



**NSS Life**  
Family Matters...

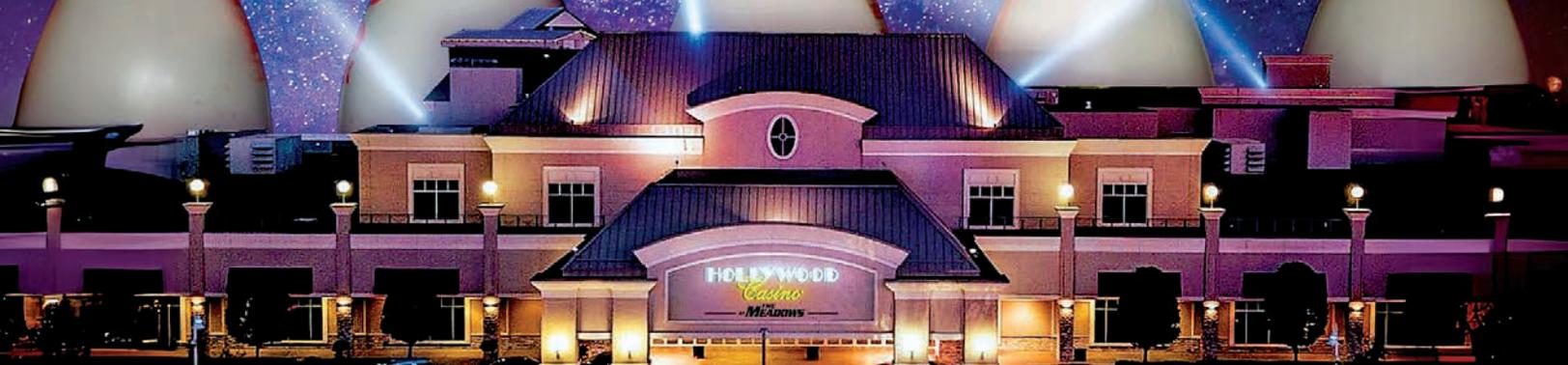
# National News

MARCH 2026

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NÁRODNÉ NOVINY | NUMBER 3611 | VOLUME 118



**HOLLYWOOD**  
*Casino*  
AT **THE MEADOWS**



**2026 National Bowling Tournament • May 15 & 16, 2026**

**210 Racetrack Road**

**Washington, PA 15301**

25 miles southwest of Pittsburgh

**NSS Board of Directors  
Job Description**

Page 6

**National Bowling Tournament  
Registration Form and Rules**

Pages 14-15

**May Art Contest Rules**

Page 27



# National Slovak Society

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



## NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

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

Founder and Honorary President, Peter V. Rovnianek

### EDITOR

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

### NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

### NSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### NSS HONORARY OFFICERS

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

### FSWFE HONORARY OFFICERS

Justine Wesnak, *President* • Reverend Monsignor Thomas V. Banick, *Spiritual Advisor*  
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

<p><b>REGION 2</b></p> <p>March 28 April 30 May 9 May 10 May 17 August 2 September 21 October 10</p>	<p><b>Assemblies L075, 0617</b></p> <p>Assembly L075, Pre-Convention Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, St. Frances Kitchen fundraiser Region 2, Grotto Pizza, 337 Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, Pa at 2:00 pm Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, KOC Hall in Pittston, PA at Noon Assembly L075, Old Forge Softball Golf Tournament (TBA) Assembly L075, Summer Picnic, Mercatili Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075 Montage Ski Patrol Golf Tournament Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm</p>
<p><b>REGION 5</b></p> <p>March 1 March 7 March 8 March 14 March 15 March 15 March 19 April 1 April 13 April 18 May 15-16 June 7 June 14-18 July 31 September 13 September 14 September 26 November 9 November 28 December 6 December 13</p>	<p><b>Assemblies 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774</b></p> <p>Assembly 0434, Meeting, Gahagen residence, McMurray, PA at 4:30 pm Assembly 0100, Meeting, Chojnicki residence, Spraggs, PA at 1:30 pm Region 5, Spring Meeting, Home Office, Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 pm Assembly 0737, Meeting, Time/Place to be announced Assembly 0108, Meeting, 5:00 pm, if planning to attend call Linda at 412-334-4046 Assembly 0123, Meeting, Eat'n Park, Pittsburgh, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0123, Volunteering, Global Links, Pittsburgh, PA at 4:00 pm Assembly 0123, Bingo, VA Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm Assembly 0100, Meeting, Chojnicki residence, Spraggs, PA at 1:30 pm Annual Joint Bowling Tournament, Hollywood Casino, Washington, PA Assembly 0377, Meeting/Picnic, Richardson Park, Bentleyville, PA at 3:00 pm NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Assembly 0731, Mahoning Valley Scrappers game, Eastwood Field in Niles Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm Septemberfest, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA. Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm Christmas Around the World, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Boardman Park's Elton Beard Cabin at 3:00 pm</p>
<p><b>REGION 8</b></p> <p>April 12 April 15</p>	<p><b>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</b></p> <p>Assembly 0070, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Church, Brooklyn, OH at 11:00 am Region #8, Meeting, Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, OH at 6:00 pm</p>
<p><b>REGION 14</b></p> <p>March 29 April 23 April 25 April 25</p>	<p><b>Assemblies R059, L102</b></p> <p>Assembly L102, Easter Egg Hunt/Party, Wesnak residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 p.m. Assembly L102, "Who dunnit " dinner theater, Fellowship Manor Region 14, Meeting, Home Office Officers, Time-location TBA. Assembly L102, Matching Funds, Nova Medical Services</p>
<p><b>AT LARGE</b></p> <p>March 8 March 20 April 12 April 18 May 17 July 11 August 30 October 25</p>	<p><b>Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813</b></p> <p>Assembly 0813, Meeting, Holker residence, Dothan, AL at 2:00 pm Assembly 0381, Meeting, Email <a href="mailto:rmmert9@gmail.com">rmmert9@gmail.com</a> for time and place Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0813, The 4th Annual CSS Wine Pull, Dothan, AL Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Butwin Family Reunion, Fraternal Activity Fund Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm</p>

## The President's Page...

**Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC, President, CEO**  
Email: [jstefka@nsslife.org](mailto:jstefka@nsslife.org)



The month of March will be extremely busy as we continue preparations for the 39th Quadrennial Convention in Huron, Ohio. Assembly and Region Delegate Election Forms are due back to Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin in the Home Office by March 16th. In addition, preparations are being finalized for the National Bowling Tournament, which will be held at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows on May 15 – 16th, and the NSS National Golf Tournament, which will be held at Kensington Golf Club in Canfield, Ohio, the weekend of July 17-19, 2026. Please make plans to participate in the tournaments and become an active NSS member.

During the month of March, Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 a.m. Please remember to set your clocks ahead one hour, or you will be late for church that morning! We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, and Palm Sunday is on March 29th.

## Pre-Convention Region Visits

The NSS Executive Officers and the Member and Community Engagement Director will attend the Region #5 Meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the Home Office, 1400 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, to deliver a preconvention presentation. Elected delegates from all assemblies in Region #5 are requested to attend the meeting. Important information regarding the 39th Quadrennial Convention and the Society will be presented. A luncheon will be served,

and a raffle with an LED TV and other prizes will be held. The visit to Region #8 in Cleveland will occur on April 15, 2026. Please check for the time and location of the meeting in this issue of the *National News*.

## Agent Advisory Council Meeting

The first Agent Advisory Council of 2026 was held on January 13th. Our Consulting Actuary, Trevor Huseman, provided a presentation on the role of the actuary, the various types of annuities, risks associated with different annuity types, and the effect of offshore reinvestment on annuity companies. His presentation was well received by the agents in attendance, and there was great discussion afterward. The next meeting will be held in May.

## Fraternalist of the Year/ Youth Achievement Awards

The Fraternalist of the Year and Youth Achievement Award nominations are due on April 1st. Each assembly is encouraged to nominate a deserving member from your assembly for consideration for each of the awards. Members who devote hours of their time volunteering to make their com-

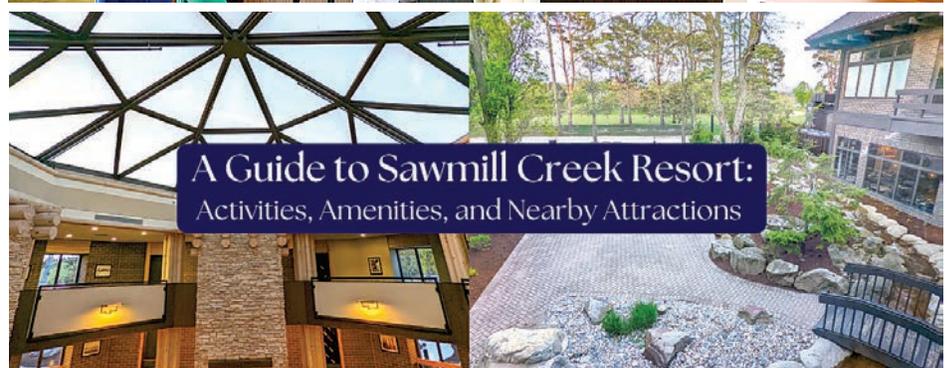
munities better places to live should be recognized for their efforts to carry out the NSS Mission. Assembly leaders, please take the time to complete a nomination form for those who have gone the “extra mile” to help others!

## News of Narodniars

The NSS was saddened to learn of the passing of NSS Honorary Director Edward Koches in January. Ed was first elected to the National Assembly in 1986 at the 29th Quadrennial Convention and was reelected in 1990 and 1994. This writer had the opportunity to serve as a fellow member of the National Assembly with Ed from 1994–1998. At the 32nd Quadrennial Convention, the delegates bestowed upon him the title of Honorary Director.

Ed was a dedicated member of the National Slovak Society National Assembly, always working to improve the Society for the future. He was also actively involved in his Assembly and in Region #8 of Cleveland, and he participated in the NSS National Bowling and Golf Tournaments.

Ed will be missed by all who knew him. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Executive Officers, and Home Office Staff, we extend our deepest, heartfelt sympathy to Ed's wife, Carole, and his family during this most difficult time.



## Secretary/Treasurer's Page

**John Payerchin, Secretary/Treasurer, CFO**  
Email: [jpayerchin@nsslife.org](mailto:jpayerchin@nsslife.org)



## Marchin into March!

Spring brings the promise of longer, warmer days—a perfect time to reach out to the Home Office or your Agent to review your finances, not only at NSS but overall. We're ready to help you navigate today's financial environment and protect your money. Spring should bring longer and warmer days. This is the perfect time to reach out to the Home Office or your Agent and review your finances, not only at NSS, but overall. We stand ready to help you navigate the current financial environment and help you protect your money.



## 39th Quadrennial Convention

Planning for the 39th Quadrennial Convention is in full swing. Delegate election forms have been mailed, and some have already been returned as I write this. We have selected the Alzheimer's Association as this year's convention charity. Dementia research is especially meaningful to me, as I lost my mom to dementia in 2023. Assemblies and Regions will receive letters requesting donations to be presented at the Convention to a representative from the Alzheimer's Association. The FunFest for kids promises to be another outstanding event, with activities,

adventure, and plenty of fun on the agenda. We look forward to an informative, constructive, and enjoyable convention at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, OH. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Convention planning is in high gear. Delegate election forms have been sent, and some have returned already as I write this article. We have chosen the Alzheimer's Association as the charity for the convention. Dementia research is something that is important to me since I lost my mom to dementia in 2023. Assembly and Regions will be receiving letters requesting donations to be presented at the Convention to a representative from the Alzheimer's Association.

The FunFest for kids should be another amazing event. Activities, adventure, and fun are all on the agenda. We anticipate an informative, constructive and fun convention at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron OH. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

**NSS Elected Officers Report**  
**Assembly/Region Officers Elected For 2026**  
Click Here For More Info on how to Join the Assembly and Region

 NSS Life  
Family Matters.

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Regions/Assembly # \_\_\_\_\_

President  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Vice-President  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Recording Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

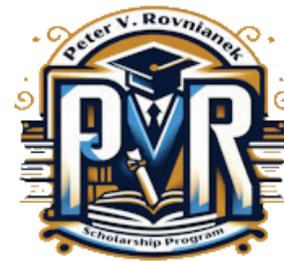
## Assembly/Region Officers

Assembly and Region officers should have received the 2026 Information and Forms packets, which were mailed at the beginning of February. All forms have been updated with the goal of streamlining the submission process for your financial and activity information. These forms are also available at [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org).



## Home Office News

We're experiencing a baby boom here at the Home Office! Congratulations to our Director of Information Technology, Dave Hertz, and his wife, Alison, on the birth of their daughter. Our IT Assistant, Riley Daugherty, and her husband, Wyatt, are expecting a daughter in March. And our Information Systems Analyst, Max Abusara, and his wife, Noor, are expecting TWIN BOYS!



## PVR Scholarship Fund

We've created a QR code to make it easier for you to donate to the PVR Scholarship Fund. We're excited to promote our 60 for 60 campaign, asking members and friends to donate \$60 in honor of the 60th year of our scholarship program. The QR Code is shown on the PVR page in the magazine. Just scan with your cell phone camera and click the link. Donating and making a difference has never been easier.



## This Month's Fun Fact

The first text message was sent in 1992. It is estimated that now, over 200 billion SPAM texts alone are sent each year in the US! How many do you get a week?

Keep warm, and hope that the groundhog was wrong and spring is closer than we think.

## NSS Life Director Job Description/Responsibilities

The following National Slovak Society of the USA Director Job Description was adopted by the Board of Directors in January 2026. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Slovak Society of the United States of America, Article 6. Board of Directors, Section E. Qualifications: "All such criteria established by the Board will be published in the *National News* at least ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention."

### Summary

- As a member of the Board of Directors, a Director is responsible for the effective governance of the National Slovak Society of the USA (NSS). Their main purpose is to advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of the NSS so as to support the society's mission and vision.

### \*Major responsibilities

- Organizational leadership and advisement.
- Formulation, oversight and governance of policies and procedures developed by the Board.
- Establish overall long and short term goals, objectives and priorities for the NSS.
- Recommend policy to the Board.
- Prepare for and participate in the discussion and the deliberations of the Board.
- Financial management, including adoption and oversight of the annual budget
- Oversight of program planning and evaluation.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the NSS through a regular review of products, programs and services.
- Appoint or remove the National Officers of the Society, define their duties, and fix their compensation package (taken from Bylaws p.17, B.1).
- Review of organizational and programmatic reports.
- Promotion of Society membership through advertising and community networking.
- Fundraising, outreach and promotion of the NSS Museum and PVR Scholarship Fund.

*\*Members of the Board share these responsibilities while acting in the interest of the NSS. Each member is expected to make recommendations based on their experience, expertise and vantage point in the community.*

### Meeting and Time Commitment

- The Board meets four (4) times per year.
- Committees of the Board meet an average of four (4) times per year, pending their respective work agenda.
- Directors are required to allocate time outside of board meetings in order to successfully perform the major responsibilities of their office, including (but not limited to) participation in phone conferences, responding to emails and completion of paperwork.
- Directors are to be available at the call of the President/CEO and Chairperson of the Board for travel to the Home Office or offsite locations for educational, training and/or fraternal events.
- Directors are encouraged to attend National, Assembly and Region events or meetings.
- Directors are encouraged to attend American Fraternal Alliance events when requested by the President/CEO and/or the Chairperson of the Board and be active in their respective State and Local Fraternal Alliances.
- Directors are to be available at the call of the President/CEO and Chairperson of the Board for any regular and/or special meetings.

### Term

- Directors are elected by the membership at the NSS Quadrennial Convention held every four (4) years and serve for a four (4) year term.

### Expectations of Directors

- Solid understanding of the society's business.
- Commitment to the work of the National Slovak Society of the USA.
- Knowledge or skills in one or more areas of Board governance: policy, finance, programs and/or personnel.
- Gain understanding of NSS policies and procedures.
- Become familiar with the NSS finances, budget, and financial/resource needs.
- Participate on at least one (1) standing committee of the Board and serve on ad-hoc committees as necessary.
- Be informed of the services provided by the NSS and publicly support them.
- Prepare for and participate in the discussions and the deliberations of the Board.
- Be alert to community concerns that can be addressed by the NSS mission, objectives, products and programs.
- Financially support the NSS, PVR Scholarship Fund, and Museum in a manner commensurate with one's ability.
- Foster a positive working relationship with other Directors and the NSS Officers.
- Be aware of, and abstain from, any conflict of interest.

### Knowledge, Skills and Experience

- Bring a set of defined professional skills to the board room that will contribute to good governance.
- Directors should have values that are aligned with the purpose, mission and vision of the NSS.
- We seek Directors who have expertise, education, knowledge and/or experience in at least one of the following areas: finance, investments, management, leadership, accounting, industry knowledge, information technology, fraternal leadership and/or fraternal involvement.



# 39<sup>TH</sup>

# QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION

**JUNE 14-18TH**

**2026**

**SAWMILL CREEK  
RESORT  
HURON, OHIO**

Convention Fees	
Adult Delegate	<b>Free!</b>
Non-Delegate Adult NSS Member	\$700.00
Non-Delegate Adult Guest	\$800.00
Youth Delegate	<b>Free!</b>
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

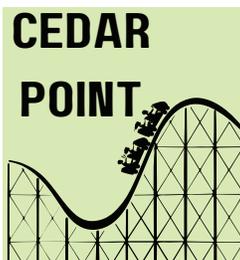
**Please include "Convention Donation - Alzheimer's Association" in the Memo**

**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!\***



# 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](http://www.nsslife.org) and login/register as a member.



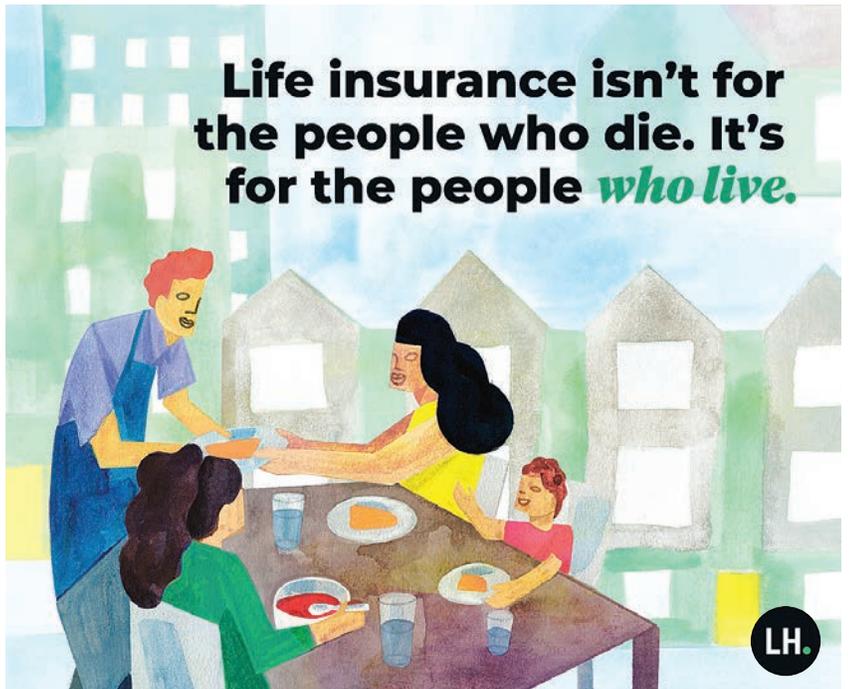
“Without **life insurance**, our life would look *drastically different* than it does today.”

RACQUEL PLEASANTS,  
whose husband died at 41



LH.

**Life insurance isn't for the people who die. It's for the people *who live.***



LH.

## From the Sales Department...

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



## April 15th and Taxes

April 15th - Tax Day is approaching. With the few remaining days before April 15th, make plans to contribute to a traditional IRA or Roth IRA. A 2025 contribution can still be made up until April 15th. After that date, the money counts in 2026. Here are the contribution amounts for each year and the phase-out income limits. There are many rules covering this topic. Some special rules apply to self-employed individuals, non-working spouses, non-deductible contributions, the saver's credit, and other criteria. A traditional IRA is better if a tax-deduction is needed. The Roth IRA is not deductible, but if the rules are adhered to, a person could receive tax-free interest.

Here are the maximum contributions and phase-out amounts for the IRA program. NSS always recommends that you check with your tax advisor to see how any of this information may pertain to your specific situation.

	2025 tax year	2026 tax year
IRA contribution	\$7,000	\$7,500
Catch-up (over 50)	\$1,000	\$1,100
Total	\$8,000	\$8,600

The phase-out figure is for a married couple filing jointly. Other figures apply to single, etc.

Income phaseout -IRA	\$126,000	\$132,000
Income phaseout – Roth	\$236,000	\$242,000

## Life Insurance, the Key Word is Life!

There are many advantages to life insurance. This fantastic product is second only to Social Security in providing families with money, in fact, almost a trillion dollars last year alone. Much of this was paid out as a death benefit. But a significant portion of these funds was paid out as living benefits: disability, retirement, loans, and cash surrenders. Who receives this money? Either the insured, if living, or their beneficiary.

A person who has a permanent plan of insurance can reap some "life" benefits from their plan one day. There are loan options or a full cash surrender. If a person stopped paying their payments and left the money with the insurer, they could always take a reduced paid-up policy or use the extended insurance option. Both choices provide for a death benefit.

Over the years, many people have used their policy to start a business, buy a home, get a car, or cover other emergencies. The point here is simple. Life insurance is valuable property. More people need it and should have it. If you have an old policy, it is probably in your best interest to keep it. The cost for a new life insurance plan is reasonable, and it has never been easier to obtain. Let us help secure protection for you and your family. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information.

## Financial Planning Simplified

Financial planning can seem complicated, but it isn't. Here is a simple plan to get you on the right road.

First, check your spending habits. Try to cut back on some things and be more aware of where your money is going. Next, limit credit card use. This may be the number one albatross holding people back. In our instant-gratification society, it is easy to see something and buy it with a card. Later, that item gets a lot more expensive (because of interest), especially if you do not pay off the card balance each month in full. Now with expenses under control, set up an emergency fund. This is money that should cover several months of expenses and be readily available. A savings account or money market is fine for this step.

The last step is to get some professional guidance. This starts a new chapter. Financial freedom is a process that requires commitment, time, and sacrifice. Follow these simple steps, and your journey to independence is almost assured.

### Why do Americans own life insurance?

The **TOP FIVE REASONS** Americans give for owning life insurance are:



More than **HALF** of consumers say their loved ones would turn to the proceeds of their life insurance policy to pay basic living expenses should the primary wage earner die unexpectedly.

### Thought For The Month:

*So many of our dreams start out as impossible. Then they become improbable. And later still, when we summon the will, they become inevitable.*

*Christopher Reeve, actor (1952-2004)*



# 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	<b>\$157.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$148.30</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
2	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$150.20	\$0.00
3	<b>\$162.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$152.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
4	\$164.90	\$0.00	\$154.40	\$0.00
5	<b>\$167.60</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$156.60</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
6	\$170.30	\$0.00	\$159.00	\$0.00
7	<b>\$173.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$161.40</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
8	\$176.10	\$0.00	\$163.90	\$0.00
9	<b>\$179.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$166.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
10	\$182.40	\$0.00	\$169.20	\$0.00
11	<b>\$185.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$172.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
12	\$189.10	\$0.00	\$174.90	\$0.00
13	<b>\$192.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$177.80</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
14	\$196.50	\$0.00	\$181.00	\$0.00
15	<b>\$200.30</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$184.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
16	\$204.30	\$0.00	\$187.50	\$0.00
17	<b>\$208.20</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$190.90</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
18	\$201.30	\$228.20	\$185.50	\$211.40
19	<b>\$203.50</b>	<b>\$231.40</b>	<b>\$188.40</b>	<b>\$215.30</b>
20	\$205.90	\$235.00	\$191.20	\$219.20
21	<b>\$208.30</b>	<b>\$238.60</b>	<b>\$194.00</b>	<b>\$223.20</b>
22	\$211.00	\$242.50	\$197.10	\$227.50
23	<b>\$214.00</b>	<b>\$246.60</b>	<b>\$200.30</b>	<b>\$232.10</b>
24	\$217.20	\$251.10	\$203.60	\$236.70
25	<b>\$220.80</b>	<b>\$255.80</b>	<b>\$207.10</b>	<b>\$241.50</b>
26	\$224.70	\$260.80	\$210.70	\$246.50
27	<b>\$228.80</b>	<b>\$265.90</b>	<b>\$214.60</b>	<b>\$251.60</b>
28	\$233.10	\$271.30	\$218.50	\$256.90
29	<b>\$237.60</b>	<b>\$277.00</b>	<b>\$222.60</b>	<b>\$262.40</b>
30	\$241.90	\$282.90	\$226.90	\$268.00
31	<b>\$246.30</b>	<b>\$289.00</b>	<b>\$231.30</b>	<b>\$273.70</b>
32	\$251.10	\$295.10	\$235.80	\$279.60
33	<b>\$256.00</b>	<b>\$301.40</b>	<b>\$240.50</b>	<b>\$285.60</b>
34	\$261.10	\$307.70	\$245.40	\$291.80
35	<b>\$266.30</b>	<b>\$314.20</b>	<b>\$250.50</b>	<b>\$298.30</b>
36	\$271.80	\$320.90	\$255.70	\$304.90
37	<b>\$277.50</b>	<b>\$327.90</b>	<b>\$261.20</b>	<b>\$311.90</b>
38	\$283.50	\$335.20	\$266.70	\$319.00
39	<b>\$289.70</b>	<b>\$342.70</b>	<b>\$272.50</b>	<b>\$326.50</b>
40	\$296.20	\$350.70	\$278.40	\$334.20
41	<b>\$302.90</b>	<b>\$359.10</b>	<b>\$284.50</b>	<b>\$342.10</b>
42	\$309.70	\$368.00	\$290.80	\$350.20
43	<b>\$316.80</b>	<b>\$377.20</b>	<b>\$297.30</b>	<b>\$358.60</b>
44	\$324.10	\$386.90	\$304.10	\$367.30
45	<b>\$331.60</b>	<b>\$397.00</b>	<b>\$311.00</b>	<b>\$376.30</b>
46	\$339.30	\$407.60	\$318.10	\$385.60
47	<b>\$347.30</b>	<b>\$418.80</b>	<b>\$325.50</b>	<b>\$395.20</b>
48	\$355.60	\$430.50	\$333.10	\$405.20
49	<b>\$363.90</b>	<b>\$442.90</b>	<b>\$340.90</b>	<b>\$415.60</b>
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	<b>\$292.65</b>	<b>\$364.05</b>	<b>\$274.28</b>	<b>\$336.98</b>
53	\$299.85	\$376.05	\$280.73	\$346.28
54	<b>\$307.50</b>	<b>\$388.65</b>	<b>\$287.40</b>	<b>\$356.10</b>
55	\$315.45	\$401.78	\$294.30	\$366.38
56	<b>\$323.93</b>	<b>\$415.65</b>	<b>\$301.50</b>	<b>\$377.10</b>
57	\$332.85	\$430.13	\$308.85	\$388.35
58	<b>\$342.30</b>	<b>\$445.35</b>	<b>\$316.58</b>	<b>\$400.05</b>
59	\$351.83	\$460.95	\$324.68	\$412.50
60	<b>\$361.58</b>	<b>\$477.68</b>	<b>\$333.15</b>	<b>\$425.63</b>
61	\$371.25	\$494.70	\$342.00	\$439.43
62	<b>\$381.08</b>	<b>\$509.55</b>	<b>\$351.38</b>	<b>\$454.50</b>
63	\$391.35	\$523.58	\$361.65	\$470.78
64	<b>\$402.23</b>	<b>\$539.55</b>	<b>\$372.53</b>	<b>\$487.88</b>
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	<b>\$294.55</b>	<b>\$400.10</b>	<b>\$272.15</b>	<b>\$364.80</b>
68	\$305.50	\$416.70	\$281.35	\$380.60
69	<b>\$317.95</b>	<b>\$434.70</b>	<b>\$291.65</b>	<b>\$397.85</b>
70	\$331.10	\$454.55	\$303.20	\$417.20
71	<b>\$344.60</b>	<b>\$475.90</b>	<b>\$315.35</b>	<b>\$437.80</b>
72	\$359.70	\$499.40	\$328.00	\$459.75
73	<b>\$377.65</b>	<b>\$522.85</b>	<b>\$341.90</b>	<b>\$482.70</b>
74	\$397.80	\$548.95	\$356.55	\$507.20
75	<b>\$420.15</b>	<b>\$574.95</b>	<b>\$372.30</b>	<b>\$535.35</b>
76	\$444.55	\$604.65	\$390.05	\$567.10
77	<b>\$467.45</b>	<b>\$638.25</b>	<b>\$409.60</b>	<b>\$601.85</b>
78	\$491.95	\$674.80	\$430.85	\$639.65
79	<b>\$514.95</b>	<b>\$715.50</b>	<b>\$455.00</b>	<b>\$680.35</b>
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](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org)



From the Quadrennial Convention to member programs and local events, NSS Life is here to provide plenty of chances for you to get involved! See below for plenty of fun to come this spring and beyond!

### 39th Quadrennial Convention

As we move another month closer to the 39th Quadrennial Convention, I am happy to provide potential delegates like you with more information on what's to come! At each convention, attendees, young and old, join together on "Fraternal Day" to have fun and attend excursions in the local area! This year we have curated a variety of fun activities to choose from! We have planned an exciting day trip on the Cuyahoga Railroad with a stop at a local winery. Pretend you're at the beach on the Island-Hopping Boat Tour, where you can explore Kelly's Island and Put-In-Bay. For the thrill seekers, enjoy an adrenaline-filled day at Cedar Point! Those who prefer to relax can enjoy a round of golf at the Sawmill Creek Golf Course. If none of those are up your alley, you can still make a splash by visiting the water park at Kalahari! Whatever you choose, fun is sure to be had by all! Don't forget that the convention fees for both youth and adult delegates are FREE! Youth attendees (ages 15 and under) are encouraged to participate in the "FunFest," where a special program has been created just for them! Kids can join their NSS friends for special field trips, games, and crafts! The cost for a FunFest

guest is \$225.00. The convention fees for Non-Delegate adults are \$700.00 for an NSS Member and \$800.00 for a guest. For children not participating in the FunFest, the fees are \$130.00 for an NSS Member and \$175.00 for a guest. If you have any questions regarding the convention and its activities, please do not hesitate to contact the NSS Home Office.



### 2026 National Bowling Tournament

It is once again time to grab some friends, rent some bowling shoes, and join us at the 2026 National Bowling Tournament! The tournament will be held at the Hollywood Casino at the Meadows in Washington, Pennsylvania. Teams will compete in the evening on Friday, May 15th, and doubles will compete in the morning on Saturday, May 16th. We will be joined by members of SCS and GCU at this fun-filled weekend. A huge reminder that you do not have to be a serious or competitive bowler to compete! We encourage our NSS members to show up for a good time with friends and food! If you are participating "just for fun," feel free to leave the bowling information (such as Highest Average and USBC Number) blank on the entry form. The bowling registration form is available later in this edition, along with a complete list of rules. Please return all forms to the NSS Home Office by April 13th.

### 2026 Youth Achievement and Fraternalist of the Year Awards

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2026 Youth Achievement and Fraternalist of the Year Awards! The Youth Achievement Award is presented to an exceptional young leader who has demonstrated a strong commitment to their school, job, and community. Parents –if you AND your child both are NSS Life Policy Holders, we encourage you to nominate them for this award! Share with us the achievements of the outstanding young person in your life for the chance to be featured in a future edition of the NSS *National News*, NSS Social Media accounts, and also receive a \$500.00 prize! The Fraternalist of the Year Award recognizes an adult member of NSS who has showcased an outstanding commitment to volunteerism and activism. The winner of this award will receive the opportunity to select a charity to receive a \$500.00 donation from NSS Life. Nomination forms for both awards are due by April 1, 2026.

### 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**.

### Senior Scholarship Program

Starting to feel some winter cabin fever? What better way to "spring" into 2026 than by participating in NSS Life's Senior Scholarship Program? All senior members of NSS Life (ages 55+) are eligible to receive reimbursement (up to \$100.00) for the tuition of a continuing education or adult education class! We

encourage you to find a local institution that offers a course on something that interests you! Whether you are interested in European history, ceramics, or even learning another language, NSS is here to support your pursuit of knowledge!

Members may complete up to two applications per calendar year, and applications may be submitted for reimbursement at any time. The Senior Scholarship application can be found online at [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org) on the “Fraternal” page under “Forms” or is available upon request by emailing [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org).

## Social Media

If you’ve been putting off following NSS Life on social media – today is the day to change that! It’s the best place to be to hear about what’s happening both financially and fraternally at NSS Life! Follow us on Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety), Facebook (@NSS Life), and LinkedIn (@NSS Life) to stay up to date on all things NSS.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Adult Volunteers are needed for the Youth “Fun Fest” at the 39<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Convention.

\*Volunteers must be 18+, a NSS Life Member, and are **Not Allowed** to also be a Delegate\*

If interested in volunteering, email [bbonnar@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonnar@nsslife.org) for more information

## March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Barista	Fun Facts About Names Day	World Wildlife Day	4	5	Happy Epilepsy Appreciation Day	7
	9	Pack Your Lunch Day	11	13	Plant a Flower Day	PI DAY FRIDAY, 3/14
15	16	Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
22	National Puppy Day	24	25	26	27	28
29	Celebrate Doctors' Day	National Farm Workers Day	A P P R E C I A T E ! EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION MONTH			

## 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)

No applications will be accepted after April 13, 2026

NSS Life NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT  
**A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF GCU, NSS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL**  
 Meadows Lanes Bowling ✦ Inside Hollywood Casino at the Meadows, Washington, PA  
 Friday, May 15 & Saturday, May 16, 2026

No applications will be accepted after April 13, 2026

*Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for the bowlers to be registered in the tournament.  
 League bowlers must submit a copy of their league average sheet with their application.*

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	GCU TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2024-25 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2024-25 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2024-25 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2024-25 _____ USBC No. _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> Singles

Please check one:  Men's Events  Women's Events

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENTS—SATURDAY, MAY 16  
 10 AM  1 PM

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 15  
 5 PM  8 PM

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your Local USBC: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: NSS Life

Mail to: NSS Life Fraternal Dept., 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317.

Important: Every Individual and Captain on this entry agrees to relinquish his rights to prize money if it should be found that any information herein is false.

Financial Totals for this Application	
___ Team Event.....@ \$30 ea. =	\$ _____
___ Doubles Event .....@ \$30 ea. =	\$ _____
___ Singles Event .....@ \$30 ea. =	\$ _____
___ Reception Guest (Friday)..@ \$15 ea. =	\$ _____
___ Reception Guest (Sat.).....@ \$15 ea. =	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

# Important to All Tournament Entrants

## Read Carefully Information Given Below

### Rules and Regulations of Annual GCU/NSS Life/SCS Bowling Tournament

1. The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the USBC.

2. All members of the NSS Life are eligible to participate in this tournament.

3. All contestants must be members of the NSS Life as of April 15, 2026 or must have six months premium paid in advance at the time of entry. New bowlers must have bowled a *minimum of 21 games* as of March 15, 2026. *Bowlers with no average see #7 below.*

4. NSS Life adult members are required to maintain a minimum balance of \$300.00 in an annuity or have a permanent life insurance certificate, to qualify to participate in a NSS Life subsidized sporting event held on a national level i.e. National Bowling Tournament, National Golf Tournament, etc.

5. The total cost per person for Team & Doubles events shall be:

a. Prize Fee .....	\$ 12.00
b. Bowling Fee.....	\$ 12.00
c. Hospitality Fee .....	\$ 6.00
Total Cost (Per Event) .....	\$30.00

The total cost per person for Singles event shall be:

a. Prize Fee .....	\$14.00
b. Bowling Fee.....	\$ 0.00
c. Hospitality Fee .....	\$ 6.00
Total Cost (Per Event) .....	\$20.00

Food Function at Lanes Fee (Guest Only Per Event).....\$15.00

*\*Bowlers must bowl in both the Team & Double events to be able to participate in the Singles event.*

#### PRIZE FEE WILL BE RETURNED 100 PERCENT IN EACH EVENT

At least 1 of 10 of participants in each event will win prizes.

*Note:* Contestant may win only one cash prize event (gross or net), whichever cash prize is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Contestants who roll the highest gross and highest actual net scores in each event.

6. **SUBSTITUTES.** Bowlers may compete only once in each event. However, the tournament manager may allow a bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a four bowler team when one of its original entrants is absent. The score of such bowler in the team event rolled with his entering team must count for all events. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The Bowling Committee shall have power as to the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitutes score and handicap from the said event will be used.

7. Any contestant whose current average as of March 15, 2026 of *at least 21 games* is ten pins or more above his highest average from the previous season must use his current average.

**HANDICAP** - Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2024-2025 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2026. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2024-2025 who have no established average

will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2026. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

*Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled.*

Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

8. **FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY** - The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling.

All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.

9. **Re-rating of Bowlers** - According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers may be re-rated by the Tournament Committee.

10. All entry applications and bowling fees are to be sent directly to: **NSS Life Bowling Tournament, 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317** not later than April 13, 2026. *Rule 310-A2 is in effect.*

11. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.

12. **NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.** All prize fee money will be paid in prizes.

13. In the Doubles contest the names of both members of the team must be given, because entries with the word "Partner" will not be accepted. Entry blanks so compiled will be returned and the entry money retained until proper blank is received. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry blank and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry blank has been filed.

14. **Assignment of Alleys** - The Tournament Committee will make up the alley assignments for all entrants in the Doubles and Team Events. Bowlers are required to report fully 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl.

Captains of teams must report their line-up is present at least 30 minutes before scheduled to bowl.

15. Bowlers entered in the Singles Event will use the combined score of both their Team and Doubles events as their Singles Event score.

16. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.

17. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series. **Bowlers must include a copy of their league average sheet with their application.**

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL*  
NSS LIFE MEMBER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR  
**BETHANY BONNAR** – (412) 770-2093

# NSS Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form



★ **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](http://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](http://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.

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~ *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**

# NSS Youth Achievement Award Nomination Form



★ **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](http://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**

## ASSEMBLY 0039

### Uniontown, PA

#### Blessings on your Lenten journey!

We will be electing delegates to the 2026 Quadrennial Convention at our upcoming dinner that will be held at the Bob Evans' Restaurant on Sunday, **March 8th**, starting at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be our annual Lenten dinner.

Our assembly is eligible to send sixteen (16) delegates to the convention. Information has been shared in the "National News" of the convention and what will occur on Fraternal Day.

The home office is now accepting PVR Scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Parents and grandparents: if your child or grandchild is an NSS Life member, contact Bethany Bonner at [bbonner@nsslife.org](mailto:bbonner@nsslife.org) to determine eligibility.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of the following members: Barbara M. Berkley, Dolores J. Farbacher, Lena Garcher, Beatrice Lorraine Jones, Crenda Patterson, Bobbie J. Romines, and Deborah Stacy. May they rest in the loving arms of the Resurrected Christ.

During the winter months, taking advantage of the NSS Senior Members Scholarship program is a great idea. Information is found on the NSS website: [www.nsslife.org](http://www.nsslife.org).

Take a look at the NSS Anniversary Insurance Offer outlined in the last issue of the "National News." No medical exams! Great rates! Offer ends on March 31st.

We need to reschedule our June Summer BBQ due to the national convention. Watch for the new date change. See you at Bob Evans,

**Paul Payerchin**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0070

### Brooklyn, OH

A meeting for all members will be held on **April 12, 2026**, at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting will include discussion of events for the year and the convention. Refreshments will be served.

Additional details will be provided to members.

**John Karkoskiak**  
Secretary-Treasurer

## 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 0100

### Pittsburgh, PA

Our next meetings will be on the following dates:

**March 7, 2026** - 1:30 p.m.

**April 18, 2026** - 1:30 pm.

All meetings are held at Chojnicki's residence, Spraggs, PA.

The final selection of delegates to the 2026 NSS Convention will be held at the March meeting. Any questions, please call Melinda at 724-435-7933.

**Melinda Chojnicki**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY L102

### Schnecksville, PA

For the entire month of **March** our assembly will be collecting money for the National Backpack Fund for Dodd Elementary School.

**March 29th** - Easter Egg Hunt/Party hosted by Assembly L102 at Wesnak residence, Whitehall, PA at 2:00 p.m.

**April 23rd** - "Who dunnit" dinner theater at Fellowship Manor.

**April 25th** - Region 14 meeting with the home office in attendance. (time and location TBA).

**April 25th** - L102 Matching Funds for Nova Medical Services at the Nova Center for a basket social.

**May 23rd** - Annual Iron Pigs baseball outing at 6:30 p.m.

**June 15th** - Matching funds for the Fellowship Manor golf outing.

**Sharon Wesnak**  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0108

### Homestead, PA

A meeting will be held on **March**

**15, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** to discuss Convention business and Delegate elections.

If you plan on attending, please call Linda at 412-334-4046 for more info.

**Linda Strom**  
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

#### Going Out on a Limb Edition:

Spring is here, ah—spring is here. Life is skittles and life is beer. I think the loveliest time of the year is the spring. I do, don't you? 'Course you do. — Tom Lehrer

A large rodent who doesn't even know he's making a prediction and who gets it wrong 50% more often than he gets it right has declared an extended winter, and I'm assuming that by the time this column is distributed, we'll see quite the opposite.

Take note of these dates. For information and sign-ups, contact [nss123@email.com](mailto:nss123@email.com) or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

- 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, 3:00 p.m.: Assembly meeting and games at Eat'n Park, 100 Park Manor Dr, Pittsburgh, PA. Convention delegates will be selected at this meeting.
- March 19th, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: Volunteer service at Global

Links, 700 Trumbull Dr, Pittsburgh, PA

- April 1st: NSS Fraternalist of the Year nomination forms are due.\*
- April 1st: NSS Youth Achievement Award nomination forms are due.\*
- April 1st, 3:00 p.m.: BINGO at the VA Hospital, H. J. Heinz Campus, 1010 Delafield Rd, Pittsburgh, PA. We expect the Easter Bunny to attend.
- May 2nd, 5:00 p.m.: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82 Murder Mystery Dinner at Findlay Twp Community Center (*better parking situation than the previous location*). An NSS Matching Funds Raffle will be featured. \$30 for Assembly members, \$45 for others.
- June 14th–18th: NSS Convention at Sawmill Creek Resort by Cedar Point.
- Your ideas for donations, fraternal activities, and service projects are always wanted.

\*Forms are at [nsslife.org](http://nsslife.org). Find the “Fraternal” heading near the top right and drag down to “Forms.”

Lyle Grover  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Mark your calendars for our meetings in 2026.

**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.

As always, please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171 a week ahead so I can confirm attendance.

Suzanne Skrypak  
President

## ASSEMBLY 0381 Grosse Ile, MI

Members in good standing who wish to serve as delegates and represent our assembly should email Rosemarie Merten at [rmmert9@gmail.com](mailto:rmmert9@gmail.com) by March 13, 2026. Be sure to include

your full name, address, and phone number. We will meet on **March 20, 2026**, to elect our delegates.

The Quadrennial Convention, held every four years, is always a special event. This year's convention will be held June 14–18, 2026, at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio.

All members are urged to attend this meeting on **March 20, 2026**.

Rosemarie Merten  
President

## 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](mailto:dgb803@gmail.com) by February 10th.

David G. Blazek  
Secretary

## ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

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

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

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

**November 9, 2026** - Monday - 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 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

## ASSEMBLY 0813 Englewood, FL

The officers of Assembly 813 met on December 27th to discuss plans for activities for 2026, and to make any changes to better our efforts with repeat projects. President Dan Farrell expressed thanks to all those involved with the meals and toys distribution that made for a wonderful Christmas for so many in need.

The officers met again on January 19th at the Chow King restaurant in Dothan, Alabama. Kerry Farrell brought us up to date with a report on our matching funds project for Catholic Social Services. The Charity Cork Pull will be held April 18, 2026 at The Thirsty Pig. This event is a fun night that collects donations and gives donors an opportunity to pull a cork from a bag. Each cork corresponds to a bottle of wine worth between \$20 and \$150. Much of the wine has been donated by the CSS board, minimizing expenses and the venue has also been donated by the Farrell family.

A meeting for Assembly 813 members will be held on **March 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm** to elect delegates for the 39th Quadrennial Convention at the home of Mary Jo Holker. If you are interested in being elected a delegate, please make every effort to attend the meeting, or call Jo Holker at **334-370-3035**.

Mary Jo Holker  
Secretary-Treasurer

## REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

Region #2 will hold a meeting at Grotto Pizza, 337 Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, on **May 9th at 2:00 p.m.** Please note the change in time. President Stefka will attend to discuss the status of the NSS and the 39th Quadrennial Convention. Anyone wishing to attend should contact me, Lucy Piccoletti, at 570-479-4116 (call or text) so we can plan accordingly. We strongly encourage all Assemblies to attend this presentation.

Lucy Piccoletti  
Recording Secretary

## 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](mailto: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 8 Cleveland, OH

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

#### GUEST SPEAKER PRESIDENT JOSEPH STEFKA, JR.

This semi-annual meeting of Region #8 will be hosted by Assembly #160 and will be held on **April 15, 2026** at Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, Ohio at **6:00 p.m.** Refreshments will be served.

President Stefka will be attending our regional meeting along with other representatives from the Home Office to discuss the upcoming Convention along with other NSS matters.

Time will be allotted for questions and input from meeting participants. Hope to see all assemblies from our region at this meeting.

**Carole Koches**  
Recording Secretary



## Assembly L102



Drew Wesnak and Kylie Althouse presenting a matching funds check to President Chris Wydock of Hokey AA football league.



Few of our members at our holiday party.

## Assembly L075

Assembly L075 has been very active with matching fundraisers and community events throughout the fall and winter.

Our Assembly held a Matching Fund Raiser for Region 2 and the SPCA at the Woodlawns in Wilkes-Barre in November and sponsored a basket. Participants included Gary Collins, Patricia Gorgol and Richard Gorgol, Dorothy Collins, Ed Werner, and Linda and Guy Pilosi.

Region 2 President Marlin Petro-Wesnak and Secretary/Treasurer Lebrae Ann Edwards with Julie from the Greenwood Hose Company at their 125th Anniversary Dinner on October 24, where Assembly L075 sponsored a basket. We also sponsored a Veterans Day Bingo Pizza Party at the WBVA in November). Marlin, Lucy, and Lebrae shopped for Angel Tree outfits and toys for the Greenwood Head Start children, and then Mrs. "Lebrae Claus" distributed the gifts.



In December, the matching funds event for Avoca Troop 316 took place at the Ladore Lodge craft fair on December 6, where we assisted the troop in selling homemade chili. Shown are Dorothy Collins, CM, and CM Lebrae Ann Edwards, TCC Matt Fino, and Scoutmaster Brandon Collins with the scouts will conduct matching funds for the Moosic Red Wings girls' softball League "Night at the Races" on January 31 and will sponsor a basket.



refreshments at break time.

Shown are the workers doing their jobs, and we presented a \$500 check for their upcoming annual Thanksgiving food giveaway. Pictured are: Officers seated — Vice President Lucy

Piccoletti, President Gary Edwards, CEO Specialist Debbie Taylor, and Secretary/Treasurer Lebrae Ann Edwards. Standing are Tom Piccoletti, Guy and Linda Pilosi, Region 2 President Marlin Petro-Wesnak, Debbie and Bill Wesnak, and Franchesca, Matthew, and Maxwell Edwards. We will hold Join Hands Day in September 2026. Our assembly would like to express sincere condolences to the family of our late President, Gary Edwards, who passed away on January 2, 2026. Gary was President of Assembly L075 for many years and was affectionately known as the "nay-sayer." He will be greatly missed at our meetings. Lucy Piccoletti will fill the office of President and Guy Pilosi will serve as Vice President.



**Lebrae Edwards**  
Treasurer



# PVR news



Spring is in the air! The PVR Board of Directors hopes this month brings abundant luck and happiness to all our members and friends! As Hal Borland said, "March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes, and a laugh in her voice." May your month be full of spring breezes and laughter!

## \$60 FOR 60 YEARS

**PVR Fund**  
**\$60 for 60 Years**  
**2026**

2026 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> year that PVR Scholarships have been awarded.

Help us celebrate this milestone!

Individuals are encouraged to donate \$60, or in multiples of \$60, in honor of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Visit NSSLife Online | Visit Our Location  
www.nsslife.org | 1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317 | Phone: +724-731-0094

You can now donate to our \$60 for 60 years campaign by taking a photo of the QR code below. A link will appear on your phone, and you will be taken to a website that accepts donations electronically - or you can visit: <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/nsslife/> to donate today!

**THANK YOU, REGION 5, FOR YOUR DONATION OF \$660!**



## TIME IS RUNNING OUT



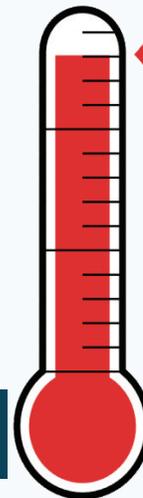
Thanks to our donors and sponsors, we are only **\$143,662.50** away from meeting our goal of \$2 million!

But our time is running out: March's arrival means that we are only three months away from our 2026 Convention.



**FUND BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 31, 2026**

**\$2,000,000**



*Together We Can!*



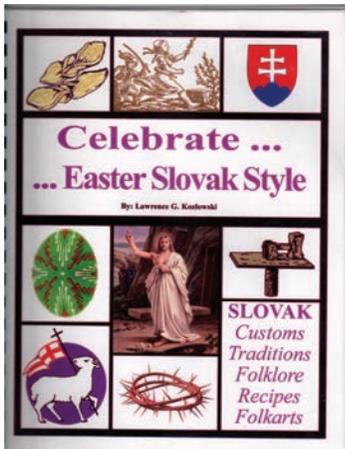
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Now available from the NSS Heritage Museum



Easter Books \$12.00 EA.



#1



#3



#2



#4

## EGG WRAPS

12 different designs in each package!  
\$4.00 Each  
PLEASE SPECIFY

\_\_\_ Design #1 @ \$4 TOTAL \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Design #2 @ \$4 TOTAL \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Design #3 @ \$4 TOTAL \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Design #4 @ \$4 TOTAL \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Easter Bks @ \$12 TOTAL \_\_\_

TOTAL AMT. DUE \_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to: NSS Heritage Museum

1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317



## Slovakia Heritage Tour (Sept. 11-20, 2026)



Tatry Mountains



Zuberec Music

Celebrate the fall harvest and the beautiful culture, history, and countryside of Slovakia, up close and personal, on the 2026 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore age-old cities, medieval towns, and historic sites, as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry mountains, and picturesque villages. We'll join the harvest festivals that bring Slovakia's long musical and craft traditions to life. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village and family visits are available. For more information: Visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com) or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144, [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com).



## Deadline For Publication

Please be advised that all articles, notices, etc., **MUST BE** received by the Home Office **no later than the 5th of the month**. Every effort will be made to publish the article and photos in a timely manner and space permitting.

Also, all articles should be **typewritten in regular type or emailed to the Home Office. No Exceptions!**

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## Honorary Director Edward Koches



Edward “Ed” Koches, a proud member of NSS Life, age 81, of Strongsville, OH, passed away on January 17, 2026. He is survived

by his loving and devoted wife of 57 years, Carole (née Niemenski), and his caring sisters, Marian Koches Semelsberger (Ken) of Strongsville, and Carol A. Koches of Indiana, PA.

Ed and Carole were inseparable for six decades, doing everything together—from shopping and running errands, to cheering on Cleveland sports teams, to going to restaurants in and around their beloved Strongsville, always among the first to know about and share the newest places.

Ed loved to golf—any time, any place. He also bowled for many years with NSS, sometimes in three leagues at a time. While he enjoyed watching all sports, college football was his favorite, and he remained a staunch Penn State fan all his life.

Ed was a lifelong member of the Pittsburgh-based National Slovak Society, serving on its Board of Directors for many years and later as an Honorary Director. He was also active in its assembly, serving in various leadership roles and helping to organize many social activities.

Above all, Ed was a supportive and loving uncle who never missed a niece’s or nephew’s school or sports event, birthday party, or graduation, and in fact was always the first to arrive. He never missed a chance to remind them to be safe, whether that meant locking the doors at home or being careful while driving to their destination, no matter how close. He delighted in taking them places, with trips to Memphis Kiddie Park among his favorite outings. He was an integral part of every family celebration and milestone, and he always made sure his family knew how much he loved and appreciated them.

The NSS expresses their deepest sympathy to Carole and her family.

## DEPARTED MEMBERS JANUARY 2025

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Adkins, Donna	Princeton, WV	11/18/2025	0774
Amos, Glenn	McKeen Twp, PA	01/09/2026	0731
Anthony, Donald	Burghill, OH	01/16/2026	0731
Bailey, Karen	Miamisburg, OH	12/02/2025	0595
Bank, William	Carleton, MI	02/22/2026	0381
Bartoloma, Philip A	Portage, PA	11/29/2025	0774
Bartyzel, James	St Clairsville, OH	12/18/2025	0588
Bates, Cheryl	Trafford, PA	12/29/2025	0737
Baughman, Donald H	Mt Pleasant, PA	01/03/2026	0039
Beitle, Roy P	Canonsburg, PA	05/18/2025	0434
Blake, James	Irwin, PA	12/19/2025	0774
Bowness, Rebecca	Charleroi, PA	01/02/2026	0377
Brossman, Jean M	Orwigsburg, PA	01/20/2026	L102
Brown, Marion	Point Pleasant, WV	10/15/2025	0774
Carey, George M	Mokena, IL	11/19/2025	0586
Cassidy, Chester C	Fullerton, CA	12/11/2025	0568
Chapko, Thomas	Perrington, MI	12/04/2025	0381
Chraska, Donald	Denton, TX	11/21/2025	0774
Chromulak, Stephen R	Monessen, PA	01/02/2026	0377
Chuchra, Virginia	Rivervale, NJ	10/26/2025	0774
Clauser, Henry E	Butler, PA	02/26/2025	0554
Clyde, Drusilla	Struthers, OH	12/19/2025	0731
Cole, Della	Canvas, WV	11/30/2025	0774
Coley, Charlotte	Rochester, PA	12/30/2025	0123
Collins, Nancy	Sarasota, FL	04/01/2025	0813
Cox, Doris A	Cardington, OH	10/15/2025	0595
Cyphert, David	Shipperville, PA	01/03/2026	0108
Davies, Nancy J	Du Bois, PA	10/14/2025	0554
Davis, Ronald C	Pittsburgh, PA	12/21/2025	0100
De Long, Ann M	Ephrata, PA	01/28/2026	L102
Deimler, Sandra	Harrisburg, PA	12/23/2025	L102
Delazaro, Josephine	Cranford, NJ	09/13/2025	0110
Delio, Mabel H	Brockway, PA	01/06/2026	0554
Dentino, Kathleen	Pittsburgh, PA	12/20/2025	L161
Detwiler, Ronald	Tyrone, PA	12/19/2025	0267
Divish, Stanley	Alma, MI	10/29/2025	0381
Dombrowski, Martin C	Pittsburgh, PA	12/09/2025	L161
Englebrecht, Dewayne Robert	St Ignace, MI	12/30/2025	0381
Fundy, Fred J	Belle Vernon, PA	12/14/2023	0377
Furlong, Ronald	Guys Mills, PA	12/07/2025	0108
Gehn, Valerie B	Port Matilda, PA	01/03/2026	0267
Giles, Virginia Lee	Pipersville, PA	12/25/2025	R059
Griffin, William	Mount Nebo, WV	10/26/2025	0774
Hanson, Norman, J	Edinboro, PA	09/20/2025	0108
Hartsorn, Fred T	Columbiana, OH	12/10/2025	0100
Headley, Virginia L	Mercer, PA	12/08/2025	0731
Helm, James	Fairview, PA	12/28/2025	0774
Henderson, Elaine	Warrington, PA	12/29/2025	L102
Hill, Jane E	Warsaw, IN	10/30/2023	0705
Hill, Ruth A	Blandon, PA	01/13/2026	L102
Hoffman, Ruth M	Petoskey, MI	12/21/2025	0381
Hornyak, Paul T	Greensburg, PA	12/17/2025	0737
Hovatter, Frances	Thomas, WV	10/06/2025	0774
Howard, Mary	Cinnaminson, NJ	10/09/2025	0774
Hritz, Robert P	Martinsburg, PA	08/03/2025	0434
Hunt, Wanda C	Evans City, PA	12/07/2025	0123
Huss, Arlene K	Springdale, PA	12/19/2025	L105
Johnson, Willie Brooks	Hubbard, OH	12/31/2025	0731
Jurkowski, Cyril	Ambridge, PA	10/16/2025	0123
Kepple, George	East Brady, PA	12/27/2025	0774
Kolljeski, Gladys	Bridgeville, PA	01/07/2026	0774
Kosak, Dorothy S	Pittsburgh, PA	12/19/2025	0123
Kunkle, Robert W	Indiana, PA	01/02/2026	L105
Kwiatkowski, Alice	Ashley, PA	01/09/2026	0617
Lagnese, Thomas J	Sewickley, PA	11/17/2025	0100
Lakin, Phyllis E	Jeannette, PA	12/14/2025	L105

## DEPARTED MEMBERS JANUARY 2025

(Continued from page 24)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Lalonde, Robert R	Durham, NC	11/20/2025	0813
Lemay, Barbara	Hamburg, PA	12/29/2025	L102
Lentz, Jeanne M	Freedom, PA	01/20/2026	0123
Lester, William E	Brownsville, PA	09/07/2025	0039
Linn, Mark	Fairmont, WV	12/02/2025	0774
Long, Dorothy J	Martinsburg, PA	12/28/2025	0267
Matzer, Beverly A	Wilkes Barre, PA	12/21/2025	0617
Maurer, Ronald	McKeesport, PA	01/10/2026	0441
Mc Cullough, Dora M	Ford City, PA	10/31/2025	L105
Mc Govern, Evelyn	Sewickley, PA	01/02/2026	0123
Michael, John H	Manheim, PA	10/08/2025	0267
Miller, Lorraine	Pittsburgh, PA	01/24/2026	0100
Miller, Nancy Ann	Lafferty, OH	12/24/2025	0774
Moore, Brett Todd	Washington, PA	12/26/2025	0377
Moore, Colin	Peachtree City, PA	12/18/2025	0070
Morrison, Marga	Russell, PA	12/26/2025	0554
Muir, Kenney	Blairsville, PA	12/23/2025	0737
Myers, David	Hummelstown, PA	02/04/2026	L102
Nelson, Elaine M	Carnegie, PA	12/27/2025	0100
Olson, Beth Anne	Onalasko, WI	12/09/2025	0774
Ondo, Joseph J	Boyertown, PA	01/02/2026	L102
Opipare, Judith A	Pittsburgh, PA	12/29/2025	L161
Oxford, Elaine	Sidman, PA	12/26/2025	0267
Pakos, Dorothy A	Avon Lake, OH	12/25/2025	0160
Panuline, Mike	Pittsburgh, PA	01/08/2026	L105
Parry, Ava	Oakdale, PA	12/10/2025	0588
Pearson, Mary Josette	Altoona, PA	01/11/2026	L161
Perfinski, Frank L	West Wyoming, PA	04/17/2025	L075
Prugar, Victor	Altoona, PA	12/22/2025	0267
Rader, Hilma Leen	Mount Nebo, WV	10/21/2025	0774
Ramsey, Patricia	Pittsburgh, PA	10/27/2025	L161
Rayman, Doris J	Lawrence, PA	10/07/2025	0434
Razum, Joseph G	Butler, PA	11/02/2025	L161
Riegel, Richard	Morrisville, PA	01/20/2026	L102
Ross, Eva Ann	Monessen, PA	01/14/2026	0377
Rothenberger, Elsie	Hamburg, PA	12/28/2025	L102
Sabol, Mary Ann	Creekside, PA	10/21/2025	0774
Schaub, Helen L	Beaver, PA	12/29/2025	0123
Schroeder, Marlene Sue	Cleveland, OH	11/28/2025	0004
Seale, Jean E	White Oak, PA	01/05/2026	0434
Sedlacek, Mary	Philadelphia, PA	12/29/2023	R059
Seitom, Lois	New Kensington, PA	12/12/2025	L105
Sherman, David	Centre Hall, PA	01/16/2026	L040
Sikorsky, Ronald	Wilkes Barre, PA	01/06/2026	0617
Sims, Stephen	Monroe, NC	11/20/2025	0774
Smith, Clella	Danese, WV	12/12/2025	0774
Smith, Erma L	Greensboro, NC	12/23/2025	0774
Smith, Mary	Muhlenberg Twp, PA	01/15/2026	L102
Smith, Otis Jr	Ambridge, PA	01/05/2026	0123
Stini, Caroline A	Marshfield, WI	08/21/2024	0774
Swink, Julia R	Marblehead, OH	09/18/2025	0588
Taccone, Barbara	Erie, PA	12/24/2025	0731
Tomlinson, Hazel K	Central City, PA	01/04/2026	0039
Turnbull, Nancy	Oil City, PA	01/24/2026	0554
Urbanick, Emma	Philadelphia, PA	11/11/2025	L075
Vue, Por	Stevens Point, WI	11/19/2025	0774
Wagner, William E	Natrona Heights, PA	10/29/2025	L105
Wells, Charles A	Spring Mills, PA	01/02/2026	0774
White, Berry Ann	Morgantown, WV	05/31/2025	0774
Whitmer, Dale E	Jefferson, PA	11/30/2025	0588
Willis, Robert Francis	Houston, PA	12/23/2025	0434
Wiser, Wesley	Cowansville, PA	12/27/2025	L161
Worthington, Patricia	Doylestown, PA	01/01/2026	R059
Yetka, William Jr	Tarentum, PA	01/12/2026	L102
Young, John	Glendale, WV	10/09/2025	0774



## 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 January 2026

In Memory of **Assembly 123 Deceased Members** from November 2026.....

- Ronald Bokor**
- Margaret Dickman**
- Heidelore Gianneski**
- Louis Lombardo**
- Norma Marangone**
- George Spinneweber**
- Margaret Thomson**
- Cathy Witkowski**

From Assembly 123..... 100.00

In Memory of **Dorothy Pakos** .. 3,089.14

In Memory of our son and brother,

**Shaun Logan Crowley:**

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

In Honor of my daughter, **Jamie L.**

**Belding:**

From Mark R..... 250.00

**Donations:**

Director Laurie Fox..... 100.00

Catherine Burchell ..... 60.00

Assembly 0588 ..... 250.00

Matching Funds A-0588 .. 250.00

**Total** ..... **4,119.14**





## 8. marca Medzinárodný deň žien

Tu je niekoľko významných slovenských žien:



- Adriana Karembeu je modelka a herečka známa svojou prácou pre Victoria's Secret a získaním ceny Vienna Fashion Award ako ikona štýlu. Kedysi držala Guinnessov svetový rekord za najdlhšie nohy medzi modelkami.
  - Medzi významné športovkyne patria tenistky Anna Schmiedlová a Dominika Cibulková, biatlonistka Anastasia Kuzmina a Petra Vlhová, ktorá získala zlato v lyžovaní na zimných olympijských hrách v roku 2022.
  - Zuzana Čaputová pôsobila ako prezidentka Slovenska.
- Mnoho ďalších slovenských žien si tiež zaslúži uznanie za svoj každodenný prínos.



Muž v kroji z okolia Zvolena na strednom Slovensku v dlhej nefarbenej kožušinej bunde bez rukávov, ktorá bola typickou súčiastkou odevu pastierov a furmanov.

## Tohto roku si pripomíname 87 výročie od vzniku Prvej Slovenskej Republiky

14. marec je významným dňom v Slovenskom kalendári, keď pomocou Amerických Slovákov v roku 1939 vtedajší novozvolený prezident Slovenskej Republiky Dr. Jozef Tiso vyhlásil Slovensko za samostatný štát, čo trvalo iba počas druhej svetovej vojny do roku 1945.

Kráča slnko po oblohe, usmieva sa veselo, rozospievať všetky vtáky, asi sa mu zachcelo.

Usadí sa slnko zlaté na kraj každej vetvičky, naučí sa všetky noty, prvej jarnej pesničky.



## Na Pôst

V mesiaci marci sa pripravujeme pre Nový Život prírody a dobre by bolo, ak by sme sa pripravili aj my pre nový život duševného života, keď slávime pôstne dni na prípravu k Veľkej noci.

**Ježišu Kriste zmiluj sa nad nami.**

Pane spomni si na mňa  
keď prídeš do svojho kráľovstva.

## Obľúbené jedlá Slovákov v roku 2025

Slovenská kuchyňa aj v roku 2025 uprednostňovala výdatné, tradičné a na pohodu zamerané jedlá, v ktorých sa výrazne vyznačovali zemiaky, bryndza a bravčové mäso, ovplyvnené rakúsko-uhorskými tradíciami. Medzi najobľúbenejšie patrili

1. Bryndzové Halušky (zemiakové halušky so syrom)
2. Kapustnica
3. Vyprážený Rezeň.
4. Zemiakové Placky,
5. Bryndzové Pirohy,
6. Guláš,
7. Vyprážený Syr,
8. Lokše,
9. Cigánska Pečienka,
10. Trdelník



Jedli ste ich? Môžete ich potom ohodnotiť? Alebo by ste ich možno chceli vyskúšať?

V každom prípade možno s istotou povedať, že aj v roku 2025 boli medzi obľúbenými jedlami Slovákov naďalej výdatné, tradičné a na pohodu zamerané jedlá ovplyvnené rakúsko-uhorskými tradíciami.

## Z ľudovej múdrosti...

.Na fašengi viskaj, v posce bruch sciskaj!

Na Gregora (12. marec) mrcha gazda, kto neorá.

Po svätom Jozefovi (19. marec) baranček na vršok vyskočí.

Na svätého Jozefa slniečko dáva chlieb aj vínečko.

Keď Jozef kožuch odkladá, bude dobrá úroda.

Keď na svätého Jozefa bociana vidíš, snehu už nebude.



# 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](mailto:sue.ondrejco@gmail.com).



## Spring Jokes

- Q:** What do you call a well-dressed lion?  
**A:** A dandy lion!
- Q:** Why are frogs so happy?  
**A:** They eat whatever bugs them.
- Q:** What did the tree say to spring?  
**A:** What a re-leaf.
- Q:** Why couldn't the sunflower ride its bike?  
**A:** It lost its petals.
- Q:** When do monkeys fall from the sky?  
**A:** During Ape-ril showers!
- Q:** Why did the worm cross the ruler?  
**A:** To become an inchworm.
- Q:** Why did the bee's hair smell sweet?  
**A:** Because it used a honeycomb.
- Q:** How did Jack Frost get to work?  
**A:** By icicle.
- Q:** Why is April so clean?  
**A:** Because April showers.
- Q:** What's the most tear-jerking month? **A:** May, because love—and pollen—are in the air.
- Q:** What do clouds wear during spring showers?  
**A:** Thunderwear.
- Q:** What kind of bow looks best when it's wet?  
**A:** A rainbow.
- Q:** How does the ocean say bye at the end of spring break?  
**A:** It waves!

## 2025 May Art Contest

The rules are as follows:

1. You must be a member of the National Slovak Society to participate. Youth members (ages 5-16) and adults are eligible to participate.
2. Only one entry is permitted per member.
3. Contestants may create their artwork using:
  - a. Paint (pastels, watercolor, oil, tempera and cesium)
  - b. Crayons (wax or liquid)
  - c. Ink/Pencil
  - d. Charcoal
  - e. Glue, construction paper, glitter
4. Paint by numbers, stencils, or tracings will not be accepted.
5. The Artwork may be ANY size up to 11x14 inches and must be mounted on a mat board or poster board for display purposes.
6. All entries must include; name, address, phone number, age, assembly. Please have this information clearly printed on the back of each entry.
7. All entries will receive a complimentary NSS Life T-shirt. All participants should include their youth or adult T-shirt size.
8. If you wish to have your artwork returned to you following judging, please specify alongside your submission. The National Slovak Society reserves the right to keep all entries that do not include a request to be returned. All artwork that does not include a request to be returned will be donated to a local nursing home.
9. Winners in each age group will have their artwork displayed in the *National News* and will be published on the NSS Life Website and Social Media accounts.

Age Groups:

- Picasso Level - Ages 5, 6 & 7
- Rembrandt Level - Ages 8, 9 & 10
- Michelangelo Level - Ages 11, 12 & 13
- Van Gogh Level - Ages 14, 15 & 16\*
- Warhol - Adult (Age 17+)

10. Prizes awarded in each level of every category shall be as follows:

- First Place..... \$100.00
- Second Place..... \$ 50.00
- Third Place..... \$ 30.00

**Deadline for entries to the Home Office is May 31st.**

Either mail or deliver artwork to: National Slovak Society  
Attn: Jamie Belding  
1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Judging will be done by an outside professional.

Decisions of the judge shall be final in all cases.

\*In the event the First place winner in the Artistic Category - Van Gogh Level either enters an accredited Art School or pursues Art as a career in college, he/she will be awarded a one-time \$250 Art Scholarship provided that the student meets all the NSS PVR Scholarship rules and regulations.

National Slovak Society  
1301 Ashwood Drive  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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