venate 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

REGION 5

Pittsburgh, PA

Kennywood tickets are available for *102nd Slovak Day*, on July 17th at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA for Region 5 youth members **age 16 and under** at no cost. One per member. Tickets are good thru September 7, 2025.

Please email: bbonnar@nsslife.org or call 412-770-2093 with the names and number of tickets. **Membership will be verified** before tickets are mailed.

Sue Ondrejco
Treasurer

Assembly 70

Matching Funds



Our assembly matching funds check presentation to Dr. Martin Luther Church for their fish fries.

Pictured left to right are: DMLC Council President: Fred Spann, NSS 70 Secretary: Katie Karkosiak, NSS 70 President: Sarah Blaine, and Pastor Erik Markovich.

Assembly L-161 Spreading Easter Cheer



Everyone enjoys surprises. This year our Assembly once again assembled Easter baskets for two area groups. 100 baskets were filled with items such as hand lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, snack crackers, puzzle books, games, hand soap, q-tips etc.

50 baskets were donated to the Fishes and Loaves cooperative ministries which serves the Hazelwood area in Pittsburgh. They provide over 17,000 pounds of emergency food every year to the community. And 50 Baskets were donated and delivered to the residents of The Haven at North Hills Senior Residence.

Thanks to Suzy Ondrejco, Annie & Justin Mann, Rudy & Sue Ondrejco, Linda Collins and Theresa Allan who helped shop, assemble and deliver the baskets.

We are happy to report another successful Matching Fund hoagie sale with the Whitaker Volunteer Fire Company. Dave Urban of the Whitaker Fire Volunteers expressed his appreciation for our assistance.

Have a safe and fun-filled summer,

Sue Ondrejco
Secretary/Treasurer

Assembly 0377 Meeting



Many members attended our meeting in April, 2025 at Domenico's Restaurant, Monesson, PA

Assembly 731 Spring Project

At our February 2025 assembly meeting Assembly 731's officers and members voted to 'adopt' a local organization for our special spring project. With that in mind, our members donated to two different charities in the Youngstown area. The Beatitude House, and the Sojourner House.

Beatitude House, a ministry of the Ursuline Sisters Mission has been providing supportive housing opportunities to those experiencing hopelessness since 1991. They also offer emergency shelter, education and wellness in the Mahoning Valley area. Along with those services the Beatitude House also offers tutoring, homework assistance and overall support to the children of the families of the mission.

The Sojourner House's mission is to provide and promote healthy relationships, and sensitive support, advocacy, housing and education to victims and survivors of domestic violence for over 45 years.

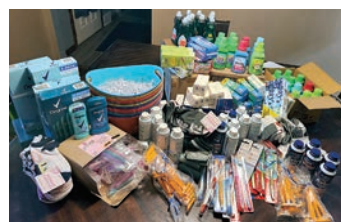
Through donations from our members Assembly 731 was able to provide 50 care packages to the Children's program at the Beatitude House. These bags were filled with Easter Treats, water bottles, snacks and toys.

We were also able to create 20 care baskets to the in-house members of the Beatitude House. These baskets were made up of everyday essential needs. Soaps, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes and toothpastes are a few of the items we were able to provide.

Assembly 731 also provided everyday needed items to the Sojourn house pantry. Items such as dish soap, laundry care needs, health and beauty aids, along with clothing, food and First Aid needs.

A huge thank you to all the members of Assembly 731 who made our special project possible.

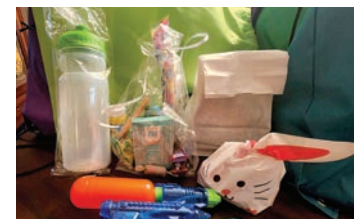
Kathy Cessna
Youth Programs Organizer



Items for the adult baskets



Valerie, James and Evelyn Cessna helping get kids bags ready to go.



A few of the items donated for the Youth Bags for Beatitude House.



Baskets all wrapped very nicely and ready to be delivered.

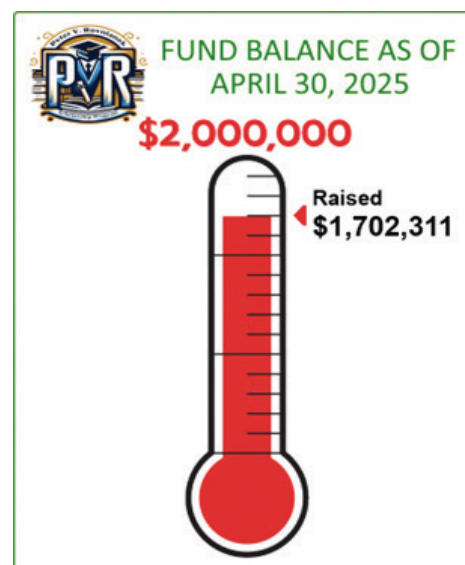


PVR Fund News

Welcome June! While June marks the official start of summer, for the PVR Fund Board of directors, June is graduation season. Congratulations to all of our graduates! This year's PVR Scholarship winners will be announced in the next issue of our magazine.

June is an excellent month to hold an outdoor Assembly event – a picnic, a group trip to a baseball game, or any other outdoor gathering. While you're out enjoying the weather, please keep the PVR Fund in mind, and hold a fundraiser in conjunction with your event. An easy fundraiser is a 50/50 Raffle. 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."

June also reminds us that we are only one year away from the Convention, which means that we have only one year remaining to reach our goal. Since we are writing this at the beginning of May to be published in June, we have 13 months until our deadline. We are pleased to reflect the recent donations from our corporate sponsors in this month's thermometer. **THANK YOU** to our corporate donors and to our members! We are only **\$297,688.44** away from our \$2 million goal.



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: Anna Mann

SCHOLARSHIP FIRST AWARDED: 2007

Since I was a little girl, I had always wanted to be in the medical field. I remember telling my dad that I wanted to be a doctor one day. However, I learned that nurses are the backbone of healthcare and changed my dream from becoming a doctor to becoming a nurse. I received the PVR Scholarship from 2007-2011 while I earned my Associates Degree in Nursing from the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). I had also earned an Associates Degree in Science and an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from CCAC.

Throughout school, I worked as a Phlebotomist and Patient Care Technician at UPMC Mercy on their Orthopedic, Trauma, and Burn unit. Once I completed my degrees and passed the NCLEX- the nursing licensure exam, I transitioned to an RN on that same unit. Caring for patients who have lost almost everything in fires or other traumatic events, I realized that things can always be taken away or destroyed, but education is forever.

After about 10 years, I accepted a position at UPMC Magee in their Operating Room and completed my Bachelor's of Science in Nursing through Slippery Rock's RN to BSN program in 2021. Feeling ready to take the leap into a leadership role, I began my current role as the Operating Room Clinician at UPMC Children's North Surgery Center in November of 2021. Without the help of the PVR Scholarship, my dream of becoming a Nurse would have been a lot more difficult to achieve. From textbooks, tuition, school supplies- stethoscopes, scrubs, notecards to name a few- the scholarship helped to offset some of those costs.

My husband, Justin, and I have stayed in Pittsburgh which allows us to be active members of NSS Life. You can often find us working in the kitchen for events like Septemberfest and Christmas Around the World or even at the Region 5 picnic! We hope the PVR Scholarship continues to be available for NSS Members for many years to come! D'akujem velmi pekne!



Mary Lou Chojnicki Assembly 100 Passes Away at 95



Mary Lou Chojnicki, Age 95, formerly of Baldwin Boro, passed away on May 9th, 2025. She was married to the late Anthony E. Chojnicki, Jr for 65 years and blessed with two sons, Keith (Melinda) and Philip. Beloved "Baba-Lou" of Karyn (Jeremiah) Moore, and great "Baba-Lou" to Aria and Chloe Moore. She will be missed by many nieces and nephews. Mary Lou is preceeded in death by her parents, Andrew and Mary Olah, and her brother Andy Olah.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, especially her great-granddaughters. Mary Lou was very fond of purple, loved prune pierogis, and was known as the "life of the party." She belonged to the Christian Mothers Eucharistic Ministers, serving South Side Hospital, volunteering as a gym teacher at St. Matthew's grade school, sang in the choir at St. Matthew's Church, and was a member of the FCSLA Circle 1291. She was a beloved employee at the National Slovak Society, where she worked for 15 years. She was an Officer of NSS Region 5, where she served as the president and treasurer of Circle 100.

Mary Lou was an avid bowler, eventually winning the National Ladies Double Championship (with her partner Marion Spiecher). She has dedicated her life to helping friends, family, and seniors and has earned the respect of people of all ages.

Mary Lou will be missed at local events by many members of the National Slovak Society. Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the Chojnicki family.

DEPARTED MEMBERS APRIL 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Ansell, John	Prospect, PA	04/17/2025	0731
Armstrong, Geraldine	Saxonburg, PA	03/11/2025	0123
Baehr, Paula	New Kensington, PA	04/22/2025	L105
Balsick, Loraine	Calhan, CO	03/14/2025	0236
Balsinger, Betty	Canonsburg, PA	03/30/2025	0434
Bayes, Violet	Charleston, WV	05/10/2024	0774
Beckershoff, Robert	Exton, PA	03/25/2025	0774
Bogozi, Judith	Masontown, PA	04/25/2025	0774
Brakeman, Alice	Meadville, PA	03/27/2025	0554
Brandt, Lida Anne	Palmyra, PA	04/16/2025	L102
Bringer, Carolyn	Circleville, PA	03/29/2025	0595
Brown, Dorothy	McClelland Town, PA	02/25/2025	0039
Brunner, Nicholas	Baraboo, WI	02/02/2025	0774
Chadman, Margaret	Lamartine, PA	01/31/2025	0731
Chauvaux, Ruth	Tyler, TX	03/18/2025	0774
Cicchetti, Erlene	Brownsville, PA	04/14/2025	0377
Clauser, Henry	Butler, PA	02/26/2025	0554
Clingan, Janet	Uniontown, PA	02/11/2025	0039
Conklin, Timothy	Corry, PA	03/25/2025	0774
Conrad, Charles	Strausstown, PA	04/13/2025	L102
Dangel, Iram	State College, PA	03/28/2025	L040
Daumit, Dennis	Rostraver, PA	04/07/2025	0377
De Paoli, Carole	Cecil, PA	04/07/2025	0434
De Santis, Clara	Mc Kees Rocks, PA	03/16/2025	L161
Deibert, Mardelle	Orwigsburg, PA	03/30/2025	L102
Draskovic, Janet	Cranberry Twp, PA	08/01/2024	L161
Edwards, Margaret	Williamsburg, PA	03/24/2025	0267
Esplen, Nancy	Butler, PA	02/20/2025	0731
Facchiano, John	Erie, PA	02/19/2025	0731
Fields, Kathryn	Knoxville, TN	10/11/2024	0100
Gardner, Maxine	Hurricane, WV	02/15/2025	0774
Gibson, James	Ligonier, PA	04/03/2025	0737
Gordon, Willie	Harrisburg, PA	11/28/2024	L102
Graham, Lola	Upper Tract, WV	03/12/2025	0774
Greco, Angelo	West Chester, OH	12/20/2024	0123
Haas, Imogene	Clover, SC	11/03/2025	0774
Hamilton, JP Graham	Aliquippa, PA	02/21/2025	0123
Hand, Mary	Grandville, MI	03/23/2025	0381
Harris, Alberta	Bridgeport, WV	12/28/2024	0774
Hauber, Antoinette	Pittsburgh, PA	03/24/2025	0123
Heltman, Mary	State College, PA	03/16/2025	L040
Hepler Sr., Richard	Apollo, PA	03/23/2025	L105
Hoenich, David	Minersville, PA	04/21/2025	L102
Hollabaugh, Donald	Cochran, PA	04/24/2025	0731
Holthouse, Carole	Clymer, NC	04/11/2025	0774
Hoover, John	Indiana, PA	03/11/2025	0774
Hovater, James	Chillicothe, OH	04/16/2025	0595
Hrutkay, George	Canonsburg, PA	03/05/2025	0377
Humbert, Frances	Leckrone, PA	03/25/2025	0774
Inhoff, Robert	Jeannette, PA	03/31/2025	0737
Jurakovich, Daniel	Bessemer, MI	03/13/2025	0381
Kern, Donna	Connellsville, PA	04/08/2025	0039
Kesling, Estella	Pittsburgh, PA	02/01/2025	0774
Kinner, Charles	Elizabeth, PA	02/12/2025	0737
Kinney, Minta	West Portsmouth, PA	08/04/2024	0774
Klingensmith, Lucille	Champion, PA	02/22/2025	0039
Kopas, Patricia	Hastings, PA	04/03/2025	0267
Kostegian, Anne	Redford, MI	12/20/2024	0381
Kostrej, Anna	Munhall, PA	11/28/2024	0108
Kozak, Arlene	Erie, PA	01/19/2025	0108
Krammers, Georgina	Mohnton, PA	04/02/2025	L102

DEPARTED MEMBERS APRIL 2025

(Continued from page 18)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Kroutch Sr., John	Pottstown, PA	04/21/2025	L102
Lansberry, Ruth	Julian, PA	03/29/2025	L040
Lavenduski, Albina	Dallas, PA	04/09/2025	0617
Leone, Nancy	Rockwood, PA	04/20/2025	0039
Lovejoy, George	Blount, WV	03/15/2025	0774
Mancing, Ruth	Sewickley, PA	03/17/2025	0123
Marinelli, Mary	Pittsburgh, PA	03/08/2025	0434
Mayhue, George	Greensboro, NC	03/16/2025	0774
Michael, Naomi	Berkley Springs, WV	03/06/2025	0774
Minardi, Thomas	Easton, PA	02/24/2025	R059
Moffo, Daunna	Mingo Junction, OH	04/04/2025	0588
Montgomery, Ann Fowler	Walnut Cove, NC	03/24/2025	0774
Moore, Jo Ann	Robbins, NC	04/12/2025	0774
Morris, Jacqueline	Oakmont, PA	03/28/2025	L161
Mustin, Mark	Fairview, PA	01/07/2024	0774
Ormandy, Jean	Shady Spring, WV	03/26/2025	0774
Packe, Joan	New Stanton, PA	03/11/2025	0737
Palanque, Marlene	Charlotte, NC	11/17/2024	0774
Peiffer, Dale	Saxonburg, PA	04/08/2025	L161
Pleva, Robert	Duncansville, PA	04/15/2025	0267
Pluto, Ruth	Lemont Furnace, PA	04/14/2025	0039
Pryor, Shirley	Pittsburgh, PA	04/03/2025	0731
Ransom, Benjamin	Apollo, PA	03/30/2025	L105
Rapp, Patricia	Shillington, P	04/13/2025	L102
Raschitelli, Frank	Allison Park, PA	04/07/2025	0377
Ratliff, Charlot	Buckeye, WV	02/03/2025	0774
Reppert, Faye	Port Clinton, PA	04/01/2025	L102
Riegel, Edwin	Bellefonte, PA	03/18/2025	L040
Robateau, Janice	Huntington, WV	03/05/2025	0774
Roberts, Beverly	Buffalo Grove, IL	02/20/2025	0586
Rodd, Sandy	Canonsburg, PA	03/25/2025	0434
Rodriquez, Virginia	Philadelphia, PA	03/24/2025	0774
Rogowski, Sandra	McDonald, PA	04/07/2025	0588
Rudy, Ruth	Centre Hall, PA	03/28/2025	L040
Sanchez, Barbara	Duncansville, PA	04/22/2025	0267
Saner, Gary	Lakewood, NJ	03/06/2025	0774
Saniga, George	Pittsburgh, PA	02/24/2025	0434
Senko, Albina	Pittsburgh	03/09/2025	0644
Sicher, Mario	Gold Canyon, AZ	01/21/2025	L161
Smith, Gerald	Cabot, PA	12/23/2025	0123
Smith, Ila	Los Angeles, CA	01/19/2025	0568
Spinosa, Barbara	Warminster, PA	03/30/2025	L102
Stasik, Gail	West Mifflin, PA	03/19/2025	0441
Stephens, I Glenn	Parker, PA	03/31/2025	L102
Sweeney, Jeanette	Bellefonte, PA	04/11/2025	0267
Taglieber Jr., John	Pottstown, PA	04/23/2025	L102
Tarasovich, Rosemary	Pittsburgh, PA	03/27/2025	0100
Thompson, Sylvia	Tyrone, PA	04/23/2025	0267
Thorn, Larry	Sandyville, WV	05/08/2025	0774
Thorne, Marian	South Oak Hill, WV	03/01/2025	0774
Urban, Eleanor	Evans City, PA	04/08/2025	L161
Walker, Ricky	Bellaire, OH	04/18/2025	0588
Warden, Jon	North Huntingdon, PA	02/07/2025	0737
Wedge, Arthur	Masury, OH	04/13/2025	0731
Wence, Betty	Brownsville, PA	04/05/2025	0039
Wentzel, Edward	Reading, PA	11/24/2024	L102
Yanniello, Joseph	Washington, PA	02/12/2025	0588
Yaroschak, Helen	Saxonburg, PA	03/27/2025	0123
Young, Laura	Cleveland, OH	03/02/2025	0070
Zapalski, Christine	Erie, PA	03/28/2025	0267



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 Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

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

Donations:

Equisoft Inc. Corp 10,000.00
Assembly 267 3,000.00
AQS Asset Management
LLC 1,000.00
Alexander & Company 500.00
Paula Seatter 8.00

*"My father gave me the
greatest gift anyone could
give another person, he
believed in me."*

—Jim Valvano





Executive officers and Board members attending the workshop.

The 2025 AQS Insurance Symposium was held April 23 in Chicago. This was a great opportunity to learn, network and share experiences with the AQS team and other AQS clients from across the country. NSS Executive Officers and Directors attended the symposium gaining a wealth of knowledge from the various workshops they attended:

- Practical AI Solutions
- Trends and Outlook in Bridge Lending
- How Business Plans Drive Success for Smaller Insurers
- NAIC Model Bulletin and Other Developments on the Use of Artificial Intelligence
- Economic Perspective and Update
- Harnessing Internal Asset to Increase Revenue and Profits
- Peer Data Trends and Observations

American Fraternal Alliance

The The 2025 Spring American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) Symposium was held in Cleveland the first week in May. The Symposium was a collaborative of presenters and attendees from numerous fraternal organizations across the nation. NSS Life President, Secretary/Treasurer, Member and Community Engagement Coordinator and several National Directors attended the Symposium.

They came together to share ideas and the fraternal spirit while attending various workshops.

Fraternal & Communications

Sharpening Your Video Skills for Society Success: A Hands-On Workshop. Social Media as a Megaphone for Fraternal Impact. Reimagining the Chapter System: Strategies for Restructure and Growth. Making Your Case for Fraternal Department Change: Strategies for Preventing Resistance. Building Stronger Communities with Powerful Member Events

Governance & Leadership:

The Three Stewardship Imperatives of Fit-for-Purpose Boards. Fraternal Gravitas: Projecting Expertise and Confidence for Better Outcomes. Appropriate Fraternal Spend: What's Too Much or Too Little for a Tax-Exempt Insurer? Fraternal Executive Compensation: The Right Talent, The Right Pay. Balancing Risk and Reward: ERM Strategies for Success.

At the conclusion of the Symposium, everyone teamed up to assemble 500 Blessings in a Backpack filled with weekend meals for the children of the Cleveland area. The group also raised over \$10,000 to be used to fund additional meals for children.

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 for discount tickets please contact **Bethany Bonnar** at the home office at **(412) 770-2093**.

Region 5 Youth members under age 16 are eligible for free tickets, please include their names along with the below ticket order form. Membership will be verified.

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 FLEX Date tickets at \$40.00 each: _____

Number of **Region 5 Youth Member (Under 16)** Tickets

Slovak Day: _____ FLEX Date: _____

Total Payment: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail form along with payment to: Bethany Bonnar
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Region 5



Family Picnic

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion # 1

1 — 5 p.m.



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



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

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

Deadline for registration July 28, 2025



13th Annual Septemberfest
Saturday, September 27, 2025

11 AM—4 PM

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

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

Become a Sponsor:

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

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

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

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

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

Other ways you can help:

Donate a basket for the raffle to benefit the PVR Fund
(Matching Funds Project)

Donate homemade baked goods

Publicize the event at your meetings &/or local papers

HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOOD &

BAKED GOODS

ENTERTAINMENT

FREE ADMISSION!

Jún so svojim teplom a dlhými dňami je ideálny čas na zamyslenie a tešenie sa. Vychutnajte si krásu leta, vychutnajte si dlhé večery a nechajte sa inšpirovať energiou sezóny, aby ste si splnili svoje sny. Oceňujte jednoduché veci v živote, ako je slnko, čerstvý vzduch a spoločnosť blízkych.

14. jún—Deň zástavy



Americká zástava, kým dostala dnešnú podobu, prechádzala rôznymi podobami. Na začiatku to bol len emblém, ktorý postupom času dostával nové tvary. Zástava dostala podobu dnešnej americkej zástavy v roku 1818. Vtedy sa líšila od dnešnej len počtom hviezd.

14. jún—Flag Day—určil ako oficiálny národný sviatok prvý prezident Woodrow Wilson. Pri tejto príležitosti vo svojom prejave o.i. povedal: Táto zástava, ktorú si ctíme a pod ktorou slúžme, je symbolom nášho spojenia našej sily, nášho myslenia.

Dnes americká zástava, ktorá sybolizuje demokraciu svojho národa je uznávaná na celom svete. Je symbolom slobody a nezávislosti.

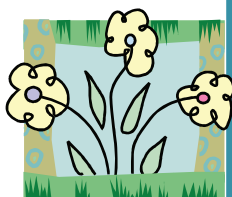


„Na svätého Jána nebýva noc žiadná.“
„Do Jána sa deň dlží, po Jánovi kráti.“
„Na svätého Jána, otvára sa k letu brána“

Pripomeňme si aspoň niekoľko pranostiek, ktoré sa spájajú s týmto mesiacom. Tu sú:

1. Na Božie telo skoč do vody smelo.
2. Medardova kvapka štyridsať dní kvapká.
3. Na Jána dosť dlhý deň, a predsa mu je koniec.
4. Ladislav huby sial, Peter, Pavol ich pozbieral.

5. Jún mokrý a studený robí rok hubený.



Deň Otcov—v tretiu nedeľu v Júni slávime deň otcov, osoba ktorá je hlavou rodiny. Všetkým otcom ku vášmu dňu želáme čo najkrajší deň a veľa radosti v kruhu svojej rodiny.

DRAHÍ OTCOVIA,

Tak ako sme v máji osobitnou spomienkou uctili svoje matky, teraz, v tretiu júnovú nedeľu, osobitnú spomienku venujeme otcom.

Keď vyslovujeme vďaku otcom za všetko, čo pre nás vykonali, predovšetkým chceme vysloviť vďaku Pánu Bohu za jeho požehnania, ktorými našich otcov obdarúva.

Otce na nebi, ktorý si našim spoločným Otcom, živ a požehnávaj našich otcov.



Slováci zo západnej PA

oslávajú v Kennywood Parku 102. výročie

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

Nové storočie osláv sa začne vo štvrtok 17. júla 2025, keď Slováci z oblasti Tri-State a mimo nej opäť predstavia svoje bohaté slovenské dedičstvo celodennou oslavou v Kennywood Parku. Bude znieť slovenská hudba, ponúkať slovenské jedlá, predávať suveníry. Pre deti budú pripravené hry a ceny! Po krátkom programe popoludní sa o 4:00 p.m. bude slúžiť sv. omša sa uskutoční v hlavnom pavilóne.

Pripojte sa k oslave 17. júla, keď sa naše dedičstvo predstaví na 102. ročníku Slovenského dňa v Kennywoode.

Vstupenky na Slovenský deň dobré LEN na 17. júla stoja 33 dolárov za kus; Flex vstupenky sú za 40 dolárov a sú dobré každý deň počas sezóny.

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



Youth Circle Page

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

Scholarship for Studying Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh is the only university in North America offering a minor in the Slovak language and culture. In order to help sustain the Slovak Program, National Slovak Society member Professor Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. has funded a permanent scholarship for students who are studying advanced Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh.



THE MICHAEL KOPANIC, PHD FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year students currently studying Slovak courses in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures are invited to apply for the Michael Kopanic, PhD Fund Scholarship. Eligible

recipients must be in good academic standing, currently enrolled in a Slovak course, and have committed to taking Slovak course(s) within the next academic year.

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. is an Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) and a former editor of *Jednota*, the publication of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He has earned degrees from Youngstown State University (A.B.), the University of Notre Dame (M.A.), and the University of Pittsburgh (Ph.D.). At UMGC, Professor Kopanic has served as Course Chair and Course Coordinator for European history courses and received an outstanding teaching award in 2012. He also administers three Facebook sites: Learning the Slovak Language and Culture, Slovak History, and the Slovak Studies Association.

Professor Kopanic has contributed numerous articles to the former *NSS National Almanac*, the *NSS Year in Review* and other Slovak-American publications, *Naše rodina*, and many academic publications, and edited the books *Slovaks in America* and *Illustrated Slovak History*. A former Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International board member, he serves on the Academic Committee of the Museum of Slovak Emigration to North America, is an academic consultant for Global Slovakia and is on the editorial board of the journal *Kultúrne dejiny* (Cultural History, Ružomberok, Slovakia). He is currently working on a book about Slovak traditional customs.

The Slovak Program and Slavic Studies Program welcome donations to help sustain the study of these cultures and languages. For more information, see the following websites: Slovak at Pitt: <https://www.facebook.com/PittSlovak> Slavic Studies website: <https://www.slavic.pitt.edu/about/community-support>

The scholarship: <https://www.slavic.pitt.edu/michael-kopanic-phd-fund-scholarship>

Note of Appreciation

Dear PVR Committee:

I am writing to express my gratitude for granting me the NSS Life PVR Scholarship for the past three years. Your investment in my education and generosity means very much to me. I am very appreciative for the financial support to help me achieve my academic goals. I graduated on Saturday May 12, 2025, from Geneva College with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. I will be starting work within the next two weeks at Advantage Steel Construction located in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania.

Thank you again.

Joshua Syster
Assembly 0267

Bella Bernardo Takes on a New Activity



We never knew her love for horses, until she started taking lessons. This sport is a love that will last a lifetime. **Bella Bernardo**, age 13 is the daughter of Ashley and Brett Bernardo, Assembly 588. Proud grandparents are President Joseph Stefka, Jr., and wife Annette.

Assembly 441 Welcomes New Member



Keeley June Crowley was born on December 9, 2024. Proud parents are Shelley and John Crowley. Grandparents are Editor of NSS, Lori and Kevin Crowley and Laura and Chris Spirk.

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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Family Matters...

TOURNAMENT

JULY 18-20, 2025

TAM O'SHANTER GOLF COURSE • HERMITAGE, PA