



NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

JULY 2026

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NÁRODNÉ NOVINY | NUMBER 3615 | VOLUME 118

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY INDEPENDENCE DAY



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Family Matters...

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National Slovak Society

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NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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John G. Payerchin, *FIC, CRCMP, Secretary-Treasurer, CFO*
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FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

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Could you use a little extra "Green?"

RECOMMENDER FORM

As a proud member of NSS Life, now is the best time to share your experience with family and friends. Best of all, you will receive a cash reward (\$25 or \$10 for a youth term product) for recommending each person we issue a policy.

Recommender Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Do you need a Change of Address?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Please use this form to register your change of address for the *National News* and mail to the Home Office. Upon receipt of this form completed in its entirety, the staff will immediately implement the change. *Thank you.*

Change of Address Information:

Full Name: _____

Certificate #: _____ Assembly #: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Former Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Activities At A Glance

<p>REGION 2</p> <p>July 23 August 2 August 13 August 15 September 21 October 10 October 24</p>	<p>Assemblies L075, 0617</p> <p>Assembly 0617, Meeting, King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Summer Picnic, Mercatili Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA at 12:30 pm Region 2, Meeting, Grottos, Wilkes Barre, PA Assembly L075 Montage Ski Patrol Golf Tournament Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, CEO Weinburg Food Bank, Pittston, PA at 9:00 am</p>
<p>REGION 5</p> <p>July 16 July 17-19 July 26 July 31 August 7 August 23 August September 2-7 September 13 September 13 September 14 September 26 September 26 October 11 November 9 November 28 November December 5 December 6 December 13</p>	<p>Assemblies 0039, 0100, L105, 0108, 0123, L161, 0377, 0434, 0441, 0588, 0731, 0737, 0774</p> <p>Region 5, NSS Slovak Day at Kennywood Amusement Park, West Mifflin, PA NSS National Golf Tournament, Kennsington Golf Course, Canfield, OH Assembly 0123, Meeting/Picnic, Settlers Cabin Park, Pittsburgh, PA 1:00–5:00 Assembly 0731, Mahoning Valley Scrappers game, Eastwood Field in Niles Region 5, Pirates Night at PNC Park vs New York Mets, Pittsburgh, PA at 6:40 pm Region 5, Family Picnic, Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion #1, Belle Vernon, PA at 1:00 pm Assembly 0731, Picnic/Outdoor movie night (TBA) Assembly 0731, Members can join in a fun Scavenger Hunt at the Canfield Fair Assembly 0039, Meeting, TBA at 6:00 pm 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 0123, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (Virtual Walk) Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm (TBA) Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm Christmas Around the World, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA Assembly 0731, Meeting/Christmas ornaments (TBA) Assembly 0039, Columbia Association Social Hall starting at 2:00 pm. 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>REGION 8</p> <p>August 1 October 4 October 20 December 8 December 8 January 17, 2027</p>	<p>Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595</p> <p>Assembly 0432, Canoe/kayak trip, Mohican Adventures...Center," Loudenville, OH 11:00 am Assembly 0432, Red Wagon Outing, Red Wagon Farm (TBA) Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel Residence, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00 Assembly 0432, Meeting, Arturo's Restaurant, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00 Assembly 0432, Holiday Party, Arturo's Restaurant (After meeting) Assembly 0432, Tobogganing (TBA)</p>
<p>REGION 14</p> <p>July 26</p>	<p>Assemblies R059, L102</p> <p>R059, Meeting at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA.</p>
<p>AT LARGE</p> <p>July 11 August 30 October 25</p>	<p>Assemblies L002, R019, L040, 0110, 0236, 0267, 0381, 0554, 0568, 0586, 0705, 0800, 0813</p> <p>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>

Happy Birthday to our President Joseph Stefka, Jr.
who will celebrate on July 17, 2026.
Best wishes for happiness and healthy years to come.



The President's Page...

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



This July 4th marks the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Ten years ago, on July 22, 2016, the 114th United States Congress passed Public Law 114-196, creating the “United States Semiquincentennial Commission” to “provide for the observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.” The Commission is composed of four members of the Senate, four members of the House of Representatives, and sixteen private citizens. The events will be held throughout 2026, but will be most prominent the weekend of July 4th. This writer remembers similar observation and commemoration of our Nation’s Bicentennial in 1976. As we gather on Independence Day weekend to celebrate this important milestone in our Nation’s history and our democracy, take time to reflect on the many freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this great Nation.

The Home Office will be closed for business on Friday, **July 3rd**, and Monday, **July 6th**, to allow our employees time to celebrate the holiday with their families. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, **July 7, 2026**.

By the time this issue reaches your door, the 39th Quadrennial Convention will be a part of NSS history. A new Board of Directors will have been elected to lead the Society for the next four years. Decisions made during the Convention will help guide the Society and the Board of Directors. A full recap of the 39th Quadrennial Convention and the Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors will appear in next month’s issue of the *National News*.

A reminder to all freshman, sophomore, and junior year PVR Scholarship recipients to submit your transcripts from the past academic year by July 15th to receive next year’s scholarship. Congratulations to all senior class NSS members who have graduated from either high school or college this year. Good luck in the future! We are counting on your leadership!



The 60th Annual NSS National Golf Tournament will be played on **July 18 – 19, 2026**, at the beautiful Kensington Golf Club in Canfield, Ohio. The weekend offers a chance to renew former acquaintances and meet new NSS members and guests from across the country. The weekend kicks off with Hospitality Night and the qualifying round for the annual Putting Contest on Friday evening. Individual handicap play is slated for Saturday, with a scramble event on Sunday. The first NSS National Golf Tournament entry received this year was from Michael Grega of Assembly 070 in Brooklyn, Ohio. Last year at Tam O’Shanter Golf Course, Mike was a first-time winner of the Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award, which is awarded by the Stefka family annually since 1994, to the men’s player with the lowest handicap score for the tournament. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Kensington Golf Club for the tournament weekend! If you have not registered to play in this year’s tournament, plan to join us next year for a great weekend of golf, fun, and fraternalism!



Slovak Day at Kennywood Park will be held on Thursday, **July 16, 2026**. This year is the 103rd Anniversary of Slovak Day at the park. The Slovak kitchen will be serving delicious Slovak fare beginning at 12:30 p.m. The “Gypsy Strings” will provide music throughout the afternoon. Children’s games with prizes will be held during the day. Looking forward to seeing everyone on July 16th!

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to NSS Field Development Manager Jeff DeSantes, Home Office Staff members Christoher Lucas and Allie Whipkey, former Home Office Staff Member Pat Glaser, to Albert Seuss, Darryl Shingle, Michael Fox, John Orban, Terri Cooper, Chas Tabone, Jackie Reeves, Dale Blazek, and Ella Woods, and to all others celebrating a birthday in July!

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

Secretary/Treasurer's Page

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



NSS Life strives to make the world, our country, states, and local communities better for the lives of our members, their families, and neighbors. You are part of something bigger and are making a difference, even if you do not realize it. Through our Member and Community Engagement Director, the Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Region and Assembly leaders, and members who are actively giving back, we are doing good work.

Your financial trust in NSS Life allows us to fund causes ranging from Veterans programs to food insecurity to homelessness to humane society endeavors to education. NSS Life proudly works with community, regional, and national partners to make a positive impact on people's lives every day.

So, allow me to say Thank You! I am beyond honored to be a part of an organization that promotes the values and beliefs that make a positive impact. I would welcome you to join us for an event at the Assembly, Region, or National level. Meet other members who share the same values and make NSS Life one of the greatest fraternal in the 250-year-old United States.

First Quarter Financial Statement

Donna Tenney and H2R CPA completed the 1st quarter statement last month. The plan developed by the Executive Officers, Board of Directors, and advisors resulted in a net positive change to income in the first quarter of 2026 over 2025 of **\$5,454,127**. Carefully navigating the ups and downs of the financial markets, political climates, and volatile world events, our conservative approach to products and investments is proving that the events of 2025 were an anomaly, as previously discussed.

Being good stewards of your money, our members' money is paramount to the entire NSS Life team. I am proud to be part of an amazing organization, an outstanding team, and NSS Life.

American Fun Facts

Here's a fun fact for this 250th Birthday Month: George Washington, our first U.S. president, was a great fan of ice cream. In the summer of 1790, he reportedly spent about \$200 on it over just a few months. In today's dollars, that would amount to \$2,000 on the dessert alone.

He even kept specialized equipment for making ice cream at his home in Mount Vernon. At the time, ice cream was a luxury that required ice houses and extensive preparation, making it an impressive treat to serve guests. Washington also had one of the earliest known ice cream recipes in America, archived in his household papers.



Happy 250th Birthday to the USA!

Our Founding Fathers took an enormous leap of faith. Showing unprecedented conviction in their beliefs in self-government. Instantly becoming traitors to the country their ancestors may have loved, lived, and died for. Working together to create the greatest country in history. Of course, we can look back at that time and acknowledge that their world view, morals, and beliefs were very different and, in some cases, wrong, but they laid the foundation that many nations today have replicated to create the current era of vast 'Freedom' on Earth. At no point in human history have more people been free than now.

Today's society definitely has its flaws as well. Differences of view, opinions, or beliefs should not generate hate but debate. Diversity has been a founding principle of this great nation, but it has also been the genesis of the great divide. Working together is paramount not only for the United States to survive and thrive, but also for all of humanity.



Enjoy Your Summer!

For those of you who were unable to attend the 39th Quadrennial Convention, we certainly missed you. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at some point over the remainder of 2026.



2026 FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT RECAP

NATIONAL SLOVAK SOCIETY OF THE USA • Comparative Statement of Financial Condition for 2026 & 2025

Balance Sheet Comparison

Assets	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025	Difference
Bonds	1,569,731,965	1,592,307,974	(22,576,009)
Preferred Stocks	10,358,224	10,883,242	(525,018)
Common Stocks	13,068,721	10,799,888	2,268,833
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	167,812,576	151,086,545	16,726,031
Real Estate	3,139,621	3,207,616	(67,995)
Cash/Short Term Investments	44,769,998	42,306,220	2,463,778
Contract Loans	1,151,686	1,110,225	41,461
Other Invested Assets	5,784,043	19,225,371	(13,441,328)
Investment Income Due & Accrued	18,047,656	18,908,249	(860,593)
Deferred Premiums	126,772	109,925	16,847
TOTAL Assets	\$1,833,991,262	\$1,849,945,255	(\$15,953,993)
Percentage Change Year to Year	-0.87%		
Liabilities	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025	Difference
Aggregate Reserves for Life	1,651,805,031	1,667,890,500	(16,085,469)
Aggregate Reserves for Annuities	60,479,070	58,328,049	2,151,021
Contract Claims (Life)	350,000	300,000	50,000
Policyholder Dividends	1,500,000	1,340,000	160,000
Interest Maintenance Reserve	4,617,443	4,315,812	301,631
Commissions	175,000	225,000	(50,000)
General Expenses	2,373,000	2,164,500	208,500
Amounts Withheld	78,861	58,151	20,710
Asset Valuation Reserve	14,502,950	17,790,500	(3,287,550)
TOTAL Liabilities	\$1,735,881,355	\$1,752,412,512	(\$16,531,157)
Surplus + Contributions	\$98,109,907	\$97,532,743	\$577,164
Solvency Ratio	105.65%	105.57%	

Net Income Comparison

Income	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025	Difference
Premiums	50,085,909	70,169,691	(20,083,782)
Net Investment Income	22,521,850	21,279,019	1,242,831
Amortization of IMR	125,022	142,341	(17,319)
TOTAL Income	\$72,732,781	\$91,591,051	(\$18,858,270)
Expenses	1st Quarter 2026	1st Quarter 2025	Difference
Death Benefits	4,295,873	3,866,035	429,838
Annuity Benefits	69,565,490	65,309,019	4,256,471
Matured Endowments	11,518	42,001	(30,483)
Disability Benefits	698	760	(62)
Surrender Benefits & Withdrawals	358,002	138,815	219,187
Interest and Adjustments	7,477	4,089	3,388
Increase in Reserves	(8,507,599)	19,226,500	(27,734,099)
TOTAL Expenses	\$65,731,459	\$88,587,219	(\$16,085,469)
Commissions	1,087,330	1,618,827	(531,497)
General Insurance/Fraternal Expenses	3,306,065	2,936,176	369,889
Taxes, Licenses/Fees	94,954	164,904	(69,950)
SUBTOTAL	\$70,219,808	\$93,307,128	(\$23,087,320)
Net Gain/(Loss) from Operations	2,512,973	(1,716,075)	4,229,048
Dividends	371,208	320,340	50,868
Net Gain/(Loss) after Dividends	\$2,141,765	(\$2,036,415)	\$4,178,180
Net Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	79,791	(1,196,156)	1,275,947
Net Income/(Loss)	\$2,221,556	(\$3,232,571)	\$5,454,127

PVR NEWS

The PVR Fund Board of Directors would like to wish all our members and friends a very happy Fourth of July, as we celebrate the 250th birthday of our country. July is the perfect time to celebrate warmth, new beginnings, and the vibrant energy of summer.

As we write this page, we are preparing for our Convention, which will begin on Sunday, June 14. We are happy to report that as of June 4, the PVR Fund balance has grown to \$1,947,656. We are **\$52,344** away from our \$2,000,000 goal!

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR ASSEMBLY'S VOLUNTEER HOURS INCREASE OUR PVR FUND?



RAISED
\$1,947,656 →

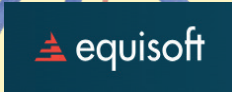


Thanks to all your hard work on behalf of the NSS in your local communities, we have deposited **\$62,390** into our PVR Fund this month!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

For the last three years, the NSS Life Board of Directors has generously donated \$5 to the PVR Fund for each community service hour that our Regions and Assemblies report to the AFA. This year, our Assemblies and Regions reported 12,478 service hours to the AFA, resulting in a record-breaking donation to the PVR Fund! Don't forget that your hours help your community AND the PVR Fund!

We hope to report that we have met our goal in the next edition of our magazine!



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.

NSS Life
Family Matters...

???-????

Jenny

If you can recite Jenny's phone number by heart, then it's time to review your Life Insurance options!

The advertisement features a woman with voluminous hair talking on a rotary phone. The background has a checkered pattern and a green dotted area.

6 WAYS TO SAY "I LOVE YOU"

- Giving you the aux cord
- Saving you the last bite
- Doing the chore you hate
- Leaving off the olives
- Picking up the kids
- Getting life insurance

LH.

The infographic uses circular icons to represent each action: a car for aux cord, a couple for last bite, a person at a washing machine for chore, a pizza for olives, a family for kids, and a heart for life insurance.

From the Sales Department...

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



USA's 250th Anniversary

We are so fortunate to be living in the greatest country in the world. Our founding fathers based our model on freedom, independence and opportunity for all. On our 250th anniversary here are some interesting things to know about the U.S. We are the 4th largest country in the world by area and the 3rd largest population with more than 342 million people. One birth every 9 seconds and one death every 10 seconds. As large as our country is we only share a border with two countries – Canada and Mexico. Richard Nixon was the first president to have visited all 50 states. Montana has twice as many cows as people. Nine other states have more cows than people. New York City has more people than 38 states. More than 400 different languages are spoken here since there is no official language in the U.S. There are 574 indigenous tribes (including Alaskans) representing almost 10 million people. We are the only country to put people on the moon. We love our pizza and eat more than 100 plus acres of it every day. That is a little more than 8 million slices or 350 per second. Most Ivy league universities are older than America including Harvard (1636.) The oldest city in the U.S. is St. Augustine, FL, established in 1565. The concrete in the Hoover Dam is so massive it could create a two-lane road from San Francisco to NYC. The largest library in the world is the Library of Congress containing over 170 million items. Buffalo, NY was the first city to have electricity in 1896. The Gateway Arch

in St. Louis is the tallest monument in the country. James Buchanan was the only U.S. president that was not married. Hawaii is the most expensive state to live in. We watch an average of three hours of TV per day. Our most popular hobbies are cooking and baking. And last but not least, Alaska is our most northern, western and eastern most state. Check for yourself on a map or globe. Here's to another 250 years! God bless America.

Triple Play

Here is a great idea for working people. Most people qualify to make a deposit to a traditional IRA. Assume that is the case for this illustration. Open a traditional IRA, a Roth IRA and a non-qualified annuity. Here is the science behind this methodology. Under age 50, a person can put as much as \$7,500 into an IRA. Put \$5,000 in the IRA, \$1,000 in a Roth IRA and \$1,000 in a NQ annuity. The IRA will give you a tax deduction (there are guidelines,) the Roth IRA will ultimately be tax-free but the five year clock has to start running sometime. Finally, the NQ annuity becomes an account that can accept lump sums (when an IRA is max funded), or a place to put RMDs.

The interesting point is all three accounts are treated differently for taxes. The IRA is 100% taxable and should only be accessed after age 59½. The Roth monies may be tax-free is drawn after five years and age 59½. The NQ account should also only be accessed after age 59½ and if so, only the interest is taxable. The other advantage to opening all three accounts is the policy surrender charges start on day one and may well be over by the time any funds are needed. The minimum to open an account is \$1,000 in the first year or \$100 per month. Call us and get your triple play set up along with your spouse too.



How Much do you want \$500, \$5,000 or More?

This is an easy question. How much money would you like to have one year from now? The answer is simple. If you are willing to set aside the following amounts every day, week, or month then at the end of one year the goal will be reached. Interest is not even considered in this calculation since it would be a small amount.

Want to save \$2,500 for something one year from now. Then you need to be putting away \$6.85 every day, or \$48.07 per week or \$208.33 per month. Check out the amounts below:

Amt needed in 1 yr.	\$500	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$25,000
Savings / Day	\$1.37	\$2.74	\$13.70	\$27.40	\$68.49
Savings / Week	\$9.62	\$19.24	\$96.15	\$192.31	\$480.77
Savings / Month	\$41.67	\$83.33	\$416.70	\$833.33	\$2,083.33

The secret is not the amount of interest earned. The secret is putting the money aside diligently, deliberately and consistently. That is how to become financially independent.

Thought For The Month:

Always stand on principle...even if you stand alone.

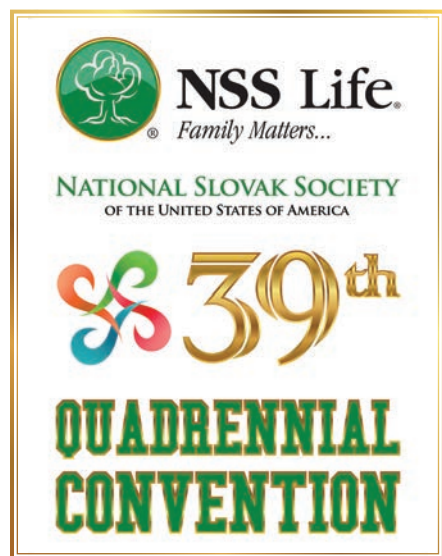
John Adams – 2nd President of the U.S. (1735-1826)

The Community Corner PVR Scholarships

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



Summer is always a busy season here at NSS Life! From our 2026 National Golf Tournament, to Kennywood Slovak day, to region/assembly picnics, there is fun to be had by the whole family! Join us in the fun to come by reading below or checking out our social media accounts!



The 39th Quadrennial Convention has come and gone! Thank you to all our NSS staff and members who helped to make the event such a huge success! From raising money for a local Cancer charity and packing over 50 care kits, to raising money for the Alzheimer's Association, PVR Scholarship Fund, and NSS Heritage Museum, we all came together to support those in need both in our NSS Community and across the country! If you missed out on the fun, the start your count down clocks for the 40th Quadrennial Convention in 2030!

This is a final reminder to all current PVR Scholarship Recipients to submit their transcripts for scholarship renewal for the 2026-2027 school year. The transcripts do not have to be official copies – unofficial is perfectly fine! Mail a hard copy to our office at 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 or email a digital copy to bbonnar@nsslife.org by **July 15th**. Reminder to also let us know if your scholar has changed their home/permanent address or transferred to a different university. All scholarship checks will be mailed out in late July/early August.

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

Region 5 Pirates Night

Tickets are still available for the 2026 Region 5 Pirates Game at PNC Park! Join your fellow NSS Members on Friday, **August 7th** vs the Mets at PNC Park at 6:40 PM. Each ticket also includes a \$10.00 loaded value that can be used toward food and drinks at the stadium! Don't forget to stay in your seats after the game for a spectacular fireworks show! To reserve your tickets (\$25.00 each), call Member and Community Engagement Associate Jamie Belding at 412-770-2153 or email at jbelding@nsslife.org.

A limited number of tickets are available and will be reserved on a "first come first served basis."

Kennywood Slovak Day – July 16, 2026

Summer fun is in full swing at Kennywood Amusement Park, but it'll be even more fun on Slovak Day on July 16th! Ride the rides with your fellow Slovaks!! Don't forget that NSS youth members (under the age of 16) that are a part of NSS Region 5 can receive free tickets courtesy of Region 5! If you are requesting these free tickets, you must provide the full names and assembly of each of the youth members. Tickets for Slovak Day **only** are \$33.00 each! Flex tickets that can be used any day of the 2025 season are available for purchase at \$40.00. Call 412-770-2094 to request tickets or for more information! All checks should be made payable to: Western PA Slovak Association

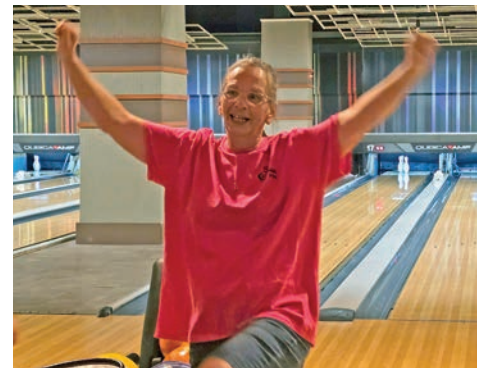
Senior Scholarship

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

Social Media

Want to see some early pictures and highlights from the 39th Quadrennial Convention? Follow us on Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety), Facebook (@NSS Life) and LinkedIn (@NSS Life) to see all the fun!

Scenes from National Joint Fraternal Bowling Tournament



Region 5

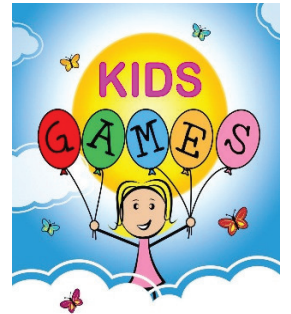
Sunday, August 23, 2026



Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion # 1

1 — 5 p.m.

- FREE!
- FOOD
- AUCTION BASKETS



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

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

Deadline for registration August 7, 2026



14th Annual Septemberfest
Saturday, September 26, 2026
11 AM — 4 PM

Presented by the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum

351 Valley Brook Rd. McMurray, PA 15317

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

Become a Sponsor:

Gold... \$ 250.00 **5 Tracking Pts.**
 Silver...\$ 100.00 **2 Tracking Pts.**
 Bronze..\$ 50.00 **1 Tracking Pt.**

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

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

Other ways you can help:

Donate a basket for the raffle to benefit the PVR Fund (Matching Funds Project)
 Donate homemade baked goods
 Publicize the event at your meetings &/or local papers

HOMEMADE ETHNIC FOOD & BAKED GOODS
ENTERTAINMENT
FREE ADMISSION!
VENDORS



Youth Circle Magazine - Summer 2026



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

4TH OF JULY

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

- ADAMS
- AMERICA
- BARBECUE
- COLONIES
- CONGRESS
- DECLARATION
- EQUALITY
- FIREWORKS
- FOURTH
- FREEDOM
- HOTDOGS
- INDEPENDENCE
- JEFFERSON
- JULY
- LIBERTY
- NATION
- PARADE
- REVOLUTION
- RIGHTS

- STATES
- THIRTEEN
- UNITED

4th of July Jokes

- Q:** What's red, white, blue and a little green?
A: Uncle Sam when he's sea sick.
- Q:** What was the craziest Revolutionary War battle?
A: The Battle of Bonkers Hill.
- Q:** What do you eat on the 5th of July?
A: Independence Day old macaroni salad.
- Q:** How do Americans spend 4th of July weekend?
A: Stuck in traffic.
- Q:** What kind of tea did the American colonists really want?
A: Liberty.
- Q:** What's the difference between Donald Duck and George Washington?
A: Donald Duck has a bill on his face while Washington has his face on a bill.
- Q:** What quacks, has a bill and shouldn't be trusted?
A: Beneduck Arnold.
- Q:** How is a person who never gets sick like the United States of America?
A: They both have great constitutions.
- Q:** Why shouldn't there be knock-knock jokes on the 4th of July?
A: Because freedom rings.
- Q:** What's red, white, black and blue?
A: Uncle Sam after a boxing match.

Easy Sidewalk Paint for Kids

Supplies:

- Mixing bowl
- Muffin tin
- Kids paintbrushes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- Plant-based food coloring

Instructions:

- Stir together the water and cornstarch in a medium mixing bowl.
- Pour the cornstarch mixture into the a 6-cup muffin tin, dividing equally among the cups.
- Stir about a teaspoon of food coloring into each cup.
- Use a paint brush to paint on the sidewalk or pavement.



Storage – You can keep any unused paints in an airtight container for a couple days. As the paints sit, they may start to separate over time. All you have to do is stir them up until the color looks smooth and even.

Clean Up – This homemade chalk paint washes away easily when you spray with a garden hose on the same day that you painted. If you let the paint sit overnight, it will take a little more time to clean with the hose, but it will wash away in the next big rain. So if you like your artwork, you can leave it as long as you want, as it does not permanently stain.

How to Make a Bubble Snake

- Empty water bottle
- Sock
- Scissors
- Bubble solution
- Plate or shallow tray



1. Grab a sturdy water bottle, remove the cap and cut off the bottom part of the bottle about 1/3 up.
2. Cut a sock in half. Stretch the sock over the cut end of the water bottle so that it fits snugly. Use an elastic band if it's slipping off.
3. Pour bubble solution into a plate or shallow tray.
4. Dip the sock end of the bottle into the bubbly solution. Add a few colors in order to create a rainbow.
5. BLOW BUBBLES!! Blow into the opposite end of the water bottle and watch bubble snakes grow! You can keep dipping the end of the water bottle into the solution to create more bubbles.

Cheerios Play Sand

Cheerios play sand is light and airy, with a fluffier texture than beach sand, making it easy for little hands to scoop and play.

Supplies:

- Blender
- Sandbox Toys

Ingredients:

- Plain Cheerios Cereal



Instructions:

Add Cheerios cereal to a blender or food processor. Mix until the cereal has a fine crumb consistency like sand. You may need to work in batches, depending on the size of your blender. Pour sand into a play tray or box and have fun!

Safety – Always be supervised when using the blender or you can even use a rolling pin.

Storage – Keep play sand in an airtight container or ziplock bag at room temperature. To keep it fresher, always wash hands before playing. If you notice any signs or mold or the sand looks dirty, toss it and make a new batch.

Watermelon plant pots

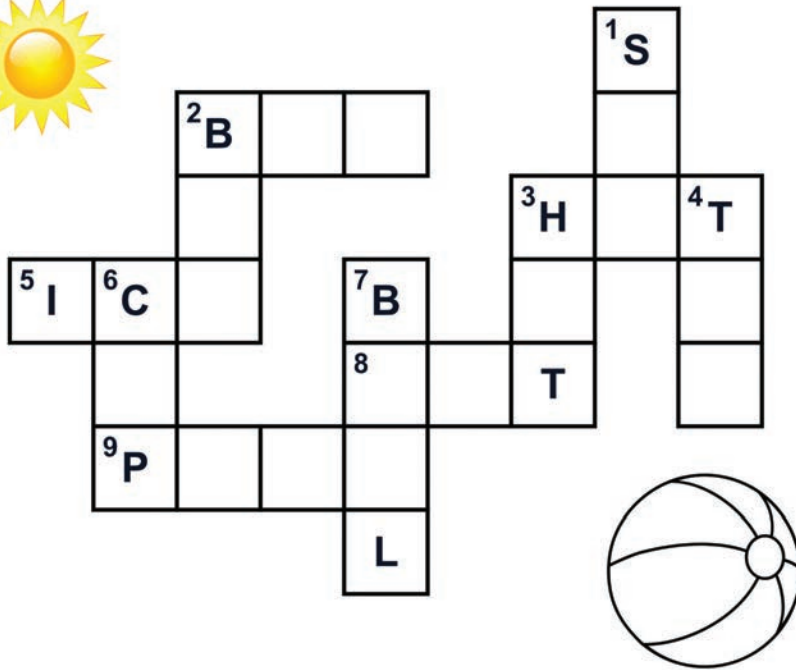
With just some tiny flower pots, paints, and a Sharpie, even you can create this cute craft.



Directions:

Using craft paint, paint the bottom half of a small clay pot hot pink and paint the rim green. When the pink portion dries, use a black paint marker or Sharpie and draw little seeds all over. Add dirt and a tiny succulent and you have a darling window sill decoration.

Summer is Here

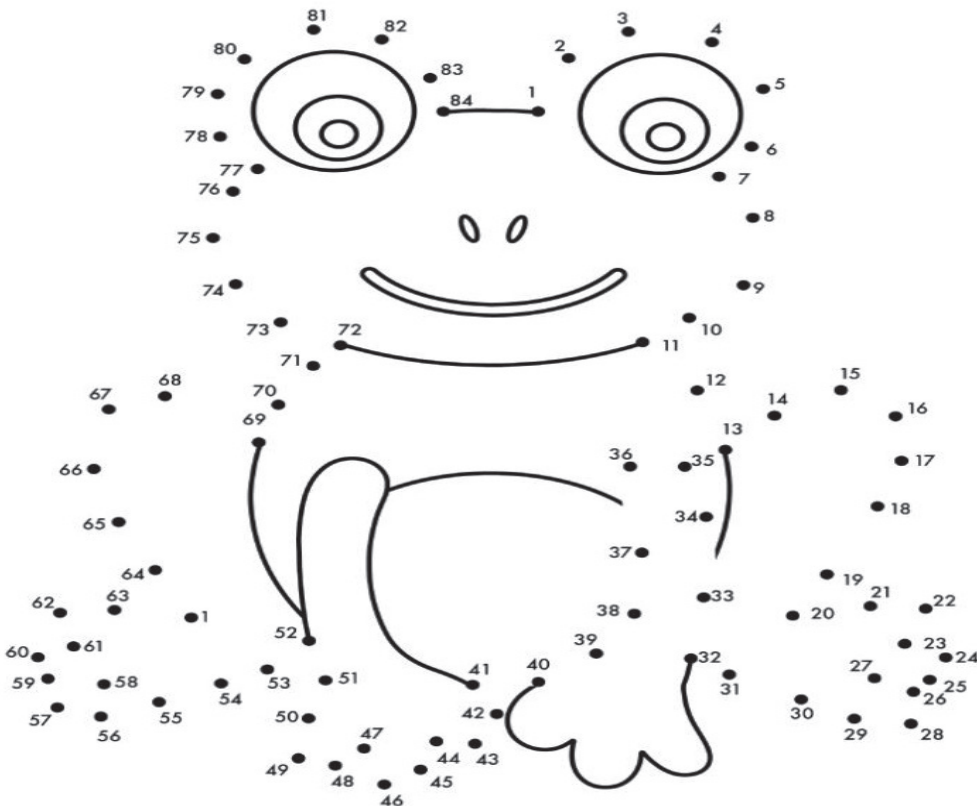


Across

2. Small insect (3)
3. Wear on your head (3)
5. Frozen water (3)
8. Tiny bug (3)
9. Place to swim (4)

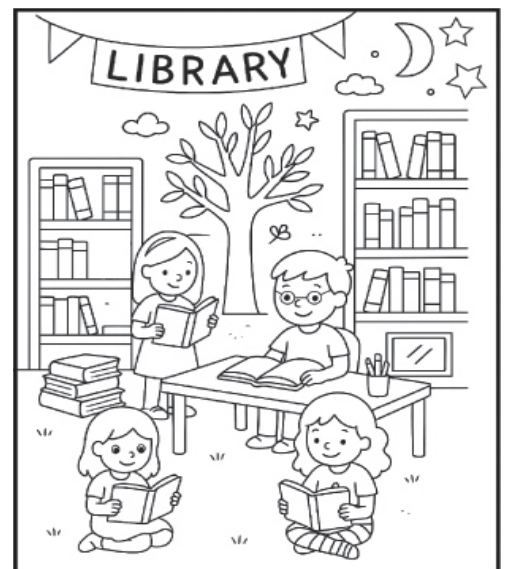
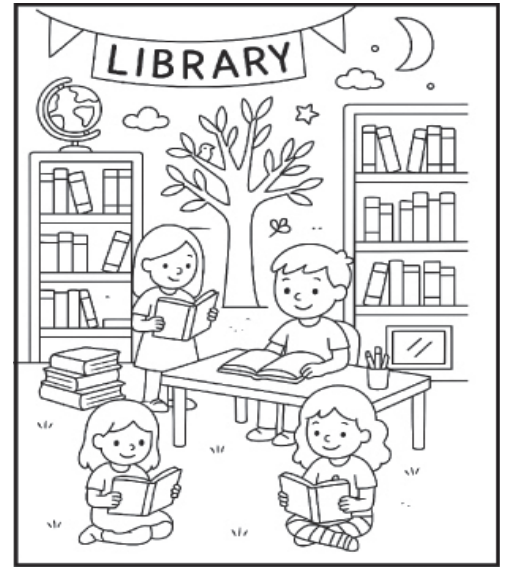
Down

1. Big water (3)
2. Makes honey (3)
3. Very warm weather (3)
4. You play with it (3)
6. Small hat (3)
7. You throw it (4)



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE at the library

Try and find seven differences between the two scenes below.



Answer key: More stars on wall, no globe, headband on girl's head, girl's eyes, boy has glasses, missing book on bookshelf, and bird on tree.

Pittsburgh Slovaks

The Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks 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.

30 Summer Safety Tips For Kids

Sun & Heat Safety Tips

- Always apply sunscreen before you go outside.
- On those extra sunny days, opt for sun-protective clothing.
- If your skin looks red or feels hot, tell a grown-up.
- Tell an adult if you feel dizzy or too hot.
- Touch playground slides and swings to see if they're hot before playing.
- Choose water instead of soda/pop or juice.

Water & Pool Safety Tips

- Never go near water without a grown-up.
- Only swim with permission and when a grown-up is watching.
- Don't push or dunk others in the water.
- Never run near the pool.

Outdoor Play & Activity Safety Tips

- Wear shoes or sandals outside.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter.
- Ride your bike on the sidewalk.
- Stay away from lawnmowers and tools.
- Never play with fireworks or sparklers.

Health & Hygiene Tips

- Wash your hands before eating, especially after playing outside.
- Use insect repellents to keep mosquitoes and other bugs away.
- Check for ticks after playing outside.
- Tell an adult if you get a sting or bite.
- Drink plenty of water, even if you're not thirsty.
- Cover cuts or scrapes with bandaids to keep them clean.

Car & Travel Safety Tips

- Never stay in a car alone.
- Always wear your seatbelt/keep your car seat buckled in the car.
- Always tell an adult where you are going.
- Be home before dark.

Personal Safety Tips

- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never go anywhere with someone you don't know.
- Don't approach any animals you don't know, even pets.
- Know your full name and address.
- Don't open the door if someone knocks and you're home alone.
- If you get lost, look for a police officer, a teacher, or another mom with kids.
- If a stranger makes you uncomfortable or scared, yell, "This is not my parent!" and run to a safe place.

Don't be afraid to call 911 in an emergency, cops are there to help!



July Fourth

Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Unscramble the words, then use the highlighted letters to write out the scrambled secret message.

ASTSET	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
ENDDEEPPNICN	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
DEARAP	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
LUEB	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
TENIUJ	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
TWEHI	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
AEQTIULY	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
ERIRFKWOS	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
ARLANCDITEO	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
FDREOME	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
DER	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
ILBEYTR	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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CAN YOU SOLVE THESE RIDDLES?

Riddle: If you drop me I'm sure to crack, but give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?

Answer: A mirror

Riddle: The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?

Answer: Footsteps

Riddle: I turn once, what is out will not get in. I turn again, what is in will not get out. What am I?

Answer: A key

Riddle: People make me, save me, change me, raise me. What am I?

Answer: Money

Riddle: What breaks yet never falls, and what falls yet never breaks?

Answer: Day, and night

Riddle: What goes through cities and fields, but never moves?

Answer: A road

Riddle: I am always hungry and will die if not fed, but whatever I touch will soon turn red. What am I?

Answer: Fire

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!**

Slovaks of Western PA to Celebrate 103rd Anniversary in Kennywood Park

At the beginning of the last century, many immigrants left their beloved homeland in search of better opportunities in a new land across the ocean. Many Slovaks built that new life in the coal mines, mills and railroads of Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Despite the dangerous working conditions and long working hours, once a year they came together in a public place to reminisce and share their experiences. "Kenny's Grove" as it was known back then provided the perfect opportunity.

Slovaks from the Tri-State area and beyond will once again present our rich Slovak heritage with a day long celebration in Kennywood Park on **Thursday, July 16th**. Slovak music will be heard, Slovak dishes will be offered, and souvenirs will be sold.

The Slovak kitchen will begin serving favorite home-made traditional food at 12:30 p.m. There will be games and prizes for the children as well! Musical entertainment will be provided by the "Gypsy Strings" throughout the afternoon. Following a short program in the afternoon, Clergy from the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Dioceses' will join to celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Pavilion. Songs and dances representing our rich cultural heritage will round out the day with a program by the "Pittsburgh Slovaks."

Join the celebration on July 16th as our heritage is showcased at the 103rd Slovak Day in Kennywood. For more information or for discount tickets please contact **Jamie Belding** at the home office at **(412) 770-2153**.

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

Information Ticket Order Form

Make all checks payable to:

Western PA. Slovak Day Association

Number of **Slovak Day** Tickets

(Good on July 16th ONLY)

of Slovak Day tickets at \$33.00 each: _____

Number of **FLEX Date** Tickets

(Good for ALL Summer)

of FLEX Date tickets at \$40.00 each: _____

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

Slovak Day: _____ FLEX Date: _____

Total Payment: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail form along with payment to: Attn: Jamie Belding
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317



48

SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL
IN NEW JERSEY

SAVE
THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 20 2026

655 CRANBURY ROAD | EAST BRUNSWICK | NEW JERSEY | WWW.SLOVAKFEST.ORG

SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL
IN NEW JERSEY

48 SEPTEMBER 20 2026 48

655 CRANBURY ROAD | EAST BRUNSWICK
NEW JERSEY



ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA



L-R: Janet Myers, Barb Mulich, John Payerchin, Lorrie Ficara, and Rita Leonard.



These ladies volunteer monthly at the Uniontown Salvation Army for Blessings in a Backpack. The Uniontown Salvation Army Director, Christine Bell presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation for the dedication.

Thirty assembly members and friends attended our Annual Summer Bar-B-Q at the Columbia Association picnic pavilion in Uniontown, PA. and our second quarterly meeting was held. The members approved a \$200.00 donation for the tee and green at the upcoming NSS Golf Outing.

Also, the members were reminded of "Slovak Day" at Kennywood Park in July. The Region 5 Pirate Game at PNC Park, against the NY Mets, was also announced. Finally, members were reminded that they can attend the Region 5 Summer Picnic at Cedar Creek Park near Belle Vernon on **August 23rd**.

Those attending the picnic all received an American flag to remember "Old Glory." A special recitation of "The Thirteen Folds of Old Glory" was read.

Finally, a group picture was taken of those attending, holding their flag.

Following the picnic, the delegates attending the upcoming NSS Quadrennial Convention met with our president to address any questions they had.

Our deepest sympathies go out to these assembly members who have recently died and are now in the loving arms of Jesus Christ: Michael Corob, Robert F. Fabry, Carl Wayne Lewis, Sr., Richard Martilli, Sr., Judith McManus, Kenneth Monahan, Roger C. Rittenhouse, Gloria Spackman, and Betty May Maggett.

If your child or grandchild is currently receiving an NSS Scholarship, the deadline for renewal is **July 15th**. We are looking for a new venue for our **September 13th** meeting as we have outgrown the community room at the Bob Evans' Restaurant. The meeting will still begin at 6:00 p.m. We will remember those who perished on Flight 93. More information will be in the next issue. Watch for it!

Mark your calendars:

Annual Christmas Party, SATURDAY, **December 5th** at the Columbia Association social hall starting at 2:00 p.m. We are asking that you bring NON-PERISHABLE food items to the party for the local food bank.

I plan to see you at our third quarter meeting on Sunday, **September 13th**, starting at 6:00 p.m. Watch the next issue for more information. Bring along another family member or friend.

Paul Payerchin
Secretary

ASSEMBLY RO59 Bethlehem, PA

Paula and John Lahutsky presented information about a fundraiser for San Andres Orthodox Christian Seminary in Guatemala, in conjunction with Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Reading, PA, to assist the seminary in its efforts to drill a much-needed well and provide pumping equipment to supply water into the seminary facility in Talmiche, a small village on a mountain that is 7,000 feet high and overlooks the city of Huehuetenango. Our assembly voted to make an initial donation to this project

and will hold a matching funds coffee hour on **July 26th** at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Bethlehem, PA, to raise additional funds for the San Andres well project.

We will also hold our Assembly meeting at St. Nicholas following the matching funds coffee hour on **July 26th**.

Michele Guydan
Secretary

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

Our assembly members will attend the Region 2 Meeting on **August 15, 2026** at Grottos in Wilkes-Barre (WB).

Any L075 High School Graduate member wishing to apply for the \$500 Margaret Pilosi Scholarship is asked to contact Lehrae Edwards at 570-569-2181. All required materials must be received by July 1 for consideration for the August presentation.

August 2, 2026 - Fraternal Summer Picnic at Mercateli-Segilia Park, Birney Avenue, Moosic, at 1:00 p.m. We will be celebrating several members who will be turning 70. Members are asked to bring a covered dish and a basket for the raffle.

October 10, 2026 - A meeting at Grandes Restaurant at 1:00 p.m. for the nomination and election of officers.

October 24, 2026 - Join Hands Day at the CEO Weinberg Food Bank, 185 Research Drive, Pittston, PA, starting at 9:00 a.m.

We will conduct matching funds, present a check, and then help package Thanksgiving boxes.

Lehrae Edwards
Secretary/Treasurer

How did you enjoy the NSS Convention?

"Please write in and let us know what you enjoyed the most."

We'd love to hear from you.

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

Please keep former Assembly 123 Vice President Larry Smith in your prayers, that he may have a smooth and speedy recovery.

We congratulate the new and returning Directors elected at the Convention and thank the Assembly members who served as Convention Delegates, giving us a nearly full slate this year.

Thank you as well to the members who participated in and/or made donations for the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation walk on June 27th. Don't forget, there will be a national "virtual walk" on **September 26th** as well. We are making this a matching funds event. Please sign up for the September virtual event. For more information, contact nss123@email.com or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

Our next assembly meeting and picnic will be held on **July 26th** at 1:00 p.m. at Settlers Cabin Park, Algonquin Shelter, 608 Ridge Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. Assembly 123 will provide meats and soft drinks; please bring a favorite dish to share. After the meeting and lunch, you can enjoy picnic games, or the assembly will subsidize your admission to the Wave Pool or the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens. A raffle to benefit the PVR Scholarship will be another matching funds event. Bring your children and grandchildren. Please RSVP and let us know who you are bringing so we can plan games and prizes! Contact nss123@email.com or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

Please take note of these dates:

July 15th – Deadline to submit transcripts to renew PVR Scholarship Grants.

July 16th – NSS Slovak Day at Kennywood. Members 16 and under are free. Other members can receive subsidized tickets. Watch for details.

July 26th – Meeting and picnic at Settlers Cabin Park (see details above).

August 7th – Baseball at PNC Park. Tickets subsidized by Region 5 and Assembly 123.

September 26th – Septemberfest at the NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray (the old home office).

September 26th – Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation "virtual walk."

November 28th – Christmas Around the World at the NSS Heritage Museum.

December 6th – Christmas party and year-end meeting. Mark your calendar; details to follow.

We still welcome your ideas for the end of the year, including the Christmas party, Assembly elections, and related activities. Mark your calendar. Details to follow. We still want your ideas for the end of the year: Christmas Party, Assembly elections etc.

Lyle Grover
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Mark your calendars for our meetings in 2026.

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 and there will be a another surprise.

As always, please RSVP to me at 724-207-3171 a week ahead so I can confirm attendance. The Pirates baseball game for Region 5 is in August and the newsletter will give more details. Until we meet again, stay safe!

Suzanne Skrypak
President



ASSEMBLY 0432 Fairview Park, OH

Mark your calendars for the meetings schedule and upcoming activities.

432 Meetings Schedule:

October 20, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Pytel Residence, North Olmsted

December 8, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Arturo's Restaurant, North Olmsted

Upcoming Activities:

August 1, 2026 – 11:00 a.m.

Canoe/kayak trip to "Mohican Adventures River trips and Fun center" 3045 OH-3, Loudenville, Ohio

October 4, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

Red Wagon outing – lots of fun for the kids at Red Wagon Farm

December 8, 2026 – 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Party at Arturo's Restaurant

(Immediately following the 7:00 p.m. meeting.)

RSVP is required at least one (1) week in advance so we can plan accordingly.

Please contact one of the following:

Dave Pytel – 440-759-4558

Terri Hudak – 440-714-8902

Bill Shuttleworth – 440-465-6024

Chris Pytel

Publicist and Social Media

ASSEMBLY 0588 Avella, PA

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

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 0617 Ashley, PA

Assembly 617 has several important activities in the coming months.

The assembly will hold a meeting

(Continued on next page)

on **July 23, 2026**, at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 1:00 p.m. The assembly has been invited by Father Thomas Looney, CSC, President, to visit the museum dedicated to Father Jozef Murgaš, the Slovak pioneer of wireless communication.

The assembly will hold its annual Fraternal Day on **August 13, 2026**, at Knoebels Park, Elysburg, PA, beginning at 12:30 p.m. In conjunction with Fraternal Day, the assembly will conduct a basket raffle to support assembly member Father John Ostrowski in his work in El Salvador. Any member wishing to donate a basket for the raffle is asked to contact John Kurilla.

Members of the assembly planning to attend the assembly meeting at King's College and/or Fraternal Day are requested to contact John Kurilla at 570-287-4163, 570-239-5936, or jjkurilla@aol.com.

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Assembly members are looking forward to another year filled with opportunities to gather, participate, and share in fraternal fellowship.

Upcoming Events

- **July 17-19** - Golf teams are forming for the National Golf Tournament at Kensington Golf Course in Canfield.
- **July 31** - Members are invited to enjoy a Mahoning Valley Scrappers game and picnic at Eastwood Field in Niles.
- **August** - A summer picnic with an outdoor movie night is being planned for a warm August evening.
- **September 2-7** - Members can join in a fun Scavenger Hunt at the Canfield Fair.
- **October 11** - Our annual Halloween Hayride will take place at Country-side Farm.
- **November** - A business meeting will include a craft session to create Christmas ornaments for the NSS contest.
- **December 13** - Our Christmas Party will be held in the Beard Cabin at Boardman Park.

Members are encouraged to follow our assembly Facebook page, NSS Family and Friends, for updates on contests, events, and activities. Don't forget to follow the registration instructions provided for each event.

Please participate in the NSS contests announced in the monthly News Magazine—they're a great way to stay involved, showcase your talents, and even have an opportunity to win some cash.

Lauren Fox
President

ASSEMBLY 0800 Bonita Springs, FL

**All Saints Byzantine Catholic Church
Pirohy Pierogi, or Pirohi Matching Funds
10291 Bayshore Road
North Fort Myers, FL**

Open:

- Every last Friday of the month:
4:00–7:00 PM
- Every last Saturday of the month:
11:00 AM–1:00 PM

This is a matching funds project to support All Saints Byzantine Catholic Church. Members and friends of the parish lovingly prepare delicious homemade pirohy (pierogi), along with other traditional Slavic foods, for sale to the local community. Come out, enjoy some wonderful food, and support this important fundraiser for our local church.

Thank you in advance for helping make this a worthwhile and successful endeavor!

Gary Cepko
President

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

On **August 15, 2026**, Region 2 will host ****Concert for Paws 3****, a Matching Funds event for the SPCA of Luzerne, Whiskers World, and Hobo's Homeless Kittens.

Join us at the Lighthouse Inn, Wyoming, PA, starting at 4:30 p.m. for live music, a 50/50 drawing, and a basket raffle. Admission is free and family-friendly.

Music by Riptide, Bad Acoustics, and KDogg.

Marlin Petro Wesnak
Region 2 President

Region 2 News



On April 4, 2026, NSS Region 2 took part in the 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Mercatili-Selilia Park in Moosic, PA. Region 2 President Marlin Petro, NSS L075 President Lucy Piccoletti, and Dr. Samantha Wesnak supervised the distribution of prizes from the prize table.

Marlin Petro Wesnak
Region 2 President



Assembly 0377 Picnic



Our Assembly 377, Bentleyville, PA held our annual summer picnic on June 8, 2026. Everyone had a great time socializing. Members are looking forward to our next activity so they could attend.

Facts About Independence Day

- Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a “laptop” – that is, a writing desk that could fit in his lap.
- Jefferson changed the wording of the Declaration of Independence from “the pursuit of property” to “the pursuit of happiness.”
- John Adams and Jefferson, both signers of the Declaration of Independence, died on July 4, 1826. James Monroe also died on July 4th in 1831.
- Only two people actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 – John Hancock and Charles Thompson.
- Congress declared July 4th as an official holiday in 1870 as part of a bill to officially recognize other holidays, including Christmas.
- At 27, Thomas Lynch, Jr., was the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence; Ben Franklin, age 70, was the oldest signer.
- The oldest, continuous Independence Day celebration in the United States is the 4th of July Parade in Bristol, Rhode Island which began in 1785.
- The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence.
- Americans began observing the Fourth of July as early as 1777 with a celebration in Philadelphia that included a parade, a thirteen-shot cannon salute, and fireworks.
- Eight of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were born in Britain.



4th of July Home Safety Tips

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

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

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

Pool safety tips include:

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

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

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

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 MAY 2026

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Acerba, Susan B	Warrington, PA	04/25/2026	R059
Adams, Carol	Pittsburgh, PA	03/12/2026	0108
Adkins, Dorothy	Wayne, WV	02/19/2026	0774
Baker, James M	Pittsburgh, PA	04/18/2026	L105
Baxter, Beatrice O	Mooreville, NC	04/06/2025	0774
Bell, Issac	McKeesport, PA	03/29/2026	0108
Bell, Raymond F	Steubenville, OH	04/29/2026	0588
Berish, David A	California, PA	08/08/2025	0377
Bohrer, Paul	Hedgesville, WV	02/26/2026	0774
Bonney, Ruby C	Uniontown, PA	05/16/2026	0039
Bossier, Charles Sr	Hollidaysburg, PA	04/23/2026	0267
Bourlogianis, John	Pittsburgh, PA	03/28/2026	0434
Bozek, Joseph	Monaca, PA	05/14/2026	0123
Brannon, Kathleen	Bridgeport, WV	04/16/2026	0774
Brinsky, Barbara	Avella, PA	04/04/2026	0588
Buckingham, Kevin E	Washington, PA	04/13/2026	0377
Buszek, James Sr	Erie, PA	05/22/2026	0731
California, Marguerite L	Warren, PA	05/04/2026	0731
Campbell, Albert R	Thomasville, NC	01/04/2026	0774
Carawan, Dorothy M	Wilmington, NC	03/17/2026	0774
Carder, Ellen	Bridgeport, WV	03/04/2026	0774
Carfagna, Ada P	Allison Park, PA	04/27/2026	0123
Cassel, Penny J	Cocoa, FL	12/10/2025	L102
Chiodo, Maria Rosa	Philadelphia, PA	04/05/2026	L102
Church, Craig A	Saxonburg, PA	04/17/2026	L161
Clark, Harold D	Richland Center, WI	04/13/2026	0774
Cole, Harold T	Indiana, PA	02/22/2026	L105
Connahan, Lois S	Hummelstown, PA	04/29/2026	L102
Conroy, Joseph	White Oak, PA	05/05/2026	0737
Convery, Keith	Hummelstown., PA	05/14/2026	L102
Cornell, Fred H	Whitehall, PA	05/22/2026	L102
Cousins, Patricia	Chillicothe, OH	05/06/2026	0595
Daloise, Leonard C	Franklin, PA	04/22/2026	0731
Delsandro, John	Belle Vernon, PA	03/06/2025	0377
Doughty, Nancy J	Indiana, PA	05/17/2026	L105
Dulacy, Stephen J	Gibsonia, PA	12/31/2025	L161
Dumm, Margaret	Pittsburgh, PA	01/03/2026	0100
Fisher, Victoria Lea	Brownsville, PA	05/23/2026	0377
Fitch, Deborah	Williamson, WV	04/22/2026	0774
Galzerano, Anna	White Oak, PA	04/08/2026	0737
Gasperich, Rose	North Ridgeville, OH	03/18/2026	0432
Gess, Earl R	Derry, PA	03/23/2026	0737
Getz, Joanne S	New Kensington, PA	04/22/2026	L105
Gnan, Anna L	Aliquippa, PA	05/08/2026	0123
Goffi, Elsa G	Canonsburg, PA	05/12/2026	0434
Grabowski, Ralph W	Bridgeville, PA	06/28/2025	0434
Gricus, Carol	Chicago, IL	03/12/2026	0586
Groves, Rozella A	Butler, PA	05/13/2026	0731
Guthrie, Robert Lee	Greenville, PA	05/04/2026	0731
Gutshall, Rosemary	Harrisburg, PA	05/11/2026	L102
Haise, Ronald D	Erie, PA	04/22/2026	0731
Harris, Edith	Blairsville, PA	05/14/2026	0737
Heuker, Marlene	Marion, MI	04/06/2026	0381
Hill, Arlene A	Cabot, PA	08/30/2025	L161
Holetich, Edith Mae	Cheswick, PA	04/28/2026	0123
Hoover, Margaret Ann	Warren, PA	05/11/2026	0731
Jackson, Vivian	Philadelphia, PA	03/03/2026	R059
Konar, Elizabeth M	Johnstown, PA	04/21/2026	L105
Konkol, Georganne	Monessen, PA	04/03/2026	0737
Kopkowski, Paul	Erie, PA	05/06/2026	0774
Kosut, Phyllis J	Hollidaysburg, PA	04/28/2026	0267

DEPARTED MEMBERS MAY 2026

(Continued from page 22)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Laconi, Regis A	Butler, PA	04/05/2026	0731
Lancaster, Mark	Connellsville, PA	05/08/2026	0039
Leech, J Gordon	Butler, PA	02/08/2026	0731
Letizio, Yoko	Bristol, CT	08/12/2025	0774
Magnes, Anna Mae	Amherst, OH	03/10/2026	0160
Manos, Bernice	Brownsville, PA	05/11/2026	0377
Mathis, Myrtle J	Washington, PA	04/13/2026	0377
Meagher, Paul L	Oil City, PA	05/10/2026	0731
Mecklem, Joseph A	Beaver, PA	04/30/2026	0123
Melnik, Patricia	Butler, PA	03/26/2024	0123
Miller, Margaret	Oakdale, PA	04/22/2026	0588
Moore, Carol	Cochranton, PA	05/05/2026	0731
Munn, Earlon	Atkenson, NC	04/23/2026	0774
Nachurski, Helen	Reading, PA	02/28/2026	L102
Nieman, Charles C	Nemacolin, PA	04/21/2026	0039
Novak, William A	Carmichaels, PA	04/17/2026	0039
Oehmke, George Roger	Hudson, PA	02/15/2024	R059
Pappal, Carol A	Leavittsburg, OH	05/11/2026	0731
Papson, Frank J	Washington, PA	04/03/2026	0588
Perkins, Mary Ann	Pawhatan, VA	05/04/2026	0595
Piehuta, Jerome D	Brookfield, OH	05/04/2026	0731
Pietropaolo, Dolores	New Fairfield, CT	04/27/2026	0774
Reeping, Shirley	Ford City, PA	04/06/2026	0737
Resch, Thomas Ed	Appleton, WI	04/06/2026	0774
Richards, Veronica C	McKeesport, PA	10/08/2025	0377
Riley, Shirley A	Chillicothe, OH	12/25/2025	0595
Robertson, Thomas R	Stoystown, PA	05/15/2026	0039
Rodriguez, Shirley	Clarksburg, WV	04/03/2026	0774
Rossick, Evelyn	East Haven, CT	11/17/2023	0774
Rushin, Gerald	Spartanburg, PA	05/04/2026	0617
Sarra, William J	Kensington, CT	03/22/2026	0774
Shields, Paul J	Lorry, PA	05/17/2026	0731
Shraver, Victoria	Waverly, OH	04/28/2026	0595
Shutak, Dennis	Tarentum, PA	04/23/2026	0588
Smith, Paul	Springdale, PA	04/26/2026	L161
Snow, Judy	Oil City, PA	05/08/2026	0731
Solakakis, Carolyn	Vienna, OH	05/08/2026	0731
Speaks, Dorothy S	Clemmons, NC	03/09/2026	0774
Suchy, Shellene M	Auburn, MI	05/02/2025	0381
Terango, James	Storewood, WV	03/26/2026	0774
Thompson, Terry R	Toronto, OH	05/11/2026	0774
Troyanovich, Rosalie	New Athens, OH	11/12/2024	0595
Tuckwiller, Nellie	Asbury, WV	08/05/2025	0774
Turpack, Mary	Monessen, PA	05/09/2026	0377
Tweedy, Thomas N	Export, PA	04/25/2026	0267
Van Gieson, Katherine	Jackson, MI	04/09/2026	0381
Vargo, Vincent	Whitaker, PA	01/05/2026	0774
Wachtler, Alana	Canonsburg, PA	04/26/2026	0434
Wacker, Jane M	West Mifflin, PA	01/03/2026	0441
Wagner, R Geraldine	Pittsburgh, PA	05/10/2026	L161
Walsh, Marlene R	North Huntingdon, PA	01/13/2026	0737
Walsh, Thomas J	Taylor, PA	04/10/2026	L075
Weber, Lawrence R	New Kensington, PA	11/24/2021	L105
Wentz, Gayleen	Clarksburg, WV	12/11/2025	0774
Wheeler, Eric J	Mars, PA	04/10/2026	0123
Wojtkowski, Robert	Monessen, PA	08/10/2025	0377
Yucha, Mary	Mount Carmel, PA	03/22/2026	0774
Zelic, Mary G	New Castle, PA	05/01/2026	0731
Zelina, Pauline	Pittsburgh, PA	05/03/2026	L161
Zimmerman, Richard	Espyville, PA	05/02/2026	0731



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 May 2026

In Memory of deceased members from
Assembly 123: 200.00
 May, 2026: Mildred Baumgart,
 Joseph P. Bozic, Chester Zalansky,
 Mona Loa Frole, Rosemary Japic
 Richard E. Kozak, Lynn Marie Machen-
 Patricia A. Mann, Marcella Mason,
 Walter R. Miller, Donald Morely Sr.,
 D. Lynn Parks, Frances M. Rattigan,
 Ceclia Riemann, Louis P. Slvati
 Sara Ann Schnell, John Zurich
 Thomas E. Simpson.
 April 2026: Carol Baney,
 Elizabeth Bayn, David R. Boyers
 Kathleen Dastur, Larry R. Delaney
 Harvey George, Maxine Grayson
 Carol A. Gruber, Earl T. Holam
 Shirley Oakes, Elizabeth Poznak
 Edward G. Schaffer, Sara Schnell
 Sylvia Stetz, Raymond L. Valli.
 In Memory of George Lako:
 From Editor Lori Crowley
 and family 25.00
 In Memory of **Shaun Logan Crowley:**
 From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,
 & John Crowley 20.00
Donations:
 Director Lauren Fox50.00
 Mark A. Squillace.....50.00
Total345.00

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July is the heart of summer, filled with sunshine, celebration, and happy memories. It is a season for long, bright days, warm evenings, and the simple joy of being together. Many people enjoy taking part in special summer traditions, such as the National Golf Tournament or a picnic hosted by a local Assembly, making this a wonderful time to celebrate community, friendship, and the blessings of the season.



News from Slovakia

Here are three notable updates from Slovakia in business and everyday life:

AI investment: Investor Bob Lesko, an early backer of Uber, Airbnb, and Pinterest, is helping build AI computing infrastructure in Slovakia through Tatra Supercompute. The project could bring about \$500 million in investment, with early operations planned this year.

Steel in Košice: Nippon Steel plans to modernize Slovakia's largest steel plant in Košice with a new electric arc furnace, a cleaner method that uses more electricity and recycled steel. The move supports the future of a major employer with nearly 8,000 workers and strengthens Košice as a key European production hub.

Young talent: Ten-year-old Mirko Husár of Nitra has drawn attention with his English-language cooking channel, *Husariffic*. Since launching it in March, he has created more than 150 recipes to show children that cooking can be simple, healthy, and fun.



Slovak Proverbs

A proverb is a short statement in which some truth is expressed in a joking manner.

- What is cheap is not rare.
- Whoever wants to live long should only drink water.
- Bend me, mom, as long as I am Johnny, when I am John, you will not bend me, mom.
- Without work, there are no cakes.

In Summer

Summer times -- warm, hot, warm, the sun burns brightly, God sends down rain on everything, fills the field with blessings.

Full ears ripen, from the grain the quail announces: "Come reap" -- so it calls, begs, And Already they are willingly swinging the scythes.

The farmer mows the golden rye, sweat settles on his forehead, often wipes the dew from his forehead, then keeps the scythe busy.

He gathers handfuls, binds them into sheaves, then he crosses the sheaves and after a while -- hey, oxen! He bundles the rye into the barn.

The threshing roars across the width, -- the golden rye is already in the mill... We praise You, O God, for the gift of new bread. Uncle Martin (c. 1923)



Summer Folklore Festivals in Slovakia

Keep in mind that in addition to the majestic castles and beautiful scenery Slovakia has to offer the tourist throughout the summer there are many Folklore festivals which take place. The Folklore Festival Východná is the oldest and the largest nationwide festival with international participation in Slovakia. Annually, on the threshold of the summer tourist season in the attractive environment near the High and Low Tatras, rich folk traditions come to life, and the village of Východná becomes the center of traditional Slovak culture for several days. *This year's festival takes place July 3rd -- July 5th celebrating their 71st year.*

In the heart of the distinctive region of Podpolanie, beneath the extinct volcano Polana, we find the town of Detva, home to the oldest natural amphitheatre in Slovakia. Here in an impressive natural setting the beauty of Slovak folk traditions come alive every year. It has been called the jewel of folk culture and Slovak spirit. The 59th Detva Festival will be held the weekend of July 9th – 12th.

At these festivals, the music and dancing go on almost nonstop for three full days—so if you happen to be visiting Slovakia and have the chance to stop by, don't pass it up. It's truly something special... an experience you won't soon forget.

And the groups—well, they're absolutely wonderful to watch. Even if you don't understand a single word, it really doesn't matter. The energy, the precision of the dancing, and those beautifully detailed costumes—just incredible.



Júl je srdcom leta, plný slnka, osláv a krásnych spomienok. Je to čas dlhých jasných dní, teplých večerov a jednoduchej radosti zo spoločných chvíľ. Mnohí ľudia sa radi zúčastňujú osobitných letných podujatí, ako je Národný golfový turnaj alebo piknik, ktorý usporadúva miestne Zhromaždenie, čo robí z tohto obdobia nádherný čas na oslavu spoločenstva, priateľstva a požehnaní tohto ročného obdobia.

Správy zo Slovenska

Tu sú tri zaujímavé správy zo Slovenska z oblasti hospodárstva a každodenného života:

Investícia do umelej inteligencie: Investor Bob Lesko, jeden z prvých podporovateľov spoločností Uber, Airbnb a Pinterest, pomáha budovať na Slovensku infraštruktúru pre výpočty umelej inteligencie prostredníctvom projektu Tatra Supercompute. Projekt by mohol priniesť investíciu približne 500 miliónov dolárov, pričom prvé prevádzkové kroky sú plánované ešte na tento rok.

Oceľ v Košiciach: Spoločnosť Nippon Steel plánuje modernizovať najväčší slovenský oceľarský závod v Košiciach novou elektrickou oblúkovou pecou, čo je čistejšia metóda využívajúca viac elektrickej energie a recyklovanej ocele. Tento krok podporuje budúcnosť významného zamestnávateľa s takmer 8 000 pracovníkmi a posilňuje Košice ako dôležité európske výrobné centrum.

Mladý talent: Desaťročný Mirko Husár z Nitry zaujal svojím anglicky vedeným kuchárskym kanálom *Husariffic*. Od jeho spustenia v marci vytvoril viac ako 150 receptov, aby ukázal deťom, že varenie môže byť jednoduché, zdravé a zábavné.



Porekadlo

Porekadlo je stručná výpoveď, v ktorej sa žartovným spôsobom vysloví nejaká pravda.

Čo je lacné, nie je vzácne.

Kto chce dlho žiť, má len vodu piť.

Ohýbaj ma mamko, pokiaľ som ja Janko, keď ja budem Jano, neohneš ma mamó.

Bez práce, nie sú koláče.

V Lete

Letné časy -- teplé, vrúce, hreje, páli slnko skvúce, Boh vše sošle dáždik dole, požehnaním plní pole. Dozrievajú plné klasy, z obilia prepelka hlási: "Pod'te žať" -- tak volá, prosí, A už ľubo cvendžia kosy.

Kosí roľník žitko zlaté, pot mu sadá v čelo vzňaté, zavše sotre s čela rosu, d'alej zamestnáva kosu.

Hrste sbiera, viaže v snopy, po tom snopy v kríže kopí a po čase --hejsa, volky! Sváža žitko do stodôlky.

Huči mlatba po širine, -- zlaté žitko už je v mlyne... Chválime, ó Bože, Teba za podar nového chleba. Strýčko Martin (c. 1923)



Letné folklórne festivaly na Slovensku

Nezabudnite, že okrem majestátnych hradov a krásnej scenérie, ktoré Slovensko ponúka turistom počas celého leta, sa tu koná množstvo folklórnych festivalov. Folklórny festival Východná je najstarší a najväčší celoštátny festival s medzinárodnou účasťou na Slovensku. Každoročne, na prahu letnej turistickej sezóny, v atraktívnom prostredí v blízkosti Vysokých a Nízkych Tatier ožívajú bohaté ľudové tradície a obec Východná sa na niekoľko dní stáva centrom tradičnej slovenskej kultúry. Tohtoročný festival sa koná 3. - 5. júla a oslavuje svoj 71. ročník.

V srdci rázovitého regiónu Podpoľanie, pod vyhaslou sopkou Poľana, sa nachádza mesto Detva, domov najstaršieho prírodného amfiteátra na Slovensku. Tu v pôsobivom prírodnom prostredí každý rok ožíva krása slovenských ľudových tradícií. Nazýva sa klenotom ľudovej kultúry a slovenského ducha. 59. ročník Detvanského festivalu sa bude konať cez víkend od 9. do 12. júla. Na týchto festivaloch hudba a tanec trvajú takmer nepretržite tri celé dni – takže ak náhodou navštívite Slovensko a máte možnosť sa zastaviť, nenechajte si to ujsť. Je to naozaj niečo špeciálne... zážitok, na ktorý tak skoro nezabudnete. A skupiny – no, je úplne úžasné ich sledovať. Aj keď nerozumiete ani slovo, naozaj to nevádí. Energia, precíznosť tanca a tie krásne detailné kostýmy – jednoducho neuveriteľné.



Youth Circle Page

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

Ashlynn Mason - Assembly 0731

The Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA) awarded three scholarships to deserving high school graduates headed to college.

This year's \$500 scholarship went to **Ashlynn Mason**, who has been actively involved with NSS Assembly 731 since birth.

Ashlynn is pursuing a nursing career at Kent State University, East Liverpool. She attended West Branch High School and the Mahoning County Career & Technical Center where she excelled in medical training classes.

As part of the application process for the scholarship, students were required to write an essay about **How they have been personally involved in their Fraternal Society and how they plan to be involved in the Future.**

Ashlynn's essay is a testament to her commitment to NSS and how it will remain part of her life:

"Being part of NSS isn't something I joined—it's something I've grown up in. Some of my earliest memories are attending my first convention at three years old, and ever since then, NSS has been a constant part of my life. Because my family is so involved, I was able to see from a young age what it means to serve others, stay connected, and be part of something bigger than yourself.

As I've gotten older, my involvement has become more meaningful. I've participated in youth programs, bowling tournaments, contests, and Region 5 activities, but what stands out most to me is the sense of community. It's not just about events—it's about the relationships and the support system that comes with it. Volunteering alongside adult members and now stepping into my role as a Youth Fraternal Coordinator has helped me grow in confidence and leadership.

I love being able to help plan activities that younger members enjoy, because I remember being in their place and how much those experiences meant to me.

NSS has helped shape who I am today. It has taught me the importance of giving back, staying involved, and leading with kindness. In the future, I plan to continue being active by taking on more leadership roles and encouraging younger members to get involved. I want to help create the same welcoming and meaningful environment that I grew up in, so others can have those same positive experiences."

Congratulations and Best Wishes for continued academic success to the scholarship recipients and to the other remarkable students who applied for the OFA scholarship.

Aubree Elliott Assembly C434



On May 17, 2026, Assembly C434 member **Aubree Elliott** participated in the Girls on the Run 5k run series held in Pittsburgh, PA. Congrats Aubree!



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