

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

JULY 2025

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NÁRODNÉ NOVINY | NUMBER 3603 | VOLUME 117

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY



 **NSS Life**
Family Matters...

2025
First Quarter
Statement Recap
See Page 6

**National Joint Fraternal
Bowling Tournament**
See Page 9

THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS

Septemberfest



September 27, 2025
See Page 10



National Slovak Society

Periodical Postage Paid at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and Additional Mailing Offices
Owned and Published by the



NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Organized February 16, 1890
1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317
ISSN: 0027-7940

Phone: (724) 731-0094 -- E-Mail: info@nsslife.org
NSS Website: www.nsslife.org
Fax No: 724-731-0145

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

EDITOR

Lori Crowley
Published Monthly
Send articles for publication to:
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317
Deadline: 5th of preceding month

NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael J. Czarney • Lauren A. Fox • Andrea L. Garbon • Abigail A. Gross, Esq.
Keith A. Kucherawy • Susan M. Ondrejco • Andrew "Drew" J. Wesnak
Theresa M. Zemelman

NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

David Blazek, *President* • Anthony Beno, *Director* • Mary Jo Holker, *Director*
Edward Koches, *Director* • Paul Payerchin, Jr., *Director*

FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

Justine Wesnak, *President* • Reverend Monsignor Thomas V. Banick, *Spiritual Advisor*
FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

Inside this Issue...

Assembly Activities

Activities at a Glance..... 3

From the Executive Officers

The President's Page..... 4-5
Secretary-Treasurer's Page..... 5

NSS Financial Matters

Annuity Interest Rates..... 5
2025 First Quarter Statement Recap..... 6

NSS Sales Department

Recommender/Change of Address Form..... 2
National Sales Director..... 7

NSS News & Activities

The Community Corner..... 8
National Bowling Tournament Photos..... 9
13th Annual Septemberfest..... 10
Youth Summer Magazine..... 11-14
PVR Fund News..... 15
Meeting Notices..... 16-17
Matching Fund Projects..... 18
Kennywood Slovak Day Tickets..... 18
In Memoriam: Irene Tomaskovic..... 19
Departed Members..... 20-21
PVR Scholarship Donations..... 21
Youth Photos..... 23
Youth Note of Appreciation..... 23

Národné Noviny

Zaujímavos, ktoré o Slovensku možno nevíete..... 22
Anton Zajac — "Nájdeme spôsob a ak nie, tak ho vymyslíme."..... 22

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

July 10
July 26
August 7
November (TBA)

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 1:00 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

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

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

September 16
December 8

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

July 13
August 9

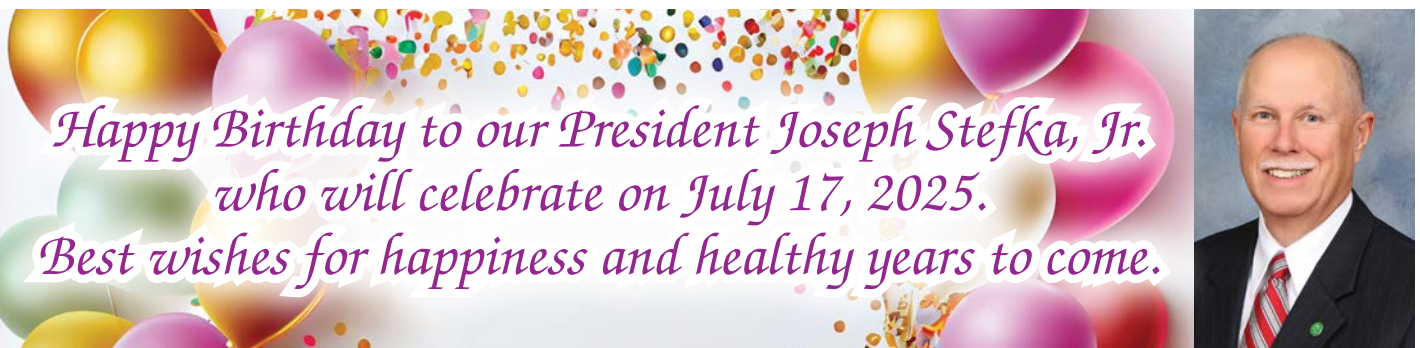
Assembly R059, Meeting, Paula and John Lahutsky residence (TBA)
Assembly L102, Summer picnic, Gross's residence, New Tripoli, PA at 2:00 pm

AT LARGE

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

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

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 July is usually the hottest month of the year in the Pittsburgh area. The ten hottest days ever recorded in Pittsburgh are all in July and all are over 100° F. Hopefully we will not see any days reach the hundred degree mark this year! We celebrate our country's independence on the Fourth of July with picnics and fireworks displays. Please be careful when using fireworks at home to celebrate. Next year will mark the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of our Nation.

The Home Office will be closed for business on Friday, July 4th and Monday, July 7th. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

The Spring Board of Directors meeting was held May 30 – June 1, 2025, at our Home Office in Canonsburg, PA. Committees of the Board met on Friday morning, our consultants for our Strategic Business Plan provided a session to update the plan, and the Meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order later Friday afternoon and concluded on Saturday, May 31st. Reports were received from all NSS management staff for review by the Board of Directors; presentations were provided by our Appointed Actuary, Auditing firm H2RCPA, our Asset Manager, and our Legal Advisor; each Committee of the Board provided updates through a report; the Pennsylvania Insurance Department Five -Year Examination results were provided; the Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure Statement submitted to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department was reviewed; the Audited Financial Statement for 2024 was presented; and the annuity crediting rates for the

third quarter were set by the Board of Directors.

The PVR Committee recommended forty-five individuals for the first year PVR Scholarships at the meeting of the Board of Directors in May. The PVR Scholarship is one of the most important fraternal benefits available to those that qualify to apply to the program. The funding from the scholarship helps to offset the increasing costs of higher education for our NSS members. The PVR Scholarship Fund has been highlighted in the *National News* as we strive to reach our goal of \$2 million by the end of 2026 to make the fund self-sufficient. If your Assembly or Region has not conducted an NSS Matching Funds project to benefit the program, please consider doing so. For our members that regularly take a RMD on their qualified annuities each year and donate some of the distribution to charitable organizations, please consider donating to the PVR Scholarship Fund which is a designated 501(c) (3). The youth of our Society are our future. Let's work together to help them with their education!

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Fraternalist of the Year Banquet was held on Saturday, May 31st at South Hills Country Club in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to honor NSS Director Sue Ondrejco as the 2025 Fraternalist of the Year. The event was a huge success with over two hundred guests attending the tribute highlighting Sue's past efforts and activities as a fraternalist. Congratulations Sue! What a tremendous evening! You are very deserving of this award, and we are glad that you serve on our Board of Directors!

All plans have been completed for the 59th NSS National Golf Tournament scheduled for July 18th – 20th at Tam O'Shanter of PA Golf Course in Hermitage, PA. The first entry for this year's tournament was received from Kevin Crowley of Assembly 441. Kevin was a former winner of the Joseph Stefka Sr. Memorial Golf Award in 2021. All NSS male handicap division golfers will be competing for the Joseph Stefka Sr. Memorial Golf Award presented to the NSS male golfer with the lowest net score at the tournament. Last year's winner at the NSS National Golf Tournament held at the Silver Course at Treasure Lake GC was Albert Suess.

Albert became the first NSS golfer to win the award three times, 2006, 2016, and 2024.



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. presenting the 2024 Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award to three-time winner Albert Suess.

The Award donated by the Stefka Family has been presented every year since 1994, except in 2020 due to the tournament not being held because of COVID-19. In the history of the Joseph Stefka Memorial Award there has never been a back-to-back winner. We are anticipating another great tournament weekend filled with golf, fun, and fraternalism while we raise money for our PVR Scholarship Fund. Hope to see you there!

Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2025. If you have not purchased tickets for the event you may still do so by contacting our Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar at bbonnar@nsslife.org. The event is always a fun time with great Slovak Food, ethnic displays, a chance to make new Slovak friends, and enjoy some great rides! Make plans to join us! Region #5 is once again sponsoring free tickets for youth members of Region #5 (Youth members must be an NSS member to qualify.)

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to Honorary Director Ed Koches, NSS Field Development Manager Jeff DeSantes, Home Office Staff members Christopher Lucas and Allie Whipkey, former Home Office Staff Member Pat Glaser, to Albert Suess, Darryl Shingle, Michael Fox, John

Continued on next page...

Orban, Terri Cooper, Chas Tabone, Jackie Reeves, Dale Blazek, and Ella Woods and to all others celebrating a birthday in July!

Happy Wedding Anniversary to my daughter Ashley and son-in-law Brett Bernardo, Cyndy and Bob Triebsch, Pam and Charlie Tabone, Abby and Michael Gross, Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Drew and Sharon Wesnak, Darryl and Mary Lee Shingle and to all others celebrating a special day during the month of July.

Finally, forwarding our well wishes and a speedy recovery to Honorary Officer Justine Wesnak as she recuperates after a recent surgery.

Secretary-Treasurer's Page

John Payerchin, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Email: jpayerchin@nsslife.org



We are halfway through the year already...2025 is flying by. Happy Fourth of July to you all. As summer is in full swing, we have plenty of events going on at NSS. The 102nd Slovak Day at Kennywood Park on Thursday, July 17. The National Golf Tournament is this month at Tam O'Shanter Golf Club in Hermitage, PA. Region 5 will hold its annual picnic next month on Sunday, August 17 at Cedar Creek Park in Belle Vernon, PA. Region 2 is attending the

Concert for Paws II event at the Lighthouse Inn, Wyoming, PA on Saturday, July 26. Assemblies and other Regions are holding events.



Convention Reminder

We are now less than one year away from our 39th Quadrennial Convention June 14-18, 2026, at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, OH. Preparations are underway with details coming in the next few months. Please remember that your assemblies must elect delegates. Notice for the meeting to elect these delegates must be published in the newsletter 30 days in advance and returned to the Home Office 90 days prior to the convention (3/16/26) per the By Laws. Please begin to discuss your plans to send the maximum number of delegates you are permitted. Each assembly will receive a delegate election packet with details sometime this fall

with instructions and election forms. The number of delegates per assembly will be published in the magazine in September and sent with the packets.

In 2026, we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the NSS Scholarship Fund, now the PVR Scholarship Fund. We are working on a campaign to reach our goal of \$2,000,000 by the convention next year.

Congratulations to Beverly Laszkowsky for the first submission to last month's riddle. The correct answer was a KITE. This month's fun fact; In 1790, as the first Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton created the Revenue Cutter Service to enforce tariff laws and prevent smuggling. This service later merged with others to become what we now know as the United States Coast Guard. So, while he didn't found it by name, Hamilton laid the groundwork for one of the country's key maritime services.

Enjoy your summer, be safe, and be kind to one another. Try to perform a good deed or act for someone today. We all have the ability to make another person's day just a little brighter.



Current Interest Rates

★ Effective July 1, 2025 ★

Optimum 3 – 4.50%

New 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.



2025 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT RECAP

NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE USA Balance Sheet Comparison

Assets	March 31, 2025	December 31, 2024	Difference
Bonds	1,592,307,974	1,589,987,820	2,320,154
Preferred Stocks	10,883,242	4,671,600	6,211,642
Common Stocks	10,799,888	10,581,523	218,365
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	151,086,545	159,948,948	(8,862,403)
Real Estate	3,207,616	3,224,615	(16,999)
Cash/Short Term Investments	42,306,220	41,358,523	947,697
Contract Loans	1,110,225	1,045,317	64,908
Other Invested Assets	19,225,371	6,994,271	12,231,100
Investment Income Due & Accrued	18,908,249	18,966,989	(58,740)
Deferred Premiums	109,925	107,666	2,259
TOTAL Assets	\$1,849,945,255	\$1,836,887,272	\$13,057,983
Percentage Change Year to Year	0.71%		
Liabilities	March 31, 2025	December 31, 2024	Difference
Aggregate Reserves for Life	1,667,890,500	1,648,664,000	19,226,500
Aggregate Reserves for Annuities	58,328,049	59,426,015	(1,097,966)
Contract Claims (Life)	300,000	350,000	(50,000)
Policyholder Dividends	1,340,000	1,330,000	10,000
Interest Maintenance Reserve	4,315,812	4,386,881	(71,069)
Commissions	225,000	525,000	(300,000)
General Expenses	2,164,500	2,632,000	(467,500)
Amounts Withheld	58,151	37,041	21,110
Asset Valuation Reserve	17,790,500	19,694,900	(1,904,400)
TOTAL Liabilities	\$1,752,412,512	\$1,737,045,837	\$15,366,675
Surplus + Contributions	\$97,532,743	\$99,841,435	(\$2,308,692)
Solvency Ratio	105.57%	105.75%	

NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE USA Income Statement Comparison

Assets	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024	Difference
Premiums	70,169,691	51,683,670	18,486,021
Net Investment Income	21,279,019	21,231,930	47,089
Amortization of IMR	142,341	173,317	(30,976)
TOTAL Income	\$91,591,051	\$73,088,917	\$18,502,134
Expenses	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024	Difference
Death Benefits	3,866,035	2,736,928	1,129,107
Annuity Benefits	65,309,019	67,106,693	(1,797,674)
Matured Endowments	42,001	11,131	30,870
Disability Benefits	760	760	0
Surrender Benefits & Withdrawals	138,815	207,937	(69,122)
Interest and Adjustments	4,089	3,603	486
Increase in Reserves	19,226,500	(3,654,800)	22,881,300
TOTAL Expenses	\$88,587,219	\$66,412,252	\$22,174,967
Commissions	1,618,829	1,495,799	123,030
General Insurance/Fraternal Expenses	2,936,176	3,147,725	(211,549)
Taxes, Licenses/Fees	164,904	80,394	84,510
	\$93,307,128	\$71,136,170	\$22,170,958
Net Gain/(Loss) from Operations	(1,716,075)	1,952,747	(3,668,822)
Dividends	320,340	301,119	19,221
Net Gain/(Loss) after Dividends	(\$2,036,415)	\$1,651,628	(\$3,688,043)
Net Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	(1,196,156)	73,551	(1,269,707)
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$3,232,571)	\$1,725,179	(\$4,957,750)

From the Sales Department...

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



Create, Accumulate, and Distribute

When people buy life insurance or annuity products from NSS Life they expect us to help them create a plan. But usually what they end up with is a wealth plan that would also help them accumulate money and ultimately distribute these funds. We call these three steps; create, accumulate and distribute. Think about each of these steps.

1. **Create** - A few dollars deposited into any product creates the life insurance plan or the annuity. This is the first step towards financial freedom.
2. **Accumulate** - This is where the new account can now accept more deposits, interest, increasing cash/loan values and /or dividends. At this point your money is growing.
3. **Distribute** - At this stage the funds will be paid out to a beneficiary. Or many may choose to set up a monthly payment system and in a sense turn your account into a private pension plan.

The possibilities are endless on what can be done. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the home office for more information and let us help you with your goals and dreams.

Use IRA proceeds First

Many times when people reach retirement age they ask which account should be depleted first. The general theory is to use up the money in any qualified plan first. These plans would

be traditional IRAs, 401Ks, 403bs, etc. The reasoning is these accounts are subject to a required minimum withdrawal starting at age 73 and every year thereafter. The divisor increases as a person ages so each year you may have to take out more and more money. Smart tax planning may be able to help depending on your total income. However, if you wait to do this until age 73, the options may be limited. The key is to start taking money out of these accounts first, then non-qualified annuities and finally Roth IRAs and your personal savings last.

For those born in 1960 or later, their RMD will be at age 75. This will allow them a couple of more years to do some smart tax planning. Check with your financial advisor or your tax professional for the best information.

Basic Money Rates

Everyone likes to know how money works. There are some basic rules or guidelines that may be helpful in your savings journey. Here they are along with what they do.

- **Rule of 72** - Basic math, divide the deposit by the interest rate and that is how many years it will take to double. \$10,000 at 6% interest would double in twelve years. ($72/6=12$)
- **Rule of 115** - This one tell you how long until your money triples in value. Deposit \$10,000 at 5% interest and in 23 years you will have \$30,000. ($115/5=23$)
- **The 4% rule** - This one says that whatever you have saved for retirement then you can take 4% of that amount and not run out of money. (1million @4% = \$40,000 per year income)
- **The 25x rule** - How much money do I need to retire? If you said \$40,000 per year x 25 = \$1 million. This rule is the reverse of the 4% rule.
- **The 50-30-20 rule** - This one is about spending no more than 50% of your income on bills, 30% on wants and saving 20%.
- **The 28/36 rule** - A guideline that suggests your mortgage payment should be no more than 28% of your gross income and your total debt obligations should be no more than 36% of gross.

One final rule from Warren Buffet – **don't lose money**. Which is one of the best rules of them all!



5 GOLDEN RULES OF PERSONAL FINANCE

- Earn more than you spend**
The pillar of personal finance management.
- Set your financial goals**
In order to get a direction and motivation for your frugal lifestyle, set your financial goals. This will allow you to focus on areas for improvement.
- Create a budget**
Budget does not limit you but sets you free. You finally are able to understand where your money goes.
- Set up an emergency fund**
Emergency fund is necessary for what it says: EMERGENCIES! Also you can have a better night's sleep knowing that you are covered.
- Pay off your debt**
Focus on paying off debts with the highest interest rates first. This method can save you money on interest and help you pay off debt faster.

Thought For The Month:

If you want to go fast – go alone. If you want to go far – go together.

Warren Buffet (1930 -)

The Community Corner Kennywood Slovak Day July 17th

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



Summer is a busy season here at NSS Life! From our 2025 National Golf Tournament, to Kennywood Slovak day, to region/assembly picnics, there is fun to be had by the whole family! Don't miss out on the fun things coming your way! Read below or check out our social media accounts to see the spectacular Summertime fun with NSS Life!

PVR Scholarships

This is a final reminder to all current PVR Scholarship Recipients to submit their transcripts for scholarship renewal for the 2025-2026 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 to also let us know if your scholar has changed their home/permanent address or transferred to a different university. All scholarship checks will be mailed out in late July/early August.

Has your PVR Scholar gone above and beyond this past year? Maybe they've studied abroad, or landed a prestigious internship, or laced up their cleats to win a championship title! No matter the accomplishments, we want to hear how your PVR Scholar is excelling! Share photos and stories via email to bbonnar@nsslife.org so that the entire NSS Life community can share in celebrating them!

Summer fun is in full swing at Kennywood Amusement Park, but it'll be even more fun on Slovak Day on July 17th! Come ride some rides and grab some pirogies for a day full of fun! Don't forget that NSS youth members (under the age of 16) that are a part of NSS Region 5 can receive free tickets courtesy of Region 5! If you are requesting these free tickets, you must provide the full names and assembly of each of the youth members. Tickets 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! All checks should be made payable to: Western PA Slovak Association.

These tickets are good thru September 7, 2025.

Senior Scholarship

Got a case of the summer blues? A great way to beat the heat is by utilizing NSS Life's senior scholarship program! This program allows NSS members over the age of 55 to receive reimbursement for participating in a continuing education or adult education program! Over the years members have used this benefit to participate in classes about art history, fitness, and even watercolor painting! Each NSS Member over the age of 55 can receive two scholarships over the course of the calendar year. NSS Life is happy to reimburse the full cost of tuition (up to, but not exceeding, \$100.00) for each class. Whether you're looking to learn a new skill or just want to find a way to pass these long summer days, the senior scholarship program is an opportunity not to be missed! The application can be found on our website www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal" with the tab "Forms" or you can email bbonnar@nsslife.org and request a hard copy!

Social Media

If you've read this far, thanks! Now that you're here, take a few quick seconds to follow NSS Life on our Social Media Accounts! It's the quickest way to find out about what is going on in

NSS Life. From financial updates, assembly news, and benefit details – you don't want to miss out! Follow us on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety), Facebook (@ NSS Life) and LinkedIn (@NSS Life).**



4th of July Home Safety Tips

No matter what you have planned for this year's holiday, keep your loved ones safe by planning ahead and making smart decisions.

Going camping for the week-end? Follow these safety tips from the KOA.

- Prepare safe food and water.
- Check the weather.
- Avoid wild animals and protect family pets.
- Fight the bug bite.
- Protect yourself from the sun.
- Prevent heat-related illnesses.
- Be prepared with an emergency supplies kit.

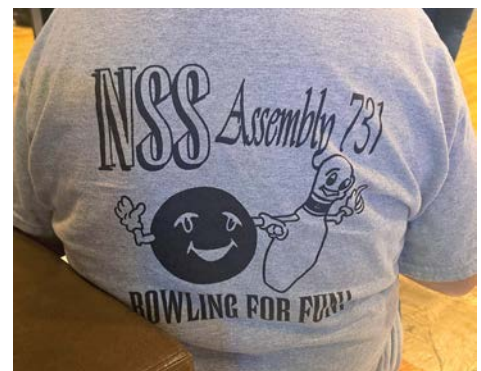
Pool safety tips include:

- Create and enforce pool rules with your guests, such as no diving, no running, etc.
- Designate an adult to be on "lifeguard duty" or rotate and take turns.
- Make sure someone at the party is certified in CPR and first aid.
- Keep a phone nearby in case of an emergency.

Obviously, firework safety is a big concern on this holiday. Here are some tips for you to follow:

- Never use fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Carefully supervise children who are using sparklers and other approved fireworks.

Scenes from National Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament



Region 5



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!



Youth Circle Magazine - Summer 2025

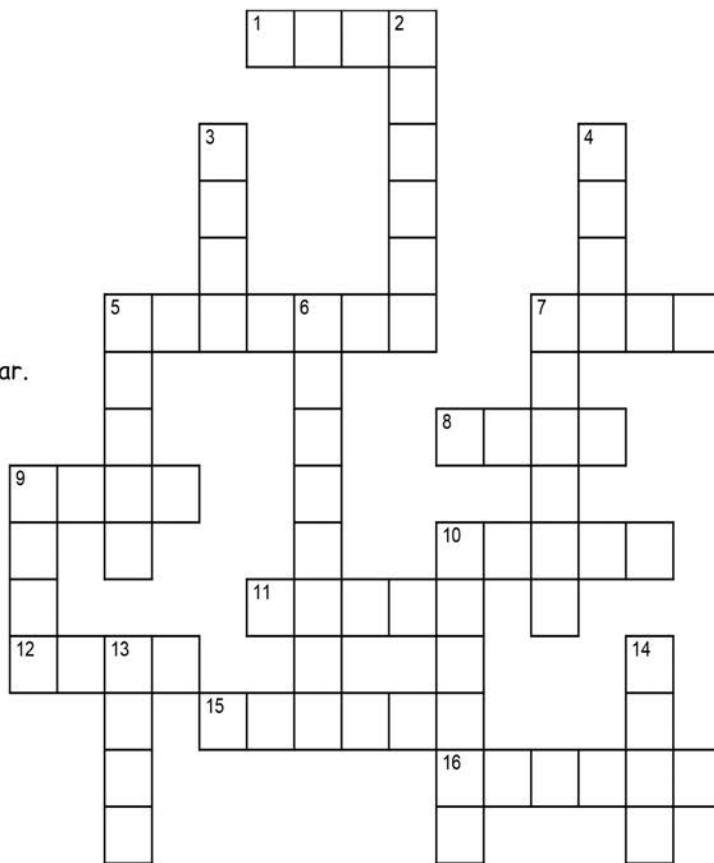


Across

1. Grains on the beach.
5. Living in a tent.
7. It warms you up.
8. Two wheeled transportation.
9. Comes with a shovel.
10. Full of daylight.
11. A sandy shore.
12. Area of inland water.
15. Warmest 3 months of the year.
16. Top for warm weather.

Down

2. Plunging into the water.
3. Move through the water.
4. Summer hazard.
5. House in the woods.
6. Frozen treat.
7. Trail walking.
9. A place to swim
10. Pants for hot weather.
13. Toy for a windy day.
14. Mildly hot.



What Cleans an Old Penny?



What You'll Need

- 3 dull pennies
- 2 paper cups
- Vinegar
- Liquid soap
- Paper towel

What to Do

Guess which liquid will make a penny shine. Set one penny aside. Put each of the other two pennies into its own paper cup. In one cup, pour enough vinegar to cover the penny.

In the other cup, pour enough liquid soap to cover the penny. Wait at least ten minutes.

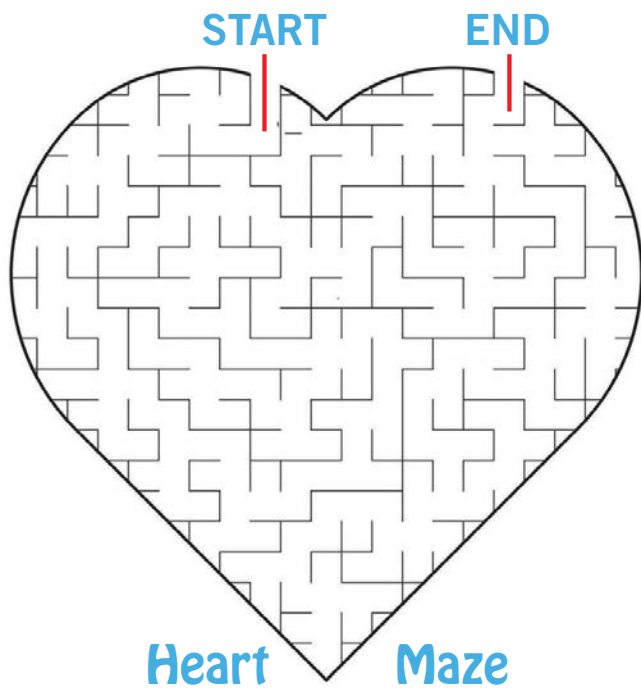
Remove the pennies, rinse them in water and rub them with a paper towel.

Compare all three pennies.

How It Works

The vinegar made its penny shiny. Pennies become dull over time as copper on the surface reacts with oxygen from the air. The two elements combine to form dark chemicals called copper oxides. The acetic acid in vinegar dissolves these chemicals and leaves the copper surface of the penny looking shiny. Soap can clean lots of things, but it can't dissolve copper oxides.





Heart Maze

Search By The Sea

There are five differences between these pictures. Can you spot them all?



Knock-Knock Jokes

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Nobel.
Nobel who?
Nobel...that's why I knocked.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Figs.
Figs who?
Figs the doorbell,
it's not working!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Annie.
Annie who?
Annie thing you can do,
I can do too!

KNOCK, KNOCK.
Who's there?
OWLS SAY.
Owls say who?
Yes, they do.



Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Cow says.
Cow says who?
No, a cow says moooooo!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Alice.
Alice who?
Alice fair in love and war.

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

ASSIST
AT BAT
BUNT
CARD
CHAMPION
CLUB



Baseball Word Search



DECK	LINEUP	SAVES
DOUBLE HEADER	LOSE	SCORE
FIRST	MITT	STARTING PITCH
FOUL	NINE	STEAL
GROUND BALL	NO-HITTER	TAG
HELMET	OUT	THROW
HITS	PARK	UNIFORM
LEAGUE	RUN	WALK

Can You Find The Hidden Items In The Picture?



Make a Key Wind chime

You'll need:

- 6 old keys
- a piece of drift wood or stick
- string or fishing line
- optional: acrylic paint



How to:

1. Optional: Paint your keys and stick. Choose a few coordinating colors and paint the keys and stick. The keys will take two coats, let the first side dry before flipping and painting the other side.
2. Tie a piece of string to either end of the stick so that you have a way to hang it.
3. Tie a piece of string to each key.
4. Tie the keys to the stick making sure that they are close enough to each other that they will chime when the wind blows them.
5. Gift, hang, enjoy!

Giving old items new life is not only green, it's a lot of fun. It is so cool to take something destined for the trash and turn it into something beautiful and useful.



Make Sponge Bombs

To begin, use scissors to cut up ordinary household sponges into thirds. Next, use a hair scrunchie (elastic band) to group together nine sponge strips.

Lastly, poof up the sponge bomb, and you are ready to dunk them into water for some active outdoor FUN!



Sponge Bomb Bucket Toss Game

For this water game, you will need to grab a friend and a couple of buckets. Each person kneels in front of a bucket filled to the top with water. The object of the game is to hurl the sponge bombs into each other's buckets! You WILL get wet!!!

Whoever gets the most sponge bombs in the other person's bucket WINS!! It's better than water balloons.

This is a great way to beat the heat without using up a lot of water, and sponge bombs can be used and re-used all Summer long.

Apple Smiles Snacks

Ingredients:

- cream cheese
- red skinned apple slices
- mini marshmallows



What To Do:

Spread cream cheese on one side of each apple slice. Add a row of mini marshmallows to half of the apple slices. Put the other half of the apple slices on top. Serve with a smile!

How To Make Clay

You'll Need

- 2 cups baking soda
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 1/4 cups water
- Food coloring
- Wiggle eyes, feathers, chenille sticks, craft sticks, pompoms (optional)



What to Do:

Pour the baking soda, cornstarch and water into a pot. Cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring until it looks like mashed potatoes. Let the clay cool; then divide it into four pieces. Add food coloring and knead until smooth.

Turn your clay into amazing shapes and fun things. Add wiggle eyes, feathers and other craft supplies to make cute critters! Leave your art in a sunny place to dry.

Make Your Own Bouncy Ball

Ingredients:

- 1/2 Cup Warm Water
- 1 Tbsp Borax
- 1 Tbsp of Cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp White or clear Liquid Glue
- Food coloring
- Optional: Disposable rubber gloves.



Instructions:

1. Mix 1 Tbsp of Borax in a 1/2 Cup Warm-Hot Water.
2. In another cup mix 2 Tbsp glue, 1 Tbsp cornstarch, and food coloring.
3. Pour the glue mixture into the borax water.
4. After a few seconds the glue mixture will harden after 10 seconds; If the glue mixture is still sticky, squish it with your hands and dip it back in the borax water.
5. Roll the mixture in your hands to make a ball. The more you handle the mixture the firmer it will become.
6. Enjoy your very own bouncy ball



Answers To Search By The Sea



Summer crossword Puzzle

Across

1. sand
5. camping
7. heat
8. bike
9. pail
10. sunny
11. beach
12. lake
15. summer
16. tshirt

Down

2. diving
3. swim
4. fire
5. cabin
6. ice cream
7. hiking
9. pool
10. shorts
13. kite
14. warm

Try These Jokes On Your Friends

Q: Why don't skeletons fight each other?

A: They don't have the guts.

Q: I told my suitcase there would be no vacations this year.

A: Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

Q: Why did the scarecrow win an award?

A: Because he was outstanding in his field.

Q: Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants?

A: In case he got a hole in one!

Q: Why do cows wear bells?

A: Because their horns don't work!

Food Jokes

Q: What's orange and sounds like a parrot?

A: A carrot!

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?

A: It wasn't peeling well.

Q: What did the grape say when it got stepped on?

A: Nothing, it just let out a little wine.

Q: What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

A: Nacho cheese!

Q: Why did the coffee file a police report?

A: It got mugged!

Animal Jokes

Q: Why don't oysters donate to charity?

A: Because they're shellfish.

Q: Why can't you trust an atom?

A: Because they make up everything!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A: Frostbite!

Q: Why did the duck get a promotion?

A: Because he was outstanding in his field!

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A: A gummy bear!

School Jokes

Q: Why was the math book sad?

A: It had too many problems.

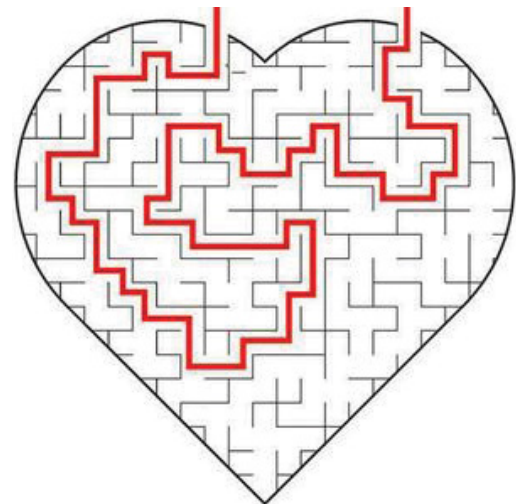
Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

A: Because her students were so bright!

Q: What's the king of all school supplies?

A: The ruler.

Heart Maze Answer



"Just imagine how different the world could be if we all spoke to everyone with respect and kindness."

HOLLY BRANSON



PVR Fund News

A very happy Fourth of July to all of our members! We wish you a month full of smiles and sunshine as we continue to enjoy the summer weather. This month, we will be greeting our NSS Golfers at the National Golf Tournament – we look forward to seeing you there! Every year, the NSS Golfers hold PVR fundraisers at their event, and we are incredibly grateful to them for their support over the years.

This month, we are only **\$291,328.29** away from our \$2 million goal. **THANK YOU** to our corporate donors and to our members!

Before we publish our next update, we will have received a large donation from the NSS Board of Directors. For the last two years, the Board has generously donated \$5 to the PVR fund for each community service hour that our Regions and Assemblies report to the AFA. For 2024, NSS Life reported a total of 6772.5 community service hours, which translates to a \$33,862.50 donation to the PVR Fund. That means that even if your Assembly doesn't hold a fundraiser to benefit the PVR Fund, your participation in any community service with your assembly has helped us to reach our goal. Don't forget that the PVR Scholarship Program is available to all qualifying members, no matter your geographic location. This year, the PVR Fund awarded scholarships to 42 members across 11 states – and members residing in the state of California submitted the second-highest number of applications!

If you would like help planning a fundraiser or community service event for your assembly, please contact Bethany Bonnar at the home office (bbonnar@nsslife.org). As always, written guidelines and matching funds forms can be found on our website under "Fraternal -> Forms".



FUND BALANCE AS OF
MAY 31, 2025

\$2,000,000



Raised
\$1,708,671

2026 marks the 60th year the NSS has been awarding PVR scholarships. Stay tuned for information on a special fundraising drive to help us reach our goal!



Asset Management for Insurers



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: Ryan Strom

SCHOLARSHIP FIRST AWARDED: 2004

Greetings, my name is Ryan Strom, and I have been a member of NSS Life for as long as I can remember. Thus, once it was time to explore my options for higher education, part of that process was hoping to take advantage of the NSS member benefit of the PVR Scholarship program, to aid in financing and furthering my education. As a result, I was fortunate enough to receive a PVR Scholarship while attending Robert Morris University in pursuit of a Fine Arts degree in both Graphic and Web Design.

I eventually began my professional career working at the Pittsburgh Post Gazette in the advertising department as a Production Tech. In said role, I primarily produced advertisements for the daily publication, including more used car dealership ads than I care to remember. Which, while not the most daunting of tasks, were certainly the most tedious.

During this time I also began freelance work on the side through Mike Alexander, whom I have since grown a cherished relationship, and personal friendship with over the past decade plus. Thanks to Mike's numerous advertising connections over the years, I've had the opportunity to produce and manage both print and digital marketing content for a number of local companies such as Casa D'Oro Diamond and Fine Jewelry and Ultimate Granite & Stone Gallery.

Finally, in 2014, I joined the staff here at the NSS home office, where I am fortunate to still find myself today serving the membership to the best of my abilities. Over the years, I have had various responsibilities including aiding our Editor Lori Crowley with the monthly *National News* publication, production of digital and print materials for the fraternal and sales departments for home office and agent use, as well as marketing and brand sponsorship content for outside vendors and fraternal partners.

I greatly enjoy my current role in service of the NSS family, which had already been such a familiar influence on my youth thanks to (at times forced!) participation in local region and assembly events and contests by my mother, former Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, Linda Strom, and my late grandmother, Marie Palko, who served as a member and President of District 5 Ladies Auxiliary as well as numerous leadership roles for Assembly 0108 over the years. Thanks to these experiences, I can confidently say, whether it be through fraternal or professional means, I have greatly benefited from my membership with NSS Life. Thank you.

Ryan Strom

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

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! Information in this issue.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of Dorothy Brown, Janet Clingan, Lucille Klingensmith, Nancy Leone, Ruth Pluto and Betty Wence. May the 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! Contact the home office with questions.

Members are to mark your calendars for the Region 5 Picnic at the Cedar Creek Park near Belle Vernon. It is set for Sunday, **August 17th** from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Great Slovak food, games for adults and kids, basket auction for the PVR Fund and plenty of fraternal fun, fun, fun. Sign-up information elsewhere in this issue.

The NSS Slovak Heritage Museum will hold their annual "Septemberfest" on Saturday, **September 27th** at the museum in McMurray, PA. Great Slovak music and dancers, fabulous Slovak food, ethnic vendors and the Slovak Heritage Museum. Mark your calendar!

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.

Have a safe summer,

Paul Payerchin
Secretary

ASSEMBLY RO59 Whitehall, PA

Our assembly held our May 4, 2025 meeting at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem PA. President Sandi Keysock opened the meeting. Treasurer's report: Donations were made to Warm the Children and

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. Business: Our matching fund coffee hour/hot dog luncheon held today was very successful in raising funds for the Miracle League of Northampton County. Sincere thanks to President Sandi Keysock for coordinating this event. We send belated birthday greetings to Francine Slivka who celebrated on June 4th. Our next meeting will be held on **July 13th** at the home of Paula and John Lahutsky.

Micheler Guydan
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Our Summer picnic will be held on **August 9th** 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.

Below are photos from our prior activities of our assembly.



Easter Egg Hunt - Youth members had a great time searching the eggs.



Helping Hands for the Second Harvest Food Bank



Assembly members took a photo with the cast from the Mystery Dinner.



Members attending Mystery Dinner trying to figure out "who dunnit."

All of our members had a great time at all of the activities.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Welcome to Summer! Thanks to everyone who helped at Global Links. If you purchased baseball tickets or participated in the Golf Outing, contact the Assembly for partial reimbursement. Contact the Home Office for Kennnywood tickets. Checks are payable to WPA Slovak Day Association. Tickets for Slovak day are \$33. For use anytime, they're \$40.

Send us your activity suggestions and wishes. Remember the plays at Lincoln Park and at Little Theater? Perhaps you'd like to go to one of those, again. Maybe you have aother ideas. Let us know.

One of our members, Tom Mack, is having a matching fund event for the American Legion Kenmawr Post 464 Inc. on Saturday, **August 16, 2025** at Moon Golf Club. Check in at 7:30 a.m., shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$100 per player and \$400 per four-some (includes: golf, beer, water, and luncheon by mission BBQ). Completed registration must be received by August 8, 2025. For questions please contact: Tom Mack at 412-771-5097, Bill Stewart at 412-331-5894, or Anita Soltez at 412-310-8464.

Read The Declaration of Independence. It's short. It's in plain English. Sure it's Eighteenth Century English, but it's PLAIN Eighteenth Century English, not legal jargon.

Notice three main sections:
- Articulating the Founders' idea about

the legitimate role of government and its relationship to the people.

- A list of ways the Empire had been violating those principles. These were actually violations of British law regarding colonial government, in fact.
- The "Declaration," itself, claiming creation not of a nation-state, but of a Federation of Independent States.

Lyle Grover
President
nss123@email.com

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 your calendar for our next meeting and Christmas Party.

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. topics under discussion will include, Fraternal Day, St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen, Holy Family Food Pantry, Matching Funds as well as other topics.

Reminder to members of the assembly that Fraternal Day will be held on **August 7, 2025**, at Knoebles Park beginning at 1:00 p.m. Reservations for Fraternal Day will close on July 30, 2025. In conjunction with Fraternal Day a Basket Raffle will be held to support Father John Ostrowski's mission in El Salvador. Members planning to donate a basket, please contact John Kurilla.

Members planning to attend the Assembly 617 activities, contact John Kurilla at **570-239-5936, 570-287-4163, or jkkurilla@aol.com.**

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Mark your calendars for our assembly activities:

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

A 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

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



Matching Fund Projects



Assembly R059

R059 Treasurer, John Lahutsky presenting the Matching Funds Check raised for the Miracle League of Northampton County to Miracle League president BJ Metz. (John is also a board member of the ML of Northampton County.)

Assembly 0070 Presentation



DMLC Council President Fred Spann accepting check from Assembly 0070 President, Sarah Blaine

Assembly 0586



Assembly 586 completed an ongoing gathering/fund-raising event for one of our favorite recipients - Operation Support our Troops America. We collected 37 pounds of donations including socks, snacks, toiletries and personal items for shipping to our troops stationed overseas. Also included in our drop-off of goods at their warehouse in Lisle, IL, was a \$200 check for shipping costs, which are not covered by any governmental organization. Eric and Lois Tomaskovic delivered the goods and presented our check. We chose this charity as one of our matching funds ventures.

If you'd like to recommend a military member who is deployed away from the US to receive a package, please have an APO/FPO address when you submit the name at osotamerica.org. You can also make a donation there if you wish to help defray shipping costs. Thank you!

Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

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

Irene Tomaskovic

10-12-1929 / 10-30-2024

My mom, Irene Tomaskovic, president of our Chicago Assembly 586, died at age 95 last October. Her story was published in the NSS *National News*. She was the driving force of our assembly and always tried to write something interesting for the news, even if there was no news.

Both my mom and dad had MANY different annuities, IRA and Roth accounts, mutual fund accounts and individual equities. They were not millionaires but they were good savers and believed in spreading their investment business to various fraternal organizations, including ones with Catholic, Croatian and Czech in their names, although we're Lutheran and 100% Slovak. By the way, NSS, praise to Riley Conner, who made our death claims easy to understand and accomplish.

After settling most of my mom's financial matters and going through file after file after file of papers, tax returns, greeting cards from her kids, finding numerous other caches of receipts, appliance manuals and the like, my brother Eric joined in to go through my dad's home office, the site of yet more treasures. He unearthed a wooden cigar box full of baseball cards stacked on end. My dad had violated their pristine condition when he was 8 or 9 years old by inking on the signature of his sporting alter ego, "Joe Thomas." We weren't surprised; he had confessed this trading card transgression to us years ago. He had even signed a Joe DiMaggio and a Babe Ruth, but there was a clean Ruth and a clean Bob Feller, among others.

My folks had built their dream home in the suburbs in 1975. Fifty years later we're trying to go through all of the personal items and then turn over our former home to an estate sale company. It's hard to weigh which articles to discard and which to try to fit into our own homes, like the oak icebox my dad had rescued and painstakingly refinished from the Tomaskovics' four-flat apartment house, built in 1926 when Grandpa T. started his construction business in Chicago. All off my dad's stained glass works. Yearbooks from the 1940s, tons of photos and albums, tablecloths embellished in embroidery by two grandma's. My dad's huge 1946 drawing table from U of Illinois when he was an aspiring architect. Grandpa T's wine press, in which he crushed the tart cherries from their backyard tree to make cherry wine. The sausage stuffer. The brass mak grinder (to grind poppyseed for makovník - only used for one purpose.)

Among Eric's finds was a very large black and white print, curling with age, depicting the banquet of the 23rd Convention of NSS, held at the New York Statler Hilton Hotel in 1962. This particular hotel began as the Pennsylvania Hotel, made famous by Glenn Miller's Pennsylvania 6-5000 song. The NSS delegates had packed their fancy dress to attend the convention, including suits and ties, good shoes and high heels, cocktail dresses, jewelry and mink stoles in order to look their best for their fellow Narodniars. Many of the women wore corsages on their shoulders, my mom included. I've circled Joe and Irene in the photo. My mom is smiling beautifully, while my dad looks like he was caught off guard. Joe Senior and Vera Tomaskovic were in attendance, too, being the last couple on the left on the second

tier of the dais, mystery lady standing behind my grandpa's chair. Then, what happened during that convention is another story:



My mother and some of the women at the convention applied for audience tickets to *The Price Is Right*, hosted at that time by Bill Cullen and my mom was chosen to be a contestant, probably because she was so smart and very pretty! My brother and I and my aunt and uncle were excited to hear of this development and, when the show came on, Uncle Jim shot an 8mm movie from the TV screen of her performance. Eric and I were staying at their home during our parents' trip to NYC.

We were all shouting when she had the chance to bid on a car, which was not successful. She did have the closest bid to a walnut and brass ice bucket which I remember was valued at \$75.00. Such a luxury item at such an extravagant price in 1962! Then out came her bonus prize of a 48-piece set of sleek, silver-rimmed crystal stemware: water goblets, wine glasses, champagne coupes and cordials, which were shipped to our house in Chicago, later included in the move to the 1975 home in Darien.

Some of that crystal was used over the years, some remained in the packing drum, which is playing hide-and-seek somewhere in the house. I also found a file containing incidentals from that 1962 trip. The movie of the TV show resides in a box with all the other home movies shot over the course of 75 years, waiting to be transferred to digital someday. The glassware will be sold in the estate sale. That is, if anyone is interested in crystal stemware anymore.

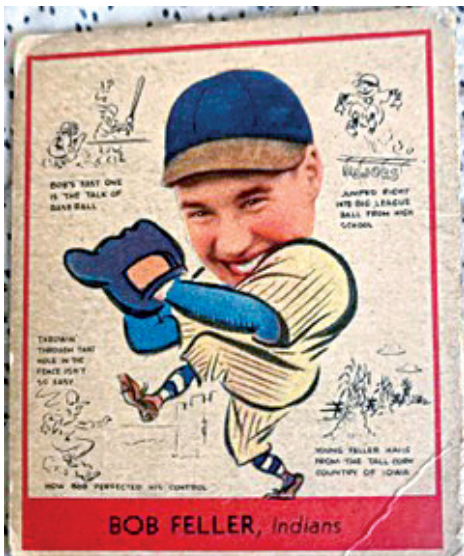
In order to cut short this trip down memory lane, I'll end with a little advice: My parents were the best anyone could ever have but I wish they hadn't saved every possession, every piece of art or Mother's Day and birthday card their three children made or wrote on and every item and stick of lumber that might be useful some day in the future. I've grown up to be the same way, anthropomorphizing my dolls and stuffed animals over the years and keeping waaay too much stuff. So pull out your smartphones, take photos and say dovidenia to your worldly goods!

Love from Chicago,
Janet Tomaskovic
Secretary

Assembly 0586 Chicago, Illinois



Anyone want to buy a beaver fur
Borsalino top hat?



Or an unblemished 1940
Bob Feller card?



What about a 100-year-old
wine press?

Call Assembly 586 Secretary, Janet
Tomaskovic if interested in any of
the above items at **(630) 297-5197**

DEPARTED MEMBERS MAY 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Adams, Annabelle	Bentleyville, PA	02/10/2025	0377
Amick, Lucille	Leivasy, WV	03/13/2025	0774
Artnak, George	McMurray, PA	04/18/2024	0434
Asteriou, Grace	Grosse Ile, MI	02/25/2025	0381
Atkins, Bernard	Monongahela, PA	05/10/2025	0377
Baker, Joseph	Oil City, PA	05/14/2025	0731
Ball, Juanita	N. Huntingdon, PA	05/09/2025	0737
Barber, Russell	Nanticoke, PA	04/14/2025	0617
Barr, Mary	Coraopolis, PA	08/30/2024	0123
Belardia, Theresa Ann	West Newton, PA	05/05/2025	0737
Bencloski, William	N. Huntingdon, PA	05/28/2025	0737
Boni, Joan	Coraopolis, PA	04/19/2025	0123
Bourn, Robert	Sutton, WV	04/17/2025	0774
Britt, Donald	Wheeling, WV	04/01/2025	0108
Campbell, Raymond	Coraopolis, PA	04/11/2025	0123
Clayton, Jillian	Jamison, PA	04/28/2025	L102
Corona, Judith	Coraopolis, PA	04/29/2025	0123
Courtney, Edward	Hickory, PA	03/19/2025	0588
Cox, Rufus	Canonsburg, PA	09/21/2024	0774
Crone, William	Schnecksville, PA	05/14/2025	L102
Darnly, Karen	McMurray, PA	05/18/2025	0434
Dobransky, Theodore	Brownsville, PA	04/04/2025	L161
Drake, Antoinette	Pittsburgh, PA	04/24/2025	0100
Dumke, Arthur	Fairview Park, OH	09/12/2024	0432
Ellars, Edward	Washington Court House, OH	04/28/2025	0595
Fagan, Carol Ann	Homer City, PA	04/12/2025	0774
Fink, Frederick	Altoona, PA	04/20/2025	0267
Frankowski, Sandra	Pittsburgh, PA	05/10/2025	L161
Gearinger, Mildred	Pittsburgh, PA	05/28/2025	L105
Gilbert, Carol	Bentleyville, PA	05/03/2025	0377
Golubofsky, George	Slovan, PA	05/20/2025	0588
Goodwin, Raymond	Connellsville, PA	05/09/2025	0039
Green, Kathleen	Schnecksville, PA	05/06/2024	L102
Greth, Judith	Temple, PA	05/09/2025	L102
Grose, Roma	Avella, PA	03/13/2025	0588
Halas, Carolyn	N. Huntingdon, PA	11/26/2023	0737
Harvath, Andrew	Dubois, PA	05/03/2025	0554
Hays, Hattie	Wintersville, OH	04/29/2025	0588
Heeter, Carolyn	Dubois, PA	02/18/2025	0554
Heppchen, Donald	Meadville, PA	04/20/2025	0731
Hinchberger, Sylvia	Coraopolis, PA	04/22/2025	0123
Hittie, Betty	Lowellville, OH	04/22/2025	0731
Holland, Alma	Lewisburg, WV	03/25/2025	0774
Horvath, Julia	Canonsburg, PA	02/19/2025	0774
Isovitsch, Emerick	Butler, PA	05/01/2025	0123
Jones, Marie	Philipsburg PA	02/22/2025	0774
Karastury, Shirley	Meadville, PA	05/07/2025	0731
Keavenly, Virginia	Charlestown, RI	05/06/2025	0774
Keim, Ethel	Pittsburgh, PA	04/05/2025	L161
Kelanic, Jerome	Bethel Park, PA	01/14/2025	0737
Kemp, Mary	Canonsburg, PA	05/06/2025	0774
Kopchick, William	McMurray, PA	01/27/2025	0434
Kounnas, Samuel	Schnecksville, PA	05/01/2025	L102
Krieger, Mae	Canonsburg, PA	05/15/2025	0774
Krotchko, Mark	Salisbury, NC	06/24/2024	0774
Kruger, Patricia	Canonsburg, PA	04/18/2025	0774
Lacher, Donna	Lowellville, OH	04/29/2025	0731
Lanke, Barbara	Coraopolis, PA	04/30/2025	0123
Lindsey, Rosie Mae	Mabscott, WV	04/08/2025	0774

DEPARTED MEMBERS MAY 2025

(Continued from page 20)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Lingenfelter, Donald	Roaring Spring, PA	05/10/2025	0267
Liss, Geraldine	Coraopolis, PA	03/27/2025	0123
Louk, Lewis	Buffalo, NY	04/30/2025	R019
Lyons, Lucienne	Canonsburg, PA	02/23/2025	0774
Mac Elwee, Samuel	Schnecksville, PA	04/22/2025	L102
Maciak, Patricia	Erie, PA	05/09/2025	0774
Marhefka, Amelia	Lower Burrell, PA	05/10/2025	L105
Marinaccio, Carol	Oakmont, PA	04/26/2025	L105
Marsh, Joan	Pittsburgh, PA	05/03/2025	L161
Marterella, Mildred	Lowellville, OH	05/04/2025	0731
Mascaro, Pauline	Fayetteville, WV	04/16/2025	0774
Mascilli, Anita	Lower Burrell, PA	05/03/2025	L105
Mc Adarra Sr., Ronald	Pittston, PA	05/04/2025	0617
Mc Anlis, Douglas	Pittsburgh, PA	10/26/2024	L105
Mc Clure, Nancy	Eighty-Four, PA	05/14/2025	0377
Meenach, Mary	North Canton, OH	04/10/2025	0595
Milander, Randolph	Whitehall, PA	05/09/2025	R059
Minardi, Thomas	Bethlehem, PA	02/24/2025	R059
Nezneski, June	N. Huntingdon, PA	04/23/2025	0737
Nickolich, Melvin	Monessen, PA	05/02/2025	0377
Nolen, Martha	Ronceverte, WV	02/28/2025	0774
Oliveri, Jacqueline	Homestead, PA	03/11/2025	0108
Ondick, Richard	West Mifflin, PA	08/19/2023	0441
Ottavi, Ellen D	Canonsburg, PA	03/23/2025	0774
Paff, Donald	Coraopolis, PA	02/26/2025	0123
Palmer, Vera	Youngsville, PA	05/02/2025	L040
Pennock, Ronald	Schnecksville, PA	05/03/2025	L102
Pesek, Joseph	Lowellville, OH	12/12/2024	0731
Phillips, Helen	Frankfort, IL	02/18/2025	0586
Povich, Olga	Houston, PA	05/01/2025	0434
Pugh, Daniel	Hooversville, PA	05/03/2025	0737
Rauenswinter, Margaret	New Lexington, OH	04/02/2025	0595
Roberts, Karen	Lucasville, OH	05/20/2025	0595
Roberts, Mark	Erie, PA	05/09/2025	0731
Rodgers, Patricia	Fenelton, PA	05/10/2025	0123
Rooney, Marcella	Corry, PA	04/27/2025	0554
Roscoe, Michael	Farmington, WV	04/28/2025	0774
Rowe, Dorismarie	Schnecksville, PA	05/06/2025	L102
Sales, Clark	Canonsburg, PA	04/27/2025	0774
Savitz, Robert	Bath, PA	04/30/2025	R059
Scheffey, Lynda	Pottstown, PA	04/02/2025	L102
Shear, June	Seelyville, IN	02/13/2025	0705
Skellie, Joy	Verona, PA	05/11/2025	L105
Smith, Isabel	Lowellville, OH	05/09/2025	0731
Smith, William	Uniontown, PA	05/09/2025	L105
Soldridge Jr., William	Easton, PA	05/19/2025	R059
Soubie, Charlotte	McDonald, PA	04/26/2025	0588
Spang, Richard	Kittanning, PA	05/16/2025	0554
Stine, Christopher	Harpersville, PA	04/27/2025	L102
Stultz, Joan	Huntington, WV	04/08/2025	0774
Thompson, Mary	Hadley, PA	05/09/2025	0774
Tomaskovic, Frances	Canonsburg, PA	05/11/2025	0774
Urban, Ronald	Moosic, PA	04/27/2025	L075
Valles, Matteo	McMurray, PA	04/24/2025	0434
Vincenzo, Robert	New Lexington, OH	04/25/2025	0595
Wedge, Janet Elaine	Masury, OH	05/16/2025	0731
Weiss, James	Grosse Ile, MI	05/02/2025	0381
Wickham, Asa	Kearneysville, WV	12/22/2023	0774
Willaims, Peggy	Canonsburg, PA	02/24/2025	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 May, 2025

In Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

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

Donations:

Director Keith KucheraWy .. 200.00
Start Hearing..... 100.00
Director Lauren Fox..... 25.00

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!!**





Leto je...

...čas spomaliť a vnímať svet okolo seba.

...spojenie s prírodou, aj keď je to len na vašom vlastnom dvore

... príležitosť tráviť čas s blízkymi, či už ide o rodinné dovolenky, grilovačky na záhrade alebo pokojné prechádzky.

Je leto a spomienky len čakajú, kým sa stanú!

Zaujímavosti, ktoré o Slovensku možno neviete

Slovenská Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa sa pýši zápisom do Guinnessovej knihy rekordov, ako najväčšia ľadová jaskyňa.

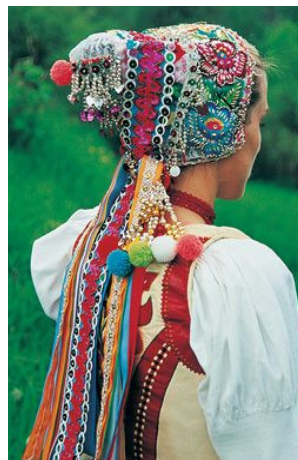
Krajina je známa svojim bohatstvom – na takom malom území vyvierá viac, ako 1200 minerálnych prameňov a mnohé z nich sa využívajú aj v termálnych kúpeľoch, kde si návštevníci môžu oddýchnuť a načerpať nové sily.



V meste Kremnica môžu návštevníci vidieť najstaršiu nepretržite fungujúcu mincovňu na svete, ktorá vyrába mince už od roku 1328.

Slovenský jazyk je výnimočný tým, že ako jeden z mála jazykov používa dvojpísmenovú abecedu, čo znamená, že má dvojité písmená ako „ch“, „dz“ a „dž“.

Krajina je domovom najstaršieho národného parku v strednej Európe, Tatranského národného parku, ktorý sa pýši úžasnou alpskou scenériou a rozmanitou divokou prírodou, vrátane nepolapiteľného tatranského kamzíka.



Obradový čepiec z Telgártu z roku 1998 – súčasť odevu nevesty počas svadobného čepčenia



Nevesta z Detvy V predošlých rokoch sa užíval takýto kroj region detvy ako vidíte mladú nevestu.

Príslovie

Prelom týchto dní (25. a 26. júl) sa považoval za predeľ medzi letom a jeseňou, čo vyjadrovala pranostika Sväta Anna, chladná zrána. Jakubom sa končí pravé leto, Annou sa začína babie leto, ktoré postupne prechádza do jesene.



Anton Zajac — "Nájdeme spôsob a ak nie, tak ho vymyslíme."

Anton od malička miloval matematiku. Zaujímal ho svet, ktorý ležal za hranicami Slovenska, ale vtedy nebolo ľahké cestovať.

Rástol a dospieval a jeho záľuba v číslach ho dioviedla na univerzitu, kde začal študovať matematiku a fyziku. Bol taký dobrý, že ho pozvali učiť kvantovú fyziku na vysokú školu v Mexiku. Konečne prišla príležitosť cestovať a Anton neváhal ani sekundu.

Prestahoval sa do San Diego v USA, kde jeho vedecká kariéra začala závratne stúpať. Žil svoj americký sen, ale neprestajne sa mu cnelo za Slovenskom, a preto hľadal spôsoby, ako krajine pomôcť. Takto mu prišiel do cesty ESET a Anton sa s chuťou pustil do zveľaďovania tejto firmy.

Poznáš ESET? Dnes je to jedna z najúspešnejších slovenských spoločností ktorá predáva antivírusové programy ľuďom po celom svete. ESET je kúsok Slovenska, ktorý poznajú ľudia od Ameriky po Austráliu, hoci kedysi to býval len malý podnik.

Vírus je program ktorý nakazí počítač a ten potom nemôže naplno pracovať. Nové vírusy sa objavujú každý deň a Anton s nimi bojuje svojou vynaliezavosťou.

Anton Zajac odjakživa rád riešil problémy. Vďaka tomu sa stal milionárom. Dodnes rád rieši hádanky a s mladými ľuďmi sa delí o svoju lásku k číslam fyziky.

Source: [SUPER SLOVACI](https://www.super-slovaci.com/) available on Amazon

Written in both Slovak & English



Youth Circle Page

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

Carson Bernardo



Carson has been playing hockey since he was 6 years old. He will be playing on the 16u AA North Pittsburgh Wildcats Team this Fall as well as for his school, North Allegheny. His passion for hockey grows stronger each year. Carson is the son of Ashley & Brett Bernardo, Assembly 0588.

The Payerchin's



The four granddaughters of John Payerchin, Secretary/Treasurer are growing up fast. Avie and Stella (top) will be 5 this fall, while Marcie and Claire turned 2 this spring. They are more like sisters than cousins.

Attention Youth Members, Parents, Godparents, and Grandparents

We are asking our youth members to send in a photo of themselves and a short article about their achievements. Maybe you have started a new hobby, a sport, unique vacation, or received a special award that you would like to share with other members.

Wouldn't you like to have your accomplishments printed in the *National News*?
Our youth members are the NSS future.

Adalyn Bernardo Flying High



Adalyn is starting her third year of competitive gymnastics. Her love and dedication for gymnastics shines bright. Adalyn is the daughter of Ashley and Brett Bernardo, Assembly 0588.

Appreciation Letter

Dear PVR Committee and Ms. Bonnar:

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for the PVR scholarship! It was very helpful over my college experience and now I am officially an RN! Thank you again for your selflessness and help. Sincerely,

Kristin Catando

Assembly 0123 Welcomes New Member Louisa Felton



Louisa Felton was born on May 6, 2025, weighing in at 5 pounds 10 ounces. Parents are Lindsey Felton and Frankie Paosan. Proud grandparents are NSS Sales Director, Greg Felton, and his wife Rhonda.

Kiera Bolton



Congratulations to Kiera Bolton. She graduated from Norwin High School in May and will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania majoring in Criminology.

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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

NATIONAL

GOLF



NSS Life®
Family Matters...

TOURNAMENT

JULY 18-20, 2025

TAM O'SHANTER GOLF COURSE • HERMITAGE, PA