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Fraternally Yours®

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA

Fraternally Yours, ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA®



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ŽENSKÁ JEDNOTA,
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May You Be Known By Your Love

Henry Drummond has said, 'The moments when you have really lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love.'

Here is a story (possibly apocryphal, but powerful nevertheless) about a man who acted in the spirit of love and about what he consequently learned.

Many years ago an old man stood on a Virginia riverbank. He was waiting to cross the river and, since it was bitterly cold and there were no bridges, he was hoping to get a ride across on horseback. After a lengthy wait he spotted a group of horsemen approaching. He let the first one pass, then the second, third, fourth and fifth. One rider remained. As he drew abreast, the old man looked him in the eye and said, 'Sir, would you give me a ride across the river?'

The rider immediately replied, 'Certainly.' Once across the river, the old man slid to the ground. 'Sir,' the rider said before leaving. 'I could not help but notice that you permitted all the other men to pass without asking for a ride. Then, when I drew abreast, you immediately asked me to carry you across. I am curious as to why you didn't ask them and you did ask me.'

The old man quietly responded, 'I looked into their eyes and could see no love and knew in my own heart it would be useless to ask for a ride. But when I looked into your eyes, I saw compassion, love and the willingness to help. I knew you would be glad to give me a ride across the river.'

The rider was touched. 'I'm grateful for what you are saying,' he said. 'I appreciate it very much.' With that, Thomas Jefferson turned and rode off to the White House.

Dear Friends,

It is often said that our eyes are the windows to our souls. If that is true, what is it that our eyes show about us? Or let me ask it a different way: if you had been the last rider, would the old man have asked you for a ride? Think about that — it is a good question to ponder. Always remember it is said that others will know us by our love. Some will see it in the things we do and some in the things we say. And a few perceptive souls, like the old man in the story, may catch a glimmer of a loving and generous spirit in the expression of our kind eyes. This month may you be easily recognized by your love.

*Until next month,
Warmly, Carolyn*



"Mothers hold their
children's hands
for a short while,
but their hearts
forever."

— Unknown

Message from our National President

CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016



125 years of providing security, faith and traditions! ***"We are the light of the world"***

Very Reverend Monsignor, National Officers and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association;

Your National President is pleased to present my annual report to all of you.

Pochváleny bud Pan
Ježiš Kristus!

First, I would like to thank fellow officers and members of our board of directors, and national, district and branch officers who continue to serve First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association with dedication and commitment.

Thanks are also in order to everyone in the home office and in the field who work for our society with diligence and pride in our mission of providing financial security to our members, while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions.

We will open our 125th anniversary year in 2017 with much gratitude for the vision, fortitude, perseverance and grit of our foundress, Mrs. Anna Hurban, and the eight other Slovak immigrant women who organized our society on January 1, 1892 to provide for death and injury benefits to protect families from the hazards and toll of industrial labor.

Governance and Strategic Planning – A Smooth Transition Year with a Number of Changes.

During an extensive board orientation session for the new board of directors, your national president presented an overview of trends and initiatives that are essential for us for long term future sustainability and growth for our association. As we build a cohesive board of directors, we need to thank all newly elected members of the board for their commitment and dedication and look forward to positive energy as we create the building blocks for the future of our society. During the third and fourth quarters 2016, we appointed new members to the board strategic planning committees; namely, strategic relations, philanthropic and scholarship, board review and performance and property advisory, in addition to our standing committees. The audit committee works diligently in assisting the board of directors in its oversight of the Association's financial statements. Members of the board are also provided with opportunities for board development and training, including attendance and participation at several day meetings and educational sessions through the American Fraternal Alliance in Nash-

ville, Tennessee and various regional meetings. Members of the board were also trained in 2 workshops for the use of iPads to maintain security and confidentiality of board materials. We anticipate implementation of this upgrade in the first quarter of 2017.

A good measure of focused leadership time was spent on the selection/election process for vacancies on the Court of Appeals, Interim National Secretary, Interim National Treasurer and Interim National Editor, as well as a realignment of several of the operating units of our national headquarters, including appointment of long time employee Paula Dalpiaz as Insurance Manager/IT Coordinator. The second half of the year was spent in developing and implementing search and recruitment tools for full time officer and staff positions, including National Treasurer, National Secretary and National Editor, in accordance with our new governance standards set forth in our newly adopted bylaws.

"We are the light of the world".

Merger Opportunities at the Forefront

As short and long term strategies for growth, the Strategic Relations Committee of the board of directors, which I chair, explored, developed and negotiated two merger opportunities with two fraternal benefits societies with a common bond. At every key decision making point at special or regular meetings of the board, each board member was able to fully participate in the decision making process by receiving the information needed to make collective decisions to move forward for the long term growth of our society. I led operating leadership teams, as well as outside consultants, to call a special convention by mail, to negotiate each agreement separately for each society, to perform regulatory work with regulators in key states (Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois) and to develop communication packets for delegates. These two business combinations have been approved by a resounding affirmative vote of our delegates in March 2017 for both short and long term growth of our Association.

"We are the light of the world".

Internal and External Risk Environment – an Ongoing Process and Assessment

We continually evaluate and assess both our internal and external risk environments, including operational and transactional risk. We keep abreast of legal and regulatory changes which affect our business model. 2016 was an especially crucial year in regard to tax exemption, corporate governance; U.S. Department of Labor fiduciary standards, principle based reserving and several other compliance topics, all in the fore front at this present time. As part of leadership responsibilities, I serve on the board of directors

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

of American Fraternal Alliance, which enables our society to obtain timely information on these significant topics. Several of our board members serve on state and regional alliance boards as well, to keep us informed on a formal and informal basis.

Several Records Achieved in Annual Operating Performance.

In 2012, during my first year as National President, I articulated an overall strategy of managed growth and profitability; we have now even further refined our goal of sustained managed growth. According to reports of our independent actuary, Grant Hemphill of Bruce & Bruce and our outside auditors H2R CPA, we saw a number of records achieved in 2016, including record total assets (\$866.94 million), record total revenues of (\$101.9 million) record total annuity premiums (\$54.9 million) and record surplus (over \$99 million), despite the ongoing challenges in transitioning leadership and staff.

In 2016 we paid bonus dividends of \$1.4 million to members. A.M. Best reaffirmed our A- (Excellent) rating in a review process which takes a significant amount of our executive time as well, including preparation of metrics, strategy narratives and an in depth interview session. Our risk based capital (RBC) value well exceeds that of the regulatory benchmark of 300%.

FCSLA continues to hold over \$1 billion of insurance in force. Our strategic team has appropriately focused on the key long term opportunity of mergers with likeminded fraternal benefit societies having insurance blocks of business. In the short term, our operating team made up of Mr. Albert Heiles, National Sales Manager; Katherine Bowes, Interim National Secretary and others have focused on short term incentive campaigns and support of our producers, since we anticipated the challenges in sales on the insurance portion of our business. Our National Sales Manager Al Heiles conducts monthly training sessions for our producers on a regular basis.

Congratulations to our management, our sales leaders, producers and home office staff who all have worked hard to achieve these results. It is a tribute to your perseverance and dedication on behalf of our association. What a great way to begin our 125th Anniversary! *We are the light of the world!*

Fraternal Operations –Provide a generous value to members

Fraternally our society continues to provide a very generous value to members and branches. We created three new branches in 2016. Our branches, over 400 strong, have reported a combined record 5,834,313 hours of volunteer community and fraternal activity hours. In 2016, 104 branches in 17 states completed 157 matching funds projects in the communities we serve, where we raised \$516,313.66 for approved projects within the scope of our mission and vision.

Our second branch membership challenge has been a success where seventy-six branches across the country worked hard in collaboration with our producers where each branch was asked to bring in at least five new members.

Congratulations to each and every one of you.

Our magazine *Fraternally Yours* continues to provide the major vehicle for communicating with our members in a colorful, meaningful way about our strategic direction, our finances, our fraternal districts, and branch activities and programs and our products. Thank you, National Editor Carolyn Bazik and all those who write articles or submit information or photos. In fall 2015, the board of directors, through the scholarship and philanthropic committee, designated our Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund as our 2017 National President's Appeal. Funds collected will be added to the annual \$250,000 we already designate to the Scholarship Fund. We welcome all donations, both large and small, and all will be acknowledged in *Fraternally Yours*. What a better way to celebrate our 125th Anniversary than to donate for the benefit of our young members! Our branch newsletters, our major communication to our branch officers, are filled with relevant branch officer information every month, thanks to our National Fraternal and Youth Director, Kelly Shedlock. *We are the light of the world!*

Our 125th Anniversary – “Security, Faith and Traditions”

Our 125th Steering Committee is carefully planning our anniversary Mass and gala banquet in Cleveland, Ohio on July 29, 2017. Our home office open house is scheduled for Sunday July 30, 2017. We also encourage and look forward to each district holding its own celebration to mark this auspicious occasion so that we can reach as many members as possible. A commemorative calendar and historic DVD is also being prepared. *We are the light of the world!*

Convention Planning

Under the direction of the National President, members of the board visited certain cities and hotel sites for the 2019 Quadrennial Convention, with the goal of choosing a site during the first half of 2017. Cities visited included Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Tampa, Charlotte, Orlando, Chicago and Arlington. Others explored on a preliminary basis were Philadelphia and Nashville.

Conclusion

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association continues to be a national fraternal leader true to our original purpose set forth 125 years ago. It is my distinct honor to serve as your National President, elected by the delegates of this venerable association. We face many challenges every day, and I can honestly state that we serve diligently in the home office to carry forth the mission of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association: to provide security to our members, while embracing our Catholic values and Slavic traditions. We hope that the strategic plan we have developed and articulated will move us forward well into the 21st century, as we continue to strive to meet the challenges that we inevitably face daily to lead this national billion dollar multi-faceted association.

I would like to thank the outstanding home office staff that keeps us operating on a daily basis. Thanks and appreciation are also in order for the professionalism and commitment shown by the members of the board of directors, National

Continued on Page 5

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, OH 44122.

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

Treasurer, Steve Hudak; Interim National Secretary Katherine Bowes; National Editor, Carolyn Bazik and National Sales Manager Albert Heiles; for their diligence and commitment during this very busy, meaningful year.

Again we thank and appreciate all the dedication and leadership shown in our branches and districts in many places in the United States. Most of all, **thank you** to our members who do business with us in the fraternal way!

YOU ARE TRULY THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

To our dear members,

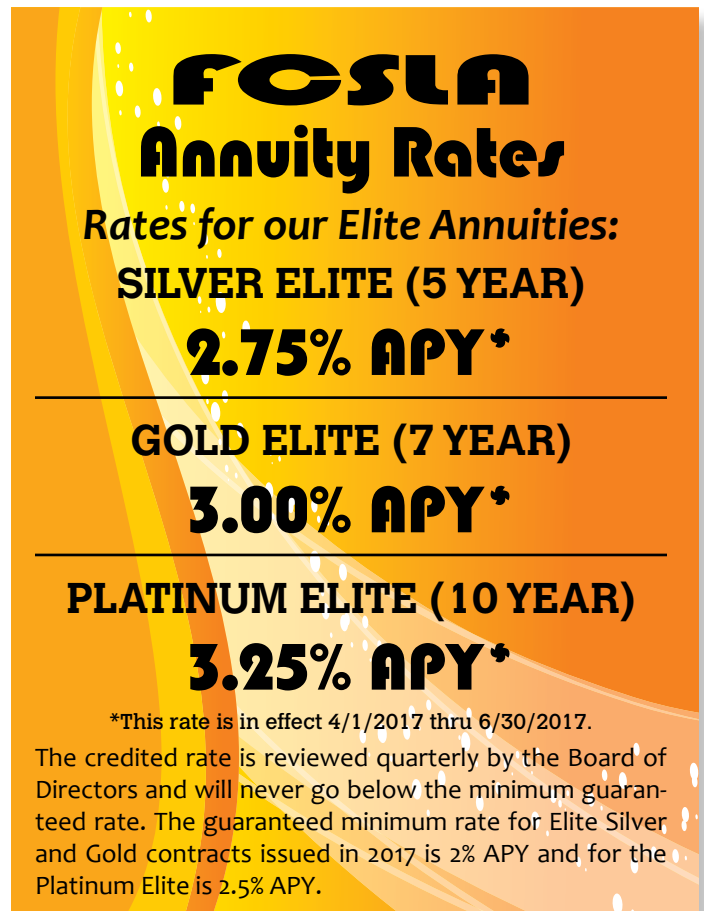
Happy Mother's Day to all of us who are mothers, grandmothers, godmothers or special aunts to someone special! For those whose mothers have passed away, let us all say a special prayer in grateful thanks in memory for all they have done for us in our lives!

Also, a heartfelt Memorial Day tribute is extended to all those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces of the great country of ours, the United States of America, and especially to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. I encourage you to attend Memorial Day services in your community and thank a veteran. We honor and remember each and every one of them in a special way on Memorial Day.

Cynthia M. Maleski
National President

Slovak U.S.A.

As a project for the Slovak Catholic Federation, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School in Cleveland is trying to assemble an on-line guide to **Places of Slovak Interest** around the United States. Please send him information about anything connected with Slovak history or culture in your city or state (excluding Cleveland, OH) at: gerard@cbhs.edu.



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 4/1/2017 thru 6/30/2017.
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.



Branch W045 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa Awarded Scholarships

Branch W045 in Cedar Rapids, IA recently awarded scholarships of \$300 each from their local branch to:



Skylar Decamp,
Freshman attending
St. Ambrose
University,
Davenport, IA



Jacob Francois,
Freshman attending
Loras College,
Dubuque, IA



Greta Gustafson,
Sophomore
attending Mount
Mercy University,
Cedar Rapids, IA



Meagan Hoffman,
Junior attending
University of
Northern Iowa,
Cedar Falls, IA



McKenna Kilburg,
Junior attending
Central College,
Pella, IA



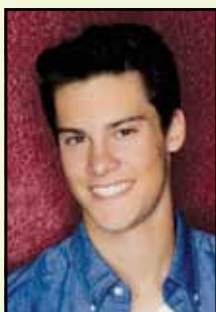
Clint Lembeck,
Freshman attending
Loras College,
Dubuque, IA



Carolyn Morrissey,
Sophomore
attending Drake
University,
Des Moines, IA



Emily Sattler,
Freshman
attending Kirkwood
Community College,
Cedar Rapids, IA



Nick Stark,
Freshman attending
St. Ambrose
University,
Davenport, IA



Natalie Wobbe,
Freshman
attending Kirkwood
Community College,
Cedar Rapids, IA

They also awarded three junior members (K thru 8) \$200 scholarships in memory of long time treasurer Wayne Krotz for 2016 and 2017. In 2016 the winners were:



Francesca Daye,
2nd Grade, Grant
Wood Elementary,
Cedar Rapids, IA



Nicole Stark,
7th Grade, LaSalle
Middle School,
Cedar Rapids, IA

Logan Ratcliff, 2nd Grade, Nixon
Elementary, Cedar Rapids, IA (No photo)

In 2017 the winners were:



Francesca Daye,
3rd Grade, Coolridge
Elementary, Cedar
Rapids, IA



Emily Hunsaker,
Kindergarten, St.
Jude Elementary,
Cedar Rapids, IA

Paighton Zemola, 5th Grade, Notre Dame
Elementary, Cresco, IA (No photo)

YOUNGSTOWN SISTER CITIES HOSTS MAYOR

As part of the 25th anniversary of its founding, Youngstown-Spiszka Nova Ves Sister Cities (Slovakia) will be hosting Nova Ves Mayor, Doctor Jan Volney, on his visit to Youngstown, June 15-22, 2017. Youngstown Mayor, John McNally, will accept the Crest of Nova Ves and Seal of the State of Ohio, from the Mayor. These will be hung in Youngstown City Hall. These wood carvings were hand-carried to the United States by YSC Director, John Slanina, who commissioned an artisan in Slovakia to carve them for YSC.

YSC President, Jim Bench, has announced that the Mayor will be a special guest at Simply Slavic Fest, downtown Youngstown, Saturday, June 17. He will be taken on tours of local Youngstown sites, a one-day trip to Niagara Falls and, Slovak Department, Pitt University.

If you live near Youngstown stop at the Simply Slavic Fest (downtown) June 17, to meet the Mayor, enjoy all day Slovak dancing/singing groups in the Entertainment Tent, and partake of Slovak meals and pastries. As darkness approaches, a vatra (bonfire) will be lit and the smell of slanina (bacon) sizzling on sticks and skewers over the flames will fill the night air as singing and dancing goes on for several more hours after the Fest.

MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

Sr. Branch 350

Annual Fish Dinner

March 1, 2017 Sr. Branch 350 sponsored the Annual "Fish Dinner" at St. Andre Bessette Parish, Wilkes-Barre, PA, Father Ken Seegar Pastor. This was a Matching Funds Activity for Branch S350, other branches were helpful. The funds raised are used to help the parish "shut-ins" throughout the year with food vouchers, especially during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter seasons.

Father Seegar joins all branch members in saying "thank you" to the FCSLA for their generous check.



Picture from L-R are: Mary Migatulski, Martha Iskra, David Alusick, Paul Baran, Ann Hudak, Florence McCabe, Secretary-Treasurer and Rita Kcenich, President S350/J207.

Sr. Branch 530

Benefit Pasta Dinner

Cleveland Benedictine High School senior Matt Laurienzo read about the 6.6 magnitude earthquake that hit the historic town of Norcia in Italy in October of 2016 and saw that it inflicted great damage to the 14th century Basilica of Saint Benedict and the neighboring monastery of Bene-



Former FCSLA Supreme Officers Mary Ann Johaneck and Irene Drotleff enjoy the benefit pasta dinner with other FCSLA members.

dictine monks. Saint Benedict was born in Norcia around 480 AD.

Soon Matt was inspired to use his senior service project to aid in the rebuilding efforts of Norcia. He was able to get the owner of the Great Scott Tavern in Euclid where he works to make the restaurant available for a benefit pasta dinner on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Together with his father Tom who is the manager of the Great Scott Tavern, Matt put together a publicity campaign and solicited donated raffle baskets, table favors, and desserts.

When he informed the monks of Saint Andrew Abbey of his idea, BHS president Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB realized that as a branch (530) of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), the abbey could apply for matching funds for the benefit dinner. In addition to Fr. Gerard, Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Bro. Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, and Fr. Paschal Petcavage, OSB volunteered their time to work at the dinner.

The successful benefit pasta dinner raised over \$2,000 to help the Benedictine monks in St. Benedict's hometown to rebuild their basilica and monastery.



(L-R): Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, and Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB take care of the serving line at the benefit pasta dinner.

Cleveland Okres District Event Schedule

- May 12, Friday – Lake County Captains Game, Eastlake - Buffet 6-7:30 p.m. Left Field Picnic Area, Game at 7 p.m., Post game Fireworks
- May 20, Saturday – 9 a.m. Join Hands Day, Prayer Service, Lunch/Meeting at LOHV, Bedford
- July 26, Wednesday – St. Ann's Day at Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Euclid
- August 6, Sunday – The FEST at Borromeo Seminary, Willowick

Lydia Kisley, 2009 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

FORBES LISTS "30 UNDER 30" IN HEALTHCARE, 2017

Dr. Lydia Kisley, 28, of Urbana, IL and a member of Sr. Branch 9 was chosen as one of 2017 Forbes magazine's "30 Under 30" people which represents "today's leading young change makers and innovators in the U.S."

She has a Bachelor of Arts / Science, from Wittenberg University; and a Ph.D, from Rice University. She is a Post-doctoral fellow at University of Illinois-Urbana.

Kisley focuses on using new technologies to take pictures of chemicals at a nanoscale level in order to better manipulate them. A few projects of note: showing that proteins clump in the presence of gold nanoparticles only when they are in low concentrations; and new efforts to understand how drug molecules fit together — an effort that could allow

scientists to find the porous spaces in any nanotech particle.

Her overall goal is to do the science that she loves in a city she loves and come back to Cleveland. She would really like to have her own academic research lab so she could pursue her own ideas and work on those. These ideas would focus on developing new microscopy and technologies to understand materials and how they interact with biomolecules. Congratulations Lydia.

Branch W137 Wine Tasting

Twenty-five adults attended the wine tasting held on February 19, 2017 at St. Ludmila Social Hall. Branch W137 gave door prizes to all in attendance. Food was paired with a wine sampling.



FCSLA Member Kylie Kiggins of Jr. Branch 380 is Confirmed



On April 22, 2016 Jr. Branch 380 member, Kylie Kiggins, made her confirmation at St. Helen Church in Newbury, OH. Right Rev. Gary Hoover, OSB, Abbott of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH confirmed Kylie and is pictured with her and her sponsor, Grandmother and Jr. Branch 380 Secretary, Christine Kiggins.



87th Annual Slovak-American Day in Milwaukee

Sponsored by Federated Slovak Societies

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017

CROATIAN PARK, 9140 South 76th St., Franklin, WI
Park opens at 11 a.m.

Holy Mass at 12 Noon with Father John Jamnicky
*Slovak food and homemade bakery
will be available for purchase.*

PROGRAM STARTS AT 2:30 P.M.

*Performances by the Tatra Slovak Dancers
and Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers*

For more information, contact Betty Valent
at 414-425-6137

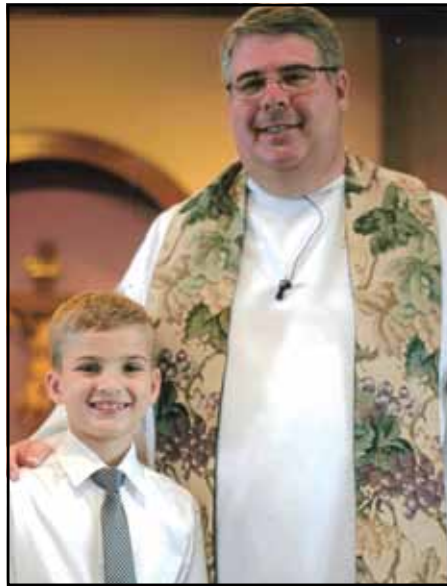


Representatives of the Benedictine High School Pro-Life Club (L-R): Moderator Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, president Blaise Rudmann, and vice-president Timothy Shean present an appreciation card signed by all club members to FCSLA President Cynthia Maleski for taking the Benedictine students in recent years as guests on the FCSLA buses to the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.

Jr. Branch 380 Members Receive First Holy Communion



On May 7, 2016, Jr. Branch 380 member, **ANNE SEJBA**, received her First Holy Communion at St. Hilary Church in Fairlawn, OH. Pictured with Anne is Kathleen Sejba, her Grandmother and Vice President of Jr. Branch 380. Anne's Great-Uncle, Father Frank Basa, and her Uncle, Father Anthony Sejba, were both present. Father Anthony was able to give Anne her first reception of the Holy Eucharist. Anne is the daughter of Matthew and Melanie Sejba of Fairlawn, OH.



On May 1, 2016, Jr. Branch 380 member, **CAMERON PITTNER**, received his First Holy Communion at St. Mildred Church in Swansboro, NC. Pictured with Cameron is his Uncle, Father Anthony Sejba, who was present and able to give Cameron his first reception of the Holy Eucharist. Cameron is the son of Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Jennifer Pittner of Cedar Point, NC. Cameron's Grandmother, Kathleen Sejba, Vice President of Jr. Branch 380 was also present for the celebration.



On May 15, 2015, Jr. Branch 380 member, **MICHAEL SEJBA**, received his First Holy Communion at St. Basil the Great Church in Brecksville, OH. Pictured with Michael is his Grandmother and Jr. Branch 380 Vice President, Kathleen Sejba.

Michael's Uncle, Father Anthony Sejba, was present and able to give Michael his first reception of the Holy Eucharist. Michael is the son of Gregory and Holly Sejba of Broadview Hts., OH.

FCSLA 4th Generation Family of Branch W121



Pictured are four generations of the FCSLA family all members of W121 in New Hradeck, ND: Pauline Sadowsky, great-grandmother (middle), Sandy Brown, grandmother (right), Miranda Gresser, mother (left) and Kaylynn Gresser, daughter (center), the youngest child (she has 2 older brothers).

Branch W133 of Kansas Donates to Local Food Bank



Pictured is Julie Huber, Branch W133, Timken, KS member, donating funds to Kelly House of the Rush County Food Bank. The Food Bank is especially appreciative of donations this time of year, as the school year draws to a close and many children are home for the summer.

GRACE SPINDLER EARNS GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD



Grace Spindler from Palos Heights, IL, Troop 60087 and a graduate of Shepard High School has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting recognizing extraordinary leadership with projects that help the community. Only 5.4% of Girl Scouts are eligible and successfully earn the Gold Award. Grace is a life-time member of Branch 287 of Oak Lawn, IL. She is a fourth generation member and stands with her mother, Mary Kay, grandmother Emily Minelli and Dad, Edward.

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.

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 Members of Indiana, Milwaukee and Chicago

CELEBRATING ST. ANNE'S DAY
Wednesday, July 26, 2017

at
THE SHRINE OF CHRIST'S PASSION

ST. JOHN, INDIANA

10:00 A.M. MEET & GREET (*Coffee & Kolacky*)

TOURS UNTIL 12:00 NOON

1:00 P.M. LUNCH at ANDORRAS

\$25.00 PER PERSON

Reservations required before July 16, 2017.

Call Agnes 219-865-6396 for information.

Julia Duris Celebrated 100th Birthday

Julia Duris celebrated her 100th birthday on January 29, 2017. As a member of FCSLA Chicago Branch 485, she served as an officer for many years.

She valued the friendships she made and loved attending the meetings and parties. She felt honored to be a delegate at the National Conventions.

Being a faithful member of St. Simon's Slovak Catholic Church in Chicago and of the Jednota brought her much joy and enabled her to maintain her treasured Slovak heritage. She has always lived up to the Slovak motto, "For God and Country" and for her beloved Zenska Jednota.



Four Generations in the FCSLA Family!



August Stanley Lois, born November 2, 2015, joins Helen Glocka (great grandmother), Susanne Glocka (grandmother) and Angela Glocka Lois (mother) as members of Branch

376 Milwaukee, WI. His sister (Adelaide Lois), aunt (Jennifer Glocka Arnold) and great-aunt (Nancy Glocka Danhauer) are also Branch members.

Scholarships Available

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH will offer \$1,000 college non-renewable scholarship awards to eligible High School seniors who are five year members of the following Lorain Lodges:

St. Ann's Lodge of the FCSLA, Branch 114

St. John the Baptist Lodge of the FCSU,
Branch 228

Slovak Catholic Sokol, Wreath 111 & 177

St. Mary Magdalene of the LPSCU, Branch 77

National Slovak Society, Assembly #160

Deadline for application is May 30, 2016. To obtain rules and application, visit www.americanslovakclub.com or contact Michele Mager at 440/984-3353.



TERM LIFE INSURANCE

Enjoy a Life Well Lived... With an Exit Well Planned.

Term Life Insurance is an affordable option that may cover temporary, time specific 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. Twenty Year Level Term premiums are payable for twenty years and the rates are guaranteed not to increase.

Life Insurance for Families

SUPER YOUTH TERM

(Contract 80-SPEP-291)

- Insurance issue ages 0 through 23
- Minimum benefit is \$10,000
- Annual premium is the same for all ages 0 through 24
- Convertible, (at the current amount of coverage) at or prior to age 25, to any whole life plan of insurance offered by the Association, regardless of health

20 YEAR LEVEL TERM

(Contract LT0707)

- Minimum insurance purchase amount is \$50,000
- Insurance issue ages 16 through 80
- During the 20 year term and prior to age 75, the certificate may be converted to any permanent plan for the same or less coverage, without evidence of insurability
- If not converted, the certificate expires 20 years from issue
- Premiums are calculated using the age of your nearest birthday

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

12th Consular Tour of Slovakia

July 29-August 11, 2017

Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak-born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes the history-rich cities of Bratislava, Sastin, Skalica, Trencin, Bojnice, Rajec, Teplice, Cicmany, Levoca, Kezmarok, Zdiar, Stara Lubovna, Kocise, Bardejov, Jedlinka, and Presov, as well as the High Tatras. As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or ancestral towns and villages for an additional cost.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have also included a tour of some highlights of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland, we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, and the cities of Zakopane and Krakow, as well as Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

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.

USE THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND MAGAZINE CANCELLATIONS

CHANGE THE ADDRESS ON ALL FCSLA POLICIES AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR:

☐ INDIVIDUAL — NAME

☐ ENTIRE FAMILY — LIST NAMES

Old Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Mailing Address

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Signature Required (Insured, Annuitant, Owner)

Date of Birth _____
(for ID purposes)

Today's Date

☐ CANCEL MAGAZINE

MAIL OR FAX TO:
First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122
FAX: (216) 464-9260

September Small Group Tour Explores the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia

Slovakia's ever-changing countryside is even more beautiful in the fall highlighted with richly green grasslands aside the dried sunflower and corn fields; bountiful apple, plum and walnut trees along the road side; and the brightly-colored fall leaves against the green spruce of the mountains.

Celebrate the harvest this fall in Slovakia on the **2017 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 8-17, 2017**. You'll travel to the heartland of Slovakia and experience the age-old villages and way of life that our families left behind to start new lives in America. We'll explore the rich history and cultural changes that shaped this young nation at the heart of Europe, and meet the Slovak people as they transition from life in the Soviet era to the European Union.

You'll join with the Slovak people as they celebrate at the Wine and Harvest Festivals in Banska Bystrica and Modra, as well as the age-old Mining Festival in Banska Stiavnica. Relax and enjoy local music and crafts as we travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and comfortable small cities with well-preserved historic buildings, Soviet-era remnants and the vibrant life of Slovakia today.

You'll be able to arrange for personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as genealogical research to trace your family history as well as extend your stay in Central Europe with small-group tours to Prague, Krakow and Vienna following the Slovakia tour.

"Slovak Americans and others love our small group tours as a way to effortlessly experience the culture and history of this fascinating region," said tour organizer Judy Northup-Bennett. "Many people come to find their family roots but others, some of Polish and Ukrainian descent, come to immerse themselves in the Slavic culture of this small, country that is off-the-beaten tourist path."

Slovakia Heritage Tours can also arrange small group tours for families and organizations wishing to travel at another time of the year. "I love to talk to people and help them realize their dreams to find and visit their Slovak families and learn about this beautiful country and culture," said Northup-Bennett.

For more information on the September tour or to plan your own private family tour contact: Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or visit the web site at: www.slovakiaheritage.com.

WORD SEARCH



Words may be found
up and down,
side to side,
diagonally or words
may share letters.



AMERICAN
CHURCHILL DOWNS
EDGAR PRADO *jockey*
INSPIRING
LA VILLE ROUGE *mother/dam*
MONUMENT
PUBLIC AFFECTION
SHATTERED LEG
THREE BONES *fractured*

BARBARO
COMPLICATIONS
EQUINE ICU
KENTUCKY DERBY
LEFT REAR HOOF
NEW BOLTON CENTER
RACEHORSE
STATUE
UNDEFEATED

BARBARO FUND
DYNAFORMER *father/sire*
HONORING
LAMINITIS
MANY ADMIRERS
PREAKNESS STAKES
RIGHT HIND LEG
THOROUGHbred

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

Name: _____ Age: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Branch: _____ Phone #: _____

PUZZLES MUST BE IN THE HOME OFFICE FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017!

YOU MUST BE A FCSLA MEMBER TO QUALIFY.

100 WINNERS WILL BE RANDOMLY DRAWN FROM ALL THE ENTRIES RECEIVED.

Mail to: FCSLA Fraternal Department, 24950 Chagrin Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association 2016 National Officer's Annual Reports

National Chaplain

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

Madam President, National Officers, and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association,

Pochváleny bud Pan Ježíš Kristus!

As I reflect on my ninth year as your National Chaplain, I note that 2016 was an historic milestone within our Fraternal Association. I am ecstatic to have journeyed through our one hundred and twenty-fourth year, knowing that there are still hurdles that must be overcome in the future but decisions have been made to make us, I believe, a stronger Association in the twenty first century. It truly has been an honor for me to participate with you in the decision making processes in between our national conventions as a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.

- **FCSLA Board of Directors.** I attended the meetings of the Board on 27 January; 29-30 March; 28-29 June; 15 September; and, 13-14 December, all of them taking place at the Home Office in Beachwood, Ohio. The members of the Board reflect the diversity of the personalities that we represent in our eighty thousand plus member Association. Sometimes the discussions on topics become excitable and agreement may not always be unanimous — and these may be viewed as strengths in the viability and knowledge that each member has. But no matter how much the members may agree or disagree, I believe that in their hearts they are representing the membership of the Association that has elected them to their respective positions to the best of their abilities.
- **FCSLA Executive Committee.** I participated in the meetings of the Committee at the Home Office on 11 March; 6 June; 24 August; and, 17 November. The performances of our investments were discussed, dividends were suggested for the Board of Directors approval, and monies for various donations suggested for the approval of the Board of Directors were arrived upon during those meetings. I respect the integrity and vast knowledge of the members of this Committee. The members of FCSLA should be grateful for the work these people are committed to for the sake of our membership. I am proud to be informed of and associated with their accomplishments.
- I was present for our annual District Presidents' meeting that took place on 21 April at our home office and also celebrated Holy Mass with them.
- Along with present and past officers of FCSLA, I attended the funeral of our former National Chaplain, the Reverend Edward F. Lajack on 29 July. I have always had a profound respect for him and he will be sadly missed by family, former parishioners, and members of this Association. We are all grateful for his service to us. May he rest in peace! Amen.
- I represented FCSLA at the annual Saint Ann Day celebration in collaboration with the Indiana, Chicago, and Wisconsin Districts by celebrating Holy Mass and joining in their festivities on 26 July at the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And I was invited to be the celebrant of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of Branch 376 in Milwaukee on 23 October that was quite elegant.
- I was invited and gave greetings to the convention delegates

at the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on 26-27 June and as National Chaplain and member of the Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I attended the Fall meeting of the Federation on 12-13 September held in our home office in Beachwood, Ohio.

- Whether in person or by teleconference, I was actively involved in the conversations concerning the merger opportunities we had throughout the year in relationship with the Polish Union of North America based in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and the Polish Women's Alliance of America located in Chicago, Illinois. The members of our Board of Directors approved to move forward with these two merger opportunities and authorized the calling of a Special Convention. Delegates of that convention will vote by mail to approve the mergers in accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws.
- I am assisting the committee members of our FCSLA one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of our establishment in 2017 that will be held in late July. I believe it will be a grand celebration!

There have been a number of occasions throughout the year when I have traveled to the Home Office for my participation in various discussions for the good of the Association. I appreciate the persons with involving my input to the issues at hand and the ability to come to a decision and/or resolution of a particular matter.

- My monthly columns in *Fraternally Yours* have been thought provoking for me and, hopefully inspirational to our Members. My main thrust is to share our Faith through the Sacred Scriptures, the writings of the early Fathers and the Saints of the Church, Church teaching especially through the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. All of us are striving towards eternal life in the Kingdom of God. The everyday experiences of our lives should somehow be reflected in the above sources of our Faith Tradition. And we in turn should be the mirrors of our Faith Tradition in those sources.

Thank you for having me as your National Chaplain. May God bless all of you! Saint Ann, pray for us!

Interim National Secretary

~ Katherine MK Bowes

Very Reverend Monsignor, Madam President, National Officers, and members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

It has been my honor to serve this Association as Interim National Secretary during this exciting year of transition and opportunities. In 2015, the managing officers began merger discussions with two organizations and in 2016, the transition managing officers and new board of directors enthusiastically picked up the merger ball and ran with it. We have also been busy planning for FCSLA's 125th Anniversary in 2017, as well as running the day to day operations of this modern day financial institution with deep fraternal roots.

Insurance & Annuity Activities: The attached following report covers from January to December 2016. A report similar to this is presented to the board of directors at each quarterly board meeting.

Insurance and Annuity Activities

January to December 2016 Year-To-Date (YTD) Totals

LIFE:	Total Certs	Total Insurance
New Cert - New Member <i>Approved 2016</i>	473	12,431,610
New Cert - Current Member <i>Approved 2016</i>	94	4,217,255
Conversion New <i>Approved 2016</i>	27	309,000
Reinstates <i>Cancelled prior to current year, now active.</i>	6	8,000
Death Benefit - Scale Down	1	75,000
Deaths - Paid	1,284	6,310,112
Death Benefit - Escheatables	15	14,285
Trust - Paid <i>Mbr deceased funds in trust, now paid out.</i>	0	0
Surrender <i>Requested to cancel - cash value</i>	743	7,625,342
Surrender - No Value <i>Requested to cancel - no value</i>	0	0
Surrender - 1035 Exchange <i>New cert purchased or dep in annty.</i>	33	1,950,758
Matured - Paid <i>Endowments</i>	17	56,600
Matured Term - Paid <i>Super Pep w/Accum Div</i>	91	935,000
Matured - 1035 Exchange	2	10,704
Matured - No Value <i>25 year old term certificates</i>	103	1,420,000
Lapse - No Value <i>Expelled - no value</i>	96	4,991,005
Expel - APL Loan exceeds CV <i>HO expelled - no value left</i>	7	104,000
Expel - Loan exceeds CV <i>HO expelled - no value left</i>	134	2,551,698
Expired from Extended	108	864,358
Expired Term Insurance	0	0
<i>Adult Term cert reached end of contract period. No options.</i>		
Matured Conversion <i>25 year old term certificates Matured-new cert purchased</i>	28	319,200
Requested Conversion <i>New cert purchased.</i>	1	150,000
Right to Cancel <i>Requested to cancel within 20 day free look period</i>	0	0
Cancelled Fraternal <i>Canadian Post Mortem Benefit dropped</i>	2	20,000
Deaths - Fraternal <i>Canadian Post Mortem Benefit dropped</i>	0	0

ANNUITIES:	Total Certs
New Cert - New Member <i>Approved 2016</i>	879
New Cert - Current Member <i>Approved 2016</i>	277
Conversion from Rider <i>Edu Ret. Matured. Funds left here.</i>	49
Surrender	177
Surrender - Matured Conversion	4
Surrender - Roth Conversion <i>Surrender Tradition IRA. Converted to Roth IRA</i>	1

Surrender - 1035 Exchange	9	
<i>Surrender Non-Qual Annty. Leaving FCSLA</i>		
Surrender - Transfer	17	
<i>Surrender Qual Annty. Leaving FCSLA (Trustee xfer)</i>		
Settlement - Cancel Reserve	37	
<i>Surrender Settled Annty.</i>		
Death Benefit - Paid	180	
Death Benefit - Escheatables	2	
Death Benefit - Internal xfer	7	
Member deceased. Spouse xfer funds to own annty.		
Right to Cancel	3	
<i>Requested to cancel within 20 day free look period</i>		
Totals as of:	12/31/2016	12/31/2015
Membership	80,278	81,118
Certificates	103,442	104,386
Insurance Inforce		
(includes PUA)	\$858,791,035	\$867,675,676
YTD New Members		
(Life & Annu)	1,352	1,448
YTD New Member		
Insurance	\$12,431,610	\$12,868,200

Life Insurance Dividends: Dividends are a non-guaranteed value, voted on annually by the board of directors. Dividends were distributed in the following manner in 2016:

Cash dividends via check	\$ 62,978
Accumulated dividends	\$ 133,700
Dividends toward premiums	\$ 46,893
Dividends to reduce loan balances	\$ 3,210
Dividends for paid-up additional insurance (PUA)	<u>\$ 1,092,953</u>
Total distributed dividends	\$ 1,339,734

Interest on accumulated dividends	\$ 167,929
PUA purchased with dividends	\$ 3,805,268

Loans: Members with life insurance certificates are able to take loans against their certificates of up to 90% of the cash value. A lower percentage applies to members taking an additional loan against the same certificate. The interest rate charged is dependent upon the contract language of the certificate, the range being 4%-8%.

All unpaid loans and interest balance	\$ 2,573,521
Total number of loans	1,253

Fifty Year Checks: FCSLA rewards members who have reached 50 years of consecutive membership with a one-time \$75 check. 1,216 members achieved 50 year status in 2016.

Post Mortem Benefit: This benefit is a non-guaranteed value, voted on annually by the board of directors.

Amount paid out in 2016	\$ 1,294,814
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Slovak-American Cookbook: Our well-known cookbook has been in continuous publication since 1952. It remains a favorite gift to give to friends and family.

Number purchased in 2016	754
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Merger Opportunities: An important focus in 2016 was the potential merger opportunities of FCSLA with the Polish Union of the United States of North America (PUNA) and FCSLA with the

2016 National Officer's Annual Reports

Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA), where FCSLA would be the surviving entity. The managing officers, outside consultants, and key internal staff worked through all the complex steps necessary to meet state compliance requirements and final approval of the board of directors. As part of the leadership team under the direction of our National President, the core of my responsibilities in this area was coordinating with our National Editor Carolyn Bazik all the communications that went out to the members and branches to conduct the Special Convention for Mergers mail-in vote. As this is being written, our credentialed delegates are voting by mail on whether or not to merge with these fine organizations.

Sales: 2016 was the first full year of our new National Sales Manager (NSM) Albert Heiles. This year in a new focus area, I collaborated with the NSM in a variety of ways to bolster sales, increase membership, and support our producers. The Friends and Family referral program to reward current members for referring potential new members brought in 438 new members. FCSLA now has Regional Sales Managers (RSMs) in all areas of the country except the deep South and NSM Heiles anticipates hiring someone for that area in the near future. As FCSLA is newly licensed to do business in California, Mr. Heiles and I supported the new RSM based in that state in his effort to reach out to current members and new members. Through our RSMs, FCSLA has hired new agents throughout the country in our desire to bring the benefits of our financial products to a wider audience. Our NSM also assists the FCSLA licensed recommenders and non-licensed recommenders in their sales. If you wish to become a licensed producer, please contact the home office for information.

Commissions paid to sales force \$1, 588,845

Tech Enhancements: Our National President and board of directors took a big step this year in embracing modern technology by approving the purchase of iPads and a board portal service to enhance security and confidentiality in their communication. In anticipation of the arrival of the iPads, the old boardroom tech equipment and wifi capability were upgraded. Computer software and hardware requirements are reviewed regularly for compliance, security, and potential obsolescence.

Districts: Districts are integral to our fraternal system, supporting the branches in their district, disseminating information, and promoting our association. FCSLA currently has 15 active districts. At the annual District Presidents' meeting in April, the attendees heard reports from the national managers, discussed the business of running a district, were informed of the details of the National President's Annual Appeal (the Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund), and were the first to learn about the potential merger opportunities with PUNA and PWAA. \$17,132 was paid out for the district quota for 2016.

Branches and Fraternal Outreach: Our branches are the center of our fraternal heart. FCSLA currently has 416 branches in 26 states. Branches serve their members and communities in a variety of ways, from welcoming new members and serving the long-time members, to conducting Matching Funds activities to raise money for community projects. To boost membership and sales, many branches participated in the 2016 sales challenges: the Meet & Greet Initiative, and the Branch Challenge. Our branches shined in their Matching Funds activities, with 104 branches raising \$519,314 so that FCSLA could match their funds with an additional

\$91,261. 50 branches completed the maximum of two Matching Funds projects and 16 branches completed a Matching Funds project for the first time! FCSLA sponsored two buses that travelled to the 2016 March for Life in Washington, D.C. (many thanks to the Cleveland District for providing food for the hungry passengers). Many branches also participated in the annual Join Hands Day, a national day of community service. Lastly, our Fraternal and Youth Director Kelly Shedlock opened three new branches in 2016 – a junior and senior branch in Holland, OH and a junior branch in David City, NE.

Branch jr/sr activity reimbursement	\$ 152,037
Branch bonus	\$ 760,350

Scholarships: In 2016, FCSLA awarded 223 scholarships in the amount of \$251,750 to students from elementary school to graduate school. At the 2015 Quadrennial Convention, our National President announced the formation of the Anna Hurban Scholarship Fund which will enable FCSLA to help even more students for generations to come. Look for more information on this exciting opportunity to help our student members by contributing to the new Fund in upcoming issues of *Fraternally Yours*.

Home Office Staff: Our staff continues to work hard to service our current members, new members, branch & district officers, and producers. The managing officers also rely on this dedicated staff on a daily basis, as they are the people with the daily working knowledge of this organization. In 2016, FCSLA hired new staff members and made other internal personnel changes to fill open positions.

125th Anniversary Celebration: 2017 will be a big year for FCSLA as we celebrate our 125th anniversary and it takes a long time to plan such a momentous event. The steering committee and key internal staff members began working out all the details for this grand occasion in 2016. Both national and district events are being planned.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow national officers, National President Cynthia Maleski and National Treasurer Stephen Hudak, for affording me the opportunity to serve with them during this year of transition. I would also like to thank the excellent home office staff for their patience and understanding. May the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association continue to grow and thrive for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine MK Bowes
Interim National Secretary

 **National Treasurer**

~ Stephen C. Hudak

Reverend Monsignor, National Officers, National Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA):

POCHVÁLENÝ BUD' PÁN JEŽÍŠ KRISTUS!

I present to you the 2016 financial report of the FCSLA. This report includes comparative balance sheets and income statements for 2016 and 2015. These statements are based on the Association's general ledger balances. A list of acquired and disposed investments follows the financial statements. Please refer to them during the following comments.



Operating Performance

I am excited to announce that 2016 was a year of financial records for FCSLA. This includes record annuity premiums, record investment income, record total revenue, record total assets and record surplus. Our overall strategy of managed growth and profitability continues as evident by our growth in assets and surplus.

Total assets grew by over \$50 million to a total of \$866.9 million at December 31, 2016. This represents an increase of 6.2% over 2015. This compares to growth of \$34 million and 4.4% that occurred between 2015 and 2014. Consistent with our investment guidelines the vast majority of these assets are held in high quality investment grade corporate bonds.

In 2016, our life reserves increased \$.4 million or less than .2% over last year. This includes an increase in the estimate for prior paid up additions. Our annuity reserves driven by record annuity sales increased by \$45.1 million or 10.1%. Life reserves represent 34.0% and annuity reserves represent 66.0% of the total year end product reserves. In aggregate, the balance of the remaining liabilities increased by 7.7% mainly due to the increase in the Asset Valuation Reserve. This increase correlates with the increase in the market value of our common stock holdings and the increase in overall investments. The increase in surplus will be discussed later.

Turning to the income statement, total revenue for 2016 was a record \$101.9 million. This is the first year that FCSLA had total revenue exceeding \$100 million. This is a 20.5% increase from the \$84.5 million in 2015. As expected insurance premiums were less than last year for two main reasons; 2015 insurance premiums were significantly impacted from sales of our guarantee issue that was offered to our existing members and the special convention year dividend used to purchase paid-up additions.

Our annuity premium for 2016 totaled a record \$54.9 million representing a significant 47.3% growth over the prior year. This increase was primarily due to sales of our Elite line of annuity products which include the following: Silver Elite, Gold Elite and Platinum Elite. This year the Silver Elite was the clear leader based on new sales. Congratulations to all our dedicated agents and recommenders that participated to achieve this record. All these products offer competitive credit rates, guarantee rates and surrender periods. For additional information on these products including guarantee and credit rates please refer to our website or a current copy of *Fraternally Yours*.

Our investment income, including amortization of the Interest Maintenance Reserve, was a record \$42.9 million, an increase of 6.3% from last year. This increase is the result of the increased amount of invested assets and to several bonds that were called in 2016 prior to their scheduled maturity date. Upon their call we received interest in 2016 that would have been received in 2017 and subsequent years. This had the effect of increasing our 2016 interest income and will have a slight reduction of the interest to be received in 2017 and subsequent years. The annualized return on investible assets was 5.2%. The historical trend is for this percentage to get lower each year as higher-yielding bonds mature or get called and are replaced by lower-yielding bonds. However, due to the additional interest earned from the bonds that were prematurely called this rate slightly increased when compared to 2015.

The lower-yielding bonds mentioned above are reflective of the current low interest rate environment which is directly impacted

by federal monetary policies, the overall US and world economies and as we saw in 2016 the presidential elections. Despite the December 2015 treasury rate increase, 2016 was a difficult year for treasury yields. However, after a difficult summer and early fall, which included record lows, yields started to recover after the November elections. Overall long term (10 – 30 years) US treasury yields were lower in 2016 than in 2015. These rates are significantly lower than their historical averages and hit record lows during the summer. In late December 2016 the Feds had the second rate increase in a decade, the first was in December 2015. As I am writing this, there is talk in the news of aggressive rate increases in 2017. I am cautiously optimistic that we will see increases in the longer term rates. Again, the .25% increase in the short term rates in December, 2015 was followed by record lows in the long term rate during the summer to 2016. As mentioned above these rates are affected by many different influences. Regardless of what the Fed and overall interest rates do, we will continue to invest in high quality investments with acceptable yield and duration.

Changes in life and annuity reserves are directly impacted by new premiums received and benefits and surrenders paid. Our insurance benefits represent death benefits paid to beneficiaries of our members. This amount increased slightly from 2015. Our annuity benefits include annuity surrenders, annuity withdrawals and annuity payments to beneficiaries have increased over 20% from 2015. More of our annuity members are withdrawing funds to help supplement the increasing costs of retirement. Surrender benefits represent life insurance surrenders which were almost \$1.1 million less compared to 2015 as conservation efforts continue. Please continue to stress to your children and grandchildren the long term benefits of life insurance as many individuals overlook them when they are faced with temporary difficult economic times. During 2016, Post Mortem Benefit (PMB) of \$1.3 million was paid to the beneficiaries of our deceased members. FCSLA continues to be one of the few fraternal that still provides this fraternal benefit. In December, the Board approved the PMB for eligible certificates for 2017.

After direct insurance and annuity related expenses and benefits, the remaining other operating expenses, in aggregate, increased only 1.6% as we continue to do an excellent job in controlling our expenses which includes additional costs related to the two mergers. These costs include services of external professionals including legal, accounting and actuarial to name a few. We continue to make investments in our staffing, home office operations and external marketing and promotions and plan on additional investments in 2017. A significant portion of these other operating expenses relate to fraternal expenses which will be discussed later.

In addition to the external professionals mentioned above a significant amount of resources (both financial and human) were spent relating to the mergers in 2016. This includes everything from site visits, due diligence, reporting, regulatory and special convention preparation. Acquiring these two blocks of business will financially benefit FCSLA and increase our member base.

Keeping with our long history of paying dividends from income generated from operations, the Board of Directors approved approximately \$1.4 million of dividends to be paid in 2017.

After accounting for capital gains, overall income for 2016 was \$3.8 million. In summary 2016 was an outstanding financial year for FCSLA which included many milestones.

2016 National Officer's Annual Reports

Fraternal Expenses

Fraternal costs represent a major expense for FCSLA. This year we spent about \$3.8 million on fraternal related activities. These costs include branch and districts bonuses, fraternal activities, official publications, conventions, donations, matching funds, scholarship awards, and Post Mortem Benefits (\$1.3 million) to name a few. In addition to these fraternal costs, FCSLA paid dividends (\$1.4 million) for the direct benefit of our members. This brings the grand total of the benefits to our members, beneficiaries, and the communities they live, work and worship in to \$5.2 million. This amount far exceeds amounts spent by similar and larger sized fraternal. Fraternal expenses like all expenses have a direct correlation to the growth of our surplus.

Investments

A complete list of all bonds and stocks purchased, matured or called during 2016 is included at the end of this report for your review. As mentioned earlier, finding suitable investments with the acceptable yield and duration relationship continues to remain challenging.

Financial Strength

There are several ways to look at FCSLA's financial strength including surplus, solvency ratios, Risked Based Capital and independent outside rating agencies.

At year end our surplus, total assets less liabilities, was over \$99.6 million dollars. This amount represents the accumulative effect of many years of profits and even a few years when we incurred losses. Overall, we continue to be blessed with this large surplus and we need to give thanks and credit to the great stewardship of our predecessors and our current and former National Officers, Board members and employees. Everyone including our members contributed to give FCSLA the ability to continue to fulfill our financial promises.

Another way to compare our Association's surplus and financial strength with others is our solvency ratio. Our solvency ratio is 113.0% at the end of 2016. This means that we have approximately \$113 in assets to cover every \$100 of liabilities. Our solvency ratio is one of the highest amongst all the fraternal.

Risked Based Capital (RBC) has become another indicator of financial strength primarily used by regulators. Regulators have put the RBC benchmark at around 300% which our Association easily surpasses.

In May 2016, A.M. Best renewed our A- (Excellent) rating as an independent outside indication of our financial strength. This articulates how solid they view our finances as very few fraternal achieve the "A-" or above designation. In addition, few fraternal even attempt to get rated by A.M. Best as it is an extensive process that consumes significant resources.

Closing Remarks

After discussing another outstanding financial year, I would be remiss by not commenting on the financial challenges that face FCSLA now and in the future. As I discussed in prior years, the sustained low interest rate environment that we are currently operating in will remain one of FCSLA biggest financial challenges. This was discussed in depth earlier in my report. Our challenge will be to maintain the growth of our asset base in a profitable manner while fortifying our organization for the future.

I would like to thank the outstanding home office staff that keeps the FCSLA operating on a daily basis. I would also like to

thank my fellow managing officers, National President Cynthia M. Maleski and Interim National Secretary Katherine Bowers and the Board of Directors for their commitment and the professionalism exhibited throughout the year. I would like to thank our National President Cynthia M. Maleski for having the confidence in me to hire me as the National Treasurer after servicing as Interim during 2016.

Finally, special thanks to all of our branch and district officers that devote a significant of your valuable time and talents to keeping FCSLA alive and well at the grassroots level. Last but not least, I would like to thank our members for everything they do to make the FCSLA the great fraternal it is.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Hudak
National Treasurer

BALANCE SHEET

	12/31/2016	12/31/2015
Assets		
Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 21,470,084	\$ 22,563,146
Bonds	817,485,206	765,695,566
Preferred Stock	1,385,283	2,105,553
Common Stock	5,494,952	4,493,446
Investment Income Due & Accrued	12,476,013	11,900,611
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,396,986	5,593,877
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,573,521	3,335,365
Other Assets	189,906	163,877
Total Assets	\$866,471,950	\$815,851,441
Liabilities		
Life Reserves	\$ 254,114,000	\$ 253,729,000
Annuity Reserves	492,874,000	447,762,031
Death Claims Payable	2,020,770	2,280,685
Unearned Premiums	483,815	502,551
Matured Endowments	306,960	379,057
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000	1,380,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,466,574	4,392,021
Accrued Convention Donations	294,000	42,000
Provision for Future Conventions	218,750	26,000
Asset Valuation Reserve	7,720,893	6,456,298
Interest Maintenance Reserve	1,024,942	1,239,146
Other Liabilities	1,952,139	1,777,432
Total Liabilities	\$766,876,843	\$719,966,221
Surplus	99,595,107	95,885,220
Total Liabilities and Surplus Funds	\$866,471,950	\$815,851,441

INCOME STATEMENT

	12/31/2016	12/31/2015
Revenue		
Insurance Premiums	\$ 3,652,896	\$ 6,506,081
Annuity Premiums	54,913,161	37,274,123
Investment Income	42,715,824	40,198,805
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	169,775	138,834
Rental Income	399,538	403,083
Other Revenue	9,049	20,992
Total Revenue	\$101,860,243	\$84,541,917
Expense		
Increase in Reserves - Life	\$ 385,008	\$ 2,854,295
Increase in Reserves - Annuity	45,111,969	31,511,594
Insurance Benefits	6,437,753	5,754,938
Annuity Benefits	29,321,870	23,879,016
Commission Expense	1,588,845	1,095,232
Surrender Benefits	4,180,161	5,246,547

Post Mortem Benefits	1,294,814	1,308,697
Misc. Member Benefits	91,269	98,755
Matured Endowments	10,282	52,419
Donation Expenses	124,944	131,028
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	252,000	242,455
Convention Expenses	193,371	221,069
Bank Service Charges	85,712	21,746
Data Processing Service Fees	298,152	259,264
Accounting Fees	114,416	160,803
Actuarial Fees	200,928	226,992
Legal Fees	328,444	143,071
Consulting Fees	122,911	121,368
Bonus to Branches	777,482	832,310
Fraternal Activities	170,189	166,863
Official Publications	387,194	420,714
Scholarship Awards	252,164	248,006
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	365,710	353,089
Fees - Directors	165,894	136,898
Salaries - Employees	1,536,088	1,457,071
Salaries - Officers	458,047	466,244
Interest Expense	284,239	422,379
Tax Expense	276,628	260,816
Depreciation Expense	251,248	257,794
Utility Expense	91,842	85,873
Postage and Printing	204,867	186,203
Advertising	87,619	106,333
Travel Expense	117,708	110,613
Insurance Department Fees	162,798	98,181
Sales Promotion	180,073	180,979
Rental Expense	399,538	403,083
Other Expense	463,784	503,112
Total Expense	\$96,775,960	\$80,025,852
Income (Loss) from Operations	\$5,084,283	\$4,516,065
Dividends to Members	1,358,435	1,457,056
Subtotal INCOME (LOSS)	\$3,725,848	\$3,059,009
Capital Gains (Loss)	121,586	(51,384)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$3,847,433	\$3,007,625

BONDS ACQUIRED DURING 2016			
	Y T M	DUE	PAR
JANUARY			
CSX Corporation	4.726	04/15/2041	4,383,000
Georgia Pacific Corp	4.761	05/15/2031	4,000,000
C V S Health Corp	4.700	09/15/2039	3,000,000
APRIL			
Ford Motor Company Del	4.685	01/15/2043	2,000,000
Kroger Company Debentures	4.387	09/15/2029	1,000,000
Fifth Third Bancorp Sub Notes	4.802	03/01/2038	3,000,000
Metlife Inc Global Sr Notes	4.252	06/15/2034	1,000,000
Bed Bath & Beyond Inc	5.383	08/01/2034	1,595,000
MAY			
Johnson Ctls Inc Sr Fixed Rt Nt	4.755	12/01/2041	1,595,000
21st Century Fox Amer Inc	4.805	03/01/2039	2,634,000
Qualcomm Inc	4.232	05/20/2035	3,000,000
JUNE			
Dominion Gas Hldgs LLC	4.246	11/01/2043	2,000,000
JULY			
Allstate Corp	4.000	01/15/2042	1,000,000
CBS Corp New Gtd Sr Note	4.416	10/15/2040	2,000,000
AUGUST			
Altria Group Inc	4.151	11/10/2038	1,749,000
Apple Inc Note	3.826	05/06/2044	2,000,000
Goldman Sachs Group Inc	4.095	02/01/2041	2,000,000
Eastman Chemical Company Note	4.468	09/01/2042	3,000,000
International Paper Company	4.701	11/15/2039	2,000,000

SEPTEMBER			
Marathon Pete Corp Sr Note	5.509	03/01/2041	3,000,000
OCTOBER			
EBay Inc Note	4.380	07/15/2042	2,000,000
Tiffany & Company Senior Note	4.682	10/01/2044	2,000,000
Hasbro Inc Senior Note	4.611	03/15/2040	3,300,000
Merrill Lynch & Co (Bank of Amer)	4.522	05/15/2038	2,000,000
NOVEMBER			
HCP Inc Senior Notes	5.146	02/01/2041	2,000,000
Macy's Retail Holdings Inc	5.200	12/15/2034	2,000,000
Newmount Mining Corp	4.921	10/01/2039	2,000,000
Gilead Science Inc Sr Note	4.152	09/01/2036	3,000,000
DECEMBER			
Tyson Foods Inc	4.616	08/15/2034	3,306,000
McKesson Corp	4.843	03/01/2041	2,000,000
TOTAL BONDS			69,562,000

STOCKS ACQUIRED DURING 2016		SHARES
JULY		
General Motors Company		2,366
TOTAL SHARES		2,366

BONDS MATURED, CALLED or SOLD DURING 2016			
BONDS		RATE	PAR
JANUARY			
Oracle Corp		5.250	2,000,000
MARCH			
Home Depot Inc Corp Notes		5.400	2,000,000
KeyBank Med-Trm Subordinated Notes		5.450	2,000,000
United Healthcare Corp		5.380	2,000,000
APRIL			
Federal Express Corp Pass-Thru Tr		7.960	21,023
JUNE			
Times Mirror Company Escrow		6.610	23,991
JULY			
America West Airlines Series 00-G		8.060	172,037
Whirl Pool Corp Debentures		7.750	1,000,000
AUGUST			
Danaher Corp Sr Unsecured Notes		5.630	7,000,000
NOVEMBER			
Pepsi Bottling Group LLC Sr Notes		5.130	2,000,000
Comerica Bank Corp Notes		5.750	2,000,000
Avon Products Inc Notes		4.200	6,000,000
DECEMBER			
Southeast TX Hsg Fin Corp Ser A		8.600	658
CMO / MBS PROCEEDS			
GNMA US Govmt			38,117
FNMA & FHLMC US Special Revenue			362,256
TOTAL BONDS			\$26,618,082

STOCKS MATURED, CALLED or SOLD DURING 2016			SHARES	BOOK VALUE
JANUARY				
Merrill Lynch Capital Trust IV			4,000	100,000
JULY				
General Motors CW16			3,621	74,624
AUGUST				
Great Plains Energy Inc			100	10,370
Morgan Stanley CP TR III			24,000	600,000
OCTOBER				
Dayton Power & Light Co 3.90%Ser C			100	10,100
TOTAL STOCKS				\$795,094
GRAND TOTAL				27,413,176

2016 National Officer's Annual Reports

National Directors

~ Jeanette E. Palanca, Sue Ann M. Seich,
Lawrence M. Golofski, Joann Skvarek Banvich

Monsignor Polando, National Officers and Members of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association,

Pochvaleny Pan Jezus Kristus!

We, the first elected National Directors of our Association according to our new bylaws structure are proud to present our 2016 Annual Report. This is a new position replacing the previous position of National Vice President. We were present at the Home Office for all four scheduled meetings. We also participated by conference call, in all of the Special Meetings called by our National President. The National Directors actively participate on several committees.

At our first meeting in January an Orientation Meeting was held prior to the first board meeting which described the following: structure of our Association; position responsibilities; home office diagram and a Strategic Plan. This was an important training program created by leadership to jump start new board members and give them all the necessary tools to govern our Association. The information shared has proven to be critical in making swift and concise contributions to the board's decision making process. At this meeting, everyone was given an opportunity to ask questions and express their suggestions or concerns for the benefit our Association's future during the brainstorming portion. Within the Strategic Plan there are several board committees; the National Directors were given the opportunity to volunteer as members of these committees.

Our National President appoints board members to serve on these committees depending on the magnitude of each committee. In our report, we have listed our individual participation in board committees where we were appointed to serve. We have also reported our participation in Association events by individual involvement or appointed by our National President to represent our Association.

All members of the Board of Directors attended an informational session on using an iPad at our September Board of Directors Meeting. At our December meeting all board members were given an iPad and instructed to become familiar and comfortable with using it. The iPads are for sharing Association information and reports on a secured site.

National Director Jeanette Palanca is the Recording Secretary and participating member of the Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee. She is also a member of the 125th Anniversary Steering Committee and has participated in numerous meetings by conference call. Jeanette also represented the FCSLA, as a Board Member at the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting held in Nashville, TN, in September of 2016. She attended several workshops and sessions, gaining valuable information on issues impacting our industry in the following: building a united fraternal services platform; forecasting the changes anticipated by the Department of Labor Fiduciary Rule; and innovations and communication strategies in our fraternal industry. Jeanette has attended all in-person meetings and conference calls spending a majority of time working with leadership on the mergers. She is now prepared to focus on our organization's relationship with our members, peers and competitors. Jeanette serves on the Convention Selection Committee. She and another board member visited

a hotel in the Chicago area recommended by a convention planner. Jeanette developed a spreadsheet that was very valuable in recording all the information obtained at a prospective hotel site in order to present information at our Board of Directors' Meeting. In her Anna Hurban District of Chicago, Jeanette serves on the district's board of directors as the recording secretary. She attends all district and local Association events as feasible.

National Director Sue Ann M. Seich serves on the Strategic Relations Committee. She has participated in several home office and conference call meetings with managing officers, actuaries, attorney and accounting personnel preparing information and statistics to be presented to the Board Members and membership. Sue Ann is a member of the Executive Committee and attended all home office meetings. She also serves on the Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee. She feels this committee is essential in perpetuating our Vision and Mission Statements as a Fraternal Benefit Society. This committee presents to the Board of Directors a discussion on: guidelines for our charitable and benevolent contributions to religious affiliations, communities and membership in equitable appropriation. Sue Ann also serves on the 125th Anniversary Steering Committee under the leadership of our National President as a co-chair. She is Chair of the Gala Celebration Banquet. This committee has met during 2016 and continues to meet in planning a memorable and enjoyable weekend in honor of our Association's 125th Anniversary celebrating our stability, faith and traditions. In the fall of 2016, Sue Ann spent time inspecting eleven sites for our 2019 Convention. Under the direction of our National President, she and other board members were given a list of expectations a hotel site had to meet in order for our Association to consider hosting our convention at their establishment. Sue Ann also serves on the board of directors of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance as their treasurer. She is assisting in planning a celebration for the OFA's 100th Anniversary this fall. Sue Ann participates in district and branch activities.

National Director Lawrence M. Golofski is a member of the Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee and participates by conference call for all meetings. Larry represents our Association at the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh Meetings (FSGP). In 2016 he was elected President of the FSGP for 2017. Larry also represents our Association at the meetings and events held by the Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance. He attended PFA Legislative Luncheon in Harrisburg Pennsylvania in the spring of 2016. In the fall he attended the 105th Annual PFA Meeting, where presentations on "Computer System Shortcuts", "Market Expectations and Insurance Investing", "Actuarial Musings" and "Regulatory Regs" were on the agenda. This information is helpful in obtaining a better understanding of the Fraternal Benefit System. Larry attended the 93rd Slovak Day at Kennywood Park and the annual Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance. He attended the annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance in Nashville, TN where interesting workshops were presented on "Technology and Distribution: Changing the Way We Do Business" and "Embracing Diversity Among Your Employees and Board Members"; thought provoking information, suggestions and inspiration were provided by the AFA speakers. Larry, along with a managing officer, inspected a possible convention hotel site in the Pittsburgh area. He presented the results of the inspection at a board meeting. Larry attends District Meetings and reports issues or events to its members.



National Director Joann Skvarek Banvich is a member of the Strategic Relations Committee and has participated by conference call at all meetings called by our National President. She is also a member of the Executive Committee and has participated at all home office meetings. Joann is a member of the Convention Site Committee. She and another board member inspected a hotel in the Chicago area that was suggested by a convention planner. Joann served on the 43rd Annual Slovak Day Celebration Committee sponsored in partnership with the Diocese of Gary. In September of 2016 Joann attended her first American Fraternal Alliance Meeting in Nashville, TN. She participated in several workshops and events including: United Fraternal Services-Feasible or Pipe Dream; Turning Your Convention into an Educational Extravaganza; An Innovative Forum and Changes in the DOL Fiduciary Rule. Joann found them to be beneficial in her role as a member of the Association's Board of Directors. She attends many district and branch events and meetings. Her district and its branches are very active and present many opportunities for Joann to share important information to the attendees. She also serves as Vice President of Okres Helen Kocan in Lake County, IN and Joliet, IL.

As our Associations first National Directors, we are proud to represent our Association when called upon by our National President. We have all spent time and energy preparing, researching and studying various topics and materials that enhance our position on a National Level as Directors. We look forward to the next three years in planning and approving procedures that will lead our Association into the future.

We ask for our Lord to bless us as we represent our membership and work for its continued growth and success. We ask the Lord to bless all of you every day of your life. We thank you for allowing us to serve you, our member.

Jeanette E. Palanca
Sue Ann M. Seich
Lawrence M. Golofski
Joann Skvarek Banvich



National Trustees

~ Virginia Holmes and Barbara Novotny Waller

Pochvaleny bud Pan Jezis Kristus!

YEAR OVERVIEW

The year 2016 is now a memory. In retrospect, it was a year of prudent adjustments and vigilant implementation of the bylaws adopted by the 41st Quadrennial Convention. The melding of incumbent members of the board and incoming members of the board, as always, required a period of adjustment, but we strive to be a cohesive board and to act for the good of the Association.

STRATEGIC PLAN and COMMITTEES of the BOARD

We continued to administer principal aspects of our strategic plan through board committees. We served namely on the following committees: Philanthropic and Scholarship, Strategic Relations, Interim Secretary Interview, Board Performance and Review, 125th Anniversary and Convention Site Committees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By virtue of Article III, Section J of the Constitution and By-laws, we serve on the Executive Committee where we discuss and analyze trends that may affect our products and financial outlooks.

Furthermore, the convention minutes were reviewed and approved. We recommend action to the full board on quarterly annuity rates. Moreover, we review investment and FCSLA's current financial status as presented by the Treasurer. As part of our responsibilities, we approve acquisition of investments when called upon by the Treasurer. We recognize ongoing market volatility and continue to believe a prudent response to uncertainty is to maintain a diversified portfolio with tolerance for market volatility, time horizons and financial goals. The Association's assets are invested according to faith-based ethical principles. We are ever vigilant to changes in regulatory and legal requirements; especially in our state of domicile and in states where we are licensed to do business.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As a fraternal, our Association has a strong solvency ratio (1.13%). Investments are comprised of a mix of equities, bonds and money market funds. At year end, the Association recorded over \$866.5M in assets with a surplus of over \$99.5M. Consistent with our history of paying dividends, the Board of Directors approved approximately \$1.3M of dividends to be paid in 2016.

VOUCHER OVERVIEW

A significant portion of vouchers are reviewed as well as all Visa and strategic files. Additionally, the 2015 conventions financial statements and files were audited. Vouchers are not approved until accuracy of the invoice is established and documentation of each bill is transparent.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As members of the board of directors, we participated and voted at quarterly meetings and conference calls. Also, sales statistics and information presented by our managing officers were analyzed. The FCSLA's budget is prepared and reviewed on a line item basis, with final approval at the December board meeting. Budget discipline is exercised with the goal to achieve an operational budget surplus annually.

Compatible, solid opportunities for a merger with Polish Union of the United States of America (PUNA) and Polish Women's Alliance of America (PWAA) were presented to the board. After intense scrutiny and evaluation of documents presented to the board from the due diligence, discovery process performed by managing officers, actuaries, outside auditors and attorneys, the board approved submitting these mergers to the delegates for a vote to approve. The exercise of this task represented continuous time, special meetings and conference meetings with the managing officers and outside consultants on the part of the board. The board recognized the gravity of their decision, and the approval to put the question to the delegates for approval was not taken lightly.

IN CONCLUSION

Fraternal, philanthropic, and benevolent works in our communities remain at the forefront of our efforts and goals with development of branch activities and duties, matching funds projects, scholarships and an annual charitable appeal. Relatedly, we attended Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance Meeting and serve on board of the PFA, attended Pennsylvania Legislative Luncheon, Northeast Pennsylvania Fraternal Alliance meeting, American Fraternal Alliance meeting, St. Vincent's benefit concert. Likewise, we are active at District and Branch functions and serve as officers of same. Many challenges were encountered this year; we believe we have addressed these challenges in a timely, perceptive manner.

2016 National Officer's Annual Reports

Foremost, we remain steadfast in our commitment to provide you with prudent decisions that coincide with the needs of our members in building our FCSLA. We are committed to your well-being and are honored to continue serving as your trustees. The trust you have placed in us is appreciated. We have tried to justify that trust.

Virginia Holmes
Barbara Novotny Waller

National Auditors & Committee

~ Barbara A. Sekerak, Dennis L. Povondra, Dorothy L. Urbanowicz

Reverend Monsignor, Madam President, National Officers and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association

Pochváleny bud Pan Ježíš Kristus!
Blessed be Jesus Christ!

We, the National Auditors for First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, present to you the 2016 National Auditors and Audit Committee Report to be published in the association's magazine, *Fraternally Yours*.

We conducted the required audits in April 2016 and September 2016 and are pleased to report that the association's financial records have been properly maintained and accounted for by the executive management. We also conducted an audit of the 2015 41st Quadrennial Convention and found the records to be in order. We commend and thank the management team and staff at the Home Office for maintaining accurate records, safeguarding the assets of our organization and their cooperation when we conduct the audits.

The Audit Committee has met with the outside accounting firm for our Association, namely Horovitz, Rudoy & Roteman. You can rest assured the Association's records were in accordance with the accounting practices prescribed by the Insurance Department of the State of Ohio. The Audit Committee also reviewed the

accounting firm's engagement letter and approved the firm to be hired for the 2016 audit.

We attended and participated in the required association's Board of Directors meetings and provided them with the quarterly reports from the National Auditors and Audit Committee. We have been represented on the various Strategic Planning committees throughout the year.

Participation and membership in the State and National Fraternal Alliance meetings, related business seminars, namely those in the insurance industry, have also been part of our duties and responsibilities. National Auditors, Barbara Sekerak and Dorothy Urbanowicz, are licensed to sell FCSLA insurance and annuity products in their particular states. They maintain the necessary continuing educational hours required by their state to sell FCSLA products.

The Audit Committee has continued to monitor and report to the Board of Directors the call summary reports from Security Voice Hotline, a nationwide toll free 800 telephone monitoring service where one can anonymously report any suspicions and/or information of wrongdoing, unethical or illegal acts or other forms of loss which could affect the association's operations, properties, employees or members. We feel it is necessary to mention this responsibility in our annual report as a reminder to members of the association that such an avenue exists and serves in the best interest of all members of the association. The Security Voice toll free number is 866-596-0678.

To each and every member of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association thank you for allowing us to serve as your National Auditors and Audit Committee. It truly is an honor to serve on the board and represent an outstanding fraternal organization – First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Barbara A. Sekerak
Dennis L. Povondra
Dorothy L. Urbanowicz

BRANCH W093 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 4 — Czech Days float assembly in Ron Sestak's shop at 1:30 p.m./need volunteers.

June 15, 16, & 17 — Czech Days in Tabor, SD FCSLA W093. Volunteers needed.

July 1 — Deadline for W093/FCSLA high school seniors to apply for local Branch W093 local scholarships. Contact W093 officer for application.

July 9 — Monthly Meeting after Mass in Tabor, SD.

August 6 — Annual picnic in Takota Park at 5 p.m. Potluck FCSLA W093 will supply refreshments and hot dogs. Inclement weather will move into Beseda Hall.

September 10 — Monthly Meeting after Mass in Tabor, SD.

October 29 — Annual Halloween Party, 5 p.m. Potluck, prizes for best costumes/all ages, meeting, games, etc. Beseda Hall in Tabor, SD.

November 12 — District 13 SD State Meeting: Host FCSLA W109/Dante/noon request that all SD FCSLA members attend. RSVP for meal count to district officer.

December 3 — St. Nick/Christmas Party, noon potluck, cookie exchange, meeting, honor 50 yr. members and "fraternalist of the year," honor our scholarship winners, games, and refreshments in Beseda Hall, Tabor, SD. Members and family and all parishoners are invited to potluck and all activities. Just bring a dish to share. Branch will supply coffee and juice.

Monthly meetings and locations subject to change. Any questions call Secretary Joyce Sestak at 605-463-2268.



A Pinch of This . . . A Dash of That!

TURKEY SHEPHERD'S PIE

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
3 small carrots
1 cup frozen pearl onions
1 lb. lean ground turkey
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1 cup frozen peas
2½ teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
salt
Freshly ground pepper
¾ cup low-sodium chicken broth
3 cups leftover mashed potatoes

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large pan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add carrots and onions and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add turkey and cook, breaking up meat with a wooden spoon, until browned, about 6 minutes. Stir in flour and cook 3 more minutes. Stir in peas and rosemary. Season with salt and pepper. Pour in chicken broth and stir. Bring to a simmer and cook until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Season with more salt and pepper. Transfer to a 9- to 10-inch deep-dish pie pan.

Spread mashed potatoes atop turkey mixture. Bake until golden on top and heated through, about 25 minutes.

VEGGIE FRIED RICE

vegetable oil
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 onion, diced
1 carrot, diced
3 cup leftover cooked white rice
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ cup frozen peas
½ cup frozen corn kernels
3 eggs, scrambled
2 scallions, chopped

In a large skillet over medium heat, warm

1 tablespoon oil and cook garlic, onions, and carrots, 4 to 5 minutes. Increase heat to medium-high, fold in rice and 1 teaspoon salt and cook until lightly toasted, 3 to 4 minutes. Add peas and corn and mix until warmed through.

Meanwhile, in a small non-stick skillet over medium-low heat, scramble eggs. Fold eggs and scallions into fried rice and serve immediately.

SLOW-COOKER BALSAMIC CHICKEN

2 cup Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
2 cup baby red potatoes, halved
or quartered if large
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
½ cup balsamic vinegar
¼ cup low-sodium chicken broth
⅓ tablespoon brown sugar
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
2 teaspoons dried thyme
2 teaspoons dried rosemary
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper
2 cloves garlic, minced

Freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

In a large slow cooker, add Brussels sprouts and potatoes in an even layer and place chicken on top.

In a small bowl, whisk together balsamic vinegar, chicken broth, brown sugar, mustard, dried thyme, rosemary, and oregano, and crushed red pepper flakes. Season generously with salt and pepper.

Pour marinade over chicken and vegetables. Scatter all over with garlic

Cover and cook on high until chicken is fall-apart tender, 4½ to 5 hours.

Garnish with parsley and serve with the juices.

CHEESECAKE-STUFFED STRAWBERRIES

1 cup cream cheese, softened
½ cup heavy cream
¼ cup confectioners' sugar
1 pt. strawberries, bottoms and tops
sliced off and hollowed out
Crushed graham cracker, for garnish

In a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat cream cheese, 2 to 3 minutes. Add heavy cream and confectioners' sugar and beat until fluffy.

Transfer mixture to a piping bag and pipe into strawberries.

Garnish with crushed graham crackers and serve.

TWIX CHEESECAKE

2 blocks cream cheese, softened

½ cup powdered sugar
½ cup caramel, plus more for drizzling
2 cups heavy cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
pinch of kosher salt
2 cups chopped Twix candy bars
1 prepared graham cracker crust
2 tablespoons melted chocolate,
for drizzling

In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar, and caramel until light and fluffy for 2 minutes.

Gradually add heavy cream and beat until stiff peaks form, then fold in vanilla, salt, and half the chopped Twix.

Pour pie filling into prepared crust and smooth top.

Refrigerate until firm, at least 6 hours and up to overnight.

Drizzle with caramel and melted chocolate. Sprinkle all over with remaining chopped Twix, then drizzle with more caramel.

CANNOLI CONES

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
to room temperature
½ cup whole milk ricotta
1 teaspoon cinnamon
Pinch nutmeg
¾ cup powdered sugar
2 cups heavy cream
1 cup mini chocolate chips
12 waffle or sugar cones

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, ricotta, powdered sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg until smooth.

Gradually add in heavy cream and beat until light and fluffy. Fold in mini chocolate chips. Scoop into cones.

HEATH BAR DIP

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
to room temperature
½ cup brown sugar
¼ cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups heavy cream
3 Heath bars, chopped
¼ cup caramel sauce
Pretzels, for serving
Apple slices, for serving

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, sugars and vanilla together until smooth and fluffy. Gradually, beat in heavy cream, adding about ½ cup of cream at a time. Beat on high until light and fluffy. Fold in about two-thirds of Heath Bars. Transfer to a serving bowl and chill in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

When ready to serve, top the dip with the remaining chopped Heath bars. Drizzle with caramel sauce. Serve with pretzels and apples for dipping.

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.