

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny
FEBRUARY 2026

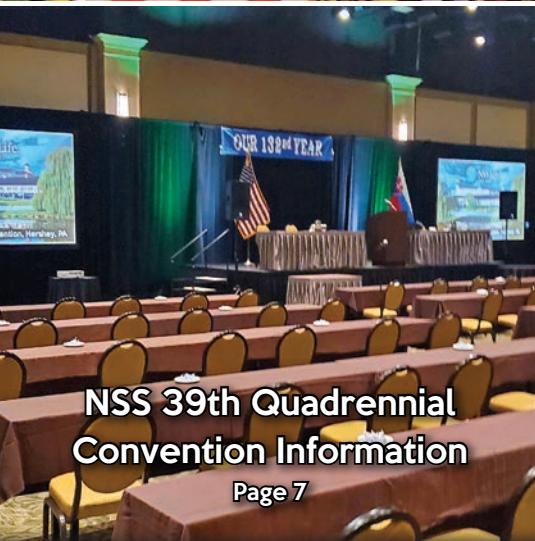
Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | NUMBER 3610 | VOLUME 118



FEBRUARY 16, 2026

FOUNDERS DAY

CELEBRATING 136 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR MEMBERS & COMMUNITIES



**NSS 39th Quadrennial
Convention Information**

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**NSS ANNIVERSARY OFFER
INSURANCE PROGRAM**



**EASY TO
APPLY**
SIMPLE ISSUE

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION!
JANUARY – MARCH 2026



**Fraternalist of the Year
& Youth Achievement
Award Nomination Forms**

Pages 18-19



National Slovak Society

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Lori Crowley
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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

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Theresa M. Zemelman

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FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

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

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Národné Noviny

16 Február Historickým Dňom Našej Orga-
nizácie Gratulujeme našej organizácii 26
Slovenské Hokejové Dresy Získavajú
Pochvalu 26
Veselá časť roka Fašiangy 26

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 |
| February 12 | Assembly 0617, Meeting/Valentine's Social, Amber Donia European Bakery at 1:00 pm |
| April 30 | Assembly L075, St. Frances Kitchen fundraiser |
| May 9 | Region 2, Grotto Pizza, 337 Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, Pa 18702 |
| May 10 | Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, KOC Hall in Pittston, PA at Noon |
| May 17 | Assembly L075, Old Forge Softball Golf Tournament (TBA) |
| August 3 | Assembly L075, Summer Picnic, Mercateli Segelia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm |
| September 21 | Assembly L075 Montage Ski Patrol Golf Tournament |
| October 11 | Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant (TBA) |
| REGION 5 | Assemblies 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774 |
| February 2 | Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm |
| February 10 | Assembly 0774, Meeting, Home Office Boardroom at 12 Noon |
| February 15 | Assembly 0731, Meeting, Cessna's residence, Boardman, OH at 1:00 pm |
| February 21 | Assembly L161, Meeting, Big Jim's, Pittsburgh, PA at 11:30 am |
| February 22 | Assembly 0377, Olive Garden, Washington, PA at 3:00 pm |
| March 1 | Assembly 0434, Meeting, Gahagen residence, McMurray, PA at 4:30 |
| March 8 | Region 5, Spring Meeting, Home Office, Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 pm |
| March 14 | Assembly 0737, Meeting, Time/Place to be announced |
| March 15 | Assembly 0123, Meeting, Eat'n Park, Pittsburgh, PA at 3:00 pm |
| March 19 | Assembly 0123, Volunteering, Global Links, Pittsburgh, PA at 4:00 pm |
| April 1 | Assembly 0123, Bingo, VA Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA at 3:00 pm |
| April 13 | Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm |
| June 7 | Assembly 0377, Meeting/Picnic, Richardson Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm |
| June 14-18 | NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention |
| June 14 | Assembly 0123, Delegates attending convention |
| July 31 | Assembly 0731, Mahoning Valley Scrappers game, Eastwood Field in Niles |
| September 13 | Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm |
| September 14 | Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm |
| November 9 | Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm |
| December 6 | Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm |
| December 13 | Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Boardman Park's Elton Beard Cabin at 3:00 pm |
| REGION 8 | Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595 |
| February 10 | Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel's residence at 7:00 pm |
| REGION 14 | Assemblies R059, L102 |
| | No Activities |
| AT LARGE | Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813 |
| March 12 | Assembly 0110, Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced |

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!!!**

The President's Page...

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



A Glance at the Past and a Look to the Future

Recently, I submitted my Letter of Intent to Retire from my position as President & CEO of the National Slovak Society of the U.S.A., effective December 31, 2026, to Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak.

Glancing back at my involvement with the National Slovak Society takes me back to my childhood, where, as a member, I attended many NSS events with my parents and grandmother Stefka, a Slovak immigrant, all members of the NSS. My grandfather, Stefka, also a Slovak immigrant and a member of Assembly 588, was instrumental in the founding of Assembly 588 in the small coal-mining community of Avella, Pennsylvania, in 1907. He died in 1930 when my father was only ten years old, so I never had the opportunity to know him. My involvement with the NSS for the past thirty-nine years has been through various National positions beginning in 1986, and as an officer in Region #5, and Assembly 588.

I have always put my heart and soul into everything I have done to make the NSS a leader among fraternal benefit societies. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with dedicated National Officers and members of the Board of Directors. I thank each of them for their shared commitment to the National Slovak Society's success! I thank the Board of Directors for their continued faith in my leadership of the Society. Through the years, the NSS has had experienced, knowledgeable advisors providing input to the Officers and Board of Directors, helping

to steer the Society in the right direction. Thank you for all that you have done to help us remain a leader among fraternal societies. Across the country, the NSS has a network of over 1,400 independent agents who continue to generate business and add members by selling our products. Thank you for your continued outstanding production, which helps us grow. I would also like to thank the dedicated, hardworking Home Office staff for their continued efforts to keep the Home Office running smoothly and for providing our members with outstanding member service. I would also like to thank the nearly 42,000 members of the NSS for your continued loyalty and trust in our Society and its products. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to meet many members of the Society and fondly remember the times spent together at programs, meetings, and events! I will cherish the friendships I have developed forever!

Looking to the future, the remainder of 2026 will be business as usual at the National Slovak Society. We, my fellow Executive Officers, Members of the Board of Directors, and the Home Office Staff, have so much more to accomplish. With our shared commitment, the NSS will continue to have a bright future. I am so proud of my Slovak Heritage, and my heart will always be with the Society!



NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Update

The NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention is a little over four months away, and the Board of Directors, Executive Officers, and Member and Community Engagement Department have been busy planning the details to ensure a smooth and successful event. Assemblies and Regions have scheduled meetings to elect Convention Delegates to represent their members. Please be sure to return your

Assembly or Region delegate forms immediately after the election meeting. Once delegate forms are returned to Secretary-Treasurer John Payerchin, delegates will be selected to serve on the various committees for the Convention. The Committee on Budget and Finances and the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws will start their responsibilities prior to the Convention with meetings at the Home Office. The Committee on Nominations will also begin its responsibilities prior to the Convention, working remotely. All other committees will meet at the Convention site prior to the start of the Convention sessions on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

Happy Birthday NSS!

The Home Office will be closed for business on President's Day, Monday, February 16, 2026. The NSS will also be celebrating our 136th birthday, Founders Day, on that day!

Winter Board of Directors Meeting

The Winter Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Saturday, **March 21, 2026**. The meeting will be held at the Home Office. Any information that Assemblies, Regions, or Members would like the Board of Directors to consider at the meeting should be submitted to Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin by March 6th.

Region Pre-Convention Visits

The Executive Officers and Member and Community Engagement Director Bethany Bonnar will attend Region Meetings this Spring, prior to the Convention, to meet with Assembly and Region officers and elected delegates from all Assemblies within each Region. The meetings will provide important Convention information and an opportunity to discuss topics of interest with attendees. The meeting dates are currently being planned with Region Officers and will be published in the March issue of the *National News*. Refreshments will be provided, and a raffle prize will be awarded at each meeting. We are looking forward to the meetings!

News of Narodniars

Special Happy Birthday wishes to my granddaughter Adalyn Bernardo! Addy, may your day be as special as you are!!! Also, Happy Birthday to Home Office Employee Jamie Belding, to Randi Czarney, Elaine Kucherawy, Bob Triebisch, Elizabeth Wise, Don Shriver, Linda Beno, Phillip Chojnicki, Daneille Lavin, Cooper Lavin, Maureen O'Neill, Bob O'Neill, and all other NSS members celebrating a birthday in February.

Happy Anniversary wishes to Maureen and Bob O'Neill, and all other couples celebrating a wedding anniversary this month! Enjoy your special day!

Recently, the NSS received word of David Dayton's passing. David and his late wife Ann were the original owners of the animated woodcarving that the NSS Board of Directors purchased for our Heritage Museum. Although Dave was not of Slovak Heritage, he proudly wore his Slovak Vest, attended our Septemberfest celebrations, and provided a detailed narration of the animated woodcarving to those in attendance. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Dayton family at this most difficult time.



Proudly serving our members for 136 years!

President Joseph Stefka, Jr. Retires

Joseph Stefka Jr. has informed the Board of Directors of his intention to retire as President/CEO of the National Slovak Society as of December 31, 2026. Joe has spent most of his life serving the NSS. When he retires, Joe will have spent 40 years in various National positions. He served on the NSS Tribunal for 8 years, on the Board of Directors for 26 years, as Chair of the Board for 6 years, and, upon retirement, will have served as President/CEO for 6 years. In addition, Joe was the Fraternal Director of the NSS, overseeing NSS Bowling and Golf tournaments and other fraternal activities. Joe has also been active and holds leadership positions in Region 5 and Assembly 588.

The Board of Directors commends and appreciates all that Joe has done to make the NSS the largest Slovak fraternal in the US. Although we will be sad to see Joe retire, we wish him well in the future. We know Joe and his wife Annette will be able to travel and spend more time with their daughter Ashley, son-in-law Brett, and four grandchildren.

The Board of Directors has begun a search for Joe's replacement. Our goal is to have someone in place so they can spend time working with Joe before he retires on December 31, 2026.

Bob Katricak
Chair of the Board



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer John Payerchin handing out Christmas gifts to the home office staff before holiday break



REGION 2 - Hazleton, PA SPCA Bone Appetit



NSS members of Region 2, Assembly L075 and guests attended SPCA Bone Appetit on November 2, 2025. Region 2 did matching funds, sponsored a few attendants, basket and Assembly L075 sponsored members as their annual Holiday party event and a basket. The Woodlands in Wilkes Barre was packed with local area restaurants serving food, drinks and fantastic desserts. There was also a basket raffle and a 50/50 raffle. NSS Region 2 President provided the event with NSS Life brochures, novelties and ink pens. This year we had sixteen (16) people attend to represent NSS Life. I can not thank everyone enough for attending.

Marlin Petro
President

Secretary-Treasurer's Page

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



Already into February!

NSS Life celebrates our 136th birthday this year. Another milestone for a company that was founded on helping one another and securing financial futures for families. We are in the thick of preparing for the 39th Quadrennial Convention being held June 14-18 at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, OH. Delegate election packets have been sent to all Assemblies and Regions. If you are the contact person for your Assembly or Region and have not received a packet, please contact me in the Home Office. Delegate election forms are due back to the Home Office by **March 16th, 2026**. If you are in the Home Assembly 0774, please contact me if you are interested in serving as a delegate.

I was thinking about the convention towards the end of last year and thought about creating a logo that could be used every 4 years to represent the convention and its meaning. Think of the Olympic Rings. You will notice this new logo on paperwork, advertising, and items for the 39th Quadrennial Convention. The original symbol is a representation of an ancient Slavic emblem known as **Koliada**. The name *Koliada* comes from the Slavic word for “wheel” or “cycle.” In Slavic tradition, Koliada was the god associated with the New Year and the daily rebirth of the sun. The symbol reflects the cyclical nature of the seasons, and the Festival of Koliada is celebrated after the winter solstice to mark the return of longer days. Koliada is still celebrated in different forms today in Eastern Europe. Mostly with Christmas or New Year’s traditions.

It is practiced as caroling, gift giving, and wishing prosperity.



Some scholars believe that the modern word *calendar* may trace its origins back to this ancient symbol. I thought it was a perfect representation of the convention and its impact on the NSS, since our conventions are cyclical and are the means by which the society makes changes to bylaws, directors, direction, and previously, executive officers. To make it more modern, colors and style changes were made.



NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention

The convention is a tremendous opportunity to learn more about NSS Life, meet the Executive Officers, Board of Directors, some of the staff, and have an impact on the direction of NSS for the next four years. Delegates play a critical role in the governance structure of all fraternal. For NSS, the convention and its delegates are the highest governing body within the structure.

Presidents' Day

Celebrated every year on the third Monday in February—didn't start out as a holiday for all U.S. presidents. Originally, it honored just one: George Washington. After Washington's death in 1799, Americans began informally celebrating his February 22 birthday, and by 1879, it became an official federal holiday.

While many states also celebrated Abraham Lincoln's February 12 birthday, Lincoln's Day never became a federal holiday. Over time, some states combined the two observances, paving the way for a broader celebration.

Everything changed in 1971, when the Uniform Monday Holiday Act shifted Washington's Birthday to the third Monday in February. The new date fell neatly between Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays, leading many Americans—and eventually many states—to embrace the more inclusive name “Presidents' Day,” even though the federal government still officially calls it Washington's Birthday.

By the mid 1980s, retailers helped popularize “Presidents' Day” with nationwide sales, and the name stuck. Today, it's widely recognized as a day to reflect on the leadership and legacy of all U.S. presidents.

This holiday was original created to celebrate George Washington's birthday after his death in 1799. It became a federal holiday in 1879, but only for federal offices in Washington, D.C. It stayed that way until 1885 when it was expanded to all federal offices and employees.





39TH

QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 14-18TH

2026

**SAWMILL CREEK
RESORT
HURON, OHIO**

Convention Fees

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Adult Delegate | Free! |
| Non-Delegate Adult NSS Member | \$700.00 |
| Non-Delegate Adult Guest | \$800.00 |
| Youth Delegate | Free! |
| Youth "Funfest" Guest Participant | \$225.00 |
| Youth NSS Member (No Activities Included) | \$130.00 |
| Youth Guest (No Activities Included) | \$175.00 |

CONVENTION FUNDRAISER

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Donation Checks can be made Payable to: NSS Life

Please include "Convention Donation - Alzheimer's Association" in the Memo

Line - Mail to 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317

A total check of all funds raised and donated will be presented to the Alzheimer's Association at the Convention.

FRATERNAL DAY ACTIVITIES

**FRATERNAL
FUN FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY!**

**CEDAR
POINT**



**TRAIN
TOUR**



KALAHARI



GOLF



**BOAT
TOUR**



Current Interest Rates

★ Effective February 1, 2026 ★

Optimum 3 – 4.00%

New Preferred 5 – 6.00%* (For First Year Only)

New Preferred 8 – 7.00%* (For First Year Only)

Existing Preferred 5 – 3.75% • Existing Preferred 8 – 4.00%
(Preferred 7 and Flex earning 4.00%, these plans are no longer available.)

Please contact your NSS Life financial service representative or
Joe Elliott in the Home Office at 1-800-488-1890.



Did you know...

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

Access your account values 24/7
by going to the website:
www.nsslife.org
and login/register as a member.



2025 Facts About Life Insurance



Who owns life insurance?

According to the 2025 Insurance Barometer Study, conducted jointly by
LIMRA and Life Happens, **51%** of American adults say they have some
sort of life insurance coverage (individual and/or group).

A majority of working adults
(**55%**) say they have life insurance
coverage through their employer.

Men continue to be more likely
than women to report owning life
insurance: **54%** versus **48%**.

Gen Z and **Hispanic**
adults are the least likely to
say they own life insurance.

From the Sales Department...

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



Anniversary Offer for Life Insurance

Once again, we are offering life insurance on a simplified issue basis. All this means that no medical exam is necessary, and even if a case was rated up to a certain amount, we will issue a standard. All of the details are in this issue. This is an excellent opportunity to add additional life insurance protection for your family.

According to LIMRA, many people want more life insurance but think it costs too much. Some worry about which kind of insurance to buy. Others worry about a medical exam, delays, and other concerns.

With our program, all of your worries are alleviated. We use our twenty-pay life plan for this program. This permanent plan of insurance features immediate coverage, guaranteed premiums, increasing cash or loan values, and dividends. Call or email our office, and we will rush the information and an application to you.

April 15th and the IRA deadline

This year, April 15th falls on a Wednesday, so that is the actual day your taxes are due (unless you have an extension). The 2025 maximum IRA contribution is \$7,000 and a catch-up amount of \$1,000 if age 50 or older. A person can make this contribution until April 15th for the 2025 tax year.

The contribution amount has gone up for 2026. The new amount

is \$7,500 and \$1,100 for ages 50 or older, for a total of \$8,600. The income limits for a traditional IRA are \$149,000 for joint filers. For Roth contributions, you have a higher income level of \$242,000 for joint filers. The important point is that more people than ever are eligible for either program. Do you need a tax deduction or would you prefer tax-free income at some point in the future?

To determine which program suits you best, reach out to your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott at the home office. We're here to help you save money, earn interest, and enjoy a stress-free retirement.

Secrets to Financial Planning

Everyone wants to know the secret to having more money. Here are a few ideas, in no particular order. Following these will cause you to end up with more money. Try them, they all work.

- Create a budget, follow it for one month, and assess the results.
- Work on eliminating debt. Pay more or double the payments each time.
- Spend less than you earn. Save first, then spend what is left.
- Increase your income. Get a part-time job, start a business.
- Think about the long term, IRAs and Roth IRAs can help for the future.
- Set a goal. Would you like to have \$10,000 in 1 year? If so, then put \$27.40 into an account every day for 365 days.
- Read and educate yourself about money and related topics
- Use a financial planner to help guide you on your journey.

Agent Advisory Council Meeting

The Agent Advisory Council met again this past January to learn about updates from the Sales department. Among other discussions, Trevor Huseman, Co-President of Miller & Newberg, Consulting Actuaries for NSS Life, was kind enough to lend his time for a presentation on the Fixed Annuity Market from the Actuarial perspective.



Thought For The Month:

We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

Max De Pree - American businessman and writer (1924-2017)



NSS Life ANNIVERSARY OFFER PROGRAM

Family Matters...



**EASY TO
APPLY**
SIMPLE ISSUE

**SPECIAL
CONSIDERATION!**
NO MEDICAL EXAMS!

QUALITY LIFE INSURANCE • LIMITED TIME ONLY * JANUARY THRU MARCH, 2026 *

The NSS Life Anniversary Offer uses our twenty-pay life plan (however you may use the single premium plan as well). The advantages of a permanent plan include cash/loan values, reduced paid-up insurance options, dividends and more. To apply for this limited time offer, please complete the below form and return it to the home office.



NSS Life
Family Matters...

The maximum amount of insurance being offered will depend on your age:

| ISSUE AGES | MAXIMUM AMOUNT |
|------------|----------------|
| 0-50 | \$10,000 |
| 51-65 | \$7,500 |
| 66-80 | \$5,000 |

**See other side for complete rate listings.*

There is a limit of one policy per person. Anyone previously declined since 1/1/24 is not eligible for this program. Also excludes terminally ill, permanently disabled and others. If you purchased this plan last year you are excluded from this year's offer. Other exclusions may apply. Rates are based on age nearest birthday.

NSS Life Anniversary Offer Program

If you or someone you know may be interested in this anniversary issue offer, please provide your/their name and contact information below and we will mail an application to you/them. Complete the application and return it to the home office. Further Recommender information available on pg. 2 of this newsletter.

Prospect Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Recommender Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Twenty Pay Whole Life Insurance Policy Rates (Rates based on Age Nearest Birthday)

Twenty Pay Life (\$10,000)

| Age | Male Annual Premium | | Female Annual Premium | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Non-Nicotine | Nicotine | Non-Nicotine | Nicotine |
| 0 | \$155.70 | \$0.00 | \$146.60 | \$0.00 |
| 1 | \$157.70 | \$0.00 | \$148.30 | \$0.00 |
| 2 | \$160.00 | \$0.00 | \$150.20 | \$0.00 |
| 3 | \$162.40 | \$0.00 | \$152.20 | \$0.00 |
| 4 | \$164.90 | \$0.00 | \$154.40 | \$0.00 |
| 5 | \$167.60 | \$0.00 | \$156.60 | \$0.00 |
| 6 | \$170.30 | \$0.00 | \$159.00 | \$0.00 |
| 7 | \$173.20 | \$0.00 | \$161.40 | \$0.00 |
| 8 | \$176.10 | \$0.00 | \$163.90 | \$0.00 |
| 9 | \$179.20 | \$0.00 | \$166.50 | \$0.00 |
| 10 | \$182.40 | \$0.00 | \$169.20 | \$0.00 |
| 11 | \$185.70 | \$0.00 | \$172.00 | \$0.00 |
| 12 | \$189.10 | \$0.00 | \$174.90 | \$0.00 |
| 13 | \$192.70 | \$0.00 | \$177.80 | \$0.00 |
| 14 | \$196.50 | \$0.00 | \$181.00 | \$0.00 |
| 15 | \$200.30 | \$0.00 | \$184.20 | \$0.00 |
| 16 | \$204.30 | \$0.00 | \$187.50 | \$0.00 |
| 17 | \$208.20 | \$0.00 | \$190.90 | \$0.00 |
| 18 | \$201.30 | \$228.20 | \$185.50 | \$211.40 |
| 19 | \$203.50 | \$231.40 | \$188.40 | \$215.30 |
| 20 | \$205.90 | \$235.00 | \$191.20 | \$219.20 |
| 21 | \$208.30 | \$238.60 | \$194.00 | \$223.20 |
| 22 | \$211.00 | \$242.50 | \$197.10 | \$227.50 |
| 23 | \$214.00 | \$246.60 | \$200.30 | \$232.10 |
| 24 | \$217.20 | \$251.10 | \$203.60 | \$236.70 |
| 25 | \$220.80 | \$255.80 | \$207.10 | \$241.50 |
| 26 | \$224.70 | \$260.80 | \$210.70 | \$246.50 |
| 27 | \$228.80 | \$265.90 | \$214.60 | \$251.60 |
| 28 | \$233.10 | \$271.30 | \$218.50 | \$256.90 |
| 29 | \$237.60 | \$277.00 | \$222.60 | \$262.40 |
| 30 | \$241.90 | \$282.90 | \$226.90 | \$268.00 |
| 31 | \$246.30 | \$289.00 | \$231.30 | \$273.70 |
| 32 | \$251.10 | \$295.10 | \$235.80 | \$279.60 |
| 33 | \$256.00 | \$301.40 | \$240.50 | \$285.60 |
| 34 | \$261.10 | \$307.70 | \$245.40 | \$291.80 |
| 35 | \$266.30 | \$314.20 | \$250.50 | \$298.30 |
| 36 | \$271.80 | \$320.90 | \$255.70 | \$304.90 |
| 37 | \$277.50 | \$327.90 | \$261.20 | \$311.90 |
| 38 | \$283.50 | \$335.20 | \$266.70 | \$319.00 |
| 39 | \$289.70 | \$342.70 | \$272.50 | \$326.50 |
| 40 | \$296.20 | \$350.70 | \$278.40 | \$334.20 |
| 41 | \$302.90 | \$359.10 | \$284.50 | \$342.10 |
| 42 | \$309.70 | \$368.00 | \$290.80 | \$350.20 |
| 43 | \$316.80 | \$377.20 | \$297.30 | \$358.60 |
| 44 | \$324.10 | \$386.90 | \$304.10 | \$367.30 |
| 45 | \$331.60 | \$397.00 | \$311.00 | \$376.30 |
| 46 | \$339.30 | \$407.60 | \$318.10 | \$385.60 |
| 47 | \$347.30 | \$418.80 | \$325.50 | \$395.20 |
| 48 | \$355.60 | \$430.50 | \$333.10 | \$405.20 |
| 49 | \$363.90 | \$442.90 | \$340.90 | \$415.60 |
| 50 | \$372.50 | \$456.20 | \$349.10 | \$426.30 |

Twenty Pay Life (\$7,500)

| Age | Male Annual Premium | | Female Annual Premium | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Non-Nicotine | Nicotine | Non-Nicotine | Nicotine |
| 51 | \$285.90 | \$352.73 | \$267.98 | \$328.13 |
| 52 | \$292.65 | \$364.05 | \$274.28 | \$336.98 |
| 53 | \$299.85 | \$376.05 | \$280.73 | \$346.28 |
| 54 | \$307.50 | \$388.65 | \$287.40 | \$356.10 |
| 55 | \$315.45 | \$401.78 | \$294.30 | \$366.38 |
| 56 | \$323.93 | \$415.65 | \$301.50 | \$377.10 |
| 57 | \$332.85 | \$430.13 | \$308.85 | \$388.35 |
| 58 | \$342.30 | \$445.35 | \$316.58 | \$400.05 |
| 59 | \$351.83 | \$460.95 | \$324.68 | \$412.50 |
| 60 | \$361.58 | \$477.68 | \$333.15 | \$425.63 |
| 61 | \$371.25 | \$494.70 | \$342.00 | \$439.43 |
| 62 | \$381.08 | \$509.55 | \$351.38 | \$454.50 |
| 63 | \$391.35 | \$523.58 | \$361.65 | \$470.78 |
| 64 | \$402.23 | \$539.55 | \$372.53 | \$487.88 |
| 65 | \$413.85 | \$558.08 | \$384.00 | \$506.10 |

Twenty Pay Life (\$5,000)

| Age | Male Annual Premium | | Female Annual Premium | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Non-Nicotine | Nicotine | Non-Nicotine | Nicotine |
| 66 | \$284.60 | \$385.45 | \$263.90 | \$350.40 |
| 67 | \$294.55 | \$400.10 | \$272.15 | \$364.80 |
| 68 | \$305.50 | \$416.70 | \$281.35 | \$380.60 |
| 69 | \$317.95 | \$434.70 | \$291.65 | \$397.85 |
| 70 | \$331.10 | \$454.55 | \$303.20 | \$417.20 |
| 71 | \$344.60 | \$475.90 | \$315.35 | \$437.80 |
| 72 | \$359.70 | \$499.40 | \$328.00 | \$459.75 |
| 73 | \$377.65 | \$522.85 | \$341.90 | \$482.70 |
| 74 | \$397.80 | \$548.95 | \$356.55 | \$507.20 |
| 75 | \$420.15 | \$574.95 | \$372.30 | \$535.35 |
| 76 | \$444.55 | \$604.65 | \$390.05 | \$567.10 |
| 77 | \$467.45 | \$638.25 | \$409.60 | \$601.85 |
| 78 | \$491.95 | \$674.80 | \$430.85 | \$639.65 |
| 79 | \$514.95 | \$715.50 | \$455.00 | \$680.35 |
| 80 | \$538.50 | \$759.40 | \$481.35 | \$724.65 |

Other modes of payment are available including: **Semi-Annual (.52) • Quarterly (.265) • Monthly (.09) (Rate x Annual Premium)**

The Community Corner

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



We are starting 2026 off on a great foot here at the Fraternal Department of NSS Life! Don't forget to re-sign up for all your favorite NSS Life member benefits and programs, such as *Fitness Matters*, *Reading Matters*, and the *Senior Scholarship Program*! Have questions about the member benefits available to you as an NSS Life policyholder? Call the NSS Life Home Office at 724-731-0094 and ask for more information on the programs that interest you! Both I and Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, are here to help you get started!

PVR Scholarship Applications

Applications for the 2026-2027 PVR Scholarship are now available! To qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must be the insured party on an active life insurance policy or the annuitant on an active annuity with NSS Life. The minimum amount for life insurance is \$10,000 of permanent insurance, and the minimum for annuity deposits is \$5,000. To make sure you qualify and to request an application, please call 724-731-0094 or email bbonnar@nsslife.org. Completed applications are due by **May 1st, 2026**.

Social Media

The best way to stay up-to-date with everything NSS Life-related is by following us on social media! Follow us on **Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety)**, **Facebook (NSS Life)**, and **LinkedIn (@NSS Life)** to never miss a thing!



39th Quadrennial Convention

The convention year is here! I am so excited to share some information about all the fun we have planned for June 14-18 at Sawmill Creek Resort. Each convention includes a *"Fraternal Day"* during which all attendees are invited to participate in a variety of fun activities organized by yours truly! Whether you prefer a relaxing round of golf, a scenic train ride and winery tour, an island-hopping boat tour, or family fun at Kalahari or Cedar Point, there is something for the whole family to enjoy! Reminder that all assembly delegate election forms are due back to the Home Office no later than **March 16, 2026**. At each convention, NSS selects a charity to receive charitable donations from members like you! I am happy to announce that the charity selected this year is the Alzheimer's Association! The Alzheimer's Association is the leading organization in the United States for Alzheimer's research and care. Alzheimer's and Dementia have touched the lives of many of our members and their families, and we are proud to select an organization that is dedicated to serving those affected. You can contribute to the NSS Donation to the Alzheimer's Association even if you are not planning on attending the convention. Donation checks can be made payable to **"NSS Life"** and mailed to the Home Office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Please include **"Convention Donation – Alzheimer's Association"** in the memo line. All donations will be presented to the Alzheimer's Association at the convention. Additionally, a Basket Raffle will be held at the convention to raise money for the NSS Heritage Museum and PVR Scholarship Fund. Stay tuned for more convention news to come your way shortly!

2026 Fraternalist of the Year Award

Each year, we like to recognize and celebrate the incredible achievements of our adult members through the prestigious Fraternalist of the Year Award. This award is presented to a member of NSS Life who has demonstrated an incredible commitment to volunteerism and activism in their community. Nomination forms are available for you to put forward a member you believe is deserving of this honor. The winner will be awarded the opportunity to select a charity to receive a \$500.00 donation made in their honor from NSS Life. Please see later in this edition for the nomination form, along with a complete list of rules. Nomination forms must be submitted to the NSS Home Office by **April 1, 2026**.

2026 Youth Achievement Award

For our youth members, NSS offers the Youth Achievement Award to recognize their incredible accomplishments. This award is given to a youth member (under 18 years of age) of NSS Life who showcases an incredible commitment to their school, job, community, and/or church. All youth members must be nominated by an adult member of NSS Life. Parents, if you AND your child are NSS Life Policyholders, we encourage you to submit your child for this award! The winner of this award will receive a cash prize of \$500.00 directly from NSS Life. The complete nomination form can be found later on in this edition. All nomination forms must be submitted by **April 1, 2026**.



Youth Circle Magazine - Winter 2026



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Ball Gown
Boyfriend
Cards
Chocolate
Crush
Date
Diamond
Fairy Tale
Girlfriend
Heart
Love Song
Pink
Proposal
Red
Romantic
Serenade
Slow Dance
Strawberry
Sunset
Tuxedo
Valentine



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | K | N | I | P | W | L | S | B | Z | T | N | V | X | M | J | U | D |
| E | Z | N | K | L | P | H | P | B | T | N | F | R | G | Y | S | C | Z |
| R | O | M | A | N | T | I | C | Y | U | Y | O | F | I | T | F | F | E |
| L | A | S | O | P | O | R | P | Y | X | L | P | J | R | K | G | V | D |
| L | X | S | K | V | S | J | K | P | E | B | M | A | L | K | P | X | I |
| Z | Z | C | D | A | T | E | Q | H | D | E | W | K | F | Q | J | M | A |
| A | E | B | H | Y | Q | Q | Y | I | O | B | W | S | R | G | C | Q | M |
| B | C | A | L | O | F | W | E | C | E | H | P | D | I | M | W | S | O |
| C | H | L | O | A | C | D | Z | R | B | W | R | R | E | M | N | V | N |
| T | T | L | V | J | F | O | R | M | D | M | T | A | N | F | G | A | D |
| L | J | G | E | X | J | Y | L | N | F | I | A | C | D | U | Z | L | D |
| Y | E | O | S | E | E | A | E | A | V | E | D | A | N | E | R | E | S |
| C | M | W | O | F | A | I | R | Y | T | A | L | E | G | Q | S | N | H |
| H | F | N | N | K | R | R | P | D | R | E | F | R | K | H | U | T | V |
| E | R | E | G | F | E | C | N | A | D | W | O | L | S | V | N | I | S |
| A | R | E | Y | K | Z | Z | C | N | V | J | O | U | Q | O | S | N | O |
| R | Z | O | D | B | K | C | W | C | X | H | R | K | G | J | E | E | E |
| T | B | J | K | R | N | D | A | N | W | C | B | L | D | O | T | J | M |

**“If I could give my child three things,
it would be the confidence to always know their self-worth,
the strength to follow their dreams, and the ability to know
how truly, deeply loved they are.”**



Winter Word Scramble

Can you figure out the winter vocabulary words by unscrambling the letters? Watch out! Some of the scrambled terms are made up of two words.

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| CPRDEPAILE | SRADOOWBN |
| AANHKKHU | NCEPOEIN |
| IILECC | AINERDG |
| HLGSIE | SMSAICTHR |
| TSNMITE | SLOLABNW |
| WDYAONS | SWANNOM |
| ARBEIEDGRNG | ANLSNWEGO |
| SGTNKEIACI | TESEARW |
| OGANBOTG | AWOFNKLES |
| INETWR | OYHIALD |
| EHTCOLOAC | FPLERIEAC |
| KIGNSI | DLSE |



WINTER WORD SEARCH

FIND THE WORDS!



A Y G X D V Q O S O O L H R R S C A R F
Q L J A N U A R Y X J O Y R M R T G D T
X D X J Q X G M S S N O W F L A K E U Q
E I W T G Q I N B T G J C Y C G T T I M
G N I D D E L S I T O R L H Y K A W S W
V F E B R U A R Y I Z O F R E E Z I N G
N P A Q Q H S T L P K I B L U D Q Z C B
T C J K S K N Y V T A S H O V E L T V E
J L S K G D O J P Q A N R F D G O A Q N
D M N B D M W V R X A O R W R Y T Y F W
J C O L D S M U N P Y W C E Q O Z C V M
W G W O E R A B V S M B X M B B S Q W A
B I A G V L N M S E W A K F F M O T F A
I M N D V U C V T M A L G L O V E S W I
E I G T C V P Q J S I L X B M B G C Y B
U G E N E N S F K U I S H L G V P P E X
I O L B B R U C U G R R T N W L Z T O D
K Q N C V P E I U N C O H G X F D A U I
M Q K T Y I W O K U U N Z C S V V H Q Z
A F R H X X X J A U R K W F Q L P S V C

BOOTS
COLD
FREEZING
HAT
SCARF
SLEDDING
SNOWFLAKE

CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER
FROST
ICE
SHOVEL
SNOWANGEL
SNOWMAN

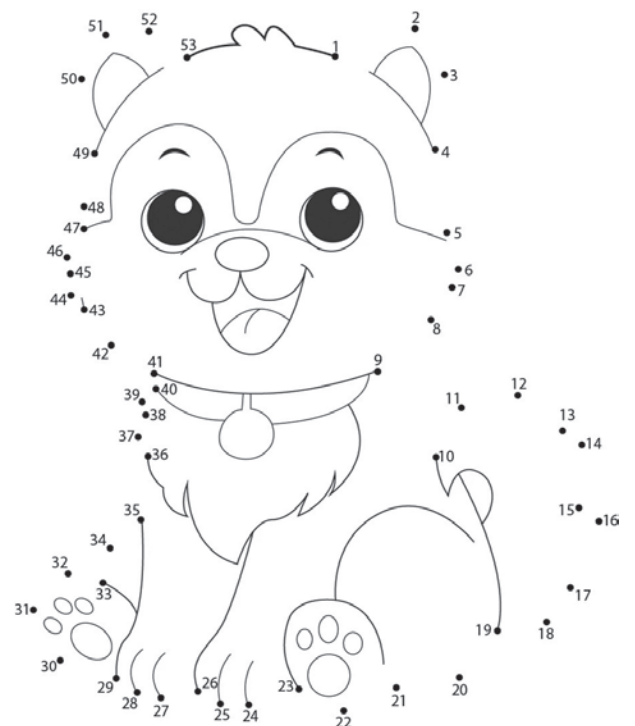
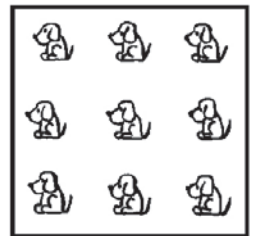
COAT
FEBRUARY
GLOVES
JANUARY
SKIING
SNOWBALLS
WINTER

Find Ten differences between the Two pictures



Dog Pen Puzzle

Help! Help! The dogs are loose! Can you separate these nine dogs into their own individual pens by just drawing two squares? Give it a try.



DIY confetti bowl

Learn how to make a bowl using confetti, a balloon, and decoupage medium! This is such a cool and easy craft idea.

Equipment

- Foam brush(es)
- Scissors
- Vase, cup, or something to hold the balloon while you work
- Needle

Materials

- Confetti
- 1 Balloon
- Mod Podge Gloss

Instructions

Inflate the balloon, then set it onto a vase or cup (as a stand) so it's easier to work with.

Add Mod Podge to the top half of the balloon with a sponge brush, then sprinkle confetti all over. Remove the balloon from the vase and hold it to add the confetti on the sides.

Let dry and add another coat of glue and confetti. Repeat. When you feel like the confetti is thick enough, let dry for a final time.

Add several coats of Mod Podge until you achieve a thick coat (about 3 – 4 coats; this is for stability). Let it dry for 8 – 10 hours.

Turn your balloon and pop it with a needle. Trim the edges with scissors to even out. If you need to touch up with Mod Podge, do it at this time and let dry.



What do you think about this balloon bowl Do It Yourself?? Easy, right? Now when someone asks if you made a bowl with confetti, you can say, yes!! They won't believe it.

You can use black and orange confetti for Halloween or even red and green for Christmas.



Pasta Fish Craft

Supplies:

- cardboard (like a cereal box)
- A: elbows macaroni pasta
- acrylic paint (colors of your choice)
- sandwich bags
- parchment paper
- googly eyes scissors
- glue



Instructions:

1. Start by painting your elbows macaroni pasta. Squirt some paint into the bottom of a sandwich baggy, then pour a handful of pasta into the bag. Seal it shut and squish the pasta around to coat them with the paint. Once coated, pour them out onto a sheet of wax paper or parchment paper to let them dry. Some of the pasta will come out in clumps stuck together, so use your fingers or a paintbrush to separate them. You can make three different colors of pasta.

2. Cut a fish shape out of your cardboard. You can search for a fish shape and use it for a pattern for your fish. Paint your fish and set it aside to dry completely.

3. Glue pasta & googly eyes to the fish.

Once your pasta and cardboard fish are dry it's time for the fun part. Glue a googly eye onto your fish and then glue your pasta all over your fish to make fish scales and fun designs on your fish.

Make sure to use a piece of pasta for the fish mouth because it works perfectly and brings the whole fish craft together.



What are five facts about Saint Patrick?

1. **He wasn't Irish:**

Born Maewyn Succat in Roman Britain, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates at 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd sheep.

2. **He used the shamrock for teaching:**

The three-leaf clover became a symbol of Ireland because Patrick used it to explain the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) to the pagan Irish.

3. **He was a former slave turned missionary:**

After escaping slavery, he studied Christianity and returned to Ireland as a bishop to spread the faith, establishing churches and monasteries.

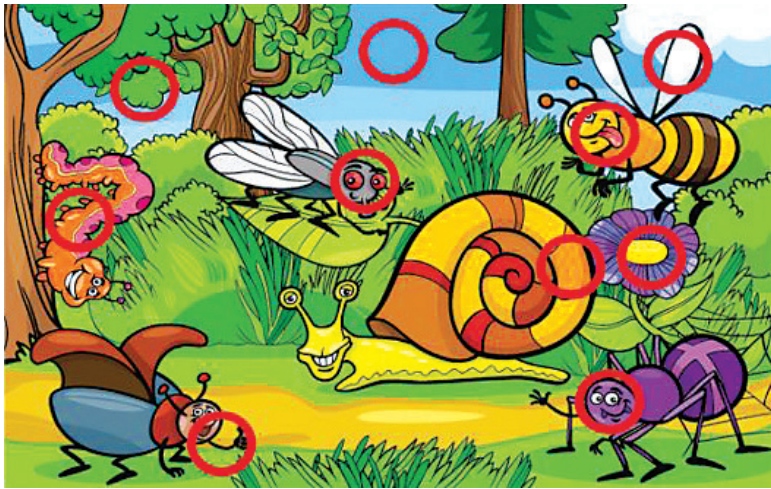
4. **He didn't banish snakes:**

The legend of him driving snakes out of Ireland is likely mythical; there's little evidence snakes were ever in Ireland, and the story emerged centuries later.

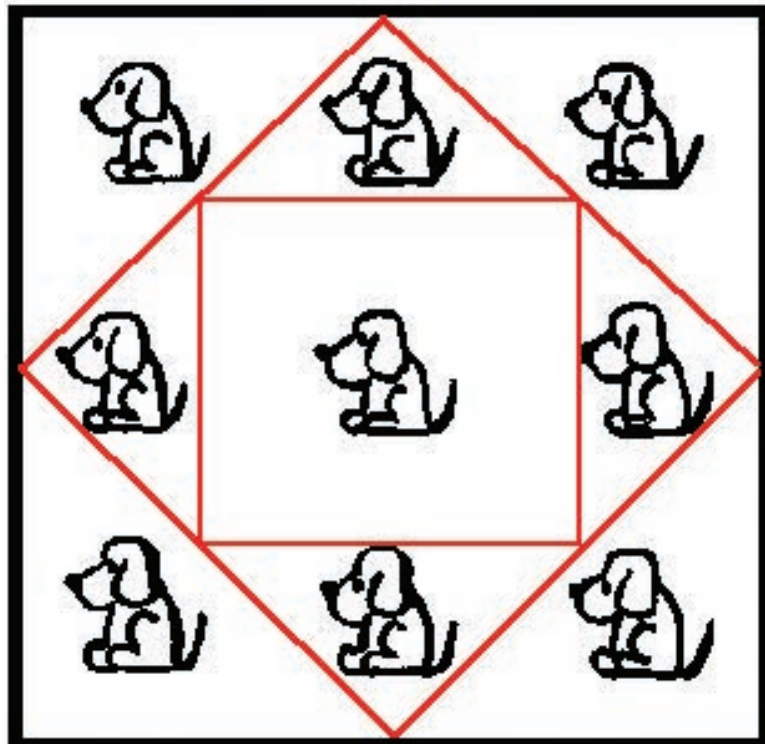
5. **His color was blue:**

While green is popular now, St. Patrick was traditionally associated with the color blue, a shade known as "St. Patrick's Blue."

Answers to Find The Differences



Answer To Dog Pen Puzzle



Elephant Jokes

- Q: What's clear on the outside & gray on the inside?
A: An elephant in a baggy.
- Q: What does an elephant do when he hurts his foot?
A: He calls a toe truck.
- Q: What did the grape say when the elephant sat on it?
A: Nothing. It just gave a little wine.
- Q: Why are elephants so wrinkled?
A: Have you ever tried to iron one?
- Q: How do you make an elephant float?
A: Take a glass of root beer & add one scoop of elephant.
- Q: Why did the elephant stand on the marshmallow?
A: He didn't want to fall into the hot chocolate.
- Q: How can you tell if an elephant has been in your refrigerator?
A: Check for footprints in the butter.
- Q: How can you tell if there are two elephants in your refrigerator?
A: You will hear whispering.
- Q: How can you tell if there are three elephants in your refrigerator?
A: The door won't close.
- Q: Why do elephants wear sunglasses?
A: So they won't be recognized.
-

10 Tough Tongue Twisters

1. The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick.
2. Rubber baby buggy bumpers.
3. She sells seashells by the seashore.
4. The sinking steamer sunk.
5. Toy boat (repeat 10 times fast).
6. If a three-month truce is a truce in truth, is the truth of a truce in truth a three-month truce?
7. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, a peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked. If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
8. The skunk sat on a stump; the skunk thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.
9. Which witch wished which wicked wish?
10. Red leather, yellow leather (repeat 6 times fast).

PVR NEWS

The PVR Fund Board of Directors wishes you a February full of love! February is the shortest month, so enjoy the warmth of the fireplace, the cuddles in blankets, the smell of your favorite brew, and the last of the long winter nights. Enjoy every minute! Spring is around the corner!

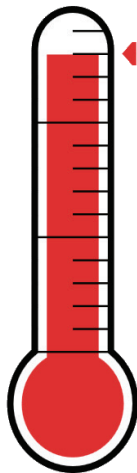
Goal Progress

Between November 30 and December 31, 2025, we added \$10,512 to the PVR Fund. This leaves us **\$154,310** away from our goal, which is fast approaching!



FUND BALANCE AS OF
DECEMBER 31, 2025

\$2,000,000



Raised
\$1,845,690

As always, many thanks to our donors and sponsors! We appreciate the help you've given us to reach our goal.

We  you!

Donate Online!

We are excited to announce that we are now able to collect donations online! You can scan the following QR code, or visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/nsslife/> to donate today!



Tree of Life

Celebrate your donation by dedicating a leaf (\$250), acorn (\$1,000), or stone (\$10,000) on our tree of life!

Mail your donation along with your name, email address, and message for engraving to:

Tree of Life
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

AQS

Asset Management for Insurers

Alexander & Company
Advertising and Marketing

 **equisoft**

NSS Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form



NSS Life
Family Matters...

★ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: APRIL 1, 2026** ★

~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

PURPOSE:

As a fraternal benefit society our mission calls us to "reach out to touch lives" in concern for those in need around us through our families, churches and communities. The purpose of this award is to recognize those members of the National Slovak Society that have gone that "extra mile" in volunteer fraternal service (i.e. meals on wheels, hospital work, visiting shut-ins, etc.). We encourage all assemblies to seek a worthy candidate from within your assembly and for the NSS membership to nominate a fellow member who is deserving of consideration for this award.

Those worthy of nomination are NSS members who have given of their time, talents and abilities in ways that would be designated as "extra-ordinary." Through their unselfish and tireless volunteer efforts those around them have benefited significantly. These people are those that rarely say "No!" and are always willing to lend a hand. We know that they are out there and you can find them for us.

The NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" Award is a fraternal program offered by the society for the benefit of our membership and the fraternal benefit system. You as members of the NSS are encouraged to seek a deserving nominee for the highest fraternal award offered by the NSS.

ELECTION PROCESS:

Any member of the National Slovak Society can nominate a fellow NSS member to be the "Fraternalist of the Year." Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our website at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal/Forms/Fraternal Program Forms." Nominations can be made by any adult member of the NSS or through their local Assembly. This will allow more deserving members the opportunity to be recognized for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of others.

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

RECOGNITION:

The recipient will be announced in the "National News" and listed on our website at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal/Forms/Fraternal Program Forms," receive a congratulatory plaque and designate a charitable organization as benefactor of a \$500.00 donation. The Winner's name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Fraternalist of the Year" Award for touching the lives of those in need in their family, church and community.
I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Fraternalist of the Year" for going that "extra mile."

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winner of the NSS "Fraternalist of the Year" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.
DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

National Slovak Society of the USA 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 Phone (724) 731-0094 Fax (724) 731-0145

FORM NO. A00002

Page 1

02/12/2024

NSS Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form



NSS Life
Family Matters...

★ **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: APRIL 1, 2026** ★

~ RULES AND REGULATIONS ~

PURPOSE:

The American Fraternal Alliance, through their "Americas Promise" Program, has encouraged their member societies to increase their awareness of the contributions of youth to the fraternal benefit system. In response to that challenge, the National Assembly, in 1998, voted to establish a "Youth Achievement Award" that is similar to our "Fraternalist of the Year Award" for adults. The contest is open to all NSS Youth Members 18 years of age and under.

RATIONALE:

The award is directed at youth who do outstanding fraternal work in these four (4) areas:

- a. At their school/work b. In their community c. In their church d. In their local assembly

NOMINATION:

Youth members can be nominated by any adult member of the NSS or through their local assembly. A document detailing the qualifications of the Youth Member being nominated must be attached to this form and submitted to the Home Office. A Youth Member may be nominated each year up through and including their eighteenth (18th) birthday or until they are selected to receive this award. Nomination forms are available from the Home Office or on our website at www.nsslife.org under "Fraternal/Forms/Fraternal Program Forms."

DEADLINE:

Deadline for nominations to be in the Home Office is **April 1st** of each year. The winner will be selected by a non-member judge.

AWARD:

The winning youth will receive \$500.00 and will be announced in the "National News" and "Youth Circle Magazine" insert. Their name will be displayed on a plaque in the Home Office.

JUDGING:

An independent judge, appointed by the National President, will review all nominations and make a determination of the winner. The National President, or an appointee, shall be the final authority on all matters involving this fraternal benefit.

~ The following must be signed by Nominating Member ~

I wish to nominate _____
to receive the National Slovak Society "Youth Achievement Award" for outstanding service to their school/work, community, church and local assembly. I believe that this individual should be awarded the "Youth Achievement Award" due to their service in the above categories.

NSS Member or Assembly Officer

Assembly #

IMPORTANT: SUPPORTING DOCUMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NOMINEE MUST BE ATTACHED AND SUBMITTED TO THE HOME OFFICE INCLUDING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH.

The winner of the NSS "Youth Achievement Award" will be notified by the Home Office of their selection.
DEADLINE: April 1st of Each Year

National Slovak Society of the USA 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 Phone (724) 731-0094 Fax (724) 731-0145

FORM NO. A00002

Page 1

02/12/2024

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

At our upcoming first quarter meeting on Sunday, **March 8th**, we will be electing delegates to this year's XXXIX Regular Convention to be convened on Sunday, June 14th, 2026, Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio at 7:00 p.m. Our assembly is eligible to send sixteen delegates. Registration, meals, and travel are all paid by the society. Bring your questions to the meeting.

Below is a listing of quarterly assembly **meeting dates** in **2026**:

March 8th - Annual Lenten Dinner, Sunday, Bob Evans Restaurant, Community Room at 6:00 p.m.

June 14th - Summer BBQ & celebration of Flag Day at the Uniontown Columbian Association Picnic Pavilion on Sunday, at 1:00 p.m.

September 13th - Flight 93 Remembrance Dinner, Bob Evans Community Room, at 6:00 p.m.

Date To Be Announced - Annual Christmas Party at the Columbian Association Social Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Congratulations to our vice-president, Barbara Mulich, for winning *first place* in the recent NSS Photo Contest "Human Interest" Category. Way to go, Barbara!

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of the following members: Jack Miller, James Miller, A. Ranonna Nave and, Lillianna S. Woodall. May they rest in the loving arms of the Resurrected Christ.

This year, 2026 also marks the 60th year that our PVR Scholarships have been awarded. To celebrate this milestone, the home office is encouraging members to make individual donations of \$60. When participating in this fundraising drive, please include your assembly number with your donation! Our goal is to be at \$2,000,000 by the convention this year.

Now is the time to look at the possibility of an NSS Scholarship for the school year beginning in the fall for your children and grandchildren. Those already receiving a scholarship are reminded of the May renewal date.

Mark your calendar! Our first meeting of 2026 will be our Annual Lenten Dinner on Sunday, **March 8th**, at Bob Evans at 6:00 p.m.

Paul Payerchin
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Mark your calendars for the following meetings:

April 11, 2026 - Meeting at Grande Restaurant at 1:00 p.m.

October 10, 2026 - Meeting (nomination & election of officers) at Grande Family Restaurant at 1:00 p.m.

August - date for Fraternal summer picnic to be announced.

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0110 New York, NY

A meeting will be held for all members on **March 12, 2026** at 7:30 p.m., location to be announced. The final selection of delegates to the 2026 NSS Convention will be held.

Additional details will be provided to members.

Rich DeSanctis
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

It's almost Valentine's Day!

Look, guys, it doesn't matter if you recently had your first date or if you've already been married for decades; you cannot overlook this. Maybe you think you got away with that in the past. No. You didn't. You've just missed a cause-effect connection. Don't let this happen again.

This time of year, a lot of us have resolved to hone our skills and hobbies with adult education classes. The *NSS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS* (55 and older) will help with your tuition.*

Take note of these dates. For information & sign-ups, contact **nss123@email.com** or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

Please enroll as a Convention Delegate before our March 15th meeting. If the number of volunteers exceeds our allotted Delegate count, our Delegates will be selected by ballot at that meeting. Core rules for guiding the

National Slovak Society are set at these Conventions, Directors are elected etc. It's important work and you'll put in full shifts on the Convention floor. It's not all work and no play, though. There are planned activities and you'll have time to socialize on your own.

March 15th - Assembly meeting and games at Eat'n Park, 100 Park Manor Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 at 3:00 p.m. Convention Delegates will be elected at this meeting.

March 19th - Volunteer service at Global Links 700 Trumbull Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 at 4:00 p.m. (Awaiting confirmation.)

April 1st - BINGO at the VA Hospital, I H J Heinz Campus 1010 Delafield Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15215 at 3:00 p.m.

June 14th - 18th NSS Convention at Sawmill Creek Resort by Cedar Point. We're looking into a tour of Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in the Spring. This is likely to be March or April. Please let us know if this interests you.

Your ideas for donations, fraternal activities service projects are always wanted.

*Scholarship and nomination forms are at nsslife.org. Find the "Fraternal" heading near the top/right and drag down to "Forms." Thank you for your attention.

Lyle Grover
President

ASSEMBLY L161 Pittsburgh, PA

A meeting for all members of Assembly L-161 will be held at Big Jim's Restaurant, 201 Saline St. ("In the run") on Saturday, **February 21st**, at 11:30 a.m. During this meeting, delegates to the 39th Quadrennial Convention will be elected. The convention is scheduled to take place at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio, from June 14 to 18, 2026. Elections for Assembly officers for 2026-2028 will also be held, and discussions about upcoming activities will be conducted.

If you plan on attending the meeting, please contact Sue Ondrejco, Secretary/Treasurer, at **412-421-1204** or sue.ondrejco@gmail.com.

Sue Ondrejco
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Our assembly will have the following meetings in 2026. It will be an exciting year with the annual convention June 14-18 at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio. We hope to grow as an assembly and contribute to our community with our activities all year long! We have become like a family and always welcome new members!

February 22 - Meeting at the Olive Garden, 371 Washington Road, Washington, Pa. At 3:00 p.m. We will vote on and confirm anyone interested in being a delegate to the convention. Please bring a dog or cat toy or pet food to contribute to the Washington County Humane Society.

June 7 - Picnic/meeting at Richardsons Park, Bentleyville, Pa. at 3:00 p.m. We will have our Slovak food and please bring a donation of a canned good for the local food pantry.

September 13 - Meeting at Sesame Gourmet, 2975 Washington Road, McMurray, Pa. at 3:00 p.m.

December 6 - Annual Christmas party at Hugo's Restaurant, National Pike, Brownsville, Pa. at 3:00 p.m. Please bring a dozen cookies for our cookie table!

As always, please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171 a week ahead so I can confirm attendance. We hope you can attend all the meetings this year in good health and happiness!

Suzanne Skrypak
President

ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

A meeting will be held at the Pytel's residence on **February 10, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. Please try to attend.

Shawn Pytel
Publicist & Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0434 McMurray, PA

A meeting will be held on **March 1, 2026** for all members of Assembly 0434 at the Gahagen residence at 4:30 p.m. At this meeting, delegates to

the 39th Quadrennial Convention will be elected.

If you are interested in serving, please email me at **dgb803@gmail.com** by February 10th.

David G. Blazek
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0588

Election of Convention Delegates

Assembly 588 will hold a meeting on Monday, **February 2, 2026**, at the Stefka residence, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA 15044 at 5:00 p.m. The election of delegates to the 39th Quadrennial Convention from Assembly 588 will take place at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to be considered for election as a delegate, please send a letter requesting your election to Recording Secretary Annette Stefka at 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, PA 15044 by January 23, 2026. Please attend the meeting to elect our representatives to the 39th Quadrennial Convention, which will be held in Huron, Ohio, from June 14th through June 18th, 2026.

The following meetings will be held at the Stefka residence, 5007 Old Orchard Lane, Gibsonia, Pennsylvania on the following dates and times:

Monday - April 13, 2026 5:00 p.m.

Monday - September 14, 2026 5:00 p.m.

Monday - November 9, 2026 5:00 p.m.

Please plan to attend the meetings and become active Assembly 588 members. Please contact Annette at 724-407-3591 if you are planning on attending a meeting.

Annette Stefka
Recording Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0617 Ashley, PA

Our assembly will be holding a meeting and Valentines Day social on **February 12, 2026**, at Amber Donia European Bakery Kingston, PA at 1:00 p.m. Among the numerous topics to be discussed will be December's Matching funds projects, NSS Convention, Fraternal Day, as well as planning for the 2026 fraternal year.

Members of Assembly 617 planning to attend the February meeting and or wish to attend the NSS Convention, please contact John Kurilla at 570-239-5936, 570-287-4163, or at jjkurilla@aol.com.

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

We've made a small change to our schedule: Our Assembly meeting will now be held Sunday, **February 15** at the home of Jim and Kathy Cessna, 58 Greenbay, Boardman, Ohio at 1:00.

This will be an important gathering as we elect our 2026-27 officers, review guidelines, discuss Convention plans, and select our Convention delegates.

If you're interested in serving as a delegate but can't attend, please reach out to Laurie Fox, Assembly President, before the end of February at 330-717-4705.

We'll also take time to review our finances and look ahead to our 2026 NSS activities. Bring ideas on how we can make a positive difference in our community.

After the meeting, those attending the Youngstown Phantoms hockey game will head downtown to the Covelli Centre to cheer on the Phantoms as they take on the Muskegon Lumberjacks. As of the end of December, 45 members are signed up—what a crowd!

A Look Back at Christmas



A Look Back at Christmas Cheer

Santa (Mike Fox) made a joyful appearance at our December 6 Christmas Party, delighting the kids with a bag full of goodies. Games, prizes, and plenty of laughter filled the room. Our matching-funds basket raffle raised \$200, which will help an NSS member facing a very difficult time. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Thinking ahead—Go ahead and mark your 2026 calendar for our next Assembly 731 Christmas Party on Sunday, **December 13, 2026** at Boardman Park Beard Cabin at 3:00 p.m.

Summer Fun on the Horizon

Plans are already underway for a summer outing to a Mahoning Valley Scrappers game at Eastwood Field in Niles on Friday, **July 31, 2026**. Before the first pitch, our group will enjoy a two-hour picnic in the ballpark's picnic area. Keep an eye on the NSS Family and Friends Facebook group for registration details and updates as the date gets closer.

ASSEMBLY 0737 North Huntingdon, PA

A meeting will be held on **March 14, 2026**. The meeting will focus on the NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention and delegates. The convention will be held June 14-18, 2026, at Sawmill Creek in Huron, Ohio. For further information call 412-558-0314 (call/text) or 724-423-3992 (message). Deadline is March 6, 2026.

Andrea Garbon
Secretary

Region 2 Matching Funds



"A walk with Louie" was held on October 18 at PNC field. The event was to help end Alihimerzers. Thank you NSS Reg 2 members for your support.

Marlin Petro
President

REGION 5 - Pittsburgh, PA Convention Delegate Election Meeting Notice

The Spring Meeting of Region #5 will be held on Sunday, **March 8, 2026**, at 1:30 p.m. at the NSS Home Office, 1400 Ashwood Drive in Canonsburg, PA. All assemblies in Region #5 are requested to send representatives to the meeting, including Convention Delegates elected from Region #5 Assemblies. The NSS Executive Officers and Member and Community Engagement Director will provide a pre-convention presentation with relevant information regarding the upcoming Convention. The election of our Region's delegate to the 2026 NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention will also take place at the meeting. A luncheon will be served following the meeting, and a prize raffle will be conducted. Please contact Mary Lee Shingle, Executive Assistant, by email at mshingle@nsslife.org or by phone at 412-904-7398 if you plan to attend, so we have an accurate lunch count.

Joseph Stefka, Jr.
President - Region #5

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA



Region 2 did a Matching Funds for the Greenwood Hose Company. Celebration of 125 years was held at Fiorellis in Dickson City. NSS Members Marlin Petro and Lehrae Edwards attended the ceremony. Lehrae was the 1968 Greenwood Fire Queen.

Marlin Petro
President

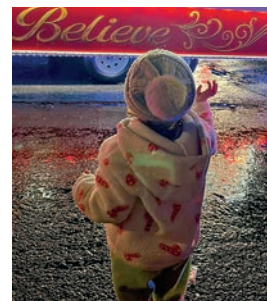
Region 2 Santa Patrol

The Moosic Borough Police Department, along with Santa, Mrs. Claus, and all of their helpers, prepared for another MAGICAL holiday tradition in 2025! **BELIEVE** On Friday, December 19th, and Saturday, December 20th,



the Department once again assisted Santa in visiting the children and residents throughout the borough.

Over the course of two nights, Santa and his helpers traveled approximately 44 miles of roadway in just 12 hours, spreading joy to all! Along the way, Santa delivered over 1,000 candy-filled stockings 1,000 stuffed animals, countless goodies and treat surprises for our furry friends also.



Local families and businesses sponsored this tradition with generosity and community spirit! The support provided the stockings, stuffed animals, goodies, and treats that make each child's holiday brighter. NSS was right there to help the big guy and gave a monetary donation from NSS L075 and matching funds from NSS Region 2.

Marlin Petro
President

National Slovak Society Heritage Museum Presents:

Kráslice Classes (Egg Decorating)

Saturday, March 14, 2026 Or Saturday, March 21, 2026

As the symbol of new life, Easter is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar. It has always been celebrated with joy and accompanied by numerous colorful traditions among the Eastern Slavs.

Experience the tradition of creating a colorful Easter egg of your very own!

Local artist, Mike Yanchak will guide you step by step through the process, while discussing the origin, techniques and symbolism used in creating “kráslice,” as they are called in Slovak.

Where: National Slovak Society Heritage Museum
351 Valley Brook Road McMurray, PA

Time: 10 AM - 3 PM

Cost: \$40 per person (includes all materials)

Class size is limited and designed for ages 12+.

Deadline for registration is February 25, 2026



For more information email:
nsshm.curator@gmail.com

CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I want to attend the March 14th class _____ I want to attend the March 21st class _____

Please submit this form with your payment by February 25, 2026

Make checks payable to NSSHM

Mail to: NSSHM

234 ILION St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

NSS SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR MEMBERS A NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY FRATERNAL PROGRAM

~ PURPOSE ~

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

~ MEMBER ELIGIBILITY ~

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

~ COURSE ELIGIBILITY ~

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

~PROCEDURE ~

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

**For more information, you may find it on our NSS Life website:
www.nsslife.org**

DEPARTED MEMBERS DECEMBER 2025

| Name | City and State | Date of Death | Assembly |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Allard, Patricia | Donora, PA | 11/28/2025 | 0377 |
| Badger, Richard E | Wampum, PA | 12/07/2025 | 0731 |
| Baker, John D | Coalport, PA | 09/23/2025 | 0267 |
| Barnett, Elton R | Greenville, PA | 10/24/2025 | 0731 |
| Bartko, Annie | Kulpmont, PA | 05/06/2025 | 0774 |
| Beers, Richard | Cochranon, PA | 11/29/2025 | 0731 |
| Bentley, Emma | Grove City, OH | 12/05/2025 | 0595 |
| Berkley, Barbara M | Berlin, PA | 12/11/2025 | 0039 |
| Binder, Richard | Sylvania, OH | 10/28/2025 | 0160 |
| Blimline, Dorothy | Leesport, PA | 11/28/2025 | L102 |
| Boyd, Carol A | Campbellsport, WI | 10/20/2025 | 0774 |
| Brewster, Katherine M | Butler, OH | 12/16/2025 | 0731 |
| Campbell, Joe | Blairsville, PA | 11/24/2025 | 0737 |
| Chattin, Mildred | Reading, PA | 12/16/2025 | L102 |
| Cipoletti, Robert D | Albuquerque, NM | 11/17/2025 | 0774 |
| Concilla, James | Northeast, PA | 10/12/2025 | 0554 |
| Creathers, Juanita | East Bank, WV | 11/11/2025 | 0774 |
| Damico, Charles | Meadville, PA | 11/24/2025 | 0731 |
| Darcy, Claire | Feasterville, PA | 11/12/2025 | L161 |
| Davis, Gerladine | Jefferson Hills, PA | 11/26/2025 | 0108 |
| Davis, Ramsey | Staten Island, NY | 02/25/2018 | 0110 |
| Del Fratte, Patricia | Hermitage, PA | 11/12/2025 | 0731 |
| Delazaro, Josephine | Cranford, NJ | 09/13/2025 | 0110 |
| Denys, Shirley A | Meadville, PA | 12/13/2025 | 0774 |
| Dodge, Doris | Berkley Springs, WV | 11/01/2025 | 0774 |
| Doerschner, Kenneth M | Pittsburgh, PA | 12/03/2025 | 0100 |
| Donahue, Linus | Beaver, PA | 12/05/2025 | L161 |
| Dowell, Mary | Henderson, WV | 11/26/2025 | 0774 |
| Dunlap, Judith | Charleston, WV | 08/07/2025 | 0774 |
| Eakin, Helen | Erie, PA | 11/22/2025 | 0774 |
| Ejzak, Theresa S | Irwin, PA | 12/10/2025 | 0737 |
| Evanosky, Madeline | Pittsburgh, PA | 10/21/2025 | L105 |
| Everly, Matthew | Ridgeley, WV | 08/13/2025 | 0039 |
| Farbacher, Dolores I | Pittsburgh, PA | 12/13/2025 | L161 |
| Fennell, Elsie | Ford City, PA | 12/03/2025 | L105 |
| Fitzpatrick, Kenneth | Hopewell, PA | 11/25/2025 | 0377 |
| Garcher, Lena | Smock, PA | 11/08/2025 | 0039 |
| Gibson, Homer N | Hermitage, PA | 09/03/2025 | 0731 |
| Glowacki, Patricia A | Upper St Clair, PA | 12/14/2025 | 0774 |
| Groner, Carol | Corry, PA | 11/22/2025 | 0554 |
| Gross, William H | Baden, PA | 12/13/2025 | 0123 |
| Harris, Martha A | Jackson, MI | 10/28/2025 | 0774 |
| Helland, Eric S | Menomonee Falls, WI | 01/11/2022 | 0774 |
| Hile, Ruth E | Hyde, PA | 11/25/2025 | 0123 |
| Holler, Fred | Sarver, PA | 11/27/2025 | 0123 |
| Hopshire, Anna Mae | Washington, PA | 11/22/2025 | 0774 |
| Horner, Timothy | Latrobe, PA | 11/09/2025 | 0737 |
| Jackson, Richard B | Coraopolis, PA | 12/08/2025 | 0123 |
| Janocha, Pauline E | Indiana, PA | 11/27/2025 | 0554 |
| Jeffcoat, Carol A | N. Huntingdon, PA | 02/08/2025 | 0737 |
| Jones, Beatrice Lorraine | Uniontown, PA | 11/08/2025 | 0039 |
| Joseph, Donald | Washington Court House, OH | 11/10/2025 | 0595 |
| Jukes, Velma | Imperial, PA | 12/10/2025 | 0123 |
| Kealey, Carolyn | Pittsburgh, PA | 12/10/2025 | L161 |
| King, Danny L | Renfrew, PA | 12/12/2025 | 0123 |
| Koon, Dianna | Brownsville, PA | 11/28/2025 | 0774 |
| Korkowski, Francis J | Tarentum, PA | 12/06/2025 | L105 |
| Kose, Linda L | Barrackville, WV | 04/20/2025 | 0774 |
| Kouklakis, Steve | Canonsburg, PA | 12/13/2025 | 0774 |
| Kuhar, Lucy Marie | Washington, PA | 12/14/2025 | 0434 |
| Laverdi, Ambrose | Cranberry Twp, PA | 12/11/2025 | 0123 |
| Louis, Catherine A | Charleroi, PA | 08/22/2025 | 0377 |
| Lucia, Daniel J | Warren, PA | 12/01/2025 | 0731 |
| Marchlewski, Dennis | Aspinwall, PA | 11/25/2025 | L161 |
| Mc Laughlin, Ronald J | Allison Park, PA | 11/17/2025 | 0123 |

DEPARTED MEMBERS DECEMBER 2025

(Continued from page 24)

| Name | City and State | Date of Death | Assembly |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| McGreavy III, William E | Meadville, PA | 12/19/2025 | 0731 |
| Miller, Betty June | Coatsville, PA | 11/21/2025 | L102 |
| Miller, Pearl C | Harrisburg, PA | 12/12/2025 | L102 |
| Minardi, Roberta A | Twilight, PA | 12/08/2025 | 0377 |
| Missiriotis, George | Belle Vernon, PA | 11/23/2025 | 0377 |
| Mochnaly, Terry | Belle Vernon, PA | 11/22/2025 | 0377 |
| Molitoris, Mary | Hanover Twp, PA | 12/11/2025 | 0774 |
| Mollick, Eileen | Pottsville, PA | 12/06/2025 | L102 |
| Motoyasu, Takeshi | Clovis, CA | 10/10/2025 | 0568 |
| Mulneix, Kathryn J | Butler, PA | 12/07/2025 | 0123 |
| Nowakowski, Lawrence | Pittsburgh, PA | 11/12/2025 | L161 |
| O Shea, Brian | Coraopolis, PA | 11/22/2025 | 0123 |
| Omernik, Richard S | Plover, WI | 11/16/2025 | 0774 |
| Orphanos, Faith | Reading, PA | 12/26/2025 | L102 |
| Patterson, Crenda | New Salem, PA | 11/16/2025 | 0039 |
| Peters, Alfons W | Canonsburg, PA | 10/07/2023 | 0588 |
| Petley, Karen Z | Ambridge, PA | 11/15/2025 | 0123 |
| Pollock, Warren | Wilkes Barre, PA | 11/17/2025 | 0617 |
| Pradetto, Ronald A | Jacobsburg, OH | 11/20/2025 | 0774 |
| Puher, Alexis W | Morgantown, WV | 09/17/2025 | 0774 |
| Quick, Elizabeth | Blairsville, PA | 12/09/2025 | L105 |
| Ralston, Robert E | Washington, PA | 10/30/2025 | 0588 |
| Reams, Ida | Osceola Mills, PA | 10/21/2024 | 0774 |
| Reimer, Franklin | Whitehall, PA | 12/21/2025 | R059 |
| Rendos, Olga S | Monessen, PA | 11/17/2025 | 0377 |
| Richards, Carol | Canonsburg, PA | 11/27/2025 | 0434 |
| Richards, Veronica C | McKeesport, PA | 10/08/2025 | 0377 |
| Richmond, Joseph | Oak Hill, WV | 11/17/2025 | 0774 |
| Riffle, Buelah | Camden, OH | 10/23/2025 | 0774 |
| Romines, Bobbie J | Carmichaels, PA - | 12/11/2025 | 0039 |
| Sanders, Martin R | Pittsburgh, PA | 10/12/2025 | 0434 |
| Sarver, Marlene | Aliquippa, PA | 12/02/2025 | 0123 |
| Sepitko, Myron | Belle Vernon, PA | 10/26/2025 | 0377 |
| Shaffer, Gayle Darlene | Hummelstown, PA | 11/20/2025 | L102 |
| Shavulsky, John A | Jefferson Hills, PA | 07/24/2024 | 0434 |
| Sheranek, Bernard | Brownsville, PA | 11/02/2025 | 0377 |
| Smith, Carol H | Washington, PA | 11/13/2025 | 0377 |
| Smith, Verna | Chino Hills, CA | 09/14/2025 | 0568 |
| Smock, Donald | Guys Mills, PA | 12/22/2025 | 0774 |
| Sobek, John L | Freedom, PA | 01/26/2025 | 0377 |
| Sparr, Betty J | Steubenville, OH | 08/13/2025 | 0731 |
| Stacy, Deborah | Uniontown, PA | 10/31/2025 | 0039 |
| Stanchick Sr, Charles | Minersville, PA | 11/15/2025 | L102 |
| Sterling, Gilbert W | Brilliant, OH | 12/08/2025 | 0588 |
| Stoskel, Feodora | Marianna, PA | 12/08/2025 | 0377 |
| Stroup, Christine E | Verona, PA | 10/02/2025 | L105 |
| Suzda, Carol | Cabot, PA | 12/12/2025 | 0123 |
| Swecker, Patricia | McGaheysville, VA | 08/19/2025 | 0774 |
| Szymanowski, Carolyn | Carnegie, PA | 11/21/2025 | 0100 |
| Tort, Kathryn | Denville, NJ | 11/18/2025 | 0774 |
| Trent, Debra L | Oil City, PA | 12/08/2025 | 0731 |
| Vokish, Stephen | Vandergrift, PA | 11/21/2025 | 0434 |
| Volk, Dorothy | Oak Forest, IL | 11/02/2025 | 0586 |
| Wandless, Thomas W | Pittsburgh, PA | 09/30/2025 | L161 |
| West, Leonard | Fairmont, WV | 10/29/2025 | 0774 |
| Whitmer, Dale E | Jefferson, PA | 11/30/2025 | 0588 |
| Wilk, Walter T | Weeki Wachee, FL | 08/20/2025 | 0813 |
| Wilson, Betty | Corry, PA | 11/28/2025 | 0774 |
| Winger, Deborah | Oil City, PA | 12/08/2025 | 0123 |
| Worthington, Kenneth | Doylestown, PA | 11/25/2025 | R059 |
| Wright, Todd | Saxonburg, PA | 12/18/2025 | L161 |
| Wyder, Margaret | Monessen, PA | 11/13/2025 | 0377 |
| Yingst, Julia B | New Alexandria, PA | 12/13/2025 | 0737 |
| Zandolk, George | Washington, PA | 02/26/2025 | 0588 |
| Zmitrovich, Frederick | Hummelstown, PA | 12/15/2025 | L102 |



DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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.

PVR Scholarship Fund Donations December 2025

In Memory of **Assembly 123**

Deceased Members from October 2025:

Dianna Alberti

Beverit A. Broadie

Mary Lee Holler

Terri Lynn Kaminske

Barbara D. Schmidt

From Assembly 123.....100.00

In Memory of all those **too special to be forgotten:**

From Donna Tenney150.00

In Memory of **Milan & Dorothy**

Hornik:

From Larry and Nancy Sims.500.00

In Memory of our son and brother,

Shaun Logan Crowley:

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,

& John Crowley 20.00

Donations:

Stephen Garbon.....200.00

H2R CPA.....500.00

Director Lauren Fox..... 50.00

Assembly 2672,000.00

Marlene En Dean.....400.00

Total4,020.00



Február inšpiruje nádej a slúži ako most medzi zimou a jarou, čas na váženie si vzťahov na Valentína a oslavu histórie našej NSS. Iniciatíva inšpirovaná týmto krátkym mesiacom nám pripomína, že „vo februári je všetko, v čo môžeme dúfať, a nič, čo by sme mali ľutovať.“

16. Február Historickým Dňom Našej Organizácie Gratulujeme našej organizácii

NSS—Národnému Slovenskému Spolku ku 136-tému výročiu. Stalo sa tak 16-tého Februára v 1890 kedy sa zišli Slováci v našom meste Pittsburghu na čele s pánom Rovniankom –kedy založili podporný spolok pre Slovákov v Amerike. Veríme, že zakladatelia môžu byť hrdý na NSS, organizáciu ktorá o 136 rokov od založenia prosperuje a drží sa princípov zakladateľov. Gratulujeme.

SLOVENSKÉ HOKEJOVÉ DRESY ZÍSKAVAJÚ POCHVALU

Športový web Bleacher Report zverejnil svoj rebríček olympijských dresov, v ktorom sa Slovensko umiestnilo na samom vrchole. V strede je slovenský štátny znak, ktorý kontrastuje s jemnou siluetou Vysokých Tatier.

„Slovenský znak bol už teraz jedným z najlepších dizajnov a prirodzene sa hodil k hokeju,“ napísal web. Tradičné národné farby – biela, modrá a červená – zostávajú nezmenené. „... s týmto vzhľadom budú Slováci zďaleka najlepšie oblečeným tímom turnaja.“ Slovenský národný tím bude mať debut v dresoch na olympiáde v Miláne – Cortine a bude ich nosiť počas celého nasledujúceho olympijského cyklu vrátane všetkých podujatí IIHF.



Slovenskí hokejisti Marek Hrivík (vľavo) a Peter Cehlárik (vpravo) v oboch verziách nových dresov. (zdroj: SZLH)

Veselá časť roka Fašiangy

Začínajú sa po sviatku Troch Kráľov a končia pred popolcovou stredou. Tento čas bol využitý na spoločné schádzanie sa cez dlhé zimné večere kde sa priadlo, vyšívalo, hačkovalo, štrykovalo atď. Takéto práce brali hodne času a v spoločnosti iných to išlo oveľa rýchlejšie a bez únavy.

Počas takýchto stretávaní medzi ženy a dievčence zavýtali aj chlapi a mládenci aby aj oni sa pridali prácou ale i humorom a žartami a ešte k tomu ak niekto ulial z dobrej slivovice—a k tomu zanôtil a zahral na husle či harmoniku veru bolo veselo.

Fašiangy sa končili utorkovou zábavou na posledné fašiangy—a na záver sa zvyčajne pochovávala basa—aby rytmus melodii nevábil kresťana k tancu počas veľkého pôstu.



14. Február Sv. Cyril a Metod

V tento deň si pripomínáme 1153. výročie príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu, ktorí vzdelávali ľud v kresťanstve, založili prvú abecedu, ktorá je známa ako cyrilika, prekladali Sväté Písmo z latinčiny a nemčiny do slovenského jazyka a už vtedy slávili Bohoslužby v reči ľudu.

Svätý Cyril a Metod, orodujte za nás.

Vyraznejšie dni vo Februári:



Pol zimy—Hromnice, koniec sanice. (2. Februar)

Plačiva Dorota, omrzlá robota. Po Dorote, vyschnú šaty na plote. (6. Februar)

Na Mateja letia ľady do mora. (24. Februar)



Youth Circle Page

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

Pittsburgh Slovaksians

The Junior Pittsburgh Slovaksians will be accepting new members. If your children or grandchildren age 6 and up like to sing and dance it is a perfect opportunity for them not only to learn about their heritage but to gain self-confidence, and make long lasting friendships. There is no tuition or fundraising involved. If you know anyone who might be interested and would like more information have them contact Sue at (412) 421-1204 or send an email to: sue.ondrejco@gmail.com.



How to Celebrate Groundhog Day 2026?

Celebrating Groundhog Day can be a fun and festive experience. Here are some ways to join in the festivities:

Attend Groundhog Day Events:

Check if there are any local events or celebrations happening in your area. Many towns and cities hold parades and gatherings for this unique holiday.

Watch the Groundhog Ceremony:

Tune in to the live broadcast or live stream of the official Groundhog Day ceremony at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. This is where Punxsutawney Phil, one of the most famous groundhogs, makes his prediction.

Host a Groundhog Day Party:

Invite friends and family over for a Groundhog Day-themed party. Decorate with groundhog-themed items and watch the classic movie "Groundhog Day" starring Bill Murray.

Create Groundhog Crafts:

Get creative with crafts featuring groundhog motifs. You can make groundhog masks, puppets, or even bake groundhog-shaped cookies.

Learn About Groundhogs:

Take the opportunity to educate yourself and others about groundhogs, their habits, and their role in folklore and weather predictions.

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

BLITZ
COACH
COMMERCIALS
DEFENSE
DYNASTY
END ZONE
FIELD GOAL
FOOTBALL
FUMBLE
GATORADE

Super Bowl Word Search



| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| GRIDIRON | PLAY CLOCK |
| HUDDLE | PUNT |
| LAS VEGAS | QUARTERBACK |
| LOMBARDI | REFEREE |
| MVP | SACK |
| NFL | SUPER BOWL |
| OFFENSE | TACKLE |
| OVERTIME | TAILGATING |
| PIGSKIN | TOUCHDOWN |

It's time to laugh!

What's the best self-defense against an angry snowman?

A hairdryer.

What do you put over a reindeer's crib?

A snow-mobile.

What does a mountain wear on its head?

A snowcap.

What do you call a penguin that steals calamari?

A squid-napper.

Why don't penguins fly?

They're not tall enough to be pilots.

Who's at the door?

It's snowbody.

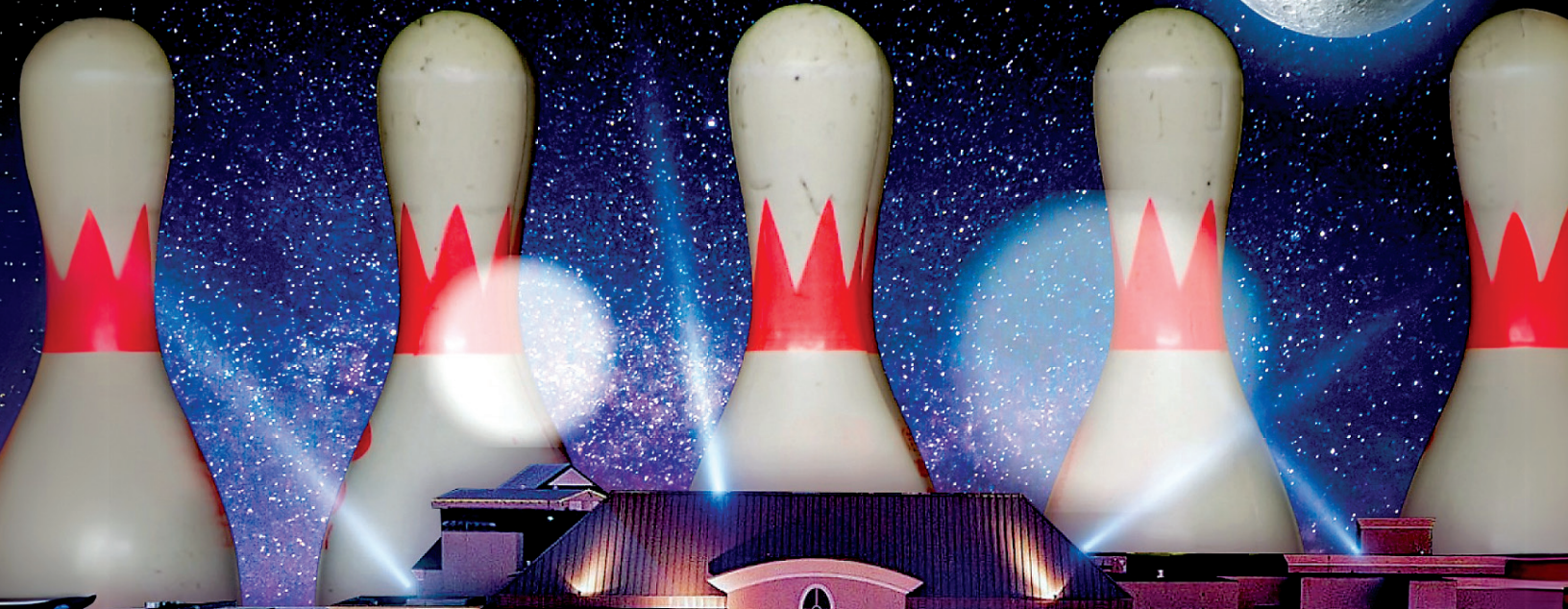


National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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