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Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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JANUARY 2016



The
First Catholic
Slovak Ladies
Association
Board of Directors
Extend our Sincere
Wishes of Peace,
Love and Hope.

Wishing You and
Your Family a
Happy, Healthy, and
Prosperous 2016.

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



ISSN 0897-2958



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,
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LET GO OF YOUR GRUDGES . . .

As we approach the New Year I thought it was wise to share with you the words and advice of Michael Josephson, “it’s a good time to clean out the clutter in our lives. That means disposing of useless papers, and unused stuff, but also throwing away old grudges.”

The prevalence and durability of grudges proves Maya Angelou’s observation that people don’t always remember what you said or did, but they do remember how you made them feel.

Grudges are nothing more than toxic memories of how someone made us feel.

But Confucius taught that “To be wronged is nothing unless we continue to remember it.” So why do so many of us choose to consciously preserve and revisit toxic feelings that detract from our happiness?

Perhaps we fool ourselves into thinking we can inflict some sort of pain on the person who wronged us. In fact, holding on to a grudge is like holding on to a hot stone. It doesn’t hurt the stone or the person who gave it to us; it only hurts the one holding it. Carrying a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee.

It doesn’t matter how justified the bitter feelings are or how right we are. Holding on to a grievance turns pain into suffering. In a peculiar way it empowers the wrongdoer to hurt us again and again.

So start out this New Year of 2016 by giving yourself a great gift. Muster the good sense and strength to root out and release deep-seated and long-held resentments.

If you can, forgive and forget. But all that’s really necessary is a firm decision to let go of your grudges so you can move forward and free yourself of the chains of resentment.

Dear Friends,

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,

But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,

and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God’s love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

Happy New Year!

Until Next Month....Warmly **Carolyn**

THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY ~ MERCY GIVES WAY TO HOPE ~

Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, D. Min., J.C.L., National Chaplain

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, inaugurated an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy this past December asking Catholics and all people to better their awareness of God's mercy and how we must experience this gift with one another. God's mercy is freely bestowed on all of us, created in God's image and likeness, and we must harbor mercy with one another, called to image that mercy in the Person of His Son and our brother, Jesus Christ. In becoming a more merciful people, we reflect the image of hope that the Judeo-Christian message repeated throughout salvation history, especially in Christ's resurrection.

There are many stories of mercy that gave hope to Yahweh's people – just look to the many covenants that God established. For example, Yahweh continually showed mercy to the Chosen People prior to and after the bestowing of the Ten Commandments, traversing in the desert with Moses during the forty years as recorded in the *Book of Exodus*. After they left the land of Egypt, time and again the people strayed from loving Yahweh and complained about their situations. In mercy, Yahweh forgave them from their sins of doubt in Him and bestowed hope by assisting in the situations they had encountered. As they traveled forth, they

eventually reached the Promised Land and through the realization of Yahweh's mercy, their hope gave way to the reality of the Promise.

In the Christian Scriptures, Jesus' mercy is a way of hope to all He encounters in His ministry, e.g., the blind, the crippled, the infirm, the possessed, the dead, the unbelievers. God's loving mercy is foundational in the person of Jesus who promised hope for all through His mercy. Look at all the miracles Jesus performed in the Gospels – mercy and hope, hope and mercy. An example of this may be found in the *Gospel of Luke* and the story of the paralytic and his concerned friends. These characters have hope in Jesus. A vast crowd gathered to hear His messages of mercy and hope so much so that the friends of the paralytic, as they were unable to come near Jesus, had to open the roof in order to place the paralytic before the Lord. Jesus extends His mercy but is excoriated by the scribes and Pharisees because of their interpretation of a blasphemy of His Father's mercy and hope. Jesus challenges them. No matter what human thought may be, God always bestows mercy and hope! The paralytic had hope, Jesus bestows mercy (or the command to get up, pick up your mat, and go home) and new life is realized (cf. *Luke 5:17-26*)!

In the *Pastoral Constitution on the*

Church in the Modern World, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council reflected on the human experiences in modern society and the necessity of Christians to align these experiences with neighbor. Through our labors, reflections, nurturing the good in society, and praise of God's presence in the world, the Fathers wrote that, "The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community composed of men. United in Christ, they are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the kingdom of their Father and they have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every man" (Paragraph 1).

My dear sisters and brothers, we are participating in God's saving history today as our ancestors of Faith have in the past. We must be the instruments of mercy and hope to the world, especially to those that Jesus reminds us of those who are so less fortunate than ourselves and as illustrated by the Council Fathers. In this Holy Year of Mercy, may we be people of mercy and hope! Let us live this not only in this Holy Year but always! Šťastlivý Nový Rok! Happy New Year!

ATTENTION! BRANCH OFFICERS

Your very own Branch Officers Section on the FCSLA website: www.fcsla.org!!!

A special section where branch officers can log in and find "tools" that will help you make your branch a big success. You will be able to access Monthly Newsletters, Matching Funds Guidelines and Forms, Join Hands Day Information and much, much more!

To obtain a log in password, contact the Fraternal & Youth Director, Kelly Shedlock by email kelly@fcsla.org or phone 800-464-4642 EXT 1051.



Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Happy New Year to all of our members!

We are planning many new beginnings in 2016, with the transition to our new board of directors and officers, a new governance structure and new horizons in our lives and for our society. Later this month, the 2012-2015 board of directors will meet to turn over the reins to the newly elected board of directors and officers. Soon thereafter, it is my intention that we

embark on a new strategic planning process to chart the course for the next few years, after the new members of the board participate in an orientation process.

It is also an excellent time for each of us to conduct a personal assessment of where we are in our lives from a number of perspectives, including personally, professionally and financially. It is always beneficial to truthfully examine our course in life, and whether we are satisfied with the path we have taken. I'm sure we can all find many ways we can improve to make life better for all of us, and improve our spiritual and emotional outlook on life for ourselves and those around us.

It is also a good time to take inventory of our financial habits and conditions. It may be helpful to keep a journal of spending to see where our money is going and to look at ways we can save money for those things we really want or need on a long term basis. We can ask ourselves do we really need that extra article of clothing, that expensive dinner out, or that cup of fancy coffee on a routine basis or keep those kinds of purchases as extraordinary expenses. The savings will soon add up!

It is important to use cash instead of credit, so we can see how much cash we are actually spending. When we do use a credit card, it is important to pay off the balance every month, because otherwise, we are paying so much extra for the item(s) that we have purchased through the use of a credit card.

It is helpful to write down an inventory of your assets and then review what options you may have to invest in a better way or plan for unexpected events, birth of the child, retirement, etc. This is one area where the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association can definitely help! If you contact your FCSLA representative or the home office, we can personally assist you in exploring where you may need to reinforce the protection for your family or improve your planning for retirement.

I wish you every good wish and God's blessing for you and yours in 2016! Fraternally,

Cynthia M. Maleski

US ARMY PROUD!

FCSLA Court of Appeals member Anne Sedlock and her husband Edward are proud of their sons both of whom are officers in the US Army.



Major Erik J. Sedlock, US Army Intelligence is currently stationed in Kuwait. His home base is in Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Sedlock Jr., has been appointed as the commander of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade



Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The change of command ceremony took place on the 1st of September. Lieutenant Colonel Sedlock takes over command of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Regiment which enjoys a tremendous reputation of combat service from the Battle of the Bulge and Vietnam to recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Anne and Edward Sedlock and their family are pictured at the Change of Command Ceremony on September 1st, 2015.

**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK
LADIES ASSOCIATION**



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FCSLA ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for National Secretary and National Treasurer Positions

As mandated by the changes to the bylaws and the effective dates adopted at the Special Convention held in October 2014, First Catholic Ladies Association is accepting applications from qualified individuals for positions for National Secretary and National Treasurer in accordance with the process as approved by the Special Convention.

The National Secretary directs the operating activities of the Association on a full time basis and reports to the National President. The minimum qualifications for such position include a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and possess ten years experience, demonstrating communication, organization and managerial skills. Insurance and/or fraternal benefit society experience a plus.

The National Treasurer monitors the financial conditions of the Association, oversees the Association's finances and investments on a full time basis and reports to the National President. All candidates must have either a CPA or MBA in finance or related fields from an accredited college or university and shall have ten years or more experience in the fields of business, finance or related fields.

If selected for the position, the candidate for each position has the potential of being considered for the permanent position and reports to the National President. Interested parties meeting the above qualifications should submit a detailed resumé and cover letter to National President Cynthia Maleski, FCSLA National Headquarters, 24950 Chagrin Boulevard, Beachwood, OH 44122.

FCSLA Annuity Rates

Rates for our Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

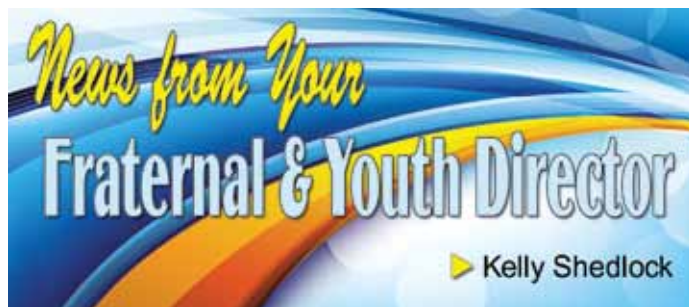
3.25% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.50% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2016 thru 3/31/2016.

The credited rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed rate. The guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2106 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.



Happy New Year!

Another year has gone by
Just like the twinkle of an eye
Here we have a year brand new
The old, I must bid you adieu.

I hope this new year brings lots of love,
And tender blessings from God above.
I hope He fills your heart with cheer,
All throughout the coming year.



I pray families, closer together will be,
Endless moments of tranquility.
A closer walk with God each day,
As the new year comes your way.

I pray your Faith, will stronger grow,
That your happiness will overflow.
May this will be a truly blessed year,
For you, and all those you hold dear.

So I tip my glass to you my friends,
As the year, comes to an end.
Another year of memories made,
By hearts that beat, unafraid.

Happy New Year to You,
Souls entwined by God above.
Memories made, across the miles,
Treasured laughter, Forever smiles.

~author unknown~

Blowing Happy New Year Wishes Your Way!

PHOTO LIMITS

Branch activities will be limited to 4 pictures per story and District activities will be limited to 10. Additional photos (up to 50) can be sent to the Home Office for uploading to your District web page. If you do not have an active web page please contact the Home Office to find out how you may use this valuable tool to reach your members and share your good news!

Memorials received will be limited to 125-150 words and a small photo. At the discretion of the editor some exceptions may be made!

Whiting Branch 81 Celebrates Holidays

On November 15, 2015 the FCSLA Whiting, IN, Branch 81 hosted a holiday celebration at The Knights of Columbus. We had a tremendous turnout. Many special guests attended including one of our new national directors, Joann Skvarek Banvich, and her mother Betty Skvarek. Also former national auditor, Betty Yurechko, and former Chicago district president Mary Therese Tylus. Representing other districts were Betty Ortiz (452), Agnes Chervanak and Agent

Andrew Sacek (409). We feel very privileged and thankful to everyone who attended.

All guests received a gift from the home office and were also entered into a drawing for centerpieces and door prizes provided by branch officers. A 50/50 raffle was held and a collection was taken to benefit The Whiting Food Pantry which help local families in need. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make our celebration memorable.



L-R, seated: Jim Sandrick, Margaret Zehner, Jennifer Chatel, Veronica Brtos; standing: Pam Shelton, Garry Weiler, Maria Inhat, Michael Shelton.



L-R, front row: Jean Harsany, Vicki Derybowski, Marjorie Strbjak, Rosemary Pers, Mary Ruth Kacmarik; back row: John and Becky Coleman, Dorothy Hoover.



L-R, seated: Mimi Murzyn, John and Mary Danko; standing: Gloria Kaminsky, Amanda Oziminsky, Darlene Bakondi, Ann Bakondi.



L-R, seated: Eleanore and Adolph Biel, Sister Brigid Faising, Dorothy Faising; standing: Joe Biel, John Biel, Robert Faising.



L-R, seated: Rose Lubek, Marge Gorby, Donnie Sabol; standing: Elaine Herrmann, Margaret Uhrin, Jan Rademacher, Dolores McCambell.



L-R, seated: Andrew Sacek, Betty Yurechko, Agnes Chervanak, Betty Skavarek; standing: Mary Therese Tylus, Margaret Abildua, Betty Ortiz, Joann Skavarek Banvich.

FCSLA Connects . . .

*Albert E. Heiles Jr., CLU, ChFC, AEP, CRC, LUTCF
National Sales Manager*

CHANGES FOR 2016



Albert Heiles

As 2016 begins, the sales department would like to bring two changes to your attention.

We are now ready to sell our Life and Annuity products in the state of California. Life and Annuity Applications are available on the website, representatives with current licensing in California can illustrate using Gateway and applications and contracts can be processed in the Life and Annuity Departments.

There has been a change in the Platinum Elite Annuity.

While our current crediting rate remains at its current rate of 3.5% and is guaranteed through March 31, 2016, the minimum guarantee will be 2.5%. In addition, the initial minimum premium will now be \$250.00 and the minimum subsequent premium will be \$100.00. This change aligns our Platinum Elite Annuity with our Silver Elite and Gold Elite Annuity.

If you have any questions on either of these changes or you would like additional information, please feel free to contact our marketing department in the home office.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year,

Albert E. Heiles, Jr., CLU, ChFC, CRC, AEP LUTCF,
FCSLA National Sales Manager

Sr. Branch 88 Welcomes Members to Annual Christmas Party

On a beautiful, unusually warm Sunday afternoon members of Monessen Sr. Branch 88 enjoyed a gathering for their annual Christmas Party. President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed members to the event. Rev. Bonaventure Curtis gave the invocation followed a delicious meal at the Clubhouse Grille at the Cedarwood Golf Course. Following dinner President Urbanowicz introduced the branch officers, Fr. Micah Kozoil (Chaplain), Alice Bialon (Recording Secretary), Flora Funtal and Cindy Pawelec (Auditors) and Rosemary Betza (Jr. Financial Secretary). She then introduced Donna Kline who will be the new Recording Secretary. Dorothy then extended thanks to Thomas and Linda Oslick for chairing this party.

Fr. Kozoil gave a presentation of St. Anne and Blessed Virgin Mary and reviewed the beautitues. Fr. reminded us of the importance of living these. Dorothy then reminded members of the importance of keeping address and beneficiaries up to date.

Everyone was reminded of our annuities and that we had five scholarship winners this past year. Branch 88 also conducted a Join Hands Day Project with the Monessen High School Leo Club. They also sponsored two Matching Funds projects as well as two were sponsored by Jr. Branch 157. Dorothy also informed members that the FCSLA recent convention awarded \$925,000 in donations of which \$17,000 was awarded to St. Sebastian Church in Belle Vernon and \$9,000 to Epiphany of Our Lord. Branch 88 sponsored a bus to Slovak Day in Kennywood. Fifty year members were recognized and fifty-one door prizes were awarded.

Rev. Micah Kozoil gave the Benediction and Dorothy wished all attending a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the officers.



Sr. Branch 88 officers



Scenes from the 41st Quadrennial Convention

Sunday Banquet, October 4



October 4 — Sunday Banquet



October 4 — Sunday Banquet



October 4 — Sunday Banquet



*Louisville, Kentucky
Louisville Marriott Downtown*

October 5 — Monday's Events



*Additional photos in upcoming issues
of "Fraternally Yours"*

2015 Photo Contest Winners

By Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director

WOW!!! I received 100 entries for the very first FCSLA Photo Contest. I was so excited to see so many photos!

This was by far the most popular of all the previous contests I have held! Thank you for your participation — ALL the photos were AMAZING! It made the judging very, very difficult. There were so many entries for the Landscape/Scenic/Nature category that I had to do sub-categories to help the judges narrow down their choices. The judges did not know who sent in each picture. The only information they had were the photos themselves and the title and where the photo was taken.

Congratulations to all those that won the top 4 prizes in each category. As far as I am concerned EVERYONE that submitted a photo is a winner. I look forward to seeing all the entries in the 2016 Photo Contest.

The photos can also be found on our website www.fcsla.org.

ANIMALS:

1st Place – “Fast Friends” – Kingston Kratos, a three year old Belgian Draft Horse greets his tiny friend, a 5 week old kitten.

Branch S525 – Lisa Todaro, Wellington, OH

2nd Place – “Let’s Be Friends”

Branch S634 – Lorraine Henrichs,
Rhinelander, WI

3rd Place – “Slinky Kissing Great-Granddaughter Mariah”

Branch S011 – Anna Kostrej, Munhall, PA

Honorable Mention – “Nosey Nikita” – Trying her hardest to get some delicious smelling dinner.

Branch S169 – Jennifer Kusnierz-Kim, LaVerne, CA



FCSLA ACTIVITY:

1st Place – “Honor” – Branch S101 Flag Retirement Ceremony St. Louis, MO
Branch S101 – Joseph Miklovic, St. Louis, MO

2nd Place – “In Loving Memory of the Unborn Bench Blessing” – On the grounds of
Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Prague, NE. Fr. Matthew Zimmerman blessing the
bench donated by Branch W017.

Branch W017 – Richard Kubik, Prague, NE

3rd Place – “Veterans Across St. Louis”

Branch S101 – Joshua Miklovic, St. Louis, MO

Honorable Mention – “Captain Erich” – Branch S035 took a Windjammer Cruise
last summer (2014)

Branch S035 – Christina Diehl, Califon, NJ



ARCHITECTURE:

1st Place – “The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, MO”

Branch S066 – Jenilee Spaniol, Fenton, MO

2nd Place – “Entrance Door at the Presbyterian Church” in Pittsburgh, PA

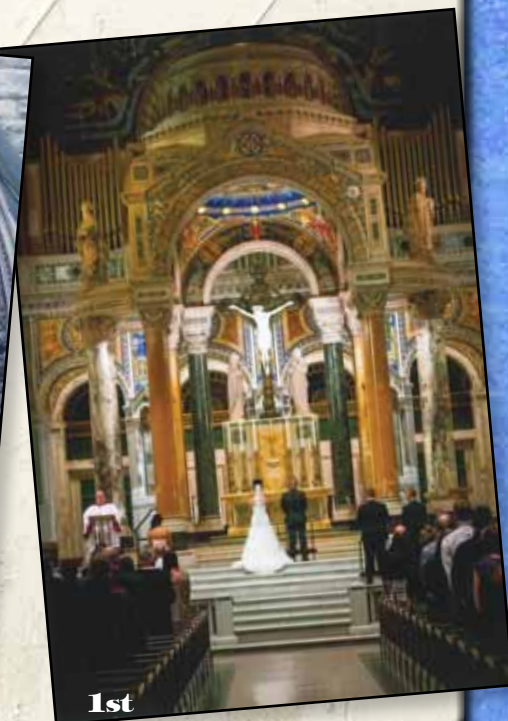
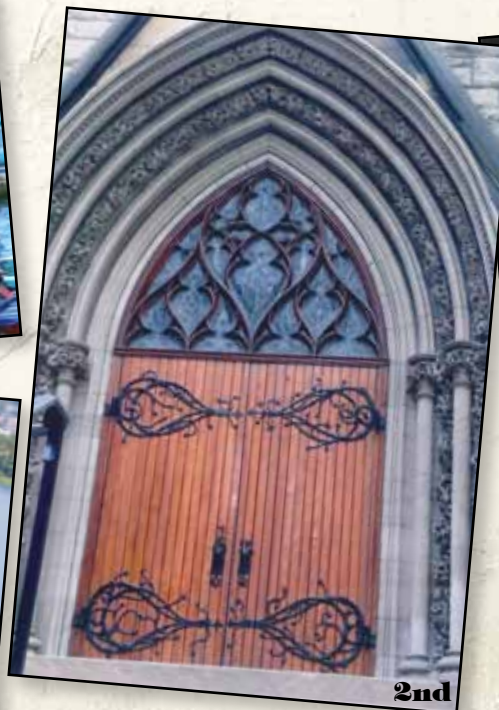
Branch S011 – Michael Semego, Munhall, PA

3rd Place – “Boats in Burano” – The Island of Burano which is an island in the Venetian Lagoon near Venice, Italy. Burano is known for
its brightly colored homes.

Branch S013 – Katie Kastan, Ontario, NY

Honorable Mention – “Down Under” – Below the Highland Park Bridge over the Allegheny River, Pittsburgh, PA

Branch S088 – Linda Oslick, Pittsburgh, PA



2015 Photo Contest Winners

MISCELLANEOUS NATURE:

1st Place – “Manhattan Slab with Tsunami” – The picture is of a wood slab 6”x30”x36” that was cut from a tree on her property. Leone tells us “When I took a second look at it, I saw the skyline of Manhattan, NY ripped from the slice of tree when it was felled.”
Branch S581 – Leona Flave, Cleveland, OH

2nd Place – “Natural Dust Storm” – Downtown Phoenix, AZ
Branch S289 – Stephen Cupka, Mesa, AZ

3rd Place – “School’s Out for the Winter” – St. Louis, MO
Branch S101 – Jacob Miklovic, St. Louis, MO

Honorable Mention – “Shelter in the Woods” – North Chagrin Metro Park, Cleveland, OH
Branch S176 – Kevin MacKay, Highland Hts., OH



3rd



1st



2nd



HM



HM

LAKES/MOUNTAINS/WATERFALLS:

1st Place – “A Winter’s Day” – Mill Creek Park, Lake Newport Area. Youngstown, OH
Branch S501 – Rick Mano, Youngstown, OH

2nd Place – “Sunset on Little Rock Lake” – Little Rock Lake in Central Minnesota
W035 – Joyce Anderson, Prior Lake, MN

3rd Place – “Hiatus” – Central Oregon
Branch S522 – Gwendolyn Frank, Willoughby Hills, OH

Honorable Mention – “Mato Paha or Bear Mountain” is the Lakota name given to this site. It is sacred to many Native American Tribes. The mountain is Bear Butte, which is near Sturgis, SD. Animals in the foreground are buffalo.
Branch W093 – Eileen Sestak, Tabor, SD



2nd



1st



3rd

FLOWERS/LEAVES/TREES:

1st Place – “**Leaf in the Morning**” – Taken at Pymatuning State Park, OH
Branch S176 – Stephanie MacKay, Highland Hts, OH

2nd Place – “**Summer Splendor**” – Taken at the Holden Arboretum, Kirtland, OH
Branch S525 – Paula Dalpiaz, Garfield Hts., OH

3rd Place – “**Love of Butterflies**” – Taken in her front yard.
Branch S011 – Anna Kostrej, Munhall, PA

Honorable Mention – “**Ponderosa**” – Central Oregon
Branch S522 – Katherine Bowes, Willoughby Hills, OH



1st



3rd



HM



2nd

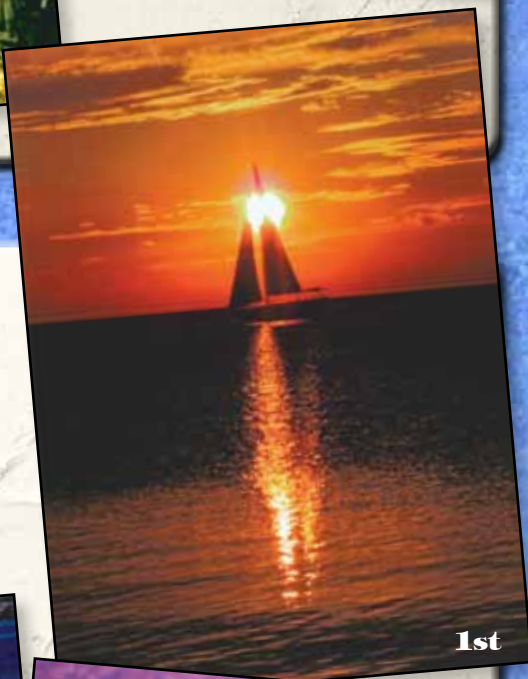
SKIES/SUNSETS/TROPICAL:

1st Place – “**Sailing into Summer Nights**” – Taken at Sister Bay in Door County, WI
Branch S196 – Annie Setter-Sheard, Kenosha, WI

2nd Place – “**A Sanibel Sunset**” – Taken at Sanibel Island, FL
Branch S141 – Rose Marie Krulac, Solon, OH

3rd Place – “**Relax**” – Taken on the Island of St. Thomas, in the Caribbean
Branch W001 – Chloe Coldagelli, New Prague, MN

Honorable Mention – “**Glorious Heavens**” – Edinboro, PA
Branch S313 – Ruth Cypher, Edinboro, PA



1st



2nd



3rd



HM

BRANCHES PARTICIPATE IN SLOVAK FAIR

Branch 84 and 7 (Philadelphia, PA) participated in the Slovak October Fair at St. Agnes, St. John Parish in Philadelphia, PA on October 11, 2015. There was a wonderful selection of Slovak food along with fun and games for all in attendance.



The menu of delicious Slovak food available at the Slovak October Fair.



Father Francis Lendacky, pastor of St. Agnes, St. John greeted everyone as they arrived and saw to it that everyone had a wonderful time.



Many prizes were available to win at the Slovak Fair.



Agnes Rabatin, former Secretary of Branches 84 and 7 and Eleanor Krkoska longtime parishioners and FCSLA members enjoy seeing each other and renewing old friendships.

Honors Scholarship Winners

The Maria E. Grega Youngstown, OH District honored their scholarship winners in August. Junior Branch 231 honored their winners at that time.



J231 scholarship winner Isabella Thornton is seen (center) with her proud parents Darren and Christine.



J231 scholarship winner Isabella Thornton is pictured with Branch officers Carol Dumey, Secretary and Dolores Sonoga, President.

Branch W018 Honors National and Branch Scholarship Winners

FCSLA Branch W018 honored the National and Branch scholarship winners on July 21st with a dinner at the Spaghetti Works restaurant in Omaha's Old Market.

Olivia Adamek won a National Grade 7 Elementary scholarship. Robert Joseph (R.J.) Hladik III and Noah Steinkraus each received a Branch Elementary K-4 scholarship; Luke Rice and Sophia Adamek won Branch Elementary 5-8 scholarships; and William Rice and Hailey Zuroske received Branch High School scholarships.

AT RIGHT — Back row, L-R: Hailey Zuroske, Branch President Bob Hladik, Olivia Adamek. Front row, L-R: R.J. Hladik, Noah Steinkraus, and Sophia Adamek. Not pictured: Luke and William Rice.



MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branches 630 and 534

Miniature Golf Outing and 18-Hole Golf Tournament

Sr. Branch 630 and Jr. Branch 534, Buffalo, NY held successful matching fund golf events, a miniature golf outing and an 18-hole fund-raising golf tournament at Chestnut Hill Country Club, in the Buffalo area this summer. Proceeds from the events resulted in donations to the Wounded Warrior Project of over \$900 in addition to the FCSLA matching funds.



Ready to tee off in the fund-raising mini-golf tournament are Branch 630 President Lynn Zakowicz and event chairman John Gonsiorek.



Officers display checks to the Wounded Warrior Project. L-R: first row, Financial Secretary Jean Sobczak, Scholarship Committee member Linda Zurek, and President Lynn Zakowicz. Back row: Auditor Len Hoeglmeier, Scholarship Committee member Jim Staszak, and Recording Secretary Tom Franczyk.



Norm and Joyce Wojciechowski are set to hit the links at the annual mini-golf tournament sponsored by Branch 630. Funds were raised for the Wounded Warrior Project.



L-R: Tournament Chairman John Gonsiorek, Tom and Darlene Marts, Branch President Lynn Zakowicz, Jim Kaminski and Ryan Sobczak (kneeling).

Branch W016

Autumn Brunch

On October 25, 2015, Branch W016 sponsored an Autumn Brunch as a matching grant event for the benefit of



Community Club and FCSLA members: Vern Dvorak, Tom Pesek, Joyce Novak, Dave Foster and Jerry Meister set up for the brunch.

the Brainard Community Club. Members of both Branch W016 and the Community Club worked together to make the occasion fun and profitable, with \$746 realized for our efforts.

The Community Club supports many charitable and social gatherings in our area.

Branch W016 also sponsored a Bake Sale in March for the benefit of the Holy Trinity Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW). Both events were graciously received by the organizations.



W016 members Carolyn and Leonard Dvorak, Albert Divis, Jerry Meister and Community Club member Vern Dvorak ready for the brunch.



Lynn Swanda, Marlene Kudlacek and Mary Lou Meister and Holy Trinity 4th grade CCD students set up for the Bake Sale.

Cleveland District Branches

SAVE THE DATE!



Sr. Branch 627 Branch Picnic

Sr. Branch 627 held their Branch Picnic on Wednesday, October 7 at 6 p.m. at the Walnut Hill Reception Hall. The event was catered by Pizza Ranch and desserts were made by the branch officers.



6-Year-Old Cancer Survivor Tackling the Field

Six-year old Helen Weber, (J184, Gary, IN) has a great arm, in fact her football coach Dan Williams says she can throw the ball like a ten year old. Helen plays for the Pop Warner Tiny Mite Tri-Town Raiders and not only is an excellent young athlete but is also a cancer survivor with a big heart. Four years ago, Helen was diagnosed with ganglioneuroblastoma, a childhood cancer. Her parents Christina and George first noticed something was wrong when Helen was about 11 months old. She



had two surgeries to remove tumors from her abdomen and spine. Three weeks after surgeries she was walking again and four years later she's playing quarterback for a team that is 6 – 1 going into the Pop Warner Tiny Mite Division Super Bowl against the formidable North Lake team. Helen loves tackling, kicking, and playing football. In fact she is just good at sports and will probably play basketball when the football season ends.

Wine Tasting Event for Branch W108 Members

Adult members of W108 (Omaha, NE) participated in a Wine Tasting for their Branch activity. The event took place on September 27, 2015, a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the Soaring Wings Winery in Springfield, Nebraska. After an informative and entertaining explanation of the history of the winery and the "pedigree" of the different wines created by the vineyard's wine stewards, the members, were given five "taste tickets" and a wine glass. The tickets could be "spent" tasting five different wines or could be used all at once on a full glass of one wine. The branch provided the wine tickets and glass, summer sausage, cream cheeses and crackers for each "pair" of members to enjoy while listening to live music, making new friends, and re-connecting with old ones.



Members enjoying food bags and fine Nebraska wines.



Members enjoying the delightful Nebraska weather, music, and wine.

YOUTH BOWLING PARTY

Branch W001, (New Prague, MN) held a bowling party for their youth members on November 1, 2015 at Strike Force Bowl in New Prague.



Slovak Heritage Society of NE PA Fall Picnic

The Annual Fall Picnic was held by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania in the Nuangola Park of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

The cool air added to the homemade menu of Slovak entries of goulash and rye bread, then pirohi surprise mixtures, old-fashioned halushki and traditional items as hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, coleslaw, corn-on-the-cob and cake varieties. Picnic Chef was Michael Stretanski, Kingston, PA.

Attendees enjoyed playing "mystery guessing boxes" at each table along with conversations and singing of Slovak songs ... all receiving "door prizes" and being entertained by "The Citron Sisters" singing "Katherina".

Other highlights included a "Slovak Food Basket" raffle, including ham, kielbasa, sauerkraut, cabbage, potatoes, beets, klashi noodles, babalky and more, donated by David Kolesa, Luzerne and Carl Yankowski, Dunmore. Special guests of Eleanor and Andrew Sofranko, Wilkes-Barre were Marika Vergova, a well-known model from Kosice, Slovakia, and her dad Ivan Vargas.

A good time was had by all attending the Slovak Picnic.



Anna Hendershot serving Slovak goulash and rye bread to Constance Plewniak, both of Wilkes-Barre.

Presented the "Lay Award of St. Joseph the Worker"



Mr. Dan Pulinski, President of the FCSLA Sr. Branch 638, was presented the "Lay Award of St. Joseph the Worker", by the Most Reverend Richard J. Malone, Bishop of Buffalo (NY), at St. Joseph's Cathedral. The award is named in honor of St. Joseph as the patron saint of all workers. Congratulations Dan, for being recognized for your many years of service to Queen of Angels Church in Lackawanna, NY, as well as the former St. Barbara's Parish.



The Citron Sisters entertain with a Slovak Folk Song, "Katherina." L-R: Mary Migatulski, Anna Hudock and Bernadette Yencha, all from Wilkes-Barre.



Volunteer corn shuckers were Joseph Kowatch, Edwardsville; Elaine and Tony Palischak, Plymouth.



Well-known model from Kosice, Slovakia, Marika Vargova and her dad, Ivan Vargas (center) were guests of Eleanor and Andrew Sofranko, far left and right.



Winner of the Slovak Food Basket was Michael Stretanski, Kingston, shown accepting his prize from donors David Kolesa, Luzerne, and Carl Yankowski, Dunmore.

YSC Sets Slovakia Tour

Youngstown-Spisska Nov Ves Sister Cities will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2016. Their 19th tour of Slovakia will take place July 8-22.

The annual luncheon with the Mayor of Nova Ves will again be a special feature plus a stay in a thermal water spa, a visit to Tichy Potek, a village of 324 people who transform their village into Slovakia of "olden" days, a re-enactment of a Slovak wedding, and many more events. Arrangements can be made for transportation and interpreter to relatives' homes.

Contact Jim Bench (724) 858-5843 or Kay Bench (724) 771-7900 or Jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure Travel (800) 542-2487 for details.

Send us your Wedding, Anniversary
and Birthday Announcements!
zjbazik@comcast.net



IN MEMORIAM

ARNOLD TUMA, W040



Arnold A. Tuma, 87, of Schuyler, NE, died May 12, 2015. He was born July 8, 1927, in Colfax County to Lumir and Anna (Jedlicka) Tuma. He attended District #64 and graduated from Schuyler High School in 1944. He then took several welding classes. In 1946 he was drafted into the United States Army, serving for two years at Fort Lewis, WA. Following the service, he married his best friend, Loretta Shonka, at St. Mary's

Catholic Church in Schuyler. They farmed the family farm northwest of Schuyler and, in 2012, they received the Aksarben Pioneer Family Award for the farm being in the same family for over 100 years. Arnold was a member of St. Augustine's Catholic Church, and a life member of the Knights of Columbus. He is survived by three daughters, Theresa (Dave) Wemhoff of Monroe and Jayne (Greg) Bronzynski and Holly (Mike) Wetjen, all of Norfolk; two sons, Allen (Pegge) Tuma of Columbus and Myron (Connie) Tuma of Schuyler; 12 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; a sister, Gladys Vavricek of Schuyler; brothers and sisters-in-law, Jim and Marion Flynn of Lawrence, KS, and Joe and Jan Connelly of Denver; as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Loretta in 2012; and son, Mark Tuma in 1981.

JOSEPHINE MARINGA, S356



Mrs. Josephine Maringa, 88, passed away on February 22, 2015. Josephine was born in Rudno Lehota, Czechoslovakia (n/k/a Slovakia) on April 1, 1926, the daughter of the late Joseph and Vinca (nee: Harag) Krepelan. She moved to the United States in 1947 by boarding the Queen Elizabeth with her mother. From 1947 through February, 2012, she lived in Racine, WI until she

moved to Orlando, FL to be cared for by her daughter, Julie after the passing of her oldest daughter, Irene. Josephine was a loving daughter, mother, grandmother and aunt. She was a Catholic woman of faith, a member of the Holy Trinity Catholic Church and St. Joseph Catholic Church while in Racine and enjoyed attending the Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Orlando. She also enjoyed spending time as President, Secretary and a long standing member of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (Prva Katolicka Slovenska Zenska Jednota) for many years. Her survivors include: her daughters, Julie (Mark) Thrasher (nee: Belanec) of Winter Park, FL, and Kathleen Belanec of Los Angeles, CA and three grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husbands, Thomas Belanec and Jan Maringa, her brother, Frank (Frances) Krepelan, and most recently her daughter, Irene (nee: Belanec) Bugni.

ALEX STUCHLIK, W110

Alex Stuchlik was born May 3, 1931, to Charles and Millie Stuchlik on the farm near Lost Springs, KS where he lived his entire life. He passed away February 6, 2015. Alex met the love of his life, Jean Watts, on a blind date arranged through mutual friends in 1961. They were married August 11, 1962. The couple attended many polka dances throughout their married life, with dances held in Pilsen on their 40th and 50th anniversaries. Alex always had a love for music. He was very gifted and could play any song he knew by ear. When he was 15, he bought an old broken accordion

for \$1. He spent many hours repairing it with wallpaper and glue. That was the beginning of his accordion playing. In the mid-'80s, he formed a Polka band with his children. Alex had a strong faith and passed this on to his children and grandchildren. He and Jean taught high school Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), he was active on the church board, and was a Eucharistic minister for many years. He is survived by his wife, Jean, and children: son, Christopher and wife, Melissa, of Lincolnville; daughter, Debra and husband, Robert Burns, of Wichita; son, Gary and wife, Jo Ann, of Pilsen; daughter, Diann and husband, Tom Ensz, of Wichita; and daughter, Rita and husband, Kelby Schawe, of Wichita. He is survived by 31 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and his sister Mary Jane Steiner.

ANNA ELIZABETH CHAMBORS, SZJO



Anna Elizabeth Chambors, age 94, died May 19, 2015, just one day shy of her 95th birthday. She was born May 20, 1920 in Bardejove, Czechoslovakia, daughter of the late Joseph J. and the late Suzanna (nee: Kendra) Martin. Anna immigrated to the United States when she was 17 years of age and eventually settled in Detroit, MI.

Following her arrival to the area, Anna would meet the future love of her life, Anthony Chambors at a Slovakian community event in Detroit. This meeting ultimately blossomed into the loving relationship that led them to the altar on September 22, 1941, at St. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Detroit, MI. Anna worked at the old General Motors building, working within the maintenance department for over 30 years. While working, Anna also became a caregiver for Anthony, due to him being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis just eighteen years into their marriage. Anna was a simple person, devoting most of her life to the love and care of others. As an immigrant who came to this country and worked hard for everything she had, she knew the value of a dollar. She loved all flowers, especially roses. Anna was the beloved wife of the late Anthony, who preceded her in death in 1989. She was the loving mother of John (Laureen) Chambors, the late Delores Zdilla, and the late Anthony Chambors. She has five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

OPAL ANN CLARK, W032



Opal Ann Clark, age 84, of York, NE passed away June 10, 2015. She was born September 1, 1930 on a farm near Goehner to Herman and Minnie (Yoder) Pankoke. She graduated from Beaver Crossing High School in 1948. Opal was united in marriage to Max V. Clark on April 4, 1949 in Seward. The union was blessed with four children. They moved to York in April of

1955. Opal was a member of the First United Methodist Church in York for 60 years. She served on many committees, boards, church circles, did volunteer work and taught Sunday school. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Friendship Club and the York General Hospital Auxiliary. She was also a 50 year member of the Lamplighter Extension Club. Opal worked for the York School District for 24 years. She was the Food Service Director for 14 years. She was a self-taught seamstress. Left to cherish her memory are two daughters, Marsha Oncza of Columbus

and Debra Clark of Lincoln; son, Craig (Toninette) Clark of Lincoln; son-in-law, Roger Schall of York; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. Also surviving is one sister, Darlene (Tex) Shafer; three brothers, Clyde, Don and Merle Pankoke. Opal was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughter, Barbara Schall; infant grandson, Matthew; son-in-law, Robert Oncza and brother Berdette "Butch" Pankoke.

RAYMOND J. BRCKA, W051



The woodshop is quiet today. The stacks of dried wood on the racks will have to wait for another carpenter. Ray Brcka passed away on July 18, 2015. Ray was born March 27, 1942, the younger son of Edward and Rose (Jakoubek) Brcka. He graduated from Garner High School in 1959. Ray married Marjorie Becker in 1964. They settled in Forest City, eventually living for

46 years in the home that Ray built from a sketch on the back of an envelope. Ray was a builder. He started working for Francis "Sonny" Pitkin, and upon Sonny's death in 1963, he went into partnership with Clarence Wellik in the construction business. Later, he started Brcka Construction, and became a partner in Southtown Building Supply. In his retirement years, he enjoyed doing woodworking projects, playing cards and making new friends while touring the area in the "Oscarmobile" with his dog Oscar and cat Marvin. Country oldies and polka music were always heard in Ray's woodshop. Ray is survived by his wife of fifty years, Marge, and three children: Patti (Bill) Kawalek and their son, Josh, of Forest City, Keith (Ann) Brcka of Fertile and their children, Brian and Carrie, and Kent (Holly) Brcka of Clear Lake and their children, Olivia, Alex and Nicholas, his brother, Frank (Marguerite) Brcka of Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Raymond Brcka Memorial Fund which will be used to establish a building trade's scholarship.

ADRIAN HAROLD SKLUZACEK, W056



Adrian H. Skluzacek, age 80, of Lonsdale, MN on Monday, July 13, 2015. Adrian was born to John and Cecelia (Malecha) Skluzacek in Wheatland Township, MN. He graduated from Bethlehem Academy in 1953. He served in the United States Army from 1955-1957. Upon his return from service, he was united in marriage to Eleanor Solheid on April 12, 1958. They operated a dairy farm near Lonsdale and raised

six children. Adrian was a lifetime member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, a 3rd and 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus, served on many church and Catholic school committees including Pastoral Council, and Catholic school board. Adrian is survived by his wife of 57 years, Eleanor Skluzacek, and their children, Sue (Bill) Krouse, Kay (Rich) Birk, Julie (Joe) Ferrazzo, Randy Skluzacek, Rick (Becky) Skluzacek and Karie (Marty) BeSore; 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Siblings include Jeanette Sticha of Lonsdale, Loretta Hauer of Apple Valley, Bernadine (Bob) Bissonette of Mapleton, Valeria (Bob) McHale of Woodstock, VA, Sr. Marilyn Skluzacek, OSB of Sinsinawa, WI, and John (Jane) Skluzacek of Lonsdale. He was preceded in death by his great-grandchild, Bradley Fong, parents, John and Cecelia

Skluzacek, in-laws Peter and Margaret Solheid, brother Norbert Skluzacek, brother and sister-in-laws Bohumil Sticha, Rudy Hauer, Harold Solheid, Eugene and Delores (Solheid) Ambroz.

LAWRENCE F. HAVEN, W018



Lawrence F. Haven died peacefully at Harbor Chase, FL on July 3, 2015 surrounded by family. He was born September 17, 1935 in Omaha, NE. A graduate of Creighton Prep in Omaha and a 1957 graduate of Iowa State University, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Larry spent many years as a dedicated professional electrical engineer in the mining industry. He was an employee of Bucyrus-Erie, Gardner Denver, and Sandvik Mining. Larry will be profoundly missed by his loving wife of 48 years, Maris, his children Glen (Kelly), Jenifer (Frank), and Laura (Robert), and his four grandchildren. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Walter J. and Ann C. Haven and his brothers Walt and Guy. In lieu of flowers, donations in Larry's name can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

JOHN MICHAEL FRANKLIN, S75



John Michael Franklin passed away August 6, 2015, in his home suddenly and unexpectedly at age 34, leaving a great void and loss in our hearts. Mike joined Digital Innovation (DI) as a 19-year-old while taking his college courses in March 2000. Mike rapidly rose through many technical positions at DI, starting in technical support and quickly moving to development.

By the mid-2000's, he was an accomplished software engineer, working as a key contributor on many of DI's flagship products. Mike was truly gifted in his craft and was absolutely amazing to watch in action. Mike always brought an infectious energy, smile, and laid-back style to each of his many interactions. He was routinely lauded by DI customers and business partners for not only his exceptional technical abilities, but his diligent work ethic and strong sense of service for supporting his clients. Mike will be deeply missed by his many friends and colleagues at DI and by his loving family. He is survived by his parents, Emily and John Franklin, and his brother, Jason Franklin and his Amanda. He is also survived by one aunt, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Mike's name may be made to the William J. Sacco Foundation at 302 Dove Ct., Forest Hill, MD 21050. The Foundation will be launching an annual computing scholarship for graduating high school seniors to honor Mike's esteemed career serving the nation's leading trauma centers in supporting their life saving missions.



FCSLA 2016-17 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

More than \$248,250 in Scholarship Awards!

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) is pleased to announce its **2016-17 Scholarship Program**, which is in fulfillment of one of the objectives of the organization. More than \$248,250 will be awarded to young members of the Association, which includes \$42,000 being awarded to elementary school applicants.

In this day of promoting education, one of the best means of offering assistance is by the Scholarship Program. Each category will be awarded as follows:

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS - \$1,250 EACH

58 Freshmen • 27 Sophomores • 16 Juniors • 16 Seniors

GRADUATE AWARDS - \$1,750 EACH

16 Full-Time Graduate Awards

32 HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS - \$1,000 EACH

8 Freshmen • 8 Sophomores • 8 Juniors • 8 Seniors

28 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH

7 for Grade 5 • 7 for Grade 6 • 7 for Grade 7 • 7 for Grade 8

28 EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDS - \$750 EACH

7 for Grade 1 • 7 for Grade 2 • 7 for Grade 3 • 7 for Grade 4

In addition, two (2) **THERESA SAJAN SCHOLARSHIPS** are awarded to graduate students

An eligible candidate for a FCSLA Fraternal Scholarship Award shall be a member of good standing for at least three years prior to date of application and hold a \$1,000 permanent life insurance certificate, a \$5,000 term certificate or a \$100 minimum annuity certificate. If applying for a Seminary or Deacon Scholarship, it is necessary to complete all documents.

Winners will be chosen by a committee of impartial judges from the educational field, based on the following: Academic Standing - 40%; Church/Community Service Value - 30%; and School Involvement/Essay - 30%.

Applications and supporting documents must be completed and submitted to the Home Office and received no later than 4:30 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. Applications received after that date will not be considered. Applications and further details for this program may be obtained by calling the Home Office, your local Branch Officer, e-mail us at Scholarship@FCSLA.org, visiting our website at www.fcsla.com or by completing the form on this page and mailing it to:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

Scholarship Department

24950 Chagrin Boulevard • Beachwood, OH 44122-5634

800-464-4642, ext. 1054

2016-2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUEST

Please send me a scholarship application form by:

☐ US Postal Mail ☐ Email

(PLEASE PRINT)

Branch No. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Application requested for following award:

☐ College ☐ Graduate ☐ High School
☐ Seminary or Deacon ☐ Grades 1-4 ☐ Grades 5-8

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF AUGUST 31, 2015

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 21,716,565
Bonds	756,664,686
Preferred Stock	2,105,553
Common Stock	4,686,895
Investment Income Due & Accrued	11,447,637
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,680,637
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	3,148,320
Other Assets	125,104

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 805,575,396

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 253,078,382
Annuity Reserves	437,781,614
Death Claims Payable	2,001,434
Unearned Premiums	497,210
Matured Endowments	358,121
Provision for Dividends Payable	2,529,867
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,312,646
Accrued Convention Donations	886,391
Provision for Future Conventions	561,956
Asset Valuation Reserve	6,618,009
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,259,799
Other Liabilities	1,224,229

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 711,109,658

Surplus

\$ 94,465,738

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 805,575,396

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Eight Months Ending August 31, 2015

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 4,508,174
Annuity Premiums	24,697,961
Investment Income	26,670,234
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	89,535
Rental Income	260,831
Other Revenue	7,316
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 56,234,050

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 2,203,594
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	21,531,177
Insurance Benefits	4,030,143
Annuity Benefits	15,041,114
Commission Expense	687,346
Surrender Benefits	3,285,343
Post Mortem Benefits	892,469
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	57,750
Matured Endowments	31,159
Donation Expenses	47,440
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	161,846
Convention Expenses	97,933
Bank Service Charges	10,669
Data Processing Service Fees	166,614
Accounting Fees	67,551
Actuarial Fees	129,219
Legal Fees	20,105
Consulting Fees	81,753
Bonus to Branches	566,664
Fraternal Activities	93,208
Official Publications	277,734
Scholarship Awards	173,092
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	275,729
Fees — Directors	89,265
Salaries — Employees	950,066
Salaries — Officers	309,696
Interest Expense	216,460
Tax Expense	182,584
Depreciation Expense	171,034
Utility Expense	53,913
Postage and Printing	122,031
Advertising	68,597
Travel Expense	72,212
Insurance Department Fees	88,301
Sales Promotion	124,788
Rental Expense	260,831
Other Expense	319,588
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 52,959,018

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 3,275,033

Dividends to Members 1,729,806

Subtotal Income (Loss) \$ 1,545,227

Capital Gains (Loss) (56,659)

NET INCOME (Loss) \$ 1,488,568



Game Night

CHILI DIP

8 ounce package of cream cheese, chilled
1 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese
1 bunch of scallions, sliced with green tops and white bottoms separated
2 cups prepared chili, heated through
1 cup shredded yellow cheddar
1 single tomato, diced
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro (optional)
Nacho chips (thick kind) for serving

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees.

In a standard glass pie plate, place the cold cream cheese and with the back of a soup spoon, spread evenly to sides.

Top with jack cheese and sliced scallions (white part only)

Spread hot chili over mixture and top with shredded cheddar cheese.

Bake uncovered for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle top with diced tomato, cilantro and sliced scallion tops. Serve with nacho chips.

BACON POTATO PIE

3 pieces bacon
4 tablespoons heavy cream
3 eggs
3 tablespoons onion (chopped, finely)
2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground pepper
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
6 potatoes (medium)

Chop the onion; set aside. In a medium-sized bowl, whisk together the cream and the eggs, then stir in the salt, pepper, nutmeg, onion and flour.

Peel the potatoes, then grate them. Stir them into the egg and cream. Set aside.

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Meanwhile, cook the bacon in the frying pan until just crisp.

While leaving the heat on, remove the bacon from the frying pan, crumble it into the egg and cream mixture, and stir to mix. Turn up the heat on the frying pan, and let the fat get quite hot. Swirl the pan so that the fat coats the sides, then pour the potato mixture in, and put the frying pan into the oven.

Bake until the pie is puffed and golden brown on top, about 30 to 35 minutes.

Serve hot, slicing it into wedges as you would a pie.

OVEN ROASTED PARMESAN CAULIFLOWER

1 large head cauliflower (approximately 2 ½ pounds), cut into large bite-sized pieces
4 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
Juice of ½ lemon
Freshly ground black pepper, about 5 grinds
½ teaspoon coarse kosher salt
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
¾ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. On a large baking sheet, place cauliflower, garlic, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Drizzle with olive oil and using your hands, toss to coat. Spread the mixture in a single layer on the baking sheet.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, turning half way through the baking time. Bake until slightly caramelized and the cauliflower is tender.

Remove from oven and toss with Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.

12 HOUR SLOW COOKER BEEFY MAC

1½ pounds chuck, cut into 4 or more large pieces
1 cup diced onion
1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes with juice
1 6-oz. can tomato paste
2 cups tomato sauce
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon minced fresh garlic
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1 quart beef or vegetable stock
1 teaspoon dry oregano
1 teaspoon dry basil
3 cups water
1 pound Ditalini or elbow pasta

Place all ingredients except pasta in slow cooker and set to low for ten hours. Remove beef and shred with two forks. With immersion blender, puree contents of crock pot and add beef back in.

Put the pasta in the crock pot with sauce and beef, cover and cook on high for two hours. Add a little more water or tomato sauce if needed to keep it moist. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese.

BUFFALO CHICKEN NACHOS

1 8-ounce bag tortilla chips
1 can black beans, drained
¾ cup crumbled blue cheese, divided
¼ cup blue cheese dressing

½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1 cup shredded Fontina cheese
1 pound Slow-Cooker Pulled Buffalo Chicken
Drizzle of RedHot Sauce
1 cup diced fresh tomatoes
Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

On a pizza pan or cookie sheet with no sides (so that the nachos can slide off when time to eat), place tortilla chips in a pile.

In a medium bowl, mix beans, ½ cup crumbled blue cheese, blue cheese dressing, Jack cheese, and Fontina cheese.

Spread over top of tortilla chips.

If necessary, reheat Slow-Cooker Pulled Buffalo Chicken in microwave until hot, then spread over the top of the cheese mixture.

Top with remaining ¼ cup crumbled blue cheese and place in oven.

Heat 10-15 minutes until cheese has melted into chips.

Remove from oven and slide onto serving platter. RedHot Sauce over the top and top with chopped tomatoes.

HOT FUDGE PUDDING CAKE

1¼ cups granulated sugar, divided
1 cup all-purpose flour
½ cup Hershey's Cocoa, divided
2 teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup milk
⅓ cup unsalted butter, melted
1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
½ cup packed brown sugar
1¼ cups hot water

Vanilla ice cream, if desired for serving

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat a pot of water on the stove to very hot.

In the bowl of a stand mixer, combine ¾ cup of the granulated sugar, flour, ¼ cup of the cocoa, baking powder and salt. Stir in milk, melted butter and vanilla and mix until smooth.

Pour the batter into an lightly greased 2-quart ceramic dish or a 9-inch square baking pan.

In a small bowl, stir together the remaining ½ cup granulated sugar, brown sugar, remaining ¼ cup cocoa and mix well. Sprinkle this mixture evenly over the batter in your dish or pan. Pour the hot water over the top – but do not stir!

Bake 35-40 minutes if using a glass dish (or 30-35 for metal pan) – or until the center is almost set. Remove dish from the oven and allow it to stand for 15 minutes.

After 15 minutes, spoon the cake into individual serving bowls – making sure to spoon the fudgy sauce from the bottom of the pan over the top of the cake. Add a scoop of vanilla ice cream if desired and serve immediately.

The FCSLA Mission Statement

We provide financial security to our members while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

The FCSLA Vision is to:

Be a Premier Fraternal Benefit Society that offers quality financial products and benefits.