

The National Slovak Society of the United States of America

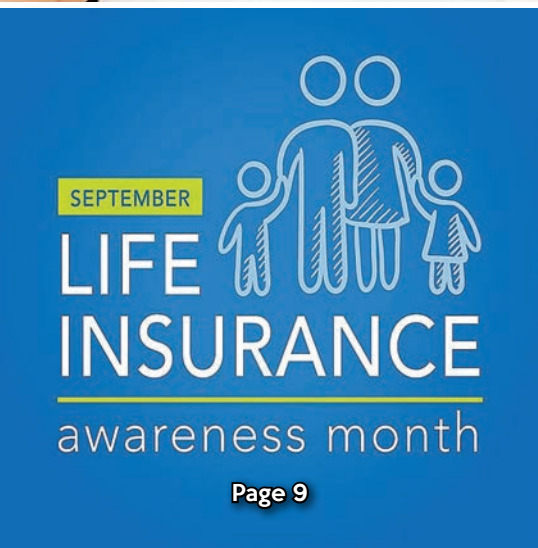
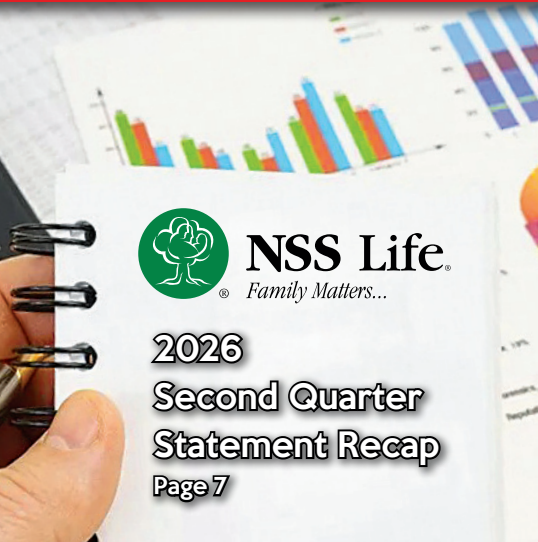


NSS Life
Family Matters...

National News

SEPTEMBER 2026

Providing Fraternal Life Insurance Since 1890 | NÁRODNÉ NOVINY | NUMBER 3617 | VOLUME 118



2026 National Golf Tournament Results and Pictures

Pages 9-11



National Slovak Society

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NSS EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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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

September 27
October 10
October 22
October 24

Assembly L075, Montage Ski Patrol Golf Tournament
Assembly L075, Meeting, Grandes Restaurant, Moosic, PA at 1:00 pm
Assembly 0617, Meeting, time and location to be announced
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

September 2-7
September 12
September 13
September 13
September 14
September 26
September 26
October 11
October 11
November 7
November 9
November 28
December 5
December 6
December 6
December 13
February 21, 2027

Assembly 0731, Members can join in a fun Scavenger Hunt at the Canfield Fair
Assembly 0123, Michael Weifenbach Memorial Charity Run
Assembly 0039, Meeting, Bob Evans 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 at 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (Virtual Walk)
Region 5, Meeting, 1403 Ashwood Dr., Canonsburg, PA at 1:30 pm
Assembly 0731, Halloween Hayride, Countryside Farm, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Assembly 0731, Meeting/Christmas ornaments, Cessna's residence at 2:00 pm
Assembly 0588, Meeting, Stefka residence, Gibsonia, PA at 5:00 pm
Christmas Around the World, NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray, PA
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 0123, Christmas Party/Meeting (TBA)
Assembly 0731, Christmas Party, Boardman Park's Elton Beard Cabin at 3:00 pm
Assembly 0123, Our Town, Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center

REGION 8

Assemblies 0004, 0070, 0160, 0432, 0595

September 20
October 4
October 20
December 8
December 8
January 17, 2027

Assembly 0070, Meeting/Potluck Luncheon, Dr. Martin Luther Church at 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)

REGION 14

Assemblies R059, L102

September 6
September 10-12
September 19
October 1-31
October 17 to November 11
December 5
December 9

Assembly L102, Summer picnic, Wesnak residence at 2:00 pm
Assembly L102, Matching Fund, Fall Fest at St. Ann's Church, Emmaus.
Assembly L102, Matching Fund for ALS, Kuhnsville Hotel, Noon to 6
Assembly R059, Food Drive, St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church
Assembly L102, National backpack project donations from Oct. 17th to Nov. 11th.
Assembly L102, Matching Fund, Hocky AA, Catty playground, 8 am to Noon.
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

October 25

Assembly 0705, Meeting, Buck Home, Seelyville, IN at 1:00 pm

Life Insurance Awareness Month

by



NSS Life
Family Matters...



The President's Page...

Joseph Stefka, Jr., FIC, President, CEO

Email: jstefka@nsslife.org



In the Pittsburgh area, September offers a transition from the heat of summer to cooler days and nights, as Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer. Children look back and think where did summer go? School students are back in school, and fall sports are taking place. Looking back over the past few months, the NSS has been quite busy with the 39th Quadrennial Convention, the National Golf Tournament, Assembly and Region events, and preparation for upcoming events including Septemberfest.

Labor Day

A reminder that the NSS Home Office will be closed for business on Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026. Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8th. Enjoy the Labor Day holiday with your families!

NSS National Golf Tournament

The 60th NSS National Golf Tournament was a huge success. The weekend's festivities, planned by our Member and Community Engagement Department, offered time for visiting with fellow NSS members and guests, great golf, and a wonderful banquet! The weekend began with multiple NSS golfers teeing it up on Friday for a practice round. Friday evening's hospitality night and putting contest qualifier were well attended. The food and beverages at the Golf Simulator Lounge at Kensington Golf Club were excellent and enjoyed by all. As darkness encompassed the practice putting green, the

Annual Putting Contest to raise money for the PVR Scholarship drew to a conclusion. Thank you to our auditing firm, H2RCPA, for once again sponsoring the contest. The three lucky individuals whose tickets were pulled for the final putt on Saturday were Mike Czarney, Justin Mann, and Chris Pytel.

The Saturday individual handicap event began at 8:00 a.m. Fifty NSS golfers and guests competed in six flights for championships. The results of the Saturday event appear elsewhere in this issue. Following the round, the Final Putting contest was held on the practice putting green with the Kensington Director of Golf observing along with a crowd of NSS golfers and guests. The second Final Putt contestant, Justin Mann, made the 50-foot putt to win the \$1000 prize. Justin became the third golfer in NSS Tournament history to make the 50-foot putt along with John Payerchin in 2000 and Drew Wesnak in 2003. Congratulations Justin!! An event was held on Saturday for our non-golfing guests and included a tour of two museums in the Youngstown area.

The Golf Banquet was held at Drake's Landing, a short distance from the hotel and golf course. The venue was outstanding with a view of the lake. A rainstorm during the banquet hampered the use of the outside veranda. The food and service at the venue were excellent! The unofficial winners were announced, skill prizes distributed, Par 3 Challenge winners were announced, the Scramble teams for Sunday were presented, and the winner of the 2026 Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial golf Award was announced. The winner of the 2026 Stefka Award was Shawn Pytel of Assembly 432 with a net score of 66. Congratulations Shawn! A basket raffle was held to raise money for the PVR Scholarship. Assembly 774 donated a set of Cobra Golf Clubs for the Reverse Club Raffle. The Reverse Club Raffle drawing came down to the final two contestants, Shawn Pytel and Justin Mann. Justin Mann was the winner of the set of clubs! Saturday was Justin's lucky day! Congratulations again, Justin!

Thank you to everyone who assisted during the weekend to make the tournament such a success. Special thanks to Bethany Bonnar, our Member and Community Engagement Director, and Jamie Belding, Member and

Community Engagement Associate, for their efforts prior to, during, and after the tournament. You both did an outstanding job! Thank you to all of our hole sponsors, AQS Asset Management for sponsoring the Hole-in-One Contest (We did not have a winner), H2RCPA for sponsoring the Putting Contest, all basket donors, and all the volunteers for the weekend. We could not hold our tournament without your help. You are all greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Tournament and purchased tickets for the various raffles and contests. We were able to raise over \$5,100 for the PVR Scholarship over the weekend, which will benefit the future leaders of the NSS.

Pastor Rob McFarland of the Chestnut Ridge Church of God located in Hubbard, Ohio, stopped by Hospitality Night. Pastor McFarland is an NSS member whose church conducts a community service project to provide free shoes to underprivileged children in the local area for the start of school. The NSS Board of Directors, at the Spring Board Meeting, voted to once again support the project by helping fund the purchase of shoes for children. Pastor McFarland was extremely grateful for the NSS's continued support of this project, which impacts the community not only at the beginning of the school year but throughout the year. He mentioned that the schools often contact him throughout the year when students need shoes for school. Thank you, Pastor Rob, for supporting the NSS mission and making your communities better places to live!

Septemberfest

A reminder that Septemberfest will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Valley Brook location. The event is sponsored by the NSS Heritage Museum and provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy Slovak culture, food, and entertainment. The event runs from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is free. Make plans to join us at Septemberfest!

News of Narodniars

Happy Birthday wishes to National Slovak Society former Secretary-Treasurer and Honorary Director Paul M.

Continued on Page 5

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

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

2025 Joseph Stefka, Sr. Memorial Golf Award Winner

The 2025 winner of the **Joseph Stefka Memorial Golf Award**, **Mike Grega**, is pictured receiving the award from NSS President Joseph Stefka, Jr. Mike won the 2025 award with a net score of 62 for the 18-hole tournament. Mike is a first-time winner of the award. The 2025 National Golf Tournament at Tam O'Shanter Golf Club marked the 31st year the Joseph Stefka Memorial Award was presented by the Stefka family. Since its inception in 1994, a total of 24 different golfers have won the award. There was no winner of the award in 2020 due to the cancellation of the tournament due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the history of the Joseph Stefka Memorial Award there has never been a back-to-back winner. Congratulations Mike!



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	Make checks payable to: NSSHM 234 Ilion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207
SILVER: \$100+2 Tracking Points	
BRONZE: \$50 + 1 Tracking Point	



Secretary/Treasurer's Page

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



Well Justin, being the tremendous golfer that he is, and on the lucky streak he is on, won the first annual Floyd McKain One More Dollar Putting Award. Hopefully, he bought some Powerball Tickets on the way home!!! I was unable to attend this year's tournament as we were on our family vacation, but my father presented Justin with the certificate and putter. I will also be making a \$100 donation to the PVR on behalf of Justin, in memory of my friend, Floyd McKain. I will certainly never play another round of golf without thinking of you, my friend!



Fraternal Greetings!

September is here. Labor Day signals the "unofficial" end of summer. Kids are back to school. And Septemberfest is at the end of the month!! I hope you and your family had an amazing summer.

I wanted to acknowledge Justin Mann from Assembly L161, Pittsburgh, PA for not only making a 50' putt for \$1,000 at the 2026 NSS Life National Golf Tournament, but for also winning the reverse auction for a brand-new set of golf clubs and bag!! For the past 26+ years we have raised money for the PVR Scholarship fund during the National Golf Tournament with a putting contest. Each year, three talented (lucky) participants qualify for a chance to win \$1,000 by making a putt from 50'. Unbelievably, Justin is the 3rd NSS Life member to make the putt and WIN!!! I was lucky enough in 2000 at Tam O'Shanter Golf Club in Sharon, PA and National Director, Drew Wesnak made his 50' putt at Avalon Lakes Golf Club in Warren, OH in 2003.

In years past, my dear friend Floyd McKain spent countless hours and dollars trying to qualify and subsequently make the putt. We would always joke about how many NSS youth members Floyd had put through college with his contributions. After Floyd passed away suddenly earlier this year, my father, Paul, and I decided to create the "Floyd McKain One More Dollar" putting award in his memory. Each year we will award the contestant that is closest to the hole during the 50' putt, a Certificate and a Golden Putter.



Second Quarter Financial Statement Recap

The second quarter statement was completed just in time for the writing of this article. Although premium income is down versus last year, the net income for the first half of 2026 is \$4,093,918 which is a \$6,082,036 increase over the first half of 2025. 2026 thus far has shown strong increases to the solvency ratio and the surplus as it has climbed back to over \$99 million as of the end of June.

The strategic plan developed and executed by the Executive Officers, Board of Directors, and our advisors during the second quarter of last year, continues to show positive results. The change in course was necessary after the 2025 first quarter loss and was at the forefront of the decisions we made and continue to make going forward.

NSS Life's Executive Officers, Board of Directors, Management Team, Home Office Staff, and advisors continue to prove to be good stewards of your money. Treating every member like family. Our agents and members continued trust in NSS Life is paramount to the success of the past and critical to our growth in the future.

God bless all of you and your families.



2026 SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENT RECAP

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

Balance Sheet Comparison

Assets	June 30, 2026	December 31, 2025	Difference
Bonds	1,583,256,615	1,593,217,849	(9,961,234)
Preferred Stocks	10,125,483	10,731,382	(605,899)
Common Stocks	14,272,972	12,943,975	1,328,997
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	159,162,147	169,735,396	(10,573,249)
Real Estate	3,122,622	3,156,620	(33,998)
Cash/Short Term Investments	27,326,305	25,848,932	1,477,373
Contract Loans	1,182,657	1,077,913	104,744
Other Invested Assets	6,765,506	5,054,023	1,711,483
Investment Income Due & Accrued	17,832,219	17,880,628	(48,409)
Deferred Premiums	121,564	137,242	(15,678)
TOTAL Assets	\$1,823,168,090	\$1,839,783,960	(\$16,615,870)
Percentage Change Year to Year	-0.90%		
Liabilities	June 30, 2026	December 31, 2025	Difference
Aggregate Reserves for Life	1,636,630,400	1,660,312,630	(23,682,230)
Aggregate Reserves for Annuities	61,095,795	59,824,255	1,271,540
Contract Claims (Life)	330,000	525,000	(195,000)
Policyholder Dividends	1,520,000	1,455,000	65,000
Interest Maintenance Reserve	4,629,398	4,309,064	320,334
Commissions	325,000	495,000	(170,000)
General Expenses	3,409,500	2,606,850	802,650
Amounts Withheld	28,211	33,647	(5,436)
Asset Valuation Reserve	15,545,000	13,868,000	1,677,000
TOTAL Liabilities	\$1,723,513,304	\$1,743,429,446	(\$19,916,142)
Surplus + Contributions	\$99,654,786	\$96,354,514	\$3,300,272
Solvency Ratio	105.78%	105.53%	

Net Income Comparison

Income	June 30, 2026	June 30, 2025	Difference
Premiums	92,014,014	127,174,616	(35,160,602)
Net Investment Income	45,317,871	44,096,829	1,221,042
Amortization of IMR	555,822	283,991	271,831
TOTAL Income	\$137,887,707	\$171,555,436	(\$33,667,729)
Expenses	2nd Quarter 2026	2nd Quarter 2025	Difference
Death Benefits	8,292,183	8,838,879	(\$546,696)
Annuity Benefits	137,630,663	130,904,010	6,726,653
Matured Endowments	19,423	56,172	(36,749)
Disability Benefits	4,901	3,297	1,604
Surrender Benefits & Withdrawals	769,598	520,956	248,642
Interest and Adjustments	14,667	8,189	6,478
Increase in Reserves	(23,682,230)	21,738,800	(45,421,030)
TOTAL Expenses	\$123,049,205	\$162,070,303	(\$39,021,098)
Commissions	2,266,966	3,050,353	(783,387)
General Insurance/Fraternal Expenses	7,798,733	6,493,319	1,305,414
Taxes, Licenses/Fees	158,493	253,559	(95,066)
SUBTOTAL	\$133,273,397	\$171,867,534	(\$38,594,137)
Net Gain/(Loss) from Operations	4,614,310	(312,098)	4,926,408
Dividends	759,034	641,689	117,345
Net Gain/(Loss) after Dividends	\$3,855,276	(\$953,787)	\$4,809,063
Net Realized Capital Gain/(Loss)	238,642	(1,034,331)	1,272,973
Net Income/(Loss)	\$4,093,918	(\$1,988,118)	\$6,082,036

Current Interest Rates

★ Effective September 1, 2026 ★

Optimum 3 - 4.75%

New Preferred 5 - 7.00%* (For First Year Only)

New Preferred 8 - 8.00%* (For First Year Only)

Existing Preferred 5 - 4.00% • 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.



Life Insurance Awareness Month

Protect Today. Secure Tomorrow. Strengthen America.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Life insurance is more than a policy—it's a promise.

1



A STRONG PILLAR OF THE U.S. ECONOMY

In 2025, the life insurance industry is projected to contribute

\$1.4 TRILLION

to the U.S. economy, supporting more than

2.8 MILLION JOBS.

Source: LIMRA 2025 Economic Impact Study

2



FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR FAMILIES

95% of life insurance beneficiaries say the death benefit helped them:

- ✓ Stay financially secure
- ✓ Pay off debt or mortgage
- ✓ Cover living expenses
- ✓ Fund education

Source: 2025 LIMRA Life Insurance Benefits Study

3



AMERICANS ARE COUNTING ON IT

In 2026, more than

103 MILLION

American adults (46%) say they own some form of life insurance.

Source: 2026 LIMRA Insurance Barometer Study

4



BUILDS WEALTH & SUPPORTS COMMUNITIES

Life insurers invest more than

\$6.9 TRILLION

in the U.S. economy (2025), funding infrastructure, small businesses, and local communities.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence 2025 U.S. Life Insurance Fact Book

5



PEACE OF MIND THAT LASTS FOR GENERATIONS

82% of policyowners say their life insurance gives them peace of mind knowing their family's future is protected.

Because love doesn't take a day off.

Source: 2025 LIMRA Insurance Barometer Study



Life insurance protects what matters most—your loved ones, your legacy, and America's future.

Learn more. Talk to a trusted advisor. Protect your promise.



NSS Life
Family Matters...

From the Sales Department...

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



Wealthy People & Life Insurance

Many people with means buy life insurance. In fact, their reasons for using life insurance are simple:

1. **Liquidity** – they may have other assets, but it may be in real estate or something illiquid. Life insurance is valuable property that turns into cash upon the insured's demise.
2. **Growth** – where else can a person pay pennies on a dollar and be insured for thousands of dollars. In fact, the cost of a permanent life insurance plan for a young person is 1% of the face amount.
3. **Legacy** – life insurance is a sure-fire way to leave heirs money. This is a gift that will be long remembered.
4. **Charity** – Sure a regular donation to your favorite charity is appreciated but if you leave them a larger lump sum, so they may be able to do more.
5. **Simplicity** – nothing is as easy to understand and buy as life insurance. No complications, market adjustments, fees, expenses, or other fluctuations.

There is something for each of us to learn from these reasons. Call your local NSS representative or Joe Elliott in the Home Office for more information and see how we can help you and your family.

Immediate Annuities and a Long Life

A recent survey found that holders of single premium immediate annuities (SPIAs) lived longer. Why? They attribute this to reduced stress, because of the guarantee of income. The fact that your bills come in every month so should your income. A SPIA contract does that exactly. SPIA holders are also less likely to be defrauded and lose their account balance. A SPIA provides financial security, straightforward design, and less investment decisions. The certainty of income is a welcome relief in this age of pension plans disappearing. A person can use any lump-sum amount to create an income stream. We would be happy to calculate the expected monthly income. There are many options to the SPIA program but two of the most popular are life income and joint and life income. This latter option protects spouses. Call us for a free quote.

Pay off the mortgage early!

Buying a home is the largest purchase most of us will ever make. While it is exciting to own your home it is a constant source of work and expenses. Ever thought about how much money you would have if you did not have a mortgage? Ever thought about getting rid of your mortgage? Short of winning the lottery and paying off the house, here are a few ideas to help a person become mortgage free as soon as possible.

1. Pay extra each month on your mortgage. This will reduce the number of years that we have to make payments. Even if it is only one or two years, which is a positive gain.
2. Make one additional monthly payment each year.
3. Some mortgage companies allow bi-weekly payment plans. This also results in an extra payment being credited to your account.
4. Round up your payment from \$551 to \$600. The extra amount is paying off principal on the back end.
5. Re-fi for either a lower interest rate or a shorter period.
6. Deposit any large check, inheritance, bonus, windfall, etc.

A large graphic for Life Insurance Awareness Month. On the left, the text "Life Insurance Awareness Month" is written in blue and green, with a small heart icon below it. Below that, a dark blue banner says "September 2026". To the right of the banner is a circular logo with a stylized tree. Further right, the text "Protect what matters most. Today. Tomorrow. Always." is displayed. The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of a family (father, mother, and two children) walking hand-in-hand on a path through a sunlit park.

Thought For The Month:

If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you.

Slovak proverb

The Community Corner

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



September can be a busy month filled with back to school and the start of fall fun but make sure to make some time for NSS Life Events and programs in your busy schedule! As I enter my third year with NSS Life, I can surely say that we have an event or program for everyone!



Septemberfest

You know what time it is! The perfect time to celebrate Slovakian heritage! AKA time for Septemberfest at the NSS History Museum! Join us on Saturday, September 26th from 11am-4:00pm for our annual celebration of Slovakian culture! Get a jump on your holiday shopping at the “International Market” which will feature plenty of local artisans and vendors! The NSS Heritage Museum will be open for tours, and will feature additional vendors and activities! My favorite part is always the Slovak Kitchen, where you can enjoy delicious homemade Slovakian cuisine! I am currently counting down the days until I have a warm bowl of Haluski in my hands! You sure don’t want to miss out on Septemberfest on Saturday, September 26th at the NSS Heritage Museum (351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317).



Photo Contest

Grab your phone or a camera for the chance to win cash prizes in NSS Life’s annual photo contest! NSS members of all ages are encouraged to submit original photos they have taken to the following categories: “Nature/Wildlife”, “Human Interest”, “Travel”, and “The Best Photo I have ever taken”! Physical photos can be submitted via mail to the NSS Life Home Office 1301 Ashwood Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Digital photo submissions can be emailed to Member and Community Engagement Associate, Jamie Belding, at jbelding@nsslife.org. If submitting entries for multiple people digitally, please specify what photos belong to who, and what category they belong in. The top three winners in each category will be awarded cash prizes as well as the coveted “Best Overall” award! The Best Overall photo will also serve as the official cover of an upcoming edition of the *National News*! Whether you consider yourself an amateur or a pro, the photo contest is a great chance to show off your photo skills! Full contest rules are available later within this edition and all submissions are due by October 31st.



Pumpkin Decorating Contest

If you have already shed your summer shells and embraced the fall fun, then I have good news for you! We are already accepting submissions for the 2026 Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Why not slip into the scariest season a little early and decorate a pumpkin to enter for the chance to win cash prizes! NSS Members of all ages can submit photos of their pumpkin creations to either the “Painted” or “Carved” categories for the chance to win! Turn your normal family tradition into a competition by having the whole family enter! Who will be the pick of the patch? Find out by submitting photos via email to jbelding@nsslife.org by October 31st!

Social Media

Need an extra reminder on all the fun contests going on? Follow us on Instagram (@NationalSlovakSociety), Facebook (@NSS Life) and LinkedIn (@NSS Life) to receive extra information and reminders for all NSS Life Contests!

2026 National Golf Tournament Results

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

Name	Gross	Handicap	Score	Winners
Member Flights A & B				
Pytel, Shawn	101	35	66	First Place
DePersis, Nick	82	14	68	Second Place
Blum, Alex	88	18	70	Third Place
Czarney, Mike	88	15	73	
Froehlich, Dan	117	39	78	
Berner, Josh	114	35	79	
Pytel, Matt	118	36	82	
Montrunecs, Art	125	40	85	
SirLouis, Bob	129	40	89	
Senior Member Flights A & B				
Hoche, William	96	29	67	First Place
Stefka, Joe	89	20	69	Second Place
Suess, Albert	85	14	71	Third Place Tie
Rainey, Ken	86	15	71	Third Place Tie
Pytel, Dave	100	27	73	
Cooper, Ron	102	28	74	
Froehlich, Chuck	103	24	79	
Crowley, Kevin	106	26	80	
Lako, Ray	95	13	82	
Morehart, Jim	113	28	85	
Grega, Mike	127	34	93	
Member Callaway				
SirLouis, Alex	77	4	73	First Place
Vellente, John	82	9	73	Second Place
Elliott, Joe	94	21	73	Third Place
Suess, Damian	103	28	75	
Pytel, Doug	105	35	75	
Mason, Mark	113	38	75	
Mason, Matt	92	16	76	
Pytel, Chris	101	24	77	
Cooper, Chad	109	31	78	
Walker, Patrick	107	29	78	
Stuart, Steve	122	40	82	
Women's Member Callaway				
Tenney, Donna	108	29	79	First Place
Froehlich, Carol	119	40	79	Second Place
Broome, Jill	133	40	93	
Motrunecs, Mary Beth	170	40	130	
SirLouis, Stephanie	177	40	137	
Junior Member Callaway				
Bernardo, Carson	87	15	72	First Place
Mason, Cameron	110	33	77	
Guest Callaway				
Barron, Joe	86	12	74	First Place
Beattie, Jeff	91	16	75	Second Place
Minto, Don	92	17	75	Third Place
Phillips, Anthony	112	36	76	
Ravenscroft, Maxwell	107	31	76	
Motrunecs, Matt	110	32	78	
Sinagra, Dave	97	18	79	
Bateman, Kane	95	16	79	
Collins, Kevin	133	40	93	
Motrunecs, Jacob	133	40	93	

2026 National Golf Tournament Sunday Scramble Results

Names	Front 9	Back 9	Gross	Winners
Sunday Scramble				
Alex Blum, Chuck Froehlich, Steve Stuart	43	41	84	First Place
Carol Froehlich, Dave Pytel, Mike Reynolds, John Vellente	42	45	87	Second Place
Jeff Beattie, Ron Cooper, Kevin Crowley, Jacob Motrunecs	43	47	90	
Carson Bernardo, Chad Cooper, Shawn Pytel, Joe Stefka, Jr.	46	44	90	
Ray Lako, Chris Pytel, Dave Sinagra, Donna Tenney	46	45	91	
Joe Barron, Mike Grega, Matt Motrunecs, Doug Pytel	42	50	92	
Josh Berner, Kevin Collins, Mike Czarney	47	49	96	
Dan Froehlich, Matt Pytel, Alex SirLouis	49	49	98	

2026 National Golf Tournament Team Photos



L-R: Carson Bernardo, Joe Stefka, Jr., Mike Czarney, Kevin Collins



L-R: Kevin Crowley, Donna Tenney, Chad Cooper, Ron Cooper



L-R: Joe Elliott, Albert Suess, Damian Suess, Nick DePersis



L-R: Don Minto, Ken Rainey, John Vellente



L-R: Matt Pytel, Shawn Pytel, Chris Pytel, Dave Pytel



L-R: Jeff Beattie, Joe Barron, Ray Lako, Dave Sinagra



L-R: Doug Pytel, Alex Blum, Max Ravenscroft, Anthony Phillips



L-R: Patrick Walker, William Hoche, Mike Grega



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



L-R: Mark Mason, Cameron Mason, Matt Mason



L-R: Jim Morehart, Josh Berner, Dan Froehlich, Mike Reynolds



L-R: Alex SirLouis, Kane Bateman, Jacob Motrunecs, Matt Motrunecs



L-R: Art Motrunecs, Mary Beth Motrunecs, Stephanie SirLouis, Bob SirLouis



Carson Bernardo hitting a long drive



Justin Mann, the second Final Putt contestant, made the 50-ft. putt to win the \$1000 prize!

Scenes from the 2026 National Golf Tournament Hospitality Night & Banquet



Attendees of Hospitality night to kick off the weekend



Attendees of Assembly 0731 at the Hospitality Night



Food buffet at the Hospitality Night



Attendees purchasing putting attempts to earn chances to be selected for the 50-ft. Final Putt contest, all proceeds go towards the PVR Fund



Beautiful view from the Banquet



Gift baskets donated by members and assemblies to be won during the basket raffle



Final Tournament results posted at the Banquet



NSS Life branded merchandise for the raffle



The Reverse Golf Club Raffle clubs and bag, sponsored by Assembly 0774



L-R Back: Mark Mason, Matt Mason, Cameron Mason. Middle Front: Logan Mason



Paul Payerchin presented the "Floyd McKain One More Dollar" putting award to Justin Mann



Justin Mann was also the lucky winner of the Reverse Golf Club Raffle during the banquet

2026–2027 Scholarships – Perpetual Award Winners



Natalia DiSora
Assembly 0434
Wake Forest University
Health and Exercise Science
Mary B Burns Scholarship



Ethan Goldsworthy
Assembly 0108
University of Pittsburgh
Business
Assembly 065 Scholarship



Michael Heaberlin
Assembly 0731
John Carroll University
Finance
Assembly 065 Scholarship



Norah Hoffman
Assembly L102
Penn State University
Biomedical Engineering
Grogan Family Scholarship



Dane Ley
Assembly 0595
PennWest Clarion University
Applied Computing (Comp Sci and Software Eng.)
Impact and Analytics Scholarship



Ashlynn Mason
Assembly 0731
Kent State East Liverpool
Nursing
NSS Board of Directors Scholarship



Peyton Michaels
Assembly 0377
Carlow University
Biology/Cardiovascular Perfusion
Dr. John Gulash Scholarship



Joseph Nastasi
Assembly 0123
University of Maryland
Engineering
Assembly 0554 Scholarship



Enrique Ochoa
Assembly 0441
Penn State University
Chemical Engineering
125th Anniversary Scholarship



Alexis Panzik
Assembly 0617
University of Iowa
Chemical Engineering
Stephen J Trusik Scholarship



Pilar Prevoznik
Assembly R059
DeSales University
Chemistry and Dance
Assembly 0774 Arts and Humanities Scholarship



Zachary Puracchio
Assembly 0586
Concordia University Chicago
Secondary Education
Assembly 0774 Education Scholarship



Katelyn Yurick
Assembly 0737
University of Tampa
Pre-Physical Therapy
Mary Mravec Scholarship



Cole Zubaty
Assembly 0737
Saint Francis University
Pre-Med
Ann Marie Czarney Scholarship

2026–2027 – 1st Year Scholarship Recipients



Anthony Battaglia
Assembly 0731
Florida Gulf Coast University
Professional Golf Management



Diora Bender
Assembly 0100
University of Alabama – Birmingham
Business Management



Caitlin Burke
Assembly L105
University of Pittsburgh
Accounting



Grace Deemer
Assembly 0123
Slippery Rock University
Nursing



Addison Draa
Assembly 0731
Ohio State University
Marketing and English



McKenna Griffith
Assembly 0123
Waynesburg University
Forensic Science



Charlene Her
Assembly 0774
University of Minnesota
Pre-Med and Business



Sophie Herrold
Assembly 0617
Wilkes University
Marketing



Kyle Imm
Assembly 0123
Robert Morris University
Leadership and Organizational Studies



Alanna Imm
Assembly 0123
Community College of Allegheny
County Nursing

2026-2027 – 1st Year Scholarships Recipients Continued



Noah Koskey
Assembly 0123
Whitworth University
Physical Therapy



Gretchen Kropf
Assembly 0434
University of Dayton
Dietetics



Jonah Kue
Assembly 0774
Kellogg Community College
Nursing



Ian Layden
Assembly 0554
Pennsylvania State University
Economics/Business



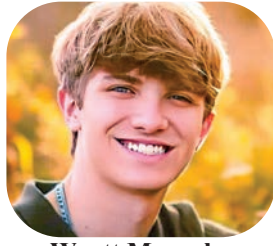
Brooke Ley
Assembly 0595
PennWest Clarion University
Business Management (Minor in HR)



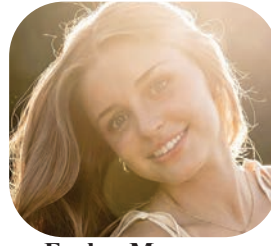
Alyssa Mancine
Assembly L161
Duquesne University
Elementary Education



Rebecca Martz
Assembly 0774
University of Pittsburgh
Psychology and Pre-Occupational Therapy



Wyatt Mazenko
Assembly 0267
Penn State Altoona
Mechanical Engineering



Evelyn Musgrave
Assembly 0774
University of Wisconsin - La Crosse
Biomedical Science



Feria Newman
Assembly 0554
Point Park University
Psychology



Angelina Och
Assembly 0123
Penn State University
Pre-Medical



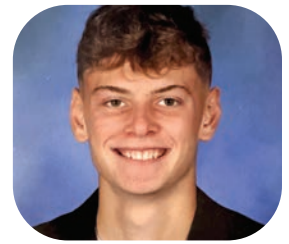
Odin Osborn
Assembly 0813
McPherson College
Psychology



Jacob Ostrowski
Assembly 0617
Christendom College
Liberal Arts



Madison Pratt
Assembly 0554
PennWest Edinboro
Nursing/Pre-Medical



Preston Rathway
Assembly 0377
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Business Management, Minor in Sports Marketing



Carter Simmen
Assembly 0377
Duquesne University
Finance



Fayth Thao
Assembly 0774
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Bio-Medical Sciences



Chole Triplett
Assembly L040
University of Pittsburgh - Bradford Campus
General Studies



Gabriella Vilchek
Assembly 0377
PennWest California University
Veterinary Medicine



Camille Vocelka
Assembly 0813
Creighton University
Nursing



Isabella Vue
Assembly 0774
Marquette University
Political Science and Sociology



Wyatt Williams
Assembly 0377
Slippery Rock University
Music Education



Kiely Wroblewski
Assembly 0123
University of Alabama
Chemistry and Pre-Med



Touzong Xiong
Assembly 0774
University of Wisconsin Stout
Mechanical Engineering



ASSEMBLY 0039

Uniontown, PA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

September 13th - A meeting will be held in the community room of the Bob Evans Restaurant, Uniontown, PA at 6:00 p.m. We will be remembering those who died on Flight 93. We will also hear reports from delegates to the recent NSS Convention.

September 26th - The "14th Annual Septemberfest" will be held at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum, 351 Valley Brook Road, 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: Robert A. Guynn, Charles E. Teeters, and Thomas Thorpe.

Our sympathies go out to the Wesnak Family who mourn the death of son, husband, brother, and friend Paul Wesnak. Paul tragically passed away traveling home from the recent NSS Convention.

Now is the time for you to get your creative artistic juices flowing for the NSS Photo Contest and the Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Information is in the *National News Magazine*. Your entry earns points for our assembly. Start planning TODAY to enter BOTH contests.

Don't forget to make your donation to our PVR Scholarship Campaign. Help us get over the top of our goal of \$2,000,000. We are almost there!!

Mark your calendars:

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

September 13th - 3rd Quarter meeting is scheduled for Sunday, at Bob Evans Restaurant starting at 6:00 pm.

See you at Bob Evans,

Paul Payerchin
Secretary

ASSEMBLY R059

Whitehall, PA

We held our July 26 meeting at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church following a very successful coffee hour/matching funds event. Proceeds were earmarked for the well project at San Andres Orthodox Seminary in Guatemala. Sincere thanks to President Alexandra Keysock and those who helped her!

Our next project will be a food drive from **October 1 to October 31** benefiting New Bethany Ministry. This matching fund event will take place at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church.

Belated greetings to William and Alexandra Keysock on their 50th wedding anniversary May 22 and to Francine Slivka on her birthday June 4. Upcoming greetings to Paula Lahutsky on her birthday, August 25, and Alexandra Keysock on her birthday, September 27. May God grant them every good thing! Paula and John Lahutsky will host the next meeting for R059 at their home on **October 25** at 2:00 p.m.

Michele Guydan
Secretary

ASSEMBLY 0070

Brooklyn, OH

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 a.m. 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

- **September 27th, 2026** - Our assembly is sponsoring the matching funds annual Montage Mount Ski Patrol Golf tournament at the Blue Ridge Gold Course
- **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

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

Seventeen assembly members and some guests attended our July picnic/meeting. Everyone seemed to enjoy the picnic, games and socializing. Some even enjoyed the meeting. There was a motion to separate activities and meetings. Pro: more members might come to activities if they didn't have to sit in a meeting. Con: this would add significantly to our event count and we may lack a quorum for meetings if people aren't drawn by an activity. The motion was defeated, but maybe you have other input. This can be brought up again (you'll have to come to a meeting, though.)

Assembly members have these matching fund events scheduled:

- **September 12th** - The 2026 American Legion Post 82 Family's Mi-

chael Weifenbach Memorial Charity Run. Contact nss123@email.com or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

- **September 26th** The Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation national "virtual walk".

Take note of these dates:

- **September 26th** – Septemberfest at the NSS Heritage Museum, McMurray (the old home office).
- **October 21st** - BINGO at the VA HJ Heinz Campus. Starts at 1:45 p.m. Assembly 123 participants get a \$5 discount on the Christmas party.
- **November 28th** - Christmas Around the World, at the NSS Heritage museum.
- **December 6th** - Christmas party and year-end meeting at Imperial SNPJ. We'll elect officers at this meeting.
- **February 21st** - "Our Town" at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center. This is tentative. Watch for details and updates.

For more information and/or to sign up, contact nss123@email.com or call 412-638-2754 or 412-638-7060.

We need your ideas for Christmas Party details and a service day. It needn't always be BINGO at a VA or a volunteer shift at Global Links.

Keep up to date at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/837496175759722>

Thank you for your attention.

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.

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:

- **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 Medi

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

Our assembly will meet on **October 22, 2026**, at a site to be announced.

For additional information contact John Kurilla, 570-239-5936, 570-287-4163, jjkurilla@aol.com

John Kurilla
President

ASSEMBLY 0731 Lowellville, OH

Summer Highlights & Upcoming Events

Assembly 731 members kicked off July with a fantastic evening at the Mahoning Valley Scrappers game at Eastwood Field in Niles. The night began with a delicious pre-game picnic featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, salad, mac & cheese, cookies, chips, and plenty of cold beverages. One of the most memorable moments of the evening came when Logan Mason celebrated his 8th birthday in grand style — the Scrappers honored him with the opportunity to throw out the first pitch of the game. Logan's excitement was contagious as he met the players and had his commemorative baseball signed. The Scrappers sealed the night with a dramatic bottom-of-the-9th win, and the Star Wars-themed fireworks provided the perfect finale to an unforgettable evening.

With so many members juggling busy summer schedules, we decided to pause our August picnic and movie night. We're aiming to reschedule the event for September, while the weather is still pleasant. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page and sent via email. If you prefer email notifications, please send your name and email address to: Laurie Fox at lamlfox@zoominternet.net.

Scavenger Hunt September 2–7 – Canfield Fair

Members are gearing up for this year's Scavenger Hunt at the Mahoning County Canfield Fair. To make participation easier for families balancing school, sports, and work, you may complete the hunt any day during the Fair. Stop by the Fox campsite, A-102, for instructions. Enjoy the Fair at your own pace, complete the search, and return your results to the Fox camper to receive a prize.

Septemberfest September 26, 11:00–4:00 p.m

Don't miss Septemberfest at the NSS Heritage Museum, 351 Valley Brook Rd., McMurray, PA. Spend a fun Saturday exploring the museum, browsing vendors, watching Slovakian dancers, enjoying children's games, visiting the bake sale, and savoring delicious Slovak food. It's always a wonderful day of culture and community.

Annual Halloween Hayride October 11, 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Join us at Countryside Farm for our popular Halloween Hayride. Register with Kathy Cessna at 330-559-8445 by October 1st. Costumes are encouraged, but warm clothing is essential. We'll be serving hot dogs and chili, and the evening includes: a hayride through the haunted woods; visit to the pumpkin patch; corn maze, and games for all ages. This event is free for members; non-member guests are welcome for \$10.

Photo & Pumpkin Contest Deadline October 31st

Submit your entries for the NSS Photo Contest and Pumpkin Decoration Contest by October 31. Many members decorated pumpkins from last year's hayride — so when you pick your pumpkin this year, choose one that inspires your creativity.

Assembly Business Meeting November 7, 2:00 p.m.

Members are invited to Kathy & Jim Cessna's home for our Assembly business meeting. We'll discuss ideas for 2027 activities, and youth members are especially encouraged to attend and share their suggestions. A craft session will be included to create Christmas ornaments for the NSS contest, and details about the Assembly Christmas Party will be announced. Everyone attending will be entered into a prize drawing.

Lauren Fox
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



REGION 8 Cleveland, OH

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

The Semi-Annual meeting of Region 8 will be hosted by Assembly 70. The meeting will be held at Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 4470 Ridge Road, Brooklyn, OH on **October 21, 2026** at 7:00 p.m.! (Please note time)

Plans for the upcoming year will be discussed, along with comments relative to the June National Convention that was held at Sawmill Creek recently.

Hope to see all assemblies from our region at this meeting

Carole Koches
Recording Secretary

Funny Jokes About School

- How did the student feel when he learned about electricity?
- Totally shocked.
- Why did the bikes get detention at school?
- They spoke too much.
- Why didn't anyone want to eat next to the basketball team?
- Because they dribble too much.
- What did the student say to the teacher after he missed the first day of school?
- No, ma'am. I didn't miss it at all.
- What school supply is king of the classroom?
- The ruler.

Assembly 731 Mahoning Valley Scrappers Game



Assembly members enjoyed their front row seats.



The kids love their Dip-n-Dots during the game.



Beth and Matt accompanied Logan to the field.



Walter Fox enjoyed time with a mascot.



Scrappy and Jade give Logan some encouragement before his first pitch.



The Miranda family, Lianna and Caleb and their parents, Alberto and Gina, enjoyed the amazing Star Wars themed fireworks after the game.

Assembly 123 Picnic



Members attending our picnic and meeting in July. Everyone had a wonderful time.

News from Assembly 617



Assembly 617 was active during the summer of 2026. The assembly met at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to tour the Murgas Museum, which is dedicated to Father Jozef Murgas, a brilliant technological pioneer in wireless communication. Father Murgas was born in Tajov, Slovakia, in 1864 and came to Wilkes-Barre in 1894 to minister to Slovak immigrants. In 1905, Father Murgas demonstrated his "tone method," a wireless communication system capable of transmitting voice and sound over long distances. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt visited Father Murgas to better understand his invention. He was also an accomplished artist and zoologist. Father also participated in the 1918 Pittsburgh Agreement meeting, which helped bring about an independent Czechoslovakia. The assembly was greeted by the Vice President of King's College along with other officials of the college. The college provided booklets to assembly members.

The assembly held the annual Fraternal Day in August. Details on this event will be in an upcoming publication. Assembly 617 will next meet on October 22, 2026, at a site to be announced.

For additional information contact John Kurilla, 570-239-5936, 570-287-4163, jkkurilla@aol.com

John Kurilla
President

Paul Wesnak Passes On Assembly L102



A Mother's Tribute

Paul Joseph Wesnak, 62, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania, formerly of Allentown and Schnecksville, passed away unexpectedly on June 18, 2026, while returning home from the National Slovak Society Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. A lifelong supporter of Slovak fraternal organizations and a proud advocate for his Slovak heritage, Paul remained actively involved throughout his life in the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle and, after the organizations' merger, in the National Slovak Society. His connection to these organizations ran deep. His mother, Justine Wesnak, served as President and CEO of the FSWFE until 1997, when that organization merged with The National Slovak Society, where his brother Drew serves as a Director,

Paul, along with his older brothers Drew and Mike, proudly participated in conventions, activities, and events of both societies from birth. He cherished the friendships, traditions, and sense of community these Societies provided and remained committed to preserving his heritage and helping others to do the same. And now, this Mother's heart will tell you of my treasured memories of Paul, my wonderful child, who grew to be an exceptional man. Paul was born on August 31, 1963, in Allentown, Pennsylvania. From the day his Daddy, Andrew "Bucky," and I brought him home, our beautiful baby was our pride and joy. He was always positive, even when others might have been discouraged.

Paul was quietly profound even as a child. A few days after he first went to school, he asked me, "Mommie, does my teacher sleep behind the piano?" A few years later, when he and I were taking a walk, he asked me, "Mommie, does God understand when people pray in all different languages?" I told him that God knows everything. He thought for a few minutes and then remarked, "Wow! God must really be smart".

Like his brothers, he loved participating in all Little League sports; unlike his brothers, who excelled as athletes, Paul tried hard but wasn't even adequate. We all thought he was just clumsy. However, he was a very talented artist. Because he loved drawing, especially familiar cartoon characters and unusual but beautiful houses. Even as a very young man, Paul enjoyed coming along when we visited our

friends' newly built homes. He always gave a critique on our way home. His ideas about how he would lay out rooms and exterior structures were usually better than the finished homes. Naturally, we thought he had found his forte. I guess he did because he chose Architecture as his life's work.

Following his graduation with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture, Paul built a successful career as an architect with Posocco Home Builders in Allentown. He took great pride in his work and in helping bring countless projects and homes to life throughout the Lehigh Valley. Colleagues, clients, and friends admired his creativity, professionalism, dedication, and eagerness to help others build their dream homes.

Paul was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy when he was 16. When I asked him about his thoughts, he said, "At least now I know why I could hit a ball far enough for anyone else to score a home run when I could only reach second base".

Paul always loved the beach. Stone Harbor, New Jersey, held a special place in Paul's heart. Our family vacationed there for more than 40 years in August. He was especially happy when his best friends Andy and John could join us. These "Three Musketeers" have remained best buddies since they met as teenagers. As each married, adding special memories of times together became even more precious.

On July 9, 2005, Paul married the love of his life, Carolyn "Sue" Rehrer. Together, they shared 21 years of marriage filled with love, laughter, family, vacations, travel, and treasured memories. For the past ten years, the couple has also loved vacationing at the Islander Beach Resort in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Paul especially loved it there because they could park the van right on the beach, giving him the freedom to roll around in his wheelchair. Although he retired at a relatively young age due to the effects of Muscular Dystrophy, Paul never allowed his illness to define him. Living with the disease and spending more than 20 years confined to his wheelchair, he faced every day with remarkable courage, optimism, and gratitude. When asked how he was doing, his response was always the same: "I'm good."

One of Paul's proudest accomplishments came in 2010, when he fulfilled a lifelong dream of skydiving while raising funds and awareness for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. His inspiring jump was featured on WFMZ-TV in a story titled "Man with MD Fulfills Dream, Goes Skydiving." The Whitehall paper covered the story under the caption "Schnecksville Man Can't Walk, But He Can Fly". He enjoyed skydiving each of the next four years. When the rest of us saw problems, he jumped out of a plane. Despite the challenges he faced, Paul demonstrated the courage, determination, and positive spirit that defined his life. His willingness to take that leap inspired many and reflected his belief that life should be lived fully, regardless of the obstacles one may encounter.

Paul was devoted to his family and joined them in community activities and raising funds for charitable organizations. He enjoyed traveling, spending time with family and friends, and sharing laughter with those he loved. He followed all sports on TV and was often very vocal when

he disagreed with officials' decisions. He cheered for outstanding plays and voiced frustration at those that were botched. He was happiest cheering on his favorite teams, especially the Pittsburgh Steelers. Friends with box seats, when unable to attend a Steelers game, would give their tickets to a delighted Paul and Sue.

Paul was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. His strength, resilience, sense of humor, and warm smile touched countless lives. Even while facing extraordinary physical challenges, he maintained an active and fulfilling life, setting an example for others. Many found themselves inspired by his ability to face adversity with grace and positivity, helping them view their own struggles in a different light.

Paul deeply loved his family and treasured every moment spent with them. He is survived by his devoted wife, Carolyn "Sue" Wesnak; his mother, Justine Wesnak; his brothers, Drew Wesnak and his wife, Sharon; Mike Wesnak and his wife, Wanda; his daughters, Samantha Wesnak and Madison Wesnak; his stepdaughters, Kelly Danner and her husband, Chris; Beth-Ann Quickel and her husband, Dan; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, extended family members, and cherished friends whose lives were enriched by knowing him.

Paul was preceded in death by his father, Andrew "Bucky" Wesnak, his grandparents, many aunts, uncles, relatives, and friends who welcomed him into eternal rest.

Paul's legacy is one of courage, kindness, perseverance, and unwavering positivity. He taught those around him that life is not measured by the challenges we face, but by the love we share, the people we inspire, and the joy we bring to others. Though he will be profoundly missed, his spirit lives on in the countless lives he touched and the example he set.

Paul, I thank the good Lord for choosing me to be your mother. My prayer for you is that you are now walking with Daddy, in the presence of God, as you wait for me to join you in Heaven. God Bless!

*Mom
Justine Wesnak*



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!!**

PVR Recipient Thank You



My name is Mitchell Bradford, and I am one of the PVR scholarship recipients for this year, as I have been the past three years as well. I am currently a rising senior at NC State studying Biomedical Engineering and Integrated Health, Wellness, and Human Performance. I wanted to extend a great thank you for the work you do and for the opportunities the NSS Life community provides.

This summer, I have been interning at Kriya Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing life-changing gene therapies for conditions affecting millions of people worldwide and making those therapies accessible. I work in the process development team, which focuses on refining the processes used by the company for the production of the therapies. Along with this great opportunity, I have been blessed with many other experiences throughout my college career. After my freshman year, I studied abroad in Prague, Czech Republic, where I worked in a bioimaging research lab during the week and traveled around Europe on the weekends. Sophomore year, I researched in a tissue engineering lab on campus, which focused on ACL injuries. I am currently involved with many other groups at school, including the club water polo team, Benjamin Franklin Scholars, Chancellor's Aides, lifeguard/CPR instructors, personal trainers, and the Engineering Career Fair Coordinator team. I would have been able to participate in none of these great opportunities without the help of scholarships. Best Regards.

Mitchell Bradford

National Hispanic Heritage Tue, Sep 15, 2026 – Thur, Oct 15, 2026



This period honors the history, culture, and vital contributions of American citizens whose ancestors trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Spanish-speaking nations of the Caribbean.

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 JULY 2026

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Alexander, Emma Sue	Spencer, WV	03/25/2026	0774
Allen, Georgene H	Bridgeville, PA	07/11/2026	0434
Arison, Ellen	Vanderbilt, PA	07/12/2026	0039
Armstrong, Robert	Altoona, PA	06/22/2026	0267
Armstrong, Elissa	Philadelphia, PA	07/12/2026	L102
Ashbaugh, Louise M	Ligonier, PA	06/24/2026	0774
Augustine, Juanita	Annapolis, MD	05/21/2026	0774
Austin, Herbert	Corry, PA	07/16/2026	0774
Babko, Amelia T	Brownsville, PA	07/03/2026	0377
Barger, Nelson	East Brady, PA	06/25/2026	0123
Barnett, Barbara	Kingwood, WV	06/09/2026	0774
Bartus, Matthew	Penn Run, PA	06/15/2026	0100
Bayer, Joseph W	Mc Kees Rocks, PA	05/22/2026	L161
Bernazzoli, Mario	Chalfont, PA	06/21/2026	R059
Bias, Vieve	Prichard, WV	06/26/2026	0774
Blair, Margaret A	Meadville, PA	06/15/2026	0731
Bly, Dorothy M	Cabot, PA	06/26/2026	0123
Boltz, Foster	Kittanning, PA	07/13/2026	L161
Bosak, John L	De Lancey, PA	08/06/2025	0554
Bowser, Joyce	Seneca, PA	07/12/2026	0554
Boyer, Marvin	Fleetwood, PA	07/13/2026	L102
Boyer, Mary J	Zion, IL	08/10/2025	0586
Brademeyer, Robert C	Gold Canyon, AZ	05/22/2026	0774
Bradick, Delores A	Aliquippa, PA	07/09/2026	0123
Brady, Vicki	Bentleyville, PA	07/05/2026	0377
Brown, Patricia Ann	Boardman, PA	07/14/2026	0731
Buoncuore, Russell M	Woodstown, NJ	06/04/2026	0774
Burke, Joseph	Pittsburgh, PA	06/30/2026	0100
Caliari, Joseph	Dubois, PA	03/23/2026	0554
Capuano, Ann	Verona, PA	07/14/2026	L105
Carey, Barbara J	Auburn, IN	06/20/2026	0586
Carlos, William Edward	Fort Mill, SC	06/30/2026	0774
Carr, Jacqueline	Steubenville, OH	06/08/2026	0588
Chester, Douglas	Cambridge Springs, PA	07/09/2026	0774
Clark, Charlotte	Masontown, PA	07/06/2026	0039
Collins, Janet	Glendale, WV	06/06/2026	0774
Conley, Sally Ann	Cranberry Twp, PA	06/17/2026	0123
Convery, Francis J	Butler, PA	07/06/2026	0123
Cross, William Sr	Uniontown, PA	06/30/2026	0039
Crowe, Anne B	Cincinnati, OH	05/19/2026	0595
Darnay, Olga C	West Mifflin, PA	01/21/2026	0441
Dautrich, Marilyn	Hamburg, PA	06/21/2026	0774
Davin, Mary Ann	Harwick, PA	07/04/2026	L105
Desko, Clara	Dublin, PA	06/26/2026	R059
Ecklund, Ann	Tobaccoville, NC	07/24/2026	0774
Edwards, David	Maple Heights, OH	05/11/2026	0070
Evkovich, Patricia B	Laytonsville, MD	12/31/2023	0737
Ezari, Helen G	Washington, PA	07/12/2026	0588
Feltenberger, Eleanor S	Tyrone, PA	07/06/2026	0267
Fischer, Janet	Bayside, WI	06/22/2026	0774
Fisher, Clement S	Marshfield, WI	04/26/2026	0774
Frey, Marilyn E	Lehigh, PA	06/25/2026	L102
Fryberger, Donald	Pottstown, PA	06/12/2026	L102
Gardner, Donna	Prospect, PA	07/21/2026	0731
Gasior, Laverne A	Finleyville, PA	05/18/2026	0434
Gates, Charlotte	State College, PA	06/14/2026	0267
Geiser, Daniel	St Mary's, PA	06/13/2026	0554
Geletka, Melanie M	Masury, OH	07/13/2026	0731
Geyser, Raymond	McKees Rocks, PA	06/07/2026	0123
Gionti, Mark	Titusville, PA	07/08/2026	0554
Grant, Norma J	Ebensburg, PA	07/05/2026	0267
Hamblin, Laurie J	Lexington, KY	05/26/2026	0774
Hamilton, Marlene	Columbus, OH	07/05/2026	0554
Hanson, Marilyn A	Sheboygan, WI	06/22/2026	0774
Heintz, Shirley C	Statesville, NC	05/24/2026	0774
Henderson, Rena J	Indiana, PA	07/20/2026	L105
Herbert, James P	Mc Donald, PA	06/17/2026	0588

DEPARTED MEMBERS JULY 2026

(Continued from page 22)

Name	City and State	Date of Death	Assembly
Hershman, Julie	Jacksonville, FL	07/07/2026	0774
Hill, Betty	Bellefonte, PA	07/13/2026	L040
Huber, Kathryn A	Titusville, PA	06/14/2026	0731
Hudak, Janet	Prospect, PA	07/12/2026	0123
Hudak, Michael	Sarasota, FL	01/26/2023	L075
Isolampi, Shirley A	Merrillville, IN	05/04/2026	0705
Jaskiewicz, Berdina	Erie, PA	05/29/2026	0731
Jessup, Joyce A	McKeesport, PA	06/21/2026	0108
Jones, Alexia	Belle Vernon, PA	06/20/2026	0377
Joyce, Gary	Clifton, NJ	05/06/2026	0110
Jusko, Michael	Ogden, UT	05/02/2026	0004
Kocik, Andrew E	Connellsville, PA	07/09/2026	0039
Krchmar, Jack A	Koppell, PA	06/24/2026	0123
Kreiser, Shirley	Middletown, PA	07/07/2026	L102
Kynik, Stefan	Venetia, PA	04/17/2026	0434
Landau, Judith	Pittsburgh, PA	06/24/2026	0123
Macri, Frances C	Pittsburgh, PA	07/17/2026	0108
Madgon, Karen	Pomona, NJ	06/07/2026	L075
Maloney, Charles	Ansted, WV	05/31/2026	0774
Marsilio, Marie	Baden, PA	07/01/2026	0123
Martin, Laura Lee	Clymer, NY	07/05/2026	0731
Matessa, Carol A	Johnstown, PA	05/18/2026	0267
Medvan, Michael	Pittsburgh, PA	06/22/2026	0100
Merenda, Catherine B	Philadelphia, PA	05/25/2026	R059
Mikush, Janet	Ambridge, PA	05/18/2026	0123
Miller, Marjorie C	Zelienople, PA	07/10/2026	0123
Neely, William David	Indiana, PA	07/26/2026	L105
Nelson, Lucy	Corry, PA	07/01/2026	0774
O Farrell, David W	South Park, PA	07/01/2026	0434
Olshanski, Paula S	Canonsburg, PA	06/04/2026	0434
Petricoin, Janet	Reading, PA	06/26/2026	L102
Pietropaoli, Amerigo A	Alexandria, VA	07/10/2026	0774
Pinkerton, Randy	Lancaster, PA	06/25/2026	0774
Powell, Craig	Saegertown, PA	06/24/2026	0731
Rahn, Dorothy	Fairmont, WV	06/08/2026	0774
Rak, Robert	Irwin, PA	05/20/2026	0737
Richards, Linda	Wexford, PA	06/10/2026	L161
Rodgers, Barry A	Altoona, PA	07/01/2026	0267
Rutland, Barbara	Uniontown, PA	07/15/2026	0039
Scarfone, Patricia A	Carnegie, PA	07/05/2026	0100
Scrip, Shirley	Grindstone, PA	07/22/2026	0377
Seaman, Donald	Waban, MA	05/09/2026	0123
Sedlak, Evelyn L	North Charleroi, PA	06/21/2026	0377
Shank, Helen	St Clair Shores, MI	06/21/2026	0381
Shollenberger, Richard D	Greenville, PA	06/23/2026	0731
Skvarka, Geraldine	Moundsville, WV	06/13/2026	0774
Smith, Harry	St Alban, WV	05/31/2026	0774
Snow, Ruth A	Blairsville, PA	07/19/2026	0737
Snyder, Marie	Pittsburgh, PA	08/05/2025	L161
Sweeney, Christine	St Mary's, PA	07/09/2026	0554
Tkalec, Evelyn K	Youngstown, OH	10/21/2025	0731
Topley, Frances B	Gibsonia, PA	01/20/2026	0434
Ulakovich, George M	Monongahela, PA	06/26/2026	0377
Vokes, Howard	New Kensington, PA	06/05/2026	L105
Ward, Esther Ann	Spencer, WV	06/17/2026	0774
Webb, Nancy	Beckley, WV	06/04/2026	0774
Welch, Lucy M	Scottdale, PA	06/23/2026	0039
Wesnak, Paul	Whitehall, PA	06/18/2026	L102
Wharton, Renata	Rockbridge, OH	05/28/2026	0595
Wilburn, Cathern	Beaver, WV	06/06/2026	0774
Wilson, Ann Marie	Brownsville, PA	06/20/2026	0377
Wilson, Robert E	West Alexander, PA	07/19/2026	0434
Witt, Lois	Pittsburgh, PA	08/28/2025	0100
Wyllie, Kathleen M	Washington, PA	07/07/2026	0377
Young, Stanley	Lehigton, PA	07/07/2026	L102
Zalewski, Rosemary	Warren, MI	06/29/2026	0381



PVR Scholarship Fund Donations July 2026

DONATE TO THE PVR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Every penny donated goes directly into the PVR Scholarship Fund. Your donation may benefit your own son, daughter, niece or nephew.

In Memory of **Deceased Members from Assembly 123: (May)** 100.00

Joseph Bozek, Ada P. Carfagna
Anna L. Gnan, Edith Mae Holetich
Joseph A. Mecklem, Patricia Melnik
Eric J. Wheeler

In Memory of **Paul Wesnak:**

From Paul Payerchin..... 250.00

In Memory of **Paul Wesnak:**

From David Blazek 50.00

In Memory of their parents **Ruth and**

Loren Burns and Peggy and Larry Fox:

From Mike & Laurie Fox ..1,000.00

In Memory of **Shaun Logan Crowley:**

From Kevin, Lori, Kevin Jr.,
& John Crowley20.00

Reading Matters

From David Zemelman 50.00

Donations:

James Czarney 500.00

Director Michael Czarney .. 50.00

Director Andrew Wesnak ... 50.00

Director Sue Ondrejco and
husband Rudy 125.55

Assembly 731 100.00

H2R CPA5,000.00

2026 Golf Tourn.....4,617.00

Turning Point Resid.3,000.00

Assembly 100-60 for 60 ..60.00

Director Michael Czarney

Convention Salary..... 375.00

Anonymous 325.00

John and Erin Katricak

Convention Donation..... 287.80

Keith Kucherawy..... 250.00

Total..... 16,230.35

September



Happy September, everyone! Can you believe we are already heading into fall? As the summer heat starts to back down, this month is the perfect time to settle back into our routines, catch up with fellow members, and think about the future. Whether you are prepping the kids for school or just looking forward to cooler weather, September brings a great chance to reset, protect what matters most, and make sure your financial goals are right on track for the rest of the year.



Rise of the Potato in Slovak Cuisine

Part 2

Before the arrival of the potato, the Slovak diet heavily relied on millet, buckwheat, and rutabagas. Because potatoes thrive in cold climates, they easily adapted to Slovak soil. They quickly replaced older root crops as the main source of daily bulk calories. They became the basis for several enduring national and regional dishes:

Bryndzové Haluške: This dish consists of small, boiled grated potato dumplings mixed with tangy sheep's milk cheese (*bryndza*) and often topped with crispy smoked pork fat. It evolved into the undisputed national dish of Slovakia.

Lokše: Traditional potato flatbreads that are baked on a dry pan, often enjoyed on their own, brushed with goose or duck fat, or stuffed with sweet or savory fillings.

Pagáč: Savory, layered baked pastries made with potato dough, traditionally served during holidays and Christmas Eve.

Zemiakové Placky: These traditional Slovak potato pancakes are crisp on the outside and tender, garlicky on the inside. Made with grated raw potatoes, garlic, marjoram, and a little flour, they are pan-fried in hot oil or lard and served warm as a hearty snack or side dish, especially during the autumn and winter months. In the United States, potato pancakes are likely one of the most popular Slovak side dishes, so be sure to try the recipe below and enjoy this classic favorite at home.

Slovak Potato Pancakes Zemiakové placky

5 large potatoes, peeled and finely grated
3 – 4 cloves of garlic, crushed or minced
3 – 5 TBSP of all purpose flour (adjust as needed)
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon dried marjoram

1 small onion, finely grated

1 large egg

½ teaspoon black pepper

Vegetable oil or pork fat for frying



Instructions

1. **Prepare the Batter:** In a large mixing bowl, combine the finely grated potatoes and onion. (For a thicker, less watery batter, you can lightly squeeze out excess liquid but leave some moisture.)
2. **Season:** Add the minced garlic, egg, flour, salt, pepper, and marjoram. Stir until the mixture forms a thick, scoopable batter. If it's too runny, add a tablespoon of flour at a time.
3. **Heat the Pan:** Add a generous layer of oil (about 1/4 inch) to a large skillet and heat it over medium-high heat.
4. **Fry the Pancakes:** Spoon portions of the batter into the hot oil. Use the back of a spoon to flatten them out into thin, 4- to 5-inch rounds.
5. **Cook:** Fry for about 3 to 4 minutes per side, until they reach a deep, crispy golden-brown.
6. **Drain & Serve:** Transfer the cooked pancakes to a paper towel-lined plate to drain excess oil. Serve warm, often enjoyed on their own or with a side of sour cream or mushroom sauce.

Interesting Facts About Potatoes

Potatoes are amazing crops that were first cultivated by the Incas in Peru thousands of years ago. They are the fourth most important food crop in the world and consist of approximately 80% water; the French Queen Marie Antoinette turned potato blossoms into a fashion trend by wearing them in her hair and on her clothing.

Source: Idaho Potato Museum

September



Prajem všetkým krásny september! Veríte, že už smerujeme do jesene? Keďže letné horúčavy pomaly ustupujú, tento mesiac je ideálny na návrat k zabehnutým zvykom, stretnutia s ostatnými členmi a zamyslenie sa nad budúcnosťou. Či už pripravujete deti do školy, alebo sa jednoducho tešíte na chladnejšie počasie, september prináša skvelú príležitosť na nový začiatok, ochranu toho, na čom nám najviac záleží, a uistenie sa, že vaše finančné ciele sú na správnej ceste pre zvyšok roka.



Vzostup zemiakov v slovenskej kuchyni –

2. časť

Pred príchodom zemiakov tvorili základ slovenského jedálnička najmä proso, pohánka a kvaka. Keďže zemiakom vyhovuje chladnejšie podnebie, na slovenskej pôde sa ľahko udomácnili. Rýchlo nahradili staršie druhy okopanín a stali sa hlavným zdrojom sýtej stravy. Položili tiež základ viacerým obľúbeným národným i regionálnym jedlám:

Bryndzové halušky: Toto jedlo tvoria drobné halušky z nastrúhaných zemiakov zmiešané s pikantným ovčím syrom (bryndzou); často sa podávajú posypané chrumkavou opraženou slaninou. Stali sa nespochybniteľným národným jedlom Slovenska.

Lokše: Tradičné zemiakové placky pečené na suchej panvici. Často sa konzumujú samotné, potreté husacou či kačacou masťou alebo plnené sladkými či slanými plnkami.

Pagáč: Slané, vrstvené pečivo zemiakového cesta, ktoré sa tradične podáva počas sviatkov a na Štedrý večer.

Zemiakové placky: Tieto tradičné slovenské zemiakové placky sú zvonka chrumkavé a vo vnútri vláčne, s výraznou chuťou cesnaku. Pripravujú sa zo strúhaných surových zemiakov, cesnaku, majoránu a trochy múky; vyprážajú sa na horúcom oleji alebo bravčovej masti a podávajú sa teplé ako sýta pochúťka alebo príloha, najmä počas jesenných a zimných mesiacov. V Spojených štátoch patria zemiakové placky medzi najobľúbenejšie slovenské prílohy, preto určite vyskúšajte nižšie uvedený recept a vychutnajte si túto klasiku aj doma.

Zemiakové placky

5 veľkých zemiakov, ošúpaných a najemno nastrúhaných

3 – 4 strúčiky cesnaku, pretlačené alebo nasekané

3 – 5 polievkových lyžíc hladkej múky (množstvo upravte podľa potreby)

1 čajová lyžička soli

1 čajová lyžička sušeného majoránu

1 malá cibuľa, najemno nastrúhaná

1 veľké vajce

½ čajovej lyžičky čierneho korenia

Rastlinný olej alebo bravčová masť na vyprážanie



Postup

1.Príprava cesta: Vo veľkej mise zmiešajte najemno nastrúhané zemiaky a cibuľu. (Ak chcete hustejšie cesto s menším obsahom vody, môžete zmes zľahka vyžmýkať, no ponechajte v nej trochu vlhkosti.)

2.Dochutenie: Pridajte cesnak, vajce, múku, soľ, korenie a majorán. Miešajte, kým nevznikne husté cesto, ktoré sa dá naberať. Ak je príliš riedke, postupne pridávajte po jednej lyžici múky.

3.Rozohriatie panvice: Do veľkej panvice nalejte dostatočnú vrstvu oleja (približne 0,6 cm / 1/4 palca) a zohrejte ho na stredne silnom až silnom plameni.

4.Vyprážanie placiek: Do horúceho oleja naberajte porcie cesta. Zadnou stranou lyžice ich roztlačte na tenké placky s priemerom približne 10 – 13 cm (4 – 5 palcov).

5.Pečenie: Vyprážajte približne 3 až 4 minúty z každej strany, kým placky nezískajú sýtu, chrumkavú zlatohnedú farbu.

6.Odkvapkávanie a podávanie: Hotové placky preložte na tanier vystlaný papierovou utierkou, aby odtiekol prebytočný olej. Podávajte teplé – často chutia výborne samotné alebo s kyslou smotanou či hubovou omáčkou.

Zaujímavosti o zemiakoch

Zemiaky sú úžasné plodiny, ktoré pred tisíckami rokov v Peru ako prví pestovali Inkovia. Sú štvrtou najvýznamnejšou potravinovou plodinou na svete, tvoria ich približne z 80 % voda. Francúzska kráľovná Mária Antoinetta spravila z kvetov zemiakov módný hit tým, že ich nosila vo vlasoch a na oblečení.

PVR News

The PVR Fund Board of Directors wishes you a September full of positivity, peace, and purpose. As we welcome a new season and a new school year, we are grateful to all of our members and friends for your support!

PVR Profiles



We love hearing from you!



Donate
online
today!



My name is Mitchell Bradford, and this is my fourth year receiving a PVR Scholarship. I am a rising senior at NC State, studying Biomedical Engineering and Integrated Health, Wellness, and Human Performance.

During my college career, I studied abroad in Prague, Czech Republic, where I worked in a research lab during the week and traveled around Europe on the weekends. I also researched in a tissue engineering lab on campus, focusing on ACL injuries. This summer, I was an intern at Kriya Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company that develops life-changing gene therapies for conditions affecting millions of people worldwide.

I am currently involved with many other groups at school, including the club water polo team, Benjamin Franklin Scholars, Chancellor's Aides, lifeguard/CPR instructors, personal trainers, and the Engineering Career Fair Coordinator team. I would not have been able to participate in these great opportunities without the help of scholarships. Thank you for the work you do and for the opportunities the NSS Life community provides.

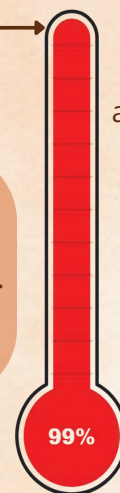
To submit your own story for one of our PVR Profiles, send an update to jpayerchin@nsslife.org

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



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. Your service helps your community AND the PVR Fund! 2025 was a record year for service hours - keep up the good work!

\$1,984,351



As of July 31, 2026, we are only **\$13,659** away from \$2 million!



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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.



Chairman of the Board Robert Katricak and wife Chris's grandchildren which are all members of Circle 0160.

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.



Secretary/Treasurer John Payerchin's grandchildren enjoying their vacation before school starts. L-R: Marcie Payerchin, Stella Zeigler, Avie Payerchin, Claire Zeigler

National Slovak Society
1301 Ashwood Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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THE NSS HERITAGE MUSEUM PRESENTS
Septemberfest

Saturday, September 26, 2026 • NSS Life Heritage Museum

