

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America



NSS Life
Family Matters...

Národné Noviny

AUGUST 2026

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NATIONAL NEWS | NUMBER 3616 | VOLUME 118



Convention



SAWMILL CREEK
BY CEDAR POINT RESORTS



Scenes from the National Slovak Society's 39th Quadrennial Convention • See Pages 6-12



Art Contest Winners

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Septemberfest

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**Pumpkin Decorating &
Photo Contests Rules**

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National Slovak Society

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John G. Payerchin, *FIC, CRCMP, Secretary/Treasurer, CFO*
Robert F. Katricak, *FIC, Chairman of the Board*

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Keith A. Kucherawy • Susan M. Ondrejco • Andrew "Drew" J. Wesnak
Theresa M. Zemelman

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FSWFE merged with NSS in 1997

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Could you use a little extra "Green?"

RECOMMENDER FORM

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

Recommender Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Prospect Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Do you need a Change of Address?

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

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

Change of Address Information:

Full Name: _____

Certificate #: _____ Assembly #: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Former Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Activities At A Glance

REGION 2

Assemblies L075, 0617

August 2	Assembly L075, Summer Picnic, Mercatili Segilia Park, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
August 13	Assembly 0617, Fraternal Day, Knoebels Park, Pavillion D, Elysburg, PA at 12:30 pm
August 15	Region 2, Meeting, Grotto Pizza, Wilkes Barre, PA
August 16	Assembly L075, Prince of Peace Parish Picnic 1:00 p.m.
September 27	Assembly L075 Montage Ski Patrol Golf Tournament
October 10	Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
October 24	Assembly L075, Join Hands Day, CEO Weinburg Food Bank, Pittston, PA at 9:00 am

REGION 5

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

August 7	Region 5, Pirates Night at PNC Park vs New York Mets, Pittsburgh, PA at 6:40 pm
August 23	Region 5, Family Picnic, Cedar Creek Park, Pavilion #1, Belle Vernon, PA at 1:00 pm
September 2-7	Assembly 0731, Members can join in a fun Scavenger Hunt at the Canfield Fair
September 12	Assembly 0123, Michael Weifenbach Memorial Charity Run
September 13	Assembly 0039, Meeting, TBA at 6:00 pm
September 13	Assembly 0377, Meeting, Sesame Gourmet, McMurray, PA at 3:00 pm
September 14	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
September 26	Septemberfest, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA at 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
September 26	Assembly 0123, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (Virtual Walk)
October 11	Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm (TBA)
November 7	Assembly 0731, Meeting/Christmas ornaments, Cessna's residence (TBA)
November 9	Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
November 28	Christmas Around the World, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA
December 5	Assembly 0039, Columbia Association Social Hall starting at 2:00 pm.
December 6	Assembly 0377, Christmas Party, Hugo's Restaurant, Brownsville, PA at 3:00 pm
December 6	Assembly 0123, Christmas Party/Meeting (TBA)
December 13	Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Boardman Park's Elton Beard Cabin at 3:00 pm

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

August 1	Assembly 0432, Canoe/kayak trip, Mohican Adventures...Center," Loudenville, OH 11:00 am
October 4	Assembly 0432, Red Wagon Outing, Red Wagon Farm (TBA)
October 20	Assembly 0432, Meeting, Pytel Residence, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00
December 8	Assembly 0432, Meeting, Arturo's Restaurant, North Olmsted, OH at 7:00
December 8	Assembly 0432, Holiday Party, Arturo's Restaurant (After meeting)
January 17, 2027	Assembly 0432, Tobogganing (TBA)

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

September 6	Assembly L102, Summer picnic, Wesnak residence at 2:00 pm
September 10-12	Assembly L102, Matching Fund, Fall Fest at St. Ann's church, Emmaus.
September 19	Assembly L102, Matching Fund for ALS, Kuhnsville Hotel, Noon to 6
October 17 to November 11	Assembly L102, National backpack project donations from Oct. 17th to Nov. 11th.
December 5	Assembly L102, Matching Fund, Hocky AA, Catty playground, 8 am to Noon.
December 9	Assembly L102, Matching Fund, Christmas party for Kiwanis Club in Emmaus.

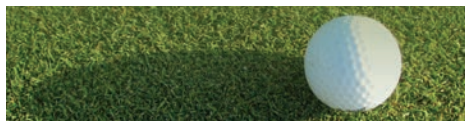
AT LARGE

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

August 30	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm
October 25	Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

The President's Page...

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



Golf Tournament Update

The 60th NSS National Golf Tournament concluded the weekend of July 17-19th, with golfers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia competing for championships in the various individual handicap flights on Saturday, July 18th, and the NSS Team Scramble Championship on Sunday, July 19th. The results of the tournament will be published in the September issue of the *National News*. Thank you to all attendees who participated in our Hospitality Night, golf, art museum trip, and golf banquet. Thank you to all who sponsored holes, the putting contest, hole-in-one contest, and the basket raffle. All golf tournament weekend fundraising efforts benefit the PVR Scholarship, which is nearing our \$2 million goal. The National Golf Tournament continues to be the largest PVR Fundraiser each year. The weekend provides fun, fraternalism, and competitive golf for golfers of all ability levels. If you were unable to make the tournament this year, plan on joining us next year. The date and location will be announced in a future issue.

Summer Board Meeting

The NSS Board of Directors will meet for the Summer Meeting on Saturday, August 22, 2026. Any information for consideration at the meeting should be submitted to Secretary-Treasurer/ CFO John Payerchin at the Home Office by August 11th.

Region #5 Picnic

Region #5 will hold its Annual Family Picnic at Cedar Creek County Park located in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, August 23, 2026. The picnic will be held at Pavilion #1 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will include food, bingo, children's games, and a basket raffle. Please be sure to register by August 7th to ensure an accurate count for food at the picnic. Pavilion #1 is the same pavilion in which the picnic was held last year. Hope to see all who have registered at the Region #5 Family Picnic for a great day!

Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour Fundraiser

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour will hold its annual fundraiser Dinner-Dance on Sunday, August 29, 2026. The event will be held at Stratigos Banquet Center in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Details of the event and ticket information can be found elsewhere in this issue. The Dinner-Dance is the one major fundraiser the radio program holds each year to help fund the weekly program. If you have an opportunity, please join us at the event.

Spring Board Meeting Recap

The NSS Board of Directors Spring Meeting was held prior to the Convention on June 12-13, 2026, at Sawmill Creek Resort. The minutes of the Winter Meeting were approved along with first quarter acquisitions, disposals, and mortgages. Reports were presented by the various committees. Reports were presented by the Member and Community Engagement Director, National Sales Director, Asset Manager, Auditor CPA, Appointed Actuary, Legal Advisor, and the Chief Information Security Officer. A progress report of the Strategic Plan was presented. The Board of Directors reviewed the 2026 Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure, the 2025 Audit, Investment Policy Guidelines, and Insurance and Annuity Guidelines. The Board ap-

proved a list of donation petitions and finalized last-minute details regarding the Convention.

39th Quadrennial Convention Recap

The 39th Quadrennial Convention began on Sunday, June 14th with meetings of the various Convention Committees. The first session of the Convention was held on Sunday evening and included the Presentation of Colors, a Memorial Service, the introduction of Officers, Directors, Honorary Officers, Society Advisors, and NSS Management personnel. The Credentials Committee provided a Preliminary Report; a roll call of delegates was held; the Convention Agenda, Rules, and Salaries were adopted. Two Convention Vice-Chairs were elected. The National Sales Director provided a presentation of sales over the past four years. A Meet the Candidates Ice Cream Social was held following the first session. The Second and Third Sessions of the Convention were held on Monday, June 15th. The Credentials Committee gave its final report, Greetings from Sister fraternal were read, and the following reports were presented: the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, Asset Manager/Investments, Appointed Actuary, Auditor/CPA, Committee on Budget and Finances, Committee on Nominations, Committee on Officers Reports, Committee on Petitions, Grievances, and Resolutions, and the Committee on Litigation and Appeals. The eleven candidates for the Board of Directors each gave a speech to the delegates. Fraternal Night was held at the Liberty Aviation Museum. The fourth session of the Convention was held on Tuesday, June 16th. The Fidelity Bonds were set for the Officers and Directors. The Fraternal Activities Committee presented a report. The election was held for the Board of Directors. Congratulations to Michael Czarney, Lauren Fox, Andrea Garbon, Abigail Gross, Esq., Robert Katricak, Karen Lynne Orban, Susan Ondrejco, Andrew Wesnak, and Theresa Zelman as they were elected to serve as members of the Board of Directors for the next four years! The NSS Heritage Museum Manager provided a presentation on the status of the Museum.

Donations were received from the delegates and advisors to the PVR Scholarship and the NSS Heritage Museum. The Convention named our former Secretary-Treasurer/CFO Linda Strom as an Honorary Officer. In addition, the Convention voted to name this writer as an Honorary Officer on January 1, 2027, following retirement on December 31, 2026. The Convention Banquet was held on Tuesday evening where the newly elected Directors were given the Oath of Office. Delegates and guests enjoyed five different activities for Fraternal Day on Wednesday.

News of Narodniars

Special Happy Birthday wishes to my granddaughters Bella Bernardo and Caroline Bernardo. Hope your Birthdays are as special as you both are!

Happy Birthday to NSS Honorary President David G. Blazek, to our Home Office Graphic Design and Social Media Specialist Ryan Strom, to Information Technology Director Dave Hertz, to Riley Conner Home Office Claims Associate, Bill Kavar Home Office Claims Associate, and to Jan Amick, Andrew Blazek, Brady Kearney, Logan Kearney, Hudson Lavin, Jack Reeves, Dustin Shriver, Charlie Tabone, Pam Tabone, and all others celebrating a birthday in the month of August! Hoping each of you enjoys your special day!

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes to Director Theresa Zemelman and husband Cal, to our Secretary-Treasurer/CFO John Payerchin and wife Heather, Editor Lori Crowley and husband Kevin, and to Danielle and Jeff Lavin. Best wishes to all others celebrating an anniversary during the month of August!

My deepest sympathy goes out to Sue Wesnak and her family on the passing of her husband, Paul Wesnak. Also, to Honorary Officer Justine Wesnak, Director Drew Wesnak, and the entire Wesnak family. On the return trip home from the Convention where he served as a delegate, Paul suffered a medical emergency and passed away. Paul was an active member of Assembly L102 and was present as a delegate at many of our past Conventions. Paul's always positive attitude, kindness, and willingness to help others will never be forgotten. Although Paul was confined to a wheelchair due to muscular dystrophy, he made several tandem skydiving jumps to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association as part of an NSS Matching Funds Project. Paul grew up and lived in eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Eagles Country, but he was a devoted supporter of the Pittsburgh Steelers, wearing Steelers attire and, on several occasions, making the trip across Pennsylvania to attend a Steelers game in Pittsburgh. May God provide Peace and comfort to the Wesnak Family at this most difficult time.

Celebrating the NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention



L-R: Dusan Sabo, Assembly 568, Rudy Ondrejco, Assembly L161, President Joseph Stefka, Jr., John Dorusinec, Assembly 568, John Payerchin, Secretary/Treasurer.

International Festival's Breakfast in Lorain, Ohio



Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak was the keynote speaker at the Lorain, Ohio, International Festival's breakfast. The festival is a week-long celebration of cultural diversity in Lorain, Ohio.

In 2026, the spotlight nationality was Slovak. Chairman Katricak also led the crowd in the singing of the Slovak and USA national anthems.

Three Generations of the Stefka Family serve as Convention Delegates



L-R: President Joseph Stefka, Jr., Carson Bernardo, Ashley Bernardo

2026 National Slovak Society 39th Quadrennial Convention Attendees



NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Sign-In & Convention Hall Floor



Sawmill Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio



Convention sign-up desk



Editor Lori Crowley, Director Laurie Fox,
Margaret Czarney, Lebrae Edwards



Convention hall front stage



Delegates to the convention in attendance



NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Regular Sessions



Vietnam Veteran Darryl Shingle carried the colors during the opening ceremony



Father Michael Brunovsky, Assembly 160, reading the opening prayer



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. with opening remarks



Directors Sue Ondrejco and Andrea Garbon presenting the Memorial Service



Memorial Service for NSS members who have passed since the last Convention



Youth members are dismissed to youth activities



Padgett Communications voting device



Trina Brown from Padgett Communications instructed delegates on the voting devices



Director Laurie Fox and the Credentials committee



Secretary/Treasurer John Payerchin taking roll call of delegates in attendance



Poster of Convention sponsors

NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Regular Sessions



Attendees during an intermission break



Larry White, AQS Asset Management presenting NSS investment status



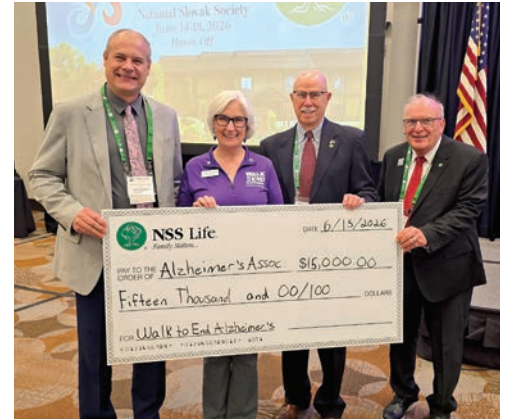
Larry White's presentation



Cara Colavita, CPA H2RCPA presenting financial information



Denise Pauley of the Alzheimer's Association



NSS presents a check to the Alzheimer's Assoc.

NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Youth Bio's & Raffle Gift Baskets



Youth "About Me" posters



Raffle baskets benefiting the PVR Scholarship Fund



Caroline Bernardo with her Funfest Slovak Craft



Raffle baskets benefiting the PVR Scholarship Fund

NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Aviation Museum Fraternal Night



The Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton, Ohio



Entrance lobby to the Aviation Museum



Dining area setup amongst museum displays



Classic vehicles on display at the museum



1928 Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT "City of Port Clinton"



Participants waving out the window during the plane ride



Two groups of attendees were randomly selected to participate in the plane rides



1928 Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT "City of Wichita"

NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Aviation Museum Fraternal Night



Attendees browsing museum vehicle displays



Chairman of the Board Bob Katricak, Secretary/Treasurer John Payerchin, and President Joseph Stefka, Jr.



Youth members dressed in pilot costumes



Antique items and model plane displays



Group picture of attendees dressed in aviation related costumes



Attendees progressing through the buffet line



Attendees eating and enjoying time with one another



Museum mascot



Attendees enjoyed dancing along with accompanying music from the on hand DJ



NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Regular Sessions



National Sales Director Greg Felton and National Field Development Manager Jeff DeSantes advertising NSS life insurance and annuity products



Ron Cooper and the Election committee collecting delegate ballots



Director Sue Ondrejco presents a history of the NSS Heritage Museum



Director Sue Ondrejco's presentation



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. confirming donations to the PVR fund by attendees



Cecily Brown from Cancer Services



NSS presents a check to Cancer Services



Ron Cooper announcing voting results for the new Board of Directors



All PVR Scholarship recipients in attendance at the convention

NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Banquet



Current and honorary officers, and honored guests



Delegates, attendees and their families



Kate Shafer, AFA Member Engagement & Communications Director



Youth members presented with awards for their participation



President Joseph Stefka, Jr. presenting the 2026 NSS Fraternalist of the Year award to Kathleen Cessna, Assembly 731



Swearing in of the newly elected NSS 39th Quadrennial Convention Board of Directors

Secretary/Treasurer's Page

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



Fraternal Greetings!

August has arrived, and it's already back-to-school time! 2026 is flying by. The 39th Quadrennial Convention wrapped up since my last article. NSS members from all over the country came together in Huron, OH, at Sawmill Creek Resort. Committees met, advisors were presented, a new Board of Directors was elected, business was conducted, and many memories were made. Fraternal night was an amazing event.

The delegates spent four sessions hearing reports, revising the bylaws, electing new directors, and setting the course for the next four years. One of the biggest changes to the bylaws was to split the current Secretary-Treasurer's role into two executive positions. Upon approval from the Pennsylvania Insurance Department sometime this fall, NSS will have a President/CEO, a Secretary/COO, and a Treasurer/CFO. The recommendation to make this change has come from our auditing firm, our rating agency, and the Insurance Department. As NSS continues to grow, the responsibilities and the time required for these positions are too great to fall to one individual.

Having the right people in the best positions is critical for NSS to continue to grow and be a leader in the fraternal world. Splitting into two positions strengthens NSS as the insurance industry's regulatory complexity continually increases. The board is tasked with determining who will serve in these roles for the next four years and has already begun the work required to do so.

The Liberty Aviation Museum was a flying success...Literally. Twenty-two attendees were able to take a flight in a 1928 Ford Tri-Motor airplane. Some of our members went all out and showed their creativity with the costumes for the night! The kids were able to spend the \$25 gift cards in the museum gift shop. The gift cards were donated by Home Office Assembly 0774. The food was great, the atmosphere was tremendous, and the company was stellar! I want to congratulate newly designated Honorary Officer Linda Strom. She was nominated and approved as the newest member of this distinguished group. Well deserved, Linda. Your dedication, vision, and love of NSS have made a lasting impact on the society. I am personally grateful for all the times we have spent together and working with you during my years on the board and inside the home office.

Congratulations to the eight current Board of Directors who ran for re-election and were all successful! Welcome back to Karen Orban, who was elected with the eight others to serve the NSS membership for the next four years. Although we will face many important and critical decisions over the next four years, I have faith and trust in this group, and I am honored to be an integral part of this great team.

To Brother Keith Kuchera, I will certainly miss having the opportunity to interact with you and Elaine as much as we have over the past four years. You have been a tremendous asset to the current board. The PVR Committee was blessed to have you as President for two years and Vice President for two additional years, setting a tone of being more proactive and setting the goal of \$2 million by the 2026 Convention. I have no doubts that you will still be involved in Assembly, Region, and National Events like Septemberfest and Christmas Around the World.

On a sad note, upon the travels home from the Convention on Thursday, June 18, delegate and member Paul Wesnak had a medical emergency during the drive back to Allentown, PA, with his wife Sue. I received a text message from his brother and NSS Board Member, Drew Wesnak, that Paul had passed away. Stunned and saddened, I cannot express my feelings at that moment. I had just hugged Paul and Sue two hours prior. Paul's mother, Justine Wesnak, an FSWFE Honorary Officer, was in attendance as a delegate, along with Paul's other brother, Michael Wesnak.

Heather and I send our love and prayers to Sue, Justine, Drew, Michael, and the entire Wesnak family. Paul was a true gem of a person. Kind, funny, happy, and always positive. I feel blessed to have known him and lucky to spend the week at the Convention with him and Sue.

On a personal note, a close friend, member, and recently a delegate, Heather McTeir, experienced the loss of her 9-year-old granddaughter Lucy Alice Montenary on July 9, 2026. Since birth, Lucy showed incredible strength, perseverance, and happiness as she battled Trisomy 18, also known as Edwards syndrome. Lucy is the daughter of Allison and Joe Montenary. Allison is the oldest daughter of Heather McTeir. Lucy was blessed with tremendous parents and 3 older sisters, Addison, Amelia, and Delilah. Please say a prayer for Lucy and her family.

God bless all of our members and their families. Enjoy the remainder of the summer. Be safe as all the kids head back to school over the next month or so. Fraternaly yours, John Payerchin.

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.



Why adults with **no kids** need life insurance:

- + You own a business
- + You have debt
- + You want to pay for final expenses
- + You want to pass wealth on to family members
- + You want to leave a legacy for a nonprofit

From the Sales Department...

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



How Much Life Insurance

Sometimes people are undecided about life insurance. There may be questions about how much and what kind to buy. The easy answer to how much, is a simple rule of thumb for a breadwinner in any family. Not too long ago we used to use a multiple of 5 to 7 years times annual earnings. Today the rule is ten times earnings. What kind is easy to answer too? Assume a person makes \$50,000 a year and then ten times that figure. For a 35-year-old male, a \$500,000 whole life plan runs about \$500 per month. A term plan runs about \$40 per month. A combination plan runs in between the two figures. What do professionals recommend? The answer is to buy as much as reasonably affordable. If your budget amount is \$200 per month, a new plan could consist of \$200,000 of whole life with a \$300,000 term rider. The term will expire at some point but provides valuable protection in the meantime. The whole life provides lifetime protection while building up some residual value and other options. We can design a plan to fit any situation. Call your local NSS representative for quote.

A Million Dollar Roth Account

Every parent or grandparent wants their child to be better off than themselves. How would you like your child to have a quarter of a million dollars by the time they reach age 65 (retirement age?) Here is the idea. Assuming the child is working and makes at least \$2,000 a year. A parent could set up a Roth IRA for them and put \$2,000 every year into the account. At current rates that would equate to a \$250,000 nest egg at age 65. One benefit of using a Roth IRA is that the money could be accessed before retirement without a penalty. There are rules that must be followed but here is an example. Ten years into the plan, the young person now age 28, needs \$20,000 for a down payment on a home. The money could be withdrawn from their Roth with no tax consequences or penalties. Principal may be withdrawn out of a Roth without incurring an early withdrawal penalty from the IRS. (Surrender charges from the insurance company may still apply.)

Want more for your child? A \$3,500 annual deposit amounts to a half million dollars at age 65 and a \$7,000 deposit every year equals a \$1 million account at age 65.

The Benefits of a Roth IRA

A Roth IRA is a powerful retirement savings tool that can help you build wealth and enjoy tax-free benefits.

- TAX-FREE GROWTH**
Your investments grow tax-free, so you keep more of your money over time.
- TAX-FREE WITHDRAWALS IN RETIREMENT**
Qualified withdrawals are 100% tax-free, including earnings.
- FLEXIBLE & ACCESSIBLE**
Contributions (not earnings) can be withdrawn anytime, tax- and penalty-free.
- NO REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS**
Your money can continue growing for as long as you want.
- LEAVE A LEGACY**
Roth IRAs can pass to your heirs, often with tax-free benefits.

Invest in today. Enjoy tomorrow.

A Roth IRA can help you create a more secure, tax-efficient future for you and your loved ones.

Contribution limits and income eligibility apply. Consult a financial professional for advice tailored to your situation.



Trump Accounts

To open these accounts, go to trumpaccounts.gov to get started. There is an online form to complete. Once the child's eligibility is confirmed, the \$1,000 deposit by the government should occur sometime in July. A trustee will contact you about setting up the account. Additional deposits can be made up to \$5,000 per year. Grandparents may make contributions on behalf of their children. This is a great way to get a youngster on the right road to saving money. Be sure to read all of the rules about this program.



Get \$1,000 for every American child born between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028



The account is fully in your child's name, and you are the sole custodian until they turn 18



Let it grow on its own, or add up to \$5,000 per year to maximize growth

Thought For The Month:

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts. Therefore, guard accordingly, and take care that you entertain no notions unsuitable to your virtue.

Marcus Aurelius (121 -180 A.D.) Roman emperor

The Community Corner

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



It sure has been busy over here at NSS Life! The great news is that it's never too late to join in on the fun! See earlier on in this edition for a complete list of upcoming events put on by our local assemblies! Not sure what assembly you belong to? Simply reach out to the NSS Life Home Office, and one of our incredible staff members will assist you!

Recent Events

Our NSS Life team sure had a terrific time at the 2026 NSS National Golf Tournament! Friends new and old came together at the Kennsington Golf Course on July 17-19th for a weekend filled with fraternal fun! Over 50 golfers tried their best to win the coveted **"Stefka Award"** for the best golfer on Saturday! Stayed tuned to see the announcement of the winner! Thank you to all of our assemblies and members that sponsored holes, and donated prizes to the PVR Scholarship Basket raffle! This weekend was yet another step in the right direction toward the two 2 Million Dollar fundraising goal for the PVR Scholarship!

Other than the Golf Tournament, July was filled with even more Slovak fun at Kennywood Slovak day! Members of the NSS Life Home Office, including myself, had the pleasure to volunteer at the Slovak Kitchen and dish out plates full of Slovakian delights all day long! Although my hair still smells like cabbage, it was a wonderful day to once again come together through the fraternal bond that connects us all!



Septemberfest

While I am personally holding on to this warm weather for dear life, I know that the chilly days of fall will soon be upon us! That means that next up on the NSS Life calendar is Septemberfest! Come on down to Canonsburg on Saturday, September 26th to attend Septemberfest at the NSS Heritage Museum! This event is an incredible celebration of local vendors and Slovakian culture! This event is open to the community so you can bring your friends and family who may not be NSS members (yet!). Trust me, you do not want to miss out on the food, youth games, crafts, music, dancing, and so much more! We hope to see you there!

Reading Matters

Any grown ups out there having trouble keeping their little ones off of screens this summer? Then do we have the program for you! NSS Life policyholders are eligible to participate in **"Reading Matters,"** where we help encourage your little ones to read, and provide them with incentives! Reading Matters provides free reading logs, and once a reading log is completed, it can be redeemed for a \$50.00 donation from NSS life to the charity of your reader's choice! Your reader will receive special prizes from NSS Life and a certificate showcasing the donation made in their honor! Parents, this is a great way to steer your little ones away from screen time, and towards a focus on giving back to a charity or cause that is important to them! To get started, email jbelding@nsslife.org.

Social Media

Want to see exclusive behind the scene photos from your favorite NSS Life Events mentioned above? Follow us on Instagram ([@NationalSlovakSociety](https://www.instagram.com/NationalSlovakSociety)), Facebook ([@NSS Life](https://www.facebook.com/NSSLife)) and LinkedIn ([@NSS Life](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NSSLife)) for your chance to stay up to date with everything going on in our Fraternal World!

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

2026 NSS Life Art Contest Winners



Hawkins Turek - Assembly C441
1st Place Picasso Level



MacKenna Althouse - Assembly C102
2nd Place Picasso Level



Marcella Fujioka - Assembly C381
3rd Place Picasso Level



Drury Tompkins - Assembly C441
1st Place Rembrandt Level



Connor Dooley - Assembly C774
2nd Place Rembrandt Level



Ryan Tompkins - Assembly C441
3rd Place Rembrandt Level



Christian Cole - Assembly C774
1st Place Michelangelo Level



Mariah Cherevka - Assembly C108
2nd Place Michelangelo Level



Caleb Berner - Assembly C160
3rd Place Michelangelo Level



Bella Bernardo - Assembly C588
1st Place Van Gogh Level



Piper Weber - Assembly C737
2nd Place Van Gogh Level



Miriam Ostrowski - Assembly C617
3rd Place Van Gogh Level



Emily Kopchick - Assembly O434
1st Place Warhol Level



Dolores Smiller - Assembly O123
2nd Place Warhol Level



Maggie Semego - Assembly O108
3rd Place Warhol Level

ASSEMBLY 0039 Uniontown, PA

Our delegates to the 39th Quadrennial Convention participated in the recent meeting to decide the future of the NSS for the next four years. Highlights of the convention are elsewhere in this issue. We thank our members who took the time and effort to participate.

We are almost there!! We are closing in on \$2 million dollars in our PVR Scholarship Fund. Our goal is to reach our goal by the end of this year. Your donation will help us go over the top! Make a donation today!

Region 5 has planned two great events for YOU! The first is "Pittsburgh Pirates Night" at PNC Park on Friday, **August 7th**. The Pirates will be playing the NY Mets. Tickets are \$25.00, which includes a \$10.00 food and gift allowance. Call the home office at 724-731-0094.

The second event is the Region 5 "Family Picnic" on Sunday, **August 23rd**. The picnic is held at Cedar Creek Park (Pavilion #1) near Belle Vernon, PA. Festivities start at 1:00 p.m. Great Slovak Food, games, and fraternal fun. You must RSVP to the Home Office TODAY!

The "14th Annual Septemberfest" will be held on Saturday, **September 26th** at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum. It is located at 351 Valley Brook Road in McMurray, PA. Homemade Slovak cooking and baked goods. Hear Slovak music and watch Slovak dancers! The fraternal fun begins at 11:00 a.m. and continues until 4:00 p.m.

Our deepest sympathies go out to these assembly members who have recently died and are now in the loving arms of Jesus Christ: Ruby C. Bonnie, Gordon J. Leech, Charles C. Nieman, William A. Novak, and Thomas R. Robertson.

Our 3rd Quarter meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **September 13th**. We will remember those who perished on Flight 93. More information on our meeting venue 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.

See you at the Region 5 events!

Paul Payerchin
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0070 Duryea, PA

Assembly 70 is holding a meeting and potluck luncheon at Dr. Martin Luther Church, 4470 Ridge Rd, Brooklyn, Ohio, on **September 20, 2026**.

The meeting starts at 11:00 AM with lunch to follow. Attendees should call John Karkosiak at 216-741-6990 by September 13, 2026, and side dishes or desserts are appreciated.

John Karkosiak
Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L075 Duryea, PA

- **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.

- **August 15, 2026** - Members will attend the Region 2 Meeting at Grotto Pizza in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

- **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.

Lehvae Edwards
Secretary/Treasurer

ASSEMBLY L102 Schnecksville, PA

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events:

- **September 6** - L102 Summer Picnic at the Wesnak house at 2:00 p.m.

- **September 10-12** - Matching funds for Fall Fest at St. Ann's Church, Emmaus.

- **September 19** - Assembly L102 matching funds for ALS at the Kuhnsville Hotel, Noon to 6:00 p.m.

- **October 17-November 11** - National Backpack Project - donations accepted.

- **December 5** - Breakfast with Santa - matching funds for Hokey AA at the Catty playground, 8:00 a.m. to noon.

- **December 9** - Matching funds Christmas party for the Kiwanis Club in Emmaus.

Any questions, please call Sharon at 610-769-7006.

Sharon Wesnak
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0123 Coraopolis, PA

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. Assembly 123 will provide the food and soft drinks, and you can bring your favorite dish to share.

After the meeting and lunch, you can participate in picnic games, or the assembly will subsidize your admission to either the Wave Pool or the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. A raffle will be held to benefit the PVR Scholarship, which will be another matching funds event. Bring your children and grandchildren! Please RSVP and let us know who you're bringing so we can plan appropriate games and prizes. Contact **nss123@email.com** or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

Upcoming Matching Fund Events
September 12th - 2026 American Legion Post 82 Family's Michael Weifenbach Memorial Charity Run.

September 26th - Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation national "virtual walk." For more information and/or to sign up for either please contact: **nss123@email.com** or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

Important Dates

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

- **September 12th** - Michael Weifenbach Memorial Charity Run.

- **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. Details to follow.

We also need your ideas for our Christmas party and for a service day—for example, hosting BINGO at a VA facility or volunteering for a shift at Global Links. Our assembly has a Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/837496175759722>.

Lyle Grover
President

ASSEMBLY 0377 Bentleyville, PA

Mark your calendars for our meetings in 2026.

August 7 - The Pirates baseball game for Region 5 is on August 7th.

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 on August 7th.

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, Gibsonia, 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 will hold its annual Fraternal Day on Thursday, **August 13, 2026** at Knoebels Amusement Resort at 12:30 p.m. at Pavilion D. Reservations for Fraternal Day will close on August 8, 2026.

The annual Basket Raffle to benefit Father John Ostrowski's mission in El Salvador will also be part of the day. Members of the assembly wishing to donate a basket, please contact John Kurilla.

Also, members planning to attend Fraternal Day please contact John Kurilla at 570-239-5936 or 570-287-4163 - Email: jkurilla@aol.com

John Kurilla
President

REGION 2 Hazleton, PA

On **August 15, 2026**, Region 2 will host "**Concert for Paws III**", 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

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

- **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 7** - A business meeting will include a craft session to create Christmas ornaments for the NSS contest.
- **December 13** - Christmas Party in 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.

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

- 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 prepare delicious homemade pirohy (pierogi), along with other traditional Slavic foods for sale.

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

Gary Cepko
President

News from Assembly L075



The Richard Notari Blue Devil Scholarship Golf Tournament for Matching Funds was held on May 16 at Blue Ridge Trail, and we sent a crew, sponsored a hole, and sent a basket. **Our father/son crew consisted of Tommy and Michael Piccoletti and Matthew and Maxwell Edwards.**



President Lucy Piccoletti and Secretary-Treasurer Lehrae Ann Edwards presented a Matching Funds check to the Excelsior Hose Company Duryea from the Night at the Races. **L-R: Fire Chief Jeff Hughes, Lucy, Lehrae, and Assistant Fire Chief Jim Brody.**

The fraternal summer picnic is set for August 2, 2026, at Mercateli-Segilia Park, Birney Ave, Moosic, at 1:00 p.m., where we will celebrate several members turning 70. Members are asked to bring a covered dish and a basket for the raffle.

We will sponsor a basket for the Prince of Peace Parish Picnic to be held on **August 16th** at 1:00 p.m. with their annual chicken dinner. Co-chairmen for the event are VP Guy Pilosi and Linda.

Also, we are sponsoring the matching funds annual Montage Mount Ski Patrol Golf tournament on **September 27th, 2026** at the Blue Ridge Gold Course and sending a basket, sponsoring a hole and sending a crew. Co-chairs for the event are Lucy and Lehrae.

On **October 10th**, a meeting will be held at Grandes Restaurant at 1:00 p.m. for nomination & election of officers.

On **October 24th**, our Join Hands Day will be held at the CEO Weinberg Food Bank, 185 Research Drive, Pittston, PA, at 9:00 a.m. to match funds & present a check, and package Thanksgiving boxes.

Lehrae Edwards
Treasurer

NSS Life in Fourth of July Parade



Suzanne Skrypak, Assembly 377 President used her car in the parade advertising for NSS Life - Where Family Matters.

Convention Scholarship Donations

In Memory of **Joe and Kay Stefka and John and Eleanor Dvorsak:**

From Annette and Joe Stefka and Family	500.00
Hilary Garbon	500.00

In Honor Of **Daniel Palicka and Heidi Weber:**

From Judith Palicka	200.00
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In Memory of **George Lako and Michael Lako:**

From Theresa Zemelman	500.00
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In Memory of **Andrew Wesnak and Jason Althouse:**

From Justine Wesnak	200.00
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In Memory of **David Kucherawy:**

From Keith Kucherawy	1,000.00
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Donation from Andrea Garbon

100.00

In Memory of **Godor Family:**

From Joy Palicka	200.00
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Assembly 0737

100.00

In Memory of **Dorothy Coda:**

From Abigail Gross	1,000.00
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In Memory of Beloved Husband **Edward Koches:**

From Wife Carole Koches	250.00
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In Memory of deceased **Katricak Family Members:**

From Robert Katricak	500.00
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In Memory of **Ann Marie Czarney:**

From Mike Czarney	200.00
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In Memory of **Ed Koches:**

From Assembly 0160	500.00
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In Memory of **Gary Edwards:**

From Lehrae Edwards	260.00
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In Memory of **Gary Edwards:**

From Assembly L075	100.00
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In Memory of **Gary Edwards:**

From Region 2	100.00
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In Memory of **George and Michael Lako:**

From Assembly L161	1,000.00
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Assembly 0588:

500.00

Darryl Shingle:

200.00

In Memory of **Floyd McCain:**

From Assembly 774	1,000.00
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In Memory of **Jason Althouse:**

From Assembly L102 and Region 14	750.00
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Convention Basket Raffle

2,280.00

Assembly 123 Convention Donation

123.00

Richard Toth

100.00

(Continued on Page 23)

PVR News

Donate online today!

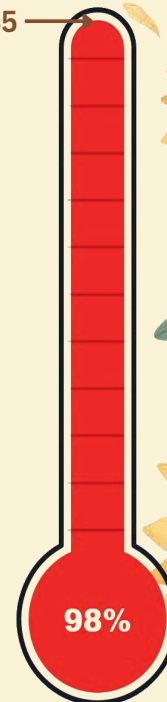


The PVR Fund Board of Directors wishes our members and friends a month filled with love, happiness, and sunshine. Thank you all so much for your support!

On June 12th, the PVR Board selected the recipients of our named scholarship awards. Those winners are announced in next month's issue of the magazine.

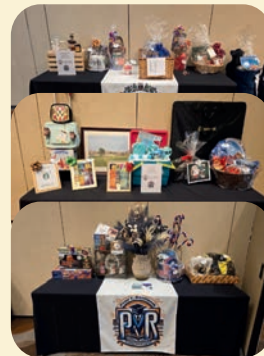
This year, we received 48 new applications, with 30 of those applications coming from the state of Pennsylvania. The top three majors for our applicants this year are nursing, business, and engineering. We will award over **\$31,000** in first-year scholarships for 2026.

\$1,961,545



Convention 2026

The PVR Fund received pledges totaling over \$22,000 at the Convention, directly from delegates and vendors, as well as over \$2,000 through a basket raffle held throughout the four-day event. Thank you to all of our donors!



Thank you

Many thanks to **Kathy Cessna**, of Assembly 731, who organized and staffed the basket raffle. Thank you for all your hard work!



We are only **\$38,455** away from our \$2 million goal!

GOOD TO SEE YOU



We were very excited to see so many past PVR recipients who attended as delegates!

Keep in touch!



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 JUNE 2026

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Antill, Carroll	Washington, PA	03/07/2026	0588
Bailey, Veronica P	Corry, PA	05/20/2026	R019
Bajoros, John	Fairfield, CT	05/21/2026	0774
Barton, Robert J	Burgettstown, PA	07/19/2025	0588
Basalla, Andrea	Clarence, PA	04/25/2026	L040
Becker, Alice L	Dover, PA	03/22/2026	0267
Beno, John	Olmsted Twp, OH	04/29/2026	0432
Benovich, Susan	Allentown, PA	05/19/2026	L102
Berger, Delbert Jr	Sinking Spring, PA	06/04/2026	L102
Bittle, Mary	Clarksburg, WV	05/09/2026	0774
Blazer, Henrietta	Gibsonia, PA	06/13/2026	0123
Bonawitz, James E	Hummelstown, PA	06/02/2026	L102
Boone, Shirley	Greensburg, PA	04/30/2026	0737
Brandfass, Ronald	Brilliant, OH	06/03/2026	0595
Brown, Helen	Coatesville, PA	05/16/2026	L102
Burkhart, John P	Erie, PA	05/26/2026	0774
Burns, Martha	Bridgeville, PA	04/04/2026	0441
Busato, Jacqueline	Jeannette, PA	02/24/2026	0737
Camilli, Alice M	Cheswick, PA	05/19/2026	L161
Campbell, William	Erie, PA	05/21/2026	0731
Chadman, Kathleen G	Emlenton, PA	06/12/2026	0731
Chernitsky, Ronald	Hudson, OH	05/08/2026	0737
Clark, James L	Andover, OH	05/25/2026	0731
Cole, Neoami	Oil City, PA	06/19/2026	0554
Coleman, Carole A	Verona, PA	05/21/2026	L105
D'Antonio, Ralph	Butler, PA	05/06/2026	0731
Daugherty, Carla	Jane Lew, WV	04/22/2026	0774
De Angelo, Julia A	Canonsburg, PA	05/29/2026	0434
Dean, Jack E	Pittsburgh, PA	06/06/2026	L161
Delfs, Virginia B	Waukegan, IL	04/24/2026	0586
Doan, Angeline	Edinboro, PA	05/31/2026	0108
Donahue, Regis F	Greensburg, PA	06/05/2026	0737
Durrett, O Travis	Erie, PA	06/22/2026	0774
Ebersole, Kathryn W	Willow St, PA	05/10/2026	L102
Fein, Nikki Meena	Pittsburgh, PA	04/23/2026	0377
Freeman, Donald A	Greensburg, PA	06/05/2026	0737
French, William Davis	Greensburg, PA	06/08/2026	0737
Gaunt, John T	Phoenix, AZ	06/14/2026	0705
George, David	Spring Church, PA	05/08/2026	0774
Giebner, Jerry R Sr	Grove City, PA	06/02/2026	0731
Girtz, Herman	Kersey, PA	05/26/2026	0554
Gray, George	Charlotte, NC	05/29/2026	0774
Grunewald, Teresa	Caroline, WI	04/12/2026	0774
Guyenn, Robert A	Scottdale, PA	05/23/2026	0039
Haines, Richard	Remney, WV	01/08/2026	0774
Hall, Larry	Erie, PA	06/02/2026	0731
Halsey, Cleo	Princeton, WV	05/12/2026	0774
Harringer, Frank	Chicora, PA	06/09/2026	0123
Hartman, Aimee	Keyser, WV	05/07/2026	0774
Hastings, Bruce H	Coraopolis, PA	05/29/2026	0731
Hertner, David	Erie, PA	06/12/2026	0731
Homan, William	Tyrone, PA	05/22/2026	0267
Huff, Linda	Prospect, PA	06/21/2026	0731
Hundley, Esther	Robbins, NC	05/07/2026	0774
Jarai, Charles G	Sierra Madre, CA	08/25/2023	0568
Jeffreys, Nathaniel	Butler, PA	05/11/2026	0123
Jeffries, Carol Ann	Indiana, PA	06/02/2026	L105
Jester, Henrietta A	West Mifflin, PA	06/18/2026	0108
Johnson, Robert	Utica, PA	05/28/2026	0731
Kacik, Charles Michael	East Haven, CT	06/09/2026	0774
Katraska, David	Carnegie, PA	05/25/2026	0434
Knox, Herschel D	Washington, PA	12/02/2023	0588
Kovach, Carole	Garfield Heights, OH	03/31/2026	0004
Kvancz, Albert	Lewisville, TX	04/13/2026	0774
Lewis, Suzanne M	Coraopolis, PA	06/08/2024	0123
Luzier, Richard	St Mary's, PA	05/17/2026	0554
Macy, Pamela J	Johnstown, PA	05/25/2026	L105
Mager, Regis K	Pittsburgh, PA	06/02/2026	L161
Marcum, Anita	Kenova, WV	08/30/2025	0774
Martin, Linda	Doylestown, PA	05/29/2026	R059

DEPARTED MEMBERS JUNE 2026

(Continued from page 22)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Masi, Romeo	Bloomfield, NJ	04/09/2026	0110
Massetto, Karen E	Vandergrift, PA	04/11/2026	L105
Mc Corkle, Richard L	Harrisburg, PA	05/24/2026	0774
McCrea, Robert	Blairsville, PA	06/13/2026	0737
Messer, John	Pittsburgh, PA	05/15/2026	0100
Messner, William E	Carnegie, PA	05/11/2026	0100
Metzger, Judith A	Toledo, OH	05/13/2026	0160
Meyer, Joyce R	Warren, PA	06/16/2026	0731
Mignanelli, Nancy	Rochester, PA	06/04/2026	0123
Mikula, Sophie	New Kensington, PA	06/06/2026	L105
Mioduszewski, Gertrude E	Erie, PA	05/28/2026	0731
Molenda, Elizabeth A	Pittsburgh, PA	06/13/2026	0100
Montague, Eleanor	Douglasville, PA	06/18/2026	L102
Montecalvo, Dennis	Washington, PA	02/06/2026	0588
Moss, Peggy June	Chillicothe, OH	06/03/2026	0595
Moss, Peggy June	Chillicothe, OH	06/03/2026	0595
Orzol, Olga	Vestal, NY	06/04/2024	L075
Pallo, Robert	Tobyhanna, PA	09/25/2021	L075
Perll, Pamela	Silver Spring, MD	05/06/2026	0774
Pietrusza, Dorothy	Latrobe, PA	05/26/2026	0737
Pivovarnk, Andrew	Monongahela, PA	04/29/2026	0377
Plymire, Joseph Martin	Washington, PA	06/09/2026	0434
Poole, Janet	Latrobe, PA	05/20/2026	0774
Puckett, Diana	Cool Ridge, PA	05/06/2026	0774
Purtiman, Paul Sr	Lancaster, PA	02/01/2025	0595
Reilly, Dorothy M	Pittsburgh, PA	05/27/2026	0123
Rice, James Sr	Brownsville, PA	05/15/2026	0377
Roehrich, Daniel	Indiana, PA	01/17/2020	0774
Rogerson, Gay	Springdale, PA	05/29/2026	L105
Rose, Anne C	Murphy, NC	04/27/2026	0774
Roth, Alma B	Bethel Park, PA	05/06/2026	0441
Sabo, John	Flemington, NJ	05/30/2026	0110
Savko, Alan	West Newton, PA	05/26/2026	0737
Scholl, Frank	Natrona Heights, PA	05/03/2026	L161
Schrum, Margaret A	Derry, PA	05/16/2026	0737
Schutzeus, Kent	Pittsburgh, PA	06/11/2026	0100
Seeker, Beverly A	Emlenton, PA	05/20/2026	0731
Sheffler, Stella B	New Alexandria, PA	06/15/2026	0737
Sherman, Kathleen	Milesburg, PA	05/13/2026	L040
Shook, Valjean M	Oviedo, FL	05/16/2026	0813
Smiles, John T	Export, PA	05/09/2026	L105
Smith, Charles Sr	Moorefield, WV	05/04/2026	0774
Smith, Sharon	Shippensburg, PA	05/28/2026	0731
Speck, Janet	Mt Nebo, WV	05/29/2026	0774
Sprague, Judith	Crawfordsville, IN	02/06/2025	0705
Stalnaker, Margaret	Stonewood, WV	05/05/2026	0774
Steed, Peggy	Reading, PA	06/05/2026	L102
Teaters, Charles E	Scottdale, PA	06/22/2026	0039
Telban, Charles H	Venetia, PA	04/22/2026	0434
Thorpe, Thomas	Smithfield, PA	05/31/2026	0039
Tomai, Ernest	Liberty Borough, PA	05/28/2026	0441
Turner, Margaret A	Masontown, PA	06/12/2026	0588
Wagner, Dorothy J	Cranberry, PA	05/15/2026	0123
Wagner, William E	Natrona Heights, PA	10/29/2025	L105
Walton, Gerald D	Meadville, PA	06/10/2026	0731
Ward, Beatrice E	Meadville, PA	06/13/2026	0731
Wells, Ruby L	West Van Lear, KY	04/09/2026	0774
Wertenberger, Sharon J	Mansfield, OH	04/24/2026	0595
Westlake, William J	Lititz, PA	09/22/2025	R059
Wetzel, Violet	Saxonburg, PA	05/31/2026	L161
Wink, Walter N	Reading, PA	06/05/2026	L102
Withrow, Dolores	South Charleston, WV	04/22/2026	0774
Wojik, Johannah	Wilmington, DE	04/29/2026	0774
Yankauski, Margaret A	Presto, PA	03/31/2026	0123
Young, Norman	Hillards, PA	05/29/2026	0731
Yucha, Mary	Elysburg, PA	03/22/2026	0774
Zeyzus, Raymond J	Export, PA	05/08/2026	L105
Zoldos, Margaret	Monroeville, PA	05/02/2026	0108



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 June 2026

(Continued from Page 20)

Board approved Funding

2025..... 62,390.00

In Memory of **Deceased Members from**

Assembly 123: (April) 100.00

Francis Faley

Virginia Ann Field

Barbara D. Jenkins

Ruby J. Kriebel

George Laure Sr.

David Scherm

Luyella Signore

Ramon E. Solero

Edward Paul Welsh

In Memory of **Shaun Logan Crowley:**

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,

& John Crowley 20.00

In Memory of **Paul Wesnak:**

From Robert Hacker, Jr. 75.00

Grand Total

\$74,848.00





August is like the "Sunday of summer" - a gentle border between the peak heat of the year and the crisp arrival of autumn. It is the perfect time to slow down, savor the lingering long days, and mentally reset before the busy routines of fall begin. It is the perfect time to refresh ourselves.

August Inventors month

Slovakia is a hotbed of modern innovation, most notably in aerospace and tech biometrics. Here are some standout modern Slovak inventors and their groundbreaking inventions:

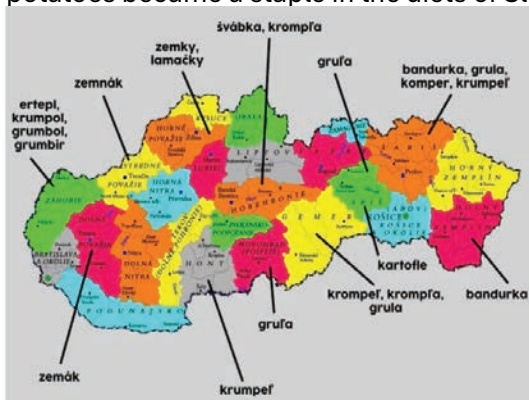
- **Štefan Klein:** A designer who invented the **Klein Vision AirCar**. This dual-mode vehicle converts from a road-legal sports car to an aircraft in under 3 minutes and successfully completed a landmark 35-minute cross-country flight between Nitra and Bratislava.
- **Innovatrics (Team led by Ján Lunter):** This Slovak biometric company is behind the creation of an industry-leading **Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS)** and cutting-edge **facial and fingerprint recognition algorithms** used globally for border control, digital banking, and security.
- **Tobias Pison, Tomáš Žáček, and Soňa Pohlová (Ecocapsule):** These inventors developed the **Ecocapsule**, an energy-independent micro-home that utilizes both solar and wind energy, allowing users to live off-grid sustainably anywhere in the world.
- **Rastislav Turňa (Matoo/Sensoneo):** Turňa invented a dynamic **smart waste management system** that uses IoT sensors to monitor waste levels in bins, allowing municipalities and businesses to optimize and reduce their collection routes.



Rise of the Potato in Slovak Cuisine

Part 1

Potatoes were brought to Europe in the 16th Century by Spanish explorers. At first they were not accepted into their diets because it was believed that everything that came from under the earth was pagan, unclean and even poisonous. Empress Maria Theresa of the Habsburg Empire actively promoted potato farming to combat famine and food shortages. She famously championed the crop's high yield, stating that *"one potato in spring yields eight in autumn."* Thanks to concerted educational campaigns, the crop was widely adopted, especially in the harsh, cold, and mountainous regions where grains struggled to grow. By the end of the 18th century potatoes became a staple in the diets of Slovaks.



Potatoes are a good source of vitamins C and B6 and contain more potassium than bananas. They are high in carbohydrates, but they are gluten-free and contain no fat, or cholesterol earning them a place in a healthy diet.

In standard Slovak, potatoes are called *zemiaky* (*zem-ya-key*). However, regional dialects feature a wide array of fascinating and colorful synonyms, largely influenced by neighboring countries. Here are some of the most common names used across different parts of Slovakia: **Zemáky** or **Zemky**; **Švábky** (Liptov & Orava); **Grule** (Horehronie/ Gemer); **Bandurky** (Eastern Slovakia, Zemplin, Mountainous Areas); **Grumbír** (Zahorie); **Kartofole** (Occasionally

heard, borrowed directly from German or Polish.) **Erteple**: Rooted in the Austrian/German word *Erdäpfel* (meaning "earth apple"). **Trompaki**: An exceptionally localized dialect used in specific valleys, such as the Ublianka Valley.

According to traditional Slovak folklore, the weather on St. Augustine's Day (August 28) predicts the weather on St. Catherine's Day (November 25); if one day is warm, the next will be cold.



August je ako „nedeľa leta“ – jemný prechod medzi vrcholnými horúčavami roka a sviežim príchodom jesene. Je to ideálny čas spomaliť, vychutnať si doznievajúce dlhé dni a mentálne sa nastaviť nanovo predtým, než sa začne rušný jesenný kolobeh. Je to dokonalý čas na to, aby sme načerpali nové sily.

August – mesiac vynálezcov

Slovensko je liahňou moderných inovácií, a to najmä v oblasti letectva a technologickej biometrie. Tu sú niektorí významní súčasní slovenskí vynálezcovia a ich prelomové vynálezy:

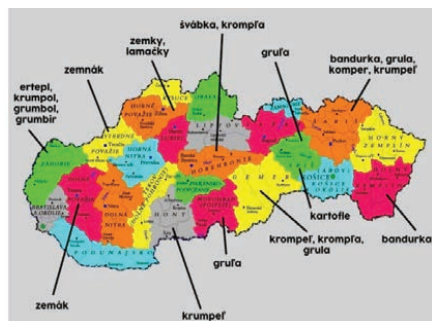
- Štefan Klein: Dizajnér, ktorý vytvoril vozidlo Klein Vision AirCar. Toto vozidlo s duálnym režimom sa dokáže z cestného športového auta premeniť na lietadlo za menej ako 3 minúty a úspešne absolvovalo historický 35-minútový prelet medzi Nitrou a Bratislavou.
- Innovatrics (tím pod vedením Jána Luntera): Táto slovenská spoločnosť pôsobiaca v oblasti biometrie stojí za vývojom špičkového systému ABIS (Automated Biometric Identification System) a pokročilých algoritmov na rozpoznávanie tváre a odtlačkov prstov, ktoré sa celosvetovo využívajú pri kontrole hraníc, v digitálnom bankovníctve a v oblasti bezpečnosti.
- Tobias PISOň, Tomáš Žáček a Soňa Pohlová (Ecocapsule): Títo vynálezcovia vyvinuli Ecocapsule – energeticky nezávislý mikrodom, ktorý využíva solárnu aj veternú energiu, vďaka čomu môžu jeho používatelia žiť udržateľným spôsobom mimo elektrickej siete kdekoľvek na svete.
- Rastislav Turňa (Matoo/Sensoneo): Turňa vynášiel dynamický inteligentný systém nakladania s odpadom, ktorý využíva senzory internetu vecí (IoT) na monitorovanie naplnenosti kontajnerov, čo samosprávam a firmám umožňuje optimalizovať a skracovať trasy zvozu odpadu.



Vzostup zemiakov v slovenskej kuchyni

1. časť

Zemiaky do Európy priniesli v 16. storočí španielski moreplavci. Spočiatku sa v jedálničku neujali, pretože panovalo presvedčenie, že všetko, čo rastie pod zemou, je pohanské, nečisté, ba dokonca jedovaté. Cisárovná Mária Terézia z habsburskej dynastie aktívne podporovala pestovanie zemiakov v snahe bojovať proti hladomoru a nedostatku potravín. Preslávila sa vyzdvihovaním ich vysokej výnosnosti, keď tvrdila, že „z jedného zemiaka na jar je na jeseň osem“. Vďaka cielenej osvete sa táto plodina rozšírila najmä v drsných, chladných a hornatých oblastiach, kde sa obilninám nedarilo. Koncom 18. storočia sa zemiaky stali základnou potravinou v jedálničku Slovákov.



Zemiaky sú dobrým zdrojom vitamínov C a B6 a obsahujú viac draslíka než banány. Hoci majú vysoký obsah sacharidov, neobsahujú lepok, tuk ani cholesterol, vďaka čomu majú svoje miesto v zdravej strave.

V spisovnej slovenčine sa táto plodina nazýva „zemiaky“. Regionálne nárečia však ponúkajú pestrú škálu zaujímavých a rozmanitých pomenovaní, ktoré sú často ovplyvnené jazykmi susedných krajín.

Tu sú niektoré z najčastejších názvov používaných v rôznych častiach Slovenska: **Zemáky** alebo **Zemky**; **Švábky** (Liptov a Orava);

Grule (Horehronie/Gemer); **Bandurky** (východné Slovensko, Zemplín,

horské oblasti); **Grumbír** (Záhorie); **Kartofle** (občasne sa vyskytujúci výraz, prevzatý priamo z nemčiny alebo poľštiny). **Erteple**: názov odvodený od rakúskeho či nemeckého slova *Erdäpfel* (čo v preklade znamená „zemské jablko“). **Trompaki**: výraz z veľmi špecifického nárečia používaného v niektorých údoliach, napríklad v doline riečky Ublianka.

Podľa tradičného slovenského ľudového podania počasie na deň svätého Augustína (28. augusta) predpovedá počasie na deň svätej Kataríny (25. novembra); ak je jeden deň teplý, druhý bude chladný.

NSS Heritage Museum Presents

Septemberfest 2026



You're Invited!

**SEPTEMBER
26, 2026**

**351 VALLEY BROOK RD
MCMURRAY, PA
11 AM - 4 PM**

This year's entertainment includes Slovak Wedding Traditions performed by the Pittsburgh Slovaks, featuring the Redovy "Money Dance" at 3:00 PM.

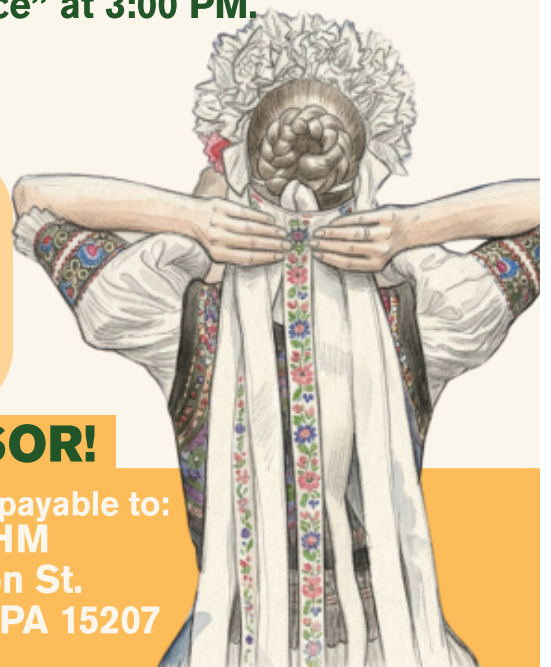
NEW FOR 2026:

Septemberfest attendees can enter for a chance to star as the bride and groom! Drawing will be held at 2:30pm. The entire audience is welcome to participate in the Redovy.

BECOME A SPONSOR!

GOLD: \$250 +5 Tracking Points
SILVER: \$100+2 Tracking Points
BRONZE: \$50 + 1 Tracking Point

Make checks payable to:
NSSHM
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207





Youth Circle Page

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

PHOTO CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2026

Contest Eligibility:

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

Deadline:

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

Contest Rules:

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

Four Categories

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

Prize List

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

Contact Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, with any questions at 412-770-2153 or jbelding@nsslife.org.

PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

Deadline: October 31, 2026

Description:

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

Contest Eligibility:

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

Submission Deadline:

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

Contest Rules:

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

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

Prize List:

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

Contact Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, with any questions at 412-770-2153 or jbelding@nsslife.org.

Emma Heisel, Assembly 123



Emma Heisel, Assembly 123, was the proud recipient of the Promising Young Writers Award through the National Council of Teachers of English. The purpose of Promising Young Writers is to stimulate and recognize the writing talents of eighth-grade stu-

dents and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among eighth graders. Emma not only earned the highest distinction of "first class" but also a perfect judge's score, an achievement shared with only five other students across

the nation. Her piece will be published on the NCTE award webpage and potentially featured through NCTE social media channels and newsletters. This marks the first time in nearly 30 years of participation that a Mt. Lebanon School District student has received a perfect distinction.

Emma's grandparents, Bill and Valerie DelMonaco, along with her parents and brother, Dana, Brandon, and Will Heisel, are very proud of her accomplishment.

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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