

# The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



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

## *National News*

SEPTEMBER 2025

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NÁRODNÉ NOVINY | NUMBER 3605 | VOLUME 117

SEPTEMBER  
**LIFE  
INSURANCE**  
awareness month

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at Kennywood Park**

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EDUCATION  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Winners!*

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# National Slovak Society

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## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

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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*

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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

November (TBA)

Assembly 0617, Join Hands Day at St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen

### REGION 5

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

September 6  
September 14  
September 22  
September 27  
September 28  
October 11  
October 11  
October 12  
October 12  
October 12  
**October 27\***  
November 8  
November 9  
December 6  
December 7  
December 7  
March 22, 2026

Assembly 0123, Run, American Legion Post, Carnegie, PA at 9:00 am  
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  
Septemberfest, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Assembly 0123, Meeting/Mini Golf, Robert Morris University Island Sports Center  
Assembly L-161, Dinner, North Hills United Presbyterian Church, Pgh., PA  
Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm, Poland, OH 4:00-7:00 pm.  
Assembly 0377, Meeting/Luncheon, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm  
Assembly 0123, Meeting/Show, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center at 2:00 pm  
Region 5, Fall Meeting, Home Office, Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 pm  
**Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm-Date/Time change**  
Assembly 0731, Meeting, Kathy & Jim Cessna's residence, Boardman, OH at 1: 00 pm  
Assembly 0123, Bayernhof Museum Tour, Pittsburgh, PA t 2:00 pm  
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Lariccia Center, Boardman Park, OH  
Assembly 0039, Christmas Party, Columbia Association Social Hall at 2:00 pm  
Assembly 0377, Christmas Party/Meeting, Hugo's, West Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm  
Region 5, Spring Meeting, Home Office, Canonsburg, PA (TBA)

### REGION 8

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

September 16  
September 21  
December 7  
December 8

Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel residence, N. Olmstead, OH at 7:00 pm  
Assembly 0070, Pot Luck Dinner, Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, 11:00 am  
Assembly 0070, Meeting at 11:00 am and a Christmas luncheon to follow  
Assembly 0432, Meeting/Christmas Party, Tony K's, Berea, OH at 7:00 pm

### REGION 14

### Assemblies R059, L102

No Activity

### AT LARGE

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

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 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](mailto:jstefka@nsslife.org)



The month of September often gives us a prelude to the upcoming months as the number of daylight hours continues to decrease and nighttime and morning temperatures are cooler. Fall is just around the corner, all students are back in school, and scholastic sports and activities are taking place. Good luck to all NSS members involved in sports at your middle schools, high schools, and colleges for the 2025-2026 seasons! Drop us a note and photo to let us know how your teams are faring as you progress through your seasons. We will include these in our Youth section of the *National News*! A reminder that the NSS Home Office will be closed for business on Labor Day, Monday September 1, 2025. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2nd. Enjoy the Labor Day holiday with your families!

The NSS 59th Annual Golf Tournament was a huge success. NSS Golfers converged on Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, Pennsylvania for the weekend's events. The weather forecast for the weekend issued on Thursday included rain for all three days of the tournament. However, NSS was lucky again as we had no rain through the entire weekend of tournament play! Friday's practice rounds were delayed until early afternoon due to a large fundraising scramble tournament being held at the course in the morning. Numerous NSS golfers spent Friday afternoon sharpening their skills for the weekend and came directly to the Hospitality Night which was held at Tam O'Shanter. The evening provided an opportunity to enjoy the food, beverages, and especially the fraternalism

as new attendees were welcomed to the event. First time member attendees included Carson Bernardo, Barb Bogolin, Todd Hill, Cameron Mason, Mark Mason, Matt Mason, John Vallente, and Patrick Walker. The Annual PVR Fundraiser Putting Contest Qualifying Round was held on the practice green until darkness fell on the course! For each putt made during the Qualifying Round, the golfer received a ticket in the fishbowl for a drawing to select the three contestants for Saturday's chance to make a 50-foot putt and win \$1000. The three contestants drawn were Carol Froehlich, Chuck Froehlich, and Dave Pytel. None of the three were able to make the 50-foot putt, but everyone enjoyed the event to raise money for the PVR Scholarship Fund. The individual handicap event was held on Saturday, and the team scramble event was held on Sunday. The winners of each flight for Saturday's individual event and Sunday's team scramble event appear elsewhere in this issue. An event was held for non-golfing guests again on Saturday. Thirteen non-golfing members and guests participated in a tour of the nearby Amish Country, visiting farms, shops, and bakeries. The NSS Golf Banquet was held at the Corinthian Event Center in nearby Sharon, Pennsylvania. The Corinthian Event Center is a beautiful, stately building, the food was delicious, and the staff was excellent! What a great venue for the banquet! The unofficial winner of each flight was announced, skill prizes were distributed to the winners, Par Three Challenge winners were announced, the Scramble Teams for Sunday were posted, and the winner of the Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award was announced. The winner of the 2025 Stefka Award was Mike Grega of Assembly 70 with a net 62! Mike is a first-time winner and started participating in the NSS National Golf Tournament in 2022. Congratulations Mike!! The NSS Golf Banquet is a huge fundraiser for the PVR Scholarship Fund with various raffles including a 50/50 Raffle, Slovak Basket Raffle, a Premium Raffle, and the Reverse Club Raffle. The winner of the Reverse Club Raffle was Cameron Mason of Assembly 731. Congratulations Cameron and good luck with your new clubs!

Thank you to all that generously took part in the raffles to raise money

for the PVR Fund! Thank you to all individuals, Assemblies, and Regions that sponsored holes for the event! Thank you to all individuals and NSS Assemblies that provided baskets for the Slovak Basket Raffle. Thank you to Assembly 774 for donating the set of clubs for the Reverse Club Raffle. Thank you to our advertising partners iHeart Media of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Sportsnet Pittsburgh for providing the items for the Premium Raffle. Thank you to AQS Asset Management for sponsoring our Hole-in-One Contest and to H2RCPA for sponsoring the Putting Contest! The NSS and the PVR Scholarship Fund Committee greatly appreciate the generosity of all our sponsors for making the fundraiser very successful! A total of \$6,925 was raised at the tournament for the PVR Scholarship Fund! The old saying is, "It takes a village to raise a child!" To paraphrase the saying, "It take a village to hold a successful golf tournament!" Thank you to all the volunteers in the "NSS Village" that helped in any way to make the NSS 2025 National Golf Tournament weekend such a success! Thank you to our Member and Community Engagement Coordinator Bethany Bonnar for organizing and administering the Hospitality Night, Golf Tournament, non-golfer excursion to the Amish Country, and the Golf Banquet. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated by all!! Thank you to all golfers and guests for attending the 2025 Tournament! Hope to see all of you next year. The date and location will be listed in a future issue of the *National News*.

On Friday evening at the Hospitality Night, Pastor Rob McFarland of the Chestnut Ridge Church of God located in Hubbard, Ohio, joined us. Pastor McFarland is an NSS member whose church annually conducts a community service project to provide free shoes to underprivileged children in the local area for the start of school. These children would most likely not have a new pair of shoes to start the school year. The Board of Directors of the NSS, at the Spring Board Meeting, voted to donate to the project again this year to help provide funding to purchase shoes for children. Pastor McFarland stopped

(Continued on Page 13)



## Secretary-Treasurer's Page

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

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



September marks Labor Day, the conclusion of summer, the return to school, and a shift in the weather as the year progresses rapidly. The first eight months have been marked by significant learning and growth, particularly as I have transitioned into the role of Secretary-Treasurer/CFO. This transition was supported by an exceptional team, including staff members, the Board of Directors, advisors, President/CEO Joe Stefka, former Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Linda Strom, and my father. Their guidance has been invaluable in creating a smooth shift to my new responsibilities, and I extend my sincere appreciation for their ongoing support. Our organization is fortunate to have members whose interests are protected by such dedicated individuals.

In light of fluctuating markets and widespread concern regarding interest rates, we continue to monitor these trends closely. Our approach remains rooted in controlled strategic growth, prioritizing the safety and security of our members' financial futures at all times. NSS remains committed to providing excellent service when assisting members and agents with claims, withdrawals, deposits, or other transactions.

The Home Office team has experienced considerable growth over the past two years since relocating to new offices. We have welcomed numerous team members, including Dave Hertz (IT Director), Liz Brandimarti (Director of Operations), Jeff Johnson (Compliance & Risk Manager), Maureen Schantz (Pre-Need New Business), Mary Lee Shingle (Executive Assistant), Sue Urcho (New Business Life), Theresa Jacobs (Claims Associate), Krista Freund (Agent and Mem-

ber Relations Liaison), Max Abusara (Information Systems Analyst), Allie Whipkey (Accounting Manager), Bill Barach (Information Systems Manager), Charlotte Wilson (Premiums Associate), Jamie Belding (Member & Community Engagement Associate), and Desire Hoosac (Member Concierge Specialist).

Many of these new hires represent newly created positions designed to strengthen and expand NSS Life's operations. In addition, several established employees have assumed new responsibilities: Lisa Shriver is now Model Office Manager, Brigid Delien serves as Quality Assurance Specialist, and Riley Daughtery has become Information Technology Assistant. These advancements underscore our commitment to organizational growth and operational excellence.

Contributions from both new and existing staff are instrumental in maintaining effective daily operations and fostering confidence among executive officers and the Board as we navigate future challenges. Recruitment continues, with planned additions in Sales, Office Support, and Operations anticipated in the coming months. Building valuable infrastructure through strategic personnel placement remains central to our long-term objectives, supporting sustained membership and asset growth.

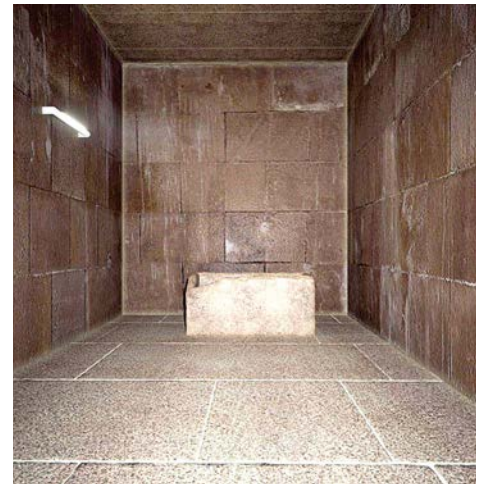
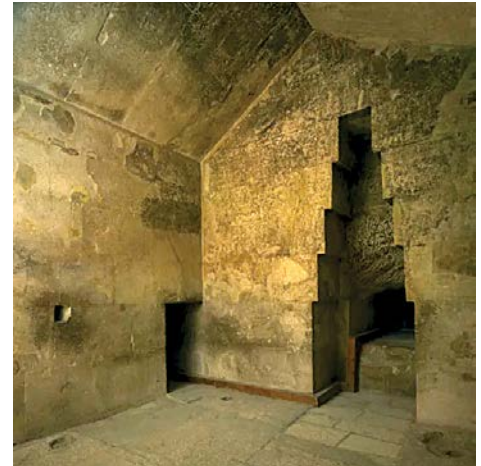
At the time of writing, we are finalizing the second quarter statement, with detailed information forthcoming in October's article. As the third quarter concludes, the Board will convene in late August to devise plans for the fourth quarter and finalize year-end strategies.

## Birthday Greetings

On a personal note, September is a huge birthday month for my family. I would like to wish my dad a **Happy 85th Birthday on September 5th**. Our youngest daughter, Alena, is on the 17th. Our oldest daughter, Mackenzie, shares her birthday with our oldest granddaughter, Avie, on the 20th. Happy Birthday to a few of our home office staff; Linda Buono, Greg Felton, and Donna Tenney. And to all the September birthdays!

I have always been fascinated by Ancient Egypt and the archaeological discoveries made there. So, this

month's fact is one of the astonishing facts about the Great Pyramid of Egypt. Did you know that giant granite blocks make up the King's Chamber in the center of the pyramid. These blocks came from a quarry in Aswan nearly 500 miles south of the Great Pyramid. The nine ceiling blocks weighing 70 tons were placed over 160 feet above the ground. Archaeologists theorize that they were placed using ramps and ropes without pulleys! How do you think they were moved and placed?



## Words of Wisdom

1. You create your own opportunities.
2. Never break your promises.
3. You are never as stuck as you think you are.
4. Happiness is a choice.
5. Habits develop into character.
6. Be happy with who you are.
7. Don't seek happiness—create it.
8. If you want to be happy, stop complaining.
9. Asking for help is a sign of strength.
10. Replace every negative thought with a positive one.
11. Accept what is, let go of what was, have faith in what will be.



# 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.



## Did you know...

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

Access your account values 24/7  
by going to the website:  
**[www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org)**  
and login/register as a member.



SEPTEMBER

# LIFE INSURANCE

awareness month

Workplace life insurance may not be enough to protect your loved ones.

Almost **half of households (49%)** that have only workplace life insurance coverage say their families would struggle financially in fewer than six months should a wage earner die unexpectedly.

## #LIAM25

Source: 2025 Insurance Barometer Study, LIMRA and Life Happens

**LIMRA**  
Navigate With Confidence



## From the Sales Department...

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



## Life Insurance Awareness Month (LIAM)

Every September the insurance industry celebrates Life Insurance Awareness Month. The goal of this campaign is to shine the spotlight on a product that we all need and should own. Currently, half of the American population owns some personal life insurance. There are many reasons why people do not buy life insurance. The most common ones are they think it is too expensive. They do not know what kind of insurance to buy. Who should they talk to about life insurance? Or they think that their group life insurance will be sufficient?

All of these questions can be answered by meeting with your local NSS representative. They can design a plan to fit any budget. We have several plans, and they are all affordable. Your family deserves to be protected if something happens to you. Life insurance is the easiest way to provide protection. For pennies on a dollar a person can be insured for thousands. Let us help you and your family today.

## Savings for a Child

Everyone wants their children or grandchildren to be better off than were or are. One of the ways that you can best insure your child's future is with a Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA). These plans allow up to \$2,000 per year in contributions from ages 0 to age 18. After age 18, no more contributions may be made but the account still can earn interest.

If the money is used for higher education then the proceeds can be received tax-free. Using our lowest interest plan, a \$2,000 deposit every year until age 18 would be worth more than \$53,000. While this amount probably will not pay for four of higher education it will go a long way. The \$2,000 does not have to be paid annually it could be done in \$167 monthly installments. It can be done for less too. The point is simple. Start now to put your child on the road to success.

## A Written Plan

The premise of this idea is based on a Harvard study that began in 1973. Only 3% of graduates had written plans for either their career or financial goals. Years later, researchers have found that the 3% were not only more successful, but they were worth more than the other 97% combined. And this study has been done every year since with surprisingly the same results repeated over and over again.

The whole premise of this idea is a written plan causes you to be more focused. Seeing in print whatever it is you want to accomplish somehow consciously or subconsciously drives you towards the goal. This forces you to read and think about the written plan. This slower, more deliberate process helps foster mindfulness, making actions more intentional while prioritizing your time.

So what do you want? A million dollars, a new job, new house, car, etc. Write down the goal, lay out the plan to get there, get started and see the magic happen.

## Spring Agent Advisory Council Meeting



In March the NSS Agent Advisory Council met for a regular meeting discussing current issues.

### Times to review life insurance:

- + Getting married
- + Growing your family
- + Buying a house
- + Changing jobs
- + Retiring
- + Getting divorced

Women are less likely than men to own life insurance (48% women versus 54% men).

52 million women say they need (or need more) life insurance.

#LIAM25

LIAM  
Navigate With Confidence

### Thought For The Month:

*Believe you can do something and you are halfway there.*

*Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) 26th President of the U.S.*



## The Community Corner

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



September brings us cooler temperatures, changing leaves, and back-to-school. Even though my school days are behind me, September still brings me the same feelings of excitement, as September 1st is my NSS Life Anniversary! I cannot believe it has already been two whole years since I have joined the NSS Life team! Speaking of teams, I am happy to say that we have added a new member to our NSS Life fraternal team this month! Ms. Jamie Belding has joined our staff as our Member and Community Engagement Associate! We are incredibly lucky to have her talents on our side! With the help of Jamie and the entire NSS Life Home Office Staff, I can safely say that you are in great hands with NSS Life!



## Septemberfest

Everyone's favorite NSS event, Septemberfest, is right around the corner! Join us at the NSS Heritage Museum on Saturday, **September 27th** for a celebration of Slovakian culture presented through food, fun, and music! Local artisans will be selling their handcrafted goods in the International Market (where it's never too early to

begin your Christmas shopping!). Little ones can win prizes and compete in many games, while the grownups take a tour of the NSS Heritage Museum. This event is great for the whole family, and open to the general public! Bring your friends who aren't NSS members (yet!) to enjoy the mouth-watering delicacies provided by the Slovak Kitchen. I promise you; the food alone is worth the trip! We hope to see you at Septemberfest on Saturday, **September 27th** at the NSS Heritage Museum (351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317).



## Photo Contest

The NSS Life Photography Contest is consistently our most popular National Contest of each year, and this year we wanted to bring you even more photo fun! The categories for the photo contest have been updated and upgraded! Each NSS member can enter one photo each into of the following categories: "Nature/Wildlife", "Human Interest", "Travel", and "The Best Photo I Have Ever Taken". Physical photos can be submitted via mail to the NSS Life Home Office 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Digital photo submissions can be emailed to Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, at [jbelding@nsslife.org](mailto:jbelding@nsslife.org). If submitting entries for multiple people digitally, please specify what photos belong to who. The top three winners in each category will be awarded cash prizes. The outside judging professional will select the ultimate Best Overall Photo, and the winner will

receive the top cash prize as well as have their photo featured on the cover of an upcoming edition of the *National News*! Whether you consider yourself an amateur or a pro, the photo contest is a great chance to show off your photo skills! Full contest rules are available later within this edition and all submissions are due by October 31st.



## Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Some of you reading this may be thinking, "Bethany, please don't bring up Halloween yet, I'm still holding on to summer" – To those of you who feel that way, I apologize! However, I cannot apologize for being so excited about the NSS Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Jumping into Halloween a little early only allows for even more time for scary fun, and what better way to begin than by decorating a pumpkin!! NSS Members of all ages can submit photos of their pumpkin creations to either the "Painted" or "Carved" categories for the chance to win cash prizes!! Grownups, this is a great chance to incentivize the kiddos into participating in some family fun, as your normal pumpkin carving session just turned into a competition! See later on in this edition for a complete list of contest rules. Pumpkin photos can be submitted via email to [jbelding@nsslife.org](mailto:jbelding@nsslife.org) and are due by October 31st.

## Social Media

Want to welcome Jamie to the NSS Life team? The best way is to give us a follow on our social media accounts! Afterall, it is the easiest and fastest way to keep up with everything going on at NSS Life. Follow us on Instagram (**@NationalSlovakSociety**), Facebook (**@NSS Life**) and LinkedIn (**@NSS Life**) to put a smile on our faces and yours!



# 2025 National Golf Tournament Results

Thank you to all in attendance at this year's National Golf Tournament!

Name	Gross	Handicap	Score	Winners
Member Flights A & B				
<b>Pytel, Matt</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>First Place</b>
<b>Froehlich, Dan</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
Berner, Josh	105	38	67	
Blum, Alex	87	20	67	
Cheberenchick, Dan	98	29	69	
Czarney, Mike	87	17	70	
Sir Louis, Alex	82	5	77	
Senior Member Flights A & B				
<b>Grega, Mike</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>First Place</b>
<b>Morehart, Jim</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
<b>Suess, Albert</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>Third Place</b>
Cooper, Ron	101	29	72	
Pytel, Dave	103	30	73	
Froehlich, Chuck	101	25	76	
Stefka, Joe	97	20	77	
Rainey, Ken	93	15	78	
Crowley, Kevin	105	26	79	
Member Callaway				
<b>Payerchin, John</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>74*</b>	<b>First Place</b>
<b>Suess, Damian</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
Pytel, Chris	111	35	76	
Mason, Mark	118	40	78	
Mason, Matt	108	30	78	
Pytel, Doug	100	22	78	
Motrunecks, Arthur	119	40	79	
Sir Louis, Bob	138	40	98	
Women's Member Callaway				
<b>Tenney, Donna</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>First Place</b>
Froehlich, Carol	128	40	88	
Broome, Jill	146	40	106	
Senior Member Callaway				
<b>Vellente, John</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>First Place</b>
<b>Payerchin, Paul</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
Hoche, William	97	20	77	
Walker, Patrick	99	22	77	
Sarrick, Ron	110	32	78	
Junior Callaway				
<b>Bernardo, Carson</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>First Place</b>
Mason, Cameron	125	40	85	
Guest Callaway				
<b>Santee, Ben</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>First Place</b>
Ravenscroft, Max	120	40	80	
Motrunecks, Jacob	140	40	100	
Senior Guest Callaway				
<b>Woodward, Wesley</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>First Place</b>
Minto, Don	94	18	76	
McKain, Floyd	96	19	77	
Stuart, Steve	129	40	89	

\* Won in scorecard playoff

## 2025 National Golf Tournament Sunday Scramble Results

Names	Front 9	Back 9	Gross	Winners
Sunday Scramble				
<b>Mike Czarney, Chuck Froehlich, Wesley Woodward</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>First Place</b>
<b>John Payerchin, Chris Pytel, Donna Tenney</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
Brad Killmeyer, Max Ravenscroft, Mike Grega	39	45	84	
Doug Pytel, Floyd McKain, Rick Sarrick, Jill Broome	45	41	86	
Alex SirLouis, Dave Pytel, Ron Cooper, Steve Stuart	44	43	87	
John Vellente, Dan Cheberenchick, Matt Pytel, Carol Froehlich	42	46	88	
Joe Stefka Jr., Carson Bernardo, Ken Rainey, Barb Brogolin	46	45	91	
Alex Blum, Dan Froehlich, Kevin Crowley, Drew Wesnak	46	47	93	

## 2025 Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award Winner

Congratulations to **Mike Grega**, this year's winner of the **Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award**!





## 2025 National Golf Tournament Team Photos



**L-R: Mike Czarney, Floyd McKain,  
Carson Bernardo, Joe Stefka, Jr.**



**L-R: Todd Hill, Drew Wesnak,  
Paul Payerchin, John Payerchin**



**L-R: Alex Blum, Albert Suess,  
Kevin Crowley, Damien Suess**



**L-R: Dave Pytel, Doug Pytel, Matt Pytel,  
Chris Pytel**



**L-R: Ron Sarrick, Donna Tenney,  
Ron Cooper, Dan Cheberenchick**



**L-R: Josh Berner, Max Ravenscroft,  
Dan Froehlich, Jim Morehart**



**L-R: William Hoche, John Vallente,  
William Walker**



**L-R: Wesley Woodward, Ken Rainey,  
Don Minto, Mike Grega**



**L-R: Mark Mason, Matt Mason,  
Cameron Mason, Ben Santee**



**L-R: Steve Stuart, Jill Broome,  
Chuck Froehlich, Carol Froehlich**



**L-R: Bob Sir Louis, Alex Sir Louis,  
Jacob Motrunecs, Art Motrunecs**



**Annette Stefka and Member and Community  
Director Bethany Bonnar**



**Josh Berner**



**Carson Bernardo**



**Editor Lori Crowley and Kevin Crowley standing  
with their son Shaun's sponsorship sign.**



Scenes from the 2025 National Golf Tournament Hospitality Night & Banquet



Cameron Mason was the winner of the Reverse Golf Club Raffle during the banquet.



## NSS Life Members at Kennywood Park on Slovak Day





## The Presidents Page

(Continued from page 4)

to personally thank the NSS for the donation to help local children. He was very appreciative of the support that NSS has provided over the past few years.

The 13th Annual Septemberfest will be held at our Heritage Museum location at 351 Valley Brook Road in McMurray, Pennsylvania on Saturday, **September 27, 2025**, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free and will include vendors, entertainment, delicious Slovak food, and a variety of activities. Make plans to join us for a day filled with fun, food, and a celebration of our Slovak Heritage. The event is made possible through the generosity of our assemblies, advisors, individuals and the many volunteers working throughout the day.

A reminder that the deadline to submit entries for the NSS Photography Contest and Pumpkin Decorating Contests is **October 31st**. Both events are open to all NSS members regardless of age. All entries for the Photography Contest must be taken by the member submitting the photo. The decorated pumpkin for the Pumpkin Decorating Contest must be created by the individual submitting it. Rules for entry are located elsewhere in this issue.

## News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to National Slovak Society former Secretary-Treasurer and Honorary Director Paul M. Payerchin, Jr., former Director Gary Cepko, National Sales Director Greg Felton, Controller Donna Tenney, and Home Office Staff member Linda Buono. Also, to Chris Katricak, Melinda Young, Alan Burns, Andy Burns, Mike Krynak, Carleen Lachman, John Palko, Susan Knoll, Edwin Woods, Charlotte Lavin, and all others celebrating a birthday in September.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Chairman of the Board Bob Katricak and wife Chris, to Honorary President Dave Blazek and wife Fran, and to all others celebrating an anniversary during the month of September.

Wishing a speedy recovery to Edward Koches, Honorary Director who recently had surgery. "Rest up and feel better soon."



**NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM**  
**SEPTEMBER**  
*Fest*

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**11 AM - 4 PM**  
**SEPTEMBER 27**

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**351 VALLEY BROOK ROAD**  
**McMURRAY, PA 15317**

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**FEATURING**

BK Bead Designs	Quinn's Wooden Floral
Cheryl's Designs	Smell Goods & More
Chunky Knit Designs	Sparks & Cinders Publishing
Dot Art	Steel City Chimneys
Ethnic Gifts	Sunshine Creations
Knits by Tray	Tastefully Simple
Limerick's Emporium	Woodlawn Candle Co.

**POLKA CLASSICS**      **PITTSBURGH SLOVAKIANS**  
**ETHNIC FOOD**

**FREE**  
**ADMISSION**



## 2025–2026 Scholarships – Perpetual Award Winners



**Addison Bowman**  
Assembly 0774  
U.S. Military Academy - West Point  
Applied Psychology  
125th Anniversary Scholarship



**Michael Carr Jr.**  
Assembly 0123  
United States Merchant Marine Academy  
Maritime Logistics and Security  
Dr. John Gulash Scholarship



**Colton Clemens**  
Assembly 0737  
Westmoreland County Community College  
Criminal Justice  
Mary Mravec Scholarship



**Noah Mackie**  
Assembly L161  
Grove City College  
Finance  
Impact and Analytics Scholarship



**Vaylee Olack**  
Assembly 0774  
Shenandoah University  
Nursing  
Ann Marie Czarney Scholarship



**Ellen Paley**  
Assembly 0617  
Georgia College and State University  
Finance (Business Admin/Sales)  
Assembly 065 Scholarship



**Catherine Rafferty**  
Assembly L075  
Clemson University  
Mathematics  
Stephen J. Trusik Scholarship



**Bianca Salling**  
Assembly L102  
Valencia College  
Associate in Arts – Psychology  
NSS Board of Directors



**Cadence Shorthouse**  
Assembly 0731  
Arizona State University  
Architecture  
Grogan Family Scholarship



**Andrew Timon**  
Assembly 0731  
Mercyhurst University  
Exercise Science and Business  
Mary B Burns Scholarship



**Annalise Xiong**  
Assembly 0568  
California State University Stanislaus  
Business and Finance  
Assembly 065 Scholarship

## 2025–2026 – 1st Year Scholarship Recipients



**Mason Alexander**  
Assembly 0267  
Salisbury University  
Graphic Design



**Robert Ashford**  
Assembly 0617  
Wilkes University  
Mechanical Engineering



**Kaylee Baker**  
Assembly 0554  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Nursing



**Brady Baranowski**  
Assembly 0123  
University of Kentucky  
Dietetics



**Thomas Breckenridge**  
Assembly 0377  
West Virginia University  
Aerospace Engineering



**Reyna Dalton**  
Assembly 0774  
Earlham College  
Education and Media Communications



**Grace Darby**  
Assembly 0123  
Penn State University  
Meteorology and Atmospheric Science



**Matthew Deemer**  
Assembly 0123  
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania  
Exercise Science



**Gianni Di Sora**  
Assembly 0039  
Westminster College  
Business



**Faith Goncher**  
Assembly 0554  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Early Childhood Education



**Marina Hanes**  
Assembly 0554  
Seton Hill University  
Health Science (Physical Therapy)



**Lucas Herrod**  
Assembly 737  
Mercyhurst University  
History and Political Science



**David Jaster**  
Assembly 0381  
The Crown College  
Missions and Automotive Diesel Repair



**Alyssa Jezierski**  
Assembly 0774  
West Liberty University  
Pre-Medical (Biology)



**Natalie Kirsch**  
Assembly 0123  
Saint Francis University  
Physician Assistant



## 2025–2026 – 1st Year Scholarships Recipients Continued



**Ava Kosta**  
Assembly 0123  
University of Pittsburgh  
Bioengineering



**Ella Lotz**  
Assembly 0123  
Grove City College  
Management and Marketing



**Maya McDonnell**  
Assembly 0617  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
Secondary Education, Social Studies



**Elyse Moua**  
Assembly 0568  
Clovis Community College  
General Education



**Alise Och**  
Assembly 0123  
Penn State Behrend  
Psychology and Psychiatry



**Emily Paquet**  
Assembly 0588  
Washington and Jefferson College  
Finance and Accounting



**Rocco Pastore**  
Assembly 0774  
University of Delaware  
Undecided



**Isabella Pastore**  
Assembly 0774  
University of Alabama  
Psychology and Criminology



**Gabriella Rump**  
Assembly 0123  
University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg  
Criminal Justice



**Dylan Saffer**  
Assembly 0123  
Pennsylvania Western University – California  
Computer Science



**Maria Sirianni**  
Assembly 0123  
William and Mary  
Business



**Sienna Smith**  
Assembly 0617  
Saint Joseph's University  
Toxicology



**Hannah Smith**  
Assembly 0554  
Kent State University  
Zoology



**Toby Smith**  
Assembly 0554  
Elizabethtown College  
Psychology



**Farrah Susko**  
Assembly L105  
Pennsylvania Western University – Edinboro  
Psychology



**Alyssa Toman**  
Assembly 0774  
Quinnipiac University  
Health Science (Radiology)



**William Vang**  
Assembly 0568  
Merced College  
Physical Therapy



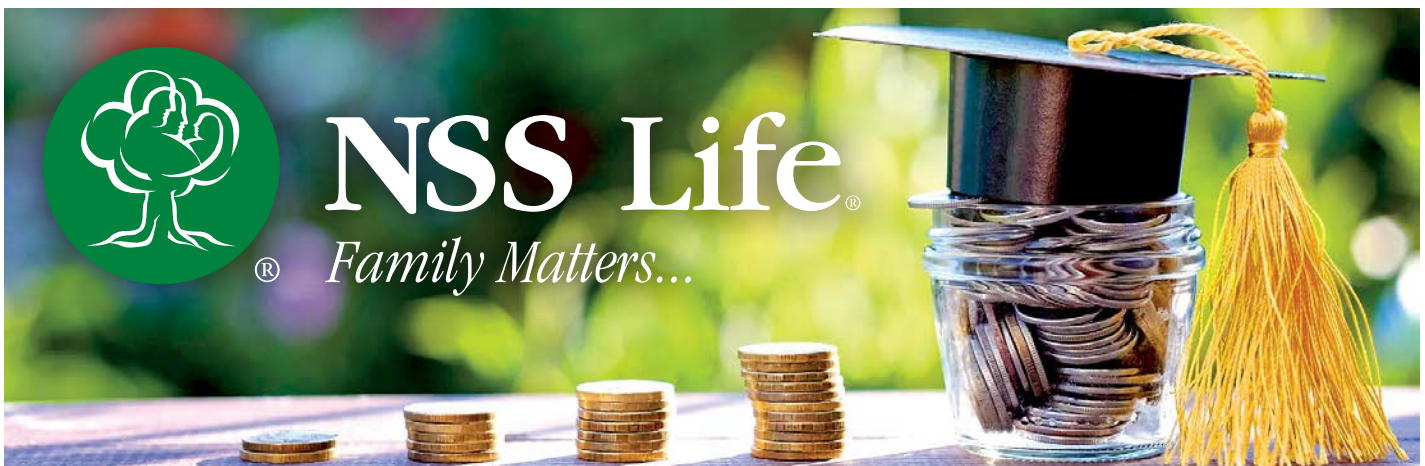
**Evelyn Viehl**  
Assembly 0377  
West Virginia University  
Undecided



**Melina Vitale**  
Assembly 0588  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pharmacy



**Nellia Xiong**  
Assembly 0568  
California State University Stanislaus  
Registered Nursing





## ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

The 2026 NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention will be here in less than a year: June 14-18. Now is the time to start thinking about being a delegate. We will spend some time talking about the convention at our upcoming meeting in September. At our March, 2026 meeting we will be electing delegates for the convention. Bring your questions to the meeting!

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. John and I will be looking for you!

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of Jean L. Forbes, Marlene R. Martz and Betty Mosco. May they rest in the loving arms of the resurrected Christ.

Last year, our assembly won the highest award designated by the NSS Board of Directors. That was because of the points awarded through the Assembly Growth Program. It is up to **YOU** to help get us those points. The upcoming NSS Pumpkin Decorating Contest & NSS Photo Contest are two ways for you to get points for our assembly. Plan to enter today.

Our assembly president and myself participated in the recent NSS Golf Tournament. Our assembly sponsored one of the holes for the PVR Scholarship Fund.

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

Watch out for those yellow school buses!

**Paul Payerchin**  
Secretary



## ASSEMBLY 0070 Brooklyn, OH

Our assembly is hosting our December meeting on **December 7th** with a meeting at 11:00 a.m. and a Christmas luncheon to follow. At our meeting we will be electing delegates for the June 2026 convention. Since the luncheon is catered, please call John Karkosiak at (216) 741-6990 by November 30th to confirm your menu choice.

Also, don't forget about our pot-luck dinner and meeting at Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH on **September 21st**, at 11:00 a.m. Assembly 70 will provide main chicken meal. Call John Karkosiak for what you prefer 216-741-6990 by September 14th.

Side dishes or desserts are appreciated.

**John Karkosiak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Welcome to Fall. We have a lot to tell you about.

Assembly 123 is a sponsor for the Carnegie American Legion Family's "Helping Hands Benefit Run." This annual event benefits Post family and community members, typically to help with medical costs. (Our Secretary/Treasurer will be one of the beneficiaries, this time.) You can grow this matching fund event by riding or driving in the run, contributing something to raffle-off, or just attending the wrap-up at the Post to buy a ticket for food, drinks and entertainment. The run is **September 6th**. Register starting 9:00 a.m. Launch at Noon. Start/Finish is the American Legion Post Home in Carnegie. Ask us for details or call the Post (412) 278-0716.

You should plan to see Septemberfest Saturday, **September 27th**. There are great exhibits, basket raffles, food and entertainment. Assembly 123 is a sponsor and will also be providing our usual raffle "basket."

The next day, Sunday, **September 28th**, Assembly 123 will play mini-golf and hold a meeting at Robert Morris

University Island Sports Center, 7600 Grand Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15225. We'll have the area's best pizza while we meet. Let us know if you'll come and what you'd like to drink.

**Save the date – Sunday, October 12th!** We will visit Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center to see "Guys and Dolls." Play starts at 2:00 p.m., but we will gather at noon in a private room for a meeting and some refreshments. After the play we will gather on stage for a group photo. We have 24 tickets reserved. Final cost will be determined once we receive the catering information.

Join us at Bayernhof Museum for a truly one-of-a-kind adventure Sunday, November 9th. See a fanatic and large collection of antique automatic music machines and other items. Touring the building itself is fascinating as you move from one unique room to another, sometimes through concealed passageways. The tour launches at 2:00 p.m., 225 St. Charles Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15215, and runs a couple of hours. Space is limited to 12, so contact us to sign up soon or you'll miss it. Cost is only \$5. No meeting – just a chance to meet fellow assembly members.

Since Bayernhof is limited, we have 12 spots reserved for a tour and curated tasting at Liberty Pole Spirits, 800 Adios Drive, Washington, PA on Saturday, **October 25th**. Tour is 1 ½ hr long and you'll go home with a Glencairn glass. Cost is only \$5. This is normally a \$25 ticket. You must sign up in advance. First come, first served.

**Lyle Grover**  
President

## ASSEMBLY L-161 Pittsburgh, PA

Assembly L-161 is pleased to support the North Hills United Presbyterian Church Fundraiser, scheduled for Saturday, **October 11, 2025**. The cast and crew of the Passion play "The Day He Wore My Crown" will host a stuffed cabbage dinner to raise funds for new sound equipment and scenery needed for the 2026 production next spring. In addition to the dinner, attendees may participate in a basket raffle. The event will be held at North Hills United Presbyterian Church, located at 100



Bellevue Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15229.  
All individuals are welcome to attend.  
This initiative will operate as a match-  
ing funds project. For further infor-  
mation, please contact Anna Mann at  
412-973-6064.

**Anna Mann**  
Fraternal Activity Director

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## ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

As the seasons change, we stay committed to our organization and to helping others. I always ask to bring a friend or potential new member to our meeting so we can inform them of the benefits of the NSS. Many exciting things are happening and we are so happy to belong to this organization! As members we have many benefits and fun activities that we can participate in!

Our next meeting will be held on **October 12th** at Sesame Gourmet Restaurant at 3:00 p.m. so please consider attending!

And our annual Christmas Party will be on **December 7th** at Hugo's Restaurant. Please bring some cookies to add to our cookie table and prepare for a special surprise this year!

Please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171 by calling, text message or email at: **suzanne.Skrypak@gmail.com**. We need to know who can attend the meetings or events at least 10 days in advance. It is better to RSVP and cancel if something comes up than waiting to the last minute. I appreciate knowing in advance. And let's come up with some new community activities or ways to help other for next year!

**Suzanne Skrypak**  
President

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## ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Mark you 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 0588 Avella, PA Meeting Notice Change of Date

The Assembly 588 meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. **has been changed to Monday, October 27, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. at the Stefka residence. Please call Annette at 724-407-3591 if you plan to attend the meeting.

**Annette Stefka**  
Recording Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella PA Halloween Party

Our assembly will hold a Halloween Party for our members at the Stefka Residence on Monday, **October 27, 2025** at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Annette at 724-407-3591 by Friday, October 17th if you plan on attending the party so that we may prepare enough treats for all.

Hope to see you in your costume at the party!

**Annette Stefka**  
Recording Secretary

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## ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH Change of Dates

Halloween Hayride date has been **changed from Sunday, October 12th to Saturday, October 11th**, at Countryside Farm, Lowellville, OH. from 4:00-7:00.

A meeting will be held on **November 8th** at Kathy & Jim Cessna's home, 58 Greenbay, Boardman, OH at 1:00 p.m.

Our Christmas party **has changed from Sunday, December 7th to Saturday, December 6th**, at 2:00 p.m. Still at Boardman Park's Rotary Room in the Lariccia Center.

**Laurie Fox**  
President

## REGION 5 Pittsburgh, PA

### Fall Meeting

The Fall Meeting of Region #5 will be held on Sunday, **October 12, 2025**, at the NSS Home Office, 1403 Ashwood Drive in Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 p.m. Plans for Region #5 activities for the remainder of 2025 will be discussed. All assemblies in Region #5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting. The Spring Meeting of Region #5 is scheduled for Sunday, March 22, 2026.

**Joseph Stefka, Jr.**  
President  
Region #5

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## REGION 8 Cleveland, OH

**Attention Assemblies: #4, #70, #160, and #432**

The Semi-Annual meeting of Region 8 will be hosted by Assembly 432. The meeting will be held at Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH on **October 15, 2025** at 7:00 p.m.! **(Please note time)**

Plans for upcoming events will be discussed. "With Convention coming up in 2026, **we will be electing delegates to the convention** at this meeting!"

Hope to see all assemblies from our region at this meeting.

**Carole Koches**  
Recording Secretary

## 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!!**



## NSS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS A NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY FRATERNAL PROGRAM

### ~ PURPOSE ~

To encourage our older members to continue their education and to make fuller use of their leisure time.

### ~ MEMBER ELIGIBILITY ~

Any life insurance or annuity member, fifty-five (55) years or older, who has enrolled and successfully completed a continuing education or adult education course. Members may submit up to two (2) applications in one calendar year.

### ~ COURSE ELIGIBILITY ~

Vocational schools, community colleges and universities offer a variety of short-term courses which may include areas like computer training, cake decorating, photography, landscaping, small engine repair, ballroom dancing, etc. This program does not cover courses that assist you to maintain your current full or part-time job. (Example: We will not reimburse life insurance or real estate agents who take continuing education credits to maintain their licenses.)

### ~PROCEDURE ~

Members should enroll and pay for the course of their choice. Once the member has finished the class, he/she must submit an application, along with verification that the class was successfully completed, to the Home Office for approval by a National Officer. If the scholarship application is approved, the NSS will reimburse the **full tuition for the course up to, but not to exceed, one hundred dollars (\$100.00)**

**For more information, you may find it on our NSS Life website:  
[www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org)**

## DEPARTED MEMBERS JULY 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Adams, Shirley	Erie, PA	07/07/2025	0731
Alterici, Ralph	Bentleyville, PA	05/17/2025	0377
Bauer, Carol	Cochranton, PA	07/13/2025	0731
Bauer, Jerome	Cochranton, PA	07/21/2025	0731
Belisario, Daniel	Pittsburgh, PA	05/15/2025	0100
Bell, Bonita	Summerville, WV	06/12/2025	0774
Belt, David Lee	Uniontown, PA	02/02/2025	0039
Bendel, Eleanor	Chaseburg, WI	05/21/2025	0774
Bennink, Lola W	Lowellville, OH	07/09/2025	0731
Bledsoe, Autumn	Huntington, WV	05/31/2025	0774
Bowen, Vicki	Weston, WV	06/04/2025	0774
Boyd, Richard J	N. Huntingdon, PA	06/06/2025	0737
Bradshaw, David	Coraopolis, PA	06/13/2025	0123
Briggs, Benny	Coatesville, PA	07/18/2025	L102
Brooks, Jean E	Uniontown, PA	06/10/2025	0039
Brown, Beverly M	McMurray, PA	06/23/2025	0434
Brundage, Norma	Smithfield, PA	06/22/2025	0039
Budworth, John W	Canonsburg, PA	05/16/2025	0774
Casanova, Sally	Freedom, PA	06/25/2025	0123
Castner, Larry	Canonsburg, PA	06/23/2025	0434
Cavanaugh, Helen M	Pittsburgh, PA	05/31/2025	L161
Chojnicki, Mary Lou	Carmichaels, PA	05/09/2025	0100
Colananni, Diana A	N. Huntingdon, PA	07/06/2025	0737
Coleman, Elizabeth	Ansted, WV	06/02/2025	0774
Collings, Edna M	Pittsburgh, PA	08/09/2024	L161
Cornell, Joan	Meadville, PA	07/16/2025	0554
Craig, Jo Ann	Roanoke, WV	06/04/2025	0774
De Frances, Wayne	Export, PA	06/30/2025	L105
Delaney, Joyce	Monessen, PA	06/29/2025	0377
Dillon, Dennis L	Lowellville, OH	06/15/2025	0731
Dzik, Margaret	West Mifflin, PA	06/28/2025	L161
Ello, Theresa	Grosse Ile, MI	06/12/2025	0381
Farah, Joe	Brooklyn, OH	05/21/2025	0070
Floryshak, Margaret	Nanticoke, PA	07/22/2025	0617
Foringer, Jeffrey	Karns City, PA	06/29/2025	0008
Foster, Chloe Marie	Avella, PA	07/05/2025	0588
Fronczak, Delores A	Seelyville, IN	07/02/2025	0705
Fuoco, Martha E	Englewood, FL	07/04/2025	0813
Gearde, Pattie	Mononga, WV	04/08/2025	0774
Gedeon, William J	Brooklyn, OH	06/05/2025	0070
Griffin, Linn Ann	Tallahassee, FL	06/24/2025	0813
Griffith, Wilda V	Avella, PA	07/02/2025	0588
Haley, Jane L	Smithmill, PA	05/08/2025	0267
Harper, Scott E	McMurray, PA	07/05/2025	0434
Hatala III, Michael	Cream Ridge, NJ	01/09/2025	R059
Heim, Cyril	Pittsburgh, PA	03/10/2025	L161
Heller, DeWayne	Franklin, PA	04/04/2025	0554
Henry, Douglas A	Grosse Ile, MI	06/27/2025	0381
Heslet, Donald R	Pittsburgh, PA	06/15/2025	L105
Hoffman, Sandra Jo	Monessen, PA	07/07/2025	0774
Holoman, Mary	Mohnton, PA	07/07/2025	0737
Householder, Santa E	Charles Town, WV	05/31/2025	0774
Huston, Barbara K	Bentleyville, PA	06/02/2025	0377
Johnson, Mary T	Home, PA	06/28/2025	0554
Jones, Gisela Je	Schnecksville, PA	06/23/2025	L102
Jordan, Wanda L	Canonsburg, PA	04/03/2025	0774
Kasperowski, Blanche	Pittsburgh, PA	07/11/2025	0100
Keller, Cordelia	Canonsburg, PA	07/11/2025	0774
Kennedy, James	Derry, PA	07/21/2025	0737
Klamerus, Bernadette	Uniontown, PA	07/07/2025	0039



## DEPARTED MEMBERS JULY 2025

(Continued from page 18)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Kunkle, Lois	Cabot, PA	07/14/2025	L161
La Rocca, David	Pittsburgh, PA	12/13/2022	0774
Lemon, Marilyn J	Seelyville, IN	06/15/2025	0705
Levandosky, Stanley J	Bentleyville, PA	06/02/2024	0377
Lynch, Marie	Jeanette, PA	06/19/2025	0737
Mariani, P Ronald	Smithton, PA	05/02/2025	0039
Martin, Kenneth J	Canonsburg, PA	05/22/2025	0774
Michener, Edna	Huntington Mills, PA	06/28/2025	0617
Monahan, Leah	Avella, PA	06/08/2025	0588
Murtaugh, William	Pittsburgh, PA	07/09/2025	0100
Nickle, Edna Mae	N. Huntingdon, PA	07/14/2025	0737
Norelli, Margaret	Glassport, PA	06/22/2025	0441
Nuttall, Wilfred	Latrobe, PA	06/21/2025	0737
O Lear, Gena	Pittsburgh, PA	07/19/2025	0123
Osterritter, William T	Bethlehem, PA	06/17/2025	R059
Paraggio, Carmella	Pittsburgh, PA	05/11/2025	L105
Patrick, Ann	Grassflat, PA	05/29/2025	0774
Perilli, Mary Jane	Hatboro, PA	06/27/2025	0267
Piowowar, Bernadette	Scottdale, PA	07/06/2025	0377
Popatak, Eleanor J	Pittsburgh, PA	03/29/2025	0100
Powlowsky, Margaret S	Bentleyville, PA	06/18/2025	0377
Reed, Betty S	Canonsburg, PA	06/07/2025	0774
Ringer, Joan A	Lowellville, OH	12/02/2024	0731
Rosario, Justiniano	Royersford, PA	07/29/2025	0774
Sapovits, Phillip	Warminster, PA	07/21/2025	R059
Schilinski, Adolph	Burgettstown, PA	06/27/2025	0588
Schnell, Lee Roy	Karns City, PA	07/23/2025	0123
Seman, Magdalene	Pittsburgh, PA	04/21/2025	L105
Sheridan, Anna	Lowellville, OH	07/07/2025	0731
Skokowski, Elizabeth M	Schnecksville, PA	07/13/2025	L102
Skraitz, Norma L	Bentleyville, PA	06/23/2025	0377
Smith, Betty J	Seelyville, IN	07/04/2025	0705
Smith, Gerald F	McMurray, PA	06/17/2025	0434
Smith, Gregory A	Coraopolis, PA	06/19/2025	0123
Snyder, Clayton C	Dubois, PA	05/31/2025	0554
Stoveland, Delores L	Bethlehem, PA	07/28/2025	R059
Strause, Betty	Leesport, PA	07/10/2025	L102
Strish, William	Dallas, PA	07/15/2025	L075
Strom, Dale	Homestead, PA	07/05/2025	0108
Strong, Clyde	Creighton, PA	06/16/2025	L161
Surovy, David	Worcester, NY	06/19/2025	L075
Tuttle, Teddy	Fairview, WV	06/05/2025	0774
Ulrich, Shirley	Leesport, PA	07/08/2025	L102
Vasko, Mark	Cincinnati, OH	04/25/2025	0432
Vensel, Roberta	Lititz, PA	06/24/2025	L102
Walker, Richard	Saegertown, PA	07/14/2025	0774
Walter, Aileen	Pittsburgh, PA	07/14/2025	L161
Ward, Magalean	New York, NY	06/24/2025	0110
Watson, Donald	Martinsville, OH	07/02/2025	0595
Weaver, Dwight M	Dubois, PA	07/04/2025	0554
Weiss, Janice	Fleetwood, PA	07/02/2025	L102
Welsh, Bonnie J	Coraopolis, PA	07/06/2025	0123
Welsh, June	Charleston, WV	06/04/2025	0774
Whalen, Patsy	Circleville, OH	06/10/2025	0595
Williams, John	Plymouth, PA	06/10/2025	0617
Winkler, Charles T	Seelyville, IN	06/20/2025	0705
Wobrak, John J	West Mifflin, PA	05/04/2025	0441
Yakopec, Anne	Pittsburgh, PA	07/10/2025	L105
Young, James J	Lowellville, OH	06/23/2025	0731
Yuiska, Marlene L	Pittsburgh, PA	04/26/2025	L161
Zibritsky, Carl	Joffre, PA	07/03/2025	0588

## 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 July, 2025

In Memory of **Mike Lako:**

From Ondrejco Family ..... 100.00

In Memory of **Michael "Hoover" Lako:**

From Ondrejco Family ..... 100.00

In Memory of **Robert J. Bonkosiki:**

From Assembly #0700 ..... 20.00

In Memory of our son and brother,

**Shaun Logan Crowley:**

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

In Memory of **Deceased Members:**

From Assembly 0123: ..... 300.00

**March 2025:**

Norbert Klebanski, Sandra Kozak

Edith Kronk, Andrew Lear, Marcella

Mason, Patricia Meinik, Donald E. Paff  
and Steve Paulovich

**April 2025:**

Geraldine Armstrong, Angelo Greco

J P Graham Hamilton, Antoinette Hau-  
ber, Ruth Mancing, Gerald Smith and  
Helen Yaroschak.

**May 2025:**

Mary Barr, Joan Boni, Raymond Camp-  
bell, Judtih Corona, Sylvia Hinchberger  
Emerick Isovitsch, Barbara Lanke,  
Geraldine Liss, Donald Paff, and  
Patricia Rodgers

**Donations:**

President Joseph Stefka, Jr. . 50.00

Director Keith Kucherawy .... 50.00

Director Sue Ondrejco ..... 50.00

Director Andrew Wesnak ..... 50.00

Joseph Weinkle, CLU ..... 100.00

2025 NSS

Golf Tournament ..... 6,425.00

**Total ..... 7,265.00**



## Region 2 Activity

Region 2 recently participated in the first annual Move with Moosic 5k on June 8, 2025 that benefited area local Moosic Parks. Region 2 did matching funds for the Mercatili Segila Park that we use every year for our NSS 75 Picnic. We had 11 NSS members sign up to run/walk and each member received a tee shirt with our NSS logo on the back for sponsoring the run. We had a great time for a great cause and look forward to doing it again next year.



**Dominic Piccoletti ready to race**



**Lehrea Edwards, Lucy and Tom Piccolietti, Matt and Fran Edwards, Marlin Petro, Michael, Bridget, Olivia, Dominic and Gabe Piccoletti.**

## Assembly 813 Matching Funds Program

Assembly 813 just completed their matching funds project with the Wiregrass Area Food Bank Brown Bag program for senior citizens. This is the 21st year for this collaboration in Dothan, Alabama, and raised \$3,800 for the Food Bank. A check for \$500 was presented by NSS member Mary Jo Holker to David Hanks, executive director of the food bank.



**L-R: Kerry Farrell, member of NSS Assembly 813, Gayle Smith and David Hanks from the Food Bank, Mary Jo Holker from Assembly 813 and other food bank employees George Henderson and Monica Jackson.**

## Assembly 377 Picnic



On August 3rd, 2025 our assembly held our annual picnic at Richardsons Park in Bentleyville PA. Everyone had a good time talking and socializing.

## Assembly 813 Matching Funds Program



Assembly 813 concluded the Matching Funds program with the Wright Star Program. Donations of \$1,000 were received to ensure the program was successful in helping improve the reading and math skills of the 42 youngsters who attended. Camp dates were held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from June 10th to July 10th.

The program provided enriching activities transforming lives on scholar at a time, fostering a brighter future for all who took who part. Assembly 813 will hold an auction to replace the annual Cork Pull to benefit Catholic Social Services, which had to be moved to spring due to a conflict. The auction opens 9/13 and closes 9/20 and will still benefit Catholic Social Services.







## PVR FUND NEWS

September brings us the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. The PVR Fund Board of Directors sends our best wishes for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling school year.



### HOST A TRIVIA NIGHT!



Looking for a fun way to contribute to the PVR Fund? A trivia night can be a great fundraiser! Encourage your members to participate, and sell “mulligans” as second chances for wrong answers - but not too many! Teams can use one mulligan per round. Charge a nominal fee for entry and the team with the most correct answers wins a prize.

For help organizing an event in your Assembly, contact Bethany at the Home Office ([bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org)).



July was an amazing month for the PVR Fund! Our total increased by \$47,252, bringing us to \$1,763,204. We are only \$236,796 away from our goal! Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors!

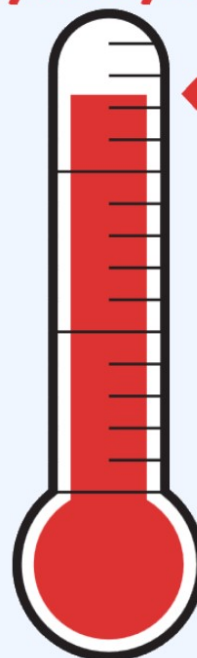


“September skies are a reminder that every day is a fresh start, filled with opportunities”  
-- unknown



FUND BALANCE AS OF  
JULY 31, 2025

**\$2,000,000**



Raised  
**\$1,763,204**

AQS

Asset Management for Insurers

equisoft

Alexander & Company  
Advertising and Marketing





*Jar je symbolom obnovy, ale september je ideálnym časom na nové začiatky. Znamená zmysluplnú zmenu s pretrvávajúcim letným teplom a prísľubom chladnejšieho počasia. September poskytuje nový začiatok a príležitosť oceniť krásu jesene.*

### **"Septemberfest"**

Pozývame Vás na septembroví festival čo bude na 27 septembra tu v našou múzeu. Počas festivalu sa bude podávať i jedlo ako haluški, palačinky, atď. Tiež pre prítomných bude i zábava slovenským folklórom—tancom a spevom, a možno niektorý si zakúpi i suveníri. Vstupné zdarma. Veríme v peknú účasť.

### **Patrónka Slovenska - 15 september**

V tento deň celé Slovensko oslávi a vzdá úctu Patrónke Slovenska—Sedembolestnej Matke Panny Marii.

Vieme, že Slovenský národ pretrpel mnohé utrpenia a nadvládu či režim nad národom po mnohé storočia.

Orodovanie—a modlitba k sedembolestnej upevňuje nás vo viere a oveľa ľahšie sa nám znašajú všetky naše ťažkosti.

Ďakujeme ti Sedembolestná za tvoju materinskú lásku a vytrvanie s nami.

**Sedembolestna Matka, oroduj za nás.**



**"Malé klebetnice" "Small gossipers"**

Na Slovensku je v septembri jeden štátny sviatok (1.september – Deň ústavy Slovenskej republiky) a jeden deň pracovného pokoja. A veru aj tu v amerike oslávim 7 septembra sviatok pracujúcich. Všetkým čo usilovne pracujete želáme krásny víkend.

### **Zoznámte Sa s Mladým Slovenským Géniom a Budúcim Svetovým Vedcom**

Viktor Imrišek pochádza z Bratislavy a už počas strednej školy získal pre Slovensko tri medaily na medzinárodných matematických olympiádach (2x bronz, 1x striebro). Zároveň zvíťazil v celoslovenskej biologickej olympiáde. Štúdium začal na Gymnáziu Grösslingová, no posledné dva roky absolvoval na prestížnej United World College of the Adriatic v Taliansku s plným štipendiom v rámci programu International Baccalaureate (IB). Tento výnimočne náročný program ukončil so skóre 44 z 45 bodov - čo dosiahne len asi 1 % študentov na svete. Vďaka tomu získal štipendium na jednej z 3 najlepších univerzít na svete - Stanford University.



**Pavol Cekan founder/ CEO MultiplexDX Int'l and Viktor Imrišek.**

Aj v USA Viktor ukazuje svoj nesmierny talent. Po dvoch rokoch štúdia bioinžinierstva a matematiky má študijný priemer 4,05 z maximálnych 4,00, čo je možné len pri najvyšších hodnoteniach a bonusových bodoch. Viktor tým opäť potvrdzuje, že patrí medzi top 1 % najlepších študentov na jednej z najnáročnejších univerzít sveta.

Viktor ma v máji požiadal o letnú stáž v našej firme MultiplexDX International. Okamžite sme ho prijali a urobili sme veľmi dobre. Je ďaleko pred svojimi rovesníkmi. Jeho vedecké myslenie je vyspelé, komplexné a excelentné. A navyše je nesmierne skromný. Si živým dôkazom, že aj na Slovensku sa rodia výnimočné talenty, géniovia a budúci svetoví vedci. —FB



**Kedz mi ňeška stanula, povyscerala ruky, nohy, pokrucila karkom a šicko zapraščalo ta som podumala: Ja nestara, ja chrumkava.**







# Youth Circle Page

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

## PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2025

### Contest Eligibility:

The NSS Annual Photography Contest is open to all members regardless of age. The photos, however, have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).

### Deadline:

**October 31st** is the deadline for all entries to be received. Mail to: NSS Fraternal Dept., 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Judging is done by an outside professional.

### Contest Rules:

- Must be a member before October 1st
- One entry per category
- Any size photo up to 8 x 10, unmounted in black and white or color  
(No touch-up or computer enhanced photos permitted)
- Name and address should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper, along with information where the photo was taken. **Do not write on your photo!**

### Four Categories

Nature/Wildlife      Human Interest      Travel  
"The Best Photo I Have Ever Taken"

### Prize List

1st Place - \$100.00    2nd Place - \$50.00  
3rd Place - \$30.00    Best Overall - \$150.00

**Contact Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, with any questions at 724-731-0094 Ext. 1020 or [jbelding@nsslife.org](mailto:jbelding@nsslife.org)**

## PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2025

### Description:

Carve out some time for some Halloween fun and submit a photo of your Halloween Pumpkin creations for a chance to win some fa-boo-lous prizes! Winning submissions will also be featured in the *National News*!

### Contest Eligibility:

The Third Annual NSS Pumpkin Decorating Contest is open to all members, regardless of age. The decorated pumpkin must be created by the member submitting it.

### Submission Deadline:

**October 30th** is the deadline for all submissions to be received. Submissions may be made online or through mail. Please mail to: National Slovak Society, Member and Community Engagement Associate, 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Online submission may be made by direct messaging any of our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and twitter) or by emailing directly to [jbelding@nsslife.org](mailto:jbelding@nsslife.org). Judging will be completed by an outside professional.

### Contest Rules:

- Must be a member before October 1st
- One entry per category: Painted or Carved
- Age Groups: 12 and Under, 13-17, 18+

Please include your name, address, age, and assembly number along side your submission photo.

### Prize List:

1st Place	\$100.00
2nd Place	\$50.00
3rd Place	\$30.00
Best Overall	\$150.00

Please contact the Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, at [jbelding@nsslife.org](mailto:jbelding@nsslife.org) or call the Home Office at 724-731-0094 Ext. 1020 if you have any questions.

## Congratulations-Outstanding Job



**Caleb Berner** of Assembly 160, Lorain Ohio, son of Jenny and Josh Berner, grandson of Chairman of the Board Bob and Chris Katricak, is shown here with the awards he was given when he graduated 4th grade at Redwood school in the Avon Lake Ohio. Caleb will be in 5th grade at Learwood school in the Fall.

## News from A-160 Youth Members

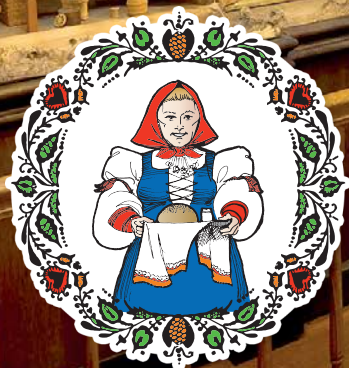


Chase and Gavin Berner of Assembly 160, Lorain Ohio, sons of Jenny and Josh Berner, grandsons of Chairman of the Board Bob and Chris Katricak, participated in the Avon Lake Ohio swim team this summer. Gavin has been swimming for 3 years and Chase joined his older brother this year.



National Slovak Society  
1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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



# THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS **Septemberfest**

Saturday, September 27, 2025 • NSS Life Heritage Museum

