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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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## Teach Me To Forgive

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job. His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him. He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there, and with tears in his eyes, he prayed "Lord — You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don't know how. It is not fair Lord. I didn't deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn't have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don't know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do — Teach Me To Forgive."

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt. He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them. He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain on His precious face. As their eyes met, the man's tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

"Have you ever told a lie, He asked?" The man answered, "Yes, Lord." "Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?" The man answered, "Yes, Lord." And the man sobbed more and more. "Have you ever taken something from work that wasn't yours," Jesus asked? And the man answered, "Yes, Lord." "Have you ever sworn, using my Father's name in vain?" The man, crying now, answered, "Yes, Lord." As Jesus asked many more times, "Have you ever"? The man's crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer, "Yes, Lord."

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before. Jesus said, "I didn't deserve this either, but I forgive you."

Dear Friends,

Always remember that it may be hard to see how you're going to get through something for often our sorrows and troubles are many. But, if you stop and you look back in life, you will realize how true this statement is... "If God brings you to it... He will bring you through it."

Until next Month,  
Warmly, Carolyn



# MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

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

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we enjoy the beauty of God's creation during this Autumn month, we are reminded that the Lord provides for us many opportunities to see His Hand at work through the changes of colors in the leaves. We know that the crisp mornings will lead us to colder ones as the month wears on and we have to prepare ourselves for the snow that will soon fly! I especially like October because of the not only because of the beautiful change in nature but also makes me recognize that I am coming to the end of my "walking season". I look forward to "hibernation"! You see, early in the morning starting at the end of April all the way to the end of this month, I take a daily five to six mile walk on the downtown streets of Youngstown, my hometown. I begin after 5:00 AM, usually five days a week, when there are few people out and the traffic is light. This is my "quiet time" and the period of the day that I spend with the Blessed Virgin Mary. I pray all the decades of the Rosary and do my meditations on that prayer and the work of the day that is ahead of me.

I love the praying of the Rosary. I remember praying it as far back as in grade school prior to the celebrations of Mass. It relaxes me and in the quiet of the morning and dawn, and I find myself ever grateful to God for giving me the ability to live another day filled with all kinds of challenges. I realize how much I need and desire the guiding love of the Blessed Mother of God!

Recently I came upon a little booklet in my personal library entitled *Rosary Novenas to our Lady* by Charles V. Lacey. The copyright was in 1926 and the Imprimatur was by Patrick Cardinal Hayes, then Archbishop of New York and I remember utilizing this booklet during my childhood. In it, I came upon *The Fifteen Promises* made by the Blessed Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic and Blessed Alanus. I would like to share them with you in this month dedicated to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary.

- \* To all those who will recite my Rosary devoutly, I promise my special protection and very great graces.
- \* Those who will persevere in the recitation of my Rosary shall receive some signal grace.
- \* The Rosary shall be a very powerful armor against hell; it shall destroy vice, deliver from sin, and shall dispel heresy.
- \* The Rosary shall make virtue and good works flourish, and shall obtain for souls the most abundant divine mercies; it shall substitute in hearts love of God for love of the world, elevate them to desire heavenly and eternal goods. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means!
- \* Those who trust themselves to me through the Rosary, shall not perish.
- \* Those who will recite my Rosary piously, considering its Mysteries, shall not be overwhelmed by misfortune



nor die a bad death. The sinner shall be converted; the just shall grow in grace and become worthy of eternal life.

- \* Those truly devoted to my Rosary shall not die without the consolations of the Church, or without grace.
- \* Those who will recite my Rosary shall find during their life and at their death the light of God, the fullness of His grace, and shall share in the merits of the blessed.
- \* I will deliver very promptly from purgatory the souls devoted to my Rosary.
- \* The true children of my Rosary shall enjoy great glory in heaven.
- \* What you ask through my Rosary, you shall obtain.
- \* Those who propagate my Rosary shall obtain through me aid in all their necessities.
- \* I have obtained from my Son that all the confreres of the Rosary shall have for their brethren in life and death the saints of heaven.
- \* Those who recite my Rosary faithfully are all my beloved children, the brothers and sister of Jesus Christ.
- \* Devotion to my Rosary is a special sign of predestination.

Of course, perusing these *Promises*, we must view them in light of being faithful Christians, devoted to following the teachings of Jesus Christ, Her Son, for all salvation radiates from Him.

May I suggest to all of our Members that we pray the Rosary on the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary and for those who pray it daily, an extra one, so that through the changes in the seasons and those of our lives, we may reflect more attentively on the Life and Teachings of Jesus and the love of His Mother. In doing so, may we better endure the *Sufferings* that are ahead of us in this life and hopefully be guided to the *Joys* and *Glory* prepared for us by our Lord in His Kingdom of *Light*!

Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!

# Message from our National President

## CYNTHIA M. MALESKI



*On the occasion of the  
National Gala Banquet  
Celebrating the 125th Anniversary  
of First Catholic Slovak Ladies  
Association of the United States  
of America  
at the Marriott at Key Center  
Cleveland, Ohio ~ July 29, 2017*

Reverend Clergy, Mistress of Ceremonies Sue Ann Seich, national officers and members of the board of directors, community leaders present, former national officers, fraternal leaders, employees, district and branch presidents and all esteemed members and guests at this auspicious gathering to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association of the United States of America:

*Pochváleny bud Pan Ježiš Kristus!*

Welcome to our national gala banquet to celebrate our past, present and future. As we would say in Slovak in the old days:

*"Vitame u nás"*

In our grand tradition, we have begun our celebration and gathering with Mass, the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem, because as our Foundress Anna Hurban and all leaders who have followed have pledged:

*"For God and Country" — Za Boha a Národ*

We thank Bishop Roger Gries, Abbot Gary Hoover and all other concelebrating priests for Mass today and their vocation as priests to the Catholic Church. Thank you, Bishop Gries for the wisdom of your words in the homily at Mass. You always set forth meaningful lessons for all of us.

I would be remiss if I would not acknowledge the planning and fine work of Msgr. Peter Polando, National Chaplain in orchestrating a special liturgy for us at St. John's Cathedral in downtown Cleveland for us, Thank you Monsignor!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this awesome gathering tonight in celebrating the founding and first national convention of our society in 1892, it is indeed fitting that we pause and reflect on the virtues of our Foundress Anna Hurban and all our leaders who have believed in themselves and their hopes for the benefit of our members and communities and above all, with the blessings of God's grace, we have found that everything is possible.

Who could have imagined that 125 years ago that nine Slovak immigrant women, banding together in a small church hall and later that same year, 15 women delegates from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana and Minnesota, would provide the essential building blocks for a fraternal benefit society now licensed in 48 states, over 114,000 members,

over 415 branches, \$1 billion of life insurance in force and over \$900 million in assets.

We have a significant national and international imprint as a living monument of charitable benevolence, dignity of all people, cooperation and collaboration.

It is a noble cause, ladies and gentlemen. Through our works, we seek to affirm and reaffirm the dignity, respect and self-esteem of all of our members, their families and the communities where we live and work.

At every time and juncture of challenge and celebration, we have looked and will continue to look for ways we can respect and affirm the dignity of every person from the beginning of life to the end of life and for the memory and honor of those who have gone before us.

Our actions as an association tell a story of affirmation of persons as our key purpose, either through spiritual, moral, financial or emotional means.

So during this historic time for us, as we embark on steps of genuine progress and change in this 21st century, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to our original purpose:

- To provide benefits for our members and families
- To improve the lives of our members
- To aid and assist members and their families in times of sickness, old age and death;
- To uphold and perpetuate our Catholic faith and Church, as IT IS A SACRED TRUST passed on to us from our parents and grandparents.

As we welcome our new members through our recent mergers, we look forward to working with them in cooperation and collaboration as together, we strive to continue and perfect this noble cause of ours, in this great country of ours, the United States of America, the land where our immigrant families came to forge a better life.

As I segway into the next part of our program, I would like to recognize those who have worked tirelessly to create this signature video on the occasion of our 125th anniversary:

- Carolyn Bazik
- Kelly Shedlock
- Mary Ann Johaneck
- GERALYN Radevic
- Katherine Bowes

So now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present this video production to you. I am sure you will agree that ours is a riveting story of courage, leadership, perseverance, passion and grit, with an unwavering purpose to help our members and their families to do benevolent charitable works in our communities.

In reflecting abiding faith in God and country and our strong promise of growth and positive change for generations to come, let us enjoy the video and "Let Us Join Hands"

Thank you,

**Cynthia M. Maleski, National President**

*(The video can be purchased for \$5 by calling our home office at 1-800-464-4642.)*



## Branch W018 Honors Twelve Scholarship Recipients

On July 20, 2017, Branch W018 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA) honored twelve of its junior members who received scholarships from the Branch or from the National Office of FCSLA. The scholarships benefit youth members who attend area Catholic elementary and high schools. The members who apply for a college scholarship must attend an accredited college or university of their choice.



L-R: Front Row — Mary Steil, R.J. Hladik, Cooper Hladik. Middle Row — Bob Hladik (Branch President), William Janecek, Julianne Popelka (Branch Scholarship Chair), Elizabeth Rice, Benedict Rice, Katie Petersen. Back Row — Matthew Popelka, Daniel Popelka, Hailey Zuroske. Not pictured are Vincent Rice and Julio Rameriz.

The winners and their families were honored at a Branch-sponsored dinner at the Spaghetti Works restaurant in Ralston on Thursday, July 20th.

The following were awarded scholarships from the National Office:

- **R.J. Hladik, III**, the son of Robert Jr. and Katelin Hladik of Sedalia, MO, received a \$750 2nd Grade Elementary scholarship. R.J. attends Sacred Heart School.
- **Katie Petersen**, the daughter of Bob and Mary Petersen of Fremont, received a \$1,250 College Sophomore

scholarship. She attends Doane College.

- **Daniel Popelka**, the son of Jim and Julianne Popelka of LaVista, also received a \$1,250 College Sophomore scholarship. He attends the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

The following were awarded scholarships from FCSLA Branch W018:

- **Cooper Hladik**, the son of Robert Jr. and Katelin Hladik of Sedalia, MO received a \$300 K-4 Elementary scholarship. Cooper will be in first grade at Sacred Heart School.

- **Benedict and Elizabeth Rice** each received \$300 5-8 Elementary scholarships. Their parents are Bill and Deb Rice of Omaha. Benedict will be in 5th grade and Elizabeth in 8th grade at St. Bernadette School.

- **William Janecek**, the son of Larry and Kerry Janecek of Omaha, received a \$500 High School scholarship. William attends Mount Michael Benedictine High School.

- **Hailey Zuroske**, the daughter of Chris and Michelle, Zuroske of Omaha, was awarded a \$500 High School Scholarship. Hailey attends Marian High School.

- **Matthew Popelka**, the son of Jim and Julianne Popelka of Lavista, was awarded a \$600 College Scholarship. Matthew attends the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

- **Vincent Rice**, the son of Bill and Deb Rice of Omaha, received a \$600 College scholarship. Vincent attends the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

Also honored were the recipients of the Thomas Jelinek, Sr. Memorial Scholarship which is given annually to two students at Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School. This year the \$300 scholarships were awarded to junior **Mary Steil** and senior **Julio Rameriz**. This scholarship was established to honor Thomas Jelinek, former president of FCSLA Branch W018, and recognizes his support for Catholic education, especially Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School.

For further information, please contact Margie Hladik (402-330-3163 or [margiehladik@cox.net](mailto:margiehladik@cox.net)).

### 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 10/1/2017 thru 12/31/2017.

The credited rate is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Directors and will never go below the minimum guaranteed rate. The guaranteed minimum rate for Elite Silver and Gold contracts issued in 2017 is 2% APY and for the Platinum Elite is 2.5% APY.

### United Slovak Societies American Slovak Club Events

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, will host the following events: **Chicken Paprikas Dinner on Sunday, September 24** from 1-4 p.m. Event is open to the public with cash bar. Contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236.

**Children's Halloween Bowling Party on Sunday, October 29** at 1:30 p.m. Sign up at Bowling Alley or call 440/244-1293.



# *FCSLA 125th Anniversary Weekend Celebration*

Security, Faith, Traditions . . . July 29 - 30, 2017





## *Scenes from the Anniversary Weekend*





## Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District Holds 125th Anniversary Celebration

The Frances Jakabcin Eastern PA District held their local 125th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, August 13th, 2017. Mass was offered by District Chaplain, Monsignor Thomas Derzack at St. Nicholas Church in Walnutport, PA. Liturgical music was provided by the choir of the former St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Lansford, PA; organist Jenna DePuy, director, Amy DePuy. Following Mass a dinner was held at the Blue Shamrock Golf Club, Palmerton, PA. National President Cynthia Maleski and her husband Andrzej along with Charlotte L. Androckitis, of PUNA graciously accepted the District's invitation and shared the day with members. President Maleski shared some thoughts about our anniversary and reminded members that the district

produced two past National presidents, Frances Jakabcin, Reading, PA and Elizabeth Lipovsky, Bethlehem, PA. The district was formed in Lansford, PA on February 26, 1941 and named for Frances Jakabcin whose dynamic influence as National President, steered FCSLA to accept the legal reserve table of rates in 1922 and saved the association from bankruptcy. The 125th anniversary video was shown and the choir provided some after dinner entertainment. The district thanks everyone for their attendance and in particular thanks National President Maleski, Monsignor Derzack, the deacon Rev. Father John Anthony Hutta, the seminarians and the altar servers for making our local celebration memorable.





# FCSLA 2017 FRATERNALIST OF THE YEAR

Marilee Kessler is president of East Vandergrift, PA branches J126 and S262 and is also a Pittsburgh District Vice President.

As branch officer, in 2016, Marilee worked with the Branch Secretary to plan a successful Vilija Supper for S262 members, complete with a colorfully costumed Saint Nicholas. The branch reached out to the community and invited local clergy of all denominations. At Marilee's invitation, Pennsylvania State Representative Joseph Petrarca also attended.

Marilee works to provide creative branch activities, such as the Polar Express Event at the Carnegie Science Center for Jr. Branch 126 members. The branch has hosted matching funds events.

As a district officer, she attends district meetings and participates in planning district activities.

Marilee has been substantially involved with community groups on an ongoing basis for many years. For example: She was a board member on the Vandergrift Improvement Program (VIP), and the chairman of the organization committee. This is a 501 (c) (3) Main Street Program. In her work with the organization, she instituted monthly community meetings incorporating Neighborhood Watch in conjunction with the Vandergrift Police Department.

Marilee coordinates and assists with many community events. She spearheaded efforts to get the community into the Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority Land Bank to help fight blight in the community. Currently, she is working with the 'Penn State Extension Smart Growth with community revitalization / Build a Better Block program'.

For over 25 years, she has served on the board (cur-



rently Vice President) of the Casino Theatre Restoration & Management Inc., a 501 © (3) organization. Marilee is responsible for finding and booking events in this historic circa 1900 vaudeville theater. Her work includes contract preparation, interfacing with presenters, handling event hospitality and advertising, and working closely with restoration groups of volunteers.

For generations, the theater has been a mainstay of the community and is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

Marilee is a board member (Secretary) of the Vandergrift Area Initiative. This is an advisory board of an Endowment Fund affili-

ated with the Westmoreland and Pittsburgh Foundations, to provide small grants to local charities and groups.

Marilee is a Eucharistic minister at St. Gertrude's church in Vandergrift.

Identifying a need and creating solutions, is exactly the type of leadership Marilee displays, which sets her apart from the average volunteer.

After getting tired of hearing about how the community had "gone downhill" and "isn't what it used to be", Marilee singularly organized a public meeting for people to air their concerns, meet each other, and learn about the many organizations active in the community. These meetings continue to be held monthly.

She established and administers a social media site on Facebook called "It's your Community Vandergrift, Get Involved", which is used to present events and meetings, publish ordinances, promote local businesses and fundraisers, and is the face of the local police department for community interaction.

Marilee communicates and works with community groups in nearby communities, to encourage cooperation and sharing of resources — just one more thing that was not happening before. Communities need more people like Marilee Kessler.

Congratulations on being named FCSLA 2017 Fraternalist of the Year!

## SCF Northeast PA Chapter

### *Pilgrimage of Faith*

**Saturday, October 14, 2017**

*Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius*

*Villa Sacred Heart*

580 Railroad Street, Danville, Pennsylvania

Arrival 11:00 a.m.

*Tours of the Basilica  
and Jankola Library and Museum*

Liturgy 4:00 p.m.

**Cost \$15.00 (includes lunch)**

RSVP by October 2nd to Theresa Kluchinski

Call or Text 570-817-4657

Mail: 446 Mountain Oaks Drive

Laurel Run, PA 18706

## Slovak Heritage Festival at University of Pittsburgh

The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program will present its 27th annual Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, November 5, from 1-5 p.m. at the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room in Oakland.

The program will include Slovak food, musical performances, cultural displays and lectures.

For more information, please visit [www.slavic.pitt.edu](http://www.slavic.pitt.edu) or call Chris Metil at 412-624-5906.



# FCSLA Awards Grants In Special Recognition of the 125th Anniversary



The Board of Directors approved awarding an additional \$50,000 in grants for this year in special recognition of the 125th Anniversary. The \$50,000 was allocated to a pool of college or graduate scholarship applicants who did not receive a scholarship from our annual program for the 2017 – 20018 academic year. From this pool of applicants, fifty - \$1,000 awards have been granted by way of a random computerized drawing. There were 123 applicants eligible to enter the drawing. We received responses from 79 of them to be entered in the \$1,000 grant drawing. The winners are highlighted on the following pages. We congratulate them on their award and wish them success in their academic pursuits. These awards continue the Association's strong tradition of supporting our young people.

**Virginia Holmes**

*Board Chair of the Philanthropic and Scholarship Committee*

## Graduate Grant Winners



**JOSHUA P. FOX**  
Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Wilkes University  
Sr. Branch 172



**REBECCA G. GALANTI**  
Hamburg, NY  
Canisius College  
Sr. Branch 638



**NATHAN JAMES ISKRA**  
Levittown, PA  
Drexel University  
Sr. Branch 172



**KRISTIN ANN KLATKA**  
Brunswick, OH  
Ursuline College  
Sr. Branch 55

**KELSEY T. SALGADO**  
Plainfield, IL  
Des Moines University  
Sr. Branch 53



**NICOLETTE  
SANTERCANGELO**  
Homestead, PA  
Michigan State University  
Sr. Branch 250



**McKAYLA THIEMAN**  
Yankton, SD  
South Dakota  
State University  
Branch W093



**MATTHEW R. BREWER**  
North Royalton, OH  
Ohio State University  
Branch SZJO

**AMBER M. CALABRESE**  
Chardon, OH  
Bowling Green State University  
Sr. Branch 522



**DYLAN P. CASEY**  
Wilmette, IL  
University of Illinois  
Sr. Branch 615

**HALEY N. DANFORD**  
Longwood, FL  
University of South Florida  
Sr. Branch 10



**WILL T. DAUGHERTY**  
Rockford, IL  
Rock Valley College  
Sr. Branch 248



**HANNAH E. FELTZ**  
Gahanna, OH  
University of Cincinnati  
Sr. Branch 200

## Undergraduate Grant Winners



**ETHAN E. BIBAT**  
Whiting, IN  
Purdue University  
Sr. Branch 452





**NICKOLAS FREDERICK**  
Lincoln Park, MI  
Eastern Michigan  
University  
Sr. Branch 334



**RYAN J. GARCHAR**  
Redford, MI  
Ave Maria University  
Sr. Branch 202



**BAILEY M. GARLAND**  
Joliet, IL  
Illinois State University  
Sr. Branch 53



**BRENNA M. GARLAND**  
Joliet, IL  
Illinois College  
Sr. Branch 53



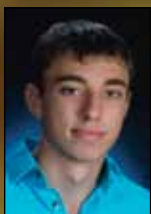
**GREGORY B. GOLIAS**  
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Michigan State University  
Sr. Branch 490



**MEGAN MARIE HULL**  
Gibsonia, PA  
Grove City College  
Sr. Branch 177



**CLAYTON S. JOHNSON**  
Garner, IA  
Iowa Central  
Community College  
Branch W051



**CONNER R. KNIGHT**  
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Sr. Branch 30



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Branch W056



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New Lenox, IL  
Joliet Junior College  
Sr. Branch 258



**KAYLEE A. REEDER**  
Montgomery, MN  
Mount Mary University  
Branch W003



**MARGARET M. RICE**  
Omaha, NE  
Branch W018



**BRIAN DANIEL SMITH**  
East Hanover, NJ  
University of Rhode Island  
Sr. Branch 172



**ALLISSA JANE SOKOL**  
Youngstown, OH  
Youngstown State University  
Sr. Branch 169





**MATTHEW J. SOOS**  
Seven Hills, OH  
John Carroll University  
Sr. Branch 141



**SAMANTHA R. UTLEY**  
Ankeny, IA  
Iowa State University  
Branch W051



**LOGAN D. WADE**  
Prague, NE  
Doane University  
Branch W013



**ANASTASIA M. SOUSEK**  
Ceresco, NE  
University of Nebraska-  
Lincoln  
Branch W017



**SAMUEL E. VILK**  
Mentor, OH  
Seton Hill University  
Sr. Branch 10

**BRODY D. WILANDER**

Bemidji, MN  
Minnesota State University-Moorehead  
Branch SZJ0



**ASHLEY B. STIBRIK**  
South Park, PA  
Duquesne University  
Sr. Branch 11



**PETER JOHN VOLKERT**  
Brookfield, WI  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison  
Sr. Branch 23



**ANDREW WISNIEWSKI**  
Irwin, PA  
Grove City University  
Sr. Branch 343



**JONATHAN S. STRACHE**  
Chicago Ridge, IL  
Morraine Valley Community  
College  
Sr. Branch 421



**JACKLYN LEE VOYTKO**  
North Ridgeville, OH  
University of Toledo  
Sr. Branch 292

**GABRIELLE R. ZAMARY**

Dublin, OH  
Ohio State University  
Sr. Branch 161

## Jessica Drogoski Recognized at Medallion Ball

Jr. Branch 115 member Jessica Drogoski Viehman was presented at the 53rd Annual St. Lucy's Auxiliary to the Blind Medallion Ball by Pittsburgh Diocese's Most Reverend Bishop David Zubik. The Medallion Ball recognizes young women in their senior year of high school for their service to the community. Jessica accumulated over 400 hours of volunteer service throughout her high school career. Most of her time was spent volunteering at Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, where she assisted teenagers with vision impairments, and as a Junior Lady of Charity at her home parish



of St. Louise de Marillac. Jessica was escorted by Justin Cook, a graduate of Seton LaSalle Catholic High School.

Jessica graduated with highest honors, in the top 1 percent of her class at Bethel Park High School. Along with volunteer service, she was active in the Pennsylvania

a Spanish Minor.

Jessica is the daughter of Mark Viehman and Dolores Drogoski Viehman. She is a past recipient of the FCSLA Elementary Scholarship and fourth generation member of FCSLA.

Junior Academy of Science and the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, where she received numerous awards and scholarships for her scientific research. Her most significant scholarship was from Westinghouse Women in Nuclear, for demonstrating impressive innovation in her scientific research on environmentally friendly concrete. Jessica will be attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) this fall as a Davenport Engineering Leadership Scholar to study Civil and Environmental Engineering with





## FCSLA 2017 YOUTH OF THE YEAR!

Meghan McKeogh has taken part in every Matching Funds project branches J483 and S555 has done in this past year. There were four projects.

The branch completed the following matching funds projects:

The branch did a reception and poinsettia sale to benefit the Lyceum Catholic School. The reception and sale was after the Lyceum Choir's Advent Lessons and Carols. Megan helped bake kolachke and nut rolls for the reception and helped at the reception after singing with the choir.

The branch worked a concessions stand at a softball tournament to benefit Stay in Softball. Meghan worked the stand and got other volunteers to work also.

The branch held a bat raffle and raffle for other prizes at an Akron Racers professional softball game. Megan contacted the Racers to set up the event and ran the table and called businesses asking them to donate items to the raffle. The money went to benefit inner city softball teams and CYO.

Meghan started a charity called Stay in Softball. The Charity helps inner city and low income girls participate in softball. The charity sponsors inner city school teams and helps buy needed equipment for the team. The charity holds used equipment drives throughout the year to collect used equipment to donate to low income girls and teams. Meghan has worked at eight used equipment drives this year.

The charity also puts on free clinics to teach the inner city girls how to play softball. Meghan organizes all of the clinics and finds instructors to donate their time. She also finds players to help the instructors at the Clinics. Meghan has organized and volunteered at 10 clinics last year. The charity also helps players who have undergone a tragedy or family crisis. They helped a player with brain cancer; a player who had her arm amputated and was learning how to play with one arm and two players whose parent had cancer. Meghan coordinates and participates in all of the fundraisers the charity does and writes letters and makes phone calls looking for donors and volunteers.

The branch did an Advent soup supper to benefit the Lyceum Catholic School. Meghan worked at the supper serving soup.

Meghan is involved at the Pro Life group at the Lyceum. She has prayed outside of Planned Parenthood on several



occasions and assisted with a collection for Zacharia House.

Meghan is part of the Lyceum choir. The choir donates its time by singing sacred music at many events including Bringing America Back to Life, a Mass for the Catholic Medical Association, Masses for the installation of a local Byzantine Bishop and a Mass on Mother Angelica's anniversary of her death.

Meghan also serves as

an alter server for St. Joan of Arc Church.

Meghan is a good candidate for his award because she spends so much of her free time doing things for other people. She showed great leadership starting her own charity and puts countless hours toward it. She does all these activities while also playing sports, keeping a 3.9 grade point average and participating in other activities. She sets a good example to her peers as she is respectful, modest, a hard worker and is not shy to talk about or defend her Faith.

Congrats Meghan on being named FCSLA 2017 Youth of the Year!

### United Slovak Societies Events

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, 44055 will host the following events:

#### CLAMBAKE

TBA. Please visit [www.americanslovakclub.com](http://www.americanslovakclub.com) for details.

#### STEDRY VECER, TRADITIONAL SLOVAK CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Sunday, December 3rd at 5:30 p.m.

Cocktails, 6:00 p.m. dinner.

Entertainment by Ed Klimczak.

Advanced tickets only \$20 the event is open to the public, cash bar. Contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236.

**Save the date and stay tuned for further details**

#### SILVESTER STEAK FRY

Sunday, December 31st at 5-9 p.m.

The United Slovak Societies is comprised of the members of the local lodges in Lorain, OH. These lodges include; St. Ann's Branch 114 of the FCSLA, St. John the Baptist Lodge 228 of the FCSU, NSS Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111 and the LPSCU Branch 77.

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP  
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?**



## Youngstown District Honors Scholarship Winners

The Youngstown District honored 28 scholarship winners at the Byzantine Center, Sunday, August 20, in Youngstown, OH. District President, Bernie Demechko, introduced Melanie Leonard, President of Branch 161, which hosted the event. Melanie welcomed the winners and their families and thanked her committee of Bernie Demechko, Financial Secretary; Millie Kust, Recording Secretary; Loretta Ekoniak, Senior Auditor, and Nancy Clausen, Junior Auditor.

The 175 people in attendance were seated at tables containing vases of sunflowers with a scarecrow in their

midst holding an envelope with \$10 given as a door-prize. Sunflowers also adorned the two cakes. The scene was reminiscent of the fields of sunflowers that you see while driving through Slovakia. Additional doorprizes were gift bags filled with school supplies.

The President stated she would not recite the usual prayer said to Saint



**Kristen Osiniak winner of the \$500 Anna S. Granchay Youngstown District Scholarship with Patricia Granchay S156, guardian of the fund.**

Ann, patron of the District. Instead, because of so many parents and children present, she gave the story of Anna and Joachim who were the parents of Mary, who would become the Mother of Jesus. Mary was home-schooled by her parents in her Jewish faith since females could not receive the same education as males in the Synagogue. That family unit observed the Jewish holidays. Mary's character was formed in a home of love. She was also taught useful work for she would one day weave a seamless garment for her son, Je-

sus. The President continued that the families present were following in the spirit of Anna and Joachim for they were setting examples for their children and molding their characters. They were also instilling the love of education in them since so many had excelled in their studies and won scholarships.

The quarterly meeting was dispensed. After a delicious chicken dinner, the President spoke about the 125th anniversary of this group, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, (FCSLA). A Mass and dinner had been held in Cleveland in July with eight of our members attending. Patricia Granchay, President of Branch 156, represented the Youngstown District at the affair. A special anniversary gift was fifty \$1,000 scholarships that would be awarded to non-winners who had applied for the FCSLA scholarships. Names were selected lottery style. District winners were Conner Knight S30; Gabrielle Zamar, S161; Allisa Sokol, S169 and Ryan Garchar, S202.

Bernie spoke about the origin of the FCSLA. She stated a priest named Reverend Michael McGivney, in 1882, started the first fraternal insurance company, the Knights of Columbus, to assist the Irish immigrants who were coming to the United States. In 1890, a group of men, using the Knights as an example, formed the First Catholic Slovak Union. Neither group, however, permitted women to buy or sell insurance policies. She continued, "What's a woman to do? Establish your own fraternal insurance group!" And so they did. Led by Anna Hurban, a group of eight women met at her kitchen in Cleveland to discuss the idea. The year was 1892 and these women, having come from Slovakia in recent years, spoke limited English and had no advanced education. They formally met at St. Ladislaus Church to set the groundwork for the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. The FCSLA's 100th anniversary program book in 1992 shows that by the end of 1892 the group had six branches, 95 members, and had given out one \$200 death benefit and had \$212 in assets. Fast forward to today: FCSLA has over 400 branches, 115,000 members, a billion dollars of insurance and surplus of \$100,000,000.

The president continued that the progress FCSLA made includes two acquisitions of fraternal groups this past year. They are the Polish Union of Wilkes-Barre, PA, with 6,000



**Jeffrey Pezzuto J29 stands between his mother and Agnes Lisko, representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust. Jeffrey won \$500 From the Trust and Anastacia Viau J192 won \$500 but was unable to attend.**



**L-R, seated: Andrea Zuccaro, S156; Leanne Chandler, J192; Isabella Thornton, J231; Ava Melfi, J257; President Bernie Demechko, S161; Emilee Rose Smrek, S30; Leo Puhalla, J192. Standing: Jeffrey Pezzuto, J29; Sarah Pence, S161; Jennifer Toth, S161; Phillip Guidos, S156; Kristen Osiniak, S30; Thomas Rovnak, S30; Mara Bahmer, S161, and Melanie Leonard, President of S161, hosting Branch.**

*(Continued on Page 15)*



## Jr. Branch 460 & Sr. Branch 66 National Scholarship Winners



**MATTHEW L. RETOFF** is the son of Beth and Albert Retoff. Matthew, a member of Sr. Branch 66, is transferring to Purdue University as a Sophomore this Fall and he will be majoring in Computer Science. In 2015, he became an Eagle Scout and since 4th grade he has played the trombone in Band and he hopes to continue playing when he attends Purdue this year. He also enjoys playing video games.

### Youngstown District Honors

members and the Polish Women's Alliance, Chicago, IL with 30,000. They were accepted after several years of due diligence by lawyers, actuaries, auditors, etc.

The presentation of scholarship winners followed with each Branch president calling her winners forward. Each winner (or a representative) spoke on his/her educational goals and extracurricular activities. Monetary gifts from the District and Branches were presented to the winners.

Agnes Lisko, representative of the Katherine L. Sedlacko Family Trust was introduced. The Trust has given a \$1,000 scholarship to Youngstown District members annually for the past thirteen years. The winners this year were \$500 scholarships to Jeffrey Pezzuto, J29, and Anastacia Viau, J192.

Patricia Granchay, President of Branch 156 and guardian of the Anna S. Granchay District Scholarship Fund, presented a \$500 check to Kristen Osiniak, S30, winner of this year's scholarship.

A photo opportunity was held with Michael Ekoniak taking District and Branch photos.

The President thanked Melanie and the S161 officers who had hosted a lovely event to honor the winners. A special "thank you" to Jeff and Therese Leonard who worked the week before preparing the centerpieces and were also selling tickets, distributing gifts and available for any work that needed to be done.

The meeting adjourned with a prayer for our departed members with special mention of Mary Belloto, 82, who helped fund the Anna S. Granchay District Scholarship, and Virginia (Ginny) DeLuca, 55, immediate past President of Branch S161.



**JENNA C. WHAMPLER** is the daughter of Dave and Shelly Whampler. Jenna, a member of Sr. Branch 66, is a graduate student of Olivet Nazarene University and she is getting her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus of Family Nurse Practitioner and Education. Nursing is her passion and she is humbled by the work of helping others. While earning her Masters Jenna says "I am attending a university that places high importance on religion which gives me great pride as I was raised Catholic and plan to embrace my religion in practice with my future patients". Jenna would like to thank her family for loving support as without her Grandma Whalen this scholarship would not be possible. To the FCSLA she would like to thank you for helping her dream come true and she looks forward to utilizing the opportunity to care for her future patients in a holistic manner.



**SEAN JOST** is the son of Rob and Lisa Jost. He is a member of Jr. Branch 470. He attends St. Michael's School in Wheaton IL. What he likes about attending school is participation in Catholic Schools Week because it is a lot of fun. He also enjoys gathering with his faith family. This is a group of students from all different grades that meet together for mass, pray and do fun activities together. This allows him to get to know students from other grades. This was especially important to him this year as a new transfer to the school. He really appreciated the hospitality he was shown and it has helped him fit right in. This past year he was active in Cub Scouts, Volleyball Team, Chess Club, and the Basketball Team. He is looking forward to another great year and making the transition to middle school.

### Jr. Branch 231 Honors Scholarship Winner



During the August 20th Youngstown District dinner to honor their scholarship winners, Jr. Branch 231 honored its winner, 5th grader, Isabella Thornton. Shown in the picture are Carol Dumez Jr. Branch Secretary, Isabella and Dolores Sonoga, President of the Branch.



## Jillian Krempasky Scholarship Award Winner

Sr. Branch 484, Egypt (Whitehall), PA – Officers gather to congratulate and present College Sophomore Scholarship award to Jillian Krempasky who attends Westminster College of the Arts. Jillian (left) with officers: Delores Krempasky, recording secretary and Jillian's grandmother; Dolores Neupauer, president; and Anne Marie Bachman, treasurer. Jillian is the daughter of David and Kim Krempasky.



## Branch W049 National Scholarship Winners

Branch W049, Silver Lake, MN recently honored the branches National Scholarship Recipients.

Branch Secretary Ronald Maresh is pictured presenting scholarships to Emily A. Popelka, of Glencoe, MN, a college senior biology major attending the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN and to Nicholas R. Schmidt of Glencoe, MN, a college freshman mechanical engineering major attending the University of Minnesota Duluth.



## ST. ANN LODGE ANNUAL SOCIAL

St. Ann Lodge Branch 114 will hold their annual social on Sunday, October 15th at 1:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway in Lorain, OH. All members are invited to attend. Please make your reservations by calling Bernie Danevich at 960-2605 or Marge Thomas at 288-1492. Deadline for reservations is October 11th.

## Sr. Branch 44 and Jr. Branch 112 Scholarship Recipients Recognized

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association recently presented scholarships to members of Sr. Branch 44 and Jr. Branch 112 at Visitation Church in Mt. Pleasant.

The Association is proud of these young members and wish them continued success in their future studies and careers.



Senior Branch members Jordan Kosisko of Connellsville, freshman at Duquesne University, Agnes Farcosky officer, Julianne Speeney of Connellsville attending California University Masters Program. Absent from photo is Kerry Lee Zelenak of Mt. Pleasant.



Junior Branch also recognized scholarship applicant, Riley Knizner of Connellsville grade 3. Absent from photo was Alexa and Logan Sebek of West Newton.



Junior Branch members who attend Montessori School Nathan Gaydos grade 5, officer Loretta Hunker, Nicholas Gaydos grade 8, officer Agnes Farcosky. Absent from picture was Abigail Urban of Somerset.

## BRANCH W093 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**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.

Any questions call Secretary Joyce Sestak at 605-463-2268.



# MATCHING FUNDS ACTIVITIES

## Sr. Branch 350

### Basket Raffle Fund Raisher

Branch S350 from Shamokin, PA, joined with Wilkes University Polish Room of Wilkes-Barre, PA for their annual tea basket raffle fund raiser. This organization awards a scholarship to a Slavic student each year, holds a Christmas Eve Supper, a dinner dance and the most anticipated event of the year — preparing and offering Slavic foods to the Wilkes University faculty and students. The attendees enjoyed the delicious salad, fruit, sandwiches, scones, amazing desserts and of course tea served at the Wilkes University Polish Room Tea. The matching funds check from FCSLA will allow the group to add another scholarship. They were very appreciative and happy to assist in preserving and promoting Slavic heritage through their scholarship awards.

Pictured below in tea attire are Anne Hajala, auditor; Rita Kcenich, president; Florence McCabe, secretary/treasurer of S350 along with Regina Levandowski; sunshine board member and Bernadine Tarasek, president of the Wilkes University Polish Room.



Rita Kopcho, Mary Blizman and Bernadine Kondratic.

## Sr. Branch 161

### Bake Sale

Millie Kust and Jack Slanina wait for customers at the bake sale held during the 12th annual Mahoning County Slovak Festival, Youngstown, OH. Branch 161 used a Matching Funds project to purchase new hymnals. Since the merger of Holy Name, Saints Cyril and Methodius, and Saint Matthias Slovak Churches into Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, it is important that the congregations have a unified hymnal.



## Sr. Branch 409

### Bake Sale

July 17, 2017 turned out to be a beautiful sunny day to hold a matching funds bake sale for Branch 409 of East Chicago, IN. Several FCSLA members and friends assisted with this event at the Salvatorian Shrine in Merrillville, IN. This year the priests who manage the Shrine allowed the committee to sell the bake goods in two locations. One location was outside the banquet hall and the other was a dessert table in the banquet hall which kept the volunteers busy. Not only did Agnes Chervenak, President of Branch 409 and her officers and members participate in this event, but also Joann Skvarek Banvich, National Director along with Betty Ortiz, Mary Weber, Becky and John Coleman, several Jr. Branch members and many friends. Some of the donated items being sold consisted of breads, various cakes, pies, cherry and apple slices, cupcakes, cookies, brownies and homemade roscky. Agnes appreciated and thanked all the bakers and volunteers for this event who helped make it a success for Sr. Branch 409.



## Branch W074

### Roast Beef Dinner

Branch W074, Atwood, KS sponsored a Roast Beef Dinner on May 7, 2017 at St. John Nepomucene Hall as a matching funds activity to help member Jason Sis with medical expenses due to an accident. Presenting the matching funds check to Jason (center) is treasurer Joel Sis (left) and president Jeremy Sis (right).





## Sr. Branch 88 Scholarship Dinner Held for Winning Recipients

Recently Sr. Branch 88 and Jr. Branch 157 of Monessen held a Scholarship Dinner for winning recipients at the Alpine Club in Monessen. President Dorothy Urbanowicz welcomed the recipients and their guests. Rev. Dr. Micah Kozoil presented invocation and led the group with grace. Following dinner each student presented themselves. Fr. Kozoil addressed the group with a Blessing for graduates and spoke on the students' future. The students were then presented with checks from the branches and all present were presented with gifts from the home office.

Dorothy reminded the group about the Friends and Family Program and thanked all for attending. Fr. Micah presented the benediction and wished all a safe trip home.

**BLAKE PAWELEC** is a self-taught digital artist pursuing a career in graphic design and advertising. Blake found his passion for art and design at a young age. He is a creative storyteller and intuitive designer that thrives on "out of the box" concepts. Blake recently interned with Allegheny Health Network and is currently employed in Moon Township, PA at Robert Morris University in the Office of Public Relations and Marketing as a Junior Design Intern and in the Career and Professional Development Center as a Communications and Marketing Designer.

Blake plans to graduate from Robert Morris University in May of 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design and a minor in Advertising. Blake is the son of Michael and Cindy Pawelec. Cindy is an Auditor for the branches.



**NATALIE BIALON** is a 2017 graduate of Belle Vernon Area High School. She plans to attend the American University in Washington, DC. Natalie is the daughter of Aaron and Kathy Bialon.



L-R: Alice Bialon, Natalie Bialon and Aaron Bialon.

**TRISTAN TODD** is a 6th grade student at St. Sebastian Regional School in Belle Vernon, PA. He is the son of Beth Todd and is an alter server at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Monessen. Tristan would like to be a scientist and is excited that St. Sebastian is starting a STEM Club. They will be building robots and installing software to control them. Tristan is involved in archery, bowling and Karate. He is a Blue Belt and currently working towards his brown belt. He also takes drum lessons. His grandmother Ruth is an Auditor for the branches.



L-R: Jamie, Tristan, Beth and Ruth Todd.

**VINCENT HORENSKY** — Vincent will enter the second grade at St. Sebastian Regional School in Belle Vernon, PA. He has been a student there since kindergarden. Vinnie enjoys reading and religious classes. He also participates in Cub Scouts where he just attained the rank of Tiger, gymnastics and piano. He is daughter of Kate and George Horensky.



L-R: Kate, Betsy, Vincent and George.

**NATALIA STARTARE** — This fall Natalia will enter the Second Grade at St. Sebastian Regional School in Belle Vernon, PA. Her favorite class is Art and activities include dance and cheerleading. Natalia is the daughter of Kelly and Anthony Startare.



L-R: Natalia, Kelly, Lucia, Anthony and Tony.

(Continued on Page 20)

Send us your  
Wedding, Anniversary  
and Birthday  
Announcements!  
[zjbazik@comcast.net](mailto:zjbazik@comcast.net)



## 16th CGSI Genealogical Cultural Conference

**Tuesday, October 17-  
Saturday, October 21, 2017**

**Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Pittsburgh International Airport**

**Theme: *Industry and Our Immigrant Ancestors***

**Speakers: *International, National and Local Experts***

**Activities:**

- Informative presentations on the genealogy, history, and ethnic heritage of our Slovak, Rusyn and Czech ancestors, and the Pittsburgh area.
- Lively cultural programs including music, dance, folk art and folk dress (Kroje).
- Guided historic Pittsburgh Slovak and Rusyn neighborhoods and institution tours.
- On-site access to genealogical resources from the CGSI Traveling Library.
- Regional round-table networking sessions, an exceptional opportunity to meet with fellow researchers, experts and enthusiasts from across the country.

CGSI is an all volunteer non-profit genealogical society. Contact [PaulMCzech@comcast.net](mailto:PaulMCzech@comcast.net) for more information.

## Sr. Branch 88 Scholarship



**OFFICERS WITH WINNERS** — Seated, L-R: Tristan Todd, Natalie Bialon, Blake Pawelec, Vince Horensky and Natalia Startare. Standing, L-R: Auditor Ruth Todd, Recording Secretary Flora Funtal, Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Micah Kozoil, President and Sr. Financial Secretary Dorothy Urbanowicz, Jr. Financial Secretary Rosemary Betza and Auditor Cindy Pawelec.

## Sr. Branch 77 & Jr. Branch 32 Scholarship Winners

On July 21, 2017, McKeesport Branches S077 and J032 honored their scholarship winners with a special dinner at the Red Lion in Elizabeth, PA.

This year's winners are Jessica Hartner, Mackenzie Oravec and Ava Lindley. Jessica is a sophomore at St. Vincent College. She is studying Early Childhood Education and is active in Campus Ministry. Ava is in third grade at Madonna Catholic in Monongahela. Mackenzie, a freshman at George Washington University, could not attend. Branch President Jerry Holmes presented the winners a gift from the branch to assist with expenses.



**L-R: Front Row** – Marian Greenland, Jessica, Ava, Virginia Holmes, Audrey Podlesny, Judy Fedor. **Back Row** – Carol Yurechko and Jerry Holmes.



**L-R: Mom Suzanne Hartner, Jessica; Ava with Mom Julie and Dad Brian.**



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CATHOLIC  
SLOVAK  
LADIES  
ASSOCIATION**



## St. Ann's Day Celebration

Members of Sr. Branch 114 and Jr. Branch 198 celebrated St. Ann's Day in Lorain, OH and welcomed their scholarship winners and their families at their month's business meeting on July 16, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH.

During the meeting, President Bernie Danevich recognized and honored the National Scholarship Senior applicants, Kasey Bilancini, Ohio State University Senior and Katherine Ondeka, Youngstown State University, College Junior, both receiving awards of \$1,250 and applicant Meghan Novotny, James Madison University, VA Freshman. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend due to their schedules. Each will receive a check from our Lodge, Branch 114. We also had a Jr. Branch 198 National Scholarship winner of \$750, Molly Riley of St. Joseph Parish School, Amherst. She was presented a check for school expenses by her grandmother, Betty Boone, of Sr. Branch 114 and Treasurer of the Jr. Branch. She was congratulated and wished a successful coming school year.

Afterwards, a light luncheon was served to all with cake for dessert. The meeting was ended with a raffle and gifts from Branch 114 and from the FCSLA followed by prayer and adjournment.



**Jr. Branch 198 Treasurer Betty Boone presents her granddaughter Molly Riley, a \$750 national scholarship winner with a check for her school expenses from the branch.**



Branch members enjoying the scholarship luncheon.

## PWA DISTRICT I PATRON'S DAY CELEBRATION

The feast day of Our Lady of Częstochowa falls on August 26th in the church calendar, and this year the District I Patron's Day observance was held on that very day. PWA members and guests gathered at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Calumet City, IL on Saturday morning, August 26, 2017, for a Mass dedicated to PWA members, both living and deceased. This is an annual event in District I that is always well attended. Different Councils in District I take turns hosting the event and this year it was Council 19's turn and Dorothy Polus, Council President, and her committee prepared an inspiring and welcoming celebration for all in attendance.



Following Mass, a luncheon was held at Steve's Lounge in Chicago, where members and guests could socialize and catch up with friends. A raffle was held to benefit the Women's Eleemosynary Foundation and Council 19 for future projects. We were very happy to welcome representatives from the FCSLA at this event.



Front row from left: Acting District 1 President Lidia Filus, Acting District 3 President Evelyn Lisek, Council 19 President Dorothy Polus, and Council 21 President Diane Svitko. Back row: Council 9 President Laura Pawlowski; Group 821 President James Kolak; FCSLA Chicago District Financial Secretary Jarmila Hlubocky; Group 821 Vice President Czeslawa Kolak; FCSLA Chicago District President Lorraine Gibas; FCSLA Chicago District Treasurer Gary Ledvora; FCSLA Chicago District Past President Joe Ledvora; FCSLA Chicago District Vice President Fay Hlubocky; Council 27 President Bo Padowski; FCSLA National Director Jeanette Palanca; Council 13 President Barbara Miller; FCSLA Past National Vice President Rosemary Mlinarich, and Acting PWA Chief Operating Officer Antoinette Trela.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP  
A NEW MEMBER RECENTLY?



## Jr. Branch 46 and Frances Jakabcin District Christmas in July

Jr. Branch 46, Lansford, PA and the Eastern PA Frances Jakabcin District sponsored Christmas in July on Thursday, July 13th at Knoebels Grove Amusement Park, Elysburg, PA.

Members of many district branches attended the event and enjoyed a day of family and fraternal fun at the park. Junior members received free tickets for rides and food and additional tickets could be purchased at a discount. Some heavy rains came through later

in the day and ended the event a little earlier than usual but folks left looking forward to next year which will be held on Thursday, July 12, 2018.



## Grace Kimlicka and Nicholas Anagnostopoulos United in Marriage

Wisconsin Branch 376 members Barbara Kimlicka and the late Richard Kimlicka would like to announce the marriage of their daughter Grace Ann Kimlicka to Nicholas Theodore Anagnostopoulos on July 30, 2017 at St. Helen & Constintine Greek Orthodox Church.

Grace is also a member of Branch 376. She is the granddaughter of Ann and Joseph Kimlicka and the niece of former Wisconsin District President and 376 Branch Vice President Mary Jo Noyes.



## Cleveland Okres District Meeting and Event Schedule

All meetings will be held at the LOHV, 283 Union St., Bedford, OH. All meetings will start at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

### INVITING ALL CLEVELAND AREA BRANCH MEMBERS . . .

These meeting and events are not just for branch officers.

#### MEETING DATES:

Join your branch officers for lunch, meeting and raffle!  
October 14

#### ACTIVITIES:

- **December 3, Sunday** – Vilija Dinner at St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland
- **December 9, Saturday** – 1:30-3:30 p.m. District Christmas Party with LOHV residents, Bedford



## CHICAGO DISTRICT EVENTS

**Saturday, October 21st** – Chicago area celebration of the FCSLA 125th Anniversary. 11 a.m. mass at St. Jane de Chantal in Chicago and Luncheon at 1 p.m. at the Mayor's Mansion (formerly European Chalet). Tickets are \$15.00 per person and can be purchased from your branch officer or lorrainegibas@gmail.com by October 1st. All members are welcome.

**Sunday, November 5th** – Chicago area Junior Christmas Party – Camp Manitouqua, Frankfort, IL – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – RSVP by October 22nd.

**Saturday, December 2nd** – Chicago area Senior Christmas Party – Orland Chateau, Orland Park, IL – 11 a.m.-3 p.m. – RSVP by November 18th.



## District 11, Valparaiso, NE Held Annual Picnic, July 9, 2017



Father Rynearson joined other members for a bite to eat.



District officers L-R: Bob Hladik, Vice-President; Clarice Sabata, Secretary; Dennis Povandra, National Auditor; Cecilia Hall, President; Ron Paseka, Treasurer; Amy Hall, Regional Sales Manager.



Always lots of food.



Youth enjoying plastic wrap ball game.

## REPORT OF THE FCSLA NATIONAL TREASURER

BALANCE SHEET AS OF MAY 31, 2017

### ASSETS

Cash & Short Term Investments	\$ 26,984,356
Bonds	822,768,332
Preferred Stock	785,283
Common Stock	5,709,709
Investment Income Due & Accrued	12,663,453
Property Plant & Equipment, Net	5,295,842
Certificate Loans & Accrued Interest	2,518,255
Other Assets	7,047,954

### TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 883,773,184

### LIABILITIES

Life Reserves	\$ 255,052,684
Annuity Reserves	507,708,225
Death Claims Payable	1,963,586
Unearned Premiums	478,390
Matured Endowments	288,110
Provision for Dividends Payable	1,400,000
Accumulated Dividends & Interest	4,525,751
Accrued Convention Donations	399,000
Provision for Future Conventions	299,385
Asset Valuation Reserve	8,055,699
Interest Maintenance Reserve	931,441
Other Liabilities	1,668,409

### TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$ 782,770,679

### Surplus

\$ 101,002,505

### TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

\$ 883,773,184

### INCOME STATEMENT

For the Five Months Ending May 31, 2017

### REVENUE

Insurance Premiums	\$ 1,937,505
Annuity Premiums	18,207,968
Investment Income	18,093,410
Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve	45,884
Rental Income	207,954
Other Revenue	4,983

### TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 38,497,703

### EXPENSE

Increase in Reserves — Life	\$ 938,684
Increase in Reserves — Annuity	14,834,225
Insurance Benefits	2,643,483
Annuity Benefits	11,612,488
Commission Expense	614,073
Surrender Benefits	1,543,690
Post Mortem Benefits	631,161
Miscellaneous Member Benefits	27,837
Matured Endowments	(9,627)
Donation Expenses	44,309
Change in Accrued Convention Donations	105,000
Convention Expenses	110,701
Bank Service Charges	38,241
Data Processing Service Fees	88,295
Accounting Fees	18,341
Actuarial Fees	115,695
Legal Fees	76,738
Consulting Fees	48,628
Bonus to Branches	348,450
Fraternal Activities	47,671
Official Publications	176,993
Scholarship Awards	130,415
Miscellaneous Employee Benefits	174,398
Fees — Directors	66,300
Salaries — Employees	704,272
Salaries — Officers	202,831
Interest Expense	113,812
Tax Expense	124,481
Depreciation Expense	103,374
Utility Expense	38,586
Postage and Printing	87,338
Advertising	63,493
Travel Expense	43,130
Insurance Department Fees	20,316
Sales Promotion	95,042
Rental Expense	207,954
Other Expense	237,061

### TOTAL EXPENSE

\$ 36,467,877

### Income (Loss) from Operations

\$ 2,029,826

### Dividends to Members

598,687

### Subtotal Income (Loss)

\$ 1,431,140

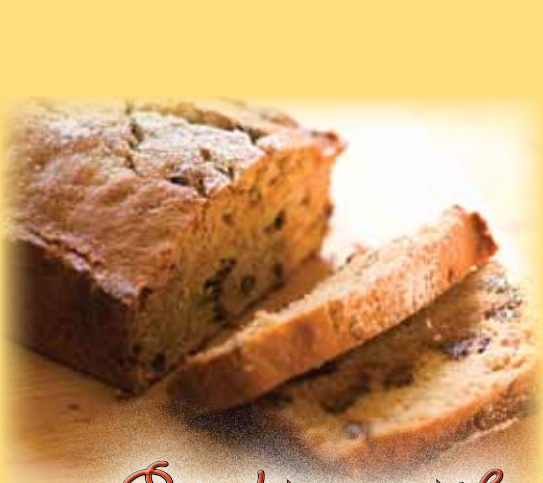
### Capital Gains (Loss)

(66,765)

### NET INCOME (Loss)

\$ 1,364,375





## Cooking with Family & Friends

### BANANA CHOCOLATE CHIP BREAD

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 cup grapeseed oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 4 ripe bananas, peeled and coarsely mashed (about 1¾ cups)
- 1½ cups semi sweet chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 10½ x 5½ x 3 inch loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray. Line the loaf pan across the short length with a sheet of parchment paper so there is a 1 inch over hang on either side.

Whisk the flour, baking soda, salt, baking powder, and cinnamon in a medium bowl to blend. Whisk the sugar, oil, eggs, and vanilla in a large bowl until fully incorporated. Stir in the banana. Add the dry ingredients and chocolate chips and fold them in just until blended. Do not over mix.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 1 hour and 5 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool for 30 minutes in the pan before removing the loaf to a wire rack to cool completely.

### GRANDMA'S CRACKER COOKIES

- 28 round crackers (Ritz Honey Wheat)
  - ½ cup crunchy peanut butter
  - 1 (10-ounce) bag bittersweet chocolate chips
  - 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
  - Flaked salt, optional
- Spread the flat side of 14 of the crackers

evenly with peanut butter. Top with a second cracker to make 14 sandwiches.

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

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

Place the cookies on a parchment-lined baking tray and sprinkle with the salt, if using. Refrigerate until the chocolate is set. Store in the fridge.

### BAKED FRENCH TOAST WITH STRAWBERRIES

- Butter for greasing
- 6 eggs
- 3 cups milk
- ¾ cup maple syrup, plus extra for serving
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon, plus 1 tablespoon
- ¼ teaspoon fine sea salt
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 3 (1-inch) thick slices (8 ounces) day-old challah or sourdough bread, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cups (12 ounces) fresh or frozen, thawed, and drained strawberries
- 3 tablespoons sugar

Place an oven rack in the middle of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Set aside.

In a large bowl, beat the eggs until frothy. Add the milk, maple syrup, cinnamon, salt, and lemon zest. Add the bread cubes and mix until coated. Stir in the strawberries. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish.

In a small bowl, mix together the remaining cinnamon and sugar. Sprinkle the cinnamon sugar over the egg mixture in an even layer. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes until the top is golden and the filling is set.

Spoon onto serving plates and drizzle with maple syrup.

### S'MORES POPCORN

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ½ cup popcorn kernels
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 5 graham crackers, processed to fine crumbs (about ½ cup)
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- ½ cup bittersweet chocolate chips, melted

Heat a large saucepan over high heat for 3 minutes. Add the oil and the popcorn kernels, and cover the pan with a lid. Cook, shaking the pan frequently, until you begin to hear popping. Cook on high for 1 minute more, then lower the heat to medium and continue cooking, shaking the pan, until the popping begins to slow down.

Turn off the heat and pour the popcorn into a large bowl. Toss with the melted butter, salt and graham cracker crumbs. Add the marshmallows and toss again. Spread the mixture out on a parchment-lined baking sheet and drizzle with the chocolate. Toss gently to incorporate. Set aside until the chocolate hardens, about 1 hour. Store in an airtight container.

### LEMON RICOTTA COOKIES WITH LEMON GLAZE

- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 teaspoon baking powder
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
  - 2 cups granulated sugar
  - 2 eggs
  - 1 (15-ounce) container whole-milk ricotta cheese
  - Zest of one lemon
  - 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- For the Glaze**
- 1½ cups confectioners sugar
  - Zest of 1 lemon
  - 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating until incorporated. Add the ricotta cheese, lemon zest, and lemon juice and beat to combine. Stir in the dry ingredients.

Line the 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Spoon the dough onto the baking sheets using 2 tablespoons for each cookie. Bake for 15 minutes until slightly golden at the edges. Remove from the oven and let the cookies rest on the baking sheet for 20 minutes.

While they cool, combine the confectioners sugar, lemon zest, and lemon juice in a small bowl and stir until smooth. Spoon about ½ teaspoon of the glaze onto each cooled cookie and use the back of the spoon to spread it to the edges. Let the glaze harden for about 2 hours. Store cookies in an airtight container.







PERIODICAL

10/17

## **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.