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Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,
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YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION

- Your presence is a gift to the world, you're unique and one of a kind.
- Your life can be what you want it to be - Take it one day at a time.
- Count your blessings, not your troubles, and you'll make it through what comes along.
- Within you are so many answers, understand, have courage, be strong.
- Don't put limits on yourself, your dreams are waiting to be realized.
- Don't leave your important decisions to chance - Reach for your peak, your goal, and your prize.
- Nothing wastes more energy than worrying, the longer a problem is carried, the heavier it gets.
- Don't take things too seriously - Live a life of serenity, not a life of regrets.
- Remember that a little love goes a long way - Remember that a lot goes forever.
- Remember that friendship is a wise investment, life's treasures are people ... spending time together.
- Have health and hope and happiness, take the time to wish on a star.
- And don't ever forget for even a day ... How very special YOU are!

Dear Friends,

This month Inspire yourself and others will be inspired.

Motivate yourself and others will be motivated.

Develop yourself and others will start to develop themselves.

Be an example first and then watch the world change around you.

Until next Month,

Warmly, Carolyn

MARKETING POSITION

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association is seeking a professional with a block of meaningful marketing experience. Responsibilities include identifying and evaluating marketing strategies and characteristics; determining demands for products and services; recommending strategies for pricing and management of product distribution; developing distribution networks. This position is based in the home office in Beachwood, Ohio.

Detailed responsibilities include:

- Recommend marketing plans based on association's strategic plan;
- Develop and deliver data science analytical insights, metrics and tools for effective delivery of our products and services in target markets;
- Provide marketing input into sales, promotional activities and programs;
- Develop marketing communications based on developed plans;
- Identify, create and implement effective market automation tools; including web, social media and digital campaigns

Ideal candidate should have at least 3 years of relevant experience with a university degree in business; marketing and/or communications or other relevant field; able to work in a collaborative fashion; data analytic science skills. Basic software proficiencies expected, insurance knowledge desirable.

Parties interested in this full-time position with the above qualifications should submit a detailed resume and letter of interest to Jean Buday, Office Manager, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, Ohio 44122.

Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled with a suitable candidate.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

The biblical foundation of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord may be found in the first chapter of the *Gospel of Luke* (cf. 26-38). Luke describes the Archangel Gabriel being sent from God to Mary informing her that she would become the mother of Jesus. Luke scribed, "And coming to her, the angel said, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you'. But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end'" (28-33).

Think about this scenario for a few moments. Mary is at her home in Nazareth doing whatever a young girl over the age of thirteen was expected to do in those days. How would you feel if all of a sudden Gabriel appeared before you, not knowing who he was and from where he came? Mary is not "troubled" about my previous question but she is "troubled"

by his words, his words we pray in *The Hail Mary*! **Heart-felt Mary!** Then she is told that she will conceive a son who will be named Jesus and rule over the house of Jacob forever. How awesome for someone of her age to have this honor bestowed upon her. She does not really perceive that this honor is upon her forever as well. **Humble Mary!** "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be since I do not know man?' The angel answered her; 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, hence, the Holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God.'" (34-35). **Trusting Mary!**

Mary reacts to the human side of this situation – She is married to Joseph but has not lived with him yet. She does not want to embarrass him or his family or Anne and Joachim and their families. **Caring Mary!**

"Mary said, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her" (38). Mary has agreed to allow whatever God has in mind for her. Do we have the courage of Mary to perform as God wants us? Are we constantly, without questioning, willing to say yes to Jesus, for Jesus? **Holy Mary, Mother of God**, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death!

Traditional Vilija Dinner Held for Sr. Branch 169 Members

The members of Br. Branch 169 of Youngstown, OH were treated to the traditional Vilija Dinner on December 11, 2016. The dinner was held at St. Matthias Father Snock Center. The members shared the meal, which was

accompanied by music. The members were happy and excited to share this time together. Besides great food, memories of past Christmas Eve Vilija's were shared. It was a wonderful start to the Holiday Season.



Branch 169 President Dolores Sonoga (left) is pictured with guests.



Branch 169 members enjoying the Christmas Eve Vilija.



Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



Dear Fellow Fraternalists:

During this banner 125th Anniversary year, I am pleased to announce the National President's 2017 National Appeal, as we request donations, large and small, to the Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund. Through this focused drive, we can add to the Association's current \$250,000 annual level of funding for scholarship awards.

Currently our Scholarship Program helps member students at grade and high school levels (Private or Catholic Schools) and college, university and post graduate levels of education. The Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee of the board of directors recom-

mends the level of funding and number of scholarships to our board of directors. Current members are Virginia Holmes, Chair, Jeanette Palanca, Sue Ann Seich, Larry Golofski, Dorothy Urbanowicz and Cynthia Maleski.

We welcome all gifts from districts, branches and individuals. For those who have the means, we ask you to consider a LEAD gift of \$500 to \$1,000 so that we can increase our scholarships in a meaningful way. Gifts from individuals qualify for a charitable deduction for federal tax purposes. In the case of an individual or branch desiring to give a major gift, we ask that you contact National President Cynthia Maleski at 1-800-464-4642 ext. 1011 for special giving opportunities.

Please make your check payable to **First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association – Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund** and send your donation to:

National President's Annual Appeal
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

Attention: National President Cynthia Maleski

Can you imagine a better way to honor a loved one or branch leader than to help our young members in pursuit of their education? They will remember the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association for a long time, if not for the rest of their lives, for this assistance at a crucial time in their lives as they embark in their unique and special life journey!

We thank you in advance for your generosity! Gifts made on or before June 30, 2017 will also be recognized during our 125th Anniversary national festivities.

May God bless you in your noble work!

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President

FCSLA **Annuity Rates**

Rates for our Elite Annuities:

SILVER ELITE (5 YEAR)

2.75% APY*

GOLD ELITE (7 YEAR)

3.00% APY*

PLATINUM ELITE (10 YEAR)

3.25% APY*

*This rate is in effect 1/1/2017 thru 3/31/2017.

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 2017 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.

DISTRICT SPRING MEETING

The Eastern PA District (Frances Jakabcin) will hold their Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Capriotti's, 1 Banks Ave., McAdoo, PA 18237. Branches S55, Mahanoy City, and S196, Shenandoah, PA are host branches for this meeting. Please RSVP to District President, Veronica Bazik at 570-645-5253 by April 10th, 2017.

MARCH FOR LIFE AT WASHINGTON D.C. — JANUARY 26-28, 2017

What a difference from last year. If you recall, in 2016 we had to cancel our trip due to a snow storm in the DC area. This year, the weather was mild, in the mid-high 40's, a little windy, but mostly sunny! It was a pleasant day for us to March for Life. As I write this article I have not heard the estimated number of marchers were, but a few of us commented that "it has to be more than in years past – it has to be a new record."

As I stood waiting for the March to begin, I was observing the crowd. I saw mothers with babies in strollers, I saw one elderly Nun pushing another elderly Nun in a wheelchair, fathers with toddlers on their shoulders, women, men, children of all ages, high school and college young women and men. They were all very passionate about why they were there. They were singing, chanting USA, talking to complete strangers about why they were there and where they were from! They were having fun, yet they knew the seriousness of who they were marching for.

Did you see the FCSLA banner and Slovak Flag on EWTN? I talked to my dad on the way home and he was all excited because he saw the FCSLA banner, Slovak Flag, and me on EWTN during the March! He said it had to be me. Who else in DC would be wearing a Cleveland Indians

jacket? He didn't know the other FCSLA members with me – Chris Kiggins, Harold Kiggins & Fr. Frank Basa, but they also got some air time. Our banner really stood out. I am glad I set my DVR, so I got to see "us" too!

Those of us that were at the March were proud to be part of it. It was a whirlwind trip for the two FCSLA buses that left around 11:30 p.m. Thursday night (1/26) until we arrived back in the FCSLA parking lot around 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning (1/28). You don't get much sleep, and once you arrive in DC you are on the go



until you meet up with the buses again between 3 and 4 p.m. This year the March was so long, the buses could not get to us. They were still marching down the middle of Constitution Avenue and streets were still closed. It took our bus drivers an hour and a half to get to us. For me this is the most stressful part of the trip – making sure I go home with everyone I brought. Thank goodness for cell phones – they are life savers. I was able to be



in contact with all the chaperones or individuals traveling with us and keep them up to date on the status of the buses. I am very happy to say that I brought everyone back! Now, I can put my March for Life folder away until September when I get to start planning this all over again!



2017 FCSLA FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

The Fraternalist of the Year Award is an honor presented by FCSLA to recognize an individual within our organization who, through example and accomplishment, provide outstanding volunteer service to his or her FCSLA branch, church and community during the past year.

The winner will receive a check for \$100.00; will be featured in the *Fraternally Yours* Magazine, on our website and Facebook page.

GUIDELINES:

- ◆ All FCSLA members are eligible to submit a nominee for this award.
- ◆ The nominee must be a member in good standing of the FCSLA, age 16 and older and a history of fraternal and community service.
- ◆ National Officers, Home Office Employees and previous recipients of this award are not eligible.
- ◆ Include a head and shoulders photo of nominee.
- ◆ Nomination Form, additional sheet of paper with category responses, and photo should be mailed to: FCSLA, Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122 or email to: kelly@fcsla.org.
- ◆ If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Shedlock via email at kelly@fcsla.org or at the home office 800.464.4642 EXT 1051.
- ◆ You may also print this form off our website www.fcsla.org.
- ◆ An independent committee will select the winner.
- ◆ **Deadline for Entries is May 5, 2017.**



2017 FCSLA Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT!

NOMINEE:

Nominee's Name: _____ FCSLA Branch #: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Widowed

If Married Spouses Name: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer/School: _____

Please review the following categories.

On a separate sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 separate sheet of paper (please type or print) provide your response for each category.

1. **Society Leadership:** Describe your nominee's involvement in the past year in FCSLA's local branch and district governance and activities. This would include service as a branch or district officer, or committee member for any and all FCSLA branch meetings, activities, dinners, blood drives, Matching Funds, Join Hands Day, etc. at any branch or district level.
2. **Service to Others:** Describe how nominee has provided significant volunteer service in the past year to his/her community or participated in outreach programs and environmental activities on the local, state or international level. (Examples: Participation in church groups, mentoring programs, school or community activities, disaster relief efforts, community or service groups.)
3. **Innovative Leadership:** Describe how this nominee has been a leader or an innovator during the past year. (Examples: Engaged in cross-generational participation in an event or activity, updated an old annual activity to make it more relevant, saw a need and created a program to address it, etc.)
4. Finally, describe your personal feelings of admiration for your nominee and why you feel he / she deserves this award.

NOMINATOR:

Name of Nominator: _____ Branch #: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____

DAVID KCENICH ILLUSTRATES CHILDREN'S BOOK



Pictured are David and Caroline Kcenich members of S350 and J207. David is reading his daughter a book he recently illustrated called "Fred and Fiona Fuzzy Blue Monsters with Finicky Fur." David is a cartoonist and former Disney animator who has ventured into the children's book world of illustration. David lives in California and spends much of his times drawing and chasing his own fuzzy blue monster, Caroline, around the house. The author Renu Mansukhani and her daughters, Natasha and Serena, live in Arlington,

VA. They invented Fred and Fiona and made up stories about them a few years ago when Renu, a working mom, was falling asleep while reading bedtime stories, as a way to keep her awake. Eventually they thought other kids might enjoy hearing about Fred and Fiona's adventures and decided to publish one of their stories about these cute

characters with the help of family and friends. After finding David to illustrate the project became a reality. A portion of the profits from the sale of the book will go to the Jennifer Bush-Lawson Foundation, which serves economically vulnerable mothers and infants by giving them access to quality pre and postnatal healthcare and support.

Edith Vaca Celebrates 100th Birthday!

Edith (Holan) Vaca celebrated her 100th Birthday on December 23 with family and friends at Hillcrest Country Estates, Papillion, NE. She was married to Frank Vaca for 68 years before Frank passed away in 2012. They have 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Edith has had her life insurance for 68 years, originally with Catholic



Workman, and then transferred to the FCSLA. She is a member of Branch W018. Her three children, Jerry Vaca, Maxine Vaca, and Margaret Oldham are also members of FCSLA.



Four Generations of FCSLA Members



Pictured are four generations of FCSLA members of S72 and J420. Helen Oravec, great-grandmother, Matthew Gannon, grandson holding daughter Peyton Sue and Susan Gannon, grandmother. Helen is long-time President of Branch 72 in Olyphant, PA.



SUPER YOUTH TERM INSURANCE

Life Insurance for Families

Term Life Insurance is an affordable option that may cover temporary needs such as education costs, mortgages, debt and loss of employment income. A Super Youth Term Certificate provides young members with life insurance benefits and may be purchased with single or annual premiums.

(Contract 80-SPEP-291)

Let's Plan Together

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
of the United States of America • a Fraternal Benefit Society domiciled in Beachwood, OH
FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE AND ANNUITIES



For more information, please visit us at www.fcsla.org or call (800) 464-4642

Winners of our 2nd Annual Photo Contest 2016

By Kelly Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director

Our 2nd Annual Photo Contest was a HUGE success! The photos just kept coming in and they were all AMAZING!!!! I wish I could put all of them in the magazine on our FCSLA website - fcsla.org and on Facebook. The winning photos are on the website and Facebook page.

Thank you to all who submitted photos. I enjoyed each and every one of them as did our judges, the office staff. They had no idea who sent them in, just the title of the photo and where it was taken. I told them it was going to be very difficult. I even had one "judge" say to me I'm mad at you...too many great photos, I don't know which ones to vote for. Thank you to all our judges – you had a really tough task but you did an awesome job with the judging.

I personally love photography. I love taking photos and always take too many on my trips. God has blessed us with many amazing, breath taking places, animals and things to see in this world. We need to "stop and smell the roses". We get so busy with work, family, sporting events, etc. that I think we forget to stop and REALLY ENJOY the little (but huge things) God has given us to enjoy. I hope this contest had given you some time to really look at this word and all the beauty.

We had some members with multiple entries and they won in 2 categories, per the rules they can only win once. I am also including those photos that won, but could not receive a 2nd prize.

I hope you enjoy these photos as much as we did in the home office. Start looking for photo opportunities for our 3rd Annual Photo Contest in 2017. I can't wait!

ANIMALS:

1st Place – "SMILE!" – My horse Willow and I.
Branch S-616 – Megan D'Andrea, Fowler, OH

2nd Place (tie) – "Spider" – Spiders work done
Branch S-185 – Janice Hritz, Beach Haven, NJ

2nd Place (tie) – "Ozzie Peeling Corn" – Our dog,
Ozzie loves to help peel corn. He actually peeled
that one all by himself.
Branch S-140 – Janel Tirpak, Summit Hill, PA

3rd Place (tie) – "Praying for Prey" –
American Bald Eagle
Branch S-634 – Nancy Labecki, Woodruff, WI

3rd Place (tie) – "My Buddy"
Branch S-011 – Michael Semego, Munhall, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – "Brotherly Love" –
Pittsburgh Zoo
Branch S-250 – Adrienne Koncerak, Irwin, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – "Snow Day" – Ole' Shepp enjoying a roll
in the snow.

Branch SZJO – Susan Chlysta, Ravenna, OH



ARCHITECTURE:

1st Place (Tie) (a side note Gwendolyn Frank tied herself for 1st place. Both photos are being shown – however the contest rules state you can only win once – so she only received one prize)

"IL Duomo Di Firenze": Florence Italy – Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore – Cathedral of St. Mary of the Flowers.

"Casa al Mare": Cinque Italy – Seaside homes in the town of Rio Maggiore.

Branch S-522 – Gwendolyn Frank, Willoughby Hills, OH

2nd Place – **"Notre Dame Basilica"** – Notre Dame, IN – Inside the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Branch S-030 – Michael Williams, Powell, OH

3rd Place – **"Power House & Clock Tower"** – Boldt's Castle, Alexandria Bay, NY

Branch S-088 – Thomas Oslick Sr., Pittsburgh, PA

Honorable Mention (Tie) – **"Unused Lower Streetcar Level of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge"** – Cleveland, OH – The level closed in 1955.

Cleveland, OH

Branch S-525 – Paula Dalpiaz, Twinsburg, OH

Honorable Mention (Tie) – **"Hyde's Mill"** – Ridgeway, WI – One of the few mills still standing in Wisconsin.

Branch S-023 – Laurie Muffler, Oconomowoc, WI



FCSLA ACTIVITY:

Only Entry

1st Place – **"Thank a Vet"** St Louis, MO

Veterans Day Brunch sponsored by Branch S-101. Lilian Lyons thanking her grandpa for his service during WWII.

Branch S-101 – Joe Miklovic, St. Louis, MO



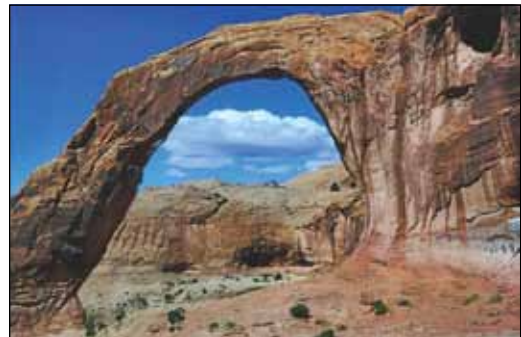
OVERALL BEST PHOTO:

This category was created after seeing some great photos that did not win in their category. When we looked at the photos some of them just had this AWE to them and we wanted to give them another chance to win.

"Arch Framed Cloud" Moab, Utah

I waited for the cloud to center itself before taking the photo.

Branch W-001 Luke Siskoff, Shakopee, MN



MISCELLANEOUS NATURE:

1st Place – “Autumn is on the Right Track” – Thendara, NY
View of engine changing ends of train for trip back on scenic train ride.
Branch S-435 – Rita Foran, Endicotte, NY

2nd Place – “Ice Caves” – Grand Island, MI
Branch W-500 – Marie Knieper, New Lothrop, MI

3rd Place – “Winter Grass” – Pittsburgh, PA
Branch S-088 – Linda Oslick, Pittsburgh, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Hard at Work” – Brown County, IN
A couple of Bees hard at work.
Branch S-452 – Diane Yoder, Whiting, IN

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Window to Life” – Seattle, WA
Taken from inside Public Market out towards the Sound.
Branch S-114 – Cheryl Deeks, Stow, OH



1st



HM



2nd



3rd



HM

LAKES/MOUNTAINS/WATERFALLS:

1st Place – “Moraine Lake” – Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada
Branch S-522 – Virginia Summers, Hinckley, OH

2nd Place – “Calving at Margerie Glacier” – Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska
Pieces of Margerie Glacier falling into Glacier Bay
Branch W-077 – Jerry Vaca, Duncanville, TX

3rd Place (tie) – “Mountainous Plateau & Valley” – Arches National Park, Utah
This Plateau lies at the base of Arches National Park, a beautiful valley below with fencing detail – gorgeous, peaceful setting!
Branch W-013 – Audrey Chromy, North Bend, NE

3rd Place (tie) - “Feeding Time” – Mentor Lagoons, OH
My granddaughter was walking on the beach and found this driftwood “animal” and was “feeding it”.
Branch S-010 – Loretta Taggart, Mentor, OH

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Looking Out” – Mount Bethel, PA
This photo was taken from within the archway of a pillar of a bridge
Branch S-038 – Kristina Guth, Easton, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Almost Heaven” – Iceland
Climbing a glacier the wind stopped for a brief minute and blue skies shown through.
Branch S-011 – Cyrilla Bakey, Homestead, PA



1st



2nd



3rd

LAKES/MOUNTAINS/WATERFALLS (Continued)



FLOWERS/LEAVES/TREES:

1st Place – “Summer” – Vernon, WI

Summer comes around once a year — you gotta enjoy all the moments.

Branch S-023 – Cassie Muffler, Oconomowoc, WI

2nd Place – “A Resting Spot” – Williamsburg, VA

The gardens in Williamsburg were beautiful and provided a peaceful resting spot for visitors - animals and people, alike.

Branch SZJO – Teresa Brinkley, North Richland Hills, TX

3rd Place – “Beauty” – Elizabeth, PA

In my garden the tulip was so beautiful inside and out.

Branch S-088 – Maryann Rossi, Elizabeth, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Reflections” – Giverny, France

Monet’s Waterlily Pond.

Branch S-007 – Judy Taylor, Dayton, OH

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Butterfly in my Flowergarden” – Munhall, PA

This beautiful butterfly sat on the snowball bush for at least 15 minutes so I could take a picture.

Branch S-011 – Anna Kostrej, Munhall, PA

Honorable Mention (tie) – “Field of Sunshine” – Cimarron, NM

I took this photo when we visited my brother at Philmont Scout Ranch while he was on a Boy Scout Backpacking Trip.

Branch S-273 – Anne Sheard, Kenosha, WI



SKIES/SUNSETS/TROPICAL:

1st Place – “The Sun Saying Goodnight” – Ft. Meyers, FL

Branch W-001 – Joyce Anderson, Prior Lake, WI

2nd Place – “Palm Tree “in” the Ocean” – Cook Island, South Pacific

The shadow of a palm tree in the ocean.

Branch S-334 – Jill Allevato, Livonia, MI

3rd Place (tie) – “Kissing Bumble Bees” – Albuquerque, NM

Two hot air balloons at the Annual Balloon Fest. So many balloons at one time – awesome festival!

Branch S-090 – Marcel Szal, Inverness, FL

3rd Place (tie) – “Harvest Skies” – Virginia, IL

The sun was setting with breath taking colors.

Branch S-006 – Angela Elzer, Marseilles, IL

3rd Place (tie) – “Beauty of Hawaii” – Maui, Hawaii

Taken on her honeymoon a sunset on Komanapalli Beach.

Branch S-452 – Amy Bishop, Highland, IN

Honorable Mention – “Sky Feather” – Fenwick Island, DE

Branch S-343 – Thomas Valko, Sr., Brunswick, OH



1st



2nd



3rd



3rd



3rd



HM

There were 10 entries that won in their respective categories. However due to the contest rules a member could submit up to 3 photos, but they could only win once. I wanted to share the list of those photos alphabetically by the member's last name so that they could be recognized.

“Unspoiled Beauty” Mirror Lake, Anchorage, Alaska – Cyrilla Bakey

“Beauty of Hawaii” Maui, Hawaii – Amy Bishop

“Winer Playtime” Fowler, OH – Megan D’Andrea

“Wyoming Wonders” Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming – Angela Elzer

“Adirondack Splendor” Thendara, NY – Rita Foran

“Danville Mill” Danville Mill, WI – Cassie Muffler

“Reflections of Zion Church” Oconomowoc, WI – Laurie Muffler

“Peace on the Lake” Chautauqua, NY – Linda Oslick

“Morning Whisper” Wabeno, WI – Ann Sheard

“Window To The World” Les Andelys, France – Judy Taylor

2017 Slovakia Heritage Tour – September 8-17, 2017

Celebrate the fall harvest and the beautiful culture, history and countryside of Slovakia, up close and personal, on the 2017 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 8-17, we'll explore important cities, medieval towns and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry mountains and picturesque villages. We'll join in a few of the harvest and wine festivals that bring alive Slovakia's long music and craft traditions. Optional genealogical research, and ancestral village and family visits available. **For more information:** Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com.

FCSLA 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Youth Recognition Award is for Honoring the Spirit of Service by an individual youth within FCSLA.

There are countless young FCSLA members who participate in many service projects in their branch, church, school or community. They are individuals who stand out in a crowd because of their achievements & leadership. This is your opportunity to nominate an outstanding young member from your Junior Branch.

The winner will receive an engraved Star Award, a check for \$100.00, will be featured in a future issue of our *Fraternally Yours* Magazine and on our website and Facebook page.

~ GUIDELINES ~

- ◆ Nominee must be an FCSLA member for at least three years.
- ◆ The nominee must be age 15 and under. (Received date will determine the age eligibility.)
- ◆ All family members of the Home Office Staff and National Officers are eligible to be nominated.
- ◆ Previous recipients of this award will not be considered, but previous nominees who did not receive the award are eligible to be nominated.
- ◆ Service projects / volunteerism must be between May 1, 2016 and April 30, 2017.
- ◆ Include if they have pets, siblings or other activities they enjoy.
- ◆ A head and shoulders photo of nominee should be included at time of entry.
- ◆ **Deadline for Entries is May 5, 2017.**
- ◆ An independent committee will select the winner.
- ◆ You may print this form off of our website www.fcsla.org.
- ◆ If you have any questions please call Kelly at 1.800.464.4642 EXT 1051 or e-mail: kelly@fcsla.org.



2017 FCSLA Youth of the Year Nomination Form

PLEASE PRINT!

Nominee's Name: _____

FCSLA Branch # : _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____

Name of School / College / University: _____

Parent (s) Name(s): _____

Phone #: _____ Parents E-Mail Address: _____

Please review the following categories.

**On a separate sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 separate sheet of paper (please type or print)
provide your response for each category.**

1. **Society Leadership:** Describe your nominee's involvement in the past year in FCSLA's local branch and district governance and activities. This would include service as a branch or district officer, or committee member for any and all FCSLA branch meetings, activities, dinners, blood drives, Matching Funds, Join Hands Day, etc. at any branch or district level.
2. **Service to Others:** Describe how nominee has provided significant volunteer service in the past year to his/her community or participated in outreach programs and environmental activities on the local, state or international level. (Examples: Participation in church groups, mentoring programs, school or community activities, disaster relief efforts, community or service groups.)
3. **Innovative Leadership:** Describe how this nominee has been a leader or an innovator during the past year. (Examples: Engaged in cross-generational participation in an event or activity, updated an old annual activity to make it more relevant, saw a need and created a program to address it, etc.)
4. Finally, describe your personal feelings of admiration for your nominee and why you feel he / she deserves this award.

PLEASE PRINT!

Name of Nominator: _____ Branch #: _____ Phone #: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____ E-Mail: _____

Your Relation to Nominee: _____

Mail to: Kelly M. Shedlock, Fraternal & Youth Director, FCSLA, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
OR E-mail: to kelly@fcsla.org

MAGDALEN I. ISKRA DISTRICT CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Magdalen I. Iskra District, Wilkes-Barre, PA celebrated Christmas with a Junior Branch Christmas Party held at Genetti's Hotel on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The branches that participated in the celebration of the Birth of Jesus were J168 (JoAnn Klinesmith, President), J073 (Antoinette Kravits, President), J207 (Rita Kcenich, President) and J362 (Martha Iskra, President). Invocation was by JoAnn Klinesmith, J168. A buffet menu followed which consisted of a fresh fruit cup, chicken fingers, chicken filet chardonnay, hamburger on a bun, macaroni and cheese, ziti marinara, mashed potatoes, green beans, Italian bread with butter and dipping sauces, vanilla sundae and drinks. Entertainment was provided by Magician Matthew Ceklosky, a member of

S172. A sing-a-long was led by Martha Iskra, President J362 and Barbara Ceklosky,

Treasurer J362, with Christmas songs sung by the children on the podium, who were treated thereafter with a gift. The Christmas Story was read by Noah Ceklosky, a member of J362. A Holiday Raffle of 20 prizes and 4 bigger special prizes was held to benefit the Osterhout Free Library third floor renovation with a plaque honoring the FCSLA 2015 Convention and District donations. The raffle was a Matching Funds project by J073, Antoinette Kravits, President. Gifts from Santa (Joseph Flaherty, S172) and our Home Office were presented to the children and their family and friends. Everyone enjoyed the happy and merry Christmas party.



With Santa are Branch Officers, L-R: Barbara Ceklosky, Treasurer J362; Magdalen Iskra, President S172; JoAnn Kleinsmith, President J168; Diane Gregor, Secretary Magdalen I. Iskra District; Mary Ellen Myers, Auditor J168; Ann Dougher, Secretary-Treasurer J168; Theresa Ceklosky, Secretary J362; and Martha Iskra, President J362.



Christmas Story Reading – Noah Ceklosky (holding the book) is pictured with Brody, Jordan and Caleb Ceklosky and Lauren Shemansky. Noah read the Christmas Story to all in attendance.



Pictured L-R: JoAnn Kleinsmith, President J168; Magdalen Iskra, President S172; Antoinette Kravits, President J073 and Martha Iskra, President, J362 by the matching funds raffle sponsored by J073 to benefit the 3rd Floor renovation of the Osterhout Free Library with a plaque honoring the FCSLA's 2015 Convention and Branch donations.



Cleveland Okres District Meetings

All meetings will be held at the LOHV, 283 Union St., Bedford, OH. Meetings will start at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Join your branch officers for lunch, meeting and raffle!

MEETING DATES: March 18 • June 17 • October 14



Sing-A-Long – Junior members helping to lead the Sing-A-Long with Barbara Ceklosky.



Sr. Branch 639 and Jr. Branch 538 Activities

Newly formed Sr. Branch 639 held its very first monthly meeting on January 14, 2017 at the JCC/YMCA center. Elected branch officers were Andrea Schak, President; Katie Dickman, Recording Secretary; and Kathy Snyder, Treasurer. The branch is starting out with over 60 members. Scheduled monthly meetings are the second Saturday of the month.

New Jr. Branch 538 held its first monthly birthday party with Sr. Branch 639. Starting with over 40 members, 15 members help celebrate Alexander Schak's 4th birthday and his sister, Evelyn Schak's 2nd birthday. The youngest member of J-538 is their brother Wesley Schak, 6 months old.



Juratovic Family Three Generations of FCSLA Members

Pictured (below) are Jana and Stjepan Juratovic of Brookfield, OH, their son and daughter-in-law Stjepan Jr. and Lisa and the newest members, grandchildren Marijana, age 2, and Stjepan III, who just turned 1, of Coraopolis, PA. The family are members of SZJO and J512.



Cedar Rapids Branch W137 Holds Holiday Celebration

Member of Branch W137 Cedar Rapids, IA enjoyed a holiday movie, pinochle play, and a visit from Santa on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at St. Ludmila's Social Hall. Pizza, popcorn, snacks, and desserts were enjoyed by all in attendance.



FCSLA Cleveland District Invites You to Join Them at a Lake County Captains Game

(Class A Affiliate of the Cleveland Indians)

Classic Park

35300 Vine Street. Eastlake, OH

Friday, May 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Fireworks after the game

\$20 per person

Includes: Ticket and All You Can Eat Buffet from 6-7:30 p.m. (Left Field Picnic area)

Menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Chips, Cookies, Lemonade, Ice Tea and Ice Water

Limited Number of Tickets available. Reserve your tickets now.

Contact Kelly Shedlock via email: kelly@fcsla.org

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Branch W055

Annual Soup Lunch/Bake Sale

As part of the Sacred Heart annual soup lunch/bake sale, the Altar Society joined forces with Branch W055 in a matching grant to raise monies for St. Gregory the Great Seminary and Funds for Nuns. Over \$700 was raised for each group. Pictured (above) is Cecilia Hall, President of Branch W055 and Teresa Koch, Treasurer of the Lincoln Diocese Council of Catholic Women receiving the checks for Funds for Nuns. Very Rev.



Jeffrey Eickhoff, Rector, received the checks for St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

Funds for Nuns was formed by the Lincoln Diocese Council of Catholic Women to assist women who wished to enter the religious life but have the barrier of debt.

St. Gregory the Great Seminary is located in Seward, NE currently educating men from the Lincoln Diocese as well as dioceses from across the United States.



Jr. Branch 115

Cookie Sale and Basket Raffle

On December 17 and 18, 2016 Jr. Branch 115 sponsored a cookie sale and basket raffle at St. Isaac Jogues church, Jefferson Hills, PA. This was a matching funds project. Members of the junior and senior branch, other FCSLA branch members and parishioners made delicious cookies and beautiful baskets and other items for the raffle. The bake sale and raffle netted a profit of \$635 which was matched by the FCSLA Home Office with a check for \$600. Jerry LaFrankie presented the check to Reverend Robert J. Boyle. Reverend Robert J. Boyle and the members of St. Isaac Jogues parish would like to thank FCSLA for the matching funds check. The money will be used for the new parking lot.

FCSLA District 11 News

District 11, St. Isidore, NE held their annual Christmas party at Prague, NE. New President, Cecilia Hall, thanked Gene Sobota for his 24 years of service as President and for continuing to sit on the executive board as an advisor. Cecilia outlined details of the upcoming merger; urged branches to spread the good word about FCSLA; and offered the help of the officers to branches in filling out their reports and matching grant applications.

New this year was taking up a free will offering for Spirit Catholic Radio, 102.7FM instead of a gift exchange. This idea was well received and will be continued next year. Door prizes and free gifts from the Home Office were appreciated.

An excellent meal of pork, sauerkraut and dumplings was catered by Prague's Kolac Korner.





IN MEMORIAM

KENNETH J. MATUS, SZJO

Kenneth J. Matus, 69, retired Army Major, passed away on September 9, 2016. Ken was born November 19, 1946 in Cleveland, OH, to Joseph and Josephine Matus. He is survived by his wife Misa (Misako), sisters Karen Boswell (husband James), Nancy Matus Walker (husband Ken), and Patricia Matus, and sister-in-law Denise Matus. Ken began high school at Chaplain Kapaun Boy's High School in Wichita, KS, and continued with and graduated from high school at the Zaragoza (Spain) Air Force Base DODS facility in 1964, where his father was stationed with the Air Force. He attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX and later graduated from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, TX in 1968, with a degree in advanced Mathematics. Ken always enjoyed anything to do with electronics. During his military career he served a tour of duty in Vietnam, and his military service took him to many postings including Okinawa, Japan, where he met and married his wife Misa. They recently celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary. Ken also worked at Motorola, and had a career with the State of Arizona Department of Health Services as a Data Communications Specialist; Integrated Information Systems as a senior consultant/engineer; and the PF Chang Corporation as a Network Engineer.

ROBERT C. PLATA. SR., S443



Robert C. Plata, Sr., 82, of Coplay, PA passed away on September 16, 2016. Born July 4, 1934 in Cementon, he was the son of the late Michael and Anna (Biss) Plata. Robert and his wife Virginia R. (Geosits) Plata celebrated 56 years of marriage on April 23rd. Robert retired from Balford Farms in Allentown and previously worked for Woods Catering and A&B Meats.

Robert's faith was important to him serving as a 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus member and also past President of the St. Lawrence the Martyr Holy Name Society in North Catasauqua. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Whitehall. He honorably served his country during the Korean Conflict. Survivors include his wife, Virginia R.; daughters, Hilda, wife of Carl Seier of Coplay, Laura, wife of David Skarwecki of Mechanicsville, MD and Mary Kelly, wife of Martin Chock of Schnecksville; son, Robert Plata, Jr. and his wife Kathleen of York; twelve grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; sisters, Ruthann, wife of Roland Grieshammer, AnnMarie, wife of Thomas Pavlinsky, Mary Helen Plata and Monica Plata; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

JOHN E. LAZOR, S317



John E. Lazor, 91, of Indiana, PA passed away on September 19, 2016. The son of Nicholas and Mary Mizerak Lazor, he was born in 1925 in Adrian. John was an active member of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Roman Catholic Church serving in the Choir and as an Usher for 50 years. He was also a member of St. Vincent DePaul where he volunteered with the Love Basket for 15 years. A member of the Knights of

Columbus 4th degree Counsel #1481, he served as a former Commander and Faithful Navigator. John was first employed as a coal miner and then he worked for the Indiana Gazette for 15 years. He was then self-employed as a builder and contractor for 40 years.

He was an avid walker, Pirates fan, gardener, and enjoyed antiquing. John was generous to those in need in both his family and the community. Most importantly, he enjoyed his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Surviving is his wife of 68 years, Joan (Zoldak) Lazor, IN; four daughters - Diana Kabo and husband Ronald, Johnstown; Alice Blyzwick and husband Edward, Mercer; Lorry Lentz, IN; Annette Cusimano and husband Gregory, Homer City; ten grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren, and the following siblings: Mary Ann Becker, Frances Rado, Dorothy Morrow, Alex Lazor and wife Jean, Bernard Lazor and wife Geneva, Vincent Lazor and wife Clara.

MARY MATRISCIANO (NEE ISKRA), S172

Mary Matrisciano (nee Iskra), 88, of Madison, NJ, passed away on September 20, 2016. Born in Wilkes-Barre, PA, to Joseph and Mary Iskra, Mary attended Wilkes-Barre Sacred Heart Slovak School and Coughlin High School. Following graduation, she pursued further education to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Mary worked as a LPN and Nurse's Assistant at Morristown Medical Center and most recently at the King James Nursing Home in Chatham, NJ. In addition to a career in the medical field, Mary and her husband, the late Samuel Matrisciano, raised four children together at their property in Chatham Township. Mary was deeply religious and devoted much of her spare time to volunteer work through St. Vincent Martyr Church in Madison including activities with the Rosary Society. Mary will be remembered for her kindness, her devotion to those whom she loved. She is survived by her daughters, Mary Damiano and her husband John of East Hanover, NJ, Monica Matrisciano of Stewartville, NJ, Geriann Smith of East Hanover, NJ, and her son, Sam Matrisciano and his wife Sharon of Henderson, NV; three sisters, Magdalen Iskra of Wilkes-Barre, PA, Theresa Matrisciano of Lumberton, NJ, and Martha Iskra of Wilkes-Barre, PA; two brothers, Cyril Iskra of Levittown, PA and Frank Iskra of Bristol, PA; six grandchildren and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

RAYMOND C. MARENO, Z250



Raymond C. Mareno, 75, at rest on September 25, 2016. Preceded in death by his wife, Laura Mareno, Raymond is survived by his children, Cheryle (Mike) Searing, Raymond W. Mareno, William J. (Tiffany) Mareno, Thomas J. (Alison) Mareno and Carl Olivo; seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; former wife, Joanne Mareno; lifelong friends and loyal neighbors from the Greentree Subdivision in Joliet, the Benny Williams Family, the Stover Family and the James Family; dedicated caretaker, Maria

Jasekova; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and favorite pets, Lucky, Cash and Harley. Raymond was a proud United States Army Veteran and served during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion Post #1080, the New Lenox VFW # 9545 and a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans. Raymond retired from the U.S. Postal Service as an Electronics Technician. He was the owner of Union TV and Electronics. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed anything electronic. He was a master tinkerer. Raymond will be truly missed. In lieu of flowers, donations in Raymond's name to the Joliet Armory specifically for PTSD would be greatly appreciated.

ROBERTA M. "BOBBI" KLUSACEK, SZJO

Roberta M. "Bobbi" Klusacek, 67, passed away on October 6, 2016. Born September 19, 1949, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Riska Lasak. A 1967 Mont Pleasant High School graduate, Bobbi had a varied career history. She was a gifted singer and attended Potsdam's Crane School of Music; she worked for the NYS Corporate Tax Department for several years as a secretary; and she owned and operated her own travel agency, BO-K Tours and Travel. However, it wasn't until the early 90's that Bobbi found her true passion, when she became an office manager at the Russell Sage College Creative and Performing Arts Department. In her nearly 15 years there, she grew friendships that lasted the rest of her life, even after retiring to take on her new role, "Grammy." She and her husband Mike enjoyed traveling together. Survivors include her husband of 44 years, Michael A. Klusacek, whom she married on July 15, 1972; her daughters, Amy (Michael) Daley of Mechanicville, Carrie (John) Watts of Inverness, Scotland, Elizabeth (Matthew) Wendel of Mechanicville and her son Michael (MaryEllen) Klusacek of Marlborough, MA; eight grandchildren; sister, Mary Swan of Santa Rosa, CA; brother, Paul (Michele) Lasak of Hadley; along with nieces and nephews; and devoted best friend, Rose Shulusky of Waterford. In lieu of flowers, Bobbi's family strongly suggests that donations be made to Steffens Scleroderma Foundation at the Center for Rheumatology, 4 Tower Place, 8th Floor, Albany, NY 12203 in loving memory of Roberta M. Klusacek.

BARBARA A. SADOSKI, S453



Barbara A. (Mayher) Sadoski, 64, of Erie, PA passed away unexpectedly on October 6, 2016. She was born February 11, 1952, in New Kensington, a daughter of the late Joseph B. and Dorothy Seamen Mayher. Barbara was a 1970 graduate of Valley High School in New Kensington and attended Robert Morris University. She worked for a number of years with Tri-State Neurological and was a member of St. Luke Catholic Church. She enjoyed archery, hunting, fishing, gardening and boating. Survivors include her beloved husband of 43 years, Thomas M. Sadoski; one brother, Joseph M. Mayher and his wife, Angela, of New Kensington; one nephew; one niece; her sister-in-law, Cindy Hornaman and her husband, Chris, of Allentown; her boys, two Portuguese Water Dogs, Max and Bailey; and many cousins, numerous friends, neighbors and her coworkers at Tri-State. Memorial contributions can be made to the Erie City Mission, 1017 French St., Erie, PA 16512 or the St. Luke Food Pantry, 421 E. 38th St., Erie, PA 16504.

MARK DAVID SUTHERLAND, S088

Mark David Sutherland, 62, of Monongahela, PA died October 6, 2016. He was born June 21, 1954 in New Eagle, the son of Clyde and Betty Walters Sutherland, who survive. Mark had been employed by Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel at their Allenport Plant, until it's closing. He then owned and operated the Fisher Heights Amoco station for several years. Currently, he was employed by the borough of Donora. He was a member of St. Damien of Molokai Church in Monongahela and the Donora Volunteer Fire Department. Mark enjoyed Nascar racing, with Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Jr. being two of his favorites. He loved spending time with his grandchildren, going fishing and hunting at "Camp Monongahela", his cabin in

Emporium. He is survived by his wife, Vicki Maser Sutherland with whom he celebrated 42 years of marriage on September 7, 2016; daughter, Tracy Benney and husband Aaron of Monongahela; son, Cory Sutherland of New Eagle; two grandchildren; two brothers, Gery Sutherland and wife Janice, and Scott Sutherland, all of Monongahela; mother-in-law, Dorothy Maser of Eldora; two sisters-in-laws, Daryle Bonneau and husband John of Portage, MI, Lorrie Paul and husband Bob of Cabot. Memorial contributions may be made to the Donora Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 811, Donora, PA 15033.

RALPH A. SUPELAK, S532



Ralph A. Supelak, 67, passed away October 12, 2016. Beloved husband of Mary for 47 years. Loving father of Gail Keitlen (Todd), Greg (Danielle), Mark (Katie), Scott (Pamela), Paul "PJ" (Amanda) and Curt (Erin). Dear brother of Dick and Larry. Cherished Papa of 14; loving uncle and friend to many. He was known for his ability to fix anything, a kitchen that was always open with a feast prepared for all, and his passion for gardening and soccer. He had a big heart, warm smile, and a laugh that could fill a room. He would like nothing more than to split a beer with you.

STANLEY C. DUFF, S301



Stanley C. Duff, 94, of Canton, OH passed away October 3, 2016. He was born February 19, 1922 in Canton, the son of the late William C. and Elizabeth (DeHoff) Duff. He was a former member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Canton. Stanley was a member of Saint Anthony's/All Saints Parish Catholic Church. He was well respected, loved and looked up to by many. His greatest joy was traveling and being the official "Tour Guide." He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army in the 331st Infantry Regiment of the 83rd Division. He always looked forward to and never missed a reunion with his comrades of the 83rd Division. He married his childhood sweetheart, Anna Mae (Datko) with whom he celebrated 74 years of marriage; son, William (Sheri) Duff; six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in Stanley's name be made to a local food bank or to Saint Anthony/All Saints Parish.

WPSCA Slovak Heritage Programs

The WPSCA will continue to present the Slovak Heritage Programs on the first Monday evening of each month starting at 7 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library (16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228). It is free for both members and non-members.

April 3 — Slovak Wedding Customs and Cookies: Otilia Golias, the cookie lady, will show us customs of a wedding in Slovakia including baking homemade cookies.

May 1 — Authentic Slovak Bryndzove Halusky: Otilia Golias will be back again sharing and demonstrating her own recipe for this popular Slovak meal.

June 5 — Eastern Slovak Village Culture and Traditions: Emma Moser will give her first-hand experience of the culture, traditions, and language of Eastern Slovakia while living in Kocise.

FCSLA Executive Committee Third Quarterly Meeting

Home Office, Beachwood OH • August 24, 2016

Call to Order / Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

President Cynthia M. Maleski called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. at the home office, Beachwood, Ohio. She asked Chaplain Monsignor Peter M. Polando to open the meeting with prayer.

Opening Business

Roll Call

Interim Secretary Katherine M. Bowes was asked to call the roll. Members present were:

Monsignor Peter M. Polando	Chaplain
Cynthia M. Maleski	President
Sue Ann M. Seich	Director
Joann Skvarek Banvich	Director
Virginia A. Holmes	Trustee
Barbara Novotny Waller	Trustee

Interim Treasurer Stephen C. Hudak was also in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

President Maleski called for approval of the agenda. Trustee Barbara Novotny Waller moved and Monsignor Polando seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

Approval of the Minutes

President Maleski called for approval of the June 6, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Director Sue Ann M. Seich moved and Trustee Waller seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

Approval of the Minutes

President Maleski called for approval of the June 29, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting minutes. Trustee Waller moved and Director Seich seconded to approve the minutes as presented.

MOTION ADOPTED

National President's Comments

Merger Status

Final merger negotiations are in process with Polish Union of the United States of North America (PUNA) and a special board meeting is scheduled today to further discuss.

The Polish Women's Alliance of American in Rehabilitation (PWAA) merger agreement has been reviewed by the Illinois Department of Insurance (DOI). The document is being reviewed internally and further discussion with the Illinois DOI will ensue.

Interim Editor Carolyn M. Bazik is preparing merger Q & A which will be sent out with the delegate packets.

125th Anniversary Celebration

The Steering Committee has been formed for the celebration and Director Seich has offered to be co-chair of the Gala portion. The agreement with the banquet hotel will be signed soon.

Sales Planning Meeting

The sales planning group discussed goals and proposals to be implemented for the remainder of 2016 and 2017, as well as how these goals are to be integrated with earlier sales plans. The idea of targeting specific geographic areas for sales and follow up with a media campaign was introduced. We plan to hire a new Regional Sales Manager from California soon.

Product Development Committee

This committee has been operationalized with National Sales Manager Albert Heiles and Insurance Manager Paula Dalpiaz serving as co-chairs. The purpose of the committee has been modified

to evaluate existing products to ensure they are compatible with our mission and vision and to investigate, develop, and recommend new products to management in accordance with our mission and vision. We explored a number of new product ideas.

IT Plan for Board Members

The IT plan to acquire new hardware and software for the board with added security has been separated into two parts. The first part is to upgrade several items of boardroom equipment. The second part is the purchase of hardware and software. Training is expected to be held at the September or December board meetings.

President Maleski excused Interim Secretary Bowes and Interim Treasurer Hudak, and Trustee Waller excused herself from the meeting so that staffing issues could be discussed.

Interim Secretary Bowes, Interim Treasurer Hudak, and Trustee Waller were called back to the meeting.

Director Seich moved and Trustee Virginia A. Holmes seconded to accept the President's Report.

MOTION ADOPTED

Treasurer's Report

Interim Treasurer Hudak presented the Treasurer's Report.

Supplement 1

Investments

Interim Treasurer Hudak went over the details on the Acquired Securities Report. A number of questions were asked and answered.

Annuity Reserves by Product

Interim Treasurer Hudak reported on our annuity reserves by product. He explained in detail significant statistics on the report. Several questions were asked and answered.

2nd Quarter Budget vs. Actual

Interim Treasurer Hudak discussed the report and reviewed both life and annuity sales compared to the detail budget. Interim Treasurer Hudak also discussed members' current annuity depositing habits and the spread compression of the annuity products. Questions on the report were asked and answered.

The meeting was recessed at 12:13 p.m. for lunch.

Second Session – August 24, 2016

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Interim Treasurer Hudak reviewed the yield curve and the interest rate environment. Discussion ensued around ways to boost life sales over annuity sales.

Supplement 2

The meeting was recessed at 1:24 p.m. for a special meeting of the board of directors.

Third Session – August 24, 2016

The meeting reconvened at 2:59 p.m.

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Annuity Interest Yield – October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

After a lengthy conversation, Monsignor Polando moved and Director Joann Skvarek Banvich seconded that the Executive Committee recommend to the board that the annual annuity yield rate credited for the fourth quarter 2016 (October 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016) be changed to the following for the Elite products:

Silver Elite – 5 yr 2.75% APY

Gold Elite – 7 yr 3.00% APY

Platinum Elite – 10 yr 3.25% APY

And no change to the legacy products.
Legacy 3.5% - 3.5618% APY
Legacy 4.5% - 4.6025% APY

MOTION ADOPTED

2017 Budget Discussion

Interim Treasurer Hudak informed the committee that the detailed 2017 budget is in process. General discussion followed about 2017 sales and expense expectations, along with the overall interest rate environment.

2017 Dividend

Monsignor Polando moved and Trustee Holmes seconded that the Executive Committee recommend to the board that the 2017 dividend remain at 50%.

MOTION ADOPTED

Director Skvarek Banvich moved and Director Seich seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION ADOPTED

Unfinished/New Business

41st Quadrennial Convention Minutes

Corrections to the final convention minutes draft are to be returned to Interim Secretary Bowes by September 30, 2016. Any substantive changes will be brought to the attention of the committee.

Supplement 3

Addition to Board Manual

President Maleski proposed that a short statement be added to the board policy and procedure manual regarding reimbursement to the board for incidental expenses in accordance with current and past practice. The additional language proposed is: "Board members will be reimbursed for incidental/miscellaneous expenses. The National President will determine the amount and frequency of the reimbursement."

Director Seich moved to recommend to the board that the statement be added to the board manual.

MOTION ADOPTED

40th Quadrennial Convention Grant

President Maleski informed the committee that a request was made by a grant recipient from the 40th Quadrennial Convention to transfer that money to another entity to fulfill the grant request. After discussion, Monsignor Polando stated that the diocese in that area may have some responsibility in the matter and he will investigate. A decision was deferred to a future meeting.

Meeting Dates

4th Quarterly Executive Committee meeting: November 17, 2016, 9:30 a.m. (*Note new meeting time*)

Adjournment and Prayer

Director Seich moved and Monsignor Polando seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m. with prayer led by Monsignor Polando.

MOTION ADOPTED

Cynthia M. Maleski, President
Katherine M. Bowes, Interim Secretary

ATTEST: Date: November 17, 2016

Monsignor Peter M. Polando, Chaplain
Sue Ann M. Seich, Director
Joann Skvarek Banvich, Director
Virginia A. Holmes, Trustee
Barbara Novotny Waller, Trustee

MARCH 2017

Election of Officers Held

Saint Elizabeth Sr. Branch 161 and St. Cecilia Jr. Branch 192, Youngstown, OH, elected Melanie Leonard, current Treasurer, to become President of the Branches effective January 1, 2017.

The Branches, with 1,260 members, are active in Senior and Junior activities, Matching Funds projects, Join Hands Day and numerous other events. The Branches

have held their meetings in parish rooms since 1914 when the parish was established. Reverend John Jerek is Pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish which includes the merged churches of Saint Matthias, Holy Name and Saints Cyril and Methodius. Father and Melanie were classmates through eight years of classes at St. Matthias Elementary School. Members of the Branches are grateful to Virginia Deluca, outgoing President, for her hard work and dedication these past years.



Melanie Leonard prepares to take the Oath of Office administered by Financial Secretary Bernie Demechko.



L-R: Bernie Demechko, Financial Secretary; Loretta Eknaiak, S161 Auditor; Father Jerek; Melanie Leonard, President/Treasurer; Mille Kust, Recording Secretary. Absent from the photo is Nancy Clausen, J192 Auditor

12th Consular Tour of Slovakia

July 29-August 11, 2017

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a tour of Slovakia which includes the cities of Bratislava, Sastin, Skalica, Trencin, Bojnice, Rajecke, Teplice, Cicmany, High Tatras, Levoca, Kezmarok, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kosice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Presov. Arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages in Slovakia for an additional cost.

The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, 2 meals daily, four-star hotels, air-conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For cost and a more detailed itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

FOR SALE

Embroidered Easter Basket Covers

Three types of basket covers available
to bring your Easter Foods to Church
for blessing on Holy Saturday.
Each embroidered cover is \$30.00 plus \$5 shipping.

- 1.** Slovak words "Kristus vstal zmrtych"
"Christ is risen!"
- 2.** English words "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"
- 3.** Byzantine Slovak words "Christos voskrese"
"Christ is risen!"

Each cover is approximately 27" x 17"



#1



#2



#3

*Keep the traditions alive and pass these treasured
covers from generation to generation.*

Order by phone at 724-562-0783 or 724-277-4236
or use order form below

ORDER FORM

_____ Total Number of Covers Ordered

_____ "Kristus vstal zmrtych" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

_____ "Alleluia, Christ is risen!" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

_____ "Christos voskrese" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Kindly make checks payable to: Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
Send this order form and check for \$35 to:

Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
St. Aloysius Church
459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

Branch W093 Event Scheduled

**April 23 — Easter Party, noon potluck and meeting at
Beseda Hall, Tabor, SD.**

REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2016

ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 16,573,916
Bonds	812,969,622
Preferred Stock	1,385,283
Common Stock	4,805,641
Investment Income Due & Accrued	12,579,444
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,417,651
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,874,040
Other Assets	4,452,098

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 861,057,696

LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 253,892,923
Annuity Reserves	489,716,610
Death Claims Payable	2,140,564
Unearned Premiums	484,219
Matured Endowments	318,715
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,467,625
Accrued Convention Donations	252,000
Provision for Future Conventions	187,500
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,024,025
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,056,306
Other Liabilities	1,653,859

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 763,594,346

Surplus

\$ 97,463,350

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 861,057,696

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Ten Months Ending October 31, 2016

REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,109,360
Annuity Premiums	48,912,851
Investment Income	35,115,698
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	141,868
Rental Income	331,604
Other Revenue	7,518

TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 87,618,898

EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 163,926
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	41,954,580
Insurance Benefits	5,535,977
Annuity Benefits	23,145,727
Commission Expense	1,413,384
Surrender Benefits	3,506,617
Post Mortem Benefits	1,081,397
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	67,652
Matured Endowments	11,141
Donation Expenses	93,165
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	210,000
Convention Expenses	160,021
Bank Service Charges	63,098
Data Processing Service Fees	258,937
Accounting Fees	97,226
Actuarial Fees	172,958
Legal Fees	292,386
Consulting Fees	101,631
Bonus to Branches	691,350
Fraternal Activities	118,787
Official Publications	330,095
Scholarship Awards	220,723
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	294,180
Fees — Directors	138,394
Salaries — Employees	1,247,455
Salaries — Officers	380,564
Interest Expense	240,582
Tax Expense	231,994
Depreciation Expense	208,548
Utility Expense	77,785
Postage and Printing	150,189
Advertising	74,468
Travel Expense	96,272
Insurance Department Fees	115,536
Sales Promotion	147,043
Rental Expense	331,604
Other Expense	368,517

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$ 83,793,907

Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 3,824,992

Dividends to Members

1,149,482

Subtotal Income (Loss)

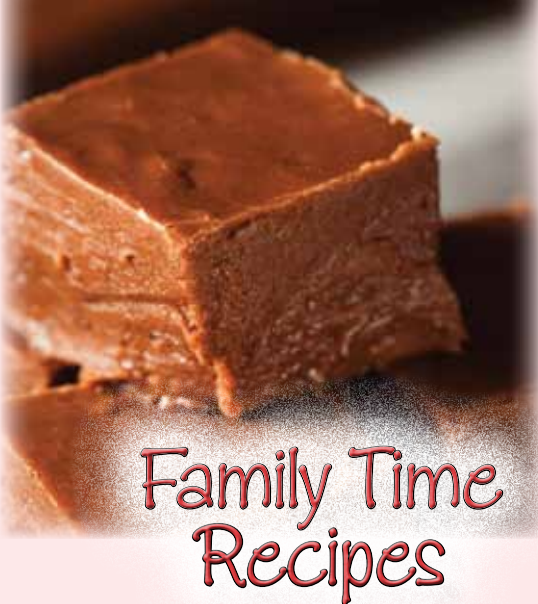
\$ 2,675,510

Capital Gains (Loss)

25,575

NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 2,701,085



Family Time Recipes

CHOCOLATE FUDGE

- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted butter, plus more for pan
- 3 cups mini marshmallows
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 bag (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped

Butter an 8-inch square baking pan; line with 2 crisscrossed pieces of parchment paper, leaving an overhang. Butter paper.

In a large saucepan, combine butter, marshmallows, sugar, cream, and salt; cook over medium, stirring occasionally, until marshmallows are melted, 8 to 10 minutes. Off heat, stir in vanilla, chocolate chips, and ½ cup walnuts until chocolate is melted.

Pour fudge into prepared pan, and smooth top; sprinkle with remaining walnuts. Let cool 30 minutes. Refrigerate until set, about 1 hour.

Using overhang, lift fudge onto a cutting board; cut into squares.

WHITE CHOCOLATE ORZO PUDDING

- 4 cups whole milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup orzo pasta
- 1 teaspoon orange zest, from ½ an orange
- ¾ cup white chocolate chips
- ½ cup crushed amaretti cookies

In a medium sauce pan or dutch oven, bring the milk, salt, sugar, cinnamon stick and vanilla to a simmer over medium heat. Stir in the pasta and reduce the heat to low, just to maintain a gentle simmer. Cook, stirring often, for 12 to 14 minutes or until the pasta is cooked and the liquid is beginning to thicken slightly. There will still be a good amount of liquid. Stir in the orange zest and white chips

and stir until the chocolate is melted.

Allow the mixture to cool to room temperature, about 20 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent a skin from forming over the surface. Spoon the pudding into the serving dishes of your choice and refrigerate until chilled.

Serve with crushed amaretti cookies sprinkled on top.

CHOCOLATE CRACKER COOKIES

- 28 round crackers, such as Ritz Honey Wheat
- 1/2 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 1 (10-ounce) bag bittersweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Spread the flat side of 14 of the crackers evenly with peanut butter. Top with a second cracker to make 14 sandwiches.

Place the chocolate chips in a medium glass-microwave-safe bowl and microwave on medium for 20 seconds. Stir well with a rubber spatula. Return to the microwave and repeat, stirring well after each 20-second increment, until the chocolate is completely melted and smooth. Stir in the oil.

Working one at a time, roll the edges of each cookie in the chocolate to seal. Dip the entire cookie in the chocolate, using a fork to flip it, and cover completely. Lift the cookie from the chocolate using the fork and allow the excess chocolate to drip off, back into the bowl.

Place the cookies on a parchment-lined baking tray. Refrigerate until the chocolate is set. Store in the fridge.

SPICY TEQUILA LIME CHICKEN WINGS

- 1 pound chicken wings, tips removed and wings split
- ½ cup tequila
- 2 tablespoon lime juice, from 1 large lime
- ½ teaspoon grated lime zest, from 1 lime
- 2 to 3 tablespoons harissa paste, depending on your spice level
- 1 tablespoon agave
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- nonstick cooking spray

Place the chicken wings in a resealable plastic bag. In a small bowl whisk together the tequila, lime juice and zest, harissa, agave and salt. Add the marinade to the wings and seal the bag. Toss the wings in the marinade to coat evenly. Place in the refrigerator and allow the wings to marinate for 2 to 4 hours.

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Spray a small baking tray with nonstick cooking spray. Lay each wing out on the tray so they do not touch each other. Place in the oven and cook for 25 minutes, flipping the wings half way through, until cooked through and deep golden brown. Meanwhile place

the marinade in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Simmer for 5 to 7 minutes or until it is reduced to a glaze consistency. Remove the glaze from the heat and add the cooked chicken wings. Toss to coat.

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

- ½ cup Italian-style dried bread crumbs
- ½ cup grated Pecorino Romano
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 28 large (2½-inch-diameter) white mushrooms, stemmed

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Stir the bread crumbs, Pecorino Romano, garlic, parsley, salt and pepper, to taste, and 2 tablespoons olive oil in a medium bowl to blend.

Drizzle a heavy large baking sheet with about 1 tablespoon olive oil, to coat. Spoon the filling into the mushroom cavities and arrange on the baking sheet, cavity side up. Drizzle remaining oil over the filling in each mushroom. Bake until the mushrooms are tender and the filling is heated through and golden on top, about 25 minutes. Serve.

PANTRY MEZZI RIGATONI WITH GREENS

- 1 pound mezzis rigatoni pasta
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 (15 ounce) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed and drained well on paper towel
- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- ½ teaspoon chili flakes
- 3 tablespoons capers, drained and rinsed
- 1 bunch Swiss chard leaves or baby spinach, chopped into ½ inch strips
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1¾ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest, from 1 lemon

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta for 8 minutes or until just under al dente. Drain, reserving 1½ cup pasta water.

Meanwhile, heat ¼ cup olive oil over medium high heat. Add the chickpeas and cook stirring often with a wooden spoon for about 5 minutes, or until golden brown and crispy. Add the garlic, chili flakes and capers and cook an additional minute until fragrant. Stir in the swiss chard and salt and cook for 3 minutes or until wilted. Add a ¼ cup pasta water and simmer for 1 minute. Add the drained pasta and sprinkle with 1½ cups of the cheese along with the lemon zest. Toss well to coat. Add 1 cup pasta water and ¼ cup olive oil and simmer for another 2 minutes, until the pasta is al dente, the sauce has thickened and the flavors have come together. Top with the remaining cheese and serve.

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.